

NORVA News

Published by Northern Virginia Airstream Club #3-110, WBAC, The Airstream Club International

Volume XLVIII, Issue 10
July/August 2019

PA and NY shine on 2019 NORVA caravan

by Janeene Rider

Throughout Friday and Saturday, the silver bullets started arriving with anticipation, one by one, at our rendezvous at Old Mill Stream Campground in Lancaster, Pa. As rigs began hooking up to utilities, the greeting and relaxing started in earnest. If Saturday night's dinner was any indication, we soon realized we were going to "eat great" on this trip as we made our way through the incredible fare offered at the Manor Buffet—which advertises itself as the "largest and best buffet in Lancaster," and it's doubtful anyone could argue that claim! After dinner, our caravan leaders, Gerry and Patsy Nagel, had each of us introduce ourselves and each rig received a "Drivers Manual" with all the pertinent information needed throughout the caravan.

After a sudden and vigorous rainstorm Saturday night (which included small hail), the next morning greeted the caravan with sunshine. The nice weather was just in time for some in the group to head out to area churches or the onsite service conducted by a local Mennonite pastor. Then it was off to our first adventure—the "Turkey Hill Experience." Besides enjoying lots of free ice cream—and even making our own individual flavors in their ice cream lab—we learned about and tasted teas from around the world.

The next day was full of fun and learning also, as everyone embarked on a narrated trolley car tour of Kreider Farms (est. 1736) where there were dairy cows as far as the eye could see.

The well-cared-for cows are milked three times daily via a walk-on, walk-off carousel with very little human intervention. The more adventurous in our group hiked up to the top of a silo to get a bird's-eye view of the surrounding countryside. After the dairy tour, the caravan was treated to a buffet lunch catered by Enck's Banquet; then off everyone went to the Julius Sturgis Pretzel factory in Lititz, Pa. After learning the art of pretzel-making, each trainee received certification as a pretzel maker.

Tuesday was again a beautiful day and the caravan took full advantage of it by hitting the Lancaster City Farmers Market and narrated walking food tour. Tasting was the order

("Caravan" continues on Page 5)

Below: The caravanners wind up their 16-day adventure at West Point.

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New Airstreamers join NORVA



Joining the club in June were **Mark & Heather Joyce**. Their home is in Warrenton and they are enjoying their new 16-foot Bambi trailer.



Heather Lauer lives in Arlington and joined NORVA in May. “My 2019 20-foot Flying Cloud - which I purchased from Airstream of Virginia last month - is the third travel trailer that I’ve owned in the last decade. I decided to upgrade to an Airstream because they are built to last and I’ve always loved the iconic design. I also like that there is a strong community of owners to learn from and I look forward to meeting fellow enthusiasts in WBAC.”

NORVA's president weighs in

Dick Arnold explains how and why to weigh your rig

Jane and I had a great time on the wonderful PA-NY Pot Pourri Caravan led by Gerry & Patsy Nagel in June. The sights and sounds we caravanners experienced ranged from rhythmic clops of horse-drawn buggies in the Dutch Amish farmlands to the ceaseless honking of horns in New York City traffic. Gerry and Patsy did a masterful job of planning, organizing, and conducting it. It was their first time as caravan leaders and they did themselves proud. You can read all about this caravan in Janeene Rider's write-up, starting on Page One of this issue of *NORVA News*.

For this month's column, I thought I would ask you to get on a scale. We are all concerned with weight...trailer weight, that is. Flying J Truck Stops have truck weighing scales which we can use. The cost is \$11.50 to \$23.00 depending on who is at the counter. Go inside and tell someone at the counter what you plan to do.

Then:

Step 1 - Drive your truck and trailer onto the scales, making sure they both fit in one set of lines.

Step 2 - Call the office using the phone on the pole. They will note the weight.

Step 3 - Move forward until your truck is off the scale, but the trailer is still on it.

Step 4 - Put down your jack stand to take the trailer weight off truck.

Step 5 - Call the office for a second weight.

Step 6 - Drive off, park, go in and pay.

You should now know the gross weight of your truck and trailer combined, and a separate weight of the trailer only.



Dick Arnold

Do not be surprised if you are over your gross trailer weight. Your tires may have to be inflated more to carry your weight. Knowing your weight should make you comfortable. Please check to see that your partner is not carrying rocks for a rock garden, like Lucille Ball in the movie, "The Long, Long Trailer."

Below: The Arnold's trailer on the Flying J truck scale.

Below left: Jane Arnold puts down the trailer's frame jack after the truck is off the scale. She extends it to the point where it removes the truck's weight from the scale, giving the weight of the trailer only.



NORVA business meeting scheduled

NORVA President Dick Arnold has scheduled an annual business meeting for 4 p.m., Friday, July 19, 2019. The meeting will be held at the Arnold trailer, #17953, at the International Rally in Doswell. The trailer's parking location will be posted on the information board in the Farm Bureau Center. Bring your chair, drink, and an appetizer to share.



Maintaining your Airstream's brake system is important

Hello again, everyone!

I want to thank those of you who attended the rally at the end of March. It was great meeting everyone there, and I do apologize if I wasn't able to address all your concerns as it was really late once I got everyone looked at. I have been contacting people in the order that I received their information so I can get them scheduled in for a repair.

Now, about the brakes on travel trailers. Most Airstream trailers are equipped with electric drum brakes. The older ones were manually adjusted; the newer ones are considered auto adjusting, meaning the brake clearance is adjusted by simply applying the brakes. There are maintenance requirements on these systems, from visually inspecting

each brake lining, magnet, and drum surfaces, to adjusting the clearance for proper operation. How these systems function is as follows: the brake controller in the tow vehicle sends a DC (direct current) signal through the 7-way cord, all the way back to the brake drums. Then the magnets energize to the brake drum pulling an arm that applies the brakes. Once the current is gone, the magnet de-energizes releasing the brakes and allowing the wheel to rotate freely, similar to letting your foot up off the brake pedal on the tow vehicle. These systems can be the difference between a safe enjoyable towing experience or a white knuckle hard to stop experience. Proper setting of the brake controller gain is critical to balancing the braking. Too much

gain and the trailer does most of the braking, too little and the truck does most of the braking. Every tow vehicle and trailer is different, and there is no magic number to set this by. You will need to find the balance point where the trailer doesn't jerk you back, or keep pushing you forward, when trying to stop. The pictures show a brake assembly that has failed on several wheels allowing the shoe lining to separate and causing a brake failure. This exact failure, although rare, does happen. Pulling the drums to inspect the brakes yearly (for older trailers this is done when repacking the wheels bearings) is a must. Thanks for reading and always remember to check and set your tire pressure accordingly and when they are cold.



Brake assembly missing its lining material,



Brake magnet missing a piece out of the bottom side.



Lining material separated from the backing plate assembly (if this coach kept driving this material could cause a wheel lockup or failure of the brakes to operate).

("Caravan" cont. from Page 1)

of the day as we walked and ate—stopped and ate—listened and ate—our way through Lancaster City’s unique food establishments serving up soup & sandwiches, more pretzels, cupcakes, olive oil & vinegar tasting and a variety of ciders and fresh-squeezed lemonade. The old Central Market was a cornucopia for the senses with every kind of imaginable home-grown, home-made food for every taste.

Our Lancaster adventure was topped off on the last day with a visit to the *Sight & Sound Theatre* to experience its production of the play, “Jesus,” which was amazing! This theatre is renowned for inspirational plays that bring the Bible to life, and this production was no exception. And, of course, it wouldn’t be a caravan without

another meal—this time at the Bird-in-Hand Smorgasbord.

Next, it was off to the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York for a three-day stay at Clute Memorial Park Campground in the town of Watkins Glen. The weather was good, and the drive was simply beautiful between Pennsylvania and New York as we followed the swiftly running Susquehanna River. The campground was adjacent to the marina on the southern end of beautiful Seneca Lake. After an arrival meal at the campground pavilion and a good-night’s rest, the group headed off for a day at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, N.Y. We were treated to a wonderful tour of the museum by a very informative docent. The day included not only a

**2019 NORVA Club Caravan
“PA-NY Pot Pourri”
Unit Caravan U-48-434
Leaders: Gerry & Patsy Nagel**

Participants

(NORVA Club #110 members except where noted)

- Dick & Jane Arnold
- Judy Barrett (Florida Suncoast #129)
- Lew & Cathy Brodsky
- Ben & Lily Brodsky (grandchildren)
- Ed & Roberta Brownfield
- Tom Carmichael
- Jeff Dunkelburger & Caitlin Garvey
- Liam Dunkelburger (son)
- Steve & Brenda Isler (Virginia #109)
- Ed Jones
- Bob & Carol Luther
- Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom
- Bob & Amy Olson (Piedmont N.C. #161)
- Paul & Cynthia Pearce
- Jim & Janeene Rider
- Peter & Elizabeth West



Above: Sampling ice cream at “The Turkey Hill Experience” in Columbia, Pa., are Jeff Dunkelburger & Caitlin Garvey. The youngsters are (r. to l.) their son, Liam, and Lily & Ben Brodsky, grandkids of Lew & Cathy Brodsky.

Left: Dairy cows get milked on a revolving carousel at Kreider Farms in Manheim, Pa.

Far left: A huge silo at Kreider Farms has been turned into a lookout tower for visitors.

("Caravan" continues)

demonstration of glass making by a master glassmaker but also some spectacular exhibits of glass work by a variety of amazing artists in a range of mediums including flame-working, hotglass working, fusing, sandblasting, etc.

Middy, several in our group took advantage of the free trolley from the museum to downtown Corning's Market Street to wander in and out of the many quaint shops and have lunch at one of several unique eateries. Because there was so much to see at the Corning Museum several



Clockwise from top:

Rolling pretzel dough at Sturgis Pretzel Bakery (est. 1861) in Lititz, Pa.

The Corning Glass Museum in N.Y. reopened in 1980 after a flood in 1972. It displays 3,500 years of glass history.

A glass-blowing demonstration.

Airstreamers appear to be swallowed by a Dale Chihuly art glass creation.

The group admires a suspended art glass display in an all-white exhibit hall.

At left: Overlooking the Lancaster, Pa., municipal market, oldest in the U.S.



("Caravan" continues)

Airstreamers elected to go back for a few more hours.

On Friday night, caravanners eagerly planned a "free day" on Saturday to explore the Finger Lakes area. Several campers chose to walk the Watkins Glen State Park gorge, some checked out the local wineries and taverns; and a few others drove to Hammondsport to visit the Curtiss Museum and drive around Kueka Lake. Then it was back to Clute Campground to relay the day's adventures and plan the Sunday "travel day" to Cooperstown.

The weather was again perfect as everyone de-camped and headed out for the drive through lots of little towns and villages on the way to Cooperstown KOA in Richfield Springs, a small town in central New York. Upon arrival at the KOA, the Nagels made sure the group was fed well again, this time with local Italian food.

In the morning, it was off to the Baseball Hall of Fame in nearby Cooperstown, followed by a leisurely stroll through this famous hamlet where it's all about America's favorite pastime.

Some travelers also took advantage of touring other nearby museums, thanks to the wonderful all-day Cooperstown trolley system. But the rain decided to pay us a visit mid-afternoon and it continued for the rest of the day, inviting a few to take well-deserved naps to the sound of pitter-patter on Airstream roofs.

The next morning, everyone enjoyed a scheduled meal at the Waterfront Grill in Herkimer, N.Y., followed by a lovely cruise down the Erie Canal, including an eventful transit through Lock



Left: Waterfalls, 19 of them, grace spectacular Watkins Glen, a state park in New York.

Above: Cathy Brodsky in the company of "Babe Ruth (l.) and Ted Williams" at the Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown.

Below: The carvanners enjoy a meal at the KOA campground in Richfield Springs, N.Y.

Bottom: The highlight of the day was a boat trip on the Erie Canal, passing through Lock #18.





#18. It was a somewhat windy day, which caused a pleasure craft ahead of us to come untethered and ricochet back and forth while navigating the lock.

After taking in some local sights on our own the rest of the day, the group reconvened for a driver's meeting in preparation for the next day's travel to Newburgh/New York City (NYC) KOA, a large campground in Plattekill, N.Y.

The drive from Cooperstown to

Plattekill was leisurely and uneventful. After everyone positioned their trailers into their campsites and set up, we had a wonderful Italian dinner hosted by the campground.

After a good night's rest, the group convoyed to the Hyde Park home of Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) for a tour in the morning and Val Kill (Eleanor Roosevelt's home) in the afternoon. Both tours were led by National Park Service Rangers. In between,

Clockwise from top left:

Janeene & Jim Rider take a break before cruising on the Erie Canal.

Brunch is served at the Waterfront Grill, along the Mohawk River in Herkimer, N.Y.

Free caravan time is used by Carol Luther to give Bob a neat trim.

A Park Service ranger addresses the group at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum.

("Caravan" continues)

several people explored FDR's Presidential Library or took in the Vanderbilt Mansion Tour. The more athletic in our group enjoyed a walk across the Hudson River on an old railroad bridge.

It was "rise and shine" time again, first thing in the morning, for a bus tour of New York City led by our KOA host. The day was jam-packed with several wonderful tours starting with the Empire State Building. From there, we jumped back on the bus and headed to lunch near the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. The guided tour of this important landmark was incredibly moving—words simply do not convey the way each of us felt as a result of our museum tour guide's very informative narrative sadly recalling the events of that fateful day.

Before leaving Manhattan, the bus made one last stop at the Museum of the City of New York where, again, a very well-informed tour guide brought the city's history to life. Needless to say, there was more than a little snoozing on the bus for the 90-minute ride back to the KOA campground.

Our final full-day together started with a guided tour of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. West Point which, of course, is rich with our Nation's history and sits on a beautiful location overlooking the Hudson River.

While rain threatened throughout, we were able to ward it off long enough to complete our walk through the impressive cemetery where countless American military heroes lie, and



Top: One World Trade Center. The new skyscraper gleams near the site of the 9/11 terrorist attack.

Right: A steel girder from the destroyed Twin Towers stands in the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Above: Patsy & Gerry Nagel, the NORVA the caravan leaders, at West Point.



ride/walk through numerous areas of the academy grounds. Our 16-day caravan ended at the Academy with a fabulous brunch at the Officer's Club. Our caravan leaders wrapped up this wonderful trip the way it started—with great food and terrific company. New and old friends alike now had the bittersweet task of saying goodbye and hooking up their Airstreams for the next great adventure.

The caravan concluded with brunch at the West Point Officers Club, alongside the scenic Hudson River.

Editor's note: Janeene Rider and husband, Jim, joined the NORVA Airstream Club in 2018.



Vintage Airstream shines in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

Now adding sparkle and tacos to the Old Town Alexandria riverfront is a vintage 1962 Globetrotter Airstream. With its interior modified to be a food vendor kitchen, the highly polished trailer was brought in from California and christened, "The Riverside Taco Company." It is newly installed just outside the Torpedo Factory Art Center alongside the Potomac River. The owners, Alexandria Restaurant Partners, placed tables and 90 seats on the adjacent patio for diners. The shiny new eatery will be a permanent fixture, open daily in the spring, summer and fall, but closed during the winter months.

NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—
 Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110
 Wally Byam Caravan Club International
 Editor: Lew Brodsky
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Please note: NORVA's new web address is:
<https://NorthernVirginia.Airstreamclub.net>



AIRSTREAM

Hosted by the Shenandoah
Valley Airstream Club

Commonwealth Rally 2019

Newport News City Park

September 20-22 2019

Virginia Airstream Club Units

Reserve Your Site Today!

The 2019 Commonwealth Rally provides another great opportunity for all Virginia WBCCI units to come together for fun and fellowship; a chance to catch up and take a deep breath after the hustle and bustle of the 62nd WBCCI International Rally in Doswell VA.

You've camped at National Parks and State Parks and County Parks and Cracker Barrel parking lots....how about a City Park? Newport News City Park is one of the largest city parks east of the Mississippi. It is an 7500+ acre oasis of calm in the middle of the historic and dynamic Newport News/ Portsmouth/Hampton Roads/Norfolk/Williamsburg/Yorktown.

Too many places to see and things to do....oh my!

- Newport News City Park is located right off Exit 250B of Interstate 64.
- Camping Loop B—sites 34 through 68—has been reserved; water and electric 30 amp, no sewer. Some 50-amp sites available on B loop—request when reserving.
- Loop B has restrooms and showers located centrally. The dump station is located just outside the entrance to Loop B.
- Site fee is \$36 + tax. Over 60, \$34 + tax. Call the campground office to reserve. Ask for Loop B—"Airstream group." Site map on-line. Need to pay first night to reserve.
- Rally Fee: \$45 per person. Rally fee includes dinner and entertainment Saturday night.
- Two tours available at the park: History tour, Nature tour.
- Detailed program and agenda available soon.

**Park Phone: (757) 888-3333 or
(800) 203-8322 for reservations**

**WBCCI Contact:
Shenandoah Valley's Ken Tarrant
(804) 357-9977**

Park Attractions:

Hiking and Biking
Golf
Disc Golf
Orienteering (geo-cache)
Boat Rentals
Fishing

2019 COMMONWEALTH RALLY

Friday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019. Concludes Sunday morning.
 Shenandoah Valley Airstream Club is hosting this rally at the Newport News City Park.
 The RALLY FEE is \$45 per person. Does not include the campground fee.
 Make your site reservation directly with the campground. See Page 11.

Name(s) _____ Member of which club? _____

WBCCI # _____ Cell phone: _____ E-mail _____ @ _____

Number of people attending: _____ X Rally Fee of \$45 per person = Total enclosed: \$ _____

Tours available: Nature History. Check one or both, if you might like to participate.

By Aug. 23rd , mail your check payable to the rally host: Ken Tarrant, 13021 Singer Road, Midlothian, VA 23112.
 Need more information: Ken's phone: 804-357-9977 E-mail : janietarrant@comcast.net



Jan. 13, 2019 Sun. afternoon <i>Cancelled - Snow Emergency</i>	“La Cage 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.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Newport News City Park, Va. Hosts: Shenandoah Valley Club
April 24-28 Wed.-Sun.	Region 3 Rally Marion, N.C. Host: R3 Pres. John Leake	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