

NORVA NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a very busy few weeks for us. First was the Region 3 Rally in Hiwassee, GA the end of April, then we visited our daughter in Marietta, GA for five days, returned home for four days and then off to the American Heritage Service Rally at Highland, President James Monroe's home near Charlottesville. In the very near future will be the Mystery Caravan beginning on June 2nd at the Nahkeeta Campsite in Martinsburg, WV.

The Region 3 Rally was very enjoyable. The food was good and the Region 3 staff put on a great program. One of the highlights was a presentation by Jay Thompson on the Urban Air rally concept. Ever hear about this rally concept? It's about having a rally in a town where the Airstreams are parked on the street and there is interaction with the whole town which is involved in the rally. There are a number of videos concerning this concept which can be viewed on YouTube. Some of them were viewed during the Region 3 Rally. Please take time to review them which can be found on youtube.com, search "live riveted." The presentation at the Region 3 Rally created quite a bit of excitement. Region President John Frerking challenged the attendees to hold at least one such rally in each state in the region next year. Tom Carmichael, in his usual fashion, picked up the ball and ran with it and said he'd organize one next year in Virginia, of course with help from our unit. We can also solicit help and participation from the other Virginia units. Tom suggested Ashland as the location as it is near the Virginia Airstream dealer, Airstream of Virginia, and he already has contacts in the city government. He is open to suggestions for other cities so please send them to him, particular where there is already some relationship with the city leaders.



The American Heritage Service Rally at Monroe's Highland was a success. Jackson did a great job of organizing it and the staff there led by Nancy Stet had a whole list of jobs for the 17 of us to do. This included washing windows, walls, and ceilings of some of the historic buildings and cleaning rooms. Painting was out because of the forecast for rain. Nancy was impressed with the speed in which we worked as we finished most of the work by lunch time. The actor who does an exceptional job of impersonating Monroe gave a talk during lunch and answered our questions, and a tour of the home was given later in the afternoon.

Two magazine articles of note: First, on page 12 of the May 2017 issue of the Blue Beret is an article by Cynthia about her and Paul's granddaughter, Alexis Pearce. Alexis has Airstreamed with them numerous times and many of us have gotten to know her. At the age of 14, she was first runner-up in the last Teen Queen contest during the 2007 International Rally in Perry, GA. She has accomplished much since then as described by Cynthia. Great article, Cynthia! Second, in the May 2017 issue of Washingtonian Magazine is a feature article about the flood which devastated Greenbrier County, WV during the International Rally in Lewisburg last year. The article details the generosity of the owner of the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, Jim Justice, in opening the resort to those made homeless by the flood. Justice was later elected governor of West Virginia.

See you down the road!



Airstream At Home. Submitted by Sylvia Worrall

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Lew Brodsky**



Happy Anniversary

June

- 6 Paul & Andi Gabler
- 9 Paul & Cynthia Pearce
- 10 Edmund & Nancy Matricardi
- 13 Jack & Janice Hornbeck
- 16 Lew & Cathy Brodsky
- 24 Chuck & Joyce Gregory

July

- 8 Tom & Cathy Carmichael
- 13 Alan & Janet Barbee
- 27 Gary & Lynn Brink
- 30 Kevin & Jane Quinn.

“I Love Virginia State Parks” and More

By Jane Quinn

Kevin and I had to cancel our plans to travel on two national caravans in 2017 because of illness. So we decided to plan our own short caravan down in southwest Virginia.

We began our trip by spending two nights at Camp Burson in Hungry Mother State Park near Marion. There we enjoyed a hike by the lake and were treated with sightings of many May blooming wildflowers. Our visit to Marion included a tasty lunch at the Wooden Pickle, a tour of the Holston River Heritage Center, and seating at the Lincoln Theater to see the taping of the PBS show, *Song of the Mountains*. Our final treat was an ice cream cone at Dip Dog on US 11 south of town.



Our next stop was Natural Tunnel State Park. We camped in Site #1 at the Lovers’ Leap loop of the campground. We had an excellent spot, wide, level, surrounded by flowering berry bushes with picnic table, fire pit, and a worktable that Kevin used for the propane grill. (Note: the

boards bordering the site even had reflectors for backing in at night.) The bathhouse was new and clean with a laundry in front that had 3 washers and 3 dryers! And the best part...all of the sites in this loop were just as wonderful as ours.

Our adventures at Natural Tunnel included a ride on a chair lift down to see the tunnel, the creek, and the train track entering the tunnel. We were so taken with this naturally formed feature that we hiked a trail down to see the other side where the train track exited. Virginia is building yurts at this campground. We peered inside and thought they looked comfy and spacious, but they lack bathrooms. We are getting too old for long hikes in the night.



Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol is a county run park with a big campground in the woods. The friendly host directed us to site 25 that was level and close to water. In Bristol we spent a day in the historic downtown. We followed the walking tour, ate yummy Southern food at EatZ (cornbread, collards, catfish, etc.), and spent hours enthralled with the information at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum. We took snapshots of each other at the famous Bristol

landmarks, the sign and the guitar.

Our last stop was Claytor Lake State Park near Dublin. Again we found a level, shaded site with the added advantage of its being a pull-through. For our mid-day meal we visited a favorite spot, MK’s Gourmet Pizzeria & Shoppe. After lunch we chose to hike down to the lake and back to enjoy more wildflower sightings.

Our trip ended at Misty Mountain Camp Resort where we joined other NORVA members working on a service project at James Monroe’s Highland. Our weeklong caravan was a happy success.



There's Silver in Them "Thar" Hills

By Elaine Ulrich

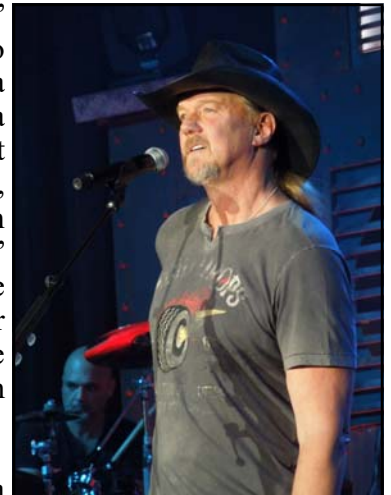
The Region 3 Rally was held at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in Hiawassee, Georgia from April 26-30, 2017. There were 144 Airstream units attending with a total of 266 Airstreamers. Tom Carmichael, Lew Brodsky and Paisley, Edgar and Kathy Simmons as well as Lloyd and I were in attendance from NORVA. The



campground was surrounded by Lake Chatage with beautiful views, people fishing, boating and in Lew's case taking Paisley for a swim. Many Airstreamers visited Hamilton Gardens located within the Fairgrounds with the rhododendron in bloom. The summit of Bell Mountain, Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain, and Helen, Georgia were suggested as nearby sites to visit.

As far as the rally goes, we had many activities. Wednesday evening we had the opening ceremony with the unit presidents or their designees carrying in their unit's flag. We had a "Meet and Greet"

every day from 4:00-5:00 which was a nice way to catch up with everyone who attended the rally. During the rally there was much discussion about Urban Air, a new Airstream rally concept where trailers are parked on downtown streets of a town. Thursday and Friday we had a variety of seminars, including an excellent seminar by John Becker about "Staying Safe on Line." Saturday, Teresa Taylor, International Membership Chair, spearheaded an opportunity to move through eleven stations of mini-seminars on the positions available to run a unit or "club" smoothly. It was suggested that we dispense with the word unit and all units be referred to as clubs. Lloyd, our president, was on a "Wrap-Up - What's on your Mind" panel to answer questions from the body as a whole. All of this took place in a large auditorium called the Music Hall. We shared many meals together in the Music Hall including breakfast each morning, pizza and two catered dinners.



The entertainment included a magician on Thursday night, and Wyatt Espelin, a local musician who played several instruments, sang and clogged for us on Saturday night. On Friday night many people had purchased concert tickets to see Trace Adkins, who elaborately produced a performance of country music. The 2900 seat Music Hall was nearly filled with members of the public as well as Airstreamers. Trace was easy to identify due to his height of 6'6". The rally ended with a Region 3 Board Meeting of all the unit presidents followed by a reception.



Take Pride Rally at Highland

By Cynthia Pearce

Maybe NORVA should have an addition to their name. Something like NORVA PLUS OR NORVA EXTENDED (thank you Lew Brodsky for that idea). There were 17 of us helping James Monroe's Highland get ready for the tourist season. Our members are from far and wide, not a bad thing but rather exciting. Our leaders Jackson and Mary Ann McBroom put together a very busy schedule and they hail from Williamsburg. The group arrived at Misty Mountain Campground west of Charlottesville, in a drenching downpour. Paul and Cynthia Pearce, living locally measured 1.8 inches of rain. Darla Vest and her 97 year old mother Dorthea Thoman made the trip all the way from Floyd after just returning from Texas. Pearce's had met Dorthea and her delightful late husband Barney almost 19 years ago at Boise. I must add that Dorthea worked cleaning windows just as hard if not harder than our 'younger' members.



Dick and Jane Arnold swam in from either their farm in Spotsylvania or their home in Bridgewater, we are never sure where they are. Lloyd and Elaine Ulrich arrived from far west of DC as did Cecil and Della Hoosier. Kevin and Jane Quinn drove straight down from Culpepper, almost a suburb of Charlottesville and new members Jerry and Patsy Nagel are almost the only ones besides Lew that can say they live in Northern Virginia, hailing from Occoquan.



So perhaps I have made my point. It does not really matter where we are from as when we get together we have such a good time. McBrooms put on tasty heavy munchies Friday night with help from the group. It was a shame we couldn't eat all that gorgeous cheese and fruit, but we tried.

Saturday morning dawned sunny and almost clear with ever changing skies throughout the day. By nine o'clock we were assembled at Monroe's estate, only three miles from Jefferson's Monticello. Our work coordinator, Nancy, had a whole page of jobs to keep us busy. Mostly washing windows. Many of us claimed they did not even do that at home! Cecil may have caught a picture of Jane Arnold on a ladder that Dick can use as blackmail and another one of Della on her knees scrubbing out a fireplace.

City guy Lew had the strength and mighty swing to split logs into kindling with the assistance of Paul and Jerry. There was a lot of sweeping of cobwebs, dust, leaves, even a wasp nest. Two weddings were due for later in the day so we cleaned those large spaces first. Lunch could not come fast enough.



A special and wonderful treat after we had eaten was the surprise appearance of Mr.



Monroe himself in all his colorful colonial garb. What a wealth of information and cleverly relayed stories from Dennis Bigelow. President Monroe was the fifth president of the United States, his nickname was "The Last Crooked Hat". A bit more cleaning and then we were given a through tour of the house with many original pieces of Monroe furniture.

We closed our service day with a group picture taken under the 300 year old oak tree. A very happy but tired bunch of NORVA's.



**Galax Special Event Rally
and Old Time Fiddlers
Convention
Hosted by Region 3**

Julian & Lynn Clements
Do you like Old Time or Blue Grass Music. The Galax rally is the place to be. Not only may you go to the Fiddlers Convention and listen for hours. The rally folks have some of the best musicians at the campground. A lot of these musicians are young people like Carson Peters who was on the Little Big Shots TV show. Cecil and I will be attending and would love to see you there.

**NORVA MEMBERS
WHERE ARE THEY?**

**NORVA Mystery
Caravan**

June 2—June 16, 2017

Leaders Edgar &
Kathy Simmons
Lew Brodsky
Cecil Hoosier
Ed & Beth Jones
Bob & Carol Luther
Larry & Sun Riley
Doug & Susan Anderson
Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich
Ralph Uttech
Dick & Jane Arnold

**Ores, Shores,
Waters, and Lights
Caravan**

July 30-August 13

Edgar & Kathy Simmons

**"American Revolution -
Southern Campaign"**

Sept 6-Oct 14 2017

Leaders Ed & Beth Jones
Dick & Jane Arnold,
Lew & Cathy Brodsky,
Edgar & Kathy Simmons,
Chuck & Sally Walters.
Paul & Cynthia Pearce
Bob & Carol Luther

International Rally

July 22-29

Edgar & Kathy
Simmons
Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich
Myrtle & Don Bell
Dick & Jane Arnold
Paul & Cynthia Pearce
Lew & Cathy Brodsky
Bob & Carol Luther
Chuck & Joyce Gregory

**Galax Rally
August 2-12**

Cecil & Della Hoosier

Happy Birthday

June
2 Richard Bartelt
7 Paul Pearce
13 Dick Arnold
21 Carol Zint
24 Sally Walters

July
2 Sun Riley
3 Ed Jones
14 Paul Gabler
21 Cecil Hoosier
22 Dale Tidwell
24 Larry Riley
29 Lynn Brink

Editors Note

Thanks folks for the articles you sent for this month. Our next newsletter will be August.

If you attend the International Rally and or travel on the Mystery Caravan please send your best highlights for these events and pictures please.





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2017 NORVA SCHEDULE

January 29	Riverside Dinner Theatre Frederiksberg Virginia Host Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom	June 1– 16	Mystery Caravan Edgar and Kathy Simmons
February 5	“Super Bowl LI” Rally At the Hoosier Amissville Virginia Host Cecil and Della Hoosier	July 22-29	International Rally Escanaba Michigan
March 11	“Splitsville” bowling center, Frederiksberg VA 12:30 for Lunch and Bowling	August 7-12	Galax Special Events Rally Host Region 3 Julian & Lynn Clements
April 7-9	Maintenance Rally @ Safford Camp at KOA Campground Host Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom	September 22-24	Commonwealth Rally Front Royal VA
April 26-30	Region 3 Rally Hiawassee, Georgia	October TBD	
May 12-14	“American Heritage” Service Rally James Monroe’s Highland Host Jackson McBroom	November 3-4	Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally Folks want to do it again!!!! Host Tom Carmichael and Lew Brodsky
		December TBD	