

SECU Camping Times

Unit 12 | Region 3

SECU Officers

Your officers for the 2023-2024 term are as follows:

Matt Hackney - President

Lynn Talsma - Vice-President

Beth Hackney - Secretary

Irene O'Connell - Treasurer

Trustee - Jerry O'Connell

Trustee - Steve Cook

New Treasurer

Alan Rabb has decided to step down as Treasurer on December 31 due to too many commitments. Please thank him for all he has and continues to do. He is supporting the International Club in a larger capacity by volunteering on the Financial Review Committee and has other time commitments with his consulting business. We appreciate his support this past year, and we are glad the **Irene O'Connell** has stepped up to take his place for the remainder of the term. The board appointed her to fill the remainder of Alan's term of office.



President's Message

Fall in the southeast is a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors. Based on the attendance at our last three rallies, many of you share that opinion. I want to thank our Rally Hosts Ron and Brenda Kaes, Lisa Forsyth, and Pat and Wayne Griffith for volunteering to plan and hold our events. This year we will be looking for a few Rally Hosts as we have several openings on the calendar. Also this year, we would like to find volunteer Rally Co-Hosts. This is a great way to see just how easy it can be to host a rally. Not all rallies require the level of planning involved in holding Farmlife. Lisa Forsyth showed us just how simple it can be in Columbus. Please contact me or a Rally Host if you want to volunteer.

I want to thank the members who met at our annual meeting in October. We successfully elected a new team of officers. For those not in attendance, Alan Rabb was re-elected to the position of Treasurer/Membership Chair, but had informed me that he will be able to serve only until the end of December, due to other commitments. Irene O'Connell was elected to fill his spot by those in attendance.

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No site available? Still want to go to the rally? Here's a possible solution.

You have read the news articles regarding record sales for RVs over the past several years. The truth of those reports is evident every time we attempt to go camping. Campgrounds around the country are sold out regularly. As an individual who is still working, I don't always have the luxury of making a reservation a year in advance.

I think many of us have had this experience: hearing of a fun sounding rally with our club or another one, deciding we want to join the adventure. You go to the web and try to book a site at the venue only to find it ... sold out. What's an Airstreamer to do other than grind your teeth? One solution is <https://wanderinglabs.com>.
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President's Message (cont'd.)

I hope you enjoy the holidays with your family and then join us at one of the rallies early next year. For those who have been unable to make reservations for the Canopener or It's a Beach Thing, you may find the article by Craig Stephens helpful in grabbing an open spot, as cancellations occur.

See you down the road!

Matt



Falluminum

Falluminum has been happening for more than a decade at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. We had perfect weather and beautiful leaves to frame the event. Ron and Brenda Kaes continued the Falluminum Tradition, hosting 25 Airstreams. Ron baked about 20 pizzas for the group on Friday night and Brenda made waffles for the group on Saturday morning as part of a tremendous breakfast. The facilities and gardens are beautiful and the staff treated us like family, providing firewood, tables, tablecloths, decorations and plants. We raised \$540 in donations for the facility, as the gardens are funded by donations and fundraising activities.

Haven't heard about it before? Wandering Labs is a website with both a free and a pay option. Once you sign up, it will periodically check the park for available sites and cancellations. It will then send either an email, text, or both letting you know of availability. If you are quick enough and able to score the now open site, much rejoicing may be had while celebrating at the rally which originally looked like it wouldn't work out.

Wandering Labs works for most public campgrounds in the US and National Parks as well. The free option does not search as often and only sends emails when an open campsite is found. The pay option is \$30 per year, allows unlimited requests, will send TXT/SMS messages as well as emails, and searches twice as often or more.

My wife and I have used Wandering Labs several times successfully, and enjoyed some wonderful rallies we wouldn't have otherwise. Give it a try, and we will see you at an upcoming rally.

-Craig Stephens



Exploring Columbus

Kenny and Connie McCutcheon, owners of Lake Pines Campground and fellow Airstream owners welcomed us to Columbus, GA. With 9 Airstreams in attendance Lisa Forsyth took us to the sites including the Infantry Museum, Civil War Naval Museum, River Walk, and downtown. Once again, the weather was perfect and the company exceptional.





Annette Conoly stepped us through a wine tasting.

Joyce Butcil led creation of decorative tiles for our Airstreams.

Bent Oak Farm

Pat and Wayne Griffith welcomed our 15 Airstreams to their farm, for the 3rd year in a row. For those who haven't been, the farm features a beautiful, mostly flat camping field, fishing pond, walking/biking trail, their home, and the Cave. This was a great opportunity to learn more about dry camping. We enjoyed learning to play Euchre, making decorative tiles, Bloody Mary's, wine tasting, bourbon tasting, and BBQ. You should plan to attend next year, November 7 - 10. Contact Pat Griffith to attend or ask questions.

2024 SECU Rally Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Host
Jan. 4 - 7	Canopener	Topsail Hill Preserve St. Park	Lindsay Shropshire
Jan. 7-11	It'a Beach Thing	St. George Island St. Park	Carol Stephens
Feb. 8 - 12	Farmlife	Land O'Lakes, FL	Lisa Forsyth
Feb 29 Mar 3	Goat Rally	Goat Serenity Farm	Matty Garret
April TBD	To (or From) Region 3 Rally	TBD North Carolina	Lynn Talsma
April 17 - 21	Region 3 Rally,	Meadow Event Center, Doswell, Va	Christine Baum
June 6 - 9	Blue Ridge Rally	Julian Price Campground	TBD
Sept. 3 -8	Alumapalooza	Jackson Center, OH	Brett Greiveldinger
Sept. 11-15	Apple Pickin' Time	Fort Mountain St. Park, GA	Jerry O'Connell
Oct 31- Nov 3	Falluminum	GA Mountain Fairground	Ron Kaes
Nov 7-10	Bent Oak Farm Rally	Camden, SC	Pat/Wayne Griffith
Nov 14-17	Holidays Almost in Savannah	Campground TBD	Nancy Gore