



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

<https://airstreamclub.org/charter-oak-connecticut>

February 2024

Presidents Message

by Don Allers



We didn't get a White Christmas in Wilton this year, but Valentine's Day was a beauty. This February snow was the soft, fluffy stuff that formed impossible mounds on every twig, pine needle and fence rail. And the timing was just right to give the Allers girls a much appreciated snow day without interfering with the club Souper Bowl party.

Thanks to Dave Jensen for graciously hosting the club at his home for the Souper Bowl gathering. I was sorry to miss it, but the turn-out was awesome and I hear it was a hit. We held the presses for this issue of the Chatter in order to feature photos and highlights of the event, so read on.

Next on-deck are Joyce and Gilles Rousseau who are hosting a St. Patrick's Day Gathering at their lovely home in Southbury on Sunday, March 17. I'm already preparing myself for a bout of jealousy when I see their cavernous Airstream barn again. We are sure to enjoy a good group and warm hospitality, so please join us if you can. That goes doubly for newcomers that are interested in meeting fellow Airstreamers and learning about our fantastic club.

Registrations are also opening up for our camping season rallies and gatherings. It's hard for me to imagine hitching up in this deep freeze, but now is the time to make summer camping plans and we have a great rally

Continued page 2

Airstream's Year in Review: Our Favorite Stories from 2023



As 2023 comes to a close – and as Airstream looks ahead to its ninety-third year as an iconic American company – we're looking back on our favorite stories from this past year. [Visit Site](#) Live Rived®



What Do You Think?

What religion believes that when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck.

I am an odd number. If you take away one letter from me, I become even. What number am I?

[Answers Page 9](#)

Link of the Month



Oregon by Airstream



Presidents Message

Continued

season planned for you. For those that are new, each event has its own registration form. You can find specifics in event flyers that are included at the end of the Chatter and also emailed to members from the club email account. All club events are also posted on the ACI website under the Events menu.

In other club news, I wanted to update you on two administrative items. The first is that we migrated the club's email to a new account at the end of last year. Email blasts from our club now come from ctairstreamclub@gmail.com. Most of you would not have noticed this change, but please reach out if you experience any issue with club communications.

I also wanted to give you an update on the process of changing our club name to Connecticut Airstream Club. Although we voted to make this change at our fall business meeting, Airstream Club International must also approve the change before it is official. That is in the works and may take several more weeks. Our official name remains Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club in the meantime, but hopefully nobody is too confused by those of us that are informally using the new, shorter name.

I hope to see many of you at the Rousseau's next month. In the meantime, be well and enjoy another fun-filled, informative edition of our outstanding newsletter!

YIPPEE - Connecticut Airstream Club is BACK!

by Joyce Rousseau

No kidding- it was so nice to gather with our Airstream buddies for an afternoon

of friendship, fellowship and FOOD! It was amazing that we all arrived within 10 mins of the start time (except for the Lessig's who happen to live the closest) and were loudly greeted by our buddy, Mickey! Dave Jensen's basement room was perfect for our gathering and allowed plenty of space for warming soups, setting out appetizers, moving around to greet each other and then sitting at his prepared tables. Many thanks to Dave who so graciously welcomed us to his home and who was prepared for all things Airstream.

Those in attendance included: Evie and Bill Watts, Moe and Jason Perchinsky, Maureen and Brian Hunter, Billy and Julie Steers, Joyce and Gilles



Christine and Glen Lessig, Brian Hunter, Bill Watts, Joyce Rousseau, Dave Jensen, Moe and Jason Pershinsky, Russ Fuller
Front row- Maureen Hunter, Gilles Rousseau, Evie Watts, Julie Steers, Rhona Fuller and Billy Steers.

Rousseau, Rhona and Russ Fuller, Christine and Glen Lessig and our host, Dave. It was nice getting to know more about the Hunters who were attending their second gathering, and sharing empathy with Rhona and Russ on their loss of Snoopy, who has gone to be with his buddy, Axe. We had a few medical issues to share but hope that those with problems will soon be much better.

Continued page 3



YIPPEE - Connecticut Airstream

Continued

Oh- as to the food! What a great display of talent in making homemade soups! We had: shrimp soup, potato soup, bean soups (2), sausage and greens soup, mushroom soup, butternut squash soup, tomato basil soup and split pea soup along with a yummy salad, cheese bread and rolls to go with them. Thanks to all for attending this event and making such good food. Those of us from the western and central parts of the state now have some idea of the location of towns we hear on the weather forecasts. It was a nice trip, no matter which of the routes you followed, and a pleasure to be with our Airstream friends again.

See you down the road! Next stop, the Rousseau's on March 17!



Everyone enjoying a souper lunch!



Jason, Billy Joyce, Rona, Moe, Evie and Julie enjoy conversing before dinner.



Dave Jensen greeting Maureen and Brian Hunter and Joyce Rousseau.



Bill Watts, Christine Lessig, Maureen Hunter and Brian Hunter



by Sandy Sasuta

Welcome Back

Howie and Mari-Jo Jones **26540**
W. Springfield, MA

New Affiliates

Clifford Holensworth **7955**
St. Petersburg, FL

John Michael Deegan and Sarah Conly **2087**
Lebanon Springs, NY

Happy 2024...it's the first "Chatter" of the year. Here is an idea for the New Year: Start with an empty jar or folder...each month add a note about good things that happened to you individually or as a family. At the end of the year on New Year's Eve, empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had.



Larry Lamontagne



Kit Wheatley

Two dear members have passed away: **LARRY LAMONTAGNE** on December 26, 2023 after a long illness and **KIT WHEATLEY** on February 5, 2024 from ALS. We send our condolences to the families; they will both truly be missed.

Sending get well wishes to **RICH KUSHMAN** after having carpal tunnel surgery; soon there will be surgery on the other hand. The Club thanks him for providing a wonderful digital and printable version of the 2024 CT Directory.

BARD & KATHY FULLER hosted the Airstream Community Luncheon here in TR. It was a great time, well attended and included Club updates. Another event was the CT Souper Bowl Sunday (South), hosted by the **KUSHMANS & SASUTAS** with 33 in attendance. There were a variety of delicious soups, breads and a tasty selection of desserts. No one went away hungry. And, a similar event was enjoyed by the Club up North hosted by **DAVE JENSEN**.

Congratulations to **ALEX & SHERRY PORVEN** as they are now the proud owners of a new Airstream Trade Wind 25FBT. Happy Travels.

We received a "Thank you" letter from Travelers Woods of New England, in Bernardston, MA for our \$100.00 donation to the Shriner's. We had an overage at the Sept. 2023 rally and all agreed to make this donation.

We have a well-planned schedule of events for this year...look it over and sign up to enjoy a memorable camping season.

"It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years"...Abraham Lincoln.

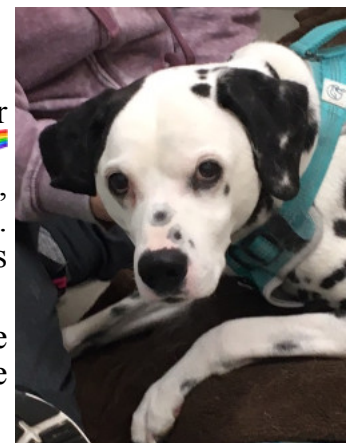
For all those other days!



Our hearts are broken again within the year. Our beautiful boy Snoopy passed over the rainbow bridge yesterday. He made the trip to Florida with us, but he was not doing good, so we brought him home. He loved to travel, but without his brother Axe, it was not the same.

For the first time in forty years, Russ and I are without our companions, it's going to be unbearable tough.

~ Rhona Fuller 2nd VP



Snoopy



Connecticut

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Chatter

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Connecticut Airstream Club

Souper Bowl Sunday



Connecticut members and guests sharing the annual Souper Bowl Sunday.



Wiley Downing, Guy Weik and Mark Lupien filling their bowls.



Cynthia Brodeur, Sandy Sasuta, Michael Sasuta, Michael Brodeur.



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

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February 2024



Ken Hankinson, Kevin, Guy, Laura, Denise Weik and Pam Forsyth.



Bard Fuller, Kathy Kushman, Kay & Frank Blunda, Rich Kushman and Kathy Fuller.



Juanita Landry, Cecile Lemaire, Marie & Mark Lupien, Louise Powers and Roger Landry.



Bert Contractor, Wiley Downing, Lyn Dibble Gail's sister, Gail Downing, Bob Landry and Susan Stahley.



John Freed, Rick & Beth Petrie, Beth's sister Caroline and her son Chip.

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Take a look at this unique Stardust Airstream.



Chili Cook-Off Winner

Mark & Deni Van der Voort

Spicy Beef and Red Bean Chili

SERVES 8 - Prep Time: 1 Hour Total Time: 3½ hours

We particularly like this chili because of its complex flavors: it gets richness from the bacon and beef, heat from the jalapeño, chili powder, and cayenne, and a pleasant edge of bitterness from the coffee and chocolate. For this recipe, we recommend using standard chili powder, which includes other spices in addition to ground dried chiles; pure chile powder would be too strong. Serve the accompaniments in small bowls so your guests can add them as they like.



Secret Recipe

½ pound bacon (8 slices)
3 pounds boneless beef chuck, cut into 1-inch cubes
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 large white onion, chopped
1-2 jalapeño chiles (to taste), chopped (including seeds)
4 large garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons dried oregano, crumbled
¼ cup chili powder
½ to 1 tbsp. chipotle flakes
1 tablespoon ground cumin
¼ teaspoon cayenne
1 (14½-ounce) can beef broth
1 cup brewed coffee
1 cup water
1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes in purée
1 ounce good bittersweet chocolate (not unsweetened), chopped
3 / (19-ounce) cans small red beans or kidney beans, drained and rinsed
A bit of good red wine approx. 2/3 cup.

ACCOMPANIMENT

- toasted salted pumpkin seeds
- chopped red onion
- torn fresh cilantro sprigs
- diced avocado
- lime wedges
- sour cream
- warmed corn chips.

Cook bacon in a 6- to 8-quart wide heavy pot over moderate heat, turning occasionally, until crisp, about 12 minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain, then crumble when cool. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons fat from pot. Pat beef dry and season with salt and pepper. Add oil to pot and heat over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking. Working in 4 to 6 batches, brown the beef, without crowding, about 5 minutes per batch. Transfer with a slotted spoon to a plate. Add onion and jalapeños to pot, reduce heat to moderate and cook, stirring and scraping up brown bits, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, oregano, chili powder, cumin, and cayenne and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Return beef to pot, with any juices accumulated on plate, and add broth, coffee, water, and tomatoes, with their purée. Bring to a simmer and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, for 1 hour. Partially cover pot and continue to simmer until beef is very tender, 1/2 to 2 hours more. Stir in chocolate and beans and cook, stirring, until chocolate is melted and beans are heated through. Ladle chili into eight bowls and top with crumbled bacon. Serve accompaniments separately.

COOK'S NOTE

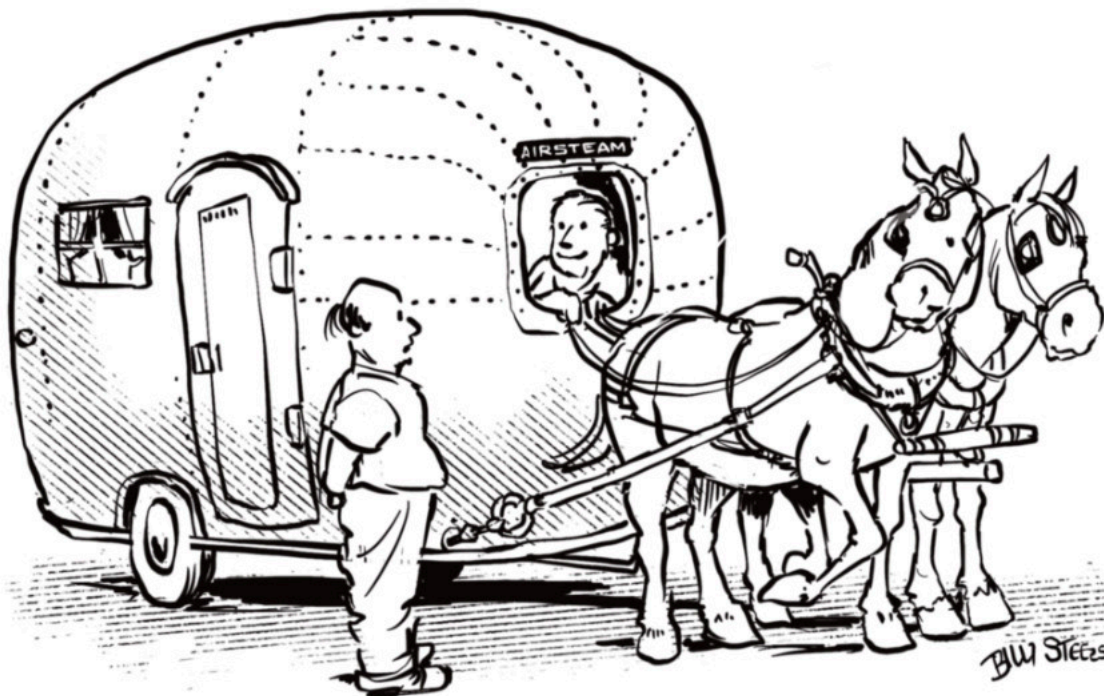
- The chili can be made up to 2 days ahead. Cool completely, uncovered, then refrigerate the chili and bacon separately, covered.



CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

WWW.BILLYSTEERS.COM

STREAM LINES by Billy Steers



"WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO GET A CLASSIC TOW VEHICLE FOR YOUR VINTAGE TRAILER I NATURALLY ASSUMED ANTIQUE TRUCK."

Whenever available be sure to attend Billy's seminar on creating a travel journal - also visit Billy's website and make sure you add a copy of **Let's Just Go**, the adventures of an Airstream travel trailer **Snug** to your library or gift list. Oh, and check out **Tractor Mac**. ~Ed



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Run a Rally or Rendezvous

Plan an Event Be a Host Team -Up

Connecticut club resources are available.
[Click Here for Equipment and Supplies Listing](#)
Volunteer now - contact Connecticut club president.

June Needs a Host
Plan a June event!

Helpful LINKS

[Airstream Club
International](#)

[Connecticut
Airstream Club](#)

[Russ's Spring
Checklist](#)

[Russ's Winterizing](#)

[Connecticut Club
Supplies](#)

[Airstream Supply](#)

[ACI Resource
Center](#)

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[Passport America](#)

[Region One ACI](#)

[Reserve America](#)

[RV Park Reviews](#)

[State Park Guide](#)

[Tin Can Tourists](#)

["Let's Just Go"](#)

Executive Board



President
Don Allers



Past President
Carol Dubrowski

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.
- Sherry Anderson



First Vice President
Julie Steers



Second Vice President
Rhona Fuller



Treasurer
Sandy Sasuta



Recording Secretary
Christine Lessig



Second Year Director
Alex Porven



Second Year Director
Carl Davis



First Year Director
Moe Pershinsky



First Year Director
Russ Fuller



Social Secretary
Kathleen Kushman

Standing Committee Chairs



Membership
Gail Downing



Newsletter/Webmaster
Richard Kushman



Ethics and Grievances
Mike Sasuta

Event Schedule 2024

December Sat, Dec 16, 2023

Noon-3pm: Holiday Party hosted by Allers in Wilton, CT

Very Festive

February Sun, Feb 11, 2024

Souper Bowl Party hosted by Dave Jensen in Brooklyn, CT

Delicious

February Sun, Feb 11, 2024

Florida Souper Bowl Party hosted by Sandy Sasuta & Kathy Kushman

March Sun, Mar 17, 2024

St. Patrick's Day Party hosted by Rousseaus in Southbury, CT

May May 3-5

Rendezvous at the CAMA Spring Power Up hosted by Russ & Rhona Fuller in Kent, CT

May May 16-19

Region 1 Gathering in Brimfield, MA

May May 31-June 2

Spring Business Meeting Rally, hosted by Dubrowski's and Dave Jensen at Charlie Brown Campground in Eastford, CT

June Host Wanted

Have fun hosting your special Airstream event.

July July 12-14

Joint Rally with Cape Cod AC, hosted by Eddie Carli and Russ Fuller at the Pastures Campground in Orford, NH

August August 9-11

Mystic Arts Festival Joint Rally with New England AC, hosted by Bard Fuller and Tess McShane in Mystic, CT

September September 20-22

Fall Business Meeting Rally, hosted by Sasutas, Travelers Woods of New England, Bernardston, MA.

October October 5-10

International Rally, Sedalia, MO

What did you think?

Connecticut Chatter

Editor: Richard Kushman
Info & Pictures: Sandy Sasuta
Printing: Joyce Rousseau
Proof Reader: Kathleen Kushman

Seven

Frisbeetarianism
~ George Carlin

**All Chatters are
available on the
club website.**

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. — Sherry Anderson



St. Patrick's Day Gathering

Sunday, March 17- 1:00-3:00 pm

Where? Gilles and Joyce Rousseau's Home

Why? Winter was too long and cold and we like seeing our club friends- besides celebrating St. Patrick

Cost? \$15 per person, payable at the event

Includes? Appetizers, entrée and dessert, BYOB please

Reserve on-line at:

<https://form.jotform.com/240278109889166>



Calls will be made 3/16 to cancel if weather forecast is nasty.

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BOONDOCKING IN THE LITCHFIELD HILLS

CONNECTICUT AIRSTREAM CLUB RENDEZVOUS



2 0 2 4
SPRING
POWER-UP

Saturday - Sunday *April 26 - 28*

10 AM TO 4 PM
RT. 7, 1 MILE NORTH OF KENT, CT
(31 KENT-CORNWALL RD)

RAIN OR SHINE

**OPERATING GAS & STEAM EXHIBITS | WORKING FARM EQUIPMENT
BLACKSMITH SHOP | SAWMILL | RAILROAD | MINING EXHIBITS**

ARRIVE FRIDAY AFTER 3PM – HELP SETUP THE TENT

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE 7AM -9:30

STROLL AROUND THE CAMA SPRING POWER-UP SHOW ALL WEEKEND

ENJOYING THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF YESTERYEAR

ENJOY THE COMMUNITY OF KENT CT AND IT MANY SHOP & EATERIES

GATHER UNDER THE TENT WITH FRIENDS AS YOU WISH THROUGHOUT THE DAY

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE 7AM -9:30

There is NO Kitty Fee and the Camping Fee \$42.00 per trailer includes two nights dry camping and admission to the Power-Up Show all weekend for the family.

Camping is dry camping so come with a full water tank and empty waste tanks.

There is NO power, water and sewer hook ups and NO dump station.

JOTFORM REGISTRATION

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Friday May 31 - Sunday June 2

Charlie Brown Campground

**98 Chaplin Road
Eastford, CT 06242**

Visit with old and new Connecticut Airstream Friends

Bike the CT Airline Trail

Hike in Natchaug State Forest

Explore Historic Quiet Corner towns

Create your own Succulent Garden Planter*

* A small fee will be charged for the succulent garden project.

South West themed Games/Corn Hole/Cactus Throw

Enjoy our covered Pavilion with campfire ring

Campsites \$130.50/ for two nights

FRIDAY

- 5:30 PM - Heavy Happy Hour (potluck)
- 7:00 - Campfire

SATURDAY

- 8:00 AM - Huevos Rancheros
- Club meeting
- 3:30 PM - Succulent Garden Planter project
- Free time
- 6:00 - Fajitas with special toppings
- 8:00 - Campfire

SUNDAY

- 8:00 - Continental potluck breakfast

Registration: Please complete the

[Connecticut Airstream Club JotForm Here.](#)

Then follow the instructions to reserve your campsite at Charlie Brown Campground.

Rally Hosts: Carol and Chris Dubrowski, Dave Jensen, Christine and Glen Lessig

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The Pastures Campground Rally

Co-Hosted by Cape Cod Mass & Charter Oak Ct Airstream Clubs

Friday July 12-14, 2024

The Pastures Campground, 499 NH Rte. 10, Orford, NH 03777

Rally Hosts: Eddie Carll & Russ Fuller

Come join us for a mid-summer weekend in the greater Orford area to kick back and enjoy friends, food and the local area.

Enjoy.....

Pasture's Annual Christmas in July Celebration.

Special tour of the Post Mills Airport and Brian Boland's Ballooning Experimental Balloon and Airship Museum and the Vermontasaurus with Rick Cipot

Kayaking, Hiking or Biking

Joining in with the campground Christmas decorating of your trailer

Joint Club and Campground Residents Barbeque.

Live music on The Common on Saturday evening in Orford.

Kayak and Pontoon Boat rental are available for those who want to enjoy close to 40 miles of our beautiful section of the Connecticut River.

- ❑ 5 pm Friday Social hour-Bring your own drinks and simple/Light appetizers.
- ❑ 6 pm Friday Baked Potato Dinner with all the fixings. 8pm Campfire with Ice Cream.
- ❑ 7 am Saturday Early Bird Coffee Hour
- ❑ 8am Saturday Ham egg and cheese sandwich breakfast, home fries and assorted fruit.
- ❑ 5 pm Joint Summer Barbeque with Pastures Summer Folks (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Corn) co-hosted by Kim and Doug Robinson you might bring your favorite Christmas themed summer desert. 8 pm Campfire
- ❑ 7am Sunday Early Coffee Hour.
- ❑ 8 am Sunday Continental Breakfast.
- ❑ 5pm Sunday Cleanout your fridge dinner if you stay Sunday Night

Rally fee \$20.00 per person, which includes firewood and a kitty fee.

Camping rate is \$35 for RVs under 35 ft. and \$40 for larger units, for water/electric sites.

Please arrange your stay directly with Eddie by email: ecarl162@gmail.com Come early and stay longer if you like! Eddie & Paula will be at the Pastures July 11-15, 2023

Names _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ email _____

WBCCI # _____ Trailer length _____

Camping rate is \$35 for RVs under 35 ft. Nights _____ X \$35 = _____ over 35' X \$40 _____

Rally fee \$20.00 per person. \$20 X _____ = _____ Total Camping + Fee _____

Please make checks payable to CCMAC , fill out this form, mail or email

Eddie Carll, 12 River St, Plymouth, MA 02360

For additional information contact Eddie Carll at 508-454-6895 or ecarl162@gmail.com

The Pastures Campground Rally Friday July 12-14, 2024

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Mystic Outdoor Art Festival Rally

August 9-11, 2024

New England & Connecticut Airstream
Co-Sponsored Rally

Clubs



Location: **Sun Outdoors Mystic RV Resort and Campground**
45 Camp Ground Rd., Old Mystic, CT 06372

Rally schedule:

- Friday 4:30 pm BYOB happy hour with heavy appetizer potluck
- Sat 7:30 am coffee and hot beverages, 8:30 am full breakfast will be served (bring your own set up)
- The Mystic Outdoor Art Festival Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, and Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm
- Sat pm dinner on your own at one of the many wonderful restaurants in and around downtown Mystic, then gather around the bonfire starting at 7 pm
- Sun 8 am, coffee, hot beverages, and a light continental breakfast offering
- Sun pm, for those staying overnight, an optional group dinner at a local restaurant is likely – details tbd

Information about the art festival will be made available online by organizers [HERE](#). So much to see and do while in Mystic, CT! Seaport, Aquarium, kayaking, bicycling, hiking trails, pool at the campground, restaurants, shopping, microbreweries, wineries, and more!

To reserve your RV site, CALL DIRECTLY and mention you are part of the “Airstream Club Rally”.

Jessie Baldwin, Resort Manager, at 860-245-6039. They will honor a 20% discount off listed rates between August 9-12, 2024 for our rally attendees. **Twenty campsites (electric/water) are being held for this rally until May 1st**, after which time they become open to the public and you can take a chance getting one.

A **\$10 per adult** kitty fee will be **collected upon arrival** as your contribution to one full breakfast, morning beverages each day, local bakery pastries/donuts on Sunday am, and firewood.

Rally registration: Please complete this [online jotform](#) for rally hosts once you have reserved your campsite.

Questions? **Tess McShane** at (860) 536-4113, suzzypoi@gmail.com