

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj October 2023

President's Message

Hello fellow Watchung campers. The season seems to be winding down, unfortunately. Linda and I will attend the October rally and then two more trips to Shore Haven. The last trip in late October will be to bring the trailer home for the winter. I used to think going south for the winter was dumb, now, I'm not so sure 😊 .

Our October rally will be hosted by Rich and Kathi Short and Lea Plant at Peaceful Woodlands campground in Blakeslee PA. At the October rally we will hold our annual business meeting where we elect our new slate of officers. The incoming slate of officers is:

Lea Plant – President
Leslie DeHerde – 1st Vice president
Nobody – 2nd Vice president
Treasurer – Lois Wagner
Recording Secretary – Rich Short
Kathi Short – Director
Stayla Elacqua – Director
Cathy McCarthy – Director
Rebeca Glick – Director

I'm sorry to say that none of you have stepped up to agree to be 2nd VP.

It will be the first time in the 50plus years of Watchung that we do not have a full slate of officers.

We have asked, cajoled, begged, bribed, and even threatened. (Well, maybe not threatened), everyone we could think of who would be willing to lead us forward. Alas, the call goes

unanswered. I don't know what else to do. We all are the club. I for one, really enjoy all of your company, and enjoy gathering together with each of you to camp or enjoy a lunch. So, this is my last plea for a 2nd VP. If you're willing to give about an hour a month, if that even, please call, text or email me. It's not a hard job at all. Trust me, I've done it 3 times 😊.

To round out the camping season Rich and Kathi Short along with Lea Plant will host an Oktoberfest weekend at Peaceful Woodlands Campground in Blakeslee PA Columbus day weekend. Come on out and enjoy a pint of Oktoberfest ale. It should be a good time.

Also, the November lunch and December installation signups are on the website. Please remember that November lunch is our annual food collection. Please bring non perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry. The December lunch includes our annual Toys For Tots collection. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift for a girl or boy. That's all I've got this month.

Shiney side up. George.

"A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." Lao Tzu



Second VP Search

Frank deHerde writes:

Hello Everyone,

Laura Raymond and I are searching for a member to fill the position of 2nd Vice President for 2023-2024.

Before becoming an Officer in the Club, I thought an Executive Board position would be very time-consuming, which stopped me from getting involved. Then the Club needed someone to file for the 2nd VP position. I agreed to be the 2nd VP. After being a 2nd VP, a 1st VP, and President, I realized these positions only take 1 to 2 hours a month. Most months take zero time!

An explanation of the Duties of 2nd Vice President are:

- ✓ *Assist the President and the 1st Vice President*
- ✓ *Assume the Duties of the 1st Vice President in the absence of the said Officer*
- ✓ *Assume the Duties of the President in case of the absence of the President and 1st Vice President*
- ✓ *Reach out to Members to plan Rallies and Luncheons.*

If you are thinking of or would like to be the 2nd Vice President. My email is deherde@hotmail.com, or call me at 908.419.4978 or contact Laura's email LA9BSG@gmail.com, or her cell 646.483.6539

*Thank You
Frank DeHerde
Past President*



Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our newest Affiliate Members

Jennifer Taylor

Jason Trama

SUNSHINE

This month a card was sent to Lois Wagner and Derek Conley congratulating them on their new trailer and a sympathy card was sent to Tammy Funk, the daughter of Bill Funk, a longtime Watchung member who passed away this summer.

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.

October Birthdays

Thomas Breen
Frank DeHerde
Flora Pomerleau
Kimberly Sheppard
Tourrahn Kriz

Bits and Pieces

Items for the newsletter? Send them to Derek Conley by the 20th of each month. (dconley1810@gmail.com)

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

President: George Kiesel (gkiesel861@gmail.com)

Membership: Lea Plant (tenlea@aol.com)

2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

With four months to go before the start of our 2024 season it's not too early to start thinking about next year's club activities. Please consider volunteering to help make 2024 another successful year. —Ed.

| DATE | WHAT/WHEN | HOSTS | COHOSTS | VENUE |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| January 2024 | Luncheon | Ken and Nancy | | |
| February 2024 | Luncheon | | | |
| March 2024 | Luncheon | Meg and Laura | | |
| April 2024 | Unbutton/Business Meeting | | | |
| May 2024 | Region 2 Rally May 3-5 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| 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 | |

* Registration for the 2024 67th Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri has begun! If you want to park together, you must arrive/enter together. Currently some club members are planning to arrive a day early, 10/4/24. If you would like to join that group be sure to sign up for October 4th (additional \$50) then let Lea Plant know (tenlea@aol.com) so that she can send the list to Headquarters. They will let us know at a later date what time we will get parked. As October of 2024 gets closer, we will be in contact about where (outside of the Missouri State Fairgrounds) we will meet up.

2023 Luncheon and Rally Schedule

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. Food Collection.

2023 December Luncheon and Officer Installation Lea Plant and George Kiesel. Toys for Tots.

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

October 2023 Rally Information

**Peaceful Woodlands Family Campground 114 WT Family Blvd, Blakeslee Pa 18610
570-646-9255**

<https://www.peacefulwoodlands.com/>

OKTOBERFEST RALLY : COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND : OCTOBER 5 –9

Come on out and spend Columbus Day Weekend in the Pocono Mountains. Family owned and operated; the Peaceful Woodlands Campground sits on 50 acres at the base of the Dixon Miller Recreation Area (Elevation 2212 ft.) which is one of the highest accessible points overlooking the Pocono Plateau. Situated within easy driving distance to several State Parks, the Hauser Nature Center, and Austin T. Blakeslee Natural Area, you will find plenty of opportunity for hiking, exploring, bird watching, or just plain relaxing. This is a Buddy Rally and our **Club Business Meeting** when we vote for our 2024 slate of Officers.

To reserve a site call the campground, tell them you are with the AIRSTREAM CLUB. Please email Rich at rcshort49@gmail.com with your site # after you register with the campground.

Your Hosts: Rich (609-618-0355) and Kathi Short **1512**, Lea Plant **2256**

November 2023 Luncheon



November Watchung Airstream Luncheon

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 12:00

Location: The Little York, 569 Spring Mills Rd, Milford NJ

Hosts: Barbara & Michael Koczwara Contact: allofus1989@gmail.com or 609-947-6789

Co-hosts: Cathy & Jay McCarthy Contact: cathylmcc@msn.com or 215-833-8647

Doors Open: 11:30 for Cash Bar Luncheon: 12:00

Entrée Choices – Please Select When Signing Up for Luncheon

- 1-Cobb Salad with Bleu Cheese Crumbles, Hard Boiled Egg, Bacon and All-Natural Grilled Chicken
- 2-Homemade Stuffed Shells with Tomato Sauce
- 3- Fried Onion Smashburger with Cooper Cheese served with hand cut French fries

Luncheon Includes: Pizza Appetizers
Pitchers of Soda on the Table
Coffee and/or Tea
Assorted Mini Desserts

Please Bring a Donation for Our Food Drive (Flemington Area Food Pantry)

November luncheon coupon. RESERVATION DEADLINE: October 27, 2023

Maximum of 30 attendees – please sign up early!

Name: _____ WBCCI #: _____

Email: _____ Telephone #: _____

of People: _____ @ \$36.00 per person = Total \$: _____

Food Choice: Cobb Salad Stuffed Shells Smashburger

Signup online at our website or mail check and completed form to Barbara Taylor, 44 Titus Mill Rd, Pennington NJ 08534. Make Checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club.

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 9th, 2023 Watchung Installation



September Rally Report



Evening at Pine Creek Campground, Newfield, NY. Photo by C. Forster.

Laura Riley writes:

Sitting around the campfire with our friends from the Watchung club, Mark and “Milky Way Derek” were telling us about their phone apps “NIGHT SKY” and “SKY WATCH”. There was virtually no light pollution in the campground. The sky was alive with stars, planets and



The after-dinner raffle. Good prize or Bad prize? Photo D. Conley.



Rally hosts Mark and Angie Ratliff. Photo D. Conley.

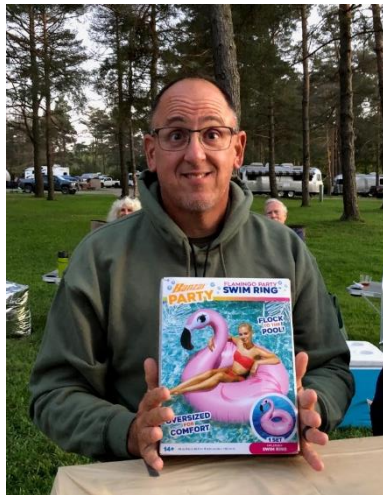
satellites! As I was gazing up, in a blink of an eye, I saw it! **I GASPED!** I stood up and pointed up to the sky, “Look at that, what is that? Aliens? Shooting stars?” Mark calmly said, “Oh, that’s STARLINK”. Indeed, the StarLink Satellites were fanning across the night sky, giving us quite the spectacle!

I am amazed at the knowledge and experience our group members have; how lucky we are. With their phone applications, Mark and “Milky way Derek”, can identify anything that is up in the sky.

HERE YE! HERE YE! NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT!

We welcome you Dottie and David! Also let’s give a nod to Chris and Joanne’s new furry family member, Suki!

Our hosts picked a great spot for the rally in Newfield, NY. By the way, Happy 30th Anniversary



Pat Attanasio is not sure what to make of his raffle prize. Photo L. Wagner.

Angie and Mark! The campground was accommodating roomy, clean, and close to activities in the area. Our hosts printed a list of the local points of interest and food places. It was presented in a very helpful way. Angie and Mark had a chalkboard sign up so we could see who was attending each

activity and carpool. Activities included hiking at the waterfalls, winery tour, cheese factory tour, a native American Pow-Wow, nightly campfires, and Bad Dad Jokes night. One example of a Bad Dad Joke, “Which factory are most things made?” Answer: The Satisfactory!



Chris Forster, Suki, Joanne Forster, Derek Conley, Lois Wagner, Meg Riley and Laura Riley explore Buttermilk Falls State Park. Photo by helpful passer-by.



Dottie and David DeCota, Steve Tancer, Angie and Mark Ratliff enjoying the view of Lake Cayuga from the deck of Two Goats Brewing Co., Burdett, NY. Photo by helpful passer-by.

dairy free. A broken coffee pot, no worries! Out came *Slow Burn Mark's* toolbox. After the bottom was taken off the pot, Mark gave his opinion... blown fuse. *Milky Way Derek* came over to *Slow Burn Mark's* truck to confirm the diagnosis. In no time two fuses were ordered online, one for a backup. Another dollar saved by our resourceful members.

Collect The Money Lois reported that our group chipped in a whopping \$160 during the rally for this year's charity, St. Jude's.

Before I close out this article, the nicknames that we came away with are all in love and fun. The names of the innocents will remain anonymous! Well, sort of!

Hope to see you at our next Rally in October, which will be hosted by Rich, Kathy and Lea. In Fondness,

Laura and Meg Riley

Did I mention our members also have equipment for any occasion? This was a first for me, a Flame Thrower courtesy of *Stick Um Up Steve Tancer*, and a Leaf blower courtesy of David, to give our campfires a quick start. Breakfast at Angie and *Slow Burn Mark's* site included "Fred Brugman's famous oatmeal", a winner then and a winner now. Oatmeal, ice cream, fruit, and REAL maple syrup. Yum Yum! It was so thoughtful to honor Fred, who has been with our Watchung group for many years.

Each day we went our separate ways after breakfast, knowing we would reunite for Happy Hour back at *Slow Burn Mark* and Angie's. Mindful all the way through, our hosts made sure the food met every different dietary need: meat lovers, vegetarian, gluten free,



Seneca Indian Pow-wow, Seneca Nation. Photo M. Riley

Alumapalooza Report



The new factory, about a mile west of town, is where all the travel trailers, save the Basecamp, are built. RVs and Base Camps are built at the original factory. The new factory includes the Heritage Center (far left portion of the building). Photo D. Conley.

The annual Airstream Factory Rally, known as Alumapalooza, took place September 6-10. About 110 rigs were parked in the field next to the original factory in the middle of tiny Jackson Center, Ohio (pop. 1,441). Attending from Watchung were Meg and Laura Riley, Roger and Tourrahn Kriz, Lynda Kresge, and Lois Wagner and Derek Conley. The camping field was divided



Rigs attending Alumapalooza parked in the field next to the original factory. Drone photo provided by Alumapalooza organizers.



View of the new factory floor from the observation deck at the Heritage Center. Airstream travel trailer assembly starts far to the right with the building of the outer shell, attaching it to the frame, laying in the floor, wiring, and plumbing followed by the inner skin. From there the shells are tested for leaks with 10,000 gallons of water sprayed at 80 miles per hour for twenty minutes. At the point shown above the completed shells then make a 90-degree turn to the right for installation of the interiors. Photo D. Conley

into two sections: one offered 3-amp per trailer power to keep the batteries charged, the other was for campers who wanted to run generators. About 2/3rds of the campers elected to go with batteries only. Derek and Lois camped in the generator area as Derek isn't happy without his toast in the morning. Water hookups were available to everyone. Six VIPs shared the

Terraport, the hexagonal full-service docking station normally used by campers who have brought their rigs in for while-they-wait service.



Rear view of Old Grandad, one of the first Airstream trailers built in 1931. Note the deep "eyebrows" on three sides of each window, the circular roof vent and the chimney for the wood stove. Photo D. Conley.

A number of attendees had signed up for service while attending Alumapalooza and only a handful of slots remained by the time the rally began. Lynda Kresge got in line at 5 AM one morning to snag one of the last appointments and succeeded. Several times each day Tuesday through Thursday a John Deere farm tractor worked its way through the rows of rigs to pull another one out and take it to a waiting service bay, returning them at the end of the day.

On Fridays the factory shuts down at 11 AM for a long weekend before work starts again at 7 on Monday. Many Airstream line workers are also part-time farmers as well as members of local rescue squads and fire departments,

so the factory schedule is designed to accommodate their other obligations. It's no accident that a number of the workers we met while at Alumapalooza have been working for Airstream for twenty years or more.



At the Swap Meet in the main tent Lois Wagner (right) helps Meg Riley pare back some of her CD collection as Laura Riley looks on. Photo D. Conley.

Rally Central was a large tent near the factory gate with tables and chairs for over 200 people and a stage for entertainment. Each day started with coffee in the tent followed by a steady stream of talks, workshops, and demonstrations. Each day ended with a happy hour that featured a drawing of about ten prizes that could be claimed only by those in attendance; if your name was called and you weren't there the audience cried out "in the shower!" and the next name would be called. Most evenings offered entertainment.

Probably the two most popular activities were the factory tours and visiting the Heritage Center. Airstream has two main factories, the new one producing all the travel trailers (except the Basecamp) and the original factory making all the RVs and the Basecamps. Each offered an

hour-long guided tour that went into great detail about how the product is made. Tours were limited to twenty-five people per group and almost all slots had been reserved long before the rally started.

The Heritage Center, which is located in the new factory, is a first-rate museum that explores the history of Airstream and its products through exhibits, movies, and narratives. Did you know that in the 70s Airstream made a version of its motorhome as a funeral coach, family ensconced on plush dark-velvet settees and armchairs in the front and the decedent's casket in



A portion of the Heritage Center. Photo D. Conley.

its own compartment in the back? They sold about 40 of them and there's one in the Heritage Center.

Speaking of survivors, Airstream estimates (hard numbers are not possible as records have been lost) that since 1931, the year the first Airstream travel trailer was built, it has made about 170,000 travel trailers and about 70% of them are still on the road today?

Amazing!



Lois Wagner and Lynda Kresge take in a western Ohio sunset next to Lynda's Interstate "Miss Lolly". Photo by Alumapalooza attendee, downloaded from WhatsApp.



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2023 Watchung Club Officers

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
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| 1 st Vice President | Lea Plant |
| 2 nd 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 |
| Other Club Roles | |
| Web Master | Mark Ratliff |
| Directory | Chris Forster |
| Newsletter | Derek Conley |
| Quartermaster | Jason Pomerleau |

