



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

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

July 2023

Presidents Message

by Carol Dubrowski

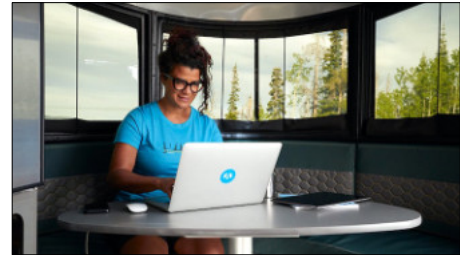


Chris & Carol on a Region One bike ride to Woods Hole.

Our 2023 rally season continues to be fun and active. The “Streamin’ on the Rox” boondocking rally in Roxbury was outstanding! We had an open house, where the community could stop by and see what an Airstream looks like inside. We toured the huge (like, really huge) antique tractor collection at the Double D Living History Farm at Toplands Farm. On our private tour by the collector, we learned about why the tractors were made differently to deal with the unique conditions of the land on farms in various parts of the country. Amazingly, all of these tractors are kept in running condition. Our rally host and local resident Billy Steers took us on a hike down to Mine Hill, an area of the Roxbury Land Trust that he and Julie have been active in maintaining. In the 1860’s, quartz, siderite, granite and pig iron were mined there. Billy created all the trail signs with his artwork and knowledge of the area. Thank you to the Lessigs and Steers for putting on such a unique and interesting rally.

Continued page 5

Planning the Best Airstream Road Trip



From picking attractions and making reservations in digital apps to plotting the course in a good old fashioned paper atlas, there are a million ways to plan a road trip. We checked in with seasoned Airstreamers to discover how they’ve perfected the fine art of trip planning to make the most of their time on the road.

[Click here for tips on planning.](#)



What Do You Think?

What is a group of Larks called?

What are the next three letters in this combination? OTTFFSS

Answers Page 9

Link of the Month



AIRSTREAMDAYS



Streamin' on the Rox – an urban rally

An urban rally is typically (*although not always*) located in an urban area where trailers boondock, meaning there are no hook-ups. All trailers rely on their own on board water, batteries and solar for electricity and propane for hot water or heat. An urban rally also offers the townspeople the opportunity to tour the trailers and meet with the owners.

by Cathy Racz

Hosted by the Steers and Lessigs, *Streamin' on the Rox* was an urban rally not to be missed. Nineteen airstream trailers rolled into the village of Roxbury, CT, on Friday afternoon and were directed by the hosts into Munson Meadows. The trailers were lined up single file along the stone wall that separated the meadow from the main street. Cars slowed as they passed by and passengers waved as the locals welcomed us.

The agenda was chock full, beginning Friday night with a *Heavy Happy Hour* that did not disappoint. The club's large tent was put to good use as the skies opened up and poured rain, enough to break the humidity and leave us with perfect camping weather. As the sun went down and the rain cleared out, we closed out the day by a crackling fire. The peepers lulled us to sleep, interrupted by an occasional hoot of an owl and the distant howl of coyotes.

On Saturday morning, after a continental breakfast served under the tent, we headed back to our trailers to prepare for the Open House. The community was invited for a tour of our airstreams. Russ Fuller created signs for each airstream that identified the owners, the trailer size, BRN and any other unique characteristic. The locals came by the dozens, including the First Selectman, moving about from one trailer to the next, full of questions and great conversation. We may just have a few new members in the club next year!

Saturday afternoon, we car-pooled up to Double D Living History Farm, which houses the largest collection of antique tractors in the Northeast. Dudley Diebold, the owner of the farm, and his assistant Lou Pokrywka led us on a tour through his 6 barns that contain over 300 tractors, gas engines, antique trucks, and other farm equipment and implements that have all been restored and are in working condition. *Continued page 3*



With the help of Billy & Julie Steers the town of Roxbury, CT, welcomed a delightful Connecticut Airstream rally.



Local residents satisfied their curiosity and toured the visiting Airstreams.



Streamin' on the Rox – an urban rally

Continued



Dudley doesn't just own these tractors, he is connected to them. Stories rolled off his tongue, one after the other, as he shared his passion for the history of farming and the desire to preserve that history for future generations to enjoy. It was an event to be remembered.

For those that were not able to join us, there is an open house scheduled for October 21st from 11:00 – 4:00 (<https://toplandsfarm.com/events/>). Just before 5pm, we headed back to our trailers and were treated to a delicious hot dinner and a cooler full of hand-packed local ice cream. A few games of corn-hole were played as the sun sank below the horizon and we talked about tractors and other things by the warmth of the fire.

The smell of ham and eggs brought everyone back to the tent Sunday morning as our hosts prepared a hot breakfast. At 11am, we headed over to the Mine Hill Preserve, a 19th century iron-making complex. Billy Steers led a tour of the Mine Hill roasting ovens and blast furnace and explained the process from iron ore to steel. Following the Mine Hill tour, many travelled down the hill for a tour of the Roxbury Distillery. After a tasting at the distillery, we all headed back to Munson Meadows to pack up and head home.

Many thanks to our hosts for a wonderful weekend.



Under the tent Airstreamers sharing time.



Julie & Billy Steers with Sam and the famous "Tractor Mac".



Great breakfast croissant sandwich, smoked ham, egg and cheese prepared by Christine & Glen Lessig and Wiley Downing flipping the eggs.



Guy and Laura Weik trying out Tractor Mac.

Continued page 4



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Streamin' on the Rox



Ken Hankinson, Pam Forsyth, Bill Watts, Lynn Davis, Kathy & Rich Kushman, Carol Dubrowski, Wiley Downing and Carl Davis



Wiley and Gail Downing take their turn riding on Mac.

Photos by Bard & Kathy Fuller, Sandy Sasuta



Ed & Catherine Racz, Toni Nolder, Laura Weik showing a visitor about Airstreaming.



A few of the unnamed crew stopped by for an early distillery taste.



Carol Dubrowski, Russ Fuller Giles Rousseau, Rich Kushman and somebody's hands around the wonderful Saturday dinner catered by the Roxbury Market.

Continued page 5



Streamin' on the Rox



Dudley conducting a very interesting tour of his extensive antique tractor, etc. collection.



Billy Steers made a Sunday hike quite interesting describing the local Mine Hill historic sites.



One happy crew on a special antique tractor tour.

Presidents Message

Continued

We just got back from the Region 1 Rally, "Flocking the Cape". A huge thank you to Eddie Carll and his team for putting on a fun rally with interesting seminars and delicious food! Bard Fuller did an interesting seminar about Hawley Bowlus, a renowned sailplane pilot and engineer, who was sort of responsible for the cool aerodynamic shape of the original Airstreams. Sandie St. Laurent made a yummy Sloppy Joe dinner for all of us and the catered lobster dinner the next night was a messy delight. The Lessigs organized a bike ride down to Woods Hole on a great trail and we had an ice cream rest stop!

Along with all the fun of the camping season, our club board has also been working. After our club acceptance and vote on the required changes to the constitution and bylaws, we submitted them to Airstream Club International. Unsurprisingly, ACI asked us to make a few small revisions and we resubmitted the document. Fingers are crossed that it will now pass final review at ACI. Additionally, our board met to approve the members of the nominating committee, who will fill our volunteer officer positions. Our nominating committee for this year is Don Allers, Sandy Sasuta, Julie Steers and myself. We will be working to identify people that might want to join our board. We encourage self-nomination. If you have an interest in getting involved in the running of our club (it's not hard work, and kind of fun) please reach out to anyone on the committee. We would be thrilled to hear from you.

Our next rally is "Christmas in July" hosted by the Watts and Frenchs. It is at the Crown Point Camping Area in Perkinsville, VT, from July 21-23. It's a great spot and lots of interesting activities are nearby. We look forward to seeing you! ~

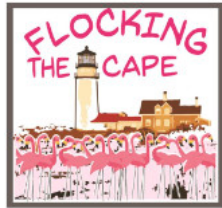


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Region One Rally 2023



Carol & Chris Dubrowski ready to dig in!



Greeting from the Connecticut crew from Flocking the Cape!



Two of the rally parkers Mike Sasuta & Rich Kushman (red vested) joined Kathy Kushman, Toni Nolder and Evie Watts while on a short break.



Bert & Susan won second place in the "Pink" contest.



Eddie Carll, who spearheaded the 2023 Region One Rally joined some of the COCAC crew for dinner as all waited for their table to be called.



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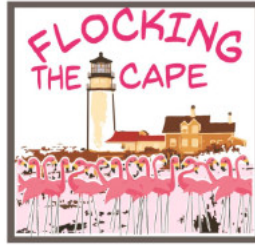
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President Bard Fuller led a Region One meeting.



Region One Rally 2023



Gail Downing offered a quilling paper craft session.



Bert Contractor & Susan Stahley with granddaughters Mallory & Fiona enjoying the clambake.



Mallory & Fiona sang it out during Karaoke.

Sandy's Scuttlebutt



by Sandy Sasuta

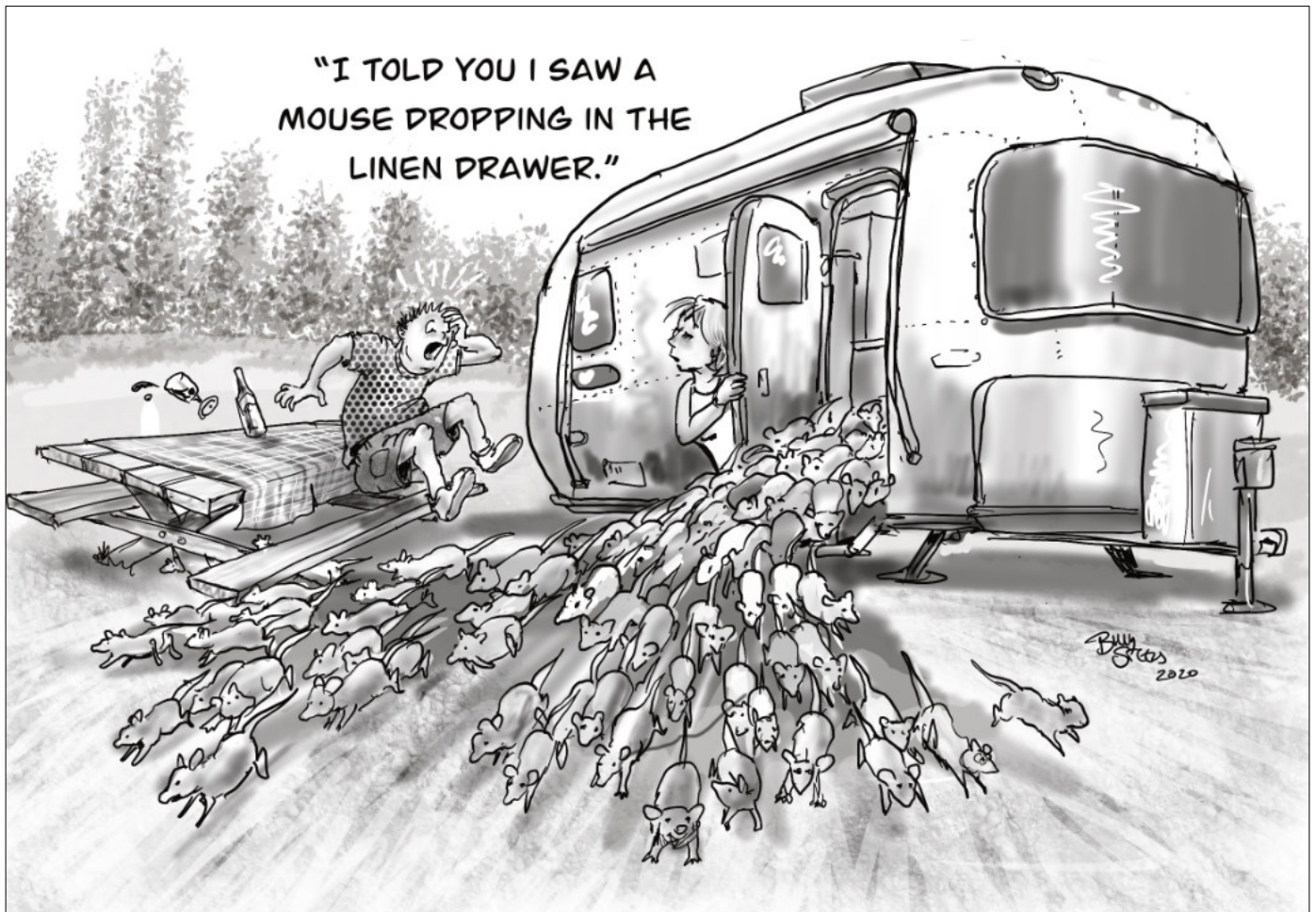
Welcome
Gene & Sue Fredlund 3184 - Sherman, CT

Hello Summer! My summer diet is to find the biggest salad bowl and fill it with ice cream. I have found that the older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then, your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

What a great time we had at the "Streamin' on the Rox Rally" in Roxbury, CT. Could have called it the Fire & Ice Rally as it was in the 90's on Friday, and the 40's on Saturday. In fact, one of our members wore long pants for the first time! Three cheers to the hosts, **BILLY & JULIE STEERS and GLEN & CHRISTINE LESSIG** who worked tirelessly to pull off a fun boondocking rally, provide delicious food, schedule a tour of antique tractors and a local history hike which included a distillery.

Thank you to **EDDIE CARLL** and his helpers, especially the parking committee, for a great Region One Rally, complete with Sloppy Joe's on Friday and a full clambake on Saturday, what a fun time. Glad to see **SUSAN STAHLEY** (and Bert) at the rally and on the mend, as she had been recently hospitalized twice. We all enjoyed their precious grandchildren Fiona & Mallory.

Hope to see you at the next event, the "Christmas in July Rally" July 21-23, 2023 (see flyer).



Whenever available be sure to attend Billy's seminar on creating a travel journal - also visit Billy's website and make sure you add a copy of **Let's Just Go**, the adventures an Airstream travel trailer **Snug** to your library or gift list. ~Ed



FOR SALE

Upcoming

Birthdays - Anniversaries

2007 30 ft. Airstream Classic, Limited travel trailer,

Queen bed, one owner, meticulously maintained, excellent condition. Always garaged when not in use.

All services performed only at the Airstream factory. Asking \$50,000

Elaine and Earl Duesel, Past President NEAU 6404 contact: erduesel@gmail.com

July

- 07/02 Sally Kerr
- 07/03 Bruce Fletcher
- 07/03 Ted Price
- 07/05 Kathleen Kushman
- 07/09 Julie Steers
- 07/25 Alexander Porven
- 07/26 Lois Price
- 07/29 Kathy Fuller

August

- 08/02 Mark Collins
- 08/04 Aili Galasyn
- 08/05 Steve Pestretto
- 08/06 J. Rick Cipot
- 08/09 Bob & Andrea Curran
- 08/10 Diane & Jerry Jackson
- 08/15 Maria Volpe
- 08/19 Jim Reck
- 08/20 Carol Dubrowski
- 08/20 Glen & Christine Lessig
- 08/21 Rose Tavares
- 08/22 Bob Hendrick
- 08/22 William Hannis
- 08/23 Ed Racz
- 08/25 Marie Lupien
- 08/26 Bruce & Kris Fletcher
- 08/27 Trevor Lake
- 08/27 Wayne Ruty
- 08/29 Richard Kushman
- 08/31 Glen Lessig

Helpful LINKS

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

Run a Rally or Rendezvous

Plan an Event
Be a Host
Be a Co-host

Connecticut club resources are available.
[Click Here for Equipment and Supplies Listing](#)
Volunteer now - contact Connecticut club president.



A view from inside Mike & Sandy Sasuta's Airstream at Region Rally clearly shows they have their ... "Ducks" in a row?

Don Featherstone made landscape history in 1957 when he designed the plastic pink flamingo for a Leominster, Mass., plastics company. Little did he know that the eye-catching lawn ornament would sell 20 million copies, inspire several films and become a cultural icon both loathed and revered. The plastic pink flamingo wasn't the only widely used product to come out of Leominster's plastic factories (think Tupperware). But somehow the plastic pink flamingo caught people's attention in ways that nothing else did.

[New England Historical Society](#)



Great Gift

"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 did you think?

A group of Larks is called an exaltation

E N T (Each letter represents the first letter in the written numbers: One, Two, Three, Four, Five, etc.).

Connecticut Chatter

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

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

JULY 21 – 23- 2023



CROWN POINT CAMPING AREA

131 Bishop Camp Road, Perkinsville, VT 05151

Hosts -- Evie and Bill Watts, Candle and Tom French

So it's
warm.
Go
Swimming



FRIDAY: Check in - 12 noon
Chips and Dip Happy Hour, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY: 8:15 a.m. - Continental breakfast furnished by hosts
4:30 p.m. - Light Happy Hour
6:00 p.m. - Holiday Dinner, Main course furnished by hosts
Desert, Christmas cookies
7:30 p.m. - White Elephant Gift Swap. Bring a nicely wrapped gift.
It can be new, used, funny, awful. Use your imagination.
9:00 p.m. - Traditional campground bonfire

SUNDAY: 8:15 a.m.- Potluck breakfast. Hosts provide beverages
12 noon - checkout



AREA ATTRACTIONS:

Hike Mt. Ascutney, American Precision Museum, Calvin Coolidge Homestead, Vermont Country Store, King Arthur Flour, Harpoon Brewery, Simon Pearce Glassblowers, Montshire Museum of Science, Sugarbush Farm, Woodstock, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park

Camping fee and reservations: \$46.00/night. Reserve directly with the campground 802-263-5555. One night deposit required with reservation. Deposit is fully refundable up to seven days prior the rally. Kitty fee payable at rally \$15 per person. Pay at the rally.



Reserve Jot Form

<https://form.jotform.com/230438091938158>

Questions: Evie 203-426-5532
evelynwatts@sbcglobal.net

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GRANDVIEW BY THE LAKE AUG 11- AUG 13, 2023

Hosts: Downings, Porvens and Fletchers
GRANDVIEW CAMPGROUND. MOODUS CT

Waiting List Only

Arrive 1:00 - 2:00 Friday August 11, 2023

Friday: Happy Hour 5:00 - Campfire weather permitting.

Saturday: Pot Luck Breakfast 8:30 AM. Coffee, tea and juice supplied by hosts.

Afternoon 11:00 -4:00 pm Fletchers Lake House at Bashan Lake, (appx just 3 miles from campground). Bruce and Kris Fletcher have been kind and generous to host an afternoon at their house on the lake. There will be Pontoon Boat rides around the lake, tubing, waterskiing, fishing, stand up paddle boarding, canoeing, sailing, and swimming are all options, burgers and hot dogs with a side and chips will be served from 12:00 - 1:30 pm.

Dinner will be at 6:00 at campground. Pulled pork, potato and macaroni salad, green salad, dinner rolls. Campfire after dinner weather permitting

Sunday: Continental breakfast Coffee, tea and juice will be supplied by hosts

Register and place deposit with Grandview Campground. Camping will be water and electric \$55 per night. So weekend will be \$110.

DEPOSIT OF \$60 MUST BE MADE AS ASAP - FEW SITES LEFT

I realize this is a bit different but it seems to be getting more common. This is a small campground with limited sites. Balance of the cost will be charged to your card on July 11, 2023.

Kitty Fee \$10 per person. Will collect at Rally.

CONTACT TO RESERVE ASAP
Grandview Campground 89 North Moodus Road
860-873-3332

Questions please feel free to contact
Gail Downing 203-241-2537



Reserve your Campsite
then sign up online.

<https://form.jotform.com/223624711988161ctnanabug@comcast.net>

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TALL TALES RALLY and FALL MEETING

September 22-24, 2023 Travelers Woods of New England
152 River Street, Bernardston, MA 01337



Please Join US!

Michael & Sandy Sasuta and Chris & Carol Dubrowski
hosting a fun weekend and planning a real "Happy" Hour.
Come prepared to share an Airstream tale, a few jokes
and your laugh and smile.



The campground is pet friendly with dogs on a leash but away from food areas. Now requiring a current rabies certificate for all pets at check-in. **Important**

HEY...Did you hear about the big super sale - all new Airstreams are HALF PRICE! HA HA HA

FRIDAY 5 p.m. Light Happy Hour
6 p.m. Baked Potato Bar with all the fixings' provided by the hosts.

SATURDAY 8 a.m. Pancake & sausage breakfast with coffee/tea/juice.
9 a.m. Meeting & installation of officers.
Afternoon free to tour the area.
5 p.m. Light Happy Hour
6 p.m. Pot Luck Soup...please bring a pot of your favorite soup to share. The hosts will provide bread, green salad, and dessert.

SUNDAY 8 a.m. Ham and egg breakfast sandwich with coffee/tea/juice.

All units must stop at office to sign in, receive vehicle pass and campground rules.

CHECK IN TIME AFTER 2 p.m. - CHECK OUT TIME BY 1 p.m.

Early arrivals/late departures to be coordinated directly with Travelers Woods. 413-648-9105

FEE: \$60.00 for 2 nights camping (water & electric) plus a kitty fee of \$20.00 per person.
Children 12 and under are free. Make check payable to Sandy Sasuta, and mail on or before September 1, 2023, to 476 Milford Point Road, Milford, CT 06460 OR Venmo @sandra-sasuta; use Tall Tales Rally in memo area.

Contact: Sandy Sasuta 203-494-7467 sandysas1001@gmail.com

Cancellation policy: No refunds can be provided after Sept. 7th.

Sign up online: <https://form.jotform.com/231198035577159>



NAME _____ BIG RED NUMBERS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____