

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

[www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj](http://www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj)

July 2023

## President's Message



Hello fellow Wallyites.

I hope everyone is enjoying summer so far. It goes so fast. As I'm writing this, it's the summer solstice, which means the days will be getting shorter once again. Live it up. No one knows what tomorrow will bring.

This past month Linda and I had the pleasure of going to the region 2 rally in Niagara Ontario. The weather was great and the falls were spectacular. If you've never been to Niagara Falls, definitely do it from the Canadian side. The Ontario unit did a good job with the rally. They were very welcoming and put on a good time. I think we had 8 Watchung trailers at the rally, which is a pretty good showing for us. No problems at the border thank goodness. The border agents were all business, but polite. The most awesome store we found in Canada was Bulk Barn! If you've never heard of it, it's a dry goods store where everything is sold from huge containers by the pound. Every type of candy you can think of in 4ftx4ft bins, cereals, grains, spices, even dog biscuits! We need these stores in the US.

The international rally in Rock Springs Wy is just about underway, hopefully those Watchung members that made the long drive made it safely.

The WBCCI elections are now history. The new club officer architecture is in effect. From what I saw, the number of voting members was pretty low really, and the new slate of officers looks a lot like the old slate. We voted on our own revisions to our Constitution and Bylaws in April. The approved revisions were sent off to the mothership who asked that we make some minor revisions in language to better emulate the new international Bylaws. So, I'm still working on that.

Looking forward, Linda and I are gearing up for the August rally at lake Glory. We have about 21 trailers signed up. We have had a few cancellations, but I'm not sure if the campground has any open sites. Anyone interested, please call Lake Glory Campground directly.

In September we will be at Pine Creek Campground in Newfield NY. I think there are about 10 trailers signed up so far. It's a nice area, plenty to do, if you're interested, please call Pine Creek Directly. See coupon in this issue.

Lastly, in October Rich and Kathi Short with Lea Plant will be hosting Oktoberfest at peaceful Woodlands campground in Blakeslee PA. The fall is beautiful in the Poconos, fall leaves, fresh apples, crisp air. Please come out and join us.

Till next time, Shiny side up.

George

**Nobody gets a lifetime rehearsal. Be Grateful every evening. Be Happy every morning. GK**



*Happy every morning.*

## Second VP Search

*Frank deHerde writes:*

Hello Everyone,

Laura Raymond and I are searching for a member to fill the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> VP position. I agreed to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. After being a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, a 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President are:

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

If you are thinking of or would like to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. My email is [deherde@hotmail.com](mailto:deherde@hotmail.com), or call me at 908.419.4978 or contact Laura's email [LA9BSG@gmail.com](mailto:LA9BSG@gmail.com), or her cell 646.483.6539

*Thank You  
Frank DeHerde  
Past President*



# Region 2 Rally Report

*Lea Plant writes:*

The Region 2 Rally held in Ontario, Canada was attended by approximately 92 rigs. 40 made the trip from the USA...eight of those were Watchungers! The staff at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp - Resort were very accommodating. Sites were shady and nice sizes. Some of our members did some traveling before arriving at the rally, while others had plans to continue 'down the road' afterwards.



The weather pleased everybody - Hot for the first few days and cool and refreshing the last half. The 88° day was the perfect time to visit the falls and tour the Niagara Parks Power Station and The Tunnel, with its 180-foot ride down to cooler temperatures and a great view of Canada's Horseshoe Falls.



Other places of interest were Journey Behind the Falls, Niagara's Fury (a short 4D movie - poncho included), the Incline Railway, the Whirlpool Aero Car and the White Water Walk (along the rapids downstream from the falls). Members also joined the golf outing, took the Niagara City Cruise (Maid of the Mist equivalent), and viewed the nightly fireworks over the falls.



*It was great to get together with: Gail Lloyd, Cathy & Jay McCarthy, George & Linda Kiesel, Jean & John Dillion, Derek Conley & Lois Wagner, Lea Plant, JoAnne & Stayla (absent) Elacqua, and Kathi & Rich Short.*

Editor: there were also plenty of dogs attending the Region 2 rally. Here are some of the Watchung contingent. Photos by Lois Wagner.



*Annie and Grace McCarthy*



*Fritz Kiesel*



*Serina Elacqua*



*Nacho and Max Dillon*

# Welcome New Members!

Anne Hargrave

David Hargrave

## SUNSHINE

A sympathy card was sent to Frank and Leslie DeHerde on the loss of their beloved dog Ranger.

Would you like a card sent to another club member to wish them well? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel, our Sunshine Director. [lkiesel@ptd.net](mailto:lkiesel@ptd.net).

### July Birthdays

Barbara Bacon

Lynn Brink

Thomas Noble

Cal Bacon

Leslie DeHerde

Roger Kriz

### *Bits and Pieces*

Items for the newsletter? Send them to Derek Conley by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. ([dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com))

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

President: George Kiesel ([gkiesel861@gmail.com](mailto:gkiesel861@gmail.com))

Membership: Lea Plant ([tenlea@aol.com](mailto:tenlea@aol.com))

# 2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

*With six 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.*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOSTS</b>	<b>COHOSTS</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
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 July Rally:** Rebecca Glick has arranged a No-frills Rally at Camp Taylor, the home of the Lakota Wolf Preserve. If you would like to join her and others for a cool experience with the wolves, see our Google Group message board for details.

**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 12.*

# August 2023 Rally

THIS JUST IN: At the time of publication **Site LC40** is available due to a cancellation. If you'd like to reserve this spot please call Lake Glory directly at **570-356-7392**. The campground will not hold sites for us at this point, so it is first come, first served. Tell them you are with the Airstream group and request site LC40. Good Luck. George

## August at Knoebels—Buddy Rally\*

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

**When:** August 11<sup>th</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Hosted by Linda and George Kiesel, cohost Laura Raymond.

**Where:** Knoebels Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820. 570-356-7392. [Knoebels.com](http://Knoebels.com)

Come join us for a relaxing fun-filled weekend. The campground runs a no-cost shuttle to Knoebels amusement park. Other attractions in the area include the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine tour in Ashland PA, Geyser Big Mine Run, and several covered bridges in the area.

**Friday:** arrivals.

3 PM: Campground check-in time.

5 PM: Happy hour.

6 PM: Pizza and salad dinner 6pm. 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.

**Sunday:** departures

8:30-9:30: Continental Breakfast

2:00 PM: Check-out time

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

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\* Non-Airstream owning friends of members are welcome.

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.**

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*Directions from Knoebel's 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.

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### Rally Form

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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.

Hope this helps 😊

Lois

# September 2023 Rally

Hello everyone,

The Ratliffs and Rebecca Glick will be hosting the September rally at [Pine Creek Campground](#) in Newfield, NY September 15 through 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](#).

So far we have ten rigs signed up. Please give Pine Creek a call to make your reservation. You can call the main number 607-273-1974 or call Martha (the Pine Creek reservation specialist) directly at 305-438-8823.

Sites are available with varying amperages, different lengths, and pull-through convenience at varying costs. 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 will develop an itinerary in the coming months. But to give you an idea of what we are thinking about:

- Rebecca Glick has friends in the area and has suggested we could go for a cheesemaking tour and horseback riding.
- I am familiar with a few wineries in the area and could organize a tour.
- There are all kinds of great places to go for a hike.
- We know of good places in the area for food and drink.
- I hear that the Tin Can Tourist rally is the same weekend at Sampson State Park. Maybe we could go visit the vintage trailers.

We hope you will join us.

--

Mark Ratliff

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# October 2023 Rally



**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.

We have 15 Full Hookup sites reserved @ \$48.45/night. 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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup>! 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**

## Other Upcoming Region 2 Club Rallies

Upcoming rallies in July hosted by other Region 2 clubs:

July 14-16      Keystone Airstream Club “Jim Thorpe Rally”, Jim Thorpe, PA.

July 21-23      Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club “Jersey Shore Haven Airstream Park Rally”,  
South Seaville, NJ.

*For more information about these rallies,*

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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. Scroll down to the name of the club hosting the rally you are interested in and click on it. This will cause the map to the events that club is hosting.
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.

Vaut le Voyage

# Letchworth State Park, New York

*Vaut le voyage, French for “worth the trip”, is the phrase used by the Michelin Guide to denote a three-star destination, its highest rating. This is an occasional series in the Hillbilly describing places club members have camped that they found to be exceptional and worth consideration as a destination by other members. If you have a favorite place you’d like to recommend please send writeup and photos to the editor ([dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com)),*

*By Lois Wagner and Derek Conley*

Following this year’s Region 2 rally at Niagara Falls, Ontario, we spent the next couple of weeks touring western Pennsylvania and New York State. One of our stops included a three-night stay at New York’s Letchworth State Park, a destination that had been recommended to us by former club members Harry

and Lori Sachs. Known as “the Grand Canyon of the East” and voted best New York state park in 2017, we felt the park lived up to its name and reputation. With eight loops totaling 246 well-spaced and maintained campsites able to accommodate trailers 22 feet or longer (yes, that would be our trailer 😊), all of them with 30-amp electric service (none with water as the park and campsites are open all year so water is available at nearby communal spigots; one was close enough to run a hose to refill our tank), it is one of the larger campgrounds in the NY State Park system and we were able to snag our site on just a couple of weeks’ notice, pretty good for summertime!



*Middle or Bridal Falls, Letchworth State Park. Photo NYS Parks All other photos D. Conley, L. Wagner.*



*Footbridge linking the East and West side of the parks.*





*The canyon of the Genesee looking North (downstream) from the footbridge.*

The park's crowning glory is the 14-mile canyon carved by the Genesee river after the last ice age and the three beautiful falls at the upper end of the park, which is crisscrossed by 66 miles of hiking trails. The canyon walls are sheer and up to 600 feet tall on both sides of the river. All trails are atop the canyon as it floods quickly during heavy rains, sometimes spectacularly so as in the case of the 1972 inundation by Hurricane Agnes, which completely filled the gorge. For those who want to get all the way down to the water private guide services located in nearby towns provide kayaking expeditions down the river. The most popular hike, because it provides views of all three falls and access to the only footbridge that crosses to the undeveloped east side of the park, is trail 1. We hiked about half of it, three miles from the beginning at the Upper Falls to the third and smallest Lower Falls, then three miles back to the parking lot. Some of the trail is flat but parts of it are



*The Upper Falls, about 75 feet high.*

very steep and to get a good view of the Lower Falls and access the stone arch footbridge across the river requires a steep three-quarter mile detour to trail number 6, and then of course back up again (ugh!). By the time we got back to the truck our legs were tired but the hike was definitely worth it.



*Looking South (upstream) from the footbridge. The Lower Falls are just visible in the distance. The cliff on the left is about 400 feet from river to top. The foam in the water is dissolved limestone.*

Letchworth is about a six-hour drive (pulling a trailer) from central New Jersey. We feel it is very much *vaut le voyage*.



*The Big Bend section of the canyon. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Genesee Valley Canal ran along the top of the eastern rim of the canyon (right). Today the canal towpath forms part of the only hiking trail that runs the entire length of the park, about 24 miles.*



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**2023 Watchung Club Officers**

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lea Plant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Leslie DeHerde
Correspondence Secretary	Linda Kiesel
Recording Secretary	Richard Short
Treasurer	Lois Wagner
Directors	Ken Egan Nancy Egan Kathi Short Stayla Elacqua
Membership	Lea Plant
Sunshine	Linda Kiesel
<b>Other Club Roles</b>	
Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Directory	Chris Forster
Newsletter	Derek Conley
Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau

