



December 2011

## Presidents Message

Jim Burnham



## Club Events

Needed:  
Host for  
February Dinner  
Meeting.

March 4, 2012

### Spring Luncheon

Max Amore, Somerset Mall, Glastonbury, CT - 12:00 Noon

Lynn Blackwell & Charlotte LaRocca  
(860) 918-4107

## Question

You use this all year and just around Christmas, it seems to wear out! What is this?

Answer Page 5

## Links

Connecticut Unit Website

<http://connecticut.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/>

**Best Wishes To All  
This Holiday Season!**



We had a wonderful dinner meeting this past Sunday hosted by the Price family - Ted, Lois, Allison, and Lisa. Twenty eight smiling Airstreamers full of the Christmas Spirit were in attendance.

Fond memories were shared by many during the dinner supporting my theme for this coming year. Send your story or pictures to Richard Kushman for the Chatter or directly to me to pass on.

We need a host for the February 5th dinner meeting and also someone to host a rally or rendezvous in October.

**WANTED:** A club historian, benefits to include past notes and print material to study.

Ruth Crockett passed on to me the current material which was beautifully done.

### Warm memories from Jim and Corinne:

We visited a rally in Monson/Palmer around 1997/98, to meet the Charter Oak gang. They could not have been nicer to us, what a huge warm and fuzzy feeling we received. Two of the special people we met that afternoon were Bud and Jessie Gould. They took us in like their own kids and gave us hugs and cake. Our thoughts are with Bud and Jessie this season, they certainly exemplify the warm spirit that is part of the Christmas season and part of our club. ~

## Holiday Party

~Lois Price

Dakota of Rocky Hill opened its doors to 28, cheerful and hungry guests for COCO's annual holiday bash.

Directly from the North Pole (and time away from his heavy schedule) appeared Santa "Ted" (without his tiny Reindeer). To help Santa was a beautiful maiden (Lisa Price), in a trendy" red velvet dress and bonnet. This colorful pair greeted us as we found our way to the festivities. Also on hand to assist, daughter Allison was an "upscale" elf.

After a happy, happy hour, Jerry Ingallinera gave the Blessing and then it was onto "what's really important" - the food - a bountiful, delicious buffet.

Following dinner, "remarks", by President Jim Burnham, welcoming and urging us to participate in club activities as well as contribute stories for The Chatter.

## Leaping Lords

~ Ted price

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?



This week, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.-
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol...so pass it on if you wish.'

Merry Christmas Everyone

## Christmas at Arlington Cemetary



This is the sixth year that Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, is distributing wreaths to all VA national cemeteries and state Veterans cemeteries in a nationwide program called *Wreaths Across America*. It is the 20th year that the Company -- which created the program -- will send thousands of wreaths to be placed at individual gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery and other locations across the country. Company President Morrill Worcester seeks to recognize Veterans, active duty military and their families, and his goal is to remind the public to remember Veterans and teach children the value of freedom. ~

## Is There a Santa Claus



Is There a Santa Claus? was the title of an editorial appearing in the September 20, 1897 edition of the New York Sun. The editorial, which included the famous reply "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus", has become an indelible part of popular Christmas lore in the United States. In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, was asked by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia (1889-1971), whether Santa Claus really existed. Virginia had begun to doubt there was a Santa Claus, because her friends had told her that he did not exist. Dr. O'Hanlon suggested she write to the New York Sun, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." The letter was replied to by Francis Church -- an editor. Its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language. ~

[Read original editorial page 3.](#)



## Pink on the Bank

~Rick Cipot

During our last outing of the year, Sandi and I were very surprised to actually find a Pink Flamingo on the Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk. We had actually headed down to find some turkey which we did Thanksgiving day once we arrived at the campground. Ten wonderful relaxing days on the shores with no schedule, no phones and no work. This is actually a big deal for us since we are very far from retiring. Funny thing, when you are a couple during Thanksgiving, one side of the family understands you needing to be at the others for the holiday and then expects you next year in return. When you tell both sides you are going camping with your Airstream, you hear all about it! The first year we skipped town we took Sara (my daughter) to Plymouth. We got away with that one. Young child going on an educational trip to visit the Pilgrims, very acceptable. But years later Sandi and I are still on the road at Thanksgiving and I still get the guilts from my Mom. Hey, I'm a grown adult heading into the older days bordering the "Golden Years" (55) leave me alone. Oh sorry, back to the Pink Flamingo; The above photograph shows that in very rare occurrence the Pink Flamingo migrates North during the fall while so many other species of birds are heading south. We encountered flocks of pelicans flying overhead southward but this one flamingo sunning on the shores caught us by surprise. It is only appropriate that we spotted this bird for many reasons; my first feature in Airstream life magazine was about the Pink Flamingo and Airstreams. I have a collection of several multi colored flamingos signed by Don Featherstone and we are hosting the Pink Flamingo Ball next year at the region rally. If you were to visit our stationary home you would encounter photographs, PJs, post cards and the list goes on. So fellow Charter Oak members; come spring Sandi and I expect to start seeing more Pink Flamingos popping up at rallies. ~



And what happened, then? Well, in Whoville they say - that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day. And then - the true meaning of Christmas came through, and the Grinch found the strength of TEN Grinches, plus two! ~Dr. Seuss



## Is There a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

" VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

" 115 WEST NINETEENTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, VIRGINIA, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIRGINIA, say, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## Thoughts and Cares

Jessie Gould  
Dottie Walbridge



I have a Thousand Trails Membership that my father (Milford Good, WBCCI #4699) left me when he passed away in 2006. We have not used it enough to justify keeping it, so we are offering it for sale. If interested, please contact us.



Paul or Judy Good (WBCCI #29883)  
Phone (808) 396-6767  
Hawaii time zone -5hrs from East Coast  
pajbg@me.com

Visit the COCU Web Gallery for more pictures!

### Party from page 1

Barbara and Ray Landman were introduced. They are presently Affiliate Members of Charter Oak; they will be moving to Connecticut next year and will be members of our unit.

Parker and Lorraine Boylan were also introduced as "new" members and \$130 was collected for The Children's Home in Cromwell. Thank you all.

Before we said our good-by's, a "free" raffle was held.

Ho, Ho, Ho - hope to see you next year? ~



Jerry  
&  
Fran

January  
20, 2012





## Why You Should Host A Rally

~ Richard Kushman

Thinking about back in the day and the efforts put in by some of our senior members when planning and orchestrating a rally has fueled this little puff. I will single out a long ago rally at Hammonasset State Park hosted by Bud & Jessie Gould with supporting cast where Jessie cooked (Jessie always cooked) and Bud supplied coolers stocked with food, the club tent, tables, and two garden tractors and trailers for blindfolded team racing. (Yeah - blindfolded team racing)! There were many other gatherings as well that required and received a good deal of Airstreamer effort.

People are crazy and times are strange  
I'm locked in tight, I'm out of range  
I used to care, but things have changed

~ Bob Dylan

Sure, some things always change but not our basic need for friendship. I would love to participate in another blindfolded tractor race and maybe win this time but my focus here is why you should not hesitate hosting a rally with the main goal of just getting together to keep our friendships alive.

- Support Charter Oak Connecticut – be involved.
- Bring your own new ideas – you do not need a tractor (come on give me another chance)!
- Consider a simple rendezvous.
- Just do pot luck – or be as creative as you like.
- Frugal is good – friends not flash.
- Get a co-host or join with another unit.
- There are always members who chip in to help.
- Have fun being creative with new locations.
- We are campers – no hookup during moderate weather is fun.
- Running a rally is not a competition – do your own thing.
- Get the word out – advertise your event.

Our club only really needs two things, AIRSTREAMS and FRIENDS! Thor makes the Airstreams but you and I make the friends. ~

The main artwork for the top logo on the front page is by Paige Bridges, visit her website. Very nice trailer art.

[www.vintagetraveltrailerart.com](http://www.vintagetraveltrailerart.com)

[Answer Page 1](#)

A Calendar.

Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it. ~Richard Lamm

## The ABC's of Men and Women

~ Sandy Sasuta

Listening with a bit of loving care will make you both better at relationships.

Some hints:

- A. MEN speak when they have something specific to say. WOMEN talk as a way of becoming closer.
- B. MEN talk about personal problems in general terms. WOMEN prefer nitty-gritty details.
- C. Men don't know what you want until you tell them. WOMEN think that if a man truly cares, he shouldn't have to ask what she wants.

## Region One Florida

Jan 12 - Region One FL East Coast Luncheon, 11:30 AM  
Thursday - Golden Coral, 880 Palm Bay Road –Palm Bay, FL—Russ Melocik 352-874-7213

Feb 1 - Region One West Coast Luncheon, 11:30 AM  
Wednesday—Buffet City, 13235 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL, Ray Richard 203-804-3732

## TRAVELS WITH BUCK RIVET

~ by Russ Melocik

### Chapter Seven

... that nice shiny riveted aluminum harness. Then we'd have to figure out whether you get registered as a tow vehicle or as a ...

Watch for another short chapter in the next issue... maybe!

## Hey! Did you know?

Gilles Rousseau has agreed to help with club photography and upload pictures to the club website. Check out the web gallery. **Thanks Gilles!!**

## Chatter Staff

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## Couscous Salad

~ Kathy Kushman

- 2 cups Israel couscous – browned in some oil
- ½ cups slivered almonds (toast at 350 for a few min. til golden brown)
- 4 cups chicken broth
- ¼ cup cilantro chopped
- 1 tsp. rosemary chopped
- 1 tsp. thyme chopped
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cut up granny smith apple

To the browned couscous add the chicken broth, boil until liquid is absorbed. Mix all ingredients with couscous and dress.

### DRESSING

- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- 3 TBS maple syrup
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- shake or whisk: add to salad and toss.

### Notes:

I used chicken base with parsley rather than chicken broth since it is more flavorful and does not contain any MSG.

I also rinsed and drained half the couscous after it was cooked then reintroduced it to the rest of the cooked couscous to reduce the 'stickiness'.

I did not use any salt. The chicken base is salty enough.

## One Ringi Dingi, Two Ringi Dingi, Three Ringi Dingy

~ Lois Price

Ted and I decided to get a new cell phone; the old one was heavy, cracked, parts falling off – even in Ted's conservative mind it was time.

Verizon seemed to give us the best deal, so switching from our old carrier was an easy decision. We had two land phones, a princess and a rotary (remember those?). Happily when a call came in all our phones rang and could be answered in all locations. The answering machine worked and on a good day we could figure out how to transfer a call. Now the land phone is under the bed while the other sits silent and useless next to Ted's chair.

Because our old cell phone was really an old cell phone we had to transfer our contact information by hand – one at a time.

What use to be happy hour has become a frustrating lesson in phone programing. Of all my skills I always thought phone use was at the top of the list.

As time goes by, Ted and I will figure out a system that works for us. To be on the safe side you might want to use the good old USPS mail, if time is not an issue. Until then, I don't know what to tell you but keep us in the loop.

If you do call, don't hang up – we have a nine room house and it could take us a while to answer. We will be anxiously awaiting your "ring" – or 2, or 3, or 4, or 5 ringi diigi. ~

## Concerning Hearing

~ By: T. J. Flanagan

Submitted by: Fran Ingallinera

This is being written  
For the many just like me  
Although we're not completely deaf  
Have a hearing problem you see..

Believe me, it's not much fun  
And I say this without reservation  
To be part of a crowd but unable to be  
Part of the conversation.

You can turn off background noise  
While conversing around a table  
But for those of us with hearing aids  
To do this we are unable.

We can control the volume,  
This is very true  
But if we turn off the background noise  
We also turn off you.

So be a little patient with us  
Sure, it takes us a little longer  
But remember whenever we speak to you  
Your ears are so much stronger.

If you'd like to know what we go through  
And realize our ears  
Try walking around for just an hour  
With cotton in your ears.

Remember what Helen Keller said,  
Although I'm not sure she's right  
But if given the choice of one of her senses  
She chose hearing over sight.

If I ever had to make that choice  
I'd compromise I fear  
I would humbly suggest  
I keep one eye and one ear.

They're finding out now that no Christmas is coming. They're just waking up, I know just what they'll do. Their mouths will hang open a minute or two, then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry, "Boo Hoo." ~ *The Grinch*

Those Whos are hard to frazzle, Max. But, we did our worst, and that's all that matters. ~*The Grinch*

## How to Tell if You're a Grinch

1. You reuse last year's Christmas cards and send them out under your own name. (5 points)
2. You steal light bulbs from you neighbor's outdoor display to replenish your own supply. (5 points, 10 if neighbor's whole light sets or lighted Santa goes out)
3. You have dressed a dog or cat as Santa Claus, elf helper, or reindeer. (10 points for each; if you dressed an endangered species, 5 extra )
4. You put out last year's stale candy canes for children. (1 point for each piece of sticky candy). If you put out a chocolate or marzipan Santa also, add 10 points.
5. You enclose a shoddy and inferior gift from Walmart, K-Mart, or The Dollar Store in a Bloomingdale's or other prestige box to impress your friends. (5 points for each infraction).
6. You make collect long distance phone calls to your family on Christmas Day. (5 points, 10 if from a cell phone claiming you are stuck in a phone booth).
7. At the office Christmas party, you horde huge stockpiles of goodies for later consumption at home. (5 points; 15 points if you use this stuff for your own party)
8. You steal the wreath from a parked car to use on your own. (5 Points)
9. After an invitation to a friend's house, you bring a commer-

cially produced fruitcake and try to pass it off as home made. (5 points; 15 points if the fruitcake is from last year).

10. Any stealing from the Toys-for-Tots collection bins is a definite no-no. (20 points)

Evaluate your score on the "Grinch Scale" from 20 to 100.

20-30: You are just a cheese-ball.

30-50: You are an apprentice in Yuletide larceny and are probably wanted by the police for overdue parking tickets.

50-100: Grinch, move over. The Meyer Lansky of Christmas crime has arrived.



And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.  
~ Dr. Seuss

## December 2011

Birthdays    Anniversaries    Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holiday Dinner						Susan Johnson
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Charlotte LaRocca			Dale Latta	Carol Potter	Raymond Jefferson
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Robert Meyer			Pete Larson		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas	Pat & Frances Simmons	Larry Larson				New Year's Eve

## January 2012

**Birthdays**   **Anniversaries**   **Events**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3 John Fuler	4	5	6 	7
8 Fran Stearns	9	10	11	12	13 Charles "Rock" & Beth Peters	14 Russ & Fran Stearns
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Jerry Spalderson Howard M. Knight	17	18 Jane Sanders	19	20 Judy & Fran Spalderson	21 
22 	23	24 Lance Raby	25	26	27 Lance Soary	28
29	30	31				

## February 2012

**Birthdays**   **Anniversaries**   **Events**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ray Lindstrom	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 John J. Barker
5 Richard Griffin	6	7	8	9	10 Pet Innovation	11
12 Linda's Birthday	13 Glen Hickey David Leonard	14  Valentine's Day	15	16 Linda Clark	17	18
19	20 President's Day Lynn Becknell	21 Michael Savits	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25 Val Gaborzyn
26	27 Geri Gould	28 Linda Clark	29			

No Events and No Chatter in January