



The Caravanner

Mid-Atlantic Airstream Club



February 2023

President's Message

Doing MAAC business has made for a fairly busy month of January. As promised last month, we started work on updating our club's constitution. Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) sent us a model constitution that could be used to update our club constitution. The model contained required, optional, and recommended language which made it pretty easy to update. We were able to update our constitution and send it out to our membership for review, comment, and approval on January 26, 2023. We need to have our membership approve of the new constitution before it is sent on to WBCCI for final approval. So far, we have had 10 members approve of our new proposed constitution. We will accept approvals or recommendations for changes up through the end of February. If major changes are needed, we will re-submit to our members for consideration but if it is approved as written or if proposed changes are minor, we will forward it on to WBCCI for formal approval. Once formally approved, it will be included on our website.

We have begun work on a MAAC event calendar for 2023. We contacted the American Legion in Crisfield, MD, to schedule our annual Crabby Rally. We are asking them to reserve six camping spots, numbers 7 to 12, for the weekend of September 22 and 23, 2023. Last year we had spots 1 to 6 but they were a little too close to the Legion building making it somewhat difficult to jockey our trailers into position. Spots 7 to 12 gives us more room to turn around and back into the camping spots. We have not yet had our requests for the dates and preferred spots confirmed but we hope to have confirmation soon.

We are considering a rally at Shawnee State Park in PA for the weekend of August 11 and 12, 2023. Wayne is a big fan of Shawnee and has tried to schedule a rally there in the past but there was not much interest. Hopefully, this year will be different! You will need to make and pay for your own reservation but you need to do so soon because Shawnee camping spots fill up very quickly!

For info about Shawnee and to make reservations, use this link: [Shawnee State Park](#)
We have been reviewing the available camping spots at various Maryland State Parks. We would like to have something in June or July.



The ones we are looking at are Point Lookout, Smallwood, Susquehanna, Rocky Gap, and Cedarville State Parks.

So far, the most likely campground that could accommodate several of us appears to be Susquehanna, but we are continuing to look. We have some other ideas but we would like our members to offer their suggestions.

Let me know if you have a favorite place you'd like to visit this year, just email me at: iberkebie@yahoo.com to nominate a camping location. Remember, you can always join a rally sponsored by one of our sister clubs, so you don't need to limit yourself to our schedule.

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February 11th: Valentines Day Potluck

Mark your calendar!
long-time MAAC members
and **active** members at that,
Alex & Jonathan Jacobs, will
be hosting an informal **Potluck**
at their residence on **February**
11th, at noon.

Please **let us know if you plan to attend** by emailing: alexcz2004@yahoo.com. This will be a fun,
and informal time to discuss camping trips and other activities for the upcoming year.



WHERE? Jacobs residence: 1119 Old County Road,
Severna Park, MD 21146

President's Message (Continued)

I want to remind everybody that Alex and Jonathan Jacobs will be hosting a Valentine's Day potluck luncheon at their home on Saturday, February 11. (See above) Wayne and I will be there.

Finally, I also want to remind you that the Delmarva Club will be hosting their annual Maintenance Day Rally at the 4H Center in Centreville, MD, on the weekend of April 21 to 23. We have attended this rally in the past and it is VERY WORTHWHILE, especially for new owners. The Delmarva folks are very nice and this rally is equally so. Just in case you didn't know, the 4H Center is very close to the Queen Anne Outlets! Never fear, Spring and Summer are coming!!

Ingrid Berkebile, President

Region II News



RJ Marquette,
#13270

Preparations for the 2023 Region 2 rally are well underway, and it's shaping up to be a good time. We'll get registration open soon, and I'll alert the club presidents and newsletter editors when it opens. I'm happy to report that Can-Am RV Centre in London, Ontario is giving us a generous donation that will cover many of the expenses for the rally, lowering the registration fee drastically. If you haven't booked with the campground, please contact Greg at +1 (800) 263-2570 to book your site. The rally is being held June 2-6 at Jellystone Park, Niagara Falls, Ontario. If you are crossing from the United States to go to the rally, you will need your passport.

Also, note there are restrictions on what we can bring across the border. In particular, firearms and ammunition are not allowed. There are also restrictions on food, and if you are bringing pets, you will want to check the rules for them. We have more info on the 2023 Region 2 Rally page here:

<https://airstreamclub.org/region-2/2023-region-2-rally>

We're starting to think about the 2024 Region 2 rally, too. We have lists of fairgrounds, but I know there are private campgrounds out there that could hold 75-100 of us. If you know of a campground that might be interested in hosting a region 2 rally, please drop me a line at rjm1@yahoo.com. If your club is interested in hosting next year's region 2 rally, please let me know!

Until next month!

Welcome **NEW** Members

Tim & Csilla Smith, Bowie MD
2020 Globetrotter



Christie Mielzarek &
William Nelson Lake
Frederick, VA



February Birthdays

Ralph Forrester

Please send your birthday/anniversary dates to:
053info@airstreamclub.net



Mid-Atlantic Airstream Club '22 Officers

President

Ingrid Berkebile

1st VP OPEN!

2nd VP OPEN!

Recording Secretary

Christina Torcaso

Corresponding Secretary

Jonathan Jacobs

Treasurer

Jonathan Jacobs

Membership

Jonathan Jacobs

Newsletter & Webmaster

Jerry Pilcher

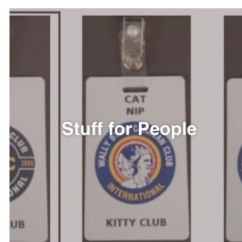
Assistant Webmaster

Flora Barrett

Need Airstream Supplies?

You can easily buy or replace any Airstream items you need online. Badges, flags, Airstream berets, lanyards, pins, tote bags, Big Red Numbers (BRN), etc. are all available at ACI's Club Store. Get ready for the next rally!

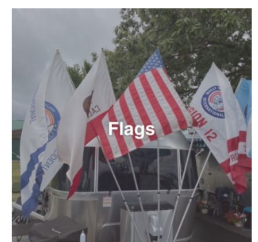
[Click HERE To Go To Store](#)



Stuff for People



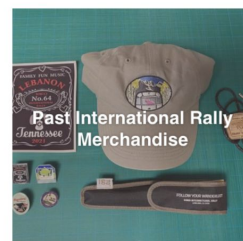
Stuff for Trailers



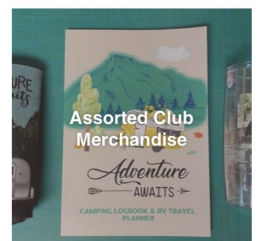
Flags



Apparel



Past International Rally Merchandise



Assorted Club Merchandise

Region II Activities

See a complete list online: <https://airstreamclub.org/events> (some events may not be posted yet.)

Note: You **may attend any rally in any region** and are not limited to Region 2 rallies.

WBCCI has announced that the **2024 International Rally** will be held in Sedalia, Missouri, kicking off on October 5th (the first time an International Rally will be held in the Fall).

Save the Date: The **2023 Region II Rally** will be held at Jellystone Park in Niagara Falls, Ontario June 1-6. The park is only 3.5 miles from the Falls and the rally provides a great opportunity to camp again with our region Airstreamers. More details to follow.

April 21-23 (Fri-Sun) – **Maintenance Rally** w/ DelMarVa – Queen Anne's County 4H Park, Delaware. **THIS IS THE ONE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR!** All those “little things” you wanted to know how to do, better.... Like, backing up! LOL. Like, “How much solar do I need?” Like, What to do if furnace doesn't come on? **REG FORMS IN THIS NEWSLETTER**



Region 2 needs to fill the position of Region Web Site Chairman.

Responsibilities

1. Develop and maintain the web page highlighting the officers and events within the region. This person should possess knowledge of the workings of the World Wide Web and the process of transferring files to and from the local web server.
2. Work closely with the Region President to publish information on the Region 2 Web Site. This includes information about region rallies and caravans.
3. Create registration forms for region events, such as the Region 2 rallies or luncheons at International.

Please contact Region 2 President RJ Marquette for more information.

Region 2 Website: <https://airstreamclub.org/region-2>

Have you got your own “tips, tricks, or gadgets” that you use? **PLEASE SHARE WITH THE CLUB.** Send me an email, along with photos, of your favorites! 053info@airstreamclub.net





Joint Maintenance Rally 2023

DelMarVa – Keystone – Mid Atlantic

April 28, 29, 30 – 2023
(No Thursday Arrivals)

Venue:

4-H Park
1945 4-H Park Road
Centreville, MD 21617

Rally Fee \$ 150.00 / Trailer

Rally Fee Includes:

Two nights camping with water and electric.

Dump station available on Sunday.

Dinner on Saturday evening.

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

Rally Coupon

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Club: _____

e-mail: _____ Cell: _____

Specific maintenance questions or topics you would like covered at the Rally:

To register for the rally: clip the rally coupon and mail with check to:

Charles Helwig

206 Rocky Meadow La.

Dover, DE. 19904

Sign-up Deadline: March 15

Make checks payable to: Delmarva Airstream Club

Contact Number: 302-270-7618

Contact e-mail: helwigcw@icloud.com

To hold the rally we need a minimum of eleven units signed up by March 15

Internet Access in an Airstream

by David Hewett, Al-Mon-O, #3222



Reliable internet access in an Airstream has become increasingly important with the proliferation of remote work. The beautiful, aluminum monocoque of the Airstream trailers, unfortunately, acts like a faraday cage preventing the cellular signals from passing through, therefore, we have an additional challenge to overcome, particularly when the cellular signals are not the strongest.

In areas where there is a strong cellular signal, your cell phone acting as a hotspot or a dedicated hotspot router may be sufficient. Most campgrounds don't have strong cell signals, so effective remote work with video calls, Zoom meetings and VPNs requires some additional technology.



The least expensive upgrade option is to purchase a hotspot device that can support an external antenna. Personally, I have a Verizon Jetpack MiFi 8800L that has two ports that can be used

with an external Netgear antenna. This antenna uses suction cups and can be placed on any window to optimize the signal strength. Not all hot spots can work with external antennas so make sure to check before signing a contract.

The next option on the cost spectrum would be to add a signal booster. There are many options in this category and they all suffer, from one extent to another, with limited range due to signal loops between the inside antenna and the

outside antenna. My recommendation is to use a directional antenna, such as the WeBoost Destination RV. Not only does it have a better antenna, the directional nature of the antenna helps to reduce the signal looping and will provide a stronger signal to your phone or hotspot—the closer the device to the internal antenna, the better. Depending on the type of cable,



the satellite port on the side of the Airstream can be used to make connecting the antenna easier. These boosters are not magic, if there is no cellular signal, they can't make one appear, but they can take an otherwise unusable signal and make it functional.

Taking things even further up the price and functionality spectrum is a dedicated router with a roof mounted antenna. I have a Peplink MAX BR1 Pro 5G mounted permanently in my 2021 Globetrotter 25FBT. There



is a Mobilemark 7-in-1 antenna mounted on the roof—I am currently only using 5 of the antennas since that is what the factory pre-wire came with. This specific antenna requires a metal ground plane to be most effective and the Airstream is the best possible ground plane to help boost the signal. Like a hot spot, this router requires a dedicated SIM card from a cell carrier and an appropriate data plan. This is where things can get complicated with finding a plan that is compatible. I tried multiple plans before purchasing a 5G Verizon MiFi that would allow me to activate the service and then I transferred the SIM card into the router—purchasing a may no longer be necessary now that Verizon has fully certified the router.

Having a dedicated router in the Airstream means that Internet connected home automation can be used. Micro-Air makes a thermostat that can be accessed on your phone; Victron GX devices for monitoring batteries, inverters and solar can be connected to upload to the Victron VRM site; pet monitors or security cameras can be used. This router can be used while traveling—I've had a strong enough signal in my truck while driving that I could work while someone else is doing the driving.

One option that is increasingly popular is Starlink. Starlink uses an external antenna and cable to connect to a router inside the Airstream. The current challenge with Starlink is that the portable plans are deprioritized and that means that the service can struggle in more congested areas. Combine this with the need to have a clear view of the sky to have uninterrupted communication with the satellites, I don't



feel it is a good primary option for most people. A few years from now, when there are more satellites, Starlink will be a much more viable option.

Something I haven't touched on is the cell data plan that you need. This is a constantly moving target with a lot of plans grandfathered in as long as they stay active. For example, I have a Verizon prepaid unlimited data plan on my MiFi 8800L—this plan existed for a short time a few years ago and is truly unlimited. My Peplink router has a 150GB postpaid Verizon data plan. There are two main differences between these plans. My prepaid plan is limited to LTE while the postpaid plan supports 5G. The other difference has to do with the priority of

the service. The Verizon postpaid plan has the highest priority on the Verizon network, with the prepaid plan being the next tier down. Other services that use the Verizon network will be even lower priority. I experienced this first hand at the Alive Music Festival at Atwood Lake in Ohio. With 16,000 people in attendance, my Peplink router worked reasonably well, my Mifi 8800L was ok for really basic services, and a friend who used Mint Mobile had no functional service at all.

Resources:

Mobile Internet Resource Center rumobileinternet.com

Mobile Must Have mobilemusthave.com

Campendium campendium.com

David Hewett, Al-Mon-O, #3222

Thanks to David Hewett of Sister Club Al-Mon-O for this great article ! On a personal note, we have had the Starlink, RV version, for about a year, and ***could not be happier***. Especially for the fact that one can “Pause” (only on a *full* month basis) service. We slowed our ‘Streaming down after Thanksgiving, but had “paused” our service with Starlink in September. And no bills Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan. If we are just heading out for a w/end, we likely don't turn Starlink “on”. Only use it on extended trips, or a trip that I **need** to be “at work”.



“Yes” one does have to have a clear line-of-sight for the best access. However, even if you have trees, you will simply get some slowdown, or “Buffering”. The more trees, the heavier the buffering. I did not find it irksome, especially with a 50 foot cable.

Now, many, more skilled than me, ‘Streamers have gone so far as to outfit the Ethernet cable using a SMART plug. That's my next project! As for now, we just run the cable thru the hatch, or, if on shore power, we just plug the router into an exterior port on the Silver Nomad.

Jerry Pilcher, Newsletter Editor



66TH AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL RALLY JUNE 24-30, 2023

SWEETWATER EVENTS COMPLEX ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING

Seminars ♦ Exhibits ♦ Socials ♦ Entertainment

AirstreamClub.org/Rally2023 #ACIRALLY2023



Personal Information*

BIG RED
NUMBER: _____

First Name	Last Name	Email Address
First Name	Last Name	Email Address
City	State/Province	Zip/Postal Code
Phone Number	Phone Number	

☐ I am/We are FIRST Time Attendee(s)

*Permanent changes to membership files cannot be made from this form. Please contact HQ to make those changes.

REGISTRATION FEES	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
*RV on Site – Arrival Saturday, June 24		375.00	
Arrive 1 day EARLY – Friday, June 23		50.00	
Arrival 2 days EARLY – Thursday, June 22		100.00	
Arrival 3 days EARLY – Wednesday, June 21		150.00	
Adult (18 and over) per person		125.00	
Youth (13 and up) per person		75.00	
Children (4 to 12) per person		50.00	
Children 3 and under FREE		0.00	
Lifetime Member Discount		-20.00	
TOTAL DUE			
Parking Options (Please check if you would like to park with one of the following groups.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Band <input type="checkbox"/> Boondockers <input type="checkbox"/> Classic <input type="checkbox"/> Future Streamers <input type="checkbox"/> Grapes & Grains <input type="checkbox"/> Vintage <input type="checkbox"/> Indie Streamers			

RV AMENITIES – All RV spaces are full-service camping spaces with water, 50-amp electricity and sewer.

***RV on site** – This is only for RV on site no humans included.

CONFIRMATION & PARKING INFORMATION will be emailed to the email provided above.

CANCELLATION POLICY - Refund requests are to be submitted in writing to rally@airstreamclub.org. Requests received on or before April 28, 2023, will be assessed a \$50.00 fee. Refund requests on or after April 29, 2023, will be assessed a 50% fee. NO refunds after June 10, 2023. **If you might have to cancel after that day, please consider obtaining travel insurance.**

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Date: _____ Rec'd By: _____ Registration Source: ☐ Mail ☐ Online ☐ Rally

Payment Type: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Amt Paid: \$ _____ Check #: _____

Register ♦ Online www.airstreamclub.org/Rally2023 ♦ Mail ♦ Phone 937-596-5211

HOW TO REGISTER – Go to AirstreamClub.org/Rally2023, call HQ at 937-596-5211 or fill out this form and make a check payable to WBCCI, in US Funds Only, and mail to: WBCCI, P.O. Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334. Email questions to rally@airstreamclub.org.

ADA ACCESSIBLE PARKING – Special parking, if requested, is near the central rally area for members. We ask that you bring your government/state-issued placard or supporting documentation with you to the rally.

STAGING AREA – The Rally Arrival Team will be ready to park you when you arrive from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Arrivals after 8:00 p.m. may stay overnight in the Staging Area with no hookups until parking begins the next day. If you arrive before your registered date, there is a charge of \$75 per night.

KIDS – Bring them! Our youngest RVers will be treated to programming especially suited to kids ages 4-17. Registration cost covers materials for age-appropriate activities surrounding a daily theme that will keep your kid's busy learning, exploring and having fun!

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____

ADDITIONAL GUEST – Members are welcome to bring additional guests for a fee. Include their names on the registration form.

PARKING TOGETHER – If you would like to park with family and friends, you must register to arrive on the same date, and you must arrive together.

CARAVANS – Groups of 5 or more RVs wishing to park together **MUST** register as a caravan with HQ by May 1, 2023. All caravan participants must register to arrive on the same date. The caravan leader can call 937-596-5211 or email rally@airstreamclub.org to register the caravan. The chair of the Rally Arrival Team will contact the caravan leader and let them know what time to arrive.

DEPARTURE – Departure is on Saturday, July 1.

COVID-19 NOTICE – An inherent risk of COVID-19 exposure exists in any public place where people gather. By attending this event, you understand and assume all risks related to COVID-19 exposure. ACI, its staff, officers, exhibitors, volunteers, members, service providers, and grounds personnel are not liable for any illness, injury, or death from COVID-19 related to your participation at this event.

USE OF IMAGE – I grant ACI, and its employees and agents, an unrestricted right and license to use my image, likeness, name, voice, comments and/or other proprietary or public rights and/or those in any live recorded talks, broadcast, photograph, video, audio, audiovisual and/or other recording taken in connection with this event, for all purposes, in perpetuity and in any and all media now or hereafter known, without compensation.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK & WAIVER OF LIABILITY – I assume all risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may experience or incur in connection with attending this event. I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless, ACI, its employees, agents, volunteers, and representatives of and from any such claims, including liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to my attendance at this event.

Stay & Play

in Rock Springs

International Days



1 day, 1 week or 2 week packages available

Sweetwater
EVENTS COMPLEX

JULY 1 THRU JULY 16, 2023

AS LOW AS \$20 PER DAY plus tax

Extend your stay at the Sweetwater Events Complex and explore Sweetwater County and all our recreation opportunities. Visit SweetwaterEvents.com/events/2023/airstream for reservations.