

NORVA News

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2018
Happy New Year!

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President's message

Happy New Year! Beth and I hope your holiday season was filled to overflowing with happiness and love shared with family and friends, reliving old traditions and perhaps creating new ones. Whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or another holiday, they are certain to bring out decorations and special food and drink commemorating the occasion. At our house, carolers in colonial garb bearing gifts, musical instruments or various and sundry objects (there's even an organ grinder and his monkey – see the photo) deck the halls, mantels, tables - virtually every flat surface! Yes, our house is never so festive as it is in December. Is it the same at your house? I know the McBroom's house was brimming with holiday cheer at the Airstream Gathering on Dec. 2, where 16 of us converged for merry-making and feasting on Mary Ann's culinary prowess and goodies brought by many attendees.

January gives us cause to reflect on the happenings of the past year and the promise of new beginnings in 2018. Last year through the efforts of several people including our membership chairman, Tom Carmichael, we were pleased to welcome a substantial number of new members into the Northern Virginia fold. Just last month, the Membership Coordinator of the Airstream Club International notified us that a new member joined for 2017 and renewed for 2018. Those new members are Paul and Jean Stanley from Waterford, Virginia. Welcome aboard, Paul and Jean! As our membership grows, the "old guard" of our unit looks forward to enjoying Airstream adventures, simple pleasures and camaraderie with new members at unit rallies and caravans, regional rallies, Internationals and national caravans. We particularly relish caravans of all varieties – unit or national, short or long – where we make lifelong friendships with Airstreamers from all over the country and Canada. We are proud of the strong bonds of friendship we have cultivated with one another in our unit and are eager to enlarge that circle of friendship to encompass our new members. We hope you in turn will be

inspired to enrich the club by sharing its leadership in officer positions. New members bring fresh perspectives and new thinking which invigorates an organization. Our 2018 calendar has a tantalizing array

of activities to be savored, starting with the hit musical "Mamma Mia" at the Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg on Sunday, Jan. 21. There are still seats available but you must contact Lloyd Ulrich as soon as you can. Please see the coupon and the rest of the calendar on the last page of this newsletter. You will notice that several of the rallies are looking for a host. Please consider volunteering to be a host, or as it is sometime called "wagonmaster," perhaps with another couple. There are plenty of us old-timers who would be happy to give you guidance on being a host and answer your questions. Just ask us. I'll close with another Happy New Year! May 2018 be a banner year for all of us!



Ed Jones

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Good cheer, good food, good friends

Jackson and Mary Ann McBroom host NORVA's Holiday Rally at their Williamsburg home

by Doug Anderson

The McBrooms did a masterful job hosting the Christmas party at their gorgeous home in Williamsburg on Dec. 2.

Eight couples joined for a festive gathering including the Joneses, Quinns, Hoosiers, Simmonses, Ulrichs, Nagels, Andersons, and, of course, the hosting McBrooms. The food was so good! Mary Ann McBroom fixed a marinated and breaded chicken breast accompanied with asparagus. Wow! Susan Anderson stole the recipe to use on the kids for Christmas.

The McBrooms reside in a classic all brick, three-level Williamsburg Colonial, great for entertaining. It even had three guest rooms that they made available for some of us for the night. We certainly had a great time visiting and eating. Jackson demonstrated his chef skills the next morning, fixing personalized breakfasts for us all (much better than McDonald's!).



People pictures, from top right:

Elaine Ulrich & Kathy Simmons

Gerry Nagle & Jackson McBroom

(l. to r.) Edgar Simmons, Cecil Hoosier, Ed Jones

Della Hoosier and Beth Jones;

Conversing: Doug Anderson, Jane & Kevin Quinn, Gerry & Patsy Nagle.



Lemons to lemonade

A chilly, late fall repair trip to Jackson Center results in unexpected pleasures



By Gerry & Patsy Nagel

Late in the summer we discovered a dent on the outside of our Airstream that our insurance company termed "Hit and Run." After discussing options for the repair, we realized that Jackson Center was less than a hundred miles from our cousins. We decided to take the Airstream (Augusta) to the factory for repair the week of Thanksgiving, visit our cousins, and make lemonade out of the lemon.

The trip started out on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2017, with the temperature in the high 40s and low 50s with wind gusts at 20-25 mph. We drove through rain and snow showers in the higher elevations through Maryland and West Virginia, but the Airstream handled it well. The first night we had reservations at the KOA in Washington, Pa. It looked easy to reach on Google Maps but there was a narrow two lane road to navigate for about two miles before the campground and then it was about 1500 feet up a seven percent grade to the camp sites. Needless to say we were on the top of a ridge-line. Even though the temperature got below freezing they did have heat strips on the water line. All that

needed to be done was for Gerry to go out in the freezing cold, turn off the water and drain the hose at night so it would not freeze. In the morning Gerry was back out in the freezing cold to turn the water back on for use.

der warranty.

In the meantime, we drove around the area and took the Airstream factory tour. It was a wonderful tour that lasted for about an hour and a half, with an add-on to see the building



The "Terraport" at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center, Ohio, has level pads with hookups for 24 rigs.

The next day we still had gusty winds but it was clear and we arrived safely at Jackson Center where we settled in for the night at an empty spot at the Terraport. In the morning our Airstream was towed to the maintenance bay at 7 a.m., where we met Matt, our maintenance tech, to discuss the damage and some other items un-

of the new Atlas touring coach and the exterior of the soon to be released NEST trailer.

After our trailer was moved back to the Terraport that evening, we went to the Inn Between restaurant in Botkins, Ohio, where the chicken dinners are legendary. After returning to Terraport, Gerry was out emptying the gray and black tanks



The Nagels head for home.

when another Airstream pulled in. After hooking up, the owners, Larry and Lou from La Grange, OH (near Cleveland) came over to introduce themselves. Larry is the president of the Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream Unit (NOVA), and during the conversation, he said they were going to Cincinnati to have Thanksgiving with some other members of their unit. Gerry asked where they were staying and he replied Winton Woods Campground. This is the same campground we had reservations to stay at while visiting our cousins. The conversation was cut short when it started to rain.

The next morning we met with Justin, the Airstream shower door expert. Patsy learned that Justin was an Alabama fan and, after high-fiving, Justin had the shower door repaired within an hour and it works as it should. Matt completed the dent repair that is now like new. By noon we were on our way to Winton Woods Campground in Cincinnati.

Upon arrival at Winton Woods, we had just backed into our space when two gentlemen headed over to say hello and welcome us to the campground. They introduced themselves as Tom and Alan and we learned they are members of NOVA. When we then told them Larry and Lou were on the way, they were really curious as to how someone from Virginia would know Larry and Lou. After telling them we had met Lou and Larry at Jackson Center they understood perfectly. They invited us to spend time with them and met their wives (Ella married to Tom and Carie married to Alan).

The next two days we spent most of the time with cousins but did



Ouch! The dent is obvious.



Aahh! The repair is sweet!

manage a few hours with our new Airstream friends who were most hospitable and gracious in sharing Airstream knowledge with the new campers that we are. Our only regret is that we did not have more time to spend with them.

On Saturday, Nov. 25, as we were hooking up to leave, Larry, Tom and Alan came over. They said they came to say goodbye but Gerry thought they were coming to judge the backing of the truck to hook up to the trailer. Gerry got the ball and tongue lined up on the first try. Nothing like pressure to help you perform.

Since the first leg of our trip was more adventure than we wanted on the way home, we decided to take a different route through Charleston, W. Va., where we spent our first overnight at Walmart in Lewisburg, W. Va. We arrived back in Occoquan, Va., on Sunday and deemed the trip was

a success.

When we first bought the Airstream, one of our relatives said we would meet nice people while we were camping and he has been right about that! We are constantly amazed at the kindness and generosity of people we meet and Airstream people are at the top of the list. Our new Ohio Airstream friends were a big part of making this a lemonade trip from what started out as a lemon that had to be fixed.

Below: New Ohio Airstream friends, Larry, Lou, Alan, "Charlie" and Tom.



An odyssey in the land of ancient caravans

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

By Cynthia Pearce
Photos by Lew Brodsky
& Cynthia Pearce

In late November, it was only 36 hours after departing Charlottesville that Paul and I were wandering around the pretty Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv, Israel. We had just flown far from home, but there, standing at the top of the stairs, were familiar faces: Lew and Cathy Brodsky! We had journeyed to Israel on separate flights to begin a long-planned tour of this amazing little country (four Airstreamers enjoying a caravan, of sorts, in the ancient land of camel caravans).

What followed were nine days of sunny surprises. Bustling Tel Aviv, with its modern buildings sits just north of Jaffa, the oldest seaport in the world. This study in contrasts was a good introduction to Israel, which is roughly the size of New Jersey.

A poignant moment happened on Day One of our tour, when we sat on the original wooden folding chairs in a modest building in Tel Aviv. In that very room the Independent State of Israel was proclaimed by David Ben-Gurion on May 14, 1948, as the British Mandate ended and after the U.N. voted to partition Palestine between Jews and Arabs. Ben-Gurion served as Israel's first prime minister as the surrounding Arab nations attacked on May 15 in an attempt to wipe out the new country. They failed in 1948, and again in 1967 and 1973. We real-



Modern Tel Aviv stretches northward along the Mediterranean coast in this view from Jaffa.

ized that this unassuming room, with its flags, dais, and crude public address and radio broadcast systems, was Israel's equivalent of America's Independence Hall and Liberty Bell.

Leaving the city on Day Three, we headed north and were amazed at the numerous very attractive business complexes and modern apartment buildings with their spacious balconies. Paul reminisced about the time when he last flew into Tel Aviv in the 1990's. Then, the drive from the airport

into the city passed through barren desert. Now, the country's second largest urban area is a sprawling, very beautiful green place, with super highways, gleaming white skyscrapers, parks, and bike paths.

Our first stop along Israel's northern Mediterranean coast was the excavated Roman-era port city of Caesarea with its steeply tiered theater. There, I took a nice photo of Paul and Cathy dancing on the "stage," a spot where gory public executions were held around 13 B.C. Archeologists also unearthed ancient



Cathy & Lew Brodsky (left) are thrilled to visit this simple Tel Aviv room where Israel declared itself a country on May 14, 1948. The British Mandate was ending after the U.N. had voted, five months earlier, to divide the region into two parts: one Jewish, one Arab.



Left (and inset): In Caesarea, Paul performs an impromptu waltz with Cathy, center stage, in a 2,000-year old Roman theater.

Center: The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth was built over the traditional site where an angel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus.

Below: Cathy along the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Bottom: A fishing boat, dating to the First Century, was excavated in recent years.

lavish homes and fountains, and there was even a chariot race track with toilets conveniently located nearby so the betting men would not miss the next race. In over 2,000 years not much has changed!

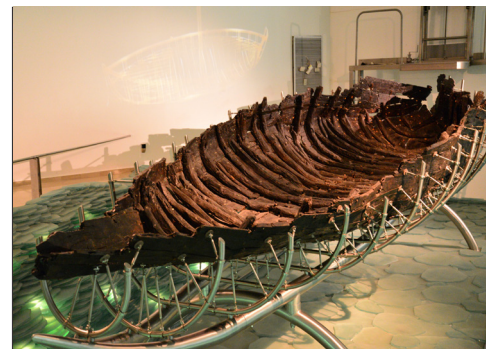
Over the next few days, we visited an art colony, stopped at a dairy farm to admire and milk some cows, and spent a night at a comfortable Kibbutz, situated adjacent to the Lebanese border in northernmost Israel. Kefar Giladi was founded by settlers in 1916, and was typical of the early communal farms of the pioneering Kibbutz movement. Then we drove high into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, where we viewed the converging borders of Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. A snow covered Mt. Hermon was in the distance. We chatted with the U.N. soldiers from Denmark and Norway who were manning the “peace-keeping” observation posts overlooking the expansive plains below. It was on the ground spread out before us that a major tank battle was fought in the 1967 Six-day War. Against odds, Israel won, and survived.

Continuing our tour of the Galilee, another large millenniums-old



city is gradually revealing itself to 21st Century visitors as sand layers are removed at Beit She’an in the Jezreel Valley. There, archaeologists are uncovering the buildings, roads, and monuments of 35 earlier civilizations. They found fancy Roman and Greek baths, colonnades, shops, and an 8,000-seat theater.

But the truly amazing sights along our routes of travel were the visible accomplishments of the miracle that is modern Israel. We saw pristine communities, hundreds of planted fields of vegetables, and countless groves



of citrus, date palms, olives, banana, and mango trees, all thriving right next to stretches of bare desert. In a parched land, this is the result of hard work, Israeli know-how, and advanced irrigation techniques. Many of the fields and groves had clever screens and coverings that moderate the sun, so everything does not come into season at once, another Israeli innovation. Plastic irrigation pipes could be seen



running everywhere, even along the highways. The Israelis have made the desert bloom!

We stayed at the famous Scots Hotel in historic Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, which is actually a large fresh water lake. We visited the source of the Jordan River and the area along its banks where John the Baptist did his work. We viewed an ancient wooden fishing boat, recently recovered and preserved, dating to the First Century. Might it have been Peter's boat from the time of Jesus? Who knows? It was on display in a modern museum along the shoreline and, as we exited at dusk, the full moon was rising and reflecting beautifully on the Sea

Paul stands atop the Golan Heights, captured by Israeli forces in 1967. The spot offers amazing views into Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Mount Hermon is in the distance.

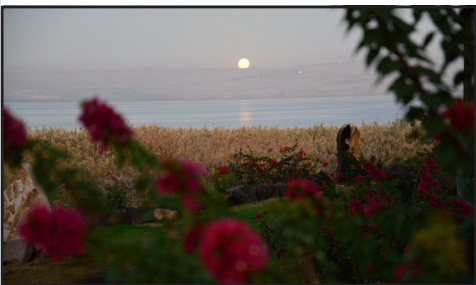
A U.N. peacekeeping observation post is nearby.

Cynthia and Cathy in an ancient alley containing modern shops in the Jewish city of Safed.

Paul and his "gals" take a rest break near the source of the Jordan River.

At right: A signpost atop the Golan Heights marks distances in kilometers to various cities. Washington lies about 7,500 miles to the west, but Damascus, Syria, is only 37.5 miles away.





Above: In Tiberius, the famous and beautiful Scots Hotel provided lavish, sunny breakfasts.

Left: A full moon rises over the Sea of Galilee.

of Galilee. On another day we drove into Nazareth, where Jesus lived and spent his formative years, and we visited the largest church in the Middle East: the Church of the Annunciation. On our way we stopped at the Mount of Beatitudes, the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount. While still in the Galilee region, we enjoyed an outdoor lunch at a family run wine, dairy and cheese farm. But the best and most iconic part of our tour was still ahead of us as we headed for Jerusalem.

End of Part I. Next month's issue of NORVA News will feature Part II of this article, when the Pearces and Brodskys spend five days touring Jerusalem, the world's most historic and contested city.

NORVA Officers

Oct. 2017 through Sept. 2018

President - Ed Jones
703-780-6597
thunderhorse16@yahoo.com

1st Vice President - Edgar Simmons
Rally Coordinator
540-421-1756
edsimmjr@aol.com

2nd Vice President - Jackson McBroom
Unit Caravan Leader
757-345-0060
jtmcbm@aol.com

Secretary - Elaine Ulrich
703-724-3954
egulrich1@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Paul Pearce
434-295-7389
pauls_cyn@yahoo.com

Membership Director - Tom Carmichael
804-245-1710
tomc@sportsimageinc.com

Newsletter Editor - Lew Brodsky
703-451-0122
lbrodsky@cox.net
norvanews@cox.net

Legislative Director - Kathy Simmons
540-421-3048
edsimmjr@yahoo.com

Storekeeper - Cecil Hoosier
540-937-3527
hoosierw@sprynet.com

Past President - Lloyd Ulrich
703-724-3954
lloydugator@yahoo.com

January's special days!

Many happy returns to birthday celebrants:

- 8 Della Hoosier
- 21 Cynthia Pearce
- 21 Elaine Ulrich
- 21 Patsy Nagel



Joyful anniversaries:

- 12 Robert Bolling & Sheila Cane
- 18 Chuck & Sally Walters
- 29 Richard & Mary Bartelt



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



Hoosiers set to host Superbowl party

Once again, NORVA members will gather at the beautiful woodland home of Cecil and Della Hoosier for a “pot luck” **Superbowl Party on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018**. The Hoosiers have hosted this annual football rally for the past several years. “We are looking forward to seeing everybody and will gather here anytime from 4:00 p.m. on,” says Della. “This is a potluck so bring your favorite football party dish.” Della and Cecil will provide soft drinks. If you would like something else, please feel free to bring it. There is no rally fee. **Please call or e-mail Della and RSVP your attendance at this rally.** Phone: 540-937-3527. E-mail: hoosiers@sprynet.com.

The Hoosiers live in Amissville, Va., at 3448 Holly Springs Road. If you are coming from Northern Virginia: follow I-66 west to U.S. 29 south. At Warrenton follow directions to Luray Virginia. Make a right turn onto U.S. 211 by the Howard Johnson’s and in front of the WAWA station. Drive west about eleven miles and turn left on Rte. 639 which is Holly Springs Road.

If you are coming from the south up U.S. 29, take Rte. 229 north out of Culpeper and turn left on U.S. 211 for about 3 miles, then turn left on 639.

The Hoosier home is about 1 ¼ miles ahead on Holly Springs Road. Look for #3448 on large mailbox and turn right up the hill to the house.





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|---------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Oct. 28, 2017 | NORVA Business Lunch Fredericksburg, Va. | April 25-29 | Region 3 Rally Myrtle Beach, S.C. |
| Nov. 2-4 | Oyster Festival Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky | May 22- June 8 | NORVA Unit Caravan Grant & Sherman - 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 Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Host: Ulrich | July 20-22 | Shenandoah River State Park Rally Host: TBD |
| Feb. 4 | Superbowl 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 | Maintenance Rally Fredericksburg KOA Host: Carmichael | Sept. 21-23 | Virginia Commonwealth Rally Holiday Travel Park Virginia Beach, Va. Host: NORVA - TBD |

“MAMMA MIA” RALLY

Sunday, January 21, 2018, Lunch 1:00 p.m., Show 3:00-6:00 p.m.

NORVA’s winter rally at The Riverside Center Dinner Theater, 95 Riverside Drive, Fredericksburg, Va.
RALLY FEE is \$60.00 per person and includes lunch and an on-stage live performance of “Mamma Mia,”
the megahit musical featuring the songs of ABBA.

To reserve seats, call Lloyd Ulrich, 703-724-3954 (or leave message).

Or send E-mail: lloydugator@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS: JANUARY 8! THIS IS A VERY POPULAR SHOW!

Name(s) _____

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

Number attending _____ x \$60. Total rally fee enclosed \$ _____.

Mail completed coupon with check made out to Lloyd Ulrich, 20425 Bunker Hill Way, Ashburn, VA 20147