

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

July 2023

**In This Issue:**

Page 2: DelMarVa President's  
Message

Page 2: DelMarVa Officers and  
Volunteers

Page 3: Region 2 President's  
Message

Page 3: 2023 Club Calendar

Page 5: Region 2 Rally,  
Niagara Falls, Canada

Page 6: A Local Trip: Checking  
out Historical Sites and Places  
of Beauty

Page 11: This Month's  
Featured Campground

Page 13: DelMarVa Airstream  
Club Installation Meeting and  
Rally

Page 14: Meet the DelMarVa  
Airstream Club Officers and  
Volunteers

Page 18: The Looking for  
Information and Advice  
Corner

# THE DELMARVA BEACON



Bella and the Beast at French Creek State Park, PA  
Photo by Denis Clements

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

[airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org)

**Blue Beret online**

[blueberet@airstreamclub.org](mailto:blueberet@airstreamclub.org)

**DelMarVa  
Airstream Club #026**

[airstreamclub.org/delmarva](http://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:

**Andy is On the Road  
Will Catch Up in The August Issue**

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

## DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

- July: TBD
- Aug: TBD
- Sep: TBD
- Fall Business Meeting with Installation of Officers
  - October 20 to 22
  - Delaware Seashore State Park
  - More info to follow

## Region 2 President

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

### Hello DelMarVa Members

THIS IS IT. My last Region 2 President's notes!

Although I started writing these weeks ago, I'm finishing them at the 2023 International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Erica and I left home in early June, after the Region 2 rally, and spent weekends traveling, and we worked from the Airstream during the week in St. Louis and the Denver areas.

First, the Region 2 Rally was a great success; thanks to Ray Barrick (BRN# 6497) and the Ontario Canada Airstream Club for making it memorable for all of us. Incoming Region 2 President Gary Russo (BRN# 1061), and soon-to-be First Vice President Patti Galupo (BRN# 22010), and incoming Second Vice President Matt Moore (BRN# 3937) are working on the plans for next year's rally.

We had a Region 2 Happy Hour at the Rock Springs rally. I'd estimate about a third of the Region 2 attendees were at the happy hour; a thunderstorm and another major event scheduled at the same time likely kept some people away. But we had a good time anyway!

My goal was to attend an event for every club in the Region during my tenure. Unfortunately, I only managed to visit 8 of the 14. In theory, the Region President, or his or her designee, is supposed to attend an event for every club in the region - but it's difficult for our region, given the number of clubs, and that events tend to get scheduled on the same weekends. However, as our Region 2 presidents get practice planning for this goal, we'll get better at it over time.

I've avoided talking about specific club rallies I've attended, because I didn't want to come across as reviewing the rally or the club. We've met quite a few members of the region, and a few people outside the region, and had instant connections with many of them. Everyone has been extremely welcoming, and we've always had a great time.

Prior to taking on this region president role, I had not visited the rally of any other club, or a region rally. That was a mistake; we were missing a lot. Don't hide in your club.

I'd like to encourage each club to do more joint rallies. I know some clubs have standing joint rallies with others, but consider spreading beyond that. I'd like to challenge each club to do a joint rally with one other club every year - whether it be another Region 2 club, or a club in another region. You'll meet new friends, see new places, and have new ideas. Break up any monotony that has set in!

Although my time as region president is at an end, I do want to continue helping the club. We've already been involved in preliminary plans for the 2025 International Rally in York, Pennsylvania, and International President Eric McHenry (BRN# 153) just told me that more questions are on the way. Erica and I are thrilled to be a part of the planning.

I have to thank Past President Rich Short (BRN# 1512) for his guidance. You may recall I came into the Region 2 leadership only a few months before becoming president, and Rich taught me everything he could in the time available and provided advice well beyond that. Gary and Patti have been partners in crime over the last two years, too - always ready to listen and give advice.

I also have to thank everyone I've talked to during the last two years. You were supportive, and many of you reassured me that I was doing a good job. Thank you.

Of course, I also have to thank Erica. Her support and advice have been invaluable.

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

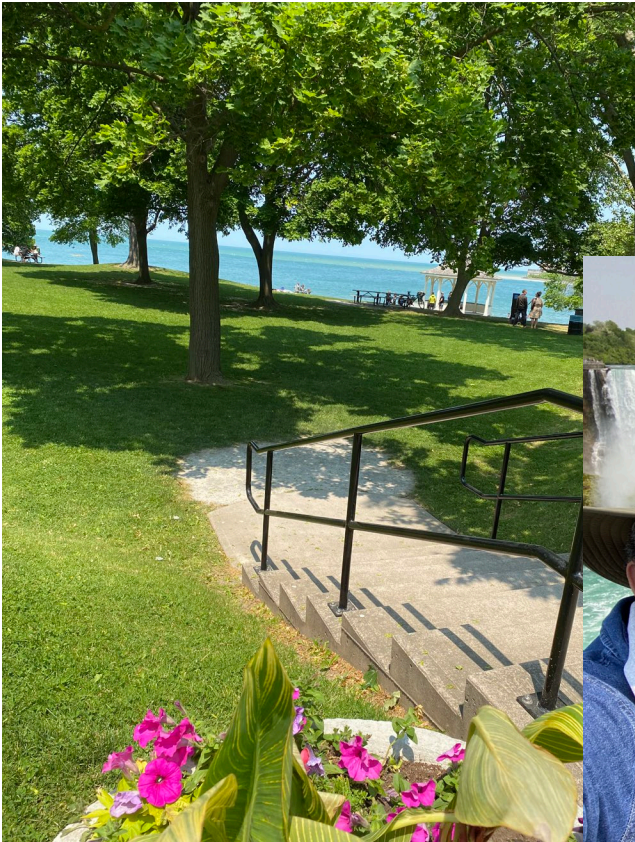


## Region 2 Rally: Niagara Falls, Canada

An Article by: Katharine Dowell, BRN# 6684

Photos by Katharine Dowell

Andy and Katharine Dowell attended the early June Region 2 Rally in Niagara Falls, Ontario. One hundred trailers & motorhomes were in attendance with 40 being from the U.S. In addition to Andy and Katharine, De Matthews and Maggie and Chuck Helwig also made the trip.



We enjoyed the warm Canadian welcome as well as a group dinner and showing of the 1953 film noir classic 'Niagara' starring Marilyn Monroe - complete with movie theater treats including popcorn and candy. There was time for attendee visits to the many Niagara area attractions.



We toured the Falls and the Skylon Tower including a dinner buffet with a view. We also spent a great day in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake, leaving the completed Rally for Michigan just before the Quebec wildfire smoke hit.

Kudos to the organizers.



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## A Local Trip: Checking out Historical Sites and Places of Beauty

An Article by: Denis and Liz Clements, BRN# 19490

Photos by Liz Clements

Liz and I recently took a local trip to see a few areas that we had seen before and some new areas as well; we simply wanted to hit the road for a few days of enjoying the outdoors and our Airstream, Bella, along with our Welsh Terrier, Owen.

We decided to check out French Creek State Park in southeast Pennsylvania. We have stayed at a few Pennsylvania state parks in the past and have found them to be very nice. French Creek State Park is quite large and has about 4 or 5 loops of camping. Loop A, where we stayed, is pet friendly with full hookups. Unfortunately, our site was on a bit of a slope so we had to jack the front of the trailer up a bit more than usual and use our Anderson Leveler blocks to raise one side.

There is an effort underway to develop what will be known as Hopewell Big Woods. This will consist of French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Pennsylvania State Game Lands #43, Natural Lands Crows Nest Preserve and other preserved forest tracts that will make up the largest forested area in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Of note, Natural Lands is an organization similar to the Nature Conservancy. They are taking over large tracts of land in southeastern Pennsylvania and preserving them as ecologically important areas. We hiked their Crows Nest Preserve tract, very nice, especially for us birders.



Common Yellowthroat at the Natural Lands Crows Nest Preserve

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If you have not been to the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, it is well worth visiting if you're in the area. It is about 50 miles west northwest of Philadelphia. Here is a short note from the National Park Service website:

"How American Industrialization Began. Hopewell Furnace showcases an early American landscape of industrial operations from 1771-1883.

Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant for the time. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation."



Hopewell Furnace, Ironmaking Complex



A Stove Plate



The Owner's Home



Tenant Homes



A few miles north of the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is Daniel Boone's birthplace at the Daniel Boone Homestead. While he didn't live here all that long, the site is interesting and worth a visit. There are several preserved buildings and items of interest.



Daniel Boone was born in a log cabin that was at this site, the foundation of the log cabin foundation is the foundation of the left portion of this building.



Liz and I always like to visit small towns and cities that are not on the popular lists, just so we can see what's there. We ate lunch in Birdsboro, PA at a former railroad station. Across the street was an even older wooden railroad station that has been preserved but not yet developed for visits. Quite an interesting building, nonetheless.

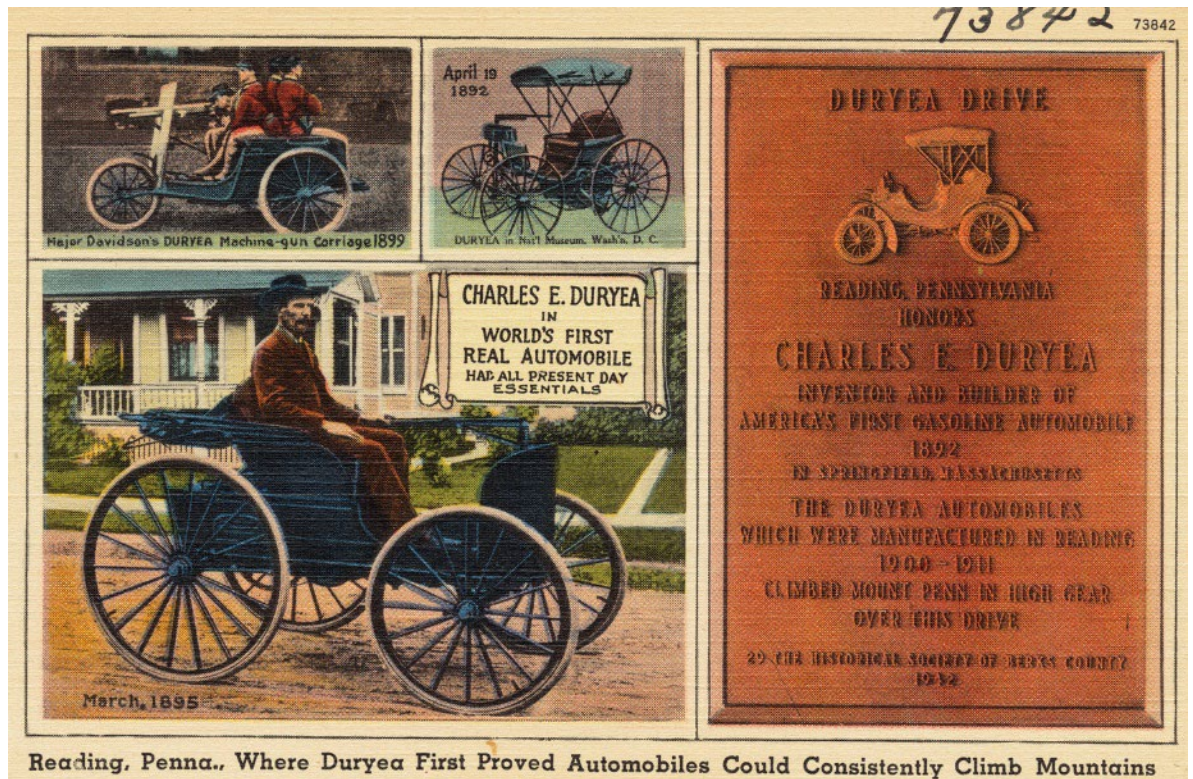


It is great to find the local curiosity when you make a visit to a small town or city. Reading, PA was not a disappointment in this regard. We visited the "famous" Pagoda. It sits atop the highest point in Reading. It was constructed as a seven-story luxury hotel around 1900.



I think you had to be a fairly hardy sole to take the coach ride to get to the hotel, and once there, you were pretty much stuck. Nice view though.

The Duryea Motor Car Company was located in Reading and used the road to the Pagoda as its test track to prove that their motor car could climb mountains (well, a big hill anyway). Our GMC Yukon did just fine, I'll pass on riding in a Duryea going up that "mountain."



Reading, Penna., Where Duryea First Proved Automobiles Could Consistently Climb Mountains



From French Creek State Park, we relocated to the PHILADELPHIA / WEST CHESTER KOA. Not bad, not great. It is the closest campground to Longwood Gardens, about 20 minutes away. However, if you do choose to stay there, make sure you check the way in. Although you could use the same road to get there from the east or west, only one of these ways will allow you to avoid an impossible 90 degree turn onto a small bridge. Check your map for the correct way in.

Wrapping up our trip, we made a visit to Longwood Gardens. If you are not aware of Longwood, it is one of the former DuPont estates near Kennett Square, PA. It is one of the finest gardens in the United States. It is undergoing some major construction at this time to expand the "Conservatory" and to update their



greenhouses and administration buildings. Because of this, the indoor viewing is somewhat limited. However, the outdoor gardens and fountain displays are as great as ever. Check it out!

The Italian Water Garden at Longwood Gardens

The Silver Conservatory at Longwood Gardens



So, as you can see, I'm a bit of a history and trivia buff. The out of the way places are always the most fascinating places to visit.



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## This Month's Featured Campground:

**Quick Review: Penn Wood Airstream Park**

**Story and Photos by: Paul & Elaine McVinney: BRN# 7815**

Overview: We stayed only one night at Penn Wood on our way west on a longer trip. This park is worth a longer stay!



"Anyone who is traveling in an Airstream is welcome to stay at Penn Wood. Penn Wood Airstream Park is owned and operated by the Penn Wood Campground Association as a non-profit corporation."

999 Kindel Road  
New Bethlehem PA,  
16242  
814-764-8963  
<https://pennwood.org>

Reservations  
\$40 per day for any  
Airstream owner. \$240  
per week (7th day free).

ACI membership not  
required  
Don't pay when you make  
a reservation. Drop your  
payment in the box at the  
office when you arrive.

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Arrival: Good directions from map apps. We were welcomed by owners and the camp hosts quickly.

Amenities: Parking: Guests (non-owners) park in a large, open grassy field. Sites: Each guest site has water, sewer, and 30A power. Sites were very close together, but because there weren't many guests at the time, we had plenty of room between rigs. (Owner sites are wooded.)

Central bathhouse with restrooms and shower.

Propane refill station is at the entrance.

Overall: Very clean park Friendly, welcoming residents/owners. One owner came over in the rain to let us know our truck window was open. Social events a few times a week. Even though we were only staying one night, we were invited to a Mon night dinner (no cost) within minutes of our arrival. Lots of food and desserts. BYOB.



Dogs: Most owners have dogs. All dogs were on a leash. Limited to two dogs per rental site

- Cell/Wifi
- No Verizon service
- Free camp wifi provides great bandwidth

Penn Wood is a great choice if you're looking for a place to chill for a week or two in a beautiful location with a vibrant social scene on site.



# **DelMarVa Airstream Club Installation Meeting and Rally October 20 through 22, 2023**

**Delaware Seashore State Park**

**Web Site: <https://destateparks.com/Beaches/DelawareSeashore>**



**Plan now to attend the DelMarVa Airstream Club Fall Rally and Club Installation Meeting.**

**Please join us for this important club gathering.**

**The meeting will be held at a nearby restaurant, details to follow.**

**Both the North and South Camping Areas are available through October 31.**

**Sites with full hook-up are available at both areas.**

**We will be providing additional information regarding this activity.**

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## 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**

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**Chuck Helwig, Treasurer**  
(with Maggie)



**Mike Field, Trustee**

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**Charlie Michels, Trustee**  
(with Nancy Eldridge)



**Roger Sansom, Membership Chair**  
(with Celeste)

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**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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