

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj February 2024

President's Message



We finally got snow twice at the Jersey shore in the last two weeks. The first didn't last long as it was washed away by rain. The most recent snow hung around due to the winds and freezing temperatures.

It is difficult to think about camping when the weather is this cold, but because camping these days requires early reservations, sign-ups have been going on for a while now.

Our Google Groups email list is the most up to date method of receiving information. These are sent by various hosts/members. Please check your Spam folders.

Our next Watchung event is at Colonial Airstream. This is the third year that we have been asked to participate in their Annual 'The Next Adventure Sales Event'. We talk about Airstreams, WBCCI, caravans and how fun it is to be a part of the Watchung NJ Airstream Club. Watchung volunteers are still welcome to come and help man our table. There is always time to tour the Airstreams, visit their store and stop by the other booths. Please contact me if you would like to come on either February 16th or 17th.

Sign-ups are ongoing for all our planned rallies. It was great to see that the July Rally in Lanesborough, MA filled up and that additional sites were able to be reserved for our group. So, do not be left out in the cold, sign up for rallies today.

Do not forget about the Region 2 Rally in May - <https://airstreamclub.org/region-2> and the International Rally in October - <https://airstreamclub.org/rally2024>

While you are on the Airstream Club website, check out the other rallies (near and far). As WBCCI members you can attend any.

Lea #2256

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members and affiliated members

Karen Nemson

Melissa Phillips

Greg Woodruff

Steven Germansky

Cynthia Germansky



How to Find, Sign Up and Pay for an ACI Event Online

- Log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
- Click on the EVENTS tab
- 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.
- Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
- A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says **More**.
- 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.

Region 2 President's Message

Winter In New York



The white coating is called "snow" by the locals. It consists of frozen water. For more information see Wikipedia. Stock photo Pxhere.com.

We finally have snow in New York! Time to pull out the snowshoes 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. Here is the link to the jotform:

<http://form.jotform.com/233605413531144>

The first 100 registrants will get a special Region 2 Goody Bag.

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!

In other news, Region 2 will have a booth at the Sedalia, Missouri WBCCI International Rally. So far, Region 2 has 63 rigs signed up. **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 at fulloflife123@yahoo.com. 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.

A 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. For example, the New York Units (Finger Lakes/Hudson Mohawk and Metro New York) are planning an open-to-all Airstreamers Rally on the shores of Seneca Lake at Sampson State Park. Last year's theme was 'Circle the Wagons'. They had 60 rigs last year and had to turn away a number of trailers. This year they were able to lock in **96 sites** for the event! Their theme this year is '**A Taste of New York**'.

Below you will find the links to 2 YouTube videos. One is on BRNs and Rallies and the other is on RV electricity and Lithium batteries.

The one about BRNs was forwarded to me by Eric McHenry. The video talks about Big Red Numbers (BRNs) -- 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>

The second link is a Mike Sokol webcast on RV electricity focused on lithium battery basics.

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

Finally, as an ACI member, check out the discount programs available to you at [Member-Only Section | ACI \(airstreamclub.org\)](#). The Club has worked hard with vendors to provide these discount programs. Now that winter has started and things are 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.

Gary Russo



January Luncheon Report

Our mystery correspondent writes:

Ken and Nancy Egan kicked off the New Year for the Watchung NJ Airstream Club in grand manner on Saturday, January 20th by once again hosting a luncheon at Cryan's Tavern. A total of nineteen Watchung Airstreamers were in attendance to enjoy the afternoon of friendship, good food and lively conversation. Those in attendance included the Egans, George and Linda Kiesel, Rich and Kathi Short, Howie and Braith Eldridge, David and Dotty DeCota, Pat and Flo Attanasio,



Chow-down action at Cryan's Tavern. Photo R Short.

David and Judy Cahall, Frank DeHerde, and four of our newest members Steven and Cynthia Germansky and Brian and Heide Cullen. The Cullens got bragging rights for furthest distance traveled from home, coming all the way from Ocean City, NJ to attend while the Germanskys got the "OMG, I love your trailer" award for their new Pottery Barn Edition! Both couples earned "extra credit" for wearing their badges and putting a few regulars to shame! (You know who you are, wink wink.) Seriously, it was great to have these two new Watchung couples with us and to see them fit right into the Watchung family. We look forward to seeing them out camping with the Club as the New Year unfolds.

The food and drink at Cryan's never disappoint. After everyone enjoyed their meal of choice (Fish and Chips with a Guinness for your humble correspondent) and a few treats from the dessert offerings, the hat was passed for our 2024 charity, St. Jude Children's Research

Hospital. In true Watchung fashion a total of \$123 was raised by our always-generous club members. The goal to surpass the \$1268 raised by Club members last year for St. Jude is off to a wonderful start. Thank you to all for donating to this great cause. Your generosity is legendary and always greatly appreciated.

While the luncheon calendar for February was open at the time of this writing, Ken Egan announced that the March Luncheon would be held on March 16th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Woodbridge, NJ. Hosting will be Meg and Laura Riley along with Leslie and Frank DeHerde. See details in the Luncheon and Rally Schedule, page 9 in this edition of the *Hillbilly*.

The American Irish Association will hold New Jersey's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in Woodbridge on March 10th. Ken assured us the town and hall would be "quiet" for our luncheon after the big event the weekend prior. Ken and Nancy have a long history with the AIA. Ken was the Grand Marshall in last year's parade and was featured in the *Hillbilly* at that time. Ken also noted they've never had an Airstream in the St. Patrick's Parade and encouraged the Club to consider it for 2025. How about it...interested?!



New members at their first club luncheon Steven and Cynthia Germansky and Brian and Heide Cullen. Braith Eldridge is in the foreground. Photo R. Short.

Frank DeHerde reminded everyone that registration for the Unbutton Your Rig Rally at Camp Carr opens on January 23rd and advised those interested to sign up as early as possible. The high demand for camping sites doesn't seem to be waning and Camp Carr is a popular venue. The April club event is a Buddy Rally and the first Business Meeting of the year. Sign up, get that rig unbuttoned, and come on out and support your Club at our first camping rally of the year.

February Recruiting Drive

The Watchung Club has once again been invited to participate in Colonial Airstream's annual 'The Next Adventure Sales Event'. Held each February, this weekend-long sale brings in hundreds of prospective Airstream customers who are also prospective WBCCI and Watchung club members. We will have a table in the showroom with literature and swag but the best recruiting is done in person by our members. We are looking for volunteers to spend a few hours at Colonial to spread the word about the benefits of joining WBCCI and our club.

The sales event runs Friday and Saturday February 16th and 17th from 10 to 5 each day. We have set up a schedule with 2-hour time slots for each day. Please contact Lea Plant at tenlea@aol.com (973-477-0289) to sign up for a slot or two. Colonial Airstream is located at 595 State Highway 33 Millstone Township, NJ 08535. It is about five miles from Turnpike exit 8.

Please check out:

<https://www.colonialairstream.com/next-adventure-sales-event>

and/or

<https://www.facebook.com/Colonial.Airstream>

Colonial Airstream has been supporting Watchung NJ Airstream Club for decades! Let's take advantage of the crowd that they anticipate.

Thanks for your support,

Lea Plant #2256

President, Watchung NJ Airstream Club



Announcements

Sunshine Report

We sent a sympathy card to Kathi Short due to a death in her family. We sent Judy Cahall a get-well card after her medical procedure. Finally we sent Erika Beddiges a sympathy card due to the passing of her father.

Would you like to have a card sent to another club member to wish them well? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel our Sunshine Director at lkiesel@ptd.net.

February Birthdays

Erika Beddiges

Michael Koczwara

KJ Feury

Richard Short

Mike Richards

2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
March 2024	Luncheon March 16 noon; details will be in your email in mid February	Leslie DeHerde	Meg Riley	Knights of Columbus, 130 Main St. Woodbridge NJ
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	Jay and Cathy McCarthy	Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd., Catawissa, PA
September 2024	No Dilly-dally Rally/Sep 6-8	Meg and Laura Riley	Mark and Angie Ratliff	Lums Pond State Park, Delaware
October 2024	International Rally/October 5-10	WBCCI	NA	MO State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO
October 2024	Club Rally or luncheon, TBD, and Business Meeting	Patty Ciak and Sam Kessel		TBD
November 2024	Luncheon/TBD	Michael Koczwar and Barbara Taylor		TBD
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/TBD	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	TBD

April Rally Information

April No Frills Unbutton Rally

At YMCA Camp Carr
2 Camp Buck Road
Annandale, NJ 08801

Hosts: JoAnne Elacqua and Frank and Leslie DeHerde (lesairstreaming@gmail.com)

Located on a bend of the South Branch of the Raritan River across from hundred-foot granite cliffs in rural Hunterdon County, YMCA Camp Carr's 20-some sites are all right on the river, a favorite of trout anglers. All sites have water and 30-amp electric. The campground has a full-time host who will deliver firewood to your site, a bath house, pavilion, and dump station. You hardly know you're in Jersey! Please let JoAnne or Leslie know your site number so they can plan.

Dates: Check-in Friday April 26th – check-out Monday April 29th

Registration opens on January 23rd, please use the Camp Carr reservation link to make your reservation: <https://bookings10.rmscloud.com/Search/Index/10728/90/>

- Friday:** Happy Hour at 5 pm. Dinner on your own. Campfire weather permitting.
- Saturday:** Continental breakfast 8:30 to 10:00am Continental: Muffins, Bagels and Fixings, coffee etc. Bring your plates and Utensils.
Happy hour 4pm.
Dinner: Pulled pork and salads each camper please bring plates and utensils.
Collection for charity
- Sunday** Continental breakfast 8:00 to 9:00. Please bring your plates and utensils.
Executive board meeting 9:00. General meeting to follow.
Happy Hour Dinner on your own
- Monday** Breakdown and Checkout

Sign up with Jot Form or mail coupon below to Lois Wagner 29 Colony Court, New Providence NJ 07974 with check payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club.

Name _____ Cell _____ BRN: _____

Site Number of your reservation _____

of People x \$15.00 per person = _____

July Rally Information

July in the Berkshires Rally
Mt. Greylock Campsite Park
15 Scott Road, Lanesborough MA 01237
July 19-21, 2024

Hosts: Joanne and Chris Forster. Cohosts: Lois Wagner and Derek Conley

You can now make your reservations for July's rally at this link: [Mt Greylock Campsite Park Reservations](#).

The reservations are for Friday and Saturday night, July 19 and July 20. **If you would like to go earlier and/or stay later, please call the campground (413-447-9419) rather than using the link, and mention you are with the Watchung Airstream group.**

So far we have 13 rigs signed up.

Note that you reserve by rig size rather than specific site. All sites have water, electric, and gray water hook-up. Black water can be dumped as you exit the campground.

We have sites 30 through 38B reserved (see map on website) and they are all very nice sites. Lois and I are in sites 31 and 35, which is where we will have our group tent set up.

Mt Greylock Campsite Park is an award-winning park in the foothills of the Berkshires. Visit the website to see all the amenities: <https://www.mtgrelockcampsitepark.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. 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.

We will send out the coupon and more information on this rally as we get closer to the date. Feel free to email (joanne.rf55@gmail.com) or call me (908-209-3490) if you have any questions. And **please email me if you sign up** so I can keep a running tally of who is going and monitor if we need to add more sites.



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

August Rally Information

August at Lake Glory Campground—Buddy Rally

96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820
570-356-7329

When: Friday August 16th thru Sunday August 18th, 2024. Hosted by Linda and George Kiesel. Cohosts Jay and Cathy McCarthy.

Where: Knoebels Lake Glory Campground 96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820. 570-356-7392. Knoebels.com

Come join us for a relaxing fun-filled weekend. The campground runs a no-cost shuttle to Knoebels amusement park which is dog-friendly. Other attractions in the area include the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine tour in Ashland PA, Geyser Big Mine Run, and several covered bridges in the area.

Twenty sites have been reserved for the club. Lake Glory will hold this block of sites for us for 90 days (till 3/13/24) so please call them soon and reserve your spot. The cancellation fee is only \$5.00 if you cancel more than seven days prior to your arrival date. Please do not delay. The campground will sell out before summer.

We have reserved the following sites (see link below for the campground map): Sites KD116 through KD136; Site LC02 through LC12.

All sites are full hookup, 30-amp electric. There are a limited number of 50-amp sites in the LC group available.

To reserve, please call [570-356-7392](tel:570-356-7392) and tell them you are with the Airstream Club. This number is direct to Lake Glory.

<https://www.knoebels.com/download/?id=3370> - site map

<https://www.knoebels.com/stay/lake-glory-campground> - website

Please let George Kiesel know what site you have booked so he can keep a tally of who is where: gkiesel861@gmail.com.

September Rally Information

The No Dilly-dally Rally

Lums Pond State Park
1068 Howell School Road
Bear, Delaware 19701
302-368-6989

When: September 6-8, 2024

Hosts: Meg and Laura Riley

Co-hosts: Angie and Mark Ratliff

We are trying to get all the club in sites 45 thru 62 if possible and there are currently 41 sites open. If you can't get close to sites 45 & 46 no worries! Book asap for best selection!

Use this link to book and view the campground site map:

<https://delawarestateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/lums-pond-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=DE&parkId=360119>

Once you have your site, please email Meg Riley at vespameg@yahoo.com with your site number and date of arrival. Don't dilly dally or you'll miss the rally!

The hosts and co-hosts will be arriving a day earlier, September 5, so please feel free to join them.



Lums Pond State Park. Photo: Delaware State Parks

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HUGE INVENTORY!

Items for the newsletter?

Send them by the 20th of each month to: (dconley1810@gmail.com)

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

Membership: George Kiesel (gkiesel861@gmail.com)

President: Lea Plant (tenlea@aol.com)



2024 Watchung Club Officers		Other Club Roles	
President	Lea Plant	Membership	George Kiesel
1 st Vice President	Leslie DeHerde	Sunshine	Linda Kiesel
2 nd Vice President	Laura Riley	Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Correspondence Secretary	Lea Plant	Directory	Chris Forster
Recording Secretary	Richard Short	Newsletter	Derek Conley
Treasurer	Lois Wagner	Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau
Directors	Rebecca Glick		
	Cathy McCarthy		
	Kathi Short		
	Stayla Elacqua		

