

Mountain Caravanner

Western North Carolina Unit 169 WBCCI

NOVEMBER 2016



President	George D. James, III
1. Vice Pres.	George D. James, IV
Treasurer	Franklin D. Sanders
Rec. Sec.	George D. James, IV
Corr. Sec.	Liza McArthur
1yr. Director	Carolyn Rosendale
1yr. Director	Ashel Ammons
1yr. Director	Renate Preissler
1yr. Director	Eddie Wirtz
3yr. Director	Celeste Wirtz
Membership	

SunshineNews	Liza McArthur
Webmaster	Renate Preissler
Newsletter	George D. James, III

Unit website: www.wnc.wbcci.net



PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

It's November!! Fall is here and we are entering a down time for some of us – park and winterize the Airstream until the Spring – and a “Head to warmer climes” for others.

Elections were held and new officers of the WNC Unit were duly installed by Region 3 1st VP John Leake at the October Alumalina Rally at Palmetto Cove, SC. Thanks, John!

A big Thank You to Liza McArthur for a great job as President. During the 2015-2016 season, your dedication and insight were inspiring. Thank You to Tim Joslin for your help as Treasurer, and assistance in setting up the Unit bank account. Welcome to Franklin and Jane Sanders, and Thank You to Franklin for taking over the Treasurer's position. A special Thank You to Renate Preissler for all that you do keeping the website and newsletters under control, and for being the Corresponding Secretary and Unit Historian for the last several years! To George IV and all others who attended the rallies and assisted the Unit in many ways a big Thank You. I will be looking forward to all your help in the coming year!

We lost a couple of Airstreamers this year – our Region 3 VP Dick Martiny and one of our most dedicated Unit members and twice Past President Lynn Moore – our love and prayers go out to Louise Moore and family.

Those Airstreamers who attended the service for Lynn Moore were Joe and Susan Ramseur, Renate and Hermann Preissler, Bill and Carolyn Rosendale, Ann and Ashel Ammons, Dan and Maxine McIntyre, Carolyn and Glen May and George James, III. It was nice to see so many members there. I know Louise was glad to see so many of the Airstream “Family” in attendance.

What's new for the 2016-2017 season? Luncheons and rallies, of course! Proposed rally sites and dates have not been finalized as of yet, but a Spring Luncheon is being planned for March in Mills River, NC. Region 3 Rally is scheduled for late April. A May Rally will be somewhere in Hendersonville (or maybe Saluda). A joint rally with the Carolinas Unit perhaps for June. July is

Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.

Helen Keller

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International in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. August or September will be a joint rally with the Top of Georgia Unit at the T.O.G. and a joint rally with the Piedmont Unit (another Balloon Rally maybe?). Another suggestion is the Tom Johnson RV rally in Marion, NC. October is back to Palmetto Cove for Alumalina/Carolina Mountain Jamboree/WNC Unit Installation rally. A Christmas Luncheon will be scheduled for December, date to be determined at this year's Christmas Luncheon. More information on the upcoming rally schedule will be covered at the December Luncheon, which will be held on December 10th at the Cedars, (227 7th Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC.) starting at 11:30am. Please plan to attend, and bring a friend if you'd like. The cost is based on 35 people buying a ticket, and they have room for more!

The Unit decided to forgo everyone bringing gifts for "Toys for Tots" this year in favor of a monetary donation from our Unit account. We have also elected to make a similar donation to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. All are good causes and provide tremendous help during disasters such as the eastern NC floods. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there!

I want to wish all of the Unit members a delightful Thanksgiving and Christmas Season and a most healthy and happy New Year!

Prez. George #5324

A Short Report on the Alumalina/Mountain Jamboree at Palmetto Cove

135 Airstream Rigs attended. Thursday dinner was hot dogs and pot luck, Friday dinner was "Possum Bog" and pot luck, Saturday dinner was a major fish fry with pot luck, and breakfast! I just gained a pound thinking about all that food! Lots of young folks, first timers and old timers, seminars and all around good fun! Saturday evening was door prizes and music, and Trick-or-Treaters! Weather was perfect. Our Unit folks who attended were Tim and MaryAnn Joslin, Eddie and Celeste Wirtz, George III and IV, Liza MacArthur, Fred Brandt, Martin and Ann Miller, Bob and Amy Olsen, Hermann and Renate Preissler, and Franklin Sanders.

Tech Tip for Airstreamers – Winterize Your Rig

It is Winterize your Rig time. Don't forget to remove all food stuffs from your rig, including all canned goods and liquids – not nice to find the molasses all over the floor in the Spring – and

fresh dry goods to start a new season replace the old stale stuff from last season.

Parking outside? Park your tires (properly inflated!) on wood. It is better than pavement. Also check your lug nuts for proper torque.

Mice like to eat – so give them some mouse "stuff." A box or two should do.

Don't forget to wash all of the sheets, etc. And take out all of the stuff you didn't use last season and don't need to carry, to give yourself some "new" space! Enuuff said – Have a great winter! George III.

Minutes of WNC Unit #169, October 26, 2016 @ Palmetto Cove, Cleveland, SC.

Members present: President Liza McArthur, 1st VP George James, III. Treasurer Franklin Sanders, Rec. Secretary George James, IV, Hermann and Renate Preissler, Bob and Amy Olsen, Eddie and Celeste Wirtz, Tim Joslin, and Affiliate Member Fred Brandt.

Meeting opened at 10:15am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous Unit meetings. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

- Franklin reported that very few members are still outstanding in their dues for 2016-2017.
- A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, pending the annual audit. Tim Joslin agreed to do the audit, and the motion passed. The audit was completed and all was in order.
- Franklin thanked Renate for attending to the Treasurer's duties while he was on caravan.

A motion was made for the Unit to make contributions to some local charities. Discussion was positive, and the following approved:

- That WNC Unit #169 donate \$300.00 each to the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and to Toys for Tots.
 - Where possible, local charity offices will be contacted regarding the donation and it is hoped that representatives of each will attend the Unit Christmas Luncheon, to be held at the Cedars in Hendersonville on Saturday, December 10.

Elected Unit Officers for 2016-2017:

President George D. James, III.
1st Vice President George D. James, IV

Recording Secretary George D. James, IV
 Corresponding Secretary Liza MacArthur
 Directors: 1 yr. Carolyn Rosendale
 1 yr. Ashel Ammons
 1 yr. Renate Preissler
 1 yr. Eddie Wirtz
 3 yr. Celeste Wirtz
 Webmaster Renate Preissler

Incoming President George James, III opened a discussion for proposed Rally sites. These include:

- Spring Luncheon March 18. Mills River, NC.
- Region 3 Rally at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawasse, GA, April 27-30.
- A May rally, possibly in Saluda, NC.
- The International Rally in Michigan, and Folkmoot Rally in July.
- Franklin Rally in August and/or
- Labor Day Joint Rally with the Top o' Georgia Unit August 31-Sept. 3.
- Alumalina/Carolinas Jamboree at Palmetto Cove in October.
- Unit Christmas Luncheon in December.

These rally sites and dates will be posted as they are finalized and communicated to the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am, to be followed by Unit Officer Installations, Region 3 1st VP John Leake, officiating.

Submitted 2 November 2016
George D. James, IV #2879.



"CINDER"
Bill and Carolyn Rosendale's beloved companion was lost to cancer last month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

Liza McArthur 11 / 4
 George D. James, III 11 / 4
 John Plaxco 11 / 9
 Bill Rosendale 11 / 17
 Louise Moore 11 / 19
 Connie Wells 11 / 26

December

Eddie Wirtz 12 / 21

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

Phil and Cathy Drake 11 / 15
 Carl and Beth Kelley 11 / 19
 Ashel and Ann Ammons 11 / 22
 Hermann and Renate Preissler 11 / 24
 Bob and Cathy James 11 / 29

December

Dan and Maxine McIntyre 12 / 12
 Bill and Connie Wells 12 / 16
 Eddie and Celeste Wirtz 12 / 17

UPCOMING UNIT EVENTS



Annual Unit Christmas Luncheon

Dec 10 at 11:30 AM

at the Cedars

227 7th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC

Reservation slip and more info on page 7

HIGHLIGHTS OF A "VIKING TRAIL" TOUR



Jane and I purchased our 34-foot Airstream Trailer in 1998. From 1998 to 2006, we visited the 49 continental states of the USA, and nine provinces and two territories of Canada. We didn't find our way to the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador until 2016. We had hoped to join a Viking Caravan in 2015 or 2016, but didn't succeed. We created our own Viking Caravan of one Airstream this year, using a borrowed 2015 Drivers Manual to plan our trip. A 14-year old grandson came aboard to share the trip!

Along the route, we stopped at *Hopewell Rocks* on the west side of the Bay of Fundy, a expansive display of relatively soft reddish brown stone outcroppings, shaped over time by the surging Fundy tides. This was our grandson's favorite stop, as he couldn't conceive of spring tide changes exceeding 40 feet in height, or of walking on the ocean floor at such a low tide.

We crossed the Gulf of St. Lawrence from Nova Scotia on a Newfoundland Ferry carrying innumerable cars, RVs and 18-wheeler trucks, arriving at Port aux Basques, NL nearly eight hours later. A thirty-mile drive then took us to our first stop, a beautifully landscaped campground at Doyles, NL. We stayed at Grand Codroy RV Camping for four nights, making daytime trips in the lightly settled rural area, including *Cape Anguilla Lighthouse*, nearby, the *Rose Blanche Lighthouse* on the southern coast of NL. The latter is a stone structure faithfully restored by artisans in a community which sits on a particularly remote point of land. Certainly worth the side trip!

Our next stop was *Gros Morne National Park*, a three-hour drive up the western shore of Newfoundland, along the Labrador Strait. We stayed in the Park in a KOA campground for six nights, enjoying kayaking, hiking and bicycling. My understanding of Gros Morne grew in reading a well-written and highly informative guide to the park's geology and ecology, about the unique history of the area and of informative, longer hikes into the Tablelands Section of the Park. I would like to make a second trip to Newfoundland, just to explore the park.

Our following stop was near *St. Anthony*, at the northwestern tip of the island. We visited the excavated ruins site and the replicated village of the original Viking settlement at *L'Anse aux Meadows*, which was first visited by Norwegians from Greenland around A.D. 1000. Again, purchase of a book offered far more to absorb than a mere visit to the visitors center. The Norwegian archeologist who excavated the site in the 1960s under a grant from National Geographic Society wrote a book in Norwegian, recently translated into English, which integrated her exploration of the site with her experience living six summers in a community then effectively isolated except by sea from St. Anthony or neighboring towns.

Botwood, a waypoint on our route to Gander, is near a large lake which was a landing and refueling point for the BOAC and PanAm transatlantic Flying Boats of the pre- and post-WWII propeller era, as well as for Allied Air Forces during WWII. The museum offers a B&W newsreel-type film of the first pair of flying boat transatlantic flights, east and west, which stopped there. A smaller Flying Boat is on display at dockside.

Gander (Country Inn RV Park) has relatively good weather and visibility, which makes it the home of *Gander International Airport*. That airport was the location from which Arrow Air 1285, a DC-8 contract flight, failed to make a successful departure with returning US 101st Airborne troops, crashing and burning with over 250 deaths in December 1985. The *Silent Witness Memorial* is a monument to the 101st Airborne personnel on the doomed flight, which crashed less than ½-mile from the end of its runway.

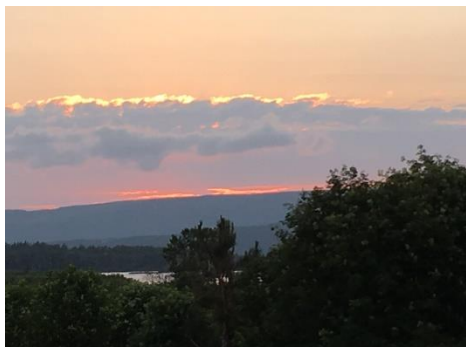
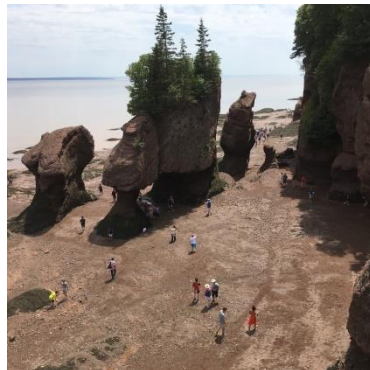
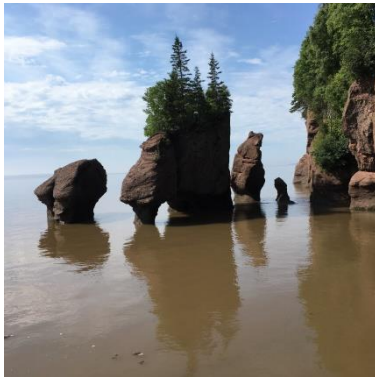
Bonavista, a town on the northeastern coast, was the landing point for John Cabot, who sailed into the area in the 13th century. An accurate replica of his ship awaits visitors, as does an historic lighthouse, seascapes, etc. Local camping accommodations were rough and scarce, requiring extended drives from a campground on the TransCanada Highway, which severely limited our sightseeing in Bonavista and Trinity Bay.

St. John's, capital of Newfoundland & Labrador, is a busy town with many sightseeing opportunities on its peripheries. Pippy Park Campground, in a city park of the same name, is centrally located, and comfortable. We visited the Geo Center, an underground museum with local geological features of interest as well as topical displays, including a damning display of information related to the loss of the Titanic – off the east coast of Newfoundland, including design and construction short-cuts which compromised the hull, and the Captain's supreme overconfidence about iceberg peril. My grandson and I also went to the eastern-most point of North American, named "Cape Spear" due to the shape of the point of land. We saw the original and current lighthouses, despite drenching rain! (I returned for pictures on a sunny day!)

WBCCI's Viking Trail Caravans usually returned to Nova Scotia by overnight ferry from Argentia, near St. John. After putting our grandson on a plane for Newark to meet his family for a summer's end vacation, we reversed our route on the TransCanada Highway, returning to Port aux Basques for the day boat to Nova Scotia.

We would be pleased to share our itinerary, and its notes as to places to stop and sights to see, upon request with an e-mail address. Files will be in .pdf for ease in accessing them on computers with differing software.

Franklin Sanders, #273
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SPECIAL NOTE!

- Your next Mountain Caravanner will have a new look and new Editor.
- The next Blue Beret Magazine will be the February 2017 issue.
- The 2017 Unit Membership Directory is scheduled to be presented at the Annual Christmas Unit Luncheon. Members not present will receive their copies by mail.
- The Unit web site www.wnc.wbcc.net will continue to be updated as soon as new information is available.

I am wishing all members a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Healty, Prosperous, Safe and
Happy New Year 2017.

Remember Wally Byam's motto: "***Keep your eyes on the stars, and the stars in your eyes***

.....see if you can find out what's over the next hill, and the next one after that"

Renate Preissler,
past newsletter editor and past corresponding secretary





ANNUAL UNIT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec 10, 2016

at "The Cedars" 227 7th Ave, West, Hendersonville, NC

We will meet at 11:30 for Hot Cider. Lunch to be served at 12 Noon.

Cost is \$ 18.00 ea./p.p. with tax and gratuity incl.

Menu: Slow cooked beef brisket, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad,

a variety of other salads or fruit,

per selection of Cedars caterer - peach cobbler w/vanilla ice cream, or cake, coffee, tea.

Please come and join us.

Your families and friends are also always welcome.

In lieu of collecting toys at this luncheon, our Unit will donate money from the Unit Funds to 3 Charities



LUNCHEON RESERVATION:

NAME: _____

I WILL ATTEND THE LUNCHEON ON DEC. 10, 2016

I AM PAYING FOR _____ MEALS @ \$ 18.00 ea. TOTAL: \$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE IF A SUGAR FREE DESERT IS REQUESTED: _____

Please make checks payable to WNC Unit 169
and mail to Franklin Sanders, Unit Treasurer,
14 Saint Albans Court, Asheville, NC 28803-3445 or call Franklin at 802.345.3014