

Southeastern Camping Unit

Volume 30, August 2018

Nancy's Notes

It's hard to believe summer is almost over and my time as president of SECU is nearing the end. We've had a wonderful time this year meeting new people and visiting new places. One of the many reasons I love our unit is not only the people, but also the variety of our rallies. This year we've been to both Alabama and Myrtle Beach for the first time. We'll have a new campground this year for Alumilina in October for our Business meeting.

Although I have hosted a few rallies of my own, I learned a few lessons with our recent rally to Tellus Science Center. First, I learned that I need a better way to track who's coming to our rallies. If you're planning to attend a rally and you're not signing up on facebook, you should email the host to let them know you're coming and what site you are in. It's also a good idea to include your telephone number and whether or not your telephone has texting capability. That way the host has an easy way of updating everyone with any important information. We've added contact information for the rallies listed in this issue.

Another reason I love our unit is that we make things simple. We only have one business meeting a year, but it's a very important business meeting. This year we will not only vote in our new officers, but we will also be voting on the updates made to our Constitution and Bylaws. Please be sure to be on the look out for these important emails over the next few weeks and get your votes in early. You do not have to attend the meeting to vote, but we do need your votes at least via email if you cannot attend.

September is a perfect month for camping. Unfortunately, it's a busy month for me for work, so I won't be able to go camping, but if you're planning on trip, even if it's just a weekend to get out and enjoy the fresh air, think of your fellow SECU campers and invite them to come along. If you're not on facebook, email me (nancyggore@bellsouth.net) and I can get the word out. There's nothing better than camping with good friends, and we have so many beautiful campgrounds in our southern states.

Have a great summer and we'll see you down the road!

Correction

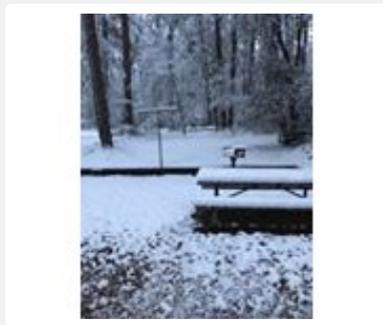
In the last issue we congratulated our members who won ribbons at the International Rally, we misprinted Becky Padgett's name, please accept our apology.

Tellus Again ...

Well, one thing we can say is that the weather for the Tellus Again ... Rally was warmer than the original. At first we were a bit worried that the weather was going to impact us again...this time with rain! But the skies eventually cleared and we had a beautiful weekend learning about science and history.

On Friday, we visited the local Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History. The museum had a great deal of information on the impact of the railroad on the Civil War, along with fascinating memorabilia of clothing, uniforms, guns, and of course trains. I was personally fascinated by the recreation of one of the first offices and a reproduction of a train car that belonged to P.T. Barnum as he traveled with his circus in luxury. All that learning got us hungry, and we decided to shift our schedule around so that we ate out at a local restaurant on Friday afternoon instead of Saturday night and moved our grilling night to Saturday.

Unfortunately a family emergency called me away and I was unable to attend the rest of the rally, but my husband Mike stayed with the rally and enjoyed the myriad of exhibits at Tellus. Minerals, fossils, and gems are all on display at this huge museum. After the visit to the museum, some folks brought kayaks and others brought bikes. The park was beautiful with abundant wildlife. A deer with three fawns graced our campsite, and a couple of Canada geese came over to visit with us and even sat down right next to me as we chatted with the Kittingers. All in all, it was a lovely rally.



Original Tellus Rally
December, 2017



Decorated for December

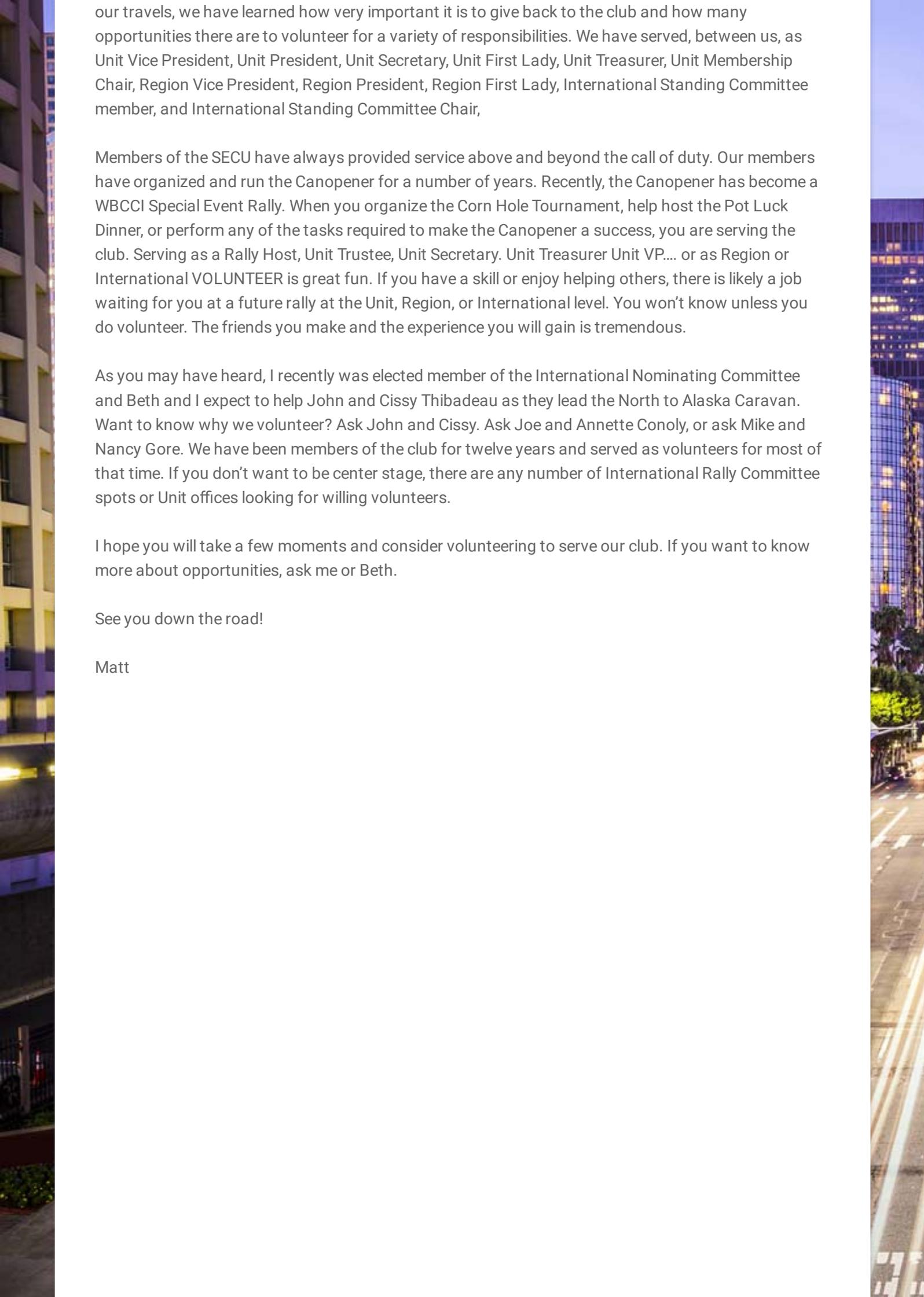


Dutch Oven Cooking
Demonstration

Volunteer Matt Hackney at
the International Rally in
Salem, OR

Serving Our Members - Matt Hackney

When Beth and I were members of a previous unit, we decided that we had the ability to give back to our unit and, eventually, Region 3. We have enjoyed the benefits provided by the club. From our first events in the WBCCI, we realized that the club provides the most benefit to those who are the most involved. At our first International Rally, we made friends with folks with whom we are still great friends. Many of those folks have gone on to become Region and International Officers in the club. In



our travels, we have learned how very important it is to give back to the club and how many opportunities there are to volunteer for a variety of responsibilities. We have served, between us, as Unit Vice President, Unit President, Unit Secretary, Unit First Lady, Unit Treasurer, Unit Membership Chair, Region Vice President, Region President, Region First Lady, International Standing Committee member, and International Standing Committee Chair,

Members of the SECU have always provided service above and beyond the call of duty. Our members have organized and run the Canopener for a number of years. Recently, the Canopener has become a WBCCI Special Event Rally. When you organize the Corn Hole Tournament, help host the Pot Luck Dinner, or perform any of the tasks required to make the Canopener a success, you are serving the club. Serving as a Rally Host, Unit Trustee, Unit Secretary, Unit Treasurer Unit VP... or as Region or International VOLUNTEER is great fun. If you have a skill or enjoy helping others, there is likely a job waiting for you at a future rally at the Unit, Region, or International level. You won't know unless you do volunteer. The friends you make and the experience you will gain is tremendous.

As you may have heard, I recently was elected member of the International Nominating Committee and Beth and I expect to help John and Cissy Thibadeau as they lead the North to Alaska Caravan. Want to know why we volunteer? Ask John and Cissy. Ask Joe and Annette Conoly, or ask Mike and Nancy Gore. We have been members of the club for twelve years and served as volunteers for most of that time. If you don't want to be center stage, there are any number of International Rally Committee spots or Unit offices looking for willing volunteers.

I hope you will take a few moments and consider volunteering to serve our club. If you want to know more about opportunities, ask me or Beth.

See you down the road!

Matt



Membership Update - Beth Hackney

It is that time of year again. We have had at least a dozen people renew already because of the Facebook reminder, but we have a long way to go. Our unit currently has 120 regular members and 51 affiliates. The easiest way to renew for the 2019 year is to go online at wbcci.org and click the renew button. It is easy and will save you a check, stamp and envelope, so let's see how many we can get before the end of September. I appreciate your support.

Our unit treasury stands at \$987.97. This represents a \$468 refund from the Region 3 Rally. Our president Nancy is working on a letter that will be forwarded to members who attended the Region 3 Rally to determine how they would like their refund dispositioned.

"Airstream Region 3: 17th Annual Special Event Rally – the 83rd Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention" - a recap by Jim and Betsy Stewart

This was our first time at this rally and this event and we were not disappointed at all. Betsy and I have tried to attend this fantastic event before, but it had always been scheduled during my last week of the Swannanoa Gathering music camp at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, NC. Having just returned to Sumter, SC after our 72-day, 10,266 mile trip to the left coast (including our first International Rally in Salem, OR), we loaded up again (packing much lighter this time!) and headed off to Mama Gertie's Hideaway Campground for two weeks while I was at the "Gathering" for Guitar Week and Fiddle Week. After two weeks of musical immersion, we headed north for the Cool Breeze Campground in Galax, VA



and our first Galax Old Fiddlers' Convention. This annual event has become an Airstream Region 3 Special Event Rally and it was well planned and executed. Robert Sells' Cool Breeze Campground was only a few minutes' drive to downtown Galax and we caravanned and carpooled to the many activities scheduled for the week. Almost every day, Robert and the Rally organizers had arranged for local bluegrass/old time bands to play for us outdoors at the RV park. They included: the youth bluegrass JAM band, Presley Barker & ShadowGrass Band, Carson Peters, Stevie Barr, the Loose Strings Band, and the Cool Breeze Band. But the highlight for many (including me) was a mini concert on Tuesday afternoon at the opening ceremony by world famous performer and luthier Wayne Henderson and Friends at the Blue Ridge Music Center. Then, on Thursday morning, we travelled to Wayne's home/workshop in Rugby, VA. He gave us a personalized tour of his workshop and allowed us to see his personal "collection" of some of the finest bluegrass/old time musical instruments and associated memorabilia in the world. The Old Fiddlers' Convention (a misnomer) began in downtown Galax at Felt's Park each day at 6:00 pm. The Convention is NOT just for fiddlers – the six day long contest awarded winners in: fiddle, dobro, mandolin, dulcimer, banjo, autoharp, guitar, folksong, dance, bluegrass and old-time bands. There were also youth awards in almost every category. Most Airstreamers arrived on Sunday, August 5th and besides the local bands and the convention, the rally included: a watermelon feast, a ladies' breakfast tea, an historical museum tour and catered country lunch, a country breakfast, an ice cream social, golf, a walking tour of Galax, and a BBQ dinner at the closing ceremony. Throughout the rally, we were all encouraged to give our support to the Junior Appalachian Musicians' (JAM) Program – a program very close to the hearts of Rally organizers Junior & Miss Betty Patton. Many folks were part of the effort to organize and execute this event, led by Georgia Unit Past President Julian Clements and former First Lady Lynne Clements. While flying our flags, wearing our nametags and caps, we did our best to favorably represent the SECU at this wonderful Region 3 Special Event and would strongly encourage more attendance next time from the SECU and others. For bluegrass and old-time music lovers, this is a must see event. Finally, we must confess that we indulged in two of our favorite activities: riding three segments of the New River Bike Trail and making new friends from all over the Airstream world. Now we're on the next stop of our adventure – Highland Haven Airstream Park.

Hope to see y'all down the road (don't forget Alumalina)!

Jim & Betsy Stewart
WBCCI 30020

Boondocking with your Airstream

One thing I have learned over the years, is that the club can be a wealth of information. After looking at the Carolina Balloonfest Rally information I was curious about boondocking, so with a little sleuthing, I found this link.

<https://wbccicaravan.wbcci.net/excellent-technical-articles-by-howard-lefkowitz/boondocking-with-your-airstream/>

I'm not certain when this article was written. But in addition to the great suggestions in the article, we will be carrying and charging our solar lights during the day for use at night. Let the adventure begin.

September Was Lonely - But Not Any More

Betsy and Jim Stewart will host an impromptu rally at Palmetto Cove. Any and all are welcome.



Chasing the Rabbit - Palmetto Cove

When

Friday, Sep. 7th, 5pm

Where

521 Table Rock Road Cleveland, SC

More information

Host - Betsy Stewart - jimandbetsystewart@gmail.com

Happy to have any SECU members join us. Current plans, bike ride on the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

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, mhackney7@comcast.net

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

Some sites are still available 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. Members should please E-mail (awaschka@bellsouth.net) when an application is sent in. 21 Airstreams signed up, including our most recent past WBCCI International President.

This is the second oldest hot air balloon festival in the US. The event attracts nearly 30,000 spectators.

Parking permits are for dry camping only; no electric, sewer or water services on site.

Note the website says no refunds.

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, mhackney7@comcast.net.

Georgia Veterans Park is now listed under Lake Blackshear Resort. Under the accommodations tab look for camping. We are at the non waterfront sites, looking to group on sites 54-72.

JingleFarm

When

Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 2pm

Where

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

More information

Host Lisa Forsyth, ljforsyth2000@gmail.com

Ring In The New Year

When

Friday, Dec. 28th, 10am

Where

Noccalula Falls, Gadsen, Alabama

More information

Host Robin and Bill Harrison, billh723@yahoo.com

Canopener 2019

When

Thursday, Jan. 3rd 2019 at 6pm to Sunday, Jan. 6th 2019 at 5pm

Where

7525 West County Highway 30A
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

More information

This is a national joint rally between Airforums and The Southeastern Camping Unit of the WBCCI. Hosted Annette and Joe Conoly (jsconoly@me.com). No membership of either group is required. A great way to introduce Airstream owners to our club.

Clubhouse has been reserved for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. I expect there will be music, chili, cornhole tournament, bunko, open house and more music. As in the past, there will be early arrivals to bring in the New Year. There is no Rally fee.

Reservations through Reserve America <https://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/topsail-hill-preserve-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FL&parkId=281250>

If sites are full, keep looking as there are cancellations. Set aside some time every day around 8:00am Central Time to check availability again, or consider Grayton Beach. In the past a number of people have cancelled at the last minute, so pack the Airstream and be ready to go.

Elections

Please be on the lookout for information regarding our annual election and bylaws. It should arrive in mid-September.

