

The Southeastern Camping Times

APRIL 2014

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE FIVE



Possum Bog at Alumalina!

March and April are busy months in the Southeastern Camping Unit. Our members enjoyed AirForums rallies in South Carolina and Georgia and are headed to rallies in Tennessee and North Carolina. In this issue we hope you will find a few photos and articles you will enjoy. We also provide information about upcoming events.

Alumalina was a fantastic time with a large crowd on Lake Wateree. Rain may have slowed the activities just a little, but a good time was had by all. Join John and Susan in September!

Springstream was blessed with fair weather and a large crowd as well. Alan and Shannon provided a great weekend for all and will be doing it again in October (Falluminum).

Don't miss these opportunities for Fun, Friendship, and Adventure!



To join our Facebook Group, go to Southeastern Camping Unit WBCCI (on Facebook) and request membership.





A Note from Roy Beavers

Spring has sprung (I think) and we all survived a really strange Winter. As a unit, we enjoyed a lot of winter camping. Hopefully, more of our members will be attending our Spring and Summer campouts.

Several members joined rigs from all over for the 2014 Alumalina. John, Susan and several volunteers hosted a wonderful, yet wet, rally weekend at Lake Wateree State Park. John had a giant tarp that we spread over several easy up tents so the group stayed dry for meals and seminars. It took much longer to set up than to tear down. This was Elaine's and my first Possum Bog and we really enjoyed it. The Dutch oven cooking was excellent. After the seminar, we had an opportunity to taste several different kinds of breads. The event was yummy! The fish fry was to die for. We had fried fish, shrimp, deviled crab, hush puppies and fries along with sides and desserts prepared by the attendees. Alumalina was a great way to meet other Airstreamers and showcase our unit logo. We had lots of good comments about the design and the Overcashes were seen photo-oping the hat everywhere. After the weekend was over, I decided that Alumalina is translated as "Eat too much campout". Great job, John and Susan!

While at Alumalina, Elaine and I ventured into the little town of Ridgeway. Small town America it is, but as we wandered the main street, we met several locals with interesting stories about growing up in the town. We found a hardware store, Ruff and Co., that was established in 1840. I believe there was some of the original dust on a few items. Their main source of heat is a huge, wood-fired stove in the middle of the store. It brought back many childhood memories of growing up in then rural Decatur, GA.

If you get the chance, there will be a Fall Alumalina, in September, and

plans are in the works for Alumalina 2015. If you plan to go this Fall, get your reservations in now because sites are going fast. Check Air Forums for the latest information.

Spring Fling and Region 3 are coming up soon. Spring Fling will have 2 tours, Coker Antique Auto Museum and the state of the art VW Assembly Plant. Many thanks to Steve Rosenthal for helping set these up. Our unit has one of the largest number of attendees at Region 3, with 12 regular members and several affiliates in attendance. We will be showcasing the unit by wearing our shirts and serving breakfast for the rally on Thursday.

Even if we don't have a campout scheduled, if you are heading out for a weekend and want company, be sure to post it on our Facebook page. If you want to host a rally, pick a weekend, a location and let me know at secwebmaster@wbcci.net. I'll post it to the web site and you can create an event on Facebook. We want to move the rallies around, so we can meet other members of the unit at some of their favorite places.

I heard from several of you about your thoughts on the motions and election at this year's upcoming International Delegate's Meeting. If you haven't responded to the email, please do so ASAP so I can properly represent the wishes of our unit at International. If you no longer have the email, let me know and I'll forward a copy to you.

See you down the road!

Roy Beavers
Moving WBCCI Forward

Roy and Elaine

Moving WBCCI Forward

Membership Update

From Beth Hackney

We gained new regular members this month.

Ted & Maggie Millings from North Augusta, SC

They just recently purchased an Airstream, and we hope to see them down the road soon. Several members of our unit who attended the recent Cajun Caravan encouraged five new affiliate members to sign up for our newsletter and information. For April we now have 49 regular members and 50 affiliates. Our unit has almost hit the 100 mark and is only four months old. We now have regular members from 11 states.

We welcome all of our new members and are glad to generate interest in the WBCCI. This month Roy created a membership directory on our website. We have it password protected. Please email me (eroney@aol.com) if you do not have the password.

Our treasury has been reduced to purchase a decorative flag pole for displaying our flag at the Region and International Rallies and badges for new members and officers. Our treasury is now at \$113.22.



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.

Springstream Fun



Memorial Weekend at Highland Haven!

The schedule for the Virginia Mountains Rally at Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park, May 23-26, 2014, is attached to this issue.

Virginia Highland Haven will begin taking reservations when the camping season begins May 1, 2014 on its telephone line: **540-651-9050**. Members of the unit planning to attend can email the park now at vhhas@swva.net indicating dates they will need reservations and/or email Chuck Nesbit directly at clnj@mac.com. The sooner members let Chuck know their plans the better for planning group events. The park does not require a deposit but since the rally is being held Memorial Day weekend early reservations are strongly suggested.

There are many sightseeing and recreational opportunities within 60 miles of the park. A number are listed on the agenda and there is plenty of unscheduled time for participants to explore the area. There are hiking trails at the park.

If you haven't been to Virginia Highland Haven you are in for a treat. The Airstream only park is located on 75 secluded acres. The full hookup campsites, with gravel parking surface and concrete patios, are situated at the top of a ridge with beautiful long distance views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The sunsets in the evening are spectacular. At 3000 feet elevation evenings can be cool so bring a sweater or sweatshirt. Wifi is available throughout the park but there is no cable TV. Cell phone reception (Verizon) is usually good and several local over the air television stations can be received at the park. Deer, bears and other wildlife roam through the park so take appropriate precautions with pets and food. Electric service is 15 and 30 amp. No 50 amp service is available.

Pets are allowed in the park but are restricted to two non-aggressive dogs or cats. Pets must be kept on a leash, when outside, and pets are not allowed inside the clubhouse or screen shelter at any time. Open wood fires and wood firepits are not allowed at the campsites but there is a community firepit we will use. Cooking at campsites with gas grills and charcoal grills is permitted. Propane firepits may also be used at campsites. Group meals will be held in a large screen shelter next to the clubhouse. The clubhouse has laundry facilities. Propane can be purchased at the park.

Camping rates for the 2014 season are \$27.50 per night, including tax. Stay six nights and the seventh is free. The park does not accept credit cards so payment must be cash or personal check. The campground host collects the fees and assigns the sites. The park is owned and operated by 46 Airstream owners, some of whom will be in residence during the rally.

Chuck & Susan Nesbit are the rally planners and hosts for the event. The campground hosts for the week are Gary & Lynn Brink and Joe & Annette Conoly.

For those going from the rally to Alumapalooza, Jackson Center, OH is 399 miles (6 hours and 36 minutes) from Virginia Highland Haven.

Questions about the event should be referred to Chuck and Susan Nesbit: clnj@mac.com or **336.407.7685**

We look forward to a good turnout and great time!

Chuck & Susan



The HAT is everywhere.

"Not a Band" sure plays good music!



Bald Ridge and Baseball in August!

I know it is a long way off but the Atlanta Braves are HOT, HOT, HOT. Let's go see 'em.

The rally is August 8-10, camping at Bald Ridge Creek on Lake Lanier. If you are not a baseball fan, you can keep the homefires (campfires) burning while you wait for our return! I hope we can get 20 fans so we can get a group rate on game tickets. Please be sure to book your campsite soon as the park will fill up.

Questions?

Contact Kathy or Bill Narowski



Airstream Cookies from Karen Roberts. Yummy!



Rainbow over Lake Wateree

Southeastern Camping Calendar of Events

SE Camping Spring Fling



The 2014 SECU Spring Fling will be hosted by Roy and Elaine Beavers at Beautiful Harrison Bay State Park on Lake Chickamauga near Chattanooga April 25-27. <http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/harrison-bay>. For reservations, go to <https://tnstateparks.itinio.com/harrison-bay> Let's try to group up in campground C starting at site C14. This will be our Pre-Region 3 rally that will include a caravan to Region 3 on April 28 & 29. Contact Roy Beavers at egrbeav@bellsouth.net.

Virginia Mountains Rally



Memorial Day weekend 2014 (May 23-26), Chuck and Susan Nesbit are hosting the unit at the Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park <http://www.vahighlandhaven.org/>. Listening to bluegrass music is a tradition on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons in nearby Floyd, Virginia. Timing of the rally is perfect for those traveling to attend Alumapalooza 2014 in Jackson Center, Ohio May 27-June 1. If you plan to attend this rally please let Chuck and Susan know so they will have a headcount for planning activities. Reservations cannot be made on the Highland Haven website. Make reservations by calling the park host directly at 540-651-9050. Tell the host you are with the Southeastern Camping Unit rally as well as the dates you plan to be at the park.

Caravan to the Region 3 Rally in Asheville, NC

Roy and Elaine will be leading a group from the Spring Fling to the Region 3 Rally in Asheville, NC. This will ensure our members are parked together on arrival at the Fairgrounds. The group will travel from Harrison Bay on Tuesday, April 29. Register soon for the Region 3 Rally and let Roy know if you are interested in traveling together.



From Craig Stephens

What makes for successful travels in your family unit? For us, it includes the Airstream if we can get there over the road. Other items that go into the planning include a resource <http://www.astc.org/members/passlist.htm>

Every since our children were small, we have enjoyed exploring the museums and cultural venues of the areas we travel through. One very effective tool is the reciprocity list for Science Centers and Museums. We have experienced changes in gravity in a special exhibit which replicated moon walking, we found a small museum in FL which then included a side trip to a doggie bakery, Minna was very happy. Now you know why she enjoys camping so much!

As a general rule we maintain a family membership at one of the institutions, which will allow us entry to all of the others. (A great way to support some smaller towns is by joining their membership when it is time for renewal.) This has proven useful even when our travels have taken us out of the United States. We have also found the list useful when we are attending rallies in areas we haven't been to and want to spend some extra time exploring.

Another criteria are affordable campsites. While we have stayed at KOA's and other commercial venues, our favorites have usually been the state parks and small family run campgrounds. We have found beautiful parks all over the southeast; both on our own and at the suggestion of others. Consider small privately owned campgrounds. In Kentucky we found a no frills place close to Mammoth Cave, and they had a great suggestion for BBQ. Supporting local communities helps to keep Americana alive.

We have had an absolute blast exploring in our Airstream. If any of you have found other things that work for your outings, please share, you can post them on the South Eastern Camping Unit website. Remember some of us are seasoned travellers in the group, and others are just starting the adventure.

Do you have a passion for something; think about building a rally around it. As you may have noticed the rally at Harrison Bay will include tours of the Coker Museum and the local VW plant. Our unit is looking for members who have found an enjoyable area and would like to share with the rest of our members by hosting a rally. I am particularly looking to identify volunteers for the November 2014-October 2015 time frame. This gives you plenty of time to flesh out the details, I just need to know the dates you would be willing to plan one. My goal is to have something going on each month. It may well be that there is a place you like to go each year and wouldn't mind some extra company. It is just that easy, we will then have a rally for us all to look forward to. As you may have noticed we are a low-key bunch. At the SpringStream rally, I heard it said that "we are only as structured as we have to be and not any more". Organizing the rally can be as easy as picking the venue, and asking folks to sign up for a potluck or two during the event on the Facebook page. Throw in an optional activity or two and you've got yourself a rally. We are a diverse group, and I look forward to seeing what passions our group has and sharing them. Who is up for the challenge, belly dancing anyone?

Safe travels,

Craig

craigstephens@wbcci.net



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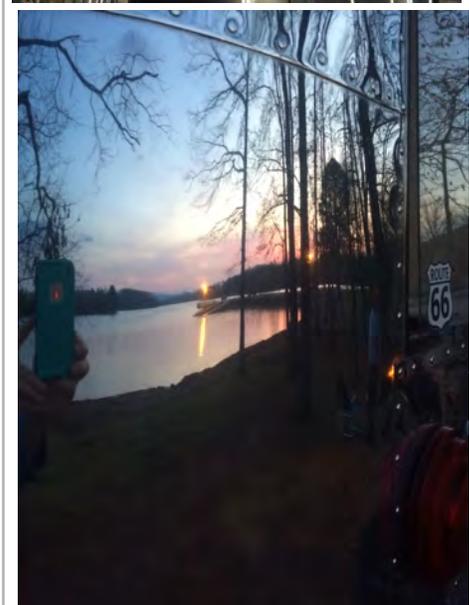
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Southeastern Camping Unit May Rally (page 1)

May 23-26, 2014

Location: Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park
6517 Highland Haven Road, NE
Copper Hill, VA 24079
540-651-9050 vhas@swva.net

Reservations will be taken at Highland Haven beginning May 1.

Friday, May 23, 2014

Check in during day at Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park

All Day Festival in the Park, Elmwood Park, Roanoke. Music and entertainment, arts festival, antique cars.

Explore the Blue Ridge Parkway, nearby towns, or relax and enjoy the views at Virginia Highland Haven.

5:30 pm Optional group dinner at Pine Tavern in Floyd. Southern country cooking served family style.
\$13.00 including dessert and drinks. www.thepinetavern.com
Please let Chuck & Susan know if you are coming so they can give the restaurant a count.

6:30 pm Friday Night Jamboree at the Floyd Country Store. The Jamboree fills the store with gospel, bluegrass and old-time music and with the sounds of dancing feet. Usually there is bluegrass being performed on the street in other locations around Floyd as well. www.floydcountrystore.com

Saturday, May 24, 2014

All Day Festival in the Park, Elmwood Park, Roanoke. Music and entertainment, arts festival, antique cars.

9:00 am Hike to the Highland Haven waterfall (optional)

During the day explore the Blue Ridge Country including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Roanoke, Christiansburg, Blacksburg.

11:00 am 4th Annual Chantilly Farm Bluegrass & BBQ Festival in Floyd. 11:00 am to 10:00 pm. Admission \$20 advance, \$25 at gate. Region's hottest bluegrass bands (optional).
<http://www.chantillyfarm.com/bluegrass-festival>

12:00 pm This would be a good day to drive south on the Blue Ridge Parkway to Mabry Mill for lunch and

Southeastern Camping Unit May Rally (page 2)

Saturday, May 24, 2013

6:00 pm Dinner at Highland Haven. Provided by Highland Haven and the Nesbits. Location: screen room.

7:30 pm Fire at the community firepit.

Sunday, May 25, 2014

9:00 am Pot luck breakfast. Location: screen room.

All Day Festival in the Park, Elmwood Park, Roanoke. Music and entertainment, arts festival, antique cars

12:00 pm This would be a good day to drive south on the Blue Ridge Parkway to Mabry Mill for lunch. <http://www.mabrymillrestaurant.com> Spend the rest of the day exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway.

12:00 pm Optional Lunch Buffet at Chateau Morrisette Winery (breakfast items, prime rib carving station, seafood, chicken, vegetables). \$24.99.

Winery tours. <http://www.thedogs.com>

2:00 pm Sunday afternoon jam session at Floyd Country Store.

6:00 pm Dinner on your own. Mickey G's in Floyd has good Italian food. <http://www.mickeygsbistro.com> Ray's restaurant on the road to Floyd looks like a dive but is supposed to be very good. Highland Haven is a great place to grill out.

Monday, May 26, 2014 Memorial Day

11:00 am You may want to visit the National D-Day Memorial in nearby Bedford, VA, 56 miles from Highland Haven to celebrate Memorial Day. 2014 is the 70th anniversary of D-Day and there will be a special ceremony at 11:00 am. <http://www.dday.org>

This would also be a good day to drive south on the Blue Ridge Parkway to Mabry Mill for lunch. <http://www.mabrymillrestaurant.com>

Activities and Attractions Nearby

Blue Ridge Parkway		10 miles
Floyd	Shops, restaurants. Bluegrass Friday nights and Sunday afternoon.	16 miles
Blacksburg	Virginia Tech University, Smithfield Plantation.	27 miles
Rocky Knob	Recreation Area and Rock Castle Gorge Trail (10 mile trail).	27 miles
Roanoke	Virginia Transportation Museum, Taubmann Museum.	28 miles
Chateau Morrisette Winery.	South of Floyd.	29 miles
Mabry Mill	Restored gristmill and blacksmith shop. Restaurant.	34 miles
Bedford	National D-Day Memorial	57 miles
Forest	Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's retreat. Recently restored.	71 miles