



# Connecticut Chatter

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

## President's Message

~ Gail Downing

While sitting down to write this message, and looking at prior years messages, I have realized the Wiley and I really need to start taking pictures of ourselves to put on the President's Message in the Chatter!



Today was our Holiday Luncheon and it was nice to see so many members and talk about holiday plans, future travel plans, and some memories of good times from our past camping season.

Being early in my term as President I have learned how willing our members are to volunteer! Our calendar this year filled up quickly and I am sure it will be a great time for all at our upcoming rallies. Thank you everyone for your time and efforts to make it a busy year.

Wiley pointed out to me a wonderful article in the November Blue Beret in the Region 1 section written by Rick Cipot. Worth taking a few minutes to read, and a great article!

Amazing things happen when we all work together. We are looking forward to spending time with all of you during the upcoming year.

Wiley and I want to wish you and all your families wonderful, happy, and healthy holidays. 🎄

With sincere thanks,

Gail Downing -President ~



December 2018

Merry Christmas



Say Hallmark!

## Holiday Dinner

~ Evelyn Watts & Editor

This little blurb is offered from two different perspectives. My perspective, which may seem strange since we were not there and some observations by Evie Watts, who was decidedly there.

### Ed:

Giles Rousseau sent me some lovely pictures of the event including the perfectly posed Hallmark Charter Oak Family Christmas Card image above. The photos bolstered by Evie's comments illuminates the warmth and friendship we have found over many years. (I think I may have tried the salmon!)

### Evie:

- A beautiful Holiday Tree greeted us as we entered the Gelston House
- A perfect day to be inside. The rain, fog and drizzle did not dampen our spirits
- Twenty-six members shared memories and plans
- Cozy seating
- Lively conversations surrounding us.

*Continued page 3*

## Question

What kind of people are afraid of Santa Claus? ~ Answer page 7

## Next Event

March 17, 2019  
St Patrick's Day  
Gathering

## LINK OF THE MONTH

Airstream Family





## Charter Oak Members Enjoying Holiday Dinner at the Gelston House



*N. Carll, C. Lessig, E. Carll, C. Dubrowski, C. Dubrowski*



*Dick Bartram & Fred McGoldrick*



*Seb and Juanita Pestretto*



*Gail Downing - hey Bard she ain't no chicken!*







*Evelyn Watts & Nancy Carll - proof!*



## Holiday Dinner *Continued*



- Hand-crafted wreaths made by Joyce from authentic Rousseau grapevines.
- Wonderful meals and absolutely delicious desert.
- Shortest business meeting in the history of Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club.

*Thank you Toni Nolder and Joyce Rousseau for a delightful afternoon in a classic restaurant on the shoreline of the beautiful Connecticut River. ~*



## Airstream Club International

P O Box 612  
Jackson Center, OH 45334

## Short but Sweet Constitutional Revision Update

*~ By Joyce Rousseau*

I am pleased to report that the vote on the revisions to our Constitution was completed today at our Holiday Gathering at the Gelston House in East Haddam, Ct. We had about 30 members voting either by mail, email or by being present at the meeting today with all votes in favor of the revisions. I will now send our revised documents (the Constitution accepted today, the Bylaws accepted by the Executive Board in November at a meeting in Southbury and our Guidelines and Policies accepted by the Executive Board in October in Manchester) to the Chair of the WBCCI Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their consideration. We thank all who participated in this process.~

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Joyce Rousseau, Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Dear Joyce,

The CBL Committee has reviewed your Unit's CBL documents and:

### **This Committee approves your Unit Constitution and Bylaws**

The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you and all the members of the of the Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club of the WBCCI Club for the completion of this document review.

Your next Constitution and Bylaws review will be in 2024.

*Tom Smithson*

Tom Smithson  
CBL Chairman



Congratulations to **BARD FULLER** on his recent retirement with **KATHY** scheduled to retire at the end of the year. With a newer tow vehicle and trailer this fall, they are gearing up for a camping adventure with travel plans

starting in Louisiana and migrating to Florida...yahoo!

Also, this holiday season **BARD** has been working his gingerbread magic, creating a few houses for charitable organizations. This church gingerbread structure (see photo) had nearly 70 hours of work put into it. It has been displayed in Southington, Wallingford and is presently at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor at the largest of the Connecticut's gingerbread displays. The show continues through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome to new members **RONALD FREDETTE #8210** who transferred from New Minas, NS Canada, and also **KENNETH CHAMPLIN #6846** from New Haven, CT. Enjoy the Club.

Good to see **MARK & MARIE LUPIEN** back to Travelers Rest, along with daughter **LYN**. **LEILA CLARK** recently had hip replacement surgery...we send get well wishes.

**RICH KUSHMAN** will be working on our 2019 Directory and needs our help. Please send him a favorite recipe using email by January 15, 2019: [rich.kath@icloud.com](mailto:rich.kath@icloud.com). What does the directory and a recipe have in common....?

The Chatter is published monthly, but with no issues in January and July. If you don't receive it, please let me or Rich Kushman know. Also, you can read all the Chatters by going to <http://connecticut.wbcc.net> and click on NEWSLETTER, plus see the schedule of 2019 events. Please let me know if you would like to share your news events.

Thank you to everyone who paid their dues on line as it makes my job easier. If you haven't paid, I will be contacting you. See you next year. ~



*Beautiful job - a lot of work! Like pulling teeth??*

## Stormin' West

Season 1 - Episode 2 ~ Richard Kushman

When last we left the Stormanns (with 2 n<sub>s</sub> thank you), Max and Dane had Kazooed to the Blue Heron Rest Area in Ohio. So we now continue from that panoramic black top to Oak Lake Family Campground in Fair Oaks, Indiana, chosen only for its proximity to Fair Oaks Farm, our next planned super event. A good part of the morning the boys, especially Max, overzealously practiced Kazooing which demonstrated clearly the the plus side of hearing loss. Eventually Grammy either politely asked Max to take a break - or she ripped the Kazoo from his hands, opened her window, and threw the kazoo to be crushed under the trailer wheels - thinking back, in all probability, she was polite?

*Continued page 5*



*Max gives a toot!*





## Stormin' West *Continued*

Definitely not the quaint old fashioned family farm, Fair Oaks Farm is a mega operation supplying milk and bacon to millions. The "Dairy Adventure" is well organized and hermetically sealed. Our group traveled a short distance to the milking station in an air conditioned bus which entered the milking barn just as the previous tour was leaving. We then proceeded to an air conditioned glass walled viewing platform to watch the cows rotate on the milking carousel. The cows enter and leave the carousel on their own and are fully milked during one rotation. Some cows enjoy the exciting ride and



*Bovine milking go round.*



*Welcome little one - a veal cute baby.*

take a second turn around, however, they are no longer milked and, I think, get a stern reprimand. Thick glass and bus windows kept us well clear of any live animals, however, we were cautioned to never, never touch a cow. Touching could result in dreaded bovine contamination and possibly cause bossy to be shunned - so we herd.

Grammy's favorite and an udderly dramatic exhibit (ok - I just had to) was the birthing barn. Bossy moms are on display delivering their new little calves for eventual carousel rides or a trip to Ruth's Chris. This event goes on all day, mom after mom, and the newborns are on display in another room where you can watch them struggle to stand for the very first time - grammy thought they were veal/ cute!

Next - "The Pig Adventure" - again behind thick glass you get to see and, thankfully, not smell (10,000 x 10) little piggies. Little cute baby piglets to roly-poly oinkers getting ready for their own tour of Cracker Barrel. I thought a nice touch to this adventure would be piping in the tantalizing aroma of sizzling bacon - ok why ham it up and introduce a stressful omen for these porkers.



*Sometimes mom needed help.*



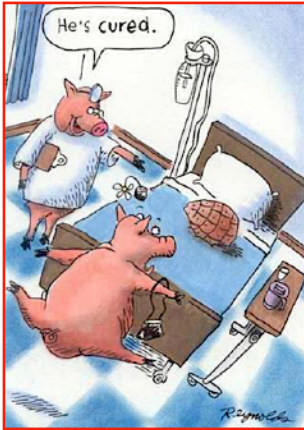
*Continued page 6*





## Stormin' West Continued

We found no other exciting attraction in the area, certainly nothing that beats video games, so we left a day early and continued west with Grammy Kathy looking up roadside attractions that once upon a time ... might wow grandchildren. ~



*Peccary facts and a new baby named Francis.*



*Oscar Mayer on the hoof.*

Ike runs the country, and I turn the pork chops. ~ Mamie Eisenhower

■ Events  
■ Anniversaries  
■ Birthdays

## December 2018


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 KerHankinson&PanForsyth	28 Gail Billings Cynthia Melocik	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Charlotte LaRocca	13 Sandra Flood	14	15 Gale Lake
16	17	18	19	20 Christine Lessig	21 Kris Fletcher	22
23 Ray & Barbara Landman	24	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29 Chris Dubrowski
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

One Christmas I got a battery with a note saying, "Toy not included."



- Events COAC
- Anniversaries COAC
- Birthdays COAC
- Doctors

## January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 	2	3 John Fuller	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Estrella Krish Charles "Rick" & Beth Petrie	14 Donald Allers	15	16	17	18 Jane Sanders	19
20	21 Guy Weik	22	23	24 Ronald Nicholas Lianne Rutty	25 Ruth Scott	26
27	28	29	30	31 Ray Landman	1	2

### Christmas Gift Alert

Cute little tissue dispenser available from Amazon and perhaps from your favorite specialty shop.



[Sign up now!](#)

### Travel to Doswell More Information to Come ~

"Surf and Turf Caravan" to International Rally will be a joint New England and Charter Oak, Connecticut Caravan. The Caravan leaders are Bard Fuller and Pam Bleakney."

"See you at the Lake Rendezvous" July 13-15 Arrive at Doswell, Virginia Thursday July 18. ~



Visit Us On  
**Facebook**

Thanks to Glen Lessig!

### FOR SALE

#### Airstream For Sale

2005 25' Safari with front bedroom.  
Contact Brenda Nicholas  
#1254 [207-450-0593](tel:207-450-0593)

**NEW**, in box, Dometic Penguin air conditioner shroud - grey.  
Item #3308046.022. Cost from Dometic \$118.79. Asking \$60.00.  
Fred McGoldrick  
[freddalem@aol.com](mailto:freddalem@aol.com)

## LINKS

Connecticut Unit Website	<a href="http://connecticut.wbcci.net">http://connecticut.wbcci.net</a>
Cape Cod Unit: .....	<a href="http://capecod.wbcci.net">http://capecod.wbcci.net</a>
Nice assortment of links: ...	<a href="http://www.airstreamtrailers.com">www.airstreamtrailers.com</a>
Region One Website: .....	<a href="http://region1.wbcci.net">http://region1.wbcci.net</a>
Airstream Life: .....	<a href="http://airstreamlife.com">http://airstreamlife.com</a>
WBCCI: .....	<a href="http://www.wbcci.org">http://www.wbcci.org</a>

Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip. ~ Gary Allan

**Answer:**  
Claus-trophobics.

Editor: ..... Richard Kushman  
Info & Pictures: ..... Sandy Sasuta  
Pictures: ..... Gilles Rousseau  
Printing: ..... Joyce Rousseau  
Proof Reader: ..... Kathleen Kushman



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## Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

*We Do More Together*



**March 17, 2019-St Patrick's Day Gathering**-Russ & Rhona Fuller home-Southington, CT, 860-747-1193, [rfuller1745@att.net](mailto:rfuller1745@att.net)



**May 3-5, 2019-Region One Gathering**-NH Motor Speedway, Loudon, NH

**May 17-19, 2019-Spring RV Maintenance Rally**-Waters Edge Campground, Lebanon, CT, Bard & Kathy Fuller with Mark & Marie Lupien, 860-621-9246, [bardfuller@hotmail.com](mailto:bardfuller@hotmail.com)



**June 6-9, 2019-NYC Base Camp Nat'l Rally**- Jersey City, NJ, Per Hamnqvist, 603-866-6440, [psh@wbcci.org](mailto:psh@wbcci.org)

**June 28-30, 2019-Bald Mountain Campground Rally**, Townshend, VT  
Wiley & Gail Downing, 203-790-8592, [ctnanabug@comcast.net](mailto:ctnanabug@comcast.net)



**July 20-27, 2019-62<sup>nd</sup> Wally Byam Airstream Club Int'l Rally** - Doswell, VA, [www.wbcci.org](http://www.wbcci.org)



**August 9-11, 2019 - Fun and Games Rally**  
Brook N Wood Family Campground, Elizaville, NY, Wiley & Gail Downing with Russ & Rhona Fuller, 203-790-8592 [ctnanabug@comcast.net](mailto:ctnanabug@comcast.net)

**August 23-25, 2019-Augtoberfest Rally**-Crowne Point Camping Area, Perkinsville, VT, Evelyn & Bill Watts/ Joyce & Gilles Rousseau, 203-426-5532, [evelynwatts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evelynwatts@sbcglobal.net)



**Sept 6-8, 2019- Mystic KOA Rally**, North Stonington, CT, Glen & Christine Lessig/Chris & Carol Dubrowski, 860-617-4346, [glessig@gmail.com](mailto:glessig@gmail.com)



**October 13, 2019 -Installation/Fall Business Meeting**-Manchester Country Club, Manchester, CT- Corinne & Jim Burnham, 860-623-9752, [jimblc@msn.com](mailto:jimblc@msn.com)





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# NYC Base Camp National Rally

## Liberty Harbor Marina, Jersey City, NJ

### Thu 6/6/19 – Sun 6/9/19

**Come and join us for another long weekend of fun New York City exploration!** No need to list everything you can do - there is something for everyone in NYC. Our base camp is very close to the city, providing convenient access to the subway (NJ PATH) as well as ferries to Manhattan.

**Going National:** The 5<sup>th</sup> installment of this informal rally has now been elevated to National Rally status. Perhaps we'll see attendees from even further away → widen your circle of friends.

**Stay longer:** You can extend your stay on either end if you do it early. Why rush to see NYC, especially if you can stay in your favorite hotel? Pay for six nights and the seventh is free.

**Cost:** Have you ever stayed at a cheap hotel in NYC? After you get a jolt about the nightly rate you'll discover that parking is extra. Think \$45/night for Manhattan! At this rally, parking your truck is included in the rate, like it should be. And you are still pretty close to major attractions.

**Do it yourself program:** This rally does not have a formal program, other than when we serve coffee in the morning and when we gather for happy hour in the late afternoon. We'll help you coordinate your interests and excursions with others that are attending by fanning out emails. **This worked really well the last times we held this event.** Everyone ended up doing something they wanted to do, at their pace, often sharing those experiences with old and new Airstream friends.



#### A few things to keep in mind:

- **First come (with check) first served – reserve before 1<sup>st</sup> week of November 2018**
- As before, we cannot guarantee that we can give you a refund, but we'll do our best
- See next page for details about extra nights

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Length (ft): \_\_\_\_\_

WBCCI Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Nights: \_\_\_\_\_ Total USD: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check for **\$355.00** in USD to: Per Hamnqvist, 2 Queens Way, Merrimack, NH 03054. Make check payable to NEU of WBCCI. Email: [psh@wbcci.org](mailto:psh@wbcci.org) Cell: 603-866-6440. Additional nights see next page.



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# NYC Base Camp National Rally

Page 2

## Co-Hosts

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| • New England             | Per Hamnqvist |
| • Ontario                 | Kerry Mattila |
| • Charter Oak Connecticut | Rich Kushman  |
| • Metro New York          | Debbie Hammer |

## Reservation Policy and Additional nights at Liberty Harbor Marina

Capacity is limited to approximately 60 rigs. You can request additional through me. The base cost covers 6/6, 6/7 and 6/8 with checkout Sunday 6/9. I will attempt to accommodate your needs in my conversation(s) with the campground and I will keep you posted. The cost is \$115.00 per additional night including tax. **Up-front payment is required for full stay.** If you pay for six nights at the campground, the 7<sup>th</sup> is free.

Sample Total costs in USD:

- 3 nights: 355.00 USD (base cost for base camp)
- 4 nights: 470.00 USD
- 5 nights: 585.00 USD
- 6 nights: 700.00 USD
- 7 nights: 700.00 USD (7<sup>th</sup> night is free)

If you cannot come to this rally, please find an alternate to take your nights. So far we've done well on full refunds by shuffling around. But that is not a guarantee! Plan accordingly. 30 days or less prior assume no refund.

## About the campground

The prime value of this campground is its excellent proximity to the city. Its basically gravel parking on somewhat narrow sites. In the backwoods, these would be \$20/night. This is smack in the middle of metro NYC with walking distance to public transit. A grocery store is a short drive away. It's a totally different experience to see the city AND sleep in your own bed at the end of the day!!

During the 2011, 2013 and 2015 events, their WiFi was marginal. During the 2013 event we experienced an unexpected heat wave (mid 90s, 32C+) and the campground's power was inadequate to run all the A/Cs during the day. Otherwise, the campground is clean. Choices of over the air TV stations are plentiful. It has a shared dump station. It has a shower house too.

If you look up Liberty Harbor Marina with Google Maps you'll get a better feel for its fantastic location. A commuter ferry to Wall St leaves the dock by the campground (week days). A second ferry that also operates on weekends leaves by Warren St (short walk) for the World Financial Center. A 15 minute walk from the campground is the Grove Street subway station that can take you to the World Trade Center and beyond. The ferry to Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty is right next door.