

NORVA News

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Airstreams charm downtown Farmville

NORVA conducts Virginia's first "urban" Airstream rally

by Janeene Rider

Airstreamers from five states (Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arizona) gathered in Farmville, Va., Oct. 10-13, 2019, to participate in "Silver in the Street," Virginia's first-ever Airstream Urban Rally. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Airstream Club (NORVA), the rally was organized under the able leadership of NORVA's president, Tom Carmichael. In addition to the welcome participation of John and Susan Leake of York, S.C., the Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC) Region 3 president & first lady, attendees included members from the NORVA, Tidewater and Virginia Airstream Clubs, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia Unit. Also joining the group were couples from North Carolina's Piedmont Airstream Unit and the Arizona Airstream Club.

The town of Farmville, established in 1798 with a current population of less than 8,000 people, is located about 65 miles west of Richmond. It was America's first two-college town,



home to Hampden-Sydney College (established in 1775) and Longwood University (founded in 1839 and host to the 2016 Vice-Presidential debate). While full of small-town charm, Farmville and the surrounding area is nonetheless big on things to see and do including High Bridge Trail State Park, Sailor Creek Battlefield Historical State Park, Bear Creek Lake State Park, Twin Lakes State Park and the Robert Russa (RR) Morton Museum, as well as numerous historic homes, churches, and downtown buildings. Opportunities for recreation abound, including boating, fishing, hiking, biking, golfing, horseback riding, zip-

lining, canoeing/kayaking, and firefly and wine festivals.

With fun-filled anticipation, Airstreamers started arriving Thursday afternoon for an overnight stay alongside the Fireman's Sports Arena, used as the rally's staging area on the edge of town prior to driving into the downtown rally site Friday morning. Thursday's "Happy Hour" was slated to begin at 4:30 p.m. preceding the rally kickoff pizza dinner at 6:00 p.m. However, folks were anxious to get started meeting old friends and making new ones, so an unofficial gathering affectionately dubbed

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“Blabbing Hour” got underway at the Sports Arena around 3:30 p.m., which then seamlessly rolled into the scheduled Happy Hour. This was followed by the Dinner Hour and still more socializing until nightfall. The Blabbing Hour moniker came about because once the group started congregating in earnest, campers would eagerly pull up a chair regardless of the time, wondering out loud if the Happy Hour had been rescheduled to start early – to which the answer was, “No, this is just Blabbing Hour!”

On Friday morning after a welcoming breakfast of warm biscuits and hot coffee from a local Cajun-inspired restaurant, trailers and tow vehicles were queued up in small groups and led into downtown in short convoys to the designated Urban Rally site—a tree-lined parking lot along Main Street near the Appomattox River. Its owner, the Green Front Furniture complex, made the lot available for this rally. Green Front began on Farmville’s Main Street as a grocery store in the mid 1940’s (lettuce, cabbage and other greens were displayed in the front window – thus, the name), then grew from dry goods to home goods in the 1960’s. As the town’s largest and best known retailer, it now occupies four former tobacco warehouses and six Main Street storefronts.

Once all 18 Airstream RVs were artfully parked and set up for a weekend of dry camping (no hook-ups) in the Green Front lot, many of the 35 participants set off Friday to enjoy some of the sights and sounds of this historic town and patronize its many shops and restaurants. Friday’s highlight included a heartfelt welcome by Magi Van Eps, Prince Edward County Tourism Coordinator, after which the group enjoyed hearing from High Bridge Trail State Park Manager Daniel Jordan and Park Ranger Craig Guthrie. The Park representatives provided an overview of the many



Photos:

Top: Entrance marker for the High Bridge Trail and a group hiking the long railroad bridge.

Left: Park Education Specialist Clint Mooney gives the Airstreamers a great tour, explains the history of the park, and shares personal anecdotes.

Below: Happy Hour at the Green Front lot in downtown Farmville.



recreational opportunities afforded by the State Parks in the region, along with details about the origin of the 31-mile-long High Bridge Trail State Park with its landmark bridge. The following interesting facts are conveyed on a plaque near the bridge:

In 1852, C.O. Sanford, South Side Railroad’s Chief engineer wrote, “There have been higher bridges not so long and longer bridges

not so high, but taking the height and length together; this is, perhaps, the largest bridge in the world.” Soaring 60-125 feet in height and 2,400 feet in length, High Bridge was built to cross the Appomattox River east of Farmville and was built on 21 brick piers. The original wood bridge had a pedestrian walkway beside the train tracks and a wagon bridge below.

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“It seemed to disappear into the distance and we could peer over the edge and see the massive brick supports,” observed NORVA member, Cynthia Pearce.

Following this tour, Friday night’s Blabbing Hour preceded another delightful Happy Hour. As the group discussed the day’s events, Lori Marano-Venezia mentioned people had asked her about the Airstreams when she visited downtown businesses. She deduced that a street sign was needed and took action. Borrowing a free-standing sign from one of the businesses, and assisted by Beth Jones and Patsy Nagel, Lori created a sign advertising the Saturday Open House.

Friday evening, most everyone walked up to nearby Charley’s Waterfront Café for a pre-arranged buffet dinner at this casual American restaurant housed in a converted riverside warehouse.

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***Photos (clockwise from top left):
Halloween decor at the rally.***

Janeene Rider (l.) welcomes a local couple to her trailer during the Open House.

At the spaghetti dinner, Gary Shepard’s back displays the words and graphics on the T-shirts all rally attendees wore.

Relaxing (r. to l.) are Larry Evans of the Tidewater Club, Region 3 President John Leake, and First Lady Susan Leake.

The “Open House” sign on Main Street was...

...created by (l. to r.) Beth Jones, Lori Marano-Venezia, and Patsy Nagel.



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Not wanting the day to end, the informal social circle was reconvened after dinner at the campsite until late in the night. Simultaneously, diehard Washington Nationals fans took advantage of the Riders' satellite television projecting through their trailer's open rear hatch to cheer the Nationals on to victory over the LA Dodgers as they clinched the team's berth in the World Series (Go NATS!).

Saturday morning (Columbus Day) found most campers enjoying breakfast in one of the Main Street eateries, then tidying up their units in preparation for the afternoon's public Open House. Attendance was brisk as visitors of all ages delighted in touring the various Airstreams and learning about the great fun offered through membership in the Wally Byam Airstream Club. The local community seemed to appreciate the Club's hospitality and eagerness to share the joys of Airstreaming. After the Open House and another Happy Hour, the group headed to dinner at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, where proceeds from a spaghetti dinner were benefitting "Coats for Kids", a national nonprofit serving children in need of winter coats. Each Airstreamer attending happily and generously donated to this important campaign to help local area children stay warm this winter. The truly appreciative Church reported that of the \$600 in donations it received at the dinner, \$360 came from the Airstreamers. After dinner, those who weren't yet exhausted once again brought their chairs together for more late night visitation (and a little friendly football game viewing –the Florida Gators vs. the LSU Tigers!).

"Silver in the Street" was an event that provided a unique downtown camping experience for the Airstreamers with lots of things to see and do. It also supported area businesses and the local community of Farmville. By design, all rally fee proceeds in the amount of \$475 were charitably donated by NORVA on behalf of WBAC to the town's Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad.

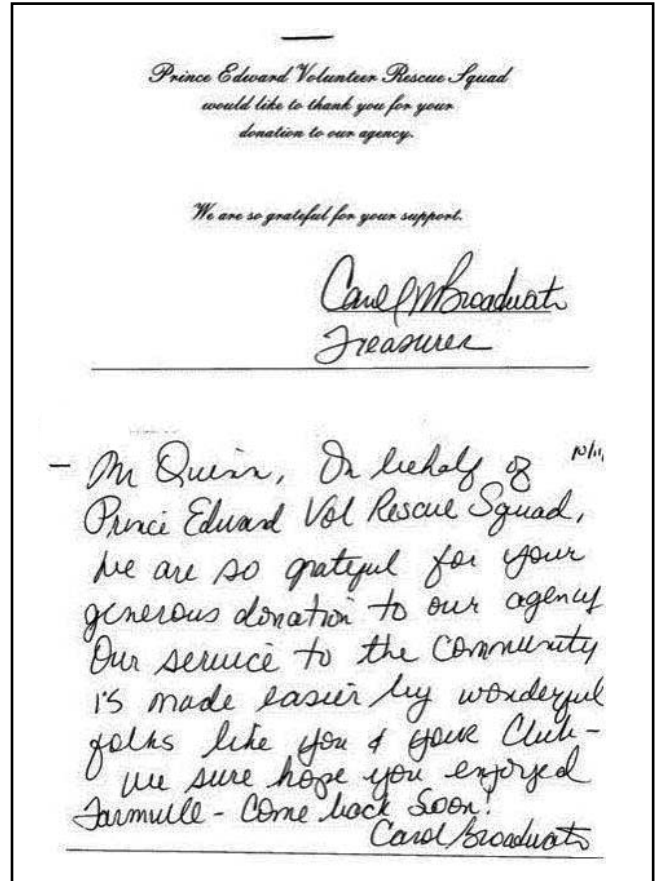
As the rally came to a close on Sunday after coffee and breakfast rolls, participants all agreed that the hospitality shown by High Bridge Trail State Park employees, the Prince Edward County Tourism Office, and the residents and merchants of Farmville, made for a very enjoyable visit and a successful first "Urban Rally" in Virginia.

Based on this success, NORVA will conduct another urban rally in the fall of 2020. The planned location is picturesque and historic Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Beth Jones and Cynthia Pearce contributed to this article.

Photos by Tom Carmichael, Patsy Nagel, Beth Jones, and Janeene Rider.

Shown at top right: A hand-written note from the treasurer of the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad to Kevin Quinn, NORVA treasurer, thanking the Club for donating \$475 to the Farmville Squad.



"Silver in the Street" participants

NORVA Club members:

Tom Carmichael, Gerry & Patsy Nagel, Paul & Cynthia Pearce, Ed & Beth Jones, Steve & Sue Jones, Gary & Sue Shepard, Jim & Janeene Rider, Doug & Sue Anderson, Dick & Jane Arnold, Scott Arnold & Lori Marano-Venezia, Richard & Sally Stutler

Virginia Club members:

Jeff & Leonita Cutright

Tidewater Club members:

Larry & Rhonda Evans, Patrick & Page McLemore

Shenandoah Unit members:

Phil & Connie Miller, Bob & Lisa Sachs

Piedmont, N.C. Unit members:

Buddy & Donna Moore

Arizona Airstream Club members:

Pat & Barbara Cahalan

Region 3 President & First Lady:

John & Susan Leake, York, S.C.

Lots of happiness and some recent sadness

NORVA President Tom Carmichael reflects on Club events and the loss of two long-time members

Our “Get hooked up!” theme was clearly on display at the “Silver in the Street” rally in downtown Farmville. It was an excitingly happy weekend, which contrasted with our sadness at recently losing two long-time members. We mourn their passing. As I thought about them, I realized they epitomized the “Get Hooked Up” theme. Fred Carmichael (my Dad) and Handley Ward are remembered for their close ties to NORVA and decades-long friendships. (Fred’s obituary was in last month’s newsletter. You can read Handley’s obituary on Page 6 of this one).

Handley was an Airstream superstar, well-loved and respected throughout WBCCI. During his active years with the Club, he climbed the ranks of leadership, from NORVA President, to President of Region 3 and later, WBCCI International Parliamentarian.

Both of these men and their spouses hooked up with friends across WBCCI’s twelve regions, traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada. And they remained in close touch with NORVA long after they stopped traveling. This is exactly what being a Club member is all about...so many adventures shared and friendships made, imprinting memories that last a lifetime. Fred and Handley will be in our memories always.

In this second month of my presidency, I want to comment on how well we all did with “Silver in the Street.” I must thank Lew and Cathy Brodsky for supporting me and helping organize Virginia’s first urban rally. Also heavily



President Tom Carmichael in his Farmville office
Photo by Patsy Nagel

involved in the team effort were Larry and Rhonda Evans of the Tidewater Club, and NORVA’s Ed & Beth Jones, Gerry & Pasty Nagel, Janeene & Jim Rider, and Scott Arnold and his friend, Lori Marano-Venezia. What a great job they all did! Janeene and Jim’s Tommy Bahama trailer became our group’s gathering spot. They brought a Halloween theme to the rally which everybody loved. No one person made this rally shine...everyone contributed. Lori teamed with Beth and Pasty to make an open house sign for Saturday. It was spot on, and we had over 100 people looking at our Airstreams. I loved the sign... thanks, y’all. We all “hooked up,” truly enjoyed the town of Farmville, sharing good company and many laughs long into each night.

We have some great rallies coming up soon. The Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally which Lew and Cathy are hosting is probably underway as you read this. It’s a terrific way to end the camping

season. Then, next month, Ed and Beth Jones will host a Holiday Brunch at their beautiful home. Complete the coupon on Page 8 and plan to attend on Dec. 7th.

Let’s look ahead. There will be two non-camping winter rallies as we begin Year 2020. Bill & Sylvia Worrell are hosting the “Grease” Dinner Theater Rally in Fredericksburg on Jan. 12th. NORVA members as well as other club members in Virginia are invited to sign up now. Reserve your seats by completing the coupon on Page 10 of this newsletter and sending it to Bill with your check.

Cecil & Della Hoosier will host the Super Bowl Rally at their lovely home in Amisville on Feb. 2nd. Watch for that coupon in the December issue.

This is a wonderful time of the year for hooking up with Airstream friends for many reasons: Halloween, Thanksgiving, and, my favorite: Christmastime. Come join the fun!

In memoriam: Henry Handley Ward, Jr

WBCCI mourns the passing of a very special Airstreamer

Henry Handley Ward, Jr, known to all as “Handley,” passed away peacefully on Oct. 3, 2019, at the age of 96. Born in Vallejo, Calif., Handley spent much of his childhood in the Philippines, later attending high school in Portsmouth, Va. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he graduated with an A.B. in economics from Stanford University, remaining in the San Francisco Bay Area, before moving with family to Northern Virginia in 1962.

He served an apprenticeship as a machinist in the Norfolk Navy Yard prior to his call to active duty as a Naval Aviation Cadet in 1943. He received his wings and commission in 1945, always expressing his disappointment that he didn’t complete training in time to participate more in the war effort. Handley retired in 1982 after 41 years with the Navy Department as apprentice, machinist, naval aviator, engineering aide, and finally as marine and mechanical engineer. At the time of his retirement, he headed the Submarine Protection Branch at the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and was Project Manager for the Navy’s Submarine Shock Protection Advanced Development R&D project to design and construct submarines that satisfy the Navy’s shock-hardening goals. He later served as a ship shock protection consultant.

Handley is survived by Mildred (“Millie”), his wife of 72 years; three children, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Upon retirement, Handley and Millie bought an Airstream motor home, joined WBCCI, and began their 20-year odyssey traveling 200,000 miles in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. As dedicated Airstream Club life members, Handley and Millie were leaders in the club’s Northern Virginia Unit (NORVA). Handley served as its president in

1987-88. Most notably, he also served at higher levels in WBCCI as one of only two people in NORVA’s 50-year history to serve as an officer at the local, region, and international levels. The Ward’s sold their Airstream in 2006 but kept in touch regularly with their NORVA friends.

Handley pursued his passion for flight throughout his life. He held a Commercial Airman Certificate, flying as a hobby, and built a garage known as “the hanger” to house the small airplane he was building. He was a life member of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), attending its annual Oshkosh fly-in with Millie for many years.

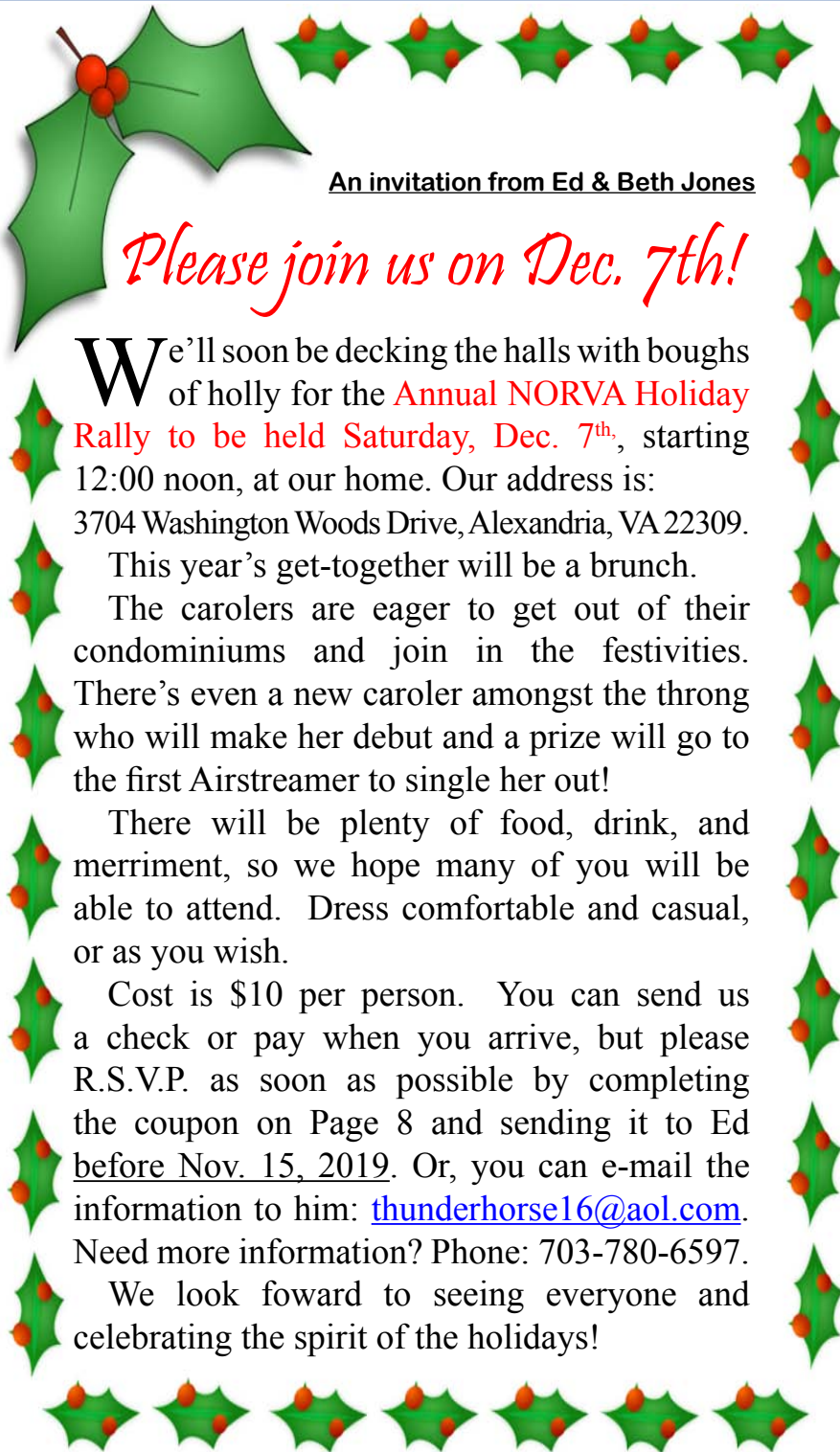
Handley was active through much of his life in Masonic organizations. He was a proud Eagle Scout who inspired his son, grandsons, and nephew to achieve in scouting. He was an intellectually curious man who never stopped learning and adding to his skills, interests and expertise. He could fix anything that was broken inside and outside the house, he was a HAM radio enthusiast, he made wine from his own grapes, he and

Millie played bridge, and he edited newsletters for the local Airstream club, the local EAA chapter and for Greenspring Village Retirement Community where he and Millie have lived since 2006.

There is much more that could be said of Handley and his accomplishments over a long life well-lived, but most importantly he was a loving, caring, generous man who loved his family and his many friends and will be missed by them all.

Family and friends will gather to remember Handley on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019, 2:00 p.m., at the chapel at Greenspring Village Retirement Community, 7400 Spring Village Drive, Springfield, Va.





An invitation from Ed & Beth Jones

Please join us on Dec. 7th!

We'll soon be decking the halls with boughs of holly for the **Annual NORVA Holiday Rally to be held Saturday, Dec. 7th**, starting 12:00 noon, at our home. Our address is: 3704 Washington Woods Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309.

This year's get-together will be a brunch.

The carolers are eager to get out of their condominiums and join in the festivities. There's even a new caroler amongst the throng who will make her debut and a prize will go to the first Airstreamer to single her out!

There will be plenty of food, drink, and merriment, so we hope many of you will be able to attend. Dress comfortable and casual, or as you wish.

Cost is \$10 per person. You can send us a check or pay when you arrive, but please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible by completing the coupon on Page 8 and sending it to Ed before Nov. 15, 2019. Or, you can e-mail the information to him: thunderhorse16@aol.com. Need more information? Phone: 703-780-6597.

We look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating the spirit of the holidays!

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Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020

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tomc@sportsimageinc.com



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





You are invited to NORVA's Annual Holiday Rally

Dec. 7, 2019 - 12:00 noon

To R.S.V.P., please complete this coupon and mail it by **Nov. 15, 2019**, to Ed Jones, 3704 Washington Wood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309.

You can enclose your check for the rally fee, or you can pay when you arrive.

If you prefer, e-mail the requested information (below) to Ed: thunderhorse16@aol.com.

I (We) will attend NORVA's Holiday Brunch at the home of Ed and Beth Jones.

A rally fee check, payable to Ed Jones, is enclosed.

I (We) will pay at the brunch.

Name(s): _____ WBCCI Member# _____

#of people coming: _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____ Rally Fee

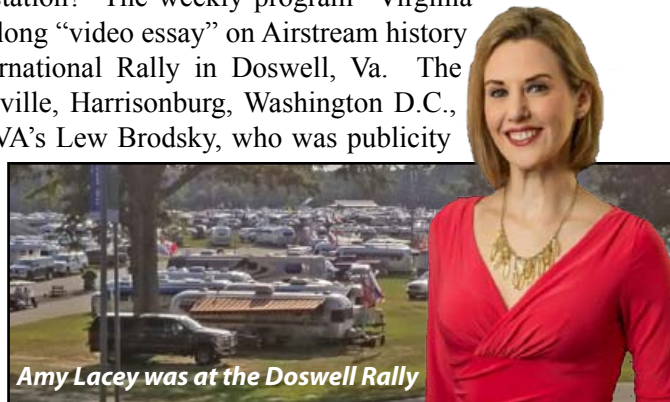
Cell phone: _____ e-mail: _____ @ _____

Airstreamers in Virginia featured on PBS TV stations in October

Perhaps you saw it on your local Virginia PBS TV station? The weekly program "Virginia Currents," hosted by Amy Lacey, featured a four-minute-long "video essay" on Airstream history and Airstreaming, focusing on last July's WBAC International Rally in Doswell, Va. The segment aired on PBS stations in Richmond, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Washington D.C., and elsewhere during October 2019. According to NORVA's Lew Brodsky, who was publicity chairman for the Doswell Rally, "Ms. Lacey and her crew did an excellent job of capturing the Airstream mystique and the enthusiasm of WBAC members."

If you did not see this video, and you are reading this edition of NORVA News on your computer, you can click on this link. ("Allow" any security check):

<https://www.pbs.org/video/airstream-rally-6jt3sr/>



Amy Lacey was at the Doswell Rally

For your November "To Do" list

- If you have not yet paid your WBAC and NORVA dues to renew your membership for 2020, **you must do so by Nov. 15, 2019**, to meet the deadline for being listed in the *Blue Beret 2020 Directory Edition*. Renewals can be done on-line at the WBAC web site:
<https://airstreamclub.org/current-members-membership-renewal>
- Also by **Nov. 15, 2019**, your **R.S.V.P. is due** to attend the Holiday Rally Brunch, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, at the home of Ed & Beth Jones in Alexandria. See the article on Page 7 and the coupon on Page 8.
- Do you want to attend the Fredericksburg dinner theater production of the smash musical hit "Grease" on Jan. 12, 2020? If so, your coupon and **rally fee check must reach rally host Bill Worrall on or before Nov. 30, 2019**. See the article on Page 9 and the coupon on Page 10.

Address change for Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich

The former NORVA members have moved to a new home. Their new address is 44860 Audubon Square, Ashburn, VA 20147. Both Lloyd & Elaine were NORVA presidents and Elaine served as a Region 3 officer. They sold their trailer a few years ago.

January 12, 2020! Enjoying “Grease,” the smash hit musical—

Virginia Airstreamers will get “hopelessly devoted”

You probably saw the 1978 movie, “Grease,” starring John Travolta as “Danny” and Olivia Newton-John as “Sandy.” Newton-John’s rendition of the song, “Hopelessly Devoted to You” melted hearts and reached Number 3 on the Billboard 100 Top Hits Chart. But before “Grease” was a movie, it was a smash Broadway musical hit. It ran on-stage in the Big Apple from 1972 to 1980, achieving a total of 3,388 performances. When it closed, it had set a record for as the longest-running Broadway show up to that time. Measured today however, 15 shows have since bested “Grease”, so it is now the 16th longest-running show in Broadway history.



After the original theatrical production and the 1978 movie, there were four on-stage revivals of “Grease” in New York in 1993, 2004, 2007 and 2008. Major stage productions also toured nationally in 1994, 1996, 2003, and 2008.

Interestingly, some the most memorable songs, including the title song, “Grease”; “Hopelessly Devoted”; and “You’re the One That I Want”; were originally written for the movie version and only later added to the 2007 stage revival. The songwriter for two of the new songs was John Farrar, an Australian, who



was Newton-John’s personal producer (Newton-John is Australian). Happily, these great songs are included in the dinner theater production that the Airstreamers will see. In other words, all those attending the January rally will “get ‘Hopelessly Devoted.’”

“Grease,” the musical, gets its name from the term “greasers,” sometimes used to describe the working-class teenage sub-culture of the 1950s. Written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey in 1971, its setting is the fictional Rydell High School circa 1959. The show’s romantic comedy plot follows ten teens from blue-collar families as they deal with peer pressure, love, and personal values. The show’s music is a nice blend of melodic Broadway and classic early rock and roll.

It’s a fact that many WBAC members are old enough to have lived during the 50s. They remember, first-hand, the high school culture of the 50s and 60s. Seeing “Grease” will be a pleasurable trip down memory lane. Taking that trip means sharing an afternoon of good food and drink with fellow Airstreamers at a warm, indoor dinner theater during the chilly month of January and seeing a great show. Come join your friends at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts

in Fredericksburg. It is conveniently located off Interstate 95, Exit 133.

NORVA returns to this dinner theater for winter rallies because it always has very good food and sets high theatrical/musical production standards for its shows. For \$60 per person, it offers great value in both dining and entertainment. WBAC members from all four Virginia clubs are welcome to participate in this rally.

The hosting NORVA couple this year is Bill & Sylvia Worrall of Marshall, Va. (wwor@wildblue.net).



R.S.V.P. by completing the coupon on Page 10 and sending it to Bill Worrall. Bill’s address is shown on the coupon. Include your check made payable to “NORVA” (Cost: \$60 per person). You must reserve your place(s) by Nov. 30, 2019, so that NORVA can pay the reservation desposit the theater requires in advance.

This is a terrific opportunity to once again become “Hopelessly Devoted” to enjoying great musical theater!

Put the date on your calendar:
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020

Rally participants will be seated as a group. Arrive for seating and dinner by 1:00 p.m. The performance of “Grease” will start around 3:00 p.m.

Reserve your seats now for NORVA's exciting dinner theater rally!

"Grease" the smash hit musical, live onstage!



Rally hosts: Bill & Sylvia Worrall, (H) 540-364-6146; (C) 540-270-3895

Join your Airstream friends for an afternoon of good food and live, on-stage entertainment on **Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020. Dinner: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.; Show: 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

Location: Riverside Center for the Performing Arts, 95 Riverside Parkway, Fredericksburg, VA 22406
The discounted, per-person price for dinner, show, and tax is \$60. For more information visit www.riversidedt.com.

Reserve your seats NOW by sending an e-mail to rally host Bill Worrall: wwor@wildblue.net.

Then, complete this coupon and mail it with your check, **made out to "NORVA."**

Mail to: Bill Worrall, Rally Host, P.O. Box 623, Marshall, VA 20116-0623.

Name(s): _____ Member of which club: _____

Cell phone: _____ E-mail: _____ No. attending: ___ X \$60 = \$ _____

Note: To meet the theater's reservations deadline, Bill must receive your check and coupon by Nov. 30, 2019.



Check this schedule monthly. Dates and venues are subject to change.

Jan. 12, 2020 Sun. afternoon	"Grease" the smash hit musical Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Bill & Sylvia Worrall	July ?	Rally TBD Location: TBD Host: TBD
Feb. 2 Sun. evening	Super Bowl Party Amissville, Va. Hosts: Della & Cecil Hoosier	Aug. 3-8 Mon.-Sat.	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
March 31-April 7 One week	Region 3 Rally Ocean Lakes Family Campground Myrtle Beach, S.C. Host: John Leake	Sept. 11-13 Fri.-Sun.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Location: TBD Hosts: Tidewater Airstream Club
April 24-26 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Maintenance Rally Misty Mountain Campground Charlottesville, Va. Host: Tom Carmichael	Oct. 22-25 Thurs.-Sun.	"Silver in the Street" Urban Rally Shepherdstown, W.Va. Hosts: Gary & Sue Shepard
May 7-10 Thurs.-Sun.	Spring Rally Philomont, Va. Hosts: Peter & Elizabeth West	Nov. 13-15 Fri.-Sun.	Exploring the National Museum of the U.S. Army Fort Belvoir Campground, Va. Hosts: Brodsky & Jones
End of May- Early June June 20-27	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan Leader: Jackson McBroom WBAC International Rally Loveland, Colo.	Dec. ?, 2020	Holiday Social Location: TBD Hosts: TBD