

# TARHEEL TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CLUB IN WBCCI FORMED IN 1960

## Upcoming Events

### 2021

Outer Banks Rally October 14-17  
Myrtle Beach Rally November 4-7  
Holiday Luncheon December 4

### 2022

James Island Rally March 17-20  
Tanglewood Park Rally April 7-10  
Shining in Shelby May 5-8  
Savannah Georgia Rally May 12-15  
Grumpy Bear Bryson City Aug. 11-14

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

BRUCE THOMPSON #5027

Hey Streamers!

Have you noticed these cooler days? I think autumn is in the air. Hope everyone is doing well.

We're packing up for the Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan – 18 rigs (9 from our club) & 35 people, led by Ray & Carol Combs. They told us to pack for 30-degree weather as well as 80-degree weather, so we threw every stitch of clothes we own in the camper – no room for anything else. Actually, I think we'll see mid-50's for lows so that's not too bad.

Others are packing up for the Williamsburg Rally. We wanted to go to both, but since we had been to Williamsburg a few times – we opted to see some new sites & campgrounds along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Choices! Choices!

We certainly enjoyed our [Natural Tunnel Rally](#). What a surprise! We watched a play (64<sup>th</sup> year of the production of "[Trail of the Lonesome Pine State Outdoor Drama](#)"), fine-dined at a historic house (home of John Fox Jr. the author of the novel "Trail of the Lonesome Pine"), listened to local music talent, and still had time to visit the beautiful scenery of Natural Tunnel State Park. I'll bet this venue appears again on future rally schedules. The campground was great too. Those that stayed in the "Lover's Leap" (newer) section had much bigger sites. I'll try to remember that next time.

Our last Zoom Happy Hour turned out to be the best one yet. We had several "road warriors" that checked in from all over, and we introduced our new members that had joined within the last 30 day (whether they were on the Zoom call or not). Since one of our new members has a new [Pottery Barn Airstream](#), we looked that up and showed off all the features to the group. Beautiful rig! Anyway, check in with us on the last Saturday of every month at 4:00 PM. Watch for and email for the links. See you there.

The club's Board met on Wednesday, Sept. 8th to decide our position on COVID and our remaining rallies for 2021, especially Ocean Lakes, which is our BIG rally. I was impressed that they unanimously agreed to suspend the high-risk meals of the rally (breakfast & the low-country seafood boil) to keep our members safe. They established a strategy for safety and encourage ALL to get vaccinated.

Our membership continues to grow at 172 rigs and approximately 344 people. You guys are doing the right thing by being welcoming, inviting, accommodating, accepting, and rallying. So, keep up the great work!

Hope to see you down the road soon. I do yearn for days without COVID, but until then – let's fight it by being safe we'll see you at a Rally!

~ Bruce T, P

## 2021 RALLIES

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168, 1ST VP

Greetings Campers,

As I write this (August 13th), Claire and I, along with fourteen other trailers, are at Natural Tunnel State Park near Big Stone Gap, Virginia. It's a gorgeous spot and site of our latest Rally. Our "kick off" day yesterday (Thursday) was busy, with travel for most, then dinner at the historic John Fox House in Big Stone Gap followed by an outdoor drama performance. Everyone seemed to enjoy our evening out.

Today was perfect for a ride on the cable tram down to the natural tunnel which is more than 850 feet long and 10 stories high. Natural Tunnel was naturally carved through a limestone ridge over thousands of years and yes, it is still in use by coal hauling trains to get through this mountain. A couple of hours ago, several of us observed (at close hand let me tell you) a 1 I plus coal car train creep slowly through that tunnel. What an awesome sight and sound it was! I've included a selection of photos below which were taken at this rally.

Flash forward! It's time for the September newsletter already. Natural Tunnel is now in the books and is history. But wait... Let me share a bit more about this August rally at Natural Tunnel State Park.

On Friday evening we enjoyed a Weiner Roast – I grilled the main course. Didn't even need my digital instant read thermometer, just cook 'em till they're zebra striped! Several folks insisted on blacker though and I gladly obliged. Others supplied a few sides, and we ate well, nothing fancy.

Some folks scattered on Saturday morning as there is lots to see and do in the area like the Big Stone Gap General Store and Meador Coal Miners Museum. The state park was very well laid out as well and easy to get around and visit one another.

After our obligatory "Happy Hour" on Saturday afternoon, a bunch of us drove over to Hiltons, Virginia to spend the evening at the world famous "Carter Family Fold" for an evening of country music entertainment. Hmmm, didn't spot Johnny Cash that night but I understand he often performed there when visiting his wife June Carter's hometown neighborhood. Oh, I forgot to mention that a few of us

stopped on the way at the highly recommended Hob Nob Drive-In for burgers and shakes.

Well, you get the idea. Rallies are fun. Not always as action packed as this one turned out to be, but always an enjoyable time with our Airstream family members.

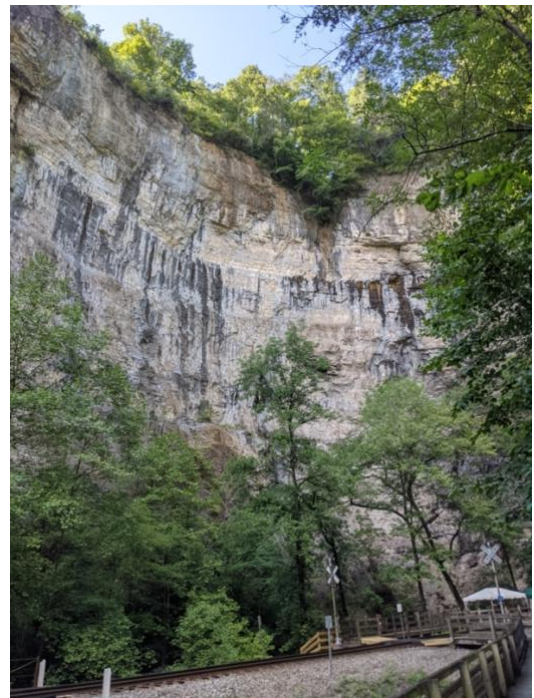
I was talking recently with Bruce and Marcia Thompson, and we were lamenting to one another that it seems that only a small segment of our club participates regularly in our rally activities. Perhaps less than 20% overall. To be fair, I won't count our November Ocean Lakes rally which is always highly attended and is a great time to see a lot of club faces. As we begin to wind down the 2021 rally season, let's look to 2022 and if you haven't rallied with us yet, sign up for a couple of them. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Ricky Wilcox has a great selection lined up for us. You won't regret it. I promise.

Happy trails and see you down the road.

~ Bruce B, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Natural Tunnel Rally





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## 2022 RALLIES

RICKY WILCOX #5016 2ND VP

Hello guys,

I want to start off by thanking everyone for the get-well cards, all the calls and well wishes, and most of all the prayers. I'm home and doing much better. I feel good, and I'm off all the oxygen now. I'm still a little short of breath and my energy is low, but I'm getting better little by little every day. Enough about me we now have a full rally calendar for 2022. I'm putting the final list and details together and will send all that to Ed Hall to put on the website. We're planning on having all details together and Rally cards printed and ready to hand out at least by November for the Ocean Lakes Rally, if not before. Joan and I are planning on going to the Outer Banks Rally, Marion Rally, and Ocean Lakes Rally this year 2021. I look forward to seeing club members at these Rallies. Safe travels and we'll see you guys down the road.

Thanks,

~Ricky, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP



## MEMBERSHIP

DALE DOWLER #1972, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Our newest members (details in Evernote):

- Mitchel & Janis Hobbs from Bakersville, NC and their 2021 25' Flying Cloud.
- Bradley & Sara Sosnowski from Raleigh, NC, and their 1960 24' Tradewind
- Thomas Bradberry from Asheville, NC, and his 2021 19' Caravel
- Stephanie Hight Poston & Nic Poston from Raleigh, NC, and their 2020 23' Globetrotter
- Mark & Kerys Sharrock from Stanley, NC, and their 2018 25' International Serenity



ELAINE MYERS #16767  
[quirkyquilter@pemt.net](mailto:quirkyquilter@pemt.net)

John and Anne Ashworth (#21189) are recuperating from Covid 19. After the International Rally both tested positive for Covid - Anne had a mild case, John a more severe case, requiring 5 days in the hospital. Both are recovering at home, and very sorry to have to miss the Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan. Hope to see both of them at a gathering before too long!

I'm saddened to share the passing of one of our members, Kathy Saltzman (#4283), on May 29. Condolences and Blessings to her husband Bob. Many of our members have survived, or are battling through, cancer, Covid, PTSD, or other traumas. Some willingly share their stories, some treasure their privacy. As Robin Williams said, "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."

I am heartened by the love and caring in our CAC community. You rock!

"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles." ~ Tim Cahill

E!  
 Elaine Myers



## UPDATE ON COVID PROTOCOL

As of September 2021, the new COVID protocol for our club is posted on the Carolina Airstream Club website. to keep informed as to the updates and changes to our protocols. Also look for email updates as changes are made for each Rally.

Follow this link [Carolinias Airstream Club Announcements Webpage](#)



## REPRESENTING CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB@ALUMAPALOOZA



Left to Right:  
Bob Hoffman, Elaine Myers, Scott Myers, and  
Wayne Clark

## TOM HANKS' AIRSTREAM SELLS BIG AT AUCTION!



Even movie stars declutter and clear out what they don't need. Such was the case of one of America's most beloved actors, Tom Hanks. The two-time Academy Award winner, auctioned off his unique 1992 35-foot Airstream travel trailer, bought new.

It was used by the actor on 18 movie sets over the decades, including 'Sleepless in Seattle' and 'Forrest Gump' in the '90s all the way to movies like The Circle in 2017. It also provided a place where Hanks could relax, learn lines, and entertain co-stars. Including the obligatory buyer premiums, the sale price for Hanks' 1992 Airstream was a whopping \$235,200.



Think again! According to [NADA Guides](#), a 1992 Airstream Excella Series M-34, even in the best condition, would sell for maybe \$46,000.

<https://camperreport.com/tom-hanks-airstream-travel-trailer/>

## MEMBERS SAYING "HI" FROM THE ROAD



Arches National Park  
Greeting from Jan and Steven Thompson with the  
Southwest Caravan in Utah at Monument Valley.

## “SMIDGE OF THE BLUE RIDGE”

Grumpy Bear Campground in Bryson City  
More to come in our next Newsletter!



## CAC Zoom Happy Hour

Join us the last Saturday of  
each month at 4:30pm. The  
zoom link will be sent each  
month.

CANCELED FOR  
SEPTEMBER

### YouTube Channels for RVers

- Keeping Your Daydream Alive
- This Wilde Life
- Campendium
- Luvsubbin
- RVing with Tito DIY

Send your suggestions to [021newslettereditor@wbcci.net](mailto:021newslettereditor@wbcci.net)