

The Southeastern Camping Times

AUGUST 2016

ISSUE SIXTEEN

Enjoy the Ride

Hello from Joe Conoly President Southeastern Camping Unit



In my last message, I said Annette and I were going to try to catch up and do a little more camping. As I'm writing this in mid August, we have added another 29 nights out. It sure has been a fun summer.

The folks at Highland Haven really outdid themselves this year and what a welcome the SECU received. Keith and Barbara Hollister were the Highland Haven hosts during the rally and did an outstanding job of getting everybody parked and made to feel welcome. The park was basically full with the SECU folks, a couple of other guests and more shareholders than have been at the park the last few Memorial Weekends. Everyone who was at the park participated in our activities if they chose and most joined us. We had a great night in town Friday night with pizza outside at the Fire Dog Saloon. There was hiking, kayaking and just site seeing around the area to keep everyone busy. Several of us went to the bee conservatory a few miles from HH which I didn't know existed. It was very interesting to go on the tour and learn more about honey bees and their importance to our food supply.

Our next outing was heading to West Virginia to meet up with our SECU Caravan to go to the International. We were about 50 miles north of Charlotte trying to decide if we wanted to keep driving and go all the way to Gauley Bridge when my weather app that has Gauley Bridge in as a location started to chirp with a flash flood warning. As I was looking at that and trying to pull up the radar, I get a text from Ed saying do not come to campground because we are getting evacuated. What a flood and close call the caravan had. We stopped for the night in Hillsville to spend the night and joined them at another campground for two nights while the folks at Lewisburg recovered from their storms and loss of power.

The International itself was a very positive experience. It way exceeded my expectations. I had heard a lot of negative things about grumpy people saluting each other and forced marches every morning a dawn. What I saw was delightful people, who were more than happy to help everyone have a good time. We had a row of SECU members together and other friends and members very close by. Our unit had something going on every evening and most days groups were heading out to explore the beautiful West Virginia area. Matt and Beth had a large site with two pop up tents that became the hang out and meeting place. You never knew who you were going to see there.

One thing I will tell you, I was very proud and honored to carry the SECU flag in the opening ceremony. I can't tell you how many "cool flag" comments I got. The next International is in Escanaba Michigan. I think all of us who were in Lewisburg signed up during the last days at the rally. It sold out in record time and now has a waiting list. There will be a SECU caravan I hear which I'm sure will be adventurous. If you want to have some fun, get on the waiting list and join in if you haven't signed up.



Joe and Annette

Hello from Joe, cont.

As for unit business, the International nominees were all elected with no nominations from the floor. All the amendments passed as written in the Blue Beret. Our unit has sent out the notice of the annual meeting in October and nominees for our leadership team. My sincere thanks to Past Presidents Craig Stephens and Roy Beavers who served on the nominating committee.

Announcement of Annual SECU Meeting and Election

To remain in compliance with our constitution and bylaws, Beth Hackney, on July 12, made the formal announcement of our annual meeting which will take place at the "Alumalina Fall Edition" rally at Palmetto cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC 29653. Details of the rally appear in the "upcoming group events section" of the SECU web page. The election and meeting will be held on Saturday October 29, 2016 after breakfast. This should be the easiest day for all of our members working or not to attend.

The nominating committee met and will present the following slate of officers to the members at our annual meeting:

- Ed Overcash President
- Nancy Gore Vice President
- Beth Hackney Treasurer
- Bill Harrison Secretary
- Don Hughes Trustee (1 year remaining)
- Michael Cagle (2 year to replace Cissy Thibadeau)

At this time nominations from the floor are now open and will remain open until September 25th. Please send any nominations to Joe Conoly at jconoly@gmail.com. Please ensure anyone you nominate is both willing to serve as well as a regular member of our unit.

Electronic balloting will open on September 26th and run until October 21st. Remember only one ballot per member unit. You may vote either electronically or in person at the meeting. Roy Beavers will run the electronic portion of our election.

Ed Overcash, President

We are Bonnie, Ed and Shadow Overcash. A little background: Bonnie and I have been in the Airstream family for about 4 years, coming into the unit when there were only about 12 members. Roy Beavers was the President then, our first. What drew us to the SECU was my association with Craig Stevens, the units 2nd President. We've known each other for about 25 years, both being pilots for Delta Airlines. We purchased a 1967 17' Caravel, went to our first rally, the rest is history. Somehow the 17 footer turned into a 30 footer over time.

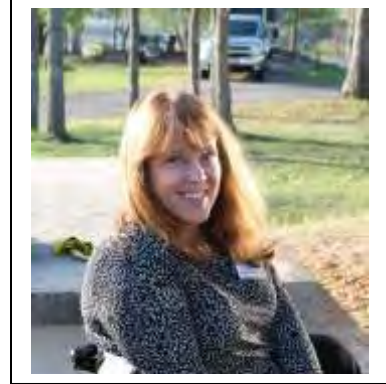
Bonnie and I both work for Delta Airlines, a combined 64 years. I started off in the Navy and retired with 29 active and reserve years in 2006. We will be married 10 years this New Years Eve. We're still working, so our camping trips are planned pretty far out. We like to camp mostly in the Spring and Fall so our 10 year old "Shadow" stays comfortable.

Looking forward to meeting those who we haven't met at a rally or campfire soon. Our Facebook page shows 141 member now, quite a difference from 4 years ago. Like minded people having fun, we're glad to be here.

Ed, Bonnie, and Shadow



Nancy Gore, Vice President



After nearly 30 years in the corporate world, I decided (and thankfully my husband Mike agreed) it was time to live my dream of going into teaching as a second career, having summers off, buying an Airstream and traveling. That was ten years ago, and what a great decade it has been.

The Hackneys became some of our first Airstream friends, and we were excited about the formation of this club and loved the philosophy of getting back to the roots of WBCCI by forming short, fun rallies that could be done without being retired. While I no longer teach public high school, I still teach part time but at a technical college. Mike, my husband of now 20 years, has been retired for the past few years and has been instrumental in redesigning our Airstream to make it accommodate my physical challenges.

It has been exciting to see how quickly our club has grown. Members have created some fun rallies at beautiful campsites throughout our region. With each new rally, we make new friends and build great memories.

Beth Hackney, Treasurer

Matt and I have been members of the WBCCI for 10 years which is how long we have owned our Airstream. We both still work full time, but call ourselves 'full time weekenders'.



Since the beginning of the year, we have only stayed home 5 weekends to date. This means we put lots of miles on our trailer. You can guess that we camp over 100 nights a year because we are blessed with 6 weeks of vacation and a 4-10 schedule. We look forward to traveling even more when we can retire. WBCCI has a

lot to offer, and we are always looking for ways to move the club forward. It is a pleasure to be part of the Southeastern Camping Unit, and we try to attend every unit rally (only missed one this year). Our current membership is 86 regular members and 45 affiliates, so the unit continues to grow in only our third year. The treasury at this time is \$442.29.

Bill Harrison, Secretary

My wife Robin and I happened upon The Southeastern Camping Unit and the WBCCI by chance when we attended our first Airstream Rally (Falluminum) over 3 years ago. We had just purchased a 1977 Argosy and headed to the mountains to meet new friends. Upon arrival a group



invited us over to their site for a meet and greet. Little did we know during this rally that the SECU was conducting their first business meeting with Roy Beavers being elected president. This group treated us like old friends and we were invited to several upcoming rallies. At the New Year's Rally, we realized we had found the unit we wanted to be part of.

We have been with the WBCCI and The Southeastern Camping Unit for 3 years and enjoy attending rallies as often as possible in our 1986 Sovereign. Unfortunately, with my work schedule we don't get to camp nearly as often as we would like and most of our camping at this time is limited to GA, TN, AL and SC.

Typically, we are able to squeeze in 6-8 trips a year but hopefully there are more trips in our future. Robin and I also enjoy hosting rallies such as The Blah Blah rallies and our most recent Kentucky Derby Rally at Stone Mountain that was enjoyed by all. Hosting with this group is easy since we all are just looking to have fun camping with friends.

Thank you to everyone in SECU for making this the best unit possible and we look forward to more camping with old and new friends alike.

Don Hughes, Trustee

We've been members of WBCCI for ten years and SECU members for the last three. We spend about three months total camping a year which happily seems to increase every year. This has been mainly from Michigan (Jackie's home state) to Florida (we met and fell in love in Coconut Grove) with our first trip out west last fall (including the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque).

We will be holding our first rally this September at the Kentucky Bourbon Festival in Bardstown, Kentucky. (We're learning how to do this rally planning.)



Jackie and I have been

married 35 years and have four children, and four grandchildren. We currently live on Goat Rock Lake on the Chattahoochee River in Smiths Station, Alabama. We have courtesty parking with a lovely view of the lake if you find yourself over our way. The SECU has been just what we were looking for and hope to give of our time to the fun, as so many of you do also.

Michael Cagle, Trustee



I joined WBCCI in 2012, initially in Region 6 Mississippi Unit and for the past 2 years I have been a member of Region 3 SECU. I retired as Chief Petty Officer United States Navy in 1995 after 22 years of active duty. Then I worked as a Criminal Investigator with

the Department of Veterans Affairs and retired from that position in 2014. Since then, I have been consulting investigations for the County Prosecutors Office and Sheriff's Department.

This year I have over 100 days on the road and in my Airstream. I am slowly creeping into full timing. I travel extensively in the Southeast. I've been as far north as West Virginia to attend the 2016 International. My bucket list includes the 2017 International, Southwest States, Alaska and wherever my travels take me.

Upcoming Rallies through December

The Stream Shine Rally, September 1-3

Activities available are Kayaking (Fontana Lake and Nantahala River), Pontoon boat (Fontana Lake), Rafting (Nantahala River, NOC), Hiking (Appalachian Trail, Joyce Kilmer Forest), dine at the Nantahala Brewing Company in Bryson City Friday night. If you want to tour the Brewery please let me know so I can make reservation for Friday: 1 pm, 2:30 pm --\$15 per person (includes a flight of up to six of our beers and a branded pint glass.) Breakfast is potluck each morning (I'll have the coffee on.) Lunch on your own. Dinner Saturday night I will have "just out of the creek" Rainbow Trout and please bring your favorite potluck dish. I'm working on a couple of other items but not nailed down yet. Stay tuned! For reservations, please call the campground (828) 479-3953.



Kentucky Bourbon Festival Rally – Whites Acres Campground, Bardstown, KY September 13-18

Since 1776, the people of Bardstown have been making Bourbon and have earned the title of Bourbon Capital of the World. Come celebrate this passion and history at The Kentucky Bourbon Festival.



Falluminum Rally Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee October 20-23

Don't miss this great annual event in this lovely park with a spectacular lake. Please mention the Airstream Rally when you call. See the AirForums page for more information.



Alumalina 2016 Fall Edition Palmetto Cove RV Park in Cleveland, SC Oct. 27 - 30

Alumalina has become one of the largest rallies in the southeast with 120 Airstreams attending in the Fall of 2016. **We will also have our unit's annual meeting and election officers.** See AirForums page for more info.



Christmas in Savannah Red Gate RV Park, Dec. 8 - 11

See Savannah during the holidays. The park is located at 136 Red Gate Farms Trail Savannah, GA 31405. For reservations, call (912) 272-8028. **YOU MUST PHONE TO GET RALLY RATE!** Don't do it online. Be sure to mention "Airstream group- SECU." The campgrounds rate for our rally is \$40 a night (usually \$49) for full hookup.



Scenes of Summer 2016



Business meeting Southeastern style



Hat Say...Don't look down!

A walk with friends



Sharing meals with friends