



# Tarheel Traveler

# September 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)

Guess what? We had an incredible turnout at the international rally in York, Pennsylvania! We had a whopping 59 rigs, which is more than any other club in the country. And here's the best part: a recent count of rigs in clubs shows us as the fourth largest club in all of ACI, excluding Intra Clubs. We've got a total of 302 members, not counting affiliates. We're right behind the Washington State Club, the Colorado Club, and the Top of Georgia Club. But wait, there's more! It looks like we'll have over 130 rigs at our Annual Myrtle Beach Rally, which will be a celebration of our 65th anniversary. Terry Sheally, our celebration chair, and Roger Holland, our First VP, have put together an exciting weekend. Carol and I are super excited to catch up with our old friends and meet new ones. Can't wait to see you there! And now we head into an exciting fall and a great rally season. Can't wait.

Ray

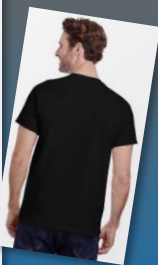
## 2025 CAROLINAS AIRSTREAM CLUB LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **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@carolinanairstreamclub.org)  
Club Historian – John Carriker  
Facebook Coordinator – Helen Bailey  
Rally-Round-The-Campfire Coordinator – cherylanne "ca" weaver  
Webmaster & Online Store Manager – Wayne Clark



## Why wait?

## Order your CAC swag today.

Check out our club's online store where you can find flags, drinkware, t-shirts, and more that you can customize with your own name(s), BRN, pet name(s), trailer outlines, your trailer's name, and beyond.

Go here to get started:

<https://airstreamclub.org/carolinas/021carolinas-online-store>

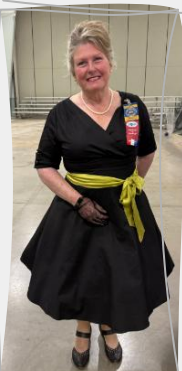


# 2025 Making History in York, PA

Many of our members gathered for the 68th Airstream Club International Rally in York, Pennsylvania, for a week of fellowship, learning, and a whole lot of fun. New memories were captured on the historic fairgrounds of the York Expo Center – the same place that the city of York held America's very first fair in 1765, 11 years before our nation was founded! Here are just a few snapshots from this year's International Rally in York, PA. Thank you to Norma and Larry Thrower for the photos they shared. And thank you to ACI who shared their photos with all of us via the Kululu photo sharing app! Go to <https://app.kululu.com/ml97aw> to see even more photos from this epic week.











## First Vice President's Corner

**Roger Holland**

**BRN 5796**

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

Late summer and early fall have been busy times with various rallies and new experiences for our club! We had an incredible turnout for the International rally in York, PA, on the heels of a fun and relaxing rally at North Bend at Kerr Lake. Shortly after returning from those adventures, many of us joined the very first CAC wagon wheel rally at Mills River Brewery in Mills River, NC, returning just yesterday as I write this!

We had a great crowd at Kerr Lake where many of us started our journey to York for the International rally. Stopping along the way in central Virginia and then in Gettysburg, our group grew into the largest single group arriving together in York. Twenty-two CAC Airstreams departed together from Artillery Ridge Campground in Gettysburg to arrive at the York rally together. By the time we got there, our number had grown to 24! It seems that a long line of Airstreams headed down the road was too irresistible to a couple of solo travelers who fell in line with us as we traveled along the way! Our club was extremely well represented with 59 rigs at the rally! In addition, our own club members, Wayne Clark, Bob Hoffman, Jim Cocke, and Debbie Wood were instrumental in the planning and execution of the entire International rally.

Our next rally was a first for our club—a boondocking wagon wheel rally in the middle of a beautiful grassy field with a brewery just steps away! Scott & Carol Browne did an incredible job hosting and arranging this truly unique rally and it proved to be an overwhelming success. Their planning and organization made everything from the arrival parking to the departure work like clockwork. Keep an eye out on our website to sign up for an encore wagon wheel rally next year!

We are looking forward in the next few days to the third annual joint Carolinas rally in Cleveland, SC, which in the past has proved to be a great opportunity to meet members from other clubs in the Carolinas and share the fellowship for a weekend. From there, we will have the Broad River Campground rally hosted by Vic & Claudia Fordham. Based on conversations with them at the wagon wheel, it promises to be a wonderful time with some special culinary surprises!

Our next big event after Broad River will be the Ocean Lakes 65th anniversary rally in Myrtle Beach, SC! Stay tuned for more info on this in the coming weeks as Terry Sheally and her team continue to make this a once-in-a-lifetime celebration!

We look forward to seeing everyone down the road as we begin to wrap up an exciting 2025!



## Second Vice President's Corner

**John T. Hoffman**

**BRN 11416**

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

Work on the 2026 CAC rally schedule continues. It is shaping up to be a busy year of CAC rallies, beginning in March 2026 with the ACI Region 3 Rally and then our annual CAC James Island gathering. Most of the planned rallies are fairly well nailed down at this point. However, there are still hosting opportunities for those in the club that want to contribute to the success of our gatherings. Please check the CAC events listing for information on the planned 2026 CAC rallies at: [Event Calendar | ACI](#)

Several CAC rally events are still in the planning and approval stages but should be announced soon. I will be making a presentation on our plans for 2026 at the CAC 65th Anniversary Celebration at the Ocean Lakes rally later this year. That will be your opportunity to learn more about our busy 2026 CAC rallies, ask questions, and consider hosting opportunities. The information on the 2026 CAC rally schedule is already posted on our online event calendar at the link above.

The 69th Airstream Club International Rally will be held in Minot, North Dakota, August 22-27, 2026. This will be a long, 1600-mile trip from the Carolinas and will require planning and preparation for those who attend—a great opportunity for a CAC cross-country caravan. We will discuss this during our CAC 2026 rally presentation at Ocean Lakes. If you are planning to attend the 2026 International Rally, please consider taking an active role in planning and supporting CAC participation in this ACI event.

See: [International Rally 2026 | ACI](#)

## Get your ham radio license this year!

Contributed by Marcia Thompson

**Get your ham radio license this November—you can do it! *You still have 5+ weeks to study.***

Ham license exams will be offered at the Ocean Lakes Rally on **November 1, 2025, at 1:00 pm**. All the possible questions and answers are downloadable to use as a study guide. A passing rate of at least 74 percent is required.

There are three exam options:

- **Technician** <https://www.arrl.org/tech-question-pool> effective July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2026
- **General** <https://www.arrl.org/general-question-pool> effective July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2027
- **Extra** <http://www.arrl.org/extra-question-pool> effective July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2028

**Recommended way to Pass the Test:**

[How To Study and Pass Your Ham Radio Exam](#)

**More ways to learn:** <https://w4nc.com/getstarted/>

# CAC's First Wagon Wheel

Scott and Carol Browne hosted the 2025 Mills River Rally at Mills River Brewing Company in Mills River, NC, and pulled off a winning wagon wheel adventure for everyone in attendance! Just look!



## Rally-Round-The-Campfire

**cherylanne weaver**

**BRN 9883**

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

704-519-6600

Hi Streamers! Hope everyone is enjoying the almost cooler weather. I'm just back from the Mills River Wagon Wheel Rally – what fun!!! Ocean Lakes is just around the corner – celebrating 65 years as a WBCCI Club. Hope to see you there. Lots of fun activities are planned.

### SHOUT OUT!

To Scott & Carol Browne – BRN #5942 – to doing an incredible job planning the Mills River Wagon Wheel Rally—CAC's first ever Wagon Wheel. This rally was originally planned for 2024, but Hurricane Helene had other plans. Today, the area is still recovering from the devastation that occurred in Western NC. Last year, Scott & Carol evacuated the attendees in the 3 rigs that were on the Mills River Brewery property at the time of the rainfall. Fortunately, the rigs were intact when the rain stopped, and the 6 Streamers were safe and sound.

Courtesy Reminder: If you are unable to attend a rally – for any reason – please let the hosts know as soon as possible as there is often a wait list for the rally. Also, please cancel your reservation on the CAC website so you will be refunded your rally fee.

“The very basic core of a man's living spirit is his passion for adventure” - Chris McCandless

cherylanne!



## Membership Chair

**Lee Dunn**

**BRN 27312**

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

### September 2025

As of September 13, 2025, the Carolinas Airstream Club is 381 rigs and 718 members strong. A breakdown of the numbers shows 302 member rigs and 79 affiliate rigs.

### Airstream Club Member App

I have been spending some time learning the features of this app. The BRN Lookup and the Membership Directory replace the need to carry around the printed version of the Membership Directory or to login to the ACI website. The Events section lists rallies and there is even a Blue Books section where you can read the ACI constitution, bylaws, and policies. I have not used the ACI website nearly as much since I downloaded and activated this app on my smartphone. The direct communication features of 'Chat' and 'Whisper' are limited right now because to send someone a message they need to be using the app. Until most ACI/CAC members are using this app, it will be just a nice place to reference ACI and membership information. So, please check out the link below to learn more about the ACI Member App. The more people using the app -- the more valuable it becomes.

<https://airstreamclub.org/newmembers/aci-member-app>

During the Ocean Lakes Rally at Myrtle Beach, I will be giving a presentation about this app. I am a novice user, so if anyone would like to join me in sharing their experiences with the ACI Member App, good or bad, please let me know. Also, let me know if you have an idea on how we can leverage this app for CAC. My email address is: [021membership@gmail.com](mailto:021membership@gmail.com).

Lee Dunn, CAC Membership Chair



## Flamingos by the Numbers

Contributed by Julie Burton,

Article by Bennett Kleinman for *Interesting Facts*, Photo by [Richard Sagredo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Distance (in miles) flamingos can travel in a day = 373
- Recognized species of flamingos = 6
- Age of the oldest recorded flamingo = 83
- The longest line of garden flamingos = 4,280 flamingos

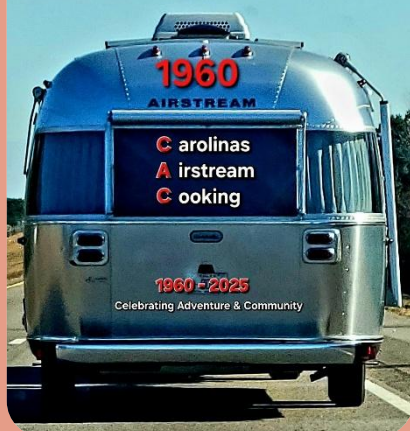
Did you know that flamingos aren't born pink? It's not genetics but the bird's diet that turns the plumage its bright hue. The beta-carotene in what they eat causes the grey feathers they're born with to turn a pink hue over a two-year or so period. Eating foods like algae, brine shrimp, and brine fly larvae that are abundant in the red-orange pigment is what does it. The pigments are broken down and absorbed by fats in the liver, which deposits the color into the bird's feathers and skin.





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.

## Carolinas Airstream Club



Help support our new tradition of sharing travel-friendly recipes! We welcome all members to share recipes that they find useful while on the road or at a rally! Send yours to [021CAC65Cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:021CAC65Cookbook@gmail.com), and you may see your very own recipe published in one of our future issues of *Tarheel Traveler*!

## 65TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS RIGHT HERE

Contributed by Terry Sheally

Registered participants for the 65th Anniversary Rally at Ocean Lakes, please look out for an email from the club about the 65th Anniversary Rally that will include:

- The agenda, so that you can plan your stay
- Links to a JotForms, so that you can sign up for volunteer opportunities and/or sign up to hands-on activities that have group size limits
- A preview of the anniversary edition items for the Opportunity Drawing—these items will be available only at the rally!
- And more!

Get ready for a special edition of the Ocean Lakes rally!

## NOW . . . LISTEN TO THIS!

One of the hallmarks of the Carolinas Airstream Club is the degree to which our members have served in volunteer positions throughout the region *and* at international levels of WBCCI/ACI. One couple who exemplifies that involvement — which continues to this day — is Jim Cocke and Debbie Wood. Listen to them as they describe their experience with volunteering and witnessing change in the club and in their roles that have included president of WBCCI and leader of activities for international rallies.



Click to listen!



[Jim Cocke and Debbie Wood interview](#)

\*This recording was produced with a little love from [@TheRivetedwithChrisandGina](#).

## CAROLINAS AIRSTREAMERS CAN COOK!

### Sausage Baked Beans

Contributed by Keith Cooke, BRN 2695

#### Ingredients:

- 13.5 ounces Johnsonville Smoked Rope Sausage cut into coin-sized pieces
- 28 ounces baked beans
- 16 ounces baby butter beans rinsed and drained
- 15.5 ounces kidney beans
- 15 ounces black beans rinsed and drained
- 12 ounces chili sauce
- 1 small yellow onion finely chopped
- ¼ to ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 tbsp yellow mustard



#### Directions:

1. In a pot with lid combine all ingredients; stir well with a wooden spoon.
2. Cook over medium heat for 8-10 minutes or until onion is tender.
3. Serve with Hot Dogs / Hamburgers / Pulled Pork for a great side dish.

**Serves: 12**

# CAC's 2025 Rally and Caravan Schedule

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

## 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



Schoolhouse Falls in Lake Toxaway, NC; Photo by Thomas Moors as seen in *Our State's* article, "[How to Find 14 of North Carolina's Best Waterfalls](#)"

## 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

NC Blue Ridge Waterfalls Galore Rally June 11-14, 2026

### November 2026

Ocean Lakes – Myrtle Beach Rally November 4-8, 2026

## Welcome New Members



- Robert and Nancy Benson, Greenwood, SC, and their 2025 Trade Wind, 6217
- Shawn and Mitzi Cassidy, Danville, VA, and their 2025 International, 28985
- Kevin and Julia Kay, Easley, SC, and their 2025 Globetrotter, 21193
- Thomas Linkenhoker and Victoria Crossland, Trenton, NC, and their 2017 International Serenity, 6286
- Albert and Laurie Park, Elizabeth City, NC, and their 2025 International, 4593
- Alice and Hank Rethlake, Pisgah Forest, NC, and their 2024 Basecamp, 2962
- Eric and Robbie Stiefel, Lexington, NC, and their 2025 Classic, 9003
- Affiliate members Deborah and Kevin Rogers, Panama City Beach, FL, and their 2005 International, 5621
- Affiliate members Ned and Jillian Webb, Greensboro, GA, and their 2025 Globetrotter, 13486
- Affiliate members Kristen and Shane Wiltanger, Mansfield, OH, and their 2021 Flying Cloud, 5747

## More Wagon Wheel Shenanigans

Can you spot Hank Rethlake's parrot?



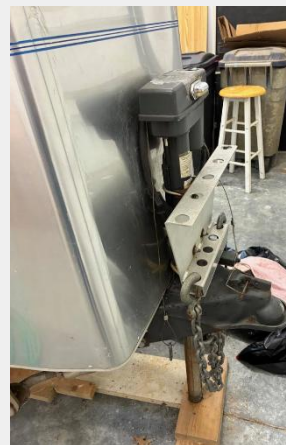


# Airstream for Sale



## 2006 30ft Classic

This Airstream likely has stories to tell after having traveled to countless rallies and rolled along with many Airstream caravans throughout the years. The current owners say they had some wonderful years and made lots of friends while loving their Airstream—it was a great part of their lives. They made their purchase at Bates RV in Florida, and the owner's manual and related booklets are intact and available. For the past five years, their Airstream has been housed in the building that was built just for her with the dehumidifier running when needed. New flooring was installed about five years ago.



Contact Rae or Ronn Gilbert at [rmgilb3673@aol.com](mailto:rmgilb3673@aol.com) for pricing information, to see more photos, or to learn more information. Let them know you saw the ad in the Carolinas Airstream Club newsletter.



## Where You Can Find Us

- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club website:  
<https://airstreamclub.org/carolinas>
- ✦ Carolinas Airstream Club Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NCUnit21Wbccj/>
- ✦ 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>





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Contributed by Björn Kasper

We would love to feature YOU in a future Member Spotlight!

Contact Björn at [bkasperfl@yahoo.com](mailto:bkasperfl@yahoo.com) to express interest.



Joy and Tom Kutch (and their Airstream, Libby)



**Tom and Joy Kutch**  
**BRN 3541**  
**2023 International 28RBT**

Meet Libby & Her Crew: From Dreaming to Airstreaming. How did they come to buy an Airstream? Like so many others, **Tom and Joy Kutch** were inspired by *Keep Your Daydream (KYD)*. Joy's childhood was filled with road trips—her career Army father with a distaste for flying would car-camp the family during road trips across the US and even Europe. Fast forward to marriage, and Tom, wanting nothing to do with tents, says, "I did enough camping in the military. My idea of camping is a Motel 6!" She sought inspiration and motivation from YouTube RV channels and was eventually able to drag Tom to an RV show in Raleigh. This is where they stumbled into Chad Watson, now the #1 Airstream salesperson in the universe, and toured a number of Airstreams for the very first time. Though they originally thought they'd get a fifth wheel or Class A after retirement, with Airstreams not even in the running, the more Marc & Trish from KYD's motto, "start small, start now" kept resonating in their minds. Once hearing about Airstream's durability and resale value, that sealed the deal. After considerable pondering for many months, they settled on their dream rig in April 2024: a 2023 International 28RBT, which they love for its campside windows and separate living/dining spaces. That's how *Libby*—short for *Liberty*—came into their lives.

Chad told them about both ACI and CAC when they were introduced to Libby, and they signed up for both that very night, before even taking delivery. Joy and Tom were not typically "joiners" but have found nothing but joy in both clubs. At the International rally in York, Joy says, "Several people outside of our club kept telling us that our club is so much fun and has the nicest, most welcoming members, and we agree. That made us so proud to be CAC members." How do they get the most out of their membership? One word: Rallies! They have made lifelong friends, used their member discounts, and even stayed in Airstream-only parks like Virginia Highland Haven. A Texas member they met in York gifted them two free nights at his North Texas Airstream Park for their trip to the Balloon Fiesta rally in Albuquerque. The generosity of this community never ceases to amaze them.

## Lessons learned (so far):

1. Don't push travel days—300 miles max is their rule.
2. Things *will* go wrong (ask them sometime about the door falling off on their first long trip!). Stay calm and carry on.
3. Lean into the community—someone is always ready to help.
4. Plan and/or prepare meals ahead to avoid the travel-day fast food trap.
5. Volunteer! Rallies thrive because of members who pitch in.

Beyond Airstreaming, they are serious adventure seekers: hiking, skiing, kayaking, paddleboarding, triathlons, via ferratas, and even SCUBA diving; Tom had to get certified before he could marry Joy. At home, they balance adrenaline with quieter hobbies like knitting and reading.

## A few fun facts

- Their BRN is 3541—randomly assigned, but they've grown to love it.
- Joy was born in Bangkok, Thailand—her parents' love story began during the Vietnam War.
- Tom's past careers included NYC Federal Police Officer and executive assistant to celebrities like Michael J. Fox and Geraldo Rivera.
- They have three children and one grandson who keep their lives full and full of love.

Joy and Tom still pinch themselves, "We can't believe this is our life. We love Libby, we love the Airstream community, and we love the freedom of this lifestyle. Our dream is to someday get out there full-time to see every corner of this beautiful country and beyond." Although Tom is retired and Joy works full-time remotely, their last surviving pet, an American short-hair tuxedo cat named Diesel who hates the Airstream, keeps them in their sticks and bricks.... for now. Happy trails from Libby & crew!



Tom and Joy with Chad Watson  
of Airstream of Greensboro