

September
2014

Region 3 Happenings



From the Desk of the President...

A Few Notes for Region 3

I hope your summer has been an enjoyable one. Summer is winding down and school is back in session. Beth and I have been quite busy since returning from Gillette and I have a great deal to share; almost all is good news. Let me start by telling you that Joe and Sandy Perryman are working hard to implement many improvements for the club. Their positive attitude and willingness to work for the future of the club are absolutely moving our club in the right direction.

Speaking of moving in the right direction, Jay Thompson and I have been very successful finding qualified and enthusiastic candidates to fill the open Region 3 positions. We had help from several of you who recommended excellent folks. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find biographies for John Frerking (South Florida Unit), candidate for 1st Vice President and John Leake (Palmetto Unit) candidate for 2nd Vice President. In addition, we have another outstanding candidate interested in being nominated for 2nd Vice President in 2016! I am confident that the largest region in the WBCCI will have a most talented crew on board in a few weeks. I would be remiss if I failed to thank two other very talented and hard working members of the team. Jay Thompson has agreed to serve on the Region 3 Executive Committee as a very active President Emeritus and Dick Martiny will continue in his role as Membership Chairman.

As fall approaches, our calendar is nearly full, but we are already working on plans for winter and spring. Region 3 will again have building at Alumaflamingo. I have asked John Frerking to put together a list activities and volunteers to run them. The event organizers have invited us to hold all the activities we have traditionally held in Sarasota. Those can certainly include unit gatherings and games, but may also include any new activities you would like to suggest. We will also be holding a Region 3 Board Meeting at Alumaflamingo. This will give me a chance to communicate directly with representatives from your units regarding information from the Mid-Winter IBT. The Region 3 meeting will be open to all and you do NOT need to pay to attend Alumaflamingo to attend this meeting. If you would like to attend the event, go to www.Alumaflamingo.com

Recently, Beth and I were near Charleston, SC discussing the 2015 Region 3 Rally. We have not yet signed a contract, but we have reserved the dates. We plan to hold the rally at Exchange Park in Ladson (www.exchangepark.org) from April 29 - May 3. Plan to attend the rally, see the sites and enjoy Charleston. For those able to arrive early or stay after the rally, there are several nice parks near Charleston, where you can see more! Many of you will remember this facility from 2010. I will provide more details as they become available.

Finally, you may notice a different look to the Region 3 Newsletter. Pat King has agreed to be our Newsletter Editor. I want to thank her for agreeing to perform this important task. I know we will all benefit from her work.

See you down the road!
Matt and Beth

Region 3 Vice Presidents

Region 3 currently has two open Vice President positions to fill. We are fortunate to have two very qualified candidates for these positions. John Frerking (Eileen) is from the South Florida Unit where he is finishing his term as Unit President. John F. is our nominee for 1st Vice President. John Leake (Susan) is from the Palmetto Unit and runs a very successful non-club rally called Alumalina. John L. is our nominee for 2nd Vice President. The election process for filling open positions is prescribed in the WBCCI Bluebook (Bylaws Article IX, Sec. 2). These two individuals were nominated by the Region Executive Committee, following the required 60 day window for nominations. The president of each unit in Region 3 shall be entitled to vote on these positions. Following this vote, they will assume their respective positions.

Please note that John F. will be completing his term as Unit President. The WBCCI Constitution allows him to be elected AND complete his term as Unit President.

John L. Frerking

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1941, John graduated from St. Paul's Junior College (Concordia, MO), Concordia Senior College (Ft. Wayne, IN), and Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis (1967). He served three years as pastor of a Lutheran church in Muscle Shoals, AL, and 35 years as senior pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, FL. Under his leadership the parish erected a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired sanctuary and chapel, educational and administrative wings, a two-story, 14,000 square foot Christian Activities Center housing a licensed and accredited childcare and adult daycare facility. John also began several programs serving the community including home-delivered meals, community food pantry, and refugee resettlement ministry that welcomed more than 200 people from around the world.

Twice recognized by the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce as the Community Leader of the Year, John has received numerous citations and awards from the State of Florida, Lutheran Services of Florida, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, the Jaycees, etc. He has served as an adjunct professor at Palm Beach State College, chaplain for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department, the Board of Directors of Palm Beach Gardens Hospital and numerous other boards and community service organizations.

John and his wife, Eileen, travel extensively throughout the world and since 2004 have enjoyed traveling six months of the year throughout the U.S. in their 1999, 30 foot Airstream. They are members of Unit 30, South Florida and have loved caravanning to the Keys, Cajun Country, Kentucky, and are looking forward to the "Watch It Made" caravan in September. They have also attended three international rallies. John has planned numerous rallies for his unit and they both consider Unit 30 as family.

In his local unit, John has served as Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, and Unit President. Eileen has spent her career in education and has been recognized as an outstanding leader culminating her career as an elementary and alternative education principal. She is serving as Corresponding Secretary for the unit.

John and Eileen have three grown children and six grandchildren. They have lived in North Palm Beach for 44 years.

John Leake

Born 4/11/54 and have lived in York, SC all 60 years. Married to my high school sweetheart, Susan, for 39 years. We have 2 sons, Jay (John IV) and Phillip, 2 granddaughters (5 and 10 mths). Both boys grew up trailering and now have their own 5th wheel trailers. I have 2 sisters with trailers, one of which has an Airstream. We are a camping family.

Graduated from Appalachian St. University 1976, BS in Industrial Arts. Taught general shop in Gaston County Schools (Gastonia, NC) for 8 years.

Self employed furniture maker the last 30 years. Son Jay and I work together. (Leakesantiques.com Leake Furniture Makers on Face Book)

Susan works as a teaching assistant in kindergarten here in York, 25 years.

We have been trailerists for 25 years and have been fortunate to have traveled all over this great Country. We bought our Airstream in 2009. Immediately joined WBCCI as members of the SC Palmetto State Unit. Affiliate members of SC Coastal Unit and Southeastern Camping Unit. Have recruited 4 new members, still working on the 5th and 6th.

Organized the "Alumalina" rally in 2012 as an informal gathering of Airstream enthusiasts. Held twice a year in the Carolinas to promote the Airstream lifestyle and to encourage non club members to consider joining WBCCI. Our last rally in March of this year drew 55 Airstreams from 9 states. The September rally has already sold out the campground.

Susan hopes to retire after the 2014-2015 school year. Her time off comes mostly in the summer months so she would not always be able to travel when school is in session. Being self employed, my time is somewhat flexible, though I must continue to work.

Just my 2 cents....

For the life of me I cannot figure out why there is so much distance between the "Club" and the "Forums". Perhaps it got rooted back in 2002 when the forums was founded. The Forum members saw it as a way to separate themselves from an old fashioned club. Just a guess, but I'd wager the bulk of early forum members were not Club members. There was a lot of WBCCI bashing, sometimes still is.

Veteran Club members as a whole don't trust electronic media, change, or moving forward. They are totally content in their comfort zone. Understandable. Dinosaurs were powerful creatures, but because they could not adapt, they did not survive.

Not pointing fingers at either. There is room for improvement in both camps.

Sorry for the rant, I'm off my soap box now. Bottom line is I love the WBCCI and want to see it not only survive, but thrive.

We were just recently at Jackson Center. Tour guide said they are building 55 units/week and have a 1500 unit backlog. That's a heck of a lot of new Airstreamers. We need to reach out to them.

Some Are Not Attending

By Dick Martiny

Gatherings of the existing members of WBCCI often become like a neighborhood party. Many persons are told about the event and their invitation is warm and welcoming. They check their other commitments to determine whether they can respond positively and contribute something to the success of the gathering. What can we do about those that did not receive the invitation?

The most recent copy of the Blue Beret had four pages of listings of new members to the WBCCI neighborhood. Their invitation and reception at the next neighborhood gathering might be very important to both them and to us. The five states of Region #3 had 27 of this new membership group in August. Florida Unit #27 had 7 of the 27. There must be something special going on in that portion of Florida.

Another 5 new memberships have home addresses in our Region but made the choice to become members of Units not in our Region. They may miss the opportunity to be at the next neighborhood gathering in their home area. I hope others noted this situation and extended an invitation for them to join in the gatherings close to their home. We have never limited our invitations to those with membership in our local Unit.

One of the Region's adjacent to us had their local units print business cards listing the Rallies and Caravans occurring close to home. The cards gave phone numbers of existing members who would appreciate answering the questions of the card recipients. They found these to be very good conversation starters when given to Airstream owners who had not decided to participate in their parties. Some of this group needed to know more about what happens when WBCCI members gather and appreciated knowing someone cared about them. The rally cards published by the Georgia Unit have been shared across a very large area of Airstream owners. New memberships have been recruited as they attended their first gathering. The price to print this type of card has been dropping at most of the major card suppliers. Some make the initial offering almost free.

There continue to be 5 times more Airstream owners who are not members than those that are WBCCI members. It would great to have many of this non-member owner group receive your next invitation. We might get so bold as to pay their first year's WBCCI membership fee from our Region's treasury. What do you think?

Galax Old Time Fiddler's Special Events Rally

Jay Thompson

The 13th Galax Old Time Fiddler's Special Events Rally sponsored by Region 3 was held August 3-9 in Galax, Virginia. Thirty-nine rigs with 81 folks enjoyed the music, friendship and great weather at the Cool Breeze Campground. Eleven of the attending rigs had been at the rally in previous years and several plan to attend again next year. There were two rigs with brand new WBCCI members attending their very first rally! Also one couple attended that were not members of WBCCI at the beginning of the week, but joined during the week.

Special highlights again this year were the concerts presented at the campground by friends of Robert Sells, owner of the Cool Breeze Campground and by friends of Betty and Junior Patton. Among these were Steve Barr, owner of Barr's Fiddle Shop in Galax and the youth band, which won the youth competition at the Fiddler's Convention. Carson Peters, a 10 year-old prodigy fiddle player, led the youth band. Carson has been on the Jay Leno show and has performed at the Grand Ol' Opry several times. You have to see and hear him to believe he is only ten years old.

Also we attended a concert given for the rally attendees by Wayne Henderson and Friends. Wayne is a world-renowned guitar musician and luthier. In order to obtain one of his guitars, a person must wait at least ten years for him to hand craft one for you. As an addendum to the rally, the group visited Wayne's shop in Rugby, Virginia population 7) As Wayne says, the town is so small that they have to take turns being the town preacher, mayor and the town drunk.

The rally again made a profit and donated \$531.94 to the Junior Appalachian Musicians program (JAMs). This program was started by Helen White in the three neighboring counties to teach the youth how to play the traditional area music. The program is very successful and is producing many young musicians.

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