

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

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

June 2023

## President's Message

Hello fellow Watchungers. Hope everybody is doing well and planning your next aluminum get away.



Since my last president's message, the annual Watchung unbutton-your-rig rally has come and gone. I would like to say a big thank you to Lois Wagner, Derek Conley, and Linda Kresge for hosting the group at Trap Pond State Park in Delaware. April is a tough month weather wise; you never know what any given weekend will throw at you. But despite the gloomy forecast, it was really a great rally. Mother nature even decided to give us a break on Saturday. The day was dry for breakfast and dinner, and the pontoon boat rides were excellent. I had no idea that there were Bald Cypress swamps this far north. Thanks for all your hard work you three, it really showed.

We were away all four weekends in April so we've been paying the piper as they say, trying to catch up around the property. Cutting acres of grass, tending the animals and doing spring cleanup.

I was able to make time to install a new water heater in the Argosy. It seemed like it took me forever, but the old girl now has a nice modern direct spark/electric water heater. No more pilot light!

It's time to get ready for the Region 2 Rally in Niagara Falls Ontario. I think they have close to 100 rigs signed up, which will be a great turnout for a Region rally. I've never had the Argosy out of the country so this should be an interesting experience. Can you say locked up abroad? 😊. Reading the Canadian website, they limit how much of certain things you're allowed to bring over the border. Only 24 cans of beer! I guess I will have to indulge in some good

Canadian Lagers.

As an alternative to the region 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.

After the region rally comes Rock Springs Wyoming. Linda and I will not be attending, (they don't allow goats), but thank you to Judy and Mike Richards who will carry the Watchung flag during opening ceremonies.

After that, the next scheduled rally is at Lake Glory in Catawissa PA. We have about 21 rigs signed up and it should be a good time for all.

Till Next time, Rubber side down. George

**Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. - Barack Obama**

## Region 2 President's Message

*RJ Marquette writes:*

Hello, everyone! Erica and I are preparing for the Region 2 Rally. As of this writing, we have 100 Airstreams registered, an amazing turnout. Thanks to Ontario Canada Club President Ray Barrick (#6497) and the Ontario Canada Club for putting on what is sure to be a great event.

After that, we'll be home for a few days, then we head for the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming! The Region 2 Happy Hour will be Wednesday, June 28, 4-5:30, in the Watasha Park Pavilion. No registration, no fee, just show up and have a great time with your fellow Region 2 members!

A few weeks ago, the International Board of Trustees had a strategy session at Airstream, Inc. headquarters. The new manufacturing facility is beautiful; I missed the tour, but their boardroom overlooked the factory. It looked to be worth the time to see, even if you've toured the old one. I didn't have time to visit the Heritage Center, either, but I do know you can sit on a bicycle to recreate the famous picture of the cyclist pulling the Airstream.

We talked about various issues that the club is facing, such as attracting new members, retaining current members, and balancing the budget. One recurring theme was how officers were not always aware of what was expected of them—at every level, from local club leadership to International. A new strategy will be coming in the next few months, along with plans for rectifying the missing gaps in our club documentation.

Elections for the International Executive Council open in early June; please be sure to vote. There are about 30 candidates for 9 positions, so we have difficult choices to make. I'm thrilled to see the participation. Given we've had issues recruiting International officers in the past (sometimes "stealing" from the regions to fill vacancies at the International level), the change to the structure was apparently exactly what the club needed. This design will bring in new voices and new ideas, and the club will be stronger for it.

Region 2 Blue Beret Editor Bob Curran (#2025) has been on the beat for about two years now, and he is stepping down. Thanks for your hard work, Bob! I'm looking for a volunteer to succeed Bob; please contact me if you're interested. The role is to write the article that goes in the "Region 2" section of the Blue Beret each month (10 issues per year). Although Bob sometimes wrote articles from scratch, he also used tidbits from club newsletters and my notes to create that month's submission.

My term as Region 2 President is winding down; July 31 is my last official day. Gary Russo will be taking over, and I've tried to include him on everything so that he will hit the ground running. The region will be in good hands!

Did you think I was going to end this without mentioning the 2025 International Rally in York, Pennsylvania? August 23-28, 2025, at the York Expo Center!

See you down the road!  
—RJ Marquette #13270



# April Rally: A Weekend of Liquid Sunshine

By Joanne Forster



*Lynda Kresge and Lois Wagner filling the goody bags Lynda made.*

How else do you describe a full weekend of activities and conversations in the midst of rain? Liquid sunshine!

Fourteen rigs arrived at beautiful Trap Pond State Park, each with a spacious site in a birder's (and froggy's) paradise. Despite the forecast, we enjoyed all the planned activities, from the Happy Hours to the boat ride and the marvelous home-made dinner from our industrious hosts Lois Wagner and Derek Conley (freshly made potato salad), cohost Lynda Kresge (salads galore and luscious Clementine cake), and Leslie DeHerde (tasty pulled pork).



*Lois Wagner serving Leslie DeHerde's famous pulled pork.*



*Saturday's dinner buffet. Raffle prizes in foreground.*

Can you believe Saturday cleared up just in time for us to enjoy an inspiring and memorable presentation by Jess Hudson of Goose Nest Weavers at one of the prettiest farms I've ever seen? Jess was hilarious as she described her and her husband Lem's foray into the world of weaving beautiful bedspreads, rugs, tea towels, and



*Elsje Reiss and Joanne Forster share a laugh at Goosenest Weavers.*

more on antique looms—a talent they acquired post-retirement. Of course, we all had to take a gander at Lem’s 40+ Brittany spaniels, all highly trained bird-dogs.

And what an afternoon! I actually needed sunscreen for the afternoon pontoon boat tour, where we spotted cormorants, herons, turtles, and manatees (just kidding on that last one). It



*Stand of bald cypress at Trap Pond.*

was a scenic and educational trip: did you know that Trap Pond is the northern-most habitat for the mysterious-looking bald cypress and its knees? Yes, bald cypress knees!

After our Happy Hour, we enjoyed the delicious home-made dinner, followed by the quarterly meeting and the raffle, where a generous \$380 was collected for this year’s charity, St Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Four lucky raffle winners (Meg Riley, Angie Ratliff, Judy Richards, and me) enjoyed gifts, which

included 2 plentiful baskets of extravagances and 2 large bug-away candles. The day was capped by a warm and cozy campfire into the night...a lovely way to end a lively day.

Still, my favorite part of the weekend was spending time with some old friends and chatting with many of our newer members. Delightful! As a wise woman once told me, “So what if it’s raining...I’m not sugar!”

From NH, your northern-most Watchung NJ Airstream Club outpost,

*Joanne*



*On the pontoon boat.*

## April Rally: Gooseneast Weavers

By Lynda Kresge



*Jess Hudson*

Sixteen of us who were camping at our Un-button-your-rig Rally at Trap Pond visited Goose Nest Weavers and met owner Jessie on the doorstep of her weaving studio. In spite of limitations from recent back surgery, Jessie regaled us with stories and information about the hobby that has now become a calling for her, patiently answering questions and sharing delightfully funny insights about life in general and weaving in particular.

Jessie and her husband Lemuel weave mostly on antique looms. Shortly after they acquired their first old barn loom, they both enrolled in the Marshfield School of Weaving in Vermont, and it turned out that they were both naturals of the traditional techniques taught there.

Since those early days, they have founded a weaving business and have acquired several more antique looms; most are 200 years old but one is from the 1700s. The looms are built from a variety of woods, each reacting differently to humidity and temperature. Jessie and Lem believe that looms have a feminine nature, so have given them all female names. Jessie says, of her oldest loom, "You can very nearly feel all the hands that have asked her to work for them over the centuries guiding your hands."

Their one-room workshop houses 5 large looms. It is full of natural light, the walls covered with sunny and inspirational quotes, the shelves packed tight with colorful spools of yarn in natural fibers (cotton, wool, linens and tile). Jessie and Lem create textiles using traditional patterns in sizes ranging from



kitchen towels to blankets, stair runners to large rugs. One of their favorite patterns dates back to a Venetian weaver from the 18th century.

Jessie's dream these days is to visit the Hebrides to see real Harris tweed being made, and to meet "Sam in Buckie" in Firth of Forth in Scotland, who weaves fabric for the Royals' clothing. We are all rooting for her to recover quickly and make that journey!



# Welcome New Members!

Parry Gosling

Laura Gosling

## SUNSHINE

This month the club sent get-well cards to Judy Cahall and Laura Riley.

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).

### June Birthdays

JoAnne Elacqua	Lois Wagner
David Cahall	John Dillion
Karen Smith	Fred Reinhardt
Jean Brugmans	Linda Kiesel

### *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))



# 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 66<sup>th</sup> International Rally Wyoming:** June 24 – 30, 2023

<https://airstreamclub.org/Rally2023>

**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** To Be Announced

*Instructions for event registration and payment are on page 14.*

# Region 2 Rally Points of Interest

*Ray and Vida Barrick, president and first lady of the ACI Ontario Club, the host club of the 2023 Region 2 rally, prepared this list of things to do in the area.*

(\* = best to reserve in advance)

## Nature

- Niagara-on-the-Lake to Fort Erie Bike Trail (paved, 32 miles) (<http://www.niagaracyclingtourism.com/bike-routes/greater-niagara-circle-route/niagara-river-recreation-trail/>)
- Niagara White Water Walk (<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit/attractions/white-water-walk/>)
- Whirlpool Aerocar (<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit/attractions/whirlpool-aerocar>)
- Cave of the Winds – (<https://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com/attractions-and-tours/cave-of-the-winds>)
- Niagara River Bike Trail (<http://www.niagaracyclingtourism.com/bike-routes/greater-niagara-circle-route/niagara-river-recreation-trail/>)

## Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

- Quaint 'Old Town' (<https://www.visitniagara.com/do/niagara-on-the-lake-heritage-district/>)
- Shaw Festival Theatre (\*) (<https://www.shawfest.com/>)
- Wine Tours (\*) (in the browser search box type "Niagara Ontario wine tours")
- Niagara Helicopters (\*) (<https://www.getyourguide.com/> in the getyourguide.com search box enter "Niagara Falls, Canadian side" and scroll down the resulting page for the helicopter flight)

## Dining (With a View)

- Table Rock Restaurant (<https://Niagaraparks.com>)
- Queen Victoria Place Restaurant (<https://Niagaraparks.com>)
- Skylon Tower (\*) (<https://skylon.com>)

## History

- Marilyn Monroe – *Niagara* Filming Locations (<https://www.niagarafallstourism.com/blog/marilyn-monroe-and-the-filming-of-niagara/>)
- Niagara Power Station Tunnel (<https://www.niagaraparks.com/visit/attractions/niagaraparks-power-station/the-tunnel-niagara-falls>)
- Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum – Hamilton (<https://www.warplane.com/>)

## War of 1812

- Fort George – Niagara on the Lake (<https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/on/fortgeorge>)
- Queenston Heights (<https://www.battlefields.org/visit/battlefields/queenston-heights-battlefield>)
- Fort Erie – Fort Erie ON (<https://www.niagaraparks.com/things-to-do/history-of-old-fort-erie>)
- Old Fort Niagara – Youngstown NY (<https://www.oldfortniagara.org/>)



# August 2023 Rally

## 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. 570-356-7329. [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.**

*(continued next page)*

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

IMPORTANT TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO KNOBEL'S:

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 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 PA 487 south for 6 miles. Campers continue to the top of the hill and turn left into the park.

*I-80 East*

Take Danville exit 224 to PA Route 54 east through Danville. PA 54 turns left to Elysburg. Turn left on PA 487 north at the light. Campers bear right into the park.

*I-81 South*

Near Hazleton, take the I-80 and I-81 junction and follow I-80 west. Take any of the three Bloomsburg exits: 232, 236, or 241. For trailers, we suggest taking 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 PA 487 south for 6 miles. Campers continue to the top of the hill and turn left into the park.

*I-81 North*

Take the Minersville exit 116. Turn left onto Route 901 west to PA Route 54 west. Turn right on PA Route 487 north at the light. Campers bear right into the park..

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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 seven 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.

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Mark Ratliff

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# October 2023 Rally

## AUTUMN IN THE POCONOS

### : Oktoberfest Rally : Reserve your Site!

**Oct 5-9, 2023**  
**Arrive Early-  
Stay Late**

**Columbus  
Day Weekend**

**Peaceful  
Woodlands  
Campground**

*Located in the heart of the Pocono Mountains, Peaceful Woodlands is family owned/operated and sits on 50 acres at the base of the Dixon Miller Recreation Area (Elevation 2212 ft). **This is a Buddy Rally and a Business Meeting.** We have 15 Full Hookup sites reserved at a discounted price of \$48.45/night. B3, B7, D9, D11, D13, D14, F3, F5, F7, F8, F11, F13, F14, S3, S5.*

*Check their website and camp site map to view the sites.*

**CALL NOW AND RESERVE! EMAIL RICH WITH YOUR SITE #**

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

**Rally Hosts: Rich & Kathi Short and Lea Plant**  
rcshort49@gmail.com



## Other Upcoming Region 2 Rallies

Upcoming rallies in July hosted by other Region 2 clubs:

July 1-4      Pennsylvania Airstream Club “Penn Wood Campground and Independence Day Rally” at the Penn Wood Campground for Airstreams, New Bethlehem, PA.

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,*

1. 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. 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.



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### 2023 Watchung Club Officers

President	George Kiesel
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
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