

Southeastern Camping Unit

Volume 29, July 2018



Nancy's Notes

WBCCI in Salem was an incredible experience. Every day was filled with attending seminars, exchanging ideas, meeting new people, and having fun. The rally organizers did a wonderful job of scheduling seminars that were interesting. It was sometimes difficult to choose since so many seminars were offered simultaneously. I attended a seminar with Dale Schwamborn and learned about his travels with Wally Byam himself. I attended a seminar on planning rallies, one on cooking in the Airstream, one on using smart apps while traveling, a feedback session with Airstream Inc. and a seminar on publications. In between sessions, I attended a couple of luncheons and toured the display area that had several new Airstreams of all sizes available. There was a photography contest and exhibit along with a hobby contest in which two of our own SECU members won ribbons, Betsy Stewart and Betsy Padgett. At around 4 every day all SECU folks attending International gathered for what my husband Mike began referring to as "happy meals" instead of happy hour because we had so much food and fellowship. A time or two we had others from Region 3 join us, Jim Cocke himself, and friends from other units. I had so much fun at our happy meals that I forgot about attending the nightly entertainment sponsored by the International Rally!

In fact, there was so much to see and do that I never left the rally site. We had only attended one International rally previously, and I will say this rally was far superior in every way. The organizers did an amazing job of picking a great place to hold the rally and in offering so much for us to see and do. If you have never attended an International rally before, or even if you did and may not have been impressed, I say try again. This was well worth the drive.

And speaking of the drive, that too was a time I will treasure. This was Mike's and my first experience in a caravan, albeit a small one. We met up with Missy and Al Waschka, and Chip Retson and his friend Kawanna in Paducah, KY and began the trek across country. Matt and Beth Hackeny joined up with us in Idaho. I loved having the safety and companionship as we traveled down the road together. As will happen when on long trips with even the most reliable trucks and trailers, there were occasional issues along the way, but we helped each other out and it made the trip easier. It was also fun to share the experience of the beauty of the landscape across this great land of ours. By the time Mike and I left Salem to strike out on our own, I was sad to leave our travel companions that have become good friends. I can't imagine having any better traveling companions than these folks were.

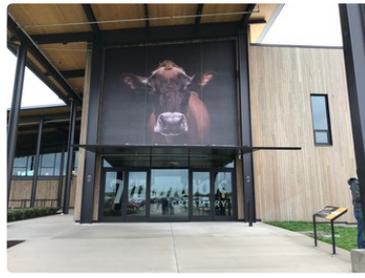
As I write this, we are still on the road, now in Custer, South Dakota as we take our time getting home. This has been the trip of a lifetime for me and Mike. Having lived most of my life in Atlanta, what I have been most amazed by on this trip is how much unused - and to an extent unusable - land we have in this country. We have driven for hours and hours without seeing a single billboard, house, or building. Most of the houses we have seen have been small, unassuming ranch style homes, nothing fancy. It is hard for me to imagine what the lifestyle must be like when one lives dozens of miles from anything. I am fascinated by the number of 'towns' we have passed through with populations under 2,000 - fewer people than those who worked in the headquarters building I worked in for BellSouth, or the high school in which I taught. I have also been struck by how little it takes for a full and happy life. We have a 23-foot trailer, but I have yet to feel cramped. Our country is immense, and yet the vast majority of people are huddled together in big cities, big suburbs, and big neighborhoods. And yet, the vast majority of our land is comprised of wide open spaces dotted with an occasional small house. Even the unusable land - the deserts, the caves, the mountains, to me have purpose. In it I see God's artwork, His gift of an incredibly beautiful country. While I love my life in the city where everything is convenient from doctors to donuts, but I can also see how living simply and in the middle of all this beauty has its own set of rewards.

We still have miles to go before we reach home. I am so thankful for the opportunity to make this trip and look forward to more adventures down the road.

Nancy



Oregon Landscape



Tillamook Creamery

Many WBCCI members took a tour to the factory. ICE CREAM!!!!



Seminar on Dutch Oven Cooking

Matt Hackney working hard again.



Tillamook Rock

Shortest lighthouse on Oregon Coast, 38 feet.



Lens



View from the lighthouse

When you are on a high cliff, you don't need to be tall.

Camping SECU Style

One of the many great things about our unit is the ability to camp in so many ways. Our members gather in the sun, rain and even snow sometimes. The outing may be for a weekend, a week or even longer. It may be in our own backyard, across the state or across the country. It may be a small gathering or with hundreds of potential new friends.

Entertainment may be a band, visiting a local attraction or simply strumming a guitar around the fire. What I'm trying to say, is that there are so many ways to experience your local unit. I encourage all members to commit to attending some events this next year. If you have never done a large event, maybe now is the time. If you have only participated in long trips, maybe now is the time to throw caution to the wind, and get out for a weekend trip.

We have a diverse group of members, we have caravan leaders, we have weekend campers, we have vintage trailers, we have new Airstream owners, we have full timers and we have large event planners. Take a minute and reach out to someone new. The fun is in the journey.

Alumapalooza 10 - Brett Greiveldinger

2018 was one of the best-attended Alumapaloozas yet. About 375 people were camped at Airstream, in about 180 trailers and motorhomes. Our attendees travelled from all over. California, Florida, Texas, and we even had a guest from Japan. There was a new remote field called Holloway and the attendees that camped out there enjoyed the remote peace and quiet. They also had their own tent, a bus for travel between sites, a concert by Josh Rogan, and they got a tour of the NEST plant that was not offered to anyone else. The main field has finally healed from all the work done in the past few years and stayed firm and mostly mud free. We had our usual big tent and stage in the back of the terra-port, and this was where much fun was had.

Next year looks like it will be a quick sell-out, since prior attendees have already reserved 50+ sites. Registration is open now at <http://alumapalooza.com>.

For the tenth anniversary of Alumapalooza in 2019, we're working on a few interesting changes and special events. We'll announce all of those in the fall. One thing will be the inclusion of much larger vendor area and we are trying to do a full day of music/entertainment again. As always we will work hard to develop new and interesting seminars.

Alumapalooza officially runs for five days, with the early-parking option, about half of the attendees stretched it out to a 10-day event. Mostly they just socialized and chilled over the Memorial Day weekend while camped next to the Airstream factory, until the official start of the event.

For those of you who may be newer to our unit, Brett is one of our charter members and a Partner with R&B Events, LLC.

Informational Update - House Bill 673 "Hands Free Law"

July 1, 2018 Georgia has become a hands-free state.

You can't have your phone in your hand or supported by any part of your body. No sending or receiving texts unless using voice-based communication.

GPS navigation devices are allowed.

Here is a good bullet pointed summary at <http://gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/hands-free-law>

Be safe out there.

Tellus Again ...

When

Thursday, Aug. 2nd, 6pm

Where

McKinney Camp Ground Road Southeast
Acworth, GA

More information

Host Nancy Gore

There are sites available from 63-76 and 32-37. This campground fills up quickly, especially in the summer, so make your reservations now! Details to follow, but we will plan to visit the Tellus Science Center on Saturday, and kayak on Friday.

Senior Discount Rally CANCELLED

When

Thursday, Sep. 27th, 1 am

Where

2970 Georgia 190 Pine Mountain, GA

More information

Conflict - **RALLY CANCELLED**

GA Mountain Air - Fall 2018 Edition

When

Friday, Oct. 5th, 10am

Where

1311 Music Hall Road Hiawasse, GA

More information

Reservations: NOW (706) 896-4191

Area 2, Section A

Host Matt Hackney

Carolina Ballonfest Rally

When

Friday, Oct. 19th, 2pm to Sunday, Oct. 21 st, 7pm

Where

Statesville Regional Airport, 260 Hangar Drive,
Statesville, NC 28677

More information

Hosted by Al Waschka

Sites are going fast www.carolinaballoonfest.com; Scroll down to the RV parking area. There is an application form to fill out and mail in with a check. Write "SECU Airstream Rally" on the application. **Note the website says no refunds.** Members should please E-mail me (awaschka@bellsouth.net) when an application is sent in and I will update the list I have been sending to Haley, the individual who is collecting RV parking applications. **Parking permits are for dry camping only; no electric, sewer or water services on site.**

Currently there are 21 Airstreams who have signed up. Nothing planned, probably Happy Hours on Friday and Saturday night. Food trucks are on site, but often have long lines, so you probably want to bring your own food.

Rain or Shine...Hot Air Balloon Flights are scheduled twice daily; early morning & late afternoon. All ballooning activities including static display, tethered rides and balloon flights are weather-dependent. The decision to inflate hot air balloons is made just prior to the scheduled ballooning activity.

Business Meeting @ Alumalina

When

Thursday, Oct. 25th, 5pm

Where

2695 US Hwy. 70 W. Marion, NC.

More information

Tom Johnson Rally Park. **NOTE:** Address listed in previous newsletter is Camping World. This address is the campground.

Our actual SECU business meeting will be some time on Saturday, but the rally itself begins on Thursday. Reserve with sandlapper on Air Forum. I will be the keeper of the list. You are welcome to come early and stay late, same rate. We will collect the parking fee and our rally fee (TBD but always a great deal) at the site, so no need to call them, just let me know if you are coming.

Furnished meals, pot lucks, seminars, raffles, door prizes, games, music, open house, lots of fun stuff for the youngsters, and enough aluminum to treat even the most severe cases of aluminitas.

We will have 300 FULL HOOK UP SITES, 30 and 50a, another 100 water/electric, all RALLY STYLE parking....side by side, back to back on very nice, thick, level grass. Good wifi and cell service. \$35 per night.

SECU members, business meeting is normally held on Saturday morning of this rally.

Big Pig Jig Rally

When

Friday, Nov. 2nd, 4pm

Where

2459 U.S. 280 Cordele, GA

More information

Host Matt Hackney

JingleFarm

When

Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 2pm

Where

Land O' Lakes, FL, USA Land O' Lakes, FL

More information

Host Lisa Forsyth

Ring In The New Year

When

Friday, Dec. 28th, 10am

Where

Noccalula Falls, Gadsen, Alabama

More information

Host Robin and Bill Harrison



Saying Goodbye to the Oregon Coast