

April 2023

Keystone Kourier

President's Message

**Keystone PA Airstream Club #092
Region 2 - WBCCI**



Hello Keystoneers! April has arrived which means many of us are hitting the road soon. In fact, Arry and I are on the road now visiting family in Virginia Beach and Woodbridge, Virginia. Arry's family is having a mini-reunion and will be sharing newly found information about her parents' life in Russia and escape to the U.S. following World War II. It's a fascinating story which her cousin is hopefully turning into a book in the near future. Fortunately Arry is able to

travel as she continues to recover from a recent fall where she broke a couple ribs.

Our March get together at Rick and Andy Pitts' home was well-attended and well supplied with delicious eats as usual. Attendees included one of our new couples, Matt and Colleen DiStefano and their daughter. They will be picking up their new Airstream shortly, having waited over a year from when they ordered it. Welcome Matt and Colleen! Others enjoying the afternoon were Will and Karen Kushto, Howard and Arry Mergelkamp, Barry and Lesley Heckenswiler, Sharon and Wayne Fitzgerald, and George and Peg Spahn. Many thanks again to Rick and Andy for hosting!

In March we conducted a survey concerning Keystone members' travel plans for this season. Of the 43 members (including 6 alumni and 6 affiliates) about half responded. The results were similar to the participation level in recent years with most rallies having 3 to 4 Airstreams attending. The most popular events this year are the Lancaster Balloon Festival Rally (6 units going, 2 maybes), the Installation Rally at Bird-in-Hand (8 units, 3 maybes), and the Holiday luncheon (10 couples, 5 couples maybe). The activities during the Spring through Summer peak season are not well attended. Obviously, people are enjoying their Airstreams in ways other than our group's events. We continue to have the challenge of attracting new members and encouraging their involvement while finding ways to raise participation in our activities. Your officers will continue to address these issues.

The next event on our schedule is the rally on April 14-16 at Hickory Run State Park. This is a beautiful location which has a fascinating "river of stone" running through the park. Hopefully we'll see many of you there.

Howard

Upcoming Events

April 14 - 16

Hickory Run Rally

Hickory Run State Park
White Haven, PA

April 28 - 30

Maintenance Rally

Centreville, MD

May 5-7

Eastern PA Opener

Lums Pond State Park
Bear, DE

Stay Connected

Keystone on the web

[https://Airstreamclub.org/
Keystone-Pennsylvania](https://Airstreamclub.org/Keystone-Pennsylvania)



Follow us on
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Airstream Club Int'l

<https://AirstreamClub.org/>

2023 Officers

President

Howard Mergelkamp

1st Vice President

Jody Dietz

2nd Vice President

Jennifer Eggers

Treasurer

Rick Pitts

Secretary

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Pat Quinn

2 Year Trustee

Don Harrington

Immediate Past

President

Kathleen Quinn

Membership

Don Harrington

Sunshine

Karen Kushto

Kourier – Web Pages

Andy & Rick Pitts

Sunshine Report

Happy to report this month that Cindy Yerk is recovering well from her pelvic fracture. She has begun physical therapy and they expect to head north in May.

Let us know of illnesses, surgeries, friends needing a kind word - and better yet, recoveries.

Karen (kkushto@comcast.net or cell 215-266-2410)

Happy Birthday to:

April

Janice Hicks (11th)

Jerry Hillegass (12th)

Rick Pitts (16th)

May

Kathleen Quinn (8th)

George Spahn (15th)

Phyllis Harrington (25th)

Will Kushto (29th)

Happy Anniversary to:

April

None to report

May

None to report

We have, and like to celebrate many birthdates and anniversary months but if we've missed you please email Rick/Andy (r_pitts@verizon.net).

Keystone Bits

. The Region Rally dates are June 1-6, Fri-Sun (6/2-4) are the 'core' dates. For campground reservations contact yogibear@jellystoneniagara.ca. The rally rate is \$62/night (Can) plus taxes. Registration for the rally is now open on the Region 2 website at a great rate of \$35/person (Can).

. Gary Russo, incoming Region 2 president, needs a volunteer to manage the Region 2 website. Please contact him directly at fulloflife123@yahoo.com to help!

. Checkout the new Airstream Studio FA Porsche concept (just google 'Airstream Porsche')

. Mark your calendars now – just announced the **2025 International Rally** will be held in **York, PA**, at the Expo Center, August 23 – 28!

Keystone Komedey Korner



. Why are we so tired at our early April rallies? Because we just finished a 31-day March!

. Most people are shocked when they find out how bad of an rv electrician I am!

. Bigamy is having one husband too many. Monogamy is the same...

Please send **your** best quips to Rick & Andy for a future issue of the Kourier.

March Luncheon



Rick & Andy Pitts hosted a great *Spring is in the Airstream* lunch on Saturday, March 18. Joining in were **Sharon & Wayne Fitzgerald, Lesley & Barry Heckenswiler, Karen & Will Kushto, Arry & Howard Mergelkamp, Peg & George Spahn** and brand-new Airstream owners **Colleen & Matt DiStefano**. As expected, there was plenty of food, a nice time welcoming the DiStefano's and ample opportunity to firm-up the upcoming summer rallies.



Marvelous Maintenance at the Mothership



You may recall that last fall more than leaves fell on **Jody & Sue Dietz's** rig. So, joined by **Pat**



& Kathleen Quinn, they made an early spring travel west to Jackson Center for repairs and some tune-ups. All went very well and right on time so **#4361** is spiffy and back on the road.



On the way home the couples braved sub-freezing temps and visited sites in Ohio's Amish country and in Pittsburgh.



As it is that time of year, **Will & Karen Kushto** also towed their rig out to Jackson Center for updates and maintenance. They took the opportunity to tour the factory and visit the



new Airstream Heritage Center, a wonderful display of exhibits and collections of Airstream history over the past 100 years. Check more of Karen's pictures on the club Facebook page!

Upcoming Keystone Events

Spring has sprung and it's time to de-winterize and hit the road:



Our first rally of the year will be **April 14-16** at Hickory Run State Park in White Haven, PA. Home of the Hickory Run Boulder Field, the largest of its kind in the Appalachian region. Boulders range for 3 to 30 feet in length!



Make your reservations now at the PA DCNR site. Your rally coordinators are on sites #260 and #261.

We're planning a Keystone breakfast on Saturday (waffles of course!) and, due to limited restaurants in the area, a Keystone Burger Bar following happy hour (we'll have burgers, brats and fixin's so just bring along a side dish to share). There are plenty of things to do at the park. In addition to the Boulder Field there are

hikes to Hawk Falls, along the Shades of Death Trail (not really as demanding as the name suggests...) and to the beautiful chapel in the park. Sites are still available (modern electric, no water connection) so if you've not already reserved do so now and let Rick/Howard know your plans.



Quickly following, the weekend of **April 28-30**, is the joint Maintenance Rally with the **DelMarVa** and **Mid-Atlantic** clubs in Centreville, MD at the Queen Anne County 4H Park. This is a great way to meet fellow club members, and members from neighboring clubs. It's also a great time to make sure your rig is ready to hit the road for your next great adventure. There will be Airstream experts on hand, with specialty tools, lubricants, etc., ready to answer your questions and help you get your rig in shape. The registration form is available on our club events webpage.

Always fun, the Spring Opener with the **Central Penn** and **Penn-Lehigh** clubs follows the weekend of **May 5-7**. Held at Lums Pond St Pk in Bear, DE this is a sell-out so put your name on ReserveAmerica's 'Availability Notifications' if you're looking for a site.



Then you can plan a trek north to Niagara Falls, Ontario for the **Region 2 Rally June 1-6** at Jellystone Park Campground; **or**

Stay-at-Home for the annual Chester County Blues BBQ with rally camping at nearby **French Creek St Pk, June 2-4**.

Needless to say, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and about, and more to come, so we'll **'See you down the road'**.



2023 Activities Schedule

April 14-16 (Fri-Sun) - Hickory Run State Park Keystone Rally, White Haven, PA

3 Family Camp Road, White Haven, PA

Coordinators: Howard Mergelkamp (howardsan70@gmail.com) or Rick Pitts (r_pitts@verizon.net)

April 28-30 (Fri-Sun) – Maintenance Rally w/ DelMarVa & MACC – Queen Anne’s County 4H Park, Centreville, MD

Keystone contact: Karen & Will Kushto (kkushto@comcast.net)

May 5-7 (Fri-Sun) – Eastern PA Opener w/ Central Penn and Penn Lehigh – Lums Pond State Park, Bear DE

Keystone contact: Rick Pitts (r_pitts@verizon.net)

June 1-6 (Thur-Tue) – Region 2 Rally – Jellystone Park, 8676 Oakwood Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Campground reservations at Jellystone now open: call Greg Amadio at Jellystone: 1-800-263-2570

Rally registration info to follow (core rally activities Jun 2-4)

Keystone contact: Rick Pitts (r_pitts@verizon.net)

June 2-4 (Fri-Sun) – Stayed at Home Rally (Chester County Blues BBQ) – French Creek State Park, Elverson, PA

12th Annual Blues BBQ, 2-7pm Saturday, June 3rd (\$ entrance fee) at nearby Wyndors Farm

Coordinator: Pat & Kathleen Quinn (kathleenquinn56@icloud.com)

June 24-30 – International Rally – Rock Springs, Wyoming (registration – **sold out**, waitlist only, boondocking available)

July 14-16 (Fri-Sun) - Jim Thorpe Rally, Jim Thorpe, PA

Coordinators: Jennifer Eggers (jeggars@leadershiftinsights.com) and Don & Phyllis Harrington

August 11-13 (Fri-Sun) – PA State Rally hosted by AlMonO – Whitehall Camp, Emlenton, PA

Aug 20-26 (Sun-Sat) - Western PA Caravan to tour: Johnstown Flood Museum, Flight 93 Memorial, Altoona Horseshoe Curve, Carlisle Army Heritage Center, Harrisburg sights

Coordinators: Howard Mergelkamp and

September 14-17 (Thu-Sun) - Lancaster Balloon Festival Rally, Bird-In-Hand, PA

Mill Bridge Village & Camp Resort, 101 South Ronks Rd, Ronks, PA 717-687-8181, **Reserve now!**

Coordinators: Jennifer Eggers (jeggars@leadershiftinsights.com) and Don Harrington

Oct 20-22 (Fri-Sun) - Keystone Installation Rally - Beacon Hill Campground, **Reserve now!**

128 Beacon Hill Road, Intercourse, PA, 717-768-8775 (Cabins available for those not towing, 2 night minimum)

Club luncheon buffet at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird in Hand on Sat 21st

Lunch will begin at 1:00 pm in the Robin room, the annual meeting and officer installation will follow at 3:00

Coordinators: Jennifer Eggers (jeggars@leadershiftinsights.com) and Jerry Hillegass

Dec 9 (noon) - Keystone Holiday Luncheon - Plumsteadville Inn, 5902 Easton Road, Pipersville, PA

Coordinator: Barb & Jerry Hillegass

Be sure to check the **Blue Beret** and Airstream.org site for dates for other International and National Caravans and Events. Here are just a few that club members have enjoyed in the past:

Aug 6 – 12: Old Time Fiddlers Convention, Galax, VA

Sept 23 – Oct 1: Swiss Festival, Sugar Creek, OH

Oct 4 – 8: National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN

Dec 29 – Jan 2: Rose Parade Rally, Pasadena, CA (this year the West Chester U. Golden Ram Marching Band will attend!)

Andy and Rick Pitts
930 Stoney Run Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19382



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KEYSTONE CLUB

Contact:

President: Howard Mergelkamp
howardsan70@gmail.com

Membership: Don Harrington
pastordkh21@aol.com

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