

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

November 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: 2023-2024 Club Calendar

Page 5: Minutes of the DelMarVa
Airstream Club Installation Meeting

Page 7: Article: DelMarVa
Airstream Club Installation Rally

Page 11: Article: The Great Utah
Adventure

Page 18: Meet the DelMarVa
Airstream Club Officers and
Volunteers

Page 22: The Looking for
Information, Advice Corner, and
For Sale Items

THE DELMARVA BEACON



Roadside Antelope, See the Great Utah Adventure, Page 11
Photo by Liz Clements

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

airstreamclub.org

Blue Beret online

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**DelMarVa
Airstream Club #026**

airstreamclub.org/delmarva



DelMarVa Airstream Club #026 Officers and Volunteers

President.....
Paul McVinney

1st Vice President.....
Elaine McVinney

Recording Secretary.....
Katharine Dowell

Treasurer.....
Chuck Helwig

Trustees.....
Katharine Dowell
Andy Dowell

Member Engagement

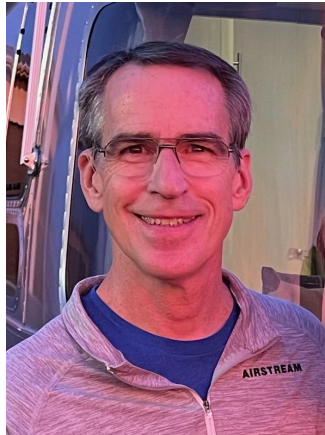
Membership Chair.....
Roger Sansom

Webmaster.....
Andy Dowell

Newsletter Editor.....
Denis Clements

DelMarVa Club President

By Paul McVinney, BRN# 07815, President DelMarVa Airstream Club



Hello Fellow DelMarVa Airstream Club Members!

I'm happy to be your new president and am looking forward to meeting each of you in person. My wife Elaine is 1st Vice President, and we are glad to be part of a special group, one that shares a love of Airstream camping, the camaraderie of meeting fellow Airstream owners

while on the road, and the benefits of Airstream Club membership.

My background is mainly a military career with the US Air Force. Elaine and I spent a number of years in the Washington DC area, and now that we are fully retired we sold our home in Maryland and live in what was our rental home in Lewes, DE. Since we moved around a lot, Elaine had a varied career, mainly centering on sales and catering. Food and fabric (quilting and knitting) are her current creative outlets.

We developed a plan for the Delmarva Club for 2023-2024 which you can read in the newsletter. Some dates still need to be adjusted, but basically, I'd like to meet everyone over the winter at local lunches and in the summer at local club rallies. I am completely open to your suggestions and have already received a couple of great ideas to improve the plan. Please do send me your feedback at mcvinneys@gmail.com.

**Safe Travels, and we hope to see you down the road!
Paul McVinney, BRN# 07815**

DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

Dec 10, 2023: Lewes/Rehoboth, DE
Holiday Party;
Location TBD;
Host-is DelMarVa AS Club

Jan 13, 2024: Dover, DE
Share Travel Stories from 2023
Luncheon;
Location TBD;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

Feb 11, 2024: Centreville, MD
Mingling Luncheon;
Location TBD;
Host is DelMarVa

Mar 16, 2024: Wilmington, DE
Travel Planning 20214 Luncheon;
Location TBD;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

Apr 19-21, 2024: Maintenance
Rally, may be joint with another
Region 2 AS Club;
Location 4H Club Campground,
Centreville, MD;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

May 2-5, 2024: Region 2 Rally;
Location 169 Homan Lane, Centre
Hall PA 16828;
Host is Region 2

May 3-5, 2024: Joint Rally
w/Keystone;
Location Lums Pond State Park, DE;
Host is Keystone AS Club

Region 2 President

By Garry Russo, BRN# 1061, President, Region 2



Hello DelMarVa Members,
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 like to introduce the other Region 2 team members:

- 1st VP Patti Galupo:
Patti is from the Washington DC Unit.
- 2nd VP Matt Moore: Matt is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Corresponding Secretary Suzanne Russo: Suzanne is from the New Your Finger Lakes Unit
- Recording Secretary Judy Cahall: Judy is from the Watchung New Jersey Airstream Club
- Treasurer Will Kushto: Will is from the Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Membership Chair Colleen Ahlers: Colleen is from the Metropolitan New York Airstream Club
- Newsletter Editor Cody Klingler: Cody is from the AL-MON-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club
- Webmaster Ronald Silco: Ron is from the New Your 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.

Jun 7-9, 2024: DelMarVa Rally;
Location Kiptopeke State Park, DE;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

June 19-21, 2024: DelMarVa Rally,
Location Elk Neck State Park, MD,
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

Aug 16-18, 2024: DelMarVa Family
Rally;
Location Assateague State Park,
MD;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

Sep 20-22, 2014: DelMarVa Rally;
Location Crisfield American Legion,
MD;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club;
Contact Roger Sansom concerning
reservations.

Oct 5-10, 2024: 2024 International
Rally;
Location Sedalia, MO;
Host is ACI International

Oct 11-13, 2024: Joint Rally with
Keystone AS Club, Installation Rally
for DelMarVa AS Club;
National Apple Harvest Festival at
South Mountain Fairgrounds, Route
234 near Arendtsville, PA;
Campground will be near
Gettysburg, PA;
Host is Keystone AS Club

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 dates, May 2 to May 5, 2024. The location is the Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, PA. 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.

With that said, safe travels and see you down the road!
Garry Russo, BRN# 1061

DelMarVa Airstream Club Installation Meeting

Held October 21, 2023

Meeting Minutes

DelMarVa Airstream Club #026
INSTALLATION MEETING
Salted Rim Restaurant
Millville, DE
October 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Dowell at 5:15 p.m., including the Pledge of Allegiance and member introductions around the room. Sixteen Club members were in attendance, including Paul and Elaine McVinney via Facetime.

OFFICERS Present at Roll Call:

President	Andy Dowell
Treasurer	Chuck Helwig
Newsletter Editor	Denis Clements
Recording Secretary	Katharine Dowell
Trustees	Katharine Dowell

Approval of Prior Minutes:

Minutes of the April 2023 business meeting at the Maintenance Rally were published in the May 2023 Beacon. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote after Chuck motioned.

Treasurer's Report:

Chuck Helwig reported that there was about \$4500 in the treasury, an amount that's been fairly consistent for the last 15-18 years or so.

In addition, Chuck noted he has completed the recommended Club account transition to U.S. Bank -- which is administered by the WBCCI. He and all future treasurers are now mere signees -- not administrators -- facilitating account transfer to new treasurers and account recovery should there be a need as treasurers move on.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Chuck is taking the lead to set up the 2024 Maintenance Rally at the 4H Fair Grounds in Centerville, MD. He is negotiating with the Fairgrounds about their rates since they have been raised and are no longer competitive. The date is set for the April 19- 21 weekend.

Andy noted that members can order new updated nametags from WBCCI, if needed and the Treasurer will reimburse.

Chuck nominated and Sarah Cooksey seconded the nomination of Andy and Katharine Dowell to be the Trustees. All were in favor.

Finally, President Andy Dowell conducted the swearing in on the new officers in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

OFFICERS FOR 2023-2024

President	Paul McVinney
1st Vice President	Elaine McVinney
2nd Vice President	vacant
Treasurer	Chuck Helwig
Recording Secretary	Katharine Dowell
Membership Chair	Roger Sansom
Newsletter Editor	Denis Clements
Trustees	Andy Dowell
	Katharine Dowell

The second half of the meeting led by Paul McVinney opened at 5:30 p.m.

Paul presented the proposed full Club Calendar for 2024, subject to adjustments. Paul welcomes input and noted that he will be looking for volunteers and suggestions regarding the calendar events. Chuck suggested some rallies/events take place during the week, not just on weekends, as well. The Bulls volunteered to host the January luncheon. The calendar was unanimously approved after Chuck motioned and Denis seconded.

The meeting was adjourned by President Paul McVinney at 5:50 pm.

Members in attendance:

Jamie and Joanne Bull	Denis and Liz Clements
Andy and Katharine Dowell	Chuck & Maggie Helwig
Sarah and Mike Cooksey	Bill Turner and Sharon Mirto
Catherine and David Voorhees	Paul and Elaine McVinney

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Dowell
Recording Secretary

DelMarVa Airstream Club Installation Rally

Held October 19 - 22, 2023

An Article by: Katharine Dowell, BRN# 6684

Photos by Katharine Dowell



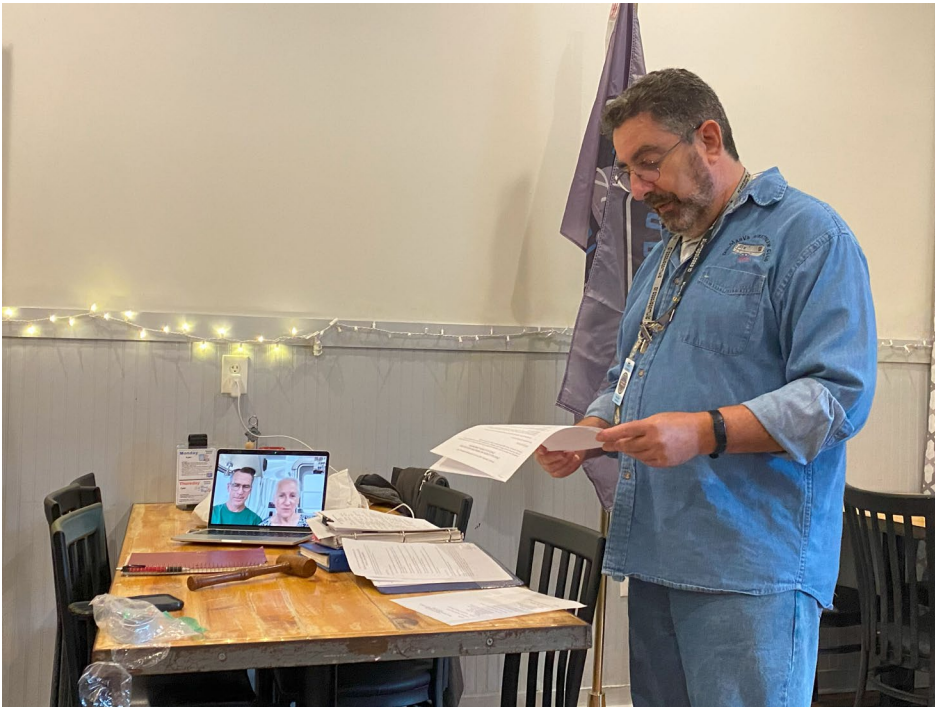
The 2023 Installation Rally was held at Delaware Seashore State Park. A small and hardy group braved the sometimes rainy and extremely windy weather to enjoy camping time by the beach.

The Cookseys and Dowells enjoyed an impromptu happy hour at the Cooksey's trailer and a meal at the Park's Big Chill Beach Club overlooking the ocean.

The Dowells and Turners enjoyed a festive day out at Ocean City's Sunfest, with music and numerous craft vendors, as well as lunch on the Boardwalk.



Saturday evening, the three sets of campers as well as the other dinner and meeting attendees convened at the Salted Rim restaurant for an enjoyable dinner and libations following a quick Installation Meeting in a private room.



Andy swearing in the McVineys

Chuck and Maggie Helwig
with Bill and Sharon Turner





Catherine, Dave, and John Vorhees

James and Joanne Bull



Sarah and Mike Cooksey



Weather Sunday morning dawned clear, allowing a last look at the ocean and inlet.

The Great Utah Adventure

First Time West of the Rockies for Bella and the Beast

An Article by: Denis Clements, BRN# 19490

Photos by Liz Clements and Denis Clements

We planned out a 30-day trip with the objective of going west of the Rockies with Bella, our 2017 27' International Serenity FBQ.



Ready to Hit the Road - The Beast pulling Bella

Our target was southern Utah and the five National Parks there: Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, and Arches. We elected to avoid going through Colorado and the Rockies, so we used I70 then I80 going west and I40 and I70 coming back. Eastbound, we went from Delaware through Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and up to I80 in Iowa, then west on I80 through Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and dropped down into Utah near Ogden.

We like to go only a short distance on our first travel day, so we camped at Tuckahoe State Park, MD. This is a nice park and campground, we might want to consider it for a DelMarVa Airstream Club Rally. From there, we headed to Barkcamp State Park, OH - as usual, state park campgrounds are the best for cost and quality. Next up was Kickapoo State Recreation Area, IL, followed by a stop at the Des Moines West KOA Holiday, IA for a one-day breather and laundry. We travel between 350 and 400 miles per day and like to have a day's break after 2-3 days on the road.

We then headed to our first ever Harvest Host site, this one is located in North Platte, NE. The location was Pals Brewing Company, North Platte, NE. If you are traveling I80 through Nebraska, this is a good choice, they have over a dozen back-in and pull-through sites (no services of course). The place is pretty isolated but convenient to I80 and the beer is good.



The next stop was the KOA Journey in Rawlins, WY. From Rawlins, we continued west on I80 onto I84 through Ogden, UT to Antelope Island State Park, our first Utah destination. Antelope Island is a great state park, the island is connected to the mainland by a seven-mile causeway through the Great Salt Lake.



The Bison Visiting Our Campsite

It is home to a herd of over 500 bison along with other wildlife such as antelope and mule deer and it is a major migratory bird stopping place. The bison pretty much “own” the island. They move throughout the park and seem to really like hanging out at the campground. When returning to our campsite one evening after dark, I had just started to back into our site when I saw a bison standing directly behind the car and in front of the trailer. Quick stop!

And yes, don’t pet the fluffy cows!

One of our other must do activities for this trip was to complete the American Volkssport Association (AVA) “Capitol Walk” in Salt Lake City. We have done AVA Capitol Walks in 44 states so far.

From Antelope Island we headed south for Apple Valley, UT and the Range RV Campground - the base for our visit to Zion National Park. While it is a commercial campground, it was very nice and just happened to be hosting a FROG (Forest River Owners Group) Caravan. The FROGs were nice folks and very well organized.



Court of the Patriarchs, Zion National Park

We visited the Zion Canyon area of the park, touring via the shuttle bus from the Visitor’s Center. It was a bit overcast with on and off light rain which made for interesting views of the valley with light clouds touching the tops of the canyon walls.



Kolob Canyon, Zion National Park

We also drove into the Kolob Canyon section of the park and up the Kolob Terrace Road to the reservoir, where there were stunning views along the way and at the top. The Kolob section of the park is less visited and well worth the trip.

After Apple Valley we headed to Otter Creek State Park, UT on the Otter Creek Reservoir. This would be our campsite for visiting Bryce Canyon National Park. It is a smaller campground, maybe 40 sites, right against the reservoir and about 30 miles north of the entrance to Bryce.

I was surprised to learn that people often skip Bryce as it is quite isolated, but in my opinion, it is the most colorful and inspiring of the five national parks that we visited.



Campsite at Otter Creek State Park, UT

We got to Bryce early in the morning, and per the park info suggestion, we drove directly to Rainbow Point at the south end of the park scenic road. We then slowly made our way back north to the entrance, stopping at most of the viewpoints along the canyon rim.



The colors and intricate hoodoos are not to be missed. We did a short hike with Owen, our Welsh Terrier, on the canyon rim, walking from Sunrise Point to Sunset Point (it's the only trail in the park that is dog friendly). The views were fantastic.

View of Bryce Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park



View from the Rim Trail, Bryce Canyon National Park



View Along State Route 24, Capitol Reef National Park

After our time at Otter Creek, we headed for Moab, UT passing through Capitol Reef National Park on the way via State Route 24.

Trailers over 23 feet are restricted in Capitol Reef National Park, so we did not do the scenic drive in the park. However, the scenery along State Route 24 was pretty amazing.

We did stop at the Fruita area of the park. Mormons settled this little village in a valley, planting numerous fruit orchards. The Park Service has maintained the orchards and uses the fruit for pies that can be purchased at a small shop in the park. The pies (apple for Liz, cherry for Denis) were delicious. You can also “pick your own” if the fruit is ripe in the orchards.

We ended the day at the Sun Outdoors Arches Gateway Campground in Moab. The campground is only about two miles from the entrance to Arches National Park and approximately 30 miles from the Islands in the Sky District of Canyonlands National Park. The campground was cramped and expensive, but the location was good.



View of the Buttes, Canyonlands National Park

We opted to visit the Needles District of Canyonlands at the south end of the park, passing through a section of Bears Ears National Monument. Needles, because of its distance from Moab, is less visited than the very popular Islands in the Sky District of the park. We took a couple dirt roads in the park that were a bit challenging, but the scenery was awe inspiring.

The next day we headed to Arches National Park at our designated entry time. Timed passes are required at Arches and need to be reserved far in advance. September through November is a very busy time at Arches because the temperatures are less brutal than the summer months. We wound our way through Arches on the scenic drive, making many viewing and short hike stops. Though the Park Service limits access, parking at the various sites is problematic. Without the timed access system, the park experience would be poor.



Double Arch, Arches National Park

A highlight for me at Arches was seeing the Double Arch - my father had photographed the Double Arch in the late 1940's (before my time) when he and the family took a trip similar to the one Liz and I were on. The photograph hung over our basement bar in my childhood home, and I saw it almost daily growing up.

Delicate Arch, Arches National Park



After ending the Utah portion of our trip, we went south to a KOA Journey Campground in Grants, NM. Nothing special other than a level site, a good laundry, and a free pancake breakfast. From Grants we headed east on I40 to Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the Grand Canyon of Texas, just south of Amarillo. We were intrigued since that area of Texas is extremely flat.



Palo Duro Canyon, Palo Duro Canyon State Park, TX

Lo and behold, the flatness ended abruptly at the entrance to the park with a narrow, winding two-lane road featuring a 10% grade with switchbacks that descended nearly 1,000 feet into the canyon.

Glad for low gear and good brakes! This park is quite beautiful, but evidence of serious past floods can be seen along the roads and in the campgrounds.

After Palo Duro, we headed to Brush Creek Public Use Area, a Corps of Engineers campground at the Keystone Dam near Sand Springs, OK. With our senior discount, a full hook-up cost us just \$12.50 - best camping price on the trip. Liz did not make the connection when we were making reservations, but once we drove across the dam to the campground, she recognized that this was a dam that her father, an Army Corps of Engineers officer, had worked on in the early 1960's. She and her family lived in Tulsa, OK for a few years while her father worked on the dam, Tulsa being just a few miles east and south of the dam.

Continuing east, we traveled to a small commercial campground near St. James, MO, staying for a few days while visiting my sister who has a small cabin on the Meramec River near St. James. Then it was major travel time, through Indianapolis (Indianapolis KOA Holiday), Pittsburgh (Madison/ Pittsburgh S.E. KOA) to the Family Travel Camp at Ft. Belvoir, VA. If you are retired military, this is a great campground on Gunston Cove off of the Potomac River. We stopped there for a few days so we could visit with Liz's father and sister who live in Springfield, VA. We wrapped up our trip with the final leg across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Lewes, DE.

We traveled through 16 states, several of them twice, and clocked just over 7,000 miles. No issues with our tow vehicle or with Bella, although we did need to do a thorough interior cleaning of Bella when we got back to rid us of all the red Utah dust.

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.



Paul and Elaine McVinney
President and 1st Vice President, Respectively



Chuck Helwig, Treasurer
(with Maggie)



Katharine Dowell, Recording Secretary and Trustee



Andy Dowell, Webmaster and Trustee



Roger Sansom, Membership Chair
(with Celeste)



Denis Clements, Newsletter Editor

The Looking for Information, Advice Corner, and For Sale Items from our Members

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

The DelMarVa Beacon is published monthly by the DelMarVa Airstream Club Inc., #026.

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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.
