

**Official Newsletter of
the DelMarVa
Airstream Club #026**

January 2023

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THE DELMARVA BEACON



Charlie Michels' 1968 Globetrotter

Photo by Charlie Michels

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**DelMarVa
Airstream Club #026**

airstreamclub.org/delmarva



DelMarVa Airstream Club #026 Officers and Volunteers

President.....
Andy Dowell

1st Vice President.....
Vacant

2nd Vice President.....
Vacant

Recording Secretary.....
Katharine Dowell

Treasurer.....
Chuck Helwig

Trustees.....
Katharine Dowell
Charlie Michels
Mike Field

Member Engagement

Membership Chair.....
Roger Sansom

Webmaster.....
Andy Dowell

Newsletter Editor.....
Denis Clements

DelMarVa Club President

By Andy Dowell, BRN# 06684, President DelMarVa Airstream Club



Hello DelMarVa Members:

As 2022 draws to a close, I look back over the year and I'm thankful for the opportunities we've had to travel, both overseas and across our beautiful - and rather large - United States.

The Southwest Adventure Caravan was a fantastic experience, and my wish for you is that you get the opportunity to join with

other Airstreamers on a grand, wheels-on-the-ground voyage across, around, and through this great land, experiencing all the wonderful sights it has to offer, and meeting all sorts of folks you would never otherwise meet.

We are already planning our Big Trip for 2023. We will be heading to the Region 2 Rally in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and then to the International Rally in Rock Springs Wyoming. We hope to visit several state high points along the way, along with a trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin in Wisconsin.

At our business meeting and installation of officers in October, I agreed to serve another term as President. We are still in need of a Vice President. Please consider volunteering to serve in this important position.

Safe Travels, and we hope to see you down the road!
Andy Dowell, BRN#06684

DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

- DelMarVa Maintenance Rally
 - DelMarVa Airstream Club Dinner and Business Meeting
 - Location: Queen Anne's County 4H Park, Centreville, MD
 - Dates: Tentative 21 April – 23 April, 2023
 - Contact: TBD
- May: TBD
- Region 2 Annual Rally
 - Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario
 - Dates: 2 June – 6 June, 2023
 - Contact: TBD
- 66th International Rally
 - Location: Rock Springs, WY
 - Dates: 24 June – 30 June, 2023
 - Contact: Check the ACI Website
- July: TBD
- August: TBD
- Fall Business Meeting with Installation of Officers
 - Dates and location to be determined

Region 2 President

By RJ Marquette, BRN# 13270, President, Region 2

Hello DelMarVa Members

Hello, everyone! I'm writing this just a few days before Christmas, and I hope you all had a great holiday season.

I struggled with topics to write about last winter, but this month I have great news to share:

You can now book the campground for the Region 2 Rally!

The campground is Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp Resort in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Contact Greg Amadio at +1 (800) 263-2570 or email him (yogibear@jellystoneniagara.ca) and leave a message.

Greg will call back to get registration details.

You can cancel up to two weeks before without penalty.

Our group rate is \$62/night plus taxes.

The official rally dates are June 2 through June 6, 2023.

Registration for the rally will be available soon.

The Ontario Club is preparing an event to remember!

See you down the road!
RJ Marquette, BRN# 13270

The Campground, Caravan, Rally, and Road Trip Corner

(Tell us about your interesting experience at a Campground on a Caravan at a Rally or on a Road Trip to share with our members)

Charlie Michels' Big Front Range Road Trip Adventure!

Story and Photos by Charlie Michels, BRN# 1208, with his 1968 Globetrotter



Charlie's FJ Cruiser and 1968 Globetrotter, Ready to Rock

I left my home in the Black Swamp, west of Felton on October 5th, heading for Denver, CO to visit my son Travis, who is a meteorologist for Channel 2 and 31 in Denver. He had been there just about a year after working in the Quad Cities in IL, then subsequently being the Chief Meteorologist at Ch47 in Salisbury, then in Richmond, VA for 3 years.



Jackson Center Campground

bring them into a bay for requisite work, then the owners were on their own till the trailer was returned at the end of the workday. Oh, and \$10/night: first come first served for the 25 sites!

The following day I had scheduled a 1:00 PM tour, so hitched up and drove about a mile to the Airstream trailer fabrication plant. I began that adventure by touring the brand new and very historically complete Heritage Center, which was quiet with few other visitors.

I planned the route trying to avoid the crazy Interstates, with driving days of 300 miles, plus or minus. My first night was at a very quiet Racoon Creek State Park in western PA, then on to Jackson Center, OH to check out the facilities there. Adjacent to the 40 bay Service Center was a compact full hook-up camping area where Streamers having appointments for service could spend a night or two. A tow vehicle would come rumbling out between 6:00 and 7:00 AM to hitch up the trailers and



Heritage Museum

The 1:00 tour began, and with it being a Friday and employees working until short of noon, it was apparently exceptionally quieter than the M-Th tours. A very impressive, well light facility, with fabrication of 95% of needed parts short of some cabinetry. No pictures are allowed inside the plant. The tour was very comprehensive, showing the fabrication from the frame build, to the shell and interior fit-out. They even have a serious self-contained water/rain compartment where they take each completed shell on frame to check for leaks in what they consider a year's worth of rain in about 30 minutes!

From there, after the tour guide wanted a peek into my Globetrotter (!), I was off for several hundred miles to central Illinois to spend a couple nights and a nice visit with my partner Nancy's daughter's family in small town Arthur, IL.

At this point I jumped north about 5 miles to US Rt 36 which runs east/west, north of I 70, 50 miles or so; a beautiful smooth two-lane road with 65 mph speed limit and a few small towns to slow down a bit for a minute or so! I travelled this route, which at one point for maybe 75 miles, was Rt36/Interstate 72, all the way to just east of the CO border. I can't stress enough how beautiful the road and scenery were through the USA's Heartland! Most of the traffic was empty or full grain trucks as it was the fall harvest season. The next night was spent at a very quiet, nice, and clean Pershing State Park in central Missouri. One early morning when I left a (marginal) campground in central Kansas, I swear, there was no one behind me for at least 30 minutes! Crazy! BTW: there were a smattering of campgrounds along Route 36 and a surprising number of the small towns had city parks with spaces for a handful of campers. A fun quick stop was finding the plaque



in Kansas marking the geographic center of the US's 48 contiguous States! Who knew?!

At the point when I was near CO, I jumped up NW to scoot through the SW corner of Nebraska, then to the west side of Fort Collins, CO where I had made a reservation for 5 nights at the Larimer County Horse Tooth Reservoir Campground. Travis had registered for (his 1st) trail-running Marathon at 6,500 12,000 Feet Above Sea Level (FASL) for that Saturday, and I was there to support him. A 7:00 AM start at 39 degrees! He survived the 27+ miles in under 5.5 hours but was truly worn out! Considerable hydration following and a nice meal in the Globetrotter certainly helped. Did I mention lots of craft breweries in CO, including the famous New Belgium brewery in Fort Collins?!?! Been there, done that!

One day when Travis was working, I travelled considerably back, back roads to Estes Park, the eastern entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park. I enjoyed driving up driving up and up, stopping at various scenic pull-offs, to the Alpine Visitor Center (which was closed for the season). Then adjacent to the parking lot, I climbed up several hundred stone

steps to get to the peak at 12,000 FASL. Excellent 360-degree views, but boy, it was probably maybe 40 degrees with a blustery 35 mph+ wind! How do you spell wind-chill? Brrrrr!



Rocky Mountain National Park



Top of the Park

The next day I squared away the Globetrotter and headed south 1 ½ hours to Chatfield SP, adjacent to the huge Chatfield Reservoir. I was now SW of Denver about 30 minutes, again adjacent to the Rocky Mountain's foothills where I had previously booked a 10 day stay. Like at the Horsetooth Campground, I opted for electric sites knowing the temps certainly dip at night, and my little ceramic heater would do the trick. (Most all campgrounds on the Front Range terminate campsite water hook-ups by early September.) At both campgrounds I was able to fill my fresh tank at a common spigot, then dump on the way to the next to reduce my tongue weight, as my fresh tank is located at the front of my Airstream.



Chatfield State Park

From Chatfield State Park, more adventures began both with Travis and me. One initial day we toured well into the Rockies stopping the beautiful Red Rocks Amphitheater, the gravesite of Buffalo Bill Cody high in the foothills, west to touristy Idaho Springs for a tasty coffee break, then further west to Breckenridge for a tasty beer and lunch at the Breckenridge Brewery restaurant. We then cruised higher in elevation to the Continental Divide at the Hoosier Pass: 11,539 FASL. Here we hiked 3 miles and several hundred feet higher to one of the many Crystal Lakes in CO on a gentle trail.



Travis and Charlie – Time for a Local Beer!

(BTW: I always use my set of hiking poles whenever off-pavement, and it works for me) At the lake we could see Quandary Mountain: one of a handful of 14ers Travis has climbed! Once again, excellent views and just a handful of fellow hikers. Now back through beautiful vistas to the Campground, finishing around 9:00pm. Another great day!

The following day after a stop at Travis' nice apartment, 2 blocks from the huge City Park, we gathered hiking gear and head NW of Boulder to The Flatirons and an ambitious hike (for me!), the Royal Arch Trail. Rated 'Hard', 3.5 miles and 1,650 ft in elevation gain.

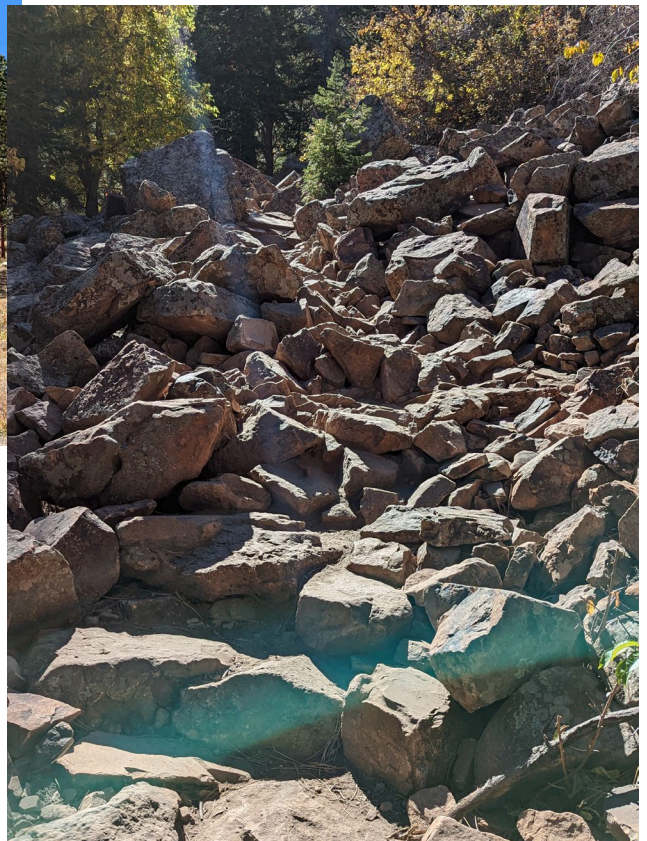


The Flatirons

After several breaks for hydration and gathering more oxygen! But what a magnificent red stone arch and views below!

Travis was spinning the weather on channels 2 and 31 the next couple days so back at the campground I took care of some Globetrotter chores, hiked the nearby Deer Creek Canyon's Coyote trail, and visited the auxiliary component of the Denver Botanical Gardens, both of which were close by, as well as an ambitious hike adjacent to the reservoir.

I agreed on all 3 points! After a somewhat gentle uphill for ½ mile, the strenuous part of the trail began, climbing up jumbled rocks, jagged rock slabs, a little 'bouldering' and



Royal Arch Trail – Where's the trail?



Deer Creek Canyon

The following day Travis was excited about doing some 4 wheeling out in the mountains with my FJ Cruiser (tow vehicle), so we drove west just past Idaho Springs and then from paved to gravel to dirt to seriously rugged singletrack up toward Loch Lomond. Out in the middle of nowhere, then a precarious triple K-turn to be ready to head back down. Parked safely and then we were off hiking on the trail up to the Loch with once again amazing views; had a few snowflakes on the 3-mile hike, again at above 11,000 FASL. We traversed safely back to paved roads and to the campsite to grill some burgers and taters along with a veggie or two, beverages and then a nice campfire as the stars came out.

Travis headed back to his apartment, and I readied the ceramic heater, as temps were once again to dip into the 30's by early morning.

The next day I met Travis after a 30-minute ride, then drove in his GTI into the foothills toward Falcon Park on a seriously twisty, turny, switchbacky narrow road to the Castle Trail. A moderate 2.5-mile hike with about 600 ft in elevation gain. The trail name comes from the stone remains of what was a large home overlooking the east for a successful Denver businessman/philanthropist had built, but sadly his wife passed away and then the 'Castle' had burned to the ground before he was able to move in. Travis had the evening broadcast to get ready for, so after relaxing back at the campsite a bit, I drove into Denver for a nice tour of his Station complex: Impressive! The following day I zipped back to Travis' apt and after I got some laundry going, we walked around the block to a fancy breakfast and lunch restaurant called 'Syrup'. Great food, but way too many Millennials there! Travis went back to work, and I just hung out in his apartment for a while, then back to the campsite.



Castle Trail

My last day with Travis was low key with a great and informative relaxing stroll around the expansive Denver Botanic Gardens, in the adjacent City Park. We then drove in and around City Park and parked by the Denver Science Center and walked over to the iconic picture spot with the Denver skyline and Rockies behind. Then we grabbed a great sandwich at his favorite deli, and I headed back to Chatfield SP to begin preparing the Globetrotter for travel the following day.

Up early and heading with morning commuters toward Denver until I could veer east on I70 about 30 miles and back on US 36 East. Ahhhhh, finally a quiet, mostly empty road toward eastern CO! I did get concerned about getting gas at one point! I skipped the marginal campground in mid-Kansas, but found a nice small-town city park to stay in. Another night at Pershing State Park in MO and again with Nancy's daughter's family in IL. The next morning, I was able to continue driving on US Rt36 E to just NW of Columbus, OH where I spent a night with friends originally from Harrington, DE. I got up early and then like a horse that smells the barn, I hightailed it home the following day, safely completing a 4,500-mile adventure on October 30.



Denver Botanical Gardens

Observations:

- US Rt 36 was indeed a joy to travel on.
- 300 plus or minus towing miles/day is just right for this single traveler.
- The USA's Heartland was surprisingly expansive and quiet. Friendly folks at every occurrence, but some serious crosswinds on occasion.
- The Rocky Mountains were magnificent, and they do exert a pull on you; I can feel it already!
- Fall camping at elevation is indeed a bit different, with it being cooler and darker earlier than summer camping, thus inside your aluminum home away from home earlier in the evening and wondering, "Now what?"
- Unbelievably, I left home in the wet aftermath of Hurricane Ian, and the next occurrence of rain was not until several days after I got home!
- Get out there to see our beautiful and bountiful country!

This Month's Featured Caravan or Rally

Viking Trail Caravan 2024

Get ready for an epic adventure! Starting near the Cape Breton ferry the caravan will spend over 50 days in Newfoundland. Visit the first settlements inhabited by Europeans in North America. Immerse yourself in a culture which developed isolated by its rugged terrain. Unique geologic features abound. See puffins and moose. Kiss a cod! Plan on lots of good food and music from the communities we visit. Trips including whale,



iceberg and fjord boat tours, visit a Viking village, zip line over falls, and see historic sites that capture this island's stories. Our focus will be enjoying the wonderful people who live on the island and all they have to offer. You will feel you've gone back to a better time. Make the trip yours with opportunities for breathtaking hikes and beach combing, cod and salmon fishing opportunities, side trips to Labrador and Fogo Island. Depending on your passions, bring your kayaks, fishing, birding, and hiking gear. So much to see and we will do our best to make it amazing!

This is not glamping. Your rig should be in good working order and equipped to handle Airstreaming travel maintenance in more remote areas. Although we will plan most stops for hookups, be prepared to manage without for a few days. Be prepared to get wet, bring layers for cooler weather, have wind swept hair, walk and drive in rugged terrain.

Tentative Dates: June 23, 2024 – August 16, 2024

Location: North Sydney, Nova Scotia, CANADA - Arm of Gold Campground

Event Contact: Our Own Chuck Helwig is one of the Leaders / Points of Contact

Check the Airstream International Website for all the details.

<https://airstreamclub.org/viking-trail-caravan-2024>

The 66th International Rally

Join us for the 66th International Rally in Rock Springs, WY

REGISTER ONLINE (login required).

Rock Springs, incorporated in 1888, is the largest city in Sweetwater County. Downtown Rock Springs has a long history of being a stopping point for everyone from early-day pioneers and bank robbers (Butch Cassidy earned his nickname working at a butcher shop in Downtown Rock Springs!) to modern-day travelers.



More about Things to Do in Sweetwater County

A close-knit community of diverse immigrant coal miners from 56 nations laid the foundation of the town's culture. Downtown Rock Springs boasts more than 15 locally owned bars and restaurants that are reflective of the city's multiculturalism. You can nosh on everything from all-American fare at Broadway Burger Station to Mexican food at Los Primos. A Rock Springs landmark since the 1930s, Boschetto's European Market & Deli was founded by Ben Boschetto who immigrated to Rock Springs from northern Italy.

The Bitter Creek Brewery offers legendary microbrews combined with a delectable menu. Remedies is a blast-from-the-past soda fountain and retro-style diner. You can get the best coffee drinks in town at Java Peddler, a unique barista business in a bike shop. For after dinner drinks, the Park Lounge serves up spirits with a smile and even hosts live local music.

Entertainment is easy for you to find in Downtown Rock Springs. The newly refurbished Broadway Theater is a live performance venue that hosts sold-out concerts, special events and other performances. The Community Fine Arts Center features a high caliber of blue-chip art and a performing arts program not typically found in communities the size of Rock Springs.

Meet the DelMarVa Airstream Club Officers and Volunteers

Being new to the DelMarVa Airstream Club myself, I thought it would be great to publish photos of our Officers and Volunteers at the beginning of the year so you might be able to pick them out at the upcoming meetings and rallies.



**Andy Dowell, President
And Webmaster**



**Katharine Dowell, Recording Secretary
And Trustee**



Chuck Helwig, Treasurer
(with Maggie)

Mike, Need a Photo

Mike Field, Trustee



Charlie Michels, Trustee
(with Nancy Eldridge)



Roger Sansom, Membership Chair
(with Celeste)



**Denis Clements, Newsletter Editor and Flag Bearer
At The Fryeburg, ME International Rally**

The Looking for Information and Advice Corner

If you would like to post a question or comment for the DelMarVa Airstream Club folks, please let me know.

Looking for nuggets that would be good info for our club members.

Looking for questions that you would prefer to keep in the club.

Editorial Review

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Send articles and content to the Newsletter Editor, Denis Clements: denis.clements@gmail.com

Articles submitted for publication must be sent to the newsletter editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication. Kindly use AIRSTREAM NEWSLETTER in the email subject line.
