



TARHEEL TRAVELER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB
THE 21ST CLUB IN WBCCI FORMED IN 1960



September 2022



CAC Upcoming Rallies & Events 2022

[New Bern Sept.29-Oct.2](#)

[Myrtle Beach Rally Nov. 10-13](#)

Other Upcoming Rallies & Events 2022

[Carolina Balloonfest October 14-16](#)

[Alumalina October 27-30](#)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BRUCE BODENSTEIN #8168

Autumn Greetings my fellow Airstreamers, I have been sensing the slight drop in temperatures many evenings in recent days. Though a welcome relief from sometimes oppressive heat, it's a bittersweet feeling though because it signals that our traditional 2022 camping season is coming to an end.

As I write this, Claire and I are preparing for the Cool Breeze Rally at Galax, VA. We told Ricky that we would host as no one had stepped up, so we have been busy coming up with an agenda and carefully spending that rally fee budget. It's something that we have enjoyed doing, and I highly recommend that you give it a try, if you have not hosted one of our rallies. It's an opportunity to forge a different relationship with your Airstream friends and we've always been able to call on others to help when necessary.

The whole world was saddened to get the news of Queen Elizabeth's death at the age of 96, this past week. This has been poignant for Claire and me as we spent two summers in the UK back in the 80's and were able to experience frequent displays of royal pageantry in and around London during that time.

Somewhat related to that, I must also share more sad news; Dr. Robert (Bob) Rychly, a Carolinas Airstream Club member since 2020, died on September 4th, 2022. Some of you may remember encountering Bob and his wife Carol at a rally or two. At some point, this couple heard my pleas for Rally Hosts and stepped-up to host our Appomattox Rally in 2021 which turned out to be a fun time for all, largely because of their efforts. Bob introduced me to the simplicity of the Grilled Wiener Roast and it's been my favorite Rally meal ever since.



You may ask, “how is this related to the queen’s death?” Well, both Bob and Carol and Queen Elizabeth were/are proud owners and caretakers of Corgis, which are those low-slung dogs who do sheep herding and such, so effectively. Here is an excerpt from Bobs obituary.

“Dr. Robert Rychly, longtime resident of Augusta, passed away September 4, 2022, in Evans, Georgia. Robert was born in Dallas, Texas on December 27, 1946, to his parents Wilbur and Irene. He had a lively, adventurous childhood. His father’s curiosity and entrepreneurial streak saw the family living in St. Louis; Milwaukee; Cocoa Beach, Florida; and Rapid City, South Dakota. There, Robert graduated high school while helping his parents run a motel that served Mt. Rushmore visitors. When Robert retired from medicine and Carol retired from a career of teaching and administration at Augusta University, the couple moved to Asheville, North Carolina. They embarked on numerous travel adventures, including a river cruise down the Nile, until Covid turned them to camping. For the last couple of years, Robert and Carol have crisscrossed the country many times with their beloved Airstream trailer and their faithful Corgi. They have visited so many state and national parks that even Teddy Roosevelt would have to be pleased. The couple were camping in Grand Junction, Colorado in May when Robert became ill. He was able to return to Brandon Wilde, this time as a patient, for the last month of his life. His family wishes to offer heartfelt appreciation for the care he received. Robert is survived by his wife Carol, his sons David and Matthew, his daughters-in-law Laura and Jill, and his granddaughters Lydia and Margot. It was Dr. Rychly’s wish that any remembrances be gifted to the Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth, and Families in Black Mountain, North Carolina.”

Bob and Carol were special to me, and I will miss him. Carol says “Please share with our club. Both Bob and I enjoyed so much getting to adventure with and know many new friends in the club. Our “Rosie” is currently on her way to Idaho to begin new adventures with a young couple who are as excited about having her as we were.” Please remember Carol during this trying time. Carol maintains a house in Asheville and would love to hear from you.

Save travels,

~ Bruce. 021president@wbcci.net



1ST VICE PRESIDENT & 2022 RALLIES

RICKY WILCOX #5016



Hello streamers,

Hello streamers I'm reaching out once again and I can't believe it's mid-September already; where do the months go?

My wife Joan and I are home because we needed to land and take care of some things. I had an electrical issue to repair. I found the problem, rewired it, and replaced the GFCI in the bathroom. I had a small water leak that was hard to find and harder to fix. I took half the kitchen cabinets apart and pretty much stood on my head. Finally, I was able to access the leaking water line. I ordered some new lines and installed the new ones. Problem solved, all I had to do was run a fan for a few days to get everything nice and dry, vacuum out everything really good and put the cabinets back together.

In addition, I had lots of paperwork and tax information to gather up. I also had some repairs to do on some rental properties. We've gotten most of that taken care of now and are preparing for our next adventure. The next adventure will be a motorcycle ride with about 50 of my friends to Amelia Island Florida. We leave on Friday 9/16/22 and return on Monday 9/19/22. It's a benefit ride to help terminally ill kids and their families. I've ridden this ride several times and couldn't ride it last year because I was sick with Covid. It's hard to believe it's been a year already. The group is called the Hometown Heroes from Monroe N. C.

After that we'll be attending Alumalina in Marion NC. From there we'll head to Ocean Lakes campground in Myrtle Beach S.C. There we will have our last Rally of the season. It's hard to believe we'll wrap up another season of traveling and camping with the club.

I know we have members out there still traveling. Some are either in Europe, on a Caravan on the Oregon Trail, up in UP Michigan, or traveling all around our great country. There's not a right or wrong way to go, just go. There's so much to explore and see and so many people, like minded, to meet. Take care and safe travels to all my Airstream friends old ones and the ones I haven't had the pleasure to meet as of yet.

~Ricky, 1st VP 021vicepresident@wbcci.net



2ND VICE PRESIDENT & 2023 RALLIES
STEVE THOMPSON #19771



Greetings to all CAC Streamers,

Jan and I have been on the road since mid-July spending much of our time visiting Utah, Idaho and now Montana. None of this travel experience could have been possible without planning and reserving campgrounds well in advance. Nearly 100% of the State, National, COE or private campgrounds have been full. My advice to each of you is look at the below schedule and reserve well in advance. Spending time with your CAC members, family and friends is a great opportunity you don't want to miss out on. We are still actively pursuing an October rally.

Should you have any questions regarding our rallies please feel free to reach out to me or the other rally committee members listed below.

March 16-19 James Island County Park, Charleston, SC- Look to reserve a spot in Loop 1.

March 29 – 2 April ***Region 3 Rally, Ocean Lakes Family Campground, Myrtle Beach, SC*** Reservations are filling up so reserve a spot early. Tell them you are with the Region 3 group when reserving a spot.

April 13-16 Tanglewood. Contact the park 336-703-649 and be sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Airstream Club.

April 20-23 Trot into Tryon. The first urban rally of the CAC year. Reservation details will follow.

May 11-14 Shining in Shelby- The second urban rally. Reservation details will follow.

June 8-11 Cool Breeze Campground, Galax, VA. Call and let them know you are with the Carolina Airstream Club.

June 24-30 *** 2023 International Rally*** Rock Springs, Wyoming

July 13-16 Hot Springs Resort and Spa. Reservations can be made by phone now. Be sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Airstream Club as we will be grouped together.

August 17-20- Top of Georgia Airstream Park, Helen, GA

September 21-24- Palmetto Cove *Might evolve into a Quad Carolinas rally

October 26-29 *** Alumalina***Tom Johnson RV Park, Marion, NC. We are looking also to conduct a CAC rally during October.

November 9-12 Ocean Lakes Family Campground, Myrtle Beach, SC- Call and reserve sites in section HH letting them know you are with the Carolina Airstream Club.

*** Non-CAC events ***

Ross Gary rving01@gmail.com

George Lamb georgeN4ROT@gmail.com

David Lorenz annabelle5862@gmail.com

~Steve 2nd VP 021vicepresident@wbcci.net



Miriam, Alex and Eric at the buoy on Key West; 2007

PAST PRESIDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

MIRIAM ROSS
CAC President 2012

“Wouldn’t it be *neat* to have a little Airstream?” Little did I know how that short phrase, uttered by my husband Paul as we drove up I-17 from Phoenix toward Flagstaff, AZ, would change our lives. It was early July 2004, and we were heading out West to visit our families – first my parents in southern Nevada, and then on to Paul’s parents in the Bay Area. It was not the first time that we had loaded up the minivan with our two young sons and headed across the country, and we were frustrated with the constraints of planning our travels around where the motels were, and the hours lost to trying to find decent (and economical) restaurants. Paul had had a couple of neighbors growing up who had Airstreams, but we had never even thought of *us* owning any sort of RV.

So maybe it was Fate that we happened to pass a truck pulling an Airstream when we did – and it started the wheels of speculation turning. We went to an RV dealer in Las Vegas to see what was out there, but all they had were SOBs (*Some other Brand*); we had almost resigned ourselves to one, since none of the floor plans that we could find on Airstream’s website seemed oriented to families with young children. However, in another Sign That It Was Meant to Be, we decided to stop at the Airstream dealer in Los Banos, CA, on our way to the Bay Area – and there on the lot was a model we didn’t know existed, the Safari 30’ Bunkhouse, which was *perfect* for us! We ordered and took delivery of our trailer that fall, and for the next 10 summers, we went all over the country. Buying the Airstream was one of the best decisions we ever made! Half the fun was figuring out where we wanted to go, and we made sure our boys were involved in figuring out destinations. Though we always had the ultimate goal of visiting relatives in NV and CA, we plotted out different routes each time. Over the years, we literally went to opposite corners of the US – Key West to Mount Rainier. Yellowstone, Mammoth Cave, Zion, Carlsbad Caverns, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Dinosaur National Monument, Gettysburg, Disney World, Mackinac Island, Tillamook (including the cheese factory!) ...just too many great visits to name. As time went on, our entourage grew to a total of eight heartbeats in the tow vehicle – 5 humans (myself, Paul, Alex, Eric, and Paul’s mom, Beverly), two dogs and a cat. The Airstream was the only way to travel with such a crew.

With our travels mostly taking us out west, how did we end up in the CAC? Again, it was a serendipitous encounter, in (of all places!) Medora, ND – one of our destinations in the summer of 2005 was the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and we were camping at the Medora KOA. It just so happened that John Plaxco (also a former Unit President) and his family were also staying there. As John told us the story, his daughter saw us drive up, and ran back to their campsite and told her dad, “There’s an Airstream with no [WBCCI] numbers, and it’s got North Carolina plates!” John came over, told us about WBCCI, and invited us to join the Carolinas Unit. The club officers followed up when we got back to NC, and we decided to find out what the club was all about. We were soon hooked – being in the club gave us an excuse to use our Airstream nearly every month and find local campgrounds and attractions we never would have

known about. And learn some Southern cooking! None of us had had grits before – they’re just not a thing in the western states. Bob Clark taught us to make grits with the best of ‘em (“Just keep stirring.”)

Just a few of the great memories that I have from club rallies:

- Mini golf at Myrtle Beach
- The amazing sunset view from Highland Haven Airstream Park in Copper Hill, VA
- Hiking down to the waterfall at Highland Haven, and folk music at the Floyd Country Store
- Hiking around Stone Mountain at the NC state park of the same name
- Charlie Fishel’s sugar cake
- Omelet in a bag

We also attended several international rallies; both of our boys played in the Airstream Band, which meant that we had to arrive weeks early so the band could practice together. I couldn’t go to all of them, due to summer teaching, but some combination of Rosses went to Sedalia, MO; Huron, SD; Gillette, WY; Farmington, NM; and Lewisburg, WV. We made lasting friendships with members of the band and visited several of them outside of the Internationals at NTAC in Hillsboro, TX.

Making the club run smoothly is a group effort – it’s important that everyone pitch in to help with meal preparation, space set-up, and all the other little details. So, neither Paul nor I was surprised when we were approached to step up into formal service by entering the process to eventually become unit president. We flipped a coin to decide who was going to do the official duties, and I won the toss – but we worked as a team. Not that it was terribly difficult! Our biggest challenge was figuring out where we wanted to go for rallies, since we had so many interesting areas to choose from. The actual logistics of the rallies were made easy by so many helpful club members.

Now that our boys are all grown up and out of the house, we don’t travel together every summer. We made the difficult decision to let our trailer go to a new family who would be able to use it as it was meant to be – with kids who would enjoy the bunks. We therefore sold the Bunkhouse in the spring of 2021 – but we’re not out of the Airstream family yet. We have a 2006 Interstate that we’ve used to attend rallies in the NC mountains. We’re not sure exactly what the future holds for us in traveling, but we’ve never regretted our time in the Airstream club.

So, I’ll just close by encouraging you all to get involved in the running of the club – without members being willing to step up and do the necessary work, it falls apart. The good news is that none of it is difficult, and it’s camping (!), so it’s by definition going to be great!

~Miriam



CHERYLANNE WEAVER #9883



Hi Airstreamers!

Summer is coming to a close and the cooler fall weather is approaching. I love Fall best of all the seasons.

Not much news to report. Marcia Thompson shared this with me regarding one of our Past Presidents, Howard Little.

Howard Little was president of Carolinas Unit of North Carolina (now Carolina Airstream Club) in 1998 (we were formed in 1960). We still have a few members that will remember Howard and his wife Anne (who passed in 2016). He's a member of Hillsdale Church in Advance, NC. According to the pastor, Howard has been declining rapidly over the last year. Mostly cognitive issues with severe dementia. He sometimes recognizes the pastor when he visits. His daughter, Elizabeth Taylor, has moved back in with her dad but unfortunately, she has as many (if not more) health challenges. Bruce & Marcia Thompson haven't seen Howard at church since pre-Covid when he would walk through the campground in Tanglewood and tell us how many Airstreams he saw!

Please keep Howard and Elizabeth in your good thoughts and prayers. They are almost totally confined to home but, quite miraculously, still living independent of skilled care. It is a blessing they have one another.

An update on another former president of CAC, Ken Dorn. He has had an encouraging recovery and has bought a vintage Airstream a 1975 Argosy 20' Bambi. He will be traveling to Arizona to pick up the Argosy and then hopes to join in the fun by attending Alumalina and the CAC Rally at Ocean Lakes. Visit this [link](#) to learn about the Argosy history.



And as always keep our members dealing with health issues in your thoughts and prayers. If you feel so inclined send a card of encouragement or pick up the phone. Be well in your travels.

“It feels good to be lost in the right direction” – Unknown.

printcessltd@gmail.com

~Cherylanne!

MEMBERSHIP
LEE DUNN #27312
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Hello Streamers,
As of Sept 10, 2022, the Carolinas Airstream Club is 247 rigs and 450 members strong!
Any questions about Evernote or want to volunteer for membership spotlight, contact me.
~Lee, Membership Chair 021membershipchair@wbcci.net

MEET THE DUNNS

Lee and Dawn



About the Dunns

- Members of CAC since December 2019
- They have a 2020 Caravel 20FB
- They live in Pittsboro, NC.
- Dawn and Lee have a daughter
- They like to hike and bike
- They see their airstream as a great escape at the end of the day.
- If they are not outside, it is either, cold or rainy or possibly late in the evening or early morning.
- Lee's hobbies are woodworking and photography
- Dawn enjoys landscaping, sewing, and designing and creating stained glass panels.

Lee

Lee enjoys being in the club because of the fellowship and learning about what others in the club are doing to maintain, modify and repair their rig. Lee replaced the magazine area in his airstream with a useful wooden shelf and made a wood cover for the range. He hasn't found his favorite campground yet. The oddest thing that's ever happened in the airstream is that he got good wif. His advice to other Airstreamers is not to get too attached to your first airstream, you'll probably buy another.

Dawn

Dawn enjoys being part of the club because she meets other members who share their camping and traveling experiences. The oddest thing that happened to her and Lee was when they were in Texas camping and the molding fell off and landed in the refrigerator fan. Quite an alarming sound. Her two favorite campgrounds are Bryn Mawr Ocean Resort in St. Augustine, FL, and Flintlock in Boone, NC.

Our newest members (details in Evernote)

- Janet & Dave Dickmader from Raleigh, NC. and their 2022 23' Flying Cloud
- William & Jessica Dally from Wake Forest, NC, and their 2022 27' Flying Cloud
- Janice Sastre, affiliate member from Greenville, SC. and her 2020 16' Caravel
- Anthony Robbins from Hendersonville, NC., and his 2022 30' Classic
- Steven Manfred from Asheville, NC., and his 2019 20' Flying Cloud Bambi
- Sandy & Mike Jackson from Waxhaw, NC., and their 2015 25' Flying Cloud



Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park

In 1970 several members of the WBCCI Virginia Unit purchased a 75-acre farm in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of southwestern Virginia. They organized Virginia Highland Haven as a nonprofit 501(c)7 social club dedicated to promoting the common bond exclusively among Airstream owners. Through a private stock offering, and their own labor, they obtained the resources to construct a 46-site full hookup campground along a ridge line on the property. The vision of the original forty-six founding stockholders, as well as the good stewardship of stockholders who followed, have allowed Virginia Highland Haven to continue as a premier camping destination for the Airstream community for over half a century. Several of our CAC members are stockholders at VAHH including Jerry and Ann Hall, Margaret Van de Ree, Rob and Trish Parker and Bruce and Claire Bodenstein.



[HIGHLAND HAVEN'S AIRSTREAM SONG](#)

"LIVE RIVETED"

This part of the newsletter is to share ideas and provide insights to members about making Airstreaming life easier. Please share your ideas at 021newslettereditor@wbcci.net.



“Fall into the Autumn Camping Season”

[\(Live Riveted Blog\)](#)

Now that the weather is turning cooler, we can enjoy the evenings around a campfire again. “Hot weather and campfires don’t play nice together.”



How do we all be sure to bring along in our Airstream the tools necessary to enjoy a great campfire.

First, do you have all the gear you need to enjoy that campfire? Such as this great canvas bag for carrying wood or a folding shovel? ([airstream supply store](#))



How about s’mores around the campfire? Instead of hunting for your favorite roasting stick, which can be an adventure in itself, what about this? You’ll be the envy of the entire campground.

Are you in a campsite without a fire ring, and you want to have a campfire? Consider a [Solo Stove](#) which is smokeless fire with a removable ash can. Great for campsites as well as backyards.



Light up your campsite with this Kuma Galaxy LED Light Strip when you just want some light but not enough to make the stars disappear.



Not a s’more fan, how about popcorn?



Recipe [Here!](#)

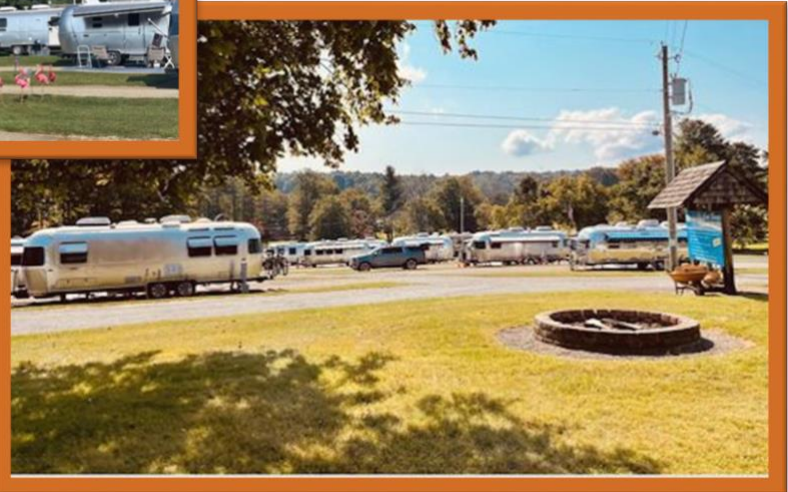




“OH, THE PLACES YOU WILL GO!”
MEMBERS’ TRAVELS AND CLUB EVENTS

Cool Breeze Rally, Galax, VA.

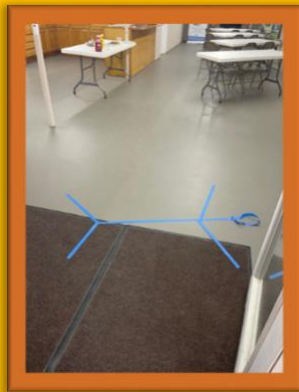
Thanks to Bruce and Claire Bodenstein for hosting a unique and fun filled rally. We met quite a few new members at this rally which included two terrific happy hours, a Trailer Park BBQ Mystery, and breakfast. Many members biked the New River and Damascus Rail Line, attended the Harvest Fest in Sparta, and Apple Cider Fest in Galax.



Charlie Luginut (Bruce Bodenstein) setting the stage for the mystery BBQ



Dirk Dragster and Cindy Lou
(Gene & Elaine Santovenia)



Our fearless investigator Harley Armstrong (Bob Clark) sets up the crime scene and artifacts for the trailer park residents to review as we cast our vote for the murderer. Unbeknownst to all of us, the murderer is actually in one of the pictures posing as an innocent bystander.



Breakfast hosted by the Bodensteins

Let us spotlight your travels.
Send pictures to
021newslettereditor@wbcci.net