

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club (<https://watchungnj.airstreamclub.net/>)

February 2021

## President's Message

The February sun casts long shadows in my yard, reminding me how much I love the changing seasons of New Jersey. As I lumber through these winter days, mostly home bound due to the pandemic, I am starting

to let myself get a little excited about springtime. I am very, very hopeful that we will be able to safely hold more camping rallies than we held last year. I look forward to putting some more miles on Major Tom and camping with my Airstream peeps!

Speaking of future rallies, we will be discussing the Region 2 rally at our next Watchung meeting on February 10th. Be sure to [Zoom In](#) for this important discussion as we need everyone's input.

Faithfully your President,

Meg



## Watchung Charity 2021

If you haven't had the chance to read up on our new charity, please visit the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, [jbisf.org](http://jbisf.org). The mission of this foundation is to break the cycle of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. They provide affordable housing in 11 states and also provide healthy, organic meals to those in need in New Jersey. There are two ways for us to contribute;



1. Send a check to our treasurer with JBJ Soul in the memo.
2. Visit the JBJ Soul kitchen in Redbank or Toms River for a meal. Each meal you purchase supports a second meal to go to a local person in need

# Campfire Macaroni & Cheese

By Angie Ratliff #5070

I made this mac & cheese while camping at Camp Carr with John Kuster and Erika & Chris Beddiges. It works perfectly over an open fire. We named ourselves the “Iron Gut Goats” because we cook over open fires in nothing but cast iron. Erika has shared many of her recipes in previous newsletters and I encourage you all to share your favorite recipes too.



## Ingredients

- 3 cups milk
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1lb macaroni or other small pasta
- 2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 12oz can evaporated milk
- 2 cups cheddar cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- dash of paprika
- Tabasco for serving

## Instructions

1. In a large, heavy bottomed pot, such as a cast iron Dutch oven, combine the milk, water and salt. Bring to a boil, then tip in the pasta, stirring slowly with a wooden spoon.
2. Cook the pasta partially covered with a lid, over medium-high heat until al dente, about 9-10 minutes; it should be slightly underdone when you bite into it. Do not drain!
3. Reduce the heat to medium-low. Stirring constantly, add the butter, Dijon and evaporated milk to the pot. Slowly sprinkle in the cheese, a handful at a time, and stir until melted. The sauce will thicken as the cheese melts and the pasta finishes cooking.
4. Remove the pot from the heat. Season with pepper and paprika. Taste the mac & cheese and shake in a little extra salt, if desired. Cool slightly, stirring occasionally, until the sauce has thickened and coats the pasta. Serve at once.

Notes: If you have access to mild fresh herbs such as chives, basil, oregano or thyme, toss a few in or on top of the finished dish.

## Region 2 News January 2021

By Rich Short, Region 2 President, #1512

The Mid-Winter IBT meeting held in Sarasota, FL January 18-22 has concluded, and it was a successful blend of in-person and Zoom attendees. This hybrid model of meeting has proven to be excellent and continues to be improved upon by our staff at Headquarters and the team of on-site club member volunteers. It was reported that 58 rigs were camped at the Sarasota Fairgrounds where the meetings, Club Officers and members were hosted by Region 3. Our travel plans changed, and I attended and participated in the meetings via Zoom. I want to thank our R2 1<sup>st</sup> VP RJ Marquette and R2 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Gary Russo for participating by Zoom as well.

There will be several Constitutional Amendments up for approval at the International Rally Delegates Meeting in July, to include continued efforts to simplify the Constitution and move some sections to Bylaws and Policy where they belong. There will be one to simplify the Amendment process and one to allow for electronic or mail ballots for electing International Officers. That motion will eliminate the need for Delegate Meetings at the International Rally unless there are Constitutional Amendments proposed. One of the results of our push to increase Member Benefits was the approval of a motion to add an additional paid staff person at Headquarters, in the position of Marketing and Communications Director. A permanent charter was granted to the new Indie Streamers Intra-club. More info can be found at <https://airstreamclub.org/indie-streamers>. There was one local club name change and several logos and flags approved. Due to the recent membership dues increase and persistent low interest rates, the Lifetime Membership fund was re-analyzed and an increase in the one-time fee will take effect August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have thought about becoming a Lifetime Member of the Airstream Club, now would be an opportune time to do so and save some money.

One of the highlights of the IBT meeting for me is getting to listen to Justin Humphreys, the VP of Sales at Airstream, Inc. give an update on Airstream and the RV industry. His assessment of the sales environment, in one understated word, was BUSY! With no slowdown in sight, dealers are literally sold out of product and have hardly any inventory in stock. Airstream is faced with fulfilling thousands of retail orders. Although the expansion of the manufacturing plants in 2019 and early 2020 was worrisome when the pandemic hit, it turned out to be perfect timing. The expansion, the largest in the company's history, now includes a 700,000 sq. ft. trailer manufacturing facility, a 230,000 sq. ft. motorhome facility, and a Base Camp shop whose size was increased by 50%. There are now almost 1100 employees in Jackson Center and the company is looking to hire another 200 to 250 people by July! Our Airstream Club is reaping the benefit, with new memberships being added at record pace. Please, take advantage of the efforts of our Membership Chair, Lea Plant. Reach out to those new Airstream owners in your area. Invite them out to a rally, to have some fun and learn about their Airstream and what the Airstream Club can offer them. It was announced that the 2022 Mid-Winter meeting is now scheduled for 01/17-21/2022 in Savannah, GA at the Creek Fire RV Resort. More info will follow later in the year. The 2021 International Rally to be held this July 17-24 in Lebanon, TN is still a "go", with over 550 rigs registered to date. There is still time to register and reserve your spot. The 2022 International Rally is scheduled for Fryeburg, ME and it was announced the 2023 Rally is now planned for Yakima, WA. I love how our Int'l Rally moves around the country, providing more opportunities to travel and see this great land. Get out the maps and start planning a trip!

Speaking of planning, your Region Officers are still working on a plan to hold our Region 2 Rally at the York Expo Center in York, PA June 10-13. Concerns regarding the pandemic persist and we are hopeful the release of the vaccines will allow more of our members to feel comfortable to come out and attend. To

that end, your local club Presidents joined a Region 2 Zoom meeting I conducted on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the R2Rally and get some feedback. To successfully plan and hold a safe, enjoyable Rally will take a commitment for participation and cooperation by our local clubs. The expense cannot be borne by only 40 or 50 rigs. We will need about 75 rigs in attendance for it to be feasible, with a reasonable Rally fee to cover expenses. Your local club President will be polling you shortly and looking for an indication of your interest in attending. This Rally will be designed with an eye on current local health protocols and best practices to provide a safe environment, with an emphasis on outdoor activities, meetings, and gatherings. Instead of a rock & roll dance band in the building on Saturday night, think about a 4-piece Bluegrass band under a large, open tent in the late afternoon, a delicious, individually boxed Food Truck meal, and an Ice Cream truck! How about a Corn Hole Tournament, with each local club fielding a team? How about a walk around Flea Market, where you post your items outside your own trailer? Group bicycle rides and small group walks or hikes at outdoor attractions in the area are great ways to have fun and stay healthy, regardless of current health concerns. The health and safety of our members is paramount. As I said at the meeting...this is not something we have to do but it is something we want to do. But we need to know if we plan it, you will come! Please give your honest assessment to your local club President when given the opportunity. **Our next R2 Zoom meeting will be held Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Invites to local club Presidents will go out soon.

As I reminded everyone at the Zoom meeting, Region 2 will need a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP to step up and join the leadership team, as my term as your President ends this Spring. Please consider volunteering to continue the efforts of these past few years to Renew Region 2. We have made great strides, have able leaders in RJ, Gary, and others on the Executive Committee but we need a full slate by Spring. With so many talented and enthusiastic members, I am confident someone will step forward. Please feel free to call me anytime to discuss what you can do for the Region. Thank you.

Kathi joins me in sending our best regards to all the members of our 15 local clubs in Region 2.

Rich Short #1512

## Our April Unbutton Rally is full!

We have secured everyone's site at Camp Carr with our Watchung Group!

That's a fantastic start of a new year. **If for any reason you have to cancel, please contact me before hand as we may have others who will take your site.**

If you couldn't sign up or aren't up to camping yet, please come on Sunday April 25th at 9:30 a.m. for our Business Meeting. Show your support of our new Officers and be part of what's happening in your club!!!

Coffee and a pre-wrapped snack will be at Site#17 before the meeting. Bring a chair, a mug, a smile and join us!!

Chris Beddige, Past President, #1349



## RED STARS:

By Lea Plant, Region 2 Membership Chair, #2256

Watchung is honored to have 7 members celebrating (another) 5 years of uninterrupted WBAC membership in 2021! One star is awarded for each five years of consecutive membership, to be displayed adjacent to their WBCCI/WBAC membership number on the front and back of their rig or on a placard. Members were sent their set of stars in January.

Name and WBCCI #	# of Stars	Years of membership
Boyle # 18192	1	5 (2016)
Bull # 9026	1	5 (2016)
Elacqua # 4308	1	5 (2016)
Eldridge # 12156	3	15 (2006)
Kessel/Ciak # 15656	1	5 (2016)
Short # 1512	2	10 (2011)
Taylor/Koczwarra # 2369	1	5 (2016)

If anyone needs to get 'caught up', with their stars, please see the information page in each Blue Beret. Display them proudly!



## Oops, Too Late!

By Fred Brugmans, #5638

I did not use my trailer in 2020; not a lot or not at all! It has been such a confusing year. At the end of October, the weatherman started to predict lower temperatures and even a change of frost. Time to add anti-freeze to my trailer. Since my hip replacement and subsequent recovery, I don't move too well so I had my son Erik go to Wal-Mart and buy several gallons of RV anti-freeze.

I read through a brochure from Camping World on properly winterizing my trailer. I know the trailer has a hose to connect to the water pump system and automatically pump the anti-freeze from the container directly in the trailer's waterlines. This worked fine, except the small piece of line from the outside hook-up into the interior. A manual pump is needed to clear that connection and I don't have a manual pump. Erik's suggestion was to "Look at the internet." Sure enough, for a measly \$25 you can order a manual pump online.

Four days later, the pump arrived in the mail. Erik returned to help me with the manpower to finish the job over the weekend. We opened the trailer, hooked up the manual pumping system and out came...pink anti-freeze. I have not used the water supply since putting in anti-freeze the previous year! I topped off the lines, cleared the main entrance and everything was ready for the 2020/21 winter.

The trailer has been standing for the whole year and we never went inside! While looking in the kitchen drawer for a wrench, I discovered visitors had found the trailer nice and quiet. A family of mice had made their home in the kitchen and the bathroom. Paper towels make a fine nest. I have not told Jeanne yet, but

a major clean out will be schedule for the next few weeks. In the meantime, Erik has raided the peanut butter jar and installed six mousetraps. We will let them sit for a few days and will advice you later of the outcome.

Moral of the story: Don't lock your trailer for a whole season and forget to go inside once in a while.

## NAME THAT GOAT!!!

Betty Lou has sent it a couple of Throw Back photos for the 1997 State Rally. Do you recognize anyone?



*Barry Heckenswiler of Keystone PA Unit*



*Karl Jugle*

# In Memoriam

## Toole

William and Anne

WBCCI Number # 15412

Year Joined Watchung NJ Unit -  
Watchung Unit President - 1989 (Bill)



William J. Toole MELBOURNE, FL William J. Toole, 90 ½ years young, passed away after a brief illness on Friday, January 8, 2021 in Melbourne, Florida. Born in Trenton, NJ to Scottish immigrants, he was raised in Princeton, living there most of his life until moving to Pennington in 2005, with winters in Florida. Mr. Toole was predeceased by his parents, William M. Toole and Jane (Jean) W. Gray; his wife, Anne E. Toole, and his grandson, Alexander Platt. He is survived by three children, Linda A. Toole and husband, David Gottschlich, of Columbia MD, Jane E. Platt and husband, Greg, of Cream Ridge NJ, and Robert K. Toole and wife, Patricia, of Lawrenceville NJ; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren with one more on the way. He is also survived by his brother, the Reverend Dr. George G. Toole of White Hall MD. He also leaves his "out-law" family in the Columbus, Ohio area. His companion of the last nine years, Emma Denny and many friends in Florida will also miss him. Mr. Toole graduated from Princeton High School and attended Rider College. He formerly worked for the Princeton University Store but spent most of his career with IBM Corporation. He was part owner of Tartan Taxi of Princeton. Bill was a 70-year member of Princeton Hook and Ladder Co. of the Princeton Fire Department, serving as President and Trustee. He was the longtime Secretary of the Princeton Firemen's Relief Association and a Life Member of The NJ State Firemen's Association. He was a Past Master of Princeton Lodge #38 F&AM, and Past District Deputy Grand Master and Past Chaplain of the Grand Lodge for New Jersey. Advisory Board member of the International Order of Rainbow Girls #51, he was also a Trustee of the Masonic Home at Burlington, NJ. He was a member of the Scottish Rite, Crescent Temple and the Princeton Shrine Club. He additionally served his community as a member of the Borough of Princeton Affordable Housing Board and as a Sergeant and Tank Commander for 13 years in the New Jersey National Guard. Bill enjoyed history and geography and was able to enrich those passions through his love of travel with his wife, Anne. They were members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club travelling the North American Continent in their Airstream travel trailer. Bill was proud of his Scottish heritage and they traveled to Scotland many times visiting family and other countries as well. After 59 years of marriage Anne passed away. Bill met Emma in Florida, and they continued traveling this time mainly by cruise ship, including one eventful trip to Cuba. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Bill's memory may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital. Interment will be at Trinity-All Saints Cemetery, Princeton. A celebration of Bill Toole's life will be held at a later date this year Arrangements are under the direction of Mather-Hodge Funeral Home, Princeton. Mather-Hodge Funeral Home 40 Vandeventer Ave. Princeton, NJ 08542 (609) 924-0242

# 2021 WATCHUNG AIRSTREAM CLUB OFFICERS

**President:** Meg Riley  
**1st Vice Pres:** Frank DeHerde  
**2nd Vice Pres:** George Kiesel  
**Corr Sec:** Laura Riley  
**Rec Sec:** JoAnne Elacqua  
**Treasurer:** Lois Wagner  
**Directors:**  
    **1 YR.:** Erika Beddiges  
    **1 YR.:** Roger Kriz  
    **2 YR.:** Derek Conley  
    **2 YR.:** Linda Kiesel  
**Membership:** Stayla Elacqua  
**Directory:** Chris Forster  
**Web Master:** Mark Ratliff  
**Sunshine:** Linda Kiesel  
**Newsletter:** Angie Ratliff  
**Blog:** Lois Wagner  
**Quartermaster:** Jason Pomerleau



Did you know Watchung has a blog?  
<https://watchungnj.airstreamclub.net/blog/>

Take look and check out the fun side of Watchung!

## WGCCI Headquarters New email addresses!

Blue Beret: [blueberet@airstreamclub.org](mailto:blueberet@airstreamclub.org)

Caravans: [caravan@airstreamclub.org](mailto:caravan@airstreamclub.org)

General Information: [info@airstreamclub.org](mailto:info@airstreamclub.org)

Membership: [membership@airstreamclub.org](mailto:membership@airstreamclub.org)

Rallies: [rally@airstreamclub.org](mailto:rally@airstreamclub.org)

For Certificates of Insurance or 990N filing information: [info@airstreamclub.org](mailto:info@airstreamclub.org)



# 2021 Watchung Airstream Club Schedule Luncheon & Rally Schedule

If you are interested in hosting or cohosting a rally or luncheon, please see the list below and let Frank DeHerde know. You can email him at email Frank at [deherde@hotmail.com](mailto:deherde@hotmail.com)

**2021 February Business Meeting** February 10, 2021 – Executive meeting 6:15. General Meeting 7:00 pm

<https://princeton.zoom.us/j/97112056228?pwd=YU5XaUZkYjBaeTk4RIJNYWtiTVI5dz09>

**2021 March Virtual Meeting** TBD. Hosted by Frank & Leslie DeHerde.

**2021 April Unbutton Your Rig Rally, April 22 – 25, 2021**, Camp Carr. Hosts Erika & Chris Beddiges and CoHosts John Kuster, George & Linda Kiesel. Rally is full.

**2021 May Rally** TBD. **Hosts and CoHosts Needed.**

**2021 June Region 2 Rally, June 10-13, 2021** York Expo Center, York, PA

**2021 July Lebanon 2021 International Rally** [Sign up here!](#)

**2021 August Rally, Aug 27-29, 2021**, Interlake RV Park, Rhinebeck, NY. Hosts George & Linda Kiesel and CoHosts Rich & Kathi Short. Details to come.

**2021 September Rally** TBD. **Hosts and CoHosts Needed.**

**2021 October Rally** TBD. **Hosts and CoHosts Needed.**

**2021 November Luncheon** Hosted by Barbara Taylor and Michael Koczvara **CoHosts Needed.**

**2021 December Initiation & Holiday Luncheon** Hosted by Frank & Leslie DeHerde and Laura & Meg Riley

# SUNSHINE

A Congratulations card to Derek Conley who retired recently, a Sympathy card to Jane Platt, daughter of Bill Toole, longtime Watchung member and Unit President in 1989 who recently passed, a Sympathy card to David and Judy Cahall whose niece passed away, and a Get Well card to Kathi Short who is recovering from dental issues.

Please keep Linda Kiesel up to date all events, sad and happy so she can send a card.



## Bits & Pieces



The 2021 Watchung Charity is the. To find out more please see [JBS Soul Foundation \(jbsf.org\)](http://jbsf.org)

Hosts and CoHosts needed for 2021 events! Contact Frank De Herde at [deherde@hotmail.com](mailto:deherde@hotmail.com) and sign up today!

Check out the new Region 2 website at <https://region2.wbcci.net/>

Need to contact the Club? Email [0068@wbcci.net](mailto:0068@wbcci.net)

Items for the newsletter? Send them to Angela Ratliff by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month!

## February Birthdays!

Mike Richards  
Joanne Bull  
Carol Corley

Erika Beddiges  
Michael Koczwarra  
Richard Short

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