

# NORVA News

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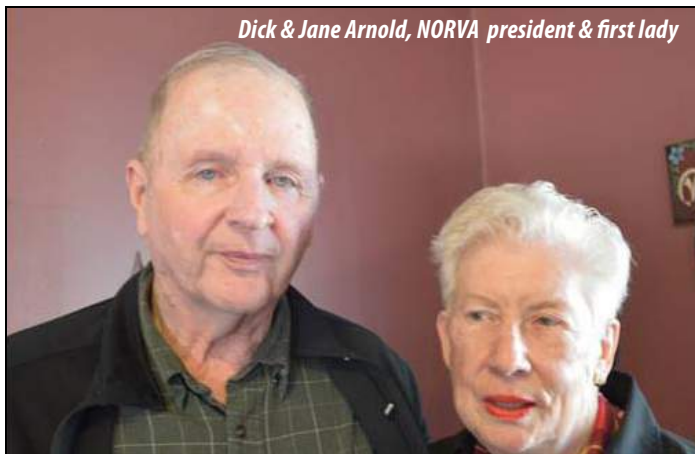
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## What travels with Dick & Jane?

For this month's column, Jane and I thought it might be helpful to write about what we take with us (or have prearranged) whenever we travel in our Airstream. This is important because, in a typical year, we spend several months on the road even though we are not "full-timers." We like to be covered for any possibilities that may be encountered, anticipated or not!

We take a fireproof box with us. In it we have placed copies (originals are in our bank's safe deposit box) of our wills, advance medical directives ("Do not resuscitate!" state-



*Dick & Jane Arnold, NORVA president & first lady*

ments), power of attorney documents, and our list of current medicines. We carry our passports, which we need when traveling between Canada and U.S., and to use for identification when flying somewhere.

We don't have a pet, but if we did we would take with us proof of up-to-date vaccinations and any paperwork a veterinarian might need should illness or injury occur on the road.

It is also important to have blank insurance claim forms (or on-line access to same) should a covered accident, injury, dental emergency, or medical situation occur.

As far as credit cards go, we keep it simple. We have three. We have one joint credit card (which we both carry) and we each have our own different card, in case a wallet or purse is lost or stolen. We also have a "Flying J" charge card,

available through the Good Sam Club, which gives us a per gallon discount of 8 cents for diesel; 3 cents for gas; and it's nice that their stations have "RV aisles" we can use when towing.

We have prearranged certain helpful services. For example, we have a "breakdown" towing service. We use Coach Net (others use Good Sam). Coach Net not only helps us if we have a problem with the Airstream or tow vehicle on the road; it also provides a concierge service to help with a variety of other things.

We belong to several camping clubs, including:

- "Passport," which provides half-price camping but read the small print as to when it applies.
- "KOA" We like to use their campgrounds for stays on Fridays and Saturdays. In our experience, other campgrounds may become too noisy on weekends.
- "Escapes RV Club," which lists free or inexpensive over-night camping sites, including their own parks. They also offer mail forwarding and discounts on RV services and merchandise from partner companies.
- We buy the thick, "Good Sam RV Travel & Savings Guide" every year and take it with us. It lists and rates campgrounds (over 12,000 of them) in every state and province.
- Jane likes to have maps and tour books, so we belong to AAA to get these.
- We have a "SkyMed" membership. This is medical emergency insurance which would provide air evacuation, worldwide, and also gets your rig, family members and pets traveling with you back home. Many NORVA members have purchased this insurance.

One last item, we have a membership in the National Cremation Society. Our remains will be returned to Virginia no matter where we travel!

We hope you find this information helpful as you take your Airstream down the road.

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## Inside this issue of NORVA News:

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## Breakout Rally was best ever

NORVA's Tom Carmichael always hoped that Club rallies would attract large numbers of participants. Tom got his wish at the end of March. The Breakout & Maintenance rally he organized and hosted in Williamsburg drew a record number of Airstreamers. Sixty-four people in 33 trailers came to it; a great start to the 2019 camping season. Participants represented all four Virginia Airstream clubs.

A rally highlight was a trailer maintenance seminar with Airstream technician D.J. Mastin, who also made on-site repairs at many trailers.

There were opportunities to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. Several attendees were new to Airstreaming and W.B.C.C.I., like Laural Veloz, who joined NORVA recently and brought her new Basecamp trailer. It was her first rally.

"Everyone welcomed me with open arms. It was exciting to be part of this wonderful group—the friendliest bunch of people I've met in a long time," said Veloz. "The maintenance information was outstanding, and learning from D.J. and so many long-time Airstreamers was priceless!"



*Above: Airstream technician D.J. Mastin conducts a maintenance seminar for the rally goers.*



*Right: Laural Veloz, a new member of NORVA, plugs in the power cable of her new Basecamp trailer.*

*Below: Rally host Tom Carmichael addresses the crowd at an outdoor "Happy Hour," where Airstream of Virginia displayed new "Interstate" van.*

*(See more photos on Page 9)*







# Why attend the Region 3 Rally?

Tom Johnson Rally Park, Marion, N.C., April 24-28, 2019

By John Leake  
Region 3 President

The short answer...because 300 of your best friends will be there, and you will be missed if you don't come. This is the once a year opportunity for everyone in our five-state, 18 Unit/Club Region to gather together as one. It is the time to renew old friendships, make new ones, share travel adventures, make plans for the next trip, catch up, and embrace each other. No emails, no texts, no phone calls, no postcards. Just good 'ole face-to-face, hug to hug, chair-to-chair, table-to-table, conversation. And as you will later see, we have plenty of "catch-up time" scheduled.

If you are a long-time member, it will be your opportunity to reach out to the newer folks, share your expertise, mentor them, and make sure they are glad they joined the Club and attended the Rally. Not only is this your opportunity, but consider it also your duty to bring these new members into the family. Without them, our Club will fade away. Do your part to show our new folks what makes our Club so unique and why you have enjoyed

it for so many years.

If you are a new member, it will be your opportunity to take advantage of the vast pool of knowledge among our veteran members. The ones that have changed those blown tires on the side of the road, or know how to stretch holding tank capacities, or have camped in pristine National, State, and local Parks all over the USA and Canada (and maybe even Mexico). They know how to live large in a small space. They have seen what's over the next hill, and the one after that. They are the ones who have led our Club in years past and kept the fires burning so that we can enjoy it today.

How can you help? You have the easiest job of all: JUST SHOW UP! We have the venue, the food, the entertainment, and the fun stuff all planned out. So, get up, hitch up, get out, and head to Marion, N.C., where all your friends will be. In the meantime, if you have not already done so, register today, and bring a friend. We have a campsite waiting for you.

See you in Marion!

*Above: Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate in Asheville, about 35 miles from the R3 Rally site.*

## Rigs Signed Up, listed by Club Number (As of March 14)

012 Southeastern Camping.....	17
021 Carolinas .....	14
022 Palmetto State .....	11
027 Florida .....	13
030 South Florida .....	4
032 Georgia.....	10
037 Coastal Georgia.....	1
109 Virginia.....	1
110 Northern Virginia .....	6
111 Tidewater .....	3
129 Suncoast .....	1
149 Shenandoah Valley.....	4
150 South Carolina Coastal .....	10
153 Big Bend Florida .....	2
161 Piedmont North Carolina .....	12
162 Florida Treasure Coast .....	10
169 Western North Carolina .....	2
Other Regions .....	5
Members at Large .....	4
Non-WBCCI .....	2

Register now! <https://region3.wbcci.net>



## A new member and his birthday present

Meet one of NORVA's newest members, Ronald Conte, who joined the club in February.

On March 1, 2019, Ron turned 85, but last November, he bought himself an early birthday present. He drove from Virginia to the Colonial Airstream dealership in New Jersey where he purchased a 16-foot, 2019 Airstream "Sport" Bambi trailer. "It's the first and last RV I will ever own," says Ron. "In fact, it was also the first time I had ever been inside an Airstream!"

Anticipating travel adventures without hookups, Ron customized his newly acquired possession with after-market solar panels and a generator. Towing it to Virginia with his Mazda CX9 SUV, he parked it at Fort Belvoir's Marina "for safe keeping," seven miles from his condo in Arlington. "Because it's a small rig, I don't have to store it at the base RV storage lot. Instead, I am able to keep it at the Marina, overlooking Dogue Creek and the Potomac River. I make use of their shore power, showers, and restrooms. There is even a Wi-Fi hotspot!" exclaims Ron.

Conte is a retired Army officer who completed 30 years of military service. Serving on Active Duty from 1959 to 1989, he commanded troops at the company-, battalion- and brigade-level in the U.S., Germany, and Korea. His distinguished career exposed him to all types of mobile communications equipment and command and control systems, which often depended on trailer-mounted generators for power. Given this military background, Ron has a unique way of describing his new Airstream trailer: "My mobile Sport is an outstanding engineering achievement. It's a matrix of integrated systems that provides challenges of establishing off-grid power," he observes. "It provides a self-contained life style opportunity with hot running water, a galley, and (to use a Navy term) a



'head.'" Ask him why he bought an Airstream and he responds, "It's great to be surrounded by an interior that is a work of art, while enjoying, utilizing, and learning about the details of the various electrical and mechanical components."

But, technological impressions aside, Ron also looks forward to the social aspects of Airstream ownership. "It provides motivation to get out of the condo and drive to the marina where I can relax and enjoy both the RV and social activity." He also says he is eager to savor many road adventures which lie ahead: "National Parks yet to be visited, meeting W.B.C.C.I. and



**Photos: Retired colonel Ron Conte and his new "Sport" Airstream, which he stores at the Fort Belvoir Marina.**

NORVA members, doing some serious boon docking, and traveling with my grown children."

Last, but not least, Ron considers his Sport to be what he calls "an inheritance artifact for future times," to be enjoyed by members of his family for many years to come.



# Hospitality Volunteers Needed for International Rally

Virginia Airstreamers familiar with attractions in the state are sought to staff an information table

by NORVA's Ann Newman  
Tour Coordinator for the  
International Airstream Rally

Planning is well underway for sightseeing tours during the International Airstream Rally in Doswell in July, and we could use some help!

So far there are four **Bus Tours** being organized by Kathy Beard, Tourism Manager for Caroline County. One to the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport, another to Chancellorsville Battle Field, a local tour through Caroline County, and one following the escape route taken by Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth, starting at the Surratt Museum in Maryland. Caroline County is doing all the work for these tours.

There will also be **Group Driving Tours** – carpooling together to a site, then touring as a group. Currently there are 10 of these planned and more are in the works. Information about them are available after April 1st at:

<https://doswell.wbcci.net>

under the tab, “Things to do.” But, here’s a sneak peek!

Patrick Henry is the focus for two of them—his “Scotchtown” home and a reenactment of his “Give Me Liberty” speech at St. John’s Church in Richmond. Richmond is also the location for a tour at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a tour of the Tredegar Iron Works area, including the new American Civil War Museum opening in May. Other tours are planned to Berkeley Plantation, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and Monticello.

**DIY (Do It Yourself) trips** are another option for seeing places of interest in Virginia. Suggestions of over 100 places to visit are also on the Rally web site under the tab “Things to do.” Additionally,

Lew Brodsky, editor of NORVA News, has authored six *Blue Beret* magazine articles highlighting key attractions in the state, with information about how to drive to them. The articles include photos and fact charts and are appearing in the magazine’s issues from November through May. DIY trips will be completely “on your own” and the rally attendees may appreciate hearing information from Virginia Airstreamers who have actually been to these sites.



So...

During the rally **we need Virginia volunteers** — people with local knowledge and full of Virginia hospitality! We need to staff the Tours Table and Member Services Table during check-in and the first few days of the rally. At these tables, you will welcome people, help answer questions, give out directions, and provide local information. The days and hours Virginia volunteers are needed are shown in the chart on the next page.

*(Continues. See “Hospitality,” page 6)*



**Photos, top to bottom:**  
**Tour Coordinator Ann Newman.**  
**Inside the atrium at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.**  
**Smithsonian’s Udvar-Hazy Museum (Air & Space) at Dulles Airport.**



*("Hospitality," cont. from page 5)*

For the Group Driving Tours, we need volunteers to be **outside in the line-up area** to encourage carpooling and make sure cars get lined up for the right tour. Line-up times are each day Thursday, July 18 to Thursday, July 25, 8:15 to 9:45 am, and again at 11:15 am and 1:00 pm.

Since the program for the rally is not yet available, it's too early to sign up for actual time slots. But, if you are willing to help, I would appreciate it if you would send me an email telling me when you might be available and what jobs you would prefer. Please let me know so I can send a list of the committee members to the rally manager.

Also, please e-mail me if you have any questions or suggestions!

[27anewman@gmail.com](mailto:27anewman@gmail.com)

**Photos**

*At right: "Scotchtown" was the home of patriot Patrick Henry near Ashland, Va., from 1771 to 1778.*

*Below: The historic Tredegar Iron Works. The facility manufactured a diverse array of products including cannon and ordnance for the Confederacy. Located on the James River in Richmond, it will house a new Civil War museum*

Table staffing volunteers needed on these days and times:

Wednesday	July 17	9 am – 4 pm
Thursday	July 18	9 am – 4 pm
Friday	July 19	1 pm – 4 pm
Saturday	July 20	1 pm – 4 pm
Sunday	July 21	1 pm – 4 pm
Monday	July 22	10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday	July 23	10 am – 2 pm
Wednesday	July 24	10 am – 2 pm





# Almost Heaven, West Virginia



Join the Shepards of Shepherd Lane in Shepherdstown for an exciting spring rally

Rally hosts Gary and Susan Shepard are excited about welcoming NORVA's members to the neighboring State of West Virginia and their home in Shepherdstown. Camping for the weekend will be at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in

looks forward to welcoming the NORVA visitors. With a wink and nod to Shepherdstown history and hospitality, he proclaims, "Events of note are the arrival, many years ago, of O'Hurley's General Store, selling the finest in Time Tested Merchandise, with real music every Thursday evening, *and soon the arrival of a band of road Gypsies in Airstreams.* Enjoy our friendly town!"

To participate, fill out and send in the coupon on Page 10.

made his first real estate purchase of 500 acres in what is now Jefferson County. In 1770, his brother Samuel moved to his new home there, called "Harewood." Ten years later, younger brother Charles built his home called "Happy Retreat,"

(Article continues. on Page 8.)



A walking tour of historic Harpers Ferry, WV, will be led by Gary Shepard on Friday morning, followed by "lunch on your own." In the afternoon, race horses

Kearneysville, beginning Thursday, May 16. The "Almost Heaven Rally" will officially begin with dinner at the Shepard home at 5 p.m.

At 6:30, the group will head to O'Hurley's General Store for a unique shopping experience, followed by folk music in the store's "great room." "O'Hurley's Thursday Night Music" continues a tradition of people gathering informally to play and sing traditional folk and dance music for fun. Seats are first come first served and limited, "so save a seat before you shop," Gary suggests. O'Hurley's proprietor and music leader, Jay Hurley,

will be the main attraction during the group's visit to O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town. Founded in 1939, it is the state's oldest thoroughbred farm.

"Randy Funkhouser, owner and history buff, will describe the horseracing industry of Jefferson County," says Gary. "We will meet some of the farm's stallions and a spend time with a few recently birthed foals."

Next, Mr. Funkhouser will lead the group on a driving tour of Charles Town, with stops at historic homes that belonged to the family of George Washington. In 1750, 18-year-old George Washington



Photos:

Top - Thoroughbreds at O'Sullivan Farms in Charles Town.

Left - The "Great Room" at O'Hurley's General Store in Shepherdstown is the place to go for Thursday night folk music.

Above - Sue and Gary Shepard with their 1977 Argosy trailer.



*("Almost Heaven," cont. from Page 7)*

and in 1786 he founded Charles Town. Their great nephews built the manor homes called "Blakely" and "Claymont," and Samuel's grandson built 'Cedar Lawn.'"

Gary says the Washington family owned ten manors in Jefferson County, seven of which survive today.

"At one point, Randy Funkhouser's relatives owned six of the seven," reports Gary. "Cedar Lawn, is on the property of O'Sullivan Farms, and if all goes well, we should be able to see the inside."

Friday's buffet dinner will be at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Raceway, and one of the O'Sullivan Farms horses may be racing that evening. Place your bets!

The adventures continue Saturday. The morning may offer a chance to visit nearby Antietam Battlefield. A group lunch (covered by the rally fee) will be held at the lovely and well-known Bavarian Inn overlooking the Potomac River.

After lunch there will be a walking tour of Shepherdstown and more history to learn. Most people were taught that Robert Fulton, a Pennsylvanian, invented the steamboat around 1807, but the Airstreamers will learn otherwise in a talk at 3 p.m. Fulton demonstrated



his steamboat to widespread acclaim and publicity, but the technology was actually invented by James Rumsey of Shepherdstown in 1787. Unfortunately, Mr. Rumsey died unexpectedly a few years before Fulton's landmark demonstration. Today a monument in Shepherdstown marks the true birthplace of the steamboat, and Rumsey's place in American history.

Saturday winds up with a cookout, bonfire, and time for good fellowship at the Shepard home.

**Photos:**

**Top - It's a safe bet that Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races serves a dinner buffet.**

**Above left - James Rumsey's 18th Century steamboat at the Shepherdstown Museum**

**Above right - "Happy Retreat," one of seven surviving Washington family homes.**

**Below - The majestic Bavarian Inn on the Potomac River, where Airstreamers will enjoy Saturday lunch.**

Alas, the "Almost Heaven Rally" concludes Sunday morning at the campground with morning coffee and pastries.





More photos from the March Breakout & Maintenance Rally (cont. from Page 2)



Top left: Time for socializing—Tidewater member Liz Destefano chats with Larry Evans (Tidewater president), and Christine Baum (r.) of the Shenandoah Unit.

Left bottom: Jane & Kevin Quinn of NORVA stroll past several rigs at the rally venue—American Heritage RV Park in Williamsburg, Va.

Left: The group enjoyed several meals over the weekend—a potluck dinner on Friday, a box lunch on Saturday, and catered barbeque sponsored by Airstream of Virginia Saturday night.



NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—

Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

Editor: Lew Brodsky

Please send articles and photos to:

NORVAnews@cox.net

Visit NORVA's website: <https://northva.wbcci.net>



## Still space available on the 2019 NORVA Club Caravan

Caravan leaders Gerry & Patsy Nagel have a few spaces left for those who would like to participate in a 16-day Airstream touring adventure through Pennsylvania and New York. The caravan includes stops and activities in Lancaster's "Dutch Amish" area, Watkins Glen, Corning, and Cooperstown, N.Y., New York City, and

ends along the Hudson River at West Point, the U.S. Military Academy. For a detailed story about this caravan, click the link to go to NORVA's web site: (<https://northva.wbcci.net>). On the left side of the home page, click on "NORVA News," then click "March 2019." The on-line article is on pages 4 & 5.

### NORVA AIRSTREAM CLUB #3-110

50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CLUB CARAVAN, #U-48-434, June 1-16, 2019

"PA-NY POT POURRI"

To join this caravan, please complete and mail this coupon along with your \$300 deposit check payable to:

Gerald A. Nagel, Caravan Leader, PO Box 346, Occoquan, VA 22125

Please write "Caravan U-48-434" on your check's memo line.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Member of which Airstream club/unit? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

How many participants? \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit enclosed: \$ 300.00

Note: You can e-mail the information requested to: [gnagel@verizon.net](mailto:gnagel@verizon.net)

For more information, call Gerry: 703-490-4625 (H) or 703-963-4143 (C)



## Coupon for the “Almost Heaven Rally”

May 16-19, 2019 - Camping at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Kearneysville, WV

Camping reservations not required - Pay the rally host \$20 per night upon arrival. All sites are 20-amp electric; 18 have water. There is a dump station. Bring a “Y” hose connector and two hoses for daisy-chaining water hookups. Overflow sites are 20-amp electric only, but a potable water tap is nearby to fill your tank. All sites are first come-first-served.

To attend this rally, please complete and mail this coupon by April 30, along with your \$45 per person rally fee check payable to: Gary Shepard, Rally Host, 79 Shepherd Lane, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Your name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Member of which Airstream club/unit? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45 rally fee = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Your arrival date (check one): Thu. May 16 \_\_\_\_\_, Fri. May 17 \_\_\_\_\_, Sat. May 18 \_\_\_\_\_.

If you wish, you can e-mail the requested information to [shepard.gr@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.gr@gmail.com).

Questions? Need more information? Call Gary Shepard at 304-261-7359.



Jan. 13, 2019 Sun. afternoon <i>Cancelled - Snow Emergency</i>	“La Caze Aux Folles” Rally Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Larry & Sun Riley	July 20-27 Sat.-Sat.	W.B.C.C.I. International Rally Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Va. Hosts: Int’l Pres. Barry Bell & the four Virginia Airstream Clubs
Feb. 3 Sun. evening	Super Bowl Party Williamsburg, Va. Hosts: The McBrooms	Aug. 4-10 Sun.-Sat.	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
March 29-31 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Maintenance Rally American Heritage RV Park Williamsburg, VA Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky	Sept. 20-22 Fri.- Sun. <b>New Dates!</b>	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Newport News City Park, Va. Hosts: Shenandoah Valley Club
<b>April 24-28 Wed.-Sun.</b>	<b>Region 3 Rally Marion, N.C. Host: R3 Pres. John Leake</b>	Oct. 10-13 Thurs.-Sun.	“Silver in the Street” Urban Rally Main Street, Farmville, Va. Host: Carmichael
May 16-19 Thurs.-Sun.	Almost Heaven Rally Shepherdstown, W.Va. Hosts: Gary & Sue Shepard	Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Thu.-Sun.	Oyster Festival Rally Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky
June 1-16 16 days	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan “PA-NY Pot Pourri,” U-48-434 Leaders: Gerry & Patsy Nagel	Dec. 7, 2019* Sat. *Tentative	Holiday Get-together Location TBD. Hosts: TBD