

The Southeastern Camping Times

JUNE 2015

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE TWELVE

Notes from Craig Stephens, President Southeastern Camping Unit

Greetings All, I trust your adventures on the road have been enjoyable ones and worthy of keeping as memories. I've attended some wonderful events with our unit and others. The Springstream Airforums Rally hosted by Allan David in Hiawassee was wonderful as always, and as we have in the past your fellow SECU members rallied alongside.

I have also attended the WBCCI Region 3 Rally hosted by our own Matt Hackney who happens to be the Region 3 President both this year and next. It was in Ladson, SC and very enjoyable. One of the neat things about rallies like this one is the opportunity to meet a large number of Airstreamers from other units. There are twenty separate units within our region. On Friday night, Jocelyn Oldham provided our entertainment. She was fantastic! I encourage you to check out her website at <http://www.jocelynoldham.com>. I did find out an encouraging item about the broader WBCCI membership. As of April 30th we have 6,014 members, which is a four-year high. After listening to both our Region officers as well as National officers, I am encouraged that the necessary changes to our club are being made in order for it to be both vibrant and relevant into the future.

Speaking of changes, my next rally will be the International Rally in Farmington, NM where I will represent our unit. There are a couple of items, which will require me to vote the wishes of our unit, and I solicit your input on them. This is a link to the delegates package which includes one constitution change allowing voting by consensus (this will speed things up vs. the lengthy roll call process).

<http://wbcci.org/general-information-and-forms/finish/41/676>

I will also be voting on new international officers. Their bios are printed in the latest Blue Beret for your perusal. My intent is to vote in what I perceive to be the units collective will. To that end letting me know what you think is very important even when we don't have particularly contentious issues before the delegates as has happened in previous years.

I will send out a report to you all when I return from Farmington as to the results of the meeting. One last item which is hot off the press so to speak is a new rally listed on our website. Katie Schulz-Ditchen is organizing a rally at NASA in Huntsville, AL July 23-25, 2015. There are still sites available as I write this at the Space Camp RV Park. There may also be the opportunity to boondock, but you may wish to bring a generator. This is a fundraiser for Space Camp scholarships with a \$125 per person fee. (campground fee is additional) This is a link to the registration site:

<http://www.spacecamp.com/AlumniFestival/>

Here is a link to the campground there are only 27 sites, so I encourage you to book early:

<http://www.spacecamp.com/travel/rvpark>

Safe Travels,

Craig Stephens
craigstephens@wbcci.net





Region 3 Rally Is a Great Success

The Region 3 Rally was well attended and received lots of positive feedback from attendees. Here are just a few comments of what folks had to say on our Facebook page about the event:

“Very laid back. Got positives from everyone I spoke with. Just a great time. A defining moment in WBCCI. The FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND ADVENTURE is now beginning to again like the way it was originally intended. This Region 3 Rally was GREAT! Those that didn't have the opportunity to attend missed out. You need to plan your schedules accordingly to make it to next year' rally! Thanks to MATT, BETH and the entire REGION 3 OFFICERS,” wrote Steve Rosenthal.

“It was a great rally. I got to meet a bunch of people, learn new things, and listen to the fantastic singer, Jocelyn Oldham, wrote Craig Stephens.

“We had a great time!” wrote Cathy Narwoski.

“Great rally. Best I've been to yet,” wrote Jerry O'Connell.



SECU Wins Alumapalooza Contest

The SECU Human Towing Team, comprised of Steve Rosenthal, Rob Ditchen, Matt Hackney and Larry Owens, won the human towing contest at Alumapalooza 6, proving that our rallies are not all just about eating....or is it that all that eating makes men strong enough to pull an Airstream? Regardless, great job guys!!!



This Newsletter is For You!

What would you like to see in these newsletters? Is there a particular topic you would like to see? We have of course our Facebook page as well as website, so how can we make this newsletter something extra? This month, we have a "Meet Your Officers" page, with a few of the officers featured in this issue. Our club is filled with many interesting people from all walks of life. Yet, we can't all be at every rally. What if we featured not just officers, but other members of our club in each issue? If you're interested and willing, answer these questions and send them to me, nancypgore@bellsouth.net, along with a picture so that club members can recognize you at the next rally. Send to me also any ideas you have for future articles for our newsletter. While I scour the website and Facebook for pictures and comments for rallies I haven't been able to attend, I welcome your comments and pictures from any of our rallies. Send them to me and I'll post them in the next newsletter.

- How long have you been traveling in an Airstream?
- What has been your most favorite trip thus far and why did you enjoy it so much?
- With whom do you typically travel, including any pets?
- What is your most favorite feature of your Airstream?
- What has been the most interesting thing you have experienced in your Airstream travels?
- What goals do you have for the club?

Save the Date!

For those who are long range planners, our annual meeting and election will be held on October 22-25, 2015. This year it will be hosted by John & Susan Leake, at Palmetto Cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Rd., Cleveland, SC. A picture from the park's website is displayed at the right. Please call 864-836-6221 for reservations or email at Palmetto Cove Host. Make sure you mention that you are part of the Airstream event. Look forward to seeing you there! We will hold our annual business meeting during the rally so we need as many members in attendance as possible. Come join us for a lot of fun and a short meeting.



Membership Update!

We now have a total of 67 Regular members and 56 Affiliate members. The balance in the treasure is \$182.44.

Alumapalooza, 2015



It is the annual trek to the “mother ship” as hundreds of Airstreamers take the pilgrimage to where it all begins – Jackson Center – birthplace for all of our homes on wheels. It is the place where we can show off our babies, as seen in these first two images of trailers that have been given that special touch that makes them unique. Beauty is found on the terra port and the nature that surrounds the Airstream factory, as evidenced by the visiting butterfly discovered by Chris Rosenthal.

There was also the usual comradery and gastronomical adventures that we have come to expect at these Airstream rallies. This year, “The entertainment last night at Alumapalooza was stellar! I have never seen a performance like this in my life,” wrote Steve Rosenthal on our SECU Facebook page. His enthusiasm for the event was shared by others. “More great times at Alumapalooza visiting New Breman bicycle museum...many things to do in the area, including Armstrong Air and Space Museum,” wrote Bonnie Norris Overcash.

SECU had great representation at this year’s event.



Virginia Highlands Hiking and Tasting Rally



“We had a great time at the Hiking and Tasting rally. Can't wait till next year. Thank you Annette and Joe.” (Jerry, Irene and Clancy)

“Still decompressing from the Rally. It was great! Thanks to all who worked hard to make this so much fun. Especially Annette & Joe! See you there again next year.” (Kiki Pollard)

“My husband and I had a wonderful time at the VA HH rally! We enjoyed the sunsets, food, fun and friendship! Thanks to Joe and Annette Conoly for their hard work! Safe travels to all!” (Beth Leake Pratt)

“We had a wonderful weekend. Thank you Annette and Joe!” (Jill Scherr-Stresing)



Meet Your Officers: Craig Stephens, President

In this and subsequent issues, we will feature various members of our club, starting with our officers.

How long have you been traveling in your Airstream?

We've had our Airstream for six years. It was inherited from Carol's parents who were full timers and purchased the trailer new. Carol's father, Claude Waite, was a Past President of the Pennsylvania Unit.

What has been your most favorite trip thus far and why did you enjoy it so much?

Our favorite trip thus far was a caravan led by Matt and Beth Hackney over the full length of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

With whom do you typically travel? Typically we travel as a family with our two children Cameron (16) and Katelyn (15) and are accompanied by our Weimaraner, Minna.

What is your most favorite feature of your Airstream?

We love the independence our Airstream provides. Last Summer we headed out to the Natchez Trace with the intent to explore it for a possible unit caravan.

While we didn't think it would make for a great caravan we traveled for two weeks without any campground reservations. We simply stopped where ever we wished and stayed until we felt a desire to move on.

What goals do you have for the club? I would love to see the club not only grow, but thrive. The WBCCI is the largest and oldest affinity group for Airstream products with a rich history. With sales of new trailers continuing to climb, and much needed changes occurring within our club structure, I would love to see it reverse the loss of membership. In my most optimistic moments, I even hope it will surpass the numbers of the mid '70's.



Craig, with Ed Overcash, Trustee (Ed will be featured in our next issue along with other officers.)



Meet Joe Conoly, Vice President

How long have you been traveling in an Airstream? We bought our first Airstream in May of 2009. We went camping several times that year but never with other Airstreams. In January of 2010 went to our first Canopener. It was very cold but still had about 30 Airstreams. We met a lot of folks who we are still camping with.

What has been your most favorite trip thus far and why did you enjoy it so much? My most favorite trip was in 2013 when Annette and I took our 4 year old granddaughter Charlotte with us to the Florida Rally in the Keys. We spent about a week with her and she really had a blast with all her new friends among the rally attendees. It didn't seem to bother her that she was the only kid with the rally.

With whom do you typically travel, including any pets? We do not have any pets so it is just Annette and I.

What is your most favorite feature of your Airstream? Hands down the big shower.

What has been the most interesting thing you have experienced in your Airstream travels? We camped at Caledonia State Park close to Gettysburg for a couple of days. Having never been there, we wanted a guided tour of the battlefield and signed up for a group bike tour. When we got there, the two of us were the only folks on the tour. We spent about 4 hours with the guide and rode over 10 miles to the different battle sites. The guide was a history teacher who did the tours over the summer months. He really made the battles come to life for us as he went in and out of character. To see what those soldiers went thru really moved us.

What goals do you have for the club? My goal would be to see a rally every month offering different activities appropriate to the area. So many of our members have great places they have camped and it would be awesome to share with others.