

Southeastern Camping Times

Volume 24, February 2018

Nancy's Notes

So far, there have been 33 responses to the survey in the February issue. Thanks to all those who have responded, and if you haven't had a chance to respond, please do so. You can find it at the following address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HM8DGWX>.

Responses so far have the following results:

1. Socializing is what we enjoy most at our rallies, followed by hiking and then surprisingly visiting historical places came in third.
2. Members prefer a potluck meal where we all share in the responsibilities, but eating out came in second.
3. Most of the respondents so far are from Georgia, Florida and North Carolina.
4. They say they prefer attending rallies a few times a year, and once a month came in second.
5. When asked about the rallies they enjoyed the most, while several were mentioned, CanOpener came in as a real winner. Kudos to all the SECU members who volunteer their time to make this one successful!
6. Favorite campground, no surprise, given that most who responded so far love the CanOpener, Topsail.
7. Most people are willing to drive as much as 200 miles for a rally, and 150 miles came in a close second. However, some said they are willing to go further, if the rally looks like something they want to attend.
8. When asked what they enjoyed most about the rallies, the answer by leaps and bounds was THE PEOPLE.

Again, thank you to all who participated. Your responses help us to design rallies that are of interest to our wide group of members across many states.



Getting to Know More About Jim (our WBCCI President) - Carol Stephens

I had an opportunity to sit down with the current President of the WBCCI, Jim Cocke, at the FarmLife 2.0 rally. I thought our members would enjoy learning more about him.

I started off with the easy question:

When did you first join WBCCI?

2004, at the first WBCCI rally we attended (the month after we bought our first Airstream).

Now on to some questions that require more thought:

Why did you decide to step up to a leadership position?

In the second year of membership I was asked to participate by my unit, Carolinas of North Carolina.

Clearly you didn't stop at the local unit level, why did you go to the bigger platform?

Steve Piotrowski wrote a letter to me after the Alyeska caravan of 2012 laying out reasons why I should run for WBCCI president. When reading the letter I tried to refute the points. Then I thought, if not us then whom? Debbie and I had already enjoyed ten year's exposure to members in many facets of the Club. From the outset I've had broad support from members across all Regions in the Club. We're glad to serve and give back to the Club.

What/How have you seen changes in the Airstream group?

I sense a palpable excitement about the Club's future. There's more inclusivity, and more acceptance of improvements at many levels. We're growing the number of caravans and Special Event Rallies. The Long Range Planning Committee is in it's third year developing and

refining goals for the Club. Their work supports leadership alignment and continuity as we move the Club forward. Very exciting!

You have gone to many unit events. What do you see that works well?

An attractive activity each day, without too much scheduling otherwise.

What would you say to this SECU local club?

Hi!

You have traveled across the USA & Canada extensively, how do you remember it all?

We take a lot of pictures. We love to revisit those trips through the pictures of friends and places. Debbie logs every trip in a fun Airstream notepad. We keep information on miles towed and every place we have stayed. It includes location, cost, hookups, and comments.

We are getting to the end here and the questions are harder.

How do you eat Oreos?

I take them apart with my teeth, a layer at a time.

If you were an Airstream what would you be?

If I was an Airstream I would be a 1979 Argosy 7.3 minuet. Lean, light, flexible, purpose-oriented, a little attractive.

If you were a comic strip who would you be?

Dilbert or Jeremy in Zits.

Arguably the last two questions took Jim the most time. For the younger members, you can look up those comic strips on Wikipedia.

Takeaways for me from the conversation, Jim has a sense of humor, he was asked to participate, he participated. He said yes. I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed talking with Jim, he is always gracious, humble and kind.



FarmLife 2.0 Recap - For Those Who Couldn't Make It

FarmLife 2.0 was incredible. From the moment we arrived on Wednesday until the day we left on Sunday, we were all treated to days filled with fun, fellowship, and, of course, food. Sunrise to sunset, we had our choice of activities. There was kayaking, skeet shooting, biking, shopping, golfing, singing, a whole lot of socializing and PLENTY of eating. Lisa and Brett outdid themselves yet again with not only an amazing venue, but also a great time. They were constantly checking on us, making sure all our needs were met, as if we were at a five star hotel. Our trailers were parked as if by professionals. The roosters provided wake-up calls with eerie precision. A delicious traditional Mexican meal was provided on Saturday night, thank you to Maria. And a big thank you to our morning dutch oven, egg and bacon cookers. Even the weather cooperated with one day reaching well into the 80s! And the campfires were a sight to behold.

I met lots of new members and caught up with members I had not seen for a while. Mike and I went on two different kayak adventures, thank you to Matt and Beth for organizing them. We saw tons of fish in crystal clear waters of Weeki Wachee, and then as contrast the tannin waters of the Hillsborough river had birds I had never seen before and all shapes and sizes of alligators basking in the sun. Mike went on a skeet shooting adventure which had seven different wooded sites of different skeet shooting positions, thanks Millie. And for the competitive members of our group, mini golf made for a great outing, led by Brett.

Antsy McClain and Spoons (Chris) entertained us for two nights with many classics, including "I Was Just Flipped Off by a Silver Haired Old Lady," "Full Moon Nights in Pine View Heights," "Prozac Made Me Stay," and of course the ever infamous "Blah Blah" song. The entire event was so successful that Lisa and Brett decided host another rally in December, can you say JingleFarm?

If you were unable to attend FarmLife 2.0, please try to join us in December. It's what camping Southeastern style is all about. But let me add a few words of caution: If this was your first rally, do not think that all rallies are this extravagant. I want to encourage each of you to host your own rally at a park of your liking. Keep in mind that Lisa and Brett are professionals, and not all rallies have to be planned with such precision. Find a campground, pick a date, and give us a shout out to come join the fun and people will gather. Rallies can be that easy.

While this rally was certainly not easy, I say many thanks to Lisa and Brett for a wonderful time in warm and beautiful Florida. I'm sure I speak for most of us when I say a good time was had by all. Credit to Kate Coast for the closing picture.



Garage Band?

Antsy and Spoons



Open Grill Night



Gotta Eat Tonight, I Wonder How Clay Pigeons Taste?

Picture by Kerry Hackney

GA Mountain Air - St. Patrick's Day Edition

When

Friday, March 16th, 8am to Sunday, March 18th, 12pm

Where

1311 Music Hall Road Hiawassee, GA

More information

Friday icebreaker, Saturday brunch, Saturday afternoon Tour of Trailers, Saturday evening potluck, entertainment and campfires. It's Hiawassee, leveling blocks are always good to have along.

Hosted Matt Hackney

Region 3 Rally - Sun, Sand, Surf and Silver

When

Wednesday, April 25th, 11 am to Sunday, April 29th, 2pm

Where

6001 S Kings Hwy Myrtle Beach, SC

More information

Sites being held in the three oceanfront sections I, H, and HH. For reservations call 1-800-722-1451, tell them you are with the AIRSTREAM REGION 3 RALLY.

Questions reach out to John Frerking ejfrerking@yahoo.com

KY Derby Rally at Stone Mountain

When

Thursday, May 3rd, 10am to Sunday, May 6th, 12pm

Where

4003 Stonewall Jackson Drive
Stone Mountain, GA

More information

You haven't seen anything until you see those Flamingos race. Mint Juleps and KY Derby Hat contest. Call 1-800-385-9807 for reservations, Purple loop and mention KY Derby Rally

Hosted Robin Harrison

Urban Rally - Unit #22 March, 2018

Though this is not a SECU rally, Urban Rallies have been happening in Michigan for a number of years. If you are interested in learning more, about the one in South Carolina visit

<http://palmettostate.wbcci.net/airstream-rallies/>



Ms. MOXIE

DON'T CRY

BECAUSE

IT'S OVER

SMILE

BECAUSE

+

IT HAPPENED

DR. SEUSS