



Happenings

In

Region 3

Volume 1.5

December 2012

President's Message

Jay Thompson

To each of you, the officers of Region 3 extend holiday greetings, a Happy Hanukah or a Merry Christmas. 2012 has been a good year for our region. We had a well-attended region rally in April, an excellent Special Events Rally in Galax, and several great unit caravans.

Still only 50% of those receiving these email newsletters open them (385 of 745 last month). Please tell your friends or other unit members about these newsletters and encourage everyone to open them. Please make a copy and give it to those who don't have email.

Elna and I spent a great five days with the Florida Unit at their installation rally and the "Cracker Christmas" at Fort Christmas Park in Christmas, Florida. In addition to serving as docents and volunteers (for the 15th year), the unit had an open house of six rigs to benefit the Warrior Warrior Project. Over 250 folks toured and donated more than \$700! A great publicity and recruiting idea!

Membership

Dick Martiny

Someone asked their friend "how are you doing?" "Better than last week" was the answer. So how is our Club membership renewal doing? Better than last year is the answer. This year's membership directory is a decrease of only one (1) percent. That is a decrease of 51 members. For the previous five (5) years we averaged 4.14% or a decrease of 259.2 persons per year. These responses do not answer your question completely.

Some of your friends did not renew their membership. Do you know why? How are they doing? We lost members who joined many years ago as well as some of our 2012 new members. If you see a name you recognize, would you like to know more about their reasoning?

Carolinas Unit of NC (10): Barefoot, Martin, Carroll. Summerlin, Goins, Goswick, Karr, Miller, Menaker, Bono

Palmetto State Unit of SC (5): Walker, Turner, Smith, Cobb, Slater

Florida Unit (13): Sampson, Carey, Azeredo, Lappen, Moser, Artz, Scime, Martin, McGloin, Vasil, Leonard, Evans, Warren

Everglades Florida Unit (3): Bassett, Incze, Janvier

South Florida Unit (3): Romer, Atangan, Polles

Georgia Unit 32 (69): Mulligan, Cash, Phillips, Watters, Purcell, Dasher, Williams, Burden-Schuler, Warfield, Jones, Hilson, Roberson, Fathauer, Fricks, Starling, Lemoine, Lively, Grover, Black, Owensby, Griffin, McDougal, Thomas, Waters, Fleming, Stuk, Hardesty, Bell, O'Brien, Barros, Whittle, Crum, Truelove, Holcombe, Winkler, Smith, Burnett, Sherburne, Sanor, VonBerge, Boland, Chester, Vinson, Mayberry, Loggins, Hovey, Cochran, Wainwright, Darsey, Waldman, Clayton, Clayton, Andriakos, Toney, Turner, Rabon, Sheffield, Tarpley, Martin, Ross, Robertson, Ginn, Wike, Hardy, Decker, Hawkins, Huston, Smith, Williamson, Ligon

Northern Virginia Unit (7): Carmichael, Carmichael, Paridon, Timberlake, Kolesar, Timberlake, Arnold

Florida Sun Coast Unit (4): Levitz, Maki, Heinlein, Rutkowski

Eastern NC Unit (5): Deans, Canning, Burke, Burke, Sass

Shenandoah Valley of Virginia Unit (1): Turnbull

South Carolina Coastal Unit (7): Rhode, Jones, Shrader, Todd, Hussey, Peeples, Pierce

Big Bend Florida Unit (3): Brunner, Smith, Duggan

Piedmont NC Unit (3): Middleton, Blevins, Slaton

Florida Treasure Coast Unit (12): Sogolow, Hammond, McCollough, Lewis, Nunez, Stocker, Davis, Magdalena, Walton, Peterson, Masullo, Pierett

Western NC Unit (2): Gilbert, Morrow

Florida Springs Unit (8): Schuman, Arnold, Olson, Bando, Quakenbush, Wensel, Farley, O'Neil

Yes, some have reasons you cannot help them with. How about the others you know? Maybe you could wish them a Happy New Year.

Region Rally “Rally round the Rock” April 23-28 Stone Mountain, Georgia

Excerpted from email from Renee Etline

In the past, we had to arrive together at big rally if we wanted to park together. That is not the case with the 2013 Region 3 Rally, so even if we want to park as a group, we can each travel at our own leisure. However, if we do want to park together as a group we will have to make our reservations on the same day. So get together with your friends and call register and make your campground reservation.

The registration process is now open for you. Be prepared - make the necessary decisions before you contact the Park. The Park's numbers are 770-498-5710 or 800-385-9807. The campground registrar will need to receive (a) the dates you wish to attend, (b) any handicap provisions you require, and (c) whether you are choosing to purchase tickets for the bus tour of Atlanta (@ \$60 per person). Everyone will prepay the rally fee of \$55 for all persons over 15 years of age. The site cost for the first three days will cost \$49 each and will include the Premium Rally Package. Any additional days will cost \$45 each.

Rally also includes:

- 4 Breakfasts
- 2 dinners
- Outdoor movies
- Seminars
- Officer Training
- Fun and Fellowship
- 3-point hook-ups
- Optional Bus Tour

Jack Glouner Recognition at South Florida Unit Rally

The South Florida Unit rally January 17 - 21, 2013 at Paradise Park, Punta Gorda, Florida is dedicated to recognition of Jack Glouner. As you are well aware, Jack has served our organization in all capacities, national, region and, of course, state. Jack has served for many years as a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida State Rally and, often most memorable, as Emcee. Unfortunately Jack has been forced to curtail his activities because of health reasons and can no longer be as active as he was in the past and we all would like to say, "Thanks".

We invite all those who would like this opportunity to join us in thanking Jack. Please contact John Frerking (ejfrerking@yahoo.com) for more information about the rally. If you can't make the entire rally, come for just the join us just the recognition luncheon on Sunday. We urge those who can come dressed ala Glouner (wild costume) to do so.

Paradise Park
46900 Bermont Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941-639-2680

Florida State Rally

Jay Thompson

The Florida State Rally continues to progress well with registrations ahead of pace. The registration system is easy, (I have done it), and I encourage everyone to register for what may be the largest rally in our club in 2013. I met with Vic Smith, Randall Godfrey, and Larry Scovoto at the Florida Unit rally in Christmas and they are working hard to make the Florida State Rally a success. As we all realize, the Florida State Rally attendance has been decreasing each year and we should applaud their efforts to “do some things differently” in an effort to increase attendance and participation.

A matter that has caused much discussion is the elimination of the Sunday night hot dog picnic and the Monday night dinner at the Sahib Shrine Club. The hot dog picnic was only for those early workers and VIP's who were on the grounds Sunday while the dinner, prime rib, at the Sahib Shrine Club was for chairman and VIP's. This year an Appreciation dinner will be held on Tuesday night for ALL volunteers, not just early workers, chairman, and VIP's

Safety Recall Notice

I received a recall notice on my trailer and it is an important one! One of the folks on our 2012 SW Adventure caravan had a hydraulic brake line fail as they were coming down from a 9800' pass in Colorado and barely made it safely down the mountain.

Airstream has decided that certain Classic travel trailers built in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 model years with Dexter axles and hydraulic disc brakes contain a safety defect. As the axle hub and hydraulic brake assembly travel up and down during normal usage, the brake hose can flex near the fitting on the brake assembly and over time fatigue can cause failure of the hose. In fact, everyone I have seen, including mine, has had some degree of kink in the hose. If/when a brake line fails, the system will lose brake pressure and a loss of braking will occur.

Airstream will replace the brake lines on each trailer with lines equipped with a 90-degree angle fitting that eliminates the flexing of the brake line during travel. The lines will be re-routed to insure no contact with the trailer underside can occur.

If you know of folks with these model trailers, please make certain they know of this recall.

Short Caravan to Sarasota?

By Matt Hackney

Few of us consider caravanning in the winter, but there are some tremendous advantages to doing so. The campgrounds and state parks are closed in most of the north, but in much of Region 3, they are open year round. Travel slows following the holidays and camping spots are available. The cooler weather offers a great opportunity to gather around a campfire with friends old or new. When two Airstreams travel together, it IS a caravan!

Members of Region 3 are fortunate because they have only a short drive to the second largest rally in WBCCI. The Florida State Rally in Sarasota is a great destination for a short caravan. Arriving together, normally means you will also be parked together at the rally. Some of our most memorable experiences have been spent with friends at a rally. This year's rally looks to be an entertaining event.

State parks in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina provide reasonably priced, scenic stops. Near the interstates in Georgia you will find Red Top Mountain, High Falls, Indian Springs, Georgia Veterans, Reed Bingham, Skidaway Island, Fort McAllister, and Crooked River State Parks (for information, go to www.gastateparks.org). South Carolina offers RV sites at Little Pee Dee, Santee, Colleton, Lee, Sesquicentennial, Aiken, Lake Wateree, and Chester State Parks (for information go to www.southcarolinaparks.com). In Florida, the parks are too numerous to list them all, but a few within a short drive of the rally are O'Leno, Paynes Prairie, Stephen Foster, Suwannee River, and Mayakka River State Parks (see more at www.floridastateparks.org).

When the rally is over, you may want to resume your caravan. Perhaps you can include new friends you meet at the rally! After all, you are in Florida, with your Airstream, and good friends! There are beaches nearby and beautiful beach front state parks to the north and west, including the Florida Panhandle. What a great place to spend time in the winter! I hope you will join us at the Florida State Rally. I know you and your friends will enjoy it.



Sometimes the weather gets cold in February, but Caravanners don't cancel a good pot luck due to weather.



Who doesn't enjoy seeing a caravan of Airstreams on the road?



Caravan friends celebrate wherever they park. Yes this is the same week as the photo cold weather photo!



The rally grounds at Sarasota are a great spot in the winter!