



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

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

August 2023

Presidents Message

by Carol Dubrowski



Chris & Carol at Christmas in July Rally - is that a Barbie Christmas tree?

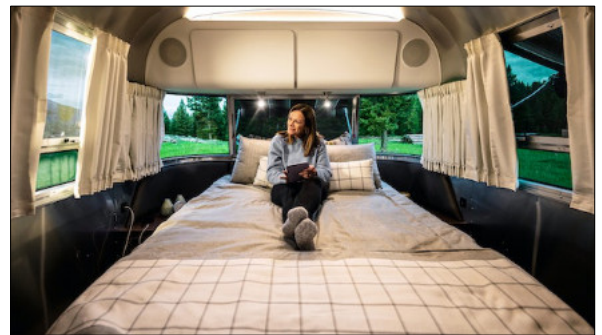
The summer continues to be filled with hot weather, smoke, rain and of course camping opportunities and Airstream club work.

Our local club bylaws and constitution changes were accepted at Airstream Club International, so we are good for another five years! Our nominating committee is working on filling the open positions of first year directors and the second VP position. Please reach out to any of the committee members (Don Allers, Sandy Sasuta, Julie Steers and Carol Dubrowski) if you would like to serve our club. We will all be voting on the club's name change soon. We will be voting between the top two nominees in our recent survey, "Connecticut Airstream Cub" and "Connecticut Charter Oak Airstream Club." Be on the lookout for an email to vote.

Our Christmas in July rally in Vermont was a festive summer holiday party complete with holiday-themed decorated campers, a pink Christmas tree decorated with flamingos, a Yankee gift exchange and a holiday ham dinner and cookies. Rhona was a hilarious master of ceremonies for the gift swap and kept it lively and fun. Hosts Evie and Bill Watts and Candle and Tom

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Travel Apps That Airstreamers Love



[Click and Explore](#)

From trip planning to reservations and navigation, there's no shortage of travel apps aimed at getting the most out of your RV adventures. We talked to Airstreamers around the country to find out what travel apps they're using – and which ones are the best for Airstreamers who want to maximize their travel experience. Live Riveted®



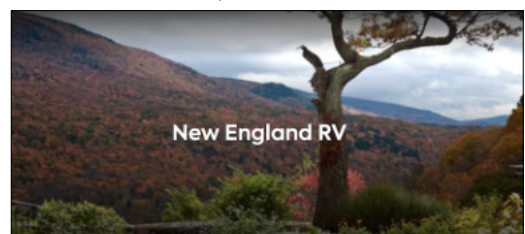
What Do You Think?

How many Airstream International Rallies have there been and which one had the largest attendance?

If it takes 5 elves, 5 minutes to make 5 dolls, then how long will it take 100 elves to make 100 dolls?

[Answers Page 11](#)

Link of the Month



[Try these New England adventures.](#)



Presidents Message

Continued

French made this rally one to remember! This weekend we also welcomed new members, Melanie Ho and Darren Smith, Jo-Ann and Harry Shettles and Michael and Franny Levesque. It is great to add new friends to our group. On our way home, Chris and I spent a beautiful Vermont afternoon helping pick blueberries (40 pounds!) at his cousin's farm right near the rally campground, and came home with a couple of pints of super tasty treats.

We are scheduling next summer's rallies right now. We are looking for hosts to help us organize these gatherings. Remember these can be as simple or complicated as you like. It can be as easy as locating a campground and getting it on our schedule for a rendezvous or adding in some scheduled meals or activities to make it a rally. We would love to see some new faces running these events. If you have been thinking about getting your hands wet, please reach out and we can try to match you up with some experienced members if you would like.



Carol picking Vermont blueberries.

Our next rally is August 11-13 at Grandview by the Lake in Moodus, CT. It is hosted by the Downings, Porvens and Fletchers. We will enjoy an afternoon of lakeside activities at the Fletcher's lake house on Bashan Lake.

It has been great to be with our Airstream friends this summer. We look forward to more adventures together.



A recent picture of Glen & Christine Lessig and Kathy & Bard Fuller in Dawson Creek at the start of the Alaskan Highway brought back fond memories. Long ago Ted & Lois Price, Kathy & Rich Kushman and Sandy & Mike Sasuta enjoyed a similar adventure. Although the arrow points in different directions they all went North.



Christmas in July Rally

Crown Point Campground, Perkinsville, VT
Hosted by: Evie and Bill Watts, Candle and Tom French

by Sally Kerr

Four trailers arrived on Thursday to a nice sunny day. The weather changed on Friday with rain off and on but most everyone got settled between the rain. Everyone helped put up the tent so we had a place where we could be dry. People gathered for a heavy happy hour and enjoyed seeing each other again and meeting new people.

Saturday morning was clear and we enjoyed a nice continental breakfast. President Carol had a short meeting announcing that dogs are not to be to any gatherings with food. She encouraged people to consider hosting a rally. It does not have to be elaborate. It can be as simple as just gathering at a specific place or campground. Due to a number of last-minute cancellations, many of the members felt that the rally fee should be paid up front when registering. Hosts purchase many things in advance based on the number who have registered and late cancellations can make budgeting difficult. There were 30 expected and we ended up with 22. More discussion regarding this is expected.

The weather was great and some people went out to see some things in the area and others just stayed around and enjoyed each others company. The Vermont floods did damaged some areas but we were up high and dry. Walking down to the pond one could clearly see the mud line up on the trees and bushes. The water must have come up about 20 feet. The water cascading down the hill was beautiful to watch and the sound of the rushing water indicated the strength of the flow. Later, some of us enjoyed playing Tower Ball and Ladder Ball.

Flamingos dominated the décor with a pink Christmas tree with pink flamingo ornaments that each could then take home. We also got a pink flamingo key chain. Even the tooth picks had flamingoes on the top and we had flamingo topped straws. Many decorated their Airstreams for Christmas and/or flamingoes.



Russ Fuller, Evie Watts, Candle French, Rhona Fuller & Toni Nolder - a nice Merry Christmas!



Michael Sasuta, Billy Steers, Joyce Rousseau, Julie Steers, Evie Watts & Carol Dubrowski warming the bench.



Waiting for Santa but where's the chimney?

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Christmas in July Rally

Continued

A delicious dinner was prepared by the hosts that started with sangria and followed by ham, potato salad, coleslaw and baked beans with cookies providing a nice ending.

It was then time for the gift exchange. Everyone got a number to go up and choose their gift. They could keep it or trade it as the game went on. Most people opted to keep the gift but there was some trading. It seemed that several people wanted the lamp so there was a bit of hilarity over stealing that from one another. Candle ended up with it. There were a few other exchanges as well and the evening ended with a huge bonfire put on by the campground.

Sunday morning was a pot luck breakfast followed by taking down the tent and departing. Thanks to Evie and Candle for planning such a wonder rally.

Along with at least 7 dogs, the following people enjoyed the weekend: Cynthia and Michael Brodeur, Chris and Carol Dubrowski, Candle and Tom French, Russ and Rhonda Fuller, Sally Kerr, Michael Levesque who spends the summer there, Toni Nolder, Gilles and Joyce Rousseau, Michael and Sandy Sasuta, Billy and Julie Steers, Bill and Evelyn Watts, and our new members: Melanie Ho and Daren Smith, and JoAnn and Harry Shettles.



A smiling Julie Steers made a hopeful swap for the lamp.



Gilles Rousseau picked the antique lamp first.



Candle French apparently had final say and became the take it home owner of the cherished lamp.



Joyce Rousseau toasting Sally Kerr and Cynthia Brodeur as they play Tower Ball while Gilles Rousseau, Bill Watts and Michael Brodeur very enthusiastically cheer them on.



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Photos by:
Sandy Sasuta,
Joyce Rousseau,
Sally Kerr



Nice campground for Santa's helpers.



Checking out the goods.



Sandy's
Scuttlebutt



by **Sandy Sasuta**

Welcome

Corinne & Bob Rossi **3106** Pawcatuck, CT

It's been a hot, humid July; hope everyone has kept cool! The Region One rally in June was a fun time...be sure to check out the photo's that **GLENN LESSIG** posted: airstreamclub.org/region-1. Scroll down to the 2023 Region 1 Rally Photo Album.

Another great time was had at the Christmas in July Rally at Crown Point Campground in VT; BIG thank you to the hosts **EVIE & BILL WATTS** and **CANDLE & TOM FRENCH**. We laughed so much with the gift swap, since after you select a gift, you can keep it or take someone else's gift. We saw Bill Watts' favorite antique lamp change hands 3 times! It was especially nice to meet our new members, Michael Levesque, Melanie Ho & Darren Smith and Jo-Ann & Harry Shettles, some attending as their first rally.

We have birthdates and anniversaries listed in each Chatter (month & day, no year). If you would like to be included, please email your information to me: sandysas1001@gmail.com.

TIP: If you have any plans to go to Jackson Center, Ohio, for Airstream repair work, be sure to try LuLu's Diner in Lima, Ohio, for a delicious breakfast/lunch.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation. Also, I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. Enjoy the rest of the summer!



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Follow their adventure.

Bard · Kathy · Glen · Christine



The Lessigs and the Fullers met up in Calgary, AB on July 9 to begin our Alaska Adventure.



Heading north to Jasper on the Icefield Parkway, beautiful scenery however the visibility was limited due to wildfires.



The highlight of the Calgary Stampede is the "Chuckwagon Race" staged since 1923; truly exciting.



Maligne Canyon in Jasper National Park; is incredibly beautiful with a depth of more than 50 meters.



Bridal Falls, Maligne Canyon, Jasper National Park.



Whistlers Campground, Jasper National Park. A beautiful campground that has recently been renovated, unfortunately, the Mountain Pine Beetle has devastated the Lodgepole Pine in this area of BC. The campground is now fairly open, with brand new facilities and elk herds wandering through.



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Wildlife overpasses between Banff and Jasper allow large animals to cross the highway safely.



First view of the Canadian Rockies!



The Fuller's heading north in British Columbia



Our official start on the Alcan Highway begins in Dawson Creek, B.C., we are officially on our journey north to Alaska.



Stopped over at Liard River Hot Springs, a very pleasant break from driving.



The Fuller's kayaking on beautiful Muncho Lake, two miles long and over 200' deep, with gorgeous views. We both had campsites on the lake, outstanding.



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Dawson City, Y.T., Park Canada has done a good job of preserving this town, the first major gold strike in 1896 and 97.



The AICan highway is famous for its "Sticky Buns", of course, we had to sample!



Diamond Tooth Gerties Dance Hall, Dawson City.



The Klondike Highway west of Dawson City crosses the Yukon River on a quick and free ferry.



Kathy Fuller won the Pancake Toss contest!



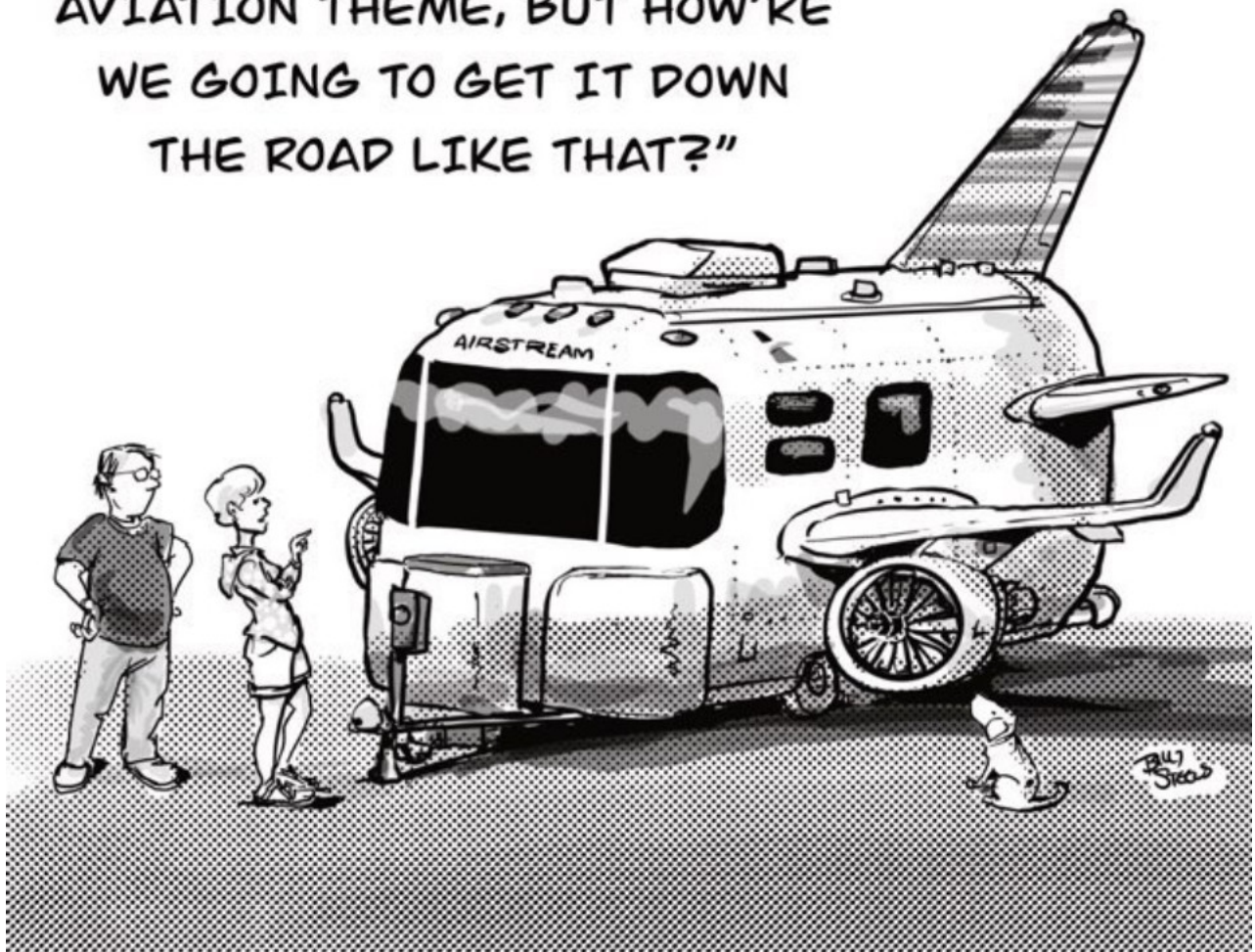
Bucket list entry complete! Bard & Kathy traveled to Key West, FL, and began their "The Longest Road" road trip and finished by crossing the Arctic Circle 7,847 miles later on the Dalton Highway in Alaska.



Question: How big was the pancake and how far did Kathy toss it?



"I ADMIRE YOUR SLEEK AVIATION THEME, BUT HOW'RE WE GOING TO GET IT DOWN THE ROAD LIKE THAT?"



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



Region One News

REGION ONE SUMMER NEWS

by Bard Fuller Region President

I am glad to see so many Airstreams out enjoying the wonderful rallies, rendezvous, caravans and byways of North America this summer. The Region 1 Rally on Cape Cod was fabulous with 80+ rigs enjoying the entertainment, seminars, crafts, the outstanding lobster-clambake and more. Save the date of May 16-19, 2024 for next year's Region 1 Gathering conveniently located close to the world famous Brimfield Flea Market in central Massachusetts.

Congratulations to Per Hamngvist of the New England Club who will be the ACI treasurer for 2023-2025.

As most of you know, Airstream Inc. and Airstream Club International are two distinct entities. We do, however, have many common goals and objectives. Over the past year, both parties have discussed these common bonds. Recently, Airstream Inc. has announced that it will encourage all of their new Airstream buyers to join Airstream Club International by offering to pay for an "Airstream Club Explorer Membership". This membership will last one year and give all the benefits of the club except for the printed copies of the Blue Beret.

What does this mean for our local clubs? The potential for new membership is significant, if not monumental. Even if only 50% of new Airstream buyers would try our club that would mean our local clubs would be doubling in size in less than three years. We need to be ready to welcome and engage this new potential membership influx. We will need more and larger rally opportunities. That will be a challenge. Unfortunately, the northeastern US and eastern Canada do not have a growing campground infrastructure. It has become harder and harder to find commercial campgrounds that will allow our clubs to reserve blocks of sites. Should we be able to obtain such an opportunity, large deposits or even full payments for all these sites can be due months ahead of time. Most of our state/provincial campgrounds are overly competitive to book and some are restrictive in their pet policy and social alcohol policy. Also, they can be financially restrictive for out-of-state residents.

Todd Brink, our Membership Chairperson for Region 1, has been actively working through these and other concerns. He will be the one to engage with potential new members to help guide them to an appropriate local club as well as potential local club functions that would have the capacity to accept additional participants. At our annual Region 1 meeting Todd challenged our local clubs to look outside the box of traditional rallies being held at full service campgrounds. Let's look at some boon- docking sites, fairgrounds, local town plots or even urban sites. The New England Airstream Club was very successful with a Newbies Rally this past spring. This may be a model for engaging with future new Airstreamers.

Change is inevitable in our world. The Blue Beret, our club magazine, is a tradition and a popular membership benefit. Airstream Club International will be making changes to the Blue Beret soon. With sharp increases in paper costs, fewer print advertisers, a second increase in postal rates this year (and even higher Canadian postage), it is only appropriate to rethink the value of the printed Blue Beret. We know that local activities are searched, nearly exclusively, through the ACI website or through local club newsletters, which are also frequently found on the internet. Activity listings can be outdated or incorrect due to the deadline of press time. A recent national survey of membership indicated that most people read the Airstream Inc. remarks about the industry, the President's Message, how-to-do articles and general camping interest articles.

This past June HQ experimented with an Airstream Club blog which has had very good reviews. A blog format could feature the most read parts of the Blue Beret. Please check out blog.airstreamclub.org and tell me what you think. I know the desire for a continued print form of Blue Beret is still present and must be balanced with budget constraints. So it is likely that the club will continue with a quarterly print publication, a monthly online blog issue of the Blue Beret and a free online directory which would be available in print form at cost for those that desire the traditional print format.

Lets us embrace Wally's words: "Let's not change for change, sake let's only make improvements."



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

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"](#)

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

"I have a split personality," said Tom, being frank.

I Renamed my iPod The Titanic, so when I plug it in, it says "The Titanic is syncing."

How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A maybe.

Jill broke her finger today, but on the other hand she was completely fine.

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.

What did you think?

It takes 1 elf 5 minutes to make a doll, so it would take 100 elves 5 minutes to make 100 dolls.

There have been 66 International Rallies and the 19th rally in 1976 at Louisville, KY, had 4493 Airstreams attend.

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 Rutty

08/29 Richard Kushman

08/31 Glen Lessig

September

09/01 Sandie St. Laurent

09/05 Kathryn Collins

09/07 Lynn Davis

09/11 Catherine & Ed Racz

09/12 Bob & Crystal Beaumont

09/12 R J Dominic

09/15 Cynthia & Michael Brodeur

09/17 Jeanne Blandford

09/20 Mary Rosenbach

09/22 Debbie & Bob Hendrick

09/23 Pam Forsyth

09/23 Mark & Marie Lupien

09/28 Michael & Lianne Rutty

09/29 Dick Wheatley

09/30 Per Hamnqvist

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.](#)



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



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>

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

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 _____