

NORVA News

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Tunes by Boone, flowers bloom, and travels resume

NORVA President Ed Jones welcomes spring as the season to smell the flowers and hit the road

Back in February, I heard a newscaster say that Pat Boone was on the set to share his memories of his good friend, Billy Graham, who had just passed away. Pat Boone! I hadn't seen him in years. Immediately, and uncharacteristically (and I am not making this up), I broke into song: "On a day like today, we passed the time away, writing love letters in the sand." Simultaneously, just a few feet away, Beth burst into song: "April love is for the very young la la la,"...meaning she can't remember the rest of the words. Staring at each other for a laughable moment, we lapsed into personal memories of listening to that golden voice as we grew up. Glancing at the TV, we were relieved to see a Pat Boone who had aged very nicely—a pleasant contrast from the Pat Boone we had seen 15 or 20 years ago when he was desperately trying to look "cool," wearing a metallic macho vest and no shirt. Better than a shirtless Vladimir Putin, but not much.

Besides love, April welcomes spring. Here in Northern Virginia, I think April is one of the most beautiful months of the year. Azaleas dominate the landscape with blossoms of 50 shades of vibrant color often framed by gorgeous but stinky Bradford Pear trees. Around the Tidal Basin in D.C. the Japanese Cherry Blossoms delight tourists and locals alike.

April's warmer weather also sets in motion our desire to hit the road again. On the heels of March's terrific Breakout and Maintenance Rally which Tom Carmichael masterfully organized (Many thanks, Tom!), we look forward to fun, fellowship and adventure at the Region 3 Rally in picturesque Myrtle Beach, S.C., on April 25-29th. The deadline for registration is April 8th so there is still time to



Ed Jones

lock in a great time, but don't delay (see the article on Page 3). But two days before that, April 6th is the new deadline to register for Jackson and MaryAnn McBroom's exciting NORVA club caravan, "Grant and Sherman and the Civil War in the West" which will run from May 21st to June 9th. This caravan promises to be thought-provoking, pleasurable, and well worth your time. As an added bonus, springtime in the South will be stunning. There are still vacancies, so come join us!

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The spring Breakout & Maintenance Rally was a (chilly) blast!

By Gerry & Patsy Nagel. Photos by Tom Carmichael

The first rally of the season was a joint rally, hosted by NORVA's Tom Carmichael of NORVA, at the Fredericksburg KOA, March 23-25. A total of nine rigs participated, including members of the NORVA, Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley clubs. The weather was cold and windy but skies were clear. The heavy snow that fell a few days earlier had already melted.

The Rally began Friday evening with a Happy Hour at the campground's meeting room, followed by a Pot Luck supper. As usual, the Airstreamers brought a variety of good food and no one left hungry. After supper, everyone informally introduced himself or herself, and prepared a list of topics for discussion at the following day's maintenance session.

Saturday was spent with a welcome guest: D.J. Mastin, a professional Airstream technician. All day, D.J. was a sounding board and source of knowledge for lively discussions, shar-

ing information on the following topics: checking the breakaway switch before towing, various hitches and sway control, batteries (maintenance and storage), propane, water heaters, refrigerator, A/C and heat pump, tires, tire pressure monitoring systems (Doran and EZ Tire), lighting, electric (grounding trailer), exterior cleaning and waxing. D.J. explained how to use a single 2000 watt generator to run a trailer's AC with "soft start" (check out: <https://www.microair.net/collections/easystart-soft-starters/products/easystart-364-3-ton-single-phase-soft-starter-for-air-conditioners?variant=30176048267>).

(Story continues on Page 5)

Rally photos, top to bottom:

-D.J. Mastin, a professional Airstream technician, offers maintenance tips to the rally attendees.

-Gerry & Patsy Nagel with Kathy & Edgar Simmons.

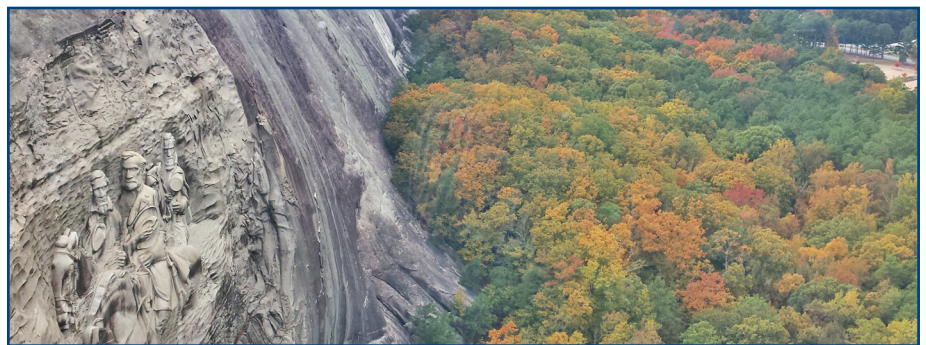
-The group dines out at Angela's Italian Restaurant on Saturday evening.



Still time to join the spring NORVA club caravan

Deadline extended! "Grant & Sherman and the Civil War in the West." Sign-up by April 6th.

Time is rapidly running out to sign up for this year's NORVA Club Caravan. The deadline has been extended to April 6th to register for this adventure, which will run from May 21 through June 8. In addition to learning about the roles played by Union Generals Grant and Sherman in the Civil War's western theater, the caravan will visit places of historical importance in Birmingham, Ala., and Jackson, Miss.; the original (1839) Mississippi State Capitol; antebellum homes in Natchez and Vicksburg, Miss.; an antique doll museum, the place where Coca-Cola originated, a WWI-WWII air museum, and Margaret Mitchell's (*Gone With The Wind*) home in Atlanta, Ga. There will be a trolley tour in historic Savannah, with a stop at the new and unique American Prohibition Museum.



The NORVA caravan includes a three-night stay at Stone Mountain Campground in Atlanta, Ga.

The caravan will begin in Dover, Tenn., on Monday, May 21, and will conclude Friday evening, June 8, during its final three-night stop in Savannah, Ga.

The kitty fee is \$1,541 for two people; \$1,224 for a single. The fee covers 19 nights at seven campgrounds, pre-arranged tours of battlefields, museums, and entry costs at other venues. A \$300 deposit is due by April 6 to hold your

space. You will pay the balance of your kitty fee on May 7.

Participation is open to all W.B.C.C.I. members. Caravan leaders Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom hope for a good turnout from all four Virginia Airstream clubs. For additional information, or if you have any questions, please call Jackson McBroom at 757- 345-0060 (Home), or 757-746-6535 (Cell).

Sun, Sand, Surf, & Silver

Region 3 still taking reservations for the April 25-29 Rally in Myrtle Beach



It's almost a certainty that 100 Airstreams or more will converge on Myrtle Beach, toward the end of this month. They will assemble April 25-29, 2018, for the Region 3 Rally to be held at Ocean Lakes Campground in this popular South Carolina beach resort town. If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to sign up...but do it quickly...registration for this big Rally closes on April 8. The Rally fee is \$75 per adult. To register now, copy and paste this URL into your browser: <http://region3.wbcc.net/files/2018/01/2018-Region-3-Rally-Registration.pdf>.

Make your campsite reservation separately and directly with the campground (see below).

Here's what you need to know:

Region 3 is one of 12 W.B.C.C.I. administrative regions which, together, comprise the whole of the International Airstream Club. Region 3 includes 19 local Airstream clubs in five states:

Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. As you know, NORVA is one of the four W.B.C.C.I. clubs in Virginia.

Annually, Region 3 holds its rally somewhere within one of its five states. Last year it was in Hiawasse, Ga.; this year it is at Myrtle Beach, the famous Oceanside vacation spot where their ad campaign slogan is "Let go and unwind, on Myrtle Beach time." With a busy agenda spread over four days, several "happy hours" will help achieve the "letting go" part, but Airstreamers will probably get wound up partaking in lots of scheduled activities.

The R3 planners have labeled their rally, "Sun, Sand, Surf, & Silver." It kicks off with a welcome reception on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 25, followed by an opening ceremony that evening. Thursday will feature talks about safe towing and unit leadership, a free afternoon for exploring and

sightseeing, and a nighttime ice cream social where club members are encouraged to tell everyone about their "worst Airstream Experience." Prizes will be awarded for the best told tales. On Friday, rally attendees can look forward to a lecture from a chef about preparing "Easy Meals in Your Airstream," a seminar on systems maintenance and repair, Dutch oven cooking, and an evening with a storyteller. Saturday, April 28, will be the last full day of rally activities and will include a Region business meeting, open discussions, a catered dinner, and evening performances of Irish dancing and Celtic music that rally organizers say "should not be missed." Sunday, April 29, will be the day to depart for home or other travel destinations.

If you want to attend this rally, you must make your camping reservation now by calling the Ocean Lakes Family Campground directly at 1-800-722-1451. It is located at 6001 South Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29575. A block of sites is being held at a special group rate, so tell them you are part of the Airstream group. You can arrive just for the Rally, or you may book a site for early arrival (as early as Sunday, April 22). Remember, the official rally events begin Wednesday, April 25.

Many NORVA couples are attending this rally. Will you be there?



Ocean Lakes Family Campground

St. Patrick's Day tornado damages Georgia Airstream park

"Top of Georgia" expected to remain closed until late May

National Weather Service officials have verified that a severe storm which caused considerable damage to The Top of Georgia Airstream Park was a tornado. The twister struck late on Saturday night, March 17.

Park president, Bill Wild, reported, "We have many, many trees down. Our signature pine tree is down, and the Pine Shelter has a broken foundation and is leaning badly. The bridge had a huge tree across it. Many trees are toppled with their roots exposed. The fire pit and deck area are covered with fallen trees. At least one of the walk bridges is smashed and in the bottom of the creek. The main pavilion has a tree lodged in the left rear corner. The office and maintenance building has been crushed by a huge tree. The tool shed was hit by another large tree. The large shed at the top of the property where we store the John Deere tractor (the barn) has been destroyed by a gigantic pine."

According to reports, nobody was killed or injured, and there was minimal trailer damage. The two park entrances, the bridge, the main driveway, the lower loop, the upper loop, and the road to the barn have all been cleared by volunteers.

"We have filed an insurance claim and the EMA and EPA have been on site," added Wild. "The electric has been restored in some areas of the park, and we have phones and Internet. However, the upper park must remain without power because of the extensive

damage. Some buildings are at risk of collapse. It is a dangerous place to be."

Because of the tornado's wrath the park is now closed, but Wild hopes to reopen it by Memorial Day. "That is very optimistic," he admitted, but Wild also has "a lot of confidence in this

club's ability to rise to the occasion."

"Top of Georgia" is one of eleven such parks in the U.S. dedicated to Airstream camping. It is located near the town of Helen, Ga., in the mountainous northeastern corner of the state.



Photos by Bill Wild and Casey Kauffman show storm damage to the park.

April celebrations

Birthdays:

5	Harry Zint
9	Cathy Brodsky
13	Elizabeth West
19	Jean Stanley
28	Sheila Cane
29	Andi Gabler
30	Joyce Gregory
30	Gaye Walker

Anniversary:

23	Peter & Elizabeth West
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Breakout Rally (cont. from Page 2)

Two general suggestions: turn water spigot off if you are going to be away from the unit for several hours, and carry extra fuses. Other products described were “Window Popper” to open stuck windows (<http://www.seeyoudowntheroad.com/shop/window-poppers/window-poppers/>), and Timbren suspension system to upgrade suspension on your tow vehicle (<http://timbren.com/timbren-ses/>). Another good suggestion when caravanning is to ask the leader if there can be a Bright Ideas Session where participants exchange ideas and tips.

After the session, D.J. stayed to help several of the participants solve problems they were having with their rigs. His knowledge, expertise, and assistance was very much appreciated. D.J. will soon be opening his own Airstream service facility in central Virginia. He will call it “Broken Rivets RV Service,” and can be reached at 804-994-1405.

On Saturday evening the group visited Airstream of Virginia and toured a 30-foot Classic, 27-foot Globe Trotter and a Tommy Bahama Interstate. Then the dealership sponsored a tasty dinner for everyone at Angela’s Italian Restaurant in nearby Spotsylvania.

On Sunday morning there was a wrap-up meeting at the campground where coffee and pastries were enjoyed. Tom thanked everyone for attending and said NORVA intends to make this an annual event.

NORVA News is published periodically for the members of the Northern Virginia (NORVA) Airstream Club, W.B.C.C.I. Club #3-110.
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NORVA EVENTS CALENDAR

Note: Listed are events during the 2017-2018 term of the club's current leaders. Check this schedule monthly. Dates and venues are subject to change.

Oct. 28, 2017	NORVA Business Lunch Fredericksburg, Va.	April 25-29	Region 3 Rally Myrtle Beach, S.C. Hosts: Region 3 & S.C. Clubs
Nov. 2-4	Oyster Festival Rally Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky	May 21-June 9	NORVA Unit Caravan Grant & Sherman and the Civil War in the West Leader: McBroom
Dec. 2	Holiday Rally Williamsburg, Va. Host: McBroom	June 8-9 June 23-30	Houstonfest, Galax, Va. W.B.C.C.I. International Rally Salem, Ore.
Jan. 21, 2018	"Mamma Mia" Rally Riverside Center Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Host: Ulrich	July 20-22	Valley Rally Harrisonburg & Bridgewater, Va. Host: Simmons
Feb. 4	Super Bowl Rally Amissville, Va. Host: Hoosier	Aug. 6-12 Postponed to early Oct. 2018:	Old Fiddlers Rally, Galax, Va. Mountain Rally, Highland Haven Airstream Park, Copper Hill, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky
March 23-25	Breakout & Maintenance Rally Fredericksburg, Va. KOA Host: Carmichael	Sept. 21-23	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Holiday Trav-L-Park Virginia Beach, Va. Host: NORVA - TBD

NORVA CLUB CARAVAN

Grant & Sherman and the Civil War in the West

May 21 through June 8, 2018

Deadline to sign up has been extended to April 6th! See article on Page 2.

To join this caravan, please complete and mail this coupon by April 6 along with your \$300 deposit check payable to:
Jackson McBroom, Caravan Leader, 1661 River Ridge, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Name(s) _____

Member of which Airstream unit? _____ E-mail _____ @ _____ Phone _____

WBCCI Membership # _____ Address: _____

How many participants? _____ Deposit enclosed \$300.

Note: You can e-mail the information requested on this coupon to jtmbrm@aol.com.

You can call Jackson for more information: 757-345-0060

