

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

December 2023

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THE DELMARVA BEACON



The McVinney Escape Pod and Launch Vehicle at Penn Wood Airstream Park, PA
Photo by Paul McVinney

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

airstreamclub.org

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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

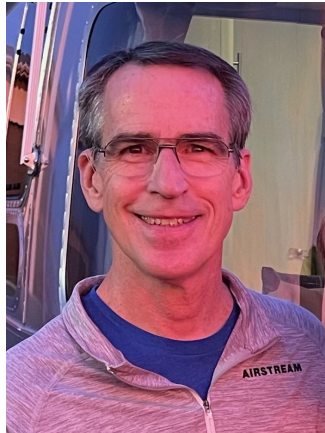
Membership Chair.....
Roger Sansom

Webmaster.....
Andy Dowell

Newsletter Editor.....
Denis Clements

DelMarVa Club President

By Paul McVinney, BRN# 7815, President DelMarVa Airstream Club



Hello Fellow DelMarVa Airstream Club Members!

Happy December! I hope you enjoyed your year of Airstream travel. Since we aren't camping over the winter we'll be chatting about travel at our upcoming lunch, this month in the Lewes/Rehoboth area on Dec 13 at Iron Hill Brewery on Coastal Highway in Rehoboth Beach at 12 noon. Instead of a holiday party I'd like to recap our year of travel. I want to hear from you! Where did you go? How was your experience? What did you do there? Would you go again? Advice from fellow travelers is always welcome. Did anyone participate in an Airstream rally or caravan?

We are not camping over the winter as a club, but some of us are headed south soon. After we get the Escape Pod out of Colonial Airstream in January, we will launch out to Recreation Plantation RV Resort in Lady Lake, FL, for the month of February. It's near The Villages where some of our friends will be renting a home.

Thank you to James & Joanne Bull for organizing the January luncheon! Mark your calendars for Thurs, Jan 4 at JD Shuckers in Georgetown.

Our 2024 Delmarva Club plan lists something nearly every month and I'm completely open to your ideas for improving it. Thank you to Katharine Dowell and Catherine Voorhees for your suggestions. Please send me your feedback at mcvinneys@gmail.com.

Thank you for being 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.

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

DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

Dec 13, 2023, 12:00pm: DelMarVa Holiday Party;
Location: Iron Hill Brewery, Rehoboth, DE;
Host-is DelMarVa AS Club

Jan 4, 2024, 1:00pm: DelMarVa Luncheon Share Travel Stories from 2023;
Location: JD Shuckers Georgetown, DE;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club
Note: Please note that the restaurant policy is 1 check per table (6 seats per table)
Either CASH or 1 credit card

Mar 12, 2024: Club Luncheon Travel Planning 20214;
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 3-5, 2024: Region 2 Rally;
Location: Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair, 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 Gary Russo, BRN# 1061, President, Region 2

**Hello DelMarVa Members,
A Poem:**

'Twas a weekend after our trailer was asleep, when all through the house
No flamingoes were stirring, not even my spouse;

The freshwater hoses were drained and dry,
Ready in anticipation for next year I cannot lie.

Black and gray water tanks are drained and clean
To make sure they smell fresh and had a sparkly sheen.

The trailer freshwater lines of which there are many,
Were blown out and clean as a new penny.

Now there was that pink stuff to be pumped to prevent any pipe freeze
So heading back on the road would be a breeze.

Propane tanks to be turned off, batteries to be disconnected and trickle charger on
So in the Spring it would not be necessary to call our trusted mechanic, John.

Tow Vehicle, OnStar, Sirius XM along with Starlink put into suspension.
My wife and I sat on the couch thinking of last summer's adventures, too many to mention.

Suddenly we both sprang to our feet
Realizing that deadlines for next year's travels we need to meet.

We wish you a happy winter season with many celebrations.
See you next year on the road – who knows in which locations!

Jun 4-7, 2024: DelMarVa Rally;
Location: Kiptopeke State Park, DE;
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

June 15-18, 2024: DelMarVa Rally,
Location: Elk Neck State Park, MD,
Host is DelMarVa AS Club

Aug 16-18, 2024: DelMarVa Family
Rally;
Location: TBD;
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;
Location: National Apple Harvest
Festival at South Mountain
Fairgrounds, Route 234 near
Arendtsville, PA;
Campground will be near
Gettysburg, PA;
Host is Keystone AS Club

My December Message

This time of year can be slow for camping, unless you are heading South like a winter bird. During this time, I have been catching up with my reading of the newsletters from Region 2 clubs. There are several well written articles about the adventures that Airstreamers have taken. I was recently talking to Eric McHenry about the Blue Beret. The editorial staff of the Blue Beret is looking for articles for the magazine. The articles provided would be used for hard and electronic issues of the Blue Beret. It would be great to have several articles from Region 2 represented in the Blue Beret. Some of you have great photos and a terrific back story to go with them. Region 2 has vistas and camping sites that rival the South/West. Margaret Saylor is the incoming chair of the Publications Standing Committee, and she is from Region 2. I am sure she would be excited to see articles from our Region in the publication. Don't be surprised if she contacts you for permission to print your article.

At the Sampson State Park rally last August we had multiple trailers from 'warmer' parts of the US. They must have been looking for relief from the heat. We also had a strong turnout from the Canadians! Seeing the popularity of that rally event, I've been informed that the three NYS clubs are sponsoring a rally again at Sampson State Park during the same time in August. Last year, due to the popularity, they had to turn people away. This year they have been able to increase the number of sites available for the event. It is my understanding that their theme this year is a Taste of New York. Time will tell what they have planned for the event.

Not to be outdone, the Region 2 Rally at Centre Hall, PA, is also being planned. Registration and information will be rolled out in January of 2024. Pursue Your Happiness in Pennsylvania is the theme for the Region 2 Rally.

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

Colorado Fly Fishing and National Parks

An Article by: Catherine Voorhees BRN# 7551

Photos by: Catherine Voorhees

The Voorhees began our trek to higher elevations at Cooper's Rock State Park in West Virginia the last weekend in August. The McCollum Campground (2,132 ft elevation) is off of I-68, has laundry facilities and is expanding its electric only campsites to include around 30 more electric and water hook-up campsites. There are several hiking trails including a paved trail to an overlook of the Cheat River near Cooper's Rock. Willy enjoyed the trail around the reservoir/pond across from the campground. Venturing west on I-64, we stopped at Carter Caves State Resort Park for a one-night stay with full hookups and laundry. We saw the blue moon at the end of August while at the Dr. Edmund A Babler State Park Campground (50amp E) outside of St. Louis Missouri on I-64. We tend to stop at Babler when going west as it is located in a suburban area with lots of services and retail. We stayed at the West Rolling Hills Campground (E/W, 1074 elevation) on Milford Lake off of I-70 near Junction City Kansas for three nights. We had a great view of the lake from our campsite and the wild sunflowers were everywhere.

John Martin Reservoir State Park Campground was our first stop in Hasty Colorado (southeast CO off of US 50 - elevation 3898 ft). Our site was a handicap site adjacent to the bathhouse and laundry. On our way to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, we climbed Monarch Pass (elevation 11,312 ft), ate lunch at Monarch Pass, and drove on a dirt road where US 50 was under construction. Our campsite at the south rim of the Black Canyon was at 8,000 ft elevation.



Black Canyon of the Gunnison

John at Our Camp Site at Black Canyon of the Gunnison



We drove South Rim Drive that follows the canyon rim for 7 miles and got out to view the canyon at several overlooks. There is another road that goes down to the Gunnison River where Dave fished for trout with other fisherman. We also saw a female mountain sheep and two kayakers who went into the Gunnison River and later saw the kayakers from above as they made their way down the canyon.

Our next stop was Glenwood Springs West/Colorado River KOA (5,761 ft elevation) where we camped on the Colorado River. We traveled to Basalt CO and the FryingPan River, another gold medal trout stream.



Dave Fishing the FryingPan River

We also dipped in the hot springs at Iron Mountain in Glenwood Springs. Onward to the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park via the Colorado River Road and the Routt National Forest. Dave tried to take Willy hunting, but we came upon a black bear. We camped at TimberCreek Campground (8,900 ft elevation) after driving through areas burnt by the Troublesome fire in Oct. 2020. The next morning, we drove the Trail Ridge Rd to Bear Lake Rd climbing to 11,796 ft elevation at the Alpine Visitor Center. While we experienced a thunderstorm at 8900 feet the night before, the Alpine Visitor Center received snow.

Snow at the Alpine Visitor Center

At night and early morning, we would hear elk bulging. We saw a bull elk in the meadows and at least four female elk at our campground. The night before we saw a female moose and calf at our campground as night fell. John and I hiked some trails and Dave fished the Big Thompson and Colorado Rivers.





Dave Fishing the Cache Le Poudre River

Our journey continued via CO 14 and the Poudre Canyon Highway to Ansel Watrous Campground (5,800 ft elevation) on the Cache la Poudre River in the Roosevelt National Forest. While we didn't see any wildlife, Dave saw a bear print in the sand while fishing, and he caught several rainbow trout in the Cache la Poudre River.

Dave and John at the Ansel Watrous Campground



After two nights in the national forest, we started our journey east to lower elevations staying at St. Vrain State Park (CO, FHU, L); Atwood Lake (KS, FHU, L), Bailey's RV Resort (KS, FHU, L), and Siloam Springs State Park (IL, E) off of US 36; Mounds State Park (IN E50) and Rocky Gap State Park (MD E30).

Thanks for traveling with us!

The Great Alaska Adventure

An Article by: Paul and Elaine McVinney BRN# 7815

Photos by Paul and Elaine McVinney

I'm writing this article as Elaine and I just returned from our long-planned, epic trip to Alaska we have looked forward to for years. We visited Alaska together while on a Princess cruise/train voyage in 2007 and have wanted to return ever since. We planned the trip for quite a while, loaded up the Escape Pod, and launched out on July 1. Since we had a lot of stops and events packed into this trip, it took about five months. We got home just before Thanksgiving and will be glad to see the grandkids again.

Planning:

Planning took a long time as we had to make reservations at high demand locations such as Banff National Park as soon as their reservation windows opened. As you know, making reservations means paying for campsites up front so we had a lot of money sunk into the trip before we even left. Many thanks to Chuck & Maggie Helwig who have led Airstream caravans to Alaska and lent me their planning book and provided much wise counsel!

We incorporated meetups with family and friends along the way. Since Elaine spent time growing up in the Seattle area and her family is in the SF Bay Area, and we have Air Force friends everywhere, we had to include family and friends. We also incorporated my college reunion in Colorado.

As for planning, we used RV Trip Wizard. This article isn't necessarily a plug for RVTW, it's just what we happened to use. I like its features and so far, it has served us well. (Do you use an online trip planner? Please let us all know.)

Itinerary:

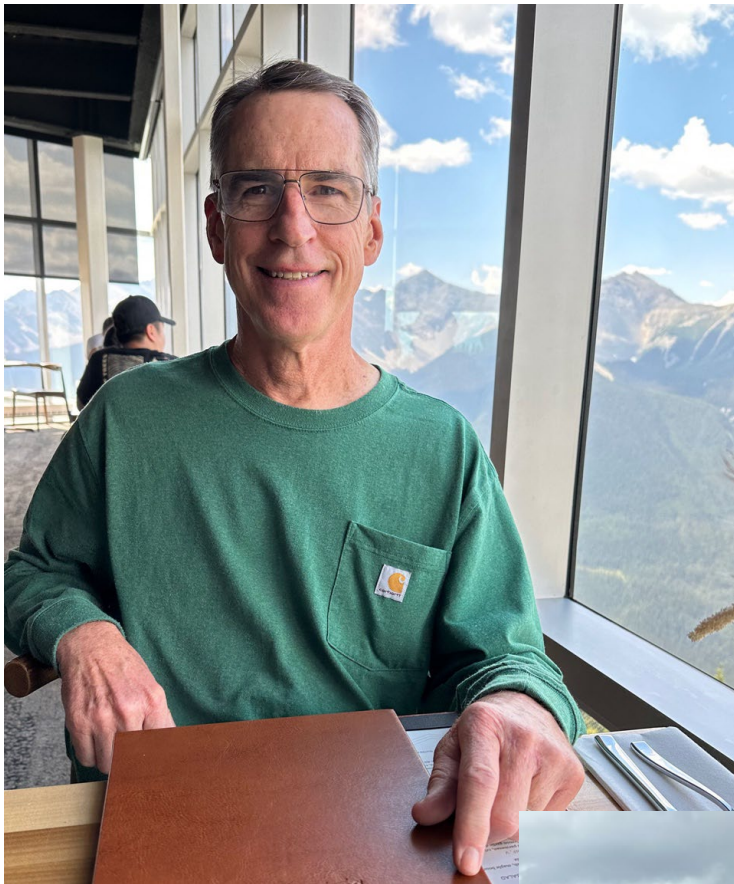
So many iconic destinations (plus family and friends) were on our list that we ended up with a five-month trip with 74 separate stops.



Elaine at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI

We have wanted to see Mackinac Island, so we went straight there from home, spent three days at a nearby Michigan state park, then crossed easily into Canada. Canada border agents asked us about bringing weapons into Canada. We sped across the Canadian Plains to Calgary. Almost there? No way. Not only is Alaska a big state, it's a long way away. When we hit Calgary, we were still almost 2,000 miles from Fairbanks, our first Alaska destination.

We took our time going through the Canadian Rockies, spending a few days visiting Banff National Park, Jasper NP, and Kootenay NP.



Paul at the Sky Bistro on Banff Mountain.

Banff NP was pretty upscale with amenities, Jasper less so, and Kootenay was pretty rugged as there was no water or power at any sites and one dump stations at the park entrance. Canadian provinces and Alaska have a limited window for road repairs, so expect delays. Also expect that your trailer will get pretty dirty from the light oil used to keep the dust down in the areas under repair.

Alaska Destinations:

We spent a week each in Fairbanks, Denali NP, Anchorage, and Seward. Overall, Alaska is a pretty rough and rugged place with a lot of businesses just getting by. Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Seward have everything you may need, but you won't find a CVS

or strip mall on every corner. You will likely have to drive further to get anything than you would in the Lower 48.

Paul and Elaine Read to Fly to Denali from Talkeetna.

The only real traffic we found was where wildlife was grazing at the side of the road. Watching out for cars and people was more hazardous than any animal encounters.

Other than wildfire smoke, the weather cooperated for most of our time, and we had some great days of



hiking, flightseeing around Denali from Talkeetna, and on the nature cruise in Seward. Those events worked out just as we had hoped.



Great Cruising Weather near Seward, AK

Elaine Making a New Fried near Sedona, AZ

From Alaska, we headed south to the San Francisco Bay Area to see Elaine's family, further south in CA, east to my college reunion in Colorado, then continued east toward home. Near the beginning we stayed at Penn Wood Airstream Park in Pennsylvania and near the end we stayed at Tennessee Cumberland Airstream Park. Both were great and I'll write reviews for another newsletter.



Since we were gone for so long, we arranged ahead of time for family and friends to stay at the house. We also have great next-door neighbors who looked after the house when no one was there. We used the iPostal service for mail during the trip which provided mixed results; again, another short article for a future newsletter.



Launch Vehicle and
Escape Pod Get a
Needed Bath

Themes:

- We met people we knew and made new friends in many destinations where we stayed a few days. It's amazing what we found we had in common once we started chatting with people. Airstream of course is a great conversation starter.
- The trip was great for catching up with close family, cousins, and long-time friends. We thanked them for their hospitality, and they thanked us for remembering them. Everyone wants to be remembered.
- Farmers markets: The best food at great prices all along the way
- Cinnamon buns: We had to sample them wherever we went! The winner: The Bake Shop in Girdwood, Alaska.
- We went to every hot spring we could find along our path. The winner: Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs in Whitehorse, Yukon, an elegant European-style spa that's well worth the cost of the day pass.
- Repairs: Yes, some repairs were needed along the way, but nothing we couldn't handle. I can provide a summary in another article in case anyone may be interested.

Overall, it was a memorable trip and one which every traveler should plan on.

Thanks for Traveling with us!

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.
