

Connecticut

Charter Oak Chatter



February 2017

President's Message ~ Evelyn Watts

Repurposed Airstreams seem to be showing up all over the place. Here is a photo of the two of us inside a 1963 Safari presently being used as a mobile fashion boutique. The trailer was purchased by Bobbi Jo from the Traveling Chic Boutique Franchise in Ashville, NC and resides in Bethel CT. There is no doubt that the Airstream toured the country and is still hard at work.



I have also become "remotely" acquainted with an Airstream named "Pearl" which is doing business as "Two Chix and a Barn" headquartered in Brookfield, CT. Owners Kim and Leslie sell home décor and furnishings at large fairs as well as on the web. The "two Chix" and Pearl are pictured near the barn where Pearl is resting for the winter. Pearl is also a 1963 Safari that had been gutted with the intent of transforming her into a hamburger stand. That never happened, and Kim and Leslie found her for sale on EBAY in New Hampshire. The trailer sports the outlines of two sets of WBCCI numbers so it is safe to say that she has done her share of touring before entering her second life.



January is over, we are into February, and March is just around the corner. That leads us to our St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Rousseau's on Sunday, March 19. Joyce is amazing in the kitchen and Gilles is always a very gregarious host. Mark your calendar and be sure to join us for our first 2017 gathering. I promise you will leave full and happy.

Keep collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. I will be accepting them at every gathering and rally between now and International.

I hope you are all well. I look forward to seeing you once the snow melts.

~ Evie

Question

Which rock group has four members that can not sing? Answer page 4



LINK OF THE MONTH TOP TEN CAMPGROUNDS 2016

<http://www.aluminarium.com/camping/top-10-campgrounds-of-2016/>

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Florida weather has been super this year, and not bad up North. Wherever you are, enjoy the winter.

DICK BARTRAM and **BUD GOULD** were here for a visit...so good to see them. If anyone is vacationing in Florida in our area, please let us know. The **LUPIENS** sure have been busy.....their daughter **LYN** was here for a week, and now their other daughter **CINDY** is here. We all enjoy seeing other people's children when they visit.

JOYCE ROUSSEAU is happy to report that she is doing well after her recent back surgery---Great News!

CHARLIE EGLISE said he is feeling good so far, while taking chemo pills. We wish him the very best.

BARD FULLER helped his dad, **JOHN**, to drive the Expedition and trailer complete with the golf cart, to his location at Land Yacht Harbor, Melbourne, FL. Bard got to enjoy one hour of sunny, 80+ degrees temperature before flying back to the Connecticut snow. Also, **JOHN & GRACE** recently went out on the town (Golden Corral) to celebrate John's 96th birthday - Amazing!

Interesting Fact: I've noticed something, while living in Florida....traffic lights aren't timed and never will be. It seems we measure the distance we travel in time—not miles.

GO PATRIOTS

GO FALCONS



Don & Eileen Allers outside Stowe resort on the way home from great migration.

The Wellness Test of Beth Petrie

While preparing for her wellness exam Beth considered her birth year, her father's birth year, and the march of time. Part of the test is designed to examine alertness with helpful questions to analyze dotage.

First question: "What year is it?"

Beth's answer: "1917" - Eyes wide open, drooping mouth, and stunned silence...

Beth's father was born in 1917 and this is a charmingly true story. ~ RK

Secret Recipe

Meatball Appetizer

~ Evelyn Watts

This is a family favorite. It is so easy even Bill could make it!

Cooked plain meatballs (the frozen ones that are always on sale are fine).

13 oz chili sauce

3 oz grape jelly

Mix together - simmer 30 minutes covered and 10 minutes uncovered. Serve at every Airstream Happy Hour!



The Aller girls Nicole & Frida - just say CUTE!



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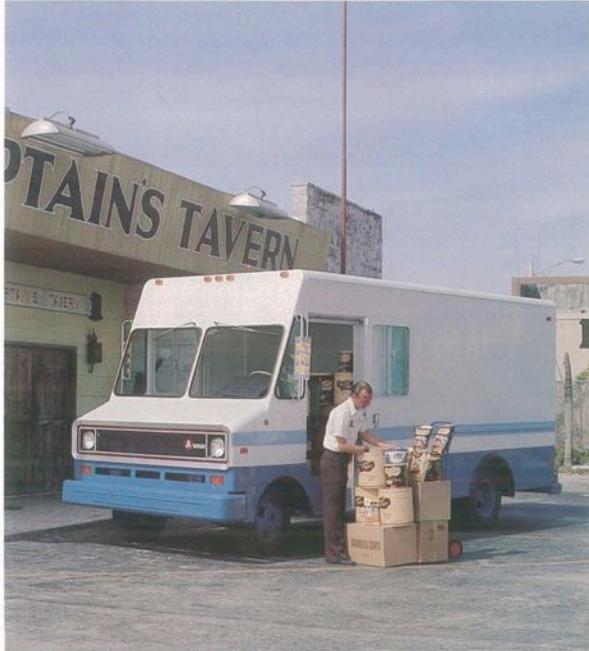


February 2017

Bard's Good, Bad and Bizarre Airstreams

AIRSTREAM AVAN STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

- Aluminum finish.
- Aluminum die cast and extruded structural members.
- Extruded aluminum rub rails.
- Removable body sections.
- Integral drip moldings.
- Lined and insulated roof.
- Tinted safety glass windshields.
- Tinted corner window glass.
- Sliding cab doors with frictionless rollers.
- Positive door seals.
- Automotive type roll-up window in driver's door.
- Insulated inside engine cover.
- Multi-speed electric windshield wipers and washers.
- 40,000 BTU heater and defroster.
- Pedestal type driver's seat (forward tilting four-way adjustable).
- Seat belts.
- Tread plate stepwells.
- Heavy duty tread plate rear bumper with step.
- Tread plate removable transmission cover.
- Driver's fresh air vent.
- Heavy duty hardware and keyed locks on all doors.
- Dome light in cab area.
- Two outside rearview mirrors.
- All wiring in loom.
- 38" wide double opening rear doors with heavy duty strap hinges with windows.
- Door keepers.
- .125" thick aluminum alloy floor in load area.
- I.C.C. marker lights and reflectors.
- .040" one piece aluminum roof.
- Heavy steel corner guards on rear bumpers.
- Aluminum extrusions along bottom of body panel.
- Fully undercoated wheel wells and firewall.
- Heavy duty aluminum crossmembers.



AIRSTREAM AVAN OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Full opening overhead roll-up rear door.
- Full opening rear door, 2-piece, hinged with windows.
- Skylight power roof vent.
- Static roof vent.
- Rear door vent.
- Passenger seat with safety belt.
- Jump seat.
- Tread plate floor.
- Aluminum, steel, plywood lining, pegboard and insulation.
- Metal or plywood partitions.
- Sliding window.
- Roll-up automotive type window (curb side).
- West Coast mirrors.
- Velvac mirrors.
- Cargo floodlights.
- Dome lights.
- Custom racks.
- Doorless driver's side.
- Sun visors.
- Rear wheel rubber fenders.
- Heavy duty front bumpers.
- Full opening hinged 4-piece rear door with glass.
- Clear Plastikote finish for all-aluminum body.
- Spare tire carrier.
- Wheel housing alterations.
- Mud flaps.
- Grille guard on front bumpers.
- Deluxe driver's seat.

SPECIAL FLEET OPTIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.



Long before the Airstream B van there was the Airstream A van. Being manufactured in 1976-77 it may be one of the lesser known Airstream products. It was not a RV at all, but rather Airstream's venture into the lightweight truck market.

Let me set the stage. Beatrice Foods, a large corporate conglomerate, had purchased Airstream six years prior and had brought in a large amount of corporate cash to expand on the Airstream pedigree. Airstream was now producing the Argosy fleet of mid-priced travel trailers and was introducing the first motorhomes under the Argosy name badge. Affluent retirees were purchasing the longer high-end Airstreams in record numbers.

The oil embargo of 1973 Yom Kipper War had brought an awareness to the American public that the heavy steel and wood structures dominating the construction in the RV industry were undesirable with the higher oil (fuel) cost that OPEC was demanding. Aluminum was proving to be very desirable and when you think of aluminum you think of Airstream. Airstream trailers were light-weight in those days benefiting from the heavy use of aluminum and plastic throughout their interiors. This was accompanied by an under-engineered lighter steel frame (soon to be the downfall of nearly all longer 1970 Airstream trailers).

Needless to say aluminum was king and Airstream ventured into the lightweight truck industry in 1976. The step vans were constructed of an all aluminum welded body sitting on a choice of either a Ford or Chevy/GMC chassis. The largest contract was with the United States Postal Service but it was for less than 500 units. Overall sales were disappointing and little is remembered about the Airstream A vans today.

One might catch a glimpse of Airstream history if you have ever seen the 1993 movie "Poetic Justice" starring Janet Jackson. An Airstream A van, postal truck had a prominent role throughout this movie. ~



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FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

02/01	Ray Landman
02/04	John J. Bachar
02/13	Gene Hickey
02/13	David Levinson
02/16	Leila Clark
02/20	Lynn Blackwell
02/21	Michael Sasuta
02/25	Val Galasyn
02/27	Sandi Gould

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

03/01	Carolyn Barrett
03/01	Corinne Burnham
03/06	Juanita Pestretto
03/08	Lydia Rosenbeck
03/08	Mike & Gail Billings
03/11	Michelle Paulishen
03/17	Rhona Fuller
03/17	Clarence (Bud) Gould
03/21	Roger Crockett
03/22	Ruth Crockett
03/23	Laura Weik
03/25	Stephen Kelly

FOR SALE

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 trailing equipment. Contact Bob Henschel 860-274-3768

MISC – Contact Bob Henschel 860-274-3768

One brand new Catalytic Heater, “Still in the box, never used”. Brand Name: “The CAT”. It is vented, & flameless, comes with Honeywell Thermostat & all other parts for complete installation, was \$350.00, selling for \$200.00.
2 Zip Dee Blue & Silver folding chairs with 2 leg extensions/excellent condition/selling for \$100.00 for the 4 pieces.

The United States invariably does the right thing, after having exhausted every other alternative - *Winston Churchill.*

2017 CHARTER OAK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 9 **Region One Florida West Coast Luncheon**
- March 19..... **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** - Home of Gilles and Joyce Rousseau, Southbury, CT
- May 5-7 **Region One Meeting**, Fryeburg, Maine, Ty Mott
- May 19-21 **A Whale of a Time Rally and Spring Business Meeting - Mystic, CT KOA**, Kathy and Bard Fuller
- June 8-11..... **N.Y. City Base Camp**, Liberty Harbor Marina, Jersey City, NJ, Per Hamnquist
- July 7-9 **Green Mountain Getaway Rendezvous** - Bald Mountain Campground, Townsend, VT, Gail and Wiley Downing
- July 22-29 **International WBCC Rally**, Escanaba, MI
- TBA **Region One Luncheon**, Escanaba, MI, Ty Mott
- Aug 17-20 **Who's on first....WATTS on second...I don't know who's on third** - Cooperstown, NY KOA, Evie and Bill Watts
- Sept 8-10..... **Easy Breezy Rendezvous** - Milford, CT beach, Sandy Sasuta and Joyce Rousseau
- Sept 29-Oct 1 ... **Experience Newport Rally** - Melville Ponds Campground, Portsmouth, RI, Joint rally with NEU, Bard Fuller (COCU) and Eddie Carll (NEU)
- Oct. 15 **Installation Banquet and Fall Business Meeting** - Manchester Country Club, Corinne and Jim Burnham
- Dec. 3 **Christmas Party**, location TBA, leader TBA



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LINKS

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

WANTED

Airstream Bambi 16

Contact Ruth Crockett

860-489-9566

ruthcrockett@sbcglobal.net

Answer

Mt. Rushmore

- Editor: Richard Kushman
- Story Teller..... Lois Price
- Info & Pictures:..... Sandy Sasuta
- PicturesGilles Rousseau
- Printing:..... Joyce Rousseau
- Proof Reader: Kathleen Kushman

SEE MORE - DO MORE - LIVE MORE



COCU March Brunch to Celebrate



Sunday March 19, 2017 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Joyce and Gilles Rousseau's home

67 Horse Fence Hill Rd. Southbury

Menu includes - Cheese and crackers

Wine and beer

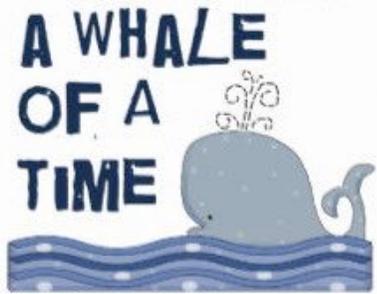
Corned beef/boiled cabbage/vegetables

Assorted desserts

Cost- \$10/person when you come

RSVP to joycezr68@gmail.com by Mar. 15

SEE MORE - DO MORE - LIVE MORE



Charter Oak Connecticut Unit

MYSTIC RALLY

MAY 19-21, 2017

JOIN YOUR HOST BARD & KATHY FULLER AT THE MYSTIC KOA IN NORTH STONINGTON, CT

30 amp elec., water, Wifi, dump station, pet friendly

Friday: arrive after 1 pm / happy hour / If interested: lobsters at Abbott's

Saturday: hot breakfast / Have a Whale of a Time: Mystic Seaport / Mystic Aquarium / Olde Mystic

Village / Mashantucket Pequot Museum / Misquamicut Beach /

Mystic village / Noank / Westerly / Watch Hill

Return for a mealtime happy hour potluck with your favorite hearty appetizers.

Sunday: Continental Breakfast followed at 9 am by the Spring Business Meeting.

Reservations: Book through the campground \$50.39/night (off season group rate)

(860) 599-5101 Ask for the "Airstream Group in the Safari Field" host on site # S-32

(if we do not get minimum number for group rate, a potential increase in rate)

Once you have KOA reservation send in coupon with site and Kitty Fee.

Bard Fuller bardfuller@hotmail.com (860)621-9246

Directions: from central CT I-95 N to Exit 92, Left on Rt 2, first right on frontage Rd., go to the end then Left on Rt 49, go one block, KOA on Right. 118 Pendleton Hill Rd., North Stonington, CT

Mystic - Whale of a Time Rally

Name _____ WBCCI # _____ email _____

Site # _____ (Kitty fee=\$7/person) Number attending _____ x \$7 = _____

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

4th New York City Base Camp

Liberty Harbor Marina, Jersey City, NJ

Thu 6/8/17 – Sun 6/11/17



Come and join us for another long weekend of fun New York City exploration! No need to list everything you can do - there is something for everyone in NYC. Our base camp is very close to the city, providing convenient access to the subway (NJ PATH) as well as ferries to Manhattan.

More units = More fun: The Quebec Unit is back with us and the White Mountains Unit is joining us, too.

Do it yourself program: This rally does not have a formal program, other than when we serve coffee in the morning and when we gather for happy hour in the late afternoon. We'll help you coordinate your interests and excursions with others that are attending by fanning out emails. **This worked really well the last times we held this event.** Everyone ended up doing something they wanted to do, at their pace, often sharing those experiences with old and new Airstream friends.



A few things to keep in mind:

- **Sites are limited – reserve before 1st week of December 2016** or risk not getting a spot
- We cannot guarantee that we can give you a refund, but we'll do our best
- Extra nights are possible – see next page for details

Name: _____ W.B.C.C.I. #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Cell phone: _____ Length (ft): _____

W.B.C.C.I. Unit: _____ Arrival: _____ Nights: _____ Total USD: _____

Send check for **\$320.00** US to: Per Hamnqvist, 2 Queens Way, Merrimack, NH 03054. This includes **3 nights** of camping (water & electricity), plus morning coffee. Email: p.hamnqvist@gmail.com. Cell: 603-866-6440.

Co-Hosts

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • New England | Per Hamnqvist |
| • Ontario | Kerry Mattila |
| • Charter Oak Connecticut | Rich Kushman |
| • Mahoning Valley Ohio | Rick Richardson |
| • Quebec | Robert Dion |
| • White Mountains NH | Mary Lehner |
| • Metro New York | Debbie Hammer |

Reservation Policy and Additional nights at Liberty Harbor Marina

You can request additional nights at the campground through me. The base cost covers 6/8, 6/9 and 6/10 with checkout Sunday 6/11. I will attempt to accommodate that in my conversation(s) with the campground and I will keep you posted. The cost is \$101.65 per additional night including tax. If you pay for six nights at the campground, the 7th is free.

Sample Total costs in USD:

- 3 nights: 320.00 USD (base cost for base camp)
- 4 nights: 421.65 USD
- 5 nights: 523.30 USD
- 6 nights: 624.95 USD
- 7 nights: 624.95 USD (7th night is free)

The campground policy on reservations has always been: 50% down, no refund. If you cannot come, please try to find an alternate. So far we've done well on full refunds by shuffling around. But that is not a guarantee. Plan accordingly.

About the campground

The prime value of this campground is its excellent proximity to the city. Its basically gravel parking on somewhat narrow sites. During the 2011, 2013 and 2015 events, their WiFi was marginal. During the 2013 event we experienced an unexpected heat wave (mid 90s, 32C+) and the campground's power was inadequate to run all the A/Cs during the day. Otherwise, the campground is clean. Choices of over the air TV stations are plentiful. It has a shared dump station. It has a shower house too.

If you look up Liberty Harbor Marina with Google Maps you'll get a better feel for its fantastic location. A commuter ferry to Wall St leaves the dock by the campground (week days). A second ferry that also operates on weekends leaves by Warren St (short walk) for the World Financial Center. A 15 minute walk from the campground is the Grove Street subway station that can take you to the World Trade Center and beyond. The ferry to Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty is right next door.