



March 2021 Newsletter <https://airstreamclub.org/piedmont-north-carolina>

Region 3, Unit 161

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March 2021 President's Report

Spring is finally here! Summer travels are just around the corner and our first rally of the year was a rousing success. The rally was delayed a day due to severe weather but it was great for our club to get together. (Even though it was officially Spring it sure got cold Friday night.) Those in attendance were Amy and Jim Mount; Debbie and Todd Stroud; Stedman Brown and Tami Lowe; Nancy and John Becker; John Leake, Shelley and Bill Townsend; Dee and John Lloyd.

Hosts Bill and Shelly Townsend did an outstanding job. They brought their wood turning lathe to the campground meeting room. The Townsends and John Leake did demonstrations of wood turning and gave us all instructions on the art. Everyone tried their hand at wood turning. Most made a spurtle. A few other items were made by there more adventurous wood workers.

Happy Hour Friday evening was throughly enjoyed by everyone followed by a delicious barbecue dinner.

After dinner we held a business meeting. Lots of ideas were exchanged on how to improve our club. We adopted the new language from WBCCI to allow electronic meetings. Approved funding for rally fees for members first rally. Agreed to use the corporate brochure with a Piedmont Club sticker added. The brochure will be include in the package we send to new Airstream owners inviting them to join our club.

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Approved club sanction for the caravans to Region 3 Rally and to the International Rally in Tennessee. Complete minutes of the meeting will be on our web site.

Saturday morning we continued the turning demonstrations and more tried their hand at wood turning. After Happy Hour we had a good ole North Carolina shrimp boil. Corn, potatoes, onions, sausage and lots of shrimp. Catered by Charlie Bennett and Gary Odum. A few of the wood turning projects were finished Sunday morning as we had coffee, biscuits and farewells. All had a grand time. Many thanks to Bill and Shelley for hosting the rally and to John Leake for assisting in the wood turning lessons.

We would like to remind everyone of the Piedmont Club caravan to the Region 3 Tally Rally. The campgrounds have released the sights held for us but still have openings. It is not too late to get reservations at the campgrounds. Please let Dick Martin know if you plan to join us. On your way to Region 3 Tally Rally you might consider stopping at York South Carolina and take part in a very unique rally sponsored by the Palmetto Airstream Club. It's called Silver in the City. April 15-18. Everyone parks on the streets or parking lots downtown York. No camping fee and no rally fee. Donations to a local charity, PATH Outreach, are appreciated. They have room for 100 units. For more information contact John Leake at john@leakesantiques.com or 803 984 7225. Make your plans to attend the May Rally hosted by Nancy and John Becker at the Mayo Park. The park is at Mayo Lake near Roxboro. We encourage everyone to attend a rally even if your schedule only allows for arrival Friday evening or Saturday morning. Just let the hosts know your plans. Thanks to everyone that participated in the member survey. If you have not yet completed the very brief survey we would like to get your input and suggestions. We hope to see you sometime this year at a club function.



Thought for the day:

What lies BEHIND us and what lies BEFORE us are small matters compared to what lies WITHIN us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

John Lloyd
President
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Membership Report for March 2021 by Amy Mount, Membership Chairman

As of March 2nd, 2021, membership for Piedmont NC Airstream Club included:

- 63 members/rigs plus 55 spouses/partners
- 4 Affiliate members
- 5 Lifetime members

Thirteen Piedmont Club members did not renew in 2021. The Penningtons and Guys sold their Airstreams and Bob Bennet gave his rig to his son. Some Piedmont Club members have moved to other local Airstream Clubs.

Membership Chairman will be mailing a letter to new Airstream owners that live in North Carolina to encourage membership in our Piedmont Club. Airstream International Club emailed the list in mid-February, which included 52 new owners from September 2020 through January 2021. Let's hope MANY new owners will join our Piedmont Club this year!



Region 3 "Tally" Rally
North Florida Fairgrounds
Tallahassee, FL
April 21-25, 2021



Registration is underway! So far, we have 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.

See y'all in Tallahassee!

Your Rally Planning Team

COVID-19 and the MABDR

Well, I am sure you know what the first item is above, how about the second? John Lloyd asked me to write about my latest adventure during the pandemic.

MABDR stands for the Mid-Atlantic Backcountry Discovery Route (ridebdr.com). Backcountry Discovery Routes (BDR) is a non-profit organization that creates off-highway routes for adventure motorcycle travel. They also do rider education, safety campaigns, and promote responsible travel for motorcyclists in the backcountry. The routes are designed to generate new tourism to deliver sustainable economic relief to less-advantaged rural communities. They develop the routes, provide maps, GPS tracks for navigation, and waypoints for good restaurants, lodging, campgrounds, and of course, hospitals (wait for it).

The MABDR is about 1050 miles long, starting in Damascus, VA and ending in Lawrenceville, PA at the NY border. It is about 50% off-road, and when it is on road it is small (often single lane) country roads. It is the easiest of the ten BDRs, and could be done in a small jeep with good suspension and a kidney belt.

I made a prior attempt to do the MABDR in the Fall of 2018. I met three riding buddies (former colleagues from Procter and Gamble) near the start, and we stopped after one day and one broken collarbone. There are two kinds of off-road motorcycle rides:

- A good ride is where the terrain is challenging enough that someone ðcomes offð.
- A great ride is a good ride where it was not you who ðcomes offð.

It was not me. I had a great ride.

Enter COVID and 2020. I can only sit at home for so long, so had to get out of the house. I wanted someone to travel with, so a former college roommate of mine, Joachim, joined me (yes he is German and came to the USA as a child). Joachim lives in PA not too far from the Northern end of the trail.

In order to stay as isolated as possible, we decided to tent camp. Any purchased meals would be take-out. We also brought my old backpacking kit so we could cook our own dehydrated meals in a pinch. We would be in some isolated areas so this came in handy for breakfast, coffee, and dinner. Only downside is a dehydrated meal is acceptable but not great and all the camping and cooking gear means the motorcycles are loaded like yaks going to market. We also have to bring critical spares and tools with us.

Off we went to the start in Damascus, VA in September 2019. The Virginia section ended up being the most challenging due to the trail conditions and three water crossings. Fortunately it was a time of low water. We were stopped cold after about 650 miles because my motorcycle (Triumph Tiger) with all the fancy electronics died in Maryland. A very friendly resident let me push the bike under his carport while I waited for Joachimðs next door neighbor to rescue me with Joachimðs pickup truck.

I won't be deterred, and three of course, is a charm. I had to finish this thing. In October, we picked up where we left off in MD and completed the ride to the Northern End. My "Plan B" was an older, smaller motorcycle with no ABS, no electronic fuel injection, no fuel pump, no stepper motor (if there is mechanical manifestation of evil in the world, this is it) and most other automatic features removed. Performed like a champ with an almost new set of knobby tires. So we finished, safe and sound (albeit cold!).

Even though we tent camped, I highly recommend four of the campgrounds we stayed at for you and your Airstream:

- Hungry Mother State Park (SP) in VA, north of Marion, VA. Staff was very, very helpful, including a good take-out Mexican restaurant recommendation (but I don't recommend riding back to the campground with Mexican food! we had a bit of a mess). Good facilities; it was hot in September and we really needed a shower. We were in the tent area but there is also an RV area.
- Big Bend Campground (CG) in WV. This is on the South Branch of the Potomac River and is in an area that is generally called Smokehole Canyon. In case you were wondering, canyon is the operative word and no one will be able to call your phone and bother you. Campground host was great (delivered us firewood) and you need to bring everything you need with you as it is pretty isolated.
- Cumberland Falls SP in MD. A nice base to explore the whole Camp David area and lots of hiking opportunities. I recommend reservations as it is close to densely populated areas (frankly we were lucky to get in).
- Pettecote Junction in Cedar Run, PA. Right on a creek and a great facility. It is near the "Grand Canyon of PA" and is rather isolated. The CG is in a holler, and we were there on the last weekend of their season before they close for Winter. When the sun went down, the cold air seemed to pour down on us. As I shivered in my tent, I could hear many Atwood furnaces cycling on and off all night keeping everyone else nice and warm in their hard-sided campers.

So, what's next? The NorthEast Backcountry Discovery Route, of course! It will be a bigger challenge as it is longer (over 1300 miles) and considered to be the second hardest of the ten BDR routes. I will take the small Plan B motorcycle. The other one, after being disassembled and reassembled by me and then again by a technician, acts as if it never stranded me, and "root cause" is somewhat unknown (the gear heads out there will probably agree that intermittent electrical issues are tough). We will once again tent camp as I am not sure if I will have my vaccination before June.

Watch for an update in a future newsletter! Meanwhile I leave you with a quotation from Robert M. Pirsig's Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance:

"You see things vacationing on a motorcycle in a way that is completely different from any other. In a car, you're always in a compartment, and because you're used to it you don't realize that through that car window everything you see is just more TV. You're a passive observer and it is all moving by you boringly in a frame.

On a cycle the frame is gone. You're completely in contact with it all. You're in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming. That concrete whizzing by five inches below your foot is the real thing, the same stuff you walk on, it's right there, so blurred you can't focus on it, yet you can put your foot down and touch it anytime, and the whole thing, the whole experience is never removed from immediate consciousness."

John on the trail in Virginia with the Triumph Tiger: -6349275381



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WEBSITE: <https://airstreamclub.org/piedmont-north-carolina>

2021 Rally Sites:

January 18-22 Mid Winter IBT Sarasota FL
February Winter Luncheon (not scheduled at this time)
March 18-21 KOA Lumberton NC Host Bill and Shelly Townsend (Details to follow)
April 20-25 Region 3 Rally North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee FL Club Caravan to Rally!
May 13-16 Mayo Park, 1013 Neal's Store Road, Roxboro, NC Host John and Nancy Becker, john_becker@me.com Reservations 336-597-7806
June (Host Needed)
July 16-24 International Meeting Wilson County Expo Center, Lebanon, TN
August Host Todd and Debbie Stroud (details to follow)
September 9-12 Seahaven Marina RV Park 148 Old Ferry Road Sneads Ferry NC Host Alan and Jane Hvizdak (Details to follow)
October 21-24: Alumalina, Tom Johnson's Camping World, Marion, NC
November 4-7 Installation Rally Hosts Robin and Bogdan Gieniewski: Karen and Andy Karakos (Details to follow)