

A Region 9 Update – Newsletter for September 2022

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Region 9 Leaders and WBCCI

Our Region 9 Leadership team is as strong as ever. We are planning opportunities for fellowship in 2022-23 as well as opportunities for leadership growth. Tracy Elkins serves as First VP, and Keith Ferry continues to serve as secretary. Anna Brandon assumes the treasurer position and Tom Bundy remains our Webmaster and Amy Van Artsdalen is our Membership Chair. Joanne Miller continues as Region 9 Parliamentarian and is also the International Parliamentarian. Immediate Past President Bill Miller is our Nominations Chair and Advisor to our team. Consider submitting your resume to Bill Miller for Region 9 Second VP. As a VP you will participate in IBT meetings, travel throughout our Region to join rallies, and help the team plan for vital Region rallies. WBCCI membership is on the rise and each Region 9 local club is also growing. Headquarters is processing an average of forty-eight new memberships each week across the entire organization. This is an exciting time to be a leader at either the local level or the Regional.

International Rally in Fryeburg, Maine

Region 9 made its presence known at the International Rally in Fryeburg this past July. Scott Graham, Heart of Texas President, envisioned, organized, and executed a first ever blood drive at an International gathering that almost overwhelmed the area Red Cross which had no idea the level of commitment Airstreamers make when asked to give. Every one of our ten Region 9 local clubs was represented at the delegates meeting. Even though the votes for the changes in Constitutional Amendments did not turn out the way most of our Region voted, we will continue to support WBCCI proactively as we navigate change. Next spring each WBCCI member will vote for Executive Council Members. The entire International Board of Trustees (IBT) will then vote by secret ballot for the Executive Officers (President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer). The officers so elected will take office at the start of the WBCCI fiscal year. No officer will serve more than two consecutive terms. Mona Heath will chair a reconfigured Nominations Committee which will retool the nominations process. Jennifer Dice from the North Texas Airstream Club was asked to serve on the committee. The committee will make its recommendations at the next IBT meeting in November.

IBT Meetings and Motions

Two motions approved at the IBT meetings: a change in National Rally focus and name; and the creation of Interest Groups for members. Kathi Mitchell, Region 9 member, has “retired” as Chair of National Rallies. Excellent job, Kathi and thank you for helping our Mardi Gras Galveston Rally achieve National Rally status. Kate Coast assumes the Chair and a name and focus change was approved for National Event Rallies. The scope will broaden to develop an Event Leader Guidebook, standardize event information and processes, provide elevated levels of service to new and existing event sponsors, and initiate “newbie” Rallies. Kate comes with experience as a former Superintendent of National Park services. Region 9’s Philip Vasquez was asked to serve on the committee as well. The other IBT approval was for the formation of Interest Groups. Members may now form a group of like-minded Airstreamers to gather to share special interests. For example, a bird-watching group or fly-fishing group can gather for rallies or social meetups. They can choose to host a social media or online page, and members are not required to elect officers or pay dues. Interest groups are not to be confused with Intra-Clubs which are formalized groups that have charters, treasuries, and dues.

Save the Date for Region 9 “Come and Stream It” Rally - March 28-April 2, 2023

Our Region 9 Rally will be in Gonzales TX at the JB Wells Expo Center March 28-April 2, 2023. Full hookups with fifty amp will be available. We are planning a Texas/Oklahoma sized event because our goal is one hundred rigs! Online registration will be available this fall with a schedule that promises barbeque, boot scootin’, stargazing, and Texas history storytelling. Your registration will include catered dinners, breakfasts, happy hours, and more. The Expo center is a beautiful area complete with local golf course nearby, Guadalupe River access for kayaking and canoeing, bike and hike areas, and an historic downtown filled with turn of the century homes, museums, shopping, and dining. Gonzales is where the ancient rallying cry of “Come and Take It” was reborn with the first shots of the Texas Revolution. The “Come and Take It” flag is a symbol for the Battle of Gonzales that has prevailed

through 183 years of Texas History. The flag stood for defiance against Mexican dictatorship and today the flag's meaning remains rooted in Texas pride. Gonzales is near many interesting sites: Shiner Bock Brewery, Chisholm Trail Museum, Painted Churches in Schulenburg, and of course the "Come and Take It" canon. I hope you will "Come and Stream It" in March with Region 9.

Looking Ahead

Getting the most of the club experience always occurs with greater involvement. Are you hosting a rally this year? Are you attending Region Rallies such as Airstreams at the Price, or Mardi Gras Galveston or the Region Rally in Gonzales? Will you caravan to International in Wyoming next June? Do you have talents such as social media expertise or newsletter creativity? What are your great ideas to bring Airstreamers together? The clubs in Region 9 offer great opportunities for us to Rally Together.