

The Shiny Hiney Review

December 2024



Club Officers 2024-2025

President

Gaile Broom
gailebroom@aol.com

1st Vice President

April Strader Bullin
astraderbullin@roadrunner.com

Corresponding Secretary

Robert Rati
rvers@midsummerdream.org

Recording Secretary

Debra Stroud
goodfoodlady@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jim Mount
jmount.phoenix@gmail.com

Membership Chairman

Amy Mount
rovermommy@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Robert Rati
rvers@midsummerdream.org

Webmaster

Delia Rati
deliamaria@deliamaria.com

In This Issue

Musings and Ramblings from the President [Page 2](#)

Message from the Vice President [Page 5](#)

2025 Rally Schedule Update [Page 7](#)

Piedmont Membership Report [Page 8](#)

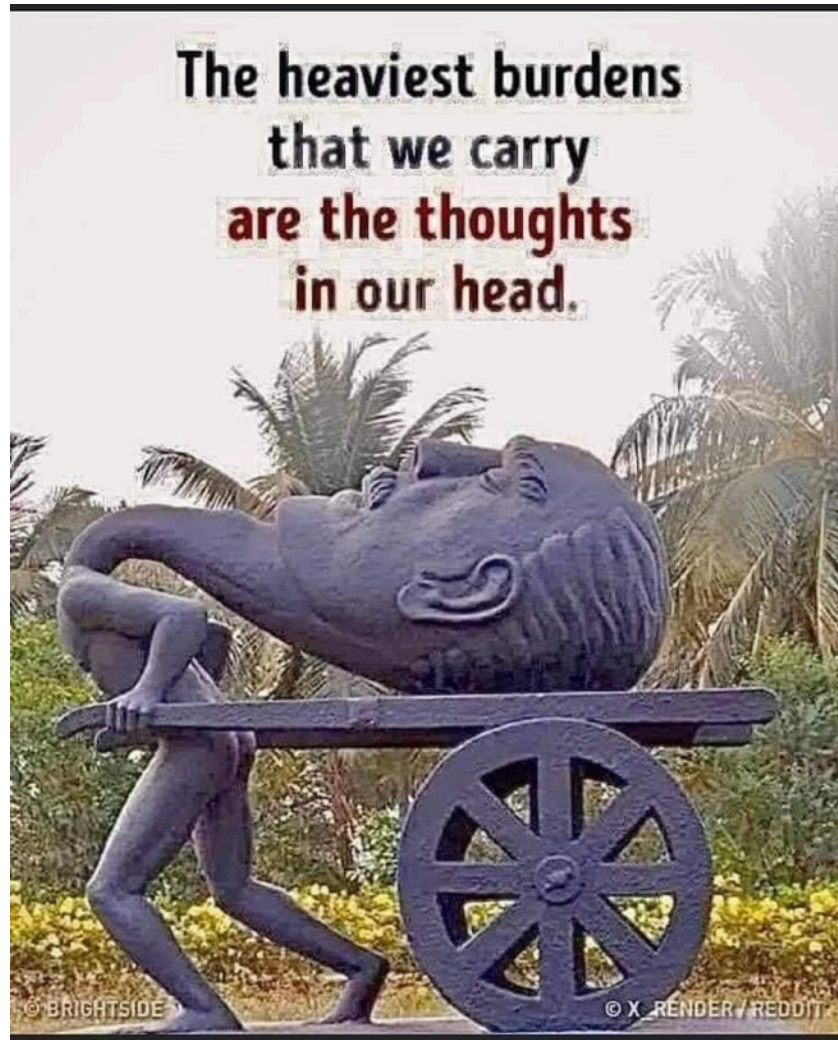
Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon [Page 10](#)

Second Harvest Food Bank Thank You [Page 12](#)

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

Musings and Ramblings from the President ...

Captain's Log Stardate: December 2024



Somehow it happened! A snap of the fingers and my presidential term is over. It passed quickly because of all the wonderful, helpful Airstreamers I hang with. Truthfully, there were some surprises, mostly trickled down through the hierarchy above my pay grade. But hey, we made it!

The Changing of the Guard went off without a hitch. Congratulations to the new Board and 'thank you' for stepping up to lead our club. I would be remiss if I did not mention the retirement of one member of

our ranks. After many years of service, Amy Mount has turned over the keys to the Membership Office. Amy has been an outstanding advocate for Piedmont NC 161. No one was safe after Amy identified them as a potential member. Her charm and wit won the hearts many. Our membership thrived under her leadership. Thank you, Amy, for your dedication to our club.

This year our rally hosts brought their A Game! The Brown/Lowe's, Stroud's, Bullin's, Smith's, Mount's, Byrum's, Townsend's, and Stubb's made it a memorable year. Great locations with great activities. Superb. Helene did her best to throw kinks in our rally schedule. And to be fair, she did a pretty dang good job of it since Alumalina was blown up. That was pretty catastrophic. But hey, Piedmont NC 161 was right back it in November.

Our own Bob Ealy took the Region 3 President position. It is a huge job and Bob is the best guy to lead our Region 3 clubs. I salute you, Bob.

Rob Rati upgraded our Shiny Hiney Newsletter with both graphics and content. Take a look at Delia's beautiful photography that is featured in each issue.

This article cannot be complete without acknowledging my husband, soulmate, and biggest fan, Big Mike. He has been my right hand man supporting me through every step of the way.

So with a happy heart and a satisfied mind I step aside and let the very capable team that you elected take their chairs of service. I thank all of you for making it a successful camping year. Best wishes for a wonderful 2025. It has been my honor to serve you, and now I humbly sign off.

Gaile Broom,
President

I've been canning soup in
preparation for the next
hurricane.
Follow me for more tips!



I like to start my day with
a fruit smoothie...
But the bartender keeps calling
it a Pina Colada.



A Message from the Vice-President

Piedmont North Carolina Airstream Club = Important Things

As I think about Thanksgiving and Christmas and the busyness surrounding the season, I try to focus on the most important things. One thing that encompasses all that is important comes to mind: the generosity of the Piedmont North Carolina Airstream Club. Our November rally was filled with important things - friends, fun, caring, giving, conversation, etc. I love watching rigs arrive for the rally and the reactions when we see each other - smiles, hugs, laughter, and genuine happiness at seeing each other and being together again. I enjoy watching how we all pitch in to help each other. The rally hosts don't have anything to worry about because there are always folks asking what they can do to help. We do this for each other and our communities by volunteering our time and giving generously.



This year, our club has been impacted by two tragic events. Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Club members were directly impacted along the Florida coast, and many places where we camp were affected in the North Carolina Mountains. Many calls and texts of encouragement have gone down to Florida as members work to get things repaired and cleaned up. Alumalina was canceled, and it was wonderful to see how members of the Airstream Club at large and members of our club more locally embraced John Leake to encourage him and restore his loss due to the storm. As a club, we volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank twice. Once in the spring and again at our November rally. We made two donations to Second Harvest, totaling \$750.00. We have also given Samaritan's Purse and a private organization a total of \$1500 for those in need in Western NC. We have shared stories about these tragedies, and many have prayed for those still dealing with the aftermath.

As I reflect on all the club has done this year, I am proud to be part of such a caring, giving, and active group. Thank you for being you!

Sending peace for the holiday season.

April Strader Bullin, Vice-President



RM Reedy Mensh 9:24 AM
To: Chris Bullin >

Hey Chris! I hope you guys had a great weekend camping! I think April said that this was your last weekend of the season?!

Anyway, thank you guys so much for your time and your support of Second Harvest! It was a pleasure and an honor to have you bring everyone back to help us feed community. Thank you as well for the generous contribution, as you may already know, for every \$1 we receive, we can provide up to 6 meals; so hopefully that puts into perspective how impactful your gift is!

Thanks again for your support! Happy Holidays and we hope to see you again soon!

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
Reedy Mensh
Director of Community Engagement
Office: 348.364.8276 ext. 2029
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC
3535 Shreveport Drive | Winston-Salem, NC 27159
EVERYONE DESERVES TO EAT

Give a gift today >



2025 Rally Event Schedule Update

Deadlines for the February and May rallies have passed; however, there still may be spaces available. Call now to reserve your spot!

We still need hosts for March and July. If you would like to help out please let me know. If you haven't hosted before and would like to give it a try some folks will help you. Remember, it's always better with friends!

DATES	EVENT/HOSTS	CAMPGROUND
January	No Event	No Event
February 6-9, 2025 REGISTER NOW! SPACES MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE	Joint Maintenance Rally with Carolina Coastal	Willowtree RV Resort 2000 Old Buck Creek Rd. Longs, SC (866) 207-2267
March (Dates TBD)	Hosts Needed	TBD
April 9-13, 2025	Region 3 Rally	Coastal Carolina Fairgrounds, Ladson, SC
May 29-June 1, 2025 REGISTER NOW! SPACES MAY STILL BE AVAILABLE	A Carolina Spring Thing <i>Gaile Broom & Mike Bison</i>	Allison Creek City Park York, SC 803-323-2035 Piedmont Airstream Club/ Mike Bison's Group
June 19-22, 2025	Crooked Road Music Trail & the New River Dianne & Bill Byrum	Cool Breeze Campground 2330 Edmonds Rd. Galax, VA coolbreezecampground.com
July (Dates TBD)	Hosts Needed	TBD
August 23-28, 2025	Airstream International Rally	York Expo Center, York, PA
September 18-21, 2025 Tentative Dates	Carolinas Mountain Jamboree	Palmetto Cove RV Park Cleveland, SC
September 25-28, 2025	Mayberry Days <i>April Strader Bullin & Chris Bullin (hosts)</i> <i>Donna & Coach Edwards (co-hosts)</i>	Black Dog Acres RV Park Pilot Mountain, NC
October (Dates TBD)	<i>Jane & Alan Hvizdak</i>	TBD
October (traditionally the third weekend but need to confirm)	Alumalina	Tom Johnson Campground, Marion, NC
November 6-9 SPACES HELD UNTIL OCTOBER 9, 2025 <i>Mention Piedmont Airstream Rally 11/6-9, 2025 when making reservations</i>	Installation Rally <i>Amy & Jim Mount</i>	Cross Winds Family Campground 159 Sowers Rd. Linwood, NC 27299 (336)853-4567
December	No Event	No Event

Piedmont NC Club Membership Report

by Amy Mount
Membership Chair
December 2024

Let's Welcome Our NEWEST AFFILIATE MEMBERS –

- Susan & Greg McGee [BRN 16616](#) 2017 28-ft. Tommy Bahama Beaufort, NC
- Bob & Peggi Pearson [BRN 8027](#) 2024 31-ft. Globetrotter Wake Forest, NC

(Pearson's had a change of member status from Regular to Affiliate as of November 12, 2024.)

REGULAR MEMBERS Who Renewed Their Membership In Oct./Nov.:

- Stedman Brown & Tami Lowe [BRN 6693](#) 2013 27-ft. Flying Cloud Raleigh, NC
- Alan & Jane Hvizdak [BRN 2362](#) 2017 28-ft. Flying Cloud Sneads Ferry, NC
- Andrew (Andy) & Karen Karakos [BRN 2308](#) 2023 28-ft. International RBT Fayetteville, NC
- Dick & Becky Martin [BRN 2753](#) 1986 31-ft. Excella Wake Forest, NC
- John "Mart" & Carolyn Plaxco [BRN 13517](#) 1986 34.5-ft. 345 (Motorhome) Denver, NC
- Gregory Ray [BRN 5218](#) 2002 39-ft. 396XL (Motorhome) Winston Salem, NC
- Thomas Rydzewski [BRN 4819](#) 1967 26-ft. Intern'l Overlander Cary, NC
- April Strader Bullin & Chris Bullin [BRN 16263](#) 2004 34-ft. Excella Classic Tobaccoville, NC
- Bill & Shelley Townsend [BRN 27070](#) 2022 25-ft. Flying Cloud Lumberton, NC
- 1970 27-ft. Overlander

AFFILIATE MEMBERS Who Renewed their Membership In Oct./Nov.:

- Terry Montgomery [BRN 3156](#) 2012 30-ft. Flying Cloud York, SC
- Dennis & Barbara Hackett [BRN 7355](#) 2020 31-ft. Classic Greensboro, NC

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

As of November 3rd, 2024, Piedmont North Carolina Airstream Club has **109 Regular members** with 56 Airstream RVs, **PLUS 37 Affiliate members** with 19 Airstream RVs. Combining our Regular & Affiliate members there are, currently, **146 TOTAL members** associated with the Piedmont NC Airstream Club who travel in 75 Airstream RVs.

Overview of Piedmont Club Membership in Recent Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Regular Piedmont NC Club Members	109	133	141	140
Affiliate Members to Piedmont NC Club	37	27	26	18
TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS	146	160	165	158

Regular Piedmont NC Club membership has declined over the last couple of years, but Affiliate membership has increased steadily since 2021. Some Piedmont NC Club members never renewed their 2024 Airstream Club International membership nor the local club membership; some club members sold their Airstreams; some stopped camping due to illness or age; and a few moved to other areas or transferred to another local Airstream club.

UPDATE REGARDING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES

International Dues for new members and renewals has increased from \$75 to \$99.

The membership renewal process starts, roughly, 120 days BEFORE your membership expiration date. So, Piedmont NC Club members with a renewal date of January 1st may have received reminder emails from Airstream Club International (ACI) as early as September 3rd to renew their annual membership. However, if you joined ACI and a local club since July 1st, 2021, then your membership renewal date will be aligned with the date you joined.

To pay your ACI & local club renewal fees, log onto your account within the ACI website and you will be able to pay the **\$99 ACI renewal**, as well as the **\$15 Piedmont North Carolina Club renewal**. If you are currently an Affiliate member of another Airstream club, then you may also renew those \$15 fees and/or join another local or Intra-Club during the online renewal process. The list of local and Intra-Clubs are available on the ACI website.

There is also an auto-renewal feature available on ACI's website. Members can select this auto-renewal option when renewing your annual membership online.

If you submit your annual renewal fees to ACI before December 31, 2024, then your name(s), region, local club and **BRN #** will be included within ACI's published membership directory. *However, ACI members may also opt out of having their contact information published in any ACI Membership Directory.*

If you have any questions about the membership renewal process, then contact the ACI Membership Department directly by calling Amber Regula, Membership Coordinator, at 937-596-5211.

PASSING OF THE TORCH ...

I have enjoyed being the membership contact for our Piedmont NC Club for the past few years, but it is time to pass this role to **DEBBIE STUBBS**. She will be your Membership Chair for 2025 and you can contact Debbie via email at dsstubbs57@gmail.com or cell number at **336-255-9775**. I *KNOW* that Debbie will do a wonderful job keeping our club updated on membership items and will continue to welcome NEW Regular & Affiliate members to our Piedmont North Carolina Club!

Today's news from the Campfire Curmudgeon!

The Campfire Curmudgeon contract was renewed. I wasn't sure it would happen since my last article was more sappy than curmudgeonly. Must be the impact of it getting dark so early or the new sheriff in town. Anyway, thank you and I appreciate the pay raise too.

We're into the "Holiday Season". The actual holidays of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas have conglomerated into "The Holiday Season". Things evolve. I get that. Young kids used to trick or treat in cute costumes. Then they morphed into scary costumes and superheroes. Now there is a preponderance of "Sexy Costumes" for 9 to 12 year olds. Progress? Hell no!

Thanksgiving was a stand alone holiday. The USA's tribute to gluttony that was built on a totally fictional story of a meal between the Native Americans and the Colonizers. What those first people off the boat really gave the natives was smallpox, STD's and other deadly diseases. Grandmas recipes of a jello side dish didn't come over on the Mayflower... grandma brought measles.

I'm not sure who I will upset if I call it the Christmas season and not the Hanukkah season or the season of Kwanzaa, I'm not co-opting anyone's celebration. Do what you need to do, but as the turkey said to Santa Clause, "Stay in your lane, Fat Boy". Just celebrate. At home or on the road just do it on the appropriate day or days.

Ok, I just got to say this, and it might get my contract cancelled. Imagine having a kid at some Ivy League university, paying anywhere between \$50,000 to \$65,000 a year in tuition, and hearing that some professors canceled classes the day after the election because of who won the presidential election.

Imagine how that parent paying all those thousands in tuition feels, hearing that some students are such emotional basket cases that they needed Legos, coloring books, and milk and cookies to get them through the election results.

When I went to university in the 70's, it was not unusual to have some Vietnam veterans in our classes. They were easy to spot. While they were young like us, they were a lot more grown up. Most were good students, many getting an education on the GI Bill, and a lot clearer about what was important in life and what was not. They weren't kids like us. Imagine offering those tough, experienced veterans Legos and coloring books, or milk and cookies to help them deal with something far less stressful than going off to war. Debilitated by an election? I can imagine their response.

Me, what do you expect the curmudgeon to do for the next few weeks? I'll be towing my silver sled to my usual campground. The dog and I will share a couple of cans of Dinty Moore stew around a smoldering, smoky campfire. There will be saltines and anchovies and maybe if I'm lucky some summer sausage. When we were in Wilkes County someone left me on my camper steps a Mason Jar of clear liquid that came from a hollow log. I'll sip it and reflect on all the stuff I missed this year. I'll probably tear up thinking about one of those special nights with you Airstreamers or maybe it will just be smoke from the fire.

Second Harvest Food Bank Thank You



SecondHarvestNWNC.org
336.784.5770

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

November 15, 2024

Wally Byam Caravan Club Inc.
524 Barrington Hall Dr
Rolesville, NC 27571

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting our mission and our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Tonya Deem
Board Chair

Barbara Raffaldini
Board Secretary

Howard Upchurch
Board Treasurer

Michelle Butt

Lauren Davis, PhD

Ann Garner Riddle
Past Board Chair

Zanzella Savoy

Your donation to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC supports both our ongoing efforts to address sustained, high levels of food insecurity across our region and our disaster relief work, helping us respond swiftly to urgent community needs like those of our neighbors in Western NC impacted by Hurricane Helene. Together, we make an immediate and lasting impact.

Your ongoing support is critical as we confront a challenging environment. The number of individuals being served each month through the Food Bank and our network has roughly doubled in the last two years, and we do not expect this to change in the near term. And now, with so many of our communities picking up the pieces to rebuild their lives following Hurricane Helene, your support is even more meaningful.

Your recent gift of \$500.00, received on 11/8/2024, helps ensure that families and individuals in need can put nutritious food on their tables. We will continue to develop innovative strategies to address food insecurity and create pathways to build a stronger region. You are at the heart of all that makes this possible.

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 NC as well as our disaster relief activities. On behalf of our entire team at Second Harvest, thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric".

Eric A. Aft
Chief Executive Officer

Members

Susan Cox

Josh Crane

Madelina Fordham

Andrew S. Holmes

Victor Isler

Vivian Joiner

Kimberly Montez, MD, MPH

Ted Oliver

Scott Sewell

R. Stuart Stogner

Kevin Thomerson

Emeritus

Edwin R. Brenegar, Jr.

James E. Holmes, Jr.

Ex Officio

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 ★