

NORVA News

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NORVA President Dick Arnold is back home in Virginia, but soon heads for Florida, as—

The Texas caravan winds up an eventful year

In my last column, Jane and I reported from Del Rio, Texas, where we were dealing with our broken-down truck and reminding ourselves that Airstreamers must always “be flexible!” Doesn’t it seem that whenever you experience a breakdown, it’s on a Saturday or Sunday, with minimum available help? Our Coach Net breakdown service towed us to the local Dodge dealer. Early Monday they diagnosed that we needed a new water pump and serpentine belt. They said they could order the parts from Dodge and have them Thursday.



I reminded them that it is an old truck and the nearby NAPA dealer would probably have the parts. NAPA did, and the truck was fixed that afternoon. We left the next day to rejoin the “Gone to Texas” caravan in San Antonio.

Now, for those who argue that “new is better,” one of our caravan members with a new truck also broke down. He was at the same dealership and was told he needed a new turbo. They had to wait until Friday for a replacement part. The repair work involved lifting the cab off the frame. After 14 hours of dealership labor, it was fixed. Moral: it’s nice to have an old truck, but it’s also nice to have a new vehicle warranty in effect.

In this issue of NORVA News, you can read about our caravan experiences in an article written by Jane Arnold and

Happy Holidays



Della Hoosier. Della and mate Cecil were our NORVA co-travelers. As we reached the end of the caravan, we all felt like we were part of the same family. If you have been on a caravan, you know what I mean. The Airstream Club is a social club of people with a love of travel and deep affection for shiny silver rigs. But most of all, W.B.C.C.I. membership affords ample opportunities to go on wonderful caravans. I was amazed by the number of first-timers on this caravan. More people are taking advantage of national and local club caravans, so it is important to sign up early even if you are put on a waiting list. Remember that people often drop out for health and family reasons, so chances are very good that you will get to go. For that very reason, we were able to join a New York club caravan just one week before it began this past August.

NORVA’s membership continues to evolve. We say “welcome” to Jim and Janeene Rider of Jefferson, Va., newcomers who, in November, attended their first NORVA rally (see the “Oyster Festival Rally” article in this issue). And, we say “safe travels” to Raymond and Andrea Carroll, who have transferred to Florida Club #27 as they relocate to the Clearwater area.

We are quickly approaching the end of the calendar year and can look forward to many great NORVA activities in 2019. We will be wintering in Florida, but hope you will attend this month’s Holiday Luncheon at the Jones home in Alexandria, January’s dinner theater rally, and February’s Super Bowl get-together in Williamsburg at the McBroom home. In closing, Jane and I wish everyone a most joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy 2019!

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Airstreamers enjoy a rally in Urbanna

For the third consecutive year, NORVA hosted a weekend rally in conjunction with the annual Oyster Festival in Urbanna, Va. Co-hosts Tom Carmichael and Lew Brodsky assembled 22 participating Airstream trailers, representing three of the four Virginia clubs (NORVA, Virginia, and Tidewater), on a grassy field near all Festival events. Like the arrangements for the past three years, this was a “dry camping” rally (no hookups); however, many club members brought with them generators and solar panels to recharge trailer batteries.

It was the 62nd Annual Oyster Festival held in this small riverside town along the Rappahannock (pop. 463) with many thousands of people filling the streets. The two-day event (Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2 & 3) included dozens of booths and tents selling all kinds of food (especially oysters and crab),

(Continues on next page)



Photos: Top - Silver trailers surround the “Appetizerama” Thursday evening. Above left - Oyster shucking contest. Right - Craft vendors line the steets. Below - Amanda Carmichael with “Riggins.” Amanda is Tom’s daughter-in-law.





Urbanna Rally photos:

Above left - Angela Meccia of Virginia Club 109 (l.) compares Airstream pajamas with NORVA's Cynthia Pearce.

Above right - Cathy Brodsky basks in a Rappahannock River sunrise.

Below - Warming around a campfire on the grassy field.

Bottom - Richmond's Red Hat Society marches in the Festival Parade.

(Urbanna - continued)

and hundreds of craft vendors. There was a fire-engine parade Friday evening (with lights glaring and sirens blaring), and a Festival parade on Saturday, featuring marching bands, a Festival queen, Shriner mini-cars and trucks, twirling groups, and antique cars. Stages were spaced throughout Urbanna upon which musical groups performed each day (mostly rock and country). Areas for wine tastings and beer drinking were set aside and the town's three "downtown" restaurants with bars were doing a booming business. At the town's harbor, there was a tall ship at dock for touring and science exhibits about oysters and commercial harvesting.

Thursday evening before the Festival officially began, there was a pot-luck "Appetizerama." Forecasted rain held off until late that night, allowing the nearly four-dozen Airstreamers to socialize while enjoying food and drink surrounded by a sea of silver trailers. Each evening, the chilly air was tempered by campfires, as the Airstreamers rested feet weary of walking throughout the Festival sites.

(Continues on next page.)



At left - NORVA member Sue Shepard made a batch of these cookies for everyone at the Appetizerama. See her Facebook page for custom-made cookies:

www.facebook.com/omisuescookies/



(Urbanna - continued)

On Sunday, the members broke camp and headed home. Many said they looked forward to attending this event again in 2019.

Photos:

Left - New NORVA Club members Janeene and Jim Rider enjoy their first rally.

Below left - Festival "street food." Vendors cook and sell oyster and crab patties.

Below right - Cathy Brodsky and "Paisley" listen to Urbanna Museum docent Paul Malone's explanation of oyster harvesting.



Photos above:

Two days—two parades. On Friday night, fire engines from all over Virginia drove a route through the town with lights flashing and sirens blaring. Saturday's Festival Parade featured a "float" with the Festival Queen and her court.

“Gone to Texas” and back again

NORVA couples return home after completing a month-long national caravan

By Jane Arnold and Della Hoosier

Twenty-four Airstreams gathered in Hillsboro, Texas, at the North Texas Airstream Community (an Airstream-only campground), on Sept. 24, 2018. It was the start of the “Gone to Texas” caravan. Several states were represented, plus there was one couple from Canada. There were six of us from Virginia. With our husbands, Dick Arnold and Cecil Hoosier, we represented NORVA, and there was also a couple from Radford.

Our caravan left Hillsboro the next day and headed to San Angelo. On the way we stopped at the Dr Pepper Museum in Waco, the first place where Dr Pepper (the nation’s oldest soft drink) was bottled. In the 1880s, pharmacist Charles C. Alderton toyed with flavors at Morrison’s Old Corner Drug Store until both he and Morrison liked the taste. There is some confusion about how the soft drink came to be called Dr Pepper. One delightful but dubious story is that Mr. Morrison was dating a girl in Virginia and asked her father, Dr. Pepper, if they could marry. Perhaps to win favor, he had named the soda for her dad. Unfortunately, Dr. Pepper said “no” to the marriage. But the

name stayed, although for some reason they decided to drop the period in the 1950s.

We saw many forts guarding the early frontier in Texas. Fort Concho, in San Angelo, and Fort Davis are both National Historic Sites. They were built in the mid 1800’s to protect the early settlers from the Indians and then became stagecoach stops. Fort Martin Scott is a city park in Fredericksburg. We also went to Camp Verde, the location of army experiments using camels as pack animals. Fort Chadbourne, near Abilene, was especially interesting. We toured with its current owner - fourth generation of the family that has owned the property since 1875. With no government help, they reconstructed many of the original stone buildings from a stone quarry and trees on the site.

The Frontier Texas Museum in Abilene covered all aspects of early life in Texas. The varied personal experiences shown made it seem real. In contrast, the Petroleum Museum in Midland gave us a modern look at the discovery and development of oil in Texas. The entire Midland area is covered with oil rigs, and trucks with drilling and welding equipment are

everywhere. The roads were rough from so much use, 24 hours a day!!

Finally, we arrived in Big Bend Motor Inn RV Park in Study Butte/ Terlingua - after miles of desert, cactus and more cactus. We went to the Visitor Center for information and, on the way, saw five bears crossing the road; two adults and three cubs. We also enjoyed a raft trip down the Rio Grande, stopping for snacks on the Mexican side of the river. On another day in Big Bend, we drove over the Chisos Mountains for lunch in the resort town of Chisos Basin – a place popular with birders, bicyclists, and hikers. It has a motel, restaurant, campground for tenters or small RVs, and a beautiful view of mountains and valley.

By Oct. 1, we were camped in Whites City, N.M. On the way there, we stopped at West of Pecos Texas Museum, which consisted of a saloon and hotel. While in New Mexico, we

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Left - NORVA couples quench thirsts at the Dr Pepper Museum in San Angelo, Texas. Seated (l. to r.): Cecil and Della Hoosier; Jane and Dick Arnold.

Right - Buildings at Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis, Texas.



("Texas" continues)

visited Carlsbad Caverns for a self-guided tour through the caverns. The night before, we had gone to the caverns at dusk to watch what seemed like millions of the bats come out of the caves.

Moving back into Texas again, we stayed at the Prude Ranch in Ft. Davis, where they prepared breakfast for us, and then we toured Fort Davis Historical Fort, a pleasant place to walk. It featured restored officer quarters and enlisted barracks. Most buildings were made of stone, but some had deteriorated or fallen down. Also, while camped at Prude Ranch, we visited two observatories with a wonderful tour guide. She showed us a video about the sun and sun spots. Then she operated the huge telescope and explained how it is used.

We had three days to explore San Antonio. Travel in the city was easy by downtown bus and hop-on/hop off shuttle. First we toured the whole city and then decide where we would get on and off. We visited a fire house museum, ate lunch at the famous Pearl Brewery, visited a Mexican market, took a river boat ride alongside River Walk, and visited the Alamo. We also visited the Texas Ranger Museum, and saw Bonnie and Clyde's bullet-ridden car. The factory for SAS shoes is in San Antonio and we purchased some.

It was fun visiting the very German town of Fredericksburg, Texas, since we are so familiar with Fredericksburg, Va. The Texas town was founded in 1846 by German families. It's famous for German bakeries, restaurants and as the home of 5-Star General Chester Nimitz. It has a National Museum of the Pacific War, which includes a restored PT boat and a Grumman Avenger airplane, similar to one flown by President George H. W. Bush in WWII. We also attended a Cowboy Church service, followed by a Ranger talk at the Texas Ranger Heritage Center.



While traveling next to the Skyline Ranch RV Park in Bandera, we stopped at the Sister Creek Winery for a self-guided tour. While in Bandera, we had a great meal at the Brick River Café, and the night before we left, we went down to the 11th Street Bar, known as the "Biggest Little Bar in Texas," for food, music and dancing. We brought our own meat to grill and paid \$7.00 for a baked potato, salad, and a roll. It was a typical Texas evening.

After breakfast at the Old Spanish Trail Diner, where we ate in a room dedicated to John Wayne and filled with "Duke" memorabilia, we headed for our last stop on the caravan--the towns of Ingram and Kerrville in Kerr County, Texas. Nearby, we toured and had a scrumptious lunch at the Y.O. Ranch in Mountain Home. This is working ranch and resort, but it is



The "Gone to Texas" caravan decal.

- Photos above, clockwise from top left:*
- Della and Jane walk along a scenic road in Big Ben National Park.
 - Rafting on the Rio Grande.
 - A service at the Cowboy Church in Fredericksburg, Texas.
 - Airstreams at Big Ben Motor Inn RV Park and Campground in Terlingua, Texas.

unique because it serves as a home for exotic animals, including some extinct in their native countries. We saw long horn cattle, of course, but also giraffes, emu, several species of animals with horns, pigs, miniature horses, one large tortoise and a camel.

The caravan ended with a nice banquet. We all gathered at Buzzie's BBQ in Kerrville for an hour of fellowship, followed by dinner. A few of the caravan members put together some entertainment. We played games and winners were given prizes. Stories and jokes were told, which gave NORVA's Cecil Hoosier an opportunity to tell a few tales. Music was provided by some of the caravaners. When it was finally over after a month of traveling, we all agreed that the "Gone to Texas" caravan was a most enjoyable, fun-filled adventure.

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Terms began Oct. 1, 2018

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Hardcopy surcharge increases for 2019

The surcharge to receive printed and mailed copies of *NORVA News* is going up for 2019. The Club's Bylaws allow for a member to pay to have newsletters sent to them by mail if they have little or no access to e-mail and elect to receive paper copies. (Note: Virtually all NORVA members get the newsletter electronically as a no-cost, monthly e-mail attachment, and therefore do not pay a dues surcharge.) The costs of postage and printer ink have increased, so the current \$10 surcharge for the hard-copy service does not begin to cover actual costs. NORVA's Executive Board has approved an increase in the surcharge beginning January 2019. Those who receive paper copies by mail will pay \$25 per year for the service. They will be billed directly by the NORVA treasurer.



Come to the February Super Bowl Party!

The 2019 Super Bowl Party will be hosted by Mary Ann and Jackson McBroom at their home in Williamsburg, Va. "We hope that as many NORVA Unit members as possible will take the plunge and come to join us for an afternoon of culinary delights, libation and great camaraderie, and hopefully a GREAT football game!" says Jackson. "It is our plan and pleasure to provide ALL of the food, beer and wine for the festivities. However, if you prefer to bring your own specialty drink(s) please feel free. If you wish to bring a favorite family dish to share, you are certainly welcome to do so. If so, please call Mary Ann (757-345-0060) to coordinate additions to the menu. We look forward to making new friends and deepening existing friendships!"



Where: The McBroom Home (Jackson & Mary Ann)

1661 River Ridge
Williamsburg, VA 23185

When: Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, 4:30 p.m. until ...?

RSVP: Please mail the coupon on **Page 8** to Jackson.

Call 757-345-0060 or Email: jtmcbm@aol.com to say you will be there!

The fee is \$5.00 per person, to be collected at the party.

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Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

Editor: Lew Brodsky

Please send articles and photos to:

NORVANews@cox.net

Visit NORVA's website: <https://northva.wbcci.net>



Coupon for the February 2019 Super Bowl Party

Please join Mary Ann and Jackson for delectable nourishment and unbeatable camaraderie with fellow NORVA Airstreamers.

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Location: McBroom Home, 1661 River Ridge, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Phone: 757-345-0060 E-mail: jtmcbrm@aol.com

RSVP by Jan. 15. Mail this coupon and call or e-mail Jackson.

Cost: \$5.00 per person, to be collected at the party.

Name(s): _____

No. attending _____ Contact phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Editor's Note: Shown below is the 2019 Events Calendar.

Please remember there is an important final 2018 event this month:

Dec. 8, 2018 (Sat.) Holiday Luncheon at the home of Ed & Beth Jones, Alexandria, Va.



Jan. 13, 2019 Sun. afternoon	“La Cage Aux Folles” Rally Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Larry & Sun Riley	July 21-27 Sun.-Sat.	W.B.C.C.I. International Rally Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Va. Hosts: Int’l Pres. Barry Bell & the four Virginia Airstream Clubs
Feb. 3 Sun. evening	Super Bowl Party Williamsburg, Va. Hosts: The McBrooms	Aug. 4-10 Sun.-Sat.	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
March 29-31 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Maintenance Rally Location: TBD Host: Tom Carmichael	Sept. 20-22 Fri.- Sun.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Loop C, Newport News City Park Hosts: Shenandoah Valley Club
April 24-28 Wed.-Sun.	Region 3 Rally Marion, N.C. Host: R3 Pres. John Leake	Oct. 4-6 Fri.-Sun. Oct. 11-14 Fri.-Mon..	Mountain Rally at Highland Haven Airstream Park, Copper Hill, Va., or: “Silver in the Street” Farmville, Va. Host: Carmichael
May 16-19 Thurs.-Sun.	Almost Heaven Rally Shepherdstown, W.Va. Hosts: Gary & Sue Shepard	Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Thu.-Sun.	Oyster Festival Rally Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky
June 1-16 Sat.-16 days	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan “PA-NY Pot Pourri” Leaders: Gerry & Patsy Nagel	Dec. 7, 2019* Sat. *Tentative	Holiday Get-together Location TBD. Hosts: TBD