



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

50 Years

<https://airstreamclub.org/charter-oak-connecticut>

August 2021

President's Message

by Glen Lessig



"I could feel a change a comin' / I left my hometown a hummin' / With my ol' guitar a strummin' / Songs that I had wrote / I was on my way to Nashville" . . . ~ Down on Music Row - Dolly Parton

Home from a great International Rally, in Lebanon, just east of Nashville, TN, known as Music City and The Athens of the South. I can tell you the Charter Oakians that attended, had a good time. The week of activities was well organized with many informative sessions, fun entertainment and tasty meals. Sunday afternoon, Kathy and Bard Fuller, Sally Kerr, Christine and I joined a 2 hr. walking tour of downtown Nashville. Not only did we learn interesting details about Nashville's music history, we learned about the Cherokee Indians passing across the Cumberland River on The Trail of Tears in 1830, that TN was the final state to approve the 19th Amendment in 1920 with a dramatic tie breaking vote by one legislator and the beginning of John Lewis's Civil Rights activism at a lunch counter on West End Ave in 1964. Wow, we listened to a sampling of the fascinating history of Nashville, much more than just the home of Country Music.

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The first Airstream caravan



In 1951, Wally Byam decided to travel with a group of friends from Texas to Nicaragua. When a magazine picked up the story, he invited other adventurous Airstreamers to join in the *Los Angeles Times*. He expected about 35 trailers to show up; he got 63. The first caravan wasn't the smooth ride today's Airstreamers are used to – nearly impassable roads and bad weather led to equipment failures, and many travelers dropped out early. Only 14 completed the trip, and Wally said he'd never do it again. Luckily for all of us, that vow lasted only a year.

What Do You Think

What do you call a group of Goats?

Why is an orange not like a church bell?

Link of the Month



Airstream Club 64th International Rally
Lebanon, TN, Pictures

Answers Page 8



The 64th International Rally

by Kathy Fuller

I didn't know where to begin reporting about the International Rally in Lebanon, TN, until I remembered who my audience was. Airstreamers! So, FOOD is the obvious place to start!

The local Lion's Club and Rotary Club worked in tandem to serve hundreds of BBQ meals to all in attendance for the *Welcome Dinner*. Region 1 hosted a breakfast and Charter Oak had a friendly gathering in the shade while enjoying some TN BBQ. In addition to 3 food trucks on the grounds there was also an ice cream vendor, the same vendor who made us so happy in Doswell with their frozen delights. Per usual, no one left this Airstream event having lost weight.

There was quite a bit to do at the rally whether attending legislative meetings, pursuing vendors, volunteering, enjoying seminars or going off site to see what TN had to offer. Even though we are not bourbon drinkers, we drove to the Jack Daniels Distillery and thoroughly enjoyed the tour. Mammoth Cave provided a cool respite from the heat and humidity. President Andrew Jackson's Hermitage offered insight into plantation life in the early 1800's. Nashville is crazy! Crazy with new building, with bachelorette parties, bars and music. The people we met were kind and happy and having a good ol' time! If you didn't leave the Grand Ole Opry performance tapping your toe the Country Music Hall of Fame gave another opportunity to enjoy not only country music but other genres as well. We took a walking tour that gave us centuries of history and a new respect for Nashville and its place in the struggle for civil rights.

Charter Oak was well represented by Raymond and Cynthia Richard, Glen and Christine Lessig, Chris and Carol



Charter Oak Connecticut well represented.



Region 1 flag bearers including our own Glen Lessig

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The 64th *continued*

Dubrowski, Pat and Betsy Flanagan, Bard and Kathy Fuller, Sally Kerr and affiliates Larry Lamontagne, Trevor and Gale Lake, Per and Lilli Hamqvist, RJ Dominic, Sandy Gould and Rick Cipot. Each will have their own story to tell so ask them!

Let me not forget about the entertainment. Per usual, the WBAC Band provided a wonderful enhancement for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as its own time to shine at the *Evening Band Concert*. These musicians have talent! The next evening was filled with singing and dancing to the music of Top Tier. That was a fun night! Another fun evening was watching magician and mentalist Ron Saylor do what has earned him awards from around the world for decades. He was supposed to be at Loveland's International Rally...but we all know how that turned out. He was definitely worth the wait. Almost every night we had the opportunity to either enjoy a movie sponsored by the Vintage Airstream Club or listen in on a jam session featuring a few Airstreamers with their instruments and love of music.

Rallies would never be held if it weren't for volunteers. Next year the International is being held in Fryeburg, Maine. I hope Charter Oak will step up and volunteer to help make it a memorable success. ~



64th International Rally - Lebanon Tennessee



Walking tour of Nashville with Lessigs, Fullers & Sally Kerr.



Kathy and Bard Fuller heading for the stage.



Flanagan's had the only "Nest" at the rally.



by **Sandy Sasuta**

Welcome
New Members

Sharon & Alexander Porven

4094

East Hampton, CT

Hope all of you are staying healthy and enjoying summer activities. Sounded like everyone had a good time at the International Rally in TN.

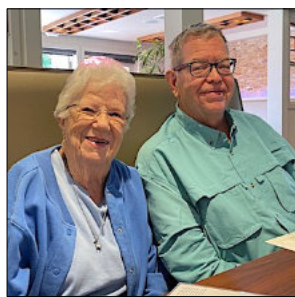
CYNTHIA & RAYMOND RICHARD enjoyed visiting with former Charter Oakians **Roger Crockett, Bob Sandall & Juanita Pestretto**, who are all doing well.



Roger Crockett with Raymond



Bob Sandall



Juanita Pestretto with Raymond



Juanita, Roger and Cynthia

BETH PETRIE had a fall and now has a small fracture in her upper arm...accidents happen...feel better soon. **SALLY KERR** is making her way out to the Southwest caravan and making good use of the Army Corps of Engineers camping facilities. Way to go Sally.

Rumor is **PAT & BETSY FLANAGAN** have put in a purchase order for a new 25 foot Flying Cloud. Let's hope they have a short wait, as production times have been very long these days.

From the humorous side: While on the bus, the little old lady offered the bus driver some peanuts, so the driver happily munches on them. A little while later she gives him more. He asked, why don't you eat them yourself? She said, I can't chew well, no teeth. He said, then why do you buy them. She answered, oh, I just love the chocolate around them.

We are looking forward to the Mystic CT Rally, August 13-15, and hope to see you there. ~

Presidents Message Continued

I got into Nashville early - Sleepy, hungry, tired, and dirty . . .

The Lebanon Rally organizers had many interesting seminars and activities to attend. All of our days were busy learning and having fun. A "Publications Showcase" was one of the featured events; there was no formal competition this year. However, both of our publications were top quality and received many oohs and ahhs. Thanks to Rich Kushman and his support staff, Charter Oak was very well represented.

I'm pleased to report that I attended the Delegates meeting on July 21 and cast Charter Oaks vote in the affirmative for the three constitutional amendments that were presented. All amendments were thoroughly presented to the delegates and were approved unanimously.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming rallies this summer and fall. The Mystic Rally, Aug 13, and the Almost Made it to Quebec Rally, Sept.17. Check out our website for more information <https://airstreamclub.org/charter-oak-connecticut> ~



25th Anniversary Remembered



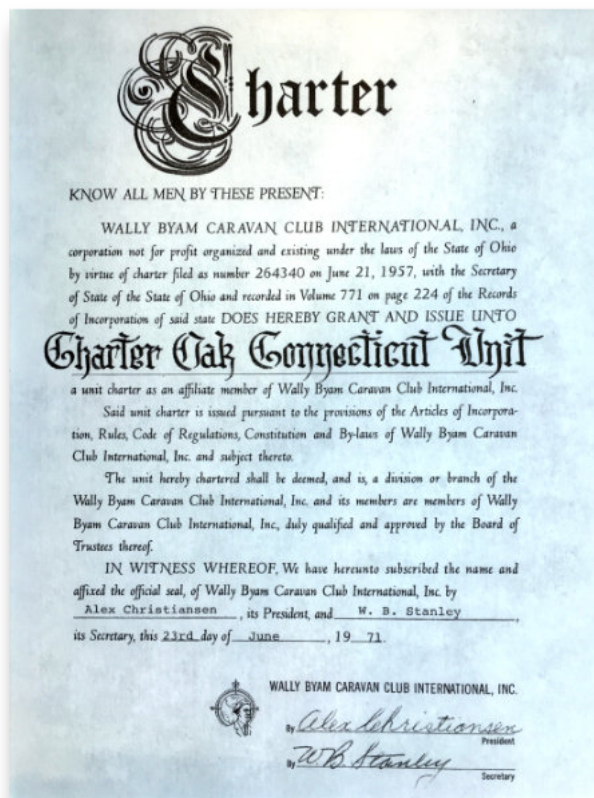
Jim and Dawn Miller with anniversary cake.

by Bard Fuller

Twenty-five years ago, our club made a big deal over the Silver Anniversary of the chartering of the WBCCI Charter Oak Unit. That camping season we had two celebration rallies, one in Southington and one in Madison.

The Southington rally was a joint rally with the Cape Cod Mass Unit and was held on the Southington YMCA Camp Sloper property. Your hosts for the weekend were Bard and Kathy Fuller along with Jim and Dawn Miller. This may have been the last time that as a unit we lined up in the iconic wagon wheel formation. This was a fabulous location overlooking Sloper Pond and we had the use of the newly built pavilion. In those years, boon docking (dry camping) was common for weekend rallies. Along with celebrating Charter Oak's anniversary

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50 years ago -

this past June the Charter Oak Connecticut Unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club was officially chartered at the IBT meeting at the International Rally held in Salem, Oregon.





25th Remembered continued

with a spectacular homemade cake, we all celebrated our members' anniversaries with many bringing in their wedding albums for show and tell.

In lieu of a kitty fee, rally funds were generated by a pound auction. This type of auction requires participants to bring in a wrapped item that weighs approximately one pound. After lively bidding, with myself as the auctioneer and dressed in colonial attire, the expenses of the rally were paid and all had a good time. Food was prepared by the Fullers and Millers. The Fuller kids, ages 10 and 12, were the principle servers for the meals that weekend. Enjoy some of the photos found in my archives.

Next month, we'll talk about the real big celebration at Hammonasset State Park. ~

Anniversaries are like birthdays: occasions to celebrate and to think ahead, usually among friends with whom one shares not only the past but also the future. ~ Zbigniew Brzezinski



Yes - that is Bard - yes - that is a real mustache.

Upcoming!

Outdoor Mystic Art Festival Rally **Sold Out**

We almost made it to Quebec Rally
September 17-19

Nor' East to Nova Scotia Caravan
Sign up by August 10

Check Out the Flyers



Young Airstreamers cooking up colonial grub with Kathy Fuller.



Déjà Vu All Over Again

Reggies Airstream

Originally appeared in the April 2013 Chatter.



Jackie always there always helping.

by **Richard Kushman**

You see pictured above a fifth wheel Airstream - a "Home Made" fifth wheel Airstream. Unbelievably not unique, there were two of these conceived, designed, and constructed by Reggie Brown.

Now living full time in Florida and formerly at Travelers Rest Resort these former Charter Oak members, Reggie and Jackie Brown, no longer pull a trailer but when they did - they pulled it Reggie's way.

With a background in the operation of heavy construction equipment Reggie knew how the big boys towed and considered the fifth wheel design easier and safer, but they owned and loved their Airstream - no problem for Reggie. Scrap steel from Electric Boat in Groton was cut and welded into a functional fifth wheel hitch for their 1977, 31ft. Sovereign during the summer of 1988. Then Reggie did it again with a 1974, 25 footer (pictured above).

Reggie had no drawings or blueprints but clearly had the vision and skill to create his own style Airstream which sparked some rule debate in the Airstream community but was accepted into WBCCI as a legal trailer.

Reggie also designed and built his own fifth wheel receiver for the bed of his Ford F250. The only part he had to buy was the top plate, which accepted the pin. This home made receiver oscillated two ways which at the time made it special. It was eventually donated to Travelers Rest where it sits today.

Reggie & Jackie "Airstreamed" the country in their head turner and conversation piece until 2005. The Charter Oak Unit was home for these special two of a kind Airstreams and Airstreamers, Reggie and Jackie Brown. ~



Reggie Brown - one of a kind.

Note: Reggie still lives in Florida, celebrated 95 years this past June and misses Jackie every day.



Almost ready to rumble.



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August 2021

Upcoming...

Birthdays - Anniversaries

August

08/03	Blaise Pascale
08/04	Aili Galasyn
08/05	Steve Pestretto
08/06	J. Rick Cipot
08/08	Fred McGoldrick
08/10	Diane & Jerry Jackson
08/15	Maria Volpe
08/19	Jim Reck
08/20	Carol Dubrowski
08/20	Glen & Christine Lessig
08/21	Rose Tavares
08/22	Bob Hendrick
08/22	William Hannis
08/25	Marie Lupien
08/26	Bruce & Kris Fletcher
08/27	Trevor Lake
08/27	Wayne Rutty
08/29	Richard Kushman
08/31	Glen Lessig

September

09/01	Sandie St. Laurent
09/07	Lynn Davis
09/11	Wayne & Susan Rutty
09/12	R J Dominic
09/15	Cynthia & Michael Brodeur
09/17	Jeanne Blandford
09/20	Mary Rosenbach
09/22	Bill & Sandra Flood
09/22	Debbie & Bob Hendrick
09/23	Pam Forsyth
09/23	Mark & Marie Lupien
09/28	Gail Rich
09/28	Michael & Lianne Rutty
09/29	Dick Wheatley
09/30	Per Hamnqvist

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. ~ Benjamin Franklin

Connecticut Chatter

Editor: Richard Kushman
Info & Pictures: Sandy Sasuta
Pictures Gilles Rousseau
Printing: Joyce Rousseau
Proof Reader: Kathleen Kushman

What did you think?

Because it is never peeled (peeled) but once.

What do you call?

A group of goats is called a tribe or trip!

Helpful LINKS

[Airstream Club International](#)
[Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club](#)
[Airstream Supply](#)
[ACI Resource Center](#)
[Blue Beret Magazine](#)
[Charter Oak on Facebook](#)
[Courtesy Parking](#)
[Airstream USA](#)
[Air Forums](#)
[AllStays Camping](#)

[Campsite Photos](#)
[Exits & Highways](#)
[Passport America](#)
[Region One ACI](#)
[Reserve America](#)
[RV Park Reviews](#)
[State Park Guide](#)
[Tin Can Tourists](#)
["Let's Just Go"](#)

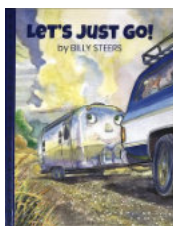
Tidbit

"Your no spring chicken"

Meaning: You're not young anymore; you're past your prime.

Example: Russ Fuller is "no spring chicken" but he sure knows his Airstreams.

Origin: Until recent generations, there were no incubators and few warm hen houses, which meant that chicks couldn't be raised during winter. New England growers found that those born in the spring brought premium prices in the summer market places. When Yankee traders tried to pass off old birds as part of the spring crop, smart buyers would protest that the bird was "no spring chicken."



Visit Airstream Supply

"Let's Just Go!" is a wonderful children's storybook, written by Billy Steers, that follows Snug the Airstream travel trailer and her adventures.

[Available here.](#)



Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer

Puzzled?

Below are links to the puzzles in the 2021 Directory?

[State Park Word Search Solution](#)

[Members Names Solution](#)

[Airstream Crossword](#)

[Connecticut Crossword](#)

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club



[Visit us on Facebook](#)

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. — Sherry Anderson



We Almost Made it to Quebec Rally

Sept. 17-19

Crown Point Campground

131 Bishop Camp Rd

Perkinsville, Vt



Come join us (the Rousseaus and Lessigs) for a fun fall rally.

It's a beautiful campground in a lovely area of Vermont.

Friday- Arrive after 2 pm.

5:00 Hearty Happy Hour- French Crudite and Charcuterie platter supplied. Other foods brought by participants.

Saturday- 7:30 Coffee/tea provided

8:00 Assorted quiches and croissants chaudes (quiche and hot croissants)

avec beurre et confitures (with butter and jam) et fruit.

Spend the day discovering new places but return at 3:00 if you want to learn how to play Petanque. It's a fun game played around the world.

5:00 Gather for conversation and sharing. Light snacks and une salade verte (a green salad) to be enjoyed, provided by your hosts.

6:00 Souper (supper) boeuf bourguignon (beef stew), baguettes et beurre (bread and butter) Pour desert (for dessert)- les crepes fameux de Gilles- (Gilles' famous crepes) avec confitures, crème frappe and sucre poudre. (with jam, whipped cream and powdered sugar)

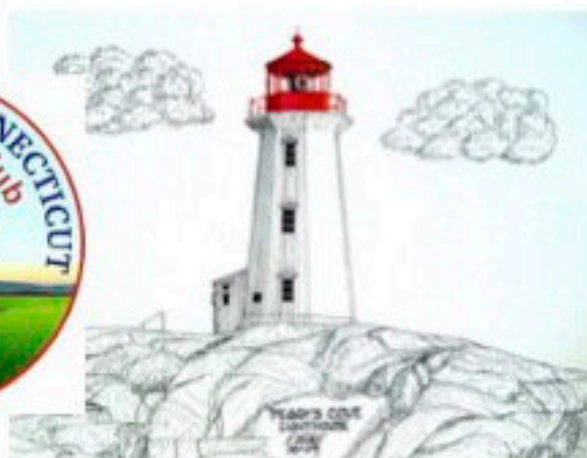
Sunday- 7:30 Coffee/tea provided

8:00 Pot luck breakfast. Departure by noon.

Please make arrangements (\$45/night) with the campground (802-263-5555) on your own but **email Joyce (joycezr68@gmail.com) or Christine (cjohnstonlessig@gmail.com) of your reservation.** Tell the the office that you're with the Airstream group. Kitty fee of \$15 per person will be collected at the campground. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Laissez le bon temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)


Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. — Sherry Anderson



Nor' East to Nova Scotia Caravan

July 31 – Aug 16, 2022

17 days

Camping and Kitty fee:  \$1950.00 USD

Deposit required before Aug 10, 2021 \$200.00

Balance will be required May 1, 2022

23 RV's maximum

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Caravan Leader Gale & Trevor Lake CoHost Rhona & Russ Fuller

Fryeburg, ME to Cornwall, PEI Canada 7 stops

**PLAN
AHEAD**

Day one we will leave the 2022 International Rally and head north to the FDR's retreat at Campobello Island in NB, Canada and enjoy "Tea with Eleanor". We will then travel to Hopewell Cape and see the exaggerated tides of the Bay of Fundy. Nova Scotia's Peggy's Cove; Halifax; Beggars Banquet in Louisbourg; Baddeck and the Cabot Trail are on the list of places to visit! A short trip across to Prince Edward Island on a ferry and plenty of time for exploring and enjoying some entertainment in Charlottetown, the warm waters of the most beautiful beaches, as well as seafood - Prince Edward Island style including our Farewell Banquet. Plenty of time to socialize and dine with friends – two ice cream socials and five dinners to sample the local fare.

Names _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip Code _____
Phone _____ email _____ WBCCI -BRN# _____
Design of Airstream _____ Model _____ Length _____
(travel trailer, motorhome)
Pets (type / breed / #) _____

Please fill out this form, mail with \$200.00 deposit
COCAC will invoice you for the remainder of the caravan fee in April 2022:

Russ Fuller
26 Luciano Dr
Southington, CT 06489
860-747-1193