



December 2017 Newsletter

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

Region 3, Unit 161

Inside this issue:
2018 President's Corner
Membership Report
Region 3 Report

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE TOWNSENDS

This being my first entry as president, I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to serve this year. Shelley and I are looking forward to a great year with our club.

We have a hardworking slate of officers for the year. The officers are listed, on the newsletter cover. Our dedicated Committee Chairs are listed in the Club Directory. I would like to single out a few club members who have already put in a tremendous effort toward 2018. Our membership chairperson, Donna Moore, has gone the extra mile to ensure all members were reminded of the opportunity to renew their membership and welcoming new members. Our treasurer, Stedman Brown has had his hands full keeping up with renewals. Our director chairperson, Richard Paschall, has spent many hours in front of the computer refining the contents of the directory (all while serving as the Region 3 Registrar for the upcoming region events.) The monthly rally sponsors have already lined up an exciting year. There are many others working behind the scenes to insure the success of the club.

The club has over 60 members and there are many I have not had the opportunity to rally with. Therefore, I will share a few insights into where I come from. (This story is one rambling thought, so paragraphs will be omitted.) Shelley and I live on a small family farm outside Lumberton, NC. The property has been in the family since the 1700s and after passing through many generations, our portion is down to 60 acres. We lease the cleared land to a childhood friend who still farms. I am retired from the U.S. Army and from a second career with

Continued on page 2.

the Bladen County School System. A few years before retirement, Shelley and I discussed our future plans. She had mused over the years about how her parents had planned on traveling in their retirement and never got around to it. My first wife's parents had a camper and I remembered the joy of camping at the beach (and the excitement generated when we camped next to an Airstream one summer). We pondered getting a trailer and traveling. After many months of looking and debating we found our 1970 "Overlander" on "Craig's List." It was all original and required a thorough going through. I am somewhat handy, given lots of time, so I changed the axles, replaced the black tank, repaired the "rear end separation", refurbished the stove and refrigerator, replaced the floor covering, removed the clear coat, painted the frame, and we took off. We have been going ever since. Shelley still has plans for her 1961 "Trade wind" and it still patiently awaits our attention under the barn.

I look back over the few skills I possess and wonder how I got to this club position. I will offer some random thoughts on what little I know about myself:

- I am not the life of the party. Anyone who has rallied with Shelley and I know that if the campfire is burning after 7:30PM, I am not there. I am back in the camper beginning the process of "checking my eyelids for holes".
- I am not a cook who can lay out a spread for folks. If food is needed, I am sure the local deli can supply the needs. If hot food is desired, I can use Google to find a suitable restaurant. I do, however, have a grill and have no problem burning whatever is put on it.
- I enjoy getting up early (which is why I begin "checking my eyelids for holes" around sundown). Most folks I have camped with are not early risers so I am not in the majority in this area. I guess I can safely say that I am at my "most social" after I get up and most others are still asleep. (At least there are few who can dispute this line of thinking.)
- A former life taught me a few planning skills, but I am usually a little slow on the implementation part. Once a time schedule has been set up, however, I do the best I can to stick to it. After all, when several parties are involved, all need to execute the plan at the same time. Otherwise, what good is a plan. Therefore, I respectfully request that we all do our best to meet times that are setup in our rally schedules. If someone is left behind when the group leaves on time, I am confident that the GPS will help them catch up.

We have a full rally slate for the year. A fantastic group of volunteers have arranged a variety of opportunities for us to enjoy the Airstream Lifestyle. I encourage you all to get out to the rallies and enjoy the company of your fellow Airstreamers.

Again, Shelley and I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and hope to SEE YOU DOWN THE ROAD!!



Shelley's Trade Windö patiently waiting!

Bill Townsend

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Please welcome new affiliate member Margaret Van de Ree. Margaret is a regular member of the Carolinas Unit and is a Past President of that unit. Margaret attended our November Rally in Raleigh. It was a pleasure meeting her and having her at our rally, and we look forward seeing her at some of our upcoming rallies.

As the year is coming to an end, most of our members have renewed their membership for 2018. However, it is not too late. If you haven't renewed but would like to, you can renew online at WBCCI.org, select the Join tab, and charge your dues to your credit card or Paypal. Of course, you can still complete a hard copy of the membership form, and send your dues check to Stedman Brown. Please make sure you select Piedmont Unit #161.

Our membership for the coming year is 57 regular members and 2 affiliated members.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Donna Moore, Membership Chairperson

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From Region 3, 1st VP John Leake:

Wow! Another year is almost over, and if you're like us, you are still trying to figure out just where all the time went. Family, friends, church, work, community—the list goes on and on. Susan and I are fortunate to have both our sons and their families with us right here in York, SC, so we see each other almost daily. That also means there is always a project needing our help. We are lifelong residents of York, so we have many friends here, going as far back as kindergarten days. Our church and civic organizations always need volunteers.

Our Airstream family is also very important to us. The friends we have made along the way number in the thousands, and it would be hard to imagine not seeing many of them at some point, somewhere down the road. The Airstream family is like no other RV family. We share the one iconic brand, the wanderlust, the rambling fever, the curiosity of what's over the next hill, and we always stand ready to help and support each other when needed, and it is all coordinated by volunteers!

So, how was your Airstream year?

Did you participate in a Caravan; attend the Region Rally in Hiawassee or the International in Escanaba? A special events rally? How about a Unit rally or luncheon? A road trip to visit family? Or maybe a nice, quiet weekend at a State Park somewhere just to get away?

Or did you do the easy thing—simply stay home, let your Airstream sit?

A check of the Club calendar yields a wealth of activities for members. Places to go, people to see, tours to take, and events to participate in. Some are across the state, some across the region, and some even across the country. All are a reason to hitch up and get going. The old saying "use it or lose it" is so true with our Airstreams. They are designed and engineered to go down the road, to travel; they do not respond well to sitting still for long lengths of time. "Better to wear out than rust out."

With 2018 just around the corner, and the opportunity for a fresh, new start, please allow me to suggest to you an "Airstreamer's New Year's Resolution." To:

- Become more involved with your Unit. Everyone is needed, you make a difference. Pitch in.
- Attend more rallies. We miss you, and the fellowship is wonderful. You will like it.
- Host a rally. The reward is watching everyone have a great time as a result of your efforts.
- Contribute to the Unit newsletter. We are all interested in your stories. Send them in.
- Consider becoming a Unit officer. It is easy, you will have help, and we need fresh ideas.
- Support your Unit officers. Provide them with input, suggestions, and help.
- Take more road trips. Get out of your comfort zone. See this great country, visit friends.
- Welcome, a new member. Mentor them. Make them feel special because they are.
- Reach out, pay it forward, share the love.
- Practice random acts of kindness.
- Be a role model. Leave things better than you found them. People are watching.

I close with this!

Susan and I hope that 2018 will be your best year ever. We wish all the best health and happiness for everyone. We count it a blessing to have you as friends. Never hesitate to reach out if you need our help.

Keep moving, my friends, and we will see you down the road this year.

John & Susan Leake (john@leakesantiques.com)

1st VP, Region 3

Proud member Palmetto State Airstream Club 22



December Birthdays

Nancy Becker
Jerry Burau
Margaret Banke-Hamernick
Ralph Meeks
Dick Statham
Susan Strong

Anniversaries

Baker
Galloway
Guy
McLeroy
Meeks
Shelton
Weaver



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/>

2018 Rally Sites:	
Jan 8-12	Midwinter IBT , Sarasota County Fairgrounds 3000 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota FL region3registrar@gmail.com (for reservation and registration)
Feb 3	Luncheon/Tour , NC Museum of Art, 2110 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh Hosts: Lance & Shirley Perryman 970-420-0063 (registration)
Mar 15-18	Maintenance Rally , Lumberton/I-95 KOA, 465 Kenric Dr., Lumberton NC 800-562-0845 (reservation) Hosts: Bill & Shelley Townsend 910-734-5940 (registration) Townsend email: wctownsend48@gmail.com
Apr 25-29	Region 3 Rally , Ocean Lakes Family CG 6001 S. Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach SC 877-510-1413 (reservations) region3registrar@gmail.com (registration only)
May 10-13	Rally at Tranters Creek CG/Resort 252-948-0850 (reservations) 6573 Clark's Neck Rd, Washington, NC 27889 Hosts: Dick & Becky Martin 919-637-6883 (registration only) Martin email: beckywmartin@earthlink.net
Jun 7-10	June Rally Charlotte/Ft. Mill KOA 940 Gold Hill Rd., Ft. Mill, SC 888-562-4430 (reservations) Hosts: Chris & Shirley Brown 704-526-6348 (registration only) Brown email: chris@affordablesweep.com
Jun 23-30 61st WBCCI International Rally, Salem OR	
Jul 12-15	Buddy Rally at Mayberry Campground, 114 Bunker Rd., Mt. Airy NC 336-789-6199 (reservations) Hosts: Paschalls (919-614-7415) and Bizon/Broom (704-502-3399) af06@att.net or gailebroom@aol.com (registration only)
Aug 5-12	Galax Old Fiddler's Convention Region 3 Rally Cool Breeze CG, 2330 Edmonds Rd, Galax, VA 866-342-0300 Hosts: Bernie and Ann Lackmann 919-740-1711 (information)
Sep 13-16	Rally at Mayo Lake 828-654-7873 (reservations) 1013 Neal's Store Rd., Roxboro NC Hosts: John & Nancy Becker 336-322-0109 (registration only) nsbecker@me.com
Oct 18-21	Carolina Balloon Festival Rally Statesville/I-77 KOA 162 KOA Lane, Statesville NC 800-562-5705 (reservations) Hosts: Bud & Donna Moore 336-707-3740 (registration only) dmoore6326@gmail.com
Nov 8-11	Installation Rally , Raleigh Oaks Resort & CG 527 US Hwy 701 S, Four Oaks NC 919-934-3181 (reservations) Hosts: Todd & Debbie Stroud 919-963-6953 (registration only) goodfoodlady@gmail.com