

NORVA News

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President's message

As February rolls in, our thoughts center on matters of the heart. February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's long on sentiment. No sooner than Punxsutawney Phil decrees whether we're destined for an early spring or six more weeks of winter, but the Super Bowl arrives on Feb. 4, where we wholeheartedly hope for a great, competitive game and even greater commercials. Then the Winter Olympics opens on the 9th and heartsome patriotism kicks in as we root for the red, white and blue. Next we're smitten by the love bug as we approach Valentine's Day on the 14th. We exchange sentimental cards, buy roses and chocolates for our sweethearts and consume too many candy hearts while memories of "Mamma Mia" bring smiles to our faces. It seems the whole country adopts our slogan that "Virginia Is For Lovers."

Many of us still recognize the proper date of Feb. 12 as Abraham Lincoln's birthday and Feb. 22 as George Washington's birthday, but somehow the country performed a merger and we now celebrate Presidents Day, this year on Feb. 19. Never mind the details, I still hope we take the time to show heartfelt respect and honor to our two greatest presidents. I don't know how Lincoln's birthday is celebrated in Springfield, Ill. (or Springfield, Va., for that matter), but I can assure you that Mount Vernon pulls out all the stops to salute #1POTUS with special events for an entire week!

But matters of the heart aren't always joyful. In an instant a heart full of joy can "break" with the news that a loved one has passed away. Such a scenario happened recently to those of us NORVA members who

knew Gina Farrar. (See page 2 of this newsletter.) While Gina hadn't been active in our unit since 2012 due to illness, her passing at only 74 is a stark reminder that life can be shorter than we think. Thus, we should resolve to make the most of every day, e.g.,

stay (or get) healthy, strengthen family bonds, nurture old friendships and establish new ones, fulfill dreams on your bucket list, give back through service, or as we used to say in the Army "Be all you can be!" In fact, Airstreaming just might incorporate all of those goals, from being healthy (you gotta be to hook up), to cultivating friendships (there are no finer people than Airstreamers) to living the dream (our rallies and caravans are excellent). Moreover, one of the ways you can give back is to become a leader in our club. (Speaking of club, I was recently notified that our name has officially been changed to the Northern Virginia Airstream Club.) Our officer positions are filled through September 2018, but it's not too early to think about serving as an officer or director the next go-around. I hope you take a good look at the NORVA events shown on the calendar on page 10 and read the articles about the Maintenance Rally and our Club caravan. Sign up for as many events as you can. I guarantee you'll be glad you did.

In closing, I hope to see everyone at the "pot luck" Superbowl Party at the beautiful home of Cecil and Della Hoosier on Sunday, Feb. 4.. It's not too late and there's no rally fee. Just call Della to tell her you're coming and bring a dish to share. Even though the Redskins are not playing AGAIN this year, we always manage to have a hearty good time.

Ed & Beth Jones



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Professional advice will be shared at “joint” Breakout and Maintenance Rally in March

Airstream of Virginia's former senior technician, David “D.J.” Mastin, will be the guest speaker at the rally.

We may still be experiencing the chill of a cold winter, but take a close look under the fallen leaves around your home and you will probably see the first hints of new green growth. Spring will be here before you know it, and that means it's time for the members of Virginia's Airstream clubs to plan on attending the March 2018 Breakout and Maintenance Rally.

Like last year's rally, this will be a “joint” event. With NORVA hosting, members of the Virginia, Shenandoah Valley and Tidewater clubs will participate. The rally location will be the Fredericksburg KOA Campground; the dates are Friday, March 23, to Sunday, March 25.

The rally begins with a “Happy Hour” at 4:30 on the Friday afternoon, followed by a pot luck dinner at 6:30...bring a dish or dessert to share. After dinner there will be an informal group discussion to prepare questions and develop a list of topics for Saturday's guest speaker. Rally host Tom Carmichael has arranged for David “D.J.” Mastin, the former senior technician at Airstream of Virginia, to participate. Starting at 9 on

Saturday morning, D.J. will be at the campground to share his wealth of professional knowledge and experience about repairing and maintaining Airstream trailers, vans, and motor homes. He will stay most of the day to answer questions, discuss specific mechanical or electrical RV problems, and help members understand the ins and outs of their RVs.

Later on that Saturday, Airstream will sponsor the evening meal and talk about what is new and ongoing at the company, its dealerships, and for Airstream owners in 2018.

If last year is any indication, this will be a well-attended rally. To attend, fill out and mail the coupon on Page 10 of this newsletter. The rally fee is \$20 per person, payable to Tom Carmichael. You must also reserve your campsite directly by contacting the Fredericksburg KOA **before Feb. 16**. The cost of camping is \$46.64 per night (full hookups), and a one-night deposit is required (by credit card, over the phone). **Telephone: 540-898-7252.**



The KOA is holding a block of sites for this rally, so make sure you tell them you are with the Airstream group when reserving your site. The campground is located at 7400 Brookside Lane, Fredericksburg, VA 22408. GPS coordinates: 38.16811-N, -77.47548-W. The entrance is off Guinea Station Road, about 2.5 miles east of U.S. Route 1.



**Gina
Farrar**

Former NORVA member dies at age 74

NORVA mourns the loss of Gina Farrar, who passed away on Dec. 30, 2017, after a long illness. Gina and her husband, Jim Timberlake, were active in NORVA from 2005 to 2012. Born in Washington, D.C., Farrar lived on her lovely “Chapultepec Farm” near Warrenton, Va. She was deeply involved in her community and instrumental in local historic preservation efforts. As a Garden Club member, she established a nature camp at her farm, in partnership with the Piedmont Environmental Council, helping young people understand the importance of conservation. For many years Farrar also owned clothing stores in the Warrenton area. Many in NORVA have fond memories of October 2007, when Gina and her husband hosted a memorable weekend Airstream rally in a field next to their farmhouse. People who knew Farrar will always remember her vitality and zest for life.

Dinner theater rally hits its mark!

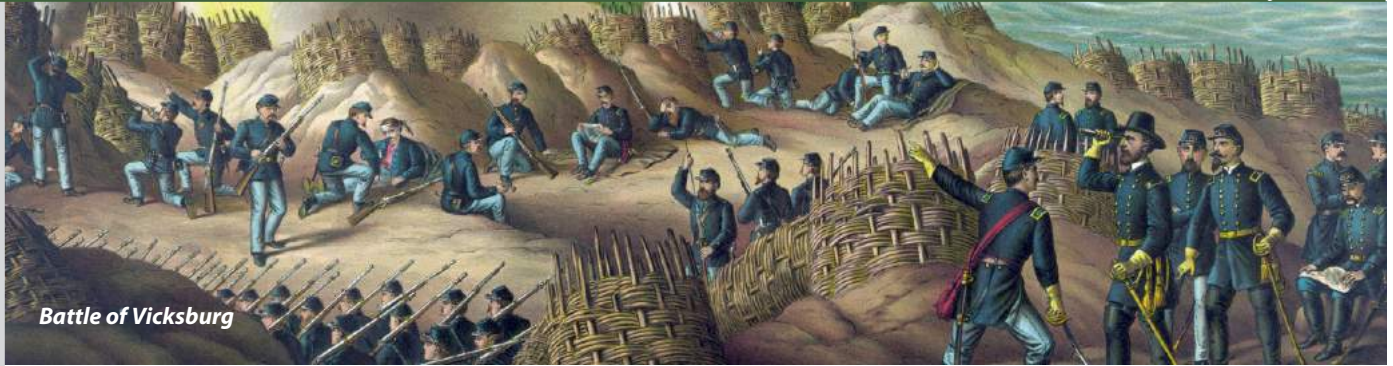
Okay, show of hands...who likes the music of ABBA? Answer: Nearly everybody of a "certain age," including most NORVA members. Who didn't dance, rock, and sing along with the disco melodies of this Swedish pop group throughout the 70s and into the early 80s? That's the reason everyone had a great time on January 21st, when nearly two dozen NORVA members and guests were entertained in Fredericksburg at the Riverside Center for the Performing Arts. It was the dinner theater matinee performance of "Mamma Mia," the hit Broadway musical featuring the songs of ABBA. Great music, cute storyline, good food! Who could ask for anything more?



Clockwise from top left: Edgar Simmons with lead actress Betsy Padamonsky; the musical's finale; new members Andrea and Charles "Raymond" Carroll (r) get member badges from NORVA's President Ed Jones; inset: new member Ann Newman; conversing at the table are (l. to r.) Beth Jones, hosts Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich, and Susan Anderson; Airstreamers pose with the lead actresses of "Mamma Mia."



Chantilly, Va.—Nearly a dozen new Airstreams were on display and for sale at the 2018 Washington RV Camping Expo here, Jan. 12-14. Thousands explored the new models, inside and out. A few people were so impressed that they bought an Airstream on the spot. Airstream of Virginia was the selling dealership at this show, held at the Dulles Expo Center. Now owned by Camping World, it is Virginia's only Airstream dealership.



Battle of Vicksburg

Planning underway for NORVA's spring caravan

Inclusive dates: May 22 to June 10, 2018

Jackson McBroom, 2nd vice president, is the club officer responsible for NORVA's annual caravan. With his wife, Mary Ann, he is planning a great one for 2018.

This spring, Jackson hopes to answer a controversial question: "Were Union Generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman merciless, cold-hearted, 'butchers' of the Civil War, or were they talented military tacticians commissioned by a desperate Abraham Lincoln to prosecute a swift and merciful end to a brutal war."

This caravan is entitled, "Grant, Sherman, and the Critical Battles of the Western Civil War." Airstreamers will visit several prominent battle sites where one or both generals were engaged. Explains Jackson: "We will attempt to improve our understanding of these two men and decide for ourselves what motivated their actions. We hope to discover the

truth about the pivotal roles each played in the war. We'll analyze their decisions—good and bad—timing, luck, the resources that dictated their moves, and the outcomes."

The caravan itinerary includes stops at Shiloh, Fort Donelson, and Chattanooga in Tennessee; Vicksburg in Mississippi; and Chickamauga, Atlanta and Savannah in Georgia. But Civil War battlefields will not be the sole focus of the trip. The caravanners will also visit antebellum homes; the state capitol in Jackson, Miss.; the Birmingham, Ala., Civil Rights Institute; the 'World of Coca-Cola' in Atlanta; and other significant places along the route.

The McBrooms say that this caravan will last just under three weeks.

It will launch on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, from Dover, Tenn., and end on Sunday, June 10, in Savannah. This is a bit longer than other NORVA unit caravans, but Jackson insists the time will be well-spent.



Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom

"To all club members who join us for this adventure, Mary Ann and I commit our best efforts to deliver great camaraderie, southern hospitality, and a deeper



William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant. Bad guys, good guys, or two soldiers operating under difficult circumstances?

historical insight into this poignant chapter in American history," Jackson says.

More information about signing up and participating will be published in the March and April issues of *NORVA News*.

NORVA News is published periodically for the members of the Northern Virginia Unit, 3-110, W.B.C.I. Editor: Lew Brodsky. Please contribute articles and photos to: NorvaNews@cox.net

An odyssey in the land of ancient caravans

Two NORVA couples explore Jerusalem as the U.S. recognizes the city as Israel's capital
(Part II)

By Cynthia Pearce
Photos by Lew Brodsky
& Cynthia Pearce

Editor's note: From Nov. 29 to Dec. 8, 2017, NORVA members Cynthia and Paul Pearce and Lew and Cathy Brodsky toured Israel together. In Part I of this article, (see the January 2018 issue of NORVA News), Cynthia described the first half of the tour, which included travel to Caesarea, the Golan Heights, and throughout the Galilee Region. The balance of the tour was spent in Jerusalem and at sites near the Dead Sea.

Finally, it was time to spend a few days in Jerusalem, Israel's largest city. We spent five nights and enjoyed many meals at the world-famous King David Hotel, overlooking the ancient walls of Old Jerusalem. It gave us a splendid taste of lavish living. Sumptuous breakfasts and our final banquet were enjoyed in the hotel's elaborate dining room. Service was perfect and the food was delicious. Eating out in this city was also fun and adventurous. The food was unusual and fantastic. Israel's food is a combination of cuisines from the Middle East and the various parts of the world where immigrants lived before coming to the Jewish state. Our group enjoyed a five-course meal at one restaurant, prepared in front of us by Israeli chef Michael Katz. Burp! We all rolled out of that one. By this time Lew had decided to ride herd on our small group of



Above: The Old City of Jerusalem and the golden Dome of the Rock as seen from the Tower of David.

tourists (there were seven other American couples on the tour). Lew hung back on our walks to ensure that nobody got lost in the crowds or lagged behind. Our tour leader was thankful for Lew's assistance and didn't realize Lew was simply making good use of his ample experience as the designated "caboose" on many Airstream caravans.

In Jerusalem, we visited the Israel Museum and toured virtually all the ancient Jewish and Christian holy sites, including the birthplace of Jesus in nearby Bethlehem. We spent solemn moments at the Western ("Wailing") Wall of Solomon's Temple, Judaism's most holy site, where we left prayers on little scraps of paper in the crevices between the stones. And, thanks to an ongoing archeological dig,

we were able to take a long, deep, narrow walk *under* the wall. We trekked down to bedrock to see the huge sandstone blocks

Below: The main entrance of the King David Hotel.

Bottom: Cathy observes as Israeli Chef Michael Katz prepares a five-course meal for the tour group, including shredded lamb (Mediterranean BBQ?) with creamy risotto.





Clockwise from above:

Cathy inserts a scrap of paper containing a prayer between remnant limestone blocks of the Second Temple's western wall, Judaism's holiest site. The Temple existed from 530 B.C. to 70 A.D., when the Romans destroyed it during the Jewish Revolt.

The monastery at the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives. It marks the site where Jesus and the disciples gathered and prayed the night before the crucifixion.

Jerusalem's large food market stalls are over-filled with tasty baked goods.

Israel bursts with colorful fresh fruit, all grown within this small country.

Two schoolboys walk home in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's old walled city.



put in place during the time of King Herod, more than 2,000 years ago. Then we had to turn around and retrace our route, because the usual exit into the Arab Quarter of Old Jerusalem was blocked. It was not a place for those who are claustrophobic. The old walled city occupies only one-square kilometer of land and is divided into Arab, Christian, Jewish, and Armenian Quarters. The narrow alleys and holy sites were so mesmerizing it was hard to leave. We walked through the Arab Souk, or market, which

was closed in protest because of President Trump's announcement two days earlier about moving the American Embassy and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It was strangely quiet until the Muslim call to prayers blasted from loudspeakers. By contrast the bustling food market with stalls operated by Jews and Christians, and spread out among several nearby streets in Jerusalem, was colorful, lively, and wonderfully loud with the shouts of merchants and shoppers. We tasted many samples of

delicious donuts, pastries, fruits, and halvah, a confection made from ground sesame seeds and honey.

When I asked the others in our group to describe their most memorable experiences on the tour, most mentioned the emotion-filled visit to the Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, and the walk through the tunnel under the Wall.

Everyone also lauded our personable and knowledgeable tour leader. Danny Cohen was born and raised in Israel. Native-born

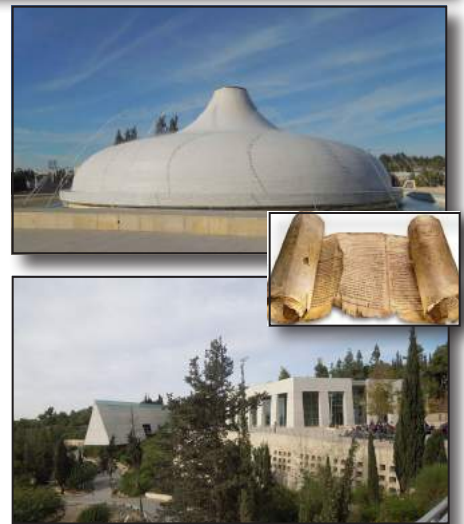
The silver star on the marble floor marks the spot where, according to Christian tradition, Mary gave birth to Jesus. This holy place is located within Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Israelis call themselves “sabras,” after the native desert fruit—tough and prickly on the outside, soft and sweet inside. The 54-year-old Cohen is a former Israeli Army tank commander. He has four daughters serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). It was obvious that he loves his country and enjoys sharing its wonders with visitors. His informative narrative included a wealth of first-person anecdotes on every aspect of Israel. For example, he helped excavate Roman-era cities as a college archeology student, witnessed the horrors of the 1967 war as a four-year-old child, lost relatives in the Holocaust of World War II, and had a grandfather who was one of the first people to view and evaluate the Dead Sea Scrolls. Written around the Second or First Century B.C. by the Essenes, a Jewish religious sect living in the eastern desert of Roman-occupied Judea, the scrolls are the oldest parchments ever found containing the Old Testament bible. (Cohen’s grandfather did not think they were genuine, but he was wrong!)

On the last day of our tour, we drove to Qumran National Park, an area of caves along the Dead Sea in the West Bank where the scrolls were found



in 1947. What a remarkable find! Then we went further down the road to Masada, a mountain fortress looming high above the Dead Sea and surrounded by desert in majestic and strange isolation. We took a cable car to the top (thank goodness) for an extensive exploration of two elaborate palaces King Herod had built for his family, but never visited after they were finished. This place is sacred to Jews and remembered in history, not for King Herod, but for serving as the last stronghold of the futile Jewish revolt against the Romans in 73 A.D. The view from the top was spectacular; however, the fact that the more than 960 Jewish men woman and children committed suicide here,



Above: “Yad Vashem,” The World Holocaust Remembrance Center.

Center: White Hershey’s Kiss? No, it’s the building housing the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Mostly underground, the visible portion is shaped like the covers of the earthen jars in which the Scrolls were found. Inset photo shows a scroll.

Below, Fortress Masada sits atop a huge mesa overlooking the Judean desert.





rather than be taken as slaves by the attacking Roman Legion, was sobering and mitigated the beauty of the place.

On this last day of touring, our final treat was to don bathing suits and float in (or more accurately, on) the Dead Sea. It was a uniquely strange experience. You cannot sink because of the water's extremely high mineral content. This is the lowest point on earth (1,411 feet below sea level).

A final note is one that ties in with Airstreams: Lew and Cathy's flight home from Tel Aviv was before dawn on the final day of the tour, but our flight was not until 11:30 at night. That gave us an extra day in Jerusalem. Through folks we had met on the recent Airstream "American Revolution Caravan – the Southern Campaign," we contacted **Ed and Abbe Krissman**. They are Israelis who own an Airstream trailer which they keep in Milwaukee. Their Jerusalem home is not far from the King David Hotel. The Krissmans treated us to a very delicious Sabbath dinner, a neighborhood walk, some soup, and homemade cookies. They told us lots of Airstream stories and arranged our transportation from Jerusalem back to the airport in Tel Aviv. The couple travels frequently to the U.S.A. As W.B.C.C.I. members-at-large, they are signed up to be on Ed and Beth Jones' American Revolution caravans in 2018 and 2019. It is indeed a small world.



Photos from top left:

Cathy, Paul, and Cynthia take a dip in the Dead Sea.

Cathy and Lew at Masada. The Dead Sea and Jordanian mountains are in the distance.

Caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

Sharing a love of Airstreams are Israeli Ed Krissman (l.) and Paul Pearce. Inset is a photo of Abbe Krissman.

Final night group photo taken at the King David Hotel (l. to r.): Lew, Cathy, tour leader Danny Cohen, Cynthia and Paul.



February celebrations!

Birthdays:

- 2 Cathy Carmichael
- 6 Wales Ingram
- 6 Kevin Quinn
- 22 Sean Rameika
- 23 Bill Worrall
- 24 Don Bell
- 26 Handley Ward

Anniversaries:

- 10 Cecil & Della Hoosier
- 16 Steve & Gaye Walker



Got badge?

In September 2017, WBCCI changed the way membership badges are distributed. Since then, the headquarters staff in Jackson Center, Ohio, is mailing badges directly to new members, relieving each local club of the responsibility. But NORVA's membership director, Tom Carmichael, fears that some new members may have "fallen through the cracks" during the transition.

NORVA members who joined in 2016 or later, but still have not received membership badges (each member in a household gets one), please inform Tom by e-mail at tomc@sportsimageinc.com, or call him at 804-245-1710. He will remedy this oversight.

Tom also reports that he will soon distribute new inserts for all existing badges. "NORVA Club" will be substituted for "NORVA Unit" on badges, in accordance with current W.B.C.C.I. policy and an official name change. "What have historically been referred to as 'units' are now called 'clubs,'" Tom says. Thus, you are receiving this newsletter as a member of NORVA Club #3-110.



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Oct. 2017 through Sept. 2018

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Coming soon to your mailbox!

The **2018 NORVA Directory** will be mailed to the homes of all club members in early February. This new 56-page reference booklet is chock full of photos and information about NORVA's members and leaders, the W.B.C.C.I. headquarters staff, the officers of Region 3, and key people serving at the International Club level. It lists Airstream Parks and places to get Airstreams serviced. It also contains NORVA's Constitution, Bylaws, and Executive Policies; as well as travel tips and many other things important to Airstreamers. Watch for it!

NORVA EVENTS CALENDAR

Note: Shows events during 2017-2018 term of club's leaders. Check 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 22-June 10	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 Aug. 23-26	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 Travel Park Virginia Beach, Va. Host: NORVA - TBD

March Maintenance and Breakout Rally

Friday, March 23 to Sunday March 25, 2018

NORVA is hosting this joint rally at the Fredericksburg KOA Campground.

See the story on Page 2 of this newsletter for rally details.

To participate in this rally, please complete this coupon and mail it with your rally fee check payable to:

Tom Carmichael, 2203 Turtle Hill Circle, Midlothian, VA 23112

Or e-mail the information requested below and send Tom your check: tomc@sportsimageinc.com

Name(s) _____

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

WBCCI Membership # _____ Address: _____

Number attending _____ x \$20 = total rally fee enclosed \$ _____.

Note: Make your campsite reservation directly with the Fredericksburg KOA. Call them at **540-898-7252**.