



# Carolinan Airstream Club

Tarheel Traveler November 2024  
Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> club established in the WBCCI in 1960



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**STEVE THOMPSON**

**BRN 19771**

[021CACpresident@gmail.com](mailto:021CACpresident@gmail.com)

Greetings to all CAC Streamers,

After attending the 67th Annual Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, MO last month, I didn't think it could get any better but... Our end of year rally at Ocean Lakes was spectacular. How so? The people, venue, food was exceptional and for the most part the weather cooperated. I'm very proud of the leadership team and the volunteers who planned, organized and participated in this event.

Without question we have a club of "doers", volunteers who step-up and get the job done. The activity leaders made us laugh and explore many of our hidden talents. A shout out to Team "A" for taking the victory in the sewer hose competition. Rock painting, crocheting/knitting, Dutch oven and consumable bingo provided opportunities to display our talents. Instructional events included a "Top 5" for Airstream Newbies, getting internet into your Airstream, drones, RV Trip Wizard, rally hosting, National Park volunteering and a peek into our CAC 2025 rallies and events.

The Ocean Lakes rally also provided us with a venue to conduct our annual Carolinas Airstream Club business meeting. During the meeting we inducted many new members and installed our CAC 2025 officers. A special thanks goes to Jim Cocke (International Past President) for conducting both significant events. Your 2025 Leadership Team was voted in by our membership and are extremely talented and committed volunteers. Like myself, these officers count on your full support in recruiting and fostering the spirit of Airstreaming.

Safe Travels. Steve

### 2025 CAC officers:

President- Ray Combs

1st VP- Roger Holland

2<sup>nd</sup> VP- John Hoffman

Director-Vic Fordham

Director-Jack Grimes

Director-Bjorn Kasper

Director-Jim Plyler

Treasurer-Janice Overcash

Corresponding Secretary-Lee Dunn

Recording Secretary-Shari Hord

### Carolina Airstream Club

#### Board of Directors

**President: Steve Thompson**

**1st Vice President: Ray Combs**

**2nd Vice President: Roger Holland**

**Immediate Past President: Ricky Wilcox**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Director: Terry Sheally**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Director: Mike Olympio**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director: Jack Grimes**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Director: Bjorn Kasper**

**Treasurer: Janice Overcash**

**Membership: Lee Dunn**

**Recording Secretary: Shari Hord**

**Corresponding secretary: Nancy Kueffer**

**Rally 'Round Campfire Cherylanne Weaver**

**Webmaster: Wayne Clark**

**Newsletter: Tabb Adams**

**Online store: Wayne Clark**

**Facebook Coordinator: Helen Bailey**

**Parliamentarian: Bob Hoffman**



## VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Ray Combs**

**BRN 822**

[021CACvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:021CACvicepresident@gmail.com)

What a great rally! Hats off to rally team who put this year's Ocean Lakes rally together. We had a record number of attendees and a lot of activity.

And our Ocean Lakes Rally in 2025 will be even greater. It is our 65th anniversary as an Airstream Club. The Airstream Club Inc., ACI, is only five years older than we are and we are one of the oldest clubs in the country. We have a lot to celebrate in 2025 since Covid kept us from celebrating in 2020. The Rally Team will be headed up by Roger Holland and the Anniversary Team is headed up by Terry Sheally. In addition to our traditional low country boil, we will have a banquet to honor our multi star members and former officers and their spouses. There will also be programs for new and recently joined members.

If you haven't already done so, hurry and make your campground reservations with the Ocean Lakes Campground, then go to our CAC website and register with the club. Sites are filling up fast. HH and H have been reserved and we are moving into Section I.

The rally dates are October 29th to November 2nd, but you can make reservations as early as October 27th as we have reserved the entire week. 877-510-1413 and make sure you tell them you are with the Carolinas Airstream Club.

I hope all of you have a great holiday season and look forward to beginning our new year.

## Membership Chair



Lee Dunn  
BRN 27312  
[021membership@gmail.com](mailto:021membership@gmail.com)

### November 2024

As of November 14, 2024, the Carolinas Airstream Club is 357 rigs and 666 members strong.

### Facts about the CAC Membership

The average time regular members have been in ACI is 4.4 years.  
The median model year of member rigs is 2019

### 65<sup>th</sup> CAC Anniversary Photo Directory

By now most of you have heard that we will celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CAC in 2025. Planning has already started and one of the things we would like to do is create a photo directory of all the club members. So, if you haven't already, please send me a picture so I can make sure it gets into the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary publication. Also, this would be a great time to update your picture!

Questions about CAC Membership? Email me at [021membership@gmail.com](mailto:021membership@gmail.com).

Lee Dunn  
CAC Membership Chair



Rally 'Round Campfire  
CHERYLANNE WEAVER  
BRN 9883  
[Cherylannelprintcessltd@gmail.com](mailto:Cherylannelprintcessltd@gmail.com)  
704-519-6600

Hi Streamers!

HOHOHO! Season 2024 is a wrap! And it was a fun-filled adventurous year with all the rallies that were planned. I hope everyone was able to participate and is making plans for 2025.

We had 2 Airstream Rigs take extended tours of our beautiful country and they both made it back in time for Ocean Lakes.

Welcome Home!

Randy & Shari Hord – BRN#5724 – Glad the compass kept you two on course 😊

Scott & Elaine Myers – BRN#16767 – They ventured into Canada & back logging 8000 miles and 27 stops. Way to go!

And a very Happy 50th Anniversary to:

Larry & Norma Thrower – BRN# 1125 – May you have many more

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season.

“One's destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things.” –  
Henry Miller

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



Rodger Holland  
BRN 5796  
[Roger@h-harchitects.com](mailto:Roger@h-harchitects.com)

What an incredible year we have had under the leadership of our president, Steve Thompson and the careful rally planning and execution by our 1st VP, Ray Combs. Along with our dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers, they have all worked to make this a very special year for Carolinas Airstream Club and all its members.

We are very excited about what is in store for our members as we move forward into the Club's 65th anniversary in 2025!

There are many exciting rallies planned with new opportunities and familiar traditions. We also have several opportunities to move from rally to rally enabling us to remain in our beloved Airstreams for extended times as we explore our world and foster new friendships.

We are also currently working to organize a caravan to the International Rally in York, PA from one of our scheduled rallies at North Bend Campground at John H. Kerr Dam & Reservoir. We have someone interested in leading that effort and look forward to providing more information as it is available.

Please take a few moments to go to our Carolinas Airstream Club rally site at

<https://airstreamclub.org/events?from=&to=&type=-1&state=-1&club=45876&list=1>

and check out all the exciting rallies we have planned for 2025! Pay close attention to reservation deadlines and sign up for any of the rallies that pique your interest! There will be a link on our website to the presentation done at Ocean Lakes on all the 2025 rallies forthcoming, so check back frequently and keep up to date with our rallies and club operations.

Also, please remember to secure your campsite prior to registering on our club website. After you have a site, then go to the corresponding rally registration on the CAC website and complete our club registration along with our rally fee. If you have a situation arise where you need to cancel attendance at a rally, then please go to our website and cancel on our website first before you cancel your actual campsite reservation. This gives us the opportunity to see if we have a member that needs a site before it becomes available to the public.

We look forward to another exciting year for the Carolinas Airstream Club in 2025 as we celebrate 65 years, thanks to all the prior leaders and members that have made our Club one of the largest and most successful clubs within Airstream Club International. Until then, see you down the road!

# Welcome New Members

Amber & Greg Ballard Clover, SC, 2025 27' Globetrotter

Affiliate Members Roger & Patti Smith Hoschton, GA, 2018 25' International

Affiliate Members Kenneth & Michelle Killi Rock, WV, 2023 33' 33 Classic FBT

Affiliate Members Bob & Karen Baker West Dennis, MA, 2006 19' Bambi

Affiliate Members Jeff & Lee Cutright Roanoke, VA, 2014 30' Classic

## WHY HAM RADIO By Phil Drake K4UOK

I believe you may already have an answer to this first question. I'll bet your answer is as different as all the many answers and opinions about "ham" or amateur radio found online. And yours and those are all pretty much correct. Because ham radio is so many things to so many people it's almost impossible to pick a single reason for getting into this amazing and useful hobby.

A common meeting point of all these reasons is however a willingness by ham radio operators to help their communities in times of disaster or other emergencies. It's just baked into our DNA I suppose. After all, Ham radio gives you the ability to communicate anywhere, anytime and under any condition.

And to the last point in bold above, Cathy, Emma and I just experienced hurricane Helene, up close and personal, which destroyed major infrastructure in Western North Carolina. We woke up on Thursday September 26 (in our basement where we had huddled at 4 AM due to falling trees) with no power, Internet and low water pressure. Cell service was degraded and then disappeared entirely. ALL roads in our community were blocked by trees, there was no way in or out for three days. City utilities stopped a day later. The recovery, which is ongoing, will take months/years.

The only sure method of communication the first three days was by ham radio. Our primary local VHF repeater operated for two days and then went off air due to its backup power source shutting down. Several other VHF and UHF repeaters were operational throughout the recovery period. In fact, the Mount Mitchell VHF repeater was a critical recovery tool for areas of WNC hardest hit. An emergency net operated on this repeater for weeks.

Family members in Charlotte and Myrtle Beach were beside themselves worrying about us but I was able to use HF ham radio to email and text them. There is a saying "when all else fails, ham radio works".

Whether you want to just talk across the campground to a friend, provide info to fellow travelers in a caravan or meet new friends hundreds or thousands of miles away, having a ham radio license allows you to do it.

Speaking of license, you will need one from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). To obtain a license you will need to pass a 35-question multiple-choice exam with increasing difficulty based on the class of license attempted. There are three license classes or levels: "Technician", which is the beginner level, "General" or mid-level and "Extra Class" which is the top-level license with a 50-question exam. The General and Extra Class licenses bring access to more frequencies and technologies. There is no longer a need to pass a "CW" or Morse Code (as it's commonly called) test. However, many older hams and some new ones too use "the code" to communicate. Why bother with "code"?

It's still the most reliable method to get a message through static, interference and noise.

Since this is an introduction to ham radio let's concentrate on the "Technician" license and what you can do with this license class. What can you really do with a technician or "learners permit" license? How about talk static free across town or to someone 40 miles away with a handheld FM radio? How about talk to fellow hams across the planet with a ham radio app (EchoLink) on your cellphone at no cost? Talk through a repeater on the International Space Station. Send and receive email without the Internet using your computer and radio. Technicians may also operate on the 80-, 40- and 15-meter bands using CW, and on the 10-meter band using CW, voice and digital modes.

Study Tips: To Help You Pass the Ham Radio Test

1. Understand the Exam Structure.
2. Review the Question Pool.
3. Understand some very basic electronics.
4. Use on-line practice exams.
5. Learn the basic FCC Regulations.
6. Visit a local amateur radio club. Club members will help you study and offer advice. Where? <http://arrl.org> (American Radio Relay League)
  - Part 97 – Amateur Radio Service Rules and Regulations
  - Technician question pool
  - Excellent information and resources
  - Exam practice

<http://hamexam.org> (Free site offering great info and practice questions/answers)

License Cost:

\$Free- Federal Registration Number (FRN) <https://apps.fcc.gov> Must have prior to testing.

\$10.00 test fee by volunteer examiners. Cost may vary a dollar or two.

\$35.00 FCC (Federal Communication Commission) license fee

\$20.00 to 350.00 for a handheld/mobile VHF/UHF radio

An FCC amateur license expires ten years from date of issue. It can be renewed on-line without an examination.

Becoming a ham radio operator is a fun and useful skill that will bring many new opportunities and friendships.  
-73 (ham speak for "best regards")

Phil Drake  
K4UOK

# 2025 Rally and Caravan Schedule

Full details on Rallies and Caravans can be found by [Clicking Here](#)

## March 2025

2025 James Island SC Rally March 20-23

## April 2025

2025 Tanglewood Park NC Rally April 3-6

2025 Region 3 Rally April 9-13

## May 2025

Shining in Shelby" Urban Rally, Shelby, NC May 8-11

Goose Creek NC Rally May 15-18

## June 2025

Cool Breeze, Galax VA Rally June 5-8

NC Blue Ridge Waterfalls Galore Rally June 19-22

## August 2025

Fun Time on Kerr Dam, VA Rally August 14-17

Carolinas Traveling Group to International August 19-23

## September 2025

Mills River NC Wagon Wheel Rally September 11-14

Carolina Mountain Jamboree Joint Rally September 18-21

## October 2025

Broad River NC Rally October 9-12

Ocean Lakes, 65th CAC Anniversary, Myrtle Beach Rally October 29-  
November 2

## November 2025

Christmas At Biltmore Estate November 11-14

Calling All CAC  
Members



Carolinas Airstream Club is looking for people who would like to lead Caravans and or Rallies. This is a great way to enjoy the Airstream community, see new places and make new friends! There are lots of benefits to leading a rally or a caravan. If you are interested, please contact,

### Caravans

Ray Combs [021CACvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:021CACvicepresident@gmail.com)

### Rallies

Roger Holland [roger@h-harchitects.com](mailto:roger@h-harchitects.com)



All Rallies and caravans will be  
using the WhatsApp for  
communications  
[Download Here](#)





## A Diamond in the Rough By Lee & Jennifer Scott BRN 28782



Jennifer and I are relatively new members of the CAC, and relatively new to Airstreams in general. We bought a 1958 Pacer a couple of years ago that turns out was probably one of the CAC's founding member's campers. It has the original Carolina's Airstream Club decal in the rear window, which we will keep for as long the window glass lasts!

We found it for sale on eBay over in the Matthews, NC area, and when we bought it, it was like a time capsule from 1960. It had a 1960 Woodalls camping guide, along with a bunch of membership correspondence from the Wally Byam Caravan Club. It was owned by a Wade and Mary Ellen Huneycutt, and their Airstream Club ID badges were still inside - along with an empty metal tin of Nabisco Saltine crackers and other period camping memorabilia. It looks like 1960 was the last year it was ever used as a camper until we bought it from the guy who bought it from the Huneycutts. The week after we bought it, we towed it up to the Alumalina gathering in Marion, NC for the day, as it wasn't camp-able at that point.

It needed a new subfloor, which we had done at Retro modern Campers in Pickens, SC, but the frame was pretty much OK. After the new subfloor, I took over the restoration process. I saved all the original cabinetry and reused as much as I could. The original click-clack sofa was reupholstered and mounted atop a 6" cabinet base that is used for storage. I saved the original sink, cabinet, and 3-burner propane stove, but, unfortunately, the original undercounter refrigerator was beyond repair. I bought a retro-style modern refrigerator to go in its place.

Retro modern Campers also installed grey- and black-water holding tanks, since it originally had no grey and only a tiny black one. Unlike modern campers, the toilet and shower are on the curb side, so I installed a marine macerating electric toilet to pump everything over to the holding tank. The original small closet was converted to shelf space and houses a 200 AH lithium battery, a 2000-watt charger/inverter, 110v and 12v breaker panels, and small microwave oven. When the restoration was done, we made a few shake-down cruises to Charleston, SC, Savannah, GA, and Asheville, and then this year, we drove out to Vancouver, BC and came back through the southern Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park. At only 18', we named her 'Peanut', but she has everything a camper needs, other than a lot of storage space!

The rear bed has a new custom mattress, but it's not quite big enough for both of us, so one of us sleeps in it, the other on the folded out click-clack sofa. At 3,100 pounds loaded, Peanut can easily be towed by my small Ford Maverick pickup. And for vintage Airstream gatherings that aren't too far away, my 1954 Chevy 3100 truck tows it just fine as well. After our first shake-down trips, Jennifer was concerned that there was simply not enough storage space in Peanut, and I was also looking for a new project, having thoroughly enjoyed the work I did restoring Peanut. So, earlier this year, I bought a 1954 22' Flying Cloud in TN and towed it home. It was not in quite as original a condition as Peanut was, as it was pretty much gutted, but the shell is in almost immaculate condition. The frame, though, was rotted out, and the subfloor was shot as well.

I took it back to Retro modern Campers, and they built a brand-new frame. This frame is a beefed-up 5" frame to be able to accommodate underfloor holding tanks that the original 3" frame was too narrow for, and I added a 2" receiver to the back bumper for a heavy-duty bike rack for our 2 e-bikes. After the new frame and subfloor were done, they mounted the shell back, and I'm now in the process of rewiring the shell and trying to decide on the final floorplan. I won't be able to use much of the original cabinetry, so it will most likely be a more modern interior with a few retro touches. When it's done in another year or so, we will have to decide which Airstream we will keep as our permanent camper and which one we will sell. While the Flying Cloud will be 4' bigger and have more storage, it probably won't be able to be towed by my Maverick or by my '54 Chevy truck. There is also something incredibly appealing about Peanut that will make it hard for me to sell her. So we shall see what happens!





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### *Bjorn & Nicole Kasper* *BRN 20197*

When Bjorn and Nicole Kasper start a new hobby, they are all in.

In 2022, when Airstream friends spotted an iconic 2003 Land Yacht 396XL for sale, Bjorn bought it.

- No matter that he had only viewed the Airstream through a fence at a storage facility.
- No matter that Bjorn and Nicole had just bought a brand-new fifth wheel that suddenly became redundant.
- What mattered was that the motor coach was an Airstream!

As soon as the Kaspers became Airstream owners, they joined Airstream Club International and the Carolinas Airstream Club. Bjorn and Nicole wanted to enhance their ownership experience, expand their camping family, and hit the ground running. Already:

- Bjorn is a director of CAC, and serves on several committees
- The Kaspers have hosted two rallies, one of which was at Top of Georgia, near Helen, which they visit regularly (it makes Bjorn feel at “home”, and will be hosting annually going forward
- Bjorn will take over writing the Tarheel Traveler Member Spotlight articles in 2025
- The Kaspers have taken part in 11 rallies and look forward to many more, including 2025 International in York, PA and a future caravan.

The Kaspers enjoy riding their Indian motorcycle, days on the lake and of course they love to travel, whether it is camping with their Airstream family, or cruising the high seas to truly disconnect and get away from it all; from sea to shining sea...from the mountains to the beaches, exploring the glory of God’s creation allows them to connect with nature and each other exponentially more than sitting at home watching TV could ever do.

- Currently, Bjorn is director of supply chain for a company that builds products that other well-known companies design and market (Apple, Dyson, Honeywell, and Bose to name a few.) Bjorn can work remotely, freeing him up to both travel and work...home AND work is where we park it...BLESSED!
- After a career in banking and dentistry, travel for Nicole was briefly limited because she took care of her grandmother. Once her grandmother began to receive professional care to supplement the family’s help, Nicole became freer to travel.

Having met in 2014, and married in 2019, Bjorn’s and Nicole’s backgrounds could not be more different.

- Bjorn was born in Germany, moved extensively with his family, spoke not a word of English until he was 10 years old and didn’t get his US citizenship until just before the 2020 election. (His European roots are the reason Bjorn changed the name of their pre-owned Land Yacht from Gray Lady to Grey Lady.)
- Nicole never left Belmont NC for longer than a few months, where she was born, raised, and continues to live near family and friends.

What advice would the Kaspers give newbie Airstreamers and club members?

- Get engaged! Volunteer! Don’t be shy! We all have at least one thing in common, although some are shinier than others...so let’s go from there.
- Keep your finances liquid! You are never going to stop spending money when it comes to camping. Aside from the usual repairs that come with a house on wheels, and even though Airstream is about ‘classy minimalism’, there is always the next gadget to learn about that makes life easier on the road.

So far, Bjorn and Nicole agree: Airstreaming is a great place to go all in.



# 2024 Ocean Lakes Rally





