



# NORVA NEWS

## March 2024



### Message from the President

#### Notes from the President

NORVA had a good new members rally on March 9 at the Lost Rhino Brewery. It was well attended by both new and old members. Lew Brodsky, Membership Director, as normal gave an excellent overview and history of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (dba Airstream Club International). In addition Bob Nickel, 1st. VP gave an overview of upcoming rallies for the year (check the calendar of the NORVA website - link below and also in the NORVA Newsletter. Jim Oxley, 2nd. VP provided information on the caravan he and Nicky are leading in July, "The Endless Summer Caravan."

The weather is starting to warm so now is the time to start planning on getting your Airstream out of hibernation. We have two rallies in April, two in May and one in June. I will see you there.

Gerry Nagel, NORVA President

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### NORVA Welcomes New Members with Unforgettable Event

The NORVA Airstream Club, known for its tight-knit community and adventurous spirit, recently hosted a spectacular event to welcome new members into its fold. Presented by our very own Lew Brodsky at Lost Rhino Brewing, this gathering was more than just a typical meetup—it was a celebration of friendship, shared experiences, and the timeless allure of Airstream living.

From the moment newcomers arrived they were met with open arms and warm smiles from seasoned members of the NORVA Airstream Club. One of the highlights of the event was a series of educational briefings which included Rally information as well as a detailed history of the

Airstream lifestyle. We covered a wide range of topics, including towing tips, maintenance essentials, and insider secrets for maximizing comfort and convenience on the road.

Beyond the educational aspect, the event was also a time for members to bond and forge lasting friendships. Tacos, beer and the NORVA family made it a fantastic day.

As proud members of the NORVA Airstream Club, attendees also took time to review the traditions and heritage that define the Airstream community, including learning about Wally Byam, the visionary founder of Airstream, to showcasing vintage trailers and memorabilia, the event not only welcomed our newest members but also served as a heartfelt tribute to the spirit of adventure and innovation that has fueled Airstream's legacy for generations.

As the event came to a close, new members departed with a sense of excitement and anticipation for the journeys that lie ahead. Armed with newfound knowledge, a network of support, and a shared passion for exploration, they set out on their Airstream adventures with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that they are part of a community that will always have their back.



The NORVA Airstream Club's New Member Event was not just a gathering—it was a celebration of friendship, community, and the timeless allure of Airstream living. By welcoming new members with open arms and providing them with the tools and resources they need to thrive, the club continues to uphold its legacy as a beacon of camaraderie and adventure in the world of Airstreaming. If you have questions or would like a copy of the briefings, email Lew at [lbrodsky@cox.net](mailto:lbrodsky@cox.net)

Thank you to Lew for hosting another fantastic event.



## What's next?

**The Maintenance Rally** is just around the corner and Todd Heron wanted to share a helpful article to get everyone thinking about questions to ask out host Tom Carmichael.

**Mastering the Multi-Meter for Airstream Trailer Maintenance:** A Comprehensive Guide  
Maintaining an Airstream trailer involves more than just polishing its iconic exterior or planning your next road trip; it requires understanding and monitoring its electrical systems.

From checking battery levels to troubleshooting lighting issues, a multimeter is an indispensable tool for Airstream owners. In this guide, we'll explore how to use a multimeter specifically for maintaining an Airstream trailer's electrical components.

Understanding Airstream Electrical Systems:

Before diving into multimeter usage, it's essential to grasp the basics of an Airstream's electrical setup:

**12-Volt System:** Airstreams typically run on a 12-volt electrical system powered by batteries. This system powers interior lights, water pumps, fans, and other accessories.

**120-Volt System:** Airstreams also feature a 120-volt AC system for appliances like air conditioners, microwaves, and outlets when connected to shore power or a generator.

Using the Multimeter for Airstream Maintenance:

Checking Battery Voltage:

- Set the multimeter to DC voltage mode.
- Connect the red probe to the positive terminal and the black probe to the negative terminal of the battery.
- Read the voltage displayed on the screen. Healthy batteries typically read around 12.6 volts when fully charged.

Testing Interior Lights:

- Set the multimeter to DC voltage mode.
- Disconnect the light fixture or switch from the wiring.
- Touch the probes to the wires supplying power to the fixture or switch.
- Activate the light switch and check for voltage. Lack of voltage indicates a potential wiring issue.

Troubleshooting Water Pump:

- Set the multimeter to DC voltage mode.
- Disconnect the wires connected to the water pump.
- Connect the multimeter probes to the wires.
- Turn on the water pump switch and check for voltage. No voltage suggests a faulty switch or wiring.

Testing Shore Power Connection:

- Set the multimeter to AC voltage mode.



- Plug the Airstream into a shore power outlet.
  - Insert the probes into the Airstream's AC outlet.
  - Read the voltage displayed on the screen. It should be around 120 volts.
- Checking Continuity:
- Set the multimeter to continuity mode.
  - Use this function to check for broken wires or connections within the Airstream's electrical system.
  - For example, test the continuity of wiring from the battery to various components to ensure proper connections.
- Safety Tips for Airstream Multimeter Usage:
- Always turn off power sources and disconnect batteries before performing electrical tests.
  - Use insulated probes and wear appropriate safety gear to prevent electrical hazards.
  - Exercise caution when working with live circuits and high voltages.

#### Conclusion:

A multimeter is an invaluable tool for maintaining the electrical systems of your Airstream trailer. By understanding how to use it effectively, you can troubleshoot issues, ensure proper functionality, and prolong the life of your Airstream's electrical components. Regular maintenance checks using a multimeter will help you enjoy worry-free adventures on the open road with your beloved Airstream.

## **Persimmon Hill May Rally** (hosted by Pete and Elizabeth West)

The NORVA May rally will be held at the West's Persimmon Hill house. It will be a dry camping weekend rally with trailer sites on the hill overlooking the Loudon Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountain down toward Front Royal. The rally will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 31st through June 2nd. If campers wish to come early on Thursday afternoon they may do so. We have two camping areas, one near the house lot and the other on the top of the hill. There will be water available at both sites and possible 15 amp power for charging (TBD – no guarantees). We need to know who will be pulling their airstreams with a 4 wheel drive vehicle for the upper hill site.

We intend this weekend to be low key with plenty of sitting out on the porch and enjoying the views and some music and maybe some wine. We will go out to dinner at local restaurants both Friday and Saturday nights. Breakfast will be at our house and lunches will be on your own. We have not finished setting up activities for the two days yet but we will probably take a half hour trip down to the Sky Meadow Stater Park where you can hike and visit the Northern Virginia chestnut tree restoration orchard or people could go to the Virginia State Blandy Arboretum just over the mountain to see the chestnut orchard there and hike. On Saturday there will be a field trip to the lavender farm close by. Sunday morning we will provide bagels fruit and coffee before people begin to pack up and leave. You can stay throughout the day Sunday if you wish. The rally fee will be \$20 per camper unit and any excess will be donated back into the NORVA treasury. Be sure to bring your binoculars and hiking poles. Please e-mail us to register for the rally. Rally registration closes may the 15th or when we hit our maximum of 15 rigs.

Register at <https://airstreamclub.org/norva-2024-persimmon-hill-rally>





Photo by Colleen Heron, River Rally 2023

Don't forget to sign up for the **RIVER RALLY** (June 7-9)

It is time to sign up for the River Rally hosted by Gail and Doug Perkins along with co-hosts Wendy and Bob Nickel. This is a very fun rally with games and the famous wine tasting with Charcuterie Board that takes place on Saturday afternoon.

Currently they have 25 reserved campsites. The campsites if not filled by April 15 will be open to anyone wanting to camp there. If you decide to come after April 15 there is no guarantee of getting a campsite. The process is to sign-up for a campsite (identify yourself as the NORVA River Rally for a 20% discount) and then register through the attached link so the hosts will know you are attending.

Last year was fantastic and was full of so many great activities.

Use the following link <https://airstreamclub.org/norva-2024-river-rally>



## Register Now for the **NORVA 2024 ENDLESS SUMMER CARAVAN**

Join us for the 2024 Endless Summer Caravan, where immediate openings await your adventurous spirit! Embark on a summer journey along the picturesque US southeastern coast, spanning from North Carolina to Georgia, from July 10th to July 21st. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

Time is of the essence, with high demand for campsites, so we encourage you to sign up as soon as possible. Secure your spot with a \$1,520 deposit by no later than February 25th. Additionally, anticipate a kitty fee of around \$300 per person due later as we approach the trip.

While our detailed itinerary is still in the works, we're planning a minimum of three-day stops at four locations and an overnight stay en route.

Our reserved campsites include OBX Campground in Outer Banks, Emerald Isle NC, an en-route stop near Myrtle Beach, a five-day stay near Charleston, and three days at Hilton Head.

Aside from enjoying the beautiful beaches at each location, we have exciting activities lined up. Explore the Wright Brothers Memorial in OBX, visit The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, and experience the historical charm of Fort Macon State Park.



# NORVA Executive Officers 2023-2024

President: Gerry Nagel

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Bob Nickel

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jim Oxley

Secretary: Gail Perkins

Treasurer: Bev Bevis

Membership: Lew Brodsky

Newsletter Co-Editors: Barbara Formoso & Colleen Heron

Webmaster: Patsy Nagel

Legislative Director: John Bevis

Parliamentarian: Tom Carmichael

Past President: Peter West

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/norvairstream>



Let's not make  
changes, let's make  
only improvements,  
Wally Byam



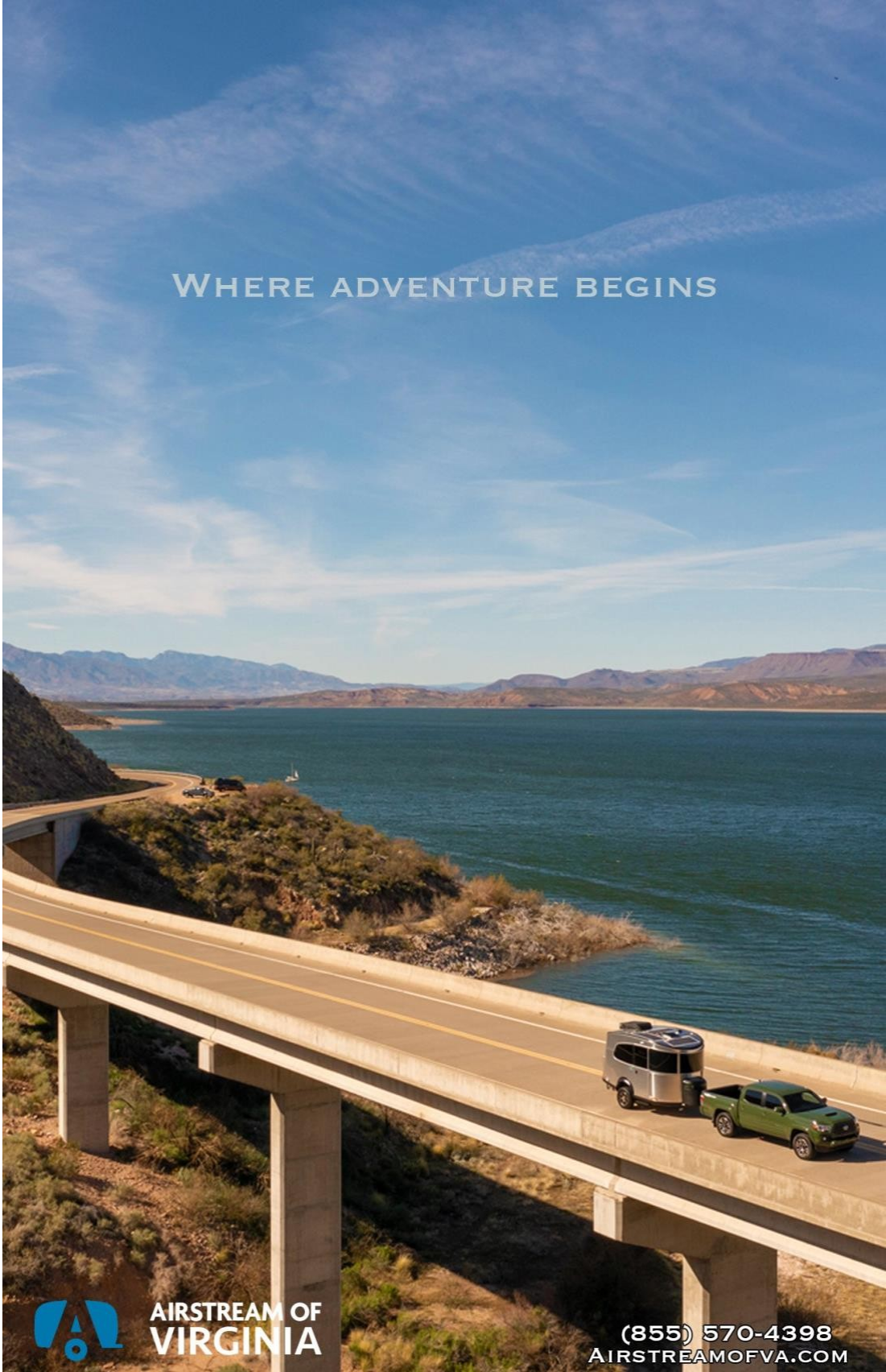
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