



ALABAMA UNIT #001
WBCCI NEWSLETTER
January-February 2018

President's Message

It is time to get those Airstreams serviced for the new travel year. It is sure to be full of adventure and we are going to have fun. From dinners and luncheons, caravans to rallies and special events, this is a busy year with many opportunities for each of you to participate.

Our first outing will be to Athens, AL. We will be trying out parking spots for the rally in downtown and around Athens State University's softball field. There are many issues to work through and all the officers in the Alabama Airstream Club have an opportunity to help

fine tune this event. Until those details emerge, please consider adding a rally in Athens, AL October 1-7 to your plans for 2018. This rally replaces the Veterans Day Rally, and it could be a much larger event. I have submitted WBCCI application to make this a Special Event, and Region 6 forwarded the application. We believe we have Region 6 support and assistance to hold a membership drive in association with the Tennessee Old Time Fiddlers Convention. The University Staff, Tourism Office and government officials are welcoming the Airstream Club to the city and they are offering their support. More details are included later in this newsletter.

We have the Mystic Springs Rally and Jester's Ball starting February 15th, and then PJ and I are camping at Fort Pickens, FL. We hope some of you join us there.

We should soon have details to share on the April Rolling Rally along HWY 43 North to South through Alabama. This trail ends in Foley, AL for the Alabama State Rally.

In June, some of us will be off for the International Rally in Salem, OR. We currently plan to spend 17 days enroute for site seeing and visiting. Then we join the North to Alaska Caravan. We plan to be home in mid-September.

Many of you have personal travel plans and some will participate in the many available caravans. Please ensure your Airstream is in great shape for traveling around the country. We have many experts in the club that can offer advice and expertise. We wish safe travels to everyone and we hope we see you at the Wally Byam Airstream Club events.

Russ Pry, President

Area Meetings

Montgomery Area

Submitted by
John Rylee

The Montgomery Area group met for dinner at Jan's Beach House Restaurant in Montgomery on January 15th. Our meeting was delayed for one week since the prior week was the National Championship Football game between Alabama and Georgia. We had nice discussions of travels and cooking. John Rylee updated the group on our rally schedules and the meetings that are going on with the Athens people regarding a rally in conjunction with the Old Time Fiddlers Convention in October. In attendance were Flip & Paul Aehnlich, Spencer Bach, Dan & Lynn Fitzgerald, Tony & Barbara Olm, Becky & Lamar Smith, and hosts, John & Carol Rylee.

North Alabama Area

Submitted by
Andrea Patterson and Sue Chasteen

We were 12 at 12!
The North Alabama lunch group of 12 met at noon on a cold Jan

4 day at Main Street Café in Madison.

The restaurant's building was Madison's third city hall, and has two dining jail cells for private dining rooms.

Our group was too large to go to jail (we don't want any stories to get started!). A railroad track is right next to the restaurant, and one train flew by while we were there.

The menu has many Southern inspired dishes ("Georgia Chicken" is topped with peaches and pecan sauce!).

Types of Entrees the group enjoyed were Chicken Poulet, Blackened Grouper, Meatloaf, Blackened Ribeye, Salmon Salad, Quiche, Mushroom Soup, Reuben sandwich.

The table was "decorated" with many strawberry pretzel salads (which can be substituted for a vegetable and slight upcharge!).

Many discussions occurred concerning trailer insurance issues folks have experienced and upcoming travel plans.

Two couples are planning to travel together to the Florida Fantasy caravan starting point coming up soon.

It was great to see all of our airstream friends and have a nice lunch on a cold day.



Attending the luncheon were Ron Akridge, Stan and Andrea Patterson, Rus & P. J. Pry, Gene & Joyce Deakyne, Jim (*Doc*) & Kathy Bloom and Hugh & Sue Chasteen. There was much camaraderie and discussion among the group both prior and after the luncheon.

Caravaning

by
Doreen Fulcheer

Definition of CARAVANING: A company of travelers on a journey —

A group of vehicles traveling together —

Our caravan journey actually began one month after my Mother's funeral. Six years of caregiving in our home for my Mother and nine years before that with our elderly parents pushed us toward adventure. The Nor' By Nor'East was at top of our "caravan list." Over forty years ago we lived in Winter Harbor, ME while Lee was stationed at the Naval base there. We wanted to revisit all of New England and see it with "older eyes." At the same time we could refresh our American history and travel to Nova Scotia and PEI. Plus we wanted to leave the heat and humidity of northern AL for the summer.

So in September, 2016, I happily filled out the application form, wrote a brief bio and mailed our deposit to the Caravan leaders, Trevor and Gale Lake of Marshfield, MA. We received application

confirmation a few weeks later and laughed out loud when we realized we were number 19 on the WAIT LIST! The caravan allows for 23 RV units including the Leaders.

After numerous emails to Trevor (it was tax season and he is an accountant) we were given the passcode to the Nor'by Nor'East website so we could check on our progression up the "wait list" ladder. We also read about caravaning on the WBCCI website and launched our personal checklist of things to do regarding our home, dog, Airstream, truck, children, grandchildren, etc., just in case we actually made the "cut."

February rolls around and we have moved to #13 on the list. Lee and I begin searching for our passports! In March we get the email, "Hey, you are #6, still interested?" Scary! Ordered the CB radio and antenna! We develop our trip travel schedule to the rendezvous point, Ashaway, RI. By April we are #3 on the wait list and we begin to grin! Hey — we just might make the "cut." May was the "happy dance" month as the email came in — "You're In....Send Money!"

Yes, we were apprehensive and yes, our family and friends thought we were “nuts.” They kept reminding us that we would be leaving home for 3 months, would be living together in 210 square feet, towing an Airstream in unchartered areas and doing all of this with total strangers! Our response was, “we are entering ‘virgin territory’ after 49 years of marriage. What could be more exciting!”

We arrived in Ashaway on July 3, 2017, and it was the BEST DAY EVER! Several Airstreamers had already arrived and were eager to meet us. We gathered for “happy hour” that first afternoon with badges displayed by all! We kept a close look at the chest for so many days and continually called people by the wrong names even with the badges displayed! It was a HOOT! We all needed “**large print**” badges!

In a caravan you have the opportunity to “buddy up” with another couple or two depending on the size of your tow vehicle while camping in a particular area for a couple of

days. Our Ford truck seats 5 comfortably so it was perfect for us, another couple and the single lady whose travel companion was Niki, her dog. We spent so many fun days touring the countryside in our pickup truck, listening to and telling stories of our lives and Airstream favs.

For us and 9 other Airstreamers we were on our first caravan. This was so wonderful because we all had moments of crying for “help” and the seasoned caravaners were right there to assist. Everyone shared the journey!

Forty-one days of adventure, sightseeing, great food, beautiful vistas, great tours, wonderful BBQs, GAMs (Get Acquainted Meetings — or Grab Another Man), Happy Hours, good, well-maintained campgrounds, CB radio banter, tried and true LEADERS and making beautiful friendships! PRICELESS! — So get your Blue Beret out and just PICK ONE!

—
Doreen Fulcher, WBCCI 4715

Upcoming Events

Mystic Springs Cove Rally

The Mystic Jesters Ball

Mystic Springs Airstream Park

February 15-18, 2018

*See attached registration
form

Fiddlers Convention Rally

Athens, AL

October 1-7, 2018

Region 6 Rally

Lebanon, Tennessee

October 15-19, 2018

Alabama Rolling Rally

Dates & Route TBA

Alabama State Rally

Anchors Aweigh RV Park

Foley, AL

April 19-22, 2018

Airstream Classified

2013 Airstream Interstate. Call Mike
Hamilton at 334-740-5901 or
mikejhamilton@gmail.com

Safe Travels,

John Rylee

Editor

International Rally

Salem, Oregon

June 23-30, 2018



Newsletter discussion of Special Event Rally at Tennessee Old Time Fiddlers Convention

All, this is a project we have been working on since October and it is time to get more people involved. I am trying to share these files with you to bring you up to date with the latest information. Some of you have seen earlier versions of some of these documents.

We had an excellent meeting January 8th, and we are ready to commit to holding a special event rally. If the Special Event is not approved by WBACI, we can still make this an Alabama Unit Rally.

We met with the Athens State University Officials. I started off with my plan on how to host a rally at the softball field they offered us. I left my plans with them so they can discuss with the University Grounds Maintenance team.

Then they explained that they had an option for us to consider from the Mayor of Athens. The Mayor and Police Chief did not like the idea of parking on Hobbs street. Instead, the Mayor offered us the Big Springs City Park as our rally location. He offered to block off East Street road for us to park Airstreams on. He offered us the City Hall Council chambers to hold meetings.

Teresa Todd, Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association President reported that her building is next to the park. She offered us free use of the meeting room in the building. This includes a small kitchen area and bathrooms. There is a TV, tables, chairs, WiFi and a large patio. The park itself, has a covered pavilion with picnic tables and bathrooms. We were offered a haunted tour on a Tuesday or Thursday for free.

The offers are very generous and we can not afford to pass up the ideal location and facilities. Parking is not ideal and we pointed out empty properties that would suit airstreams better. They took notes and will work on getting us those properties for us to use. We can still consider the softball field if the number of airstreams exceed the parking near the Big Spring Park.

Dr Fergurson and Rick Mould said they very much want us to come to the convention and they are dedicated to working things out. Obviously, the Mayor is on board as well. We feel confident that we can make this Special Event Rally work.

Russ

REGISTRAION FORM
ALABAMA UNIT RALLY
Mystic Springs Airstream Park
591 Mystic Springs Rd
McDavid, FL 32568
February 15-18, 2018

Please send this registration form or email to John Rylee by February 13, 2018.
Rally fees will be collected at the rally.

Name_____WBCCI #_____

Guest(s)_____Arrival Date_____

Emergency Contact Information

Name_____Relationship to you_____

Telephone Number_____

Send you registration form to:

John Rylee

485 Winding Wood Dr

Wetumpka, AL 36093

334-514-0252, 334-399-6575

ryleejg@aol.com