

# The Shiny Hiney Review

May 2024



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Photo provided by Mike Merrit and Jayne Fleener

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

# Musings and Ramblings from the President ...

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Captain's Log Stardate: May 2024

It's no secret that Big Mike and I stay in the wind most of the time. In fact, this week we are looking at a return trip to Florida to complete a kitchen renovation that started demolition on February 5th. Ask me how fond I am of being without a kitchen sink for 4 months. NOT! While I'm complaining, I'll throw in the time and expense of an extra drive 10 hours each way.

In any case, when considering all of the possibilities of other bumps that could be in our road of life, those two hitches are minor.

On the flip side, our life is pretty wonderful. We made it safely to Merlefest. During the festival, temperatures were ideal and we didn't have any rain. After attending Merlefest for 18 consecutive years, this may be the only time we could report this.

The Airstream returned to Denver late Sunday night, was unloaded, reloaded, had a bath, and hit the road for Mayberry. We backed the Poodle Palace into our camping site for the weekend and the partying started. All of you who were unable to attend were greatly missed. Fun was in the air.

All of this is to say, traveling and taking in the wonderful world around us is delightful. Meeting new people, seeing sights that have only been captured in our minds, and the like are rewarding and enriching. There's no doubt about that, but perhaps the most special feeling is that of coming home. The chatter among friends

went on for hours until darkness led us to our individual aluminum chateaus. It warmed my heart.

Remember back before the ice melted you watched a favorite weekly television program where a certain fellow walked into a bar and heard the echoing cry, “Norm”? For me, it doesn’t get any better than walking into a group “where everybody knows your name”.



Gaile Broom, President



# A Message from the Vice-President

Prime rally season is upon us! We have had three fabulous weekends thus far and are looking forward to gathering in June in Waynesville, NC. Be sure to check out the full rally schedule later in the newsletter.



Chris and I were the hosts for the May rally and are still talking about how much fun we had. Since it was our first rally as hosts, we were a bit apprehensive but all went well. We learned that hosting a rally is easier if the venue is close to your home. It gives you the ease of knowing the best places to visit, restaurants, and other community tidbits you might not otherwise know. We were only about 20 minutes from



home which was great when we realized that we had forgotten something or needed to check in at the house. Another advantage is taking advantage of the things that are nearby. Many times we neglect local attractions. It was fun to visit sites that we had never been to like the Andy Griffith Museum! Activities and meals can be anything that you want to plan. We volunteered together and visited a museum. We hosted meals at the campground since we had a shelter with a kitchen but meals out together work great too. The possibilities are endless!



I am asking for volunteers to host or co-host rallies for 2025. We have hosts for February, May, and September so far. Let me know which month you would like to host or co-host. You can email me at [astraderbullin@roadrunner.com](mailto:astraderbullin@roadrunner.com).

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.*

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:bbcubed53@gmail.com)

**Reserve by:** May 15, 2024

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

**Aug. 4 – 11, 2024**

**A Toe Tappin' Good Time**

**Region 3 Rally - Galax Fiddler's Convention**

**Cool Breeze Campground**

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

2330 Edmonds Road

Galax, VA

276-236-0300

**Host:** Christine and Joe Baum

**E-mail:** [baumjc@gmail.com](mailto:baumjc@gmail.com)

**Reserve by:**

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

# 2024 Rally Event Schedule

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## 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!

## 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](mailto:dllakewsc@yahoo.com)

**Reserve by:**

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

**Piedmont Club #161 Business Meeting**

# 2024 Rally Event Schedule

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**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.

**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.



# 2024 Rally Event Schedule

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**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](#) or call or email Robert Sells at [robert@salembreezervpark.com](mailto: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**

# Piedmont NC Club Membership Report

by Amy Mount  
Membership Chair  
May 2024

**Yay** – we have *NEW* Piedmont Club Members, the Burkes! You can meet the Burkes at our Club's June Rally in Waynesville. We will have a few ACI members attend our rally who are from other clubs – some live in New Jersey, some live in the Waynesville area and some recently moved to North Carolina and are looking for a new club.

## **NEW MEMBERS** as of 4/20/2024

Clyde & Leslie Burkes     **BRN 8027** 2016 28-ft. International     Apex, NC

## **RENEWED MEMBERS** as of 4/20/2024

Mike & Sue Presley     **BRN 3420** 2019 22-ft. Bambi Sport     Mint Hill, NC

## **RENEWED AFFILIATE MEMBERS** as of 4/20/2024

Rick & Lisa Dunn     **BRN 8013** 2019 27-ft. Flying Cloud     Mooresville, NC

As of May 7, 2024, Piedmont Club has 115 members with 62 Airstreams. We also have 26 Affiliate members with 13 Airstreams.

# Ed and Tech (Streaming without a net)

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Submitted by Michael Bizon

Have you ever wondered why the cargo bed of large pickup trucks is separate from the cab? This may be an interesting story or a topic around the campfire when we stop talking about food.

It all comes down to the physics involved in frame design. Pickup trucks are body-on-frame designs, which means the framework underneath the skin is in two separate parts: the base, or chassis frame, and the body frame. As the name for this type of design implies, the body is attached to the frame. In most cars and sport utility vehicles a unibody design is used which integrates the frame and body into one unit.

The design of a body-on-frame vehicle like a pickup truck results in a higher center of gravity....Bad for sharp turns but also a stronger longitudinal strength for the vehicle (translation: can tow more stuff). The frame's design is called a ladder frame because that's what it looks like when there's nothing else attached to it. Two long rails are connected by cross members in what looks like a ladder (sorry to get technical. I'll write slower). The cross members can be straight, bent, etc. to accommodate other items like engines and transmissions.

As the loads got heavier, the problems of an attached cab and bed (single body) became apparent. Many models of the early Ford Ranchero, El Camino and similar car-based pickups were subject to frame bending (slouching) and body crinkling from twists when consumers (oblivious to how much crap they were putting in the back) overloaded them. Modern car-based trucks don't have these issues for several reasons, including reduced capability, shorter wheelbases, and smaller bed lengths. The car makers tried to make it smaller with smaller engines to keep us from asking in forums "Can my Ford Focus haul my 30 ft International with 2 Bernese Mountain dogs and 3 adults?"

In a full-sized pickup truck, which may be expected to carry a literal ton of cargo and be able to pull several tons of trailer behind, a more flexible frame becomes key. Separating the cab (front portion) of the truck from the bed (cargo) portion, which is roughly the middle of the truck's wheelbase, allows the bed to move independently of the cab, so frame twists to accommodate tough terrain or a heavy load does not bend or tear bodywork.

This is also, for those wondering, why sport utility vehicles built with on body-on-frame designs trying to look like big bad off-road trucks will have lower cargo and towing capacities. Most SUVs have an independent rear suspension and no seam between the fore and aft of the vehicle, making them less capable when it comes to weight bearing and not such a good tow vehicle.

Another reason cargo beds are usually separated from the cab in a pickup is a practical one. When using a pickup truck to do truck things, the bed can be subjected to a lot of abuse. Scrapes, dents, slams, and smashes are commonplace. When repairs need to be done, it's a lot easier and cheaper to replace an easily removable part (such as the truck bed) than it is to cut it off and re-attach a replacement (as with a fender).

These are the two greatest reasons for separation between cab and bed. Today's engineering could overcome the mechanical reason for separating them, but it would be expensive to do and would make repair much more expensive as well. Think Tesla Cybertruck on that.

As always your mileage may vary and be sure to tip the waitstaff.



## Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

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Encyclopedias like Wikipedia and news organizations like NPR exist to tell us the truth and to inform us about reality. Right? H\$LL NO! Perhaps it's not so simple anymore. This has me very grumpy today.

A recent example is the former CEO of Wikimedia and new CEO of NPR, Katherine Maher.

A pair of Maher's speeches have been making the rounds on social media, and not without good reason. In her talking points, Maher says that **“the idea of objective truth is a stuffy, antiquated, and culturally-constructed notion that must give way to the mature, enlightened view that there are “many truths.”**

What the heck does this have to do with camping and Airstreams? Let's see.

It is a truth that if you don't put enough air in your tires, they will, at best, run hot. On a bad day, BOOM! The truth is that the manufacturer has determined the truth of the best inflation pressure. They are confident enough to print it right on the tire sidewall. Take a look, goofball.

What we end up spending too much time on is “the many truths” of tire pressure in forums and around campfires. We get spun up around our ability to run with 10 to 20 psi less than the recommended psi that is put out as “truth” from often anonymous sources.

Why do we trust the invisible person on the internet or our whiskey drinking friends over the those who have a lot of skin in the game? I'm talking about manufacturers who must make the product perform well enough to not be sued out of business. Shouldn't they be the ones who know?

The blabbermouth around the campfire has no responsibility if you follow their truth. Any sheep going with the "many truths" philosophy, better have some roadside assistance in their back pockets to back them up. Guaranteed Mr. Know-it-all won't be around to come to your aid.

I'm the one that walks away from any campfire conversation that is lead by one of these "enlightened" campers. Would you believe some schmo who starts to claim that the idea that sewage running down hill is a stuffy idea of a culturally-constructed notion? It is not a culturally-constructed notion that sewage runs down hill. It is the truth. We deal with this truth every time we dump.

I'm never going to be mature enough to accept the enlightened truth that sewage goes both uphill and downhill depending on how the modern community defines its path.

If you ever see that one, document it and submit it to the Nobel Prize Committee cause you are in the running for a scientific award. It rolls downhill. Deal with it.

# Piedmont Airstream Club Meeting Minutes

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## Business Meeting - 5:45 pm at Mayberry Campground

Attendees - April and Chris Bullin, Debbie and Todd Stroud, Bill and Shelly Townsend, Bill and Diane Byrum, Gregory Ray, Bob and Ginger Ealy, Gaile Broom and Mike Bizon, Amy and Jim Mount, Ed and Jean Yost, Rob and Delia Rati, Jerry Smith, Coach and Donna Edwards, Stedman Brown and Tami Lowe

Gaile Broom called the meeting to order. Officer reports were given.

Jim Mount, treasurer, reported that our treasury has \$7,575. He made a motion that for the next 5 years the club would make in honor of the current President for all their hard work a \$500 per year donation to the charity of their choice. The motion was seconded by Bill Townsend.

Discussion of the motion - What are the club expenses? Jim answered AED maintenance, club president registration to international, badges, limited mailing costs, and paying rally fees for new members' second rally. Total expenses are usually less than \$1,500/per year. Revenue coming in is greater than expenses going out. Membership dues to the club are \$15 per trailer annually. The motion passed with 100% of members present voting in favor.

Chris Bullin is chairing the Sunshine Committee. If you know of sickness or death within our club, please let him know. He will send a card in our behalf.

Bob Ealy was installed as President of Region 3 at the Doswell, VA rally. Congratulations, Bob. He takes office August 1, 2024.

Membership chair, Amy Mount, reported that we have 26 affiliated members and 20 new members since last Fall. Total membership is 125. We want to give first time rally attendees an incentive to come to another rally by providing a gift certificate to cover the fee for their second rally.

Jerry Smith discussed our June rally. "Take me out to the Ballgame" is the theme. Wear your favorite team shirts and hats.

Bill & Dianne Byrum discussed the Frescoes, Cheddar, and Chardonnay rally they are hosting in Jefferson NC. Sign up by May 15th at Racoon Holler Campground. The last leg of the route is Hwy 16 with some narrow, curvy areas and grades, but definitely drivable.

Bob Ealy reported that the August 2024 Region 3 rally is in Galax, VA and is near capacity. Next year the 2025 Spring Region 3 rally will be in Charleston, SC when Bob will be Region 3 president. He asked for our support and participation!

Gaile said that the Sept 19-22 Carolina Mountain Jamboree (5 Club meeting) has asked for donations for door prizes. Members are encouraged to donate their craft items or money so items can be purchased.

Mike Bizon, Sedalia Caravan Leader, reported about the Sedalia Caravan is leaving September 30, 2024. Three trailers are traveling from NC to MO together with several others joining the group prior to entering the rally site in Sedalia.

Dalia Rati, Webmaster, reported about what other clubs were doing to streamline activity sign ups by using Square and WhatsApp.

Vice President, April Bullin reported about the club service team serving at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina this morning (Thursday, May 2). Approx 1,000 meals were served. Ten members volunteered their time and effort.

Shirts with the club logo for members was discussed. For volunteer teams like the one serving the food bank they would enhance the team unity and brand. Ed Yost has a shirt vendor contact. April suggested that we establish another work team to return to the Food Bank at the installation rally in November at Salem Breeze.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Debbie Stroud, recording Piedmont Airstream Club Meeting Minutes



## Just Sayin'

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Take a look at our rally schedule and make your reservations early. Several rallies have cutoff dates set by the campgrounds. That date means campsites not reserved by the designated date will be opened up to the public. What it DOES NOT mean is that you cannot get a site in the campground after that date. If you want to join the fun but missed the cutoff date, call the campground and see what might be available. We want you with us. Everyone who reserves a site to attend a rally should contact the Rally Hosts to let them know you are coming so you can be added to the headcount for meals and activities.

# *Frescoes, Cheddar, and Chardonnay*

*Hosted by Bill and Diane Byrum, Shelley and Bill Townsend*

*Bbcubed53@gmail.com*



**ALERT:** Reserve your site by May 15, 2024 for this exciting rally.

*Escape the summer heat on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Tours of the beautiful hills of Ashe County, renowned church frescoes, cheese production plants and retail stores, and NC wineries.*

*Dates: July 18-21, 2024*

*Campground: Raccoon Holler,  
493 Raccoon Hollow Road, Jefferson, NC  
336-982-2706*

## Carolina Mountain Jamboree September 19-22, 2024

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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](mailto: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.