

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

[www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj](http://www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj) December 2023

## President's Message



Well, everyone. This is it, my last president's message. It's been a really good year for me, Linda, and the club in general. I was happy to be your president, and hopefully all of you have approved of the job I did. Looking back on the year, it seems like it went by very quickly. Only a short time ago we were preparing the big trailer for JSH and then scrambling to get ready for the region 2 rally in Canada. This was the first time in all my years in the WBCCI that the Argosy left the country. It all went very smoothly, and I would go back to Niagara Falls again.

I was very happy to accomplish, with the help of the executive board, the revisions and approval of our Constitution and Bylaws. Both documents get revised every 5 years, so we are up to date for the next 5 years.

Looking ahead, the club has a full slate of officers for 2024. Thanks to all who stepped up or agreed to continue in their role with The Watchung NJ Unit. We have a lot of members, but only a few who are willing to do a little bit more each month to ensure that the club runs efficiently. I would like to thank Lea Plant, Leslie DeHerde, and Laura Riley for following in my footsteps. They will all bring good sense and experience to the job. I think the future of Watchung is bright. I would also like to thank Lois Wagner for being a really great Treasurer. She puts in

a lot of hours making sure our finances are in order and that our bills get paid, and has been really good to work with. Another big thank you goes to Derek Conley for being our publisher/editor in chief, of the Hillbilly. It's a big job. But as you can see from the newsletter in front of you, Derek has taken the reigns and really improved the newsletter. Thank You Derek.

I'm sure you will all miss my monthly nuggets of wisdom and inspiration. 12 months, 12 different snippets or nuggets of meditation. And Not One of You, has ever said a word to me about them! 😊 . I will leave you with one more. Fashion your life around it and be prosperous.

George

**None who place their faith in God will ever be disgraced for trusting Him.  
But all who harm the innocent will be defeated.**

**THE END!**



## Region 2 President's Message

*Gary Russo writes:*



'was a weekend after our trailer was asleep, when all through the house

No flamingoes were stirring, not even my spouse;

The fresh water 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 were smelling fresh and had a sparkly sheen.

The trailer fresh water 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!

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.

Cheers,

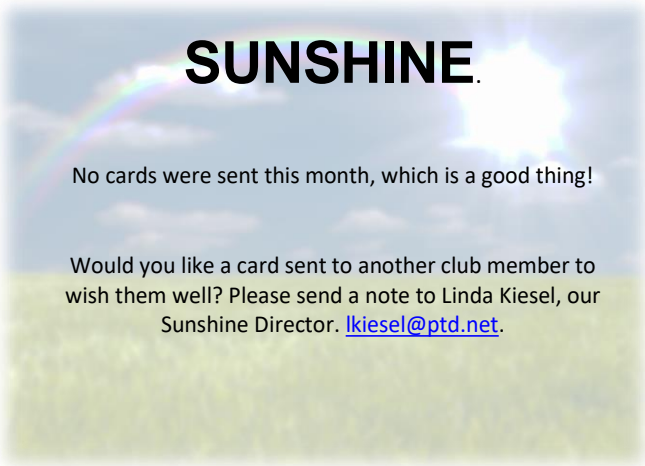
Gary



# Announcements

*Thank you*

We received a thank you note from the Flemington, NJ area Food Panty for our donation of 135 pounds of food at the November luncheon. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



## SUNSHINE.

No cards were sent this month, which is a good thing!

Would you like a card sent to another club member to wish them well? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel, our Sunshine Director. [lkiesel@ptd.net](mailto:lkiesel@ptd.net).

### December Birthdays

Cathy McCarthy	Fred Brugmans
Jason Pomerleau	Steve Tancer
Sean Boyle	Chris Forster
	Laura Riley

Happy Birthday all!

### Bits and Pieces

Items for the newsletter? Send them to Derek Conley by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. ([dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com))

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?  
Contact:  
President: George Kiesel ([gkiesel861@gmail.com](mailto:gkiesel861@gmail.com))  
Membership: Lea Plant ([tenlea@aol.com](mailto:tenlea@aol.com))

# 2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WHAT/WHEN</b>	<b>HOSTS</b>	<b>COHOSTS</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
January 2024	Luncheon	Ken and Nancy		Cryan's Tavern 2 Beaver Avenue, Annandale, NJ
February 2024	Luncheon			
March 2024	Luncheon			
April 2024	Unbutton Rally/Business Meeting/April 25-28	Frank and Leslie DeHerde	Joanne Elacqua and Stayla Elacqua	Camp Carr, 1 Camp Buck Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801
May 2024	Region 2 Rally May 2-5	NA	NA	Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
June 2024	Club Rally			
July 2024	Club Rally/July 19-21	Chris and Joanne Forster	Lois Wagner Derek Conley	Mt. Greylock Campsite Park, Lanesborough, MA
August 2024	Club Rally/TBD	George and Linda Kiesel		TBD
September 2024	Club Rally/TBD	Meg and Laura Riley	Mark and Angie Ratliff	TBD
October 2024	International Rally/October 5-10	WBCCI	NA	MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
October 2024	Club Rally/Business Meeting			
November 2024	Luncheon/TBD	Michael Koczwara and Barbara Taylor		TBD
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/TBD	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	TBD

## How to Sign Up and Pay for an Event Online

*Our Treasurer writes:*

So, I have to admit that when I first tried to register for an event online I had difficulty navigating to the online event forms. For that reason I thought I would share this information just in case others have had the same experience as me.

1. First, log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
2. Click on the **EVENTS** tab
3. A map of the US will be displayed containing pins for all the events for all the Airstream clubs. Just above the map on the right side of the screen is the **Clubs** box. Click on the down arrow to display the list of clubs then scroll down to **Watchung NJ Club**. Clicking on this will cause the map to display only Watchung club events.
4. Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
5. A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says **More**.
6. A new page will be displayed. If a registration form has been created for the event this page will give you two options: online registration or mail-in registration using a download of the form. The online form allows payment via PayPal. If you prefer to pay via check download and print the form, which includes payment instructions. If there is no registration form available yet one will be at a later date.

Hope this helps 😊 Lois



# Save the Date: July Rally in the Berkshires

## Save the Date! The Berkshires, July 19-21

New this year! We are planning a July rally at a wonderful campground in northwestern Massachusetts--in the foothills of the Berkshires. Visit the website for *Mt Greylock Campsite Park* to see why we are so excited about this campground:

<https://www.mtgreylockcampsitepark.com/>.

Be sure to check out the *Activities and Events* page as well as the *Nearby Attractions* page, which you can access by clicking on the hamburger (≡) in the top left corner of the home page. Highlights include:

- Large sites, a beautiful pool, and free Saturday night concert with local talent
- Nearby Mount Greylock State Reservation, which offers short and long self-guided hikes and an auto-road to reach the summit
- Close-by attractions include Tanglewood, Norman Rockwell Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, Mass MoCA (Museum of Contemporary Art), wineries, and much more



*Campsite at Mt. Greylock Campsite Park. Photo from the website.*



**What to do now:**

1. Add *Camping in the Berkshires* to your calendar for July 19-21, 2024!
2. Let me know if you are planning to go: joanne.rf55@gmail.com

**We will send you the link to sign up after the new year.** We have 12 sites reserved for now. You will be able to come early or stay later.

Mount Greylock Campsite Park is about 220 miles/4 hours from central New Jersey, most of it on I-287, I-87, and I-90.

Note: all sites have gray water hook-up, electric, and water. It worked well for us this fall, and we dumped our black waste tank on the way out.

Hope to see you there!

Joanne and Chris Forster, Lois Wagner and Derek Conley

# December 2023 Installation Luncheon

Join us as we install our club officers for 2024

**The American Legion Post 284**  
**1 Ridge Rd., Whitehouse, NJ 08888**  
**(908) 534-2061**



conveniently located on the corner of Rt. 22 and Ridge Rd.

December 9, 2023 12:00 - 4:00  
Price per person is \$40.00. Cash bar/beverages at Legion prices  
Reservation Deadline is November 24.

A delicious buffet catered by local Sorella's Pizza & Pasta includes: Garden Salad, Antipasto, Penne Vodka, Cavatelli with Broccoli, Meatballs, Chicken Parm, Eggplant Rollatini, rolls, dessert

Our candlelight Installation Ceremony will take place after lunch.

**Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for either a girl or boy, for our annual toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots.**

Hosts: Lea Plant	c-973-477-0289	tenlea@aol.com
George & Linda Kiesel	c-908-930-0550	gkiesel861@gmail.com

\*\*\*\*\* CUT HERE AND SEND WITH CHECK IF NOT REGISTERING ONLINE \*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Price per person = \$40.00 x number of people \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Pay and register ONLINE (see instructions page 6)

or

- Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club. Mail check and coupon to:

Lois Wagner, 29 Colony Court, New Providence NJ 07974-2332

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Watchung Install

# January Luncheon Announcement

Date: Saturday January 20, 2024

Time: Noon

Place: Cryan's Tavern 2 Beaver Avenue, Annandale, NJ

Hosts: Nancy and Ken Egan ([Steamenrr@comcast.net](mailto:Steamenrr@comcast.net)) / 908-720-8073

## Menu

Please select one each per person from the appetizer and entrée choices below. Soda, coffee, and tea are included. Cash bar.

### Appetizers

Potato skins \_\_\_\_\_ Bacon Bombs \_\_\_\_\_ Fried Pickles \_\_\_\_\_ Irish Pretzels \_\_\_\_\_

### Entrees

Fish n Chips \_\_\_\_\_ Shepherds Pie \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled chicken breast \_\_\_\_\_ Penne Vodka \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Deadline: December 31, 2023

Please complete this form and mail to

Kenneth M. Egan, 95 W. Kelly Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840

You may also email the form to [NHE815@Comcast.net](mailto:NHE815@Comcast.net). Be sure to indicate food preferences.

Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club.

**Maximum of 30 attendees.** Please sign up early!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 per person Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2023 Watchung Club Officers

President	George Kiesel
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lea Plant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Leslie DeHerde
Correspondence Secretary	Linda Kiesel
Recording Secretary	Richard Short
Treasurer	Lois Wagner
Directors	Ken Egan Nancy Egan Kathi Short Stayla Elacqua
Membership	Lea Plant
Sunshine	Linda Kiesel
<b>Other Club Roles</b>	
Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Directory	Chris Forster
Newsletter	Derek Conley
Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau

