



The Shiny Hiney Review

April 2024

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

Musings and Ramblings from the President ...

Captain's Log Stardate April 2024

What do we have to look forward to this month.....on April 15th the IRS Claims Your Wealth, Region 3 'Streams and Meadows Rally, Merlefest, and RAIN! It never fails. Big Mike and I head north from the Sunshine State and skid on our heels into NC just in time to set up camp in Wilkesboro, NC at the internationally famed Sewerfest. Hats, backpacks, sunscreen, lunch packs, sweatshirts, blankets, rain gear, and the mandatory RAIN BOOTS are needed daily. All that great advice on space savings in your trailer from the Ed and Tech dude goes out the window in April. We are always Merlefest pack animals from 9 AM when the gates open until midnight when the dance tent closes.

You will notice in the photos that 2023 was a banner year for Merlefest precipitation which made the festival grounds a total mud hole. Bright spots were few. However, with the smallest break in the clouds there it stood in the middle of the Wilkesboro Community College campus.....a beautiful





aluminum castle. This one was owned and operated by the NC Artsy Fartsy Department.

Some say we're a cult. Oh, the beauty of 1,000+ shiny bullets at a fairgrounds rally. There they are perfectly synchronized in a giant silver pod formation.

It seems that at any place we park, streamers are magically drawn together. I'll never understand the strange looks I get from those SOB owners when describing not only our club, but also the excellent service we get at the Mothership. "The mechanics drive over to the Terra port where they hitch us up to their transport tractor and tow us into a service bay. We meet new like-minded friends while we relax in the Mothership lounge while our treasure is coddled in the work area. At the end of the work day the process is reversed when they return our shiny domicile to our designated pod." How is that cult-like?

Ignore those nonbelievers, my friends. They just don't get it.

Nanoo nanoo, Mork !

Gaile Broom, President



A Message from the Vice-President



I am writing this month's article while boondocking on our way to the Darke Side of the Moon Rally in Darke County Ohio. We left sunny, NC this afternoon where temps were in the low 70's and arrived at Tamarack Marketplace in Beckley, WV to 45 degrees. There could be flurries overnight and the AccuWeather App shows full on snow between 8 and 9 am in the morning. We will be driving into the same kind of weather as we move toward Ohio. The interesting part is this will be the first snow that Chris and I have seen all winter! We are hoping for fairer weather as we head toward the big day!

I am wondering - why are we doing this? I am not a cold weather person. The answer, even if it is cold, is that it will be a great experience since we will be sharing it with Airstreamers that we haven't even met yet. Our community of like-minded travelers is like no other and we are looking forward to experiencing Eclipse Totality with our new friends. A bonus when we realized that two other Piedmont couples are here for the weekend and rally organizers parked us next to each other!



Rallies are an important part of our club and we are fortunate to have a great group of folks who have volunteered to host this year. We have some great things planned for 2024. That said, it is time to start thinking about our schedule for 2025! If you have an idea for a rally, throw your hat in the ring! We would love for you to plan and host. If you are a newbie and need some backup and help with knowing what to do we can help with that! Chris and I will be hosting our first rally in May and we have had two seasoned couples offer to help out. We have a great group of folks who are willing to help with whatever is needed.

Let me know if you would like to discuss a rally idea or if you would like to go ahead and claim a spot. I believe that we will have February covered but all other months are open!

Thank you,

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.*

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.

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

Updated
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: May 15, 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://www.salembreezervpark.com) or call or email Robert Sells at robert@salembreezervpark.com, 336-972-3200. No deposit required.

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

Piedmont Club #161 Installation Rally

Ed and Tech (Streaming without a net)

Submitted by Michael Bizon

What could possibly wrong here?

I'm sure that no Airstream owner could sleep at night with this setup. Yes, most of the lines are running "down hill", the preferred path for sewer effluent, black or gray. There is, however, a pretty level run up to the in-ground connection. I can only imagine the dance that will take place as the camper attempts to empty the lines.



Would one try and disconnect them one at a time? Perhaps disconnect the two at the trailer and hold them up over your head, watching the Y valve until it backed up? Then with a foot, lift the Y valve to try and drain it. But then the last section is below the 90 degree into the ground. Might need a little help to keep that from popping out. Just a nasty thing waiting to happen.

Ok, so you might be amused at this setup. So let's get into the black tank for some real down and dirty discussion. Do you put paper in your black tank? Yes, that is really a good question worthy of discussion.

There is a large part of the world, a lot of it very civilized, that does not put any paper in the toilet. The pipes just can't take it. In Europe, you cannot flush toilet paper, e.g. in Greece, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Turkey and Ukraine. In other parts of the world, Egypt, China, and rural South America, similar rules apply.

France, Portugal, Italy, Japan, Argentina, Venezuela, and Spain all use bidets. They often have toilet paper available in public spaces for tourists. Homes have bidets installed. Japan is the one Asian stand-out in that they have adopted bidets rather than other ways of washing the bum.

In the countries with a “no paper” flush zone there is a trash can next to the commode to deposit all paper products used in the elimination of bodily waste. Whether damp or stained it goes into the trash can that is emptied regularly.

When you choose to eliminate all paper in the toilet, you will eliminate about all the problems with clearing the black tank. Bidets are another workable solution for some of the newer trailers.

Anyone who shops at a grocery store generally has a bunch of plastic bags that can be used as single use disposable vessels. On any campground morning there are campers in their pajamas walking their furry friends with a coffee cup in one hand and with a poop bag in their other (hopefully) hand. Plastic bags are good enough for our pups. I’m suggesting for us humans only paper be bagged, tied up, and deposited in any trash can. We put a whole lot worse stuff in the trash.

You can keep the whole thing out of the Airstream with the newest option for Tow Vehicles.

Remember: “A flush beats a full house”. There’s a lot of differences in what we are comfortable with and as always, “your mileage will vary”.



Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

“Aging can be a beautiful thing if you let it.”

Blah, blah, blah. Yeah, I'm not buying that this month. Aging is fraught with mystery. Most of the mystery is around “How did I do this?” or “Why did this happen?” “I was being so careful.”

Just ask the Good Food Lady. She's just minding her own business and it's “Lady Down” placing the rally reigns with Todd. Aging is not fair on so many levels. Todd did a great job as usual with a good woman behind him.

If I wake up in the morning with a backache, first thing out of my mouth is “I must have slept wrong.” What happened to me that I forgot how to sleep right? I have slept under a table on a spinning kitchen floor. I have slept on the ground without a pad in a tent with it raining all night. When I woke up I was ready to go hike and on to the next adventure. Now if I don't have my 12” mattress foam and foundation cover, a weighed blanket and my powered-up noise machine in the the Airstream, I'm grumpy in the morning.

Some people like to say that a man's face gets more interesting as he ages. That's a load of cow pies! It's tough to shave around the wrinkles and deep facial crevices when men are too vain to put on glasses while scraping away the salt and pepper overnight growth.

Age is cruel to both men and women. What moron wants to be told that their “natural” hair color compliments their sagging face. Let's not even discuss the need for Spanx to fit into “special occasion” clothes. Forget the little black dress and slide into something more comfortable. Maybe something with an elastic waist band.

That's the advantage to Airstreaming. We don't need a little black dress or a tux to attend happy hour or a potluck. Just bring an open beverage, set-ups, and some Cheetos on a plate. Cheetos on a plate is the b minimum. Bring on the pigs in a blanket!

Here it is Spring. Prime Airstream season is about to blow up. Yet, here I am complaining about getting older. Some people don't get the privilege of growing old.

I sit on my throne as the Campfire Curmudgeon and observe. I like people who laugh at their mistakes, who understand their calling and don't hide from responsibility. People who defend human dignity and are on the side of truth, justice, and righteousness. This is what living is for.

I find that I complain less when I surround myself with people who know how to touch the hearts of others. Who, through the blows of fate, are able to rise and maintain the softness of their soul.

Yes, I complain. Let's face it, numbskulls are everywhere providing me with much fodder and irritation. I rather think of it as observation and reflection out loud. Maybe you'll laugh. Maybe shake your head and mutter a thing or two about people who complain all the time.

My goal is to reach my end in harmony with myself, my loved ones and my conscience AND, most importantly, to never camp next to those obnoxious 5th wheelers with the all-night glow sticks underneath. How about next to the Forest River's that have the TV mounted to the outside. Yeah sure, I want to hear Fox News all night or Disney when the grandkids are along.

I thought I had two lives, but it turned out to be only one, and it needs to be lived with dignity.

The phrase that pays.....“ Life is too short to not do something that matters.”

Carolina Mountain Jamboree September 19-22, 2024

Have you marked your calendar for the 5 club rally at Palmetto Cove? Last year we had a great time. So get your reservations in early for this year.



Palmetto Cove RV park will be open on April 1st and accepting reservations for your sites. Deadline for reservations is September 1st. Also below are instructions on how to conveniently make your rally fee payments online. It's easy and it's quick. Just follow these steps and it's done. Give it a try.

1. Use your search engine and search for Palmetto State Airstream Club.
2. Choose Palmetto State Rallies and events.
3. Click more details on PSAC rallies.
4. Choose your rally and follow the directions entering payment information.

Calling all artisans.....



The Carolina Mountain Jamboree planning group is asking all craft folks to consider donating “handmade” gifts to be used for door prizes. Examples: woodworks, authors, artists, metal workers, glass works, quilters (not asking for quilts), bakers, etc.

Let’s show everyone the knowledge, skills, and abilities held in the esteemed and talented Piedmont Club membership. You know you rock!

Please let Gaile know via email at gailebroom@aol.com what you have to put in the pot so she can keep our list and inform the planning team. If you would prefer to kick in a couple bucks toward some purchased items, Gaile will pool the funds and purchase gift baskets. Thanks for stepping up.



Come and cruise on the **Celebrity Edge[®]** with your fellow ACI members to Alaska!

- See whales, glaciers, eagles, orcas, mountains, and waterfalls
- Our group rate includes internet for one device and Celebrity's Classic Drink Package
- Choose your stateroom and travel arrangements when you book
- Our travel agent is an ACI member, so you'll get service from someone who knows rallies, Airstreams, and will cruise with us to make sure the experience is awesome



- When: July 4 – 11, 2025
- Embarkation location: Seattle, WA
- Ship: Celebrity Edge
- Itinerary: Ketchikan, Endicott Arm / Dawes Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC
- Optional ACI Events on the cruise:
 - Daily happy hours
 - Dinner together each night
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