



# *February 2022*

## *DelMarVa Beacon*



***Lums Pond Winter Camping*** by Dan McDougall

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## Correction: Updated contact info for Mid-May Rally at Delmarva Seashore State Park:

Dates: May 15-19, 2022

Sponsor: Keystone Airstream Club

Type of Event: Keystone Stay in Delaware

Location: Delaware Seashore State Park

Person to Contact: ~~Kathleen Quinn~~

"Just wanted to let you know that Andy and I will be coordinating that event for the Keystone Club instead of Kathleen and Pat Quinn. We've changed the WBCCI events page to show 'Rick Pitts' as contact. We'll be in the south shore campground and know of reservations for sites 252 & 253 so far." Thanks, Rick #27489

## President's Message

Greetings Fellow DelMarVa Airstreamers.

Brrrrrr.....it's midday, 22 degrees outside, and a foot of snow on the ground. Our Airstream looks like a giant snow cone sitting in the driveway. Why aren't we in Florida????



*Can you spot the Airstream? Picture by Katharine Dowell*

Several years ago, a few months after getting our Airstream, we left town on a day much like this.....bitter cold, ice on the road....and headed south. This was the start of the first time we had ever spent winter (a month of it at least) in The Tropics. It was a trip of many firsts: first time we pulled our trailer through the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel; first times we used Courtesy Parking - we met some wonderful folks, saw some places we would not otherwise have seen; we used Harvest Hosts - and stayed at a wonderful farmers market and a winery, also places we would not otherwise have seen; and we stayed at an Airstream Park, which was the first time we had seen a large number of Airstreams all in one place.

We then spent a second February in Florida, visiting different places. And then the pandemic hit.

Personally, I like winter, I like the change of seasons, I like hunkering down by the fire with a good book.

I hope you folks are doing well this winter. Those of you that are traveling, I wish you clear weather, safe roads, and memorable adventures.

Our next Club activity is the Maintenance Rally in April, at the Queen Anne County 4H Fairground. A coupon for this rally is included in this newsletter, please return it soon so preparations can be made.

The Region 2 Rally is being held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in May. We have been asked to help prepare and serve breakfast for one or both days. Please help if you are able to do so. Our Vice President, Ashley Hitzig has agreed to coordinate.

I wish to thank Katharine Dowell for taking on the job of Beacon Editor this past year. She's done a wonderful job pulling it all together, and with the help also of Ashley Hitzig, has made it a publication we can all be proud of. Thank You!

Until we meet again, See you down the road!

--Andy Dowell

## 2022 Club Calendar

Month	Date(s)	Location	Host(s)/sites	Event
April	8-10	Centreville 4H, MD	Delmarva Club joint with MD/ PA Clubs	Maintenance Rally
May	19-22	Delaware State Fairground, Harrington, DE	Region 2 WBCCI	Region 2 Rally
June	TBD		Volunteer Hosts needed	
July	23-29	Fryeburg, ME	WBCCI	International Rally
August	TBD		Volunteer Hosts needed	
September	9-11 Tentative	Crisfield American Legion, MD	Roger Sansom	Rally
October	TBD	TBD	Delmarva Club	Installation Meeting/Rally



## Joint Maintenance Rally

**April 8-10, 2022**

**Delmarva - Keystone - Mid Atlantic**

**4-H Park Centreville, MD**



### **\$65 Rally Fee Includes:**

- Two nights camping with water and electric.
- Dump station available on Sunday
- Dinner Saturday

Following covid protocol we will be serving only one meal.

You will have the option of eating in the dining hall, observing social distancing.

Or, picking up your meal and returning to your Airstream to eat.

- Supplies for working on maintenance tasks; torque wrench, propane leak detector, battery tester, fluids, etc. will be provided.

You may also arrive on Thursday, after 1:00 (\$25 extra night fee)

Return this coupon by April 15 to Malcom Comstock:

e-mail: [malvermont63@yahoo.com](mailto:malvermont63@yahoo.com),

Or mail to Malcom Comstock, 570 Banning Rd., Camden De. 19934

Rally fee \$65, payable by check at the rally.

**Make check payable to: Delmarva Airstream Club**

Contact #'s: Chuck Helwig 302-270-7618, Malcolm Comstock 302-724-0654

### Rally Coupon

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Early Arrival Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_ Airstream: ( trailer or coach) Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific maintenance questions or topics you would like covered at the rally.

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## Region 2 President, RJ Marquette's Message

First, an update on the Region 2 rally: The contract has been signed, and we're getting the pieces in place. We're reaching out to various clubs and members who have offered assistance to help with the planning. I still hope to have registration open by late January or early February, and I'll notify the club presidents and newsletter editors when it is ready.

Unfortunately, a snow storm canceled my trip to the mid-winter IBT meeting in Savannah, but I was able to participate virtually. The risks of traveling in winter!

There were three motions that required debate. The first was about restructuring the Executive Committee (EC), the second was simplifying the process for constitutional changes and disconnecting the delegate voting from the International Rally (thus allowing it to be held when it's needed), and the third was about allowing local clubs, rally hosts, etc. to set guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination status.

The restructuring proposal would change our EC to work like many other organizations, both nonprofit and corporate. WBCCI members would vote for 7 director positions, then the IBT would vote for a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer from the directors. The directors would have two year terms, staggered so that we would elect 3 one year and 4 the next. There would be no change to the Regional Officer roles; they would still be elected and serve as we do now.

All of the comments I've heard on this have been positive; in fact, the only concern I've heard is that we are moving quickly on it, which I also expressed when I first heard the proposal in December. However, I'm now convinced the proposal has been fleshed out sufficiently, and there is no benefit in holding off until next year, and that this is a good change for the club. More information will be forthcoming in the Blue Beret and the club website, then it will be voted upon at the delegates meeting in Maine.

The second motion simplifies the process for submitting and ratifying an amendment to the club's constitution, and decouples the delegates meeting from the International Rally. These are good changes that will reduce the number of meetings held at International, while making the club more flexible. If approved by the delegates in Maine, changes to the club constitution will require at least 2/3rds of the members to approve it, as long as at least 20% of the members have voted.

The final motion, by far the most controversial, would have allowed clubs, caravan hosts, rally hosts, and people in similar positions to set a COVID-19 policy for events beyond what the local, state, provincial, and federal governments require. This motion was narrowly defeated - the vote was 9 to 8. So, the current policy remains in effect - WBCCI events must follow local guidelines and cannot impose additional guidelines beyond those. I'm hoping that we're nearing the end of having to worry about COVID-19 at all.



The new Grapes and Grains Intra-club and the Future Streamers Intra-Club both received permanent charters. The Grapes and Grains Intra-club is intended for people to share their interest in wine, brandy, spirits, and beers. The Future Streamers Intra-Club is a club designed to keep our youth involved in Airstream activities.

In other news, as of right now, there are 829 campers registered for International in Maine. Also, the club has 7,339 active memberships as of January 20; we haven't seen numbers this high since about 2001. Welcome to everyone who has joined us recently!

Karen Fisher is looking for members for the Lifetime Membership Fund Standing Committee, as well as the WBCCI Foundation. Please contact me or Karen if you are interested in either one. Also, Region 2 webmaster Lawrence Northway has stepped down after years of service (Thank you, Lawrence!), so I am looking for a new volunteer to take on that role.

Thanks!

—RJ Marquette

## Getting to Know Each Other

**Member Profile: John and Lisa Ashman; BRN 12504**





**Where are you from originally?** Where do you live now? John is originally from Huntingdon County Pennsylvania, and Lisa is a Sussex County, Delaware native. We currently live in Dagsboro, DE.

**What kind of work do or did you do?** John is the Director of Utility Planning for Sussex County DE government, and Lisa is a Safety Coordinator at MGSafer Services, LLC.

**How long married?** We have been married over 21 years, since October 2, 1999.

**Is the Airstream your first RV? How many Airstreams have you owned?** The first RV we owned was a 15' 1960 Yellowstone trailer. The one we currently own is our 2nd Airstream.

**Have you been camping/RVing long?** Lisa grew up camping as a child with her parents and grandparents. As a couple, we have been camping almost as long as we have been married.

**What prompted the purchase of an Airstream as opposed to something else?** Lisa's grandparents and parents had Airstream trailers, so she was a little biased towards Airstreams.

**Where have you traveled in your Airstream? Any favorite places?** We have traveled as far north as Acadia National Park in Maine, and as far West as Pigeon Forge TN. Most of our camping trips are in DE, MD, VA, or PA, but we have camped in NY a couple of times. Disney Fort Wilderness is the farthest south.

**Have you attended any major rallies, e.g., Regional, International? Any caravans?** We attended one Region 2 Rally several years ago.

**What prompted you to get involved with Airstream Club? How long have you been a member?** We joined the Delmarva Unit because Lisa's grandparents were members many years ago. Her grandfather was a Past President, however he passed away soon after becoming president. If our memory serves us correctly, we joined the Delmarva Unit in 2001.

## Winter Camping in an Aluminum Can – by Dan McDougall

January 29, 2022

[Included by permission. Visit <https://tabadabadoo.com/2022/01/29/winter-camping-in-an-aluminum-can/> for the full blog.]



See? As promised, I'm writing about Airstream camping again.

While my trailer has technically seen the **Arctic Circle** (albeit in summer), it's more likely to be sweating out summers in Florida or the Western USA. I carefully fit **Reflectix**® in all the windows, but its white roof and 13,500 BTU air conditioner does most of the cooling heavy lifting. And just barely at that.

At the other extreme, my trailer rarely sees snow-camping. The last time was in **June of 2020 at Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park**.

Airstream's PR machine touts their "**EcoBatt**" insulation, but it's still sandwiched between two sheets of aluminum. With aluminum ribs. Didn't we all learn in middle-school science class how great aluminum was at transferring heat & cold?

Most folks see an Airstream as a 3-season camper. And for good reason.

Anyone who's accidentally rolled up against the meat-locker-cold aluminum interior walls while in bed knows what I'm talking about.

I've always tried to stretch the camping season to its extremes, before I absolutely need to winterize. Here are some modifications made to allow for that:

– Tank heaters for fresh, grey, and black tanks (added when my fresh water tank was replaced

due to a crack)

- Hard-wired heat wrap and insulation for exposed black and grey dump valves (DIY)
- Insulation around front under-trailer spare tire holder (between the tire and trailer), closet, and interior wheel well liners (DIY)

And I bring along heat sources to supplement the Airstream's built-in heat pumps and furnace, depending on the situation:

- small electric ceramic heater
- oil-filled electric heater
- LP gas-fueled catalytic heater (for boondocking)

In deep snow, there's not much R-value difference between my Airstream and a delicious can of Hansen's Cherry Vanilla soda.



Currently, my trailer is winterized (no water in the lines or tanks), so **winter storm Kenan** seemed like a great opportunity to camp at northern Delaware's **Lums Pond State Park**.



It was.



I'm not alone in thinking that. In addition to the usual RVs, there are even some tent campers!



I guess I can't really complain about trailer insulation, can I?

This is a great park for winter camping. Open year-round. Full hook-ups. Clean heated bathrooms with showers. Easy to get a spot in winter. Quiet. Off-season **Passport America discount.**

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Great campsite views.



Water access. No kayaking today, I guess.

Nice trails.



On the plus side, the [absorption fridge](#) loved the sub-freezing temps.



By morning, my door froze shut. The handle wouldn't budge without a lot of effort.

To not overload the 30-amp circuit, I only run two heaters on low (~500 watts per). I love sleeping in the cold, so the 53-degree temp my bedside thermometer read late last night was perfect.

Is all this preparation and hassle worth it?



Yes.

## 2022 International Rally



### **FRYEBURG, MAINE: JULY 23RD TO JULY 29TH**

#### **65th International Rally**

Sign up now for the FRYEBURG MAINE event! Six days of fun, friendship, and all things Airstream at the 65th Airstream Club International Rally. Visit the website at <https://airstreamclub.org/fryeburg>.

There will be six days of fun-filled events, seminars, social gatherings, tours, food, and entertainment. Fryeburg is located between North Conway, New Hampshire, and Bridgton, Maine, on the west side of the state. Fryeburg also offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Including the White Mountains National Forest, the Saco River, and numerous ponds and lakes nearby. Other sites of interest include Jockey Cap Rock, Fryeburg Farm Museum, and the Fryeburg Historical Society and Museum.

Conway, New Hampshire is a short drive with outlet stores, many restaurants, museums, golf courses all with the friendliness of a small town. Fryeburg also offers restaurants and shopping opportunities that include farm stands with local produce and products, craft beers, wines, and locally made crafts.

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### **DelMarVa Club Officers**

President.....Andy Dowell  
1st Vice President.....Ashley Hitzig  
2nd Vice President..... vacant  
Recording Secretary..... Betty Schwarz  
Treasurer.....Laurie Pullman  
Corresponding Secretary..... vacant  
Membership Chair.....Roger Sansom  
Webmaster....Andy Dowell  
Trustees.....  
Chuck Helwig  
Katharine Dowell  
Newsletter Editor..... Katharine Dowell