



# Charter Oak Chatter April 2016

# Connecticut

## President's Message

~ Bard Fuller

### "Are we there yet??"

*I*t has been six months since my Airstream has moved waiting for Connecticut's long winter to pass. Camping season is just around the corner.



What a strange winter here in Connecticut. Christmas day with temperatures in the 60's and the first day of Spring we get a snow storm. Who knew!? Before the snow came down we had a robust group of Northerners meet at the First and Last Tavern in Glastonbury. Our luncheon was hosted by Jeff and Lynn Blackwell along with Gene Hickey and Charlotte LaRocca. A welcome was extended to our newest associate members Susan King from South Glastonbury and John Stoddard from Uncasville. We also welcomed Airstream owners and friends of the Burnhams, Ron and Debbie Savaria. It was also good to see long time members Bud Gould and Leila Clark. We hope to see all of you often.



This issue I am introducing the flier for Lobsters at the Marina. It is always the best attended rally in Connecticut. The dates will be June 3-5. I continue to promote the rendezvous at Lake Waramaug and the Tri-State Rally in Greenfield, Mass. which will be the kick off point for the caravan to Quebec. Both are in July. Advanced registration is needed for both venues. Our unit's premier event is the caravan to Quebec City. A special thanks goes out to the large group of members who have been working behind the scenes and will be hosting this week long event: Kathy and Rich Kushman, Larry Lamontagne, Sandy and Mike Sasuta, Joyce and Gilles Rousseau, Ruth and Bob Scott and the entire WBCCI Quebec Unit.



First up however, is my most anticipated rally in the outskirts of Newport, Rhode Island, during the weekend of May 13-15. With over a dozen trailers already signed up we are all eagerly waiting to visit some mansions and museums. See you all there! ~ Bard

## Question

Imagine you are in a sinking rowboat surrounded by sharks. How would you survive? *Page 6*

Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't.

~ Mark Twain

## LINK OF THE MONTH

[Airstream Family](#)





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Spring has sprung, and leaving a surprise of snow up North. Glad it was not a big storm. Our home in CT recently had new tenants.....raccoons, which have done some damage... ripped out our attic vent and tore every water bag around our pool. We are in the process of repair and removal. Things are coming to an end for this season at Travelers Rest, FL.

The smell of the orange blossoms is thick in the air...it's wonderful, if you don't have allergies.

On March 10, 2016 we had a surprise Ladies Luncheon for **FRAN INGALLINERA** as she has moved from Travelers Rest in Dade City, FL, to Palmetto, FL, which is closer to her family. We wish her and **JERRY** the very best, and look forward to visits with them.

It was nice to see **DICK BARTRAM** here for a winter get-a-way and also **CARL & RACHEL AKIN** from the New England Unit.

We send positive thoughts to **RICH & DOTTIE WALBRIDGE** as he is in an amazing clinical trial (Cart T-Cell Therapy) at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, being the seventh person to undergo this remarkable treatment. Also **JOHN TAVARES** is progressing in rehab, with **ROSE** visiting every day.



*Ladies luncheon - we will all miss Fran & Jerry!*

We are looking forward to the exciting summer activities that have been planned. We are handling the July 29-31 Rally at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield, Massachusetts, which is the kick-off for the Region One Caravan to Quebec. Check the schedule/flyers, sign up early and join the fun. ~



## Bard's Good, Bad, & Bizarre Airstreams

There have been many Airstream conversions over the years but this one struck me as being quite different. Is this a Class B or is it a Class C motorhome? How would you classify this conversion?



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## “Cute Ranger Opens Sauerkraut”

~ By Toni Nolder

I left Westbrook on December 27th, overnighted Cape May, NJ and ferried to Delaware and to Newport News, Where I stayed with a High School friend for 3 nights. New Year's Eve I was in Hunting Beach State Park, (Murrells Inlet), SC. Brookgreen Gardens is across the street where they have a spectacular lighting show. The temperature was 75 that night. Then to Hunting Island, SP, which is just East of Beaufort, SC. The site I chose for 30 days is across the street from the Atlantic Ocean. Because SC faces South-ish, there are calm waters until a Nor'easter arrives. About 7:00 p.m. one evening the ISS (Internal Space Station) passed overhead, very thrilling, "Proud to be an American". Great eating Oysters

and Shrimp from local waters, and did kayak in the Lagoon. This is a great State Park, even if it is chilly sometimes and windy.

On to Little Talbot Island in Jacksonville, FL, where I visited with Sue and Bill, from the Antarctica trip in November. Walked around Jacksonville, a very nice city with new interesting buildings, had dinner. I visited the JAX Zoo (where I felt very at home). We spent a day on Amelia Island and Fernandina, a great Historical District, great architecture and shopping possibilities.

Ormond Beach was the next stop, where I kayaked on the Halifax River. That night I was having Sauerkraut and could not open jar, so I went to the Ranger who finally managed to assist. He said it was the first time he ever had a request like that. He is so cute!

On to Titusville, FL where I stayed with a friend from First Grade through High School. Did tours of the area, an Art Show, where I purchased 2 paintings. I was great to see her.

Next it was to the Melbourne Airstream park, Land Yacht Harbor. Would you believe, there was Grace and John Fuller. They were great informing me of the activities in the park and around the area. I did kayak in Turkey Creek Sanctuary where we saw 2 small, one 5-foot and one 15-foot alligator, 3 manatees, many turtles, an Eagle and a Great Blue Heron. Great day.

For 5 days during my stay, I went to Jetty Park in Cape Canaveral, where I visited the Kennedy Space Center, Exploration Tower, went to the beach, watched the cruise ships coming and going and twice experienced Space X rocket launch attempts, once because there was a tug boat in the restricted area. It did go 4 days later, could see it in Melbourne.

The trip home was fun as I stopped and camped, kayaked and had camp fires.

Home earlier this year to set a date for my knee replacement. It is May 24th in Milford, CT. Ouch! Safe travel. ~

## “Precious”

~ By Richard Kushman

**Monday, March 28, 2016 - 2:23 pm**

This is a true story. I am reporting it exactly as it happened. My Team Navigator - you have met her before in these pages - came home from Brooksville, Florida, and in a mildly excited manner:

**She said:** *“We need gas in that car, I went to a Citco station, and you know how I don’t like Citco and every time I tried to pump gas it would shut off, I tried several times and it kept shutting off, so I went to another gas station and the only available pump was out of service so I just headed home and said ‘screw it - if I run out of gas too bad’ so you need to get gas in that car.”*

**I said:** *“I just filled it yesterday.”*

There was now a period of complete silence.....her facial expression became somewhat contorted as elucidation progressed and she rushed out to double check the car’s gas gauge. I sank to the kitchen stool savoring the weak-kneed hilarity of this very very precious moment. ~





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## Rendezvous at Lake Waramaug

Visit the Hopkins Winery on Lake Waramaug. See attached flier for more Information.



## 2016 Charter Oak Calendar

May 13-15	"Experience Newport" Rally (joint with Cape Cod) Portsmouth, RI
June 3 - 5	"Lobsters at the Marina Rally" Spring Business Meeting Portland, CT
June 24-July 4	Int'l WBCCI Rally Lewisburg, WV
July 15-17	Lake Waramaug Rendezvous (joint with Metro NY) New Preston, CT
July 29-31	Tri-State Rally (joint with Cape Cod) Greenfield, MA
July 31-Aug 3	"Road to Region One" Caravan (joint with Cape Cod) Orford, NH & Compton QC
Aug 4-7	Snow Goose Rally – Region One Rally Quebec City - Montmagny, QC
Aug 26-28	"Water-Fire" Providence The Renaissance City Rally (joint with New England Unit) North Scituate, RI
Sept 23- 25	Norman Rockwell Museum Rally Austerlitz, NY
Oct 16	Installation Luncheon Fall business meeting Manchester, CT
Dec 4	Holiday Luncheon TBA



## Lobsters at the Marina Rally & Spring Business Meeting

Reservations now being accepted. See attached flier for details.

## REMINDER

For those that are going to the Region One Rally in Quebec make sure that you request an extra day parking on the Region 1 registration form. Our Charter Oak/Cape Cod Unit caravan will be arriving at the campground Wednesday, Aug 3 for early parking. This will give us an extra day to visit some of the extraordinary attractions in the area. ~

Repartee is something we think of twenty-four hours too late. ~ Mark Twain

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so. ~ Mark Twain



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## Connecticut Airstream Dealership Quest ~ By Bard Fuller

are a few of the locations that once showcased Airstreams. How many of you can remember these locations as Airstream dealerships?



My first recollection was on the Boston Post Rd. in Milford in 1961. This was just down the street from the Shasta dealership. Oh, how I loved the Shasta wings!



In the late 1960's and early 70's former New England Unit WBCCI members Don and Peggy Ryan of Wethersfield owned a Winnnebago dealership and transitioned it to Airstreams. Their first site was on the Berlin Turnpike in Berlin at Deming Rd. It was known as



"Camperama Sales" and later moved to an all new facility a mile south near Sage Park. These were good years for the RV industry and Don Ryan expanded to additional locations including Mill Plain Rd. in Danbury, which had great visibility from I 84. The original building has been replaced by a large liquor distribution facility. He



also had a satellite sales office in Townsend, VT. Here he had his then newly built campground and summer residence that still maintains the "Camperama" name.

The first indoor Airstream showroom included small water pools and



water features was the A-1 Trailer Sales located on Route 66 in Middlefield. Its heyday was in the late 1970's. It also boasted multiple service bays. Interestingly, today it is an evangelical church.



The Roberts' auto group in Meriden took on the new classic Airstream motorhome franchise for just one year in the mid 1980's. It has been said that it was to allow Mr. Roberts to have an Airstream motorhome for his personal use. Today it is the Meriden Hyundai dealership.



For many years Marty's US RV in Taunton, MA dominated the Southern New England Airstream market. In the early 2000's the Valenti auto group placed their newly acquired Airstream dealership in its Pontiac sales facility on Watertown Ave in Waterbury. Here many of us made our acquaintance with George Hernandez as the long time Airstream service manager. He presently owns "Classic RV Repair & Restoration" off I84 across the NY border in Holmes NY servicing Airstreams.

I thought I had identified all the Connecticut dealerships until this past summer when I came across a 1953 Airstream Liner in New Mexico that had an East Hartford sales plaque riveted under the curbside window. Who knew!? So the quest continues. ~







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## FOR SALE

### SILVERADO FOR SALE

2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab LTZ Plus Pkg. Has special MAX TRAILERING PKG (6.2L 425 HP with HD transmission and rear axle). Many options and extras including carpeted bed liner and LEER Bed cap Four wheel drive. White. Less than 35,000 miles. \$34,900.00 Located at 2621 in the village. Contact Dick Bartram 860-480-3713.

**MISC** - Contact Bob Henschel  
860-274-3768

One brand new Catalytic Heater, "Still in the box, never used". Brand Name: "CAT" was \$350.00, selling for \$200.00

2 Strap on trailering mirrors, excellent condition/selling for \$50.00 for the pair.

4 Zip Dee Blue & Silver folding chairs with 4 leg extensions/excellent condition/selling for \$200.00 for all 8 pieces.

### AIRSTREAM

1970 Airstream 25' Caravanner, Exterior refinished by P&S in Ohio. Rock guards, awning, Fantastic Fan, Catalytic Heater, A/C, and Microwave....includes all trailering equipment. Contact Bob Henschel 860-274-3768



## Answer

Stop Imagining..

### Airstream

1999 34'  
Limited

Call Ted  
(860) 841-2604

## APRIL

### BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

04/01 Mike Billings  
04/03 Cynthia Richard  
04/08 Barbara Landman  
04/09 Eileen Bartram  
04/10 Karen Olah  
04/11 Bob & Carolyn Barrett  
04/13 Dan Olah  
04/16 Bob Barrett  
04/18 Bob Sandall  
04/19 Charlie Wilson  
04/24 Franklin Sanders  
04/27 Charles Henschel  
04/29 Charles "Rick" Petrie

## MAY

### BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

05/01 Bard Fuller  
05/03 Joyce Rousseau  
05/05 John J. & Serafina M. Bachar  
05/06 Gilles Rousseau  
05/06 Brenda Nicholas  
05/11 Jean Landry  
05/16 Grace Fuller  
05/17 Raymond Richard  
05/18 Cindy Vieira  
05/21 William Watts  
05/21 John & Grace Fuller  
05/26 Richard & Kathleen Kushman  
05/26 Ted & Lois Price  
05/31 Michael & Sandy Sasuta



## LINKS

Connecticut Unit Website:.....<http://connecticut.wbcci.net/>  
Cape Cod Unit:.....<http://capecod.wbcci.net/>  
Nice assortment of links:.....[www.airstreamtrailers.com](http://www.airstreamtrailers.com)  
Region One Website:.....<http://region1.wbcci.net/>  
Airstream Life:.....<http://airstreamlife.com/>  
WBCCI:.....<http://www.wbcci.org/>



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"America's First Resort"

"Sailing Capital of the World"

"New England's Ultimate Weekend Destination"

**May 13-15, 2016**

## **Cape Cod Massachusetts & Charter Oak Connecticut Units**

**Hosts: Bard & Kathy Fuller / Wayne Rocheleau & Sarah Nelson**

**Melville Ponds Campground** (5 miles to Newport): 181 Bradford Avenue, Portsmouth, Rhode Island  
30 Amp Electric, Water, Dump Station, Off season rates, Pet friendly (Rabies Certificate Required)

**Program:** 2 hot breakfasts provided / Saturday Soup Potluck (hosts providing salad, bread & dessert) /  
Happy Hours / Campfire (weather permitting) / "Experience Newport" at your convenience

**Reservations:** Book campsite directly with Campground @ \$38 /night (401) 539-7011 (winter phone)  
Limited Sites Available or (401) 682-2424 after April 1.

Tell them you are with "The Airstream Group"

**Then send coupon below to Bard Fuller** bardfuller@hotmail.com, Kitty fee & site number if available

**Directions:** **Northbound:** 4.7 miles north on Route 114 from the intersection of Routes 114 and 138. Then  
½ mile west on Stringham Road and ½ mile north on Sullivan Road to entrance. **Southbound:** 1.7 miles south on  
Route 114 from the intersection of Routes 24 and 114. Then ½ mile west on Stringham Road and ½ mile north on  
Sullivan Road to entrance.

\*\*\*\*\*

***"Experience Newport Rally"***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Site Number (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ [Kitty Fee = \$9 /person] Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9 = \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: **Bard Fuller, 36 Panorama Dr., Southington, CT 06489**

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# Lobsters at the Marina Rally



**June 3-5, 2016**

**Riverside Marina, Portland, CT (Buddy rally)**

**Hosts: "The Fuller Brothers": Bard & Russ along with Kathy & Rhona**

Always the most popular rally of the year. This site is a great location, right on the Connecticut River at an active marina. All the sites are under large shade trees and many have water views. All sites have water and electric (minimum of 20 amp). The unit tent will be on the waterfront. Rest rooms and showers are available at the marina office. Great location for kayaking or canoeing. Pet friendly! Note, no dump station available.

**Limited to only 23 sites.**

Friday - Arrive 12 noon or after, 4:30 Happy hour, Dinner on your own, 8pm Campfire & Ice cream

Saturday - 8am Fire up the King Cookers!!!! Boil in the bag omelets

9:30am Charter Oak Unit Spring business meeting

Noon hike to the Top Dog Airstream hot dog concession, 4:30 Happy hour

6:00pm **Russ's awesome Lobster Clam Bake** or Chicken dinners,

7:30pm Trailer Open House (optional), 8:30 Campfire

Sunday - 8am pancake breakfast, 9:30am Sidewalk Cafe

For rally information or camping before or after rally contact Bard Fuller at [bardfuller@hotmail.com](mailto:bardfuller@hotmail.com)

**Directions:** From Hartford or Old Saybrook take Rt. 9 to Middletown then Rt 66 East over the Arrigoni Bridge. At the Intersection of 17A turn Right and continue on Rt 66 for 0.8 mile (4<sup>th</sup> traffic light). Take Right onto Grove St.. Go 0.4 mile. Right on Riverview Rd.. Go 0.2 mile. On your left is the "Riverside Marina" (there are several marinas make sure you are at "Riverside Marina"). Go through marina, look for silver.

From Rt 2 in Marlborough, Ct. travel Rt 66 West 11.9 miles to Grove St. Take a left then follow above.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Example: 2 persons/  
camping rig

Email for updates \_\_\_\_\_

Camping Fee for 2 night weekend with water & electric \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Camping = \$60.00

Kitty fee \$7.00 per adult (< 12 free) Number of adults \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

2 X \$7.00 = \$14.00

Number of Saturday evening Lobster Clam Bakes \_\_\_\_\_ X \$28.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

2 X 28.00 = \$56.00

Number of Saturday evening Chicken Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

0 X \$7.00 = -----

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \$130.00

Make checks to: Bard Fuller

36 Panorama Drive.

Southington, CT 06489



Lobster Clam Bake limited to the first 40 requests.

**Priority to those that are camping overnight and with reservations made prior to May 15.**



SEE MORE - DO MORE - LIVE MORE



# Lake Waramaug Rendezvous

New Preston, CT

**July 15-17, 2016**

**Host: John & Fina Bachar**

*This is a rendezvous with all the attractions of the area plus our group is having a couple of happy hours and a pot luck dinner all overlooking the magnificent Lake Waramaug. Ranked as the most picturesque lake in Connecticut it provides a great opportunity for kayaking and canoeing to checkout all the stunning waterfront properties. Kayak rentals are available on site. A car ride around the lake will take you to quaint New Preston as well as the Hopkins Vineyard Winery with wine tasting, a gift shop and a small eatery. Neighboring Kent has the waterfalls, the Sloane Stanley Museum and a lot of antiques available.*

*We will be staying at Lake Waramaug State park which books through Reserve America. **It is essential to book directly through the website and do it early as the sites are popular and, at only \$17 a night (plus a booking charge), sellout.** Go to [www.Reserveamerica.com](http://www.Reserveamerica.com), establish an account (if you haven't already), and book a site close to your hosts who will be on site 24 . Use the campground map to locate sites. Note: sites 18-30 are choice level sites for larger trailers as well as sites 1-5. As this is a state park it will be dry camping however a dump station is available on your departure. There is a **no** pet policy along with the usual firewood restrictions. All sites are well shaded. Once you have booked your site please notify John Bachar of your location either by mail or email ([jjbachar@snet.net](mailto:jjbachar@snet.net)). A minimum kitty fee for firewood will be collected at the campground if needed.*

## Getting There.

## BOOK YOUR RESERVATION EARLY

From New Milford: Follow Route 202 to New Preston. Turn left onto

Route 45. Take a left onto North Shore Road and follow the signs around the lake to the park.

From Torrington/Litchfield: Follow Route 118 to Litchfield. At the intersection of Routes 118 and 202 in Litchfield, bear left onto Route 202. Follow route 202 to New Preston. Take a right onto Route 45, and then turn left onto North Shore Road. Continue around the lake to the park.



# SEE MORE - DO MORE - LIVE MORE



## Road To Region One

### TRI-STATE RIVER RALLY JULY 29-31, 2016

Franklin County Fairgrounds - Greenfield, Massachusetts

Hosts: Michael & Sandy Sasuta (COCU) and Larry Lamontagne

Please join us for a joint rally with the Charter Oak Connecticut and Cape Cod Units featuring two hot breakfasts and a Saturday pot luck supper, with dessert provided. Some of the area attractions: A scenic drive on Route 2 along the Mohawk Trail and the Village of Shelburne Falls with the Bridge of Flowers and glacial potholes.

Directions: From the I-91 traffic circle (Exit 26): Follow Route 2A through two sets of lights. At the second set take a right onto River Street. From River Street, take your third right onto Wisdom Way. It is a sharp right and brings you to the front entrance of the fairgrounds.

1	<b>TRI-STATE RIVER RALLY JULY 29-31, 2016 - sign up early</b> Two Nights Camping with water & electric \$65.00 Rally Fee for two people 20.00 Host: Mike & Sandy Sasuta Total \$85.00 <a href="#">Rally Location</a> <a href="#">Link to Google Maps</a>
2	<b>The Pastures Campground</b> 499 NH Route 10 Orford, NH 03777 603-353-4579 Web: <a href="#">Pastures Campground</a> Road to Region - <b>OPTIONAL</b> Pay Camping Fee On Arrival - current published rate \$30.00 per night. This is an overnight stop only. Sunday - July 31, 2016 Host: Richard & Kathleen Kushman and Larry Lamontagne Check this box if you will be attending: <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Campground Location</a> <a href="#">Link to Google Maps</a>
3	<b>Camping de Compton</b> 24 Chemin de la Station Compton, QC J0B 1L0, Canada 1 800 563-5277 (819) 835-5277 <a href="http://www.campingcompton.com">www.campingcompton.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@campingcompton.com">info@campingcompton.com</a> Road to Region - <b>OPTIONAL</b> <b>IMPORTANT</b> You must make your own reservation soon. Reserve a site near #312. <a href="#">Campground Site Map</a> Monday & Tuesday - August 1-2, 2016 Hosts: Gilles & Joyce Rousseau and Larry Lamontagne More Information in February Chatter Check this box if you will be attending: <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Campground Location</a> <a href="#">Link to Google Maps</a>
4	<b>Snow Goose Rally – Region One Rally</b> <b>Make your reservation soon - send in Rally Flyer.</b> <a href="#">Region Rally Flyer</a> <a href="#">Camping Location</a>

Tri-State River Rally Fee: \$85.00 - Please Reserve by July 15, 2016

1 - Send form and Check - If only attending 2 or 3 - Send form only indicating which you will attend.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI# \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Sandra Sasuta, and mail to 476 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460

My Phone: 203-494-7467 and Email: [sandysas1001@gmail.com](mailto:sandysas1001@gmail.com)

**Note: Reservations for Compton Campground and Region Rally should be made ASAP.**