



The Trillium

Volume 51 Issue 6 December 2023



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Events Calendar

May 2 - 5	Region 2 Rally "Pursue Your Adventure" Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, Pennsylvania	Registration details TBA
May 9 - 13	Eastern Ontario Shakedown Richmond Fair Ground	Lynn & Rob D. Roger & Janice J. Larry & June D.
May 10 - 13	Western Ontario Shakedown Seaforth Agricultural Grounds	Mentored by Tony S. Volunteers needed!
May 16 - 21	Spring Rally & AGM Blyth Fairgrounds	Mentored by Kathy B. & Gordon D. Volunteers needed!
September 5 - 9	Fall Rally & AGM Can-Am RV	Andy T. Volunteers needed!
September 19 - 23	Fall Rendezvous #1 Western Ontario Summer House Park	Jim & Ena F. Volunteers needed!
Date TBA	Fall Rendezvous #2 Eastern Ontario Lindsay Fairgrounds	Bill & Julie R. Mentors needed!
Oct. 5 - 10	67th International Rally Sedalia Missouri	Just a short hop from Ontario Registration open now
Aug. 23 - 28, 2025	68th International Rally York Pennsylvania	An even shorter hop from Ontario! Registration TBA

President's Message

Melanie C.



Season's Greetings to our family of Airstreamers near and far! The Holiday Season means celebrating family and friends and looking back on the year that was and planning for the New Year ahead.

Have you checked out the activities your executive has planned for 2024? Have you considered signing up to help with one of our activities? If you have special talents or information for the group please think about doing a presentation at one of our rallies or rendezvous. Our members' collective experience and knowledge is vast and fascinating. If you are interested please let me or any of our executive know what you would like to do.

I join our executive in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year celebrating with family, friends and maybe even some winter camping! Until we see you down the road keep safe and warm during this wintry weather. To those of you enjoying the warm weather in the south please send some heat our way!

Region 2 President's Message

Gary R.

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:



- 1st VP Patti G.
 - Patti is from the Washington DC Unit.
- 2nd VP Matt M.
 - Matt is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Corresponding Secretary Suzanne R.
 - Suzanne is from the New York Finger Lakes Unit
- Recording Secretary Judy C.
 - Judy is from the Watchung New Jersey Airstream Club
- Treasurer Will K.
 - Will is from the Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Membership Chair Colleen A.
 - Colleen is from the Metropolitan New York Airstream Club
- Newsletter Editor Cody K.
 - Cody is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Webmaster Ronald S.
 - Ron is from the New York 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 1st of 2024.



CENTRE COUNTY
GRANGE FAIR

New Members

Please welcome our newest OCAC members.

Michael & Catherine M.
2015 International Serenity 28'

Laura & Paul G.
2024 Flying Cloud 23'

Shawn H. & Ann S.
2023 Flying Cloud 27'

New members are reminded to send in headshots (together with partner if applicable) to the newsletter editor (124editor@airstream.net) or Kathy B..



Thanks Can-Am for
all your support!

Spring Rally Update

Kathy B.

Save the Dates – May 16 to 21, 2024

For the Spring Rally in Blyth

Your Host Team for the Spring Rally in Blyth is hard at it – planning a long weekend that's bound to be too short! The Blyth Campground is ideal for our needs. In fact, it was a popular spring shakedown location for several years as well as the site for the 2013 Spring Rally.

The gathering space in the Community Centre is spacious and extremely well-equipped for groups like ours. It's on the second floor. If you have "rusty knees" or "squeaky hips", have no fear - there is elevator access!

The grounds are enormous and relatively level. There is an abundance of electrical and water hook-ups. Nobody goes without and you'll have at least a 15-amp service. Showers and toilets are located close to where we'll be camping and there's a dump station on site.

We don't have the camping costs yet as the fee schedule will change at the end of the year, but we expect the nightly fee will be in the neighbourhood of \$40. While we have the campground reserved from Thursday to Tuesday, the actual rally starts on Friday and ends on Monday. To be fair to everyone, the camping fees will be kept separate from the rally fee.

We're still in the early days of planning, but our program is starting to gel. We'll have more to say about that, along with points of interest in the area, in the February issue of The Trillium.



Editorial - Trillium Airstream Art Exhibition

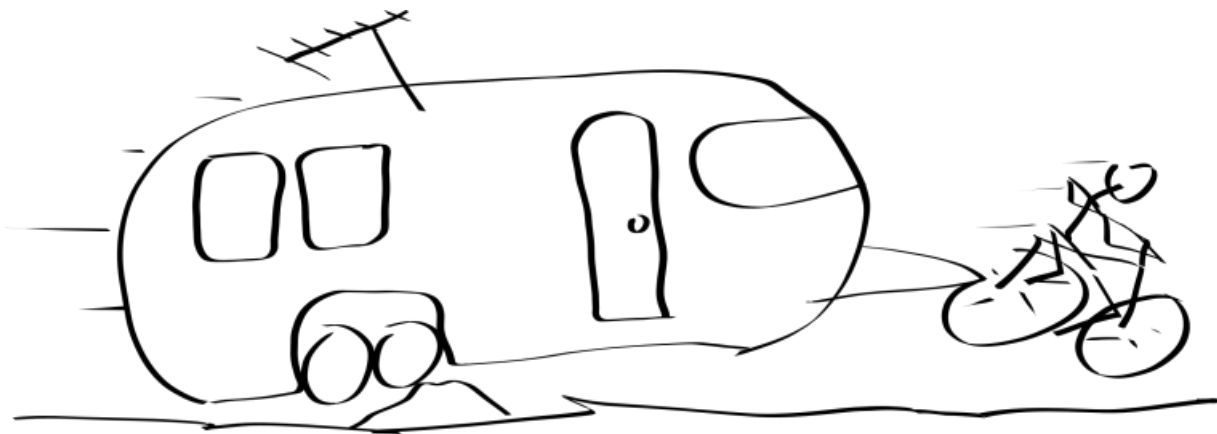
Steve A.

We've reached the time of year when most of us have bundled up our Airstreams ready for the Big Chill. Some will head south or out into the snowy wastes in their rigs, but they are in the minority. That leaves me with a big problem. Not enough pictures! There's only so many photos of snow-covered silver bullets you can put into one newsletter.

I'm announcing the first (and perhaps last) annual Trillium Airstream Art Exhibition. Submit images of your original paintings, sculptures, woodcarvings, doodles, pencil sketches, or e-art creations. Or send in fridge art created by your progeny. Everyone loves fridge art. The works must include at least one Airstream, or reasonable facsimile. And, please, none of that AI generated stuff.

All entries will be published in a future edition of The Trillium. There is no deadline, but if enough arrive in time for the February issue, I can do a nice spread.

I leave you with a creation of mine. Okay, it's a low bar, but it's a start!



Capital to Capital Caravan

Jeannie E.



Kim, Copper and myself just returned from a great caravan lead by the famous Kerry and Betty. We finally arranged to get on one of their caravans and it turns out that it's the second last one they are running.

We met up with our Airstream group at Cherry Hill Park, conveniently located on the outskirts of Washington D.C. It was a short drive to the subways from the campgrounds.

Kerry and Betty cooked sausages and pancakes to keep our tummies full for a day of exploring the Smithsonian. Sunday evening, we toured the monuments via motor coach with a guide .

Moving on north to a great little town called Lancaster PA. Kerry had arranged an Amish tour for us which included a farm tour.

Cortland N.Y state was our next stop. We had a tour of the New York State Country Music Museum. Since we were so busy moving campgrounds and touring Kerry ordered pizza for supper.

Crossing back over the border into Mallorytown for a weekend of beer, beans and bands while camping at Happy Green Acres. We all voted to take a boat ride on Sunday to the Boldt Castle out of Rockport. It was so worth the adventure.

Last and final stop on our caravan was Wesley Clover Park between Kanata and Ottawa. Kerry had arranged an open air bus tour followed by a boat tour on Rideau Canal.

To finish off our lovely time together, we had a farewell dinner at the Mandarin.

Many thanks Kerry and Betty



Caravan Corner

Kerry & Betty M.



Winter is now upon us here in the Ottawa Valley and our Airstream has gone into hibernation at a storage yard just a couple of minutes down the road. We give her a wave as we pass by. We can look back on 2023 as a good year that wrapped up with the Capital to Capital caravan. Our group met at Cherry Hill RV Park near Washington DC and enjoyed several days of touring the US capital. For me, the highlight was the guided night tour of monuments. From there, we moved on to Amish country in Pennsylvania for a tour of Amish farms and shops. After an overnight stop in upper New York State, we crossed into Canada for 2 days of live music followed by a Thousand Islands boat trip to Boldt Castle. Our journey ended in Ottawa doing all the touristy things and enjoying fabulous Fall weather. We weren't a big group but we sure enjoyed ourselves.

For next year we are well down the road in putting together the second running of the Meandering the Maritimes Caravan for Region 2. We are rapidly filling up but a few spots remain at the time of writing this article. The caravan will kick off on August 19 at Little Bras d'Or, Cape Breton and will conclude at St. Andrews NB, departing on September 24. We had a great group of Canadian and US members last year and word of mouth has resulted in quite a few people signing up for 2024. The Maritime Provinces are a great area to spend some quality time in the late summer/ early fall and the seafood is always the very best. If you like touring historic sites, going underground in a coal mine, whale watching from a tall ship, going lobster fishing or walking on the ocean floor, we do it all!



The 2024 International Rally will be in Missouri in October and it would be nice to have a caravan to get there. We need a volunteer to step up to take on the planning (with lots of help) to make this happen. A Fall rally should get us away from the heat that always seems to arrive with all the Airstreams when the Rally is held in the summer months. As I have mentioned before, a visit to Missouri is a great excuse to head down to

Branson for the wide variety of live music venues, something we have enjoyed several times over the years. Interested? Let me know!

Have a great winter wherever you are and we hope to see you all in the Spring.



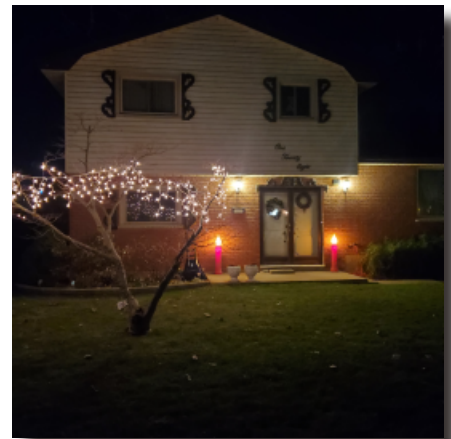
Sunshine Report

Linda S.

Hello Airstreamers!

It's been quiet on the Sunshine front lately. I remind myself that no news is good news in this business!

However, there are those who are having their struggles. Recently, I have been in contact with Don & Kathy M. who are continuing to face ongoing health challenges and sure could use a boost from their Airstream friends in the coming weeks. Kathy has had a toenail removed and although that is healing, it has now been a month and she is still in a lot of pain and cannot walk. She is visited at home every 3-4 days by a nurse changing the bandages. Don's knee replacement is the second one this year. It really makes their lives challenging. Regardless, Don's spirits are in good order as you can see by this lovely picture of their home.



There is also some good news in the Sunshine Corner that I am pleased to share with you! Lynn B. will be taking over my position on the Sunshine Committee as of Spring 2024! I am so grateful for her support of our Club in the years I have held this post. It is with pride and thanksgiving that I can send her beautiful handmade cards to cheer you on to recovery or to thank you for your efforts, both individually and collectively. As President Melanie C. noted, "She's a natural for the position....after all, she does make the cards!" Yes indeed!

Some of you will be on the road south to warmer climates or are already tucked into a place lacking cold and snow! Enjoy the rest of 2023 whether you are like John and me who are staying in the lovely Town of Thessalon for the winter. John wondered the other day if he was going to make it all the way through to April in the cold and the snow. I told him he would because Dave-Next-Door has all the toys in that garage of his to warm the cockles of any man's heart who loves machines that move snow! They will have a good time working side by side if they stop talking long enough to get the job done! Me? Some things I do not deprive John of and moving snow is just one of them!

Enjoy the rest of 2023! I will be in touch in the New Year from Northern Ontario where the sun shines in January!

Tech Bites

How to Add More Torque to Your Sewer Cap - John R.

Like for tow vehicles, torque can be a useful force, especially when trying to get off those stubborn sewer caps to allow you to dump your holding tanks. This simple modification will put a torque amplifier on the end of your sewer cap and make it much easier to get the cap on and off. This boost in torque can be accomplished for less than \$15 of supplies and some basic skills.

What you will need:

- One 6 inch nylon boat / dock cleat. (This can be purchased at Canadian Tire.)
- Two 1.5 inch 10-24 stainless-steel bolts with a trumpet head to sit recessed in the cleat
- Two stainless-steel washers
- Two stainless-steel nuts
- Masking tape and a marker
- Drill with a 3/16-inch bit
- Screwdriver and pliers

Remove the sewer cap from the trailer and put a piece of masking tape across the cap marking the center line.

Place the nylon cleat on the cap and mark the spots where to drill the two holes. Drill the holes using a 3/16-inch drill bit and remove the masking tape. Assemble the nylon cleat to the cap using the stainless-steel bolts, washers, and nuts.

Reinstall the cap back on the trailer and just feel the extra torque helping you put that cap back on!



How to Remove EternaBond Tape - Don M.

[Editor's note: [EternaBond tape](#) is commonly used to repair roof leaks]

Needed:

- Heat Gun
- Plastic putty knife or scraper
- Acrysol adhesive remover
- Clean dry rags
- Soap and water

Instructions:

1. Apply heat to warm tape
2. Start peeling at a 45 degree angle to minimize tearing
3. Continue heating if you encounter resistance, be patient
4. Use plastic scraper for stubborn areas to gently lift the edge of the tape
5. Clean residue with Acrysol or rubbing alcohol using a rag
6. Wash the surface with soap and water, then dry
7. Inspect the surface
8. Apply new sealant (if necessary)



Our First Airstream Caravan - Made in USA 2023

John R.



Karen and I have been RVing for the last 19 years and the last three camping seasons we spent in an Airstream, so we are no strangers to RV travel. This year we took a 20-week cross Canada and US tour to the western part of the continent.

The last 5 weeks of our adventure was with a group of 43 Airstreamers on the Made in the USA Caravan, lead by Bill & Beth R. from Pompano Beach Florida, with Dale and Kathy S. as co-leaders. The tour took us through the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

As the title of the caravan suggests, we visited factories to see how products are made in the USA, and museums which were about the history of products made in USA. We visited 14 factories and 8 museums, toured Notre Dame University, and had two river cruises.

It was natural to start out this caravan in Ohio and with a factory tour of the Mother Ship in Jackson Center. Then we were off to Michigan for a tour of the Ford F150 assembly plant and Ford Museum, along with a Greenfield Village tour.

Our next stops were in Indiana where we visited the Auburn and Duesenberg Automobile Museum, a chocolate factory with lots of samples, the Oliver House which was the home of Joseph D. Oliver who made his fortune manufacturing horse drawn plows and later moved into building tractors in the 1800's, the former Studebaker mansion which is now a restaurant, the THOR factory where they make class C motorhomes, and the Kokomo Iridescent Glass factory where art glass for stained glass windows is made.



We toured the Subaru production and assembly plant, the Caterpillar engine plant, Fair Oaks Farms where they milk 10,000 cows three times a day, and a shrimp farm housed in a barn!

In Illinois we toured the Caterpillar visitor center and John Deere visitor center, had a lunch time river boat cruise on the Mississippi, visited a railway museum, and enjoyed an architectural cruise of the Chicago riverfront.

Our last stops were in Wisconsin where we toured the Kohler toilet factory where they still make cast iron bathtubs as well as porcelain toilet fixtures, the Harley Davidson Museum, and several breweries in Milwaukee. During some free time in Milwaukee, I visited the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame; with thousands of bobbleheads, including sports figures as well as fictional and nonfictional characters, it was well worth five bucks to spend a few hours wandering around.



Overall, our impressions of our first caravan are extremely positive. We met 41 genuinely nice people who we hope to see again some time in the future. As Karen says it was a treat on the last 5 weeks of our 20-week tour to have things planned out for us rather than us having to make all the decisions with the fear we may have missed something important to see. Would we do another caravan ... well we have booked for the Polar Bears and Northern Lights Caravan for next September/October and are looking into 2025 to see where we would like to caravan next.



Community Services Update

Pop Tabs - Rick A.

I would like to thank all of the people who have contributed to our collecting of aluminum tabs which we collect to provide wheelchairs to kids who need them. These kids need the chairs for physical reasons and because their families can't afford the chairs on their own.

For the first time since this program began in 1992, we have been able to provide four (4) wheelchairs in the one year, and this is because of all the help from you and others like you.

Thanks again from the kids for all the tabs which you provide.

Rick

Project Linus - Joan G.

A big thank you goes out to all our Project Linus Blanketeers and their friends and family for the generous blanket donations. Our blankets have been donated all over Ontario to sick or injured children in need of a hug.

The blankets are so appreciated and needed, especially this time of year. Some blankets will become a Christmas present for children in shelters.



We received 36 beautiful blankets (above), from Linda W. and Kate D.'s Mom and Aunt. The blankets will be given to children in the Peterborough area.



Kathy & Gareth F. delivering 26 blankets made by Kathy's Mom's "Helping Hands" knitting group. These blankets are going to Cambridge and the Brantford area. The blankets will go to hospitals, Ukrainian children refugees, as well as to paramedics to carry in their ambulance.

This has been a great year for Project Linus. Thanks so much for all your effort and generosity.