



# The Caravanner



April



## Mid-Atlantic Airstream Club

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**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Wayne Berkebile

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Ingrid Berkebile

**Recording Sec.:**

**Corresponding Sec.:** Alex Jacobs

**Treasurer (temporary):** Alex Jacobs

**Membership:** Bob George

**Newsletter, Web & Directory:** Alex Jacobs

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Karen Lea  
Carol Baker

**Past President:** Luke Brennecke

Addresses, Phone Numbers and E-mails not listed are located in the MAAC Members 2020 Directory.

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...AND More

<https://mid-atlantic.airstreamclub.net/>

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Send suggestions, articles & changes to the **Newsletter Editor, Alex Jacobs** at [053info@airstreamclub.net](mailto:053info@airstreamclub.net)



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# MAAC President's Message



Hello MAAC members!

News at the moment is unavoidable: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and its impacts. Given this, I do not have much to report event wise other than to expect rallies and caravans to fold through April (at a minimum); my perspective at the moment is that any gatherings through July are at risk. The last time SARS raged, it settled down in the early Summer with a minor resurgence in the following Fall. Time will tell if our Fall rally schedule survives . . .

In business related news, we are inching along toward a new relationship with U.S. Bank. Many thanks to the higher level of Airstream Club International (ACI) for recognizing that post 9-11 anti-terrorism legislation is making banking relationships difficult for all clubs and small businesses across the country (not just Airstream).

Anybody whom attempted to either change banks, or modify signers on an existing account, can easily affirm that the level of effort was just short of conjuring the messiah. ACI has access to all the underlying clubs' documentation which puts them in a position of acting as our liaison with a bank. End result of this liaison relationship is that the bank gets a specific club Officer to work with (in this case, our ACI Corporate Manager: Lori Plummer) while also working with the individual club / unit officers. Bringing this full circle, MAAC is currently midstream in setting up our accounts with U.S. Bank and it is just a matter of sending some paperwork back-and forth to get a working checking account online.

... continues on the next page...





## *... President's Message cont.*

For those whom have not noticed, Colonial Airstream (our sponsor for at least a couple of decades) relocated to new facilities much closer to the NJ Turnpike. I visited shortly after Colonial's move and the new location certainly does look nice. Among the shuffle of things at Colonial, I heard that the GM position is currently vacant. Earlier this year we had reached out to Colonial about continuation of their sponsorship in MAAC and had yet to get a response. I wish Colonial a successful path and thank them for the long-term sponsorship of MAU / MAAC.

Last bit of news this month is that we successfully performed our first electronic vote and am happy to announce that we have a new letterhead template for official MAAC business! Truly appreciate the inputs on the letterhead's first draft which helped us get to the final. Many thanks go to the folks from ~10 years ago whom saw a future in electronic voting and modified our governance to enable this functionality.

Related to MAAC's letterhead, Flora Barrett volunteered (along with some collaboration with Alex Jacobs) to convert our logo from a photo of a sewn emblem patch over to a digital graphic along with updating the club name and Airstream affiliation. From what I am seeing of the logo's work in progress, it will still retain all the original elements (our name, states we encompass, an iconic Airstream trailer, and the apple blossom); although, it might shift things around a little. Once a final draft is ready, we will float it around for inputs and an eventual vote. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing the final result and truly appreciate the work going into this project.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and will see you down the road after this annoying little COVID-19 bug clears!



Jonathan Jacobs  
WBAC 2784







## April Birthdays

10

Alexandra Jacobs



EARTH DAY



## & Anniversaries

6

Marcia & Michael Kelly



## MAAC New Logo

Mid-Atlantic Airstream club votes on a new logo. We are transferring from the old Mid-Atlantic Unit logo to a new one re-designed by Flora Barrett (WBAC 19438).



For those who are not familiar with the club's history (most of us), MAU hosted the longest running National Rally, The Apple Blossom Rally, which coincided with the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, VA. The rally was always well attended with units even from England.

***The voting is currently underway and the scoring is very close. Every vote is important!***



VS





# Henschen Rubber Torsion Axle Replacements

Stemming from a conversation during the Valentine's Day North luncheon, I am happy to report that despite disruption in the typical go-to axle supplier for Airstream trailers (not naming names, but it is on the West coast) and an Airstream dealer whom turned down my trailer's axle replacement job, [Jim Donnies RV Service Center](#) (next to BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport) easily managed the task. Converting from **Henschen's rubber torsion axle to Dexter's** was fairly straight-forward, although there were two items which effected cost a bit: brackets and brakes.

Due to fitment on the trailer, brackets from the Henschen axles were cut-off and welded to the Dexters. This was not Donnies first Dexter axle job, so they knew not to heat the axle.



For anybody thinking about converting brakes from drum (electric) to disk (electric over hydraulic / EoH), an axle replacement is the perfect time to execute this change. In my case, I had already replaced the OE 12" (that is not a typo) drums with disk brakes when the trailer was at Jackson Center a few years ago. When Donnies scoped the axle replacement, they highly recommended to purchase new disk brakes from Dexter rather than re-use the ones I had. Reasoning to purchase new disk brakes was that this would simplify the order (purchase everything pre-assembled directly from Dexter) and avoid future finger-pointing (should something break) from trying to figure-out how to port the old brakes and adjust for different spindle sizes. Of note, the hydraulic system was not changed, just the rotors and calipers. Turns out that the decision to get new brakes was a good one as the retrofit calipers (on the Henschens) were single piston and the Dexters had 4 pistons; end result when I applied the brakes was: WOW! Due to the new brakes having additional clamping force (compared to the retrofit ones from Jackson Center), I had to turn the brake controller gain \*down\* (in my case from 5.5 to no more than 4.5).





# Henschen Rubber Torsion Axle Replacements

On the tow home with new axles, I noticed that the trailer also appeared to ride differently and more of what I had expected. On the Henschens (which were likely exhausted and not their fault that they were worn-out), the trailer appeared to laterally hop from side-to-side. With a new set of axles, the lateral movement appeared more like a rock / roll motion with some damping. While the total project cost was a little bit more than what I wanted, am very happy with the end results. Bonus was that I found a good shop to replace axles on vintage Airstreams!

Jonathan Jacobs  
WBAC 2784



[For larger photos click here](#)







# Rally Schedule 2020

Activity Dates:	September 25 – 27
Activity Location:	Crisfield, MD
Type or Theme of Event:	<b>CRABs AGAIN?</b>
Directions to Activity:	126 Lorrie Quinn Drive, Crisfield, MD 21817
Person to Contact:	Wayne Berkebile, MAU 1 <sup>st</sup> VP
Email:	berkendorff48@gmail.com



NEW **MAAC** MEMBERS:



OUR UNIT WILL COVER ALL YOUR **FIRST** **MAAC** RALLY FEES!

DON'T WAIT, COME JOIN US IN THE AIRSTREAM FUN

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