

Keystone Kourier

Keystone PA Airstream Club #092
Region 2 - WBCCI

President's Message



Hello Keystoneers! September has arrived. Kids are back in school. Pools are being closed and Arry and I are just back from the Western PA Caravan, otherwise known as the Doom and Gloom voyage. We had a wonderful time traveling with Andy and Rick Pitts and Phyllis and Don Harrington. Rick has described the trip with pictures below. The next Keystone event is the Lancaster Balloon Festival in Bird-in-

Hand, September 14-17. That will be followed by the Installation Rally at the Beacon Hill Campground in Intercourse, October 20-22. We hope to see many of you at these events.

Safe travels.

Howard

Keystone Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Keystone Club will be held **Saturday October 21st** following the 1:00 pm luncheon at the Bird in Hand Restaurant, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird in Hand, PA. The purpose of the meeting is to elect and install officers for 2024 and cover any new business for the Club. Those members not attending the weekend rally are encouraged to join for the luncheon and meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Club is seeking volunteers for the **2nd Vice-President** and **2-year Trustee** positions on the Executive Committee.

The Club is also looking for **Editors** for the **Kourier** for 2024 and later.



Upcoming Events

September 14-17
Lancaster Balloon Rally
Mill Bridge Village CG
Ronks, PA

October 20-22
Keystone Installation Rally
Beacon Hill Campground
Intercourse, PA

October 21st
Annual Meeting
Bird-in-Hand Restaurant
Bird in Hand, PA

Stay Connected

Keystone on the web
<https://Airstreamclub.org/Keystone-Pennsylvania>



Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeystonePAClub/>

Airstream Club Int'l
<https://AirstreamClub.org/>

2023 Officers

President

Howard Mergelkamp

1st Vice President

Jody Dietz

2nd Vice President

Jennifer Eggers

Treasurer

Rick Pitts

Secretary

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Pat Quinn

2 Year Trustee

Don Harrington

Immediate Past

President

Kathleen Quinn

Membership

Don Harrington

Sunshine

Karen Kushto

Kourier – ACI Web Pages

Andy Pitts

Social Media

Jennifer Eggers

Sunshine Report

Nothing to report this month.

Let us know of illnesses, surgeries, friends needing a kind word - and better yet, recoveries.

Karen (kkushto@comcast.net or cell 215-266-2410)

Happy Birthday to:

September

Don Harrington (21st)

Barb Hillegass (23rd)

Peg Spahn (30th)

October

Sue Dietz (11th)

Clare Vogt (13th)

Arry Mergelkamp (15th)

Happy Anniversary to:

September

Jim & Janice Hicks

Wayne & Sharon Fitzgerald

October

Jeff & Joanne Michael

We have, and like to celebrate many birthdates and anniversary months but if we've missed you please email Rick/Andy (r_pitts@verizon.net).

Keystone Bits

. Registration for the October 5-10, 2024 rally in Sedalia, MO opened August 1st. Book Now!

. Rick and Andy Pitts will be stepping down as editors of the Kourier following the November edition. We are looking for someone to step into the editor position at that time. Let Jody know of your interest!

. Your club needs YOU to help keep it active. This Fall, Howard's term will end and Vice Presidents will 'move up' a notch so we will need a 2nd VP. Similarly, Don Harrington will move to 1-yr Trustee so we will need a new 2-yr Trustee. Of course, nominations are open for all positions so if you'd like to throw your hat into the ring please let Howard or Kathleen know asap.

Planning Ahead

The **Lums Pond joint rally** with Central Penn and Penn-Lehigh and the **Chester County Blues BBQ rally** at French Creek are both set for next year. Lums May 3-5 and French Creek May 31-June 2. Both venues promise to offer just as much fun and festivity as they have in the past so grab your reservations now.

Both state parks have full hook-up sites but they are going fast so make your reservations now! For French Creek, members have reserved full hook-up sites in loop A (1-20 side).

Keystone Western PA Rally

Sunday August 20th – Andy & Rick Pitts met up with Phyllis & Don Harrington and Arry & Howard Mergelkamp



at the Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown to begin the Western PA Caravan. The National Park site is a wonderful memorial to those who gave their lives to prevent the attack on the capitol. From there we headed to Hickory Hollow Campground in Rockwood and a fine rally opening dinner.



Monday – We headed to **Fallingwater**, the house designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Kaufmans of Pittsburgh. We had perfect



weather to walk the beautiful forested grounds and then explore the house from both interior spaces and outdoor cantilevered terraces, enjoying Fallingwater's intimate relationship with the mountainous landscape that inspired its design.



Tuesday found us heading to **Johnstown** where the flood of Friday, May 31, 1889, was one of the worst



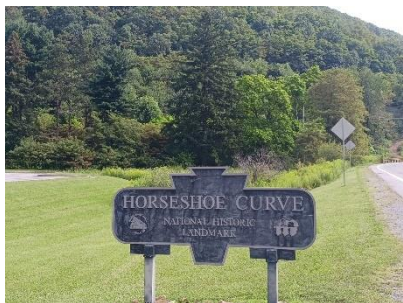
disasters - natural or man made - in American history. After years of neglect the South Fork Dam, owned at the time by the South Fork Fishing and Hunting



Club, failed sending a wall of water through the Conemaugh Valley that ultimately struck and destroyed Johnstown. The catastrophe killed 2,209 people. We stopped first at the National Park Service Johnstown Flood National Memorial Site and Museum 10 miles north of town at the site of the South Fork Dam, then traveled to Johnstown driving through **Grandview Cemetery**, where the Monument of Tranquility overlooks the burial site of 777 unknown victims, and then to the **Flood Museum** which features exhibits on the flood and recovery efforts.



On **Wednesday** we traveled to Altoona (aka Railroad City) to sightsee **Horseshoe**



Curve, a tourism destination, a target of Nazi spies and one of the primary east-west arteries of railroad travel in the nation; and the **Altoona RailRoaders Memorial Museum**. Unfortunately the tram at the Curve was not operating and foliage around the track limited viewing trains, but still a good stop. Following a great Greek lunch at Athenian Restaurant we stopped at the museum, taking in the history of the Pennsylvania Rail Road and growth of Altoona during the heyday of rail travel and supply.



Thursday afternoon we headed to Mill Run, PA and **Kentuck Knob** where Wright built a dramatic and serene house for I.N. Hagan, a Pittsburgh dairyman. Kentuck Knob is situated just below the crest of a great hill and appears almost part of the hill itself. An organic floor plan, cantilevered overhangs, and great expanses of glass effortlessly integrate the interior of the house with its surrounding landscape. Purchased in 1986 by Lord & Lady Palumbo of London the site was open to the public and also offers visitors wonderful sculptures on the grounds, including a section of the Berlin Wall. (The ice cream at the visitor center was really good too!!!)



As we headed to Kentuck Knob we passed the entrance to a Yogi Bear campground. Overnight Thursday, just 20 miles from our site, Yogi Bear was hit by an EF2 tornado! Fortunately no one was seriously hurt although lots of trees were down and several rigs and vehicles were totaled! We had thunder, lightning and rock-and-roll winds but luckily no hail or wind damage.

Friday we pulled up stakes and headed east to Carlisle, staying at Dogwood Acres in Newville, PA. It was 'Corvettes in Carlisle' weekend so as we headed into town for a good dinner at **1794 The Whiskey Rebellion** restaurant there were corvettes of all years and styles all over.



Saturday we visited the **US Army Heritage and Education Center**. The center offers a unique history of the army through the eyes of the men and women who lived its history. There were interactive exhibits and the center's outside heritage trail (seen along Rte 81 south) which showcases large pieces of



equipment used more recently by the Army. We ended the rally with a great 'left-over' dinner at the campground



and Don's great solo stove campfire.



Checkout more pics on the Keystone Facebook page!

Keystoners Down the Road

August finds several club members out enjoying their Airstreams:

Barb & Bob Livingston were traveling back from Louisiana and stopped at the **PA State Rally** to meet PA airstreamers and fly night lanterns.



Kathleen & Pat Quinn visited relatives in North Carolina.



Sue & Jody Dietz headed to Natural Bridge, Virginia, and

Barb & Bill Earle returned from their western trip with some great pics from Colorado.



We know several of you are traveling this September so post those pics for the next Kourier!

Upcoming Keystone Events



In just 2 weeks the **Lancaster Balloon Rally** will be held at **Mill Bridge Village & Camp Resort** in Ronks, PA. Gary Russo, Region 2 President will be joining the Club for the event.

Then our **Annual Keystone Meeting** will be held the weekend of our rally at **Beacon Hill Campground** in Intercourse, PA. The meeting will follow the Club luncheon (to which all members are invited) at

1:00pm Saturday, Oct. 21st at the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant. Be sure to join in the fun!



Keystone Comedy Korner



. WK: From an Airstream curmudgeon: "My wife's been staring through the window ever since it started to rain. If it gets any worse I'll have to let her in."

. Lady Astor: Winston (Churchill), if you were my husband I'd poison your coffee.
Winston: If you were my wife, I'd drink it.

. WK: So apparently RSVP'ing back to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response?

Please send **your** best quips to Rick for a future issue of the Kourier.

2023 Activities Schedule

September 14-17 (Thu-Sun) - Lancaster Balloon Festival Rally, Bird-In-Hand, PA
Mill Bridge Village & Camp Resort, 101 South Ronks Rd, Ronks, PA 717-687-8181
Coordinators: Jennifer Eggers (jeggers@leadershiftinsights.com) and Don Harrington

Oct 20-22 (Fri-Sun) - Keystone Installation Rally - Beacon Hill Campground, **Reserve now!**
128 Beacon Hill Road, Intercourse, PA, 717-768-8775 (Cabins available for those not towing, 2 night minimum)
Club luncheon buffet at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant, 2760 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird in Hand on Sat 21st
Lunch will begin at 1:00 pm in the Robin room, the annual meeting and officer installation will follow at 3:00
Coordinators: Jennifer Eggers (jeggers@leadershiftinsights.com) and Jerry Hillegass

Dec 9 (noon) - Keystone Holiday Luncheon - Plumsteadville Inn, 5902 Easton Road, Pipersville, PA
Coordinator: Barb & Jerry Hillegass

Be sure to check the **Blue Beret** and Airstream.org site for dates for other International and National Caravans and Events. Here are just a few that club members have enjoyed in the past:

Sept 23 – Oct 1: Swiss Festival, Sugar Creek, OH

Oct 6 – 10: Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM (always a sell-out, plan on submitting and joining the next year!)

Oct 4 – 8: National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN

Dec 29 – Jan 2: Rose Parade Rally, Pasadena, CA (this year the West Chester U. Golden Ram Marching Band will attend!)

Preliminary 2024 Activities

May 3-5 (Fri-Sun) – Eastern PA Opener w/ Central Penn and Penn Lehigh – Lums Pond State Park, Bear DE
Keystone contact: Rick Pitts (r_pitts@verizon.net)

May 31-June 2 (Fri-Sun) – Chester County Blues BBQ Rally – French Creek State Park, Elverson, PA
13th Annual Blues BBQ, 2-7pm Saturday, June 1st at nearby WyndSOR Farm
Coordinator: Kathleen Quinn (kathleenquinn56@icloud.com)

October 5-10 – International Rally – Sedalia, Missouri **Registration open Now!**

Andy and Rick Pitts
930 Stoney Run Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19382



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KEYSTONE CLUB

Contact:

President: Howard Mergelkamp
howardsan70@gmail.com

Membership: Don Harrington
pastordkh21@aol.com

Keystone Courier



September 2023

This Labor Day, Keystone says "THANKS"
to our Airstream factory team!