

Region 1 Blue Beret

By J. Rick Cipot

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Welcome to the November issue of your Blue Beret. By now many of us are thankful for making it this far in 2020. No doubt we have all been tested in so many ways yet here we are. For us New Englanders and Canadians in Region One things are a bit different in that we get to celebrate the four seasons always offering a change in pace. Sure, other northern states across the upper 48 have their seasons but there is just something special celebrating in New England. And boy do we need the change. The political campaigning season is finally behind us and we can all start to settle in for the winter. Congratulations to anyone who was able to get a bit of camping in this year and I trust everyone kept safe and bided with the guidelines of your local government. My prayers and thoughts go out to anyone who suffered in any fashion from this pandemic.

“So if you want to love me – Then darlin’ don’t refrain – Or I’ll just end up walkin’ – In the cold November rain” – *November Rain* by Guns & Roses. Yes there can be love even in November. I don’t recall off hand any movie special of a couple announcing their engagement at the Thanksgiving table but I’m sure it’s happened. Of course we have Thanksgiving to celebrate as the major start of the holiday season but things will be different this year no doubt. However I am sure many of us will find many things to be thankful for. Traveling with our Airstreams this late fall will be a bit of a challenge but certainly will test our patience. Quarantine here, stay there, call ahead, stay put and whatever you do, do not pass GO! I wish everyone safe travels as they head out to their destinations for the winter months.

Out of this entire world upside down cinereous I do have to admit that many of us have learned many new skill sets. I have learned that you cannot cheat playing cribbage. Thirty-two new recipes have made it into my cook book now that all of the restaurants have been closed. Another thing I noticed, all of a sudden there is excess funds in our check book. Well of course there is, we don’t go out for anything anymore. I always thought ZOOM was either a child’s card game or the sound a Matchbox Car made going down the imaginary highway. Working in an essential business I have had to be onsite everyday so really didn’t get into the ZOOM world till WBAC realized what a wonderful tool it really is. Who cares that the campgrounds are closed, we can happy hour “virtually”. Fall business meetings during this pandemic are now taking place on kitchen tables across the region. And that long drive to IBT this year? Forget about it! ZOOM! Seriously, I think we will be getting more club work done in shorter periods of time with the convenience of holding a meeting whenever someone needs to share a new idea for our club.

Sandi and I would like to that this opportunity to wish all of our Wally Byam Airstream Club friends a safe holiday season. Please take care of yourselves and others, keep your spirits high, offer those help who can’t help themselves and as always, keep the shiny side up.