

The Shiny Hiney Review

January/February 2024



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<https://airstreamclub.org/piedmont-north-carolina>

Introducing The Shiny Hiney Review

So here's our first newsletter issue for 2024. A new year.....a new outlook.....and a NEW NAME.

A long round of applause to the club members who answered the call in December and submitted their creative ideas for a fitting titling for our monthly communique, and thank you to our impartial panel who made a selection of the name.

This moniker is a testament to the scenery we take in as we travel down the road far and wide with our fellow Airstreamers. What is your view in front of you?.....of course it's the beautiful, rounded, classic design, shimmering silvery Shiny Hiney of your travel mates.

That beautiful sight says you are on your way to an exciting adventure.

Musings and Ramblings from the President...

Navigator's Log Stardate: January/February 2024

Big Mike and I bought our Airstream on a beautiful NC fall afternoon. An hour later we were camping at Kerr Lake with the Piedmont 161 Airstream Club.

"Minimalist" would best describe the way our trailer was outfitted for that weekend. You might say we were flying by the seat of our pants, but that's the way we like it. Every day is like Pee Wee's Big Adventure.

Two months later the annual Installation Rally was held at Tanglewood Park. The host couple asked if we would co-host with them. Sure, we said. We don't really know you or the other members, but

that sounds like fun. The optimist in me now says, "we really made some memories that weekend."

Our plan was to welcome rally participants by preparing a pasta dinner under the beautiful arbor there. It was so cold that the food wouldn't cook in our huge tabletop electric roaster ovens. Dinner was hours late and only was warmed then because Mike lugged our microwave oven to the arbor so we could heat the pasta plate by plate.

The roaring fire in the huge stone fireplace did little to keep us warm even though we were elbow huddled up in every blanket,

hoodie, glove, and hat that we could find. S'mores never entered anyone's mind. That would have involved moving from the chair we had just warmed up. My grand plan to cook grits for all campers on Sunday morning was canceled by unanimous decision. Frost covered the frozen ground. (Maybe I'm exaggerating slightly on the ground part. But it was COLD.)



Photographic evidence of the campfire circle during the Tanglewood Freeze. Just ask anyone pictured how cold it was.

The next year a group of 6 couples from our club caravanned to International. It was a wonderful trip where we got to experience life on the road with our clubmates. Each couple planned one of the designated stops on our route, a mini-rally if you will. Nothing too difficult....dinner reservations on the night we

THE TWO STAGES OF WINTER



arrived and an activity for the next day. Interpretations on that assignment were varied. One couple mapped out an hourly schedule for us including a 7 AM breakfast date. Shoot me now!

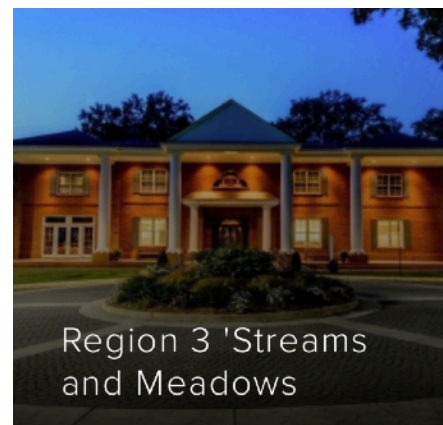
Over the years our rallies have been quite varied and delightful. Organizing the events was a treat. Co-hosting allows you to be creative in designing a rally and helps you get to know your fellow club members. A Google search on 'rally hosting tips' showed me that people often must walk a straight and narrow corporate line....so many rules and dictates. There's a checklist of "to do's" and "not to do's". Big Mike calls that "Mandatory Fun". Sometimes you just have to be flexible and flow with it. After all, if you wanted to be stressed you could stay at the office or

clean the house, right!

Hosting and attending Piedmont Club rallies has been an education. Here are some things we've learned:
 Lesson 1: Camping doesn't always go as planned.
 Lesson 2: Camping introduces you to lifelong friends.
 Lesson 3: Camping is almost always more fun than a poke in the eye.

Have you signed up for our Region 3 Rally in Doswell, VA? Leaders have checked their weather maps and assure us in October it will be a beautiful climate. If you were at International in Doswell in 2019, you likely remember the 105 degree heat we experienced. This year will be a cooler year to explore the home of the mighty Triple Crown Winner, Secretariat. If you are going, please reach out to Gaile at gailebroom@aol.com.

Gaile Broom, President



17 - 21	13191 Dawn Blvd.
Apr	Doswell VA
	23047

Join your friends, in Region 3, for a great time in beautiful Doswell, VA. Campsite fees and rally registration will be handled together at online registration beginning around January 22, 2024.

A Message from the Vice-President

Baby, it's been COLD outside! (At least in North Carolina it has been - I realize that some of you snow eagles are toasty warm in Florida!) We've been spending time inside planning and thinking about new adventures. If you have had a moment to pursue our rally schedule or check out what other clubs and regions are doing on airstreamclub.org you know the choices are endless. I hope, as you are planning for the year, that you will try and attend at least one of our Piedmont Airstream Club rallies. We have such a wonderful group with plenty of room for more and there's lots of fun to be had.

I've also been using my time inside to try and define my new state of being. I stopped working on January 4th and it's been an adjustment. I've been a little thrown when in social situations, I'm asked "What do you do?". I've found that I don't like saying I'm retired because that sounds as if I'm not doing anything so I've been looking for an alternative that better suits my vibe.

Several words have surfaced. Maturation and Arrivement have come up in my searches but I'm not sure that I have arrived where I want to be or are very mature, so I have set these aside. My Time or Me Time has been bounced around; but again, I'm becoming more active with my community, church, and our Airstream Club so these don't seem to fit very well. The more modern Happyment, Yahoooment, and Yipeement do describe how I am feeling but they would seem odd answers to the question. Independent gives you options and is quite open-ended but still, I'm not sure that people would understand. I have learned that Spanish-speaking countries translate our word retirement as jubalacion. The English word jubilation as well as the Spanish word jubalacion come from the Latin "jubilo" and mean rejoicing. I like this option and recently read an article that took this concept further. Jubilee (another word from the same root) denotes a season or occasion of celebration and is also a term used to describe a 50-year cycle or an anniversary. Although I haven't worked for 50 years, I am looking at this as a season of celebrating all that came before and what is ahead. Who knows what I'll settle on? I do know I'm having a fabulous time being whatever you want to call it!

Whether you work full-time, part-time, or not at all, I hope that your Airstream travel allows you to experience jubilation!

Wishing you all joy!

April Strader Bullin, Vice-President

2024 Rally Event Schedule

Here is our exciting schedule of rallies for this year. Our hosts have designed clever locations and activities for your camping delight. After you reserve your site, notify your hosts via email so you get into the weekend headcount for activities and meals.

*NOTE: The campgrounds for the March and May rallies will hold our sites through **December 13, 2023**. Make your reservations now.*

February 10, 2024 @ 12pm

Mid-Winter Banquet

Pomodoro Italian Kitchen

811 Hillandale Rd
Durham, NC 27705

Hosts: Stedman Brown & Tami Lowe

E-mail: stedmanbrown6693@gmail.com

RSVP to Stedman by: February 3, 2024

March 14 - 17, 2024

Season Opener - Piedmont Campground Olympics

Raleigh Oaks RV Resort & Cottages

527 US Hwy 701 South
Four Oaks, NC
919-934-3181

Host: Debbie and Todd Stroud

E-mail: goodfoodlady@gmail.com

Reserve by: Dec 13, 2023

Flex your muscles and your brain power with indoor and outdoor games at Raleigh Oaks. In addition to pickle ball courts and a swimming pool, the facility boasts a fully equipped kitchen and a mammoth tv that are sure to be put to good use. This place is deluxe.

2024 Rally Event Schedule

April 17 – 21, 2024

Riders Up!

Region 3 Rally

The Meadow Event Park

13191 Dawn Blvd

Doswell, VA

804-994-2800

Hosts: Christine and Joe Baum

E-mail: baumjc@gmail.com

Reserve by: March 15, 2024

Camp on the farm where a Triple Crown Winner was born. Secretariat's birthplace is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Online registration opens January 22, 2024

May 3 - 5, 2024

Springtime in Mayberry

Mayberry Campground

114 Byron Bunker Lane

Mt. Airy, NC

336-789-6199

Hosts: April and Chris Bullin

E-mail: astraderbullin@roadrunner.com

Reserve by: Dec 12, 2023

A beautiful small town vibe like no other. Echoes of Andy, Opie, Barney, and Aunt Bee still ring among the vineyard covered hills.

Piedmont Club #161 Business Meeting

2024 Rally Event Schedule

June 20 - 23, 2024

Take Me out to the Ballgame

Creekwood Farm RV Park

4696 Jonathan Creek Rd
Waynesville, NC
828-926-7977

Hosts: Amy and Jim Mount, Jessica and Jerry Smith

E-mail: rovermommy@hotmail.com

Reserve by: April 19, 2024

Put on your rally caps for a weekend of America's favorite pastime.

July 18 - 21, 2024

Frescoes, Cheddar, and Chardonnay

Raccoon Holler Campground

493 Raccoon Hollow Rd
Jefferson, NC
336-982-2706

Hosts: Diane and Bill Byrum, Shelly and Bill Townsend

E-mail: bbcubed53@gmail.com

Reserve by: April 30, 2024

Bring your adventurous spirit for this trip. The area is a Renaissance treasure trove.

2024 Rally Event Schedule

Aug. 4 – 11, 2024

A Toe Tappin' Good Time

Region 3 Rally - Galax Fiddler's Convention

Cool Breeze Campground

87th Annual Old Time Fiddlers Convention

2330 Edmonds Road

Galax, VA

276-236-0300

Host: Christine and Joe Baum

E-mail: baumjc@gmail.com

Reserve by:

From old timers to young talent on the rise. The Galax Fiddler's Convention is the best around.

August ???

Popup Rally

Host: None

Do you have a free weekend where you are hitting the open road? Want some Piedmont friends to meet you there? Put out the call and then the party starts. Let's do this!

2024 Rally Event Schedule

Sept. 19 - 22, 2024

Carolina Mountain Jamboree

Palmetto Cove RV Park

521 Table Rock Road

Cleveland, SC

864-836-6221

Host: Palmetto State Club, Don and Vickie Lee

E-mail: dllakewsc@yahoo.com

Reserve by:

All five clubs from North and South Carolina will gather in one spot.

Piedmont Club #161 Business Meeting

Updated
Sept. 30 - Oct. 15, 2024

Wagons Ho! Piedmont Club Caravan

AIC International Meeting 2024

2503 W 16th St

Sedalia, Missouri

Led by: Mike Bizon and Gaile Broom

E-mail: Gailebroom@aol.com

Reserve by: Notify Gaile and Mike by March 1st if you are interested in going.

We're heading to Sedalia on a NC to Missouri caravan. Want to come?

Campgrounds will be determined based on availability after we have a tentative headcount.

2024 Rally Event Schedule

Oct. 24 - 27, 2024

Alumalina

Tom Johnson Rally Park/Campground

348 Resistoflex Rd

Marion, NC

800-225-7802

Host: John and Susan Leake

RSVP to: Go to “AirForum” on Facebook. Look for “Alumalina 2024”

Sign up: Facebook AirForum

Everything has already been said about this rally. But just one more time, “Let’s hear it for the hottest ticket around”. Folks come from across the USA and Canada. Why... the fish fry alone makes it worth the trip.

Updated
Nov. 7 - 10, 2024

The Passing of the Torch

Salem Breeze RV Park

2784 Hickory Tree Road

Winston-Salem, NC

336-972-3200

Hosts: Debbie and David Stubbs

Email: davidstubbs57@gmail.com

Reservation Details: Reservations can be made on line at [Salem Breeze Reservations – Cool Breeze Campground](https://saallembreeze.com/reservations) or call or email Robert Sells at robert@saallembreezervpark.com, 336-972-3200. No deposit required.

A time for celebration as new officers step up to serve.

Piedmont Club #161 Installation Rally

Piedmont NC Club Membership Report

by Amy Mount Membership Chair January 2024

Having a NEW Club member and NEW Affiliate members is a *wonderful* way to start the new year! Let's welcome –

NEWEST MEMBERS as of 1/1/2024

Timothy Gerhardstein	BRN 1800	2022 25-ft. Flying Cloud	Southport, NC
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NEWEST AFFILIATE MEMBERS 12/14/2023

Robert & Robyn Warren	BRN 6955	2018 27-ft. Flying Cloud	Mobile, AL
Robert Zuber & Eve Gelbein-Zuber	BRN 10429	2023 25-ft. International	Wake Forest, NC

It is also fantastic to see current Piedmont Club members renew for 2024!

RENEWED MEMBERS as of 1/19/2024

Dan & Diana Amburn	BRN 6626	2018 25-ft. Flying Cloud	Burlington, NC
Mary Lynne & James Baxter	BRN 14736	1975 27-ft. Overlander	Lincolnton, NC
April Strader-Bullin & Chris Bullin	BRN 16263	2022 25-ft. Flying Cloud	Tobaccoville, NC
Bill & Diane Byrum	BRN 23618	2020 30-ft. International	Denver, NC
Donna & Dana (Coach) Edwards	BRN 16910	1973 22-ft. Argosy	Ocean Isle Beach, NC
Vic Cocowitch & Dawn Erikson	BRN 2103	2019 16-ft. Sport	Chapel Hill, NC
James Hamernick & Margaret Banke	BRN 9520	2014 24-ft. Interstate	Pinehurst, NC
David & Denise Funaro	BRN 31933	2017 25-ft. Flying Cloud	Wake Forest, NC
Alan & Jane Hvizdak	BRN 2362	2017 28-ft. Flying Cloud	Sneads Ferry, NC
Howard & Diane Johnson	BRN 3359	2022 30-ft. Classic RBT	Morganton, NC
Mark & Maria LeBlanc	BRN 4729	2020 27-ft. Globetrotter	Leland, NC
Dick & Becky Martin	BRN 2753	1986 31-ft. Excella	Wake Forest, NC
		1986 34.50-ft. Model 345	
Carl & Karen Newton	BRN 1619	2005 31-ft. Classic 31D	Raleigh, NC
Jeffrey Skeahan	BRN 7150	2017 25-ft. Flying Cloud	Greensboro, NC
Ralph & Ruth Meeks	BRN 6601	1975 31-ft. Excella 500	Sanford, NC

RENEWED AFFILIATE MEMBERS as of 12/19/2023

Robin & Bogdan Gieniewski	BRN 18404	1964 17-ft. Bambi II	White Oak, NC
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Ed and Tech (Streaming without a net)

How to wash your Airstream

Submitted by Michael Bizon

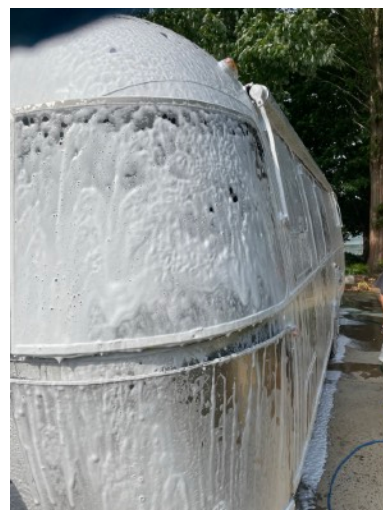
Getting ready for travel? I've looked and used every method to clean the outside of the Airstream including truck stop wash operations, trailer park vendors and DIY wash bays.



This is not meant to be the do all and end all to washing your rig, but it is a good start. Have you had difficulty getting any value from the ACI "rewards" program? Most of the programs are geared towards new members. However, there is one benefit that rocks for us long time streamers.

My camping buddy and I swear by the Griots system. Airstream Club members will receive a generous 15% discount on their product line of car care liquids. Log into your members page and search for "product discounts". Their stuff ain't cheap but it really works.

Take a look at the foam sticking to this beauty of an Airstream! We used a foam cannon from a pressure washer. There is no need for heavy duty pressure. If you have an industrial pressure washer you want to be sure you back off about 6 feet so you don't damage the skin.



Here's the 4 step process:

1. A quick rinse with plain water.
2. Foam it up.
3. Wash the foam off with water. No need to scrub. I'll admit you might need a microfiber towel or sponge on bugs and road tar.
4. Finish it off by using your leaf blower along the rails and places that will hold water.



Wipe the body down with a microfiber towel to absorb any remaining water. Griots sells a towel that holds an amazing amount of water and dries quickly.

This is a great method for the between trips clean-up. I still like a full hand wash and Walbernize at the start of the season. Why? Because you are forced to look at every inch of the trailer and can catch cracking seams and other slightly hidden issues that will bite you later.

We call it "Airstream Hygiene". As always, your results may vary. Do your own due diligence. And don't forget to tip the wait staff.

Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

I've got a bone to pick. I just don't know who to pick it with. Names are important. The most beautiful sound that a person can hear is their name. So who the heck is in charge of this chicken shirt outfit? Is it Gaile Broome, Gail Broom, or Gail Broome? Who's backing her up? April Bullin, April Strader Bullin, Ms VP Bullin? Is there someone behind the curtain like the Wizard of Oz that can't be named?

Some people put such importance on names that they name their Airstream. If you are in a group that put a name to an inanimate hunk of steel, aluminum and plastic you should pay attention to names.

I was at a campfire last week and the elderly gentleman across from me had his wife keep bringing him hot toddies and snacks. He always was sure to say "thank you" upon delivery. He used "honey pie", "sweetie bird", "darling", "lover" all the time. I remarked that he was really diligent about thanking his wife and showering her with terms of endearment and how nice it was to see. He told me that he had forgotten her name years ago and was afraid to ask for it again.

Back to Gaile and April, their names were spelled inconsistently in various articles submitted in recent Piedmont Fish Wrap. (Yes, "Piedmont Fish Wrap", that's my offering to whoever has put out the challenge to name the newsletter.) Don't blame the editor. He can only print what he is given. Come on, if you can get Hvizdak right almost any other name should be a piece of cake.

Some of you might not know the genesis of calling the newspaper a fish wrap. Back in the day, people got their news on paper. A paper delivered everyday to their door. This newspaper provided an entry level job to hundreds of kids. They learned about working for a living and how to ride a bike with one hand while they flipped a folded newspaper at the front door. Sometimes it hit the door, sometimes it was in the bushes, sometimes on the roof. It was a job.

Anyway the newspaper had a life after the news, sports, obituaries and comics were perused. There was no climate crisis that forced recycling into neat bins. People recycled the newspaper for other things. One of those was to wrap fish guts in when the cook cleaned the fish for dinner. If it wasn't that, it was to wrap sandwiches for lunch. It was a viable butt wipe when outhouses were the standard. After reading they could be used to line the bottom of bird cages. I don't know if people even have birds as pets anymore.

The decline of newspapers was the start of the downfall of humanity. Why? No entry level jobs to teach people the value of working. No one reads the news. We allow ourselves to be spoon fed by talking heads. Now we have "breaking news" delivered with breathlessness. We have news 24/7. If you're not that addicted to cable, the local TV starts the evening news at 4:00 and repeats it every half hour for the next three hours. If you watch TV news consistently, you will be driven into a dark abyss of depression. You have to filter what comes into your brain.

So how about clearing up the president's and VP's names? Give the editor an article that you've checked for accuracy. Above all, write an article for our newsletter, whatever it's called. We need content.

That's what's on my mind...what's on yours?

The Saga of the Critter Wars

Submitted by Michael Bizon

There are a lot of things that can delay or prevent an Airstream adventure. Probably there are more that delay traveling rather than totally prevent a trip. All I ask is for things to stay in their lane. Slow drivers in the right lane. WWE in the ring. Clowns in the circus tent. Nature outside.

This last time we were delayed...

The best non-official rally starts on Thursday. We arrive on Sunday to stake our spot. It's just like some church members have their specified spot in the pew. It's just a given that they sit there. It's how we take church attendance. It's how we know if some catastrophic event has occurred that prevents our members from nestling in for the riveting Sunday preaching. So we planned for a Sunday departure to claim our spot in 'our' pew.

When I went to get the TV filled up, she was a little hesitant to start. I planned to stop at the dump on the way to gas her up. The truck bed was filled with detritus including old gas cans, limbs, and the regular kitchen trash.

I arrived at the dump and the smell of gasoline was pretty strong. I was concerned at first, then dismissed it as maybe the old gas can wasn't so empty. The weather made for a great day to open the windows and sunroof! I filled up and made a grocery run and headed home.

When I returned I was asked to leave my clothes outside. Not the usual greeting, but "Whoop Whoop!" Talk about communication issues. My clothes stunk of gasoline. That's the reason I needed them off. Oh well.

I now had a full tank of gas, but I needed to make one more short trip before leaving and the smell of gasoline in the cab was VERY strong. That's a problem. I thought I could get it checked out when we got to the campground. How bad can it be? Maybe the 1:30 hour drive would dissipate the smell and it was still good weather for open windows.

Time for a reality check and a consult with my mechanically inclined neighbor. I drove down to his house and the two of us crawled under the truck. The entire underbody of the truck was soaked in gas. I turned on the key and we observed a petroleum mist rainbow from driver's side to passenger side from the back of the front seat to the tailgate.

Mystery solved!

All we could see without dropping the full fuel tank was a frayed fuel line. We spent more time than we should have discussing the relative risks of driving to a repair shop or the campground. Not feeling particularly lucky, I chose to have the truck towed on Monday to a repair shop. They dropped the tank and found two frayed lines. Both lines were backordered and the UAW was on strike.

Now is the time to ask. "What could have frayed the fuel lines behind the gas tank shroud?"

Answer: Squirrels....a.k.a. rats with fuzzy tails. Since auto makers began using a soybean based product, car wiring and lines have been a mobile cafeteria for rodents. Squirrels stay in your lane and out of my truck!

A welcome phone call came telling me that both hoses had arrived early on Wednesday and were installed. The truck was ready for pickup. We departed on Thursday and did enjoy a wonderful rally. My "pew mates" left us a spot. Almost in the same place as usual. Thank you to my good Airstream buddies and my good neighbor for walking me back from driving a 2500 GMC spraying gasoline. It could have been one hell of a ride. Wonder what lane I would have ended up in?

I am now at war with squirrels, again. The last war was after they chewed a hole in the patio television. Yes, through the plastic back and into the guts. They ate circuit boards and connections. I did win that battle using traps baited with sunflower seeds. Well, the traps are coming out again. (BTW, don't store the bag of sunflower seeds in the house, near a door. That attracts mice. Don't ask me how I know.)

Followup on traps: Me-4 Squirrels-0 Davids's BBQ Sunflower seeds seem to be right in the squirrels lane.



There's still time!

We don't want to miss traveling or camping with any Piedmont Club members. If you want to hang with a fun bunch of Streamers on our caravan to the Airstream International meeting October 5-11 in Sedalia, MO, please reach out to mikebizon@me.com or 704 450 1227.

Outbound travel: September 30 - October 5

ACI Meeting: October 5 -10

Return travel: October 10 - 15

Maybe you have already planned a trip around International outside of the above travel dates, but you want to camp with the group at the Sedalia fairgrounds. Let Mike know. There will be a timed entry for groups of 5 or more trailers. Our rendezvous spot will be picked closer to the meeting time.

This caravan will be laid back and nothing fancy. It will include a 2 night stop in Memphis on the way to the meeting and 2 nights in Nashville on our return so we can enjoy all that those two cities offer.

Come join us for some fun times!