

The Shiny Hiney Review

March 2024



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

Musings and Ramblings from the President...

Captain's Log Stardate March 2024

Pet Peeve: *noun* INFORMAL

noun: **pet peeve**; plural *noun*: **pet peeves**

1. something that a particular person finds especially annoying. "one of my biggest pet peeves is poor customer service"

Have you ever felt the pea in your mattress? Or heard a noise that had the "fingernails on the blackboard" impact?

Surveys found this top 5 list of people's biggest pet peeves:

1. Those around you leave common spaces messy (63%)
2. Colleagues complain about their work and/or specific colleagues (53%)
3. You boss doesn't give you credit when it's deserved (50%)
4. The responsible person neglects to take out the trash (45%)
5. Bedmate takes too much of the blanket (39%)

You are probably nodding over one or two of these annoyances. They are common grievances. Not listed, but way up on my list of petty irritants, is one that I've carried since we bought our beautiful "Aluminum Road House". Prior to 2024 each month I've eagerly torn open the monthly Blue Beret (BB) and flipped straight to the listing of club events only to find zip, nothing, nada listed for Piedmont NC Club #161 events. What??? How can that be?

Since taking over the club crown, I've been a woman on a mission to get Piedmont NC Club #161 the publicity that it deserves.

You are probably asking, "how hard can it be to get this task completed?" I felt the same way. Quickly, I learned that the system is wide and my reach is short. After several calls and several hours with the BB publisher, then the ITC (the ACI's volunteer computer gurus), the Region 3 Contributing Editor, and again the BB publisher, instructions were sent to our ace webmaster, Delia Rati. After my birddogging this thing from September 11th until October 28th Delia got us in business.

So take a look and try to control your glee when you see us listed there among the esteemed clubs of Region 3.

The wheels of progress sometimes move slowly. Just hang in there. As the ole Staples ad used to say, "That was easy!"



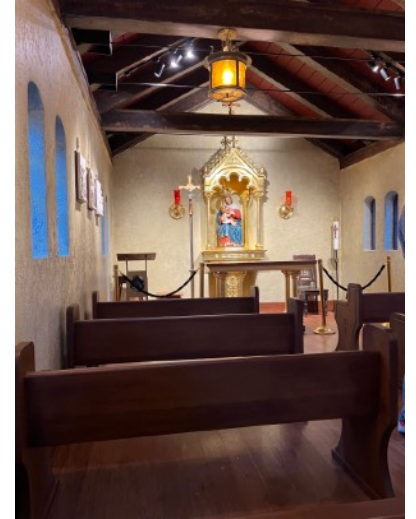
This graphic explains a lot about my psyche. Can you relate?

Gaile Broom, President

A Message from the Vice-President

Chris and I have just returned from our longest adventure yet. A sojourn that took us to St. Augustine, the Keys, and Miami - a little more than 1800 miles!

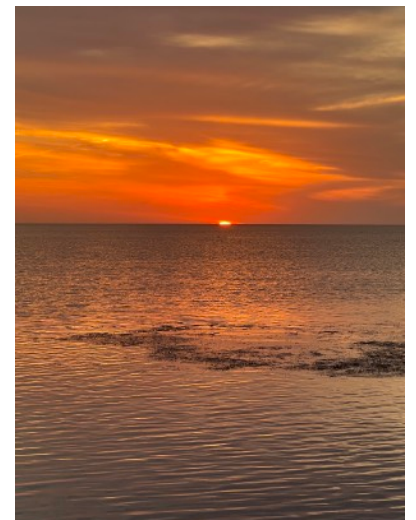
We enjoyed the historic sites in St. Augustine including the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. On this site, on September 8, 1565, General Pedro Menendez de Aviles came from Spain to secure the land for his country and establish a mission to convert native Americans to Christianity. The first Mass was celebrated that same day. This has become a pilgrimage site for many Christians and we highly recommend a visit. We also visited Villa Zorayda, the winter home of Franklin W. Smith, built in 1883. The Moorish Revival style home was inspired by Alhambra Palace in Granada Spain. The interesting thing about this structure is its construction. Smith utilized a mixture of Portland cement and crushed coquina shells. The first concrete structure in Florida and the



first of its kind. The building was resistant to fire, moisture, and insect damage. Smith went on to construct his Casa Monica Hotel of the same material. The construction caught the eye of Henry Flagler, who used the method to build four more buildings during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The most magnificent of these is the Ponce de Leon Hotel (now Flagler College). We took the history tour here. It's the only way to see the largest extant collection of Tiffany stained glass in America. The dining room is surrounded by windows and the roof allows for a line of windows down the center of the room. They were spectacular! And I must say that they have the most elegant dining room of any college I am aware of.



Heading further south we established our home base at Fiesta Key RV Resort in Long Key. It's about midway down the Keys so was an easy drive north or south to see sites. We spent a day in Key West and enjoyed tours of Ernest Hemingway's home and Truman's Little White House. At Hemingway's home, the cats are the stars and they know it! These polydactyl (six-toed) cats - about 60 of them - live their best life at this museum house. Some of the cats are descended from a cat Hemingway was given by a ship's captain whose





name was Snow White. As Snow White started having kittens, Hemingway named them after famous people, and the museum does so today as well. Truman's Little White House began as naval officer's housing constructed in 1890. Eventually, the house was abandoned by the Navy. Truman found out about it early in his presidency when it was suggested to him that he use the home as a place of respite so he decided to give it a try. He enjoyed it so much that he ended up spending 175 days of his presidency there from 1946 -1952. Several presidents have used the home including Taft, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and Clinton.



We ended our trip with a visit to the Everglades National Park. I must admit that I was naive about this natural wonder. I did not realize that the Everglades is not a swamp. It is a very slow moving river. They tried to drain it beginning in the 1920s by building canals. This idea was very costly and was a constant battle with Mother Nature. After decades and billions of dollars, President Nixon finally killed the project in 1969. The damage done by this is being repaired and we saw evidence of the work. I hope that this landscape will come back to its full glory in the decades to come. We enjoyed the beauty of the Everglades on an airboat ride. Our guide gave us plenty of history and allowed us to enjoy just being in the natural environment. Skimming across a Sawgrass river is pretty fabulous!

Our last exciting stop was our first visit to a Buc-ee's! Pretty fun experience. I enjoyed capturing the reflection of the store on Luna's side.

I'm looking forward to hearing about your adventures when we meet up in March at Raleigh Oaks RV Resort. If you haven't signed up and want to, contact Debbie and Todd Stroud to check availability.

See ya soon!



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

Updated
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.

Update: Be sure to reserve your campsite BEFORE APRIL 19th, 2024. So far six campsites have been reserved but plenty are available at Creekwood Farm RV Park. Details about the June Rally will be shared in the April newsletter

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

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.

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://saalembreezervpark.com) or call or email Robert Sells at robert@saalembreezervpark.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
February 2024

With membership renewals slowing down in January, Piedmont Club currently has 63 Airstream BRNs, which equates to 121 Club members. We also have 26 Affiliate members. I'm thankful for EACH member of our Piedmont Club!

RENEWED MEMBERS as of 1/31/2024

Fredrick & Vickie Reese

BRN 14033 2022 24-ft. Interstate GT Flat Rock, NC

Piedmont Club members, if you meet a fellow camper that has an Airstream then be sure to ask if they are members of Airstream Club International AND if they are members of any local Airstream Club. If they are not, please pass along an ACI brochure or give them a past edition of the "Blue Beret." The magazine gives a *wonderful* overview of what Airstream Clubs are all about, as well as information about rallies and caravans. Be sure to pass along your contact information or mine so one of us can follow-up with any prospective members.

Thanks for your help and for sharing about our GREAT Piedmont NC Club!

See ya at the upcoming rally.

Ed and Tech (Streaming without a net)

It's got to go!!!

Submitted by Michael Bizon

Back when I was researching purchasing our Airstream, I consulted a neighbor. I only saw him in person one time, but we communicated by phone, text and email a lot. He belonged to another church in town, not that that's relevant. It did give him some validity by membership. He didn't belong to ACI, but never trash talked about it.

I would find an Airstream for sale and run it by him. He was very good at giving a synopsis of the pros and cons of the model. He also helped keep me from going down a pretty crafty scam artist's path.

Once we purchased the trailer we continued our conversations about what to pack. One of the things he kept saying like a mantra, "Ounces make pounds." Now I had backpack camped before. It only took one time and about a mile to understand this principal. Luckily enough only one mile and easy to return to the car and put a few things back in the trunk. When everything is on your back you become very aware of weight.

I thought that since I was using a truck for transporting our stuff, weight wasn't going to be a problem. So go ahead and throw in an couple of extra things. You might need three or four pairs of shoes. Why not grab the toolbox with all the sockets, metric and SAE (society of automotive engineers) and drivers, three types pliers, a moisture meter. The list can get pretty long.

What happens is some of this stuff gets into the trailer and never leaves. Or as sometimes happens, you need a tool and you buy another one because you forgot you already had one. Then you have two times the ounces.

I will stop here to reply to those of you that are saying, " We're gone for 3 months and I don't know what I'll need."

Occasionally, you are excused for adding ounces. Yes, if you have an extra water pump, toilet valve, hinge for the cabinet or door, ok. I still think you can benefit from this little tip.

Right now take a couple of adult beverages (or not), a box for recycling, a trash bag, and a box for stuff to leave the trailer.

Then empty every drawer, cubby hole, closet, and locker one at a time. Take everything out and ask a couple of questions.

- Why do I have this?
- How long has it been here?
- Is it a duplicate of something stuck someplace else?

Some things may make you say, "What is this?" An example is a grinding wheel I was storing in my Airstream..Why?

Be critical. Don't be emotionally attached to anything. Take miscellaneous screws and other things that you find on the floor from parts unknown and put in a baggie. Take the baggie out of the trailer. When you find out where they came from, you'll know where they are to reinstall them.



I don't want to downplay the feeling of victory that comes when you need something you've carried for 10,000 miles...and you have it! Just be critical about what you carry along.

One exception is pillows. Pillows have a magical effect. They take away ounces. For the sake of domestic harmony, leave the pillows on the bed, couch, and everywhere they accessorize. Flamingos, being birds, don't add weight much either. Bring plenty of Flamingos. Some items just aren't worth the fight and just might add a flame of romance to that camping trip.

Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

Why should I go to an Airstream International Rally? I have been to several of these and will go again. This curmudgeon probably shouldn't complain....but I will! When I think back about some of the incidents, activities, experiences, and food over the past 7-8 years, there are things that make me go "hmmm!".

In my experience, prior to 2024 rallies have been during the hottest months of summer and prime season for every other vacationer to be on the road.

"Let's go to Maine", a place that rarely has or needs air conditioning. Temperatures varied from 96 to 100. Breakers were popping all over the place while A/C's hummed.

"Let's go to Virginia" Plan a bus trip into DC and leave so we can spend most of our time in commute traffic to and from the city. Temperature on the asphalt was 132 as the trailers rolled in to set up. My favorite gripe from Virginia was the opening dinner for all attendees where they ran out of food/drinks. Didn't you know we were coming?

"Let's go to Missouri" Hallelujah! My guess is that a boulder fell onto the frontal lobes of the site search committee who then figured out that 1,200 Airstreamers can gather in a month other than July!

I will not complain about the hundreds of people that volunteer. The parking team alone is a symphony of coordination. The patience they have for people backing in is a goal we should aspire to when we back in at every campground. My hat is off to all the volunteers!

I will begrudgingly admit that I have picked up some real gems at International. The LED guy is a great resource and well stocked. Great on-site embroidery, Snap Pads, and the like are all included. Get yourself a Silver Moose door safety thingy. Creative genius right there.

But I digress.....

Others worthy of Dishonorable Mention Awards: vendors who run out of full-price merch before the rally is over, close down and move out. Repeating seminars from last year. Seminars with novice presenters. Is there enough turnover in attendees from year to year so no one will notice?

More currently, the ACI is on a mission to expand communications with the entire membership. A lofty goal, but what nimrod scheduled a campfire meeting on Valentine's night right at the prime dinner hour of 7:00 Eastern and Pacific? "Sorry, Honey, we're going to cancel those dinner reservations we have at the most romantic restaurant around".

Yes, I'm pretty curmudgeonly this go round. I'm getting cabin fever, and I'm really getting tired of the constant and endless loop of debates on the AS Forum and the Facebook page. I have to sit on my hands to stop from typing "Let me google that for you." Anyone use the product "Wet and Forget?" The seller has a tag on the bottle that says something like: If you don't follow the directions, don't blame us if it doesn't work. I had a copy of it, but can't find it now. I did grab a picture of my favorite winter warning Highway Department roadside sign.

I know, I know this article is full of complaining, but I get paid to complain and write about it. The phrase that pays is "quit you bitchin' and get out of the kitchen".



February Luncheon Report

Submitted by Stedman Brown

Our Mid-Winter Luncheon was held February 10th at the Pomodoro Italian Kitchen in Durham. We had 32 members from various parts of the state attending. Before lunch we all enjoyed a time of fun and fellowship and enjoyed meeting new (and new to us) members. After lunch we discussed this year's rally schedule and asked each rally host that was present for comments and information about their rally. When the



group was asked about the regional and international rallies this year, a show of hands indicated 8 members planned to attend the Regional 3 Rally and 5 planned to attend the International Rally.



The Lovetts, Ratis and Caps gave a presentation on their 2023 trip to Alaska. They discussed planning the trip, the preparation of their rigs and border crossing regulations. Using an overhead projector, Delia provided pictures and highway maps of the roads they traveled as well as some wildlife and scenery they saw while traveling. Following the Q and A session, we adjourned, said our goodbyes, and returned home looking forward to this year's Airstream adventures.