



GOOD LIFE NEWS



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FLORIDA UNIT 027

JUNE 2008

Presidents Message

Greetings to everyone!

Summer is here and all of the local Airstream rallies are over until November when we have scheduled an Election Rally Luncheon in Orlando. My guess is that Betty and I will be almost the only ones left in Florida basking in the beautiful, hot sunny days that everyone associates with our state.

We just got back from the Region Three Rally in Raleigh NC. The theme of the rally was "Spring Time Carolina Style," and the Raleigh area was alive with many white dogwood trees and blooming flowers. We had a great time with Randy and Pat Godfrey. Also we met with Danny and Mary King that are associate members of our unit. They were there with their Virginia Unit, but we did enjoy eating a meal with them one evening. The NC Fairgrounds was a great place to hold the rally and our campsites were not far from the building that was the meeting place for all the meetings and dinners. I took my blue scooter to the rally and helped the Parking Committee with the job of finding appropriate spots for all to camp for the week. It rained for the first few days, but that didn't hinder us from having a good time. It had been a long time since we had to deal with red GA clay.

We had several catered meals and one evening a unit provided a hotdog meal for us. The four of us (Randy & Pat, Betty and I) enjoyed eating together in two area restaurants during the week. The Rally scheduled several tours from which we could choose. Betty and I went to the Vet Hospital that is part of NC State College. Randy and Pat went to a beautiful garden on the grounds of Duke University. Most evenings we had door prizes, entertainment, and ice cream. On Saturday we had a flea market among Airstreamers; also, there was another flea market on the fairgrounds that we could visit and at

which we could spend our money. Betty really enjoyed our visit to the local Farmers Market in Raleigh.

I want to share a cute story from the week. At one of the meetings I asked Randy if he would be our unit's delegate since I was still involved with the parking. We did not know that he needed a note from me to make his vote official. Randy was asked by the chairman of the meeting what credentials he had to be our delegate. He pointed to his badge but Tom Tisdell told him that a written note was still necessary. Randy then quipped, "Well, I did sleep in an Airstream last night." Needless to say, that really got quite a response from the audience.

Now I need to get serious for a minute. We really need a volunteer for 2nd Vice President for our club for next year. To qualify, you must own an Airstream and be between 20-90 years of age. I know that someone will be willing to do this job for us! Please e-mail or call me about this.

Even though we won't be joining those of you traveling to our international rally in June, we wish you a lot of fun and a safe summer of traveling.

Dave Wenger

PS: Following is a note that Betty & I received from Duyane and Judy Canada who attended our St. Augustine Easter Rally. I thought you might enjoy it - especially those who worked so hard to make it such a huge success. For those who have worked the rally in the past - this is also for you. For those who will help next year - this is ALSO for you! Making new friends, which we meet at future rallies following our rally, is one of the great benefits to holding our annual St. Augustine rally. Hard work but the applause is always LOUD when the rally is over!

THANK YOU!

Dear Members of the Florida Unit:

We would like to thank all of you who worked so hard so we could have such an enjoyable time. The meals and desserts, prizes, cruise, Red Train and entertainment were all great. When we purchased our 50/50 and raffle tickets, never did we think we would win. We never do. However...luck was on our side. Buying the tickets to participate let us be winners this time. We have also sent Thank you notes to Airstream and Fantastic Fan. Thank you. We had a great time and really enjoyed the Olympics too. Again, thank you for a job well done.

Fellow Airstreamers,
Duyane and Judy Canada
Livingston, TX 77399

A note from Fran Durbin's nephew:

I am Dr. Nik Kothari, Fran's nephew. I have come up from West Palm Beach to take care of Aunt Fran for few days. My wife Ruth Anne is a nurse and she will join me tomorrow. I want you to know that she is doing very well post operatively. She has a high pain threshold, and she is not a complainer. She had squamous cell carcinoma on her nose. Most of the soft tissue from the tip of the nose was removed. A skin flap was removed from the forehead and trans- planted on her nose. I think it is a major surgery but she was sent home today. She asked that I write to you because she has difficulty with her sight. She still plans to be in Montana in June to work on the rally, and will look forward to seeing you there.

With regards,
Nik Kothari

From all of us...heal quickly, Fran, and we'll see you down the road! (Thanks, Dr. Nik)

(Note from Fran herself)

Thanks so much for your good wishes.

Each day is better, Frank.

The next surgery is on the 15th (of May), then I am "home free."

Warmly, Fran

REGION 3 EXCITEMENT!

"We done it a'gin!" Let's congratulate ourselves on receiving the Region 3 Superior Merit Award – this is the 8th year in a row! Vic led us through a banner award year but was unable to attend Reg. 3. Dave (always humble) gave our 2nd V.P., Randy, the privilege of going forward to receive the banner on behalf of our Unit! Way to go, team!

Just one note Region 3 attendance was up from 90 last year to 110 this year a 22% increase. Let's continue this trend next year in Perry.

FUTURE RALLIES:

If you are planning a future rally for our unit, PLEASE get detailed information to Frank Carson by August. This information must be submitted to HQ by 9/01/08.

Get Well Wishes – Call, e-mail, or send cards to:

Frank Carson – trouble with his ankle.

Earl Leggett – recovering from insertion of heart stints. BUT may be able to drive soon.

Joan Carson – foot issues!

Tom Moore – successful eye surgery May 20th

Fran Durbin – skin cancer surgery

Phil Drugge – health problems and would appreciate prayers from everyone.

A Different View From the Window

By Frank Carson

As Joan and I are getting ready to pack for the 2000 mile drive to Bozeman, Montana, my mind wanders back to some of the rallies for which we have been responsible. After ten years, I know what to expect at the Easter Rally; but I've got a bit of apprehension as I think of this new responsibility of running the Florida State Rally at Sarasota. "*What have I gotten myself into this time?*"

SARASOTA: We'd like to make it bigger and better. Here are some of the changes thus far. The opening ceremony has been changed from Wednesday morning to Tuesday evening. The Saturday dinner will be changed from BBQ to something a bit healthier. We have added a fashion show and another "First Timers Seminar" to Saturday afternoon. The weekend rate is being lowered to bring it in line with a daily rate. Will all the changes work? Those of you which have not

attended a rally as yet, will have to attend and tell me. I have always been under the assumption that if you have a great rally at a great rate, members will come. In 2008 we had the largest turnout of our Unit at the Florida State Rally. I believe we had more than half our Unit there. It certainly would be great to see at least that many, and more, in 2009. Where can you go in the Sarasota area, in the middle of their season, for \$165.00 (if paid before January 1) for almost a week?

ST AUGUSTINE EASTER RALLY: All unit members attending the rally agreed it was our best yet. Members from other units proclaimed it the best rally the WBCCI does. We are attempting another change at that rally. Plans are on the drawing board to arrange a luncheon in the beautiful dining hall of historic Flagler College. If it comes to fruition, we will dine surrounded by the gorgeous Tiffany stained glass windows. Hopefully we'll have a final answer this summer. If you want to experience this wonderful rally, please let me know.

PLEASE, HELP THE UNIT SAVE MONEY!!! Every year I send out dues notices in August. This is a very expensive outlay for the unit. If YOU send your dues in without me sending a notice, this will save our club a considerable amount which we can spend to benefit our members. Checks should be made out to "WBCCI Florida Unit" in the amount of \$65.00, (Past Florida Unit Presidents, \$55.00). (Each dues mailing costs about \$30.00 plus envelopes. Many units have raised their dues, but we expect to hold the line in the foreseeable future.)

Checks should be mailed to me (before 8/30) at: PO Box 135, Crosswicks, NJ 08515-0135. Unless you have changed your address, I have all of your information.

Here's hoping to see you at some of our rallies. We have, without a doubt, the best priced rallies of any unit, and we hope you take advantage of them.

See you down the road.

Frank

Florida Unit Treasurer
Chairman of Florida State Rally
WBCCI Membership Chair

Election Luncheon – Mark the Nov. Date!

November 1, 2008 - 11:00 AM

Golden Corral Restaurant

8032 International Dr

Orlando, FL 32819

I-4 to exit 75 / to W Sandlake Rd then left to 8032 International Drive

Thank you!

"Thank you for the lovely sympathy card when David's father passed away...we were so touched by the card. Your thoughts and prayers were much appreciated...hope to see you soon."

Dave and Becky Barto

ELLEN AND JOE ON VACATION

So, if you have any info for the next newsletter (just after International) send to Ellen's substitute, Pat Finn, 1721 Sun Gazer, Viera, FL 32955 or use the e-mail patfinn@bellsouth.net.

Be sure to open the below link to see a great video and relive some fun times by the Unit. Wray & I watched it TWICE!

http://www.airstream-adventures.com/FU/Florida_Unit.html

Vic has lots of good stuff on line. Don't miss it!
Pat Finn

First Time Attendee's Review of the Reg. 3 Rally

By Randy Godfrey

After being elected as your 2nd VP and being very new to the WBCCI, I chatted with Tom Tisdale at our Cracker Christmas Rally last year, and he recommended I come to the Region 3 Rally for the Unit Leadership Training. At first it didn't look like we could make it, but then scheduling found us with our Airstream, parked in our daughter's driveway in Savannah, GA the weekend before the rally, so we decided to make the trip.

After leaving Savannah on Sunday, we decided to leave I-95 at SC exit 33 and take US-17, the low country scenic byway to Wilmington, NC, and then I-40 west to Raleigh. This would put us in Raleigh on Monday, the day before the opening ceremony.

If you are traveling I-95, at SC exit 33 is the Low Country Visitor's Center. This is an interesting stop

with a small museum and gift shop and some earthworks built by Robert E. Lee's troops to defend the Charleston to Savannah rail line. We also found a nice, quiet "Mom & Pop" campground off US-17 in Shallotte, NC, the S&W RV Park, with full hook-ups and cable TV for only \$25.00/night.

When we arrived at the NC State Fairgrounds, which is very easy to get to from I-40, we were parked at a site with water, 20a electric and a shared sewer connection. Some sites even had 30/50a. This is a nice place to have a rally and a good place to camp for the night if you're passing through. In addition to the rally fee, there was a \$20.00 per night charge that you pay to the fairgrounds for camping there. I think I recall seeing this in the flyers, but nevertheless was surprised when asked



for it. At first the agenda seemed a little sparse, not packed with events like the FL State Rally.

There were also fewer units there. I think I heard that around 120 trailers/motor homes were in attendance. The sparse agenda though, gave us plenty of time to explore the Raleigh area. On Tuesday before the opening ceremony, Pat and I explored downtown Raleigh and the historic Oakwood neighborhood that borders the Oakwood Cemetery, a Civil War burial ground. The Oakwood neighborhood contains many beautifully restored homes and the spring flowers were in bloom everywhere.

On Thursday we took the rally tour of the Duke Family Homestead, Duke University Chapel, and the Duke Gardens. The history of the Duke family is the history of tobacco in America. This is well displayed in the museum and the old buildings at the homestead. The chapel was breathtaking. It was built in the 1930s to look like it was hundreds of years old, and they succeeded. There are three pipe organs in the chapel, and we heard a demo of one of the largest ones. The gardens were very lovely with

all the spring flowers and shrubbery in bloom. On Friday, we and some new friends, Bob and Bonnie Herman of the Tampa Bay FL Unit, found our way to the NC State University Arboretum, which was very near the rally site, and worth the trip.

The official events of the rally kept us busy the rest of the time. The Get Acquainted Hour before the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday was fun. At registration we each received colored plates that we had to match to tablecloths at the gathering. We all brought an hors d'oeuvre to share.

On Wednesday, Dave asked me to be our official representative on the Region 3 Board. We had a little mix-up of communications, and when the roll was called, neither Dave nor I was included. My response of, "But I did sleep in an Airstream last night" wasn't enough to officially make me the delegate, but we sorted it out at the first break. The only significant business other than elections of the new Region 3 officers was to vote on whether or not to send the motor home constitutional amendment proposed by the South Florida Unit to the IBT. This was defeated by a two to one margin. The new Region 3 officers are: Julian Clements, President; Rick Bell, 1st VP; Walter Couey, 2nd VP. And even though we weren't mentioned in the Blue Beret, I accepted a 2007 Superior Merit Award for our Unit, thanks to Frank Carson's recovery efforts.

The Unit Leadership Workshop on Wednesday afternoon was very informative. The Friday Caravan Seminar led by Bob Bennett, and Safety Seminar led by Herb Quade (both writers for the Blue Beret) were very informative. It was also great to meet these guys personally. I learned much in these sessions. I also got a chance this week to sit down with Jerry and Marilyn Collins and talk about the politics and issues facing the WBCCI.

We were served two good meals: lunch on Wednesday and dinner on Saturday. Three nights of entertainment that was good, but a little Lawrence Welk'ish for Pat and me. Actually the comedian on Friday was pretty funny, and the orchestra on Saturday played well, but just not our style. A singer/songwriter, or a regional Bluegrass or Country group would have been more to our liking.

On Saturday there was an Airstream flea market followed by the NC State Fairgrounds flea market. You could spend your whole day shopping. The VAC held its traditional open house on Saturday afternoon, and the Closing Ceremony was that evening.

Sunday morning was busy with everyone trying to get away before the 9:00 a.m. flea market crowd returned. We pulled away about 8:00 and followed Dave and Betty for a short time east on I-40 until we pulled into a rest area for a break. We stopped for the night in St. Mary's GA; courtesy parking at a friend's house, then drove on home the next day. The travels up and back were uneventful, which is what you want them to be.

We like to think of the Florida Unit as the leader of the pack of all the Florida units. In my opinion, if we are to have others see us as we see ourselves, we need to attend these Region rallies, and have a larger contingent present. Right now, we're planning on going next year (April 22 – 26, 2009 in Perry, GA). Who wants to join us?

Fires Near Vic Smith? “NO, but thanks for asking,” says Vic. “We are in Saratoga NY now for the summer. Our daughter, Lora, and family had to leave Palm Bay and move into our house. Their home was not damaged but the power was off.”

THANKS, Tom & Ann Moore

We are now going to “shine” with a new flag pole during opening ceremonies. The new pole will travel in a custom-made naugahide bag designed and sewn by Tom Moore! Check it out at the next parade!

Rally Planning for 2009

By Randy Godfrey, 2nd V.P.

If we want to stay the best and most active Florida Unit, we need to be having rallies all over the State and an activity every month if possible. We also need to plan activities for our members who still work Monday – Friday, and activities that appeal to our younger members and those with children (hiking, kayaking, canoeing, theme parks, etc.). Although many of our members are snowbirds, many of us live here in Florida year round, and we need activities for the summer months too.

Here's what we have scheduled for 2009 so far:

Date	Rally Name	Location
Feb 17 – 22	Florida State Rally	Sarasota, FL
March 11 – 16	Bluegrass Festival/Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL
April 7 – 8	Easter Rally	St. Aug., FL
Apr 22 – 26	Region 3 Rally	Perry, GA
Late June – July 5	International Rally	Madison, Wisconsin
November	Election Rally or Luncheon meeting	TBD
Dec. 2 – 7	Cracker Christmas Installation/Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL

We need a rally in late January after everyone recovers from the holidays. The weather is fairly dependable but can be cold in the north. It's too bad that we have a legacy activity in March. Springtime in north Florida is beautiful with all the Azaleas in bloom and the Wisteria vines in the trees. I was thinking of a rally at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs, FL. That's very near the I-10/I-75 interchange. There's a lot to see and do there for everyone, but everyone would have to make their own camping reservations through the on-line service. Does anyone have a suggestion for a January rally in South Florida?

May is warmer and still fairly dry. Mother's day is early in the month and Memorial Day is at the end. ??Plan a rally between these two weekends at a location where we can get at least 30a service.

For those attending the Int'l rally, June and July are bus; but for those not leaving FL, something could be planned. We are into the rainy/hurricane season, so that becomes a factor. Everyone would need elec. hookup to run the AC. We definitely need activities for the months of Aug. – Oct., for our FL residents. Dave and I were discussing a no-fee rally: Every one makes their own reservation (suggest 3 – 6 months in advance), e.g., FL State Park, and everyone pays their own camping fee on arrival to the park ranger. Arrival day is Fri., early arrivals on Thu. A Fri. night get together to make any plans for Sat. (provide contact for late arrivers). Sat. activities can include parks, local tours (on your own or in ad hoc groups), a happy hour and raffle, potluck supper, campfire program w/member talent for

entertainment. Sun. AM: potluck breakfast and farewell to those who have to leave early, continuation of Sat. or, for some, services at a local church. Sun. night: leftover potluck. Mon.: depart. The only admission fees to this rally are a prize donation for the raffle and your contributions to the potlucks, but you could opt out of any of this too. Please give me some feedback on this. We have to get our plans to Jackson Center by the end of August. Randy Godfrey, 2nd VP, rgodfrey1@cfl.rr.com or via mail.

Florida Unit On-Line Forum

We now have a private forum for our unit on the Airstream Knowledge Sharing Forums www.airforums.com. This forum can be used for on-line discussions of our unit's private business, or anything else that concerns only us. Only unit #027 members will be given access to this forum. To join and be a member of this Airstream Forum, go to www.airforums.com and follow the sign-up instructions in the top right of the window. Once you have joined the Airstream Forum, you need to join the Unit 027 forum. On the Portal or Forums page, there is a box of quick links on the left hand side. Toward the bottom of this box is a link to the WBCCI Unit Forums. Click on this link. You will see WBCCI # 027 - Florida Unit in the list. Notice that you have to be approved by SilverCabin (that's me) to join the group. Click on the two join buttons, and then in the request window that comes up, type in your WBCCI number so I can "join you."

This will be a great resource for us and will bring us forward into the Internet age. It will also keep us in the lead group with the progressive Units in the WBCCI. There are a few 027 threads out there for you to read when you join. I'm looking forward to joining you to the unit forum soon.
Randy Godfrey (SilverCabin), 2nd VP

GPS Systems – by Vic Smith

Scenario #1: You are laying out a route for your summer vacation, trying to figure the fastest or shortest route to your destination. Scenario #2: You are in a strange town and you want a Wal Mart, or a seafood restaurant, or a post office, etc.,. Where do you go for availability and directions? The answer is one of the latest pieces of technology from the space program, the Global Positioning Satellite system (GPS). GPS is a constellation of satellites in orbit around the Earth. Receivers use

triangulation to find your position to within a few feet, anywhere on the planet. Originally planned for military use, civilian use has burgeoned. As with all new technology, the cost comes down as it becomes more popular and in wider use.

There are several makes of GPS receivers on the market priced from \$150 on up. Magellan, Tom Tom, and Garmin are three of the more popular. My experience is with Garmin. We have a Street Pilot C-330 which I bought new for about \$350 at Wal Mart and a Street Pilot 2730 which originally cost nearly \$1000, but was purchased for us by our son on E-Bay for about \$350. Garmin has replaced both of these with newer and less expensive models.

The software which drives the receiver is upgraded periodically and can be downloaded via the internet. The same goes for the maps, but Garmin charges about \$75 for the map upgrades. Default map pkgs cover North America. These are not just general maps but are street level maps for anywhere in N. America. Where Rand McNally may have inserts for larger cities, these maps are the most complete you can imagine, with street names for each street in New York City or North Overlook, Montana. The options are too numerous to mention here, but a couple are the language and gender of the voice.

The instructions are turn by turn with the option in many models for instructions using the actual street names. You can choose the fastest or the quickest route. I planned our trip to Saratoga, NY with stops (Garmin calls them 'Way Points') at Point South, SC, Amelia Family Campground, VA, Prince William Travel Trailer Village, VA then on to Saratoga RV Park, NY. I saved it on the Garmin and when we left I called up the trip and said "take me there." It did. At each stop I turned the Garmin off and next time selected Saratoga RV Park. No matter where I was, it figured the route and gave me turn by turn instructions. At one point we got off for gas and to get back on I-95 meant traveling some side streets. Without Garmin I would have been lost in a strange place. But I just followed the instructions and we were back on I-95.

We live in a data rich environment. Commercial GPS receivers like Garmin, put huge amounts of information at your fingertips. You should never need another map and certainly never get lost again.