



FTCU Pirate FYI's - May, 2015

April Rally

The facilities at Blueberry Hill RV Resort in Bushnell and beautiful Spring weather provided a beautiful and hospitable setting for the Spring Rally. About half of the attendees arrived a day early to renew friendships or to help set up for the Rally. In attendance were: Lee and Dot Brenn, Al and Gracie Buchanan, Charlie and Judy Callahan, Tom Cotter, Morris and Norma Foreman, Richard and Julie Hunt, Tom and Grace Lafferty, Blair and Sallie LittleJohn,

Charles and Peggy Matthews, Gene and Sandy Poast, Mike and Alicia Rafter, Dan and Virginia Rasmussen, Frank and Donna Rothery, Don and Ann Shafer, Ralph and Sylvia Smith, Dave and Jenny Southard, Jack and Joan Starr, Alden and Daria Tansey, and Dave and Sue Wendt. Leslie and Jennifer Martin, and Jan Werner joined us for the Saturday evening dinner.

Minutes from the Business Meeting will be sent out separately about the same time as this newsletter.

See photos from the Rally on the back pages of this newsletter, sent in separate emails.

Caravan to Ladson, SC

On Sunday morning, Brenns, Buchanans, Callahans, Cotter, Laffertys, LittleJohns, Martins, Poasts, Rafter, Shafers, Smiths, Southards, Starrs, Tanseys and Werner left in groups of three or so on the first leg of the caravan to the Region 3 Rally. At the campground in Jacksonville, they were joined by Max and Myra Joseph, John and Victoria Magnacca, and Susan Quintana, (all from the South Florida



Unit), Jean and Janet Robertson, Joe and Sue Smedley, and Allen and Jacqueline Strickland. On Monday the caravanners headed toward Savannah and stayed in a small picturesque campground not far from the city. All seemed to agree it was a great place to stay, but one we probably would not have found on our own. After visiting Savannah Monday afternoon and Tuesday, the group moved on

to the Region 3 campsite at Exchange Park in Ladson on Wednesday. The travelers were grateful to Blair and Sallie LittleJohn for organizing and leading the caravan. (Missing in the caravan photo are Sallie LittleJohn and Ann Shafer.)

Region 3 Rally

FTCU was well represented at the Region Rally. With 14 rigs, our Unit had the highest number of rigs at the Rally, followed by SECU with 11, and the Carolinas, Palmetto, Georgia, SC Coastal and Piedmont Units with 10 each. In addition to attendees from other Units within Region 3, there were members from Regions 1, 2, and 4. The Region Officers, Matt Hackney, John Frerking and John Leake worked tirelessly before and during the Rally to ensure a successful event. Tours of Charleston were a popular attraction as were the restaurants. The “morning monsoons” on arrival day turned some camping areas muddy, but they did eventually dry out. Jocelyn Oldham entertained on Friday evening and seemed to be quite popular with the crowd.

John’s RV/Airstream of South Carolina brought four new rigs for rally-goers to inspect. Having the display inside the exhibit hall made it easy to tour the trailers and the new Interstate. The dealership also provided the ice cream party, souvenir mugs and door prizes.

November 2015 Rally

Hosts are needed for this, our next Unit Rally, scheduled for the Sunshine Travel RV Resort Vero Beach, near Sebastian, FL on November 12 -15, 2015. We repeat, hosts are needed! Contact Jack Starr or another officer if you are willing to host.

Tidbits

Leaving from Ladson, **Blair and Sallie LittleJohn** headed to Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina for another summer of camp hosting. They like to have company in their campground, and they encourage you to visit.

Mary Ann and Jack McLaughlin are heading north to spend the summer on the east end of Long Island. They sold their Sag Harbor house a few months ago. They are looking forward to seeing family and having cooler weather.

Mike and Alicia Rafter were very disappointed to learn recently that the Hudson River Valley Unit Caravan in July (that they were looking forward to) had been cancelled. They immediately started planning their Fall trip, which includes Virginia Highland Haven, Doughton Park and other campgrounds on the Blue Ridge Parkway, visiting relatives in Hendersonville, NC, and attending the Alumalina/Country Mountain Jamboree Rally at Palmetto Cove in October.



Joe and Sue Smedley are happy to have their new rig and be on the road again. This one’s rivets seem to be “holding hands nicely.” (As reported in the December 2014 FYI’s and January 2015 FYI’s, Joe reported that the rivets on their old trailer were no longer holding hands and last rites were held.)

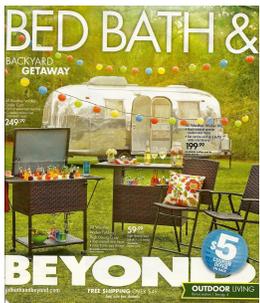
Tom and Grace Lafferty traveled through the Florida Panhandle for several weeks before heading home to Tampa. While on the road, they took a photo and sent the

following description. “As we were traveling along one of the the Florida Panhandle's secondary roads looking for a seafood lunch stop, we came across this display of old trucks nestled way back in the woods along the side of the roadway. They were almost missed by us as we were driving by at a slower speed than the highway's posted limit to luckily observe a unique display of time of long ago that these vehicles represented. These trucks who once were proud little haulers of people's needs, groceries, lumber or just plain getting from here to there maybe even to church services, in great style that we now refer to as vintage times. To some of us in their day of glory, they were the cat's meow. As we can see, they have apparently been resting here together for a very long time since not a flake of paint was evident anywhere but I bet they each shined new very very long ago! You could almost hear every truck's story of its personal life if you listened quietly while walking among them. Every one of them had a very proud history of service. Now as they all rest together, they are all one in their sorrow that their life is over.”



Sue and Dave Wendt are planning to leave Travelers Rest in June to go to Maine for the summer. They will see **Alden and Daria Tansey** when the Tanseys spend August at the same campground the Wendts visit.

“They’re everywhere! They’re everywhere!”



We hope many of you saw the Bed Bath & Beyond flier sent out in late April with the Airstream on the cover. In early April, a number of newspapers, including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Palm Beach Post*, picked up a *Los Angeles Times* article by Charles Fleming titled, “Airstream ‘Silver Bullet’ enjoys fresh interest.” If you missed it and want to read the article, go to latimes.com and search for the article title mentioned. It seems more and more, we see Airstreams in TV ads, magazine ads and in articles. Not only is the company producing more, they are marketing them too.

“Don’t fix it if it isn’t broken. Get a second opinion.” A message from a friend and colleague. How many times have you been tempted to do something just to assure yourself everything is OK? The alternative is to share your concern with a trusted friend who knows more than you about that topic. The new “something” on your Airstream may be more problem than you anticipated.

The same is true about medical concerns. In my life, a blood test indicated concerns to the staff at the hospital where my right knee was being replaced. The knee replacement went fine and had no bad side effects from the blood test concern. An oncologist recommended performed additional tests and confirmed the presence of Waldenstrom’s non-Hodgkins lymphoma. This is a blood cancer with no known cure. **Without seeking a second opinion**, I accepted seven weeks of chemotherapy and routine monthly blood testing that indicated no significant change in my blood conditions for the next five years. The same oncologist recommended another round of chemotherapy last May. **Without**

seeking for a second opinion again, we started. These infusions put me in the hospital for a week for healing, additional testing and a recommendation to get a second opinion from a different oncologist. We have made several visits to Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and the combined staff members on my case concluded the lymphoma may not have been a problem requiring treatment from the start. The chemotherapy had destroyed the majority of my liver and disabled my spleen. My current condition is more serious than the blood condition. At my age neither is a correctable condition. I had tried to fix something that may not have been broken.

At the Region 3 Rally at Ladson, SC we received many questions about my physical change. I share this with the members of my Airstream family with the hope that I can help someone avoid this tragic mistake. **Before making any medical decision involving surgery or chemotherapy get a second opinion from another qualified resource.** Chemotherapy side effects will be harmful and often worse than the original illness.

Dick Martiny
WBCCI #22693

Scenes From the Unit Rally



Above, Jack and Joan Starr after dinner at the Old World Restaurant in Floral City.

Right, Tom and Grace Lafferty helped cook breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings.



Left, Alden Tansey got out of the kitchen long enough to eat breakfast and enjoy visiting with Don Shafer.

