



<http://airstreamclub.org/alabama>
<http://airstreamclub.org/region6>
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Alabama Airstream Club Newsletter

November, 2021

President's Message

CHANGE....

As FALL approaches things change, the coolness at night, coloring in the leaves, the sun setting earlier and earlier and the COST of fuel going UP! All these things happen usually around this time of the year and we start a NEW SEASON!

With this NEW SEASON approaching, let us as a Club take a look at a very unique opportunity that is right in front of us. This opportunity is a relationship! Yes. a relationship that includes quite a few NEW members. All you nubies, Listen UP!

This is YOUR opportunity, even if it is not in person to talk, hamboneto@gmail.com, and get that relationship thing started. I would like the chance to let you know who we are as a Club (family), what are things we do, and when we do them. You can ask ANYBODY in this Club and they will say "Oh, Tony he loves to talk." Here is your chance. Shoot me an email.

Change comes even for the Vets who have 20 years or more on the road. For some of them, this could be their LAST season, others might not attend as many Rallies as they have in the past. or just sell the Airstream for health reasons. Whatever the reason, I personally want you Nubies to get to know us and LISTEN to some of the stories that circulate at our campfires!

Now, I was happy to hear that the weather at the Fiddlers Rally actually cooperated for a NICE change! I am also happy to hear that the rally was a great success and all went well. Great job RUSS & PJ

My wife and I would like to say to each one of you THANK YOU for the prayers and now may we All have the opportunity in this SEASON to say HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

Be safe out there, and we will "see you down the road".

Tony Olm
President of AAC

P.S. Nubies find the magic code I put in the letter and USE IT!!!

New Members

Welcome to these new members that have joined the Alabama Airstream Club. We hope to see you soon at an upcoming event.

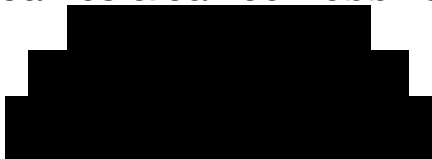
John & Lynn Dunaway



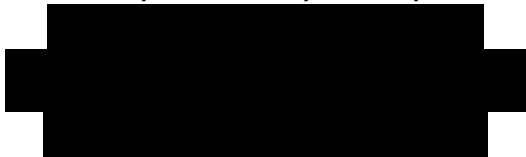
Jean-Pierre Fontana & Sharron
Miller Fontana



James & Janice Robbins



Lindsay & Randy Shropshire



(Affiliate Members)

Area Meetings

North Alabama & Birmingham Areas

Submitted by
Andrea Patterson

The North Alabama and the Birmingham areas will have a combined group luncheon at the All Steak Restaurant in Cullman on Dec 10 at 11:30.

Montgomery Area

Submitted by
Paul Aehnlich

The Montgomery Area Dinner will be at Jan's Beach House Grill, 850 Eastern Blvd, Montgomery, on Dec 15 at 6:00 PM. Notify Paul Aehnlich at pca2@charter.net so that he can get a headcount.

Fiddler's Rally Recap

As noted earlier, the Fiddler's Rally was a great success. There was great music, great weather, and great attendance. Russ & PJ Pry have done an outstanding job of planning and executing this rally. This year, they had the added bonus of having their two grandchildren Brennen (12) and Claire (10) with them for the rally. They are home schooled and the attached newsletter was an assigned project. See below:

Upcoming Events

See you down the road

John Rylee, Editor

Joint Rally with Pensacola Airstream Club

February 17-20, 2022
Mystic Springs Cove
591 Mystic Springs Rd
McDavid, FL 32568



Alabama Airstream Club State Rally

April 21-24, 2022
Anchors Aweigh RV Resort
Foley, AL

65th International Rally

July 23-29, 2022
Fryeburg, ME

Old Time Fiddler's Convention Rally

Sep 27 - Oct 2, 2022
Athens, AL

monday |
september
25-October 2nd |
2021

Fiddlers News

Athens,
Alabama

VOL.,I..NO.1

<https://airstreamclub.org/>

NEWS ABOUT THE RALLY!

PRICE: 0.00 \$

FIDDLERS RALLY A GO!

The original Fiddlers convention was started in 1925 with the intention of listening to and playing music. It was held in Athens, Alabama. The founder of this convention was a high school principal who respected and loved old timey music. His name was W.H. Johnson. The convention had also kickstarted the careers of popular bands and singers, most notably the Delmore Brothers. But soon the old time music was dying out at the arrival of a new, more modern type of music. Many of the old musicians retired their instruments as it seemed that no one wanted to listen anymore.

Nearly 30 years later some of the old time fiddlers had started playing again in their living rooms such as Sam McCracken and it soon gained attention. Soon the community was raising money for an abandoned schoolhouse to be repaired and used as the new meeting place. An agreement was struck with the community leaders and just like that, the fiddlers convention was reborn as the old time fiddlers convention.



Bill Lancaster interview

We interviewed Bill Lancaster and his wife with a few questions about the Fiddlers Airstream Convention in Athens, Alabama

“The way we know they are having a good time, is we look for what we call ‘Happy feet’, and if their feet are tapping, we know they are having a good time”

The rally was started 50 years ago and was recently restarted with his help. It was originally stopped because people started losing interest.

The rally takes place in October and goes for a week. Bill, who is from Summerville, Alabama, has given us a bit of information about the rally and himself. Mr. Lancaster, a 20 year resident of Summerville, AL, has attended the convention with an Airstream for 2 years in a row now.

His favourite rally (besides the current one he is at—Fiddlers) is the International rally because he really enjoys meeting up with old friends. He found out about the rally by working with the local rally director: Russ Pry.

Athens state university hosted 15-20k people, everybody being brought together by their love of old timey music.

Bill Lancaster played the piano and started at age 12 but he wouldn't practice. A few years later he had become a professional musician but he had to stop because it was getting in the way of school. Even though he had taken a break, 30 years later he restarted the music business and soon was playing all across the country. He especially likes when he plays for the elderly, as they were the same age as him when the songs were popular “The way we know they are having a good time, is we look for what we call ‘Happy feet’, and if their feet are tapping, we know they are having a good time and if they are singing and smiling, then we are having a good time.” He and his wife Betty have 6 CDs and 1 gospel Album. “You can't make an old friend, they just don't come that way, you can make new friends, but not old friends.” His favourite music is a wide variety of music from the 1950s-60s when he was growing up, they play the music from their youth for audiences who appreciate it. This airstream rally combines his love of music and his ability to reconnect with old friends.

In Athens, Alabama there was a rally but it closed down because people lost interest. But luckily, it restarted.

So who restarted the rally and who helped set it up? Well, let's figure it out and let's learn about them.



Interview with Russ & PJ

Their names are Russ Pry & PJ Pry, my grandma and grandpa. They restarted the Fiddlers Rally. Their friends told them it would be a good way to get old people active and have fun again. So, they started it back up. The End. Joking, we have way more... You ready? Andrea Patterson, Bill Lancaster, the mayor of Athens, and the Vice President of the university all helped them start it back up. Because of all of the work people did together, my grandparents have committed to 5 years of running the rally and they have 2 years left. To research how to start a rally they looked into the caravan guide, talked to the president of the International Airstream Club and rally Chairman, and used their past experience attending different rallies.

To start a rally you first have to have people to show interest in participating. It is not easy to start a rally, you have to find ways to make it work and you have to be flexible because sometimes health issues are a concern and plans can change. They said "it's like herding cats." Everyone is going in different directions and at the last minute everything comes together. They are planning to do basically the same thing next year, with a few changes and hopefully I will be there again to do the boat ride and robotics and cotton gin tours. I hope you enjoyed this. Bye!

(Aren't my grandparents the coolest!)

Interview with Andrea

Andrea attended the Airstream rally again, after it was closed from Corona and because people lost interest. It started 50 years ago in Athens, Alabama. My grandpa (Russ Pry) started it back up and had some people who helped him. Let us learn about one of them.

Her name; Andrea Patterson, a talented musician.

She's been at this rally for 3 years as an Airstream owner but they went to the fiddlers convention for 15 years in a truck camper. Her parents were also Airstream owners.

Andreas favorite Airstream rally was Sugar Creek, OH, where they got to see how the Amish live. With the old timey way of life and the beautiful scenery, they are known for their cheese making.

Andrea started playing the piano and then the flute. For the rally and the Fiddler's Convention, she learned the mandolin and fiddle so she could join in and because she loved the sound of them.

Andrea's favorite food in a rally is duch oven cooking and she loves trying new foods. She likes a variety of music but mostly jazz, the type that stays in the melody. She has two long haired ragdoll cats that like to camp. Her love of music and traveling brings her to the different rallies.



“You can’t make an old friend, they just don’t come that way, you can make new friends, but not old friends.”

Water Coloring Activity

at High Cotton Arts

Address: 103 W Washington St,
Athens, AL 35611

Website: <http://highcottonarts.com/>

Phone Number: 256-232-7717



One of the extra activities at the rally was the water color activity. It was at High Cotton Arts which is an art store and studio, located in Athens Alabama.

This time I went, and we painted trees.

The teacher showed us how to paint the trees and we had a fun time while learning.

I did it with my mom and Grandpa, but there were other people there and they all had a great time. So did I!

Everyone there was nice and helpful, even though we didn't know them very well. I have always loved art and I got to prove it. At the Studio, it doesn't matter how good you are, it only matters if you're having fun. Well, I recommend it!



THE BELLE CHEVRE CHEESE FACTORY

Elkmont, Alabama

Event: The Belle Chevre cheese factory

The "Belle Chevre cheese factory" is where some of the best goat cheese is made. With only 7 staff members, it has probably the lowest number of employees in a factory in Alabama. It makes a ton of different types and flavours of cheese. With a few of those pictured below:



We were able to see what happens inside the factory, and it did not disappoint,

First of all, we found out that the cheese inside the container is *not* made with a mold

and is in fact hand formed, which is interesting.

Next, they showed us the goats whose names are: Luna, Lenny, Dumplin', Little Bit, Starsky and Hunch. They are used mostly as 'mascots' and are not actually milked.

Now, for a little bit of history. It all began in 1989 with a cheese lover named Liz Parnell.

She loved traveling the world, and one day she stumbled upon a cheese farm. After buying the farm she made it into a full time factory and has been making cheese ever since.

In 2011 an employee, by the name of Tasia Makasis, recommended that they should widen their products and Belle Chevre started making more types of cheeses and cheesecake!

Since then they have grown and have started making cheese spreads at cheap prices that everybody can enjoy! They can be found at Whole Foods and online.



THE FACTORY HAS EARNED 17 AWARDS FOR THEIR CHEESES!

