

The Southeastern Camping Times

OCTOBER 2015

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE THIRTEEN

Closing Words from Craig Stephens, President Southeastern Camping Unit

It has been a pleasure and an adventure to serve as your President this past year.

The trip out to Farmington for the International Rally to represent our unit was a highlight. Travelling together with our "Airstream Extended Family" introduced us to new places and people. As the miles accumulated, we had an opportunity to engage in new experiences and gain a better understanding of the diverse group of individuals who make up our camping unit and the bigger WBCCI club. While travelling to a big event was new to us, we really enjoy the chances to rally with you throughout the year. We have a great group of volunteers who have stepped forward to serve over the coming year, and with each individual's personality we have the opportunity for another great and diverse rally season. As always if you have an interest don't be afraid to step up and organize a get together; hikes, wine tasting, musical interest, kayaking, corn maze adventure... if you have an idea it can be organized. As our membership grows you are sure to find someone with a similar interest.



Going into this third year of the SECU our incoming president Joe Conoly has some great rallies lined up for us in lots of different states. Over the past two years, at events I have attended there has been great interest in what we are doing as a unit: having fun, seeing different parts of the country, reaching a wide demographic, embracing new things, helping others with their Airstream issues; and we have grown as a result. I truly believe that those of us in the SECU embody what we will see throughout the units of the WBCCI in the future. Our focus remains on experience the fun, fellowship, and camaraderie of fellow Airstreamers, our extended family, while exploring the great beauty of our land.

I encourage you to consider attending the International Rally in 2016 as it is in our own backyard so to speak in Lewisburg, West Virginia. And with our member and Region 3 President Matt Hackney being from West Virginia, he has the inside scoop for what to do and see. Even if you choose not to attend the rally, you may want to consider joining the short caravan headed that way. We had the pleasure of participating in a weeklong caravan up the Blue Ridge Parkway led by Matt and Beth a number of years ago and it remains a highlight for us. For those keeping a longer range calendar, the 2017 International will be in Escanaba, MI (that's in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

Meanwhile, Carol and I are looking forward to attending as many rallies with you, our extended family, as life in a busy family will permit us. Remember every family has that one member who is doing something really unique, the one you shake your head at and say “Did they really just say/do that?” have you had the opportunity to meet that one in our family? Get out and join us at these scheduled event and you might just be able to answer Yes!

See you down the road,

Craig, Carol, Cameron, Kate and Minna

Safe Travels,

Craig Stephens
craigstephens@wbcci.net



**Camping in the Palo Duro Canyon
State Pa 1**



**Sunset at the 2015 WBCCI
International Rally in
Farmington, NM**



Treasury Update and Reminder to Renew 2016 Membership Via Online This Year

Treasurer Beth Hackney

The Southeastern Camping Unit currently has 75 Regular Members and 65 Affiliate Members. The balance of our checking account is \$428.43. It is time to renew your membership for 2016. The preferred method to renew is online at WBCCI.org. If you would rather do it the old fashioned way, send me a check made out to WBCCI/Elizabeth Hackney. The renewal dues are \$66. For those that attended the Region 3 Rally this year at Charleston, SC, I will be handing out refunds (\$10.67 per person) at Alumalina. If you are not in attendance at Alumalina, you will receive your refund check in the mail.



Unit Annual Meeting and Election Time

Our annual meeting will take place at the "Alumalina Fall Edition" rally at Palmetto Cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC 29653. Details of the rally appear in the "upcoming group events section" of the SECU web page. The election and meeting will be held on Saturday October 24, 2015 after breakfast. This should be the easiest day for all of our members working or not to attend.

Your Nominating Committee consisting of Roy Beavers, Joe Conoly, and Craig Stephens are pleased to present the following slate for your consideration.

- President: Joe Conoly
- Vice-President: Ed Overcash
- Secretary: Nancy Gore
- Treasurer and Membership: Beth Hackney
- Trustee: Don Hughes (first year of two year term)

Note: Cissy Thibadeau will continue in her second year of a two year term and thus will not stand for election this year.

Electronic balloting will open on September 24th and run until October 14th. Remember only one ballot per member. You may vote either electronically or in person at the meeting. Matt Hackney has graciously offered to run the electronic portion of our election.

Upcoming Rallies



**10th Anniversary Can Opener
Begins January 7th
Topsail Hill Preserve State Park**

A SECU member is once again the head party planner for this event. Russ and Linda Drake and Tom Montgomery & Robin Montgomery were hosts with the most the last three3 years. Annette Dellosso-Conoly is going to put on an awesome rally. The park is currently filled, but check for openings through reserveamerica.com.



**Farm Life in Florida
Begins February 18,
Land o'Lakes Florida**

Come spend a few days in rural Pasco County, Florida with your hosts Lisa and Brett and Beth and Matt! Limited to 50 trailers. This is a water only rally. Generators allowed in their own section. **Please bring 50 ft of fresh water hose and a free flowing Y connector.** Rally fee to be determined once we figure out the details. Address will be given to those who RSVP that they are attending.

**Save the Date: Region 3 Rally will
be held April 27 - May 1, 2016 at
Meadow Event Park in Doswell,
VA. Details to follow.**



Caravan to Lewisburg

By Matt Hackney

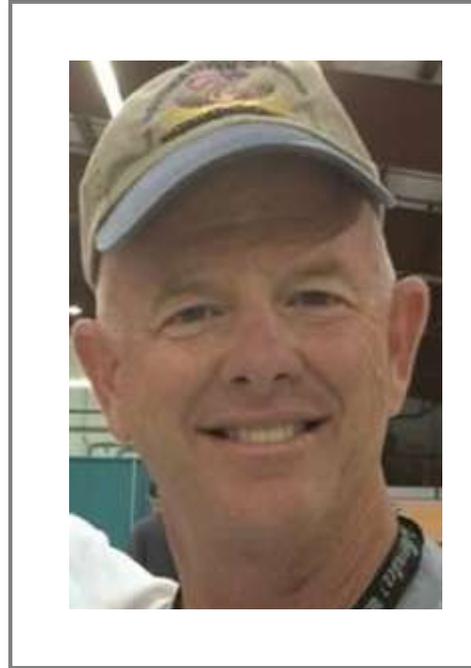
Beth and I have attended every International Rally since Perry in 2007. We really enjoy gathering with friends from many parts of North America. We have led a Unit Caravan into every International Rally since 2008 (if you count our first Caravan of two rigs). Many of you know that I am from West Virginia and that Beth and I have visited many great places there. We plan to lead a Unit Caravan to the International Rally next summer in Lewisburg.

For those who have never been to an International Rally, it is our annual meeting of all units to elect officers and conduct the necessary business of the club. In addition, the club provides seminars, tours, entertainment, and, in short, Fun, Friendship, and Adventure. It is also a great opportunity for units to visit a new part of our country, meet new friends from many other parts of the world, and travel together in their Airstreams.

For those who have never been on one of our Unit Caravans, it is a chance to travel together. In those travels, we visit new and different locations, meet most evenings to enjoy food and friends. Participants can set their own travel agenda or go with the group each day. We benefit from traveling together and from each other's past experience and research.

The Caravan to Lewisburg will be very different than many of those we have undertaken in the past. We will focus on stops and adventure. We will have short travel days and longer stops. The experience will depend, in large part, on the interests of the participants. For those who haven't been to West Virginia, it offers a wealth of opportunities for adventure and history. I am asking that anyone planning to participate in the caravan contact me and provide me your interests for the trip. Opportunities for the trip include:

- Rafting on the New River
- Touring the Exhibition Coal Mine
- Watching the Hatfields and McCoys outdoor musical
- Learning about hand blown glass at Blenko
- Hiking the New River Gorge
- Hiking / Paddling / Peddling the Greenbrier River Rail Trail
- Riding a coal powered logging train
- Hiking the Tundra or Cranberry Bog
- Golfing / Horseback Riding / Fishing at Pipestem
- Touring the Smooth Ambler Distillery
- Exploring Smoke Hole Caverns or Seneca Caverns



It is important to note that we can do many of these things on our way to the International or while we are there. In order to participate, you need to register for the International Rally and inform me that you want to be a part of the Caravan. You can register for the Rally online at : <http://wbcci.org/component/eventbooking/international-rally/17-2015-international-rally>

You may also register at Alumalina. It is important to note that camping at Lewisburg is likely to be divided between a new Full Hookup campground that accommodates 500 rigs, and an older Water / Electric campground that is in a different area. The first 500 registered will be provided with Full Hookups. Current registrations have surpassed 400 and will likely soon exceed 500.

The Caravan will include everyone who is registered for the rally, regardless which camping area they will call home. Once we arrive, expect evening gatherings at Happy Hour, Pot Luck Meals, and a great opportunity for Fun, Friendship, and Adventure your fellow Airstreamers. I have attached photos from previous Caravans and Rallies so you may see how we roll.

