

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

May 2023

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THE DELMARVA BEACON



DelMarVa Airstream Club / Joint Maintenance Rally, It Was a Wet One!
Photo by Katharine Dowell

**WBBCI: Wally Byam
Caravan Club International Inc.**

airstreamclub.org

Blue Beret online

blueberet@airstreamclub.org

**DelMarVa
Airstream Club #026**

airstreamclub.org/delmarva



DelMarVa Airstream Club #026 Officers and Volunteers

President.....
Andy Dowell

1st Vice President.....
Paul McVinney

2nd Vice President.....
Elaine McVinney

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# 6684, President DelMarVa Airstream Club



Hello DelMarVa Members:

Well, our first Club rally of the season - the Maintenance Rally - was, despite the weather, a huge success. A dozen units from the DelMarVa, Keystone and Mid Atlantic Clubs camped for the weekend at the Queen Anne County 4H Fairgrounds. Lots of maintenance activities, repairs and replacements took place, despite the chilly overcast skies. Many thanks to members Chuck and Maggie Helwig for organizing the rally, coordinating the maintenance activities, and for putting on a fantastic lasagna dinner Saturday. Thanks also to all of the other

DelMarVa Club members and members from our neighboring Clubs who chipped in to help make this a great event! Many thanks also, and a warm welcome, to new members Elaine and Paul McVinney, and Cathy, David and John Vorhees. Welcome to the Club!

We held our spring Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon. Most of the discussion surrounded the upcoming Region 2 and International Rallies, and the ongoing saga of us having to update our bylaws to align them with the Airstream Club's. The most exciting news is we now have 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents - Paul and Elaine McVinney have stepped up and have been sworn in. Thanks and Congratulations!

The next events on our calendar are the Region 2 and International Rallies. We hope to see some of you at either or both of these. Planning for the fall Installation Rally is underway. We are looking into having a boondocking-Harvest Host type event somewhere in DelMarVa, sometime in October.

Bon Voyage to Joann and Jamie Bull, as they head off to join the Alaska caravan. And Bon Voyage to anyone else venturing out in the coming months. We look forward to hearing tales of your travels soon! Congratulations also to Jaime Bull, for having a photo he took with his drone while on the Southwest Adventure Caravan grace the cover of the latest Blue Beret. Seeing that wagon wheel formation and reading fellow Caravanner Pat Lee's article brought back a lot of great memories. If you've ever thought of joining a caravan, ask around your Club, we have a fair bit of experience.

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

DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

- Region 2 Annual Rally
 - Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario
 - Dates: 2 June – 6 June, 2023
 - Contact: Check the ACI Website
- 66th International Rally
 - Location: Rock Springs, WY
 - Dates: 24 June – 30 June, 2023
 - Contact: Check the ACI Website
- July: TBD
- Aug: TBD
- Sep: 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

We're busy getting ready for this summer's adventures! It seems much longer than the two months since we took our trailer to Raleigh in February. I've been busy doing a bunch of work to the truck and trailer to prep for the trip, such as replacing the shower door in the trailer and the rear brakes in our pickup.

First on the agenda is the strategy session for the IBT, being held at Airstream's headquarters in May. I had a discussion with the facilitator last week, and I think we're going to have a good session, we'll have a lot of good ideas for the club.

The Region 2 rally is about two weeks after that. As of this writing, there are still a few spots available; June 2-6, 2023, Niagara Falls, Ontario. See <https://airstreamclub.org/region-2/2023-region-2-rally> for more information. If you're crossing the border, please check that page to make sure you're meeting both Canadian entry and US re-entry requirements. Pets, weapons, medicines, and fresh fruit are all potential sources of trouble. None of it seems onerous or surprising, but I don't want anyone to have issues at the border. After that rally, we'll be home for a few days, then we're off again for the International Rally in Wyoming (some issues with our jobs prevent us from traveling to Wyoming directly from the R2 rally). We'll mostly be traveling on weekends and working from the trailer during the week. We'll see those of you who are also going. We have a Region 2 happy hour planned, so check your programs or the app for the date and location of that. No charge or signups, just show up.

The list of candidates for the new Executive Council has been released - there are 30 people running for 9 seats! I'm thrilled to see so much enthusiasm for this; it's exactly the participation we were looking for. On the list, I see several people who are currently on the IBT, and several other people I recognize, including a few from Region 2. Please read their bios and vote starting June 1. (If you're wondering, I've decided not to run; I'd like to just be a regular club member for a while.) <https://airstreamclub.org/IBTCandidate/2023-executive-council-candidates> (You must be logged in to see the candidates.)

Region 2 Caravan Coordinator Kerry Matilla (#5417) is busy planning the Capital to Capital Caravan, September 15-19, 2023. Start in DC, end in Ottawa! More information is available in the flyer I've attached to these notes, and Kerry's contact email is 124caravan@airstreamclub.net. (Kerry is also planning next year's Maritimes Caravan and is one of the candidates for the Executive Council.)

I'm happy to announce that Ron Silco (#6958) of the Finger Lakes Airstream Club has taken over the Region 2 Webmaster duties. Thank you, Ron! I've asked Ron to work on updating or removing several pages that have gone stale during my tenure and help promote Region 2 events, like Kerry's caravans. I mentioned this last month, and I'm probably going to keep mentioning it until Gary takes over: The 2025 International Rally will be in Region 2, at the York Expo Center in York, Pennsylvania, August 23-28, 2025. I hope you all marked your calendars for it!

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

Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the DelMarVa Airstream Club Business Meeting

**Delmarva Airstream Club
Maintenance Rally Business Meeting
4-H Park, Centreville MD
April 29, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Club President Andy Dowell at 4 p.m.

Officers in attendance:

- President: Andy Dowell
- First Vice President: Vacant
- Second Vice President: Vacant
- Treasurer: Chuck Helwig
- Recording Secretary: Katharine Dowell
- Newsletter Editor: Denis Clements

Treasurers Report:

Chuck Helwig reported there is \$4300 in the treasury, an amount that has essentially remained consistent for many years. He stated will be moving the Club bank account away from Wells Fargo Bank to US Bank where it will be a commercial account under the WBCCI national account. This will be advantageous for many reasons including it will allow WBCCI to assist with account access should the Treasurer ever be unable to serve.

Chuck also noted that the 4H Fairgrounds has new management that has raised their rally fees considerably. Noting that the rates are not competitive with other facilities, Chuck will negotiate with the Fairground regarding lowering the Rally fees. This is especially important as the fees collected from those attending the Maintenance Rally this year will scarcely cover the new fees.

Old Business:

Minutes of the October 2022 Installation Rally meeting were published in the November Beacon. Andy motioned they be accepted. Katharine seconded. All were in favor.

Updates to Club Bylaws:

Our bylaws were approved in 2018, nominally the Clubs are due to update these every five years. Celeste Sansom has volunteered to assist with the update. Region 2 President RJ Marquette was contacted this week to provide an update on expectations from WBCCI and information on our status.

New Business:

President Andy discussed the upcoming Region 2 rally in June, and the June International Rally noting that he and Katharine will be attending both and asking for a show of hands regarding planned attendance. Andy asked for a volunteer to serve as International Rally flag bearer and possibly delegate if needed, due to his commitment to participate in the Airstream International Rally Band. Katharine agreed to step in as needed.

Membership:

Membership is currently 49 members, a number that is fairly consistent with recent years (typically 50 to 53). Affiliate membership is now up to 8 members. New members in attendance Paul and Elaine McVinney and Catherine and Dave Voorhees introduced themselves.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Paul and Elaine McVinney volunteered to serve as Delmarva Club's First and Second Vice Presidents, respectively. Club members voted to accept their nomination and President Andy Dowell swore them in.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Signed //Katharine Dowell//
Katharine Dowell

DelMarVa Airstream Club/Joint Maintenance Rally

Photos by: Katharine Dowell, BRN# 6684



DelMarVa Airstream Club President Andy Dowell swearing in:

Paul McVinney as First Vice President and

Elaine McVinney as Second Vice President

Replacement of the Airstream Black Tank Grommet/Rosette

An article by: Bart Balint and Melanie Gray, BRN# 2491

Sometimes you don't know what you will find when you look under your Airstream. A few years ago, I took a casual gander underneath our unit and found that the rubber Grommet/Rosette had deteriorated and was falling off. (Figure 1)

Hmm. What to do? I couldn't find any quick replacements on several Airstream parts sites, so I decided to make my own replacement. I completely removed the existing grommet and the screws that held it in place. The grommet had utterly dried out and was extremely fragile. I was surprised by the very "rough" and jagged opening that this grommet covered. (Figure 2) The original opening had to have been made at Jackson Center, as we have been the only owners of this unit, and we have never replaced or messed with the black tank pipes before.



Figure 1 - The old grommet patch needs some attention



Figure 2 - The rough cut from the original hole surprised me



Figure 3 - The new material to replace the old grommet

Once I received the replacement rubber, I measured a pretty close replica. (Figure 3)

Then using my drill press I carefully cut out the middle opening for the black pipe. (Figures 4 and 5)



Figure 4



Figure 5



I decided that I wasn't going to take the black pipe out to replace the grommet, so I cut one side of the new grommet so that it could slip over the existing pipe. (Figure 6)

This fit rather well, but I knew I would never be able to line up the old drill and screw holes, so I decided to drill new holes in the underlying sheet metal. The whole new patch

and grommet were lathered with TremPro 645, and new self-tapping sheet metal screws were placed. (Figure 7)



Figure 7 - Lots of TremPro and new self-tapping screws

This repair was fairly easy and is still holding up 5 years later!

This Month's Featured Caravan or Rally:

Rose Parade Rally 2024: December 28, 2023 - January 1, 2024



“The Original Urban Airstream Rally”

Registration for the Airstream Club's oldest urban rally opened at noon on 4/20/2023.

Join us as we celebrate the 42st annual Rose Parade Rally! This rally includes 4 nights of dry camping in a parking lot in downtown Pasadena.

Pasadena Tournament of Roses
391 South Orange Grove Boulevard
Pasadena, CA, 91184

Event Contact:
Margaret Handshoe, Rose Parade Rally Host
Email: roseparadeairstreamrally@gmail.com
Phone: 916-202-3688

Meet the DelMarVa Airstream Club Officers and Volunteers

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



**Andy Dowell, President
And Webmaster**



**Katharine Dowell, Recording Secretary
And Trustee**



Chuck Helwig, Treasurer
(with Maggie)



Mike Field, Trustee



Charlie Michels, Trustee
(with Nancy Eldridge)



Roger Sansom, Membership Chair
(with Celeste)



**Denis Clements, Newsletter Editor and Flag Bearer
At The 2022 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.
