



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

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

October 2022

Presidents Message

by Russ Fuller



Russ and Rhona

Thank you for your service and your wonderful smiles!

Wow, how this year has flown by, it seems like yesterday that Glen Lessig was passing on the reigns of the club to me in Perkinsville, VT.

This year has been very busy with twelve different events since December, highlighted by the International Rally in Maine where 27 member rigs from COCAC attended. COCAC held its 50+ Covid 1 Anniversary Party also in Maine with about 70 members attending. The caravan to the Canadian Maritimes made seven stops over eighteen days with 48 members from several different clubs.

A special thanks to all our event hosts for keeping the spirit of the club vibrant throughout the year. The Allers for hosting a wonderful Holiday Party, the Sasutas for holding a mid-winter event in Florida, the Rousseaus for "Souper Bowl" luncheon, Rhona for sharing her birthday with the St. Patrick's Day luncheon, the Lessig / Dubrowskis for the Chilli X 2 Cook-Off Rally and meeting, the B Fuller/ D Jensen for the Waters Edge Rally, the Fuller Families for Lobsterfest Rally, the Lakes and everyone who participated on the Nor' East to Nova Scotia Caravan, the Downings & Alhers (Metro New York Club) for the Fall is in the Air Rally and the Watts for an incredibly fun "Old Time Fiesta Rally and Meeting.

Continued page 2

The old becomes new



As for the new trailers rolling off the line, it had been since 1969 that any major design change had been made. In 1994, Airstream undertook its first major redesign in almost 30 years, with subtle changes to the profile and structure that resulted in a larger, more comfortable travel trailer while maintaining performance – and the iconic Airstream shape. And by 1996, Airstream added about five-and-a-half inches in width to the entire travel trailer line along with an overhaul of the interior design.

What Do You Think

What do you call a group of finches?

Beulah died in the Appalachians while Craig died at sea. Everyone was much happier with Craigs death. Why?

Answers Page 10

Link of the Month



66th International Rally



Presidents Message *Continued*

It has been a pleasure serving the club as your President this year. I have had the privileged to work with a wonderful group of Airstream owners that work tirelessly to keep Wally's "Airstream Way of Life" and the Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Clubs active and vibrant. As an all-volunteer organization we had an executive board that met more than usual this year (mostly by Zoom) due to ACI amendments to the constitution and our move to online registration. Thank you to our executive board including Carol Dubrowski, Don Allers our two vice presidents, Bard Fuller, Julie Steers, Dave Jensen and Wiley Downing as directors and Eileen and Don Allers working on membership. I wish to also thank Rich Kushman for this outstanding Chatter Newsletter and keeping us all aware with email blast updates. A big thanks to Don Allers and Chris Dubrowski for moving the club forward with online registration and payment systems. Sandy Sasuta for working tirelessly keeping our treasury in order with all the various events deposits and refunds. Christine Lessig for keeping notes for our meetings documented and Joyce Rousseau for filling in at our fall meeting. I would like to thank the Downings for getting the two new pop-ups – they have worked out so well at various times this season. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our quartermasters this year and the move to have the list of property put online as a live document. Finally, a word of thanks to Billy Steers for his beautiful hand drawings for use by the club (pin for the caravan and the new unofficial logo of COCAC) what a great talent at drawing.

The COCAC Annual Fall Meeting elected our 2023 slate of officers. I am very pleased to leave COCAC in the hands of such capable leadership. Carol Dubrowski with her unrelenting enthusiasm is planning a great 2023 rally season and she is well supported by two talented VPs, Don Allers as 1st VP and Julie Steers as 2nd VP. A group of volunteers will be reviewing for modification our club Constitution and Bylaws over the next year. Some club members have started an initial look at a name change to aid the marketing image of COCAC to be greater than just the state of Connecticut. I expect they will be reporting back at least 15 days before the spring meeting with a motion to be acted on. With the balance of the Executive Board and the various committee volunteers who provide a highly dedicated and energetic range of experiences, I am certain there are many outstanding years ahead for our club. *Continued page 3*

Next President Officially Installed

by Carol Dubrowski

Hello all! Well, that was a new kind of installation of officers. A number of us were unable to attend the fall meeting at the Mexican Mardi Gras rally, so Russ set up a Zoom call for the meeting and the officers' installation. It was a practical way to accomplish the goal of installing the officers, but I did not feel that we had time to adequately thank Russ for his work as president. Our club greatly benefitted from Russ and Rhona's long membership and their wealth of knowledge. With Russ's wisdom and guidance, we had a great year with many fun rallies, holiday parties, a mini-caravan to International that allowed us all to camp together, and a memorable caravan through the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Thank you, Russ for all your hard work that contributed to a successful year for our club and for leaving it in such good shape for our Charter Oak members.

We will kick off our 2022-2023 COCAC year in next month's newsletter. ~



Carol Dubrowski



Presidents Message *Continued*

I would like to remind members of the two upcoming events in 2022:

October 14 -16, rendezvous in Elizaville, NY.

December 17, Holiday party in Wilton, CT.

Again, Thank You All! From the simplest things like helping put up the tent or the special pot-luck treat Thank You All! for stepping up and volunteering.

Wishing you all fun, friendship, and adventure with your Airstreams. ~

FALL IS IN THE AIR

by Gail Downing

We could not have asked for better weather for our September 9-11, rally that was held at Oak Haven Campground in Wales, Mass. The safari field was filled with a wonderful turnout of 17 trailers from three different Units - Charter Oak, New York Metro and Cape Cod.

Wiley and I had wonderful co-hosts, Jerry and Colleen Ahlers. Thank you so much for everything you did, I think from a host's point of view the rally was a great success.

Also a special thank you to Eddie Carll for bringing his huge propane boiling pot. Without it we would have had been there forever cooking pasta!

Also, thank you Joyce and Gilles for bringing their table and pop up canopy and your special request from mother nature for the weather. LOL.

We actually ended up combining rallies with Cape Cod. They were scheduled for the same weekend in a different campground right up the road in Brimfield. A conversation during the Nor East Caravan after the International Rally turned us into one big happy rally. A field full of Airstreams made quite a sight to a lot of folks from the campground. They even stopped and took pictures.

Quite a few campers went to the Brimfield Flea Market, some found exactly what they wanted. Jerry and Colleen found a pair of stone lions for their home. Others did a lot of walking and browsing while others stayed at Oak Haven and relaxed under their awnings and enjoyed the weather.

So thank you everyone that attended for making it a great time, and probably one of the best campfire turnouts that I can recall. A big thank you also to all that helped with setting up and cleaning up before and after meals. Airstreamers are ALWAYS willing to help each other! ~



Roland St.Laurent, Dave Jensen, Bard Fuller, Larry Lamontagne, Eddie Carll and Kathy Fuller



This looks very much like a happy hour lineup.



This looks very much like a very happy Bill Watts and Gilles Rousseau.



This looks like Wiley Downing, Colleen & Jerry Ahlers, Gail Downing and Russ Fuller are serving great food!

Photos by Sandy Sasuta



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FALL IS IN THE AIR

Continued



A field of silver dreams...

Photos by Bard Fuller



Brimfield Mega Spenders: Joyce Rousseau, Kathy Fuller, Gilles Rousseau, Eddie Carll, Rick Cipot



How many "Wally's" does it take to replace Eddie's busted window?

Adam, Bill, Roland, Eddie, Kathy, Russ



There was something for everyone.



Shopping done - time for a campfire.



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by Sandy Sasuta

After shoveling 10 buckets of acorns from our front yard and having a buck on our front steps eating acorns, I think they are done falling. Now to the important issues at hand.

Thank you to **WILEY & GAIL DOWNING** and **JERRY & COLLEEN AHLERS** for hosting the Sept. 9th rally in Wales, MA. We had our own safari field at Oak Haven Family CG, and so close to the Brimfield Flea Market. The hosts provided us with a delicious Italian buffet (see photo). Also, we were excited to

gather with members from other clubs which made it a nice experience.

Next rally was Sept. 23rd at Bald Mountain CG in Townshend, VT...thank you to **EVIE & BILL WATTS** for hosting that event. We had a nice turnout, including welcoming new members Christoph & Joseph, and Cathy & Ed. We especially encourage all new members to attend a rally and see what it's all about.

At this time we had the lively installation of officers, some on zoom and the rest of us dressed for Mexican Mardi Gras, which was the rally theme. Congratulations to the new slate of officers, and we look forward to a wonderful schedule of events in 2023. Thank you to **RUSS & RHONA FULLER** for doing a fine job as President & First Lady in leading the club. They have had much experience as Russ has been a president 4 times with different clubs, and the same with Rhona, serving as president 3 times. We greatly appreciate them and their skills.

Sending get well wishes to the following members:

WILEY DOWNING (broken wrist), **GAIL DOWNING** (hip repair), **EILEEN ALLERS** (knee repair), **CYNTHIA BRODEUR** (hand surgery), and **BETH PETRIE** (sprained knee). **RAYMOND RICHARD** (in hospital possible surgery). Hope everyone's boo boos mend well!

It's that time of year again to start thinking about renewing your membership, and headquarters has made it so easy to renew on line. If you need help or want to pay over the phone, give them a call at 937-596-5211. Members who joined the club prior to July 1, 2021, renew by December 31st. Members who have joined after July 1, 2021, renew by your anniversary date.

Join **RUSS & RHONA FULLER** for the last rally (rendezvous) of the year ([check online for information](#)).

What do we learn from Hippos...that it's impossible to reduce weight by eating grass, salads & walking.

welcome

5 Year Stars Earned in 2022

Charter Oak celebrates its members who earned 5 year membership stars in 2022 including both our incoming and current Presidents Carol & Russ!

- ★ Chris & Carol Dubrowski
- ★ David Jensen
- ★ Bert Contractor & Susan Stahley
- ★★★★ William & Evelyn Watts
- ★★★★★ Fred & Dale McGoldrick
- ★★★★★★ Leila Clark
- ★★★★★★ Dan & Karen Olah
- ★★★★★★★ Dick Bartram
- ★★★★★★★ Russ & Rhona Fuller

- James Bevins & Lynn Alleva-Bevins**
South Windsor, CT **6848**
- Christoph Gerger & Joseph Rigoglioso**
Orange, CT **6797**
- John & Cheri Sweeney**
Gilford, NH **19475** Affiliates
- Jeff Dewey & Devon Dopfel**
Killingworth, CT **10138**
- Catherine & Ed Racz**
Roxbury, CT **6820**
- Ken & Kathi Mitchell**
Hillsboro, TX **1100** Affiliates
- Claire Ransom + Peter Dudek**
Somerville, MA **6715** Affiliates



Hola!

by Betsy Flanagan 2152

Our hosts for the Mexican Mardi Gras, Evie and Bill Watts, chose a beautiful venue for our September 23 – 25 rally at Bald Mountain campground in Townshend, Vermont. That Friday was very windy travel for us all, but we found some warmth in the pavilion for our activities. We enjoyed an impromptu happy hour at Rousseau’s trailer while we waited for everyone to arrive—21 campers. The official Happy Hour/dinner began at 5:00. Delicious food and drinks filled us up, but it was still windy and cold, so we retired to our campers.

We started Saturday off with coffee and a continental breakfast in the pavilion. The weather was cooperating nicely! Russ Fuller started the Zoom at 9:00 for the business meeting for our members who were not present. Because of the zoom constraints, we had 40 minutes to complete the agenda! We welcomed Christoph Gerger and Joseph Rigoglioso, Candle and Tom French, Sherry and Alex Porven, and Cathy and Ed Racz to the club this weekend. Hopefully, I remembered all of the newcomers! If not, I owe the Chatter another article!

After the Zoom cut us off, we went to explore in our own ways. Some went hiking, some went looking for the cheese shop, some explored Brattleboro and surrounding towns.

Everybody rejoined by 4:30 at the pavilion with their stories. We enjoyed Bill and Evie’s margaritas, rum punch, Modelo beer and snacks. In keeping with our theme, everyone came for the themed pot luck dinner in Mardi Gras masks, beads, Mexican sombreros, ponchos, and some people grew moustaches within a few hours to wear to the festivities! We regrouped outside for a tug of war across the Rio Grande River! Then it was piñata time! Several of us tried our luck, but Bill Clements from the New England club made the final blow. We all scrambled for candy, then back to the pavilion for pot luck dinner. Ay mi Dios! So much great food! We had to bring in another table! During dinner, with Russ on the computer and Bard to emcee, we cheered on our newly installed officers via zoom! How festive!

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Kathy Fuller, Betsy Flanagan, Candle & Tom French saber cómo divertirse.



Toni Nolder got us all “swinging” with her yummy Jello Shots and certainly put Candle French, Mike Sasuta and Evie & Bill Watts “de humor” by giving everyone her “appropriately acquired” Mardi Gras beads at Saturday’s happy hour. ~EW



Those sure look like jello shots the disguised Ed Racz, Toni Nolder, Cathy Racz and Bill Watts are devouring.

Photos by Sandy Sasuta



Hola de nuevo

But we weren't finished for the day yet! Volunteers stepped up and cleaned up, then it was off to the campfire. We enjoyed ice cream, fun conversation, and evening warmth. Toni Nolder threw special packages in the fire that made it change into the colors of Mardi Gras and Mexican blankets! Mike and Sandy Sasuta, Toni, Dave Jensen, Candle and Tom, Joe and Christoph, and Betsy thoroughly enjoyed that evening around the fire.

On Sunday, which came too quickly, we all enjoyed the pot luck breakfast before hitching up our trailers for the ride home. We all agreed that the weekend was a huge success! Muchas gracias, Bill and Evie! ~



The dinámico four amigos - Dave Jensen, Pat Flanagan, Bard Fuller and Ed Racz.



Buena comida.



Russ Fuller addresses the pinata.



Dave Jensen asks "Why".

Photos by Sandy Sasuta



Hail - Betsy & Pat Flanagan.



Joyce Rousseau and we think Gilles?



Big tug of war and Russ sitting down on the job...



Campground Dancers

by Betsy Flanagan 2152

During the recent Nor'East to Nova Scotia in July and August, I had the distinct privilege of watching our fellow Airstreamers as they backed their long rigs into their assigned spots. Due to our lack of GPS or any cell phone connections for the first few stops, we generally arrived a bit late. But due to the generosity of two of Charter Oak Airstream Club members, we were outfitted with a borrowed TomTom GPS system. It actually saved us from exploring the Yukon Territory! But I regress.

Thanks to the new routing device we began to arrive at our destinations well before Happy Hour. When we arrived earlier, I began to notice and become obsessed with watching parking process. It was truly magnificent.. As the driver started to pull forward in order to back up, his passenger—usually the wife—hopped out of the passenger side of the truck and got into her designated position near the back of the trailer or behind it. Then the dancing began!

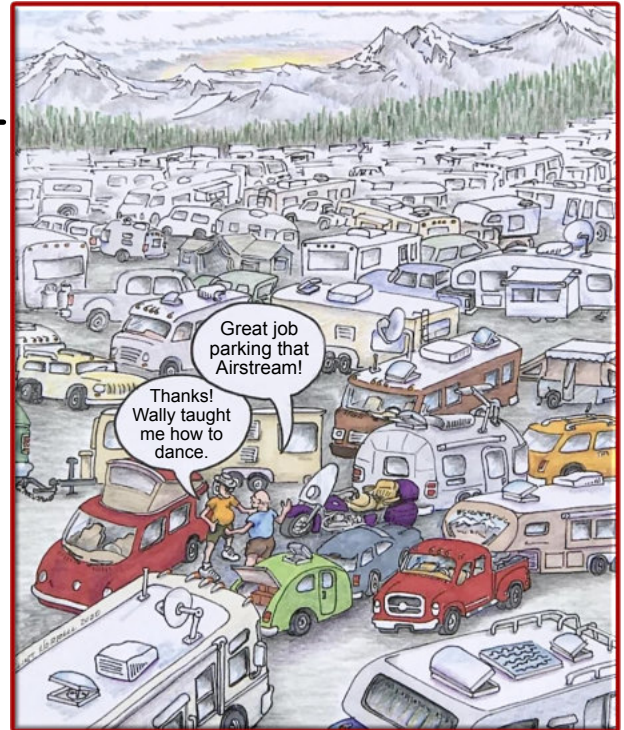
The first wife performed the most beautiful ballet I'd ever seen! She tiptoed gingerly forward from behind the trailer to its driver's side. Her arms waved gently to and fro as her head lowered to see the placement of the wheels and the location of the rig to the post with the electric and water hookups. A slight nod of her head to the driver signified that her dance was over. This couple knew how to dance together smoothly.

Another wife performed a magnificent freestyle Riverdance. She too was standing near the rear of the trailer. As the driver began to back up, the dance commenced. She darted from side to side in the back, occasionally stepping quickly to the side to communicate through her arm gestures to the driver. Then back behind the trailer to begin the next round. Again and again her feet flew to the silent rhythm of the dance.

The woman performing the rain dance was talented beyond belief, even though it didn't rain for several days after. She stepped high in comparison to the Riverdancer, but just as rapidly and sure footedly. She occasionally stepped in a full circle assessing the area behind the trailer and its ultimate location. She observed a problem and danced her way to the driver's side. With her arms flailing towards the sky, she began to also sing to the clouds. I assume it was the lyrics to the rain dance. The driver pulled forward, and the rain dance went on.

Finally, there was the couple who arrived and I got to witness the Robot dance. This lady took her assigned position in the same designated spots as the others had. Her rigid arms were raised the whole time she danced with her forearms parallel to her body. At one point, she pivoted on foot with perfect balance and demeanor, arms still raised but now swinging side to side—sometimes in unison, sometimes as opposites. I wondered as I watched this dance about the communicative properties of her arms to the driver. To my amazement and delight, their trailer was parked perfectly with no mishaps.

I look forward to our next rally so I can relive these creative moments of the dance. ~





Is Buying a New Airstream In Your Future???

by **Joyce Rousseau 8988**

A while back, Rich asked me if I would consider writing an article for the Chatter about our new Airstream. Since we got it at Fryeburg, during the International Rally, a lot of our club members were there first hand to see it pulled into place by our President, Russ. (Our truck was attached to the old camper or didn't have a hitch or something or other, so we depended on our friends! I was too busy trying to empty the old one to remember exact details!) Our new Globetrotter was welcomed with lots of help loading stuff into her and a bubbly toast the next day to welcome it and thank our friends.

Now for some specific reflections:



Joyce having NEW Fun.

Is it better than our old one? Well... since the old air conditioner didn't work and the temps were 90+ the new one with 2 ac units (although we could only use one with 30 amps) was a welcome change. We actually got to sleep together instead of at 2 different ends of the camper! OOPS-TMI????

And how about sleeping with the ac cranking? New is definitely quieter and does not disturb our sleep- well at least mine, since Gilles can sleep through anything! We found this to be true with the furnace working also, for we just came back from our rally in Vt where the temps were quite cold.

This unit is 2' longer and 6" wider, so it feels like we could have a dance with friends invited inside. The couch and cushions also add comfort and the interior design and colors are special. There is abundant storage in what I call "cubbies" on high and many storage bins and areas under the couch and bed. I am height challenged, so a quick order to Amazon for a step stool with handle makes things accessible for me. The lights in each cubby didn't do much good when I couldn't see what was in the bottom of the bin.

What do I miss? The old one had many drawers for storage in the kitchen and bedroom with abundant cabinets that I could easily see into. It also had bins around the exterior for storage- something missing with the new one. I also like the wooden interior trim, but am getting used to the faux wood and silver is a favorite color of mine!

I don't want to keep going on and on- we all love our Airstreams or we wouldn't own this brand. No matter what age or design, we deal with and appreciate the functions of each unit. We were lucky enough to be able to buy one at this time and remember our old one fondly and rejoice in our new Airstream frequently! ~



The OLD - 1987 Sovereign 25' ↑

The NEW - 2022 Globe Trotter 27' ↓





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Helpful LINKS

I am visible to Google. I link therefore I am.

~ William A. Mitchell

Airstream Club International	Blue Beret Magazine	AllStays Camping	Reserve America
Connecticut Airstream Club	Charter Oak on Facebook	Campsite Photos	RV Park Reviews
Russ's Spring Checklist	Courtesy Parking	Exits & Highways	State Park Guide
Airstream Supply	Airstream USA	Passport America	Tin Can Tourists
ACI Resource Center	Air Forums	Region One ACI	"Let's Just Go"

Upcoming... Birthdays - Anniversaries

October

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

November

- 11/01 Sandy Sasuta
- 11/02 Gilles & Joyce Rousseau
- 11/04 Deborah Hawley
- 11/10 Beth Petrie
- 11/27 Ken Hankinson & Pam Forsyth

All Chatters are available on the club website.

For Sale



For Sale 1995 Sovereign 21ft

Smallest double axel trailer built by Airstream. Dry weight only 3,900 lbs.

Many amenities of larger trailers i.e. big refrigerator, large water & holding tanks.

Plainville, CT, Bard \$19,500

bardfuller@hotmail.com

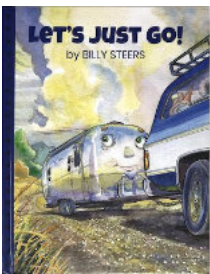


Run a Rally Plan an Event Be a Host

Connecticut Club Resources are available.

[Click Here for Equipment and Supplies Listing](#)

Volunteer now for 2023 - contact Connecticut club president.



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.](#)

What do you call?

A group of finches is called a Charm

~ and they are!

What did you think?

Beulah and Craig were hurricanes.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Connecticut Chatter

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

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

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club Holiday Party



Saturday, December 17

Noon - 3

At the Allers Home in
Wilton, CT

Main dish and beverages provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert.

RSVP by December 7 online at:

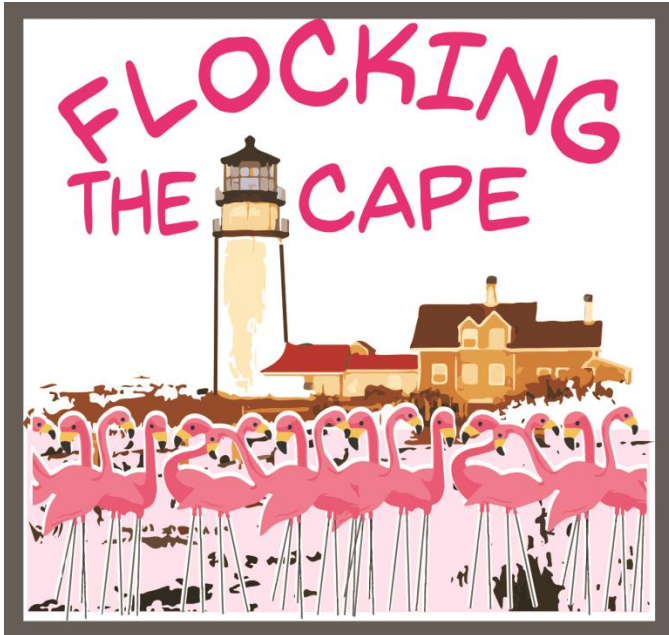
<https://form.jotform.com/222384879573168>

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



2023 Region 1 Rally June 15-18, 2023

sponsored by the **Cape Cod MA Airstream Club** @the Barnstable County Fairground
1220 Nathan Ellis HWY Rte 151 East Falmouth, MA



Activities / Entertainment

20 Amp Service (bring extra cord) & water (bring extra hose and y connection) Dump Station. Pet friendly (on leash)

Arrival June 15th after 12 noon

Depart June 18th by 11am

Thursday June 15th dinner on your own

Friday & Saturday Dinner will be provided

Continental Breakfast on Friday & Saturday morning

Come enjoy all the beautiful places the Cape has to offer

Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Provincetown, Plymouth, Woods Hole... Sea to Shining Sea Bike Trail, etc.!

- Canal Sunset Cruises
- Plymouth Harbor and Whale Watches
- Plimoth Pautuxet (formally Plimoth Plantation)
- Day trip to Martha's Vineyard

Rally Contact: Eddie Carll ecarll62@ gmail.com

Names: _____ Unit: _____ **BRN #** _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email _____

Airstream Model: _____ Rig Size: _____ State/Plate _____

#Kids 0-12(Free) _____ #Kids 13-17(\$65) _____ #Guests (\$65) _____ Will you have pet? _____

Any Significant Dietary Concerns? _____ Will you Require Handicap Parking? _____

Is your Airstream Vintage (25 yrs. or older)? _____ Year _____

Please make your Saturday Clambake choice(s): 1 1/4 Lobster, 10 Oz Angus Sirloin Steak or BBQ Bone-in Chicken

Breast



X _____

Or



X _____

Or



X _____

Includes all the classic clambake sides:

New England Clam Chowder & Steamers, Mussels, Linguica & Red Bliss Potatoes, Corn on the cob, homemade coleslaw & Fresh Sliced Watermelon

Please make your check

payable to CCMAC

Mail to: Eddie Carll 12 River Street Plymouth, MA 02360

Save Early Discounted rate US \$ 365.00

(Includes 3 nights camping /2 adults)

*After 4/15/2023 \$385.00

*Guest and children over 12

Add \$65 each + _____

*Single in RV Deduct \$65 - _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Cancellation Policy

Before 4/15: full refund

4/15 -6/1 \$180

After 6/1 \$100

Come join the Flock and enjoy Fun, Fellowship

Join us Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club Share Your Smile