

Southeastern Camping Unit

Volume 32, October 2018

Nancy's Notes

It has been an honor to serve as your president this past year. What an amazing year it has been. As I look back at my calendar, I see we were able to make seven rallies this year. Not bad for someone who is still working. And the rallies have all been unique in several respects. There was the December Tellus rally that became the white-out snow rally at McKinney where I got to play in the snow with some of my best friends. Then there was Farm Life in Florida, where we sat by the fire and sang with Antsy McClain, we paddled with alligators, and we watched the chickens chase each other. In April there was Region 3 at Myrtle Beach, where we watched the Blue Angels zoom right over us, had the ocean in our back yard, and I learned about Region meetings. We welcomed May with the always fun Derby Rally, complete with flamingo races, Derby hat contests, lots of legal betting for fun, and delicious mint juleps to top it all off. Also in May we visited a new campground in Alabama, and loved it so much we will have our New Year's celebration rally there. After that, it was the long, amazing trek in June through July across the United States with a few of our SECU friends to attend the International Rally. There I learned about the history of WBCCI, the inner and outer workings of our trailers, cooking ideas, and rally ideas. My last rally was a do-over of the Tellus, but unfortunately I was called away on a family emergency as my sister went into hospice and Mike hosted in my absence. I received so much love, support, and prayers after losing my sister to cancer, which has helped me as I begin to navigate this uncharted territory of life without her.

While each of these rallies had their own unique venues and activities, what they of course all had in common were the wonderful people who love to travel. I have met so many people this year and made new friends that I hope to be camping with for years to come. In a world that is becoming more and more divisive, it's wonderful to be in a group that can put our political differences aside and simply enjoy each other's company, enjoy the beauty of nature, and share stories of the places we have been and the people we have met. When I bought our Airstream ten years ago, I had no idea what an amazing adventure I was embarking upon. Turning sixty this year has also made me reflect on my life and its many blessings. Being a member of SECU is certainly one of those many blessings. One of the many things I learned in Salem is that we have a very unique club, but I love the things that make us unique. I love that we go so many different places, and I love the way we collaborate on our rallies without putting undue burden on any individual member. I hope you, too, have enjoyed being a member or affiliate of SECU, and if so I encourage you to get your dues in by November 1st.

I look forward to seeing you at the end of the month at Alumalina as we welcome in our new board. If you are unable to join us, please remember to vote. We have a great crew coming together again to

serve the club. I have been so impressed with the folks I've worked with this year. They have been the true workers behind the scenes. Carol has done an outstanding job of the newsletter. Beth keeps us all together with her eye on our money and our membership. Bill has taken the lead on coordinating several rallies for next year. And of course at the foundation of it is our most excellent web master Roy Beavers who keeps our website up and running and sends you the newsletters that Carol expertly creates. It has been a great team and I have enjoyed working with them. Each of them has volunteered to continue serving SECU for another year, and I am grateful for their dedication to the club. We have an outstanding line up of rallies already for 2019, and I look forward to seeing you down the road!
Nancy



GA Mountain Air Recap - Bill and Robin Harrison

Once again SECU was pleased to co-host the Ga Mountain Air Fall Edition in Hiawassee. There was a total of 21 rigs with over half of them being members or affiliates of SECU. Things officially kicked off Friday evening with happy hour where everyone had a chance to introduce themselves. The meet and greet on Friday night was accompanied by live music thanks to Ron and Phil, and allowed the opportunity to meet new members of the SECU and mingled with old friends.

After a potluck breakfast Saturday morning, there was time to go hiking, visit shops in town or just relax before the tour of trailers. The weather was perfect as we walked around Saturday for the trailer tour. Saturday nights pot luck had some delicious food choices, more live music from Ron, Phil and many of the Kaes children, singing and the gift exchange. Pressed into service at the last moment Robin emceed but Ron & Brenda's kids chose the gift, picked the names and handed out the gifts so we're not sure what the emcee was there for!

I would like to give a special thanks to Matt Hackney, Lynnetta Wilson Sanders and Ron Kaes for continuing the spring and fall rallies in Hiawassee.

Thank you to everyone that attended. You are truly what makes a rally, without you it would just be camping. All in all it was another successful gathering of friends and we hope to see you there next

time.

For those individuals who plan in advance we have two dates to place on your calendar,

March 22 - 24, 2019
November 8 - 10, 2019

Call Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds on or after December 4th, (706) 896-4191.

Renewal of WBCCI Membership

As of the first week in October, we still had **about 70 members** who have not renewed. Please take a moment now and renew. The club offers so many benefits on both a local and national level. In the past I have heard that many renew late because they do not want their address included in the WBCCI Membership directory. You can opt out of having your information included at anytime.

The easiest way for our local club is if you renew on line. <http://wbcci.org> If you really want to speak to someone in person, our awesome unit membership/treasurer volunteer will be at the Balloon Rally in Stateville, NC and also at Alumalina in Marion, NC.

Here is the link again, in case you missed it. <http://wbcci.org>

Election For Unit Officers

In a separate newsletter, (Also dated September, 2018) Nancy Gore sent out instructions for voting for officers, **electronic voting will close on October 21st**. If you missed voting electronically, you may vote at the business meeting on October 27th. The slate is:

Elections for Unit Office 2018 - 2019 Nominees for Office

President Bill Harrison

Vice President Carol Stephens

Secretary Kate Coast

Treasurer / Membership Beth Hackney

Trustee (2 year term) Denise McMullin Fleming (Previously appointed to fill the un-expired term vacated by Michael Cagle).

Trustee Debbie Landers is continuing with her 2nd year as trustee (no vote needed on this)

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 awaschka@bellsouth.net

23 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. All attendees should have their parking pass and wrist bands for admittance to the event.

**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

Saturday, Oct. 27th, 10:30am

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 normally is during the morning on Saturday, but the rally itself begins on Thursday. The business meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. following breakfast. We will gather at the Pavilion for the meeting.

Reserve with Sandlapper on Air Forums. He will be the keeper of the list. You are welcome to come early and stay late, same rate \$32.00 per night. Rally fee is \$50.00 for two or more, \$25.00 for singles. They will collect the camping fee and the rally fee. **Rally fee to be paid in cash or by check, camping fee may be paid by credit card.**

All group activities will be under the Pavilion unless otherwise noted. Please bring your SET UPS to the meals (Plates, utensils, drink, etc.)

We have a great rally planned, including meals, seminars, open house, craft/flea markets, group therapy, and much more. So please don't be shy, make yourself at home, get out and meet your neighbors, explore the area, and have a wonderful time.

They 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.

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

Big Pig Jig Rally (Our First Rally, but the 37th Annual BIG PIG JIG®)

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.

Lots of activity at this rally!

Friday will be a tour of two U.S. National Park Services historical sites, Andersonville NHS <https://www.nps.gov/ande/index.htm> and Jimmy Carter NHS <https://www.nps.gov/jica/index.htm> This is being organized by Kim and Kate Coast two retirees from the National Park Services. Thanks for contributing!

Pot Luck dinners and breakfasts

Big Pig Jig - Depart 11:00 AM (note - Sampler available at 2pm while they last)

November 2 and 3rd

"Often imitated but not yet duplicated, BIG PIG JIG® remains the southeast's largest and Georgia's oldest OFFICIAL barbecue cooking contest. BIG PIG JIG® was born in Vienna, Georgia when a group of self-professed gourmets made wagers on who among them could cook the most succulent pig!"

JingleFarm

When

Wednesday, Dec. 12th, 2pm

Where

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

More information

Preliminary numbers are in, so far about 19 units.

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.

North Florida State Park Closures

Hurricane Michael did a lot of damage in the panhandle area. Many Florida State Parks closed in anticipation of the incoming storm. As of October 15th, Topsail Hill Preserve State Park campground is closed. Please use the following link to continue to check the status of the park.

<http://floridastateparks.org/stormupdates>

Hurricane Michael

Please keep our Region 3 WBCCI members who may have been affected by the storm in your thoughts.

