



NORVA NEWS

November 2023

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Photo Credit: Lew Brodsky

Urbana Oyster Festival by Colleen Heron:

Nestled along the banks of the Rappahannock River in Virginia, the quaint town of Urbana hosted more than 20 of our favorite Airstream and oyster enthusiasts for a three-day dry camping adventure. Hosted by the Tidewater Airstream Club it was a great collaboration of both their club and NORVA Airstream Club.

The Urbana Oyster Festival is renowned for its exceptional selection of fresh, locally harvested oysters. With the river providing a bountiful harvest, attendees can expect a gastronomic adventure, sampling oysters in various delectable forms – raw, roasted, fried, and even in mouth-watering stews. Local oyster growers and vendors showcase their finest catches, offering a diverse range of flavors and textures that highlight the unique terroir of the Rappahannock River.

The weather mostly cooperated and other than a very cold first night we all survived and spent quality time chatting around fires and exchanging tales of the day's events. The contribution of firewood was critical and appreciated.

Of course, we kicked off the weekend with a happy hour and all attendees provided a dish to share – man was it good! While oysters take center stage, the festival's culinary offerings extend beyond these delectable mollusks. Local seafood delicacies, from succulent crab cakes to flavorful dishes, are sure to satisfy even the most discerning palates. Food vendors and stalls line the streets, creating a vibrant culinary landscape where attendees can explore a myriad of tastes and textures.



Artisans and craft vendors showcase their wares, providing an opportunity to discover unique, handcrafted treasures. Live music and entertainment add to the festive atmosphere, creating an unforgettable backdrop for the weekend's festivities. But nothing was quite as impressive (or loud) as the Fireman's parade on Friday night. If you are a fan of watching history being made, then the shucking contest was for you. Watching Urbanna's own Deborah Pratt defend her title was exciting, it was not bad that they handed out all the shucked oysters too!



Photos Credit: Colleen Heron

Although the festival is big and full of action, it is just a quick walk to the water and some amazing views both at sunrise and sunset. Make sure to make some time for a walk in the morning to one of the local coffee shops and get yourself a delicious cup of joe from one of the local shops.

As the curtains draw on the annual extravaganza that is the Urbanna Oyster Festival, there are a few final notes to savor and remember. This celebration of briny delights along the Rappahannock River leaves a lasting impression on all who attend, and these concluding thoughts serve as a guide to wrap up our Urbanna Oyster Festival experience.

A few tips from a first time Urbanna visitor. Before bidding farewell to Urbanna, we took a quiet moment by the riverside to soak in the magic of the Rappahannock. The peaceful flow of the water, the historic charm of the town, and the memories of the festival combine to create a truly special experience.

Take a moment to appreciate the hardworking local oyster growers and vendors who bring the finest of the Rappahannock River's bounty to your plate. Their dedication and passion for their craft contribute to the unique and vibrant atmosphere of the festival.

Throughout the festival, local artisans showcase their talents and crafts. Take the time to explore the stalls and support these artists by bringing home a piece of Urbanna craftsmanship, creating a tangible reminder of your time at the festival.

The Urbanna Oyster Festival has captured my heart and I anticipate the joy of returning to Urbanna for another round of seafood delights and community festivities.

As we departed Urbanna with a heart full of oyster-induced joy and memories, knowing that we've been a part of a tradition that celebrates community, culinary excellence, and the beauty of the Virginia waterfront. Until next year, Urbanna awaits with open arms and a promise of more unforgettable moments along the riverbanks. Looking forward to next year.



Photo Credit: Frank Munoz



Photo Credit: Bob Nickel



Photo Credit: Lew Brodsky

Alumalina Rally

October 19-22, 2023

Marion, NC

Photos and text by: Doug & Gail Perkins

We arrived to the rally on Wednesday, Oct. 18th and set up next to DJ and Jessica Mastin. We were surprised to learn they purchased an Airstream! It's a fixer-upper, and they are already making it their own—so very nice! Bob Nickel arrived and set up next to us. We met a new member of the Nickel household, Pepper! Scott Arnold arrived on Thursday. It was a small group from NORVA, but we sure had a great time! There were 32 states represented and 2 Airstreams from Canada that attended the rally.



Thursday morning, we rode to Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi River. The views were spectacular, and the fall foliage was beautiful.



Thursday dinner was hot dogs...lots of hot dogs! They even had plant based hot dogs and there was plenty to go around. We socialized in the Pavilion for a while and then went back to our campsite to hang out for the evening.



Friday was filled with informational seminars. Some of the workshops were: DJ Mastin on rivets: types, tips and installation procedures. Darin Blatner gave us the run-down on Electric bikes: transporting, maintenance, and security. SkyMed was there to make us

aware of options for staying safe on the road. John Leake did two workshops: Airstream 101 and Airstream 202: Understanding systems, running gear, and maintenance, and planning, camp site selection, setting up and breaking down the campsite. Terry Montgomery presented tips and techniques on changing a trailer tire at home or on the road.

After that information-packed day, dinner was BBQ and a potato bar, followed by a lovely evening hanging out by the fire.



Saturday morning provided more informational classes and the afternoon was filled with a craft fair, flea market, bourbon trail, beer swap, and wine tasting.



Having fun at wine tasting!

Saturday dinner was the famous fish fry...delicious, fileted fish, shrimp, and crab cakes. It

was soooo yummy!



We were fortunate to visit with Doug's favorite You Tubers "Thirteen Adventures!" Seneca was smitten with their sweet dog Piper. Brad and Blair Driver are always willing to share camping ideas and information. If you haven't checked out their YouTube channel, I would encourage you to do so...very informative!

NORVA Holiday Party!

The NORVA Holiday Luncheon Party will be Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 12 noon hosted again by Beth and Ed Jones. For them, it's part of the joy of the season. All of their Byers Carolers are eager to come out of their condos and welcome everyone. They've even added new carolers. Besides lunch, there will be music, bells, fellowship and merrymaking. The registration deadline is December 1. Come one, come all!

To register, follow this link:
<https://airstreamclub.org/norva-holiday-party-2023>





Virginia Commonwealth Rally 2024--5-8 Sep 2024

Madison Vines RV Resort and Cottages--www.MadisonVinesRVResort.com
RESERVE YOUR CAMPSITE NOW!!!



The Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club (SOV) will be hosting the Commonwealth Rally at Madison Vines RV Resort the weekend of the 5th through the 8th of September 2024.

Madison Vines is a newly renovated RV resort in Madison, VA—between Charlottesville and Ruckersville VA on Route 29. The campground has been open for a year after a major top to bottom renovation. Upgraded sites and pool, new bathrooms and showers, office, store, meeting rooms and convention hall. SOV just finished a successful rally at Madison Vines the first weekend in October. Everyone raved about the campsites, staff, and the location.

If you are planning to attend the 2024 Commonwealth Rally, it is imperative that you reserve a campsite as soon as possible. This campground has become quite popular. September is one of their busier months. You can register for the rally with the SOV Wagon Master (POC) AT A later date but **you must reserve your campsite with the campground as soon as possible. The cancellation fee is only \$25, so do not delay.**

To reserve a campsite with Madison Vines and receive the Rally Discount you must call in your reservation. Do Not use the on-line system. The numbers to call are the following:

Primary number—540-948-4186
Secondary number—540-948-5161

When you call ask for Jamie McGuire (manager). Let her know that you are with the Airstream Group. They assign campsites based on the length of your rig.

We will be publishing a schedule with a rally fee later this fall.



Get Ready for the 2024 NORVA Caravan!

Planning for the "Endless Summer Caravan" is progressing. We have shifted the planning dates to between 10 and 26 July pending our scouting efforts to be complete no later than January 2024. Locations being scouted include Kitty Hawk NC, Emerald Isle NC, Myrtle Beach SC, Mount Pleasant/Charleston SC, Hilton Head SC, Jekyll Island GA and St Augustine FL. Initial planning has us spending at least 3 days per finalized location. This is still a draft plan, and we will update the club with firm details as soon as possible. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the Caravan at the caravan email address: norva2024caravan@gmail.com. 2024 Endless Summer Caravan leader Jim Oxley.

Upcoming Events 2023-2024

Dec. 9: NORVA Holiday Party hosted by Beth and Ed Jones

January 13: January Luncheon hosted by Bob Nickel

February 11: NORVA Super Bowl Party hosted by Pete and Elizabeth West

March 9: New Members Rally hosted by Bob Nickel

April 5-7: NORVA Maintenance Rally hosted by Tom Carmichael

April 17-21: Region 3 'Streams and Meadows at Doswell Event Park

June 7-9 at Spacious Skies Campground hosted by Gail and Doug Perkins

July 10-26 (tentative): NORVA Endless Summer Caravan led by Jim Oxley



NORVA Executive Officers 2023-2024

President: Gerry Nagel

1st Vice President: Bob Nickel

2nd Vice President: Jim Oxley

Secretary: Gail Perkins

Treasurer: Bev Bevis

Membership: Lew Brodsky

Webmaster: Patsy Nagel

Legislative Director: John Bevis

Parliamentarian: Tom Carmichael

Past President: Peter West

Newsletter Editors: Barbara Formoso and Colleen Heron



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



Contact Information:

<https://airstreamclub.org>

<https://airstreamclub.org/northern-virginia>

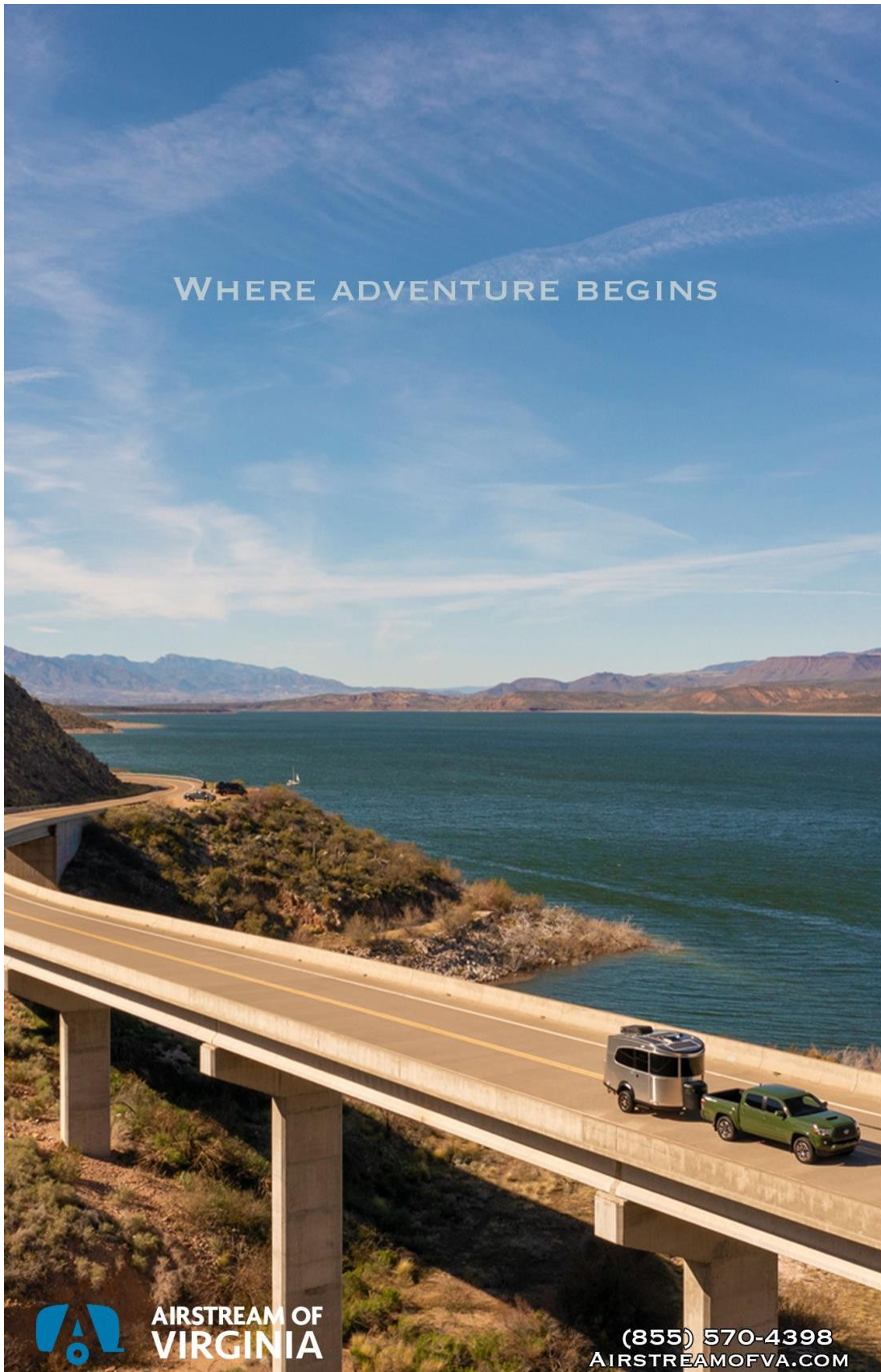
Newsletter Contributions: bformoso@me.com or colleen.m.heron@gmail.com

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(855) 570-4398
AIRSTREAMOFVA.COM