



The Caravanner



May

Mid-Atlantic Airstream Club

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Inside

- President's Message
- Three Gems of Mexico
- Calendar 2020

...AND More

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Send suggestions, articles & changes to the **Newsletter Editor, Alex Jacobs** at 053info@airstreamclub.net



ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLISHING MUST BE SENT TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.



MAAC President's Message



Hello MAAC members!

I hope everybody is enjoying our start of the *first ever* Virtual Camping Season. Am reading where benefits of virtual camping are cleaner air and flowers are blooming more vibrantly! (Not that I am there to see these extra vibrant flowers though). Despite my family's RV not rolling down the road, it is getting love by way of little fix-it jobs.

I have another first for MAAC: our first electronic vote is complete and I am happy to announce that we have a new logo. Kudos to everybody whom voted and helped with constructive comments on getting us to a winner!

With travel restrictions comes creativity in using technology as a substitute for in-person meetings and family gatherings. While technology is a great substitute to virtually see other people, it can come with unadvertised pit-falls ranging from leaking data (your information) to allowing others to either spy or attack your device due to sloppy software engineering. Here is a current article which gives a run-down of the most popular tools from a security perspective:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Apr/24/2002288652/-1/-1/0/CSI-SELECTING-AND-USING-COLLABORATION-SERVICES-SECURELY-LONG-FINAL.PDF>

To make things easy, just focus on the table for deciding on which tools are best for the conversation. For confidential conversations (example: doctor, financial, etc), I would not want to use anything less than full end-to-end (E2E) encryption; also, I would not use one with a 'Partial' qualifier as this means somebody in the middle can still listen-in. Personally, I would not touch the last app on the table (hint: search on two words: <that app> and security) and I am not clear on why its external auditors did call-out some of its reported issues.

... continues on the next page...





... President's Message cont.

Back to the opening comment about giving some love to our RV. There is actually another driver for this effort: **spreading the love**. Even though many sections of the global economy were closed to mitigate COVID-19's spread, some businesses were allowed (or directed) to remain open. Now is a great time to order little fix-it items for helping companies stay in business even if they are operating with a thin staff and products are shipping slower than usual. By placing an order, it puts money in the businesses' pipeline which helps them stay afloat. Related, if the stimulus money (when it arrives) is truly not necessary for your needs, consider donating it to support those whom were furloughed / laid-off.

That's all for this month as I'm probably going to get scolded (again) by our editor for taking-up so much space in the newsletter. Looking forward to seeing y'all down the road!

Jonathan Jacobs
WBAC 2784



Street Art by Penelope Jacobs (9)

May Birthdays



10	Joan Broomall
15	Francis Posniewski

& Anniversaries

9	Barbara & Francis Posniewski
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Three Gems of Mexico Caravan

Two weeks into the caravan we found ourselves in Mazatlán in the state of Sinoloa, parked along a beautiful, expansive beach directly across the Sea of Cortez from the southern tip of Baja California. Thirteen Airstreams (OK, 12 Airstreams and a 1977 Argosy) along with our “wagon masters” driving a SOB motorhome, had made our collective way just about 1,000 miles into Mexico from our border crossing point at Nogales, AZ on 8th of February.



For those of you who have experienced the precision planning and wonderful RV parks that characterize Airstream caravans in the US, leave those expectations at the border when you cross into Mexico. “Full hookups” most often means access to non-potable water, and a 15 amp or 30 amp plug that usually supplies electricity with voltage that is often too low or too high to make it past the EMS/surge protector. A “dump” is usually available. Clean, potable water is readily available at a very reasonable price, however. At your first stop in Mexico you can invest in several 28-liter containers of purified water (about 60 pesos each). Thereafter, you can either exchange the empty jugs at “OXXO” stores (located everywhere) or have them refilled with purified (RO) at water stations located in most villages. We have usually paid 10-25 pesos (\$0.55 - \$1.40) per jug, although in some places a jug costed 40 pesos. (Make sure you have a good method of pouring or pumping the water into your holding tank!) Some folks used the water from the hose and “purified” it by adding bleach (or Purogene) in their tanks, but we elected to go with the real purified water even though it was more expensive. Having a good solar charging system and/or a small generator is a must because of the unreliable (or unavailable) electricity.

Our expectations of a warm, sunny climate did not materialize for more than a week, particularly when we took the “EL Chepe” train from El Fuerte, Sinoloa to **Creel**, Chihuahua near the Copper Canyon (over 7,000 feet elevation) where the daytime temperature rose only into the low 50s and the nighttime temperature dipped into the 30s. We stayed in Creel for three nights in very nice hotels (our trailers were left in a walled, guarded site back in El Fuerte). The trip was well worth it. The Copper Canyon is a site not to be missed. Officially, it is about four times the size of our Grand Canyon!

... Three Gems of Mexico Caravan

Prior to Mazatlán, we made four stops (not counting the three-day train trip to the Copper Canyon), each unique and interesting. Our first stop in Mexico was **San Carlos**, Sonora, a resort town on the Sea of Cortez where we were treated to a fabulous dolphin and sea lion show. The next stop, **Alamos**, Sinoloa was a famous gold and silver mining town established by Spaniards in the 16th century. Here we stayed (dry-camped) in the walled courtyard of a very nice hotel (that had no guests!) and wandered the streets accompanied by a mariachi band and a burro that carried our supply of wine. In **El Fuerte**, Sinoloa we went on a bird-watching raft trip with knowledgeable birders (and loads of birds); a nature walk with an expert on medicinal plants; and a very interesting visit to Mayos (not Mayas) Indian villages with fascinating dances and demonstrations. A short stop in the tiny beach village of **Celestino**, Sinoloa gave us the chance to relax on the beach as well as to partake in some fantastic seafood.



In **Mazatlán** we participated in the third largest Carnival (Mardi Gras) festival in the world, with music night and day. Carnival in **Mazatlán** exceeded our wildest expectations. The Mardi Gras parade went on for more than four hours and included 3-story floats and dancers and/or bands from many Latin American countries. Our vantage point could not have been better.

From Mazatlán we drove through the Sierra Madre Mountain range on the Durango highway to **Durango**, Durango, one of the most beautiful and incredible engineering masterpieces in the world. The next stop was **Zacatecas**, Zacatecas. An active silver mining town, UNESCO World Heritage site, and home to one of the largest breweries in the world (Corona), Zacatecas had many very interesting sites to see. At over 8,000 feet elevation, the city provided cool, sunny days and cold nights. The trip from Zacatecas to **Guanajuato**, Guanajuato (GTO), crossing through the states of Aguascalientes and Jalisco was challenging, to say the least. Despite passing huge automobile plants (Nissan, Ford, and GM) as well as the largest Cooper Tire plant in the world, road and highway maintenance was virtually nonexistent. Again, the trip was totally worth it.



... Three Gems of Mexico Caravan

The beautiful city of **Guanajuato**, a gold and silver mining town founded in the 16th century, with 18 mines still in operation is not to be missed. While in GTO we visited San Miguel de Allende, voted "Best City in the World", by Travel and Leisure Magazine. Our stay at **Cuitzeo**, Michoucan was interesting, to say the least. While it was probably the nicest RV park during the trip, the park was virtually inaccessible. To get there, the park owner had to have the streets of a small village cleared of vehicles so that the RVs could get through the narrow streets. (Luckily the town didn't have very many motorized vehicles!) Then, one by one, each RV had to climb a very steep, winding, gravel road in low gear and 4-wheel drive. The highlight of the stop (and the trip) was a visit to the Chincua, Monarch Butterfly Reserve where we journeyed by horseback and hiking trail to see approximately 25 million Monarch Butterflies that were over-wintering. For our visit to **Mexico City**, we drove to **Tepotzolan** (in the state of Mexico) where we parked our trailers in a guarded parking lot of the Hotel Posada. First, we drove by bus to **Taxco**, Morelas, the silver craft capital of Mexico. On the way, we visited Xochicalco, one of the most important pre-Columbian cities in Mexico (650-800 AD). The highlights of the Mexico City stop were visits to the National Museum of Anthropology and the pyramids of Teotihuacan (largest in the world – Circa ~ 100-600 AD).

For us, the "3 Gems of Mexico" Caravan ended in Mexico City. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we (along with three other couples) elected to leave the caravan and head to the nearest US border (Mission, TX) approximately 650 miles away. Thankfully, *Caravanas de Mexico* paid for a "Green Angel" escort to the border. Despite the abrupt, unplanned conclusion of the caravan, we thoroughly enjoyed our 2,500-mile sojourn through Mexico.



Luke & Barbara Brennecke
WBAC 5310

[See More PICTURES](#)





Region 2 News



Click the link to read Rich Short (WBAC 1512), Region 2 President
[News for April.](#)

Rally Schedule 2020

Activity Dates:	September 25 – 27
Activity Location:	Crisfield, MD
Type or Theme of Event:	CRABs AGAIN?
Directions to Activity:	126 Lorrie Quinn Drive, Crisfield, MD 21817
Person to Contact:	Wayne Berkebile, MAU 1 st 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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