

NORVA NEWS

October 2020 Newsletter



AIRSTREAM HUGS

HOOK UP AND GET SIGHTSEEING

As I write the first article after assuming the position of President for the NORVA Airstream Club, I want to thank Tom Carmichael and all the NORVA officers for navigating the club through the WUHAN virus. It has been a very challenging year, but we have adapted to the restrictions placed on us by the state and local governments. Out of the twelve months since October 2019, we managed to participate in 9 of 13 planned events. The only months we missed because of cancellations were April thru June.

Doug Anderson had a great kickoff rally in July to start the return of some normalcy in camping. This was followed by NORVA's annual maintenance rally that was attended by 65 members of which 48 were from NORVA. The finally rally of the 2019-2020 year was the End of Summer Rally at the Shenandoah Valley Campground in Verona, VA. This rally was attended by 25 people and 12 Airstreams. An article about the rally is on page 4.

Since January 2020, NORVA has gained 17 and lost 10 member households, making a total of 77. Several new members signed up as a result of meeting and talking with NORVA members promoting the Airstream club at the RV shows in Washington, DC and Richmond. Others have joined on their own. I would like those who joined in 2020 to provide information on how they found out about the Airstream Club International and NORVA so that we can develop strategies to promote NORVA and the Airstream Club in the future. Please provide this information to Lew Brodsky, Membership Director, Laural Veloz, 1st VP and myself.

Patsy and I will be starting our 4th year of Airstreaming next February. In fact, it will also be our 4th year of camping. When we started, we did not know if we would like this lifestyle but found out quickly that we love it and being members of NORVA is a big part of that. We have made many new friends and look forward to making many more this next year and in years to come.

The NORVA theme for this coming year is **HUGS** (Hook Up and Go Sightseeing). Some of us may not be able to do extended trips but will be able to do shorter weekend trips. I also ask you to consider writing a short (or long) article about any of your adventures and provide with pictures to Sue and Gary Shepard for inclusion in NORVA News. This will allow us to live vicariously through your travels and it might spark an interest that says, **"I want to go there."**

Over this past year we have had some security issues with emails. Based on this, we are not going to provide emails and phone numbers of the officers in each issue as we have done in the past. A general email box will be published in NORVA





News as the club contact for information. Valid requests will be forwarded to the appropriate person. The NORVA Directory or the Blue Beret Membership Edition has contact information for members.

We have a new slate of Officers for 2020 / 2021. Some officers continue to serve in their current positions, some have changed positions and others have stepped up for the first time to assume leadership duties. Please support all the officers and consider volunteering for one of the positions or as a rally host next year. As I learned through my time in NORVA, you get back more from taking on an active role than you put into it. Looking forward to a fun and exciting year of **HUGS**.

- Gerry Nagel, *NORVA President*

WHERE WERE YOU ON 9-11?

We were in Canada on the GREAT LAKES - MANITOULIN ISLAND Caravan, NORVA's WBCCI Caravan U-280, with 14 other Airstreams.

On September 11, we were in a campground on Manitoulin Island that had already begun preparing to close for the season. They had turned off their cable for the season, and there were only a few other campers there. We were walking up to the rec hall for breakfast when we met someone who asked if we had heard the news. A plane had crashed into one of the Twin Towers in New York City. We had not, so we hurried to the rec hall for more news. As most of us lived through this, our first thoughts were that an airplane had malfunctioned and crashed by accident. Sadly, this turned out not to be the case. As we watched the tv (which the campground owners turned back on for us), we saw the second plane crash into the second Tower. This crash was followed by the plane crashing into the Pentagon. By then, we were all concerned with what was happening to our country. And we were in Canada with the border being closed! How would we return?

The decision was made to continue the caravan, which included three more days in Canada. The Canadians could not have been more helpful. They went out of their way to offer their support in any way possible. As we traveled, we saw many Canadian and American flags flying at half-staff and one large sign that said, "America will never fall."

At the last campground, our leaders, Gloria and Jerry Hissong, made arrangements to have a police escort to the border. There was a long back-up crossing at that time, as all vehicles were suspect and were being checked carefully. We found that trucks at the border were backed up for miles. We had a police escort that wound us through back streets ending at the border crossing. Most passed with few questions.

The third crash into the Pentagon was especially meaningful to one of the members of our caravan. Joyce Gregory was on vacation from her job at the Pentagon. Her office was in the section that was recently renovated - - the





section where the crash occurred. If not for the caravan, she would have been there. She later commented that she spent the next year going to funerals and remembrances.

We lived on Long Island as I taught school there. When we retired and moved to Virginia, my son on L.I. kept me informed of my ex-students and families. His information sadly confirmed at least 11 of my ex-students or their fathers perished that day. Later, I found out that one of my ex-boy scouts was in the NYC Police Department - Scene Investigative Unit and spent several months at the Staten Island Landfill raking the Tower's remains. He was looking for police and firefighter's badges and weapons. One can only imagine what else he saw. He did receive some help from the Police Department and retired after 20 years.

- Dick Arnold, *NORVA Member*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DOUG & GAIL PERKINS

Doug and Gail Perkins joined the NORVA Airstream Club winter of 2020. Doug is a Police Officer for 34 years. He retired from Fredericksburg Police Dept. and now works part-time for Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office as a detective, specializing in Forensics. Gail retired 2 years ago after working 30 years at Mary Washington Hospital. She worked in the ER, and then started and Managed the Forensic Program her last 20 years in nursing. Doug and Gail have been married for 26 years. They have 13 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and their yellow lab Seneca.

Doug and Gail have always enjoyed the outdoors. They tent camped for years, then moved up to a pop-up camper, then travel trailers, then 5th wheels, until they reached the top of the line into their Airstream. Doug has always wanted an Airstream, but he was unable to convince Gail to give up the luxury of her heated massage recliners, fireplace, and residential fridge in the 5th wheel. They were planning on a cross-country trip and camping in National Parks and boon-docking, places where it would be difficult for a large 5th wheel. Doug talked Gail into looking at Airstreams and it didn't take long for her to be hooked too. They purchased their 2019, 28-foot, International Signature 2 years ago and have enjoyed many camping adventures. They named their Airstream the "Riveted Butterfly" in memory of their daughter. Last year they spent 84 nights in their Airstream. So far this year they have spent 53 nights. Unfortunately,





their cross-country plans have been put on hold due to medical issues the first year, and COVID-19 this year, but it is still on their "to-do" list.

Doug and Gail attended the Richmond RV Show this past winter where they met Gerry and Patsy Nagel. Gerry and Patsy told them about the NORVA Club which they joined. They attended the New Members luncheon and have attended all 3 rallies. They have enjoyed meeting new friends and look forward to many more adventures with the club.



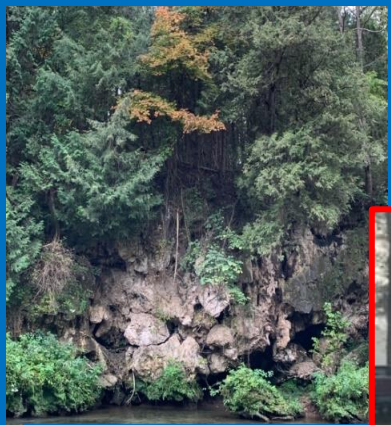
SHENANDOAH VALLEY CAMPGROUND

Another Great Weekend! Shenandoah Valley Campground, VA – September 24-27

We had a great time sitting under the outdoor shelter playing corn hole, enjoying a fire, and listening to the pelting rain on the steel roof Friday evening. Saturday morning brought a little more rain but a lot of warm coffee and good conversation and fellowship. The sun eventually came out and some gathered around an outdoor TV for a little college football. Some of the ladies enjoyed local wines during the football games. We closed the weekend festivities on Sunday morning with a pancake and sausage breakfast prepared and served with social distancing precautions in place. Since we missed so many events this year, it was great to squeeze in one more opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and reconnecting with friends new and old.

We also welcomed two families that have been members of NORVA for some time now but, this was the first rally they have attended.







SUSAN AND GARY SHEPARD – 3RD GENERATION AIRSTREAMERS

Generation One:

Our family's love of camping comes from years of familial experience. Sue's maternal grandparents, Dr. Kenneth and Nellie Ingalls Bordine, purchased an Airstream in 1967. They first bought a Frolic, took one trip in it, and came home and traded it in on an Airstream. They participated in their local Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) out of their home base of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, where both were retired educators. Nellie was an elementary teacher, and Kenneth was the Dean of Education at Central Michigan University.



Generation Two:

The Bordine's youngest daughter, Ginny, was Sue's mother. She and Sue's father, Ray Kohr, began camping with their three small children in a Sears Canvas tent. They enjoyed it so much they upgraded to an Apache Pop Up Camper and eventually purchased a Corsair travel trailer which Ginny and the kids lived in each summer up near their eventual retirement property on Lake Huron in Bay Port, Michigan. Ray would join on weekends and during his vacation times.

In 1994, Ray and Ginny retired and fulfilled a dream by purchasing a 1995 Airstream Excella 1000, 30-foot travel trailer. They enjoyed many travels as part of the Mid East Michigan Airstream club where they both served as President on at least two occasions. They led many rallies and Caravans all over the United States and Canada during their 20 years of Airstreaming.

Generation Three:

Sue and I purchased our first camping tent from Sears in 1992 and began camping regularly with our children. In 2007 we purchased a Starcraft Pop Up Camper. In 2013, Sue found a 1962 Trailmaster 13-foot trailer near her parent's retirement home in Bay Port, MI. We purchased the Trailmaster for \$400, completed at frame off restoration, and happily sold the trailer in 2018 when we became ready to purchase our first Airstream.





In June of 2018, Eliot, our 1977 26' Airstream Argosy, fell into our lap. A friend who restores Airstreams as a hobby found Eliot for us. We updated the flooring, tires, and wheels and did a lot of cleaning and then began camping in our new-to-us Airstream Argosy. We joined NORVA in July 2018 and began attending rallies with the club that very month.

In November of 2019, we found a 1979 31' Excella 500 about an hour and a half from our home. The 1979 was camping ready. We sold our 1977 Argosy and have since been making the 1979 our new home away from home. Additionally, we've recently purchased a 1964 Airstream Ambassador 28' and are having it restored in time for us to begin using it in Spring 2021. Sadly, we lost Sue's Mom and Dad in 2020. We have purchased their lake house in Bay Port, which comes complete with a 40' x 60' pole barn. As a result, we will park the 1979 Excella in Michigan, where we plan to join the Mid-East Michigan club as associate members and use the 1964 Ambassador to enjoy our NORVA events in this part of the country.



- Gary & Sue Shepard, *NORVA Newsletter Editors*

CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS



Christian and Leigh Ann Schultz

Leigh Ann and I have lived together in the DC area since 2009 and are new to Airstream ownership and RV traveling. We picked up our 27-foot international Serenity, which we named Oscar Mike, in mid-July. After a couple short get-to-know-it trips, we met some fellow Airstream owners who encouraged us to join the international club — we did and our number is 20509 — and to join a local club to meet nearby owners. We look forward to meeting up with other NORVA owners to share stories, learn more about Airstream best practices, and hear about other members' travel experiences to inspire our future adventures.



Sawaya and Lori Lekoshere

Sawaya is originally from Kenya, from the nomadic Samburu tribe, and I am from South Carolina. He moved over here for school and has been a citizen for a year! We have lived for 8 years in Blacksburg, Southwest VA. My husband is a physician and I am a painter. We have 4 kids who are in a classical collaborative school, which means we part-time homeschool. I come from a tent-camping family, but we took the leap into serious camping when we purchased an Airstream in August. We hope to explore the East, but would love to make it out West someday.



Chris and Wendy Meyer

Chris and Wendy met in Boulder, CO in 1984 and have been married for over 30 years. Chris is a retired Navy officer now working in Arlington and Wendy is a criminal defense attorney working for the Fredericksburg office of the Public Defender. We have three grown sons and two grandchildren. After our travel plans for this summer were canceled we decided to purchase a new Flying Cloud and have had it out for long weekend trips three times this summer, visiting Belle Isle state park, Breaks Interstate Park, and Hershey, PA. Although we are not new to camping and the outdoors, we are new to the Airstream community and still have much to learn. We are looking forward to meeting everyone soon as we continue to find new places to visit and explore in our new Airstream. We do love it.

MAINTAINENCE MASTIN

Do you have a question for Airstream Technician, DJ Mastin? DJ is the owner of Broken Rivet INC.

Click in the email link below and send DJ a question or two. He will use your questions and respond to them in the following months newsletter.

Brokenrivetsllc@gmail.com

Happy Fall Everyone! I want to take a moment to thank each streamer who came out to the maintenance rally. With the current situation with the closures and distancing it was awesome seeing Cozy Acres turn silver for a weekend.

I have had a lot of people asking about camping in the cooler months. Whether you are headed to the beach or taking in the fall colors, camping in the Fall can be quite unique. With that said, here are a few things to keep in mind while extending trips into the cooler months.

1. LP appliances attract insects. With the cooler weather they will go towards these burners and vents so a quick look into the exhaust vents especially the furnace can save some headache as well as smell.



DJ Mastin
Airstream Technician



2. The rooftop HVAC units equipped with a heat pump. These units are only efficient down to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. This means although they may still work below that they are drawing excessive amperage and could lead to breakers being tripped on the pedestal or in the coach. On trailers newer than 2014 when running the heat pump the condensation will drop off the roof. Airstream redesigned the drain system eliminating the traditional pan going to a different style drain.
3. Temperature swings in the fall can differ greatly. Keep those LP bottles full as you can to keep from having a mid-night heating issue while running the furnace.
4. Tire pressure, yes this will be in a lot of articles but always check and adjust (if needed) the pressure before traveling. Always set the pressure cold (before traveling)
5. Sudden temperature drops can lead to confusion on what to do. If it is going below freezing disconnect the hose for the city water (unless you have a heated hose) drain so it will not freeze. Make sure you turn on the heat. Be prepared with plenty of propane for the nights burn. Open some cabinet doors up a little so the heat will gravitate towards the insides where the plumbing is.
6. Traveling in freezing temperatures, if you know how to winterize your coach you probably do it before traveling, if you do not there are few things you can do to help prevent freeze damage. 1. do not travel with the furnace on, going down the road. 2 drain your water heater
7. Open the low point drains and open the faucets to drain the water out of the lines. until you can have it winterized.

I Hope everyone has a great fall and I'm looking forward to a new year with "hopefully" more camping.

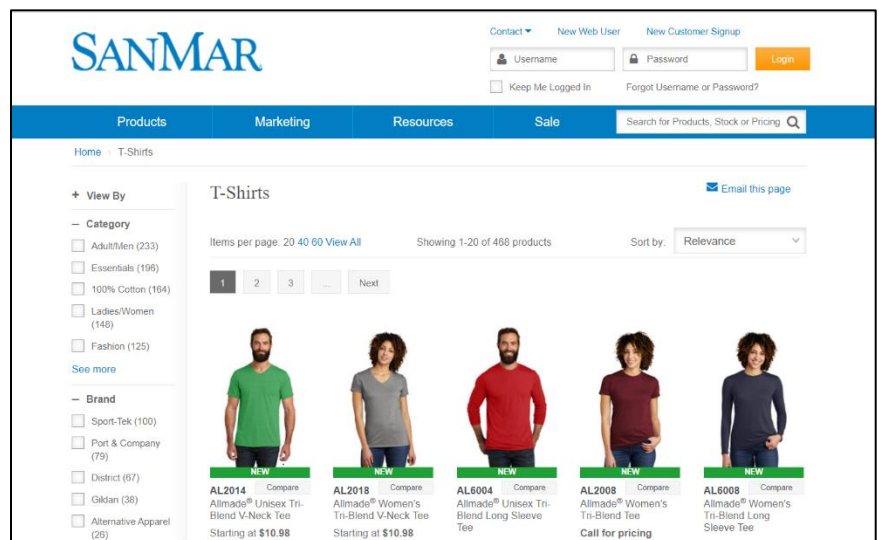
AIRSTREAM GEAR

There are two options for ordering official NORVA Logo Apparel.

Lands' End Store Front: Please click the link and place your order directly with Lands' End. This link will take you to our logo. No other information is necessary. https://business.landsend.com/store/norva_airstream_club/

OR

Find a product you like at www.Sanmar.com, then send an email to janetsgraphics@yahoo.com or call/text at 989.415.6324. Please provide the product item number and color you would like along with your name and contact information. If you have any questions, please contact us anytime and we will be happy to provide further information.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumalina Rally

October 22 – 25, 2020

According to host, John Leake of the Palmetto State (S.C.) Airstream Club, the “Alumalina Rally” at Tom Johnson RV Park in Marion, N.C., will be held as scheduled. The dates are Oct. 22 to 25, 2020. “This is the 14th time we are doing the Alumalina Rally,” says John. “Come and join us for four days of food, fun, seminars, craft fairs, a flea market, door prizes, open house, and lots of paroozing.” The camping fee is \$32/night with full hook-ups on flat, level, green grass in rally-style parking. There will be a modest rally fee. The amount has yet to be determined, but probably \$30 to 35 per person. It will cover the cost of morning coffee & donuts plus three dinners, including an on-site “fish & seafood fry.” Pay both fees upon arrival at the rally site.

“There is no need for a reservation,” explains John. “We have 300 sites reserved, all with full hook ups. Please just send me an e-mail message to say you are coming: john@leakesantiques.com, or call me at 803-984-7225 for more info. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend.” John says Airstreamers with 185 rigs have already indicated they will be attending this year’s Alumalina Rally.

Army National Museum Rally

November 13 – 15, 2020

NORVA currently plans to go ahead with a rally at Fort Belvoir. The weekend will “Explore the National Museum of the U.S. Army,” Nov 13 to 15. This is a brand-new complex in a recently completed ultra-modern museum building with interactive displays, wide-screen films, and hundreds of artifacts and military equipment in scores of dioramas and exhibits.

Unfortunately, as this issue of NORVA News is being sent to you, the museum has not yet opened to the public. It was supposed to open in early June, but the pandemic caused Fort Belvoir to postpone the grand opening indefinitely. Even if it is open in November, docent-led group tours may not be available. Instead, COVID-19 precautions may only allow people to self-guide through the museum, limiting occupancy and enforcing distancing...not exactly the way we like to do Airstream rallies. NORVA planners will monitor developments and decisions at Fort Belvoir and will keep members informed. Meanwhile, the rally remains on the NORVA Event Schedule for November.

December Holiday Brunch

December 5, 2020

With optimism, NORVA’s Ed and Beth Jones are still planning to host the Holiday Brunch Rally at their Alexandria home on Saturday, Dec. 5. Of course, it will depend on COVID-19 conditions Virginia faces in late fall. Assuming the indoor brunch can be done safely and without fear, the year-end party remains on the Event Schedule for now.



64th WALLY BYAM AIRSTREAM CLUB ★ INTERNATIONAL RALLY ★

★ July 17-24, 2021 ★ LEBANON, TN ★

REGISTRATION

RALLY FEES – \$265 for an RV On-Site with 30 amp electric, water, and pump-outs; \$125 for each Adult (18+); \$40 for each Youth 13-17; Free for Children (12 & Under).

ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING – Special parking, if requested, is near the central rally area for members. We ask that you provide your government/state-issued placard or supporting documentation during registration.

REGISTRATIONS – Through the courtesy of Airstream, Inc., members registered before the start of the Rally are entered into a prize drawing. Gift certificates for parts and service will be drawn with a total of \$2,000 in prizes to be given away. Registrants must be present at the Airstream presentation to win.

STAGING AREA – In an attempt to keep the rigs moving, you will receive a rally arrival date in the Spring of 2021. If you can't make it on that date, the Rally Arrival Team will be ready to park you when you arrive from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Arrivals after dusk may stay overnight in the Staging Area, with no hookups, until parking begins the next morning.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Refund requests received by May 22, 2021, will be assessed a \$50.00 fee. Refund requests after May 23, 2021, will be assessed a 50% fee. NO refunds after July 3, 2021. *If you might have to cancel after that day, please consider obtaining travel insurance.*

RALLY PARKING DATES – General parking is tentatively scheduled to begin around July 14th. Parking dates will be sent via email in Spring 2021. Caravans of 5 or more need to contact HQ at rally@airstreamclub.org for available arrival dates.

HOW TO REGISTER – Go to airstreamclub.org/Lebanon, call HQ at 937-596-5211 or fill out this form, make a check payable to WBCCI, in **US Funds Only** and mail to: WBCCI, P.O. Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334. Email questions to rally@airstreamclub.org.

64th WALLY BYAM AIRSTREAM CLUB ★ INTERNATIONAL RALLY
JULY 17-24, 2021 ★ LEBANON, TN

BIG RED NUMBER: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Email: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Email: _____

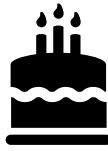
Address: _____ City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone (C): _____ Phone (H): _____

Rally Attendee(s)	Quantity Info	Quantity	Rate	Amount	Parking Options	Yes
RV On Site	Yes = 1 No = 0		\$265.00	\$	Vintage	
Adult (18 & Over) (Each)	Enter number		\$125.00	\$	First Time Attendee	
Youth (13 - 17) (Each)	Enter number		\$ 40.00	\$	ADA Accessible	
Child (12 & Under)	Enter number		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Band Member	
Lifetime Member Discount	Limit 1		\$-20.00		Generator	
			GRAND TOTAL:	\$	Solar	

Registration Date: _____ Rec'd By: _____ Registration Source: ☐Mail ☐Online ☐Rally

Payment Type: ☐Cash ☐Check ☐Credit Card Amt Paid: \$_____ Check #: _____



October Birthdays

Harriett Clift	3-Oct
Barbara Cox	9-Oct
Dave Colburn	13-Oct
Glenna Winnie	14-Oct
Edgar Simmons	15-Oct
Mark Joyce	23-Oct
Stephen Kaczmar	29-Oct
Gerry Nagel	30-Oct
Ed Usher	30-Oct
Debra Kaczmar	30-Oct



October Anniversaries

Steve & Sue Jones 3-Oct

NORVA Officers

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021



President
Gerry Nagel



1st Vice President
Laural Veloz



2nd Vice President
Jackson McBroom
Club Caravan Leader



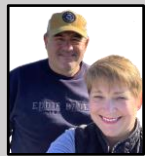
Secretary
Janeene Rider



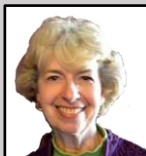
Treasurer
Kevin Quinn



Membership Director
Lew Brodsky



Newsletter Editors
Gary & Sue Shepard



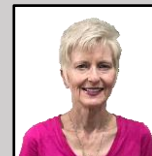
Legislative Director
Beth Jones



Storekeeper
Jim Timberlake V



Parliamentarian
Ed Jones



Webmaster
Patsy Nagel



Past President
Tom Carmichael

[Contact NORVA Officers by emailing norvaclub@gmail.com]



WITH APPRECIATION...

Lew, thank you for giving us an awesome newsletter these past three years. We are thankful, not only to you but also to your lovely wife, Cathy. We recognize that you could not have done what you did without her support. And, let's not forget the support of Paisley too. Lew and Cathy are great. Lew, Cathy, and Paisley are what we love to see when we hitch up and go. You have set a high bar, and the Shepard's are excited to do our best to continue the excellent newsletter tradition that morphed greatly under your tutelage. We appreciate our club's support and are incredibly thankful for your transitional expertise, guidance, and ongoing support. NORVA has become such a massive part of our life, and we are grateful.

- Sue and Gary Shepard

