



NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

Greetings to all of you.

This has been a most interesting presidency for me. We became a region in good health from one with questionable survivability. We became a region in good health from one with questionable survivable. This is due in no small part to the efforts of the region membership.

We did not have a full slate of officers last year. I elected not to have a rally in 2011 because there were not enough officers to pull off a well run rally.

Thanks to Jay and Elna Thompson, and Dick and Judy Martiny we have had a full slate of officers since February of 2011. This has allowed us to move forward and address issues that are important to the units and membership of Region 3.

Our rally at Myrtle Beach this April is well planned and well-staffed. Again a big thanks to everyone that has and will have taken part in this effort.

We will be having our annual region board meeting on Wednesday the 25th. It is important that all units are represented. If you as a president are unable to attend please send a delegate with credentials so that they may be seated to carry out the region business.

The office of second vice president has a candidate that has had his resume reviewed by the nominations committee. His name will be coming up from the floor and as always nominations will be allowed for all offices from the floor.

I strongly urge you to continue to support your new officers as you have in the past. They cannot do it without

your help and encouragement. Pitch in and ask where your talents can be best utilized then roll up your sleeves and do what is required.

After the officers' training and breakout session there will be a recess. After the recess those that wish can get together for a roundtable discussion of the new constitution and the bylaw changes. These are two separate items.



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Bring Your Dutch Oven and Something to Grill

Bring your dutch oven and either learn how to use it or help show others how to use it as desserts are prepared for the crowd. Matt Hackney, Charlie Hurst, and Bill Worthington (among others) will lead the show as desserts are prepared for the Friday evening meal. Even if you have never used a dutch oven, get one and bring it to learn from the experts, how to use it. There will be “open” grills to allow everyone to prepare the meat of your choice. Bring along something to share with others for a “pot-luck” supper. Socialize as the meat is prepared and the dutch ovens “do their thing”.



After the meal and socializing, gather for a campfire and “Old fashioned Hootenanny”! Bring an instrument, guitars, banjos, ukuleles, spoons, tambourines or whatever you can use to make music and we’ll listen and “sing-along”. Know a good story or joke to share? We’d love to hear it. Relax and let your hair down, if you have some ;-)



Community Service

As most of you know WBCCI likes to give back to the communities we visit. This year we are visiting Myrtle Beach in Horry County, South Carolina.

We know too many people are struggling just to make ends meet or to even put food on a table. We would like to help The Salvation Army while we visit Horry County this April.

Thanks to your giving spirit and generosity we all can make a difference to the communities we visit.

Brenda Ryan of the Salvation Army has identified some of their clients’ needs as follows:

- * Detergents & diapers,
- * Baby wipes & laundry baskets,
- * Toothbrushes & toothpaste,

- * Canned food (includes canned fruits, vegetables, sauces, canned meats),
- * Cooking oil, pasta, rice, other non-perishables,
- * Wal-Mart gift cards to be used to buy things their clients need throughout the year,
- * Cash is also accepted.



Seminars and Games at Region 3 Rally



The seminar subjects were selected from your recommendations to your Region Officers. Let them know what you would like in 2013?

Wednesday (Focused on Region 3 business):

- 9:30 am **Region Board Meeting** (sched. until 12)
- 2:00 pm **Unit Leadership Workshop and Q&A forum** (Julian Clements)
- Update on Successful Approaches to Recruiting and Retaining Membership** (Jim Weilhammer, during the breakout at Leadership Workshop)
- Upcoming by-law amendments** (after Leadership Workshop).
- 4:00 pm **Vintage Airstreams forum** (George James)
- 7:00 pm **Brief announcements**
- After announcements: first round of **indoor games** (over by 9:30 pm)

Thursday: Free Time

Friday:

- 9:30 am **Resume indoor games** and conduct all the **outdoor games**
- 11:00 am **RV Space Utilization** (Jim and Debbie Cocke)
- 1:00 pm **Introduction to Caravanning** (Jay Thompson)

NOTE:

Not yet scheduled and To be arranged based on the interest shown at registration on Monday and Tuesday.

- RV Maintenance and**
- First timer Orientation**

WHERE WILL SEMINARS AND GAMES BE HELD?

The locations for both seminars and games at the Region 3 Rally will be set by the number of participants expressing interest during registration. The location for each will be posted in the bulletin boards. Most will occur in the Activity Center.





Caravans in Region 3

Region Caravan to Sedalia

Join us for a region caravan to the International Rally in Sedalia MO. The route hasn't been completely mapped out yet but it will be a leisurely and enjoyable trip. Let us know if you have an interest in taking about 7-10 leisurely days getting to Sedalia.



Unit Caravans

Several unit caravans are also being planned in the region. The new WBCCI website will have a section devoted to "short" caravans. Information about "short" caravans which are normally unit caravans, (numbered or un-numbered) will be put on the website and anyone interested may join in.

Unit caravans are a fun way to start caravanning, learn about caravanning and to meet folks from other areas. The unit caravans we know that are planned are the Robert E. Lee caravan sponsored by the Northern Virginia Unit, the Washington D.C. caravan, and the Sugar Creek caravan and rally led by Bob Bennett. The Big Bend Unit is caravanning from Reed Bingham State Park near Valdosta GA to the Region 3 Rally in Myrtle Beach. Feel free to join in on one or more of these caravans.

If your unit is planning a caravan, please let your Region 3 officers know. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter and you can find it on the Region 3 web site, <http://region3.wbccci.net>



Region 3 Luncheon at the International Rally

The table decorations at last year's Region 3 luncheon at the International Rally were a huge success, so much so that we have been asked to continue this practice.

We are asking each unit to bring a small table decoration to the Region 3 luncheon at the International rally in Sedalia MO this summer.

They will be placed on the table and then given away as door prizes at the end of the luncheon.

The size should be such that it is easy to transport and easy to see over while on the table. Let your imagination run wild and see what you can come up with.

You can play on the rally theme "Where friends meet" in colors blue and red with a touch of tan, or go with something that tickles your fancy and means something to you and your unit.

We are looking forward to seeing the creativity that exists within our region.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER, CONTINUED

It has been the custom, for as long as I have been around, for each of the units to provide a door prize for the Region rally. The door prize is customarily something that is unique to the area in which the unit resides. This does not have to be an expensive item and often it has been a basket of local items. The president or unit representative has the opportunity to come on stage and say a few words about the gift as well as their unit.

This is a fun way for each unit to identify themselves to the rest of the region and it is always a coveted prize. No one is ever disappointed when they get some of Bill Daws' wonderful preserves. So please keep this in mind as you prepare to go visit "Under Sea Adventures" at Myrtle Beach.

Rick Bell, Region 3 President



From The Region 3 Membership Chairman

I accepted Region 3 President Rick Bell's invitation to be Membership Chairman for our 5 state region. Katherine, my wife, and I really enjoy recruiting new members.

Our interest in WBCCI started when I knocked on the door of an Airstream RV which was parked in a Wal-Mart parking lot in St. Cloud FL. I asked the couple, "How do you like your Airstream." The couple told us they enjoyed traveling with their Airstream and they had great experiences as WBCCI members.

They handed us a copy of the club's magazine, *Blue Beret* and encouraged us to join. At the time, we didn't even own an Airstream.

After we bought our Airstream, we joined our local WBCCI unit and we received a warm welcome.

Since that first meeting we have had many wonderful camping experiences with our friends in the Big Bend Florida Unit.

We became Airstream owners and joined WBCCI because of the following reasons:

- Airstream is a good product and has been a name associated with the RV industry for over 70 years.
- Most of Wally's first Airstreams are still being used today.
- Heads turn when an Airstream RV passes down the road.
- Airstream Company has excellent tech support and technical training.
- The couple whom we met were very hospitable and were not hesitant about helping us.

Here are a few helpful recruitment ideas that are being used by Region 3 units:

- Members are keeping Membership Packets (supplied upon request by WBCCI) in each of their vehicles.
- We distribute membership packets to Airstream owners who are not members of WBCCI.
- When the WBCCI office supplies the names of new Airstream owners, the membership chairmen contact those new owners in their area.
- We supply newspapers with WBCCI media packets
- Region 3 WBCCI events with photographs are being published in the community events sections of local newspapers.
- We invite prospective members to Unit and Regional events.
- We welcome new members through a mentoring program.
- We are planning open house tours to create interest in WBCCI activities.

I hope to expand upon these ideas in the future. Please contact me or Deb Mann at the WBCCI office if we can assist your unit membership issues. Please use AIRSTREAM within the subject of your email

Jim Weilhammer

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FROM YOUR REGION THREE SAFETY CHAIRMAN

It's time to get the units out of storage and once again ready for the road. I recently ran into a situation at the Florida State Rally that caught my attention. A fellow WBCCI member needed to change a tire on his trailer. He broke the lug nuts loose and we pulled it up on ramps to remove the wheel.

When taking the lug nuts off we saw that one had not been broken loose while on the ground. We simply connected the 7-way pin and put on brakes inside the truck. To our surprise it did not lock the wheel.

The brakes were in good condition but were not properly adjusted. We have all gotten used to cars with disc brakes that no longer need adjustment or we might have vehicles with self-adjusting drum brakes.



Unlike our cars and trucks, most of our trailers have the old style electric drum brakes that require periodic manually adjustment. Just having good linings isn't enough to stop you -- the brakes must be properly adjusted.

So before you take off this spring heading to Myrtle Beach take a few minutes to make certain your brakes are working properly. We want to see you there safe and sound.

*Jimmy Lassiter,
Region 3 Safety*



Calendar

Apr 3 - 9
Easter Rally, St Augustine FL

Apr 24 - 28
Region 3 Rally, Myrtle Beach SC

May 27 - Jun 9
NORVA Unit Rob't E Lee Caravan

Jun ??
Caravan to Sedalia MO

Jun 27 - Jul 4
International Rally, Sedalia MO

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