



# Region 3 Hi-Lites

Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida



June 2008

To Be Shared With All Members

## The Presidents Corner



### Greetings Region 3 Members

The Region 3 "Springtime, Carolina Style" in Raleigh, NC is now complete. This newsletter would not have enough space for me to express my sincere **THANKS** to all the chairman and their assistants, who contributed to insure that our members would enjoy and have lots of fun. The tours were a great experience and the seminars well attended.

The Region also awarded the Merit Award certificates and ribbons, to the leading Unit's Past Presidents. I believe that every Unit, in our Region is qualified to be a Merit Award winner, so start this year setting such a goal. Fill out the paperwork and plan your activities to reach your goal. We are capable of 100% of our Unit's as winners.

We now shift our attention to Bozeman, MT and our International Rally. For the President's not attending this rally, it is important that you vote one of your members to be your delegate, send in the credentials, to Jackson Center, promptly. All members should be told of motions and people running for office, so your delegate can vote the will of your membership. If your members are not represented at this important, once a year meeting, their interests are not represented in our Club.

My term as Region 3 President is in the final months. Jackie and I want to express to you our sincere **THANKS** to all the members of the Region who have helped us to keep Region 3 the leader in WBCCI. Many members worked hard at each of our Region Rallies and Winter Board Meeting, at Perry. We could never have been able to make them a success without your help, **THANKS** again. I am assured that the new team will keep our Region alive and well, with a full year of activities and caravans. Jackie and I will continue to visit our many friends and Unit's in the future.

Tom Tisdell  
Region 3, President

## REGION 3 REPORTS

### Our New 2nd Vice President says:

We will be implementing articles for the Region 3 newsletter each quarter. I will be putting together news about the happenings in the Florida Units. This is new to me and I haven't had time to contact all of the Unit Presidents in Florida.

We had a great turnout at the Region 3 Rally in Raleigh,

N.C. an are expecting and even better turnout for the Region 3 Rally in Perry, GA., April 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2009. For us down in Florida the Perry Rally is just up the road so we should be well represented.

Also, we have the Florida State Rally in Sarasota, FL., February 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and the Easter Rally, April 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in St. Augustine, FL. All in all, the Florida Units should be looking forward to a good year of fun and fellowship.

As the new Region 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President I will be doing the Installation Ceremonies for the

- Florida Spring Unit, October 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at Travelers Rest;
- Central Florida Unit, October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> at Christmas, FL.
- Tampa Bay Unit, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Travelers Rest;
- Florida Sun Coast Unit, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Venice, FL.

I am looking forward to serving the Units in Region 3, and will be at your disposal for the next few years.

Thanks for the opportunity you have afforded me to serve as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Hope to see you in Bozeman and get to know each one of you.

Happy Streaming & have a Great Summer,

Walter Culley Region 3 2nd Vice President  
Ph: (850) 933-3900  
e-mail: [wvculley@embarqmail.com](mailto:wvculley@embarqmail.com).

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## REGION 3 ROUNDUP

### The Florida Unit Recaps 2007-2008

By Vic Smith

The Florida Unit has had an event-filled year beginning with the November Election rally at the beautiful Camelot RV Park in Malabar Florida. Highlights of the rally were the SunCruz Casino boat trip and the tour of the interesting shops in downtown Melbourne. Dave Wenger was elected President, taking the reins from Vic Smith.

Next was our annual Cracker Christmas Volunteer and Installation Rally at Fort Christmas Florida. We assisted Orange County Parks and Recreation getting the Fort and



outbuildings ready for the Cracker Christmas Celebration. During the weekend we volunteer at the various venues, doctent the many period homes on the property and dress in late 1800's costumes. The Cracker Christmas was attended by over

22,000 people on the first weekend of December 2007.

The Florida Unit took an active roll in the Florida State Rally in February. We were responsible for traffic handling on the last day of the rally at the

sanitation dump stations. Additionally we ran Bingo, supported the coffee and doughnut breakfasts each morning and several other activities. Our own Frank Carson, who for several years has been on the Board of Governors, is now the Rally Chairman. Already he has changed the opening ceremonies to Tuesday night, giving the rally one additional day at



no increase in cost. Congratulations to Frank, who incidentally wears several berets. He is Treasurer of the Florida Unit, Membership Chair for Region 3, Membership Chair for International organization, and Rally Organizer for the St. Augustine Easter Rally which is a National Rally. Frank is ably supported by his wife Joan.

In March, we had two back to back rallies. The annual Bluegrass Festival Volunteer Rally at Fort Christmas which is similar to the Cracker Christmas but on a smaller scale. The day after this rally ended, the Easter Rally started which meant we had to split our forces to handle them both. After the Bluegrass ended the volunteers had to hustle to St. Augustine to work their magic there.

The St. Augustine Easter Rally was the highlight of the year for the Florida Unit. Frank and Joan Carson have been the driving force behind this rally for 11 years. They have built a very positive relationship with the St. Augustine

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## From The Editor's Desk



It has been a while since the last issue of the Hi-Lites. We will continue with this, the June 2008 issue and follow with quarterly issues. The next issue will be due out on September 15 with the input due into me by September 1. I will accept input via e-mail, snail mail, telegraph, telephone, semaphore, clay tablet or skywriting.

This issue and the next will be done from the Saratoga RV Park in Saratoga NY. We are here until the first of October, hopefully. The wife and I leave the Heat, Humidity and Hurrricanes of lovely Palm Bay, Florida for the cooler, drier clime of New York and New England for the summer. Our Airstream makes that possible. Through the magic of WiFi, internet, e-mail and smoke and mirrors I will get these issues out. Of course none of this is possible without input from the Region and the Units. So keep that card and letter coming in folk.

Many, many thanks to all who submitted articles for this months issue.

Your Editor

Vic Smith [heartofglory1@aol.com](mailto:heartofglory1@aol.com)

## The Inbox

### Valve Stem Failures

By Bill Reilly as told to Frank Carson

I have owned my Bambi since the summer of 2004 and have had to replace the road side tire at least once a year and the curbside tire only once. Some people say that's not bad considering I have over 40,000 miles on the Bambi. I know why I had to replace the curb side tire, the dreaded nail at the edge of the tread and right into the side wall.

The problem I had with the road side was the tire always lost air quickly and I couldn't get off the road in time to save the tire. That's the problem with having a one axle trailer. Well the last time was a different story. After exchanging the tire for my spare, I examined it only to find now obvious damage to the tread area. After a through examination at the house, I found a bad valve stem. When the

*(Continued on page 7)*

# REGION 3 UNIT RALLIES

## July August September

### Georgia Unit

#### Top of Georgia Plans an Exciting Year

The Top of Georgia Airstream Park has never looked as pretty as it does this spring with mountain laurel and cherry trees blooming along the bubbling brook that meanders through the Park.

Our volunteers did a magnificent job during workdays freshening up the park for another active summer season.

#### 5 exciting rallies planned

Activities planned include five rallies at the Park with unique activities including gold panning, polygraph testing, kids scavenger hunt, spinning wheel demonstration, night



viewing of mountain foxfire, pet shows (last year a pet rock got honorable mention), dinosaur egg (water melons) hunt, family treasure hikes in the adjoining Chattahoochee National Forest with kids looking for coins under rocks, horse shoes, tether ball, metal detecting for coins, and wiener roasts with fried pies.

#### Visitors are in for a treat

Visitors who pass through our Park enjoy the many nearby sites and activities including Anna Ruby and Dukes Creek waterfalls, Helen's shops and buggy rides, Bear Park, Corn Maize, the Cabbage Patch Doll Hospital, the Dahlonega Gold Museum and gold panning sites, Brass Bald Mountain Park, Smithgall Woods, hiking the many mountain trails including the Appalachian Trail just up the road, white water rafting, and tubing the Chattahoochee.

### Independence Day Rally

Our next rally at the "Top" will be the Independence Day Rally on **June 28-July 4** in the majestic mountains of North Georgia. Contact Rob Kelly for all the particulars.

### Looking for a great stop-over site?

For units planning local caravans or rallies, the Top of Georgia is available during non-rally weeks at our continuing low rate of \$7 a night with full hooks up, pavilion, cable TV, and WiFi.

Contact the President, Rob Kelly, for more information at: [rrkelly@bellsouth.net](mailto:rrkelly@bellsouth.net) or 770.516.7044.

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### Carolinas Unit of North Carolina

July 3-6 Rally, Highland Haven Airstream Park, Copper Hill VA. Contact Bob Clark 336-210-7611

### Georgia Unit

July 2-6 Independence Day Rally at Top of Georgia, Helen GA. Contact Rob Kelly 770-516-7044

### Virginia Unit

July 16-20 Rally, Jessie Lea CG, Big Stone Gap, VA, 900 Wood Ave W. Contact Steve Lambert at 434-933-8513.



### the Vintage Airstream Podcast

podcast is a digital recording of a radio broadcast or similar programme, made available on the Internet for downloading to a personal audio player

If you own an Airstream and especially if you own a vintage Airstream (25 years old or older) then you might be interested in listening to the Vintage Airstream Podcast. The internet address is <http://www.thevap.com/>.

TheVAP is free although donations are accepted. The programs cover a wide range of subjects of interest to the Airstreamer community.



Here's a "typical" Vintage Airstream. It's a 1978 31' Excella



## REGION 3 ROUNDUP (cont)

(Continued from page 2)

Royal Family, Chamber of Commerce, and the St. John's County Fairgrounds administrators. This year they were assisted by Ed and Marion Krajewski (Cry ess' key). The rally fee included four days of Red Train touring around St. Augustine, 6 nights of entertainment, a boat trip on the Matanzas River, a tour of one of the local attractions, two breakfasts, one barbecue dinner and one Easter Ham dinner, evening refreshments, the Earl Leggett Olympic Games, an Easter Egg hunt and a caravan to the Easter Sunrise service at the Castillo de San Marcos. The Easter Parade was canceled this year, but will be reinstated next year.

Larry Scovoto designed, coordinated the production of and found a sponsor for our Unit T-shirts. We are indebted



to J D Sanders RV Center, the Airstream Dealer in Alachua Florida, for their sponsorship. Our hats are off to Larry for his efforts on behalf of the Unit. The shirts were unveiled at the Florida State Rally.

Our season culminated with the Superior Merit Award given at the Region 3 Rally in Raleigh, NC.

Vic Smith, Immediate Past President

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### The Northern Virginia Unit Roundup

As usual, the Northern Virginia Unit has been very active. Our year started with the Marine Corps Band Concert Rally in Washington led by our oldest active member and WW II veteran Fred Carmichael. Next came the rally at the Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport and our usual good showing at the Florida State Rally. Herb Quade, noted International 'Blue Beret' safety columnist, again highlighted our Breakout Rally at Misty Mountain in Crozet, Virginia along with good barbecue and local entertainment.

The Region III Rally in Raleigh was very well attended by NORVA members and Past President Elaine Ulrich received the Outstanding Unit award from President Tom Tisdell. May was highlighted by another good turnout by Northern Virginia at the Commonwealth Rally in Virginia Beach where Dick Arnold, among others, was nearly done in by the 'Beans'. Our members also approved a motion to move the Commonwealth Rally to September and include installation of all incoming Virginia officers to reduce travel costs

for Region officers and aid in smooth working relationships between the Virginia Units.

Although a few have changed their plans, NORVA will be well represented at Bozeman and will head-up two committees and work on several others. Our teen queen first runner-up from last year will be starting a Rotary Club scholarship in Peru and will miss the Rally. Our members also plan to be very competitive in the Unit Publications, Photo, Bulletin Board, Hobby, games, and other contests. Go NORVA!

PAUL PEARCE, President  
avianhill@earthlink.net

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### Spring Comes to the Tidewater

Rick Bell

Spring has come and summer is quickly approaching. The Northern part of Region 3 is alive and well. The Tidewater Unit hosted the Commonwealth Rally in Virginia Beach this year at the Trav-L-Campground. This is a wonderful place for a rally with pull through sites, shade and a very nice room to hold meetings and socials. There were forty units on the grounds all parked in an area set aside just for us. A local caterer "Beach Bully" provided us with outstanding meals and plenty of food, we didn't run out and actually asked for people to bring containers to take the food back to their units. The weather co-operated nicely, a bit windy at times but still nice to sit out in the fresh air. The "Sounds of Freedom" were all around us as we watched fighter jets doing "Touch and Go's" at the Oceana air station just a few miles away. The park is about 1/2 mile east of the ocean; a very short bike ride. Several of our group took advantage of this and even got more ambitious and rode to the boardwalk and enjoyed a ride up and down while taking in the sites of the Atlantic Ocean, the beautiful sandy beach and all the various places to eat and shop.

Don and Ann Shafer were there and brought us up to date on the happenings of International, Rick and Carol Bell represented Region 3 and all of the Virginia units were represented as well. It's great to see how well the units work and socialize together. Virginia put together a nice breakfast for the Rally and everyone pitched in to help decorate, serve, and put the room back better than they found it. It makes me proud to be a part of such a well run compatible group.

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## REGION 3 REPORTS (cont)

(Continued from page 1)

### Region 3 Membership Report May/June, 2008

Here we are at the end of spring with summer just around the corner. Many of us are getting ready to head to Bozeman, MT. Last minute checks of tires etc. This past year the club has seen some light at the end of the tunnel. Membership losses in the WBCCI have declined and it is time to start thinking about ways to bring our numbers back up. Region 3 totals have declined a total of twenty-two members. Out of twenty-two Units in Region 3, thirteen Units lost membership, eight Units gained and one remained even. As you can see by the total loss in Region 3, that the Unit losses were not great.

One way to bring the Region and unit totals up is to start recruiting Member's at Large. A lot of these members join as MAL because they don't know what clubs are available in their immediate area. Most of these MAL's are actually paying the same dues as us or more then they would as a regular member. I understand there is a movement to raise the MAL dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. If this comes to pass, it should be easier to recruit MAL's to your unit.

Here is what I would like to see each unit do for me, your Region 3 Membership Chairman. **If each unit sends me a current email address of their Membership Chairman, or an email address from one of the officers in their unit,** I will contact all the new Members at Large in Region 3, and attempt to convert them to a local unit. Jodi Morris, the head of Membership in Headquarters, sends out a list of all new members including all new MAL's to each Region Membership Chairmen. This way we can contact the new MAL's even before they receive their WBCCI numbers. The majority of WBCCI losses come from the MAL section of the club. I feel that these losses have come about because the MAL's have not had the opportunity to attend one of their local unit rallies. This is a shame because they do not know what they are missing. If all WBCCI members would become involved in their local unit by attending some unit rallies, our membership would not be declining. I have always said if you have a good rally and price it right, your members will attend.

As you know by the price of fuel, some of our attendance at rallies will decline. Consider lengthening your rallies but not sacrificing your weekend activities. This might help to bring up your attendance. Having something more than a two night rally might influence more members to attend.

Here's hoping to see you down the road.

**Frank Carson, Region 3 Membership Chair**  
**Email: fc23343@aol.com**

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## REGION 3 Rally Report

### First Time Attendee Reviews Reg. 3 Rally

By Randy Godfrey  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Florida Unit

When we arrived at the NC State Fairgrounds, which is very easy to get to from I-40, we were parked at a site with water, 20a electric and a shared sewer connection. Some sites even had 30/50a. This is a nice place to have a rally and a good place to camp for the night if you're passing through. In addition to the rally fee, there was a \$20.00 per night charge that you pay to the fairgrounds for camping there. I think I recall seeing this in the flyers, but nevertheless was surprised when asked for it.

At first the agenda seemed a little sparse, not packed with events like the FL State Rally. There were also fewer units there. I think I heard that around 120 trailers/motor homes were in attendance. The sparse agenda though, gave us plenty of time to explore the Raleigh area. On Tuesday before the opening ceremony, Pat and I explored downtown Raleigh and the historic Oakwood neighborhood that borders the Oakwood Cemetery, a Civil War burial ground. The Oakwood neighborhood contains many beautifully restored homes and the spring flowers were in bloom everywhere.

On Thursday we took the rally tour of the Duke Family Homestead, Duke University Chapel, and the Duke Gardens. The history of the Duke family is the history of tobacco in America. This is well displayed in the museum and the old buildings at the homestead. The chapel was breathtaking. It was built in the 1930s to look like it was hundreds of years old, and they succeeded. There are three pipe organs in the chapel, and we heard a demo of one of the largest ones. The gardens were very lovely with all the spring flowers and shrubbery in bloom. On Friday, we and some new friends, Bob and Bonnie Herman of the Tampa Bay FL Unit, found our way to the NC State University Arboretum, which was very near the rally site, and worth the trip.

The official events of the rally kept us busy the rest of the time. The Get Acquainted Hour before the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday was fun. At registration we each received colored plates that we had to match to tablecloths at the gathering. We all brought an hors d'oeuvre to share.

The only significant business other than elections of the new Region 3 officers was to vote on whether or not to send the motor home constitutional amendment proposed by the South Florida Unit to the IBT. This was defeated by a two to one margin. The new Region 3 officers are: Julian Clements, President; Rick Bell, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Walter Culley, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

The Unit Leadership Workshop on Wednesday af-

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## REGION 3 Rally Report(cont)

(Continued from page 5) *First Time Attendee*

ternoon was very informative. The Friday Caravan Seminar led by Bob Bennett, and Safety Seminar led by Herb Quade (both writers for the Blue Beret) were very informative. It was also great to meet these guys personally. I learned much in these sessions.

We were served two good meals: lunch on Wednesday and dinner on Saturday. Three nights of entertainment that was good, but a little Lawrence Welk'ish for Pat and me. Actually the comedian on Friday was pretty funny, and the orchestra on Saturday played well, but just not our style. A singer/songwriter, or a regional Bluegrass or Country group would have been more to our liking.

On Saturday there was an Airstream flea market followed by the NC State Fairgrounds flea market. You could spend your whole day shopping. The VAC held its traditional open house on Saturday afternoon, and the Closing Ceremony was that evening.

Sunday morning was busy with everyone trying to get away before the 9:00 a.m. flea market crowd returned.

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Members of the Florida Springs Unit enjoying a meal at the Region 3 Rally

Courtesy of Frank & Sonja Meistrell

### Predictions of the Future by Those Who Should Know

Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."  
--Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."

--Ken Olson, president, chairman, and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

## REGION 3 ROUNDUP (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

### *Georgia Unit Sponsors a Buddy Rally at Top Of Georgia over Memorial Day Weekend*

Wow!! What a rally. Feedback on the Buddy-Homecoming-Memorial May Rally was terrific - from Top members, Buddies, visiting Airstreamers, and even the Sagon RV salesmen. Thanks to all those who made it happen, and, it did take a lot of volunteerism from grass cutting to cooking to leading the games. Thank you and give yourself a Top-of-Georgia hug.

We had 70 Airstream units participating and 11 Buddies from as far as Mississippi. I think some are strongly thinking "Airstream" now because of the good times and hospitality extended to them. The kids came in droves, too. Over dozen from ages 3 to 16.

### Rally Highlights

- Mary Holcomb's Sundaes on Wednesday at registration.

- Breakfast prepared by Jack Jones' and his famous kitchen crew

- Ladies Day Out to Hiwassee and Enricos for lunch.

- The fellows headed off for either golf or Adventurers Day Out for an underground tour of the 1800's Consolidated Gold Mine and gold panning in Dahlonega.

- An open fire roasting fried cherry, apple and blueberry pies with our pie irons (ooh, they're good!) and marshmallows, we sang along with Warren Fore, Butch Bethel and Ralph Jones on their guitars singing old favorites. Warren treated us to an Airstream song written by his wife, Sharon Fore, in 1983.

- Homecoming drew a group of old-time Airstreamers for a great "All American" luncheon organized by Carol Cone. Home comers included Theresa Smith, Charles and Clara Smith, Jerry Dietzler, Bob Jackson, George Jones, Joe Lasserre, and Helen Thompson. We enjoyed having you.

- An "Open House" where the Buddies got to see a variety of Airstreams, as well as, the new Airstreams brought up by Sagon RV.

- Kids activities, assisted by Charles Whittington abounded with Hoola Hooping, Frisbee throwing, ladder golfing, a scavenger hunt, searching for coins in the grass with a metal detector, and gold panning in the cool park stream, treasure hikes in the adjoining Chattahoochee National Forest where they found more coins hidden under rocks.

- A Memorial Church Service, led by our Unit Chaplain, Rev. Jack Bradshaw, we honored those Airstream members who passed away during the year. Families and dear friends received memorial flowers for Charles Beam,

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## REGION 3 ROUNDUP (cont)

(Continued from page 6) Georgia Unit Sponsors

Agnes Beck, L.B. Dollar, Monon L. Morris, Tom Parker, Lynwood Weeks, and Charlotte Wooster. Afterwards we reminisced of those passed, and fellowshipped as we roasted hotdogs over an open fire as the warming sun trickled down through the trees by the bubbling brook. It was nice.

- Walter Berg, our Caravan Chairman and caravan videographer who has been on 26 caravans, intrigued a group with enticing videos he made of various caravans around the country. Claudia Litton and Cissy Thibadeau related their memorable experiences on the recent "Springtime in Kentucky" caravan. Looks like some will soon be "going down the road."

- Charles Maddocks, our Property Manager and professional polygrapher dispelled myths of lie detectors and gave us the straight scoop on the techniques of catching the guilty in a lie.

- Other favorite activities that filled the remaining hours included card games, horseshoes, darts, holey board, door prizes, bingo, popcorn, award ceremony, ice cream social, and professional entertainment. Thanks to all who made all these fun activities happen.

- And finally, after dark we gingerly trekked a short ways up Andrews Creek where we spotted the mystical twinkling of the Foxfire along the opposite bank and marveled at another of Mother Nature's mysteries.

Thanks again to *all* who helped make this a memorable rally of **Fun, Fellowship and Adventure!**

See you at Top (after we get back from Bozeman)

Rob and Jan Kelly

President and First Lady

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Dean Crane, Mike King, Julian Clements and Al Holcomb heading out for a round of golf.



Ava Burgess, Caroline Hurst, and Mary Claire Donahue visiting from Atlanta roast marshmallows on the fire pit



The park was full with 81 trailers, motor homes, and "Some-Other-Brand" RVs of the Buddies

The kids and Lin Thompkins take a break at trails end up scenic Andrews Creek



James Richards, Matt Hackney and Frank Anderson tour the hard rock tunnels of the Consolidated Gold Mine in Dahlonega

(Continued from page 2)

### Valve Stem Failures (cont)

tire was removed from rim I did a little investigating. What I found was a very sharp edge on the inside of the valve stem hole. During the manufacturing of the rim they failed to de burr the hole after it was drilled.

Most Safari and International models have aluminum wheels that are made in China. After checking with some owners of these model trailers, they have lost tires due to valve stem damage.

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(Editor's note: I forwarded this article to Airstream. I recommend that owners should consider changing to metal valve stems for an increased safety margin.)

I received the following response from Dave Schumann at Airstream the day after I sent the article. My thanks to Mr. Schumann for his quick response.

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for taking the time to share this information with Airstream.

Mr. Smith I don't believe I have enough information to comment; it is still unclear to me as to the chain of events. A normal policy by tire shops would to change the valve stem whenever a tire is changed, if I understand correctly this did not happen. Also was the tire pressure low when the tire was removed; do you believe the low pressure caused the uneven tread wear? If so this could indicate that air pressure would have been low for a long period of time.

That aside if you have any examples of the problem with the valve stem hole that we could get to our supplier this would be helpful. As you probably are aware, we buy the tire and wheel assembly complete. We will contact our supplier and share your concerns and the information you have provided.

Sincerely,

Dave Schumann, GM Airstream  
Customer Support Group

### Oddly, this makes sense

I have six locks on my door all in a row. When I go out, I lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three.

--Elayne Boosler

### Did You Know?

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle", is the phrase inspired by this practice.

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