



## **President's Message**

Jay Thompson

The past two months have really flown by with much happening in Region 3 and WBCCI. The results of the Mid-winter IBT were better than I expected. A plan was made and has been implemented to encourage the IBT to be a proactive rather than a reactive management board. Also, the Executive Committee agreed to release funds to purchase and implement a new database for Jackson Center. This will permit on-line renewal of membership dues, and to have the Electronics Communication Committee produce a survey of members to provide feedback for future operation of the club.

The Florida State Rally has decided to cease operation and a commercial company will take over the February rally spot in Sarasota. I have sent a memo about this to everyone and will be sending another providing more details. This is important for everyone to review. Operation of our volunteer system of managing rallies and caravans is changing as our present volunteers age.

The Region 3 Rally "Rally 'Round the Rock" in Stone Mountain, Georgia is next month and we presently have about 100 rigs registered. That is enough to break even on the budget, but I question the effort required for a rally in which less than 12% of our members participate.

I will be sending everyone a list of persons in the Region 3 area purchasing new Airstreams so that you might contact those near you and encourage them to participate with you in activities. Also, the quarterly financial report will be sent to everyone.

We have some Units in the region that are having difficulty obtaining a full slate of officers. Several discussions led to a conclusion that one reason is that folks are reluctant to assume an office because they feel they don't know or feel capable of performing the responsibilities of office. Some of these responsibilities include the completion of the IRS form, review of the Unit Constitution and By-Laws, completion of the Merit Award Application, and the various forms to be completed and sent to Jackson Center. A solution to these concerns might be to provide region mentors of who would be willing to help or even perform the required paperwork for them. Your region officers plan to discuss this at the region rally and will appreciate your input.

## **Rally 'Round the Rock**

### **How can I help? What can I do?**

The Region 3 Rally at Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta is planned for April 23 to 28. With Woodall's 5 diamond rating, it is ranked in the top 1% of great campgrounds in the USA. It has programs year round which vary with the season. The Airstream Rally sites are grouped around a central open pavilion. The organizing team for this event is encouraging our membership to become reacquainted with the city of Atlanta by scheduling bus tours and promoting the Atlanta City Pass. Most evenings are unscheduled and this permits fellowship gatherings, dining at local restaurants, and refreshing sleep. The Park staff has provided many services normally requiring volunteer membership efforts. A frequent question has been "How can I help? What can I do?"

The answer is "participate". We are asking each person to consider some of the following subject areas:

1. Lead a topic discussion during the Happy Hour at your campsite.
2. Join the Unit teams providing breakfasts and dinners on our schedule.
3. Engage in the seminars being offered or prepare a topic of interest to others. We are continuing to seek someone comfortable with leading a discussion on convection oven cooking. If you have a topic or photo experience, please share it with any of the Region officers to get it included in the program schedule. We will have a white board in the pavilion for "late entries" and changes to the schedule.
4. Bring some of your Unit/Caravan supplies to share as required. We always seem to be short of portable sound systems and larger grills.
5. Join any of the small group gatherings you discover as you travel to and around our facilities.

The Park has offered, and most members have accepted, a package of activities including the Duck Tour of the Lake, a welcome ice cream social, special laser show seating on Saturday night and a tour of the Antebellum Plantation. These value-added perks were included in your site fee.

As always, you can help someone else enjoy the opportunities wrapped around us at this unique location.

We are pleased that Joe Perryman, the International 2nd Vice-President and his wife, Sandy will attend the rally

We've included Joan Anderson's Blue Beret article about the rally as it is a great one!

Joan Anderson, Contributing Editor  
<http://www.region3.wbcci.net>

Region 3's Rally Round the Rock is coming to Atlanta's Stone Mountain! Stone Mountain Park ([www.stonemaountainpark.com](http://www.stonemaountainpark.com)) is a wonderful family park for all ages located to the east of Atlanta off of I-285. Some of the exciting park adventures include: the Summit Skyride - a high speed cable car that provides the rider with a stunning view of the Confederate Memorial Carving as it climbs to the top of Stone Mountain; the Scenic Railroad is a five mile excursion around the mountain in 1940's open air rail cars; Ride the Ducks are 1940's Army DUKWs converted into comfortable open air vehicles that will take to from land to water to land without getting your feet wet! Wandering around the grounds can lead to the grist mill, the covered bridge and the carillon that had been exhibited in the 1964 World's Fair in New York City!

Make sure that April 23 to 28 is on your calendar to come to Region 3's Rally. There are so many activities and attractions included in the registration fee for the entire family - duck boat ride; laser show with popcorn and soda; an Antebellum Plantation tour; an extra special ice cream social; fishing; and a live magician show! An optional event is the full day guided bus tour of Atlanta's landmarks (Carter Library, Fox Theater, Margaret Mitchell House, High Museum) including a studio tour at CNN and a tour of the World of Coca-Cola. There will be City Passes available for admission to 5 additional attractions at a savings of 45% from the standard admission fees.

Discussions and seminars, Region business meeting, and GAMS to meet and greet of old and new friends are all scheduled to inform and entertain. Because of all the daytime activities that will be available, there will not be any nighttime entertainment. Instead, there will be GAMs around grills in the evenings or the opportunity to visit Atlanta's fine restaurants on your own.

There are some very important decisions you must make before making reservations for one of the 150 sites that have been reserved for the Region 3 rally. Please read the fee notes carefully.

Dates: April 23 - 28

Fees: Rally Fee \$55 per person over 15 years of age

Site with three point hookups: \$49 per day for first three days, \$45 for each additional day (If you are only coming for 2 days, the fee will be \$45 each day but will not include the Premium Rally Package - duck boat tour, laser show seating, plantation tour.)

When calling the reservation line (1-800-385-9807 or 1-770-498-5710) you will need to have the following information available: 1) the dates you wish to attend, 2) any handicap provisions you require and 3) whether you are choosing to purchase tickets for the bus tour of Atlanta ( \$60 per person).

Rally registration will close on April 2, 2013, but those needing handicapped spaces need to call by March 19, 2013. If you need to register after April 2, you will be put in unassigned locations closest to our rally facilities. All sites in the park have three point hookups.

In the event you must cancel: your request must be reviewed and approved by a member of the Region leadership team. The Park will not honor cancellations without Region 3 approval.

See you at the Rally Round the Rock!

### **Tentative Schedule "Rally 'round the Rock"**

Tue April 23:

Arrival and Parking

GAM

Wed. April 24:

Breakfast-Pancakes

Opening Ceremony

Seminars

GAM

Open Grill-bring our own and something to share

Thur. April 25

Breakfast-Omelet in a bag

Bus Tour

GAM

Ice cream social

Friday April 26:

Breakfast-Oatmeal and ice cream

Seminars

GAM

Dinner-Low Country Boil

Outdoor Movie

Sat April 27

Breakfast-TBD

Region 3 Board of Directors meeting

Spring Fling noon-3 PM

Seminars

Open House of Rigs

GAM

Dutch Oven Cooking Desserts

Dinner-Cook your own steak

Laser Show

Sun April 28:

Worship Service by campground

Open grill for your items

## Membership

Dick Martiny

But we've always done it that way....

In most every aspect of our lives, something new is being introduced. Some aspects we have lost are being replaced to meet today's needs.

Traditional gatherings are struggling for their existence. Florida State Rally has decided to disband. Both Sugar Creek and the Galax Rally have accepted assistance from outside their normal membership to conduct their programs. Our Region has three Units, which cannot staff their Unit Officer positions. We need to consider new options to continue some of the venues we enjoy and expect.

The good news is that options are available. The Airstream update at the Florida State Rally included the following:

- a. Airstream has had a very good sales year. Every new Airstream Owner receives a personal, follow-up phone call from a Company representative. Airstream shares new owner names and contact information with us and it is distributed by WBCCI to all the Unit Presidents and Membership Chairpersons. Find out who is making the personal phone call from your Unit to the new owners in your area.
- b. The 40-49 year olds are purchasing more new Airstreams than the 70-79 year olds. Consider having the phone call made by someone who can relate to this group i.e. has a spouse that works fulltime and has a limited number of vacation days.
- c. These buyers are selecting their new Airstream before they go to the dealership. They are well versed on searching their options (including the dealer's stock number) on the Internet. Consider having an open house included in all your rally schedules and advertise the time and dates in the local newspapers.
- d. The most popular new purchases are the Flying Cloud models. The 25-foot is the leader and is followed by the 23 & 27. These units are being pulled by "the family car or truck". Don't emphasize your typical 34-foot experience with these folks. These new owners are volunteering to participate in other Airstream events. They are capable of the roles you need but don't expect them to do it like we have always done it. Let them know their new ideas will be appreciated.

### **This is a recap of membership in Region 3 as of February.**

		On line	New	Renewal	Total
153	BIG BEND FLORIDA	0	5	41	46
21	CAROLINAS UNIT OF NC	0	5	53	58
37	COASTAL GEORGIA	0	1	16	17
144	EASTERN NC	0	1	28	29
28	EVERGLADES FLORIDA	2	1	11	12
27	FLORIDA	1	9	52	61
174	FLORIDA SPRINGS	0	4	24	28
129	FLORIDA SUNCOAST	1	3	14	17
162	FLORIDA TREASURE COAST	0	0	69	69
32	GEORGIA	1	19	240	259

110	NORTHERN VIRGINIA	0	2	27	29
22	PALMETTO STATE SC	1	7	31	38
161	PIEDMONT NC	0	1	30	31
149	SHENANDOAH VLY UNIT OF VA	0	3	15	18
150	SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL	0	5	30	35
30	SOUTH FLORIDA	0	4	32	36
111	TIDEWATER VIRGINIA	1	3	24	27
109	VIRGINIA	0	5	27	32
169	WESTERN NC	0	3	28	31
	Region 3 totals	7	81	792	873

### **Unit Caravans How Can I Caravan?**

Whether you are asking about those caravans you find in the Blue Beret, the caravans you find in your unit newsletter, or the caravan that you and some of your friends have always wanted to take, you CAN Caravan. I know there are many reasons we don't hit the road to find Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure. Beth and I both still work, spend our vacation time going to International, Region, State and Unit Rallies, and try to spend some time with our son and daughter (when they are home from college). We DO Caravan and you should find a way to do so too.

For those of you who attended the Florida State Rally, you had the chance to listen to a number of Caravan seminars. They covered all manner of caravan and provided great insight into the level of planning and organization the caravan leaders in the WBCCI provide for YOU. In addition, you heard how little it costs to participate. Of course travel is not cheap, but you may be surprised if you compare your daily costs with your homebound costs. You were encouraged, in these seminars to sign up, volunteer to help, or go plan a caravan!

At the Region 3 Rally in April, we will again offer seminars on caravanning. This time we will offer sessions with one of the best in the business, Bob Bennett. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about caravans and caravanning! In addition, I welcome any of you who would like to share your experience or your plans for an upcoming caravan (National, Region, or Unit) to host a Happy Hour discussion at your rig. We will provide you the opportunity to announce your session and give you a flag to advertise your place as open for discussion.

Most of you have the opportunity to travel to the Region 3 Rally with friends. If 2 or more rigs travel together, you too are CARAVANNING. I hope you will take advantage, as the weather this time of year can be delightful and Spring in the southeast can be beautiful! Get out and enjoy the adventure that awaits you and your friends. I hope we will see you down the road!

Matt and Beth Hackney

## **Galax Fiddlers Convention Rally**

The Virginia Unit has decided to pause on their sponsorship of the Galax Old Time Fiddler's Rally and the region has assumed sponsorship for this, the 12th year of the rally. The dates of the rally will be Sunday August 4 through Saturday August 10.

The campsites will be at the Cool Breeze Campground. This is a very nice commercial operation with three point hook-ups, 30 and 50-amp service, cable TV, and wireless Internet. It is located seven miles south of Galax and the price is \$30 per night. Their website address is: <http://coolbreezecampground.com>

We have some volunteers, but are looking for more to help with the rally. In particular, we need someone to be the rally chairman and a master of ceremonies. Betty and Junior Patton again will be very much involved with the rally as far as setting up the musicians for the concerts, and the visit to Wayne Henderson's shop.

Please contact Jay Thompson by phone (850-212-4719) or email ([thompsojay@gmail.com](mailto:thompsojay@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping with this rally.

### **Safety**

Honda has announced a voluntary recall on some EU2000i generators. Nearly all in the affected group were manufactured in the last 18 months.

Units within this serial number range are part of the recall:

EAAJ-2260273

through

EAAJ-2485025

. The serial number sticker is on the back side of the generator.

What is the problem?

A fuel tube clamp may have been improperly positioned during assembly, and could damage another fuel tube, causing a fuel leak when the generator is running.

Owner's of units registered with Honda will get a formal letter and detailed instructions.

This is the web address of the information provided by Honda.

<http://powerequipment.honda.com/pdf/Recalls/eu2000i-recall-poster.pdf>

### **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".

Here are a couple of pictures of the recognition. Needless to say, Jack out did us all with his dress!



### Contact

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"Keep your shiny side up, smile, and see you down the road"

### **Wally Byam's Four Freedoms**

1. Freedom from Arrangements-from reservations, schedules, in short, most of the inconveniences of modern travel.
2. Freedom from the problems of Age-trailer travel provides an antidote to boredom, an economical way to make new friends, visit new places, and share new adventures.
3. Freedom to Know-Trailer travel provides a better opportunity to get to know a country and its people and an increased opportunity to discover the world.
4. Freedom for Fun-All of the first three freedoms add up to the fourth. You just plain begin to relax and enjoy life to the fullest.