



"Happenings" in Region 3

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President's Message

Jay Thompson

We have just returned from the Mid-Winter IBT meeting in Rayne, Louisiana and can say it was the best IBT meeting we have attended.

1. The group of region officers present made several proactive decisions to move our club forward.

2. These decisions were made after several hours of meetings where everyone was involved in the discussion.

3. One point made was that the board is listening to our members!

4. The region officers proposed several motions to present at the IBT meeting. These motions covered a variety of critical items to our club. Every motion passed. They will be reviewed in this newsletter.

5. The region officers voted to include the Executive Committee (International officers) in following discussions to facilitate better interaction.

6. Region 3's newest unit, the Southeastern Camping Unit was chartered with 39 members, nine of whom are new to WBCCI!

7. A member from Region 3, Jim Cocke, was nominated for International Third Vice-President.

In this newsletter, the region Membership Chairman, First Vice-President Dick Martiny, has a good article about new methods of attracting new members and the region Caravan Chairman, Second Vice-President Matt Hackney has another good article about the possibilities of "Adventure" in our Airstreams. A link to the December 31 financial report of WBCCI is also included.

Report on Mid-Winter IBT Meeting

Jay Thompson

All the region presidents and members of the Executive Committee were present at the meeting except Ron Gordy, Treasurer, and Justin Humphries, Trustee. I will provide a link to the minutes of the meeting when they are provided.

All motions (16) presented, passed and will be implemented or forwarded to the delegates for vote. I will review them and add my comments.

Motion 13: Voted on first, so action would pertain to remaining motions at this meeting. All motions voted on by the IBT shall show the results of votes by name of voters and how they voted except when a request for unanimous consent is approved.

Motion 1: Established supervision and representation of units not in the United States, Canada and Mexico, i.e. the Australian unit and any other international units

Motion 2: To insure that international units be organized as non-profit

Motion 3: To combine the Public Relations and Rally Promotions standing committees into one committee

Motion 4: To change the name of the Australian Unit from "Down Under Unit" to Airstream Club Australia. Of note is that the Airstream Company "owns" the name "Airstream" and thus had to approve this. They agreed because adding Airstream to the name of the unit promotes Airstream sales.

Motion 5: Change the boundaries of Regions 4 and 7 such that the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (UP) becomes a part of Region 7. This

was done at the request of members living in the UP because they feel more a part of Wisconsin than Michigan. This motion originally was withdrawn, but after listening to one of the members from the UP, the motion was re-submitted and passed.

Motion 6: A charter was granted to the Southeastern Camping Unit. We are very pleased that this unit has been formed in our region.

Motion 7: The flag of the Southeastern Unit was approved. It is a distinct one!



Motion 8: To update the job description of the History Standing Committee

Motion 9: Modify the National Special Events Rally reporting form to include the number of people attending.

Motion 10: Forward to the Delegates Meeting in Gillette that the constitution be changed such that the period for holding the International Rally and Annual Delegates Meeting shall be between June 20 and July 30. This motion removes the requirement that the rally include July 1, Canada Day and July 4, Independence Day. The motion to become effective starting in 2017 since contracts have been signed for 2014, 2015, and 2016. This motion is important as it provides flexibility in scheduling the International Rally away from July 4. This has been discussed for many years, but now the members may vote and decide when to have the rally.

Motion 11: Modifications to the section of the policy regarding the International Rally.

After the modifications to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy were not passed at the International Rally in Sedalia because it was too much change at one time, the Board of Trustees have decided to change portions at ensuing board meetings. The primary changes to this section include re-location of Teen Queen contest to the Youth Committee, who has early parking authorization, and parking days to include Sunday. Early parking is authorized for current International and Region officers, immediate Past International President, region 2nd VP's elect, post caravan leaders and required early workers. Early parking is not authorized for past International and Region Presidents or past International officers. The section regarding reserved seating at rally functions was eliminated.

Motion 12: Forward to the Delegates Meeting in Gillette that the constitution be changed to allow for electronic payment of International dues to headquarters using the WBCCI website. This motion will allow that members, **if they wish**, may pay their dues electronically, thus providing convenience to them and efficiency to the headquarters staff in dealing with renewals and corrections to the database. Currently, the

unit treasurer and the office staff at Jackson Center do this manually.

Motion 14: Clarifies the procedure for regions to elect vice presidents when vacancies occur in either 1st or 2nd Vice Presidents, or both.

Motion 15: To reinstate the publication of the News and Views Newsletter by the Electronic Communications Committee. Publication of this newsletter ceased earlier this year and many members have requested that it be re-instated.

Motion 16: Elimination of charges by headquarters for services, to the International Rally, currently \$45,000, starting in 2015. This charge was instituted several years ago when the International Rally was making a profit and the headquarters office having difficulty operating within their budget. However, this fee is now unreasonable and a deterrent to attendance at the rally. The Board of Trustees do not plan to raise the dues to balance the budget, but feel that increased efficiencies resulting from implementation of the new database, increased number of members receiving the Blue Beret on-line, reducing the cost of putting the Blue Beret on-line, and electronic transmission of information versus printed matter at the rally will provide savings. Also, an increase in membership provides more income! Again, the Board of Trustees is listening to the members!

Jim Cocke is Candidate for International 3rd Vice-President

Jay Thompson

Jim Cocke, member of the Carolina Unit is a candidate to become the International 3rd Vice-President. Jim and Debbie have been dedicated members of WBCCI for many years and is the current Region 3 Web master. Elna and I have traveled with them on the SW Adventure caravan a well as enjoyed many rallies together. I recommend them highly and applaud their commitment to our club. Following is their letter of interest sent to the nominating committee.



Letter of Interest from Debbie and Jim

Debbie and I bought our first Airstream trailer in 2004. Two months later we joined WBCCI and the Carolinas Unit of NC at our first WBCCI event. It helped that the menu at that first rally included jambalaya and six flavors of home-made ice cream. The members swept us up into their caring arms, showed us how to eat well at rallies, educated us about all things Airstream, and encouraged us to participate in the Club. Within a year of joining WBCCI, Debbie and I made our commitment to the Club with Life Membership.

The same month we started as Unit President and Secretary-Treasurer, almost four years after joining WBCCI, we moved full-time into our Airstream 25' trailer. We had sold the house, given our children what they wanted, and sold or donated all our furniture and most of the clutter.

Peggy Moser, our Unit President from 2004, encouraged us not to lapse in our duties as we started full-timing. This resonated strongly with me, an Eagle Scout and an Air Force brat. That first year full-timing, while serving as Unit President, Debbie and I participated in two national caravans (Fly-Drive AK and Nat'l Landmarks West) and attended our second International Rally (Bozeman). We missed only one Unit rally (on our way back from National Landmarks caravan's end in Northern California). Even with all the travel and excitement it was important to us to honor our commitment all the way.

We believe we can model as leaders behaviors that promote interaction and cooperation among all members of WBCCI. We will continue implementation of modern technologies to help communications within the leadership and among members, and to provide members the option of conducting club business online. We are interested in building on the WBCCI's long tradition of unity of purpose and service to membership and we will advocate policies that achieve those goals.

Our work experience provided us with valuable communication and organizational skills and with the discipline and determination needed to work with diverse people in complex organizations. We have brought those assets to bear in our leadership and supporting roles in WBCCI, working actively in Region, Unit, and Intra-Club positions. We look forward to continuing to give back to the Club that has given us so many friends, memories, adventures, and fun times.

At this time I submit my name as a candidate for, and indicate my willingness to serve as, International Third Vice-President of WBCCI.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Cocke, Past President, WBCCI Carolinas Unit of NC #021

What does it take?

Dick Martiny

There are an increasing number of Airstream made vehicles on the road every year. This past year was the best sales year since the 70s. The new owners don't know about WBCCI. They don't know what they are missing. So, what does it take to get them to meet us?

The question has been asked many different ways during recent years. Some Units have located vehicles without membership and offered them free attendance at their next rally. Other Units have placed articles describing their recent gathering with words and pictures in their local newspapers. Still others have used the new promotional handouts to encourage a first visit. The Airstream Company is placing literature in every new vehicle being sold. Everyone is trying and we are experiencing an increase in our Club membership. 2500 new vehicles were sold last year. Can you imagine what changes our Club would experience if over half of that number chose to get to know us?

Members of the International Board of Trustees and the international Membership Chair are discussing options not currently available to the Regions or to the Units. With changes to our By-laws and our methods of collecting the dues of new members, many exciting doors can be opened. Your Club Leadership Team is working very actively to make some of these changes possible.

What would you suggest? If you had the authority to change some rules and methods, what would you do? Would you be willing to share those thoughts with your Region Leadership?

It is About Adventure

Matt Hackney

Wally Byam is most famous for building the Airstream and the Airstream Company. We all benefit from these creations. He also created the Caravan for "Trailerites". Wally was determined to demonstrate how travel trailers could open the opportunities for adventures and friendships beyond our neighborhood. His Caravans led to the founding of our Caravan Club for those who share a sense of adventure.

We can renew our sense of adventure by participating in a WBCCI Caravan. The travel season is just around the corner and there are still opportunities on our national caravans. In previous columns, I have discussed the opportunity each of us has to lead or participate in a unit caravan. If you are leading a short caravan, WBCCI.org is providing an opportunity to post for additional participants. Simply send your information to Marion Pember at happihart2@aol.com. If you are looking for a short caravan, take a look at <http://www.wbcci.org/home/rallies-caravans/short-caravans>.

If you can't spare the time to take a caravan, take an extended weekend and attend Rally with another unit. Many Regions, like Region 3, have placed their schedule of events on their website. Ours is located at <http://region3.wbcci.net/unitcalendar/>. By participating in rallies with other units, you can share ideas from your unit and take back others for your unit to try.

There are other rally opportunities as well. Region 3 will once again host a rally at Galax in August. A NEW Florida State Rally will be held in The Keys in April. In a cooperative venture, Region 3 is sponsoring a full slate of events at Alumaflemingo in February. Finally, don't forget the Region 3 Rally in Asheville (<http://region3.wbcci.net/region-3-rally-asheville-2014/>). Each of these offer a chance to caravan with one or more friends.

Finally, It is time to plan your trip to Gillette. The International Rally returns to a beautiful venue this year. On your way to and from

