



The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER of the
NY FINGER LAKES AIRSTREAM
CLUB

THE GRAPEVINE—April 2022

Website: <https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/>

Volume 21, Issue 4

The President's Corner

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- The logo for the New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club. It is a circular emblem with a blue border. Inside, there is a map of New York State with the Finger Lakes region highlighted in red. The text "New York Finger Lakes" is written along the top inner edge, and "Airstream Club" along the bottom inner edge. In the center, there is a small illustration of an airstream trailer and a tree. The years "EST. 1981" and "2003" are also visible.

I know it's Springtime at the Russo household, MaryAnn II and our tow vehicle are now out of storage and back in the driveway! But first MaryAnn II needs a wash and a trip to Jackson Center. The previous owner had created a laundry list of items to be addressed while it is under warranty and had scheduled an appointment before we purchased MaryAnn II. I'm having visions of the travel adventures ahead.

People who know me would describe me as a numbers person. With that said, in the last few months our unit has grown to over 60 BRN rigs and I would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming club rallies. We have positioned our rallies to be centrally located and at NYS Parks that are either difficult to get into as a group or have unbelievable vistas. The Finger Lakes area is a jewel in the crown of New York State.



The Watkins Glen 'Groovy' rally has only a few sites left and the 'ROCKIN' time at Sampson State Park has 10 sites left. So don't regret missing out on these rallies and renewing old, and making new, connections!

Registration for Watkins Glen <https://airstreamclub.org/watkins-glen-state-park-rally> and Sampson Park <https://airstreamclub.org/sampson-state-park-rally>

If you weren't able to make it to the Wagner's Vineyard Estate Winery tastings and the Ginny Lee Café, we missed you! Twelve people made it to the event and a non-member Airstream couple came over after seeing "Frank" our flamingo mascot at the table and joined us. They are now members of the NYFLAC.

The Region 2 Rally at the Delaware Fairgrounds in Harrington, DE wants to see you! Our Region 2 Rally planning team has been hard at work organizing this event which will include a taco bar meal, a band, and a DJ, along with several breakfasts! You can register at: <https://airstreamclub.org/region2/2022-region-2-rally>.

The Grapevine

The Grapevine will be published **at least** 8 times/year (Feb/March, April, May, June/July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov) or as needed.

Newsletter Editor is Liz Kirk.

Next deadline is May 10

See page 8 for update on Membership Directory distribution.

Due to a number of requests on how to host a rally I'm the process of developing a draft for review by the Board in the next week or two. Once approved we will have a road map for future rally hosts to make the process easier.



See you down the road,
Gary Russo, President

NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club
2022 Officers and
Committee Members

President: Gary Russo
fulloflife123@yahoo.com
585-967-6636

1st V.P.: Dick Saxton
saxtonrg@aim.com

2nd VP: Chris Cappelletti
ccapp68@me.com

Treasurer: Ted Smith
Ess18294@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Charlie Kirk

Directors: Jim Gillio (1 yr.)
Charlie Kirk (2 yrs.)
John Andersen (3 yrs.)

Membership Chair: Randy Hill
randy_diane_hill@me.com

Caravan Leader: Ray Wagner
rwagner2722@outlook.com

Safety: John Hussar
hushearts@greygoosegraphics.com

Media: Liz Kirk
002newslettereditor@wbcci.net

Sunshine: Suzanne Russo
suzanne.russo21@yahoo.com

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:

<https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/>

OR

find us on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1472017733005344/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472017733005344/)



We've waited long enough and it's such a joy to be able to hitch-up and giddy-up to rallies once again. Our hosts have been hard at work on the "return of rallies!" Here's what we have coming up.....

#1— The joint Region 2/Vintage Airstream Club Rally

Why travel all that way for a Region Rally? It's a good time, that's why. You get to meet folks from all corners of our Region. I hear several from our own club are already registered. Charlie and I will be there and we're looking forward to it!! On the way down and back we're also checking out new-to-us Harvest Host spots. It's always fun exploring new places and meeting new people!!

What exactly happens at a Region Rally?

- **Two nights of music and dancing** featuring a live band one night and a DJ the other.
- **Food, lots of food.** Think Delaware crab sandwiches, taco bars, breakfasts (and perhaps a happy hour or two!!).
- **Local excursions**— If you enjoy nature you can visit Abbott's Mill Nature Preserve, walk along the Mispillion Riverwalk or visit the Millford Museum. Did I mention there's Harrington Raceway & Casino nearby? Nearby is Mispillion River Brewing.
- **Skymed will be there to tell us about an upcoming Alaskan cruise** they're organizing and can answer questions about travel coverage. You often find Skymed "deals" at rallies to cash in on.

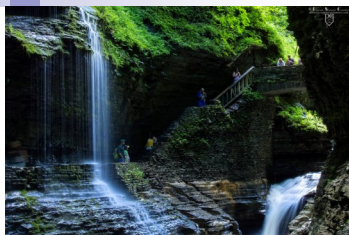
Check out the 15 Best Things to do in Harrington, DE at [https://
www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-to-do-in-harrington-de/](https://www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-to-do-in-harrington-de/)

#2 The Psychedelic 60's Watkins Glen Rally

As if the splendor of Watkins Glen isn't enough, John and Cathy have planned a "psychedelic" weekend for everyone. There are only 4 or 5 spots left so grab 'em while they're still available.

#3 The Rockin' Rally at Sampson State Park

"Elvis is in the house!!" At least, that's what Gary and Suzanne tell me. If you haven't explored all there is to be found on Seneca Lake you are truly missing out on something spectacular. There are 10 sites remaining as of this publication.



NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club 2022 Activities

All activities are subject to change.
Please refer to upcoming issues of The Grapevine Newsletter for current activities. You can also find activities listed on our website.

UPDATE FOR NEW CLUB MEMBERS!!

AS OF IMMEDIATELY all rally campsite fees will be covered by the NYFLAC for **ANY NEW MEMBER WHO HAS NEVER ATTENDED A RALLY**. No more limits of 5 new member registrations per rally. New members will still be responsible for any additional costs associated with a rally. This offer does not apply to individuals who have transferred to our club AND have attended a rally elsewhere. This is only offered to members and affiliates of the NYFLAC

<p>May 19th-22nd</p> <p>ONLY 6 WEEKS AWAY!!</p> <p>Register now at: https://airstreamclub.org/region2/2022-region-2-rally</p>	<p>Region 2 2022 Rally Delaware State Fairground Harrington, Delaware</p>
<p>June 9th-12th</p> <p>Register now at: https://airstreamclub.org/watkins-glen-state-park-rally</p>	<p>Watkins Glen State Park Watkins Glen, NY Hosts: John & Cathy Andersen</p>
<p>June 23rd—26th</p> <p>Register now at: https://airstreamclub.org/sampson-state-park-rally</p>	<p>Sampson State Park Romulus, NY Host: Gary & Suzanne Russo Co-hosts: Jim & KC Gillio</p>
<p>July 1st—5th</p>	<p>Zoar Valley July 4th Bash Hosts: Dawn and Boyd Wible</p>
<p>July 23rd-30th</p>	<p>65th Annual WBCCI International Rally Fryeburg, Maine</p>
<p>September 8th-11th</p>	<p>Letchworth State Park Castile, NY Hosts: Dick & Cora Saxton</p>



NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club 2022 Activities

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September 8th-11th

Letchworth State Park

Castile, NY
Hosts: Dick & Cora Saxton



Do you have plans for traveling to Munich, Germany for Oktoberfest?

Well regardless, join the Finger Lakes Airstream Club at scenic Letchworth State Park, Thursday, September 8th through Sunday, September 11th, 2022.

Twenty sites are reserved in a dog friendly loop.

There will be eating, drinking, cavorting and singing with the Saxtons and Cappellettis. Join us for a traditional German meal. Bring along your favorite brew if you would like to participate in a sampling. Lots of fun and festivities!

Get the dates on your calendar.
Registration information will be posted in the May newsletter.

Suzanne's Sunshine Corner

It's Spring! ☺ April Fool's!



Frank the Flamingo says, "Guess who's home?"

We have seen numerous travel trailers and boats being towed around our area recently, especially this past week. Traveling season is about to begin!

Gary and I went to a pancake breakfast in early March at Shadow Hills Maple Syrup Farm in Ontario, NY. It was a beautiful day for a walk and for tasting different types of syrup. And, yes, of course, we brought a jug home!



Happy Birthday to:
Jennifer Cappelletti
Rick Ganz
Boyd Wible

April 26
April 26
April 30



Happy Anniversary to:
Tom & Margo Underwood April 22

Didn't see your birthday or anniversary? Let me know so that I can update my list (Suzanne.Russo21@yahoo.com).

Closing Thoughts

Our Unit whetted our appetite for get-togethers with traveling buddies by having lunch and tastings at Wagner Vineyards in Lodi, NY, on March 26. Good food with great friends! We're ready for more!



While in the area, Gary and I visited Sampson State Park. It turns out that turkey hunting season begins in late April. We saw a couple of Canadian turkeys in the field. Lucky for them that the season hadn't started yet!

Until next time, best wishes for good health and safe travels!

Suzanne

Welcome to our newest NYFLAC Members!



Clarke Homan
Fairport, NY

John & Chris Thomas
Elmira, NY

Dan & Pam Bauer
Lake Ariel, PA

Daniel & Octavia Walker
North Pole, AK

How does Parking work at the International Rally?

Gary Russo

I've received a number of emails asking about caravanning and parking at the International in Fryeburg, Maine. All of the questions have been related to "how do we park together as a unit?" I spoke to the home office, and each rig's arrival date is determined by 3 factors:

- ⇒ When did you register for the International?
- ⇒ Are you volunteering or in the band at the International?
- ⇒ Are you a Regional Officer?

I plan to be in Naples, Maine, July 17-20, arriving in Fryeburg on July 21. I have an Executive meeting that day; the time for the meeting has not been set at this point. I know 1-2 people have volunteered and I believe their arrival dates are earlier than mine.

To be parked together we need to arrive as a group. If several rigs have the same arrival date, we can connect and check in at the same time. If you are planning on attending the International Rally, once you have an arrival date, send me a note, and I can work on scheduling a meetup place/time.

In Memory of Raymond Miller

Liz Kirk



I am very saddened to announce the passing of our NYFLAC member, Mr. Ray Miller. For many years Ray was the editor of the Grapevine and our annual Membership Directory. He was so kind and generous with his time and talents, making sure my transition was always smooth. And, he got me through a few pickles as well!! He picked up the phone—no matter what. He LOVED being part of our group, even after he sold his final trailer (I think he had at least 5 trailers in his lifetime!!). Ray enjoyed regaling his listener with stories of his time travelling. If you knew Ray you knew he liked to talk...and I will miss talking with him.

Raymond A. Miller, April 12, 2022. Raymond A. Miller, 83, of Baldwinsville, passed away peacefully, at Francis House on April 12, 2022, following a courageous battle with cancer. Ray was born in North Girard, PA, and then raised in Troy, NY. After graduating from Troy High School, Ray went on to earn both a Bachelor's, and a Master's degree from S.U.N.Y. Oswego. Ray moved to Long Island, N.Y. and began a long career in education, retiring after 35 years from Wantagh High School.

Since early childhood, Ray enjoyed visiting Lake George, and in the 1970's he taught his kids how to tent camp at Roger's Rock Campground. In recent years Ray enjoyed spending time at his summer camp in Lake George, with Ellie, his beloved partner of 14 years.

Ray had a love for Airstreams, and he spent several Summers travelling the United States, with his family, and beloved trailer in tow. Ray owned several Airstreams over the years, and in retirement, he took an active role in the Finger Lakes Airstream Club, proudly producing their monthly newsletter for many years. Ray was also a lifelong member of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York.

Ray was predeceased by his father, Robert A. Miller, his step-mother, Anne D. Miller, his mother Estella A. Miller (Smith), and nephew David Deutsch. Raymond is survived by his partner, Eleanor Vroman, daughter, Pamela (Catherine) Miller, his son, Richard (Vanessa) Miller, his sister, Jeannette Deutsch-Oglesby, granddaughters Nicole and Rachel, and niece Suzanne (John) Callis.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, April 15, 2022 at Falardeau Funeral Home, 93 Downer St., Baldwinsville. Burial will follow in Riverview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Francis House, 108 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y 13208 www.francishouseny.org

Region 2 News RJ Marquette, Region 2 President

Hello, everyone! It's late March and the weather is slowly improving - which means it's soon time to start camping.

Don't forget to sign up for the Region 2/VAC rally May 19-22 at the Delaware State Fair in Harrington. A number of people have already registered, but we need more to make this a viable rally! We have a great slate of events lined up, including a taco bar meal, a band, a DJ, and breakfasts. Go here to book your spot at the rally: <https://airstreamclub.org/region2/2022-region-2-rally>

We've planned our rally schedule for the summer, and we've booked rallies with several different clubs through the summer and fall. My goal of visiting every club is proving harder than I expected, though. It turns out the clubs tend to schedule rallies on the same weekend - one weekend in particular, we had a choice of four rallies from four different clubs to pick!

We're looking forward to the International rally in Fryeburg, Maine. Region 2 First Vice President Gary Russo (#1061) has found a vendor for our region luncheon. We'll get registration set up for that in the coming months once we have the plan settled.

Until next month...
-RJ Marquette (#13270)

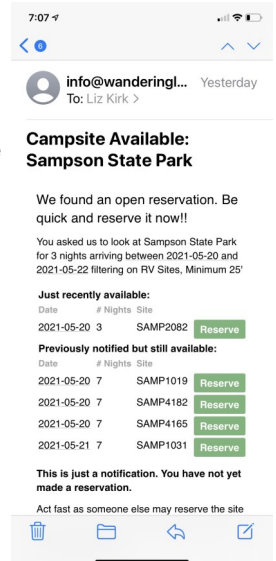
Wandering Labs Revisited

During a conversation at Wagner Winery, several folks were not familiar with the Wandering Labs website. Charlie & I have found this so helpful and I promised to post an update to share with the club. The Grapevine first reported on Wandering Labs in the spring of 2021. As campsites are again expected to be difficult to get in 2022 due to the booming RV industry you might find this resource helpful.

My 1st experience was with the 2021 Sampson SP rally. All reserved sites had sold out. One of our members wanted to attend but missed the deadline and reached out to me in case I heard of an opening. It was the perfect time to try out Wandering Labs. It was a SUCCESS!! After confirming with Reserve America there were no available sites at Sampson I signed up. The basic version is free so I plugged in the dates needed, along with trailer length. Within 18 hours the first sites opened up. I was notified by email, I notified our member, and voila!! They got the site!

After that 1st success Charlie & I decided to pay \$25 for premium access. We were planning an extended trip to the Pacific NW and were unable to get several sites we were interested in. Once again, WL came through and we got the sites we wanted!! For us it is well worth the cost of premium in savings of time and exasperation hunting for campsites. The following is from their website..... <https://wanderinglabs.com/new>

"What is Wandering Labs? We find campsites for you at already sold out campgrounds. With campgrounds filling up faster than ever, we discovered that the best way to get a site is when someone's plans change and they cancel their reservation. You tell us what campground you want to camp at and let us do all the work for you. Simply tell us the specifics of your search and we will scan the campground of your choice for cancellations and notify you when a site becomes available."



Use Mountain Directory to Identify Highway Grades in Advance

Charlie Kirk

During one of our discussions at the Wagner Winery event we were talking about the International Rally being in Rock Springs, Wyoming next year. Particularly when travelling west you need to be aware of steep passes and highway grades. Several at the table were interested about the resource that I use and felt it would be helpful to others in our club.

I first learned about the Mountain Directory on our first trip that was longer than a long weekend. We were pretty new to towing and we headed out to West Virginia. Who knew it was so mountainous? Well, we quickly realized when we arrived that we needed a resource that provided highway grade information for our potential routes. That's when we discovered that Mountain Directory. This resource provides highway grade information for the entire United States.

The directory provides an East, a West and combined directories in various formats: printer, laptop, E-book, iPhone and Android. Link to Mountain Directory: <https://mountaindirectory.com>

We have a laptop based version and check routes the night before for highway grades. If we have two routes that get us to the same destination, we can choose the one with fewer grades. Or, if there isn't really a choice in routes, we are at least prepared for the grades – like not doing 65mph when we hit the top of the hill.

An example of the information that we have used, more than once, is provided below. Contact me if you have questions.



- 13 TOGWOTEE PASS** elev. 9658'
(on US 26/287 east of Moran, WY)
The summit of Togwotee Pass is also the Continental Divide. The summit is about 22 miles east of the junction of US 89/191 and US 26/287. This junction is about 6800' in elevation or about 2850' lower than the summit. Most of this drop in elevation is in the first 17 miles west of the summit.
There is a truck warning sign at the summit for westbound traffic--"6% grade next 17 miles." It is a 6% descent but it is not steady. There are rolling hills most of the way down. About 8 miles down from the summit there is a truck warning sign--"6% grade next 9 miles" and a brake check turnout. These grade and length warnings are repeated every mile or two. It is a good two lane road with some 40 and 50 mph curves.
The eastbound descent begins with a truck warning sign--"2-6% grade next 9 miles--use lower gear." The first 4 miles are fairly steady 5-6% downhill with continuous 45 mph curves. The next 5 to 6 miles are stair stepping with the downhill sections still in the 5% range.

We missed you!!

What a wonderful time we all had for our first gathering of 2022 at Wagner Winery and Brewery. It may have been misty and blustery outside but it was cozy and warm inside.

A huge shout-out to the Russo's and Saxton's for organizing our afternoon!!

The best part.....meeting some of our newer members. We even met the Thomas' who are new Airstream owners and hadn't joined the club yet. They saw our event on the ACI website and stopped by (then they joined!!).

We started out with a wonderful lunch at the Ginny Lee Café then worked our way to the tasting room. We talked and talked and talked! We talked so long we never even took our winery tour!!

While I love traveling in my Airstream, going to rallies, and connecting with members and friends, it's truly about the people you meet. It was great getting together without our trailers!!

I hope this is the first of many "non-rally" gatherings in the coming years!!

Liz Kirk



Meet some of our NYFLAC members!!! Aren't they a happy bunch of folks?

Jennifer & Chris Cappelletti



Cathy & John Andersen



Dick & Cora Saxton



Charlie & Liz Kirk



Mary & Ron Silco



Gary & Suzanne Russo



Welcome to The DESERT BAR

Submitted by Randy and Diane Hill

During our recent visit to Arizona, we were introduced to a pretty unique and fun place - "The Nellie E Saloon" or more commonly known as "The DESERT BAR"! Some of you may have already visited or at least heard of this bar - it is located in the Buckskin mountains north of Parker, AZ on land that was once an old mining camp.



The land was originally purchased by a man named "Ken" in 1975 - at that time, there was nothing left of the mining camp. So in 1983, Ken had the land and a liquor license and decided to give "the bar in the desert" a try - the original bar was a three-sided structure which Ken operated for five years until the current structure was built! Besides the original saloon, there have been several additions made since 1983, including a church (I heard they have weddings), an outdoor bar, two cooking areas (the original cooking area which is located right across from the saloon only sells several varieties of hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, and chips but NEVER any cheese), the second cooking area which was added in the past couple of years has plenty of additional food choices, a stage (live music every weekend), and dance floor - plus there are plenty of tables and seating!



The DESERT BAR is located about five miles down Cienega Springs Rd off Hwy 95, approximately five miles north of Parker, AZ - WARNING - the best way to get to the bar is through the desert on some type of off-road desert vehicle - Cienega Rd is an unpaved, extremely rocky road with dips and plenty of curves - you would definitely need some type of off-road vehicle or 4-wheel drive vehicle.



The bar is only open on the weekends from the first weekend in October through the last weekend in from April (weather permitting) - live music on both Saturday and Sundays - their hours are Noon to 6:00 PM (Arizona time). The bar is closed during the hot Summer months. There are special events held on President's Day weekend, and they are open Thanksgiving weekend.

Everyone is welcome - even your dogs! Dogs must be leashed, and the bar is not responsible should your dog(s) bite someone. EVERYTHING IS CASH - no credit cards! We really enjoyed our visit to the DESERT BAR - a place we recommend you visit on your next trip to Arizona. The DESERT BAR is not only a bar, but a place to relax, eat and visit with friends and family, a place to dance and listen to some music on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon!

