

The Southeastern Camping Times

MAY 2014

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE SIX



The scenery on the Mount Pisgah Hike was breathtaking! Nice place for a future rally?

The Hat Heads for the Hills

April found the Southeastern Camping Unit in the hills of Tennessee and the Mountains of North Carolina. Our members enjoyed seeing the sites in and around Chattanooga and paddling at Harrison Bay. We received a private tour of the Coker Auto Museum at Honest Charlie's Speed Shop, toured the VW Passat Assembly plant, had some wonderful meals, and enjoyed a beautiful park in the process. We also toured a few historic sites. We had eight rigs and a wonderful time.

Unfortunately, the weather in the southeast can be unpredictable and a bit unsettled in the spring. Our caravan to Asheville and the Region 3 Rally started a bit earlier than expected to avoid storms. As a result of late evening entry, most of the unit was parked in a far corner of the fairgrounds, we named Trailer Timeout. In all, there were 12 regular and 18 affiliates in attendance at the rally. The group participated on a food tour, two hikes, a couple of brewery visits and much more! We also fed the rally an Oatmeal and Ice Cream breakfast!



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



A Note from Roy Beavers

Another set of back to back rallies, Spring Fling and Region 3. More great times with our Airstreaming friends.

Those that missed Spring Fling, missed out on two great tours and some awesome food. Many thanks to Steve Rosenthal for helping arrange the Coker Tire museum tour and the tour of the VW Chattanooga Plant. Corky Coker, host of Backroad's Gold on the Travel Channel, has an awesome collection of antique vehicles and other memorabilia at their factory location. After a guided tour of the facility, we all headed to Bea's for some down home southern cooking, served family style on the largest lazy susan I have ever seen. Every time a serving plate emptied, another would take its place, until we all hollered "No More"! Steve led us around his old stomping grounds, including a visit to the Missionary Ridge Battlefield monument. This was the location of his elementary school. The overlook to Chattanooga was beautiful. The Passat plant tour, was eye-opening. This is one of the most efficient and advanced assembly plants in the world. It is also one of the most eco-friendly. I can remember touring the GM and Ford plants in Atlanta, as a child. There is no comparison to what we saw in Chattanooga. It's a symphony of integrated robotics and manual assembly that produces one spectacular automobile. Harrison Bay State Park was a challenge to level most of the eight rigs, but we all shared wood blocks and legos so everyone was eventually on the level. I believe Matt and Beth had 8-9 high on one side. The park and lake was beautiful, and many of us kayaked at least once during the stay. Jerry and Irene O'Connell, Elaine and I ventured to South Pittsburg, TN (home of Lodge Cast Iron Cookware) for the National Cornbread Festival. Lots of food and fun, small town carnival style, for everyone. The whole center of town is blocked off for the event that draws visitors from all over.

With storms threatening, the caravan was moved up to Monday afternoon and we arrived safely, but tired, at the Ag Center in Asheville late that night. We parked on asphalt in what we affectionately called "Trailer Timeout", away from the main group of Region 3 attendees. Our friends at the South Carolina Coastal Unit were just uphill from us which made visiting easy. Jay Thompson, Dick Martiny and Matt Hackney hosted a wonderful rally, with



educational seminars for all. Our unit made a big hit with many when we hosted "Oatmeal and Ice Cream" for breakfast. Nothing like starting your day with a hot cup of coffee and a breakfast sundae! I even ventured into the world of Dutch oven cooking making a pretty good cherry cobbler, if I do say so myself. Thanks for the recipe, Matt! If you are ever in Asheville, I highly recommend the Food Tours. We sampled cuisine from different countries and even had an oil and vinegar tasting in one store. Many members hiked one or more trails with Matt and Beth, and relaxed afterward at The Tasty Weasel, a local tap room.

As usual, the business of "The Club" was discussed. The upcoming Delegate's Meeting agenda items were discussed, in detail, so all of us that are delegates would be informed on the background of each amendment. I asked earlier for your input on each of the items and have heard from many of you. If you have not given me your opinion on them, please visit the Region 3 website <http://region3.wbcci.net/proposed-motions-for-delegates-2014/> for more information and let me know how you would like me to vote.

The Highland haven Rally is approaching fast (May 23-26). I hope to see many of you there. It is a beautiful location to camp and with it being Memorial Day weekend, we get an extra day. After that, Elaine and I will leave for our Summer trip, a long meandering trail to Gillette, on June 5. We will meet up with the Hackneys on June 26. Matt, Beth and I will be representing different units at the

Delegate's meeting. Elaine and I were fortunate to be picked up for the Aleyska Caravan, so we will be on the road until sometime in October.

I hate that we will miss the Summer camping season with the group, but this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us, so we had to take it. I will be posting pics on Facebook of the adventures of "The Hat" during our travels.

Speaking of the hat, many of you have seen the Facebook posts from all over of "The Hat" in action. It's sometimes nice and sometimes a bit naughty, but it always has fun wherever it goes. I will be adding a page to the website "Adventures of The Hat" so we can post stories and pictures of its adventures. "The Hat" has become a symbol of our unit's individuality and we are getting comments from all over about the logo. Send me pics of your hat in action, along with a brief description of the event or location and I will post them to the website ASAP. If you want to own your own hat, contact Allison Hurner, of A&W Designs, awhurner@gmail.com and order one. They can embroider the logo on either a structured or non-structured hat (your choice of colors) and mail it to you.

Let me encourage you to attend August's America's Pastime rally, hosted by Bill and Kathy Narowski, August 8-10. There is more information about the rally on the website and in this newsletter.

As always, see you down the road!

Roy and Elaine
Moving WBCCI Forward!

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.

Membership Update

From Beth Hackney

We gained 2 new regular members this month:

John & Jeanne Adams of Terrel, NC
Jose Velez of Panama City, FL.

The Adams were previously members-at-large, plan to attend the Highland Haven Rally Jose is a brand new member to the club, but many of you know him from the Canopener in Florida. Please make them feel at home as members of the Southeastern Camping Unit.

At the Region 3 Rally, we also signed up three new affiliates. We welcome all our new members and hope to see them around the next campfire soon.

For May we now have 51 regular members and 53 affiliates. Our unit has surpassed the 100 members mark. 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 is now at \$130.42.



Thanks from Glenn Null

Many of you know the Dexter Axle Guy, Glenn Null suffered multiple injuries while servicing a trailer recently. We collected donations at the Region 3 Rally and from other club members to buy Glenn an iPad and iTunes gift cards for use during his recovery. I thought I would let you know that Glen called me today to thank everyone for the iPad and gift cards and accessories that we sent to help him during his recovery. He was extremely thankful and very appreciative. He said that his son is going to help him get it set up and will help him learn to use his new iPad. He also said that his days of "wrenching" were over, and that Dexter was going to use him to train new service techs to do what he does, the way he does it, when he has recovered. I would appreciate it if you would pass his thanks and appreciation to all that donated and sent cards to him. It touched his heart.

I have, along with everyone who Glen has ever helped, thought of Glen as a friend, not just the Dexter Brake Tech.

Thanks to all that helped do this for him. If anyone deserves it he does.

Steve Rosenthal



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 vahas@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



Southeastern Camping Calendar of Events



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.

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.

For reservations go to <http://www.recreation.gov/unifSearchResults.do?topTabIndex=Search>. For more information, contact Bill Narowski at wnarowski@msn.com.

Questions?
Contact Kathy or Bill Narowski

SE Camping Unit at Alumalina, Fall Edition and Falluminum

Many of our members have attended popular Air Forums Rallies over the years. We will be continuing the tradition with an invitation from John Leake to attend Alumalina at Lake Wateree State Park (Winnsboro, SC) September 26 - 29. You can call the Park directly at 803.482.6401 or you can reserve on line thru Reserve America.

In October, Alan David has invited us to attend Falluminum at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds (Hiawassee, GA) October 24 - 26. Contact the Fairground at: Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com to make a reservation.



From Craig Stephens

Another month has slipped by and June is rapidly approaching along with the end of the school year. For the Stephens family that means squeezing in as much camping as possible in between the various summer activities. Cameron and Kate are committed to. Sometimes I am not sure which part of the year is more hectic in our home. We are certainly looking forward to seeing many of you at Alumapalooza at the Airstream Factory in Jackson Center.

Plans are beginning to firm up for events as far out as next summer as well. The fall rally will see our first leadership transition, and Roy, our founding unit president, will become our first past president. Alan has agreed to let us partner with him as he hosts the Falluminum and Springstream rallies each October and April. The Okefenokee Paddle and Huntington Island (an Airfroums rally, but in our area) will both take place in November. After a great News Years rally last year, Matt and Beth have agreed to host one this year as well. The Canopener rally takes place in early January and has been very popular with members of our unit in the past. (Canopener isn't a WBCCI rally, just a very fun one which I encourage all who can to attend and enjoy) February brings the Silver River Weight Gain rally hosted by the Rizenko's. If you have had Bob's cooking you'll understand the name. Alumafleming will take place just afterwards, and the initial one last year was a great event.

In March, Bill and Robin Harrison have agreed to host a rally at McKinney State Park. April will bring many back to the Georgia Mountain Fairground. I anticipate the 2015 Region 3 rally to be in the first part of May as it was this year.

If Alumapalooza follows the previous pattern, Alumapalooza 6 should fall on the last week of May in 2015.

As of now, the summer months are open to any who would host a rally at their favorite location. At the end of June and first part of July, I will attend the 2015 International rally in Farmington, NM to represent our unit. I would love to have as many of you all accompany me, especially since this will be my first time attending the International Rally. Fortunately, I will be in a position at work to take the three weeks off necessary to make it out and back. My previous inability to get the time off from work is what has prevented my attendance in past years.

We have a couple of other rallies, which are in the planning stages at this time. One being hosted by Rob and Katie Ditchen will be hosting a rally in Huntsville, AL at the NASA facility. Another is a rafting rally in September at the new facility in Columbus, GA hosted by Bill and Robin Harrison.

Roy has set a high bar this year with great rallies, and I will attempt to follow at a similar pace. We formed our unit with the shared desire to go places and see things along with our fellow Airstreamers. As others are attracted to our unit with these same desires our opportunities to go and see increase.

I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Safe travels,

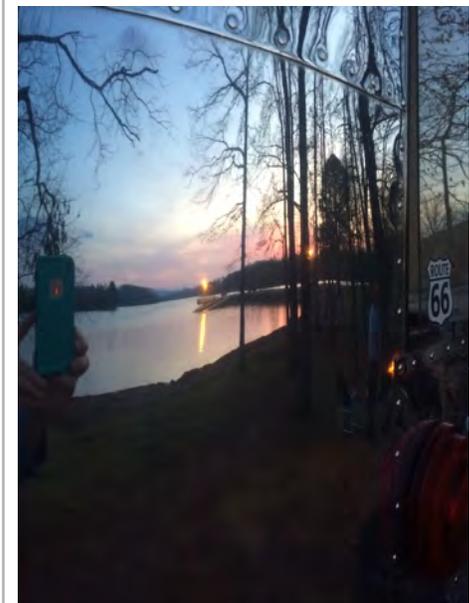
Craig

craigstephens@wbcci.net



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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
spend the afternoon driving the Blue Ridge Parkway. <http://www.mabrymillrestaurant.com>

Southeastern Camping Unit May Rally (page 2)

Saturday, May 24, 2013 (Cont'd.)

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](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