

GOOD LIFE NEWS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

FLORIDA UNIT 027

APRIL 2007

The President's Letter

Here we are at the end of the rally season for the Florida Unit. The Easter Rally in St. Augustine was a huge success. We received kudos from many who attended. A huge "Well done!" was earned by all of the workers who made it possible. One attendee confided in me that we made the whole thing look easy, and he realized how much work that took. He was impressed with the good nature of our unit's workers and with little things, like Frank Carson warning everyone about the speed traps between the fairgrounds and town.

ON a more somber note, one of our members, Tom Moore, is quite ill. At rally time he had a skin cancer operation that had a complication and required a second visit to the operating room. To add insult to injury, he had fallen out of his motorhome prior to the operation and injured his ankle. Tom, even with all of this going on, still barbecued the pork for our Thursday evening dinner. He wasn't able to attend, and a couple of our folks drove to Daytona to pick up the meal. Tom is one in a million! Please keep him in your thought and prayers. I am sure he would appreciate a card from our members.

At the unit business meeting, we discussed, at length, whether or not to allow Four Winds motorhome owners who trade from an Airstream motorhome to remain in the club. The vote was unanimous against allowing Four Winds into the club. I liken it to being in the Ford Excursion club and allowing Lincoln Navigators in because Ford stopped producing the Excursion. The Airstream is an American icon. If a trailer or motorhome didn't come out of the Airstream factory and doesn't carry the Airstream (or Argosy) nameplate, it shouldn't be allowed in the club.

The Florida Unit is growing. We have many new members who have not been to our rallies. We would like to get you involved and help you get the most out of the club and your Airstreams. To that end, Joan Carson has volunteered to begin a mentoring project. She may be contacting some of our long time members to keep in touch with you new members and apprise you of the club's activities.

Those who have vintage Airstream trailers might join the Vintage Airstream Club (VAC). The VAC has activities aimed at the interests of the vintage owners. For those who don't know, a vintage trailer is 25 years old and older.

We look forward to the International Rally in Perry, GA. We hope to see you there.

Our unit's next rally is the Election Rally on November 14-18 at the Camelot RV Park, on Rt.1 in Malabar, FL. If you can't attend the rally, please try to make it to the Annual Elections meeting on Saturday, November 17th at the Golden Corral on Palm Bay Road, Melbourne, FL.

That's about it for now. Be safe in your summer activities. I hope to see all of you in November.

Vic Smith, President

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St. Augustine Rally Review

If you were at the rally, you know what a great time was had by all. If you weren't, here is what you missed.

The evening entertainment was professional and entertaining. Michele Reyna kept us fascinated by her tales of the ghosts of St. Augustine. After her performance, we peered at the cemeteries looking for visions in white or wispy figures in old-fashioned suits which she described as appearing there. Margaret Kaler had us believing she was really Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, the author of "The Yearling". She held her character when we talked with her after her presentation as the author. As always, The Royal Family awed us with their beautiful costumes, but we learned that it is very difficult to finance the Easter parade because of waning local interest and lack of corporate sponsorship. And another author visited us. Mark Twain, portrayed by Robert Gill, told us about other parts of his life rather than the years that were the background for Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Gill had played the part of Henry Flagler at our other Easter rallies. Top drawer experiences!

Then there was the availability of The Red Train. Folks had four days of off and on again privileges to see all the sights indigenous to St. Augustine. They could choose from The Castillo de San Marcos (the Spanish fort), the Lightner Museum, Flagler College tour, the Flagler Church, the tall cross, the Ripley Museum, the Fountain of Youth, and the whole old Spanish quarter.

As part of the scheduled tours, the Red Train took us to our boat tour on the Matanzas River where Flat Stanley had his boy-overboard adventure a couple of years ago. It also took us to The Oldest House which earned its name for being the oldest wooden house to be continually occupied in the U.S., by either the Spanish, British or others, until it was taken over by The Historical Society a number of years ago.

Then there was food. You read about Tom Moore's contribution of the barbeque in Vic's letter, but he didn't say anything about how delicious it was. Easter Sunday was the catered ham dinner by Boston Market. Good food and generous servings. The Blasdell's annual strawberry shortcake was our refreshments one evening, and Bev Trask saw to it we had delicious desserts all the other nights. Wray Finn's pancakes and the unit's specialty "Omelet in a Bag" got us started two mornings. Wray had coffee for us every day.

Just-for-fun activities were the Easter egg hunt and the Senior Special Olympics. Our children would never believe how their parents become kids all over again when they enter into the spirit of competition. Senior adults wasted no time looking for the hidden eggs. And what fun the Olympic teams had preparing for the games, dressing in costumes and team colors. It was a little sad to have to put out the flame ending the games. The Blue Team was rewarded with first place and celebrated their winning with gold medals.

The culmination of the rally was the inspirational Easter sunrise service on the Castillo grounds, and the colorful Easter parade with Frank Carson and Vic Smith proudly towing their trailers among the colorful floats.

One hundred twelve people attended the rally which included thirty-two of our unit membership. It would have been impossible to conduct the rally and have the success with it as we did if it hadn't been for the help of all our members who attended. Nor could we have done it without all the willingness of our guests to pitch in and give a hand where it was needed. And at the top of the list is the work of Frank Carson, the rally coordinator, and Joan, whose pre-rally planning is the foundation on which the rally is built.

Here's the list of our folks who attended. Phil and Phyllis Azerado, Whit and Marilyn Blasdell, Frank and Joan Carson, Wray and Pat Finn, Werner and Char Joachmisthal, Henry Lappen and Kitty Haggerty, Earl and Helen Leggett, Joe and Ellen McMillan, Fred and Sue Mount, Willard and Jeanne Pickrel, Vic and Josie Smith, Tom and Jackie Tisdell, Earl and Bev Trask, Dave and Betty Wenger, Charles and Jackie Whittington, and Ray and Maggie Wilson.

If your name isn't on the list, you missed a great time!

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Thank You from Frank

We did it again! Many thanks to those of you in the unit, both regular and affiliate members, who worked to make the Easter Rally a huge success. The eighty guests who attended were all very appreciative of your efforts in showing them a great time.

Below is listed the names of those who worked on the various committees as printed in the rally booklet, but not named are all those who were unlisted committee members or who saw a need and pitched in to help.

Parking: Earl Leggett, Charles Whittington, Bob Olson (not a member), Wray Finn

Greeters: Helen Leggett, Jackie Whittington, Amy Olson (not a member), Betty Wenger

Registration: Joe and Ellen McMillan, Pat Finn

Opening exercises: Vic and Josie Smith

Barbeque dinner: Tom and Ann Moore

Pancake breakfast: Wray and Pat Finn, Earl Trask, Joe McMillan, Whit Blasdell

Omelet-in-a-Bag: Frank and Joan Carson, Joe and Ellen McMillan, Dave and Betty Wenger

Easter egg hunt: Vic and Josie Smith

Strawberry shortcake: Whit and Marilyn Blasdell

Decorations: Joan Carson, Ellen McMillan

Refreshments: Bev and Earl Trask, Betty Wenger

Rally booklet: Vic and Josie Smith

Olympic games: Joe and Ellen McMillan

Raffle: Phyllis and Phil Azerado

50/50: Vic and Josie Smith

Door Prizes: Joan Carson

As you see, this rally is not put on by just the rally coordinator. It is the total effort of a lot of folks who are willing to use their talents in hosting our guests and having a good time doing it.

Please accept the sincere thanks from Joan and me for a job well done. We thank you all.

While We're on the Subject

If you looked at the list of folks who helped during the Easter Rally, looked at the list about five years ago, or again 10 years ago you would find many of the same names. These people have served the unit long and well, but age and health have taken their toll.

The time is fast approaching when some of them will no longer be able to continue doing whatever is asked of them in behalf of the unit.

This is where you come in. The unit needs the services of replacements.

We're not asking for the moon or your first born. What we want from you is your attendance at our rallies and your willingness to take over where these folks will be leaving off.

Look at the committee jobs listed in the previous column and ask yourself where you could fill in. Frank is going to need new people to take over some of the jobs. It would be great if you would volunteer, but it would be just fine, if you're asked, that you would say "yes".

Frank will be continuing as rally coordinator for the Easter Rally through 2008 for sure. He's not committing himself after then.

We need new help, new ideas, and new leadership to keep a very successful rally going. Are you going to be the ones to lend that hand?

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Excerpts from the General Meeting Minutes 4-4-07

A general meeting of the Florida Unit membership was held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds after the executive board meeting. The officers attending were: Vic Smith, pres., Dave Wenger, 1st v. pres., Pat Finn, rec. sec., Frank Carson, treas., Henry Lappen and Betty Wenger, 2 yr. trustees, and Bev Trask and Ellen McMillan, 1 yr. trustees. Absent were: Tom Moore, 2nd v. pres., Don Benham, corresp. sec., and Wray Finn, ImPPres.

Frank Carson reported there are 56 voting members and 13 affiliate members in the Florida Unit.

The delegate to the International at Perry, GA., is our president, Vic Smith and the alternate is Earl Leggett.

Larry Scovotto made the motion to vote no to admission to the club (WBCCI) of any other product(s) which may have a nameplate other than "Airstream." This was seconded by Earl Leggett. The vote was unanimous.

Frank made a motion that the delegate (to the delegates' meeting at the International) has the right to vote his conscience on anything that does not pertain to bringing another unit (product) into WBCCI. Seconded by Ellen. Approved.

Ellen made a motion that our unit contribute \$75 to the Region 3 Charity Project, which is the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. Seconded by Dave and approved.

The slate of officers (for 2008) submitted by the nominating committee consisting of Vic Smith, Dave Wenger, and Frank Carson includes:

President	Dave Wenger
1 st Vice President	Tom Moore
2 nd Vice President	Larry Scovotto
Corresponding Secretary	Joan Carson
Recording Secretary	Pat Finn
Treasurer	Frank Carson
2 Year Trustee	Earl Leggett
2 Year Trustee	Joe McMillan

Remaining in office are 1 year trustees Betty Wenger and Henry Lappen and Vic Smith as immediate past president..

Other members in attendance were: Earl Leggett, Helen Leggett, Joe McMillan, Josie Smith, Fred Mount, Sue Mount, Marilyn Blasdell, Whit Blasdell, Larry Scovotto, and Linda Scovotto.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Finn, recording secretary

In Recognition

After many years of service in one capacity or another, Don Benham is retiring from his last job of being corresponding secretary. He gave up the newsletter editorship recently. He and Flora were president and first lady three different terms. We wish to recognize their faithfulness to the unit and to WBCCI, and thank them for their contribution to the club.

About Our Members

We want to welcome as new members to our unit **Tom and Linda Wentzell**. They intend to attend the International.

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The following is the correct e-mail address for **Randy and Pat Godfrey**.

RGODFREY1@cfl.rr.com

Vic Smith is responsible for the picture collages which you find in the newsletter. We thank **Vic** for his savvy.

Many of you remember **Bill Allibone** as the "Popcorn Man." We are sorry to report he died recently. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

From an e-mail from **Earl Leggett** to **Frank Carson** after the Region 3 Rally at St.

Augustine:

Arrived home safe. No storm in Florida till driving thru Jacksonville. Then rain in torrents. Wind bad all the way to Charleston. Worse here. Wind up to 71 mph. Did not come in off new bridge, More later. Lot of work to do unpacking. **Helen** fell in our motorhome and cut her arm pretty bad so emergency room at hospital when we arrived. Treated her myself till arrived home. More later. She is OK now until we visit the doctor again. Big bandage. Will fill you in next e-mail. **Earl**

Pat and Wray Finn had to leave the Region 3 Rally at St. Augustine early because **Wray** was not well. Subsequently he was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with pneumonia. He is home again. Take care, **Wray** for a full recovery.

Vic Smith has had a dark cloud hanging over his head for quite a while. If you remember, his house was flooded, and the last several months have been spent living in his Airstream along side his home while the renovation was going on. He was able to sleep in his renewed home only one night when he came to the St. Augustine rally living again in his trailer.

When **Pat** had to take **Wray** directly to the doctor and left their trailer at the fairgrounds, **Vic** was the Good Samaritan, went back to the fairgrounds in **Finn's** car and towed their trailer back to their home. He was rewarded with a blowout on the way back.

Next, he has been in the hospital for Cryo therapy for prostate cancer but is now home. He says he is doing well though slightly uncomfortable.

Vic, we wish you a quick recovery, a pleasant time in your newly renovated home, and that there is nothing but sunshine in your life for a long time. You've earned it.

From **Marie Chapman**: For several years I've been thinking that I must get rid of my trailer and stay home. There are many reasons: the drive south in the fall and back home in the spring has become less and less enjoyable; family and friends I visited along the way are gone; several dear friends who were at LYH and other areas of FL. are now gone; my closest friends here and at Melbourne Beach are moving away this spring; being away ½ the year makes it hard to form new friendships in my new home area of Lancaster; and it's not fair to my family to cause them to make the trip south to clear things out when I am unable to do so. The trailer is sold and I'm muddling thru the overwhelming task of what to do with stuff-take home/give away/try to sell/pitch? I'm truly happy with this decision. But saying goodbye to my friends was something else!! I felt OK with going to Happy Hour (at the Blue Grass Festival) until I told **Frank** while he was disconnecting my water hose. I crumbled and my tears started.

To all my unit friends: It's been a pleasure to get to know you. Whenever you come to PA look for me. I'm in the phone book and most easy to find from RT 30 west or from Millersville. 1416 B Manor House Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603, 717-393-0205. Love you, **Marie**

Marie has been a member of our unit for many, many years. We wish her well in her new circumstances, but we'll miss her.