

2021

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER of the
NY FINGER LAKES AIRSTREAM CLUB

THE GRAPEVINE—January 2021

Website: <https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/>

Volume 20, Issue 1

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The Grapevine

The Grapevine will be published at least 8 times/year (Feb/March, April, May, June/July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov) or as needed.

Newsletter Editor is Liz Kirk.

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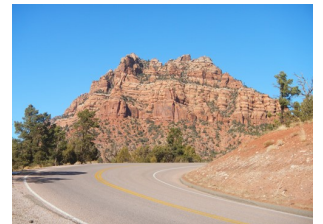
Unit Membership Directory is published each January

The President's Corner

Happy New Year Airstreamers!

2020 is in the rear view mirror and we are traveling down route "2021." No one knows what adventures are in store for this year's journey. Let's just hope there are no surprises like we had last year.

Diane and I celebrated the New Year in our Airstream at Virgin, Utah, just a few miles outside of Zion. On New Year's Day, we took a scenic drive along the upper terrace of Zion Canyon to enjoy the mountain views.



So far, this year is off to a good start with a number of Rally/Meet-ups added to our club's schedule. Please keep the following dates open for these rally/meet-ups currently being planned - May 20-23, Suzanne and Gary Russo are hosting the first rally/meet-up of the year, along with co-hosts Mary and Mark Sweeny. On August 13-15, John and Nancy Hussar are planning to host a rally/meet-up at Owego County Park in Owego N.Y. On September 16-19, Diane and I are hosting a fall rally/meet-up at Lakeside State Park in Watport N.Y.

Our rallies will look a little different this year than in years past. Socially distant outdoors happy hours and campfires will replace indoors group events and shared meals. Masks and hand sanitizer are the new norm. But the goal of our events remain the same, for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time.

2021 may also be a great opportunity for someone to host or co-host your first rally or meet-up. It does not need to be an elaborate event, keep it simple. Do you have a favorite campground that you would like to share with the club? Choose a date and time when they have availability and suggest a meetup. Or reach out to one of our rally hosts and offer your help or to co-host. We all appreciate the help and new ideas!



Speaking of rallies and new ideas, be sure to check out the results of our membership survey in this newsletter. It was good to hear many of your ideas and feedback. The executive board will be discussing the results of the survey at a future business meeting.

Cheers to a better 2021! Randy & Diane

NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club 2021 Officers and Committee Members

President: Randy Hill
002president@wbcci.net
585-820-0061

1st V.P.: Gary Russo
fulloflife123@yahoo.com
585-967-6636

2nd VP: OPEN & recruiting

Treasurer: Ted Smith
teddonasmith@aol.com

Recording Secretary: OPEN & recruiting

Directors: John Dona (1 yr.)
Jim Gillio (2 yrs.)
Charlie Kirk (3 yrs.)

Membership Chair: Randy Hill
002president@wbcci.net
585-820-0061

Caravan Leader: Ray Wagner
rwagner2722@outlook.com

Safety Czar: John Hussar
hushearts@greygoosegraphics.com

Newsletter Editor
Webmaster

Membership Directory: Liz Kirk
002newslettereditor@wbcci.net

Sunshine: Diane Hill

Diane's Sunshine Corner

I want to welcome all of you to "2021" and a new year of fun and travel with our fellow members of The New York Finger Lakes Airstream Unit! Last year, I'm sure, was a very trying time for all of us, but I was happy to get together with several of our members where we enjoyed ourselves at some well-planned and safe meet-ups staying close within New York State! As of right now, this is our plan for 2021 and I look forward to seeing many more of you this year!

We want to say "Happy Birthday" to our members celebrating their birthdays in January -



Jim Babcock - January 12

Jill Freidmutter - January 12

If I have missed anyone's birthday, and you would like to be included in our newsletter, please send me an email at diane.hill@me.com

Please stay safe, stay well, and enjoy any traveling you may be doing during these winter months!

Diane Hill
Sunshine Chair
#30876



We'd like to welcome new members
Steven and Marisa Zogg
McGraw, NY

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:

<https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/>

The website will always have the most current information regarding rallies and events.

OR'



find us on Facebook at
[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1472017733005344/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472017733005344/)

NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club 2021 Activities

All activities are subject to change.
Please refer to upcoming issues of The Grapevine Newsletter for current activities. You can also find activities listed on our website.

TBD	Executive Business Meeting via Zoom Host: Randy Hill, President
SAVE THE DATE May 20th-23rd	Spring NYFLAC Rally Sampson State Park Romulus, NY Hosts: Suzanne & Gary Russo Mary & Mark Sweeny
SAVE THE DATE Tentative June 10th-13th	Region 2 2021 Rally York Expo Center, York, PA Information coming soon!
July 11—24, 2021 REGISTRATION OPEN https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon-2021-international-rally-0	64th Annual WBCCI International Rally Farm Bureau Expo Center Lebanon, TN
August 13th-15th	Hickories Park Rally Owego, NY Hosts: John & Nancy Hussar
SAVE THE DATE September 16th-19th	Fall NYFLAC RALLY Lakeshore State Park Waterport, NY Host: Randy & Diane Hill



And the Epicenter of our NYFLAC Membership is.....



Once again Charlie Kirk has located the epicenter of our membership. As you can see it is Geneva, NY. Last year it was a mere 10 miles to the east in neighboring Seneca Falls.

Why do we do this? When planning events and activities we always consider the distance people may need to travel. We want our events and activities to be as convenient as possible for our members.

This year Charlie was much more scientific. He used the GPS coordinates of each members' NY address and plotted the AVERAGE GPS coordinates!! Pretty smart I'd say. (He did not include extreme addresses outside our area ex. Tennessee).

And ONLY 13 miles down the east side of Seneca Lake is Sampson State Park, the site of our 1st 2021 Rally..... This is one of our favorite campgrounds. Charlie and I have been coming here almost every year since we got our trailer.



Why do we like Sampson SP?

- #1—It's easy to get to!!
- #2—Large, spacious sites.
- #3a—Fascinating military history.
- #3b-The museum is really impressive.
- #4—The park has great paths for hiking, biking, and geocaching!
- #5—Kid and family friendly.
- #6—It's right in the middle of billions of wineries and breweries.
- #7—It's 32 miles to Ithaca.
- #8—It's 21 miles to Taughannock Falls State Park.
- #9—We learn something new about the history with every visit.
- #10—There's a really, really old cemetery in the park dating back to early 1800's.



See You Down the Road.....

Gary Russo, 1st Vice President

Finally, the start of 2021. Our truck and trailer sit in storage till April 21. Suzanne and I sit home waiting for the day to pick them up. With Covid-19 the only good thing to come out of being home was that it gave us a chance to go through stuff around the house. Sold our living room set and bookshelves. I think Suzanne is getting ready to redo that room, Oh No!!!



Today I picked up the NEW Rally signage. Enclosed is a picture so that people are now looking for this signage as they make their way to a rally. The signage is on both sides with a Velcro arrow, so no matter which direction you are coming from, it will be pointed in the right direction, and they are weather proof.

The old signs were showing their years and depending on the direction, the sign would be upside down.



We are in the process of making plans for the upcoming camping year. Save the date May 20-23. This is our 1st outing of the 2021 year. More information to follow!!!

Looking forward to seeing you down the road in 2021!



Fall Rally September 16 - 19

New York Finger Lakes
Airstream Club
2021 Member Directory



Wally Byam Airstream Club
Region 2
Unit 2



Diane and I have been talking about ideas for a fall meet-up this September for the club. We want to keep things simple as we don't know how things will be with the virus by then (hopefully it will be better than it is now). We like the idea of using state parks as they offer space to socially distance for happy hours and campfires. I have looked at a number of parks, and many of them are already booked or only offer a few sites (I am limiting my search to sites with electric and pet loops). Lakeside has a lot of availability on the weekend of September 16 - 19.

Like last September's meet-up, we will use loop E as a base, and reserve sites next to each other at the middle of the loop so we can use the common area behind our trailers as a meeting area. If you are interested in attending, you will need to make your own reservation for the weekend on Reserve America. Many of the sites in loop E are available - Diane and I have reserved site E17.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Check your Grapevine Newsletter email for the electronic copy of your 2021 NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club Membership directory.

Colton RV will be distributing the printed version in the very near future.

The Membership Directory is no longer available on our website for privacy protection.

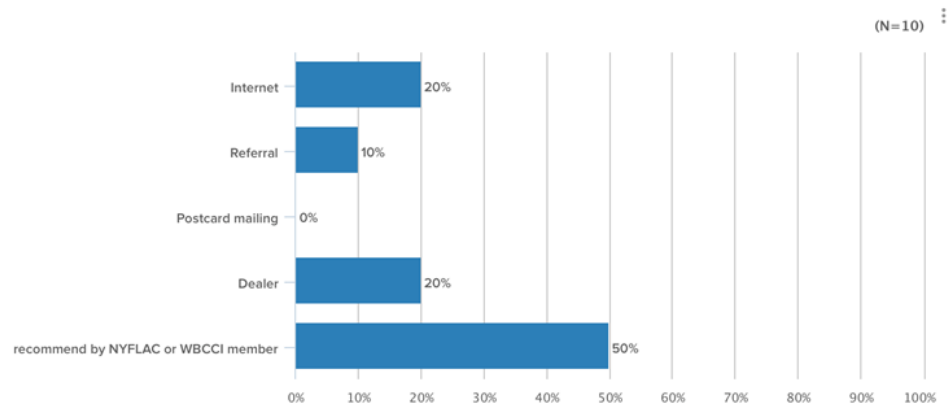
NYFLAC Member Satisfaction Survey Results

Last fall we asked the members of the club to fill out a Member Satisfaction Survey so we could better understand what is important to them as Airstream Club members. We wanted to know a little more about our members and hear your suggestions on how to make our rallies and events better. We received responses from about 10%-20% of our members. Below are several of the survey questions, results, and comments.

How did you hear about the NYFLAC?

Many of you joined the club from a recommendation from a current member before joining. Looks like we are our own best advertising for new members.

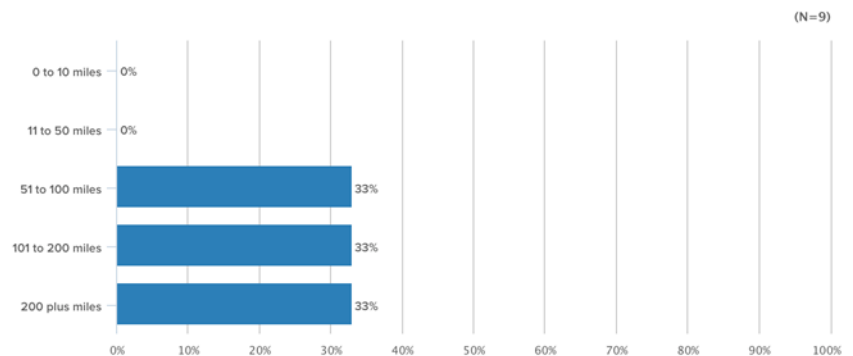
1. How did you hear about the New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club?



How far would you travel to attend a local rally?

Responses were evenly split between “50 miles” and “200 plus.” Road trip!

8. How far would you travel to attend a local rally?

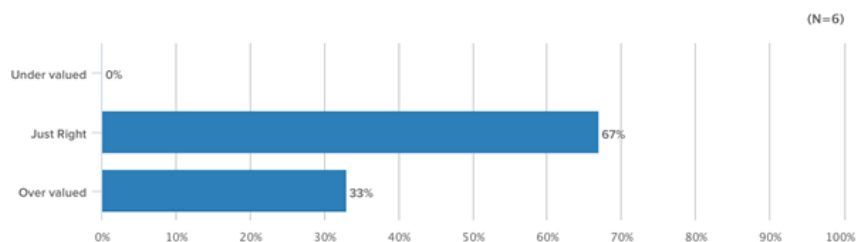


At past rallies, how would you rate the value for the rally?

Most felt our rallies were a good value. The average suggested cost for event was:

- Boondocking - \$15—\$20
- Electric only - \$30
- Water & Electric - \$40
- Full Hook-ups - \$55
- Additional Rally Fee - \$75

11. At past rallies, how would you rate the value for the rally?



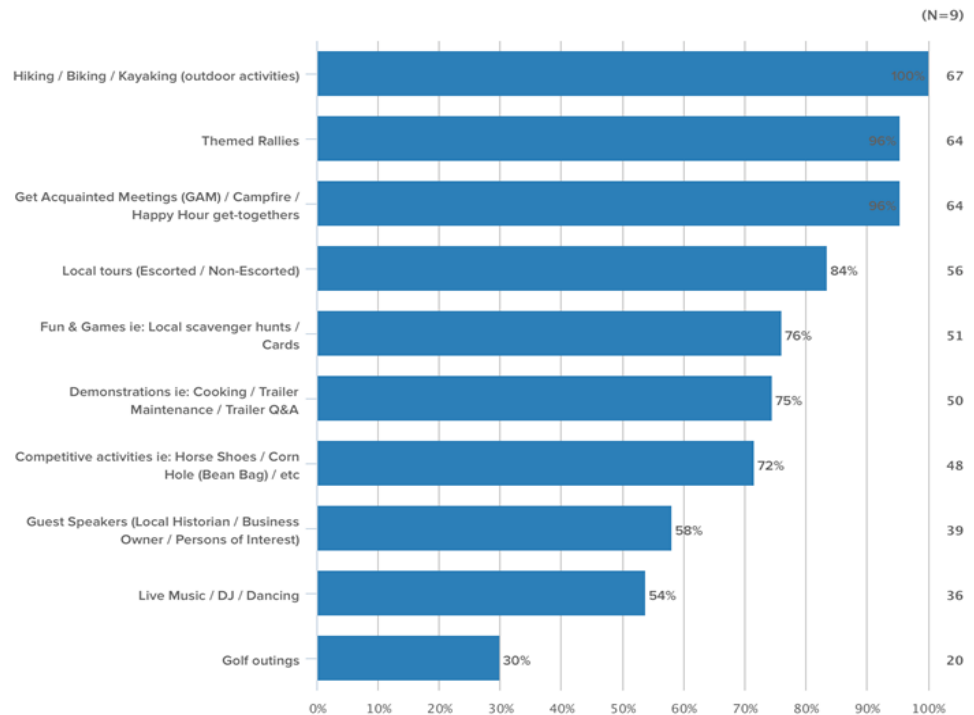
NYFLAC Member Satisfaction Survey Results

6. What type of activities would you like to see more of at a local rally? Rank 1-10 with 1 being the most interested and 9 being the least interested

What type of activities would you like to see more of at a local rally?

Everyone ranked Outdoors Activities as the #1 pick for what they would like to do more of at a rally. Themed Rallies rank #2. Christmas in July anyone?

Some of the comments received with this question.....



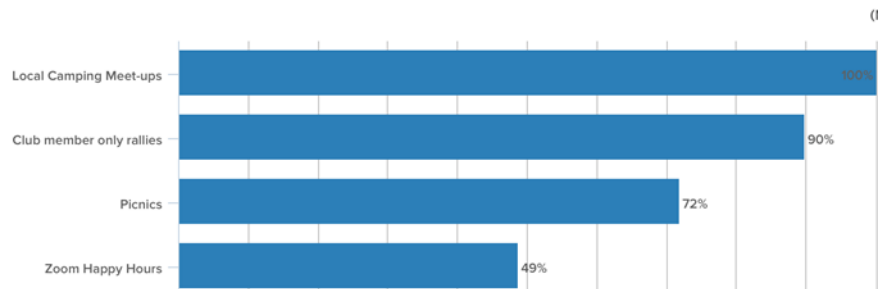
- Have a themed rally.
- Plan activities like tours of local attractions.
- Plan breakfasts and dinners at a campground or local restaurant.
- Not so many on your own things. If we wanted to do on your own things we wouldn't need a rally or an Airstream club.
- Less formal events.
- The 4pm happy hour followed by a 5pm dinner just doesn't work for me - and I don't believe it will attract many new/younger members.
- The club calendar (I believe) has been set around those who go south in October and come back in May - what percentage of the members actually do that? We have spent many nights in below 30F and have been just fine and had a good time (no bugs, snakes !!!!). Camping in October and April/May can work.
- We hosted a number of rallies through the years including the 2002 NYS rally. We had many tours and activities planned every day, Corning Glass, Curtis Museum, bus ride around the race track at Watkins Glen, and winery and brewery tours to name a few. Dinners and breakfasts were at the campground and we had entertainment every night at the nearby High School auditorium. Also had a craft show with awards and flea market. Door prizes every night too. Make it fun and have something interesting for everyone.

NYFLAC Member Satisfaction Survey Results

With Covid 19 canceling many rallies this past summer, what other club activities would you be interest in attending next summer?

With the Covid 19 affecting our lives, local meet-ups and smaller groups were preferred for next summer's events.

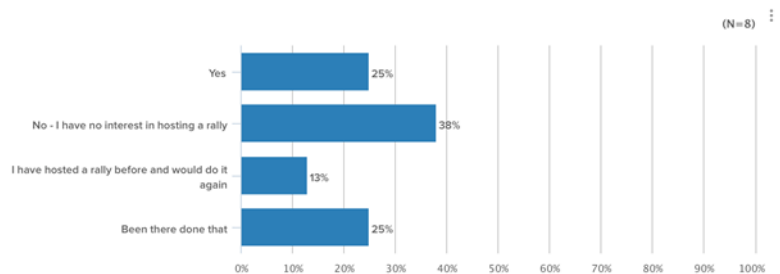
15. With Covid 19 canceling many rallies this past summer, what other club activities would you be interested in attending next summer? Rank 1 to 5 with 1 being the most interested and 5 being the least interested



Would you be interested in hosting a rally (with help)?

There is interest amongst some members to host a rally in the future, either as a Host or Co-host. If that is you, be sure to let us know - we would love to have your help and ideas.

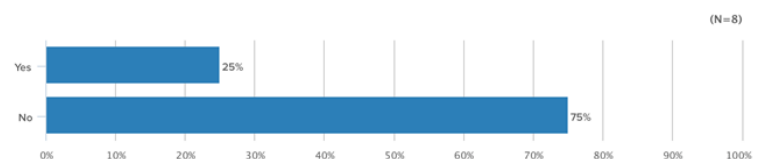
12. Would you be interested in hosting a rally (with help)?



Would you be interested in hosting a winter get-together?

There is limited interest in hosting a "winter get-together." This may be more due to our members being snowbirds then not wanting to get together.

13. Would you be interested in hosting a winter get-together?



Suggestions for winter events were:

- During non-Covid times I'd like to see a monthly event, perhaps rotated between communities. Could be a picnic, dinner, luncheon, meet at winery or brewery, perhaps tack on a local event or museum. We have members who are interested in gatherings but no longer tow a trailer.
- I don't think we have to limit it to winter as this group has a long history of catering to the folks who go south. Historically, little consideration has been made for those who stay in NY.
- Local hikes/snowshoe/cross country ski.
- Wine/cheese get-togethers.
- Mini newsletter, on line e-mails, zoom happy hours
- Zoom meetings, chats, and happy hours were popular responses (5 responses for Zoom)

Region 2 News—January

Submitted by Rich Short, Region 2 President

How do you begin to describe the year 2020 and all that has transpired during it? I think all the words and cliches have been used. It was definitely stressful, often overwhelming and hard to know what to do, and very often, what to say. Despite the year of COVID-19 being of such concern and disappointment, it has been a year of blessing for me and I sincerely hope for all of you. As each of us gives our own thanks according to our personal beliefs and persuasions, I hope we can dwell on the things that continue to bind us together. Family and friends being chief among them. The Airstream Club, to many of us, represents both. So, here's wishing, hoping, and praying 2021 will be a great year and one of renewal of all that makes us friends and family. I am confident we will soon be back to our camping routines in force. Better days are coming, and we will see more of each other down the road in 2021.

With that said, there is much going on in the Airstream Club. The mid-winter IBT meeting is scheduled for January 18-22 down in Sarasota, FL and will be a hybrid of sorts, mixing in-person meetings with Zoom attendance availability for those not traveling to attend. As I write this, Kathi and I plan to travel down from NJ with our Airstream to attend. I will do my best to represent our Region and I will provide a written report following the meetings.

Your Region 2 Officers are working on a plan for a 2021 Region 2 Rally. The Rally is tentatively set for June 10-13 at the York Expo Center in York, PA. We are in the beginning stages of planning and will be following up with more info in the coming weeks. The Rally will be different than what we have planned and experienced in past years...but what isn't! I will be inviting all our local club Presidents to a Zoom meeting to discuss the Rally and get feedback.

The new "Member Only" portal is now up and running on our airstreamclub.org website. If you have not, please go to the website, LOG IN, and explore. You can view and edit your member profile, add a picture, access Member and Club Leader Directories, see your Membership and Office history with the Club and most importantly, view the new Member Only Benefits that are being added to your Airstream Club membership. As you know we recently announced an exclusive program with **Passport America**, the largest discount camping club. Airstream Club members can enjoy an additional six months of membership, free, when they join PA. On January 1, we will announce a discount program with **Griot's Garage**, the manufacturer of some of the finest car care products in the automotive world. Airstream Club members will enjoy a 15% discount on Griot's liquid car care products at checkout with the keycode provided in the Members Only section of our website. We are also excited to announce the **Airstream Club-Michelin Advantage Program**. Beginning January 1, Airstream Club members will benefit from a value-added program that offers competitive savings on tires. The new tires include MICHELIN®, BFGoodrich®, and Uniroyal®. Information on the program, the buying process, and the Airstream Club exclusive discount pricing sheet will also be found on the Member Only portal of our airstreamclub.org website.

Kathi joins me in sending our best regards and best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season and for a healthy and prosperous New Year.