



# *The Trillium*

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# Events Calendar

May 2 - 5	<b>Region 2 Rally</b> "Pursue Your Adventure" Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, Pennsylvania	<a href="#">Registration open now</a>
May 9 - 13	<b>Eastern Ontario Shakedown</b> Richmond Fair Ground	Lynn & Rob D. Roger & Janice J. Larry & June D.
May 10 - 13	<b>Western Ontario Shakedown</b> Seaforth Agricultural Grounds	Tony S. Neil & Nancy M.
May 16 - 21	<b>Spring Rally &amp; AGM</b> Blyth Fairgrounds	Kathy B. & Gordon D. Donna C. & Allan S. Pat & Murray L. John W. & Lois W.
September 5 - 9	<b>Fall Rally &amp; AGM</b> Can-Am RV, London	Andy T. Volunteers needed! Boondocking opportunity
September 5 - 8	<b>2024 Pennsylvania Rally</b> Emlenton Pennsylvania	If you're in the Pennsylvania area... <a href="#">Registration</a>
September 19 - 23	<b>Fall Rendezvous #1</b> Western Ontario Summer House Park	Jim & Ena F. Volunteers needed!
Date TBA	<b>Fall Rendezvous #2</b> Eastern Ontario Lindsay Fairgrounds	Bill & Julie R. Mentors needed!
Oct. 5 - 10	<b>67<sup>th</sup> International Rally</b> Sedalia Missouri	Just a short hop from Ontario <a href="#">Registration open now</a>
Aug. 23 - 28, 2025	<b>68<sup>th</sup> International Rally</b> York Pennsylvania	An even shorter hop from Ontario! Registration TBA

# President's Message

Melanie C.



As I write this we are currently in Scottsdale Arizona. The sun is bright, the air is warm and there is not a cloud in the sky. We wish we had our Airstream here with us. That being said the great weather we crave for camping will be here before you know it.

Now is the time to get your calendar out and pencil in all the events going on with our club this year. There are some great looking events in our Region A as well. You can check them out by following links in the Blue Beret. Many are open for registrations already.

All the events we have planned are a fabulous way to meet members, ask questions about your rig, places to camp and just generally chat with like-minded folk. I am looking forward to meeting our new members and it's always heart warming to catch up with old friends. We will see you down the road before you know it!

I am happy to report that my husband Murray is recovering very well from his spinal surgery. It's a huge relief because he thought in the fall that we might have to give up the Airstream as it was too painful to hook up, unhook and set up. Can't wait for the camping season to start for us.

I know that several of our members love winter camping so I hope you have been enjoying that experience too. Safe travels wherever you may be!

Thank you to those of you who reached out to me at the passing of my sweet 91 year old Mum. When we got our first Airstream at Can Am she had a dinner in the trailer made by my daughter Sarah and her husband Jun when we stayed there overnight. She thoroughly enjoyed the trailer and hearing about our travels. Thanks again for your heart felt sympathies they are much appreciated.

## Region 2 President's Message - Winter in New York

Gary R.



### **We finally have snow in New York!**

Time to pull out the snow shoes and the skis. The Buffalo area is leading the snow race now, but Rochester has the snow making machine of Lake Ontario turned on and the cold winds of the North are dropping lake snow here in copious amounts. So, Buffalo you better watch out -- Rochester is coming on strong!

Right now, [the registration for the Region 2 rally in May is live](#). So, do not wait. Here is just a tease as to what we have scheduled:

Building # 14 on the fairgrounds will be open to us every morning where coffee and tea will be available Friday-Sunday mornings.

- On Saturday night we have Nittany Catering providing a scrumptious buffet dinner, plant-based options will be available.
- Do not forget to bring your dancing shoes to burn off those dinner calories because we have the Malpractice Band returning to play on Saturday night.
- Sunday, we have a continental breakfast with coffee and tea.
- Sign up now and reserve your site!

Region 2 will have a booth at the Sedalia WBCCI International Rally. To showcase Region 2, I am looking for photos from events your club/units had during the 2023 year for a poster. Please send one or two photos to me by email. Then do not forget to stop by the booth and say Hi while in Sedalia. If you would like to volunteer to assist at the booth, please contact me and I can schedule a time.

We are planning to have a get together at the rally for Region 2. I have reserved the Missouri Electric Cooperatives facility (MEC1) at the Fairgrounds. We have access to that room from 11:30am to 1pm. Stay tuned for what we have planned.

Just a friendly reminder. The Region 2, ACI website has multiple rallies already posted for 2024. Please check the ACI site as some of the rallies are already filling up because they are now available to any WBCCI member. We have seen members from the south who are traveling north to get relief from the southern heat.

[Editor's note: The following are excerpts from Gary's January message.]

I've included the links to 2 YouTube videos. One is on BRN's and Rallies and the other is on RV electricity and Lithium batteries.

The one regarding BRN's was forwarded to me by Eric McHenry. The video talks about Big Red Numbers (BRN's) -- what they are and why you want to Rally. It's a 26-minute video and worth the time. I've attached the link below.

<https://youtu.be/irfdq5boMD8?si=2tsMWxyaPSRoJ7PZ>

On December 13th Mike Sokol had a Webcast on RVElectricity with the topic directed to Lithium Battery Basics. I've attached the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/6UAsum0qzml?si=MfAHRT8BftXyw8T>

As an ACI member, check out the discount programs available to you at Member-Only Section | [ACI \(airstreamclub.org\)](http://ACI(airstreamclub.org)). The Club has worked hard with vendors to provide these discount programs. Now that winter has started and things are now quiet in the North Lands, you can sit back and check them out while watching the snow fall outside of your window or if you are lucky to be relaxing on the beach where it is warmer.

## New Members

Please welcome our newest OCAC members.

John & Leslie W.  
2015 Classic 30'

Kristie & Patrick S.  
2022 Flying Cloud 28'

Steve C. & Sherry A.  
2023 Flying Cloud 25'

Chris & Ted E.  
2024 International 27'

Scott S.  
1969 Caravel 18'

New members are reminded to send in headshots (together with partner if applicable) to the [newsletter editor](#) or Kathy B.



Thanks Can-Am for  
all your support!



## Western Ontario Shakedown Update (and what the heck is a shakedown anyway?)

Neil & Nancy M.

For the benefit of our new members (and a reminder to our existing members) we thought it worthwhile to describe what a Spring Shakedown is.

As the term suggests it's an opportunity to 'shakedown' your Airstream for probably its first outing since last year. Traditionally, they're held at inexpensive local fairgrounds that provide water and electricity. A dump station is usually available.

The event is very informal and relaxed with limited events scheduled. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow club members and perhaps ask those nagging maintenance questions regarding your rig. There will undoubtedly be someone there who has had a similar question or a fix they've experienced. Travel inquiries and destinations are popular as well; many members have travelled tens of thousands of kms around North America.

For 2024 there are two shakedowns scheduled: one in the east and one in the west.

The Western Ontario Spring Shakedown will be held in lovely Seaforth at the Seaforth Agricultural Fairgrounds. All sites will have water and 30 A service. A dump station is available. The grounds are reserved from Friday, May 10 until Sunday, May 12. The cost is \$45 per night and longer stays may be possible. The fair has asked we pay in CASH! More details in the next Trillium.

Seaforth is a town of 2700 in South Western ON, a 30 minute drive to Goderich and Bayfield on Lake Huron to the west, and the same distance to Stratford in the east. There are several well regarded provincial parks in the area as well. An added bonus is the Spring Rally is about 20 minutes down the road in Blyth with early check in on May 16.

All parties interested please contact Neil & Nancy M. OR John & Joan G.



Seaforth Agricultural Fairgrounds in need of some Airstreams

# Eastern Ontario Shakedown Update

Lynn & Rob D.

We are pleased to announce that our 2024 Eastern Ontario Shakedown will take place from Thursday May 9 through Monday May 13, 2024, at the Richmond Fair Ground. This is the weekend before the Victoria Day long weekend and the Spring Rally in Blyth.

As usual we will have our Thursday trip to The Glen Restaurant at 5:00 p.m. for early arrivals, Friday snack at 7:00 p.m.; Pot-Luck meal on Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and a Sunday breakfast, cooked and served by the hosts and volunteers at 8:30. The hall (Heated, Dry and Bug-Free as needed) will be available to us all weekend for Happy Hours, games, deep technical discussions, and general merriment.

The camping fee for the event will be \$50 per night. The fee for the hall and food will be split evenly amongst the participants. Based on the expected number of participants it will be in the order of \$30. Payment will be collected at the event. The fairground has a mix of 15 and 30 A hydro, daisy-chained water, a washroom (no shower) and a dump station.

If you plan to attend, please email, or call Lynn & Rob with your arrival & departure date and if you are interested in the Thursday trip to The Glen.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Lynn & Rob D.



# Spring Rally Update

Kathy B.

## Flamingo Fling – Spring Rally in Blyth, ON

May 16 – 21, 2024

Your host team still has a few details to work out, but here's what we know already. The Blyth Campground is ideal for our needs and we have it booked for a total of 5 nights. Camping fees are by the night. When you register, you can indicate what nights you plan to stay and be charged accordingly. The grounds are enormous and relatively level. There is an abundance of electrical and water hook-ups. Nobody goes without and you'll have at least a 15-amp service. Showers and toilets are located close to where we'll be camping and there's a dump station on site.



While we have the campground reserved from Thursday to Tuesday, the actual rally starts on Friday and ends on Monday. To be fair to everyone, the camping fees will be kept separate from the rally fee. The rally fee will cover the costs of:

- Breakfast on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of fruit and juices, cereals, and assorted baked goods and spreads, as well as the all-essential coffee and tea
- Refreshments Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening
- Common costs such as table coverings, dish detergent, printing and other miscellaneous items
- Saturday evening's entertainment. We've hired a DJ so bring your dancing shoes!

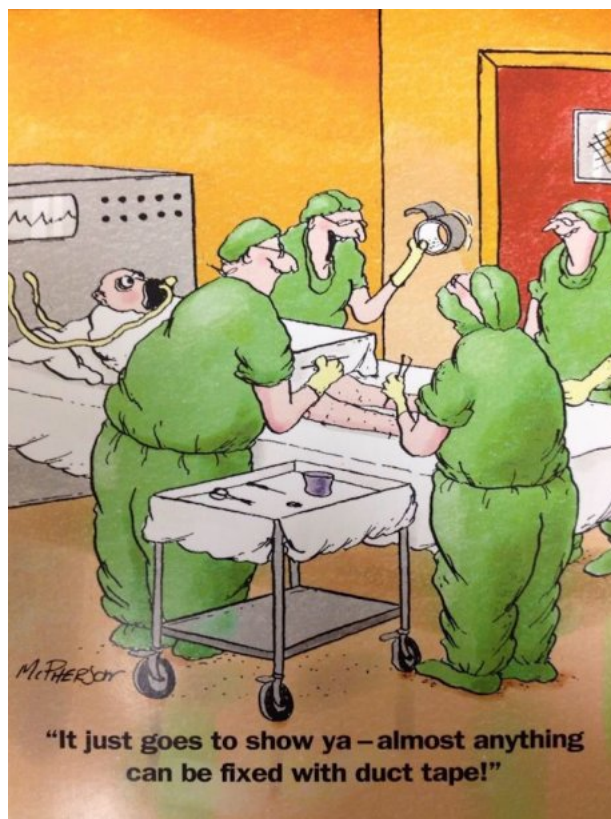
We've also arranged for a catered dinner by Pineridge BBQ out of Hensall on Saturday evening. That cost is separate and you can select it as an option on the registration form. On Saturday afternoon prior to dinner, we plan to have "Hassle Tassel" – that's like a happy hour where you'll be invited to a small group "mix and mingle" hosted by one of our members at their camp site. You'll bring your chair, a snack to share and your beverage of choice. Keep your fingers crossed that Ma Nature cooperates!

For Sunday dinner, we'll have some sort of pot luck dinner – more on that in April. Then, afterwards, we'll play some games and award some prizes!

Rumour has it that there may be a golf game in the works and perhaps a hiking / biking excursion along the G2G Rail Trail somewhere over the weekend. There'll also be a general membership meeting and a flea market. If you have something you want to move along to another owner, bring it along and put a price tag on it.

Your host team:

- Kathy B. & Gordon D.
- Donna C. & Allan S.
- Pat & Murray L.
- John W. & Lois W.



# Trillium Airstream Art Exhibition

Steve A.

I am thrilled to be able to present the first annual Trillium Airstream Art Exhibition. Submissions were not high in number, but the quality was simply outstanding.

For those who wanted to submit a masterpiece, but were too busy trying to book campsites to meet the deadline, fear not! You can send works in anytime and I will find a place for them in The Trillium.

And now, I give you, the exhibition...



Roy B.

**Boondocking**

Acrylic on canvas

[Original works are for sale](#)





**Roy B.**

**Happy Hour**

Acrylic on canvas

[Original works are for sale](#)



**Mia M.**

Age 6

**Airstream Camping**

Marker on paper

Original work can be viewed on  
Nancy & Neil's refrigerator door  
(by appointment only)

# Sunshine Report

Linda S.

Hello Airstreamers!

I write from our cozy old house in Northern Ontario! Yes, we stuck to our plan and stayed in the northern climes! So my photo for this entry is snow....we finally have some! And we have just had a week of some low temperatures with the lowest being  $-21^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; today we feel like we are back in the warmth at  $-1^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We had family here for the Christmas holiday and what did the ground look like? Green! Flowing water in the Thessalon River. And our first artificial tree...ever! (noted by grandchildren)



Jacklin and Tony under the snow

At first there were some disappointed folks but it turned out to be right up the grandchildren's alley! There was no snow to go tramping through on the fields to get a tree anyway! John (Grandpa) had Tony, his ATV, nestled for the winter in the shelter in the backyard. However, all are of driving age now so out they went and in they came and out they went....you get the picture. Tony provided many hours of good rides on the trails. I did hear a whisper about one ride that included something about a ditch.....Tony seems not to have minded and there were no scrapes on him or the riders.....that I saw anyway! He did get a mite dirty and was washed by the riders at the end of it all. Now does that make any of the travellers to warmer weather a bit lonesome for the north?

Now to business.....a big thank you goes out to Lynn for the 30 cards she made over the last part of the year. All arrived safely via Canada Post and some of our members received some of these lovely cards. I know they are appreciated by those who have been the recipients of her beautiful artistry. I have had feedback from several people who have been encouraged and lifted up in spirit through this outreach. Many thanks to our Executive who make all this possible.



Sympathy cards:

- Michael & Kathy W. in the loss of Michael's mother, Joan W.
- Pat S. in the loss of her husband, Ross
- Arthur W. in the loss of his wife, Theresa I.
- Jim B. in the loss of his wife, Stephanie
- Melanie C. in the loss of her Mother

Get Well cards:

- Russ W. who has had a total shoulder replacement
- Don & Kathy M. - Don had his second knee replacement in the Fall.

Once again, I would like to thank the members who contacted me with the information of those in need of remembrance and/or encouragement. Just can't do this without you!

Enjoy the winter season whether you are in the sun (remember me as I'm not!) or here in the north in the snow (we shall enjoy the winter weather together!)

Linda, on behalf of the OCAC

# Tech Bites

Water, water everywhere, but can you drink it? - John R.

We Airstreamers do a lot of travelling and good drinking water is a necessity. That morning cup of coffee does not taste that great if the water you use is not free from chemical or sulphur tastes. Most campgrounds do a very good job at ensuring the water they supply is safe to drink but sometimes it is not so good tasting for the discerning pallet. Yes, you can get around this by buying bottled water, but it has its drawbacks in that you must dispose of the plastic bottles. Recycling is the preferred way to pass these plastic bottles along but not all campgrounds have recycling facilities, and putting plastic bottles to landfill just does not seem right. Then there is the storage issue of a case of bottled water, and as we all know space when travelling is very precious. Another popular option is the Berkey water filter. This is a large stainless-steel unit that you need to find counter space for and a safe place to store when travelling.

This past year we purchased a Acuva Arrow Max 1.2 water filtering system and installed it under the kitchen sink in our Airstream, with a smart faucet at the sink (it looks like a mini me beside the sink tap). The smart faucet has a blue light when water flows through the unit letting you know all is okay. If the light is green the faucet is undergoing a self cleaning cycle which it does every 12 hours of use. The light will turn red if there is a problem with the UV-LED and it will blink orange if the input voltage is below 11 volts DC.

Installation was very easy with some basic tools. The biggest thing was to get a 12-volt DC supply to the UV-LED unit. Fortunately, there was a spare fuse spot in my panel which I used. The water input just taps right off the cold water line going to the kitchen sink tap. I had to read up on how to cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hole through the composite countertop in my Airstream for the smart faucet; slow and steady is the way with a hole saw.

The water we got out of the unit, no matter where we were, was clear with no odor or off-putting taste. To have cold water for drinking we would keep a recycled plastic orange juice container, with screw top, in the refrigerator.



Some facts about the Acuva Arrow Max 1.2 filtering system:

- Flow rate is 1.2 liter per minute, that is a cup of water every 17 seconds.
- Power consumption of the UV-Led unit is 5 watts, so a 3-amp 12 volt DC circuit is all that is required.
- UV-Led unit kills 99.999% of E Coli bacteria.
- The prefilter removes 99% of chlorine, lead, VOC's, and unpleasant odors.
- The unit with the smart faucet retails for about \$500 and was developed in British Columbia at UBC in 2014.

Our experience after 20 weeks on the road last summer was positive. We were very happy we installed the Acuva Arrow Max 1.2. No more storing bulky water bottles and ensuring that we had water bottles on hand, and all the good drinking water we needed.



# Community Services Update

## Pop Tabs - Rick A.

[Editor's note: No update from Rick this month, but keep collecting those pop tabs and plastic bread clips. They will, no doubt, be gratefully accepted at numerous gatherings this year.]

## Project Linus - Joan G.

Want to keep warm this winter? Nothing warms the heart like making a Project Linus blanket for a child who is ill or experiencing trauma. We will be collecting handmade blankets at the May spring rally in Blyth.

For those who would like to know more about Project Linus: [Project Linus Canada](#)

Happy blanket making,

Joan Gough

# Project ♥ Linus

