



# Tarheel Traveler

# April 2025

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

**Celebrating Adventure & Community**



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Ray Combs**  
**BRN 822**

[raycombs100@gmail.com](mailto:raycombs100@gmail.com)

*Congratulations to ourselves the Carolinas Airstream Club*



PO Box 612  
Jackson Center, OH 45334

25 March 2025  
Ray Combs, President  
Carolin's Airstream Club

Dear Ray,

The CBL Committee has reviewed and,

**This Committee approves your Club Constitution and Bylaws.**

The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and all the members of the Carolinas Airstream Club of the WBCCI for the completion of this document review.

The Carolinas Airstream Club's next Constitution and Bylaws review will be in 2030.

  
Jim Cocke  
CBL Chairman,

CC: Bob Ealy, President Region 3  
Shari Hord, Secretary  
CBL Folder, HQ Entity Files

## 2025 CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **Executive Board of Directors:**

President – Ray Combs  
First Vice President – Roger Holland  
Second Vice President – John Hoffman  
Treasurer – Janice Overcash  
Recording Secretary – Shari Hord  
Corresponding Secretary – Lee Dunn  
Email Administrator – Lee Dunn  
Director (2-Year) – Vic Fordham  
Director (2-Year) – Jim Plyler  
Director (1-Year) – Jack Grimes  
Director (1-Year) – Björn Kasper  
Immediate Past President – Steve Thompson

### **Appointed Roles & Committee Chairs:**

Parliamentarian – Bob Hoffman  
Membership Chair – Lee Dunn  
New Member Engagement – Terry Sheally  
65th Anniversary of CAC Celebration Chair – Terry Sheally  
Newsletter Editor – send content to [Penny Guenther](mailto:Penny.Guenther@carolinclub.org)  
Club Historian – John Carriker  
Facebook Coordinator – Helen Bailey  
Rally-Round-The-Campfire Coordinator – cherylanne "ca" weaver  
Webmaster & Online Store Manager – Wayne Clark

## Order Customized CAC Memorabilia

Visit our CAC website to find our online store where you can peruse and order items with either the Carolinas Airstream Club logo or the special edition 65th Anniversary of the Carolinas Airstream Club logo. Take a look and place your order soon!

<https://airstreamclub.org/carolin's/021carolin's-online-store>



## First Vice President's Corner

**Roger Holland**

**BRN 5796**

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

With our first two CAC rallies behind us (and the Region 3 rally), we are off to a wonderful rally season! Nancy & Jeff Kueffer did a fantastic job as our James Island rally hosts providing food, entertainment, and fellowship throughout the rally culminating in an incredible baked potato bar on Saturday night! We then went to Tanglewood where we occupied 43 out of 44 of the sites for another favorite rally hosted by Kate & Kim Coast and Michael & Georgia Olympio. Our hosts outdid themselves with meals, entertainment, movies, activities, and fellowship! Our first two CAC rallies proved how rally hosts are the life blood of our club and how important they are to a healthy, vibrant Airstream club!

Tanglewood has changed their reservation policy from previous years, affecting our ability to individually secure sites for the rally in 2026, but thanks to some quick action and assistance from our members, our club now has all 44 sites reserved for 2026! We will be sending an email out in the coming weeks to explain the details of how the reservations will work within the club so stay tuned for more information with no need to contact Tanglewood to reserve a site for next year! (See the "Joining Tanglewood in 2026?" article here for more details.) → →

There is still plenty of room at many of the rallies and as always, you can find out about all of our rallies on our website at:

<https://airstreamclub.org/events?from=&to=&type=-1&state=-1&club=45876&list=1>. Please remember to pay close attention to reservation deadlines and sign up for any of the rallies that pique your interest!

We have also planned [a traveling group](#) for those going to the International Rally in York, PA that you can read about on our website. For those attending the North Bend Rally at Kerr Lake we will start the journey from there. For others, you may join at any point along the way from Misty Mountain Campground in Virginia to Artillery Ridge Campground in Gettysburg, PA. Again, you will find more details on our website.

Just another reminder to please register on our website's Jotform for each rally you plan to attend once you get your site reserved. This allows the club and rally hosts to provide better communication with you, giving details about the rallies you will attend.

We look forward to seeing everyone as the year progresses as we create new memories and make new friends!



Tanglewood NC CAC rally 2025

## Joining Tanglewood in 2026?

As many of you know, it is becoming more and more difficult to reserve a block of sites for our rallies. At this year's Tanglewood rally, we discovered that a recent change of the campground's policy meant that they no longer hold blocks of sites for any length of time. Given the popularity of this campground, not only with our club but with the general population, we decided to be proactive and reserved the entire campground through the club for our 2026 rally! Fortunately, their cancellation policy is very good and there will be no ultimate financial liability for the club.

This full campground reservation means there is no rush for rally attendees to reserve a site through Tanglewood since our club now has all their sites secured for the rally. But what this does mean is that the club will be responsible for reserving the individual sites through our Jotform registration. When registering for this rally you will be not only registering for the rally, but you will also be reserving and paying for your site on our Jotform. The available sites will be listed on the Jotform and will be removed as they are assigned. Just as with other campgrounds we utilize, the sites will be reserved on a first come, first served basis once the Jotform goes live. With that in mind, we will send an email out to our members a few days before the Jotform will go live to give everyone a heads up of the day and exact time the Jotform will be activated.

Once registered with a site, you will be able to cancel with a full refund up to four weeks before your scheduled arrival. This will give the club two weeks to fill that slot without the risk of losing the payment with Tanglewood (we can cancel within two weeks of arrival and receive a full refund from Tanglewood). Given the popularity of this rally and typical wait list, we don't anticipate returning any sites!

So, keep an eye out for emails coming soon to give you the day and time you can start making your reservations for the 2026 Tanglewood rally! Please contact Roger Holland at [roger@h-harchitects.com](mailto:roger@h-harchitects.com) if you have any questions in the meantime.



## Second Vice President's Corner

**John T. Hoffman**

**BRN 11416**

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

Please consider volunteering to be Rally Hosts in 2026. If you have a little extra time and energy, being a rally host is a great way to contribute to the club and meet new members.

And remember that our richly detailed, commemorative CAC coins are available for purchase on our website. These are collector items that are a must have for CAC members! Don't miss out!

Order yours at: <https://form.jotform.com/250476355775164>.





# Lovely to See You!

## James Island SC Rally Photos



## Tanglewood NC Rally Recap

Contributed by Kate Coast

What a fantastic weekend we had with the **Carolinas Airstream Club**! With **43 trailers**, **86 club members**, and a few friendly guests joining in, the energy was high, the weather was kind, and the fun was non-stop. We were especially thrilled to **welcome and install new members into our CAC family** — we're so excited to have you on board and can't wait to make more memories together!

### Weekend Highlights:

#### Best Appetizer Competition

The competition was fierce (and delicious!), but **Holly Gizzi** wowed us all with her stunning charcuterie board — a true work of art and a delight for the taste buds!

#### Friday Game Day & Movie Night

We kicked things off with classic board games and a spirited round of **SoftGolf** — plenty of laughs all around! Then we settled in for a cozy movie night featuring *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, perfectly paired with **Mario's Pizza**.

#### Saturday Optional Adventures

There was something for everyone — from a cultural visit to the **Reynolda Museum** for the **Andrew Wyeth exhibit**, to a more spirited experience with a brewery tour of **Winston-Salem's local gems**. A perfect day, whatever your vibe!

### Big Thanks To...

- **Chick-fil-A** and **Krispy Kreme Donuts** for the breakfast discounts that started our mornings right.
- The amazing **CAC Cooking Krewe** for a warm, hearty breakfast that brought everyone together.
- **Airstream of Greensboro** and **Chad & Laura Watson** for an unforgettable BBQ dinner — and those **homemade cupcakes** were the cherry on top!
- And a special shoutout to **Ricky & Joan Wilcox** for spreading Easter joy with their festive, candy-filled **Easter Bunny scooters** — such a sweet (and creative!) surprise!



Thanks to *everyone* who helped make this rally one to remember. We're already counting down the days until the next one!

### See you down the road!







**Team WB4CAC:**

Marcia Thompson NC4MT, Bruce Thompson AD4ET,  
George Lamb N4ROT, and Phil Drake K4UOK



## CAC's 1st US Island Activation for Ham Operators

Contributed by Marcia Thompson

ACI has an intra-club for amateur (ham) radio operators, and Carolinas Airstream Club has quite a few active hams at various levels of activity and license levels within their portion of the intra-club, which is called WB4CAC. For several years now, the Carolinas Airstream Club has had their season-opener rally at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC.

WB4CAC member NC4MT Marcia Thompson, with plans to attend this year's James Island rally, kept hearing about "activating" *islands* in her ham radio community, so she decided to research what that meant and if it applied to James Island, SC.

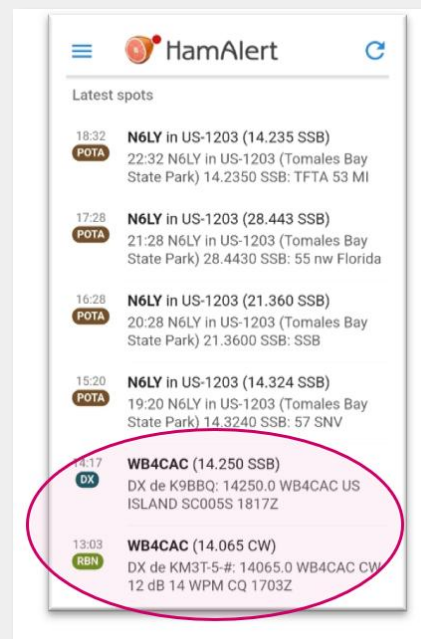
She began to learn! James Island County Park is *not* a state or federal park, so it does not qualify for ham POTA status (Parks on the Air, which does not recognize county parks). James Island *is* a 5-square-mile island, but this does *not* qualify it for IOTA status (Islands on the Air). So, having learned what the island is *not*, the question remains, what *is* it? Marcia was left with yet *another* rabbit hole to be explored!

Marcia's fellow ham operator YL Angela N3ARB has activated several islands in the US so Marcia got the scoop about how to proceed. She learned that James Island is a *US Island* (State, Territory, and Protectorates Islands) managed by [usislands.org](http://usislands.org). After exploring *that*, she discovered that James Island has already been qualified a US Island by N4AH/P and thus was already assigned a number, SC005S, which meant that it could be "activated," which is exactly what happened on March 22, 2025!

Since James Island had already been qualified as a US Island by [usislands.org](http://usislands.org), there were no minimum or maximum quantity of contacts required. So, Marcia registered our WB4CAC plans for SC005S on the [usislands.org](http://usislands.org) website to add it to their calendar.

While several more hams were camping at James Island County Park, four brave souls made 51 SSB contacts and 1 CW contact on 3 bands (40, 20, 15) and two modes (SSB and CW). Marcia spotted their activity with HamAlert. Our operators were Phil Drake K4UOK, George Lamb N4ROT, Bruce Thompson AD4ET, and Marcia Thompson NC4MT. We only operated for 4 hours on Saturday afternoon 1:00-4:00 p.m. local time. Band conditions were excellent on 20m but were less than favorable on the rest. Antennas included a Zero Five vertically mounted on the front fork of an Airstream, a Ham Stick vertically mounted on top of an Airstream, and a Tarheel screwdriver vertically mounted on a Lift and Lay on top of an Airstream. Rigs were Yaesu FT-897, a Yaesu FT-891 (with a Putikeeg straight key), and a Kenwood TS-440S - all running 100w or less.

Overall, it was a successful first Island activation for WB4CAC as we begin celebrating our 65th year as the 21<sup>st</sup> club in WBCCI!



Congratulations to Ray Combs KB4RAY  
and Carol Combs KB4CTC  
on earning their General class  
amateur radio licenses!



# Why Ham Radio?

- It's Fun
- Exercises the brain
- Enhances knowledge of world geography
- Adds dimensions to interpersonal contacts
- Is an effective means of emergency communications
- An easy hobby to enter
- Note: Since ham radios are 12 volt - perfect fit for Airstreams

- Jim Cocke N5RTG

- WBCCI has a Amateur Radio Intra-club - WB8RC
- The purposes of the Intra club are:
  - Service to the public
  - Furtherance of public welfare by relaying messages via ham radio in time of need and emergency
  - Promotion of education and interest in the sciences of amateur radio
  - Promotion of fellowship and goodwill among all radio amateurs.

Learn more about ham radio, how you can learn and become involved, and about its place in Carolinas Airstream Club by visiting [our webpage](#).

## Hams in Carolinas Airstream Club - WB4CAC

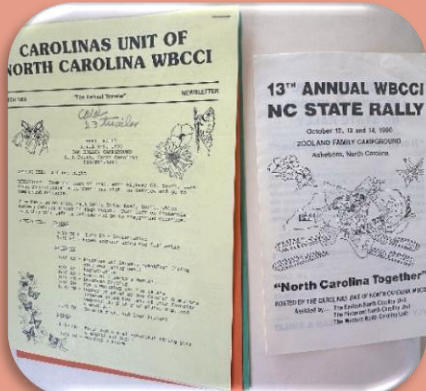
| #  | Call   | First  | Last       | License | Email                        |
|----|--------|--------|------------|---------|------------------------------|
| 1  | W9TTW  | Tabb   | Adams      | E       | tabloid70@tds.net            |
| 2  | KE9ZD  | Jim    | Barlow     | E       | jim@jimbarlow.com            |
| 3  | KJ4BYT | Bruce  | Bodenstein | G       | brucebodenstein@gmail.com    |
| 4  | N4RHC  | Bob    | Clark      | E       | bobclark@skybest.com         |
| 5  | N5RTG  | Jim    | Cocke      | E       | nfivertg@gmail.com           |
| 6  | N4RTG  | Debbie | Wood       | G       | dreamstreamr@gmail.com       |
| 7  | KB4CTC | Carol  | Combs      | G       | carolcombs100@gmail.com      |
| 8  | KB4RAY | Ray    | Combs      | G       | raycombs100@gmail.com        |
| 9  | KN4AMN | Eddie  | Conrad     | G       | econrad@triad.rr.com         |
| 10 | KJ4TGS | Stan   | Cross      | E       | stantoncross@carolina.rr.com |
| 11 | K4UOK  | Phil   | Drake      | E       | phil.drake@att.net           |
| 12 | K4NHL  | Jerry  | Hall       | G       | jhall2523@gmail.com          |
| 13 | N4BUR  | Burl   | Hammock    | E       | bhamm999@triad.rr.com        |
| 14 | W4SEH  | Shari  | Hord       | G       | sehord@bellsouth.net         |
| 15 | KN4UHM | Rocky  | Johnson    | G       | rjohnson153@triad.rr.com     |
| 16 | KE4FIH | Dot    | Kalet      | T       | dotkalet@juno.com            |
| 17 | N4ROT  | George | Lamb       | E       | georgen4rot@gmail.com        |
| 18 | N4ZKE  | Margie | Lamb       | T       | margielamb@gmail.com         |
| 19 | AD4ET  | Bruce  | Thompson   | E       | bthompson@yadtel.net         |
| 20 | NC4MT  | Marcia | Thompson   | E       | mthompson@yadtel.net         |
| 21 | K2DWW  | David  | Warde      | G       | David.Warde@gmail.com        |



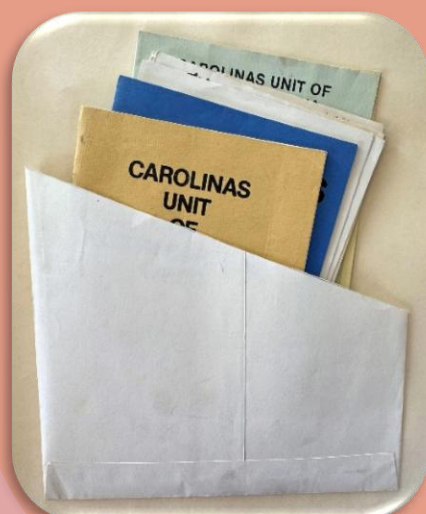


## CAC 65th Anniversary News

2025 marks the 65th anniversary of the Carolinas Airstream Club's charter. To mark the milestone, *Tarheel Traveler* is dedicating this section of the newsletter to the anniversary. Be on the lookout for articles, links to photos, and other information on how you can participate in the anniversary throughout the year and at our upcoming Anniversary Rally at Ocean Lakes in October.



Many pages were stapled together prior to Norma's preservation work



BEFORE Norma's preservation work



AFTER Norma's preservation work

## PRESERVING OUR CLUB'S HISTORY

Contributed by Norma Thrower, Tabb Adams, and Terry Sheally

Significant progress has been made to archive the Carolinas Airstream Club's historical photo albums/scrapbooks that date from the inception of the club in the 1960s to 2002. Throughout the past few decades, the albums were held by various members, the most recent of whom was John Carriker. At the 2024 International Airstream Rally, John shared the albums with CAC member Tabb Adams, who was blown away by the artifacts that the club had and that they had been saved for so many years. John stated, "When our club was first formed in 1960, our then members knew of the importance of documenting our rallies and events through pictures so that members unable to attend a particular rally would still have a visual source to refer to and see the various events that went on at that event. This was done till the last photo album was made in 2002 when we switched to a digital format."

At the 2024 International Rally, Tabb met with David Gulley, the First Vice President for Region 6, to discuss what could be done to preserve the albums. David, who works closely with ACI's Historian Joe Peplinski, said that he was starting a preservation project to scan and digitize all the historical photos—Blue Beret's along with many historical documents from the ACI/WBCCI. He invited Tabb and Ruth Adams to help with the digitizing project of the club albums. But before anything could begin, the photo albums needed some stabilization so that they could be shipped to Little Rock, Arkansas, to David's scanning business location. This is where Norma Thrower comes in, a retired archivist for the National Park Service. She offered to stabilize and scan some of the albums before they traveled out to Arkansas.

Later in 2024 at CAC's Ocean Lakes rally, the Carolinas Airstream Club albums were displayed for club members to view. *Side note: the photos of album pages and the links to the albums that we've been sharing in our 2025 Tarheel Traveler newsletters are photos that Terry Sheally took of the album pages at the 2024 Ocean Lakes rally—the very same photo albums that Norma and Tabb carefully worked with!*



## PRESERVING OUR CLUB'S HISTORY, CONTINUED

Prior to the albums going to Little Rock, Arkansas, for permanent archival storage, Norma Thrower brought them home to complete preservation work on them. The books contain a treasure trove of CAC's history. Many of the pages had masking tape, piles of newsletter materials stapled together, and other issues that needed attention. Staples, masking tape, and scotch tape were removed, and items were reattached using archival adhesive tabs or envelopes. Norma scanned all newsletters, reports, directories, loose photos, etc. She also photographed an assortment of photographs, most notably 80 Who's Who—individual photographs of past members with their Airstreams. After the preservation work was completed, the albums were packed and carefully shipped to Little Rock, Arkansas, for additional scanning of entire pages of the books.

Tabb and Ruth Adams arrived in Little Rock in early April 2025 to start the scanning process, leading them to the next step of adding the scans to the digital archives that David Gulley is building for ACI/WBCCI. They arrived at David Gulley's business, Standard Business Systems, and were greeted by David and ACI Region 6 Membership Chair Martis Tipton, who also works for David. Martis oversees developing the system to scan the albums, and Ruth and Tabb were designated to be local club test subjects to test the system. The scanning process was very easy with the use of a tall iPad stand that held an iPad that was used to take each picture and then convert it into a PDF. It only took about 3 hours to scan all the albums as they didn't need to be taken apart; we simply flipped to each page to scan each one. Each scan was digitized and stored on their file storage system. When Tabb and Ruth were finished, they assumed their visit was done but boy were they in for a surprise! David has one of the largest collections of vintage Airstreams under roof—140 in total. To their great surprise, David gave Ruth and Tabb a private tour of his collection! They saw Airstreams ranging from the first prototype that Wally Byam had built, to two Airstreams that went on the Around the World Caravan, and one of the 33-foot Airstreams specifically built for the railroads. In total, it took 4 hours for Ruth and Tabb to tour David's collection. They were both blown away by the quality and quantity of vintage Airstreams in David's private museum. The albums are still in Little Rock and being secured in David's fireproof vault for the time being along with other archives from ACI/WBCCI. The plan is for ACI to have its own vault at Jackson Center along with an Airstream club museum in the old office building.



Tabb Adams  
assisting with the  
digital archival  
process in Arkansas



But one of David Gulley's many vintage Airstreams



Ruth Adams assisting with the digital  
archival process in Arkansas



## Membership Chair

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

As of April 15, 2025, the Carolinas Airstream Club is 359 rigs and 673 members strong.

### Rally Photo Directories Online

Last month I wrote about the addition of the rally photo directories link on the 'Carolinas Registration List' web page. I had some technical difficulties with the links. They are now fixed. Check it out and let me know what you think.

Lee Dunn  
CAC Membership Chair

## Rallying with our Pets

Pets are family members and are happily welcomed at rallies. But please remember to keep your dogs and cats leashed when outside of your trailer, and please use the famous doggy bag when necessary.



Pets are welcome at club activities during the rally but should not be brought to any function where food is being prepared, served, or eaten, nor should they be brought to any off-site activities organized by the hosts.

Of course, service dogs, as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are welcome.



## Rally-Round-The-Campfire

**cherylanne weaver**  
BRN 9883  
[printcessltd@gmail.com](mailto:printcessltd@gmail.com)  
704-519-6600

Hi Streamers!

Just back from the Region 3 Rally in Ladson, SC. There were 200 rigs from numerous clubs within Region 3 gathered at the Exchange Park Fairgrounds. A good time was had by all! The Region 3 team did an excellent job planning and coordinating the many seminars, meals, and events. Mark your calendar for 2026 to attend this fun-filled Airstream Rally.

SHOUT OUT!

Bill Brickey and his parking crew did an amazing job getting all the rigs parked at the Region 3 Rally. Not a small task to manage! He may be the 'parking crew guy' from now on. 😊 Just kidding, Bill!

SHOUT OUT!

Lee Dunn, our Membership Chair, is busy keeping up with current and new members, affiliate members, and providing the new member list to Penny Guenther to include in each monthly newsletter. His email is associated with the CAC Web page so he also stays busy fielding questions about the club, rallies, and anything else a member might ask to the best of his ability. Lee creates a rally attendee photo directory for each rally to send to the rally hosts, so they know who each participant is by face. He also reaches out to new members to secure a photo to add to our Evernote membership directory and makes sure rally attendees are current with ACI and CAC membership fees. Suffice it to say, Lee is busy keeping the CAC members and directory straight! THANK YOU, Lee!

SHOUT OUT! is a new addition to the Tarheel Traveler to highlight the volunteer time and talents of so many of our members and their selfless contributions to CAC. The countless hours contributed all work to keep our club running like a well-oiled machine. Let me know if you'd like to give a SHOUT OUT! to someone in our club.

"If we were meant to stay in one place, we would have roots instead of feet." – Unknown

cherylanne weaver  
BRN 9883, [printcessltd@gmail.com](mailto:printcessltd@gmail.com)

## Welcome New Members

- Vincent and Sheri Sandy, Clemmons, NC, and their 2024 Flying Cloud
- Bub and Janet Dillon, Fair Play, SC, and their 2023 Flying Cloud
- Zeke and Leah Quam, Acworth, GA, and their 2025 Caravel
- Affiliate members Terry and Adrian Strand, Hardeeville, SC, and their 2024 Caravel
- Robin and Andy Mabry, Gastonia, NC, and their 2025 Globetrotter
- Beth Davis and Chris Maxwell, Pittsboro, NC, and their 1966 Caravel
- Chris and Amy Conrad, Cary, NC, and their 2024 Flying Cloud
- David and Mary Kriebel, from Ninety Six, SC, and their 2006 Classic
- John and Angela Watts, from Huntersville, NC, and their 2021 Basecamp



More photos from the 2025 Tanglewood Rally



## CAC's 2025 Rally and Caravan Schedule

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

### 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 17-22

### September 2025

Mills River NC Wagon Wheel Rally September 11-14  
Carolina Mountain Jamboree Joint Rally September 17-21

### October 2025

Broad River, NC Rally October 9-12  
[Ocean Lakes, 65th CAC Anniversary,](#)  
[Myrtle Beach, SC Rally October 29-November 2](#)

### November 2025

Christmas At Biltmore Estate Rally November 10-13

## Rallies and Caravans coming in 2026 . . .

### March 2026

Region 3 Rally, Lakeland, FL March 4-8, 2026  
James Island SC Rally March 19-22, 2026

### April 2026

Tanglewood Park NC Rally April 16-19, 2026

### May 2026

May in Mayberry NC Rally May 14-17, 2026

### June 2026

Campfires in Cherokee NC Rally June 4-7, 2026



All CAC rallies and caravans are using **WhatsApp Messenger** for communications.

With **WhatsApp**, you get fast, simple, and secure messaging and calling available on phones all over the world. To get started, download WhatsApp for free from the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#). Once you've set up WhatsApp on your phone, you can choose to use WhatsApp on multiple devices.

Go here for help on [getting started](#).





Keith and Valerie Cooke



Valerie Cooke and their 2022 Airstream Basecamp

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Contributed by Björn Kasper

If you have an interesting Airstream story to share, please contact Björn at [bkasperfl@yahoo.com](mailto:bkasperfl@yahoo.com) to be featured in a future Member Spotlight.

**Keith and Valerie Cooke**

**BRN 2695**

**2025 Trade Wind 25FBT**

Keith and Valerie Cooke both come from a long tradition of camping. Keith's parents owned a variety of SOB (some other brand) campers and motorhomes and took countless trips across the US in those rigs. Later, as Keith's first family grew, they often camped at Disney's Fort Wilderness in their pop-up trailer—they were annual pass holders and loved every trip. Valerie's upbringing was more rugged, camping in tents throughout the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. When their blended families came together, Val shared her dream of someday owning an Airstream. As retirement neared, they made that dream a goal: buy an Airstream and visit every US National Park.

Their dream became reality after purchasing a 2022 Basecamp in April of 2022. They named their trailer *5 O'Clock* in honor of Valerie's love for Jimmy Buffett. "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere" is always on their travel playlist, so the name just felt right.

They are currently at 25 parks and counting. One of their favorite adventures was Virgin Islands National Park, although they couldn't take *5 O'Clock*—that would've been quite the boat ride! Glacier National Park also holds a special place in their hearts, as it's where they were married, right next to a glacial lake.

Becoming part of ACI and CAC felt like a natural extension of Airstream ownership. Keith and Val wanted to connect with fellow travelers, learn from experienced members, and see what caravanning was all about. A personal dream of Keith's is to follow the Oregon Trail on the Nuts to Ruts Caravan as one of his ancestors was a Methodist missionary and a founding figure of the trail. They stay very active, especially when it comes to rallies. Valerie is currently chairing the CAC Anniversary Cookbook project, and they will be co-hosting the Cool Breeze Rally this June. This one is especially meaningful to them as it is close to their home in the beautiful North Carolina/Virginia mountains.

One of the biggest lessons they learned came on their very first trip in their Basecamp when they did not properly chock the wheels before unhitching. The trailer slid forward and dropped off the blocks with a big thud. Thankfully, no damage, just a bruised ego! A 5-ton bottle jack and a bit of teamwork got them back on track. It was a humbling reminder of the importance of a solid checklist, especially when unhitching.

Keith and Val are both passionate about paddling and love taking their Hornbeck canoes out on the water whenever they can. Valerie enjoys cross-stitch and needlepoint and always has a project in hand, whether on the road or relaxing in the trailer. Keith is an avid reader—books, newspapers, technical journals—you name it—and his career in commercial nuclear power kept him up to date on political and scientific trends, and he still reads multiple newspapers daily.

One interesting fact...Valerie is a huge college football fan, and as such, their fall activities are scheduled around ESPN College Game Day and a full lineup of Saturday games. Keith, on the other hand, is not a football fan at all, but he has learned to roll with it, joking that they are the reverse of the typical couple when it comes to game days.

As of March 17th, Keith and Val are proud owners of a new 2025 Trade Wind 25FBT! Since the latest acquisition, they have already attended three rallies and have plans for many more in 2025, including co-hosting the Cool Breeze Rally and joining CAC at the upcoming ACI International Rally in York, PA, showing their dedication and commitment to our club and fellow Airstream enthusiasts. They are also looking forward to exploring America in 2026 as part of the 'Nuts to Ruts' Caravan and taking in the beauty and adventures found in America's park systems!



Valerie and Keith Cooke, the day they got their 2025 Trade Wind

The Trade Wind at home





# Where You Can Find Us



- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club website:  
<https://airstreamclub.org/carolinas>
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NCUnit21Wbcc/>
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club email:  
[club021@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club021@airstreamclub.org)
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club upcoming rallies:  
<https://airstreamclub.org/events?from=&to=&type=-1&state=-1&club=45876&list=1>
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club standard logo merchandise:  
<https://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/Carolina-Airstream-Club/7478561>
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club 65th Anniversary logo merchandise:  
<https://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/65th-Anniversary-the-Carolina-Airstream-Club/7533616>

