

# The Southeastern Camping Times

JUNE 2014

ENJOY THE RIDE

ISSUE SEVEN



*The view of a large blue factory may not be scenic, but these folks at Alumapalooza 5 seemed to enjoy it.*

## So Much to Do, So Little Time

There were two Southeastern Camping events in late May. As you will see in this issue, we had Airstreams in the Blue Ridge Mountains enjoying fresh mountain air and in the north central Ohio visiting the Mothership! Including both events, there were about 30 Regular and Affiliate rigs participating. How could our unit offer any more opportunities for Fun, Friendship and Adventure in the same 10 day period?

*But then again, camping IS all about the outdoors. There were plenty of outdoor sights and sounds at Virginia Highland Haven!*



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





## A Note from Roy Beavers



June is finally here! Elaine and I recently returned from the Virginia Mountains Rally where we had an exceptional time with several of our members at Highland Haven Airstream Park. If you have never been there, you are missing a treat. Highland Haven is nestled on a mountaintop, 32 miles south of Roanoke, VA, overlooking an apple orchard and the valley toward Blacksburg, VA. The sunsets are to die for! Mornings were crisp with the afternoons staying in the mid to upper 70s. Many thanks to Chuck and Susan Nesbit for hosting the rally and also to the folks at Highland Haven, who made us all feel welcome.

We are madly getting ready for our Summer trip. We leave Atlanta on 6/5 for some RVing with our Granddaughter Madelyn and a family vacation in TheTetons and Yellowstone. The kids and families will fly home on 6/24 and Elaine and I will meet Matt and Beth Hackney to represent the unit and region at the WBCCI International. I have heard from many of you on your wishes for how I should vote on the amendments and officers, so I will do the best I can to support the club's wishes and to help move WBCCI forward.

After WBCCI, we are "North to Alaska" to meet up with the national caravan, led by affiliate members Bill and Sandy Johnjulo. There will be around 37 rigs making the trip, so we will meet lots of new Airstream friends and will renew friendships with several others. It is a 63 day trip and we can't wait to get started. We will return home on 10/8, just in time to get ready for the Okefenokee Paddle on November 8. I'll have the plan outlined for that rally soon and will post it to both Facebook and the web site.

Don't miss the America's Pastime (August 8-10) and The Pine Mountain Weekend September 19-21. Both of these will be fun filled weekends. For more information on either of these, see the Unit Event Information page on the website. If you are willing to host a weekend rally in 2015, please let Craig Stephens and me know the details, so we can add them to the unit calendar. Speaking of calendars, our unit calendar is connected to the Region 3 calendar, so you can see opportunities, outside the unit, to participate in also. Happy and safe travels to you all. We'll see you in the Fall.

As always, see you down the road!

Roy and Elaine





## Membership Update

From Beth Hackney

At Alumapalooza we gained 5 new affiliate members bringing our total in May to 51 regular members and 58 affiliate members. One of our affiliates is even from the Ontario Unit, so we have an International membership for our unit. We welcome all our new members and hope to see them around the next campfire soon.

We also gained a new regular member, but they will be joining in the new membership year (all new members received after June 30 get the remainder of 2014 FREE).

Roy created a membership directory on our website because it is constantly changing. We have it password protected on our website [secamping.wbcci.net](http://secamping.wbcci.net). Please email me ([eroney@aol.com](mailto:eroney@aol.com)) if you do not have the password. Also don't forget to join our Facebook Page Southeastern Camping Unit WBCCI.

Our treasury is now at \$135.42.

May was a fantastic month to be Airstreaming! Chuck and Susan Nesbit put a great rally at Virginia Highland Haven. A good turn out of members and associate members had us having a blast. Particularly nice was meeting members that we had not rallied with before. Add in about 12 park guest and other Highland Haven shareholders and we had a crowd. Once again we had great food and plenty of it, but also had daily hikes either on property or off site to work off the calories. Our members made such a great impression as a fun unit, I am sure we will pick up new members to the WBCCI, which is what we are about.

As I was beginning to write, Jay Thompson's Region report came in, which brought to mind how blessed we are to have such forward thinking leaders in our region in Jay, Dick and Matt. these guys and the rest of the officers have set the bar high for other regions to strive for. In the report, Matt's section on attracting new members really hit home with me. Communications with new Airstream owners will move more to electronic social media which is making e-mail and web sites obsolete. I have been asked often why does our unit use Facebook so much. I answer it is simply the most effective way to share information among our membership. A great example was memorial day weekend where we had a lot going on within our unit. The rally in at Highland Haven, several members meeting up in Jackson center for Alumapalooza, and also members camping on there own. Posts were flying with photos at each location so all members of our units Facebook page could see, comment or just hit the like button. The "Hat" sure was busy! Just the way it should be.

Another example that makes thing easier for those who are hosting a rally is the use of the Facebook Event list on our page. If an event is listed, members can RSVP, post sites they will be in, what they are bringing or just make comments about what they would like to do at the rally. If plans change, that is the place to post. Our rallies are growing in size to the point it is hard to keep up with all the comings and goings. Those hosting a particular rally can look at the event page for their event and know all the information they need. Our goal as a unit should be to make everything simple, easy to administer, so no one has to tote all the load.

Our units first birthday is coming up shortly. It is amazing how we have grown not only in numbers, but in getting things right and making us a unit people want to participate in and step up and tote part of the load.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year. We are not going to be able to make the International this year but certainly will be looking forward to the report back from the "Hat" while it is out there.

See you down the road,  
Joe & Annette Conoly





## 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.



### **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](http://Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com) to make a reservation.



# Southeastern Camping Calendar of Events

## **Bald Ridge and Baseball in August!**

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](mailto:wnarowski@msn.com).

Questions?  
Contact Kathy or Bill Narowski

## **Pine Mountain Weekend**

Bill and Robin Harrison are planning a weekend at FDR State Park in Pine Mountain GA Sept 19-21. Inside the park there is Roosevelt's Little White House tour, Dowdell's Knob, Horseback riding and hiking trails. Within the City of Pine Mountain is Callaway Gardens which happens to be hosting the world's largest Blue Morpho Butterfly display during the month of September and Wild Animal Safari which allows you to drive through the park to see over 65 different species of roaming animals. Then a bit further out, in the city of Columbus, is the world's longest urban whitewater rafting on the Chattahoochee River.

The GA state parks are not site specific reserve-able, they are first come first served. I'd love to get on the water but it's not likely for us. Still if we all want to stay together there is the 'back' loop. In order to get those sites we'd all need to reserve a 40' site.

Reservations for the park: <http://www.gastateparks.org/FDRoosevelt>

## **Okeefenokee Swamp Paddle 2**

Back by popular demand (well, those who asked me said it was popular) is the Okeefenokee Swamp Paddle. We will again be camping in Stephen C. Foster State Park near Fargo, GA. It is important to note that this is actually closer to many of our Florida members than it is for those who live north of Atlanta! This year we will be paddling on Friday November 7 and Saturday November 8. This year we will be holding the event without the GA Conservancy. You can bring your own kayak or rent one at the park. More details will follow in August and September. Make your reservations for November 6th or 7th through the 9th now at:

[www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org)

For questions, contact Matt or Beth Hackney, [eroney@aol.com](mailto:eroney@aol.com).

# From Craig Stephens

## Friends are Everywhere

While I was sorry to miss the rally at Highland Haven, it was terrific to see so many of you at Alumapalooza. This started my mind wandering with thoughts of all of the activities we have open to our Airstreams and us. When my family first joined the WBCCI, the focus was exclusively on WBCCI events. As time has passed, other groups of Airstream enthusiasts have sprung up who may or may not be members of the WBCCI. The Airforums provides a good example of what I mean. The R&B Events of Alumaflemingo, Alumapalooza, Alumafandango, Alumafiesta are another. In the case of Springstream, Alumalina, Falluminum, and The Canopener these have become dual events as we host an SECU rally at an Airforums gathering. All provide wonderful opportunities to share with other Airstreamers and let them know about the SECU and the WBCCI.

At Alumapalooza I had the privilege of meeting a couple from Texas who had driven all the way to Jackson Center and were staying at a hotel in Sydney, OH just to learn about Airstreams and gain information to decide which one they wished to purchase. We were able to show them our older 34' and Jason and Amber Perkins, affiliate members of our group, (who were parked next to us) gave them a tour of their Eddie Bauer. These non-Airstream owners attended seminars on tow vehicles, trailer care, and even how to prepare a five-course meal in their Airstream galley. They may well become affiliate members of our unit as well. We currently have affiliates from all over, and not just from the units surrounding us. We have picked up new members at every non traditional event attended including all four

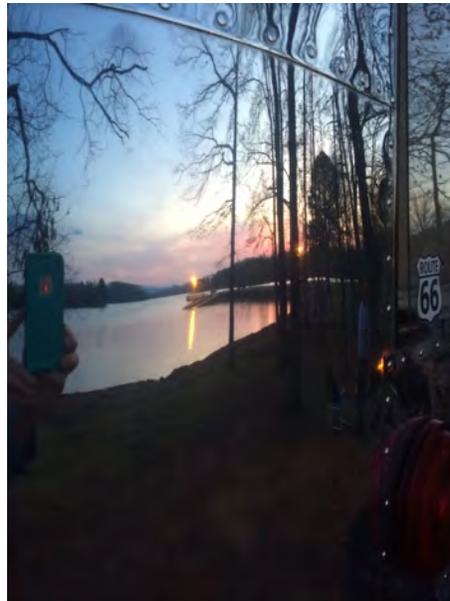
AirForums gatherings, Alumaflemingo, and Alumapalooza. I truly believe our unit represents the new face of the WBCCI. One that is active, and on the move with a broad mix of members from those early in their careers to those enjoying retirement, some with no children, some with children on the way, some with young children, and some with grown children. We cover the spectrum, and we all share an enthusiasm for our Airstreams and exploring the world around us.

Don't forget to post on the SECU Facebook page when you are headed out to camp for a weekend. It often takes just the smallest nudge to get others to join you. The SECU Facebook page is closed, which means only members of the unit will see your post.

For some beautiful pictures of an Alumapalooza past (2013) check out Allison Turners website at: <http://alisontravelsblog.blogspot.com/2013/06/alumapalooza-2013.html>

See you on the road,

Craig



*Southeastern Camping Unit  
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# Highland Haven Rally Offered Fun, Friendship, and Adventure

Eight couples and their Airstreams participated in our unit's first rally at Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park May 23-26. The weather was a bit windy but we enjoyed a number of outdoor activities including a hike on the property to a waterfall, a hike on Memorial Day at the nearby Bottom Creek Gorge Nature Conservancy Preserve, Friday night bluegrass music on the street in Floyd, and a Saturday evening campfire. The views of the Blue Ridge Mountains from every campsite were incredible.

Plus we had the opportunity to eat well. Friday night we enjoyed southern cooking during a group

dinner at the Pine Tavern restaurant in Floyd. Saturday night Highland Haven hosted a lasagna dinner at the campground for the unit and other park guests. Sunday morning we shared a potluck breakfast. Throughout the weekend there was ample free time to drive the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway or visit and experience any of a number of local attractions. Perhaps best of all, at the end of every day we were treated to spectacular fiery red and orange sunsets. If you weren't able to make the rally, put Virginia Highland Haven on your list of places to visit in your Airstream.

Chuck Nesbit



Floyd, VA is filled with  
music on Friday night!



# Canopener 2015

## Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Last Year 22  
Southeastern Camping  
Unit Members Attended!

Over 10 SECU members are already signed up for the ninth annual Canopener rally at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida scheduled for January 9-11, 2015. Tom and Robin Montgomery (Alumitater of Airforums, and members of SECU) will be hosting this rally which last year attracted 80 Airstreams from around the country. Sites at the campground are booking quickly, the 103 loop in the campground is already full, so if you are thinking about attending this always fun rally, hop on the Reserve America website and make your reservations. Once you've reserved a site, don't forget to go on the rally RSVP page on [Airforums.com](http://Airforums.com) to register with the rally so the hosts will have an

accurate count, your name badges can be created, and you can be added to the site maps periodically published on Airforums.

If you haven't been to a Canopener, there is no rally fee but there are fabulous pot luck dinners, including some terrific dutch oven culinary delights. Last year the SECU sponsored one of the evening happy hours. Located on the Gulf of Mexico, the park is first class with full hookup campsites, hiking trails, kayaking, and a 2 mile stretch of unspoiled white sandy beach. Nearby Destin has a wide choice of restaurants and shopping destinations. Seaside, a short drive from the park, has a number of vintage Airstreams, converted to streetside food kitchens, lined up in the center of town selling a variety of tasty treats.

Chuck Nesbit



*Video from Canopener 2014*

*Can be found at:*

*[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=JsaKrimSMP4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsaKrimSMP4)*

