

# Happy July 4th Piedmont Airstream Club July Newsletter 2023



## Club Officers 2023-2024

### President

Alan Hvizdak - [ahvizdak@yahoo.com](mailto:ahvizdak@yahoo.com)

### 1st Vice President

Gaile Broom - [gailebroom@aol.com](mailto:gailebroom@aol.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

Robert Rati -  
[rvers@midsummerdream.org](mailto:rvers@midsummerdream.org)

### Recording Secretary

Debra Stroud -  
[goodfoodlady@gmail.com](mailto:goodfoodlady@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Jim Mount -  
[jmount.phoenix@gmail.com](mailto:jmount.phoenix@gmail.com)

### Membership Chairman

Amy Mount -  
[rovermommy@hotmail.com](mailto:rovermommy@hotmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Robert Rati -  
[rvers@midsummerdream.org](mailto:rvers@midsummerdream.org)

### Webmaster

Delia Rati - [deliamaria@deliamaria.com](mailto:deliamaria@deliamaria.com)

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# A Message from the President

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Hello and Happy Fourth of July. We celebrate our independence this month and it really describes the Airstream Life and adventurous journeys we all enjoy so much.

I hope all those that attended International had a great experience and have great memories to share.

Happy travels to all and be safe.

See you down the road.

Thank you,

Alan Hvizdak President

# Musings and Ramblings from the VP...

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Navigator's Log: Stardate June 21, 2023

Summer is officially here. Many of us are logging plenty of road time as we head for various locations that are perfect for Airstreaming. I mean, we paid for these lovely aluminum domes. We have to amortize the dollars we spent til we have peace of mind.

Captain Mike and I have set out to do just that. It's like back in our golfing days....."We paid those ridiculously high greens fees so we intend to play every inch of this course." That should tell you all you need to know about the numbers displayed on our USGA cards.

At our last gas stop a local guy with the distinct look of a mountain man eyed our trailer and barked at the Captain "yep, them's the best trailers ever been built. I got two of 'em in the woods behind my house." Mike suggested that he get them on the road. The fellow said he was going to check on them today.

This trip we are traveling a very familiar route, I-40 West. In 2018 we were fortunate to participate in the Southwest Adventure Caravan. It was fabulous! The only problem is when you start at the cream of the crop of caravans, how do you move forward without an unfair comparison on future trips?

Anyway, here we go. After an inauspicious beginning and delayed departure (our NC frig gave out) we took the amended reservation penalties and hit the road. We have met other friendly AS owners and some other folks who want to be AS owners. It's rained everyday. Scenery is delightful. We're in a hurry so we are hopping

our way along without unhooking for our one night stands. That takes some serious meal planning and a good microwave oven, but it can be done.

For those of you who are long-term Piedmont members, you will remember our dear friends and club members, Jim and Margaret Hamernick. We chatted today to reminisce about our 2018 trip when we traveled this path together. Jim and Margaret have been sidelined for a while with health issues, but like all the rest of us, are looking forward to a future adventure.

Interesting sights can be found in most any campground, but sometimes you get a good ole belly laugh when you come across some of these. Last night The Captain and I took a nice walkabout and here are pictures of some of what we found.

Captain Mike was drooling over this state-of-the-art leveling/stabilizing system.

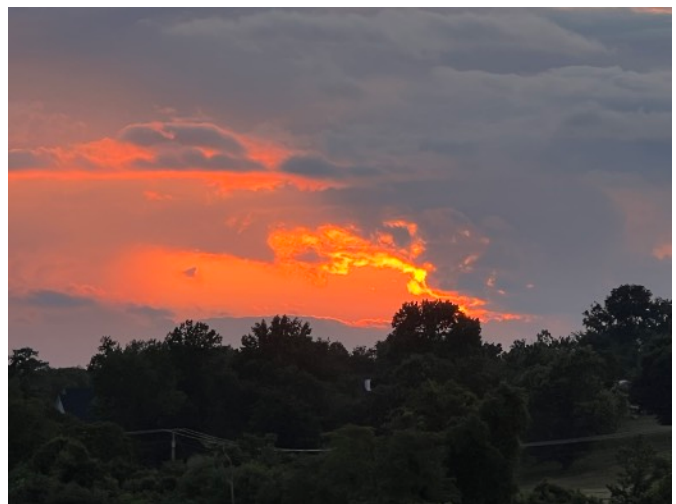




The very rare All-American Unicorn.



A couple who chose to watch Fox News over gazing on this beautiful sunset in the Tennessee Hills.



Gaile Broom Vice-President

# 2023 Rally Event Schedule

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## Piedmont Club Luncheon

Saturday, February 11th, 2023, at 11:30AM

### Pomodoro Italian Kitchen

1811 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705  
(Intersection of I85 and Hillandale Rd.)

**Hosts:** Stedman Brown & Tami Lowe

Please arrive around 11:30am to visit with your fellow Piedmont Airstream Club members. Lunch will be served around noon. There will be several menu items to choose from. There will be individual checks and a 18% gratuity will be automatically added. After lunch there will be a short program and open discussions.

Please RSVP by sending an e-mail to [stedmanbrown6693@gmail.com](mailto:stedmanbrown6693@gmail.com) by February 6th.

## March 29 to April 2, 2023

### Region 3 Rally

### Ocean Lakes Campground

6001 S. Kings Highway  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**Host:** Christine Baum, Region 3 President

Call 877-510-1413 to reserve your campsite now. Camp sites are limited.

Be sure to say "2023 Region 3 Airstream Rally" to get the special camping rate.

**IMPORTANT:** The block of sites reserved for this Rally has been sold out, but you can still get a site at the campground and participate in the Region 3 Rally.

# 2023 Rally Event Schedule



## April 27 – 30, 2023 Piedmont Club Rally Zooland Family Campground

3671 Pisgah Covered Bridge Road  
Asheboro, NC

**Hosts:** Jim & Amy Mount and Stedman Brown & Tami Lowe

The rally schedule is a “work in progress”. One suggested activity is a guided golf cart tour of the North Carolina Zoo on Friday April 28th. The cost is dependent on the number of members choosing to take the tour but could be around \$40 per person, and that includes the entrance fee of \$13. The tour is limited to 20 seats. RSVP to [jmount.phoenix@gmail.com](mailto:jmount.phoenix@gmail.com) by February 26th to reserve a seat for the golf cart tour.



The NC Zoo is nestled on 2,600 wooded acres centrally located in the heart of North Carolina, just south of Asheboro in Randolph County. With 500 developed acres, it is the world's largest natural habitat zoo. The zoo houses 1,800 animals of more than 250 species, primarily representing Africa and North America. <https://www.nczoo.org/>

Other suggested activities are Seagrove Pottery, NC Aviation Museum, American Classic Motorcycle Museum, hiking trails and a covered bridge.

A block of 20 sites near the recreation building is being held for this rally. These sites will be released if not reserved by February 26th. To ensure you have a site with the group, you need to call the campground at 336-628-8257 before this date and tell them you are with the Piedmont Airstream Club. The campground requires full payment when the reservation is made; they offer Senior, EMT, Police and Military discounts, be sure to ask. Diane is the contact person, she works 9 - 3 Thursday and 9 – 5 Friday and Saturday.



# 2023 Rally Event Schedule

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**May 25 - 28, 2023**

**Piedmont Club Rally**

**Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center**

6601 Devils Racetrack Rd.

Four Oaks, NC 27524

**Hosts:** Debbie & Todd Stroud

CANCELLED

**June 24 - 30, 2023**

**66<sup>th</sup> International Rally**

**Sweetwater Events Complex**

3320 Yellowstone Road

Rock Springs, WY 82901

Register Online at [www.AirstreamClub.org/Rally2023](http://www.AirstreamClub.org/Rally2023) or see your Blue Beret for more details.

**July 27 - 30, 2023**

**Summer Piedmont Club Rally**

**Campground Location to be determined**

**Hosts:** TBD

Due to scheduling and change of travel plans we are in need of Rally Hosts for the July Rally. If you have an interest or idea then please contact Alan Hvizdak asap.



# 2023 Rally Event Schedule

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**Aug. 6 – 12, 2023**

**National & Region 3 Rally**

**Cool Breeze Campground**

87<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Time Fiddlers Convention

2330 Edmonds Road

Galax, VA

**Host:** Christine Baum, Region 3 President

**Sept. 21 - 24, 2023**

**Joint Rally with NC & SC Airstream Clubs**

**Hosted by Carolinas Club & Piedmont NC Club AND  
South Carolina Coastal & Palmetto State Club**

Palmetto Cove

521 Table Rock Road

Cleveland, SC

Registration Update:

STEP 1

Call Palmetto Cove RV Park Office at 864 836-6261 to make individual reservations and pay for site. Give the name of the rally and dates that you wish to attend.

STEP 2

Go to the Carolina Club web site and register for the rally. Pay rally fee.

**Updated**  
**Oct. 19 - 22, 2023**

**Alumalina**

**Tom Johnson Rally Park/Campground**

348 Resistoflex Rd

Marion, NC

**Host:** John Leake, Palmetto State Airstream Club

Meet fellow Streamers from Region 3 - VA, NC, SC, GA & FL – & beyond!

# 2023 Rally Event Schedule

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*Updated*  
Nov. 2 - 5, 2023

## Piedmont Club Rally

### Salem Breeze Campground

2784 Hickory Tree Road Winston-Salem, NC

**Hosts:** Bill & Diane Byrum; David & Debbie Stubbs, Chris & April Bullin

Installation of new Piedmont Club officers

# 66th International Rally Report

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Authors: the Caps, the Lovetts, and the Ratis

The 66th International Rally was held in Rock Springs, WY this year. The Piedmont Airstream Club was represented by the Caps, Lovetts, and Ratis. We parked together, and that was a good thing because we may not have been able to find each other amongst the almost 1200 Airstreams at the rally. It was quite the sight!



While parking we discovered a Killdeer nest with 4 eggs and a very protective mother. To accommodate another Airstream, the nest was moved about 60 yards away from its original location! Fearing the mother would never find the nest that far away, the Ratis went and collected the nest and eggs and created a

location that was close to the original nest site and their campsite. By the end of the arrival day we saw that the mother Killdeer had found her eggs and was once again warming them up. For the remainder of the rally the Ratis and the Caps were treated to chirps and protective displays whenever they were working on their Airstreams, but it was well worth it.





Steve Lovett was the designated flag bearer at the Opening Ceremony, with the five of us making sure our voices were heard for the Piedmont Unit.

The Lovetts were a staple of the International Rally holding three sought after and well attended presentations that attendees said had encouraged them to try

more recipes. Several attendees from the Lovetts' demonstrations at the Maine International Rally also attended these classes, and some of them had even bought equipment and applied the lessons from the previous International Rally. The cornbread, prepared in the camp Dutch oven, was co-ordinated with the InstaPot bean presentation, and together they produced a tasty treat for everyone who attended the two.



The Lovetts were co-leaders of the most recent Taste of Blue Ridge caravan and were presenting information about the caravan in the main hall. They got a lot of interest and will have no problems filling the caravan for next year, with the possibility of a waiting list.

The Caps, Lovetts, and Ratis will be continuing their journey together towards Alaska, but not beyond! More about that adventure as it unfolds.



# Planning a Mini-Caravan to Alaska

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Authors: the Caps, the Lovetts, and the Ratis

In early February, Pete and Bonnie Cap got the idea of going to Alaska when their friend shared his story of going North. They didn't want to go alone so they floated the idea to fellow Airstreamers before the Region Three Rally "Silver on the Sand - Take Two 2023" in Myrtle Beach. A few interested parties responded, but the timing didn't work out until Leslie and Steve Lovett heard about the trip and immediately said yes. At the Region Three Rally, Pete approached Delia and Rob Rati about the trip, and while they were interested they also needed to work out the logistics of how they would be able to work on the trip. A few days later the Ratis committed and the mini-caravan was born.

Putting together the itinerary was our first major challenge. It was one thing to commit to the idea of a trip, but yet another to actually make that idea a reality. The first planning meeting was in person at Pete and Bonnie's daughter's house, (a central location) and lasted well into the evening. We each brought several planning instruments to the session which included a couple copies of The Milestone, the 2018 Alaska Caravan itinerary, and several RV planning phone apps. After about 6 or more hours of planning and several pizzas later, we had planned enough stops to get us just into the state of Alaska. We hadn't figured out what we wanted to do in Alaska nor how to get back home. However it was a perfect beginning.

With the help of RVLife and several Zoom call sessions, we finally worked out all the stops in Alaska and the route back home. We split up the duties for reserving campsites, with some people making reservations while others in the group continued planning the next stop. Some sites we were able to book all of us in one reservation, while at other ones we had to make reservations independently. We had yet a third group looking at activities in the areas we were camping to help decide how many nights we wanted to stay at a particular location. It took a lot of work and coordination from everyone involved, but the advantage was that we were able to create a completely custom trip tailored to our interests and limitations.

Speaking of limitations, the Ratis need to work from their RV so we had to ensure that the distance traveled each day was something they could do after work. They got Starlink so they could work during the trip because there are large portions of Canada with no cell service! Starlink would be everyone's internet connection when we traveled into those parts of Canada, and maybe even Alaska, where we would have no internet access. Starlink introduced another set of limitations, because in order for it to work we needed sites that had a clear view of the sky. As everyone knows, many RV parks have sites in amongst the trees and those would make Starlink useless. We used Google Maps satellite view to look at sites in each RV park to get an idea whether any sites would work. When we made reservations we also told the RV parks that we needed sites with a clear view of the sky, and they were all as accommodating as they could be.

So, with the journey planned and some common activities booked at various locations, we all set out for Wyoming independently. We rendezvoused at a campsite near International the night before, and then caravanned into the International Rally together to enjoy the events and then start our amazing mini-caravan.