



TARHEEL TRAVELER

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



PRESIDENTS CORNER

BRUCE THOMPSON #5027

Greetings Streamers! Welcome to the Opening of Camping Season 2021 and our first rally! We're packing up and headed to James Island in just a few days. Some of our club have been on the road straight through 2020 Fall & 2021 Winter. We're certainly looking forward to venturing out of Isolation. News reports are encouraging, but precautionary measures are still highly recommended – Wash/Mask/Distance. **Stay Safe** folks, we're almost through this!!

Here's some news to pass along:

- **CAC Virtual Happy Hour at 4:00 PM** on the **Last Saturday of every Month.** You'll get email reminders.
- The Executive Board has been busy! They voted to use **Second Harvest Food Bank** (aka Food Bank of NC) as our 2021 designated charity.
- Registration is underway for the Region 3 Rally in Tallahassee, FL. (Tally Rally)
- **APRIL:** April Rally is in Tanglewood Park in Clemmons for 04/08 – 04/11 – warning - It Fills Up!
- **MAY:** Roger Holland is busy getting Shelby NC ready for our first ever urban rally - **Shining in Shelby!** Look for his article in the Tarheel Traveler newsletter next month.
- **JUNE:** The Bodensteins and the Combs (hosts) have checked out our sites at Bear Den RV Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This is a new place for us!

You're going to Love it. Do **NOT** use your GPS to get there!

- From I40 take exit **85** to US**221** N
- Follow US221 and look for the exit to the Blue Ridge Parkway near Linville Falls
- Turn right off 221 to get onto the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Right to go South on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

From junction US221 it is 5.3 miles to Bear Den Outlook (Milepost 323) so travel another 1.8 miles to Bear Den Mtn. Road milepost **324.8**.

Instructions will be on our club website too.

Make reservations **now**, they will release the Hold of Sites **April 5!**

What does my \$10 rally fee pay cover???

Our hosts are provided a \$10/person budget to plan for our group meals and incidentals. Hosts are not limited to \$10/person, but are encouraged to operate within that amount. If the rally expense exceeds that, the Club still reimburses the hosts within reasonable amounts. Historically, it averages out and the Club breaks even for the year with some events under & some over budget. For 2021, the Executive Board has decided to maintain a running balance for all rallies, and any overage will be donated to the selected charity – which is Second Harvest Food Bank for 2021. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization governed by the IRS,

we have to be diligent in NOT making increased revenues over a reasonable financial period.

Here's a list of incidentals paid for in the past:

- Shelter (like at James Island \$75, Tanglewood Park \$55, Pipestem \$125)
- Serving ware (plates, utensils, dishes, napkins – when no one brings their service)
- Tablecloths (to decorate & help with clean-up)
- Firewood (group gatherings around the campfire)
- Door & bingo prizes (when not donated by dealers)

Here is a list of meal items paid for in the past (some were delivered, some we prepared): Shrimp, Brats, Chicken, Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Pizza, BBQ, Donuts & coffee, Bagels & Cream Cheese, Eggs, Sausage, Pancakes, etc.

Now let's pretend for a moment that I'm the host for our Omagolly Campground and RV Park rally in Nowhere, SC. So I already know the shelter costs \$75 for our group of 50 people. Also we still need to operate within the SC State COVID Restrictions. So I may ask everyone to bring their camp chairs, and after you're served your food inside – you step outside to sit in your camp chairs, enjoying the beverage you brought.

Budget status: 50 people X \$10 each = \$500.00 to start.
\$500 minus \$75 shelter = \$425 remaining.

Let's feed them pizza, so consider 3 slices per person, then we need 3 slices x 50 people = 150 slices. At 12 slices per large 10" pizza, we'll need about 14 pizzas. Going rate for a simple pizza, about \$10. (\$10 x 14 pizzas) = \$140. Let's give the delivery guy a \$10 tip. (I could have driven 6 miles downtown to save \$10, but I had to set up tables for the group.) \$140 + \$10 = \$150. That's Saturday night, and our "big gathering" meal.

Budget status: \$425 minus \$150 = \$275 remaining.

Saturday morning's Coffee & Bagels. I'll order the coffee & bagels for the local bakery. Figure on one bagel for each person, plus orange juice & fruit for those picky eaters – that's about \$150, including decaf.

Budget status: \$275 minus \$150 = \$125 remaining.

For Friday night, we could do a hotdog roast over the campfire, but then I'd have to buy buns & condiments. You're on your own for Friday night. Enjoy the scenery & cuisine in beautiful Nowhere, SC. That extra \$125 goes to the club harity *or* offsets the next rally expense overage. Hope you enjoyed the rally ☺

Bruce T

2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 1ST VP

Greetings everyone and welcome to the 2021 camping season. It has been a not so cold, but very wet, winter in my neighborhood however we have experienced a wonderful stretch of warm, sunny days which gives me great optimism. On Saturday I will "de-Winterize" my trailer and run some preliminary tests to confirm my efforts last Fall to protect its plumbing from freeze damage.

This is the first winter my Airstream has spent out in the elements in several years as I normally tuck it away in my climate-controlled garage each Fall which always gives me great peace of mind. This winter however I decided the garage and shop space would be much better utilized if I continued working on the two vehicles I am restoring, a 1970 pickup truck and a 1956 British MGA roadster. Did I make tremendous progress on those two projects over the winter? Not so much, however if any of you are familiar with the inner workings of these sorts of hobbies you will be familiar with the tedium of grease and rust removal, the lengthy searches for the obscure and long-lost part, and the "one step forward and two steps back" routine. I do find each small victory tremendously satisfying, however.

Back to Airstreaming. I did implement, as an experiment, one additional protective measure beyond the normal “winterization” process. I had a piece of extra sturdy clear plastic sheeting which I cut to the size of the white painted panel on the top of my airstream. After laying that in place, I carefully taped it down on the border between the white top and the aluminum skin. Looking down on the top of the trailer from my garages 2nd floor, here is what it looked like:



By doing this, I had effectively sealed, from the weather, the many openings on the top of the trailer including the A/C, two fan vents, skylight, bathroom, and shower fan vents, TV antenna opening, plumbing vents and more, not to mention the hundreds of rivets on the roof alone.

Now if you are a fan of the [Air Forums](#), which I am, you will be aware that placing an RV cover on your Airstream is usually seriously frowned upon. However, the issue is primarily with the abrasive effects of the cover material chaffing against the aluminum skin. There is one manufacturer who makes a well-regarded but expensive, custom fitted cover that appears to work fine on an Airstream. The nature of my “mini” protective top cover was such that it did not even touch the aluminum, so I was not concerned about the abrasion issue.

You may ask, “*why did you even do this*”. My answer is simple but not one you wish to hear. *All Airstreams leak or will leak* one day soon! Think about it, it only makes common sense. In addition to the roof openings listed above, there are the windows, a door, various compartment hatches and the average of 4,000 rivets by some official estimates that are used to seal the many feet of aluminum panel seams in your Airstream. Add to that the effects of transporting your silver ship down the bumpy highway and somethings going to give over time. Perhaps it is an occasional drip, or a drop

or even just a seepage from time to time, but given enough time and the right circumstances, unwanted moisture *will* enter your Airstream. Hopefully in most cases this will be inconsequential and normal evaporation will do its part, but that is not always the case.

The lesson in this would be to be vigilant. At the minimum, a careful inspection of the sides and top of your trailer at the beginning and then end of the camping season would be useful. Be sure to pay close attention to the sealed openings, i.e., vents, fans, skylights, windows, etc. This is where cracking and separation of the sealant often occurs, and you can spot it and add a dab of new sealant. There is lots of info on the forums on what products to use for this. For up on top of your trailer, it is typically referred to as “self levelling caulking” and it is a snap to put down. BTW, there is nothing wrong with getting on top of your Airstream (obviously only if you are ok with heights and ladders). I do it all the time by leaning a nicely padded ladder against my closed awning. Just try and stay on the riveted seams because you know there is structure under there. If you are unable to do it yourself, find a trusted RV service organization to do it. Hey, I’ll bet one of our fellow club members would offer a hand if you asked. I know I would if I could.

For me, a couple of years ago our trailer experienced a leak which, by the time I caught it, unfortunately resulted in my replacing eighteen inches of flooring under the rear dinette. This however is a story for another day.

Well, I must go! Lord willing, in less than a week from now, Claire and I will be tooling down the highway towards the coast and [James Island County Park](#) near Charleston, SC. We cannot wait to see what Larry has in store for us. Safe travelling and see you down the road.

Bruce Bodenstein, 1st VP

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

-Dr. Seuss

2022 RALLIES

RICKY WILCOX #5016 2ND VP

Hello everyone I just wanted to give everyone an update on some of the rallies I've been working on for 2022. I've spoken with James Island and they're doing something new for me this year! There are still some details to work out, but it looks like we're going to have reserved for us sites 1 through 50. They will be blocked off just for us and our club will have until the first week of January 2022 before we will lose the hold status. I'll let everyone know when we can reserve and when is the deadline. The dates are Thursday March 17th through Sunday March 20th, 2022. Reserving us sites is something new. In the past they didn't Hold sights for groups. You will **not** be able to book these sites **online**, you will have to call. If you go online the system will show sites 1 through 50 aren't available. If you call and tell them you are with the Carolinas Airstream Club you can book those sites. *Not now*, I'll tell everyone when to start booking.

The season closer rally at Ocean Lakes is confirmed as well and I'll let everyone know when to start making reservations, and when the deadline is. The dates are Thursday November 10th through Sunday November 13th. The date the sights will open up for us to book our sites is Monday May 10th.

I have several more I'm checking on and have lots more research to do. I hope everyone has a safe travel season coming up this year. I know Bruce B. worked really hard planning our 2021 rallies, so I hope to see everyone that can go, down the road somewhere fun!

Ricky Wilcox, 2nd VP 🚐

TALLY RALLY!

Region 3 Rally in Tallahassee, FL

April 21-25, 2021

March 4, 2021: Registration is underway! So far, Region 3 has 63 rigs with 123 people already signed up. Have you registered? If not, why not? Join us for 4 days of socially distanced fun and fellowship!

Have you always wanted something warm to gather around while camping? We all love a good fire pit. Here's your chance to carry one with you, wherever you go. We have a [Solo Stove Bonfire](#) that will be raffled off during the rally. The Bonfire is this year's "must have" Airstream accessory. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the [Tunnels to Towers Foundation](#). The Foundation honors our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country.

Check out the [Tentative Rally Schedule](#)!

See ya'll in Tallahassee!

Your Region 3 Rally Planning Team

Editor's note: Barry, Glen #3430 and the Basset Girls will be at the Tally Rally this year! First time they've been out since last year! The eldest Basset girl, Rhoda, turned 13 a few weeks ago!

**Lockdown can only
go 4-ways. You'll
come out a monk,
a hunk, a chunk
or a drunk.
Choose wisely!**



ELAINE MYERS #16767
quirkyquilter@pemtel.net

Mike Stephens #5401 had a lymph node removed, and is now undergoing radiation. Thoughts and prayers are appreciated, and we hope to see Mike and Diane at a rally later this year!

E!

Editor's Note: Former members (Terkel and Hayes) that moved to Texas, are all well after the horrible winter storm that struck their new state. Neither lost power or had burst pipes.

I have found out that there ain't no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.

~ Mark Twain



EVERNOTE

From free to unusable in 8 years ☹

The last update killed our digital membership directory on Evernote on our phones. It was successfully implemented for our club in 2013 by Miriam Ross #5182 as a replacement for the difficult to maintain paper directory. Research is underway to replace it with another digital membership management app. If you have recommendations, **or** what to be on the research team, contact 021newslettereditor@wbcci.net

MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- **Rhondi Evelyn-Stowell & Jeff Stowell** from Fort Mill, SC and their 2018 28' Flying Cloud
- **Kathy & Duffy Tucker** from Willow Spring, NC, and their 2021 16' Bambi
- **Roger & Elizabeth Cordes** from Oriental, NC and their 2021 16' Bambi

Welcome all!

3RD ANNUAL SILVER IN THE CITY YORK SC

April 15 thru 18, 2021

- Terry & Annie 803-642-6125
- John & Susan Leake 803-984-7225

<https://www.airforums.com/forums/f288/silver-in-the-city-york-sc-218681.html>

TEXAS IS HUGE!

Submitted by Tim Almy #6091

Sandra and I left for [Big Bend NP](#) right after Ocean Lakes Rally in November, 2020 and returned last week in March, 2021. Big Bend has been a bucket list item for years and yet it was not on the way to anything else we wanted to visit so it got put on the back burner. Then our youngest son was deployed to FT Bliss in El Paso and he took our only granddaughter with him. So, in order to see Emiline we had to somehow get to El Paso for Christmas. Guess what? Big Bend is “sort of” in the neighborhood. “Neighborhood” in Texas means 320 miles away. But what else were we to do during Covid? Going to the least visited NP seemed smart.

Big Bend is beautifully desolate, remote and almost inaccessible. We fell in love with the high desert and its warm winter and lack of humidity. It is a NP unique in the US because it has hundreds of miles of off-road opportunities that provide a way to get off into nothingness for camping and roaming about. We did two off road excursions of about 50 miles each and were glad we had a high clearance 4 wheel drive Tundra.

We stayed at [Maverick RV park](#) in Lajitas right on the Rio Grande, which also means the Mexican border. No sign of a border wall as the area is the Chihuahuan desert, a most forbidding area of Texas and Mexico. Nearest doctor was 100 miles, nearest grocery store was 25 miles, and nearest place to buy Lone Star beer was 5 minutes away. The RV park is filled up in the winter by snow birds and predominantly Texans who pull their Jeeps behind their Class A's for off roading. A very warm and hospitable group. And everybody travels with a dog, or two.

We came home to cold humid weather here in Flat Rock, and wondered why we did that. Maybe to get our tax info off to our CPA I guess. We have made

reservations for next winter thinking it's easier to cancel than to get them.....but Texas is huge and maybe we will not want to spend a week getting somewhere. Maybe it will depend on where our granddaughter is living.



Our Airstream after 4 months in Texas ☺

Tim and Sandra



SHINING IN SHELBY 2021

Roger Holland # 5796

Shining in Shelby 2021 is still “on go” for May 6-9 in Uptown Shelby, NC! The city is ready to welcome our Airstreamers into the community as we make the

central court square our home for a few days. Special events are being planned around the rich musical heritage of the town along with a Saturday afternoon beer festival in the city's community pavilion just a block away from where we will be camped. In addition to special activities, we will be able to enjoy multiple locally owned restaurants, a coffee shop, a brewery, a large locally owned pet supply store, a wine bar & shop, and many other small shops. All of this is within easy walking distance radiating from the central court square where we will be. There is a waiting list, but we are working to fit in as many more rigs as we can. We are looking forward to this inaugural Shining in Shelby rally!

ALL WHO WANDER ARE NOT LOST...

You may ask yourself, where does that highway go to?

Talking Heads - [Once in a Lifetime](#)

CAC Members are wandering all over!

Many spent February and March in Florida! Robin #2662 is wandering to California. Last we heard from her she was in Louisiana at a rather subdued Mardi Gras by New Orleans standards. Wandering in Florida were Chris and Gina #6674 who expectantly met up with Mike and Sarah #1065. John C# 3679 had dinner with Ricky and Joan # 5016 who met up with Bob and Wayne #22384. Susanne and Keith #5032 were wandering around FL about that same time. Jill, Phil and Jesse # 4823 were there while their new home in Cary is being built. Rebecca and John #7481 Burl and Mimi #2726, and Bob Clark #4230 linked up to head down to the Keys!

