

The Southeastern Camping Times

DECEMBER 2013

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE TWO



OKEFENOKEE A HIT!

Georgia Conservancy Hosts a Great Weekend

The Georgia Conservancy held their annual paddle in the Okefenokee last month. Members of the Southeastern Camping Unit held a Rally and paddled with the group. For those who have never been to the Okefenokee, there are many photos in this issue that illustrate a small fraction of the adventure you missed. For those of you who have never paddled a canoe or kayak, ask those who attended how much fun you missed. And for those who want to try it for themselves, maybe we can go back next year!

Event organizer Bryan Schroeder of the Georgia Conservancy provided a fantastic weekend for the group. As with any event the Southeastern Camping

Unit attends, there was plenty of good food. In addition, the group brought in a naturalist who has been featured on many Georgia Public Television features about the wildlife in Georgia. The paddling adventure took us to two different islands and a lake within the swamp. We were able to see the remains of a once vital logging town and walk the bed of a railroad that hauled cypress trees from the swamp.

The event was limited by the number of paddlers the Conservancy was permitted to place on the water.



Several members of the Southeastern Camping Unit were unable to participate as the event filled up. On Saturday there were 65 paddlers on the water. most

Stephen C. Foster State Park is located just north of the Florida - Georgia border. The air and water temperatures were very mild, even in mid-November

traveled 12 miles. In addition, several members of the group chose to ride on a motorized tour boat. Sunday, the group was smaller but the sights were equally beautiful. Craig Stephens has asked that we return to the swamp next year. We hope you will join us!



To join our Facebook Group or update your information, Contact Beth Hackney: eroney@aol.com

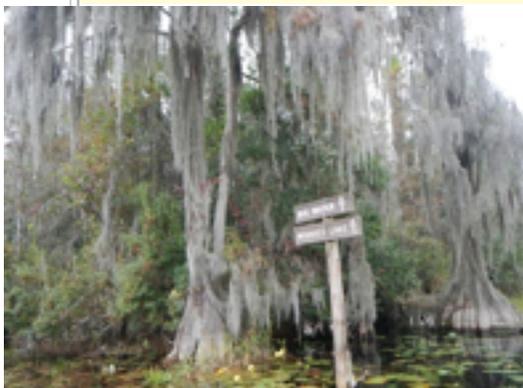


Membership Update

From Beth Hackney

Our membership is building and currently includes 36 Regular Members! In addition, we have 21 Affiliates who have decided to pay our steep dues, in order to stay in touch with our activities. Our Unit Treasury has swelled to \$62.

We have found a number of folks from other units want to enjoy our events, facebook page, and this newsletter. Please let them know how happy we are to have them!



The Trip to Minnie's Lake was beautiful!



There is always time for Dutch Oven Dessert!

A Note from Roy Beavers



Another rally has ended and I declare it a success! The Okfenokee Paddle was such a hit with the folks that attended, we are planning another one in 2014. Pending the approval of the Board, I plan to make it a "Buddy Rally" so more of our friends can attend and enjoy the wildness of the untamed swamp and the fun of Airstreaming.

December 15 is fast approaching. That is the deadline for the units to get their rally schedule printed in The Blue Beret. I want our unit to show the others how successful we are in providing many opportunities for our members to spend time together for short caravans and campouts. As Matt and Craig can attest, hosting a campout isn't all that difficult because our members are willing to share the load and help organize food and entertainment. Please consider hosting an event and let me know the dates you are planning for it so I can list it in our input back to headquarters. The Region 3 Rally is being held 4/30 - 5/3 in Fletcher, NC (south of Asheville). Elaine and I will host a camp out at beautiful Harrison Bay State Park on beautiful Chickamauga Lake, north of Chattanooga, Tennessee April 25 - 27. We will leave Harrison Bay on a caravan for the Region 3 Rally. Plans are still in development, but will be posted to the website soon.

See you down the road!
Roy Beavers
WBCCI 4392

Moving WBCCI Forward

About Roy and Elaine

We are both two of the few remaining Atlanta natives still living in the area. Roy went to Druid Hills High and Elaine went to rival Lakeside High, both in Decatur, GA. After returning from a tour in Vietnam Nam with the U.S. Navy in 1970, we met through a mutual friend, also in the Navy. Ten months later, in 1971, we were married. We have two beautiful daughters and two gorgeous Grand Daughters that are the loves of our life.

We are second generation Airstreamers. Roy's Father and Step Mother became Airstreamers in the early 1970s. Their love of Airstreaming was handed down and we became actual Airstream owners in 2002 with a 1967 27' Overlander and joined the Georgia Unit. Later we moved up to a 1978 34' Excella that tested my reconstructive skills with extensive under body work to overcome years of stationary life at Land Yacht Harbor in Melbourne, FL. We made the transition to motorhomes in 2010 with the purchase of a 2000 35' XL355. Yes, it's a big box, but it's still an Airstream and we love it. Will we downsize back to an aluminum "Twinkie", probably, but it will be a while before that happens.

We became charter members of the Southeastern Camping Unit to allow us to broaden our Airstream experience. Being elected President was a thrill that lives on today. Each time I receive a new member request or hear of someone joining as either a regular or an affiliate member, I know the unit is heading in the right direction.

Not your typical WBCCI Unit!

Our activities will all be posted on the website at :

<http://secamping.wbcci.net/event/>

In addition, we have a Facebook group. This is a “closed” group so your posts can only be seen by other members. We hope this will become an interactive way to reach other members of the Unit for smaller camping trips. If you want to plan a trip and want company or ideas for locations and ideas, just post. If you haven't already joined the Facebook Group, send a request to the Southeastern Camping Unit WBCCI.

New Years Rally

Matt and Beth Hackney are hosting a New Years Rally at A.H. Stephens State Park (Crawfordville, GA). The park offers a shelter, small museum, and a wonderful historic home. We will be bringing in the New Year, touring local historic sites, enjoying daily campfires, sharing pot luck and cast iron meals, visiting a few local restaurants, and watching some football. Since the holiday is on a Wednesday, the rally is a drop-in / drop-out format. Folks will arrive as early as Tuesday, December 31 and stay as long as Sunday, January 5. To participate, reserve a campsite (www.gastateparks.org) and tell Matt and Beth your are planning to attend!



Parking Problems at Billy's Island

Schedule for New Years A. H. Stephens State Park

Tuesday, December 31

New Years Snackin Eve - Bring finger foods, light or heavy hors' d'oeuvres

Wednesday, January 1

- Pot Luck Brunch
- Hike around Lake, Football, Geocaching, Social Hour
- Pot Luck Dinner (See Instructions for Pot Luck Meals)
- Campfire

Thursday, January 2

- Breakfast and Shopping in Greensboro, GA
- BBQ Lunch
- Tour / Shop Madison, GA
- Terrapin Brewery Tour and Tasting
- Campfire

Friday, January 3

- Tour Callaway Plantation
- Choice of Tours in Washington, GA
- Grill Night
- Campfire

Saturday, January 4

- Pot Luck Breakfast (See Instructions for Pot Luck Meals)
- Tour A.H. Stephens Museum / Home
- Hike Around the Lake
- Italian Pot Luck Dinner
- Campfire

Sunday, January 5

- Pot Luck Breakfast

From Craig Stephens

Greetings and Happy Holidays. One of the great things about traveling in our Airstreams is the ability to bring others along, especially our furry friends. Many of our unit members are dog owners, and winter in the Southeast is a great time to be out with our pets. The temperatures are cooler, thus overheating isn't the issue it can be in the summer. When leaving our dog in our Airstream in the summer, I am always concerned with a power outage and the loss of A/C associated with it. We do bring a kennel with us both because it is her sleeping space at home as well as a way to provide confinement when we leave her in the trailer. (Let's just say the last time we left her without the kennel there was an issue.)

A few other items you may want to bring with you if you haven't done a lot of camping with your pet is to bring the same food they eat at home. Dietary changes can cause complications. Also, we have found some collapsible bowls to be easy on storage space and enjoyed by our dog. We stock a supply of treats for her as well.

All of the State Parks we have stayed at have a six foot leash rule, but that is pretty much the only restriction. (Exceptions are beach parks, which most restrict sections of the beach from pet access, for those of the right generation, think Caddy Shack and the swimming pool.) All dogs love to experience the myriad of new smells in a park and on the hiking trails.

If your dog has a sensitive stomach when it comes to the ride to the campground, Imodium is safe for dogs. And make certain to make frequent stops for water, both intake and output.

While I have predominately-addressed dogs, The Southeastern Camping Unit of the WBCCI is proud to welcome all pets to all of our events. The core of our charter is to encourage our members to get out there and camp. After all, didn't we buy our Airstreams to Go, Do, See, and have Fun?

See you at the next campout,

Craig



**You already
knew Beth
does all the
work, didn't
you?**

Joe and Annette Conoly are hosting us at Payne's Prairie near Gainesville, FL. If you are planning to attend, please let Joe know and make your own reservation with the park. Note that we plan to arrive on Friday, February 14. **NEW UPDATE!!!! OVERFLOW CAMP SITE!** Ocala North RV Park is about 15 minutes from Payne's Prairie just South off I-75. The campground has full hookups and will charge between \$15 and \$17 per night. Be sure and tell them you are with the Airstream group from Payne's Prairie. Call to make reservations (888) 699-9151. Their web site is www.ocalanorthrv.com



Friday, Feb. 14th: Happy campers arrival and set up

6:00p.m. – Dinner hosted by Joe & Annette Conoly

Menu: Pulled Pork, Slaw, Baked Beans, and Sautéed Green Beans. (*Champagne, roses and chocolates to be supplied by individual husbands and significant others!)

Saturday, Feb. 15th:

10:00a.m. – Hike the Chalaka Trail. You can choose a 2, 3 or 6 mile loop. (The trailhead is within walking distance of the campsites.)

6:00p.m. – Potluck Dinner, to be followed by story telling and other lies around the campfire.

Sunday, Feb 16th:

9:30a.m. – Breakfast hosted by Liz & Bob Rizenko (A certain type of beverage supplied by Annette may also make an appearance)

Activity options for the day: Exploring downtown Micanopy; antiquing; hiking; fishing (bring your own gear) kayaking (bring your own), and so much more....

5:30p.m. – Dinner at Blue Highway Pizza (voted best pizza in Gainesville), located 1 mile from the park.

Monday, Feb 17th:

10:00a.m. - Shooting Range

This will take place at Harry Beckwith Gun Dealer and Indoor Pistol Range about 2 miles from the park entrance. They have 9 target stations, which can have up to 3 people in each one. They can provide any gear or pistols needed or you can bring your own. They also have ammo for those shooting on the range. For those who

have never shot or if you need refreshing they will give a short class for gun safety. Please RSVP to Joe & Annette by January 1st if you are interested in participating. Early evening Monday: Farewell happy hour(s), location tbd.

Tuesday, Feb 18th: Happier campers depart and caravan to AlumaFlamingo or to home sweet home.