

# NORVA News

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## “Almost Heaven” rally was, in fact, heavenly!

The “Almost Heaven” Rally more than lived up to its name.

NORVA’s May event in West Virginia was one of the best and most diversely enthralling in recent memory. This was because first-time rally hosts Sue and Gary Shepard (who live on Shepherd Lane in Shepherdstown) opened up their hearts, home, and many community friendships to make it all happen.

Nine NORVA rigs camped at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, near Charles Town, in the midst of a goat show! But there was little time to inspect the goats because so many exciting things were on the rally agenda.

Thursday evening, after an opening get-together with food and drink at the Shepard home, the Airstreamers headed for the “Great Room” at O’Hurley’s General Store where, every Thursday evening (Thanksgiving included!), owner Jay Hurley assembles a group of terrific local musicians who entertain visitors with an Irish/mountain music jam session.

Friday was a full day filled with surprises. It began with a visit to nearby Historic Harper’s Ferry at the picturesque confluence of the Potomac & Shenandoah Rivers

*(See “West Virginia,” page 3.)*



*The mares’ stable at O’Sullivan Farms.*



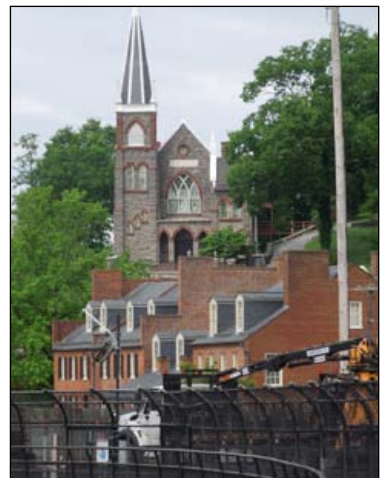
*The rally’s agenda featured a visit to O’Sullivan Farms in Charles Town, W.Va., the oldest Thoroughbred breeding farm in the state. Owner, Randy Funkhouser (shown above) and his wife, Katherine, (Clissy) are friends of the Shepards.*



*At left, NORVA member Peter West enjoys getting close to a mare and her foal.*

*Bottom left, Clissy Funkhouser (l.) leads the group on a tour of the farm.*

*Below, Historic Harper’s Ferry.*



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## Nothing but an Airstream will do!

New NORVA members Lisa & Dave Colburn live in Leesburg and have been traveling for a while in their 2015 Airstream International Serenity trailer.

“We bought an Airstream because, try as we may (and we did), we couldn’t settle for anything less,” explains Lisa.

“We’ve never owned a trailer before. We looked online for a year in Airstream Classifieds before we found the exact model we wanted a few towns away in Reston! The previous owners had taken her out only four times, so she was like new even though she was two years old. The elegance of the interior design and the



*Lisa & Dave Colburn*

quality of materials throughout sold us. Plus it pulls like a dream—we hardly know it’s behind us! We’re joining Wally Byam now because, after a year and a half of traveling, we know we’re sticking with Airstream. It’s how we roll.”

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](mailto:NORVAnews@cox.net)

Visit NORVA’s website by clicking [HERE](#).



Please note: NORVA’s web address is changing.

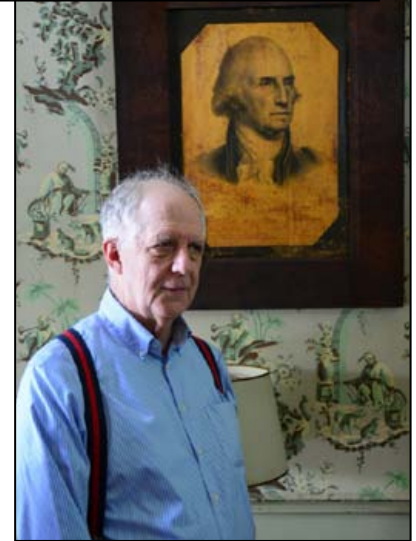
After June 15, you can reach our website by going to:

<https://NorthernVirginia.Airstreamclub.net>.

*("West Virginia," from page 1)*

where Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia come together. In the afternoon, the Shepards took everyone to meet their friends Randy & Katherine (Clissy) Funkhouser who own O'Sullivan Farms. This is West Virginia's oldest Thoroughbred farm, breeding racehorses since 1939. To the delight of the Airstreamers, the month of May is the heart of foaling season and they were able to get up close and personal with dozens of beautiful mares and their foals. Randy's grandfather, who started the farm, also bought several of the historic homes in the Charles Town area that were built by members of the Washington family (yes, THAT Washington—President George). Leading the rally group on a driving tour of the Washington family homes, Randy stopped at Harewood, completed in 1770 by George's brother, Samuel. Amazingly, Harewood remains a Washington family property, occupied today by Walter Washington, a direct descendent of Samuel. Walter graciously allowed everyone inside to see the parlor and dining areas. These rooms still have original woodwork and paint, and a stunning fireplace of Italian marble given to George by Lafayette. In the parlor, James Madison married Dolly Payne Todd in 1794.

And the day was not over yet! The group visited Charles Town Races Friday night to dine in the "Skyline Terrace" restaurant while viewing and betting on horses in eight races. Tom Carmichael picked a horse to win in the fifth race and it won! Others were not so lucky but had fun nonetheless.



Lunch on Saturday overlooked the Potomac River in the "fine dining" section of the famous Bavarian Inn, a German/Continental restaurant and resort in Shepherdstown.

Next it was time to burn off the dumplings and fancy desserts with a walking tour of Shepherdstown, guided by Jay Hurley. It included a stop at a monument dedicated to James Rumsey, a mechanical

*(Continues on page 4)*

**Photos:**

*Top: Local musicians play Irish/country music every Thursday evening at O'Hurley's General Store in Shepherdstown. Instruments used include hammered dulcimers, fiddles, washboard, guitar, mandolin, flute, harp, and banjo.*

*Inset: NORVA listeners included (l. to r.) Gerry & Patsy Nagel, Tom Carmichael, Laura Veloz, Sylvia and Bill Worrall.*

*Bottom photos: The rally goes pose on the front steps of "Harewood" a Washington family home owned by descendent Walter Washington (tall man in the center). Mr. Washington poses next to a portrait of his many-times-great Uncle George. Note the striking resemblance!*

*("West Virginia," cont. from page 3)*

engineer credited with inventing the first steam-powered boat in 1787, followed by a private viewing of a replica of the "Rumsey Experiment," a working half-scale of the steamboat, lovingly reconstructed by Mr. Hurley and others. While Shepherdstown's residents take pride in Mr. Rumsey's 18<sup>th</sup> Century accomplishment, they are chagrined that a commercially successful steamboat in New York, developed by Robert Fulton, is often credited as being "first."

Actually, Fulton's boat came later, in 1807.

A steak dinner back at the Shepard home completed a great Saturday. Jay Hurley was at the dinner and provided musical entertainment playing his hammered dulcimer.

*(Text & photos continue on page 5.)*



**Top and inset:** Friday night the group went to Charles Town Races, where they enjoyed a buffet dinner at the trackside "Skyline Terrace" and placed bets on horses in eight races.

**Above:** Saturday lunch was at the Bavarian Inn, a landmark restaurant and resort in Shepherdstown.

**Left:** Paul & Cynthia Pearce stroll the walkway on the railroad bridge connecting Harpers Ferry, W. Va., and Maryland across the Potomac River.

**Below:** A "happy hour" trailerside at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. And right: rally hosts and Shepherdstown residents, NORVA's Sue & Gary Shepard.



*("West Virginia," cont. from page 4.)*

The final event of the spectacular weekend was a trailer-side coffee klatsch at the campsites on Sunday morning, just before the group exchanged farewells.

Looking back on the three days of events, Gary & Sue Shepard were pleased they could organize and host this rally. They learned by doing.

"We enjoyed sharing our favorite things—our home, our family, our traditions, our home county and our town—with our NORVA friends," said Gary. "If we would do anything differently, it would be to relax in the realization that Airstreamers are very flexible people, and to allow a little more down time to just sit around and chat and get to know the rally attendees better. These folks are truly becoming our family."

NORVA members attending the "Almost Heaven" rally were President Dick & Jane Arnold, Cathy & Lew Brodsky, Tom Carmichael, Patsy & Gerry Nagel, Cynthia & Paul Pearce, Sue & Gary Shepard (hosts), Laural Veloz, Elizabeth & Peter West, and Sylvia & Bill Worrall.



**Top:** The James Rumsey monument in Sheperdstown honors the inventor of the first steam-powered boat. Also shown, the half-scale replica built by Jay Hurley (standing nearest the boat).

**Above:** Mr. Hurley leads the Airstreamers on a tour of Shepherdstown, where he was born and raised.

**Bottom left:** In the Shepard backyard, Gary, Peter West, and Gerry Nagel make s'mores, while Tom Carmichael and Laural Veloz supervise from lawn chairs.

**Bottom right:** During lunch at the Bavarian Inn, Laural Veloz listens to yet another Carmichael wisecrack.





*The Farm Bureau Center is the largest pavilion at The Meadow Event Park.*

## Coming up real soon: fun time in Doswell

NORVA President Dick Arnold says get ready for the 62nd International Airstream Rally!

For the first time in the Club's long history, the International Rally is being held in Virginia. Did you register for the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Rally in Doswell? If so, you should have received an e-mail notice telling you the date you and your Airstream can arrive at the Meadow Event Park. If you have not yet signed up to attend, it's not too late; however, campsites with electric and water may no longer be available. But this rally is in NORVA's "backyard," and it will probably never again be so close to home. So, if you are not able to camp in Doswell, you may wish to consider leaving your rig at home and commuting to the rally. If that's your plan, check in at the Staging Area when you arrive. They will welcome you and provide additional information. And you will pay a reduced registration fee because you are not camping.

If you have reserved a campsite, be sure to bring extra water hose, adapters and a power extension cable. It pays to be well prepared in case the distances from your rig to power or water is longer than usual. Prepare to be flexible!

If you intend to park with friends or other NORVA members, you need to arrive at the rally together to park together. You might arrange to rendezvous at the Flying J at Exit 104

off I-95, and then proceed to Doswell in caravan.

When arriving at The Meadow Event Park, follow signs to the Bull Pen. You will be given a goody bag which includes your rally ribbons, program, and other information. Then the parking crew will guide you to your parking space.

After parking, go to the Farm Bureau Center (the main pavilion) and confirm your registration. Times and location will be in the program. You will be able to sign up for different events—tours, Region 3 Luncheon on July 23, flea market, etc. If you are interested in future caravans, you will be able to learn about them from caravan leaders at tables set up for that purpose.

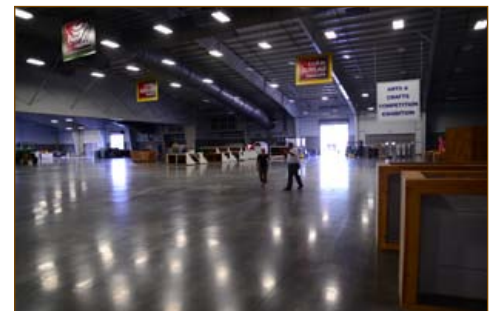
Need help finding your friends? There will be a "Locator Board" to help, along with a bulletin board where members can post information.

There will be many, many programs and seminars on just about every Airstream-related subject. Things to see. Things to do. Things to buy! Check out the complete schedule at this link:

<https://doswell.wbcc.net/files/2019/04/DoswellSchedule-4Posting20190401-1.pdf>

As your president, I will be participating in the International Board of Trustees (IBT) session, a delegates meeting where all the club presidents and International officers discuss and decide the Club's business. You might want to stop by and see what goes on. It is scheduled for July 20.

Enjoy the WBAC International Rally. Opening ceremonies are July 20. The rally ends July 27. I hope to see you there!



*The Farm Bureau Center's cavernous interior.*

Not ready yet—

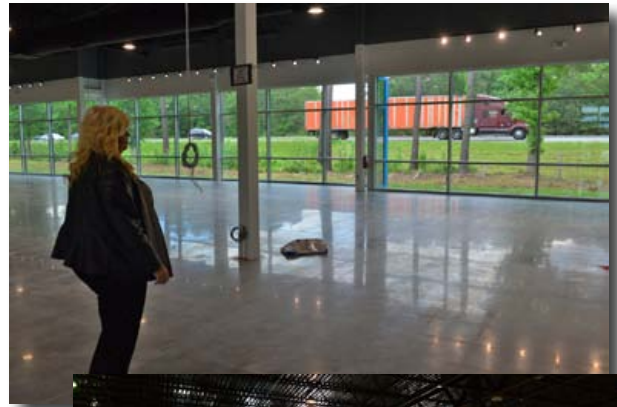
## Opening of new home for Airstream of Virginia is delayed

Ashland, Va.—She had hoped to open the new showroom and service bays at Airstream of Virginia in May, but the slow building permit process, landscaping issues, and other unforeseen problems have caused delays. “The contractor is now obligated to complete work in June,” says Tammi Hopkins, general manager of Camping World, and Airstream of Virginia.

Until the new facility opens its doors, sales and service for Airstreams are being accomplished next door at McGeorge’s Rolling Hills RV.

Hopkins says the new building will have 13 service bays but she is facing a shortage of qualified technicians. She needs to hire more.

She plans to hold an open house on July 20, inviting Airstreamers and the public to enjoy food and drink in coordination with the nearby WBAC International Rally. Hopkins says Airstream of Virginia will be displaying and selling new trailers and Class B vans at the rally.



Behind the showroom is this large open space area where 13 service bays will be located.

Photo at top: General Manager Tammi Hopkins on the floor of the new showroom has a view of traffic on the southbound lanes of I-95, near mile marker 90.

## Confused by the name game?

What are we calling ourselves these days? This question has been asked repeatedly over the years. That’s because most club members have never been entirely comfortable with a legal club name that does not include the word, “Airstream.” Organized officially in 1955, the legal, registered name of the club is the “Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.,” or W.B.C.C.I. But there’s no “Airstream” in that.

So, more recently, the club obtained permission to include “Airstream” in several variations of the name. This produced a plethora of “aliases” and “doing business as (DBA)” names. (See the list in the box.) And it allowed components of the club to add “Airstream” to their names. That’s why we now call ourselves the “NORVA Airstream Club.”

But, when someone asks, “What do you call the International club?,” what’s the answer? “Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC)” seems to be the preferred name

in today’s conversations. Indeed, International President Barry Bell has asked that the logo showing this DBA name be used as often as possible, instead of the older WBCCI logo. With that in mind, future issues of *NORVA News* will refer to the big club as “WBAC.” Now you know!

### A list of current club names

(Approved for use as of July 7, 2016)

Official legal name:

Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. (WBCCI)

Aliases or Doing Business As (DBA) names:

- Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC)
- The Airstream Club International
- The Airstream Owners RV Association
- The Airstream Owners
- The Airstream Owners Association
- The Airstreamers Association
- The Airstream RV Association
- The Recreational Club of Airstream Owners



Old



Preferred new



## American Revolution caravan makes final stops in Virginia

The latest “national” WBAC caravan examining the patriots, Tories, soldiers, places, and events surrounding America’s 18th Century battle for independence from England ended recently in Virginia. Led by NORVA’s Ed & Beth Jones over the past four years, this final one, “The American Revolution - Southern Campaign,” started in New Bern, N.C., and concluded 40 days later on May 19th with a farewell banquet in Williamsburg, Va. The Joneses had committed to doing four national WBAC caravans about the Revolutionary War Period, spreading them over four years. The first and third, in 2016 and 2018, covered the war and events leading up to it in the Northern Colonies. The Southern Campaign caravan also ran twice, in 2017 and again this year. Ed says these caravans will probably continue to have alternating-year runs in the future, but with different caravan leaders.

For this 2019 caravan there were 28 participants in 14 Airstreams. The Joneses varied the itinerary slightly from their 2017 caravan, adding visits to some of the places made famous by Virginia’s patriot, Patrick Henry. The caravanners saw “Scotchtown,” Henry’s home near Ashland, Va., where he lived from 1771 to 1778; and they ate at nearby historic Hanover Tavern, which was once owned by Henry’s father-in-law.

The photos on this page show the group’s visit to St. John’s Church in Richmond on May 14. This was the church where Patrick Henry delivered his famous “Give me liberty or give me death” speech during a debate at the Second Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775.

Costumed actors re-enacted the event for the caravanners, and posed with them outside the church (photo at top of page).

Photo at right: Ed and Beth Jones thank actor Gerry Notare, who portrayed Patrick Henry at the re-enactment.





## Stumbling upon a vintage Dinosaurostream

By Jordanna Max Brodsky

As the daughter of two WBAC members, I can't help but yelp with glee whenever I stumble upon an iconic silver bullet in an unexpected place. So imagine my delight when, smack dab in the heart of Walt Disney World, I came face to façade with an Airstream International sporting familiar red numerals.

It was the third day of my first-ever trip to the “most magical place on earth,” and I was making my way through Disney's Animal Kingdom. Between the 96-degree heat and the seven-foot tall meerkat boogying through a seemingly perpetual Hakuna Matata dance party, I thought for a moment I might be hallucinating. But no, in an animal park where half the animals are animatronic and the lines between reality and fantasy are delightfully—and sometimes disturbingly—blurred, this Airstream was completely authentic.

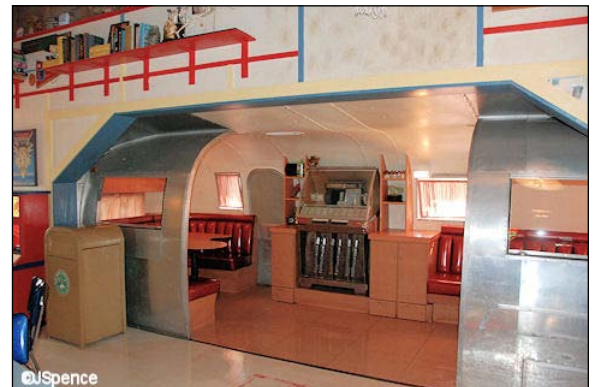
I snapped a photo, sent it to my parents, and hurried off to get in line for yet another puke-and-wonder-inducing ride. But when I got home, I couldn't resist doing a little more research into this hidden gem. It turns out that, like everything else in the impeccably designed Animal Kingdom, the Airstream has a fabricated backstory. It sits in “Dinoland U.S.A.,” a portion of the park situated in the fictional “Diggs County,” where a local man purportedly discovered dinosaur fossils in 1947. A “Dino Institute” sprang up on the site, and grad student paleontologists eventually turned a local fishing lodge into their cafeteria, naming it the Restaurantosaurus. The lodge—really just a quick-serve restaurant for sweaty kids in Mickey Mouse ears—suppos-



*The writer (shown above) is the daughter of NORVA members Cathy & Lew Brodsky. She is the author of four published novels and is writing a fifth. Visit her web page at this link: <https://www.jordannamaxbrodsky.com/>.*

edly expanded over time to include a number of dino-themed additions. The Airstream (ostensibly owned by an early paleontologist but, so the Internet claims, actually the property of a Disney Imagineer's grandmother) was incorporated into “The Hip Joint” recreation room.

In keeping with the park's fictional history, the trailer itself has been altered by “grad student pranks.” Thus, the letters of “Airstream” have been rearranged to read “I ARE SMART,” and the model name now reads “International-osaurus.” Inside the restaurant, the Airstream's wall has been removed so patrons can walk straight from the building into the trailer, where a jukebox and two booths make it the most popular seating area in Dinoland. The jukebox, of course, features paelo-pun selections such as Simon & Garfunkel's “I Am a Rock” and Jerry Lee Lewis's “Great Balls of Fire.” As for the food...if you're in the mood for chili cheese dogs, jalapeño poppers, and chicken



nuggets, this is the place for you. If all of that sounds as revolting to you as it does to me, however, at least you can feast your eyes on the Airstream!

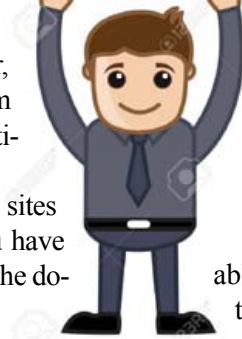
# Airstream URLs will change this month

When you read *NORVA News* on your computer, you probably know that you can click on any of the “hyperlinks” appearing on its pages. Doing so takes you to a screen showing whatever the subject of the link is all about. The link may be an e-mail address, which will bring up your e-mail program and automatically address your message to the linked mailbox or, more often, it’s a hyperlink to a “URL (Uniform Resource Locator).” That’s a fancy name identifying the Internet location of website,

URLs contain domain names, which group sites by common subject matter. For example, you have been viewing Airstream club-related sites with the domain names “wbcci.org” or “wbcci.net.”

**AIRSTREAMCLUB**

**.NET**



The purpose of this article is to let you know that Airstream club-related domain names are changing. Instead of wbcci.net or wbcci.org, unit websites associated with the Wally Byam club will be migrating to a new domain name “airstreamclub.net.”

How does this affect NORVA? Currently, you reach NORVA’s website by typing or linking to <https://northva.wbcci.net>. But, effective on or about June 15, 2019, NORVA’s website will have a new URL and the old one will no longer work: <https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>.

The site itself will look the same. You will still be able to view current and back issues of *NORVA News* there, as well as lots of other NORVA information.



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