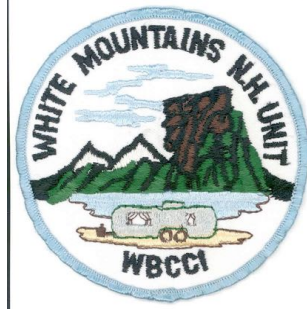


MOUNTAIN ECHOES

Newsletter of the

White Mountains New Hampshire Unit

WBCCI



August 1, 2016

Message from your President

Hi Airstreamers!

I hope you have all been out and about in your shiny homes... we have!



In June, we travelled to the International rally in a small caravan superbly led by Lori and Dave Peirce with four other families (Jerry Carruba and Paulette Gagne, Chuck and Anna Kiritsy, Sal and Gail Fazzino, and Dick and Kit Wheatley). This was a "real" caravan, with campgrounds

scouted and reserved for us by the Peirces, a daily itinerary, route plans, drivers' meetings, happy hours, and wonderful support and advice from our beloved leaders. I had looked forward to this for so long, and the trip was even more fun than I had anticipated!

The International Rally was amazing... almost 800 Airstreams were spread out over the Lewisburg, West Virginia State Fair grounds. That's a lot of shiny aluminum! Since we got there as an early "volunteer" caravan, our group had beautiful sites on the side of a hill looking over the main buildings from the other side of a grassy field, with the vintage trailer group spread up the hill



behind us. We were later joined by Rich and Laurena Will, who were put in a distant site, unfortunately.

On the second night of our stay, a devastating storm overwhelmed the rivers and streams of the area, and violently flooded the Greenbrier resort (wiping out the PGA golf tournament scheduled for the next week), historic downtown Lewisburg, and surrounding towns. Of course, we were reminded of Tropical Storm Irene. The Rally wasn't physically affected by the storm, but attention was turned to volunteering and fundraising for the victims. Airstreamers turned out to be a very generous group!

In the course of our series of happy hours, our group of eight began to talk about the fact that we constitute all of the officers of the White Mountains New Hampshire Unit. Not only that, but out of the eight people, six have been presidents, and one is VP, poised to step into the president's rôle this Fall. Our unit consists of about forty members and affiliates, about twenty of whom are "active". That's a small unit, and possibly a normal percentage of participation in events, but with the administration concentrated in such a small number of families, it's not as healthy as it should be. In short, we need members to step up and volunteer to take on some of the administrative rôles! Paulette Gagné will be our president for the next year. Is there someone who would be willing to take on the (very light!) load of Vice President, to follow as President after

Paulette's term is up? Speak up – don't be shy!

We will hold our Fall meeting during our Fish Creek rally, September 9–12. Fall meeting is when our officers and appointed positions for the next year are decided by vote. Please feel free to nominate yourself or someone else (someone who agrees to the nomination!) for one of our offices. Nominations can be sent to me, Mary Lehner at melehner@aol.com.

There are other topics we will discuss at Fall meeting. Most fun, to say nothing of important, is thinking of rallies, gatherings, caravans, and luncheons for the next season. Please be prepared to contribute ideas for destinations, types of trips, etc., as well as how you might like to help plan and lead an event. This year, we have hitched on to three rallies planned by others—a great way to go— but we are fond of our home grown varieties also! Let's get creative!!!

We had some discussions about re-naming our unit, as we really are not simply a New Hampshire organization! With the new administration at both the Regional and National levels, this process will be much less onerous than in the past. We came up with several names that we thought would be appropriate (*Northeast Airstream Club, Northeast Mountains Airstream Club, Nor'easter Airstream Club, ???*) but we want to know what others think – send me your suggestions and comments, and we will take the matter up at our September meeting.

While we talked about naming ourselves, we naturally drifted into thinking about the future of our unit. Are we too small to maintain ourselves? Is the concentration of officers a symptom of our imminent demise? Would it make sense to change the length of presidents' terms to two years? The New England Unit has suggested that we might want to think of merging with them. Is this an idea we want to pursue? What would we give up/gain in such a change? We will have all of these issues on the agenda for our Fall meeting, so please be thinking!!

We're heading to the Region 1 SnowGoose Rally in Montmagny, Quebec on Thursday – hope to see you there!

Mary Lehner, *WMU President 2015-16*



Dick Wheatley displayed our flags at Lewisburg.

Ready to Travel?

Lori Peirce provided the following advice for their Caravan to Lewisburg participants, but we're publishing it here because it seems so sensible and useful.

"Time begins to grow strong wings and fly in a true and tireless line as we approach our start date. I am always amazed how things seem to dawdle along...then shoot forward nearly out of control...but maybe that is just me.

As Dave and I prep for departure...and complete the last jobs around the house, it reminds me that no matter how thorough you think your plans are, how complete your loading list is, there is no 'perfection' of goal --only the smiles and tears of the 'trying' . A reminder to myself to enjoy the journey in all its phases.

We are getting the rig and truck ready to travel, cleaning and repairing and stocking up. We would like to share with you a few of our travel tips.

1. The night before we leave the house we sleep in the rig. It helps us acclimate to the new beds (for old bones and backs) and it helps us see what we have forgotten to pack. (OMG, where's my toothbrush.)
2. We pack light, we pack double duty, we pack sun screen and bug repellent, we double check meds, eye stuff, allergy stuff and first aid stuff.
3. We check the batteries in flash lights, weather radios and all safety or backup equipment.
4. We rely on each other for system checks and hook up checks. We no longer use the check list method for departure/hookup

but it is a useful tool especially at the beginning of the travel season when you are a little rusty.

5. We are weather geeks, so we want to know always what lies ahead weather-wise -- temps, wind and rain, snow or ice. We pack 12 volt fans for those non hookup really hot places. We have a weather alert radio in the trailer for those (God forbid tornado warnings) at 2 am.
6. We are not going to Outer Mongolia so there will be grocery stores and pharmacy's available along the way for forgotten or needed supplies BUT if you have a favorite toothpaste, beer, ice cream or dog food you may not find it easily in other areas of the country. (But that's the adventure of it all, right?) Plan ahead as needed.

Riding Shotgun

Lori's advice continues: "a word about the role of the Navigator. We have found that the Navigator is super important to the safety and enjoyment of the trip. Not only an essential second pair of eyes on the road, the Navigator has the welfare of the driver to support and maintain. The Navigator has the ability to move and turn around, look at the GPS system or maps, get water bottles, check travel books/ smart phone for interesting information and watch the driver for signs of fatigue, boredom or road daze. Reading books, playing games, surfing, sleeping and other non engaged activities are not recommended.

Just as in airplanes or ships the Navigator is not a passive passenger but an important member of the traveling team.

Recommended Equipment

Here's a list of the recommended equipment you have in the trailer for caravans and rallies (taken from WBCCI Caravan Book).

Hoses:

- 1 25ft and 1 50ft 5/8 diameter nontoxic (white)
- 2 free flowing Y's with caps
- 1 shut off Y
- 1 10ft sewer hose and donut
- 1 short sewer hose
- 1 regular drain hose

Other Equipment:

- Wheel Chocks
- Leveling blocks and boards
- Tow cable
- Highway flares
- 50ft Electrical extension cord (10/12 gauge)
- Electrical adapters: 30 amp to 20 amp, and 20 amp to 30 amp.
- Water pressure regulator

Food Suggestions

Stocking the rig with small bottles of condiments (non perishable) reduces the carrying of things out from the house. A Ziploc bag of ice cubes from home can come in handy and the fuller the RV freezer is, the better.

Carry things for quick meals. After a day of being busy no one wants to cook and eating out gets old and pricey.

A variety of nuts, hummus, dips, cold cuts, cheese and veggie/fruit works for happy hours. RV fridges do not usually keep food for as long as do home fridges.

I know I am preaching to the choir.....but making a big pot of something good at home and then freezing some and packing some make things easy and comfy.

Keep bread, crackers, cookies, chips and cereal in the microwave or an air tight plastic container. No rig is ant or mouse proof and they do get in when you least expect it.



Wounded warriors Paulette Gagne and Andreas Lehner show off their casts and slings in June – happy to report that both have made full recoveries!

WMU 2016 Calendar

August 4-7, 2016: **Quebec Rally**
Region 1 Rally at Montmagny.

September 9-12: **Fish Creek Pond**

Our unit's fall rally and meeting.