



## March 2020 Newsletter

<http://piedmontunit.wbcci.net/welcome/>

Region 3, Unit 161

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### March 2020 President's Report

It is unfortunate that there is so much panic in our society right now. I think the worst virus is panic. Panic freezes us, causes us to lose rational thought and empowers fear to run our lives.

By the time you read this I expect that a decision has been made about the Region 3 Rally, in April. On or Off? If it's on, do you go?

Gaile and I are awaiting the decision on MerleFest in April. WBCCI International has sent out notices about our Colorado meeting in June by saying that they are monitoring the situation. Our Caravan Leader for the HWY 61 Revisited in September has polled the group about canceling the caravan or not. Seventy percent said keep it a go.

I have no advice for you. Being the president of the Piedmont club doesn't come with a book of answers. My only advice is to do your own research from reputable sources and make your decision. That is, if someone hasn't made it already for you by canceling.

Where do you find a source for your decision? Will you go to a FaceBook page and ask? Will you trust the media? The politicians? Google it? The tea leaves or coffee grounds in your morning habit? Maybe your decision is based on a discussion around a campfire or some adult beverages?

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There are two basic considerations to take into account. Am I sick? Is it possible I'll make someone else sick?

Please make your decision from a base of knowledge. The most unemotional resource and a good place to start is the CDC's suggested hygiene practices. I trust the CDC more than the politicians that might have an agenda. Social media can be polarizing. The news is all about the ratings. I really trust the CDC more than the guy sitting next to me with his story of what he heard from a nurse's uncle while he was getting his oil changed at Walmart.

So what will we do? We'll camp! Think about it. It's easy to stay 6 feet away from anyone while you're out and about in nature. Across the campfire is at least six feet. You are self-contained in a shiny tube with your own kitchen, bath and you know who was the last one to sleep on your sheets. Checking in to your campsite could be the only person-to-person contact you have for the entire time. I would hope if you unplug, your health will improve. You will not be bombarded by a News Flash crawling across your TV screen. You could pickup a book (ebook if you are of that type) and get transported. You could setup your chair outside at night and look up! Putter around the rig or tow vehicle. Walk in the woods or take a bike ride. If you can do that, your lungs are probably clear of any virus.

Airstreams have always been great escape vehicles. Let's use them to escape. It could be the best thing to do for your health.

See you down the road and WASH YOUR HANDS.

**Mike Bizon**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## Wally Byam Airstream Club Carolina BalloonFest Joint Rally 2020



Please join members of the Southeastern Camping, Carolinas Airstream, South Carolina Coastal, Piedmont NC, Florida, and other Airstream Clubs from Region 3 and beyond for the Carolina BalloonFest Rally in Statesville, NC October 16-18, 2020. We will have parking convenient to the entrance to the festival grounds.

The schedule is available at: <http://www.carolinaballoonfest.com/>.

New this year there will be a password-controlled page for us to sign up and pay online. It will still be possible to mail in a check and it is required to mail in a signed copy of the parking application. The application will also include a privacy release allowing the festival to release names of those signing up to the rally organizers (me) so that I can know who has signed up. Last year they stopped providing that information toward the end of the rally due to privacy concerns. There will also be (only on the password-protected page for us) a listing of those who have signed up so that members can see who is coming.

We will have access to sign up before the general public. ***In order to guarantee a space with the club, our applications and deposits will have to be received by the end of May.*** After that the festival, as last year, will start assigning spaces with WBAC starting at space 1 and the general public starting at the other end (whatever that may be, this year it was 75).

This will be a no-frills rally with no rally fee. We attempt to plan our happy hours and meals around the festival events, which requires some flexibility as the event timing is dictated by weather conditions. Note:

1. Reservations are not refundable, but the festival has committed to support transfer of a reservation to another person as needed.
2. This is boondock-style camping. Arrive full of water, batteries charged, and holding tanks empty! Generators are allowed and pets are OK in the camping area. There will be food trucks on site. Exit and re-entry are possible, but not convenient.

If you think you might attend, e-mail me at [awaschka@bellsouth.net](mailto:awaschka@bellsouth.net) and I will send you the signup page address and password when it is released. I don't want to put it in newsletters for security reasons.

While we are social distancing ourselves, I thought you might like to look at some of ODM used Airstreams that are in stock. I have no financial interest, just a FYI.

<https://www.outdoorsmart.com/category/inventory/recreational-vehicle/pre-owned-airstream/>

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## 2020 Rally Sites:

January:Mid-Winter IBT ,Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort,Las Vegas, NV

February: Winter Luncheon, Stedman Brown and Tami Lowe, hosts  
February 15th at 11AM, D&S Cafeteria, South Hills Mall and Plaza, 1177 Buck Jones Rd. Raleigh, NC 27606

March:(hosts needed)

April 1-5:WBCCI Region 3 Rally, Ocean Lakes Family Campground  
Myrtle Beach, SC **CANCELLED**

May:New Bern, NC, Alan and Jane Hvizdak hosts, May 14 -17  
Make Reservations before March 1 2020, New Bern KOA, 800-562-334 **CANCELLED**

June 20-27:WBCCI International Meeting, The Ranch Events Complex, Loveland, CO  
**CANCELLED**  
July 23-26: Todd and Debbie Stroud Hosts

August 2-10:Galax Old Time Fiddler's Convention, Cool Breeze Campground  
Galax, VA

September: (hosts needed)

October 22-25:Alumalina, Tom Johnson's Camping World, Marion, NC

November 5-8: NC Veteran's Day Rally  
Robin Gieniewski, host  
Fayetteville, NC