

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj

August 2023

President's Message



Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying summer fun and travels. Trailer season is in full swing with many of our members travelling on their own or with the club. The International rally in Rock Springs Wyoming was a big success I hear. We had a few Watchung members in attendance. Thanks to Judy and Mike Richards for carrying our Watchung flag for opening ceremonies.

It seems we went from impending drought to daily rain up here in Northeast PA; it's been a struggle to try to keep up with the grass and mowing the fields as of late.

Linda and I enjoyed a week at Jersey Shore haven recently and were joined by Derek Conley and Lois Wagner. We had good hot beach weather and put our new Cool Cabana to good use. Even the ocean water temp was good.

Looking forward, August will see Linda and I along with Laura Raymond, hosting at lake Glory campground August 10th thru August 13th. The campground runs a free shuttle to Knoebels amusement park and there is plenty of other good stuff to see and do in the area. There are a few spaces left I believe if anyone decides at the last minute that they would like to join us. In September, Mark Angie and Rebeca Glick will host at Pine Creek campground in Newfield New York, September 15-17. See coupon in this newsletter. As our final campout of the year as a group, Rich and Kathy Short with Lea Plant will be throwing an Oktoberfest party at Peaceful Woodlands Campground in Blakeslee PA. The dates are October 5-9. The weather in the Poconos that time of year is crisp, the apples are in season, and the Oktoberfest beer flows easily. This is also our annual business meeting where we elect our new officers for the following year. So please come on out.

We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from life. William Osler

Region 2 President's Message

RJ Marquette writes:

THIS IS IT. My last Region 2 Presidents notes!

Although I started writing these weeks ago, I'm finishing them at the 2023 International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Erica and I left home in early June, after the Region 2 rally, and spent weekends traveling, and we worked from the Airstream during the week in St. Louis and the Denver areas.

First, the Region 2 rally was a great success; thanks to Ray Barrick (#6497) and the Ontario Canada Airstream Club for making it memorable for all of us. Incoming Region 2 President Gary Russo (#1061), and soon-to-be First Vice President Patti Galupo (#22010), and incoming Second Vice President Matt Moore (#3937) are working on the plans for next year's rally.

We had a Region 2 Happy Hour at the Rock Springs rally. I'd estimate about a third of the Region 2 attendees were at the happy hour; a thunderstorm and another major event scheduled at the same time likely kept some people away. But we had a good time anyway!

My goal was to attend an event for every club in the Region during my tenure. Unfortunately, I only managed to visit 8 of the 14. In theory, the Region President, or his or her designee, is supposed to attend an event for every club in the region - but it's difficult for our region, given the number of clubs, and that events tend to get scheduled on the same weekends. However, as our Region 2 presidents get practice planning for this goal, we'll get better at it over time.

I've avoided talking about specific club rallies I've attended, because I didn't want to come across as reviewing the rally or the club. We've met quite a few members of the region, and a few people outside the region, and had instant connections with many of them. Everyone has been extremely welcoming, and we've always had a great time. Prior to taking on this region president role, I had not visited the rally of any other club, or a region rally. That was a mistake; we were missing a lot. Don't hide in your club.

I'd like to encourage each club to do more joint rallies. I know some clubs have standing joint rallies with others but consider spreading beyond that. I'd like to challenge each club to do a joint rally with one other club every year—whether it be another Region 2 club, or a club in another region. You'll meet new friends, see new places, and have new ideas. Break up any monotony that has set in!

Although my time as region president is at an end, I do want to continue helping the club. We've already been involved in preliminary plans for the 2025 International Rally in York,

Pennsylvania, and International President Eric McHenry (#153) just told me that more questions are on the way. Erica and I are thrilled to be a part of the planning.

I have to thank Past President Rich Short (#1512) for his guidance. You may recall I came into the Region 2 leadership only a few months before becoming president, and Rich taught me everything he could in the time available and provided advice well beyond that. Gary and Patti have been partners in crime over the last two years, too - always ready to listen and give advice.

I also have to thank everyone I've talked to during the last two years. You were supportive, and many of you reassured me that I was doing a good job. Thank you.

Of course, I also have to thank Erica. Her support and advice have been invaluable.

This is it for me. I'll see you down the road!

—RJ Marquette, #13270, Washington DC Unit, Past Region 2 President

Rally Site Appeal

RJ Marquette adds:

We'd like to start a list of sites in region 2 that could potentially host a region rally. Ideally these places would have capacity for at least 75 rigs, with 30 amp electric at a minimum (more hookups are better, of course; if there's no sewer hookups, a dump station is necessary). We'd also want to have some sort of covered area we can have meals and such in case of inclement weather - a building, or a place we can put a tent. We know there are campgrounds out there that could support such a rally, too - like the Jellystone Park in Ontario that hosted the Region 2 rally recently. The site should be located in the Region 2 territory - Delaware, Maryland, DC, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Ontario. These places are out there, but there's no easy way for us to find them. I'll bet many of you know of places that could do it.

We have a list of some fairgrounds, like Delaware and York, but that list was created with International rallies in mind - and we're nowhere near that size. If you know of a site that could handle this, please let Gary Russo know. Thanks

Second VP Search

Frank deHerde writes:

Hello Everyone,

Laura Raymond and I are searching for a member to fill the position of 2nd Vice President for 2023-2024.

Before becoming an Officer in the Club, I thought an Executive Board position would be very time-consuming, which stopped me from getting involved. Then the Club needed someone to file for the 2nd VP position. I agreed to be the 2nd VP. After being a 2nd VP, a 1st VP, and President, I realized these positions only take 1 to 2 hours a month. Most months take zero time!

An explanation of the Duties of 2nd Vice President are:

- ✓ *Assist the President and the 1st Vice President*
- ✓ *Assume the Duties of the 1st Vice President in the absence of the said Officer*
- ✓ *Assume the Duties of the President in case of the absence of the President and 1st Vice President*
- ✓ *Reach out to Members to plan Rallies and Luncheons.*

If you are thinking of or would like to be the 2nd Vice President. My email is deherde@hotmail.com, or call me at 908.419.4978 or contact Laura's email LA9BSG@gmail.com, or her cell 646.483.6539

*Thank You
Frank DeHerde
Past President*



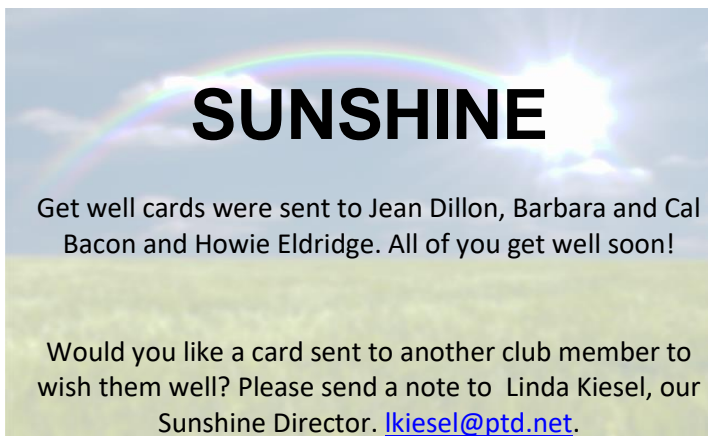
Welcome New Members!

Dave Deibert
Nancy Deibert

Sharon Moran
Joseph Moran

and new affiliate members

Nancy Mellina
Ed Mellina



August Birthdays

The lone August birthday we have is

Marian Wooding

Happy birthday Marian!

Bits and Pieces

Items for the newsletter? Send them to Derek Conley by the 20th of each month. (dconley1810@gmail.com)

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

President: George Kiesel (gkiesel861@gmail.com)

Membership: Lea Plant (tenlea@aol.com)

2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

With five months to go before the start of our 2024 season it's not too early to start thinking about next year's club activities. Please consider volunteering to help make 2024 another successful year. —Ed.

DATE	WHAT	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
January 2024	Luncheon	Ken and Nancy		
February 2024	Luncheon			
March 2024	Luncheon	Meg and Laura		
April 2024	Unbutton			
May 2024	<i>Region 2?/Club Rally</i>			
June 2024	<i>Region 2?/Club Rally?</i>			
July 2024	Club Rally			
August 2024	Club Rally			
September 2024	Club Rally			
October 2024	International Rally	WBCCI	NA	MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
October 2024	<i>Club Rally—Business Meeting?</i>			
November 2024	Luncheon			
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	

2023 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

If you are interested in hosting or cohosting a rally or luncheon,
please see the list below and let George Kiesel know.

2023 August Rally: August 10-13, 2023, Lake Glory Campground in Catawissa PA. Hosted by George & Linda Kiesel and Laura Raymond. See information below.

2023 September Rally: September 15-17, Pine Creek Campground in Newfield, New York. Hosted by Mark & Angie Ratliff and Cohost Rebecca Glick. See information below.

2023 Octoberfest Rally & Business Meeting: Rich & Kathi Short and Lea Plant. See information below.

2023 November Luncheon Hosted by Barbara Taylor and Michael Koczwara and cohosts Cathy and Jay McCarthy.

2023 December Luncheon and Officer Installation Lea Plant and George Kiesel

Instructions for event registration and payment are on page 10.

August Rally Information

George Kiesel writes:

Hello everyone,

Final plans are being made for the August Rally.

Friday will feature a Pizza dinner sponsored by Sky Med. Their representative Niki Palmer, will be on hand to do a short presentation and explain the benefits and safety that having a Sky Med membership offers. As we travel throughout this great country having Sky Med by your side can give you peace of mind should things go bad. My understanding is that they sometimes offer a discount to rally goers at the time of the rally but that is not guaranteed. Time will tell.

When you get close to the Lake Glory campground, please be sure to heed the warnings (below) about blindly following your GPS. The directions provided are very similar to your GPS but avoid the roads with low clearance.

Also, **if you have not paid the rally fee yet, now is the time.** Your hosts will be very busy that weekend and don't have time to chase people about money. So please, either go online, or send a check to our treasurer Lois Wagner. Thank You. George, Linda, Laura.

Here's the link to the online form: <https://form.jotform.com/231344450585152>

Looking forward to seeing you all, Safe Travels.

August at Lake Glory Campground—Buddy Rally*

96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820
570-356-7329

When: August 11th to August 13th, 2023. Hosted by Linda and George Kiesel, cohost Laura Raymond.

Where: Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820. 570-356-7392.

* Non-Airstream owning friends of members are welcome.

Friday: arrivals.

3 PM: Campground check-in time.

5 PM: Happy hour.

6 PM: Pizza and salad dinner hosted by Sky Med. Bring your own plates and utensils.

After dinner: Campfire weather permitting.

Saturday:

8:30-9:30: Breakfast. Blueberry pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice.

Bring your own plates and utensils.

9:30-10: Executive Board meeting.

10-10:30: General Business Meeting.

Rest of the day: On your own.

5 PM: Happy hour.

6 PM: Dinner. Hot Dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, sides and dessert. Please bring your own plates and utensils.

After dinner: St.Judes charity raffle. Campfire weather permitting.

Please note that you are asked to not bring your pet to the pavilion during Happy hour/meal times. Thank you.

Sunday: departures

8:30-9:30: Continental Breakfast

2:00 PM: Check-out time

Please note the campground website states **DO NOT FOLLOW GPS, as it will bring you on roads with height restrictions. Please avoid McIntyre and Esther Furnace road due to a covered bridge.**

Directions from the website:

Lake Glory Campground Entrance – [40°54' 08.80" N 76°27'31.73"W](#)

From I-80 West

For trailers we suggest taking the Buckhorn exit 232 Route 42 South to Catawissa. Cross the bridge and watch for Route 487 south to bear right up an incline. Stay on Route 487 approx. 4 miles, turn left onto Ashton Hollow Rd then Left onto Hemlock Road, then left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

From I-80 East

Take Danville Exit 224 to PA Route 54 east through Danville. PA 54 turns Left to Elysburg. Turn left onto PA 487 North at the Light. Turn Right onto Ashton Hollow Road, then Left onto Hemlock Road then Left again onto Eisenhower Rd. The campground will be on your left.

From I-81 South

Near Hazleton, Take the I-80 and I-81 Junction and follow Route 80 West. Take the Buckhorn exit 232 Route 42 South to Catawissa. Cross the bridge and watch for Route 487 south to bear right up an incline. Stay on Route 487 approx. 4 miles, turn Left onto Ashton Hollow Rd then Left onto Hemlock Road, then Left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

From I-81 North

Take Minersville Rd exit 116. Turn left onto Route 91 west to PA Route 54 west. Turn right onto PA Route 487 North at the light. Turn right onto Ashton Hollow rd., then left onto Hemlock Road, then left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

Rally Form

Name _____ Email _____ Cell# _____

Rally Fee per adult; \$15.00 x number of adults = \$ _____

Make checks payable to; Watchung NJ Airstream Club or pay online.

Mail checks to Lois Wagner 29 Colony Court New Providence NJ 07974

Hosts George & Linda Kiesel 908-930-0550 Laura Raymond 646-483-6539

How to Sign Up and Pay for an Event Online

Our Treasurer writes:

So, I have to admit that when I first tried to register for an event online I had difficulty navigating to the online event forms. For that reason I thought I would share this information just in case others have had the same experience as me.

1. First, log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
2. Click on the **EVENTS** tab
3. A map of the US will be displayed containing pins for all the events for all the Airstream clubs. Just above the map on the right side of the screen is the **Clubs** box. Click on the down arrow to display the list of clubs then scroll down to **Watchung NJ Club**. Clicking on this will cause the map to display only Watchung club events.
4. Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
5. A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says **More**.
6. A new page will be displayed. If a registration form has been created for the event this page will give you two options: online registration or mail-in registration using a download of the form. The online form allows payment via PayPal. If you prefer to pay via check download and print the form, which includes payment instructions. If there is no registration form available yet one will be at a later date.

September 2023 Rally Information

Mark Ratliff writes:

The theme of the rally will be "Choose Your Own Adventure". On the second page of the online coupon (<https://airstreamclub.org/watchung-september-2023-rally>) we have listed several events and attractions in the area with informational links for each. Examples include a cheese-making tour, horseback riding, a sail on Seneca Lake, and winery tours. At Friday's Happy Hour we will have a poster board where folks can use post-it notes to indicate which attraction(s) they would like to go to on Saturday. We will then put together groups that will go have fun together on Saturday.

Note one "special" event: The Tin Can Tourist group will be at Sampson State Park and we hope will be featuring a couple of members of Watchung, Hunt and Sue Jones. Tin Can Tourists have their open house on Saturday where you can see all of their refurbished vintage trailers.

Angie and I will arrive on Wednesday the 13th and leave on Monday the 18th. If you are arriving early or staying later, just let us know and we will find something fun to do.

If you have any questions, let me know. If you don't have any questions, then head on over to the rally web page and register <https://airstreamclub.org/watchung-september-2023-rally>

The rally will be held at [Pine Creek Campground](#) in Newfield NY from September 15 - 17. It is situated a little south of and about 1/2 way between Watkins Glen and Ithaca. Some of you will remember visiting the campground some years ago for a Region 2 rally. It's a nice campground in a convenient location for exploring the areas around Seneca and Cayuga lakes.

Here is the link to their [Campsite Map](#). Your hosts will be at site 138. Ask to reserve a site nearby if possible.

Please give Pine Creek a call to make your reservation. You can call the main number at 607-273-1974.

Full hookup sites near site 138 cost \$52/night. [Current or retired military members receive a 10% discount.]. Other sites are available with more amperage, different lengths, and pull-through convenience at varying costs and in other locations within the campground. If you want to stay for extra days, feel free to arrive earlier and/or leave later. If you cancel one week in advance they will refund all but one night's stay. You have to pay the total amount at the time you make the reservation.

We hope you will join us.

-- Mark Ratliff

September Rally Itinerary

Friday September 15

9 AM: Hiking/biking for those that arrive early.

Noon: Campground check-in

5 PM: Happy hour and a selection of Choose Your Own Adventure Activities Saturday Outings

6:30 PM: Pot luck dinner. Bring a dish to share.

Saturday September 16

8-9 AM: Breakfast featuring Fred Brugman's Famous Canadian Oatmeal, fresh fruit and coffee

Noon: Choose Your Own Adventure Activities Saturday Outings

6:30 PM: Catered dinner

7-10 PM: Trick Shot Band, Pinecreek Campground Lodge

Sunday September 17

8-9 AM: Breakfast. Yogurt, granola, coffee

11 AM: Campground checkout for those departing

***** Cut here and send with check if not registering online. Deadline September 8*****

Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell #: _____ Big Red Numbers: _____

Rally Fee per adult: \$35.00 x number of adults _____ = \$ _____

Pay and register online (link above)

Or

Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club. Mail check and coupon to: Lois Wagner,
29 Colony Court, New Providence, NJ 07974.

October 2023 Rally Information

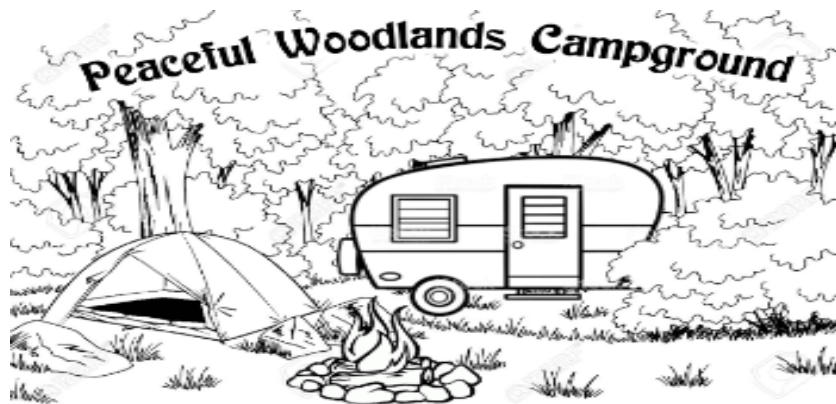
Rich Short writes:

Summer greetings to all.

There is still time and sites remaining to sign up for and attend our October Rally at Peaceful Woodlands Campground in the Pocono Mountains. We have nine rigs signed up for the Rally so far. Remember this is our Annual Business Meeting and also a Buddy Rally.

Below is the Rally coupon to send with your Rally Fee and contact info for the campground to reserve your site. Looking forward to seeing you!

Your hosts Rich and Kathi Short, Lea Plant.



**Peaceful Woodlands Family Campground 114 WT Family Blvd
Blakeslee Pa 18610 570-646-9255**
<https://www.peacefulwoodlands.com/>

**OKTOBERFEST RALLY : COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND :
OCTOBER 5 –9**

Come on out and spend Columbus Day Weekend in the Pocono Mountains. Family owned and operated; the Peaceful Woodlands Campground sits on 50 acres at the base of the Dixon Miller Recreation Area (Elevation 2212 ft.) which is one of the highest accessible points

overlooking the Pocono Plateau. Situated within easy driving distance to several State Parks, the Hauser Nature Center, and Austin T. Blakeslee Natural Area, you will find plenty of opportunity for hiking, exploring, bird watching, or just plain relaxing. This is a Buddy Rally and our **Club Business Meeting** when we vote for our 2024 slate of Officers.

Call the Campground, tell them you are with the **AIRSTREAM CLUB** and **make your reservation now** as we cannot hold the sites indefinitely. Please email Rich at rcshort49@gmail.com with your site # after you register with the campground. The Campground website has an interactive campsite map, with pictures and video. *B3, B7, D9, D11, D13, D14, F3, F5, F7, F11, F13, F14, S3, S5, S10 are our reserved sites.* **To get the discount rate and reserve a site with the group you must call the Campground by July 30th! As they say on TV... "Don't delay-call today!"**

Full information about the Oktoberfest Rally will follow in the coming months.

We look forward to seeing you at Peaceful Woodlands in October.

**Your Hosts: Rich (609-618-0355) and Kathi Short 1512
Lea Plant 2256**

Diversions

Antique Boat Museum, Clayton, NY

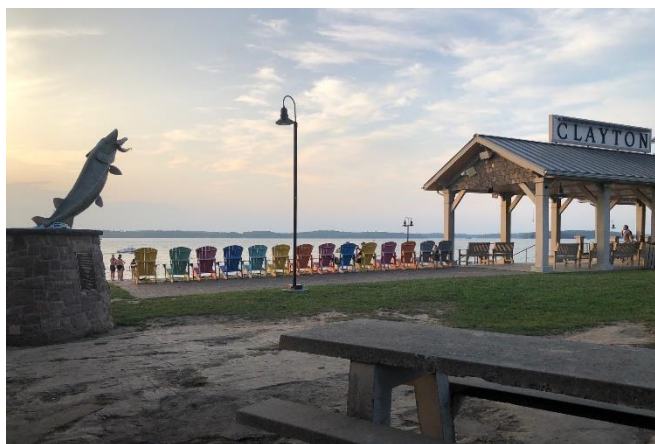
Diversions is an occasional series featuring something—a little-known gem, for example an historical site, a building, a town, or in this case, a museum—encountered while traveling the country that was especially interesting and worth sharing with the club. Do you have a diversion you'd like to share? Please send write-up and photos to dconley1810@gmail.com.

In early July Lois and Derek spent a few days camping in the Thousand Islands area of New York, which comprises the first fifty or so miles of the St. Lawrence River from its start at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Because we decided on the trip only a few weeks in advance, we found



Main Street, Clayton, NY and the St. Lawrence River. Photo Clayton Chamber of Commerce.

that all thirty state parks in the area were completely booked up; not a surprise as they are a camping bargain at around \$20 a night including 30 and sometimes 50-amp electric. If you want to go during peak summer months and want to stay in one of the state parks, you need to book as far in advance as the reservation system will let you. Fortunately for us there are also a number of privately owned campgrounds in the area and we found a full-hookup spot in one of them, albeit at three times the price of the state park sites.



Waterfront park, Clayton, NY. Photo L. Wagner



The Antique Boat Museum campus. The building on the left houses the boats available for river trips. Photo Antique Boat Museum.

After setting up camp we explored the area, including the towns that border the US side of the river (we neglected to bring our passports so the Canadian side was out-of-bounds for us, unfortunately). Each town has its own character. Cape Vincent, at the junction of Lake Ontario and the start of the St. Lawrence, is rustic. Alexandria Bay, the town closest

to the terminus of Interstate 81, bringer of visitors, is highly oriented to the tourist trade. Our favorite was the charming town of Clayton, between Cape Vincent and Alexandria Bay, which features a lovely Main Street and many homes that bespeak 19th century wealth. Not coincidental to that history is the town's main attraction, the Antique Boat Museum (abm.org).



A selection of early 20th-century runabouts and launches in the museum's collection. Photo Antique Boat Museum.

Encompassing a 4.5-acre, five-building campus at the edge of the

river, the ABM, as it refers to itself, houses an outstanding collection of hundreds of wooden boats from the 19th and 20th centuries ranging from birch-bark canoes made by the local Oneida Indian tribe, through rowing skiffs, which were the main vehicle of personal water transportation in the islands until after World War II and the invention of mass-produced outboard motors, up through magnificent launches built for wealthy summer residents



A few of the many hydroplanes in the ABM's Quest for Speed exhibit hall. Photo D. Conley

Although those two boats are in other museums, the ABM collection features dozens of others, as well as racing boats from the 20s and 30s.

In addition to its well-curated collections, the museum includes a workshop where visitors can watch new wooden boats being built; a school offering classes in sailing and rowing; preparation courses for Coast Guard boating and FCC marine radio licenses; a variety of youth camps; and symposiums in building and maintaining wooden boats. Every August the museum hosts an antique boat show and auction that is a “must-do” for wooden boat aficionados.

Perhaps best of all, some of those magnificent launches are in the water and available for river rides (no, you don't get to drive).



Pardon Me, a 48-foot launch built in the 1920s, is one of more than a dozen wooden boats the museum has available for trips on the St. Lawrence. Photo D. Conley.

between roughly 1920 and 1940. The collection also includes wooden hydroplanes, racing boats from the 1950s and 60s that were powered by 2,000 horsepower piston aircraft engines salvaged from World War II fighter planes. Those of a certain age will remember names like “Miss Bardahl” and “Miss Budweiser” (all the unlimiteds were called Miss).

We toured the museum on the afternoon of the last day of our trip when the temperature set a new record for the date and the air conditioning of the two main buildings offered respite. Unfortunately we arrived too late to book a ride on one of those amazing boats but there's always next year!



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