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# The Itchy Hitch

*Newsletter of the Pennsylvania (PA) Unit 091*

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*July 2019*

## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Approximately six month ago, the first emails began to arrive in my mailbox to herald the approaching 62<sup>nd</sup> 2019 WBCCI International Rally being held July 20 – 27 at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell, Virginia. The exact GPS address is shown below. I believe the Pennsylvania Unit has approximately four or five families who plan to attend. Due to personal pre-rally travel plans that some Unit members have arranged, it appears there will be no interest in organizing a caravan from Penn Wood. However, other caravans may pass through Penn Wood with little or no notice. With any luck, our Sign Committee will have everything set up for you so that there is no question about where to go when you arrive.

After attending several International rallies, I can hardly imagine the daunting task that lies ahead if there are not enough volunteers to empty the tractor trailer trucks of equipment; to quickly organize the existing signs; and to get the sign-making shop set up and staffed so

our sign placement team can hit the road with posting them all. For those who attended the Escanaba Rally in the UP of Michigan, you should have a rough idea of how many signs it takes to direct everyone. The 62<sup>nd</sup> International has already exceeded recent numbers of registered Airstreams. This year, there are approximately 643 registered Airstream families as of the date of this message. During the last six months, there have been lots of informative emails, texts, and Facebook posts that each attendee should have logged onto and were listed in the June Itchy Hitch. The earlier sites with links plus additional ones are listed below.

If you feel overwhelmed with options to occupy your time and are having difficulty with one event overlapping another, that can be expected while in an area that is so full of things to do and see. My suggestion is to use you phone calendar to set up your basic schedule using the WBCCI daily itinerary, which every registered attendee should have received by now, or

check the website shown below for the list. Also check out the list of "Frequently Asked Questions." That list will really help you cut to the chase. Always try to attend the evening entertainment at the rally site. Those evening get togethers are a great place to meet new friends, renew old friendships, and feel part of the festivities. Just wear your name badges and step right up with a welcoming smile like you're on top of the whole Airstream world. You just might find yourself in a crazy happy mood at an awning party with friends by the end of the day. Bring lots of snacks and beverages of your choice, and plan to contribute your fair share of laughter and grub to the impromptu parties. I'm always up for awning hopping and finding people who are into checking out local late-night establishments, if any Unit members are into that scene. Should anyone feel they are not well informed about tours, activities, where to find information, or other available options, feel free to call me using the number listed in the Penn Wood and Pennsylvania Unit directories.

After Doswell ends, I will not be returning to Penn Wood for the rest of the season. Logistically, I cannot justify any possibility of moving my Airstream into or out of Eastern Pennsylvania's quarantine areas (Berks County) after International and chance moving hitchhiking adult Spotted Lantern Flies to Penn Wood or anywhere else. In fact, no parked RV is permitted to leave the quarantine counties without going through a Spotted Lantern Fly inspection station. I have already made three trips across Pennsylvania after inspections this year and do not anticipate making

additional trips to this area for a while. I certainly hope to see some Penn Wood friends in Florida this Winter and in Kingston, Ontario, next Spring. However, please, please be vigilant this Fall when other travelers pass through Penn Wood. Adult Lantern Flies can grip indefinitely under vehicles traveling hundreds of miles at 70 miles per hour then jump off at any time. Virginia declared a permanent quarantine about two months ago; however, I have no information on the extent of the infestation in that state. The five or six quarantined Pennsylvania counties are totally infested, with Berks County being the worst. In some areas, it is not possible to walk on the sidewalks without stepping on them, and they also swarm onto people without notice, like flying cockroaches. The infestation is estimated to be in the multi millions in just four years and continues to grow out of control despite efforts by Cornell University and the Penn State Extension to come up with a solution to eradicate them. I have posted several informational articles on the Penn Wood Facebook page. Should you see one at Penn Wood, please kill it/trap it, and report it to the Penn State Extension as quickly as you can. Generally, they are very fast to fly away, if they sense a strike against them, and I have witnessed them out maneuver a stream of aerosol wasp spray. Each dead adult will result in about 800 fewer nymphs next Spring and, therefore, fewer egg-laying adults by Fall of 2020. Do the math. Sorry about beating the drum so many times about this scourge but once it hits, the more everyone will realize why I suggested this past Spring that a check point should be set up at Penn Wood

before any travelers from the quarantine areas are parked at Penn Wood. Unfortunately, at best, we will only be buying a little time while hoping against hope that science will come up with an answer.

Hopefully, the folks attending International can return to Penn Wood with terrific stories and photos of their adventures. I only wish that I could be part of those anticipated good times at Penn Wood. There truly are lots of adventures to be experienced while keeping the wheels round and the Itchy Hitch moving.

International Information:

Rally Schedule: <https://doswell.wbcci.net>  
(tap Schedule Link)

GPS Location: 13111 Dawn Blvd, Doswell  
Va 23047 ((37.8513009, -77.4210907)  
Enter bull pen at Gate 6.

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQQkADAwATY3ZmYAZS1jZWRjLWJiAGY2LTAwAi0wMAoAEADziKPH7sG3Qoh4gz6Ea0gu>

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQQkADAwATY3ZmYAZS1jZWRjLWJiAGY2LTAwAi0wMAoAEADziKPH7sG3Qoh4gz6Ea0gu>

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/search/id/AQQkADAwATY3ZmYAZS1jZWRjLWJiAGY2LTAwAi0wMAoAEABMER%2Bte4NHTqkEncL75OQAKQ%3D%3D>

Safe travels to all !

Alan Kenney



## ***Region 2 News June 2019:***

By all measures the Region 2 Rally held June 6th-9th at the South Mountain Fairground in Biglerville, PA was a huge success. 75 Airstream families and their rigs filled the grounds, the weather more than cooperated and a great time was shared by all. Beautiful Adams County offered plenty to do including touring scenic back roads and visiting the numerous fruit farms, wineries and brew pubs that dot the countryside. Several members got out to play a round on a nearby golf course. For many, the visit to the area was not complete without a tour of Gettysburg with several families going back 2 and 3 times. Back at the Fairgrounds there was plenty of food, fun and Airstream camaraderie to go around. We enjoyed two evenings of music, three breakfasts, a delicious catered dinner, a visit by a BBQ food truck, informational seminars and more ice cream than I care to admit! Thank you to the members of Central Maryland, Ontario Canada, the Central PA and Watchung NJ Airstream Clubs for all they did and to the numerous other members who jumped in whenever a helping hand was needed. Thank you also to SkyMed for sponsoring a continental breakfast at the Rally. Additionally, we were able to send a check representing the proceeds of a "silent auction" to the Upper Adams Food Pantry along with several boxes filled with canned goods donated by our members.

I am pleased and excited to announce that the 2020 Region 2 Rally will be held at the Rideau Acres Campground in Kingston,

Ontario Canada on May 21-24.

<https://www.rideauacres.com/> Our annual Rally has not been held in Ontario since 2010 and it is time we make a trip to visit our members north of the border. Region 2 Caravan Leader Kerry Mattila will be working on a caravan to the 2020 International Rally in Loveland, CO to leave from the R2 Rally. Get your passports in order and mark your calendars now. Come early and stay later. More info will follow as the planning develops.

Next up is the International Rally in Doswell, VA. The Rally schedule is available on the Club website and can be downloaded to your mobile device using the app GRUIO. Get the app installed on your device and then search for WBCCI. The entire, searchable schedule will be at your fingertips! And, please, don't forget to sign up for the Region 2 Luncheon scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Here is the link <https://region2.airstreamclub.net/files/2019/04/Region-2-Luncheon-2019-v2.pdf> Close to 100 people have signed up so far! Come on out and join the crowd!

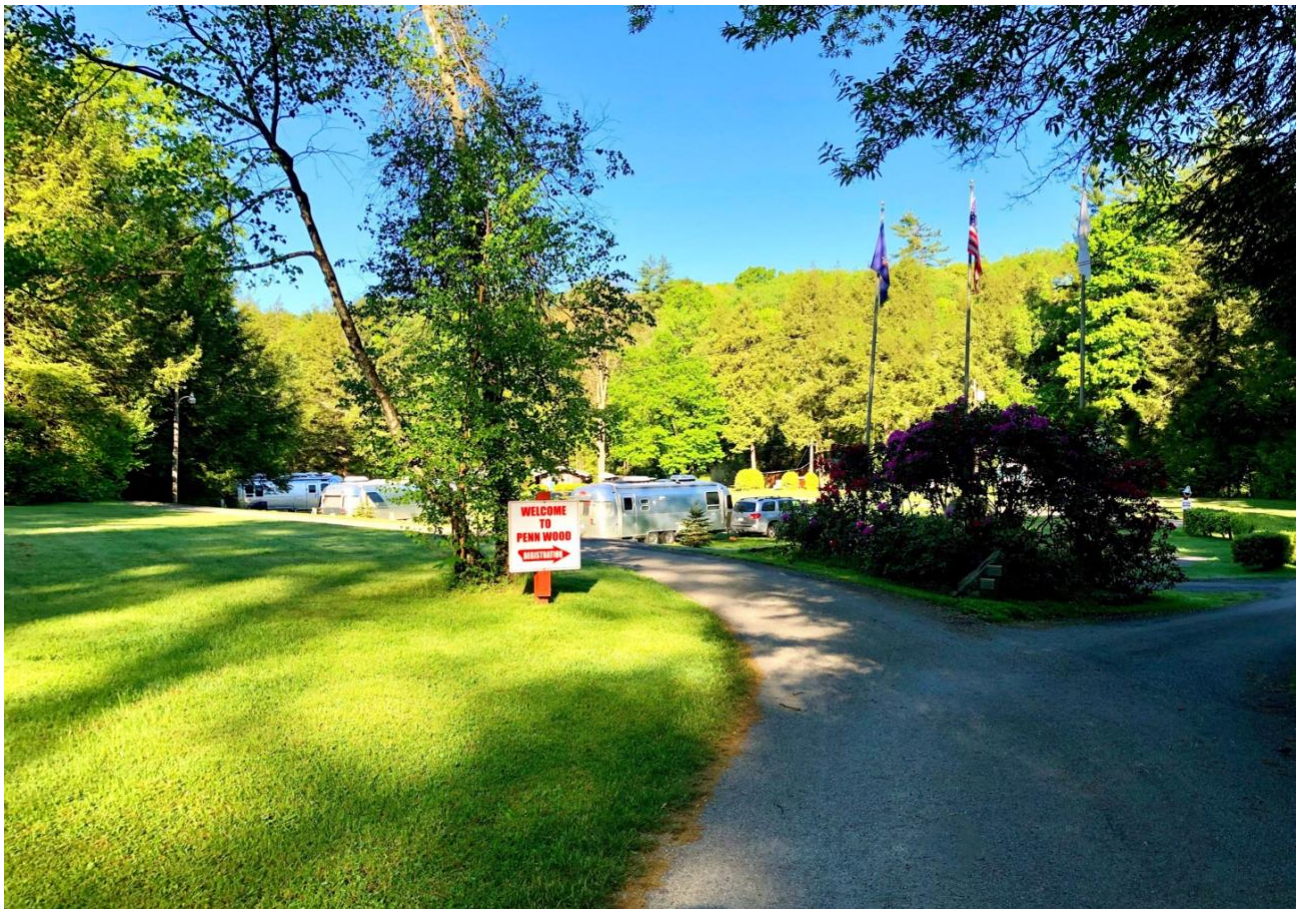
Mark and Debbie Hammer presided over their last Region 2 Business Meeting while at the Fairgrounds. It was my pleasure to present them with a plaque and a small honorarium from the Region to thank them for their work as President and First Lady these past two years. No one has stepped forward yet to be Region Vice President as Kathi and I become your Region President and First Lady. With so much enthusiasm and positive activity



going on within our Club and Region, I'm confident it will happen. Kathi and I pledge to do our best to represent our members and continue the efforts to Renew Region 2. We look forward to your support.

Kathi joins me in wishing all our ***Airstream Club*** members a great summer of adventure and safe travel. See you in Doswell!

### ***PENN WOOD NEWS:***



## Park Activities – Something for All

The Park has had a shot in the arm recently, so to say, which has resulted in the expanded use and enjoyment of the “John Vial Pavilion.” The Pavilion was usually opened for use during rallies and other significant events. However, it is now getting a full-time work out by both our leaseholders and our off-road visitors who are just stopping by for a few days. Check the Schedule Board in front of the office for the weekly activities, which often include ice cream socials (\$2 a person); yoga classes; impromptu card games, dominoes, puzzles, and musical jam sessions; and Saturday night “Souper Suppers” (\$5 a person). Come, bring your instruments. Join in the fun! (Note: Any activities that have a charge are for the purpose of raising funds for the Park’s improvements after covering minor event expenses.)

Mary Wilson

***Pics of some of the many who  
pitch in to keep PW special:***

Mike weed wacking around the creek side sitting area. — with Michael Mikulski.



How often do you see a person smiling while washing windows?





Tom replacing the hinge on the front door.



Sprucing up the pavilion.



Chop, chop, chop. Sue, Deb, and Eunice preparing soup for our off-road guests and Penn Wood regulars. — with **Bob Jayne Otto**.



***Thanks to Debbie Woodford and Don Noderer for their photo contributions and to all who***

***additionally contributed to this month's IH...Mary Wilson, you were unbelievably helpful!***

## ***PENN WOOD CAMPGROUND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:***

### **Inspiration from the Past**

Hello to all members of Penn Wood. I had the opportunity to delve into the historical record of the Association over the last week; and, I got a good look at what our founding members had in mind when they filed letters of incorporation for the Seward Campground Association in 1972, later known as the Penn Wood Campground Association. The third article of incorporation was of particular interest to me in that it established the basis of what we enjoy most about Penn Wood today. Sabina Freeman and Jane Moore list these key points in detail in the online history at [pennwood.org](http://pennwood.org). I summarize them here: 'to develop and maintain an association, promote citizenship by furnishing meeting places for its members and patrons, encourage social gatherings and entertainment, promote the art of environmental control, develop and maintain travel trailer campsites, promote beauty of design and cleanliness of campsites, to purchase property, and to solicit funds.'

Those early days were fraught with challenges and near disaster. Money was tight so financing required innovation. Members bought certificates of investment in Penn Wood several times to fund emergency projects to keep the campground going. They were flooded, nearly bankrupt, nearly run out of business by the energy crisis of the early 1970's, but they kept going. They did not shrink from responsibility because the problems looked unsolvable, scary or too

difficult. To simply put it, they found a way to succeed by managing through the difficult times. Looking back to those days reminds us that much was sacrificed and much work was accomplished to turn a rough landscape into the Penn Wood of today. It is passed to us for a short time in our lives with the intent of maintaining and improving.

As President of the Association, I thank all who work so hard to improve and maintain Penn Wood. Your daily efforts are no less important than those of the founding members. They worked hard to acquire and build it. We work hard to maintain and improve it. You're the best!

Ron McElderry



***NOTE:***

There will be a picnic at 6:00 at the pavilion on Friday July 5th. This is open to anyone who happens to be in the park!! Please bring a side or dessert. The main course of FRESH burgers and dogs has been handled by anonymous donors. Thanks and hope to see you all!!!

Scott