



# GOOD LIFE NEWS

A Publication of the Florida Unit of the WBCCI



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## From the President

As I write this we have just returned to Florida from Michigan. This wasn't a fun Airstream trip, but a family emergency.

In early March, we were enjoying some family events here in Florida and making plans to attend our Bluegrass, Easter, and Region 3 Rallies. Then life got in the way. Pat's sister was stricken with rapid onset kidney failure while she was visiting us in Florida. We were only able to get to the Bluegrass rally for one evening, and we had to leave that suddenly to travel to Ocala where she was admitted to the hospital.

Over the next couple of weeks we dealt with healthcare decisions and made many trips back and forth to Ocala. Finally, she was well enough to be discharged long enough for her and her husband to fly back home to Michigan to the hospital there. Pat and I drove their truck, a new F-250, to Michigan with our car in tow on a U-Haul car hauler. That was my highpoint of the last two months. The F-250 is a really sweet towing machine, and I envy those of you that have one.

We arrived in Michigan on Easter Sunday, while many of you were having a good time at the Easter Rally. After spending three weeks there, and one more scary trip to the hospital, the doctors at the University of Michigan hospital finally have her stabilized and on the road for a hoped for partial recovery. I say partial recovery, because she will never recover full kidney function, but hopefully enough to get off of three days a week dialysis. All of this was caused by an auto-immune response; the odds of getting this malady are about the same as being struck by lightning. As John Lennon said, "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans." So, live life to the fullest because you never know what tomorrow will bring. The "See More Do More, Live More" philosophy of Airstream's founder Wally Byam leads us in that direction too.

We also missed the Region 3 rally at Charleston, SC. I heard that that was a good time too, and I thank our Past President Dave Wenger for representing me at the rally and carrying our flag in the opening ceremony.

We are now busy making preparations for our summer trip to Gillette, WY for the International rally. After the rally, we plan on spending a week in Grand Teton NP doing some hiking, drive north over the top of Lake Superior, stop in Michigan to see how things are going, and make a stop at the Airstream Service Center for routine maintenance on our way back south. If you have any travel tips or places you recommend seeing along the way, please let me know. If there is anything you want me to look into at the International Rally, let me know that too. I'll be restarting my travel blog at [www.silvercabin.net](http://www.silvercabin.net) when we get on the road.

There is much to do. In addition to getting the house ready to leave for several months, there is installing the new cushions in Daisy (our Airstream) that we purchased from Fowler Interiors at the Florida State Rally, installing the Winegard Wingman to help bring in the digital TV signals, washing and Walbernizing the exterior, and hopefully finding and fixing the leak we have in our front window. It hasn't done any damage that I can detect, but water somehow gets behind the weather seal and collects in the ledge during a rainstorm.

Let me close by saying another big THANK YOU to all who worked to put on our successful Bluegrass and Easter rallies. We have good people in the FL Unit. — [Randy Godfrey](#)

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NEXT TWO RALLY'S COMING UP  
 53<sup>RD</sup> International Rally Gillette Wyoming  
 June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 Daytona election rally and luncheon  
 Held at Raceway Campground Daytona Beach  
 October 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2010

**LOUISIANA CAJUN HERITAGE  
CARAVAN MARCH 2010**

**CARAVANING TO GILLETTE  
WYOMING**

Chris and Ron Allen, Betty and Dave Wenger, Doris and Phil Drugge went on the Louisiana Cajun



Heritage Caravan in March we had a great time eating craw fish, dancing the Cajun two step and learning the history of the people and the land in the wonderful

state of Louisiana. We met some friendly fellow Airstreamers and found that the locals in Louisiana were proud of their state and were willing to share their stories with us. Between eating, sight seeing,



playing joker, and eating again we found this to be a very memorable trip that we would recommend to other fellow Airstreamers that want to travel to



Louisiana. When in Louisiana you can take a tour of the bayou swamp, tour a real oil drilling rig, see the state capital and .experience the sounds of a unique music and language. Tour a rice and sugar cane farms and learn how craw fish are harvested. See live alligators, eagles, blue herons, and much more. New Orleans is a wonderful city to visit with its own unique culture. The people there are very friendly and warm spirited.

IF YOU ARE MAKING PLANS TO GO TO 53<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL RALLY IN GILLETTE WYOMING THIS SUMMER PLEASE CALL OR SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR UNIT PRESIDENT RANDYGODFREY. THIS IS SO WE GET AHEAD COUNT AND MAKE PLANS FOR UNIT GET-TOGETHERS, OR POSSIBLE CARAVANS TO THE RALLY LOCATION.

**MAKING PLANS TO TRAVEL THIS  
SUMMER ?**

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A LONG TRIP OR CARAVAN IN YOUR AIRSTREAM THIS YEAR TAKE A JOURNAL ALONG. JOT DOWN YOUR DAILY DOINGS AND TAKE PICTURES. WHEN YOU GET BACK HOME, PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND PICTURES WITH US IN THE NEWSLETTER BY WRITING A SHORT ARTICLE WITH PICTURES. WE WILL PUBLISH IT IN OUR NEXT EDITION

OUR MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES AND EXPLORATIONS AND WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL ALONG WITH YOU EVEN IF THEY CANNOT GET THERE THEMSELVES .THERE IS GREAT FUN AND GOOD CONVERSATION ABOUT TRAVELING.

RANDY GODFREY SAID IT WELL. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GO WHERE YOU ARE OR EXPERIENCE YOUR ADVENTURE BUT WE CAN TRAVEL VICARIOUSLY THROUGH YOU.

## REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL EASTER RALLY AT ST. AUGUSTINE

Once in a great while the perfect rally comes along. This year's National Easter Rally at St. Augustine, FL was PERFECT. The weather was PERFECT. The venue was PERFECT. The food, the tours and the people were all PERFECT.

The venue was the St. Johns County Fairgrounds where we had 30amp electric, water, a dump station, and modern bathrooms and showers. The school house which holds 120 people was decorated by Lucille Clark with the help of other unit members.

The weeks prior to the rally were not typical of a Florida winter. It was cold, it was rainy and it was windy. In a nutshell, it was Lousy; Then came Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. It warmed up, the wind died down, the sun shined and it didn't rain. For the entire week of the rally, which ran from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> it was GORGEOUS!! Highs in the low to mid 70's, lows in the low to mid 50's, clear to partly cloudy skies and light winds. PERFECT.

Early arrivals on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> were Frank and Joan Carson, the rally organizers, Willard Pickrel and Vic and Josie Smith. Willard and Vic are the rally co-directors. Friday afternoon was spent doing the pre-rally leg work. Saturday's arrivals included Julian and Lynn Clements, Region 3 President and First Lady and over the weekend more early workers arrived and everyone pitched in to ready the grounds for the rally.

During the day on Tuesday we got everyone registered, assigned teams for the Olympics and sold raffle and 50/50 tickets. Folks generously signed up to help with the various activities. We had 114 folks in 57 Airstreams attend the rally and many of them volunteered with a good heart and a welcome hand.

Tuesday evening we gave out door prizes, drew for the raffle winners and 50/50. \$103.00 went to the 50/50 winner and \$103.00 went into the Easter eggs. Airstream Company and Camping World outdid themselves this year with door prizes and raffle items. Many thanks to them.

After the door prizes we were treated to a "Striptease" performed by Athea Manny. She came



dressed in layers of clothes worn by women in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century St. Augustine. She explained the use and interesting side notes about each of the garments as she

removed them revealing another layer of clothing. Modesty and decorum prevailed and she did remain fully clothed. The type and use of the clothing worn during that period was extremely interesting.



The evening activities closed with refreshments.

Wednesday morning many of us got up at 0'dark:30 to prepare the pancake breakfast.

Whit Blasdell rounded up the volunteers and whipped up a delicious breakfast. There were pancakes, link sausage, orange juice and coffee for all and it was eagerly devoured. Breakfast over and the dishes done, we all headed to St. Augustine and the Red Train tour.



We all had Red Train tickets good for Wednesday thru Saturday as part of the rally package, but this was a private tour set up by the rally organizers. We passed by many of the attractions in town, like Ripley's Castle, (you have all seen it on tv), the Castillo de San Marcos, the Lightner Museum, and Flagler College to mention a few. The Red Train tour lasted about an hour and a half and they dropped some folks off back at the Mission parking lot where we parked for free and then took those who wanted to return downtown to the Columbia Restaurant on

famous St. George Street in the heart of the city. The Columbia is a great place to dine. As each of us decided to return to the St. Johns County Fairgrounds, we just hopped a Red Train and it wended its way back to the Mission lot and our vehicles.

Wednesday evening after some announcements and door prizes, we were entertained by Joni Canova (and friends). Joni sang and entertained with her puppets and got the audience into the act as well.



Refreshments topped off the evening with fresh strawberry shortcake prepared by Whit and Marilyn Blasdell and the aforementioned volunteers who hulled and mashed their way into strawberry Utopia. ‘mmmmm good.



Thursday morning we all headed for the Mission parking lot at 8:30 to catch our private Red Train ride to the ScenicCruise’s Victory III and a ride on the Matanzas River. The cruise lasted about an hour and fifteen minutes. We saw dolphins playing alongside the boat, the St. Augustine light house, the Castillo de San Marcos and many other points of interest... from the unique river view. The rest of the day was free to tour any place we wished and the Red Train would take us back to the parking lot.



Thursday evening, after more door prizes, we were entertained by Buddy

Canova. Buddy plays the piano, saxophone, flute and clarinet all with great skill. He can be Julio Iglasias or Johnny Cash one minute and Boots Randolph playing Yakkity Sax the next. He was visited by a “sweet young thing” who ran her fingers through his hair as he played, but alas, the “sweet young thing” turned out to be Charles Whittington in drag. This was a disappointment because if you know Charles, he is neither “sweet” nor “young”. Charles is a real trooper though and is willing to look ridiculous in public at the drop of a hanky.

Again the evening ended with refreshment and we went back to our Airstreams to look forward to Friday’s trip.



Friday morning, half of us headed into town for a private Red Train trip into St. Augustine and a guided tour of the Villa Zorayda. The Villa is a 1/8 size reproduction of

one wing of the Alhambra in Spain. It is filled with Moorish and Spanish antiques, carvings and decorations. The rest of the group went in the afternoon since the Villa can’t handle a group of 114 all at once.

Friday evening after more door prizes we were treated to a visit from the St. Augustine Royal Family who are the cornerstone of the city’s Easter festivities. Later we listened to the Roe Family’s



rendition of Mountain Music from the Appalachians.

Saturday meant the volunteers were up again at ‘Odark:30 to prepare our famous “Omelet-in-a-bag” breakfast. Yummy!! Later it was time for the Earl Leggett



Olympic Games which is a sight to behold. Joe and Ellen McMillan, long-time members of the Florida Unit and charter members of the Florida Unit Olympic Games Committee, were there to supervise the games and keep the crowd under control. There were six teams competing in golf, bowling, javelin, basket ball, water relay, discus, and the extinguishing the Olympic Flame. Now you have to understand that these are not your regular games. Golf, for example, is a stick Whit found and the ball is a potato, the discus is a paper plate, the javelin is a straw and so on. Form counted for a lot because, heaven knows, there was no real talent there. The teams cheered their players and as always there was some razzing of the opponents, too. It was all in good fun and good taste. Well the jury is still out on the good taste.

The rest of Saturday was free time until the evening when the winners of the Olympics were announced and the entertainment began. There seemed to be some concern that there may have been some bribery/favoritism in the judging, but the matter was soon put to rest.



Next we had Robert Gill and Company performing "The Wives of Henry Flagler." Mr. Gill's performances

are always of the highest quality and well received. This year was no exception. It is not too often that an audience gets to sit as close to the actors as we did. It makes for a much more personal presentation. Again refreshments brought the evening to a close. The Easter Egg Hunt volunteers gathered up the eggs, loaded them with money and set them aside for Sunday's hunt.

Sunday morning was cool and foggy as folks made their way into St. Augustine to one of the venues conducting a Sunrise Service. Regardless of where the service takes place, it is always a moving experience to watch the sunrise over the Atlantic on Easter Morning.

At 11:00am it was time for the Easter Egg Hunt at the fairgrounds. Folks arrived, ready to hunt when we found that four "professional" egg hunters were in the crowd. These "professionals" are under four feet tall, lithe, fast, and limber. Being built low to the ground they have an advantage on us "over the hill" egg hunters. They can spot eggs more rapidly and respond with a lot more dexterity. All of these pluses notwithstanding, the decision was made to give the "professionals" a one minute head start. Since there were 462 eggs hidden, there was no way they could clear the field in one minute. At the stroke of 11:04, the rest of the hunters were turned loose. It was heartwarming to see them racing, some with canes and crutches in hand, after the eggs and their contents. After the hunt was over, they returned the empty eggs to Josie Smith, Countess of the Annual Royal Easter Egg Counting. All but 18 of the eggs were turned in. It is assumed that some of the eggs may have been kept as souvenirs.

With the Easter Egg Hunt fresh in our memories, we headed again to St. Augustine for the Annual Easter Parade. Always a highlight of the rally, this year we had three vintage Airstreams in the parade; Vic and Josie Smith's '78 Excella, Dan Maciejczyk and Luann Cara's '54 Cruiser and



Nancy Scime's '60 Bambi. All were polished and sported signs made by Luann indicating the Florida Unit and

year, model and length of the Airstream. We must have made an impression on the judges at the reviewing stand as we won the Third Place Trophy.

Then it was back to the fairgrounds for the Easter Ham Dinner catered by Boston Market and served by members of the Florida Unit. The food was delicious and ample. Then it was time for cutting the Easter Cake and the closing ceremonies. That was followed by the Annual Folding of the

Tables and Chairs. Everyone joined in for this last joint activity of the Rally.

As I said at the beginning, it was a PERFECT rally. Everyone had a great time and that sentiment was related over and over again to the rally planners by the attendees. We kept hearing that it was “The best rally I/we have ever been to.”

We must be doing something right.

The Florida Unit wishes to give a hearty WELL DONE to the following chairpersons.

- Decorations: Lucille Clark
- Door Prizes: Joan Carson
- Easter Egg Hunt: Vic and Josie Smith
- Games: Joe and Ellen  
McMillan
- Greeters: Jackie Whittington
- Omelet-in-a-bag Willard Pickrel
- Opening Exercises: Willard Pickrel
- Pancake Breakfast: Whit and Marilyn  
Blasdell
- Parking: Charles Whittington
- Raffle/ and 50/50: Don Clark
- Rally Booklet: Vic Smith
- Refreshments: Earl Trask
- Registration: Nancy Scime
- Strawberry Shortcake: Whit and Marilyn  
Blasdell

We also wish to thank all the volunteers who ably assisted the chairpersons, without whom we could never have had a successful rally.

**Review of The National Easter Rally was produced by Vic Smith**

**A JOB WELL DONE**

The following is a message received from Joan and Frank Carson to Randy Godfrey. April 12, 2010

“Joan and I have given our life for the past 15 years to the Florida Unit and very little time to our own lives. Frank says he will continue one more year as the Unit Treasurer, and one more year as the Easter Rally Director, and one more year as the Director of the Florida State Rally.

At that time our lives will belong to us. Joan wants to travel and with all our hospital stays, neither one of us knows how long we have to continue our way of life.

Joan and I have given this a lot of thought, and since the unit is the size that it is, we should have enough members to fill the jobs. Frank says he cannot continue to worry if we are going to have enough members to fill the slots that are needed for the rallies.

Please start looking for volunteers to fill our slots. Joan will be giving up Membership Chairman as of December 2010. Joan will give the new chairman a list of duties regarding memberships. Including both calling and writing to each perspective member plus writing of notes to retain members”

Frank Carson. WBCCI # 23343

## A MODERN DAY HOT DOG STAND



**his 60s era Airstream trailer has been refurbished by the son of Phil Drugge. It has a sign in the window “GOOD EATS”**



**he new owner of this restaurant on wheels was so impressed that he ordered 6 more like it, if he can find them.**

**Refurbished trailers are outfitted by trailerworks.**

## Join us on AirForums

Did you know we have a private forum for our unit on the Airstream Knowledge Sharing Forums [www.airforums.com](http://www.airforums.com). We can use this forum to have on-line discussions of our Unit’s business, or anything else that concerns us that is not appropriate for posting on the public boards. Only Unit 027 members will be given access to this forum, and you have to be “joined” to be able to see anything that is there.

To be a part of this forum, first you must be a member of the online Airstream Forum. Go to [www.airforums.com](http://www.airforums.com) and follow the sign-up instructions that appear 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 Randy Godfrey) 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 check the roster and join you to the group. I get many requests from those who aren’t members of our Unit so please give me a hint as to who you are.