



# Connecticut *Chatter*

## Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

50 Years

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

October 2021

## Past President's Message



*Christine and Glen Lessig*

by Glen Lessig

First of all, let me thank Russ for allowing an extra presidents message for October. The end of August evolved quickly as we moved the date for the Annual Meeting. All of a sudden, my term was over a month early. So here is my Swan Song "Message from the Past President".

Wow, what a great year and somewhat challenging due to Covid restrictions. After we all had our vaccines victory seemed possible but then the drift back to masking and distancing made gathering difficult.

Covid did make our first annual event for the year our annual Christmas party - virtual. Hmm, somewhat challenging and not nearly so much fun, but a number of members did share warm Christmas greetings. Thanks to VP Russ Fuller the Zoom Christmas Party went off without a hitch. As 2021 began Souper Bowl-South was canceled, but Souper Bowl-North and St. Patrick's Day were held with limited but enthusiastic attendance.

*Continued page 4*

## Necessity is the mother of invention



When you're constantly trying to push the envelope on the road, you need to innovate. As people took Airstream trailers to new and more challenging locales, they needed more. And Wally Byam fostered that, urging people to create what they needed when it didn't already exist. In 1954, he convinced Mark Bowen of Bowen Water Heater Co. to develop the first hot water system ever in a trailer. The 1958 Airstream International was developed as the first-ever "self-contained" travel trailer – one with full freedom from external trailer hookups, like outside sources of power. With new capabilities, Airstreams could go farther for longer than ever before.

## What Do You Think

What do you call a group of cockroaches?

A doctor takes the Hippocratic Oath.  
What oath does a politician take?

## Link of the Month



*Caravan Outpost*

*Answers Page 7*



## Qui Nous “Almost made it to Quebec Rally” (Really) But we did make it to Perkinsville, Vermont!

by David Jensen

We were all greeted at the Crown Point Campground by our President Glen Lessig, Christine Lessig, Gilles and Joyce Rousseau, as well as the somewhat cooperative weather. We all arrived at own pace. However, most of us, thanks to our hosts and organizers, arrived to the already set up tent that held and sheltered us all. Thank you. We set up our units and started to mingle. It didn't seem to take long to recognize the familiar faces and realize that we had a few new ones.

With the happy hour quickly upon us we began to mix and got to know our schedule, each other and reacquaint with our new and old friends.



*Gilles & Glen teaming up to go “Solo”*

Then the break for diner on your own and later we gathered around Gilles well known “Solo fire pit” with fire sticks and wonderful marsh mellows.

When we were finally settled in about the fire someone notice the overhead starlight display that delighted us all. Wait, how could that be? We were under the trees and by the fire. It looked like stars were everywhere. Looking more closely the lights were green, the same color as lighting bugs. What a sight. I hope you saw what I saw. Once again it was another gift from Gilles Rousseau. He had set up a small lighting device that cast a spatter of light rays into the tree tops. The rays of lights would move as the tree limbs moved in the breeze, giving them a twinkling effect. The smoke from the fire rising up into the trees along with the lights gave us a look at a new galaxy. Well done Gilles. We'll call it “Gilles Marsh Mellow Way” I know someone has a picture of it. Please share it. With the fire slowly going out,

along with our energy, we said good night and turned in for the night.

Saturday morning comes and we gather once more to share in some quiches, croissants', confections and to plan our day. So, off some of us go, while other stay behind and set the stage for what would become a touch of Quebec. Some of us enjoyed our first game ever of Petanque, while many of us just tried to properly pronounce Petanque.

*Continued page 3*



*Christine with new friends and how it works!*



*Looks a little like another form of Corn Hole, but without the hole, what do you think? Compare!!!! No that's not French, but it could be!*



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## Qui Nous "Almost made it to Quebec Rally" (Really) But we did make it to Perkinsville, Vermont!

Continued

Then there was the food with a French flare of course, for dinner that night. The starter, boeuf bourguignon (beef stew) which was très bien, followed by les crepes prepared by Gilles Rousseau and served with care by Joyce Rousseau.

Who said we never made it to Quebec, thank you all for making it happen. See you all down the road. ~



Headlight on Gilles and the Crêpes.



Gilles Rousseau, Maria & Ken Volpe, Christine Lessig



Glen Lessig, Mike Brodeur, Mike Sasuta, Wiley Downing & Chris Dubrowski



Joyce Rousseau, Christine & Glen Lessig, Dave Jensen with sister Maren Callihan and Michaela and Steve Pestretto



Why am I scared of french pastry chefs?  
Answer: They give me the crepes.



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Gathered under the tent.



Serafina & John Bachar

## Presidents Message Continued

With the help of our members being ready and willing to take the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, our rally season kicked off in late April with our "Keep Calm and Rally On" rally, hosted by the Lessig's and Dubrowski's. The rally was held in Eastford with an excellent turnout and a tasty Chili Cook-Off - sure to become an annual event. There were multiple entries with the grand prize won by first-time rally attendees Deni and Mark Van der Voort!

Our May rally, "Travelers Woods Revisited" Bernardston, MA, was a relaxed and fun rally hosted by the Downings. Covid restrictions continued to relax, allowing us to gather outside for safe dining. This rally featured a great campground, beautiful sightseeing and biking and our first ever campfire with the Gilles Rousseau Solo Stove!

Then our really big show "The Region One Rally" was held in Northampton, MA. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Bard and Kathy Fuller the rally was a grand success. All attending this rally enjoyed perfect weather, tasty food, and a good time. The enjoyment was reward enough, but thanks to Bard's careful stewardship the club netted over \$4000, Thanks again Bard, for a job well done.

Next up was the International Rally in Lebanon, TN, Covid was beginning to make a return and the rally had struggled with planning during the Covid winter months, but overall Charter Oakians enjoyed a great rally with fun times together. We enjoyed several local sightseeing excursions, super entertainment, educational seminars, and a fun Charter Oak BBQ dinner.

Next up was the "Outdoor Mystic Art Festival" rally. It was great to share a co-sponsored rally with the New England Club and our co-hosts Bard and Kathy Fuller. The rally was very relaxed with an evening of beer tasting and a rousing campfire.

*Continued page 5*

*New*

### Executive Board



President  
Russ Fuller



Past President  
Glen Lessig

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

- Sherry Anderson



First Vice President  
Carol Dubrowski



Second Vice President  
Don Allers



Treasurer  
Sandy Sasuta



Recording Secretary  
Christine Lessig



Corresponding Secretary  
Kathleen Kushman



Second Year Director  
Bard Fuller



Second Year Director  
Julie Steers



First Year Director  
Wylie Downing



First Year Director  
David Jensen

### Standing Committee Chairs



Membership  
Kathy Fuller



Newsletter/Webmaster  
Richard Kushman



Legislative  
Mike Sasuta



### Presidents Message

Continued

The final rally of our season was the much anticipated "We Almost Made it to Quebec" rally. Gilles and I had long planned a joint rally with our Quebec Club friends, the "Quebec Extraordinaire Se rallier". Unfortunately, with the Canadian/American border closed throughout most of 2021 our plans were thwarted! With the expert help of our co-leaders, the talented Joyce and Christine, our own "Almost Made it to Quebec" rally was planned. And what a Rally it was, we enjoyed very tasty French cuisine throughout the weekend. Joyce's excellent Boeuf Bourguignon (check with Joyce for the proper French pronunciation), Gilles tasty les crepes fameux, Christine's Quiche Lorraine and Joyce's croissants chaudes. Wow, a very enjoyable French-themed weekend highlighted with Gilles French lawn game "Petanque". Thank you Joyce and Gilles for hosting a great French-themed rally.

Of course the 2021 COCAC Annual Meeting was held on Saturday morning, to elect our 2022 slate of officers. I am very pleased to leave our leadership in such capable hands. Russ Fuller is a very experienced member with energy and a great 2022 rally season planned. I'm sure he will provide our club with dedicated leadership and is supported by two talented VP's, Carol Dubroski, 1st VP and Don Allers, 2nd VP, what a strong team of leaders. The balance of the Executive Board is also very experienced and energetic, there are certainly many outstanding years ahead for our club.

In closing, I would like to comment on a few behind-the-scenes administrative initiatives that were accomplished this year. With the support of ACI, there is now a Presidents Google account, [025president@wbb-ci.org](mailto:025president@wbb-ci.org), this allows the president to not only send/receive as the COCAC president, it is also an excellent storage location for club documents. Correspondence, inventories, banking information, club minutes, etc. can be efficiently stored and passed on to the next President. Our now president Russ Fuller initiated and ran monthly Zoom meetings to encourage club fellowship during Covid restrictions. During 2021, there were two items that required Executive Board consideration and approval. The establishment of a new checking account at a new bank, by our treasurer Sandy Sasuta was considered and approved by our Executive Board. The Executive Board also considered and approved an

*Continued page 6*



*Submitted by the Fletchers 2093*

*Apparently there was a hiccup at Sugarcreek. (details from Bard)*

*After spending the previous night in the local ER in Sugarcreek, Bard rallied, was joined by lovely Kathy and danced the night away. (fully recovered he clearly boogied down)*



*Both the Fullers & Fletchers were first timers at the Sugarcreek Special Events Rally.*



*Kris & Bruce Fletcher playing along with Western themed program at the Sugarcreek Rally in Ohio.*



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by Sandy Sasuta

Welcome  
New Members

**Joe & Mary Louise Bates 4073**  
Falmouth, ME

**Scott & Raquel Remy 27900**  
Westport, MA 02790

**William Clements & Sandy Jones 1402**  
Dennis, MA

It truly was a GRAND FINALE' for the last Charter Oak CT rally of the year. Thank you to the hosts **GILLES & JOYCE ROUSSEAU, GLEN & CHRISTINE LESSIG** and many helpers. The French cuisine was "magnifique". We didn't need fireworks as Gilles entertained us with a spectacular laser light show in the trees. It was a great weekend with wonderful weather. Nice to meet newer members **KEN & MARIA VOLPE** from Woodstock, NY, along with new members **JOE & MARY LOUISE BATES** from the New England Unit. Congratulations to the new slate of officers; we are looking forward to a wonderful schedule of events in 2022 under Russ & Rhona Fuller's care. Thank you to **GLEN & CHRISTINE LESSIG** for their leadership through a difficult covid year.

In the Sept. Chatter we mentioned that **Ron Edmondson** had passed, and now **Shirley Edmondson**, his wife, passed shortly after on 8/31/21. On Page 6 of the Sept. Chatter was the article written by both of them from 1996. We acknowledge the family for being a special part of the Charter Oak CT history, and send our sincere sympathy to the RUTTY family.

Happy 30th Anniversary to **RAYMOND & CYNTHIA RICHARD** on October 10th. That same day is Billy & Julie Steers, as well as many others for October. Everyone, enjoy your special day! Kudos to **KATHY FULLER** on her well written article for Region 1 in the September Blue Beret. They are actively looking for a Contributing Editor and Second VP for Region 1, think about volunteering. Sending get well wishes to **KEN HANKINSON** as he is recovering from a detached retina.



Shirley & Ron Edmondson

Remember to pay your 2022 DUES on line.

Happy Fall Y'All!

## Presidents Message

Continued

emergency bylaw exception due to the change of time for the Annual Meeting. These two issues were considered promptly and professionally and allowed for proper approval. The club also considered and voted on a new logo, thank you to all who participated, we now have a great logo for all of our correspondence and online use.

Thanks, everyone for the support and guidance, particularly those "PP's" ( I just learned from Joyce that "PP" is the official moniker for Past Presidents) that were always there to answer questions and provide guidance. Rich Kushman for his invaluable support with the Chatter, website, and directory, Russ Fuller VP and Zoom expert, Carol Dubrowski 2nd VP - always ready to help, Sandy Sasuta for the extra reminders, the entire excellent Executive Board, and of course my lovely wife Christine - always there to assist with whatever was needed. ~



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## 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"](#)

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next. ~ Abraham Lincoln

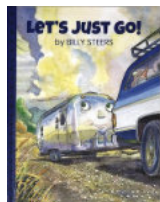


Well - we know this Airstream is not a "lemon".

I believe the American people have a genuine and justifiable fear of government intrusion in what they instinctively know is going to be an ever more intrusive world.

~ Joe Biden

### 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.](#)



### The ACI 2022 Membership Renewal season has started

International dues are \$75.00

Charter Oak CT dues are \$15.00

Renew on line:

[airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org)

The primary member MUST be logged into the Member-Only portal. This also applies to Lifetime Members and you can now renew your affiliate dues on line through the Member-Only portal.

The deadline to be included in the Annual Printed Membership Directory is December 31, 2021.

**Follow directions on last page.**

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. ~ P. J. O'Rourke

### Connecticut Chatter

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

### What did you think?

Too many politicians take the Hypocritical Oath.

*How is yours doing?*

### What do you call?

A group of cockroaches is called an intrusion.

*Boy - that's for sure.*

## Upcoming...

**Birthdays - Anniversaries**

### October

10/02	Howard Jones
10/03	Dan & Karen Olah
10/03	Carl Davis
10/03	Bard & Kathy Fuller
10/04	Eileen Allers
10/04	Wiley Downing
10/07	Bill Flood
10/08	Gene Hickey & Charlotte LaRocca
10/08	Mark Lupien
10/09	Serafina M. Bachar
10/10	Eddie Carl
10/10	Raymond & Cynthia Richard
10/10	Billy & Julie Steers
10/11	Jim & Stacy Reck
10/11	Pat & Betsy Flanagan
10/12	Dick Bartram
10/12	Niels Rosenbeck
10/18	Billy Steers
10/21	Susan Rutty
10/21	Kit Wheatley
10/22	William & Evelyn Watts
10/24	Gail Downing
10/27	Bob Landry
10/27	Michael Rutty
10/29	Paulette Jensen

### November

11/01	Sandy Sasuta
11/02	Gilles & Joyce Rousseau
11/04	Deborah Hawley
11/09	Clarence (Bud) Gould
11/10	Beth Petrie
11/27	Ken Hankinson & Pam Forsyth

## Puzzled?

Below are links to the puzzles in the 2021 Directory?

[State Park Word Search Solution](#)

[Members Names Solution](#)

[Airstream Crossword](#)

[Connecticut Crossword](#)

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

# FOR SALE

**2017 25' FC FB Twin \$77,000.** double axel, sleeps 6, golden night décor with black cushions, ducted 1500 BTU AC

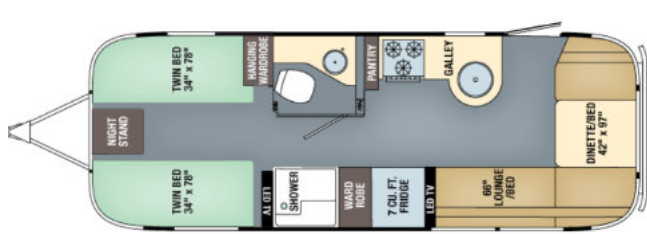
Excellent condition and well cared for – no dents or damage, non-smoking owners.  
Call or text Howie or Mari-Jo Jones @ 860-308-5848.

The upgrades include:

- full awning package
- solar system
- wireless back up camera
- convection/microwave
- upgraded solar charger

Will also include:

- Equalizer hitch
- stainless steel exterior accessory trim pieces
- surge protector for cable hookup
- X chocks and regular chocks
- levelers
- tire monitor
- extra hoses
- extra cables
- never used original AS bed spreads & pillows
- twin bed memory foam
- additional storage and décor items



Join us Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club Share Your Smile

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## Nor' East to Nova Scotia Caravan

July 31 – Aug 16, 2022

17 days

Camping and Kitty fee: \$1950.00 USD

Deposit required \$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

**Space  
Available**

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



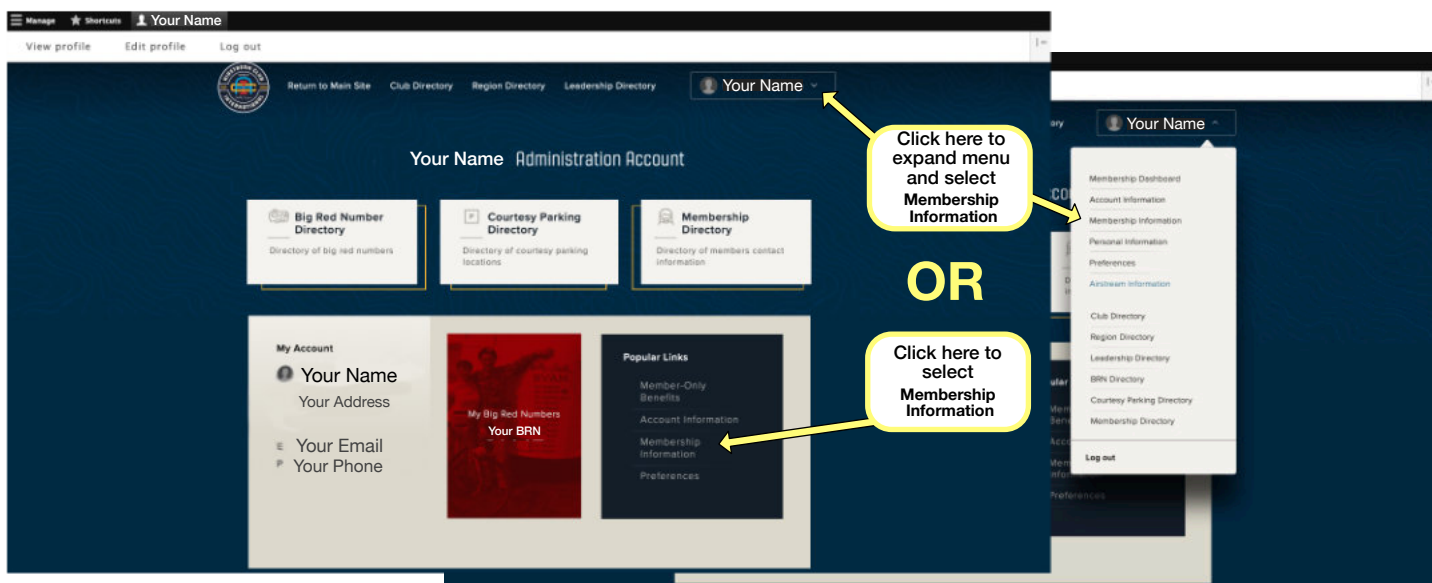
## Renew Your Membership

<https://airstreamclub.org>

**1:** Log in to your account

You will then be in **Members Only Portal**

**2:** Click on [Membership Information]



On Membership Information Page

**3:** Click to expand [Membership Information] menu.

**4:** Click [Renew Membership] Then follow Instructions

