



"Where did the time go?" We've all heard that saying over the years. It seems to come up when young "kids" are getting married, graduating from school, starting careers, and reaching life's next milestones. As I write this, it's hard to believe that September is already here. Cooler temperatures are greeting us each morning, reminding us that the year is moving along and that Fall and Winter will soon be upon us. Before all that happens, however, we still have plenty of fun, fellowship, and memories to make together.

Before looking ahead, I want to offer a sincere thank you to **Gail and Burt Broadway** for hosting our **UnHitched @ Hartwell Rally** in August. Their hard work, attention to detail, and willingness to step up once again helped make the rally a success. On behalf of the entire club, thank you, Gail and Burt, for your dedication to PSAC and for creating another opportunity for members to gather, laugh, and enjoy the Airstream lifestyle together.

Our next stop is one that many of you know and love: **Palmetto Cove**, where we'll gather for the **First Hitch Festival, September 10-13, 2026**. If you've been sitting on the fence about attending, there's still time to join us! Palmetto Cove holds a special place in the hearts of many Airstreamers and PSAC members. Originally founded as an Airstream campground and designed for large rallies, it remains one of the most unique and scenic rally destinations in our region.

Some of our PSAC members were actually involved in the founding of this very special place! While you're there, take time to visit the **PSAC Archives in the Founder's Lounge**, located behind the large fireplace in the Pavilion. You'll find an incredible collection of club history, including vintage photographs, past *Bell Ringer* newsletters, cookbooks, rally memorabilia, and stories from the members who helped build the foundation of our club. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with our heritage while creating new memories with friends.

In addition to the fun and fellowship, we've lined up several informative and important workshops for the rally. **Be sure to review the last page of this edition of the *Bell Ringer* for the complete Rally Agenda and Activities.** Whether you're a seasoned rally attendee or considering your first event, this weekend offers something for everyone.

As we move into the final months of the year, I continue to be encouraged by the number of new members attending rallies and becoming involved in club activities. At the same time, it's always great to reconnect with longtime friends who have helped make PSAC what it is today. That combination of new faces and familiar friendships is what keeps our club vibrant and thriving. We hope to see many of you at the **First Hitch Festival at Palmetto Cove!** Come enjoy the beautiful surroundings, learn something new, reconnect with friends, and help us continue the traditions that make the Palmetto State Airstream Club such a special organization.

Until then, safe travels and happy camping!

Be blessed,

Charlie

Charlie Purser

BRN **28742**

2026 PSAC President



2026 Palmetto State Airstream Club Officers & Committees

Board Members:

President: Charlie Purser

1st Vice President: Joey Evans

2nd Vice President: Kerstin Evans

Past President: Eric Graham

Treasurer: Sandee Welch

Recording Secretary: Vickie Lee

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Welch

Directors: Bobby Puryear & Sia Pickell

Communications & Committees:

Constitution & Bylaws: Bobby Puryear

Membership: Mary Ann Purser

Newsletter Editor/Public Relations:

Melia Jacobs

Nominating Chair: Don Lee

Rally Team Chair: Sandi Lee

Webmaster: James T. Schaal

Webmaster Assistant/Social

Media: Melia Jacobs



In this issue:

President's Pit Stop	1
Board Members.....	1
Communications	
& Committees.....	1
Financial Report.....	1
Reflection:	2
2026 Rally Schedule.....	3
2027 At a Glance.....	3
First Hitch Festival Agenda.....	4





Reflection: Our First International Rally

August 22-27, 2026

Minot, North Dakota

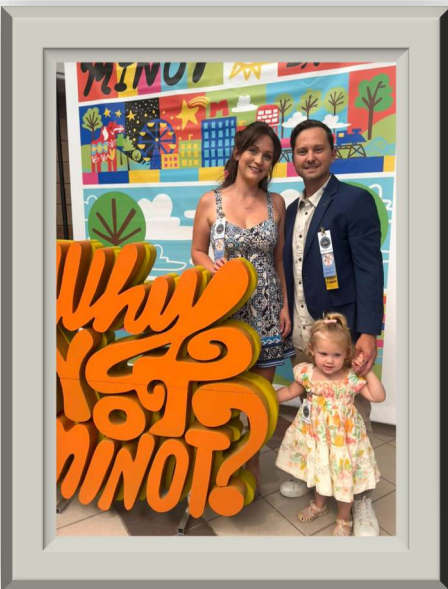
Richard & Melissa Gates BRN 9218



After almost two years of full-time living in our 30ft Flying Cloud Office, Melissa, Josie, and I finally attended our first Airstream International Rally in Minot, North Dakota. From the moment we pulled in, we were amazed by the sheer number of Airstreams and, even more so, by how friendly everyone was. We met a lot of new friends, attended meet-and-greets, and got our first taste of just how big the Airstream community really is. One of the highlights was getting to cheer (probably louder than necessary) when the Palmetto State Airstream Club flag was carried by Sandy Steadman alongside all of the other club flags during the opening ceremony. It was a pretty cool moment to see our club represented at our first International! We even spotted Dan Steadman in the band!

We definitely tried to make the most of the week. We attended several informational seminars and actually learned quite a bit—which is saying something after living in an Airstream full-time for almost two years! The vendor area was another popular stop for us, and naturally we managed to find a few “necessary” upgrades for the Airstream. We loved being able to hop on our bikes to get around, Melissa attended yoga and the roller skate party (Josie even tried skating!), and we enjoyed walking to the different get-togethers. It ended up being a nice break from our typical routine. Mother Nature even decided to add a little excitement: Minot received a heavy dose of rain and parts of the rally grounds quickly turned into waterfront sites. Thankfully, by the next day most of the water had receded and the rally carried on. One of our favorite nights was the prom, where we all got dressed up and danced. Josie especially loved having an excuse to put on a dress, hit the dance floor, and (most importantly) twirl as much as possible.

We did sneak away from the rally for one afternoon to explore Minot and visit the Roosevelt Park Zoo, which turned out to be a fantastic visit. Josie loved seeing all of the animals, but feeding the baby giraffe was definitely a highlight for her. Between the zoo, the prom, seminars, food trucks, shopping, new friends, a minor flood, and over a thousand shiny Airstreams everywhere we looked, our first International Rally was an experience we won't forget. Full-time Airstreaming has already taken our family to some incredible places, but Minot reminded us that the best part of this lifestyle is often the people and experiences you find along the way. We came into our first International not entirely knowing what to expect and left already looking forward to more Palmetto State rallies; and to doing it all again next year at the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming. See you down the road!





2026 Rally Schedule

WELCOME TO CAMPING IN THE CAROLINAS, Y'ALL!



2027 At a Glance

SEPTEMBER

10-13, 2026

First Hitch Festival

HOSTS: Welches & Maddens

Palmetto Cove RV Park
521 Table Rock Road
Cleveland, SC 29635



Shining in the Low Country

March 25-28, 2027

Shining in the Smokies (Region 3 Rally)

April 8-12, 2027

Silver in the City (Downtown Rally) 10th Anniversary

April 22-25, 2027

Silver on Lake Greenwood

April 22-25, 2027

Tin Cans in Tryon

May 20-23, 2027

Silver Shores Buddy Rally

June 17-20, 2027

Streamn' in the Smokies

July 15-18, 2027

Campfire By the Cove

August 26-29, 2027

Falls & Firepits

September 23-26, 2027

The Georgia Mountain Get-Together

October 21-24, 2027

Shine & Serve (Installation Rally)

November 4-7, 2027

16-20, 2026

Carolinas Jamboree

Carolinas 5 Unit Rally
Yogi Bear's Jelly Stone Park
964 Crestview Church Rd.
Asheboro, NC 27205



OCTOBER

1-4, 2026

Silver in the Pines SOLD OUT!

Boondocking Rally
Farm of Allen & Theresa Kirchner
522 Boyd Pond Road
Aiken, SC 29803



NOVEMBER

5-8, 2026

Silver on the Broad

Installation Rally
Broad River Campground
Mooresboro, NC 28114



DECEMBER

5, 2026

A Lee's Farm Christmas

Farm of Don & Vickie Lee
5090 Lockhart Road
Sharon, SC 29742



Come roll with us—adventure awaits!





Agenda & Activities

"Kicking Off Fall, Friendship & First Hitch Fun!"

Whether you're excited to learn something new, relax in the mountains, enjoy fellowship with your Airstream family, or simply soak in the beauty of Palmetto Cove, this rally is designed just for you!

🌸 **Fall is arriving — and so are we!** 🌸 A few sites may still be available — don't forget to register!

[Palmetto State ~ 2026 First Hitch Festival | ACI](#)

Come enjoy crisp mornings, warm afternoons, and a weekend full of learning, laughter, and Airstream memories.

Thursday, September 10 – Early Arrival Day

"Ease Into the First Hitch Weekend"

2:00 PM – Check-In Opens 🚐

Get settled into your site, breathe in the mountain air, reconnect with friends, and enjoy a peaceful start to the weekend.

Evening – On Your Own 📱 Explore the area, enjoy dinner at a local favorite, or relax at your campsite under the Carolina sky.

Friday, September 11 – Welcome to First Hitch!

"Good Friends, Good Food & a Great Start"

4:30 PM – Sidewalk Café • Palmetto Pavilion 🍷 🍷

Please Bring: **A light snack to share & your favorite beverage** Enjoy fellowship, laughter, and the start of a beautiful weekend.

5:30 PM – Caravan to La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, in Pickens 🚐 (Group dinner for those interested. Meet at the Palmetto Pavilion to depart together.)

Saturday, September 12 – Learning, Laughter & Airstream Living

"Workshops, Wisdom & Weekend Fun"

9:00 AM – Breakfast • Palmetto Hall 🍷 🍷

Menu: **Breakfast Casserole, Biscuits & Jelly, Fruit, Coffee provided.** Please Bring: **Your mug & set-ups**

🏠 **Saturday Seminars — Founders Hall**

A full day of learning designed for **new Airstreamers and seasoned travelers alike.**

10:00 AM – Navigating the ACI Website

Presented by **Melia Jacobs**. Learn how to make the most of the Airstream Club International website — resources, tools, and tips.

11:00 AM – Tips, Upgrades & Helpful Info for First Timers & Seasoned Airstreamers

Presented by **John Covault**. Smart upgrades, practical advice, and insider knowledge for every level of Airstreamer.

1:30 PM – Emergency First Aid & CPR

Presented by **Lauren Marshall** (Sandi & Eddie Lee's Daughter-In-Law). This will be a vital and informative session to help you stay prepared on the road.

🌿 **Saturday Afternoon & Evening Fun**

5:00 PM – Yard Games • Palmetto Pavilion 🎯

Games will be set up — join in for friendly competition and laughter!

6:00 PM – Dinner • Palmetto Pavilion 🍷

Menu: **Spaghetti, Olive Garden-style Salad (Canadian Lettuce!), Garlic Bread & Dessert.** Please Bring: **Your set-ups & beverage.**

Sunday, September 13 – Departure Day

"Until We Meet Again Down the Road"

9:00 AM – Breakfast • Palmetto Hall 🍷 🍷

Menu: **Homemade Breakfast Breads, Yogurt, Fruit, Coffee provided.** Please Bring: **Your mug & set-ups.**

Paul Welch will share a short, **"Word for the Road"**, a warm and thoughtful send-off before everyone heads home.