

TARHEEL TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB
THE 21ST CLUB IN WBCCI FORMED IN 1960

PRESIDENTS CORNER

BRUCE THOMPSON #5027

Happy 2021 Streamers!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It was Soo great to get that year behind us, and we have an exciting schedule of camping ahead for 2021. The news media keep reminding us that we're STILL in a pandemic, but it just feels like there's light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccines are being administered, and maybe we can get back to our normal rally mode sometime later this year when the statistics start to curve downward. Meanwhile, we'll still be masked, distant, and hand-washed for the first few rallies – just to keep you Safe so you can make it to the next rally.

A Year in Review

- 2020 was Carolinas Airstream Club's 60th Anniversary! With 2020 COVID-19 conditions, it was difficult to celebrate together – but still marks an important milestone in the club's history.
- We were at our kick-off rally down at James Island Co. Park in March when news was spreading about lock-downs and restricted group gatherings. As we were leaving, they were closing the park & campground.
- April's rally at Tanglewood Park was cancelled. Park Closed. Rally rescheduled for 2021.
- May's urban rally at "Shining in Shelby" was cancelled & moved to 2021.
- June's rally at Pipestem, WV closed & cancelled.
- WBCCI cancelled all Caravans and the International Rally at Loveland, CO.
- In July, we had our rally at Davey Crockett Birthplace SP combined with the East Tennessee AC. Very

subdued - masked & safe & distanced, but perfect weather and everyone had a great time.

- Price of gas dropped below the \$2.00-mark in some locations.
- August rally in Boone, NC, again observing Safe protocols. Lots of rain.
- September rally at Sanctuary Vineyards on the Outer Banks, with much rain & safe protocols, but still a great time had by all.
- October's Carolina Balloon Fest in Statesville was cancelled. Alumalina in Marion had a good showing of rigs – with everyone observing safety protocols.
- November down at Ocean Lakes Family Campground we had 54 rigs! No meals, but stayed safe, and still had a great rally.

And with all this, we had the highest count of new members joining the club in many years. Dealers have sold out of Airstreams & other brands. RV sales hit a record high.

Renewals & New Members

It looks like we have a very high percentage of Renewals this year, and a big crop of new members. Our club is growing. So keep doing what you've been doing and welcome those new members. Remember – you were a new member once. So if you see someone you don't recognize at the rally – don't be timid. Walk up and introduce yourself and welcome them to the club. Here's the ice-breakers: How do you like that Flying Cloud (or whatever)? What year is that? Have you modified it? After that, you can settle down to

more familiar subjects like where they're from & what kind of wine do they like.

Make your reservations Early!

Does that look like a repeat from last month? Well, it IS. Here's the website:

<https://airstreamclub.org/carolinas>

(think "AirstreamClub dot Org slash Carolinas"). Our 2nd VP, Bruce Bodenstein still has wallet-sized 2021 rally schedule cards available. Simply contact him & let him know you would like the cards. He's also going to talk about Hosting. So if there's a venue that you'd like to Host, be sure to sign up. We missed our two luncheon opportunities to pass around the Host Signup Sheet, so we have to rely on our webpage. Here's the link:

<https://form.jotform.com/202565408021143>

Oh, and one more item about that: the Hosts count on you to RSVP. They need to know how many to plan for in making the agenda. Thanks. And – food fees are waived for Hosts!

Keeping in Touch

Past President Phil Drake is still very active – working with our officers and keeping us on the straight and true. We talk almost weekly. Also, 1st VP Bruce Bodenstein is still managing all those rallies he has scheduled for this year – making sure group Holds are still in place and all is well at the campgrounds. He also wants to talk to you about Hosting. 2nd VP Ricky Wilcox is camping down at the WBCCI IBT meeting in Florida, representing our club and is making us Proud. He is also beginning to schedule rallies for 2022 – so be sure to let him know if you have a favorite venue for a rally. Thank you guys – couldn't do this without you.

Virtual Rally!

We're planning a Campfire Virtual Rally. So watch your emails. I'd like for our newer members to make an appearance – this would be a chance to tell us where you're from and about your Airstream.

Please stay safe & go make your reservations!

Bruce

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 1ST VP

Happy New Year from your newly designated 1st Vice President. I trust that all of us will experience good health and many blessings of life in the New Year. Claire and I are on the list for the Covid vaccination at the end of the month and if you are 75 or over it is my understanding you should be first in line so if you are planning to get the shots, check it out with your health provider.

This month I also want to wish each of our other club officers the best as they take up a different set of duties. I am looking forward to working under the leadership of our newly elected President Bruce Thompson. Also, a special shout out to Ricky Wilcox who will be terribly busy this year I know in his role as 2nd VP. I found that to be an intensive but interesting year.

Well, it is time to remind you to seriously consider hosting a Rally in 2021, especially if you have never done it before. Checking our records, I see that three of our meetups; Charleston/James Island (March), Palmetto Cove (May) and Ocean Lakes (November) have had folks step up to host. Thanks to each of you!

Hosting a rally at the minimum means that you have agreed to be the point of contact for a particular event. From there it is totally up to you to make it as elaborate a weekend as you desire. Honestly speaking, in our current Covid environment, less group activities may be the order of the day. A Google Map Search is an easy way to come up with

a list of activities in the area that our folks might find interesting. One or two group outings could be simple to arrange.

Everyone understands that Thursday is arrival and set-up camp day, so nothing needs to be on the agenda although daily “Happy Hours” simply need to be announced.

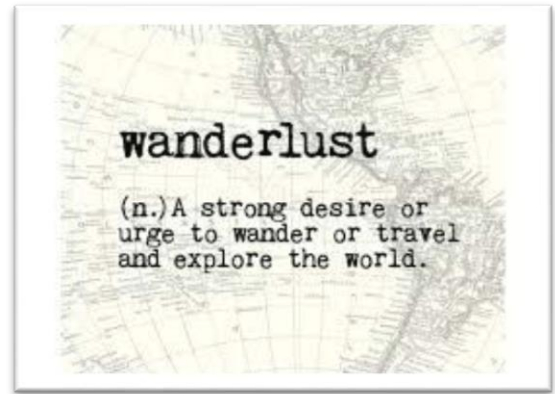
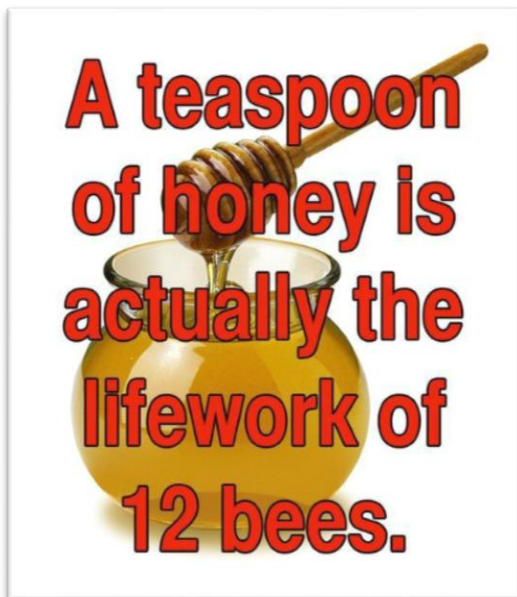
We have a broad range of well-travelled and extraordinarily talented folks in our club. You already know some of them. What about asking a good friend to give a short talk on some topic of interest. Perhaps it is a particular caravan or other vacation or work trip that others would find

Fascinating. Maybe an unusual hobby. An Evening spread out around a campfire is always a welcome way to wind down the day.

Thanks for giving it some thought. See you down the road.

~ Bruce B
1st VP

“You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.” Les Brown, Author



MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Evan & Bronwyn Schwend** from Cedar Point, NC and their 2021 20' Basecamp
- **Scott & Dawn Slieter** from Huntersville, NC and their 2019 25' International
- **Rick & Susan Smith** from Charlotte, NC and their 2019 16'Bambi
- **Christopher & Holly Gizzi** from Southport, NC and their 2017 25' Flying cloud
- **Lisa & Allen Kimball** from Southern Shores, NC and their 2019 28' Flying Cloud

Welcome *all!*



What's yours?

Tell 021newslettereditor@wbcci.net

REPRESENTIN'

RICKY WILCOX #5016 2ND VP

Representing the club! We took our Airstream Class A to the Super RV Show in Tampa, FL.



Next week, we are heading to WBCCI's mid-winter International Board of Trustees (IBT) meeting in Sarasota, FL. I'm definitely looking forward to the discussions at the meeting in Sarasota. I found a good seafood market in Pensacola, so we've been eating well. Probably gained some weight 😊

~ Ricky

(704) 678-8507 or Rickywilcox@carolina.rr.com

2021 MID-WINTER INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING INFORMATION

Due to the continued concern of COVID-19, your leadership team has set up a hybrid webinar for those who cannot attend.

The Mid-Winter meeting schedule and material is posted at airstreamclub.org. Go to the **Current Members | Member Resources**, scroll down. The **2021 Mid-Winter IBT Meeting** is the first link under **Key Events**. If you cannot watch during the live meeting sessions, they will be recorded and posted to the WBCCI [YouTube channel](#) a couple of days after the meetings

CHARLESTON RALLY PLANS

Because of COVID-19, we wanted to publish some encouragement to attend this first rally of 2021. Clearly COVID-19 is not behind us yet, but we have had several outings, conducted safely, and have reserved tougher decisions to the individuals attending.

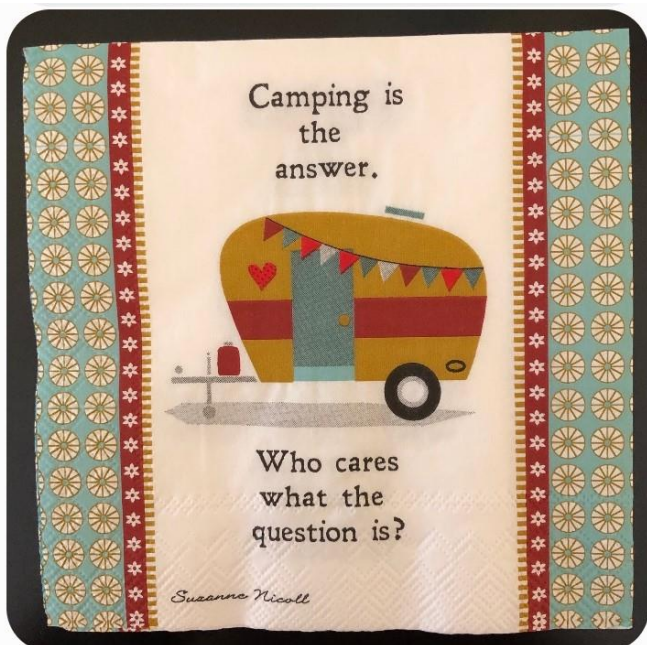
In contrast with our usual rallies, we will have no group meals requiring people to sit next to each other around tables. We will have no organized meals at restaurants. Instead, we will have outdoor cocktail hours each afternoon of the rally and attendees will be asked to bring only food that provides individual servings, no communal spoons, knives, etc. Toothpicks may be popular. People will be encouraged to wear masks when not eating or drinking, if they are gathered in groups. On Saturday morning we will attempt to bring in pastries, and prepare a pot of coffee, which will be on a table in the activity room with both doors open. Clearly rain may dampen all of the above plans, but there may be adequate room under the eaves of the activity building and the laundry building.

As we did at the end of 2020 attendees will be on their own for any travel to restaurants (that may be open) or sightseeing.

This is more of a "hands off" approach than I would like but provides an assurance of safety for all attending and leaves it up to the discretion of individuals if they want to socialize more closely with fellow Airstreamers. As of the writing of this, we have 37 people signed up! If you delayed reserving a space, keep calling the park, obtain a reservation, and RSVP/pay on our [website](#). We will have fun!

Larry and Pam Brodsky, Host and Hostess

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!



SUBMITTED BY SUSANNE #5032 STOLEN FROM MARGARET # 2685

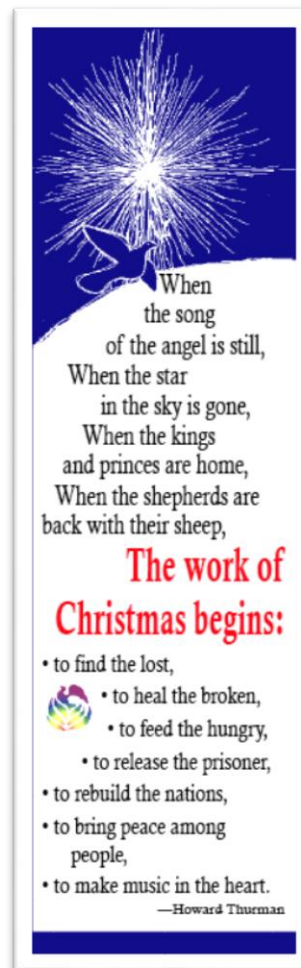
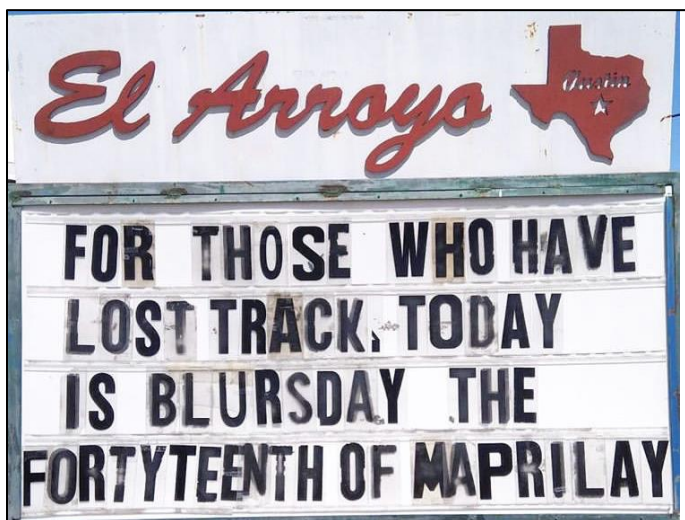


RALLY 'ROUND OUR CAMPFIRE!

ELAINE MYERS #16767
quirkyquilter@pemtel.net

No news to report from our members - I guess we are all hunkered down, waiting for vaccinations and camping weather! So, I will use this space to share a favorite post-holiday poem.

E!



NEW WBCCI BENEFITS!

Michelin Advantage Program

Your Member Benefits Team is excited to announce a major marketing partnership between **Michelin Tire** and Airstream Club International. Airstream Club Members can now benefit from a value-added program that offers competitive and uniform discount pricing on a full line of tires including MICHELIN®, BFGoodrich®, and Uniroyal®. The program also includes access to Michelin's Emergency Road Service (ERS) – MICHELIN® ONCall and waived dispatch fees. Whether at home or on the road, whether you need tires for your tow vehicle or personal vehicle, for your Airstream trailer, motorhome, or Interstate touring van... the new Airstream Club Michelin Advantage Program has you covered!

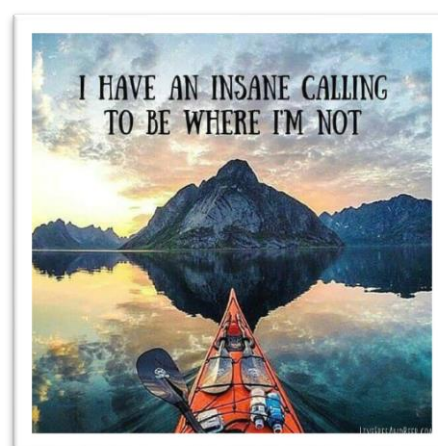
Griot's Garage

Already associated with other enthusiast/owner groups such as the Porsche Club of America, BMW Car Club, and the Corvette Club to name a few, your Member Benefits Team is excited to announce a marketing partnership between **Griot's Garage** and the Airstream Club International. With this partnership, Griot's has announced that all Airstream Club members will receive a generous **15% discount** on their product line of **car care liquids**. Additionally, Griot's will support our Club through advertising and with a presence at our International Rally. Known for their superior car care products and commitment to excellence, **Griot's Garage** is the name to remember. They know perfection! From its humble beginnings literally in Richard Griot's garage, the company has grown to be the one-stop shop for premier car care products.

Full details on both the Airstream Club **Michelin Advantage** Program and **Griot's Garage** can be found on the airstreamclub.org website. You must LOG IN to access the Member-Only Benefit link containing all your Airstream Club Member-Only Benefits. Once you Log In, you can also edit your personal member profile, add a picture, see your Club and officer history, access member and Club Leader directories and more.

The Airstream Club - Michelin Advantage Program and the Griot's Garage Marketing Partnership are additional examples of efforts to make your Airstream Club membership more valuable. Taking advantage of these exclusive programs can save you many times the cost of your annual membership dues. These new discount pricing programs with Michelin Tire, Griot's Garage, Passport America, and Harvest Host join the Blue Beret, Courtesy Parking, Rallies and Caravans to make your ACI membership experience unique. Start the New Year off right and be sure to RENEW your Airstream Club membership TODAY!

Richard Short
Benefits Team Leader





ANNOUNCING 2021

3rd Annual

SILVER

In the City

April 15th thru 18th YORK, SC



SOME GOOD THINGS TO KNOW

Welcome to **Silver in the City**, a “*Wake Up Downtown*” Airstream Rally, hosted by members of the Palmetto State Airstream Club 22. We are very glad to have you joining us for this “Third Annual” special and unique event. We will be parking on both sides of main street (Congress Street) in downtown York, SC, population 8500.

This will be a *boondocking* rally so please arrive with a full tank of fresh water and empty grey and black tanks. Quiet generators are welcome. We will have a dump site for departure on Sunday morning. Our Bull Pen will be at 105 Garner Street. The City of York Police Department will assist us in parking. All parking is parallel to the curb, with door to the side walk. Parking begins at 9:00am Friday morning. We will need an accurate rig count, so please let us know if you are coming.

Our plan is to have everyone pull in parallel to the curb and back up. We will help you get parked. You will want to park as close to the curb as possible without scrubbing your tires. All parking is downtown, within easy walking of everything. We also have a large parking lot available for those who do not want to park on the street.

The City Market will serve as our central gathering point where we can assemble as a group for any information sharing. We have a kick off social planned at the City Market around 5:00pm Friday, but other than that, no organized meals or events are planned other than the **OPEN HOUSE** on Saturday afternoon and doughnuts and coffee on Sunday morning. We urge you to patronize the local merchants and restaurants; they are very excited that we are coming and have many specials to offer. Please be sure to wear your Club badge so they can recognize you. We will provide a rally packet with information on what to see and do in York.

We hope you will participate in an **OPEN HOUSE** Saturday afternoon from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, the community will want to peek inside the Airstreams. The street will be closed from 12:00pm - 5:00pm to facilitate foot traffic.

Once again, the rally fee will be a donation to PATH, “*People Attempting To Help*”. PATH is a local, multi Church supported charity that reaches far into the York community. We are suggesting a \$10 or more donation, per person. Checks can be made out to “**PATH**”. Airstreamers make a difference. Please be generous, this is a very worthy organization.

This year our Thursday night pre-rally gathering/celebration will be held at York Place, 234 Kings Mountain Street, York. We will not have any utilities there but we will have plenty of parking on pavement, and only a few blocks from downtown. The entrance will be marked. Please join us there if you can, we will have a supper. From there we will parade into town with police escort on Friday morning. **Fly your flags!!**

Come ready to embrace each other and the city of York, and have a great time knowing you are leading the way on another great Airstream adventure. If you need anything at all, don't hesitate to reach out.

Terry & Annie Montgomery 803.242.6125c

John & Susan Leake 803.984.7225c