

56th  
ANNIVERSARY  
YEAR!

Chartered in 1964



May/June 2020  
Edition

THE VIRGINIA TRAVELER, A publication of the VIRGINIA AIRSTREAM CLUB (#109), W.B.C.C.I.

## Thoughts from the President....



We hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe from the virus. The more we learn, the less we like about the outcome for so many virus affected people. Having lost a family member in this time, we can certainly appreciate the affect of the constraints of limited grieving. It's a miserable time compounded by the policies in place to protect those left to grieve.

On a happier note, it feels like we can start to think about getting out of the stay-at-home mode and maybe get out a little farther from the house. Not seeing friends and family is tough, so hopefully sunnier days are in our future. I'm personally trying to plan a hike on the AT. Who knows exactly when, but thinking about possible dates?

The club needs some volunteers to be newsletter editor, secretary, and/or really any officer. We are a group of about 75 folks, so it would be great to have some new folks get involved or re-involved if you have been part of the team before. We have been blessed to have so many faithful volunteers who have stepped up over the years. To them, I say a big thank you! We have created a nominating committee consisting of Randy Rinehart,

Christopher Meccia and me to search for volunteers. Please consider getting involved. We had our first Zoom board meeting and it went well enough to have that as the standard going forward. So, in the future the obligations for officer positions will consist of a couple of Zoom meetings a year and being part of the rallies and caravans. Please consider it and let us know if you are willing to serve. If you are interested, contact me. Duties are outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

We still hope to have our business meeting in Elkins, WV in August, the Caravan to the Swiss Rally in September, and the Silver in the Street rally in Abingdon in early November. More on these later in this newsletter, but I'm hopeful we can safely have these events outdoors, in our Airstreams, six feet apart.

And finally, I'm sad to relate that an internet scam against Unit Treasurers throughout the WBAC has recently been attempted. In order to protect our security, all personal contact information has been cleansed from this newsletter. To communicate with any unit officer or rally host, simply consult the *WBAC BLUE BERET MEMBERSHIP EDITION* for their email address. All applicable addresses are listed therein.

Stay safe, be safe. See you down the road!

*Jeff Cutright, # 031189*

ASME - LMOA - WBCCI

## 2020 Swiss Festival National Rally & Caravan



Airstreams parked at Winklepleck Park for the Swiss Festival Rally

This festival, rally, and caravan continue to be contingent on the status of the Covid-19 restrictions, as we proceed with plans to attend in late September.

The Ohio Swiss Festival is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend after Labor Day each year with 2020 to be its 67<sup>th</sup> year. Every fall since 1953 downtown Sugarcreek, Ohio transforms into a Swiss village, celebrating the cultural heritage of Switzerland. From wine and cheese samplings to parades, the Ohio Swiss Festival downtown offers something for everyone. This year's festival takes place October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with music, food, and entertainment both days. See the web site [ohioswissfestival.com](http://ohioswissfestival.com) for more information.

Ending the week with that downtown festival, for the 58<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the 2020 Swiss Festival National Rally is again scheduled at Winklepleck Park nearby. This Airstream rally runs from Saturday, September 26 through Saturday, October 3, this year and is the longest running RV rally in the world. Wally Byam Airstream Club caravans arriving with preregistered members may park one day early at no extra charge, on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. See the website, [www.swiss-festival-national-rally.net](http://www.swiss-festival-national-rally.net), for the rally registration form and rally program highlights page. The May 2020 edition of the BLUE BERET also has an article with more information on the rally on pages 42-43.

We have already notified the rally registrars that Doris Anne and I are organizing and leading a Virginia Airstream Club caravan to arrive on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a pay-as-you-go mini-caravan, with several of our club members and guests already signing up to go. Each participant will need to submit a rally registration form with "caravan" checked on it, along with the rally registration fee (\$275 for two adults), and a stamped self-addressed envelope.

I have been advising those planning to go to delay reserving until we are more assured of the rally status due to the virus. As of this writing I have just been informed by the president of Region 4 of the Airstream Club, the host of the rally, that the mayor of Sugarcreek has not canceled the festival, "yet," so the hosts are still planning for the rally. However, the rally registrar has asked that we "hold off registering so that if canceled, he doesn't have a lot of refunding to do."

We attended the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this rally in 2000, 20 years ago, and returned in 2012 when we led a caravan to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rally. It is one of the better rallies that we have attended in our 38 years of Airstream traveling. The tours, meals, and sites in this Amish countryside are excellent, as well as the on-site activities. You can not do and see it all in one trip!

Additional Club members interested in going with us should contact me as soon as possible, as I continue to make the arrangements for the caravan overnight stops enroute to Sugarcreek. I am making plans for us to rendezvous at the West Virginia Fairgrounds campground at Lewisburg, West Virginia, for a one-night stay on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by three nights in Marietta, Ohio, at the Washington County Fairgrounds on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, before traveling the short distance to the rally on Friday.

In case you are wondering why we are using fairground campgrounds, it is because the oil and gas boom has resulted in most private campgrounds along the alternate routes of travel up and down the Ohio River being booked with contractors with long term reservations.

The Marietta-Parkersburg area on the Ohio River has some interesting sites for us to enjoy. Established in 1788, *Marietta*, located at the confluence of the *Ohio* and Muskingum rivers, is the oldest city in the state of *Ohio*, and the first official American settlement territory north and west of the *Ohio* River. If planning to go, I highly recommend reading the recently published book entitled THE PIONEERS, by David McCullough.

Douglas & Doris Anne ("D.A.") Powell #9900  
Virginia Airstream Club

## SILVER ON THE STREET RALLY ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

The Abingdon "Silver on the Street" is still in the works. The folks down there assure us they will be open and ready by that first weekend in November. If it happens, we hope the weather cooperates. Obviously, it will depend on the state of the virus and any restrictive policies applicable in November.

We'd like to share some details and entice some volunteers to help during the event. The rigs will be parked in a couple parking lots off Rensburg Drive, which has the Farmer's Market shed and is one street off Main Street behind the restaurant area. Its



The Barter Theatre



The Martha Washington Hotel & Spa

a short walk to the Barter Theatre and the Martha Washington Inn. There is a bike shop at the end of Rensburg with access to the Creeper Trail. As you know, we are near Bristol and the Speedway. There is trout fishing in the South Holston and actually a small stream at the other end of town. There is a muster ground with history related to the Revolutionary War. So, it seems

like plenty to do for folks with a variety of interests.

The plan is generally to have the workers show up Thursday morning and park in the parking lots. I think we are limiting the event to 30 rigs. Roughly 10 volunteer rigs and 20 participant rigs. Thursday will be our busiest day as we will arrive, and get everyone parked on Thursday. This gives everyone 2 full days to enjoy the area. We plan to park rigs on Rensburg, then disconnect so folks can have use of their vehicles. We can park two rigs at a time because we have both sides of Rensburg Drive available for parking. Most folks will want to level

their trailers somewhat as there is a crown in the road. There is some limited 10 amp outlets along one side of Rensburg Drive we were hoping to save for folks with medical needs.

Once there, the Farmer's Market folks are offering a breakfast, and we'll arrange transportation for those wanting to ride the Creeper Trail. Its a great time to ride it. Some folks may want to ride the entire 34 miles and others might opt for just the down hill to Damascus segment. We're hoping the Barter Theatre will be in Business and have a play available. We're also considering a history tour, but have not nailed that down yet.



Birthplace of Country Music Museum - Bristol

We're thinking of charging a minimal amount for the breakfast and incidentals and making a second option of folks sending in money to an area charity with their reservation. The history of these events is to make a contribution to a local charity and to the economy by buying meals and services.



Southwest Virginia Cultural Center & Marketplace - Abingdon

We're open to ideas? The trick is to have a planned event or two a day and let folks explore. Not too much, but enough to meet the needs of participants. We have offered the rally

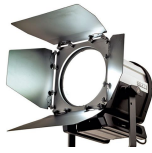
to the other Virginia Groups, but not yet sent out a way to sign up. I personally have Airstream friends outside of Virginia ready to commit.

Thanks for reading and let me know if you are interested in attending and/or helping. We are pretty sure that parking will be the most volunteer intensive part of the weekend.

Thanks!

Jeff Cutright, # 31189

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



Jeff,

Thanks for your email. We've been busy traveling and working. All the way back to Thanksgiving we were in Mexico (via air travel) visiting Christine's brother who lives and works there. After that, it was a bit of cold weather in Florida & some work trips to keep all the wheels of our lives turning. We've been based in the Florida area for the last few months. Thought we would get away from Virginia's cold, but it's been just as chilly-- I heard Florida was



"shut down" for a while so everyone could find their jackets!

You can find us in Ferdinand, our 2018 Globetrotter #5433. We lived in Charlottesville for the last 30+ years and have taken our lives on the road. After our children established their own lives, we were ready for new adventures and organized our businesses and sold our home. We still own and operate our tree service, K Thomas Lawson LLC, and have hired a competent and friendly team to continue servicing our customers and grow our business. Christine also works as an executive coach and has clients in several states with whom she telephones and video conferences. We spent the first year traveling the eastern side of the country, from Key West, FL, up to Maine. Year two is all about heading west to see family, explore rocks and rivers, and see big sky. Currently we are heading into Texas and will chart a southerly course before going north to Oregon and Washington for the summer. We write a simple blog called [nimpleroad.com](http://nimpleroad.com) and can be found on instagram under the same name. Happy to be in contact with other airstreamers on FB also.

Hopefully we'll cross paths when we are back in Virginia! You are welcome to print the above paragraph and include our picture.

Very Sincerely,

Christine Brodmerkel and Thomas Lawson  
WBAC # 5433

The club is collecting member data in order to create a club membership directory. We would like a picture, contact information and possibly your trailer maintenance skill level. Christopher Meccia, Randy Rinehart, David Broad and Jeff Cutright are part of this team. Christopher has already sent out some emails and collected information. For those responding, thank you! We certainly understand if folks don't want their information in the directory or want to limit that information - just let us know. Please forward your information to CHRISTOPHER MECCIA, # 5625.

Our thought is to develop a simple collection of member information and send it out in the mail. This limits the chance of the information getting into the wrong hands.

In the coming years we can add more club and WBCCI information and possibly create a booklet.

## SAFETY BULLETIN



We had a cracked wheel on our Airstream. To our knowledge this wheel had not had a catastrophic event. I put new tires on the trailer in early fall of 2019. The tire guys and I did not notice the defect at that time. I torque the lug nuts prior to every trip and check the air regularly (it was drilled into my head from the guy I bought the Airstream from during the purchase process). There doesn't seem to be damage to that area of the trailer which would indicate that there had been a tire or tire/axle related failure. So, I'm writing this so folks will inspect for this as a routine. I'm not sure how many miles it will go before a catastrophic failure occurs? I can tell you it takes a week to get a wheel drop-shipped to a campsite in the lower 48. The valve stem is even harder to find, but NAPA sells a very similar, robust valve stem for the application.

*Jeff Cutright, # 31189*

## How did you occupy your time during the current "Shelter-at-Home" directive?

When articles were solicited for this issue of the newsletter, members were requested to share how they were spending their time during the "lockdown". The following replies were received:

When traveling, we see lots of little things that might be improved, but there is little time to attend to those. I have been enjoying the time we now have to play in the Airstream. First up was the sliding pantry that had a rusted slide on the bottom. The slide ground and grated when opened, and it was very difficult to clean. I bought two new heavy-duty slides, replacing the old ones. These pull out further so it is easier to see all the contents. They also have release latches so the frame can be removed for easy cleaning.



Next up, I wired LED lights on the step and porch light switches and put labels on them. I could never remember which was the porch and which was the step switch, and I



Lights are off.



Lights are on.

was never sure if the light was on when I went to bed. Could be I'm getting old, but let's ignore that.

When I de-winterized, the water pump would run from time to time. Looking everywhere for a leak, I finally noticed

a slight bit of water around the toilet base. After watching YouTube videos, I ordered some parts, removed the toilet, replaced the seal, hardware and the mixing valve. It proved a good time to clean the floor as well as the toilet. Then I put it back in place. Of these three projects, this was the easiest. In fact it might be worth doing once a year just to get the floor good and clean. While I was in



Looking down at the floor flange with the toilet removed.

there, I put some 303 Protectant on the cabinet door slides to both clean them and make the doors slide smoothly.

*Greg Wall, # 7351*

In early March we left for Charleston and Florida for a three week trip. Charleston was fine and a week near Titusville was okay, though it was getting to be concerning. No hand sanitizer or toilet paper to be had. With two weeks left in our planned trip, we decided to head home, forgoing our stay in the Panhandle. It was a good decision. Trailer is stored for when things are open again. Trips cancelled for the summer. Good thing we have a large yard and garden to keep us occupied. Stay safe everyone!

*Bob & Donni Toone, #2283*

I added a cover to my jack light switch. Although not the prettiest mod, if it keeps the sun from deteriorating the soft switch cover, it will be worth it to me. It's cheap and relatively easy to replace the soft cover, but it sneaks up on me and makes the switch hard to use if the sun gets to it for too long and I don't notice it. There are certain campground situations where I like to use this light.



*Jeff Cutright, # 31189*

## 2020 RALLY SCHEDULE

**APRIL 1 - 5:** REGION 3 RALLY - Ocean Lakes Campground, 6001 South Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach, SC, 877-510-1413. All sites in the H and HH sections are reserved for this rally - make your campground reservations **NOW!** Hosted by Region 3 President John Leake, **CANCELLED!**

**APRIL 17 - 19:** SPRINGTIME BLUEBELL CAMP (Joint Event), Shenandoah River State Park, 350 Daughter of Stars Drive, Bentonville, VA 22610, 540-622-6840, [ShenandoahRiver@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:ShenandoahRiver@dcr.virginia.gov). Hosted by Linda Heuer (#149). **CANCELLED!**

**APRIL 24 - 26:** BREAKOUT & MAINTENANCE RALLY (Joint Event), Small Country Campground, 4400 Byrd Mill Road, Louisa, VA, 540-967-2431. Hosted by Tom Carmichael (#110). **CANCELLED!**

**JUNE 12 - 13:** HOUSTONFEST, Cool Breeze Campground, 2330 Edmonds Road, Galax, VA, 276-236-0300, [coolbreezecampground.com](http://coolbreezecampground.com). This is not an official rally hosted by anyone, it is just a gathering of Airstreamers who enjoy Bluegrass music and are not traveling to the International Rally. Be sure to get your festival tickets in advance via [houstonfestgalax.com](http://houstonfestgalax.com). **CANCELLED!**

**JUNE 20 - 27:** INTERNATIONAL RALLY, The Ranch Events Complex, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO. To register please call BARB LANGSTON at club headquarters, 937-596-5211. **CANCELLED!**

**AUGUST 2 - 9:** GALAX OLD TIME FIDDLER'S RALLY, Cool Breeze Campground, 2330 Edmonds Road, Galax, VA, 276-236-0300, [coolbreezecampground.com](http://coolbreezecampground.com). Hosted by Region 3, [region3airstreamclub.net](http://region3airstreamclub.net). Details and fees are available on the region website. Simply make a reservation with the campground, tell them you are with the Airstream group and all other business can be conducted upon arrival at the rally.

**AUGUST 13 - 16:** VIRGINIA AIRSTREAM CLUB BUSINESS RALLY, Elkins, WV. Further details are forthcoming. Hosted by Jeff Cutright, # 31189 (#109), .

**SEPTEMBER 11 - 13:** COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA RALLY, Small Country Campground, 4400 Byrd Mill Road, Louisa, VA, 540-967-2431. Hosted by the Tidewater Airstream Club (#111).

**SEPTEMBER 21 - 25:** CARAVAN TO SWISS FESTIVAL NATIONAL RALLY, details TBD. Led by Douglas Powell, # 9900 (#109).

**SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 4:** SWISS FESTIVAL NATIONAL RALLY, 2800 Winklepleck Rd NW, Sugarcreek, OH. Directions on how to make a reservation will follow in a later edition.

**NOVEMBER 5 - 8:** SILVER ON THE STREETS RALLY, Abingdon, VA. Details are still being planned and will be published at a future date. Hosted by Jeff Cutright, # 31189 (#109).

**DECEMBER 5:** HOLIDAY LUNCHEON. This is an event traditionally hosted by the new President. It's details will be determined after elections to be held at the business meeting in August. Hosted by the President (#109).

While we look forward to resuming our club gatherings in August, all we can do is hope and pray that the pandemic currently ravaging the world is conquered by then and life returns to normal.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### MAY

05 Jane Sibley  
 07 Steve Lambert  
 10 John & Jane Sibley  
 21 Kay Lambert  
 22 D.A. Powell  
 28 Sam Barnard  
 29 David & Carol Lipps



### JUNE

02 Richard Bartelt  
 05 Steve & Kay Lambert  
 11 Bob Lee  
 14 Nila Sager  
 16 Junior & Betty Patton  
 22 Bob & Linda Lee  
 27 Frank Bobbitt  
 27 Randy & Xan Rinehart  
 28 Edith Stutts  
 28 Danny & Bobbi Locklair



### JULY

20 Tom Stutts  
 21 Cecil Hoosier  
 21 Randy Rinehart  
 26 Doug Doberer  
 27 Gary & Lynn Brink  
 29 Lynn Brink

If your milestone isn't recognized in this column, it's because your information isn't on hand. Forward your important dates (day and month only - no year) to Gary Brink, #29944, and it will be included for the appropriate month in future issues.

**REMEMBER:** Because of concern for maintaining security of member contact information, no telephone numbers or email addresses appear in this publication. To contact any officer or fellow club member, simply consult the current BLUE BERET MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY for the needed email address. Thank you!

## VIRGINIA CLUB OFFICERS

<b>JEFF CUTRIGHT - #31189</b>	President and
<b>CHRISTOPHER MECCIA - #5625</b>	2nd Vice President
<b>XAN RINEHART - #4546</b>	Treasurer
<b>KAY LAMBERT - #6095</b>	Recording Sec.
<b>RANDY RINEHART - #4546</b>	Past President
<b>D.A. POWELL - #9900</b>	Trustee (1-Year)
<b>DAVID BROAD - #2381</b>	Trustee (1-Year)
<b>DANIEL LOCKLAIR - #5249</b>	Trustee (2-Years)
<b>JEFF CUTRIGHT - #31189</b>	Rally Chairman
<b>DOUGLAS POWELL - #9900</b>	Caravan Chairman
<b>GARY BRINK - #29944</b>	Newsletter Editor

<a href="http://virginia.airstreamclub.net">virginia.airstreamclub.net</a>	Virginia Unit Website
<a href="http://region3.airstreamclub.net">region3.airstreamclub.net</a>	Region 3 Website
<a href="http://wbcci.org">wbcci.org</a>	WBCCI Website

