

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

[www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj](http://www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj) November 2023

## President's Message



Hello everyone. Happy Fall Y'all.

November is here, and for us non snow-birds it means a time of winterizing the trailers, cleaning up and raking leaves (one of my least favorite things to do).

Last month's president's message was a bit gloomy. We were heading into our annual business meeting without a full slate of officers for 2024. That would have been the first time in the history of the club that we did not have a full slate. But wait! Good news!

I am very happy to announce that Laura Riley has stepped up to serve our unit as the incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Laura will be an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and will compliment Lea and Leslie as we move forward. I'm proud to say that with the exception of the recording secretary, the club leadership is for the first time entirely female. We have a full slate of officers.

There was talk at the October business meeting of trying to have a special event rally once in a while, like having a band or maybe a catered meal. We will see what the new leadership brings. It should be exciting.

The November lunch is Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>. To those that are coming please remember to bring food to donate to the Flemington Area Food Pantry. More people are food insecure than you know. It doesn't show but being hungry affect all aspects of someone's life. Especially children. So please be generous in your giving. On a related note, the December Installation luncheon is our annual Toys For Tots collection. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for a boy or girl.

Speaking of generosity, I would like to say a big thank you to all who have donated this year to St. Jude Childrens Hospital. Donations total \$1,128.00 this year! That is really impressive when you think of how we are a small group of enthusiasts to start with and then consider how many people come out to camp on a regular basis. Thank you all. This money really makes a difference.

That's about all I have this month, being a lame duck until Lea begins her term. So, hope everyone is getting some fall camping in. Shiney side up! George.



**An old warhorse in the stable still longs to gallop a thousand miles.**



## Region 2 President's Message

*Gary Russo writes:*

As the end of the camping season winds down in the North, it was time to put MaryAnn II into winter storage. It was a sad time for Suzanne and me. This year we made several lasting memories, being on the road for 3 plus months, and my installation as Region 2 President. I would also like to introduce the other Region 2 team members:

- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Patti Galupo

Patti is from the Washington DC Unit.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Matt Moore

Matt is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club

- Corresponding Secretary Suzanne Russo

Suzanne is from the New Your Finger Lakes Unit

- Recording Secretary Judy Cahall

Judy is from the Watchung New Jersey Airstream Club

- Treasurer Will Kushto

Will is from the Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club

- Membership Chair Colleen Ahlers

Colleen is from the Metropolitan New York Airstream Club

- Newsletter Editor Cody Klingler

Cody is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club

- Webmaster Ronald Silco

Ron is from the New Your Finger Lakes Unit

As President, I would like to say thank you to them for stepping up to fill these positions.

As we move forward, people are either thinking of, or are on the road to, warmer climates, but the business of Region 2 continues. During this time of year, Unit officers are changing, plans for next year's Rallies are either in the books or are in the planning stages. Unit Presidents, please remember to send to WBCCI your Officer's Reporting form.

It has come to my attention that some Units are having joint rallies. I want to encourage this type of activity because there is synergism when a rally event gets to a certain size. Cost factors are distributed over a larger number, allowing for additional activities, friendships from different Units are developed and the volunteer workload is spread over more people. One example is the Rally that the New York Finger Lakes Airstream unit had in August of 2023. They partnered with the Ontario unit. That rally had over 60 trailers. The rally had a rig from as far away as Texas. The 3 NYS units are partnering for a rally in 2024. As you can see, these rallies are not limited to their local units.

Your Region 2 officers have not been 'asleep at the switch'. Plans for the Region 2 Rally are taking shape. So, save the DATE May 2 to May 5, 2024. The location is the Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair. The status is that we are finalizing the contract. What I can tell you at this point is the following:

- Location: 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
- Sites will have 30AMP hookups and water (dump station is available).
  - Note Grange Park has HIGH water pressure. Please bring water pressure reducers to avoid water hookup issues!
- We will have access to a building with tables and chairs.
- We are looking at Catering services and Entertainment options for the Rally.
- Pricing/Registration information to follow in the next President newsletters and will be posted on the WBCCI website along with the Grange Encampment & Fair Guidelines.
- We will be using JotForm and PayPal for registration and payment.

On the JotForm for the rally there will be an area to volunteer, identify if you have any food limitations/requests, and other inputs for the rally.

We plan to have online registration open for the rally by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024.

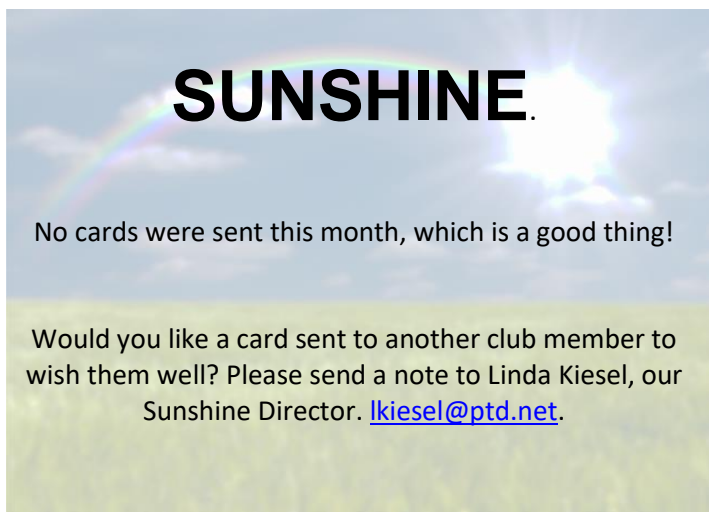


# Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our newest members!

Peter Lawrence

Pamela Remler



## November Birthdays

Barbara Taylor    Kathi Short

George Kiesel    Jean Dillon

Valerie Nehlig    Ed Sowney

## *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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WHAT/WHEN</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/Business Meeting	Frank and Leslie DeHerde	Joanne Elacqua and Stayla Elacqua	Camp Carr, 1 Camp Buck Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801
May 2024	Region 2 Rally May 2-5	NA	NA	Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
June 2024	Club Rally			
July 2024	Club Rally/TBD	Chris and Joanne Forster	Lois Wagner Derek Conley	Mt. Greylock Campsite Park, Lanesborough, MA
August 2024	Club Rally			
September 2024	Club Rally			
October 2024	International Rally	WBCCI	NA	MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
October 2024	Club Rally/Business Meeting			
November 2024	Luncheon			
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	

## 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

# December 2023 Installation Luncheon

Join us as we install our club officers for 2024

**The American Legion Post 284**

**1 Ridge Rd., Whitehouse, NJ 08888**

**(908) 534-2061**

conveniently located on the corner of Rt. 22 and Ridge Rd.

December 9, 2023 12:00 - 4:00

Price per person is \$40.00. Cash bar/beverages at Legion prices

Reservation Deadline is November 24.

A delicious buffet catered by local Sorella's Pizza & Pasta includes:

Garden Salad, Antipasto, Penne Vodka, Cavatelli with Broccoli, Meatballs, Chicken Parm, Eggplant Rollatini, rolls, dessert

Our candlelight Installation Ceremony will take place after lunch.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for either a girl or boy, for our annual toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots.

Hosts: Lea Plant

c-973-477-0289

tenlea@aol.com

George & Linda Kiesel

c-908-930-0550

gkiesel861@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE AND SEND WITH CHECK IF NOT REGISTERING ONLINE \*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Price per person = \$40.00 x number of people \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Pay and register ONLINE (see instructions page 6)

or

- Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club. Mail check and coupon to:

Lois Wagner, 29 Colony Court, New Providence NJ 07974-2332

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Watchung Installation



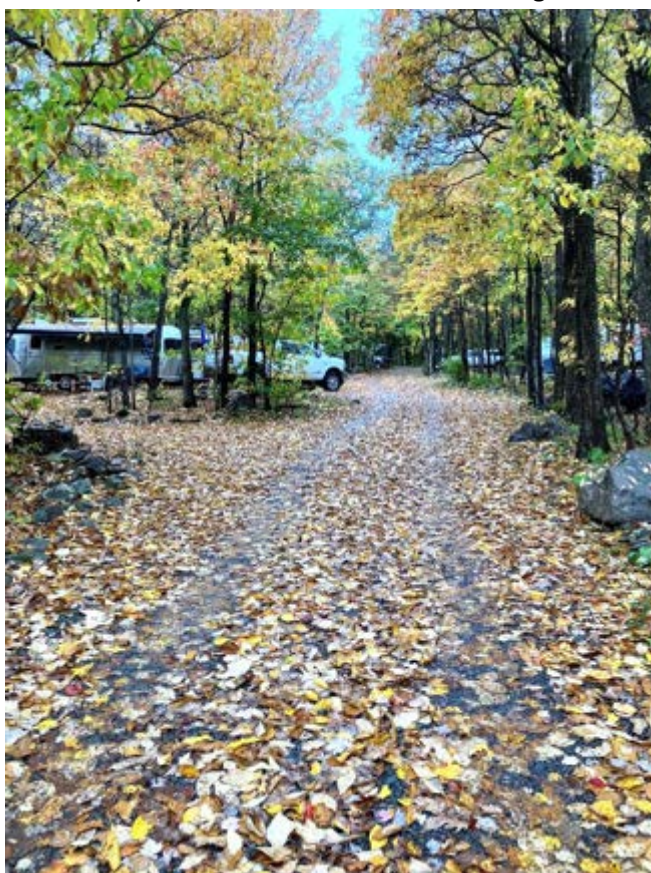


# October Rally Report

## The Oktoberfest Rally @ Peaceful Woodlands CG

By your *Hillbilly* Mystery Correspondent

The Watchung NJ Airstream Club's final camping Rally of 2023 was held October 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Peaceful Woodlands Campground in Blakeslee, PA. It was reminiscent of their first camping rally of the season at Delaware's Trap Pond State Park in April. It rained. And it rained some more. And then again, off and on. Seriously, it did rain for 3 days, but it was all taken in stride. Watchung Airstreamers are a hardy bunch and know how to have a good time regardless of the weather. As was heard several



*Photo R Short*

times over the weekend, it is after all "just camping". And besides, Peaceful Woodlands had a great rec hall for them to use all weekend! Believe me, it all turned out just fine. You'll wish you were there.

Those attending the Rally were George and Linda Kiesel, Meg and Laura Riley, Derek and Lois Wagner-Conley, Frank DeHerde, JoAnne Elacqua, Stayla Elacqua, Paul & Laurie Braun, and the Rally Hosts Lea Plant and Rich & Kathi Short. All attending received a "goody bag" containing some of Kathi's craftwork and individualized campsite markers featuring name, BRNs and the club logo. Very cool! Although the Watchungers in attendance didn't get to hike the trails of the Pocono Mountains as planned, many if not all, were out and about over the weekend exploring local farmer markets, general stores, organic farms, and in the town and shoppes of Jim Thorpe. The Fall colors of the Poconos were beautiful and fully on display all weekend. The leaves on the trees and the ground...and on the picnic tables, tow vehicles, trailer roofs and awnings...were resplendent in their orange, yellow, gold, and brown hues of Autumn. George and Linda Kiesel graciously

invited all to visit their homestead "Fern Cliff" in nearby White Haven. Several Airstreamers took a ride to see their home and grounds and meet their farm family of goats, chickens, and ducks.

The Rally Hosts made good use of the comfortable and dry Rec Hall at the campground to hold Happy Hours and Dinners on Friday and Saturday nights as well as a traditional Watchung Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, and Continental Breakfasts Sunday and Monday mornings. Friday's Happy Hour billed as a "Souper" Happy Hour didn't disappoint as after plentiful hors d'oeuvres Rich served up homemade Vegetable soup to go with loaves of bakery fresh bread. Saturday's Oktoberfest Dinner prepared by Kathi and Lea included smoked brats on the grill, red cabbage, sauerkraut, spaetzle, and German potato salad. An iced cooler full of Paulaner Oktoberfest Marzen beer was close by. Kathi baked up the desserts of dark chocolate brownies and zucchini bread enjoyed during the Rally. I don't think anybody went back to their trailers hungry the whole weekend! To cap the Saturday evening dinner, a raffle was held to benefit the club's 2023 Charity, St. Judes Hospital. \$140 was raised by the famously generous Watchung club members and attendees, bringing the total amount raised for the year to \$1268. Stayla Elacqua won a gift box of Airstream themed goods donated by Colonial Airstream and Lois Wagner won a gift basket containing goat milk soap donated by the Kiesels.



*Rich Short grilled the bratwursts. Photo L Wagner*

George Kiesel hosted and tended the campfire at his site those evenings when it wasn't raining. Campfire stories never disappoint, and those told over the weekend were no different. With Frank and Leslie DeHerde having just returned from the Alaska Caravan, Frank had plenty of experiences to share with the campfire group including wildlife sightings, fishing adventures, and their unfortunate truck break down complete with a \$4200 towing charge. Wait, how much?! Yes, you read right. Here's



*George Kiesel and Derek Conley get ready to cook blueberry pancakes. Photo R Short*

hoping he's successful in getting reimbursed from his insurance company! The pictures he shared were awesome and the description of the overall trip was very compelling, if one is considering the trip of a lifetime to Alaska.

Sunday morning saw both the Club's Executive Board Meeting and the General Business Meeting take place. A full slate of Club officers for 2024 was announced and unanimously approved. Congratulations to incoming President Lea Plant, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Leslie DeHerde, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Laura Riley, Rec. Sec. Rich Short, Treasurer Lois Wagner, and Directors Kathi Short, Stayla Elacqua, Rebecca Glick and Cathy McCarthy. And many thanks to George Kiesel for his leadership as President this year. It is obvious the Watchung NJ Airstream Club is prospering and in good hands. Next on the calendar for the Watchung NJAC is the November luncheon at Little York Tavern in Milford and the December Officer Installation Luncheon at American Legion Lodge #275 in Whitehouse, NJ. If you weren't able to attend this Rally, please sign-up ASAP for the November and December luncheons.

Bright, clear skies greeted the group for its departure on Monday morning. While the weather sometimes disappoints us, the camaraderie shared by Watchung Airstreamers never does. This Club is truly a family of friends who care for and about each other. It is a joy to behold and be a part of. Come on out and support your Watchung NJ Airstream Club. You'll be glad you did.

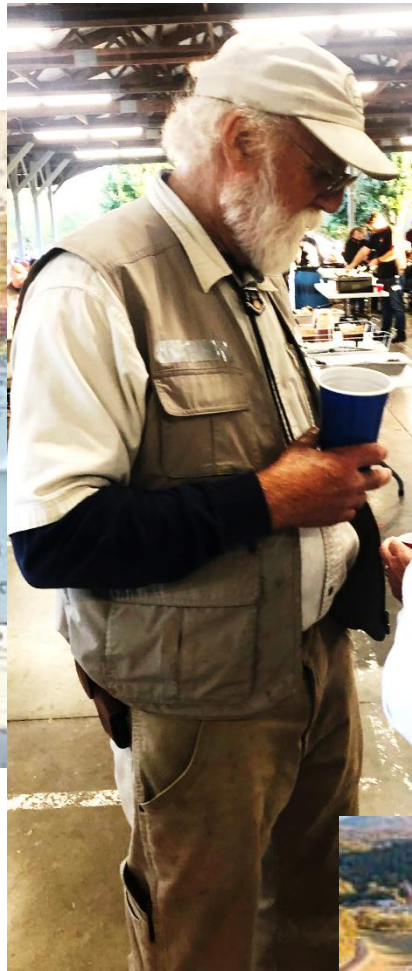
*"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."* Mark Twain





Aluminum + (North) Carolina = The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Alumalina (non-WBCCI) rally was held at the Camping World rally field outside Marion, North Carolina the week of Oct 16-22. The rally was attended by about 270 rigs and 600 people, most from the East coast but some from as

far away as Ontario, Washington State and Wyoming, all looking to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Highlights included all the traditional favorites: Thursday hot dog dinner, Friday barbecue dinner including the consumption of 34 gallons of margaritas, the Saturday night fish fry, the bourbon (tasting) trail, the beer swap, and morning coffee and donuts.



Clockwise from top: Alumalina founder John Leake; the Camping World rally field; barbecue dinner for 600; map of attendee home states. For more on John Leake see <http://www.leakesantiques.com>. Some of his work is in the White House. Photo credits: D. Conley; drone photo courtesy of Alumalina organizers.



Alumalina traditionally features a contest for the trailer best decorated for Halloween. Clockwise from top left: a trailer with a pumpkin chrysanthemum planter; the wheel of fortune for the nightly raffle; two late owners relax with their late dog; the morning donut lineup, put out at 8, gone by 9; the beer swap table, and the Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man. *Photo credits L. Wagner.*



Top left, bottom right: the closing night bonfire before and after. The log pyramid was about twelve feet high. Center: On Saturday, a derecho swept through the area with high winds, rain, thunderstorms, and in the surrounding mountains, a bit of snow. The rest of the time the daytime temperature was in the 70s. Next year's Alumalina dates are October 24-27; many participants come early and stay late . Photo credits: bonfire L. Wagner. derecho photo downloaded from rally Whats App feed.

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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
<b>Other Club Roles</b>	
Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Directory	Chris Forster
Newsletter	Derek Conley
Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau

