



FTCAC Pirate FYI's

January 2022

Message from our President – Stephen Keen



Happy 2022 to our FTCAC Family! I hope that you have all had a healthy and happy start to the new year. I was saddened to hear that long-time member Jack McLaughlin passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Robin and I are looking forward to getting back out on the road for some short trips. We are hoping to see manatee at Blue Spring State Parks at the end of January and the following week we will be joining fellow FTCAC members, Alaina Kupec & Kathy Brennan and Ben & Diana Walton at the Vero Beach Balloon Festival.

Thank You and looking forward to seeing you down the road!

– Stephen

Member Updates

Please join me in welcoming the following new FTCAC regular and affiliate members:

New Regular Members

Rick and Kerri Jankee, from Delray Beach

Alaina Kupec and Kathy Brennan, from Vero Beach

Tim McDow, from Jupiter

John Stanton, from Vero Beach (brother of FTCAC member Robert Stanton)

Bruce and Terry Stephenson, from Port Orange

Robert and Eve Welch, from Sebastian

New Affiliate Members

Kimberly Anderson, from Hobe Sound
Mike and Debbie Bianchi, from Ocala
Kevin and Mindy Boudreau, from Ormond Beach
Gatlin and Melanie Essary, from Gulf Breeze
Laurence and Deborah Grayhills, from Palm City
Jon and Barbara Liversedge, from Estero
Jeffrey and Lori Shivers, from Lakeland

In Memoriam

John “Jack” McLaughlin, WBCCI #02898, of Sag Harbor, NY and Stuart, FL passed away on December 11, 2021, at the age of 84. He was born in Brooklyn and spent summers in Sag Harbor where he met Mary Ann. They were married for 64 years.

He served six years in the US Army with the 10th Mountain Division, was a member of the American Legion, 28-year member of the Sag Harbor Volunteer Fire Dept, the Lions Club, a Village Trustee and a successful businessman. He was an avid sailor and boater. A member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Sag Harbor Yacht Club for fifty years, he served as Commodore for four years.

Upon retirement, Jack and Mary Ann traveled extensively in their Airstreams, including cross country to Alaska and Canada. They participated in seven WBCCI Caravans and were active members of the Florida Treasure Coast Airstream group. Mary Ann recalled these as the “best years of our lives, with wonderful lasting memories.” They also made several trips in their boat from Sag Harbor to Florida.

Captain Jack navigated the calm and tempest waters of life with dignity, commitment and service. He was always attending to his duty at the helm. May he rest peacefully, have fair winds and following seas.

A memorial service will be held in Sag Harbor at a later date.

Members on the Go

Mike and Alicia Rafter traveled to Laura Walker State Park in southern Georgia for a 10-day Christmas outing. They met their daughter and her family who had their Airstream on an adjacent campsite, and their son and family who had a cottage in the park. They set up Christmas trees and a propane firepit. They visited trailer-side and ate their meals together at the large picnic table at their site. Several afternoons during their stay, they were entertained by a water-skiing Santa doing flips and tricks on the lake across the road from their campsite.



An afternoon trip to the Okefenokee Swamp Park included a boat tour and an open-train ride, along with a nature show. An evening visit several days later was an opportunity to see the facility elaborately decorated with holiday lights and decor. Although somewhat “touristy,” the park provides an educational experience

about the large swamp area and its inhabitants. The extended Rafter family had been there several years ago, also on a Christmas camping trip.

With good weather on all but one day, the folks enjoyed hiking the campground trails and meeting fellow campers. A friend from Gainesville came for a visit, as did North Carolina relatives returning home from central Florida. Overall, a busy, but fun, camping trip!

Region 3 Rally

The **2022 Region 3 Rally** is being held at the **North Georgia Fairgrounds, in Hiwassee, GA**, from **April 6-10**.

Please reach out to me at rak225@gmail.com if you will be attending the Region 3 rally and if you are potentially interested in caravanning there.

International Rally

The **2022 International Rally** will be in **Fryeburg, Maine** from **July 23rd to July 29th, 2022**.

Alumalina Update

A note from Bill Wild

Presidents,

I received a note from John Leake, past Region 3 president and mastermind behind the Airstream Forums Alumalina Rally, with an update on the timing for Alumalina this year.

He said:

I had to make a date change for Alumalina this year. October 27-30 will be the new dates.

I mention this only because Alumalina has become a rally date for many of the Region 3 local Clubs, and I have no way to get this info out to them. If you think it prudent, perhaps somewhere in one of the R3 message/updates this might be included.

I wanted to get this out to you ASAP because I know many of you include this rally on your schedules, and even plan your October rally around it.

His direct email is john@leakesantiques.com if you need to talk with him.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year's Eve/Day. We look forward to seeing you in Hiawassee in April. The registration page will be published any day now.

Bill Wild

President, ACI Region 3

If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right!

What is happening in your world? Please send any updates or travel stories to Robin at rak225@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter.