



The President's Letter

BY DAVE WENGER

Just a quick reminder to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on November 1st at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Orlando with lunch starting at 11:00AM followed by the business meeting (always short and to the point). Our main item on the agenda is the election of new officers. The nominating committee submitted their slate as follows (no change from the August Newsletter—but repeated here for new members):

2009 Florida 027 Unit Slate of Officers

President	Tom Moore	2-Year Trustees:	Phil Drugge
1st V.P.	Randy Godfrey		Vic Smith
2nd V.P.	Willard Pickrel	1-Year Trustees:	Joe McMillan
Treasurer	Frank Carson		Earl Leggett
Corres. Secty	Joan Carson	Committee Chairpersons:	
Rec. Secty	Pat Finn	Membership:	Joan Carson
		Historian:	Louise Kramer
		Cheer:	Joan Carson

I especially wish to welcome to this first meeting our new members, which have joined this year. A sad turn of events for the Central Florida Unit (mostly dealing with the sale of Christmas Airstream Park) has caused them to decide to disband their unit. We have tried to make them feel welcome to join with us since many of their members live in the central Florida area. We are glad to say a few of their tried and true members (who have been Airstreamers a lot longer than I) have joined with us. We have heard from a few that appreciated our invitation; however, they are not living in this area and are opting to find a unit closer to their homes. We're just glad they are finding a new Airstream Unit in which to serve and travel. To those who have come with us, we look forward to meeting you at the Orlando meeting (see above).

Directions: Traveling West on I-4 take Exit 75A toward International Dr. for 1.2 miles. Merge onto W. Sandlake Rd for .9 mile, then left onto International Dr. approx. one mile ending at 8032 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. Traveling East on I-4 take Exit 74A toward International Dr. for .3 mile. Turn right onto W. Sandlake Rd. for .2 mile. Then right onto International Dr. ending at 8032 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819

All members be sure to sign up for the **Cracker Christmas Rally**. This is one of the fun events of the year and it's right in our back yard! Dates are: Dec 3 – 8 at Christmas, FL (I-95 to Rt 50 West (toward Orlando) until you see Christmas Airstream Park (about 9 mi. from I-95) then begin looking for the Fort Christmas Park sign on the right. This rally is our "Volunteer Service Rally" where we help the park employees get ready for their Cracker Christmas fundraiser weekend. The rest of the time we eat breakfasts in the pavilion, luncheons in the park or in town, dinners are in the pavilion, evenings are spent with games or just kicking back with a cool drink around the campfire...(Thursday evening is the Installation Dinner – best bib and tucker for the new officers). We look forward to seeing Julian and Lynne Clements, our Region 3 Director and First Lady, as they perform our installation. Julian and Lynne have been to so many of our events that we have really grown to enjoy their fun contributions.



So come out and spend time with Julian and Lynne around the campfire; they are super busy at all the other rallies!

In closing, Betty and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you to thank you personally for all of the many contributions you have made this year. You've made us look good! The year is winding down; let's have a good turnout—the gas prices are dropping—Hurrah!

Dave Wenger
Pres for 2 more months!

Welcome New Members

Carolyn Hoglin
3909 Orange Lake Dr.
Orlando, 32817-1637

Dorothy Sampson
1501 Minnesota Ave.
St. Cloud, FL 34769

Dave and Ramona Ryner
9000 Hwy. 192 #228
Clermont, FL 34714

Alton and Lois Nolle #13928
2415 Eaton Lane
Orlando, FL 32804-4910
(407) 841-1614

Gerold and Grace Michaelsen
531 S. Lake Srarr
Lake Wales, Florida 33898
WBCCI # 12141

William and Virginia Peterson
5652 Pawnee St.
Zephyrhills, Florida 33542-1971
(813) 788-7261
Email: vpete01381@verizon.net
WBCCI # 1381

Lynn E. and Suzanne Rudd
1122 Heron Point Way
DeLand, Florida 32724
Email: lerudd1@msn.com
WBCCI # 5122

(The above 7 members from the Central Florida Unit and are experienced Airstreamers! Been there, done that! I'm sure they will have lots of stories to share!)

Brand New Members to the FL Unit

Herb & Jean Menhennett
9 Tobias Lane
Flagler Beach, FL 32136
(386) 338-1114
Email: helpless20@hotmail.com

I asked Steve Martin (See last month's issue for photo) to tell a bit about himself)

"I am 37 years old and I have a 5 year old daughter. I have been Airstreaming for the last 3+ years now. I have mostly traveled in Florida going to places like the Keys, Orlando, and mostly the east coast because I love to surf. I always go to St. Augustine because not only do I have friends there but that place is great. I have also traveled up north as far as Virginia and to the west to Mississippi. I am hoping to one day go even further towards the West but I still work and my daughter is in school so that makes it a tough.

"I am an Airbrush artist and that is what I do for a living. I also have another business and I deal in Signs, Banners, Stickers and many things like that.

"If you are wondering I am Devoman on the airforums. Well...this is just a little about me but in time we will meet one day get to know each other a lot better. Thank you all for welcoming me into this unit. You know...this is really exciting. In another month I will be able to start going on trips again. I can only do them during the winter. That is why I stay here in Florida so much. So I will be able to meet some of you all in the next few months hopefully.

"Talk to you soon." Steve

(Editor: Now don't you just want to sit down and have a friendly chat and meet Steve!)

DUES IS DUE!!!!

BY FRANK CARSON

NOW IS THE TIME to think about sending in your membership dues. To continue receiving both the Blue Beret and the wonderful newsletter put together by Ellen and Pat (and you do not want to miss one of those great newsletters), please send your **\$65.00** made out to WBCCI Florida Unit, and mail it to Frank Carson, Treasurer, PO Box 135, Crosswicks, NJ 08515. All of our officers and Rally Directors are volunteers. Some do multiple jobs and

your *sending your dues in early really helps me out.*
Thanks!

Cracker Christmas Installation/Volunteer Rally

DECEMBER 3 – 8, 2009

If you have ever been or possibly will be an officer, then you know how meaningful and moving this installation dinner is each year. It is the highlight of the rally and all officers are dressed in their uniforms and installed by a Reg. 3 Officer. This year the installation dinner (turkey with all the trimmings) will be on Thursday evening. And, don't forget to bring your Christmas Cards to be stamped with the Christmas, FL cancellation.

Cost for rally is \$15.00 per person, includes 9 meals. If only Fri, Sat. & Sun, no fee, includes 6 meals. Send check to Frank (see coupon on last page)

Here are a few things you will be missing if you do not attend the Cracker Christmas Rally at Fort Christmas:



Charles and Jackie at work



Some of our members find time to sell their crafts, but where is Bev?



Vendor booths in the park



Exactly what am I supposed to do?



We always find time to eat

Rally Plans for 2009

BY RANDY GODFREY

We have been working this last month to plan our rally program for 2009. Our objective is to have some fun and plan events all over the state, and schedule them so our working members can attend and be a part of this fun group. Here is the schedule we will be submitting to International for publishing in the 2009 Directory and Blue Beret:

FL Unit 2009 Rally/Event Calendar			
Jan	15 – 19	Unit Rally – Hanna Park	Jacksonville Beach, FL
Feb	17 – 22	Florida State Rally	Sarasota, FL
Mar	18 – 23	Bluegrass Festival/ Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL
Apr	7 – 18	Easter Rally	St. Augustine, FL
	22 – 26	Region 3 Rally	Perry, GA
May			
Jun	28 – 30	International Rally	Madison, WI
Jul	1 – 4	International Rally (continued)	Madison, WI
Aug			
Sept			
Oct	22 – 25	Unit Rally – Daytona Speedway Park	Daytona Beach, FL
Nov	18	Election Luncheon	Kissimmee, FL
Dec	2 – 7	Cracker Christmas/ Installation/Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL

We are still working on a possible rally at a Methodist Church Camp near Fruitland Park, FL and we would like to put a Florida State park rally in the schedule somewhere. Other Units seem to have success with State Park rallies, and I would like us to try it. Please let me know if you would like to host a rally in your area, or help with these events.

Florida Unit Logo for Shirts and Hats

BY RANDY GODFREY

While at the International Rally, I provided Allison of A&W Designs an original of our Unit Logo. This is the vendor who brings the sewing machines to the Florida State Rally and creates embroidered hats, shirts, etc. They are digitizing the logo for their machines, so at the 2009



Florida State Rally, we'll be able to purchase items with our logo embroidered on them.

2008 International Rally Report

BY RANDY GODFREY

Pat and I traveled to Bozeman, MT for the 51st International Rally. I was also your delegate to the Annual Delegates Meeting, and proudly carried our flag in the Opening Ceremony. We had volunteered to be on the First Timers Committee—we were first timers ourselves—so this gave us several days of early parking. Rally fees are a little expensive, especially if you need 30-amp service; so getting a few days of early parking reduces the overall cost of the rally. We intend to volunteer again for the 2009 International Rally.

We left Central Florida on June 1st and traveled west to Natchez, MS. From Natchez we followed the Great River Road north to Minnesota, and then went west to Bozeman. I blogged the whole trip on my website www.silvercabin.net so some of what I say here, you may have read before if you followed our trip on the Internet.

Our assignment for the First Timers Committee was to build a list of the necessary facilities and services nearest to the rally site. This was perfect for us, as we like to get out and explore the area. We also had several open days, which allowed us to make side trips to Yellowstone NP, Three Rivers, Virginia City, Nevada City, and Butte, MT all very interesting places to visit.

At the rally, there were plenty of seminars, activities, displays, and meetings scheduled to keep everyone busy and entertained. By arriving several days before the official opening of the rally, we were witness to the many activities and volunteer workers on site to perform them. I continue to be awestruck by the amount of activity and how it all comes together to make a successful rally. There were so many things that I wanted to do that I didn't get to them all. Frequently, I found that what I had to do (IBT Seminars, Delegate Functions, Officer Training) prevented me from doing the things I wanted to do (Intro to Caravanning, Digital Photography, Genealogy Seminars).

Counting the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, there were seven nights of entertainment. We of course, attended the Opening Ceremony, but we only managed to attend two other evenings. There were so many great restaurants in Bozeman and

nearby, that often we didn't get back in time to attend the evening program. Frankly, we didn't really enjoy the two nights we did attend. Wylie and the Wild West are a mournful cowboy singer and his sidekick. Wylie's claim to fame is that he does the "Ya Hoo" for the Yahoo website commercial on TV. He did have one up-tempo number, but the rest were really downers—now I know why country music is said to induce alcoholism. The other group we saw was The Stratus Trio from Calgary. They were introduced as a cross between Peter, Paul, and Mary and the Smothers Brothers—at least they didn't make you want to slit your wrists. I did hear that the WBCCI orchestra was good.

The evening before the Delegates Meeting, a happy hour was held on the rally grounds for everyone to meet the *candidates* for election to the IBT. None of the *nominees* attended, which I found to be little snobbish, because I would have liked to have a discussion with everyone who I was being asked to vote for. Nevertheless, I had good discussions with Leo Garvey, Pat McFadden, and Bob Thompson and convinced myself to give them the Florida Unit votes. I probably would not have voted for Bob Thompson if I had a chance to read the rather angry letter he had sent to the IBT President Jerry Collins. I had asked for a copy, but no one was able to produce it then. It's on the Internet now, and Bob was suspended for a few months from the WBCCI for it—I don't think I agree with that action, but that's a subject of another discussion.

Needless to say, at the Delegates Meeting the next morning all the *nominees* were elected. Prior to the elections, we were handed a matrix and instructions on how to allocate our Unit's votes based on how they were cast in the Unit membership voting. Only a few Units did that, most voted all their votes, as I did, for a single candidate for an office. So there is a hint that all Units should be casting proportional votes instead of block votes. This needs to be clarified before next year's International Rally.

In the days after the Delegates Meeting I attended a Members Idea Share sponsored by the 2020 Committee, the four sessions of Unit Officer Training, a seminar on what makes a good rally, and I met and had a chance to talk with Dale "Pee Wee" Schwamborn Wally Byam's cousin. Pat had fun participating in the Walking for Fun, Knitting,

Pet Show, and shopping the vendors and the shops in town only a short bicycle ride away. We attended the Region 3 Brunch and had a very good meal and got a chance to get acquainted with our new Region 3 leadership.

I heard from several sources that they had a very good children's/youth program this year, and they are planning an even better one for Madison next year. This is just what we need to encourage participation from our younger, still working families.

We left a day early fleeing a forecast of 102 degree temperatures and severe weather, and went north to Great Falls, MT. On the next day when Bozeman emptied out, there were more Airstreams in the Wal*Mart parking lot in Great Falls than you see at the factory! We continued north to Glacier NP; Calgary, AB; Banff NP; and Lake Louise—gorgeous scenery. We then returned east via US-2 through the UP of Michigan before turning south towards Florida and home. This was the longest trip we have taken in our Airstream so far (73 days), and we are looking forward to Madison next year and our first Caravan, the Nor' by Nor' East.

Jacksonville January Rally

BY RON ALLEN

Date: January 15 – 19, 2009

Location: Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
500 Wonderwood Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32233

Hanna Park is located across the street from the Ocean, next to the main gate of the Mayport Naval Station and minutes away from the quaint Village of Mayport. Area attractions include: The Jacksonville Zoo, Jacksonville Landing Restaurants and Shopping, Museum of Science & History, Casino Cruise Ships, St. John's River Ferry, Golf, Fresh and Salt Water Fishing, Alhambra Dinner Theatre - plus much more.

Full Hook-up Site Fee only \$25.43 per night and an \$11.00 Rally Fee to cover a Pancake Breakfast and Bar-B-Q Dinner. Directions to the park, activity agenda and sign-up information to follow in the next newsletter.

Contact Ron Allen at 904.221.5086 or email RonChrisAllen@bellsouth.net with any questions or suggestions for the Rally Agenda.

NOTE: Do we have any active duty or military retirees that would be gracious enough to get us a tour of the Naval Base?

Another New Associate Member, Please Welcome:

Donald and Virginia Sacchetta
1010 Dundee Circle
Leesburg, FL 34788
Telephone: (352) 343-1286
Email: dsaccetta@aol.com
WBCCI # 4473

A Bit of Travel News from our Prescott, AZ Members

BY BOB & MONTEZE DEPUTY

(Health) I guess getting older isn't for sissies. I tried getting some dental work done here. Excellent work but the expense was astronomical. A friend recommended a dentist in Mexico and I have been going down there to get things back in order. He does great work for about 20% to 40% of what they charge here.

(Travels) We tried going up to Utah for a week with the Airstream. We left Friday evening and stayed that night at Wal-Mart in Page, AZ. It was a welcome sight and the accommodations were great. Next day we traveled on up Hwy 89, then at Mt. Carmel Junction we took Utah Hwy 12 up to Torry. It is a beautiful trip from the lower elevations near Kodachrome Basin up through the highlands and back down a bit to Torry. There are beautiful forests and great long-range vistas. We went on up to Fish Lake and took a spot in the campground there. It was cool and very nice, but in the middle of the night Monteze had a bout with altitude sickness. Fish Lake is around 9,000 ft., so we left there at 2AM went back SE to Hite Crossing on the Colorado River and finished the night in a scenic overlook high above the Colorado River. Ten years ago this area used to have what seemed like 1,000 boats on the river on piers and anchored in the basin. This year there were about 6 boats. We camped in an unimproved area mostly defined by picnic tables. Nice! Drove the Land Rover for about 20 mi. up the river on one of the scenic back roads.

We had originally planned to spend some days up above the little town of Castle Dale, UT, at a place called Joe's Valley. We never quite got there due to the altitude problems. Central Utah is beautiful but

the elevations are very high. Maybe we will try it again sometime in the future, but after her experience I expect Monteze will just want to go back to Durango, CO, again.

I think we will try to go up to the south rim of the Grand Canyon for the Columbus Day holiday, or just camp in the forest south of Williams, AZ. There are some little lakes there and the forest is nice. Also it's fun to take the Rover up to the top of Bill Williams Mt. The sunset is beautiful!

Mail This Coupon Below and Plan Your Dish for the Pot Luck – Bring A Chair and Lantern or Flash Light!

Cracker Christmas/Volunteer Installation Rally
1300 Fort Christmas Road
Christmas, Florida
December 3 – 8, 2008

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Cell # _____ Email _____

WBCCI Number _____ Vehicle type _____

Vehicle size _____ **Payment due by 11/11/2008**

I (we) will arrive on (Early parking Tuesday _____) Wed. _____
Thurs. _____ Friday _____

Rally fee \$15.00 per person if coming for the full rally. No rally fee for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only. Water and rally electric and free parking. Dumping can be arranged at Christmas Trailer Park. Rally fee includes nine meals including two dinners and one pot luck. *Everyone must be on grounds by 9:00 AM Saturday. No vehicular traffic through park on Sat. or Sunday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.* Remember, this is a Volunteer Rally, and your help will be greatly appreciated. The theme of this rally is learning about your Airstream, maintenance and up-keep.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

Make checks payable to WBCCI Florida Unit and mail to Frank Carson, Treasurer, POB 135, Crosswicks, NJ 08515, if before Nov 1. After Nov 1, mail to 29129 Johnston Rd 546, Dade City, FL 33523.