

# NORVA News

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Mission possible:

## Airstream serves as COVID-19 “Life Preserver”

By Lew & Cathy Brodsky

In April, our daughter, who lives in New York, contacted us with a dilemma. Her in-laws live in Maine and have a winter house in Florida. They were about to drive back to Maine from Florida during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It would be a 1,600-mile road trip, almost entirely on Interstate 95. They planned to make the long drive in two days but were understandably re-

luctant to spend a night in a hotel along the way for fear that a rented room could be contaminated with coronavirus. They said they would be pulling off I-95 mid-way to sleep in their car, but our daughter had a better idea.

Knowing that we keep our 27-foot Airstream Safari trailer alongside our home, she called us and asked if we could de-winterize it immediately to accommodate her husband’s parents overnight.

It made perfect sense. We live in Northern Virginia, a mile from I-95, and our home is just about halfway between central Florida and Maine. Also, we know and love her in-laws, Dan and Joan. Under normal circumstances they would be welcome to stay in our house but, in these strange times, most Americans are avoiding close contact to “mitigate the spread of the virus.” Throughout April

we remained homebound as COVID-19 infections continued on an upward spiral in the D.C. metro area. We felt safe and healthy at home and wanted to keep it that way. But, by offering Dan and Joan use of the trailer overnight, they would be welcome, comfortable, and quarantined!

It was a no-brainer. Years earlier we installed an RV electrical power outlet, along with a water spigot and a sewer connection next to the trailer. These allow us to power up with full hook-ups and use the trailer as a separate, detached, “apartment.” This is a great convenience, especially on Thanksgiving weekends when lots of family members visit and the bedrooms and bathrooms in the house are insufficient.

We swung into action, determined to brave the unseen viral enemy and get the Airstream ready for our overnight

*(“Life Preserver” continues on page 2)*



*Above: In the morning a masked Joan was most grateful for a cozy and restful night in Lew & Cathy’s Airstream.*

*Right: A not-too-subtle bed throw informed Joan and Dan they were safely staying in an iconic Airstream “silver bullet.”*

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*(“Life Preserver” cont. from page 1)*

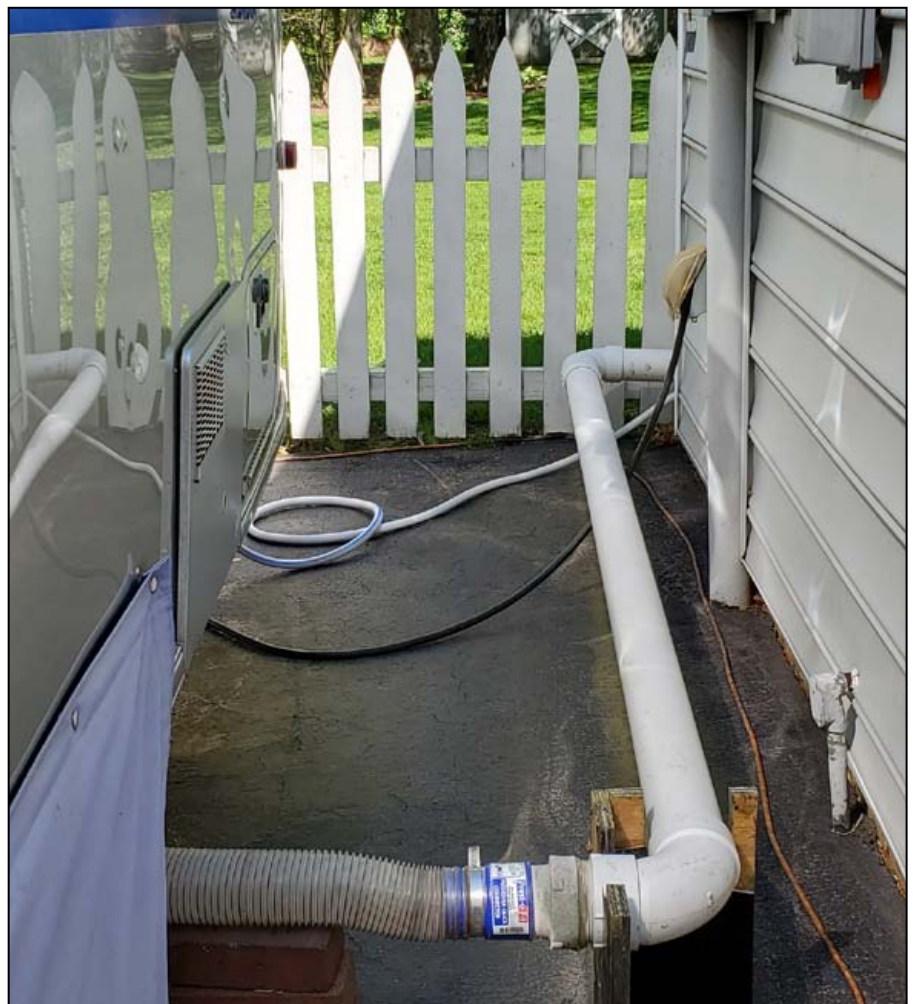
guests. We drained the RV antifreeze from all the water lines and sanitized them. We installed new water filters. Then we hooked up a supply hose to our “city water” and powered up all the systems. We tested the furnace, hot water heater, refrigerator, faucets, shower toilet, and TV. We put in fresh towels, made up the bed, filled the liquid soap dispensers, and put in snacks, microwavable lasagna, soft drinks, some nightcap booze, and fresh flowers. We added a doggie bed and biscuits for their dog, “Koko.” After we deployed the stabilizing jacks and placed an American flag out front, the Airstream was officially ready to serve as a “COVID-19 Aluminum Life Preserver.”

Of course, “social distancing” was still imperative, so we telephoned our traveling guests and left the trailer door unlocked for them. We asked them to pull into the driveway upon arrival, enter the trailer, phone us, and make themselves at home for the night. This was the first time Dan and Joan would be in an Airstream, so we placed written instructions in the trailer, headlining the paper, “Dan & Joan’s Excellent Airstream Adventure!”

After driving the first 800 miles of their journey, they arrived at 10:15 p.m. Once inside the “silver bullet” they dialed us up and exclaimed they were delighted with such “cozy” accommodations. Joan was amazed by the large shower and the efficient layout of an Airstream. “There’s a place for everything,” she said.

We knew they would have questions, especially concerning operation of the heating system and the toilet, and we were able to coach them because we each had iPhones and could communicate easily with FaceTime calls. Then, we in house, and they in the trailer, bedded down for a restful night.

In the morning, we all met in the driveway, remembering to practice social distancing and wear masks.



Finally, we waved goodbye as they got underway for the second 800-mile leg of their trip home to Maine, leaving our Airstream as tidy as they found it.

Mission accomplished!

***Top: Flowers, food, drink, and an instruction sheet greeted the travelers.***

***Above: Full hook-ups are installed on the side of the Brodsky home. They enable the Airstream to accommodate overnight guests in comfort.***

# Movement toward “normal”

NORVA President Tom Carmichael says the outlook for 2020 camping is improving

I hope everyone has been able to stay at home and remain healthy as the virus pandemic thankfully begins to ease up in many parts of Virginia. I, for one, am looking forward to seeing Northern Virginia start to open up soon so it can join the rest of Virginia in implementing Phase One of the governor’s plan for getting us back to some sense of normalcy.

Meanwhile, I couldn’t wait to try out the new upgrades Airstream Technician DJ Mastin (Broken Rivets RV Service, LLC, Ashland) installed inside and outside my trailer, so I recently took it on the road to enjoy a camping and golf weekend in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The weather was great, perfect for camping.



*Tom’s Airstream at Pirateland Resort*

The campground I stayed at (Pirateland Camping Resort) was about half full and everybody on the beach was following the “keep your social distance” rule. Also, the spacing between sites was adequate for safety. That said, and just to play it extra safe, I did not eat at any of the restaurants. They were again opening for business after two months of closure.

Now back home in Midlothian, I’m excited that the private and state campgrounds are open in Virginia and it looks like the July rally at Shenandoah River State Park campground can be held as scheduled. Doug and Sue Anderson have some good things planned. The 10-person limit on gatherings of people may still

be in effect in July, and we will conduct ourselves accordingly. For details, please see the article and coupon in this newsletter (pages 7 and 10).

I’m still hoping we can reschedule the canceled (April) Maintenance Rally as soon as possible, perhaps in August. Meanwhile, if you need to get some work done on your Airstream, DJ Mastin is just a phone call away (804-994-1405).

Please note: NORVA is looking for volunteers to occupy key Club positions for the upcoming year, beginning in October. We need help—the same people are doing the lion’s share of running NORVA year after year. Please see the list of positions we need to fill (“Help Wanted,” Page 6). You would begin a one-year term as a Club officer or director in October 2020. I can assure you that anybody who takes on a job will get plenty of support from members willing to help. NORVA has loads of experienced people. What’s in it for you? You will develop wonderful friendships and working relationships



*Carmichael*

as you go through the year. Your talents and enthusiasm will prosper, and you’ll have fun contributing to the overall success of our Club. You will be admired by all! If you have any questions, please call me anytime, or speak with any other NORVA officer to learn more about the club positions needing to be filled.

As May has turned into June, let’s keep fingers crossed that we can get back on track with our rallies and other planned 2020 NORVA events, including the wonderful NORVA Club Caravan Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom will lead later this year (coupon on page 8).

Stay safe!

“I wish they would re-open the campgrounds. I miss happy hour, snacks, and cookouts!”



# Have dog; still traveling

Miss Dixie and I are still on the road out west with our Basecamp trailer, and we've made an iMovie!

Article & photos by Laural Veloz  
WBAC/NORVA Member #6854

My faithful companion dog “Miss Dixie” and I have been on the road full-time since August 2019 and are currently in Utah (don’t worry, we are social distancing). We have traveled in the U.S., Canada and most recently we spent two months on WBAC’s Three Mexican Gems Caravan. When we came out of Mexico into Lukeville, Ariz, because of the COVID19 pandemic, we needed a place to hunker down and figure out what was really going on since we’d been out of the news loop for nearly two months.

We found that safe place on the Harvest Hosts website: the Desert Sanctuary at Rincon Peak in Benson, Ariz. If you are not a member of Harvest Hosts, you should check them out: [www.harvesthosts.com](http://www.harvesthosts.com).

We stayed one night at the Sanctuary with the intention of heading east but loved the host and the property (120 acres), so much that we stayed for the month of April.

By the end of the month, when it was getting warm in the desert, Miss Dixie and I decided to move north to Utah and saw that a

*(“Laural & Dixie” cont. on page 2)*



**Top to bottom:**

*“Dixie” tells Laural that she’s lovin’ their adventurous times together across three countries in the Basecamp.*

*The credits of the iMovie. See Page 5 for a link to view it.*

*The spectacular mountain scenery and a reflective Jackson Lake at Grand Teton National Park.*



*(“Laural & Dixie” cont. from previous page)*

WBCCI Solo Sister was already there. We reached out and she invited us to join her group at Bryce Canyon, so we did. While here, I learned that this solo sister also has a YouTube channel. We got to talking about blogs, YouTube channels and just sharing our stories. She convinced me that I really needed to start sharing my story and this is when I made the decision to play with the app on my iPhone called iMovie.

The easiest thing to start with is a movie trailer. It’s basically a preset themed movie that you simply drop photos into and then edit the storyboard to suit your situation. And so it began, I created this movie trailer to introduce my YouTube channel called “Driving Miss Dixie.” You can follow the link shown on this page of *NORVA News* to my channel where you can view and “like” my movie. You can also hit the “subscribe” button for my channel. By subscribing, it will be easier to find my videos later, and you can also ask for emails to be sent to you when I post a new video. This will keep you up to date on our travels.

I hope you all enjoy my first attempt at YouTube and that Miss Dixie and I plan to see everyone down the road soon.

Stay safe and healthy!

***Photos (top to bottom):***

***Laural under the Antler Arch in downtown Jackson (Hole), Wyo.***

***The historic Cunningham Cabin in majestic Grand Teton National Park.***

***Dixie is astounded by the multi-layered and colored “hoodoo” formations of Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah.***



To view Laural & Dixie’s first iMovie, click this link:

[https://youtu.be/HZN8qb2w\\_xI](https://youtu.be/HZN8qb2w_xI)

## A home at home for our Airstream

By Peter West  
WBAC/NORVA #3851

This project started with an idea in the Trailer Care Magazine about shelter coverings for campers. We live on a gravel road in Loudoun County. Previously we kept our Airstream outside in the summer and squeezed it through a 10- X 10-foot barn door in the winter. Dust from cars going past on the dirt road continually covered the Airstream, necessitating frequent washings.

When we built the barn 15 years ago the Airstream was not in our plans, so the lean-to on the side of the barn was built 8' wide as a place to store the tractor (in hindsight a mistake). By simply extending the lean-to another 12 feet, we are now able to store the Airstream year around under cover as well as our goose-neck flatbed trailer. With the barn now located between the Airstream and the road, dust is no longer a problem. The sloping terrain helped maintain the roof pitch. We ran a 30-amp power line with a weather-proof outlet to the trailer to be able to keep its batteries charged.

One important addition was to install chicken wire over all horizontal boards up under the roof of the shed to keep the pigeons from roosting and pooping on the trailers.



*A recently constructed lean-to barn addition at the Philomont, Va., property of Peter & Elizabeth West provides a new "home at home" for their Airstream trailer. (Photos by Peter West)*



### Volunteers needed to fill **NORVA jobs**

Oct. 2020 to Sept. 2021

Every summer NORVA votes on a slate of members to fill officer and director jobs in the Club for the coming fiscal year. They are elected for a 12-month term beginning in October and perform the varied tasks that keep the Club running smoothly. We know the membership includes men and women with skills and talent. Please consider stepping up as a volunteer. Your service will enhance your experiences as a Club member, deepen friendships, and give you the satisfaction of performing an important NORVA job. You'll get lots of help! Vacancies that need to be filled include the 1st and 2nd

vice presidents. We also need a person to serve as the Club's next newsletter editor; specifically, any NORVA member with a bit of writing, editing and computer publishing experience. For detailed job descriptions of NORVA's officer and director positions, consult the 2020 NORVA Directory, pages 43 through 45, or view them online at: <http://northernvirginia.airstreamclub.net/files/2020/01/Constitution-BL-EBP.pdf>. Or, contact any of the current officers and directors listed on Page 9 of this newsletter. The Club needs you!

# NORVA's "River Rally" set for July

Sites are booked at Shenandoah River State Park for July 17-19

As the virus pandemic continues to ease in Virginia, NORVA plans to conduct its first rally of the 2020 camping season, July 17-19, at Guest Shenandoah River State Park. Hosts Doug and Susan Anderson have prepaid reservations for NORVA attendees. Ten sites have been booked for two nights, Friday and Saturday, at a cost of \$90 per site.

This state park campground is a stone's throw from the beautiful Shenandoah River in Bentonville. The well-marked entrance to the park is located on U.S. 340, about 8 miles south of Front Royal and 15 miles north of Luray.

"It's a beautifully scenic place," notes Doug. "Don't confuse it with nearby Shenandoah National Park. This is a smaller park that focuses on the river. There are hiking trails and wading opportunities along its banks and in the adjacent hills. There are also places to bike."

All sites have concrete pads, 30/50-amp electric and water, and a picnic table. The campground has a dump station. For those so inclined, the Downriver Canoe Company is a few miles upriver where inner tubes, kayaks, canoes, and rafts can be rented for the adventurous to paddle (float?) downstream to the park.

The weekend will include the usual gatherings for drink and conversation, although "social distancing" will be observed and all food will be "on your own." Doug says the first 10 reservation checks he receives are guaranteed a site. Once reserved, anyone canceling must pay a \$15 cancellation fee.

After four months of COVID-19 fears and suspended Club activities, this will most likely be first time this year that NORVA members get hooked up, out, and about. "So, plan to UNWIND," Doug says.

*Its official name is "Raymond R. 'Andy' Guest, Jr Shenandoah River State Park," but no matter what you call it, it' has a lovely setting along the banks of the river with hiking, camping, and biking.*

Want to attend this rally? Complete the coupon on Page 10 and mail it with your camping fee check to Doug at the address shown on the coupon. First received; first reserved! After the 10 sites are filled, you may still be able to participate, but you will be on your own to book directly with the State Park, assuming additional sites are available for that weekend.

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/shenandoah-river>



RESERVATION COUPON

# OHIO PRESIDENTS & HISTORIC ICONS

## NORVA CLUB CARAVAN, RESCHEDULED!

Now planned for Sept. 24 to Oct. 9, 2020



To participate, please complete and mail this coupon **before Aug. 15, 2020**, along with a \$325 deposit check, payable to: Jackson McBroom, Caravan Leader, 1661 River Ridge, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Total cost to participate is \$840 per trailer/MH (camping fees), plus \$240 per person (tours/meals).

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI# \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phones: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ RV length: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

How many participants? \_\_\_\_\_. **Deposit enclosed: \$325.00.** (Balance of caravan fee is due Sept. 10, 2020.)

Note: You can also e-mail the requested information to: [jtmcbm@aol.com](mailto:jtmcbm@aol.com).

For more information or answers to questions, call Jackson: 757-345-0060 (H), or 757-746-6535 (C).

## Airstream travel by “armchair” during the pandemic?

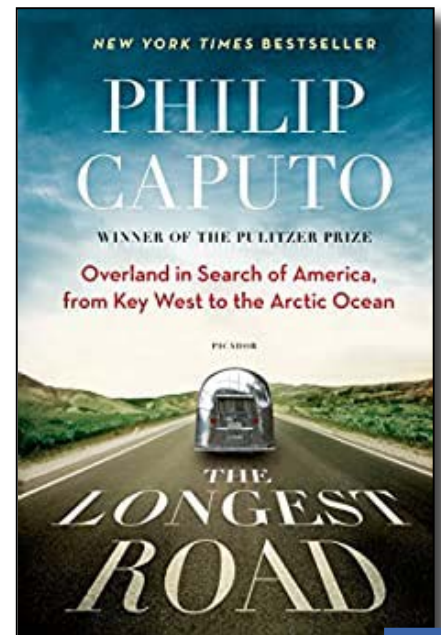
A book review (of sorts) by Dick Arnold, NORVA Past President

In these quarantined, “stay at home” times, I am missing our Airstream travels. But I discovered this is a good time to read one of my favorite books, *The Longest Road*, by Philip Caputo.

In 2011, Caputo and his wife leased a refinished Globetrotter from a lady in Texas and set off to travel from Key West, Fla., to Alaska, with no prior camping experience. They wanted to find out what makes us the United States, when Americans live in so many different parts of the country. Reading the book allowed me to “travel” with them on their 8,314-mile journey. Their route took them on many of the same roads my wife Jane and I have traveled in our

Airstream, so it was great to reminisce. When they reached Alaska, the Caputos purchased a copy of the *Milepost*, a must-have guidebook for anyone going to Alaska that describes everything you need to see along the Alaska Highway.

So, yes, there is a way to get temporary relief from COVID-19 cabin fever—read *The Longest Road*, purchase the *Milepost*, and enjoy Airstream “travel” at home in the comfort of your favorite chair.



NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110 of the Wally Byam Airstream Club  
Editor: Lew Brodsky

Please send articles and photos to:  
[NORVAnews@cox.net](mailto:NORVAnews@cox.net).

Please note: NORVA's web address is:  
<https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>





## Bringing the bikes on camping trips

How does one bring bicycles on an Airstream camping trip? There is no best way, but Airstreamers have come up with a variety of solutions to this problem. Some have placed a bike rack on the front of the tow vehicle (but these partially obstruct the driver's view of the road). Others have purchased costly racks designed specifically to fit on the rear of an Airstream.

Another method was recently employed by NORVA's Gerry Nagel and Lew Brodsky. They each designed a custom hitch receiver assembly, consisting of a rectangular steel bar spanning the width of their Airstreams, with a 2-inch receiver welded in the center. The assembly is bolted to the trailer frame behind the rear bumper. This arrangement allows use of any hitch-mount bike rack. While this solution is not recommended by Airstream because of the torque it imposes on the frame when the trailer is in motion, it appears to work well if the bikes are lightweight and firmly secured on the rack. The welded receiver assemblies were fabricated by Southeast Sheet Metal Contractors of Woodbridge, Va.



*Above: Bikes on the rear of the Nagel Airstream use a Yakima hitch mount rack inserted into a custom-fabricated frame receiver.*

*Below: Close-up view of the receiver frame assembly under and behind the bumper of the Brodsky trailer.*



## Airstream for sale!



For sale by owner. Airstream trailer, 2017 27-ft., front bedroom, *Flying Cloud*. Very well equipped with two solar panels, AGM batteries, tire monitor, main awning plus window awnings, tire covers, backup camera, never lube hubs, ducted air & heat, Equalizer hitch, queen bed. Full entertainment package with 2 TVs. Has not had smokers or pets. 18,600 travel miles. \$69,900.

Please call if interested: 434-295-7389

## NORVA Officers

Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020

President

**Tom Carmichael**

804-245-1710

[tomc@sportsimageinc.com](mailto:tomc@sportsimageinc.com)



1st Vice President

**Gerry Nagel**

703-963-4143

[gnagel@verizon.net](mailto:gnagel@verizon.net)



2nd Vice President

**Jackson McBroom**

Club Caravan Leader

757-746-6535

[jtmcbm@aol.com](mailto:jtmcbm@aol.com)



Secretary

**Patsy Nagel**

703-963-4142

[pnnagel@verizon.net](mailto:pnnagel@verizon.net)



Treasurer

**Kevin Quinn**

540-825-7785

[kquinnur67@gmail.com](mailto:kquinnur67@gmail.com)



Membership Director

**Gary Shepard**

304-261-7359

[shepard.gr@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.gr@gmail.com)



Newsletter Editor

**Lew Brodsky**

703-451-0122

[lbrodsky@cox.net](mailto:lbrodsky@cox.net)

[norvanews@cox.net](mailto:norvanews@cox.net)



Legislative Director

**Beth Jones**

703-780-6597

[thunderhorse16@yahoo.com](mailto:thunderhorse16@yahoo.com)



Storekeeper

**Jim Timberlake V**

540-270-2339

[timberlakeV@aol.com](mailto:timberlakeV@aol.com)



Parliamentarian

**Ed Jones**

703-780-6597

[thunderhorse16@yahoo.com](mailto:thunderhorse16@yahoo.com)



Past President

**Dick Arnold**

540-729-2095

[janea40@gmail.com](mailto:janea40@gmail.com)



## Coupon for NORVA's Riverside Rally

Join hosts Doug & Susan Anderson for a weekend of camping at Shenandoah River State Park.  
 Dates: Friday, July 17 to Sunday, July 19, 2020 (2 nights of camping).

See the story on Page 7.

To participate in this rally, complete this coupon and mail it with your \$90 check (campsite fee), payable to:

Doug Anderson, NORVA Rally Host, 8569 Fairfax Street, Manassas, VA 20110

FIRST 10 COUPONS/CHECKS RECEIVED BY DOUG ARE GUARANTEED SITES

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

WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer/MH length \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Please note: Once reserved, if you cancel any refund will be minus a \$15 cancellation fee.

Have questions? Call Doug: 703-409-2673, or e-mail: [douganderson2@comcast.net](mailto:douganderson2@comcast.net).



Jan. 12, 2020 Sun. 1.00 p.m.	“Grease” the smash hit musical Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Bill & Sylvia Worrall	Aug. 3-8 Mon.-Sat. <i>Cancelled!</i>	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
Feb. 2 Sun. 5:00 p.m.	Super Bowl Party Amissville, Va. Hosts: Hoosiers	Sept. 11-13 Fri.-Sun.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Small Country Campground Louisa, Va. Hosts: Tidewater Airstream Club #111
Feb. 29 Sat. 1:00 p.m.	New Member Lunch. Host: Nagel Golden Corral, Manassas, Va.	Sept. 24-Oct. 9 15 days Tentative dates	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan Ohio Presidents & Historic Icons Leader: Jackson McBroom
April 1-5 Wed. to Sun.	Region 3 Rally Ocean Lakes Family Campground Myrtle Beach, S.C. Host: John Leake	Oct. 22-25 Thurs.-Sun.	“Alumalina” Rally Tom Johnson Park, Marion, N.C.. Hosts: Carolinas Airstream Club #21
April 24-26 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Mainline Rally Small Country Campground Lottsburg, Va. Host: Tom Carmichael	Nov. 5-8 Thurs.-Sun.	“Silver in the Streets” Urban Rally Abingdon, Va.- Open to all clubs. Hosted by Virginia Airstream Club #109
May 7-10 Thurs.-Sun.	Spring Rally Philomont and Winchester, Va. Hosts: Peter & Elizabeth West	Nov. 13-15 Fri.-Sun.	Exploring the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Va. Hosts: Jones, Nagel, Kropp
June 20-27	<b>WBAC International Rally Loveland, Colorado</b>	Dec. 5, 2020 Sat., 12 noon	Holiday Brunch at the home of Ed & Beth Jones, Alexandria, Va.
July 17-19 Fri.-Sun.	Riverside Rally Shenandoah River State Park, Va. Hosts: Doug & Susan Anderson		