



FTCU Pirate FYI's February, 2017

Important Dates/Activities

Luncheon

We have confirmed reservations for the luncheon at Manero's Restaurant in Palm City for **Monday, March 13, 2017** at 11:45. We need to know who plans to attend by **Thursday, March 9th**. If you plan to attend, please email Alicia or call 561-965-2175 and leave a message. Directions to the restaurant will be sent to those who are planning to attend.

Spring Rally

Our Spring Rally will be April 20 - 23, 2017 in Eustis, FL, hosted by **Blair & Sallie LittleJohn** and **Joe and Sue Smedley**. Make your own campground reservation by calling Connie at Southern Palms, (352) 357-8882. To be assured of a site with the group, make your reservation ASAP. Further details and rally fee/reservation form will be sent soon.

Caravan to Region 3

This caravan is filled at present. To be on the waiting list, or to cancel, please contact Blair.

Region 3 Rally

Campsites at Hiawassee are going fast! If you haven't made your reservation there, do so NOW!

The Region 3 Rally will take place at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, Georgia, **April 26 - 30, 2017**, 1311 Music Hall Road, PO Box 444, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546 (GPS Coordinates of campground entrance: 34.963745, -83.771287).

150 sites reserved until February 15. After February 15 site availability will be on a space-available basis, so book early! Be sure to mention you are attending the Region 3 Airstream Rally.

Call (706) 896-4191 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday now to make your site reservation. Full Hookup: \$28.00 per night. Water and Electric only: \$25.00 per night. WIFI is available. Early arrivals and late departures are possible, pending availability.

Check-in 3:00 p.m. The Rally begins with supper Wednesday evening and ends after with a brief devotional service on Sunday, April 30.

The Rally Fee is yet to be determined. Further details will be announced in the *Region 3 News* published by R3 VP Randy Godfrey. They should be out soon. Check the Region 3 website.

International Rally

The 2017 International Rally is in Escanaba, Michigan, July 22 - 29. See the *Blue Beret* for details and registration. Additional sites have been made available as noted in the February *Blue Beret*.

November 2017 Installation Rally

The 2017 FTCU Unit Installation Rally is scheduled for November 2 - 5. **Rally hosts are needed.** If you are willing to host/co-host this rally, please let Alicia know. It will be held at the Stagecoach RV Park, 2711 County Road 208, St. Augustine, FL 32092 (904-824-2319). Don't all jump at once!

Notes from WBCCI HQ

We have received notice that our Unit is one of 30 Units whose websites are “either lacking a website or their website is missing one or more ... essential elements.”

We **desperately** need a webmaster! We know that **Sue Wendt** did a good job for several years, but it became too much for her to keep up with under trying circumstances. The notice from HQ includes the following information.

“If you need assistance launching or updating your website, email the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) ecc@wbcci.net with the email address of your webmaster and the name of your unit. They’ll contact the webmaster so that when new Airstream owners in your area join the Club your unit will be at the top of their list to visit. The ECC members have helped many units improve their Internet presence and gain new, enthusiastic members. It’s what they do and what they enjoy. “

Someone please let me know that you will be our webmaster! Many new Airstream buyers go to the WBAC website to get information on the club. We need them to find our Unit quickly and easily, and to like what they see on the website.

Midwinter IBT Meeting Notes

The following appeared in the Palmetto Unit’s newsletter *The Bellringer*. It is part of a candid report by **John Leake**, 1st VP, Region 3, to his home Unit. (*used with permission*)

“Now, an IBT report: Well, what can I say...it was business as usual at the meeting. Mostly housekeeping items and trying to become “politically correct”. We discussed the same agenda 3 different days. By the third day we had it all down pat. Some motions were introduced, some withdrawn, some revised, some rerevised, and some shelved until the International Rally/IBT. Nothing earth shattering or game changing. I did come away with a stack of papers about an inch thick. The only item that was a disappointment to me was the one that shelved 8 motions for Unit name changes and flags. Thor, parent company of Airstream, has decided to stop allowing use of the name Airstream until their attorneys can figure out the legal parts of using the copyrighted name “Airstream” in any Unit name or on a unit flag or even printed. Hopefully it will be resolved before the International Rally and IBT meeting. Until then we must wait to call ourselves the “Palmetto State Airstream Club” officially. Oops, I just printed it. Oh well. Don’t tell anyone.

As most of you know, our Club operates as a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation chartered in the state of Ohio. It is required by Federal laws and the IRS to conduct itself according to established rules and regulations that govern such corporations and you would need to be Philadelphia lawyer to interpret them. Good news is that very little filters down to us at the Unit level and we can go about our business of having fun.”

In a separate email to me, John stressed that it isn’t Airstream, Inc. that has a problem, but Thor, the parent company. He went on to say:

“Airstream, Inc welcomes the use. They have recognized the benefits of our club using the name as a means of advertising the brand, and the WBAC has recognized the benefits of using the name "Airstream" for Internet searches and in social media by potential new members. When a potential new member types in "Airstream" the WBAC will come up in the search. It is win/win.

Thor is the hold up. "Airstream" is a copyrighted name and there are legal implications.

Nonetheless, I would encourage all Units to pursue a name change that incorporates the name "Airstream" and perhaps the word ""Club" rather than "Unit". i.e; "The Palmetto State Airstream Club." It will be much easier for new owners to find us.

Hopefully it will all be straightened out by Escanaba and if your Unit desires to make the change it would be good to go ahead and begin discussions/procedures so it could be implemented there... IF your unit chooses to change."

Tidbits

On January 20, at Faith Lutheran Church in North Palm Beach, FTCU was represented at the memorial service for **Jacqueline Strickland** by the following: **Susan Taylor-Arens, Blair LittleJohn, Jack & Mary Ann McLaughlin, Don & Gail North, and Mike & Alicia Rafter**. The service included references to Jacqueline's smile and love of dancing, memories by her son David, and an original poem of tribute by granddaughter Jacqueline.

Rob & Lea Stanton stayed at Hillsborough River SP to attend the massive Tampa RV show. Lea stressed they were not shopping, just "browsing. She did have an ingenious method of dissuading the overly zealous salespeople of the SOBs. She wrote: "I am not a ball cap fan, but I pulled out my Airstream cap and a 'Live Riveted' T-shirt so other vendors would know I am a lost cause."



Despite the rain and chilly, raw wind, nineteen hardy Airstreamers enjoyed the BYOB & F picnic on Sunday, January 29. Present were **Susan Taylor-Arens, Ed & Charlotte Curran, Charlie & Carol Helm, Blair & Sallie LittleJohn, Jack & Mary Ann McLaughlin, Mike & Alicia Rafter, Joe & Sue Smedley, Dave & Jenny Southard, Rob & Lea Stanton, and Jack & Joan Starr**. A few hours later, the skies were clearing with a

beautiful sunset. The

Rafters' portable propane "campfire" provided a popular gathering place on the partially enclosed patio. Some picnickers preferred eating inside where it was warmer. Had there been one, Smedleys would have received the prize for having driven the farthest, as they came from Arcadia, ~ a 3-hour drive each way.

