



GOOD LIFE NEWS



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

FLORIDA UNIT 027

MARCH 2009

The President's Message

I had a great time in Sarasota and have good memories (since I'm not a photographer). The State Rally was a super success primarily because our Frank and Joan Carson planned well, had great committees and it made a focal point of all that is fun and successful in WBCCI. Don't forget the Bluegrass Rally in Christmas, FL, March 18 – 23 (a beautiful camping site) and then we will be planning for the Easter Rally in St. Augustine, April 7 – 13. Please get your reservations in NOW and don't miss out on a good time (see below). Since Frank is nursing a new knee, he needs all the volunteers he can get. Right now he says, "I only have one leg to stand on!" So let's pull together as a unit and "get 'er done."
Happy Camping!

Tom Moore



Thanks to Alice Wymer and Randy Godfrey for the photos

**Bluegrass Festival Rally
March 18 – 23, 2009**

We need attendees to help the Orange County Parks and Recreation Department to prepare for and staff this weekend. If you haven't sent your registration to Frank yet, just call him (352) 467-9530 to let us know you are coming. To pay your rally fee, bring cash (\$10.00 per person and this includes *at least 5 meals!*) to the rally and we'll collect the fee there. If you can come for only the weekend (Friday, Saturday, and/or Sunday nights only) there is no fee required.

For those of you that have never been to this rally, it is completely laid back with professional Bluegrass bands playing continually both Saturday and Sunday. Unlike Cracker Christmas, there will only be around 14,000 people in attendance. This is a volunteer rally, with not too much work. Make us proud. Show your support for the rally and the Unit; all for a good cause. The Rally Agenda is on the website at http://www.airstream-adventures.com/files/2009_Blue_Grass_Rally_Agenda.pdf.

**National St. Augustine Easter Rally
April 7 – 13, 2009**

The rally is full but we will always find room for our own FL Unit members, and we need more to sign up. The February 2009 issue of the *Blue Beret*, and our last issue (January 2009) of this newsletter have good descriptions of the rally and the fun you can expect. This is a great value for the price. For those who are attending, the opening ceremony is Tuesday evening. Wear your white Unit T-Shirt and dark slacks or skirt.

Region 3 Rally April 21 – 26, 2009

Moonlight and Magnolias is the theme for this year's Region 3 rally to be held at the Georgia National Fair Grounds in Perry Georgia. This is a great location for a rally with plenty to see and do, and not a far drive for most of us in the FL Unit. The rally will have nightly entertainment, seminars, and fun, fellowship, and food, and at this time of the year the spring flowers should be spectacular.

At last year's rally in Raleigh, NC only two members of our unit attended—we were outnumbered more than two-to-one by the

members of the other Florida units. Let's not let that happen this year. We are the largest unit in Florida—time to show Region 3 our support. A Rally Coupon can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Rally Schedule For The Remainder of 2009

Date	Rally Name	Location
Mar 18 – 23	Bluegrass Festival/Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL
Apr 7 – 13	National Easter Rally	St. Augustine, FL
Apr 21 – 26	Region 3 Rally	Perry, GA
Jun 29 – Jul 4	International Rally	Madison, WI
Sep 17 – 20	Rally TBA	Fruitland Park, FL
Oct 22 – 25	Rally	Daytona Speedway CG
Nov 18, 2009	Election Luncheon	Kissimmee, FL
Dec 2 – 7	Cracker Christmas Installation/Volunteer Rally	Ft. Christmas, FL

Who's Going To Madison, WI?

If you are planning on attending the International Rally in Madison, WI this year, please let our President, Tom Moore, know by the St. Augustine, FL Easter Rally that starts on April 7, 2009. We presently don't have any rallies or Unit events planned for May or June so we need to have a Unit meeting at St. Augustine to discuss and decide on any items that may come before the Delegates in Madison, and name our Delegate and Alternate to that meeting.

**Less Work And More Fun
by Randy Godfrey, 1st V.P.**

Since joining the WBCCI, and being elected as your 2nd (and now 1st) Vice President, my emphasis has been on making our Unit welcoming and supportive of our members who may be still working, who can only attend activities on weekends, and have children at home. Our Jacksonville Rally in January hosted by Ron and Chris Allen was a big success and our major activities were on Saturday so all who could come, even if only for the weekend, got their money's worth. If you didn't make it, you missed a good time.

Rallies don't have to be a chore for the rally host. Just pick a spot that has things to do, and let us know where and when. We can all choose what we would like to do when we get there. For those of us who are retired, we can get there on Thursday and make sure that all is ready for those who will be coming on Friday: a good place to park, a happy hour to meet everyone, and a campfire with S'mores to enjoy. This can even be at a State Park—we can all make our own reservations at www.reserveamerica.com.

We don't have anything on our Rally Calendar for May, and June, July, August for those not traveling to Madison or other destinations this summer. Is there a spot near you that you would like to have a rally? Let us know, and we'll put you on the schedule and get the word out. There are many of our members who we don't see, but I'm sure are using their Airstreams for family, weekend camping. We would love to meet you and your family, and we'll come to a place near you to do it.

Region 3 Officers Needed

Due to economic and health reasons, our region is looking for candidates to fill the unexpired terms of Rick Bell (1st VP) and Walter Culley (2nd VP). If you are interested in becoming a Region officer, please send a resume before the Region Rally in Perry GA April 12-26, 2009 to Jean Gilbert; 6404 Garrett Rd; Midland, GA 31820; Gilb17240@aol.com. Each candidate will be interviewed and one will be selected to be placed on the ballot.

Thank You From Frank Carson

It is so easy for me just to say thank you to the Florida Unit 027 for your help. It was more than that. Just seeing the amount of our members that showed up to support both the Florida State Rally and our unit was over the top. I would like to think that some of this was to show your support for me.

Whenever I needed a new Chairman, or a special job done, all I had to do was ask and our members, no ifs, ands, or buts, just jumped right in. No one could ask more and get it from their own unit. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The theme for next year's rally will be "Pirate Invasion." Colors will be multi colors plus black. The dates are February 16 – 21, 2010.

Over \$1,200.00 was collected for All Faiths Food Bank by all the Florida Units, and over \$500.00 was collected for All Faiths from the church offering.

My knee surgery went well and I am now home recuperating and hoping I can make it to the Easter Rally—thank you for all the calls and cards. I especially want to thank the couple of members that offered Joan both transportation to and from the hospital daily and lodging. This is above and beyond the call and really touched both of us. Joan thanks you, I thank you, and neither of us will ever forget it.

A Personal Note From The Florida State Rally Director's Wife

Just over a year ago I could be heard saying to Frank, "No, absolutely not...it's too much for you to do. Frank, Frank, do you hear me? Oh, ok, go ahead. I'll support your decision."

Now, all I can say is (and I hope you'll agree with me) I'm so proud of Frank and the wonderful rally he directed at Sarasota. I saw the many hours of behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing, cajoling, and yes, even begging, to make all of this happen. The pressure coordinating a rally of this size is UNBELIEVEABLE! But, he made it, thanks to a wonderful Assistant Director, 4 Coordinators and over 100 Committee Chairmen.

As Frank sits here with his knee elevated, we are basking in the "after glow," and are just so appreciative of the many FL Unit 027 members who took on major jobs and deserve to share in this successful outcome. We are both just so proud of the can-do attitude of our members. We've thanked you in person, but can we just thank you once again for your efforts via our Unit Newsletter?

Frank could not have done the job without the help of the following unit members: Randy and Pat Godfrey (Registrar); Betty Wenger (Morning Hospitality) assisted by Lotty Joachimsthal, Chris Allen, and other unit members; Dave Wenger (After-Hours Parking Chairman and Scooter Patrol); Ron and Chris Allen (Chairmen's Dinner); Marilyn Blasdell (Nurse Coordinator and Chairman of the Blood Drive);

Whit Blasdell (Bingo Chairman) assisted by Randy Godfrey, Charles Whittington, Elma Craft, Phil Drugge, and Ron Allen; Vic and Josie Smith (Rally Booklet Chairman); Willard Pickrel (Chairman, Scooter Patrol); Earl and Bev Trask (donated a beautiful table for a door prize); Wendy and Bill Reilly (Health Chic Seminar); Nancy Schime (Chairman of WBCCI Supplies) assisted by Henry Lappen; Ed Krajewski (Chairman of De-Parking); Marion Krajewski (“Ask Me” Committee); Phil and Phyllis Azeredo (worked on Registration); Phil and Doris Drugge (Golf Chairmen); Lynn and Suzanne Rudd (worked on Tables & Chairs); Ted and Donna Smith (worked on Tables & Chairs and Storage Container), Werner Joachimsthal, parking and lastly Tom Moore who proudly carried the FL Unit flag and his First Lady, Ann. May I say once again, Thank You for making Frank’s job look so easy!

Since this was Frank’s first year as Director he decided to try some new ideas. The opening ceremony was held Tuesday evening instead of Wednesday morning; introduction of Past International Members, Past Presidents, etc., was shortened; and seats in the first rows were reserved for new members. A few new jobs were created and some old ones eliminated. I thought one of the best changes, and one, which received many favorable comments, was having an “After-Hours Parking Chairman.” Frank appointed Dave Wenger to handle this new position. Dave’s phone number was posted in the bullpen and members who arrived at the rally grounds after the regular parking hours could call Dave. Dave would then go to the bullpen on his scooter and escort the late arrivals to a parking spot. If you have ever been caught in this situation, you can appreciate this service. Some new seminars and programs were added to the schedule. The Saturday dinner menu was changed to roast beef, sweet potatoes and green beans (mmmmm good).

AWARDS: Congrats to Phil Drugge who won a prize in golf and I won a blue ribbon in the hobby show (Collections Division). Our Unit won 3rd place in barrel decoration – Congrats to Pat Godfrey and her crew of decorators!

SEMINAR: Our own Wendy Reilly conducted a healthy living seminar that was very well attended. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

BANQUET: It was wonderful to see so many members at our happy hours and at dinner at Troyer’s Restaurant (close to 50 members and affiliates).

Other unit members in attendance were: Tim and Alice Wymer, Ed and Ruth Carrie, Gene Hecht and Carolyn Hoglin, Charlie and Roxanne Nix, Grace and Gerold Michaelson, Elma Craft, Dave and Becky Barto, Frank and Kay Blunda, and Dorothy Sampson.

This year there were 391 units in attendance. Frank says he would like to see everyone who came this year, bring a friend next year. Right now FL State is WBCCI’s 2nd largest rally. Frank is hoping to make the rally as big, if not bigger, than International. And with that statement, you can see that Frank is already planning and looking forward to next year’s rally. “Frank, I’m so proud of you. Your giving heart to WBCCI has been enjoyed by so many Airstreamers in so many ways, but you out-did yourself this time. May I help again this year as you plan for 2010 by being, in even a small way, the wind beneath your wings?” Joan

Formality And Dress Codes by Randy Godfrey, 1st V.P.

The night I was to be installed as your 2nd VP, we were all sitting around enjoying a happy hour, and when everyone started to leave to wash up for dinner, someone turned to me and asked if I was going to dress up for the installation. Dressed in a T-shirt, jeans, and hiking boots I said, “This was as good as I get.” A white shirt, red tie, and Blue Beret were tossed at me from various trailers, and thus I was introduced to one of the WBCCI’s customs—formal ceremonies and dress codes.

I later observed our president dressed in the WBCCI uniform of white shirt, red tie, dark pants and shoes, and beret in opening ceremonies at the FL State Rally, and Region 3 Rally. And, I did the same for our Unit at Bozeman last year, but I have been bothered about finding space in my small trailer for this uniform to be worn at a single activity and, aren’t we on a camping trip after all? The dress code requirements at Bozeman were onerous, and even if I had been your Unit President there, I wouldn’t have been able to attend the appreciation dinner as I didn’t

have a dark suit and tie in my Airstream's small closet.

To quote Phil Pons a life member of the WBCCI in the Mid-Atlantic Unit: "WBCCI has drifted away from being a caravanning and camping club to being an organization fixated on "structure" and hierarchy. An inordinate amount of time and energy is spent on formal events that seem to benefit a few but irritate many. Just look at the emphasis on uniforms. Not only the senior managers but also their distaff side wears distinctive uniforms that further separate them from the Club members. I suspect this practice crept into our Club through the influence of former military folks. This practice has lost favor in today's military and has outlived its value to our Club if it ever was of value."

After researching this topic, I have discovered that there are no rules on this, it is only custom handed down from earlier times when formality was more in vogue. In today's world though, this formality is being replaced. At the company from which I retired in 2007, we dropped the shirts and ties for "Business Casual" attire more than 10 years ago. At our Unit's installation of officers in 2008, I asked our region president about any requirements for the dress code and he told me it was whatever I wanted when I became president.

In an article I wrote for this newsletter after the Bozeman rally, I reported that our Unit Logo was being digitized by Allison and Wes of A&W Designs, the vendor who brings the embroidery machines to the FL State Rally. At our Unit luncheon at the Florida State Rally, I modeled this new shirt for everyone, and said I propose to wear this with the beret for my installation later this year, that is, unless you vote me out before then. This shirt is something we can wear for many occasions, and to a local restaurant for dinner without feeling over dressed. This doesn't replace the



Unit T-Shirts we got last year, only supplements them with a little dressier option. By the way, I chose a dark green shirt because frankly, I'm told I look good in green, but I don't care what color you wear. If you want to buy a shirt from A&W, you can contact them at (561) 301-0272 or awhurner@yahoo.com.

I will honor the dress requirements when they are dictated to me from the organizers of the WBCCI events that I attend as one of your unit officers, but for our unit activities, I propose to eliminate all that, and get back to being a caravanning and camping club that we all can enjoy. I hope you will support me on this.

Welcome New Members

Full Members:

Howard & Susan LaRose
WBCCI #8063
2214 Spring Creek Cir NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905
Larose112@juno.com

New Associate Members:

Frank & Kay Blunda
WBCCI #9088
29129 Johnston Rd 1830
Dade City, FL 33523-6128
FrankBlunda@verizon.net
KayBlunda@verizon.net
Summer: 15 Columbia Ave.
Ocean View, DE 19970
Patrick & Lillian McGee
WBCCI #3748
6944 S. Shore Drive
South Pasadena, FL 33707
Mcgpat7@aol.com

Meet Howard & Susan LaRose From Palm Bay, FL

We no longer tow, but keep our 35 ft. Airstream at the Tennessee Airstream Park (TCPC) for the summer months. Also we have an Airstream B-van for traveling and visiting our daughter and son-in-law in Minnesota. We'll be heading north sooner than usual because our daughter is expecting a baby in May and we'll be there to help. We had hoped to attend the Bluegrass Rally, but I have been called for jury duty beginning March 19. We plan to drive to the rally for a few hours either Saturday or Sunday.

For those who live near Palm Bay, Sandy Pines Preserve is the location of a couple of subdivisions off Port Malabar Road and there is an RV storage facility for the B-van. If you are not familiar with the Turkey Creek Sanctuary, it is a wonderful 130-acre park with a boardwalk to the creek's edge—many overlooks. Also, there is a new canoe/kayak launch area. You can get a trail map at the Visitor Center. The park is located off Port Malabar Road: turn on the road next to the community center, one mile east of Babcock; park in the library parking lot at the end of the road, and take the sidewalk to the Visitor Center. I'm giving the directions because the park entrance is not easy to find. Thanks again for the warm welcome. Susan

Get Well Corner

Frank Carson. Knee replacement completed!
Bev Trask. Up and around and got to Sarasota for the luncheon. Earl, expecting a UPS delivery, was surprised instead by a visit at 10:30 p.m. by daughter and niece from CT and NH! Bev says hi to everyone, and thanks for your thoughts and prayers.

Josie Smith. Also at the Sarasota Rally—can't keep these great gals down.

Note from Ellen & Joe McMillan: We're still caretaking for my sister who is still hanging in there. The doctor says she has a month or two left, but she's proven them wrong before. This next weekend we're going to fly down to TR so that we can attend to our income taxes and to whatever else needs to be done since we have been away since October. We'll also get the Olympic info to Frank. We're going to miss being at St. Augustine.

Helen Leggett. In hospital for a month after fall. Due to have vertebra "cementing" on March 13 and will remain in hospital another 20 days. [Editor's Note: If anyone has any more info, please let me know for the next newsletter. patfinn@bellsouth.net; 321-638-2484]

Region 3 Website: www.wbcci3.org
Florida Unit: www.airstream-adventures.com/FU/Florida_Unit.html
 Vic is working on a new Florida Unit website on wbcci.net it is: floridaunit027.wbcci.net

-----coupon-----

Region 3 WBCCI Rally April 21-26, 2009

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____ WBCCI # _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____ Code _____
 Office _____ Present _____ Past _____ Handicapped? _____
 Region _____ Unit _____ Telephone _____ Vintage Parking? Yes _____ No _____

Rally fees:	Airstream w/2 adults	\$145.00	\$ _____
	Airstream w/1 Adult	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
	Guest (per person)	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
	Weekend (Friday arrival per person)	\$ 30.00	\$ _____
	Saturday Banquet (per person)	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
	Sub-total rally fee:		\$ _____
	Parking: _____ Nights x \$18.00 per night (early Parking starts April 20 th)		\$ _____
	Total fee: (rally fee & parking)		\$ _____

Make checks payable to Region 3 Rally. Include the coupon and a SASE*.
 Mail to: Martha Kerns, 18133 Nantz Road, Cornelius, NC 28031-8609

*Self Address, Stamped LARGE (4x9) Envelope