



# NORVA NEWS

## October 2023



### Message from the President

As I write this article after starting my 2nd year as President for the NORVA Airstream Club, I want to thank all the NORVA officers for their support and expertise during the past year. NORVA started 2023 with 95 Airstream member households. Since January 2023, NORVA has gained 18 and lost 2 member households, making a total of 111 member households. I would like those who joined in 2023 to provide information on how they found out about the Airstream Club International and NORVA so that we can develop strategies to promote NORVA and the Airstream Club in the future. Please provide this information to Lew Brodsky, Membership Director, Bob Nickel, 1st VP and myself.

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Patsy and I will be starting our 7th year of Airstreaming next February. In fact, it will also be our 7th year of camping. When we started, we did not know if we would like this lifestyle but found out quickly that we love it and being members of NORVA is a big part of that. We have made many new friends and look forward to making many more this next year and in years to come. So let's get out and go camping. Some of us may not be able to do extended trips but will be able to do shorter weekend trips. I also ask you to consider writing a short (or long) article about any of your adventures and provide with pictures to Barbara Formoso for inclusion in NORVA News. This will allow us to live vicariously through your travels and it might spark an interest that says, "I want to go there."

As it was NORVA's turn to host the Commonwealth Rally for the 4 Virginia Airstream Clubs, Bob Nickel, 1st. VP did an outstanding job of planning and hosting this rally at Endless Caverns Campground in New Market, VA. I have received numerous laudatory comments from the other Virginia clubs for a job well done.

We have a new slate of Officers for 2023/2024. Some officers continue to serve in their current positions, some have changed positions and others have stepped up for the first time to assume leadership duties. Please support all the officers and consider volunteering for one of the positions or as a rally host next year. As I learned through my time in NORVA, you get back more from taking on an active role than you put into it. Looking forward to a fun and exciting year.

We have some fun rallies coming up. In December is the Christmas/Holiday Party hosted by Ed and Beth Jones. In March will be a New Members Rally hosted by Bob Nickel and in April our annual Maintenance Rally hosted by Tom Carmichael will be held in Urbanna, VA. This rally will not only focus on owner maintenance but will be utilized to teach members about boon docking. In June Gail and Doug Perkins will be hosting their fun River Rally. And NORVA will be conducting its annual caravan led by our intrepid 2nd VP Jim Oxley.

Gerry Nagel, NORVA President

## NORVA River Rally 2023

June 3-5

By Gail Perkins

The annual June River Rally, hosted by Doug and Gail Perkins, was held at Spacious Skies Campground in Luray, Virginia. The Rally was well attended with 31 trailers!

The River Rally started the weekend off with a Social Hour. Pizza was delivered, and there was plenty to go around! After our bellies were full of pizza, we then tested our knowledge with a fun game of trivia. After working the brain in trivia, we all gathered together for smores and fellowship.



Saturday was free time to do what you wanted: hiking, walking the town of Luray, music and beer at Cooters, paddling the river, or just chillin' at the campground. The activities started at 3:00 PM with a dog parade. The dogs walked down to the dog park where they could be unleashed to run and play with each other. Each dog received a special treat.



The next event was Wine Tasting, where everyone brought a couple bottles of wine to share. This is always a fun event and well attended! Many great wines were tasted, and a charcuterie board went down all the tables filled with delicious appetizers and food!



The Cornhole Tournament was Saturday afternoon also. Last year's winners: Gerry Nagel and Gail Perkins, had to turn their winners' hats over to the new winners: Doug Perkins and David Harrell. The runner ups (or the losers) were Pete West and Joe Formoso.



We all gathered around the campfire Saturday night for more smores and fellowship.



Sunday morning was “Pancakes with the Perkins!” The amazing chefs, Doug Perkins and Anthony Kim, grilled a plethora of delicious pancakes. Toppings included: syrup, homemade strawberries & blueberries, chocolate chips, and whipped cream.

It was a wonderful weekend full of fun, relaxation, and hanging out with fellow Airstreamers.

**Save the date for next year’s River Rally....June 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup>!**



## NORVA *Cowboy Caravan* to the International Rally in Wyoming

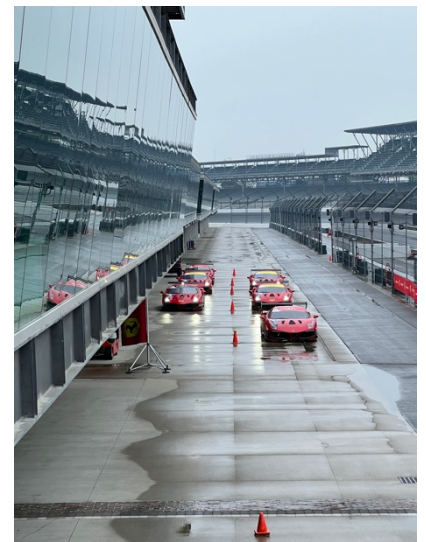
June 8-22, 2023

By Barbara Formoso



Led by our super-duper caravan leader, Bob Nickel, we had a terrific trip out to Wyoming. Nine of our eventual ten Airstreams met at the lovely Indian Lake State Park and visited the “mother ship” in Jackson Center, Ohio. We got a full tour of the plant and saw units come together right before our very eyes.

Stop two was in Cicero, IN, with a tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The rain did not dampen the enthusiasm for all things car racing. We had terrific views of the racetrack itself as well as vintage cars in the museum from 1911 to the present. Next stop: a one-night stay at the Mark Twain Cave Campground in



Hannibal Missouri, home of Tom Sawyer’s creator, Samuel Clemens. It is actually on the grounds of the Cave where Tom was lost with his love, Becky Thatcher. On to Kansas City, MO, for two nights. Under the cheerful roar and squeals of the roller coaster at Worlds of Fun, we relaxed by the pool, visited the World War I museum and ate some super-delicious KC barbeque.



After two one-night hops in Lincoln and North Platte, NE, we travelled west witnessing a complete change of landscape by the time we arrived in Gering, NE. We could see Scotts Bluff from our campground: Robidoux RV Park. Aside from the

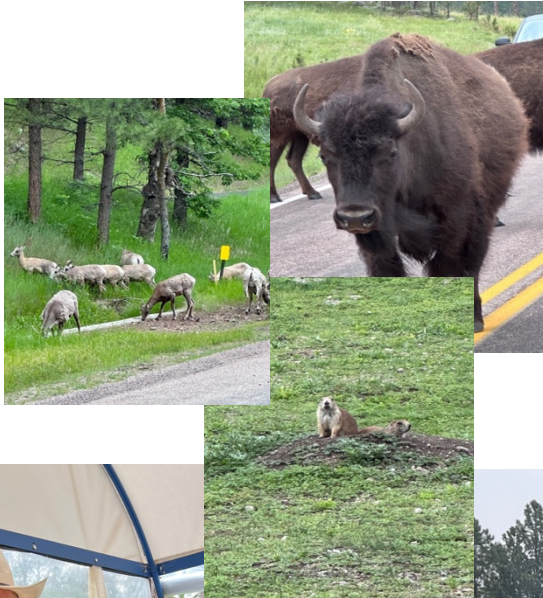


breathtaking scenery and walking along the wagon ruts of the Oregon Trail, a highlight there was a sing-along with our resident musician Andrea Patterson (joining us with her husband Stan from Huntsville, AL). A good time was had by all.



Gotta say, the spectacular highlight of the entire caravan trip was our time in Rapid City, South Dakota. Lew Brodsky had kindly set us up in the campground at Ellsworth Airforce Base. From there we drove into the Black Hills for two days of sights and experiences. On the first day we were treated to a one-of-a-kind private tour of the Crazy Horse Memorial, museum and grounds, arranged and accompanied by our own Jackson McBroom. We met first and second generation descendants of Korczak and Ruth Ziolkowski who, in collaboration with Chief Henry Standing Bear, conceived and began development of the Crazy Horse Memorial in 1948. Two of the Ziolkowski grandsons gave us a jaw-dropping tour of the ongoing carving of the mountain. The young men said it could take many decades more for the work to be completed but hoped to see it done in their lifetime with advent of new stone cutting technology. Truly, an indescribable day.

The next day took us on a jeep tour of the Black Hills where we saw plenty of buffalo, prairie dogs and goats. The day was topped off by a long chuck wagon ride made super enjoyable by our Cowboy Singer, Ray, and more up close views of buffalo, prairie dogs and goats. Eventually we were rewarded with a yummy steak dinner with all the trimmings, eaten in double time before the rain really began to fall. We scrambled back into the wagon for a mercifully shorter trip back to our vehicles. What an exhausting, fun and exciting couple of days!





Finally, our last stop before the Rock Springs International Rally was at the Platte River RV and Campground in Glenrock, WY, where we enjoyed a spaghetti dinner hosted by Lew and Cathy Brodsky (in spite of a sudden downpour) and thanked our intrepid leader, forever after known as Cowboy Bob, for his wonderful job shepherding us through two + weeks of stunning adventures. We love you, Bob.



## Galax Fiddlers' Convention Rally 2023

August 6-12

By Patsy Nagel



The 2023 Galax Old Fiddlers' Rally - A National Event Rally, was in Galax, VA to coincide with the 87th Old Fiddlers' Convention. This was the 22d year that an Airstream Rally has been held during the convention. The rally headquarters for the event was Cool Breeze Campground with over 30 Airstreams from many different states in attendance. Some were first timers and many are regular participants. The rally hosts were Joe and Christine Baum, Region 3 President. Junior and Betty Patton, Galax residents and long time Airstreamers, served many years as

Rally organizers and still provide valuable assistance to make this event successful.

Again this year, Robert Sails, Cool Breeze Campground owner, arranged for different local musicians to perform each afternoon at the campground. The Sunday performance began with Loose Strings Band followed by Betty Patton giving a talk about the area and history. My favorite performance all week was by The week was packed with activities besides the Old Fiddlers' Convention. If you participated in all the activities plus attend the Fiddlers' Convention you would have got very little sleep! Even without the planned events there is so much to see and do in this beautiful area. We had various themed Happy Hours, a clogging and Flatfoot dance class, a guide lead hike, and a visit to the Hillsville Courthouse for a presentation on the "Allen Tragedy" where a shootout killed or injured several people in 1912. A tasty country lunch followed at the Historic Carter Mansion next door. A tubing adventure down the New River in Fries was planned but that day we woke up to a cool and rainy day and were disappointed the trip was canceled. Last year we had a great time on this excursion with many tales to tell. Our final event at the campground was a barbecue dinner where the meat was smoked on site.





The Old Fiddlers' Convention pays homage to the deep rooted music of the area. The competition is for stringed instruments, folk song and Flatfoot dance. A competition on Monday night for youth began several years ago and is quite popular. Many of the adult instruments and band competitions are divided into Bluegrass and Old Time. I was a Bluegrass fan when I attended my first convention in 2018. I got

bored sitting in the audience after a couple of nights and started walking around. It was then that I discovered the back lot jams and was exposed to Old Time music. I was blown away by the sound and expertise of the musicians and could not leave. So now, every year, I spend my time in the back lot. I have become friendly with musicians, dancers and other "followers" and we renew friendships every year.

Most people are familiar with Bluegrass but not Old Time. If you ask a local what the difference is they will say Bluegrass is listening music and Old Time is dance music. The Galax Old Time style is very up tempo. I have heard it described as "Round Peak on steroids".

I highly recommend this rally. Different people have different opinions of what is the best part. Some will say the Youth competition is the best, others might say you don't need to attend the Convention because of the music at the campground. I personally think the best music is the jams in the back lot. I suggest to you that you make plans to attend the Galax Old Fiddlers' Rally and make it your Galax experience!

## Commonwealth Rally 2023

### August 6-12

A good time was had by all at this year's Commonwealth Rally at the lovely Endless Caverns Campground and RV Resort in New Market, Virginia. Friday gave us a sunny, breezy day to explore the caves, visit the Civil War Museum in New Market, walk and hike through the woods and up the mountain. On Saturday there was Bingo, a corn hole tournament and wine/spirit tastings with Grapes and Grains. Saturday evening saw the installation of officers for all four Virginia clubs. A good time was had by all!





## NORVA Executive Officers 2023-2024

President: Gerry Nagel

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Bob Nickel

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jim Oxley

Secretary: Gail Perkins

Treasurer: Bev Bevis

Membership: Lew Brodsky

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Formoso

Webmaster: Patsy Nagel

Legislative Director: John Bevis

Parliamentarian: Tom Carmichael

Past President: Peter West



### Upcoming Events 2023-2024

October 19-23: Alumalina Buddy Rally

Nov 2-5: Urbana Oyster Festival Rally

Nov 9-12: Grand Finale Rally

Dec 9: NORVA Holiday Party

March TBA: New Members Rally

May TBA: Maintenance Rally

June TBA: River Rally

Mid-Late May: 2024 Caravan

Next year's Caravan is being planned by our new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jim Oxley. The concept is to travel to Florida this spring in the mid-late May timeframe. We are currently looking at routes, locations, and activities with the intent to conduct an initial reconnaissance over Christmas. Contact Jim Oxley via email below if You have initial interest in going on the caravan. Also feel free to send ideas on places to visit



Let's not make  
changes, let's make  
only improvements,  
Wally Byam



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