



FTCU Pirate FYI's - April, 2017

Luncheon

Twenty-six people attended the luncheon in Palm City on March 13th, among them, new members **Steve & Bette Sheeran** and new affiliates **David & Diana Spahn**. Unit 30 members **John & Victoria Magnaca** also attended. Unit 162 members and former members in attendance were **Eric & Susan Taylor-Arens**, **Ed & Charlotte Curran**, **Ron & Dot Engel**, **Charlie & Carol Helm**, **Blair & Sallie LittleJohn**, **Jack & Mary Ann McLaughlin**, **Don & Gail North**, **Mike & Alicia Rafter**, **Dave & Jenny Southard**, and **Jack & Joan Starr**. After lunch, the McLaughlins hosted everyone at their house nearby for dessert, coffee and more visiting. Thank you, Mary Ann and Jack, for your gracious hospitality!

Spring Rally

Our Spring Rally will be April 20 - 23, 2017 in Eustis, FL, hosted by **Blair & Sallie LittleJohn** and **Joe & Sue Smedley**. Make your own campground reservation by calling Connie at Southern Palms, 352 357-8882. Mail your reservation coupon and check for rally fee to Blair; it is due by April 10th. *****Bring pull tabs** and old eye glasses to the April Rally so they can be sent on to International.

Region 3 Rally

Details for the Region 3 Rally in Hiawassee, Georgia, have been sent out by R3 VP Randy Godfrey. You can find reservation info on the Region 3 website. <http://region3.wbcci.net>

International Rally

The 2017 International Rally is in Escanaba, MI July 22 - 29. See the *Blue Beret* for details and registration.

November 2017 Installation Rally

The November Unit Rally will be at Stagecoach RV Park in St. Augustine, November 2 - 5. Please mark your calendars. *Rally hosts are needed!*

Updates as we know them

From **Blair & Sallie LittleJohn**, we received the following: "Our sincere thanks to all our Airstream friends for extending your love and friendship to us by prayer, cards and phone calls.

Sallie was scheduled for back surgery and needed the blessing of a cardiologist before surgery. The doctor did an EKG, echocardiogram and then a stress test prior to giving his approval. The stress test showed a blockage in one of the heart arteries. The next step was a heart catheterization at JFK Hospital. We were in by 7 am and on our way home by 6 pm. The doctor was able to clear the blockage and install a stent.

We are grateful to God for the discovery of the heart blockage before the back surgery. We were very thankful for the care received from the doctors and staff.

We will revisit the back surgery in the Fall when we return from our summer in the mountains.”

Sue Wendt had back surgery on March 23rd in Tampa. On March 28, we received the following from Sue: “I’m doing very well, I was an absolute nervous wreck before the surgery. The neurosurgeon got the whole tumor out and it was benign! A big load off my mind! will be limited for a while but I’ll be fine. Sorry I’ll miss the rallies and the caravan but there is always next time.”

On March 26, we heard that **Dave and Vickie Buttleman** have been undergoing treatment. Vickie was due to finish radiation for renal cancer that week. Dave has 3 more chemo sessions for lymphoma, finishing the last week in April.

What our Airstream friends are doing...

Sue Wendt recently completed the First Responders course at Travelers Rest, along with 6 other volunteers. (See the “graduation photo” at right.) They are actually part of the Pasco County Fire Rescue System, having to have background checks and physicals before getting their official numbers. On graduation day, only Sue and one other member already had their official numbers.

The Unit’s and individuals’ donations to the TR First Responders in Dave Wendt’s memory were used to purchase the bags and supplies for the seven new responders, and to replenish the existing responder bags. Sue thanks everyone for their generosity. She’s planning to participate in response efforts after her recovery from surgery.



Rob Stanton took *Elsie* (the Stantons’ 25’ Safari) to Sebring March 18 for four days of dry camping as a spectator at the Sebring Raceway. The 3.74 mile track hosted its 65th annual “12 Hours of Sebring GT Sports Endurance Race.” Dry camping outside the gate is free; a good on-track spot can cost up to \$900! On Thursday and Friday there were practices and other class racing. The big



event was Saturday from 10:40 a.m. to 10:40 p.m. The timing allows for the crowd to enjoy both daytime racing and the thrill of watching these high performance vehicles after dark. Naturally, the event concluded with fireworks.



Corvette and Porsche owners can register to drive three parade laps with their respective groups prior to the race.

Rob took the passenger seat as friend Doug maneuvered his car through the turns and hairpins, reaching 120 mph on the straightaway!

Lea enjoyed her time gardening, sleeping in, and socializing with her Martin County school chums who were on Spring break. This an annual event for the Stantons. However, Lea is always delighted to have Rob home in one piece! (Photos: *Elsie*, lonely before friends arrived; Rob and the *Michelin Man*; Rob's selfie in front of *Elsie*;



Porsche line-up for parade laps.)

Morris & Norma Foreman have sold their truck and trailer, to a couple from Stuart, whom we hope to have as new members in the near future. As is true for most long-time Airstreamers, the sale was a bittersweet event for the Foremans. They want to remind everyone that they still have courtesy parking at their house in Dunnellon, and they hope to see us from time to time.