



July 2017 Newsletter

<http://piedmontunit.wbcci.net/welcome/>

Region 3, Unit 161

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Presidents' Corner,

Caravan to Escanaba, MI

Those traveling:

Richard and Pat Paschal

Gail & Mike Bizon

Stedman Brown

Bill & Shelley Townsend

Bob & Amy Olsen

Jim & Margaret Hamernick

Bud & Donna Moore

Day 1 - Monday, July 10th we all met at Ft. Chiswell RV Park in Max Meadows, Virginia. After a staggered arrival, we had happy hour followed by dinner of brats, cold slaw, potato salad and cookies prepared by Bill & Shelley Townsend.

Day 2 - Tuesday, July 11th - Drove to Wolfe's Campground in Zanesville, Ohio. Some of us took the direct route - others the scenic route. All arrived around 4 o'clock in time for happy hour. We had dinner at Pdornettos Pizzeria in Zanesville recommended by the campground but hosted by Bob and Amy Olsen.

Day 3 - Wednesday July 12th - Breakfast at Dennys - designed like the old time diners.

Our second stop was the John and Annie Glenn House, the childhood home of John Glen. We saw a movie of his life. Wall hangings depicted their lives beginning in the 8th grade and followed them through college, WWII, NASA, and four terms as Ohio's longest serving U.S. Senator.

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One of the guides, in first person as John Glenn's mother, gave us a tour of the original house. The house, although built in 1928, was in the 1962 style. Many of us could relate to the furnishings, kitchen implements and knick knacks. John Glenn passed away in December 2016, his wife, Annie is still living at 97 years of age.

Third stop was the National Road & Zane Grey Museum. Again a movie of the life of "Pearl Zane Gray". He eventually went by P Zane Grey". He was an outdoors person who loved sports, fishing - not little spots or bass, but 1,000 pound swordfish, marlin and sharks. His father was a dentist and Zane took up dentistry in college and eventually had his own practice.

He met and married "Dolly". He love to write but hit roadblocks along the way and it was Dolly that was the force that helped to create the writer he became. He wrote 89 books, 112 films adapted from his books and we all remember the show Dick Powell's "Zane Grey Theatre.

The National Road was conceived by Albert Gallatin,, Secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson. The National Road was the nation's first Federally funded interstate highway. It opened the nation to the west and became a corridor for the movement of goods and people. Authorized by Congress in 1806, the National Road fulfilled a desire by such national figures as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson to guild an all-weather road across the Alleghenies Mountains. Construction began in Cumberland, Maryland in 1811, extending an earlier route from Baltimore. The thirty foot wide road employed the latest road construction technology, the macadam surface named for Scotsman John McAdam who devised a method of compacting several layers of broken stone to create a more solid and weather-resistant base. B 1818, the Road that crossed Pennsylvania and Western Virginia, now West Virginia, reaching the Ohio River at Wheeling. In 1824 President James Monroe signed a bill authorizing construction beyond the Ohio River. The Road reached Zanesville, OH in 1830, Columbus in 1833 and Springfield in 1838. A single year in 1833 recorded thousands of wagons, coaches and carriages, riders on horseback and immense droves of livestock. To pay for the National Road and other roads in Ohio, Congress allocated 5 percent of the net proceeds from the sale of Ohio lands. To pay for Road maintenance, in 1831, the Ohio legislature authorized the erection of toll gates at 20 mile intervals and one to a county. The Road opened the state and much of the Old Northwest Territory to settlement, provided access for Ohio products to the burgeoning eastern markets and enables Ohio Citizens to play an important role in the affairs of the nation. Artifacts showing construction of the road and even a huge Conestoga wagon were on display.

Lunch at Tom's Ice Cream for some of us - a little hole in the wall in business since 1948 with fried bologna sandwiches and delicious ice cream - yummmmm

Final stop of the day was a Riverboat ride on the Lorena Sternwheeler on the Muskingum River. The Lorena is 104' long, can carry 75 passengers and weighs over 59 tons. It travels up the Historic Muskingum River Water Trail and offers a relaxed and pleasant ride through wide waters passing scenic woodlands. She has carried governors, Miss Americas, Pat Boone and The Imperials. She gain Worldwide coverage when she survived the Blizzard of '78

Happy Hour and dinner of “rolled beef”, cold slaw, fruit, potato salad and cookies.

Yeah Bob and Amy for a delightful and enlightening day.

Day 4 - We left Wolfe's Campground around 9 A.M. A few sprinkles turned into a blinding rain with a little lightening thrown in for probably the first two hours of driving. There were a lot of flooded areas and the Moore's and Townsends experienced water over the road. Heard that 3-5 inches of rain had fallen in a relatively short period of time. Following the incimate weather the rest of the drive was pretty pleasant.

Bud and Donna hosted dinner at the Black Rock Bar & Grill in Novi. It was recommended by the campground and featured beef, seafood and chicken. Their ad states “why eat ordinary when you can eat on a rock?”. You can have your meat or seafood served seared and sizzling on a square, inch thick piece of volcanic granite, heated to 755 degrees. Then you cook it to your preferred doneness. Several of us tried it and the stone stays hot even after you're through eating. The food was delicious and the serving style unique. Obviously it is a local hangout as the place was packed.

Bob and Amy Olson traveled to Lansing Michigan to tour the state capitol building. The building took six years to build and is a beautifully restored Victorian building. It is four stories high with graduating elevators up to the 4th floor. The main floor is glass blocks . Looking straight up to the dome you see stars in the middle of the dome. The building has over nine acres of hand painted surfaces and beautiful Victorian light fixtures. They ate lunch at Zoup, which offered 12 different homemade soups, salads and sandwiches daily. The lobster bisque was very good. They went to Meridian Township to find it closed; however saw all the building from the outside and it was well done.

Day 5 - We were given several options of places to visit and explore. Stedman, Bill Townsend, Jim and Margaret Hamernick chose to tour the Ford Rouge Factory and the Museum of American Innovation. The Ford Rouge Factory tour began with a movie on the life of Henry Ford, the beginnings of the automobile industry and what it is today, the depression, WWII years, the union involvement, the stock market crash of 2008 and redesign of the factory to utilize military grade aluminum in lieu of steel in manufacturing the F-150. (This plant manufactures that model - The 250 & 350 are assembled in Louisville, Kentucky). The second movie was on the production line and producing the F-150. There was surround sound and screens and the floor trembled as the assembly line came to life and a new F-150 was born. The plant's current output is 600 cars per 8-hour shift and there are 4 shifts per day. One obstacle was that paint wouldn't adhere to aluminum so in the early stage the shell is dipped in an acid bath, which allowed the paint to adhere. This involved training anyone who does a repair on this process. The actual assembly line was down due to vacations and preparing for the 2018 model but we were able to walk the “catwalk” to see the various areas of production. It is an enormous facility - one we would like to see in action sometime in the future.

The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation features transportation from horse and buggy days to present day, race cars, locomotives, planes from Wright Brothers to large passenger planes. From modular houses to microprocessors and Buckminster Fuller's circular Dymaxion House - genius in all its forms.

Bud and Donna took in the sights of the Greenfield Village to experience 300 years of American perseverance - 80 acres brimming with resourcefulness and ingenuity - the lab where Thomas Edison had his lightbulb moment or the workshop where the Wright brothers taught us to reach for the sky, take a ride in a Model-T or walk through working farms. Donna's comment "too much walking".

Amy and Bob went to Frankenmuth and stayed the first day at Jellystone RV Park near the downtown area. They toured Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and especially enjoyed the 1,000 Hummel figurines and nativity scenes from all over the world. Ate lunch at Zehnder's Market Place, dinner at the Bavarian - too expensive and too much food.

Day 6 - Departed for Lakeshore Park Campground in St. Ignace. We cross over the Mackinac Bridge, the third longest suspension bridge in the world, which connects the U.S. to Canada. High winds were threatened but to our surprise, the wind was calm and the sun bright. Lakeshore Campground is on the shores of Lake Michigan. St. Ignace is a cute little town with lots of touristy shops, good restaurants (We ate at The Galley and The Driftwood) and an Indian casino.

Day 7 - Jim and I took a drive to De Tour Village then up to Sault Ste Marie to check on the Soo Locks Tour. Figured we would have to have a passport but since we were not getting off the boat on the Canadian side we didn't need a passport. It was 2:30 and 3:00 was the next boat departure so we decided to take the tour. There are currently four locks on the American side, of which one is closed, one will be closing and of the two being used, one was constructed to handle 1,000 ft freighters. Our tour boat was going through Lock 1 at the same time the first 1,000 ft freighter the Stewart J. Court built in 1982, was passing through. We took photos of that huge iron ore freighter.

The Soo Locks were erected on the St. Mary's river because there were rapids that wouldn't allow boats to travel from Lake Huron to Lake Superior plus the difference in water level of the two lakes. In the locks you are raised 21 feet up to the level of Lake Superior. The Tour guide was very good - we passed the Edison hydroelectric power plant is one of the oldest operational power plants in North America (since 1902), several light houses, passed under the International Bridge (the only vehicular crossing between Ontario and Michigan within a 300 mile distance) huge steel plant on the Canadian side of Sault Ste. Marie - Essar steel Algoma founded in 1902 (hot and cold rolled steel products). Boats were lined up at the dock to take on the steel. On the way back we traveled through the lock on the Canadian

side - It is short and is actually a lock in a lock for mainly pleasure boats. It was a very enjoyable tour. We didn't get back to the park until around 7 PM. As a point of information, Sault Ste Marie population in Michigan is approx 15,000 and the Sault Ste Marie population in Ontario is 75,000.

Day 8 - We took the 9 A.M. boat tour to Mackinaw Island via a pass under the Mackinaw Bridge. It was a beautiful morning and the ride into the Island was gorgeous. First view from afar was the "Grand Hotel" , pull a photo of it up on the web, it's gorgeous, built in 1887 and rack after rack of bicycles. There are no motor vehicles on the island - travel is by horse drawn carriage, on foot or by bicycle. We chose a horse drawn carriage. Blain, our guide took us down Main Street, through residential neighborhoods, by the Grand Hotel where Esther Williams was to have made a movie at the hotel pool, by Fort Mackinac, a former British and American military outpost garrisoned from the late 18th century to the late 19th century, through the stables and passed all 17 fudge shops, the first chocolate candy known to the island. We ate lunch at Millie's on Main. Back to the dock and boat ride home.

Day 9 - On our way to Gladstone Bay Campground on "Little Bay De Noc", a beautiful drive on the shore of Lake Michigan. Another nice Campground on our caravan. A quiet day. A dinner, with the caravan "family", at DeLong Restaurant.

Day 10 - Travel to finally arrive at Escanaba for the 2017 Airstream International Rally. We were parked between 10:30 and 11:00 AM. The camping arrangements are pretty nice with quite a bit of space between rigs, water and elec. on the far side of the fairgrounds grandstand infield. There will be pump out service available. We ate at Freshwater Tavern - all had wonderful dishes and would like a redo.

Day 11 - Stedman, Jim and I went through the Restonic Mattress Factory. In operation since 1936. The tour was very interesting and we were shown the process from stuffing to springs to padding, to fabric and process for making the box springs. They make Airstream mattresses at really reasonable prices. Richard and Pat are in the market and will visit the factory this afternoon.



The sunset late up in the "U P"



Once the water level has reached the brighter of the upper lake the lock opens and we cruise forward

You can see the 1,000 ft freighter next to us awaiting their "lift"



We are sitting in our smaller lock on a "locks tour boat" with our water filling our lock, seeing this 1,000 ft iron ore freighter sitting in the largest lock next to us

One big ship

60th Airstream International Rally

We rolled into the Upper Peninsula Fairgrounds in Escanaba, Michigan, at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, July 19th, to be parked as a caravan. Bernie and Ann Lackmann were our "advance party" as they arrived a week earlier to be volunteers at the rally. Bud and Donna Moore and Mike Bizon and Gaile Broom departed our caravan earlier, so we had only five rigs remaining that had traveled in the caravan from North Carolina. Andy and Karen Karakos, who had been traveling in Michigan separately, joined us at the last stop at Gladstone Bay Campground prior to being parked at Escanaba, so we were up to six rigs as we entered the Bull Pen at the fairgrounds. The parkers greeted us with bright smiles that matched the sunlight of the morning, took our parking credentials and gave us cold, bottled water!

Bob and Amy Olson were parked separately in the handicapped area, so the parkers led the Townsends, Karakos', Paschalls, Hamernicks and Stedman Brown to the Red area, backing us up against the metal fence on the far side opposite the grandstands and the main meeting areas of the rally. We had only power and water with pump-outs of the gray and black tanks on a four-day rotation.

The sunshine was brilliant but the temperatures were much better than home in the old North State, that's for sure, and the strong breeze helped cool us. A trip to Wally World was needed by a few of us, but we took time to explore the area around the fairgrounds.

Registration was set for Thursday the 20th, and the vendors were open then to take our money! We saw old friends Wes and Allison of A & W Designs with their large setup for embroidering shirts and hats, and we all helped their bottom line by purchasing stuff with the new Piedmont NC Unit logo. This couple, along with Allison's mother, have been at many past rallies.

Local tours were set up for all Airstreamers. The Hamernicks and Stedman Brown toured a local mattress factory to learn how mattresses are made; this plant was making special mattresses for Airstreams and many of us took advantage of their offer to replace our old ones. The Paschalls toured the museum and lighthouse on the water in downtown Escanaba, and were treated to the Vintage Airstream Club parade with at least two dozen trailers through the downtown area!

Registration and vendor sales continued Friday with no official activities of the rally scheduled to begin on Saturday, July 22nd other than the International Board of Trustees meeting on Saturday morning. The IBT is composed of the international officers and the presidents of the regions. Region 3 President John Frerking represented our region at all IBT meetings. Saturday night brought the opening ceremony with the parade of flags; our unit president Jim Hamernick proudly carried our new unit flag for the first time at an international rally.

An interdenominational worship service was conducted on Sunday morning, well attended by Airstreamers. During this service, our chaplain for many years, the Reverend Doctor Harold Kingdon, announced that he was "retiring" from his voluntary post as WBCCI chaplain and that our own Region 3 president, John Frerking, who is a retired Lutheran pastor, would replace him. Harold has been a very pleasant face at so many international rallies, and he will be missed, but John Frerking is a very able replacement.

During the week, seminars on many topics were available to attendees, such as washing your RV without water, quilting, membership, solar power and electrical issues with your RV, Airstream parks and national caravans, Airstream maintenance, how to use social media, and many other topics. Each evening brought entertainment to the delight of the Airstreamers. Of special note were Airstream Betty, Antsy McClain and the Trailer Park Troubadours, and the WBCCI band. The final evening on Saturday the 29th of July was the installation of the new officers and the closing ceremony.

Also available were tours outside Escanaba, mostly to the north. The Paschalls took one tour to see the Pictured Rocks on Lake Superior, one of nature's marvelous wonders. This boat tour out of the harbor at Munising was a 2 ½ hour ride on the lake on a magnificent day to see the large cliffs with many colors from the diverse types of rocks and the tannic acid from the trees above the cliffs. The action of the lake's waters had carved out caves and hollows in the cliffs that were very impressive.

The residents of Escanaba were warmly welcoming to the more than 1200 visitors in Silver City, which had about 640 rigs encamped. Many of us met at the local laundromats, supermarkets (Meijer is fantastic!), and Wal-Mart to do the necessary activities of everyday life. Restaurants welcomed our traveling friends and filled us with great food.

With these fun activities, including our unit social hours, behind us, our amigos departed the fairgrounds for different directions. Bob and Amy Olson left on Thursday, Jim and Margaret Hamernick headed toward Minneapolis to see family on Saturday afternoon. Andy and Karen Karakos with granddaughter Kalie, left for home on Sunday morning early. Stedman Brown, Richard and Pat Paschall, and Bill and Shelley Townsend headed out Sunday for a caravan to Fond du Lac, WI; East Moline, IL; Springfield, IL; and Indianapolis, IN before heading home. Bernie and Ann Lackmann left for home as soon as the Properties Committee got the WBCCI trailer loaded for next year.

With the beauty of the Upper Peninsula behind us, we look forward to the 61st International Rally in Salem, Oregon, in 2018. Although the journey to Oregon will be long, several members of our unit plan to make that trip and have already registered. For those of us looking toward a nearby venue, we only need wait until 2019 when the 62nd International Rally will be held at the Meadow Park in Doswell, Virginia, near Kings Dominion. The Region 3 Rally in 2016 was held at the Meadow Park, home of the famed Triple Crown winner, Secretariat.

This International Rally was an outstanding event, affording so many opportunities, and with beautiful weather on almost every day. Like Baskin Robbins, we had at least 31 choices of things to do, and lots of free time if desired. So, I encourage everyone to plan to attend an International Rally in the near future: an opportunity to see other parts of the country, to learn so much about Airstreaming, and to meet old friends and make new ones. Get out on the road and enjoy life in your Airstream!

Richard Paschall



On the way back home, at the John Deere Harvester Factory, East Moline, Ill. Paschalls, Townsends, and Stedman Brown.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR JULY 2017

Our membership is now 66 regular members and 3 affiliated members. We had no new members for July. This is probably due to the fact since I began as Membership Chairperson in mid June, the listings of new Airstream owners for North Carolina that were supposed to start being sent to me have not been. I spoke with Russ Barberio, previous Membership Chairperson, to determine if he was still receiving them. I have contacted Barb Langston in Jackson Center and she has assured me that as soon as she returned from the International Rally she would make sure that I would start receiving the lists.

Lance & Shirley Perryman have forwarded to me information regarding Larry & Kathy Prout of Raleigh who are Airstream owners that Shirley had met. I have contacted them, sent a membership packet and invited them to join our unit. Thanks Lance & Shirley.

So as you travel around and see fellow Airstreamers, tell them all about how fun, active, and fulfilling it is to be part of the Piedmont Unit.

Donna Moore, Membership Chairperson

Treasurer's Report For August 2017

When August rolls around, it is time to start talking about 2018 membership renewals. All renewals must be processed and in the hands of WBCCI by November 30th for renewals to be in the 2018 printed directory.

Renewals can be made online using a credit or debit card, or the traditional process using a paper form and writing a check. I am encouraging members to use the online process if possible. Information entered online by the renewing member is electronically entered into WBCCI's system without rekeying. The traditional paper form has to be verified, processed through our local records, mailed to WBCCI and then keyed into their system. Either way the cost to the member is the same \$80 (\$65 for international dues and \$15 for our unit dues).

When renewing online one has to enter their WBCCI membership number and email address. Follow the prompts to complete the renewal. One final thing, you will have a drop down arrow for selecting the unit number; we are Region 3, Unit 161, Piedmont NC. Anyone having any questions about either process can call me and I will be glad to walk them through the process. For your convenience, below is a link to the online renewal page.

<http://wbcci.org/>

Stedman Brown, Treasurer



July Birthdays

Christine Baker
Michael Bizon
Chris Brown
Debbie Donald
Orin Harding
Brenna Hodge
John Lloyd
Sherman Merchant
Carl Newton
Joyce Porter
Joe Schradie
Billie Shelton
Tom Storrs
Susan Storrs
Bill Townsend
MaryWeaver

Anniversaries

Brasefield
Bureau
Hodge
Luke
Oliver



Gregory Ray, KK4MHY
Piedmont NC Unit, WBCCI
Unit Corresponding Secretary
179 West Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

First Class

WEBSITE: <http://piedmontunit.wbcci.net/welcome/>

2017 Rally Sites:

February 11- Exhibition of Ansel Adams: Masterworks, North Carolina Museum of Art, 2110 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607 (919) 839-6262, Tour cost estimate \$42 per person including lunch. Noon to afternoon. Hosts: Lance and Shirley Perryman

March 10- Carolina Fur Dressing, Big Rock Sports, International Wildlife leather goods tour, **10AM**, 900 Freedom Drive, Raleigh, NC 27610, Hosts: Rick and Marsha Morgan (919) 231-9933

April 6-9- Raleigh Four Oaks RV Resort Rally, Buddy Rally, 527 US Highway 701S, Four Oaks, NC 2 Hosts: Todd and Debbie Stroud (919) 963-6953, Campground (919)-934-3181

April 19-26- "Mountains of NC" Unit Caravan to Region 3 Rally, Schedule to follow, Leaders: Shelly & Bill Townsend, Nancy & John Becker

April 26-30- Region 3 Rally- Hiawassee, GA. Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, <http://www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com/> 1311 Music Hall Road, P.O. Box 444 Hiawassee, GA 30546 (706) 896-4191 Region 3 Hosts

May 11-14- Country Music Rally, Shelby/Cleveland County Fairgrounds 1751 E. Marion St., Shelby, NC (704) 487-0651 Hosts Bob and Ann Olson

June 8-11- Cross Winds Family Campground, 160 Campground Lane, Linwood, NC 27299 (336) 853-4567, Hosts: Richard and Pat Paschall, Chris and Shirley Brown.

July 22-29- WBCCI International Rally, Escanaba, MI

August 7-12- Galax Fiddler's Convention www.oldfiddlersconvention.com Cool Breeze Campground, 2330 Edmonds road, Galax, VA 24333 www.coolbreezecampground.com Reservations: (866) 342-0300 Hosts: Region 3 Unit Host: Bernie and Ann Lackmann

August 17-20- Hickory Nuts Falls Family Campground www.hickorynutfallsfamilycampground.com 639 Main Street, Chimney Rock, NC 28730 HOSTS TBD

September 7-10 Rutledge Lake Campground, Buddy Rally, 170 Rutledge Road, Fletcher NC 28732 www.rutledgelake.com Reservations: (828) 654-7873 HOSTS TBD

October 12-15 – New Bern KOA, www.koa.com/campgrounds/new-bern, 1565 B Street, NC 28560 Reservations: (252) 638-2556 HOSTS: Ned and Ann Albee

November 9-12 – Installation Rally

North Carolina Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Contact, Claudine Davis, Claudine.davis@ncagr.gov, (919)-839-4501, www.ncstatefair.org, Raleigh, NC, Advise you are with the Wally Byam Piedmont Unit. Hosts Dick and Becky Martin