



# FTCAC Pirate FYI's June, 2018

## New Members "Meet and Greet"

During the month of May, FTCAC gained four new members! On Sunday, June 10, **Alicia and Mike Rafter** hosted a "Meet and Greet" in order for the new members to meet one another and some veteran members. Newcomers **Bob and Caroline Barnes**, from the Stuart area, **Ron and Liana Mezza**, from Delray Beach, and **Greg and Marcy Ruhl**, from Lake Worth attended. **Louie and Randi Lewis**, from Stuart, were unable to attend. Also present were President **Susan Taylor-Arens**, **Jeanna and Chuck Gorsuch**, **Jack and Mary Ann McLaughlin**, **Rob and Lea Stanton**, and the Rafterers. Questions, answers, comments, and suggestions were all in the conversation mix, along with caravans and rallies and Airstreams in general.

*Front, Ron and Liana Mezza; left, Caroline and Bob Barnes; right, Marcy and Greg Ruhl.*



## Sue Wendt's Winding Road North

"I didn't go in a straight line to Maine, didn't want to get there before the snow stopped! First stop was the FTCAC rally. I enjoyed the mini caravan to the Region 3 rally. After enjoying the Region 3 rally I headed to McKee, Kentucky, to visit Dave's granddaughter and her boyfriend. They are living off the grid at the edge of the Daniel Boone National Forest. It is beautiful but I got my yearly dose of dry camping at the top of their access road. Note to people who have a CO detector - they last about 5-6 years and stop working. At 3:00 am mine decided to quit. I couldn't shut the noise off since it was hardwired into the MH. Luckily I had an extra pillow to block the noise. The speaker got removed the next morning.

The next stop was Wilmington, Delaware, to visit friends from TR; they are Poco's fan club. I slept in a real bed. I went to Long Island, NY to visit my nephews who still live there. I am a wimp, wasn't going to drive through NY City to get there, I drove to Bridgeport, CT and took the ferry to LI. I camped in a nephew's yard for that stop, again had a great time and ate too much.

Back on the ferry, and then to Hartford, CT to visit cousins. I spent Mother's Day with my 92-year-old cousin and her kids and grandkids. More eating! Last stop was to visit friends I have

known for years and camped in their yard in Goffstown, NH. Have you noticed campground prices lately? Yards and electric plugs are great!

Got to West Kennebunk, ME on May 17. It was strange to see almost no leaves on the trees when I got there. The flower garden was just barely showing.

Thoughts on trip:

Good trip except:

Mountains

Construction season

Potholes, I guess we need construction season

A million trucks

GPS adventures

Ooops adventures

### **LittleJohns' Spring Fling**

**Blair** sent the following account of the latest trip: "Following our Clermont rally, **Sallie** and I skipped the Region 3 rally and returned to Williamsburg after an absence of nine years.

Following our long-time rule of 230, we spend three days on the road stopping at 2:30 pm or 230 miles, whichever comes first. This generally gets us off the road by early afternoon and gives us time for shopping or gassing up the truck if there has been no Flying J Truck Stop on our route.

On Wednesday we left I-95 in southern Virginia and crossed a wilderness of small towns and narrow roads to reach the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry which took us, and many other cars and trucks, across the James River to the historic Jamestown settlement, and then just a short hop to our campground in Williamsburg. We paid for seven nights using our Passport America card. It worked out to just under \$24 per night, far less than any other campground in the area and only about eight miles to the Visitors Center and Historic Area. With so much time available, we were able to visit Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg without wearing ourselves out.

From there we drove west to the Charlottesville KOA and paid twice the rate we had enjoyed in Williamsburg. We arrived in time for a quick lunch and then made our way to Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, our third President. On previous trips the tour of the house was self-guided and limited to the first floor. This time they have added a two-hour guided tour of all four floors, basement to the dome room, very interesting and well worth the time and admission fee. The stairs are very narrow and steep. I was proud of how Sallie was able to navigate them without too much difficulty. The next morning, Thursday, we slept late and went to the Michie Tavern for lunch of fried chicken, pulled pork bbq, black-eyed peas and other things southern. Another adventure not to be missed.

Friday morning we packed up and drove to our summer home, Doughton Park Campground, on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just south of the Virginia/North Carolina state line. We will be here as volunteer camp hosts until the end of October and the time for our fall rally in Okeechobee City.

We hope to see you sometime this summer."

## **A Summer Tradition Continues**

**Charlie and Peggy Matthews** have plans for another busy summer. They will continue a summer tradition by volunteering at a Wesleyan Methodist Church Camp near Denton, MD. In operation for 122 years, it is a large camp on approximately 350 acres, east of the Chesapeake Bay, approximately 60 miles from Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, DC.

The camp has 3 large dormitories, a dining facility which seats 400+, a large worship center, a laundromat and 81 individual cottages. Additional facilities include a large maintenance garage, a snack shop, a camp store and many storage buildings. There are 50 RV sites with full hookups.

Since the buildings are in a wooded area, they collect green algae and black mold during the winter months and must be cleaned prior to the opening of camp in mid-June. In recent years Charlie has taken on the task of power washing the buildings and checking for problems needing immediate attention. Peggy is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the laundromat during the camping season, involving many hours of work.

The youth camps are divided K-6th grade, 7-9th grade and 10-12th grade. Total enrollment for the summer is expected to be around 500 young people, a large undertaking with a tremendous amount of planning for each group's chairpersons, the counselors and the additional workers who assist wherever needed. The last weekend of July through the first weekend of August, family camp is in full swing with over 1000 people on the grounds. Special speakers and musicians conduct the services each evening in the worship center; during the day there are different activities such as Bible study, crafts, games, etc.

Charlie and Peggy met at this camp when he was 14 and Peggy was 12; understandably, it is a very special place for them.

When camp closes, they will visit friends and relatives in New Jersey, Delaware and Tennessee before attending the Southern Gospel National Quartet Convention in Pigeon Forge, TN in late September.

## **Rafters' Southeastern Travels**

In March/April, **Mike and Alicia Rafter** joined 22 other Airstreams for the "Georgia Plantations and More" Caravan. Although they have previously traveled many miles in Georgia, they had not been to most of the area covered by the caravan. From the murals in Colquitt to the stately mansions in Madison, they saw many different versions of "plantations." They learned about training hunting dogs, forestry management, the history of telephones, early native populations and their settlements, the effects of Sherman's march in different locales and much more. Then there was the food! And the friendships! And the leaders! It was a great trip!

After the caravan, Mike and Alicia went to western SC for five days, then to Clermont for our Club rally, then to Myrtle Beach for the Region rally, back to western SC for a week before returning home to catch up on house, pool and yard chores.

## November Rally

We have a tentative co-host for the November Rally at the Okeechobee KOA. The dates are November 1 - 4, 2018. Please let us know if you're willing to help. It is not hard to do! Please step up and do your part, especially if you have not done so. **Susan Taylor-Arens** will serve as Wagonmaster and will collect campground fees and rally fees. Checks will be made out to FTCAC and mailed to Susan. Look for more detailed information in the next month or so.

## Tidbits

**Jeanna Gorsuch** is recovering from knee repair surgery in mid-May. Physical therapy continues and they have a weekend July camping trip planned.

Thirty-three new name badges have been ordered from WBCCI HQ. They will be mailed when available. If you did not yet order yours, we will be sending in another order in the Fall. Watch for more information to come.

Recycle Opportunity: If you haven't already thrown them out, please save Christmas cards for **Sallie LittleJohn**. Also she'd like to have any greeting cards, not just Christmas ones. She makes tiny, nesting, novelty gift boxes from them.

Remember to save pop tops from aluminum cans to be donated at each International Rally.

The editor wishes to thank **Charlie and Peggy Matthews, Sue Wendt** and **Blair and Sallie LittleJohn** for their contributions to this issue. Many of you know how I have pleaded for "news" to publish in this newsletter. 😊 Please follow their lead and send in your own contributions — travels, stay-cations, volunteer work, family "milestones," whatever.

