

The Virginia Traveler

A publication of the Virginia Airstream Club (#109)

March/April 2022

58th Edition, Chartered 1964



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

Jeff and Lee Cutright 3/11
Jeffrey Cooper & Glenna Winnie 3/17
Mike and Kaki Cachine 3/19
Steve & Mary Alice Lloyd 4/1
Derek & Elinor van der Linde 4/1
Peter Davey & Stephanie Tisch 4/28

Birthdays:

Mary Bartelt 3/1
Nancy Whiteley 3/5
Bruce Campbell 3/7
Forrest Ward 3/8
Molly Ward 3/15
Linda Lee 3/18
Gary Brink 3/19
James Smith 3/20
Maxine Hamlett 3/22
Betty Patton 3/24
Frank Hogg 3/25
Roberta Locklair 4/1
Jeff Cutright 4/2
Derek van der Linde 4/7
Jeffrey Connelly 4/14
Mary Alice Lloyd 4/23
Peter Davey 4/23
Guy Sager 4/28

Upcoming Events

May 12 - 15
Silver in The Streets Abingdon, VA
Abingdon, VA

June 10-11
Houston Festival, Cool Breeze Camp-
ground, Galax, Va

July 21-30
65th International Rally
Fryeburg Fair Association
Fryeburg, ME

Aug 4-6
VAC Unit #109 - Annual Business
Meeting
Misty Mountain Campground
Greenwood, VA

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President's Message

It is amazing to think that April is already over and how much has happened in the past few months. The Virginia Airstream Club continues to grow with both direct members and affiliate members and as of this publication we have already held our first Airstream Orientation Rally at Misty Mountain Camp Resort in Crozet, VA on April 22-24.

The rally was a great success with 24 people in attendance. We had some first timers (even some members who haven't received their Airstream yet) and a few that have traveled down many roads. The food was good, the weather was warm, the knowledge shared was amazing and the friends that were made and celebrated were why we all do this. The club even took a moment to celebrate my birthday!

Coming up quickly on the calendar is our premier rally Silver in the Streets to be held in the streets of Abingdon, VA on May 12-15. We are almost at capacity for the event so if you are interested, please sign-up quickly. The planning committee has already met with the Town of Abingdon and they are very excited to have us. Last years event was great and this year we have taken it up a notch. We look forward to seeing you there (more information can be found on page 4 of the newsletter).

If Spring hasn't been busy enough, we decided to do some work on Grace, our 2020 Globetrotter. We have converted a portion of our lounge area into a desk so we can work on the road and upgraded our electrical system to give us a bit more energy independence for off-grid camping. Upgrades include an onboard Onan Cummins generator leveraging the Airkrafters JenRak (genset holder), a new Victron Multiplus II 2x inverter and 400ah of LifePo4 batteries. We still have some finishing work to do on the desk and to add a few more solar panels, but we are very happy with how everything came together. I learned a ton during this process about DC electrical and running wires in the Airstream. I will write more about this journey in our next Newsletter but if you would like to talk about some of the upgrades you can always reach me at pad@gracetheairstream.net (you can find additional pictures at the end of this newsletter)

I hope the spring has been treating you all well and that we will see you at one of our upcoming events. Remember to check out our Facebook page, Instagram account and the Virginia Airstream Club site on Airstream Club International to keep up to date on all of our events and outings.

See You Down the Road,
Peter



2022 VAC Officers

President: Peter Davey #23528
1st Vice President: Open
2nd Vice Pres: Randy Rinehart #4546
Treasurer: Xan Rinehart #4546
Recording Sec: Stephanie Tisch #23528
Past Pres: Jeff Cutright #31189

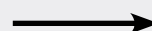
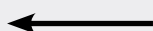
Trustees:

(1 year) John Pezzoli #6750
(1 year) open
(2 years) David Broad #2381
(2 years) Bruce Campbell #1835

Committees:

Rally & Caravan: Mindy Downie #10314
Membership: Randy Rinehart #4546
Newsletter: Greg Wall #7351
Website: Jeff Cutright #31189 and Stephanie Tisch #23528
Directory: David Broad #2381

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our committees or events, please send us an email at vac109@virginiaairstream.club



New Member Orientation

On April 21-24 the Virginia Airstream Club hosted a new member orientation rally at Misty Mountain Camp-ground in Greenwood. The goal was helping new members become familiar with Airstreams, Airstream systems and safety. Hosting, organizing and contributing to this event were Randy Rinehart, Bruce Campbell, John Pezzoli, Jeff Cutright and Peter Davey.

The topics covered were extensive:

Leadership, rallies, getting involved in the Virginia Airstream Club, our website, structure of Airstream Club International, Blue Beret, caravans, courtesy parking, boondocking, battery management, maintenance tips, plumbing, HVAC, payload and the stabilizer hitch, tire management, camping check lists, spare parts, AAA, RV Plus, Coach Net, Good Sam, Sky Med, Bright Ideas and more.

Thirteen rigs and 24 people signed up for the weekend. The organizers discovered other Airstreams in the campground and invited them to join. One couple had just bought a pre-owned 30' Airstream in Tampa, Florida, on their way to Massachusetts. They came down and were appreciative of the opportunity to learn more. The other group was a family of three generations with five Airstreams.

The organizers made every effort to stay on time and on topic. Post-rally reviews were very positive, and participants walked away with positive feelings. Randy noted that the presenters learned a lot putting it all together. We all appreciate their hard work. Often a lot is learned in casual conversations. One person recommended a site called, "Boondockers Bible".

Next year the organizers are considering presentations on two mornings with the afternoons free. Hopefully the word will spread and more participants will come. A warm thank you to all those involved.





Virginia Airstream Club Rally – Abingdon VA
“Abingdon Silver In the Streets”
May 12 -15, 2022

Rally Instructions

- The Virginia Airstream Club is the host of the Abingdon “Silver in the Street Rally” which starts on Thursday afternoon May 12 and ends Sunday morning May 15.
- Maximum number of rigs is 20. If you register and decide to cancel please let us know as soon as possible

Preliminaries

Rally Fee - \$95 per rig. Please use these links to register online and pay by credit card or PayPal. The fee covers one Airstream and two members. For additional children, friends, add \$10 per person. Checks should be sent as soon as possible to Xan Rinehart, VAC Treasurer, 952 Marsh Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22903. <https://airstreamclub.org/silver-streets-abingdon-va>.

Charity – We will be supporting Abingdon Faith in Action and the Abingdon Farmers’ Market. Since there are no camping fees, and a small cost for breakfast, the majority of the rally fee will go to charity. We will also collecting baby formula for local distribution.

Name Badges - Wear your WBAC badge. We want to be recognized in the community. There may also be some discounts offered. We are visitors in town, be courteous and professional. We are Ambassadors for our club and we want the Town to invite us back.
ACI Big Red Number - - Having your number on the front and rear of your rig would be very helpful when parking. Even if you temporarily tape your number on your rig it would be helpful. It is used to identify your rig in an emergency and enables the organizer and parkers to activate any special placement or other requirements that you may have requested.

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Weather - Who knows? The weather is normally moderate this time of year. Weather statistics suggest typically mid 70°s during the day and cool 50°s at night. This can change, so bring a variety of clothing to meet changing weather conditions. Of course, always have your rain gear available.

Pets - Since we are parking very close and in town, pets are not recommended for this type of Rally. If you do bring a pet, it must be under your control at all times with a leash no longer than 6 feet. Pets must be well behaved at all times and cannot be left unattended outside your rig. Pets will not be allowed at Rally events and gatherings. Owners must promptly pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.

Communications - The rally mobile phone number entered on the registration will be used to communicate with participants before and during the rally. The rally organizer will communicate by SMS text messaging to keep you informed about events and activities, reminders, changes in plan, timing changes. You may add additional numbers for your partners.

Hook Ups - None. This will be dry/boondocking camping rally for 3 days. Please arrive with Charged batteries, Full propane tanks, Full fresh water tank and Empty Gray and Black water tanks.

Flags - Bring your flags to show off your rig.

Arrival

Parking - This is not an event where you can show up at any time and park. Parking is the most challenging part of this event. The Town of Abingdon has designated where they want us to park. We have developed a parking plan to fit everyone in the designated areas. It will be Rally style parking on a city street. (Meaning close to each other, under street lights, so we will hear traffic, city noises, water heaters, furnaces and generators). Parking by a curb can be challenging and may take more time than parking in a campsite. So have your leveling blocks accessible and you may need extra blocks. We will have parkers to direct you to a parking space, but you are responsible for parking of your rig. You may be blocked in, so when you depart on Sunday, the trailer in front of you may have to leave before you.

Talk to your neighbor about your departure plans. We will be staging at Abingdon Towne Centre car park so we can transfer rigs individually to Remsburg Drive by two separate routes so that they arrive at controlled intervals as space becomes available.

-----IMPORTANT INFO-----

- **Staging Location** - On Thursday, May 12 plan to arrive at Abingdon Towne Centre, 396 Towne Centre Drive between 12 noon and but no later than 3:00 PM. Lat/Long (36.7015879,-81.9781910) will take you to the center of the parking lot. Be patient, parking may take some time.

- Use Exit 17 on I-81 and take Cummings Street North towards Abingdon. After 800 ft (0.15 mile) you will see a green Abingdon Towne Center sign on your left and immediately at the traffic light, turn left, drive up the hill and at the end turn left to enter the large car park staging area at Abingdon Towne Center in front of the closed storefront.

- You will be welcomed by a parking volunteer who will provide you with directions, maps and route card for the final transfer to Remsburg Drive. Dispatch will be on a timed intervals and based on location and size of your rig since as we need to make optimum use of space available.

- Route from Staging to Remsburg Drive- Participants will be called to proceed to Remsburg Drive using two routes - Red route via Cummings Street and Blue route via Wall Street - and it is critical not to deviate from the route you have been given. Look for signage panels in blue or red. Parkers will be wearing either a blue or a red jacket.

- Remsburg Drive - Remsburg Drive will be closed to all traffic for the duration of the rally. There are 20 spaces available, 6 sites on the North side of the Drive using Red route and 10 sites on the South side of the Drive using the Blue route. Another 6 sites are located in the Carter Bank lot and will be for volunteers and oversize rigs.



- Rigs will be parked with doors facing the center of the street. As you travel to your parking area you will cross to the curbside on the opposite side of the street, Blue Route will park on the North side and Red Route on the South side. Towing vehicles need to be unhooked and moved to the Carter Bank parking lot speedily so that the next rig can be parked.

- Please do not put out awnings and furniture until all rigs have been parked – you will be given the all-clear by text message. An emergency access lane 10 ft wide needs to be kept clear at all times.

Generators - Quiet generators (65db or less) will be allowed 8:00AM to 9:00PM. (Please no loud industrial generators). Please do not run your generator continuously during this period, only long enough to recharge your batteries. You may want to bring a cable to lock your generator to your trailer frame. A limited power supply will be available for rigs that need to power medical devices overnight.

Dump Station- We will publish a list of camp grounds or public facilities with dump stations that you may wish to visit on your homeward journey.

Info Bags - The Chamber of Commerce will be putting together bags with information and maps. Gary and Lynn Brink will be welcoming each rig on Remsburg Drive with the Abingdon info pack after participants have parked.

Rally on Remsburg Drive

Welcome Evening - We will have a welcome Happy Hour/Social/Information Session hosted by the club president at 4:45 PM on Thursday evening at the Farmers' Market Pavilion, We also plan to have an Abingdon introduction by a representative of the town tourism and a presentation by a historian re-enactor who will conduct tours on Saturday. Bring your chairs and your happy juice in a cup.

Pizza Dinner - We plan to order pizza dinner for our rally members for 5:30 PM Thursday at the Farmers' Market Pavilion at the east end of Remsburg Drive. A coordinator for this event will take your order preferences and place the order with the local Mamma Mia restaurant. (Included in kitty).

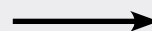
Friday Breakfast - From 8:00 AM on Friday morning we plan on offering coffee and biscuits on Remsburg Drive. A club members will coordinate any special requests. (Included in kitty)

Mayor's Welcome - The Abingdon Town Mayor (subject to availability) will give his Welcome to the Virginia Airstream Club and make announcements, 5:00 PM Friday at the Farmers' Market Pavilion at the east end of Remsburg Drive. Everyone please attend to show our support and to be part of the donation presentation to the Charity. After the presentation you are encouraged to sample many of the excellent local Abingdon restaurants. A list of recommendations will be published nearer the date.

Tour of the Silver in the Street – Optional activity offering visitors an opportunity to meet Airstream owners on Saturday morning 10:00 AM to Noon in conjunction with the Farmers' Market.

Happy Hour - Happy Hour is planned for 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Abingdon Vineyard a ten minute drive west of town, The venue has wine and snacks for purchase and there is usually live music.

Video /Photo – We would like to ask for volunteers to take videos of the event or to gather photos so we can publish a gallery after this event. Please indicate your interest on the registration form or by letting Stephanie Tisch or Jeff Cutright know.



- **Alcohol** - Abingdon has an open container law. Do not walk out of a restaurant or bar with a drink. Do **NOT** display alcohol containers outside your trailer.
- **Local Businesses** - We encourage you to patronize the local businesses, shops, restaurants, bars, tours, museums, etc. There are many places close to our parking downtown for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Abingdon Activities

- **Historical Tour** - We have invited a local historian to give our group an introduction to Abingdon on Thursday evening and lead a downtown tours on Saturday. (included in kitty)
- **Bicycling Activities** – The Abingdon area is renown for its excellent biking trails including the Creeper trail. A complete factsheet will be published to assist you in making decisions on cycling either Friday or Saturday.
- Due to high weekend activity we strongly suggest Friday as the best day to bike the trail. If you want to use a shuttle to ferry you to Whitetop Mountain, make your own arrangement with a bike rental companies.
- Check out: <http://spokesmagazine.com/blog/fall-bike-riding-in-abingdon-virginia>
- Google “bike shops in damascus va” to get a list of the bike outfitters – note that some bike shops also have stores in Abingdon that will arrange to shuttle you with your own bike or with their rental bikes.
- **Antique Car Rally** – A local car club holds a regular Antique Car rally in the adjacent parking lot.
- **More info on Abingdon** – To learn more about what to see and what to do in Abingdon you can visit this website: <http://visitabingdonvirginia.com>
- **Abingdon Activities** – A full list of recommended activities for Airstreamers both in and around the local area will be published nearer the time. This will include wineries, breweries, biking, museums, cultural centers, theatre, speedway and much more. This weekend is the annual Trail Days - a lively celebration the Appalachian hikers centered in Damascus.

Barter Theater –

Tel: 276.628.3991 www.bartertheatre.com

Shows Available:

May 12th - Kentucky Spring - Musical - 7:30 pm

May 13th - Jack and The Beanstalk - 10:30 am --- Kentucky Spring - 8:00pm

May 14th - Jack and The Beanstalk - 10:00am ---- Kentucky Spring - 2:00pm and 8:00 pm

- must wear masks inside the theatre at all times and social distance in the lobby
- print tickets at home or show on mobile device so that experience is as touchless as possible
- purchase a group of tickets that match # in party to assure you are seated together
- proof of vaccination or negative test required
- local testing resources are listed on the Barter Theatre website for those who are unvaccinated

Minimum number for group pricing is 10, pricing would be as follows

Suggested group date is Saturday May 14th at 8 pm for the Kentucky Spring performance.

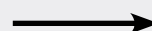
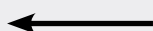
Mid level ticket - 30.00 + 6.00 fee - 36.00

Premium - 36.00 + 6.00 fee - 42.00

Regular pricing

Mid level ticket - 42.00 + 6.00 fee - 48.00

Premium - 49.00 + 6.00 fee - 55.00 (**Premium seats are closer to the Aisles)





Thursday, May 12

12 – 3 pm - **Arrive at Abingdon Towne Centre, 396 Towne Center Drive**

- You will receive the driving/parking directions to Remsburg Drive
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm - **Rally Kickoff** - Greetings from President - Q&A
- 5:00 – 5:30 pm - **Local Historian Visit** – overview of Abingdon
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm - **Pizza Dinner** Hosted by VAC

Friday, May 13

- 8 – 9 am - **Biscuits and Coffee** Hosted by VAC
- 9 am – 5 pm - **Explore the area** on your own
- Recommend Creeper Trail ride this day if interested – make your own reservation by searching for nearby “bicycle rentals & shuttle services” to the Whitetop Station from Abingdon
- 5 – 5:30 pm - **Meet the Mayor** - presentation of the donations
- **Dinner on your own** – reservations recommended – see recommendations below

Saturday, May 14

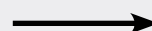
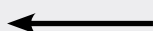
- 8 – 10 am - **Farmers Market** – produce/garden, food, beverage, art/jewelry, and more!
- 10 am – 12 pm - **Airstream Tours** for the Abingdon community
- Optional; leave your door closed if you do not wish to participate; for those that want to participate we will have a sign you can add to your rig
- 12 – 4 pm – **Historian Walking Tour of Abingdon** - Hosted by VAC
- 2 – 5 pm – Local Antique / Veteran Car Club **Car Show** – **Abingdon Towne Centre**
- 4 – 6 pm - **Happy Hour** at Abingdon Vineyards – snacks provided by VAC
- 6 – 8 pm - Stick around for live music performed by Hearts Gone South
- We recommend bringing your camping chairs to the winery
- Rally attendees will receive 10% discount on all purchases - mention Silver in the Streets Airstream Rally
- 8 pm - **Barter Theatre** is showing Kentucky Spring – reserve tickets on your own if interested
 - **Dinner on your own** – reservations recommended

Sunday, May 15

- **See you down the road** – depart Remsburg Drive no later than 11 am

Dining & Refreshments Recommendations:

- 128 Pecan
- The Tavern
- Harvest Table
- Mama Mia - they may deliver to your rig!
- Girl and the Raven
- Peppermill
- Anthony's Desserts & Coffee
- Tumbling Creek Cider Company & Tap Room
- Wolf Hills Coffee & Tea Shop
- Wolf Hills Brewing Company
- Abingdon Winery



Contact details for Club Board Members / Rally Hosts that will be on-site:

- Jeff Cutright – see below
- Mindy Downie – 540-520-2357 (Rally Committee)
- Randy Rinehart – 434-996-7000 (2nd VP / Membership Committee)
- Peter Davey -703-967-2191 (Club President)

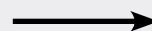
Save travels, thank you for coming, see you down the road!

Jeff Cutright

Past President, Co-Webmaster, and Silver in the Streets Rally Host

Phone: 540-580-1854

Email: jcutright4@msn.com



Virginia Airstream Club Presents



2022

HOUSTON FEST Rally

★ Music • Camping • Fellowship ★

JUNE 9



JUNE 12

Rally Cost: \$5 per person

Purchase Houston Fest Tickets on your own -
learn more at www.houstonfestgalax.com

Hosted By: GARY BRINK
COOL BREEZE CAMPGROUND - GALAX, VA

About Cool Breeze Campground:

RV Sites: \$40.50 per night all-inclusive
2330 Edmonds Road. Galax, VA 24333
Call (276) 236-0300 and mention Virginia Airstream Club - Houston Fest Rally
www.coolbreezecampground.com

How to Register:

Complete the online registration form at the URL listed below under
Upcoming Rallies & Events or email events@virginiaairstream.club
More details at airstreamclub.org/virginia

<https://airstreamclub.org/virginia>

<https://airstreamclub.org/houston-fest>

This journey should be called the 5-10-20-30 trip. Our winter-spring trip started mid-December 2021, expecting to be home late May, 5 months later, traveling some 10 thousand miles through 20+ states and 30+ campgrounds. Aside from our traditional annual month of January relaxation in the Florida Keys, our starting point on the Atlantic Ocean, our focus this journey was on revisiting the desert southwest and coastal California. Once there, we look forward to spending time with our son Benjamin in Berkeley while based in the Napa and Sonoma valleys.

In keeping with our goal to try to confine our travels within the 60° to 80° temperature isotherms, our journey begins as far south as possible in mid-winter moving swiftly to the west coast. Then north through the mid months until late spring in the Rockies. We barely used air conditioning the entire trip however we did have to resort to overnight propane and electric heat for at least two weeks in February as we swiftly transited from Florida to Arizona. We had to adjust timing and alter our route to a more southerly course in Texas and New Mexico to avoid significantly freezing weather that potentially could damage our Flying Cloud.

This narrative focuses on four locations that remain close to our wanderlust hearts after previous memorable trips west.



Camping in the Florida Keys amongst the mangroves is the Atlantic Ocean eastern starting point for our coast to coast adventure. January in the Keys has a reliable climate hardly requiring any air conditioning.



Sunsets in Arizona are photogenic especially if you get a Saguaro cactus reflection in an Airstream window.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Park in southern Arizona lies five miles from the Mexican border in the inhospitable Sonoran desert. Twin Peaks campground has over 200 sites with no hookups. Managing our resources and power is key to a successful camping experience! During our week-long stay we needed no generator and kept our electrical system adequately topped up from our 400-watt solar panels. We easily managed our gray and black water tanks (30 gallons each), however we had to replenish our fresh water with a 5-gallon Jerry can for refills, with a total consumption of about 40 gallons for the week.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Park has a dense population of its namesake cacti and also scattered throughout are the equally iconic Saguaro

Sunrises and sunsets define the beauty of this location emphasized by a campground densely landscaped with its namesake organ pipe cactus and the iconic saguaro cacti. The stark beauty of this remote wilderness makes for a lasting memory. Leading out from the campsite multiple hiking trails take you into the backcountry including abandoned mines. We have taken several environmental and historical ranger tours including one at the border fence. Here the border has a single steel rail to prevent vehicles crossing over with little else to stop a walk-in migrant. However, the most



Organ Pipe Cactus Park's Arizona border with Mexico is only designed to prevent vehicles driving through!

daunting and forbidding aspect is 60 miles of merciless desert until one reaches civilization! The single highway is patrolled by the customs and border protection enforcement with mandatory inspection stops and vehicle searches on all routes in the area.

The campsite has adequate 5G cellular coverage and when coupled with our Weboost directional antenna could handle excellent broadband delivery for Netflix streaming and allowed us to continue working a few hours a day and staying abreast of life in the big world... right in the middle of the desert wilderness!



Borrego Springs is famous for the original Californian palm trees identified by their grass fan skirt.

Since Covid, reservations are now de facto for Organ Pipe campground, a maximum of one year ahead on [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Using your Golden Age pass the daily rate is \$8. What a deal! Sites 35 through 112 tend to be more spacious and 113 to 208 are no-generator sites.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a huge 1,000 square mile wilderness in Southern California famous for its Bighorn Borrego sheep. It provides varying recreational venues, hiking and cycling trails, slot canyon exploration, dispersed camping, thousands of acres of ATV or OHV playgrounds, palm oases, driving trails and more. One of the claims to fame events is the annual desert flower bloom which some years, depending on winter rainfall, becomes a wildflower super bloom that attracts huge weekend crowds from the cities. Watching the barren mountainsides turn yellow overnight is quite a scene. Since this is our third visit, we have been lucky to witness this unique wildflower bloom!

Borrego Springs is a small but thriving community six winter months a year. Among the many quirky aspects, the town hosts a local metalwork artist "Sky Art Sculptures" and the desert around town contains a hundred or more larger than life size steel sculptures. Our favorite is the 350 ft dragon sea serpent in Galeta



A steel sea serpent 350 ft long undulates impressively from one side of the desert highway to the other.

Meadows that has a head and one hump on one side of the highway and the tail with four smaller humps stretching out into the desert on the opposite side of the highway.

Having launched and run a local farmers' market in our hometown in Virginia, we are fond of visiting the weekly Friday market in Borrego situated in the beautiful Christmas Circle in the center of town. Local produce and crafts are side by side with a French bakery and a Greek deli, along with jewelry artists and the astronomical dark sky coalition promoting



Setting up in Texas Springs campground - first come first served reservations - however there is always plenty of solar power to be captured!

the International Dark Sky Park! We max out the two weeks in the state park campground in the foothills of the San Ysidro Mountain range then skip across town to the RV Resort and get pampered in the hot tubs and heated swimming pools for a few days. A good balance of lifestyles!

Reservations on reservecalifornia.com may be made up to six months ahead. We make our reservation as soon as the window opens since this is a very popular location. We recommend sites 31 through 47 (odd numbers only) with the best views and extra space.

Death Valley National Park has a limited window of comfort with additional climatic challenges such as brutal high winds and heat extremes. Our preferred dry camping site is in the no generator Texas Springs campground at approx 20 ft below sea level. The solid salt rock floor of the valley at Badwater drops down to 282 ft below sea level.

As in Organ Pipe our solar panels collected enough energy to power our kitchen appliances, computers, and entertainment center virtually forever. The big issue was the lack of cellular coverage with access limited to an antiquated AT&T 3G network barely capable of supporting voice let alone data. Our only hope of any data was 4 am sessions when we were among the few night owls on the network! Death Valley is similarly at the end of the fuel supply chain as we discovered at the service station with the highest diesel fuel prices at



Sand dunes as far as the eye can see at the Stovepipe Wells Death Valley Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes area. Hiking across sand dunes makes you realize how difficult and tiring it is to physically trek across deserts.

\$9.99 I have ever seen anywhere!

Prior to becoming a national park, Death Valley was a hive of mining activities. Borax was mined and transported out with a 16-mule wagon train. Many locations show evidence of mining tailings as prospectors searched for gold, silver, and lead. We visited two ghost towns, Rhyolite in Nevada that had a 5-year short but productive silver mining operation and Leadfield, a 19th century mining investment scam, with a lifespan of less than a year. Going off highway was a real adventure as we took the Titus Canyon one way dirt road, crossed the NV-CA state line, over Red Pass, through magnificent deep canyons with mineral rich green, yellow, and red rock strata, through the lead mining ghost town and drove the last five miles through a deep twisting water scoured slot canyon only just wide enough for our RAM truck.

Mesquite Flats sand dunes on the western highway into Death Valley feature a large area of impressive sand dunes that resemble a scene from the Saharan desert. Three kinds of dunes, star, crescent, and linear sit on an octagon cracked clay lakebed with occasional mesquite trees for effect! We visited at sunset so that we could shoot photos with elongated shadows.

Texas Springs is not reservable and is first come first served. We reserve one night in the standard NPS campground at Furnace Creek and the next morning around 9 am we drive our truck up to Texas Springs and check out the sites of folks leaving, maybe even wait for them to leave! Basic procedure is to locate a vacated site and deposit your chairs and any equipment on the site staking your claim, then go down to the automated kiosk and pay for a ticket for your stay - max 2 weeks. Post the ticket on your site then go back to Furnace Creek campground and hitch up the Airstream and bring it back up



The Pacific Ocean is our western end point for our transcontinental journey some 3,000 miles from the Keys



Montana de Oro hills are covered in gold poppies provide its distinctive namesake for the Mountain of Gold.

the hill to your new \$8 a night camp site.

Montana de Oro State Park we reconnoitered briefly on a previous trip, but this year we reserved a week in this Californian coastal campground about mid way between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo and near Paso Robles wine country. As the name indicates, mountain of gold refers to mass of blooming wildflowers that Spanish explorers observed across the mountain. Finally we've reached the Pacific Ocean!

The park is well known for its rugged shoreline, several picturesque sandy beaches, canyons, hills, and streams. Ocean cliff walks are our favorite daily foray with trailheads at different locations accessible by dirt road. Buchon Point and Spooners Cove offer dramatic scenery.

Nearby San Luis Obispo has one of the best farmers' markets we have ever seen! Unbelievable variety, selection, and quality of products from small family farms abound. The street food is first class. This tightly run market starts off at 6 pm precisely with the ringing of a bell to indicate vendors may start trading.



Showtime at the San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market as meat lovers queue for an hour before opening time to pick up barbecue orders.

Reservations at Montana de Oro follow the same process as Borrego Springs. Make sure you select senior citizen rate if it applies! The Islay Creek campground is dry camping and coastal temperatures are significantly below those inland so be prepared for chilly weather in your planning. Our solar powers kitchen and electronics, but we rely on LPG Propane for heating and refrigeration, and the occasional festive fire pit bonfire.

Our travel philosophy has been to dine at restaurants with outside dining, source our groceries by curbside pickup and have minimal contact with crowds. One shopping habit we have fine tuned is quick visits to Costco stores to pick up high quality fresh meats, seafood, and vegetables. This is the backbone to our cooking repertoire and allows us to maintain a healthy and quality dining lifestyle on the road sometimes posted to our Gourmet Camping Facebook group which we created for fun at the start of Covid lockdown a couple of years ago.

Affiliating with other Airstream clubs is a great way to expand your travel experience. Although we did not make all the connections we had hoped to, we were able to join up with NORCAL for a rally in the California gold country. A rally with CCCAC in Pismo Beach was canceled and a proposed Valentine's weekend rally with 4-CU (Four Corners) was fully subscribed months ahead.

Throughout our five-month expedition we made time to connect with family and friends especially past Airstream caravan travel companions. We did some

mooch docking at friend's houses in Florida and our extended families houses in Utah, invited local Airstream friends to our campsites, had several visits from our son in California at various locations, connected with friends from Margaret's school world, met up with caravan friends at restaurants along the way and joined up with past travelers, our current circle and new Airstreamers.

Arriving at Montana de Oro is the culmination of our coast to coast journey. Next we spend a week in Paso Robles wine country then two weeks in Napa and two weeks in Sonoma, both are within easy reach of Berkeley where our son Ben lives. After Napa we head east to Salt Lake City to visit life long friends, then make haste across Colorado and Kansas till we reach southern Illinois and visit Margaret's brother. Virginia is then a relatively short ride home where we will be back for a month fixing all those things that inevitably need attention after 5 months away.



Margaret & David Broad (WBAC #2381) from Tappahannock, Virginia, traveling 8 months of the year since 2016 (but not 2020/21!) in their 2015 Flying Cloud 25 RB Nuage Volant. Our home unit is the Virginia Airstream Club #109 and we are affiliated with the Canadian Quebec Airstream Club, NORCAL & CCCAC on the West Coast and 4-Corners in Arizona. You can email questions or comments to airstream@db26.net David also publishes an Airstream improvement page at www.facebook.com/airstreamtweaks and for fun created a Gourmet Camping group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gourmetcamping>

Member Profile

Jeff and Lee Cutright

Lee and I have lived in Roanoke for the better part of 30 years. We generally retired in 2017, but we still work as consultants. Lee was in healthcare, and I worked on the railroad.

We bought our Airstream in 2016 so we would be ready to use it once we retired. Due to some family obligations, we don't travel as far and as long as some. Having lived a few years in Tennessee, the Smokies and in particular Cades Cove are our favorite places. Our two girls were born in Chattanooga.

We generally prefer outdoor activities, hiking, biking, fishing, and camping. We go to Florida in late winter to be with Lee's siblings who have winter houses near Clermont. We have been in several eastern states and find every stop and trip an adventure. Having one daughter in Atlanta, we have had many trips to the Top of Georgia Airstream Park.

We bought the Airstream as a retirement option as we both like to travel. My parents often talked about owning an Airstream, but never bought one. Little did we know it was a ticket to meeting a lot of great folks. We enjoy the WBCCI and the many folks we have met and many opportunities it has afforded.

We look forward to Maine and a trip or two out west. Having been a past president of this club I would ask everyone to consider getting involved. The club is gaining momentum and opportunities to get involved are available. How can folks get involved? Folks can volunteer to lead a caravan, hold a rally, be a treasurer, be a mentor, as active participation makes it easier for everyone. Something as simple as organizing a meal or side trip at a rally is a big help.

If you get to Roanoke, look us up. Currently we can park several rigs and give you a tour. See you down the road!

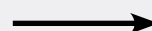
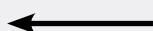


Events Schedule

VIRGINIA AIRSTREAM CLUB EVENTS 2022 SCHEDULE

Start	End	Event	Joint	Location	City, State	Contact	Email
May 12	May 15	Silver in The Streets		Abingdon, VA	Abingdon, VA	Jeff Cutright	events@virginiaairstream.club
Jun 10	June 11	Houston Festival		Cool Breeze Campground	Galax, VA	Gary Brink	events@virginiaairstream.club
July 21	July 30	65th International Rally		Fryeburg Fair Association	Fryeburg, ME	ACI	Registration
Aug 4	Aug 6	VAC Unit #109 - Annual Business Meeting		Misty Mountain Camp Resort	Greenwood, VA	Peter Davey	events@virginiaairstream.club
Aug 8	Aug 13	Old Time Fiddler's Convention		Cool Breeze Campground	Galax, VA	Region 3	baumjc@gmail.com
Aug 18		Board Zoom		6:00 PM			
Sept 9	Sept 18	Bike Virginias		Abingdon-Wytheville-Lewisburg	Abingdon, VA	Jeff Cutright	events@virginiaairstream.club
Sept 23	Sept 25	Commonwealth Rally	x	Waynesboro 340 South	Waynesboro, Va	Peter Davey	events@virginiaairstream.club
Sept 28	Oct 4	59th Swiss Festival		Winklepleck Grove	Sugar Creek, OH	https://airstreamclub.org/swiss-festival-national-rally	SwissRallyRegistrar@yahoo.com
Nov 17	Nov 17	Board Zoom		6:00 PM			
Dec 3		Holiday Luncheon		to be determined			

Are you passionate about working with the local community? Virginia Airstream Club is too. We are looking for a volunteer/ volunteers who will help us with community outreach in the locations of our rallies. To inquire, please send an email to events@virginiaairstream.club



Membership Directory

Virginia Airstream Club Membership Directory 2021-2022

By now every member of the club should have received a copy of the 2021-2022 membership directory by postal mail. If you joined the club after February 2022 it's possible you missed being listed because of the directory publishing deadline. Let us know by email to directory@virginiaairstream.club and we will get your copy mailed out.

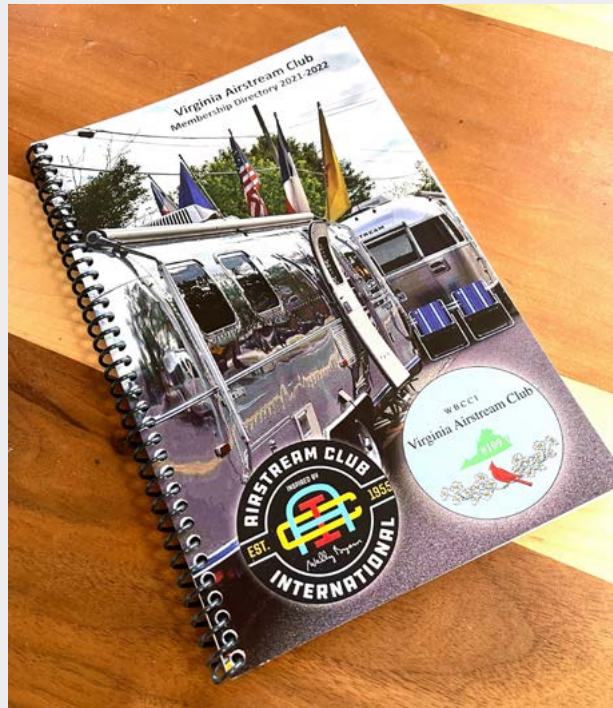
You will notice a few folks have WBCCI / ACI logos instead of a photo. If you are one of the incognito members please take a few moments to send us a photo of yourselves. A photo from your phone will do just fine and we can crop and enhance to make it even better. Time to practice some selfie skills! Email the photo to me at directory@virginiaairstream.club

Lastly we live in a changing world and addresses, phone numbers and emails get updated so please let us know! Later this year we will check in with you and ask you to update your skills that you can share with other members and your favorite spots to go camping.

Hopefully you can use this information in the current directory to reach out to fellow members and help improve the Airstream lifestyle and experience. Courtesy parking to other club members may fit into your travel plans!

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for improvements and additional information to add to the directory pertinent to Airstream ownership and club membership. The goal is to make the directory a community building resource.

David Broad
Editor VAC Membership Directory
directory@virginiaairstream.club





Are you signed up for the International Rally?

Go to <https://airstreamclub.org/fryeburg> and check out all the things going on in a great location July 23-29!

"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."

Virginia Airstream Club @ International

Please email us at: events@virginiaairstream.club if you have already registered, or if you are planning to, so we can create a distribution list for our members and organize an event while we are there.

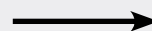
Miscellaneous

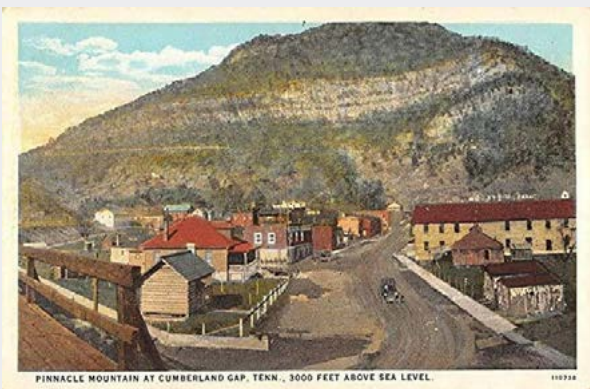
1. For small amounts of clothes washing, use a plastic container with a lid and fill it with clothes, soap and a small amount of water. Then place it in the shower. At the first stop, rinse and refill with clear water to rinse.
2. Apply indoor/outdoor carpet to the floor and lid on the outside storage bins.
3. Cover the rubber gasket on the outside storage bins with a piece of 1½" thin-walled plastic or PR 200 pipe cut to fit so that it protects the gasket when putting items in and out.

Bathroom/shower

1. Use a mesh strainer in the sink and shower to catch miscellaneous items (from the Dollar Store)
2. To clean clothing, trailer, etc, try "Pink Solution" from Costco. Mix one tablespoon with four cups of water. ("Mothers Choice" products usually come with the Pink Solution.)

By Randy Rinehart





We would love to post your pictures, or your profile, or your story! Please send to gregwall1@protonmail.com.