



# Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

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

September 2023

## Presidents Message

by Carol Dubrowski



Carol and Chris enjoying a pontoon boat ride.

This summer is flying by way too fast! It has been such fun to be able to attend all the rallies this summer with our Airstream friends. Quite a bit of creativity has gone into the planning of our rallies this season and our August one was no exception. The Downings, Porvens and Fletchers kept us well fed, well entertained, and provided an atmosphere that fostered fellowship and friendship. On Saturday the Fletcher's welcomed us with warm hospitality to their lake house. The views were spectacular, the lunch was delicious and the pontoon boat rides took us around to see the expanse of the lake. We welcomed new members to our club: Bill Hannis and Barbara Bondar, NEAC members John Deegan and Sara Conly and guests Dave and Katie Kimieteks.

As a reminder, we are still looking for hosts for next year's rallies and rendezvous. Please don't be intimidated; any form of a get together is always appreciated and fun. Give me a call if you would like to consider running an event. It truly is not difficult. Everyone in this club always reaches out to help you.

*Continued page 2*

## RV Organization Tips For Your Airstream



[Click and Explore](#)

Check out these five RV organization hacks for staying organized in your Airstream:

Live Rivated®



## What Do You Think?

A tree doubled in height each year until it reached its maximum height over the course of ten years. How many years did it take for the tree to reach half its maximum height?

The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?

[Answers Page 10](#)

## Link of the Month



**ELEMENT**

The World's Smallest & Longest Lasting Fire Extinguisher. Watch the media link.



## Presidents Message

*Continued*

Our next rally is our Annual Fall Meeting (business meeting Saturday 9:00 a.m.) and will take place September 22-24 at Travelers Woods of New England which will be hosted by the Sasutas with a tiny bit of help from Chris and me. Bring a Tall Tale to tell and a pot of soup to share. For those with pets, a few reminders. All pets must stay on the leash and when there is food around, they should not be around. All other times they are welcome to mingle. Also, very important, this campground requires a current rabies certificate.

By the time you see this letter, our club name change vote will be completed. We will have a yes/no vote to adopt the new name and to amend the club constitution. We will also be voting in our new slate of officers. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you will have an opportunity to vote via email. See you the rally!

### Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream club Nominating Committee Slate for 2023-2024

#### Committee Members:

- Don Allers, 1st Vice President
- Carol Dubrowski, President
- Sandy Sasuta, Treasurer
- Julie Steers, 2nd Vice President
- Sandy Sasuta, Treasurer
- Christine Lessig, Secretary
- Carl Davis, Second-Year Director
- Alex Porven, Second-Year Director
- Bob Hendrick, First-Year Director
- Moe Pershinsky, First Year Director

#### Slate of Officers for 2023-2024

- Don Allers, President
- Julie Steers, 1st Vice President
- Rhona Fuller, 2nd Vice President
- Carol Dubrowski, Past President

Each of these individuals has given prior acceptance of the position indicated. The Nominating Committee thanks each of them for their willingness to serve the club!



## What the heck is that?

by Chris Dubrowski

Those of us that were sitting around the campfire on Friday night at the Grandview rally enjoyed clear skies (for a change) and were lucky to see a spectacular sight. Like a string of luminescent pearls, about 20 Starlink satel-

lites soared across the night sky, visible for a couple of minutes. Starlink is a constellation of over 4,600 sofa-sized satellites owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, and provides internet service to users who don't have earthbound access, using satellite dishes. SpaceX has its own reusable rockets, and launches about once per week, with 20 or so of these satellites onboard. What we saw was a string of these that had just been launched, probably a day or two ago. They were still closely spaced together, before being boosted up into their own orbits. Once they reach their intended orbits, they are visible if you know how to look for them, but we got a unique opportunity to see the string of pearls. I won't forget it.



## A Good time was had by all at the Grand View Campground Rally

by **Joyce Rousseau**

**O**ur record holds!!! Every rally so far this year has had rain in abundance! Rhona might want to take credit or blame but it's just the way it goes! However - never has the rain stopped our group from having a wonderful time together. This was no exception and brought some new experiences along with the rain.

The rally was very well attended by regular members, affiliates and some visitors new to Air Streaming, including one with a new Nest! Those attending included: hosts, Gail and Wiley Downing, Sharon and Alex Porven and Kris and Bruce Fletcher, and then Sandy and Mike Sasuta, Sara Conly and John Deegan, Guy and Laura Weik, Russ and Rhona Fuller, Cindy and Mike Brodeur, Bill Hannis and Barbara Bondar, Dave Jensen, Katie and Dave Kimieteks, Melanie Ho and Darren Smith, Toni Nolder, Pam Forsyth and Ken Hankinson, Carol and Chris Dubrowski, Sandi and Roland St. Laurent, Julie and Billy Steers, Sandi Gould and Rick Cipot, and Joyce and Gilles Rousseau.

First impression: the Grand View campground was so clean and welcoming! It has a long history as a "resort" but had gone into disrepair until bought by the current owners. During our stay we got a tour of the reception building and viewed a video of the old hotel which had to be razed. Many of the old doors and mirrors have found new homes in the rest rooms which prompted all to explore and take a look at one point or another!

We set up the club's canopies along with 2 smaller ones to provide shade and a place to call our own. Many hands made the job easy and left time to go swimming in the beautiful pool for some of us and a walk up the hill to see what was on the other side for others.

*Continued page 4*



*Photos by Sandy Sasuta  
A grand view of the rally gathering.*



*All nicely paying attention.*



*Billy and Julie Steers temporary Airstream camper.*



## A Good time had by all

*Continued*

Our Hearty Happy Hour on Friday was overflowing with good things in great abundance. Curiosity about a story that the Porven's had to tell was not satisfied until Saturday, but let's just say that accidents can happen and we're so glad that they are both unhurt. Check with your insurance carrier about total replacement cost and towing coverage on your unit, just in case. Wiley went through the list of attendees and where they lived to familiarize us with some new members and friends. We managed to get a campfire that night and viewed a unique phenomenon as a line of about 20 lights traveled across the dark sky. Chris D. had the answer which surprised many of us. Anyone out there who can hazard a guess?

Saturday morning brought a pot luck breakfast that was enjoyed by all. Charter Oak sure has some great cooks! The weather stayed fair and we truck pooled together to go the short trip to the Fletcher's lake home. They generously offered our group the opportunity to join them in a day of fun, food and frolicking in the water. Some kayaked, almost everyone toured the lake on the large pontoon boat, and only one of us, Gilles, was brave enough to go with Dave on his jet ski. Lunch was great and the Klondikes were a treat, but we had to leave quickly as the rains came. (See paragraph one!) We hastily returned to camp to lower awnings and batten down those hatches! We again thank Bruce and Kris for their hospitality and for providing our club with a new place to adventure together. Your home is lovely and your generosity is much appreciated by all!

While at the Fletcher's we noticed that Billy and Julie Steers had arrived. They had a good excuse for being late; they had attended day 1 of the Goshen Music Festival. As often happens though, another unique thing made a change to their camping plans. They had a brand-new unit to camp in- an Air Stream Honda. (See the picture!) We managed to get a campfire in again between the rains and shared in the usual story trading with one new addition. One of the "docents" of the campground visited and asked if we wanted her to share a story of the area with us. We all agreed and were treated to a story of several ghosts who inhabit Grand View and their journeys during its history. Our thanks to her for giving us another new experience as a club!

*Continued page 5*



*Day of fun at the Fletcher's lake home.*



*Picnic at the lake.*



*All aboard!*



## A Good time had by all

*Continued*

The rains continued at times through the night but thankfully stopped early morning. We gathered for a continental breakfast which could easily feed many of us for the next day or so, there was so much food! We let the canopies dry out, packed them away and broke camp gradually throughout the morning. We heartily thank our hosts, Gail and Wiley, Sharon and Alex and Bruce and Kris, who led us to a new campground, provided some different activities and made all feel welcome. We definitely “Do more together!!”



*Billy & Julie Steers with Carol & Chris Dubrowski pontooning.*



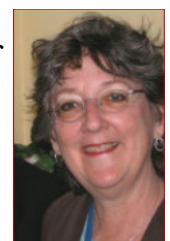
by **Sandy Sasuta**

**H**ope everyone is having a good summer, but I’ve noticed acorns falling already, so it means fall time is getting near.

Exciting News: **MOE & JASON PERSHINSKY**’s trailer has expanded from a 20’ Bambi to a 25’ Flying Cloud by the name of Miss Moon Pie, since they purchased it in TN which is famous for the tasty Moon Pies. Congratulations, and we wish you many happy adventures. Kudos to **RUSS FULLER** as he received an award...what an accomplishment (see article). **SHERRY & ALEX PORVEN** had an accident and their trailer is now at Jackson Center, Ohio, awaiting it’s fate. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

This last rally in Moodus, CT, was different, as we left the campground on Saturday to enjoy a mini rally including lunch, for a few hours, at the Fletcher’s lake house, with all kinds of activities available. Then back to the campground for a delicious pulled pork/chicken meal with sides provided by the hosts...thank you to the **DOWNINGS, FLETCHERS & PORVENS**. Had heavy rain Saturday night but it didn’t seem to bother **BILLY & JULIE STEERS** as they were camping in their tent. True campers!

We send our sincere sympathy to **BOB LANDRY** and his family on the passing of his dear wife **JEAN**. They are residents at Travelers Rest in Dade City, FL along with many of us from CT; we have known them since 1990 when they joined Charter Oak CT. Jean will be truly missed.



*Jean Landry*

Looking forward to the installation of officers at the September rally at Traveler’s Woods in Bernardston, MA. The ranger in the state park said to be aware - there were bear in the area. To be safe:

1. Wear a small bell to frighten the bear away.
2. Carry pepper spray.
3. Identify the bear poop, so you know if black bear or grizzly in the area. Black bear poop has seeds and squirrel fur in it...grizzly poop has a small bell and smells like pepper.

### Welcome

Tracy Paterson	<b>11123</b>
Bob Ramsdell	Mystic, CT



## Did You Know?

by Joyce Rousseau 8988

If you were asked to name one of our members who is always ready, willing and very able to help with all things Airstream, it would be Russ Fuller! At the last rally I found out some additional things which make our friend even more noteworthy and would like to share them with you.

Russ is a Tech Ed teacher at Terryville High School. He has been in education almost 20 years, first in Berlin and now in Terryville/Plymouth. He has done so many things in this job from fire fighter training to wood working to encouraging students to sign a pledge to promote safe actions on prom night and reminding them, in a false obituary, that actions have reactions. He has also been trained at CCSU, his alma mater, to be a student teacher mentor. One of the future teachers he trained nominated him to be Tech Ed Teacher of the Year. The primary reason for this was the community outreach that he encourages for and of his students. They have done many projects to help local groups. These include a new circulation desk at the library, new benches for the Veteran's Park and a new podium for the Town Manager among others. You can imagine how many steps any one of these projects would take to get completed, but to Russ, that's just a part of the job.



This nomination won him recognition by the Connecticut Technical Education Association at the local, then state, then regional and finally national level. He deserves credit from all in education for meeting the needs of a part of our population that is best fitted for this kind of knowledge and ability. He has received it from those who matter most, his friends, colleagues and students. Next time you see him, ask him about his accomplishments through his students and his loved calling. Well done Russ!



## Club Name Change Vote Results

by Carol Dubrowski

In the end, we counted 79 valid submissions. This represents over 57% of our 138 current Regular members, which is fantastic participation. It's even an improvement from the 44% participation in our earlier survey.

We had 40 votes for "Connecticut Airstream Club" and 39 votes for "Connecticut Charter Oak Airstream Club."

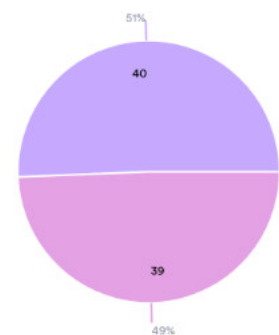
### Voting - Executive Board and Club Name Change

Our club's Fall meeting will take place on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 9:00am during our Tall Tales Rally at Travelers Woods of New England, 152 River Street, Bernardston, MA 01337.

Which name do you prefer for our club?

79 Responses

Connecticut Airstream Club



Connecticut Charter Oak Airstream Club

**Come to the rally and vote.**

**Can't make the rally - vote here** → <https://form.jotform.com/232425009407146>



*Follow their adventure.*

*Bard · Kathy · Glen · Christine*



*Visted the Museum of the North, at University of Alaska - Fairbanks. Extraordinary museum, excellent in depth information on Alaska history.*



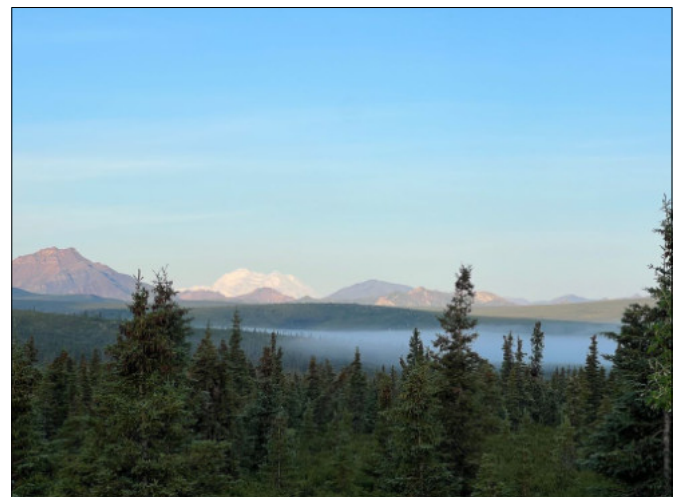
*Finally reached Denali, looking forward to many adventures.*



*We all enjoyed a lovely concert overlooking the agricultural research fields of the University.*



*The Northwestern Glacier touching and calving in the Northwest Lagoon.*



*After five days we finally see Denali! Over 60 miles away, beautiful.*

*Continued page 8*



# Connecticut

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## Chatter

September 2023



*Kennebec Mill, 65 miles in the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park, a true adventure, this incredible copper mine first established in 1900, the mine closed in 1938. NPS has done a great job of preserving and you get to walk on a glacier.*



*Portage Pass looking towards Portage Glacier. Great hike.*



*We drove too close to some wildfires in NW British Columbia, this highway was closed a couple of hours after we passed through.*



*Comfortable campsite in Skagway, interesting town and history.*

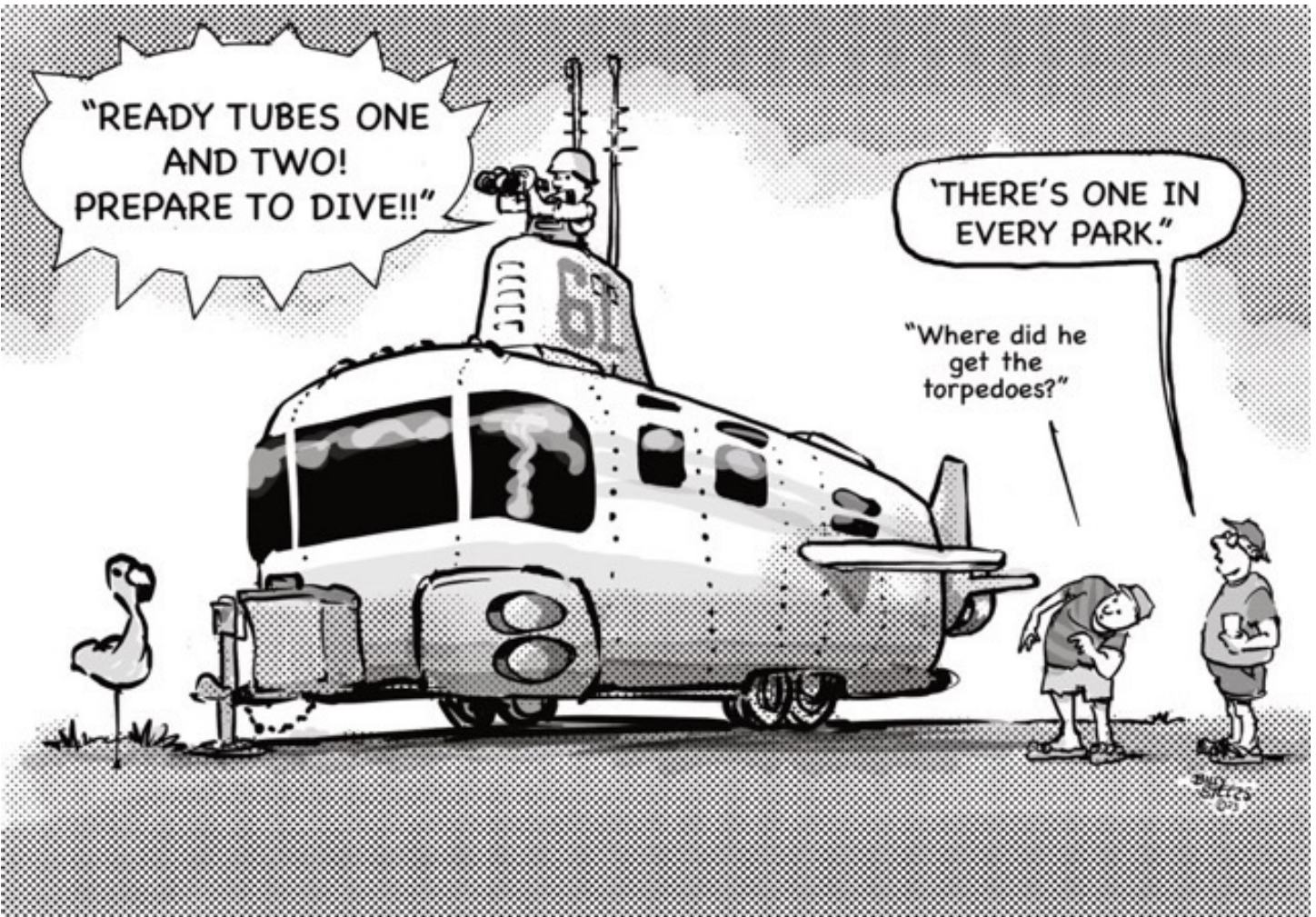


*Uncle Nic's Inn and Bar. A "retro-rustic" old Alaska experience. The campground was a little rough and unkept, but the bar was great, a ton of interesting pictures and items from the local area, and the owner (and bar tender) Steve was a true treasure. Located Copper Center, AK 4, just north of Wrangell -St Elias National Park and Valdez*



*We made it back to the Continental Divide, beautiful scenery, crummy roads (permafrost). The small dog photobombed us! after snarling at all of us. Only two days remain for our traveling together.*





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 of an Airstream travel trailer **Snug** to your library or gift list. Oh, and check out **Tractor Mac**. ~Ed



## FOR SALE

## Upcoming

Birthdays - Anniversaries

### 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

### October

- 10/03 Carl Davis
- 10/03 Dan & Karen Olah
- 10/03 Bard & Kathy Fuller
- 10/04 Eileen Allers
- 10/04 Wiley Downing
- 10/06 Jason & Moe Pershinsky
- 10/08 Gene Hickey & Charlotte LaRocca
- 10/08 Mark Lupien
- 10/09 Serafina M. Bachar
- 10/10 Eddie Carll
- 10/10 Billy & Julie Steers
- 10/11 Jim & Stacy Reck
- 10/11 Pat & Betsy Flanagan
- 10/12 Dick Bartram
- 10/18 Billy Steers
- 10/20 Moe Pershinsky
- 10/21 Kit Wheatley
- 10/22 William & Evelyn Watts
- 10/24 Gail Downing
- 10/27 Michael Rutty
- 10/27 Bob Landry

**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](#)
- [Russ's Winterizing](#) **New**
- [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"](#)

### A lovely message

Once upon a time! When Window was just a square hole in a room and Application was something written on a paper. When Keyboard was a Piano and Mouse just an animal. When File was an important office material and Hard Drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When Cut was done with knife and Paste with glue. When Web was a spider's home and Virus was flu. When Apple and Blackberry were just fruits - that's when we had a lot of time for family and friends.

Submitted by Sandy Sasuta

## 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?

9 years

Footsteps

### 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

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Russ's WINTERIZING YOUR AIRSTREAM TRAILER

Russ Fuller 1745

## TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

- Adjustable wrench or Open-end wrenches
- Stink Slinky and dump station
- Non-Potable water hose
- Air compressor
- Blowout plug adaptor.
- RV/Marine-grade antifreez (not automotive)
- Pump pick up tube or winterization kit.
- Screwdriver or screw gun
- Flea and tick collar
- Baking soda
- Wooden blocks (optional)
- Locks (optional)
- Peppermint oil and cotton balls (optional)
- Vacuum sealed storage bags (optional)

## STEP-BY-STEP

- 1) Clean and Inspect Interior and Exterior. Make sure you clean your RV inside and out before putting it in storage, so you are ready to hit the road in the spring. Cleaning your RV before storing it for the winter also helps prevent unwanted pests from making a home.
  - a) Removing extra clothing and bedding will help avoid moths. Some people store these items in vacuum sealed bags.
  - b) Remove all containers containing fluids that may freeze and leak.
  - c) Remove all food will help keep rodents out.
  - d) Check the inside of the oven and microwave for and food.
  - e) If you have been in humid climates, keep an eye out for any signs of mold. Even a couple of small white dots of mold can grow into a big problem if left in storage.
  - f) Make sure your fridge is off, empty, defrosted, cleaned, and completely dry.
  - g) Place an open, fresh box of baking soda inside your fridge and keep the door slightly open.
  - h) The use of peppermint oil on cotton balls may help protect against rodents.
  - i) Are all the trash cans emptied and trash removed?
- 2) Drain and Clean Wastewater Tanks - The last dump day of the season. It is bittersweet. Go through the motions as you would on any other dump day.
  - a) If you have a black tank flush, let it run for a while until the water runs clear through your waste hose.
  - b) Run the black tank flush with the valve open for 5 minutes.
  - c) Run the black tank flush with the valve closed for 5 minutes (~1 minute for every 9 gallons of black capacity)
  - d) Run the black tank flush with the valve open for 5 minutes one last time.
  - e) Sticking a hose down your toilet is an alternative if you don't have a black tank flush. While the toilet method doesn't work quite as well, you can still help break up anything that is stuck down there.
- 3) Park your trailer on pavement if possible. If not drive the tires onto wooden blocks for the off season.
- 4) Disconnect Batteries. Batteries (especially lead acid batteries) should not be allowed to drop to 0% charge. While you might think that turning all of your lights and water pump off will allow your batteries to stay fresh, even a little trickle of static electricity will drain your batteries after a few months.
  - a) Most Airstreams have a battery disconnect switch that you twist to shut off most of the power coming from your batteries.
  - b) If you do not have a disconnect switch, you can simply unhook (and tape off) the cables from your batteries for storage.
  - c) If you are storing your RV somewhere where temperatures frequently drop below 0°F, you should consider removing your batteries and storing them inside.

# Russ's WINTERIZING YOUR AIRSTREAM TRAILER

Russ Fuller 1745

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- 5) Disconnect Solar Panels. If you have solar panels on your travel trailer, it is a good idea to disconnect them from your system to avoid any hot wires.
- 6) Turn off your propane tanks in case a leak develops over the winter.
- 7) Drain the water heater via access valve on the outside of the RV.
- 8) Drain Fresh Water Tank and Water Lines.
  - a) Open low-point drains, typically found underneath your vehicle.
  - b) Open all hot and cold faucets, including the outside shower, if you have one.
  - c) Open the freshwater tank drain valve on your RV's undercarriage often near the axle(s).
  - d) Turn off all faucets that you opened in Step 3.
  - e) Find your city water connection. Connect the blowout plug adapter and the compressor to the connection – set the compressor at 45psi and turn it on.
  - f) One tap at a time, turn on each faucet and keep open until no water is running before moving on to the next.
  - g) Repeat one or more times at each faucet until no water is being expelled.
  - h) Remove air compressor from city water connection.
  - i) Turn the water heater bypass valve to "on" or "winterize" Depending on the trailer, this is typically found on or near the back of the water heater.
  - j) Locate the water pump. Connect the anti-freeze to the pump via pick-up tube or if equipped use the winterization valve and tube. Open each faucet and flush the toilet(s) until pink anti-freeze is flowing through the line.
- 9) Protect your gas appliances against spiders. Using a flea and tick collar cut into 3 to 4 inch sections wrap these around the gas burners near the gas valve.
- 10) Consider physical security and lock all compartment, doors, windows, and possible LPG tank, wheels, and hitch components.

**A pdf file of Russ's Winterizing Your Airstream Trailer can be downloaded and saved at the link below and is included in the Chatter "Helpful Links".**

*[Russ's Winterizing Your Airstream Trailer](#)*