

Club Officers 2024-2025

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

Musings and Ramblings from the President ...

Captain's Log: Stardate June 2024

Look Where You're Going!

Spring has sprung and Summer is here. That means that our landscape is changing from barren Winter ground into green, grassy knolls. Also with the season comes various delights and hazards. Lightening bugs, newly hatched birds, flies, and mosquitoes are everywhere. In NC we watch our step for Copperheads, fire ants, dog bombs, and cacti. In Florida the game ramps up to the next level. Watch your step, Thor could be there.



Photo of Thor lounging in our Venice, Florida back yard.

The same rules apply when maneuvering your AS. Look BEFORE you back into that site. Big Mike and I were in the Springtime in the Rockies Caravan a while back. One thing you learn in large group travel is that if you are "the small trailer" you often get pushed into a less than desirable site to make room for the Big Boys. At one such event the campground parking assistant directed us into our site that had at least 6" of clearance on all sides. When it was time to leave, the un-parking assistant was nowhere around and the tree on our starboard side looked like a giant sequoia to me. I'm not sure how Big Mike maneuvered out of there. I held my breath and held the tree limbs away as best I could while he pulled forward and back, forward and back (repeat). It took so long to safely get out that the caravan had to pull over down the road for us to catch up. Hummm. Maybe Jackson Center needs to design a storage area for transporting a chain saw to help with pesky limbs.

So as we hit the height of camping season put on your bug spray, slather on the sunscreen, and always remember to carry a good pair of limb loppers.

Gaile Broom, President

A Message from the Vice-President

Whats App? I don't know!

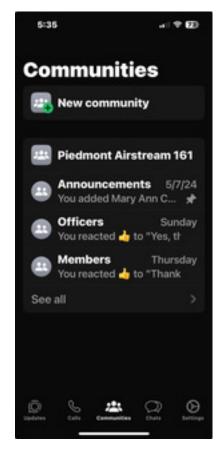
"WhatsApp is a free, multi-platform messaging app that lets users send messages, voice recordings, and voice or video calls. WhatsApp has gotten so popular and is currently one of the largest chatting app globally because it was one of the first services that offered free

internet-based messaging. This means you don't have to rely on text messages that may charge you for cellular data usage."*

To use WhatsApp you'll need a smartphone and the WhatsApp application. Depending on your smartphone, you will visit the Apple App Store for your iPhone or the Google Play Store for your Android phone. Download the app and follow the prompts to get started.

WhatsApp has excellent security and privacy features to keep your data secure. The app uses end-to-end encryption for each message. This encryption means that only the sender and recipient can see the information being sent. Not even WhatsApp has access to your messages.

So why use WhatsApp? The security features are a great reason but ease of use with a group of travelers with different types of smartphones is key. Apple and Android phones don't always play together nicely so there are times when messages don't get through to everyone. WhatsApp eliminates that problem and is the reason that our club and lots of Airstream Caravans and gatherings are beginning to use it to let folks know information in the moment. Everyone gets the message and no one feels left out!



Some of you have already received invitations from me or Delia to join our club on WhatsApp and more of you will receive invitations soon. You'll want to join if you plan on rallying with us or another Airstream group, going on a caravan, or heading to International in the fall.

It's also a great app to use while traveling abroad!

Let's chat on WhatsApp!

Thank you,

April Strader Bullin, Vice-President

*(https://en.softonic.com/articles/what-is-whatsapp-and-how-it-works? utm_source=SEM&utm_medium=paid&utm_campaign=EN_US_DSA_articles&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw9vqyBhCKARIsAIIcLMHn5VE0uqzJoNFYSm CV5FewblM6LusdPHOdinnR1uYSz7_OWT2IFC0aAi6uEALw_wcB&ex=RAMP-2046.0

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

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
Freecoes Cheddar and

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.

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 Fidder'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!

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.

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 <u>Salem Breeze</u> Reservations – Cool Breeze Campground 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

Piedmont NC Club Membership Report

by Amy Mount Membership Chair June 2024

PLEASE make note of the CORRECT Big Red Number for newest members -

NEW MEMBERS as of 4/20/2024

Clyde & Leslie Burkes BRN 10758 2

2016 28-ft. International

Apex, NC

Ed and Tech (Streaming without a net)

Submitted by Michael Bizon

Our Rally in Mayberry was very well attended. The hosts did a fantastic job with everything they could control. We had a big screen TV for the Kentucky Derby, a fantastic home cooked meal on opening night and a very dedicated bar tender to keep the libations flowing before, during and after the race.

The one thing they could do nothing about was the weather. So what do many Airstreamers do when it rains all day?

It seems that our group does maintenance. As we sat around waiting for the fastest 3 minutes in sports I found out that several people used the down time to fix stuff.

I did some plumbing work on a shower valve mixer. There was a water pump switched out. There was a whole new electrical system installed. Those were just the ones that were shared when asked "what did you do during the rain?" There was only one job that was hired out to a professional.

So we have a wealth of knowledge and handiness among out club members. I bet the members would be happy to share their knowledge. So I invite the "busted knuckle club" members to reach out and share their knowledge with me so I can share it with the club.

How about it? Anyone willing to share a trick or tip. If you want you can remain anonymous.

Here's an early submission with a tip for winterizing sink drains, and I will be sure they remain anonymous. Obviously you only need to be concerned about the P trap, the rest is



just showing off, but they did received a gift basket from Great Stuff.

Just reach out to me at mikebizon@me.com.

So for this issue of Airstreaming Without a Net let me share a tip from my shower mixer valve replacement. The only mixing valve I could find had an extra fitting for a tub. My 2000 Safari doesn't have a tub. So I need to cap off the extra outlet. The kit came with one. Score!

I dutifully wrapped the threads with tape and screwed it tight. Then installed the valve and cut on the water. Water came out forcefully from my newly installed cap. After I dried everything up I reached out to a qualified, trained navel plumber. He came over and took everything apart so he could see the valve better and quickly identified the problem. He walked back to his trailer and returned with a tube of pipe dope. He used pipe dope instead of tape and no more leak. Problem solved by an experienced plumber and do it yourself master. Later I had a plumber come and work on an irrigation problem, and he also didn't use tape. He used pipe dope and told me he never had a problem from using it. So consider using pipe dope instead of teflon tape on your next plumbing adventure.

As always your mileage may vary, and don't forget to tip the waitstaff.

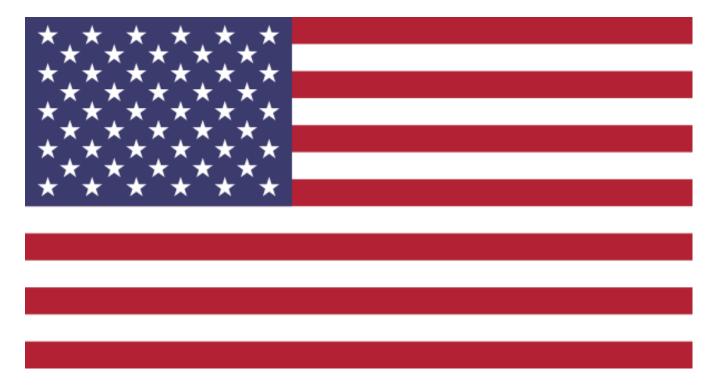
Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

I am as patriotic as anyone. I was raised in a time before the Boy Scouts of America got woke and changed their name.

One of the lessons you learn as a scout in the Boy Scouts of America (I refuse to recognize the name change) is how to properly respect the Stars and Stripes, Old glory, the flag of the United States of America.

My heart swells with pride when I see all the flags unfurled at the front of trailers at a rally. I am one of those people that unabashedly gets teary if the National Anthem is performed well. Not the overly dramatic, sliding into notes that pop stars are prone to do. When it's done right, I can't finish the last few lines. My heart almost bursts up and out of my throat.

There are people that are clearly patriotic in our club. Old Glory flies proud on painters poles in flag holders (probably manufactured by John Leake) at every rally. It makes you feel good to see so many flags prominently displayed on the front of our made in America Airstreams. Of course there are other flags properly flown in a secondary rank to the Stars and Stripes. It's good to see the club flag, the state flags, flags representing skilled trades and veterans of our Armed Forces.



It's great to see our flag blowing gently under a LED solar light at night as we return to our aluminum cocoons from a campfire. That is the correct flag protocol, light it at night.

There is one thing that chaps my behind. There is a rule that may not be followed properly. You don't leave old glory out in the rain. For reference from the American Legion Website:

Can the U.S. flag be displayed in inclement weather? The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, with the exception of an all-weather (nylon or other non-absorbent material) flag.

If you have a flag and plan to fly her in inclement weather, just be sure that the flag is made of non-absorbent material. The flags of the Piedmont Club are the non-absorbent kind if you need a comparison.

I've had the pleasure of talking to many visitors to the USA. One of the questions I would get asked is "Why are there so many USA flags flying? They are everywhere! Why on private houses? Why do they fly in front of business?"

How would you answer that question?

My answer, because it is the symbol of freedom and justice. It is fair warning that our democracy lives. When we fly our flags over our Airstreams we complete the statement that we are a free people that can go wherever we want to go. For over 225 years that flag has been a symbol to be proud of.

That is why seeing the flag improperly flown is unacceptable. Don't get me started on protesters tearing down the flag on college campuses shouting "Death to America". If that fraction of the population become members to our Airstream club, we're going to have problems around the campfire.

So the next time you see a band of Airstreamers flying the Old Glory, take a minute to notice and say a special "thank you" to those who made it all possible.

Lost or Wandering?????

These PAC members are on the run. Rumor has it that their country needed them and conscripted them to return to active duty. Whereabouts unknown. A secret mission is suspected. If the smiles are any indication, they are having a ball on the open road. Oh the stories they will have to tell if they ever return to the fold.







PIEDMONT CLUB RALLY

June 20 -23, 2024



4649 Jonathan Creek Road Waynesville, NC 828-926-7977

HOSTS:

Jerry & Jessica Smith – 336-215-9155 (Jerry's cell)/336-689-7343 (Jessica's cell) Jim & Amy Mount – 919-270-9171 (Jim's cell)/919-349-4509 (Amy's cell)

Thursday, June 20, 2024 12:30 p.m. and after

after Arrive and set up your campsite

5 p.m. Social Hour

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

Dinner Provided by Hosts

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

7 p.m. Baseball & Everything Else Trivia

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

8 p.m. Fire Pit

6 p.m.

(Covered Pavilion - weather permitting)

Friday, June 21, 2024

Breakfast & Lunch on your own

Explore Waynesville & Maggie Valley

5 p.m. Social Hour & Corn Hole

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

(There will be prizes!!)

Ice Cream Sundaes (Please bring set-ups)

Bring folding chair & beverage

(A list of potential activities & sites to explore will be provided at the rally.)

Bring your beverage of choice AND wear your favorite baseball team's hat or t-shirt

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & all the fixins'

Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips and

Bring a **heavy** appetizer to share, your

beverage of choice & folding chair

(If you are still hungry, grab dinner and come back to pavilion for the campground's weekend entertainment.)

/ p.m. Campground Entertainment

J Creek Cloggers

(Covered Pavilion)

https://jcreekcloggers.com

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Breakfast & Lunch on our own

Explore Cherokee, local waterfalls or museums (A list of potential activities & sites to

explore will be provided at rally.)

5 p.m. Social Hour Bring your beverage of choice & set-ups

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

Appetizer provided by Hosts

6 p.m. Catered Dinner from local restaurant BBQ chicken & pork, rolls, mac-n-cheese,

Haywood Smokehouse in Waynesville green beans, peach cobbler & banana pudding

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

7:30 p.m. Outdoor Movie & Popcorn Bring your folding chair & beverage

(Covered Pavilion or Rec Hall if raining)

Sunday, June 23, 2024

9 a.m. Light Breakfast Provided by Hosts Bring your own coffee or drink of choice

Rec Hall) & <u>setups</u>

9:45 a.m. Devotion by Jerry Smith

Safe travel home and hope to see ya down the road!

Happenings in the IBT

There is lots of activity within our International Board of Trustees (IBT) leadership of the Airstream Club International (ACI). Many topics are being announced and discussed on FaceBook (FB). As a club member you are an integral part of the ACI organization. Keep yourself informed. Not everyone accesses these Facebook groups, but the information conveyed there impacts each club member. So this article is printed in a effort to have everyone receive the message. Stay on top of the issues. Express your opinion by voting when items are on the ballot.

1- (Source: an email sent to the ACI membership from IBT) On February 22, 2024, your International Board of Trustees (IBT) approved sending a proposal to amend our Constitution, creating and defining the Finance Director role. Currently, the Treasurer is selected by the IBT from nine eligible members, potentially limiting the pool of candidates with the necessary expertise. The proposed change aims to address this by creating a Finance Director position. The Finance Director will serve as a non-voting Officer of the Executive Council and IBT, ensuring unbiased recommendations to the IBT. The Finance Director's term limit is built in by a mandatory vote of confidence by the IBT every two years to reassess their performance.

Candidates for the Finance Director will be drawn from our entire membership and vetted through a rigorous process. This is a volunteer position, as are all leadership roles in the Club. A detailed job description will clarify expectations, and a Governance Committee, comprised of IBT members and Club members with a finance background, will select the best candidates. The final decision will be made by a vote of the IBT.

The vote on this proposal will occur from June 20 through June 27, 2024. For it to pass, 20% of our members must vote, with at least 2/3 of those votes in favor. Each member with an email on file with ACI will receive an electronic ballot (to request a paper ballot, email info@airstreamclub.org). Changing the Constitution is a serious matter, but having a qualified Finance Director will benefit the Club's long-term success. This will be the first Constitutional Amendment considered under the new rules that eliminated delegates' meeting in 2022. Remember, this Club is yours, and your voice matters in decisions like these.

2- (Source: "Airstream Club International Community Discussion" by Tye Mott)Another IBT member has resigned. Below is Tye Mott's resignation letter that he posted on FaceBook. This is the second person to resign from the Executive Council. The first was Per Hamnquist who resigned in late 2023 from Executive Council and as Treasurer.

May , 2024

Eric and WBCCI International Board of Trustees,

As many of you may be aware, for the last 15 years I have been "Airstreaming Following My Dream". My dream has come to a fork in the road and I have decided after much thought to resign my current Executive Council position of Immediate Past International President effective immediately. This decision has not been an easy one to make. I have carefully weighed the pros and cons of this action and have made the difficult decision to resign for the following reasons:

- The Executive Council has become one-sided and is not receptive to opposing views and differing opinions which makes it useless for me to be there. I feel that with this attitude the Executive Council does not have the interests of the whole membership at heart.
- Contrary to the assurance of the current leadership, it is my perception that the
 Executive Council is not transparent and has become even less transparent since instituting
 the requirement that Executive Council, Finance Committee, and International Rally Committee
 members must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement. All of this secrecy highlights the need for a
 neutral financial audit of the Airstream Club.
- 3. It is also my perception that the Executive Council has been making quick fix, short term changes at a rapid pace which are just changes made for change sake without considering how the results will benefit or harm the members of the Club in the long term.

I do not believe in or support the current actions of the Executive Council, and I can no longer, in all good conscience, be a part of it.

Thanks to many of you for your continued friendship and support. Hopefully I will see you down the road.

Tye Mott Immediate Past International President

3- (Source: FB Group "Airstream Club International Community Discussion" by Eric McHenry) NEW: MONA WATTS, PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, JOINS THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

I'm pleased to announce that Mona Watts has been selected by the Past International Presidents Council to fill the Executive Council vacancy created by the resignation of the prior Executive Council Past International President.

Mona Watts (Heath at the time) was our International President from 2019-2020. I was fortunate to be able to serve under her as one of our VPs and am overjoyed to have Mona returning to a senior leadership position in our Club! She's fantastic: a great advocate for our members, supporting the longevity and vibrancy of our Club.

The International Board of Trustees is composed of two membership components. First is the Executive Council: ten (10) members elected at large by the membership. Second, the twelve (12) Region Presidents of WBCCI. One of the critical roles on the Executive Council is the seat held by one of our Past International Presidents, who, among other things, provides a strong ACI/WBCCI leadership perspective and experience to our Club and provide guidance and mentorship to the full IBT.

4- (Source: FB Group "Airstream Club International Community Discussion") It has been disclosed through Facebook group discussions that IBT members are now required to sign a non-disclosure agreement. No one has defined exactly what falls under the umbrella of items not to be disclosed.

To read postings for both sides of these and many discussions, go to the Facebook group named "Airstream Club International Community Discussion".





Donate. Volunteer. Advocate.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC

Headquarters 3330 Shorefair Drive Winston-Salem, NC 27105 Greensboro Distribution & Nutrition Education Center 2517 Phillips Avenue Greensboro, NC 27405

SecondHarvestNWNC.org 336.784.5770

Mr. Jim Mount
Piedmont NC Airstream Club C/O Wally BYAM Caravan Club Inc.
524 Barrington Hall Dr

Rolesville, NC 27571

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Executive Committee

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Travis Garland Board Vice Chair

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Tonya Deem Board Secretary

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Emeritus

Edwin R. Brenegar, Jr. James E. Holmes, Jr.

Ex Officio

Eric A. Aft Chief Executive Officer Dear Jim,

May 31, 2024

Thank you for your gift in support of our mission and our neighbors facing food insecurity.

In 2023, Second Harvest and our network of partner programs served 1,372,824 individuals compared to 844,024 in 2022 – a 63% increase! Importantly, 53% of the individuals receiving help did so three times or less. In addition, first time visitors comprised 40% of the individuals served – up more than 10%. Unfortunately, we believe this level of service is likely to be needed for the foreseeable future as families continue to manage higher costs for housing, food, and childcare.

Your investment has always been vitally needed. Your recent commitment of \$250.00, received on 5/13/2024, is helping us confront this challenging environment and ensure families can put nutritious food on their tables. As we've expressed before, food is foundational, providing the building blocks we all need to live our best life and for our communities to thrive. You are at the heart of all that makes our work possible.

We are continuing to develop and deploy innovative strategies – building on what works and identifying new avenues to create an even greater impact. I hope you will follow our progress through our newsletters, website, and social media. In doing so, you will discover even more about the difference your gift is making to strengthen the lives of children, seniors, and families across Northwest North Carolina. On behalf of our entire team at Second Harvest, thank you!

Sincerely,

Eric A. Aft Chief Executive Officer

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina, a charity recognized as tax-exempt by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3), did not give or receive goods or services in consideration of this gift. Please notify us if you wish to remain anonymous.



Serving in partnership with nonprofit agencies in the following counties: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin.

EVERYONE DESERVES TO EAT *

2004 Airstream International CCD For Sale

As you may know, two years ago Wardene and I moved to the Twin Lakes retirement community in Burlington. And we've not been doing much traveling since Covid.

As much as we hate it, we have decided at my age it is getting to be too much for us to keep traveling; and we have decided to sell our Airstream.

Dick Statham

In Burlington, NC, 2004 Airstream International CCD, purchased in 2005. Good condition, all systems fully operational.

Photos are available on Airstream Addicts and Airstream Classified.

We hate to sell it, but at our age it's time for us to stop traveling. When it wasn't on the road, for the first 18 years of its life, the trailer was kept in a building on the farm, so it's in very good shape for a 2004 rig. Since moving to Twin Lakes it has been in a storage facility in Burlington.

Sharp 150 W solar panel & controller installed by AS at Jackson Center.

Larger refrigerator and stove installed by AS at Jackson Center

Zip-dee awnings all around installed by AS at Jackson Center

New axels installed by P & S in Helena OH

New Large Rock Guards installed by P & S in Helena OH

New Dometic toilet installed by Outdoors Mart in Greensboro.

Wheel bearing repacked by Blue Compass (formerly Outdoors Mart) April 2024

Also available: 2017 Ford Super Duty Lariat truck, less than 55,000 miles.