



## Keystone Kourier May 2024



### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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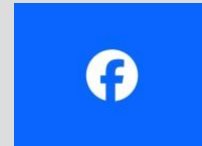
Gotta Love Spring! Every morning brings a new shade of green with additional wildlife. Take some time to enjoy the fresh new sights, sounds and smells of the season. Then, hitch that bad boy and HIT the Road! Doesn't matter if it's a weekend, week or longer anytime in the spring is wonderful. But where to go? Glad you asked. In this issue you will find loads of options starting with the Keystone SKedule. Don't hesitate, don't wait. It's easier to sign up and cancel, if need be, then miss the boat. For the rallies coming up you will find sign up forms complete with details. Please note: If you were not able to secure a site for the events that interest you, don't write them off. Call the host and have your name put on a waiting list, often something will open. Plan to get out. Time does fly and before you know it the talk of winterizing will be back.....Oh Boy. We are looking forward to the upcoming maintenance rally (will be history by the time you read this). It's been a few years since we were able to get to this one and hope to see you there. If you are new to Airstreaming, RVing or have technical questions this is the place for you. Even old farts like me walk away with helpful information. I now carry a torque wrench to check my nuts and a gas sniffer. (no not that kind, lug, and propane) Both have come in handy. Shortly after, we will see you at the Lums Opener in DE. We are stretching our stay to a week to ride as much of the canal trail as we can and to make a side trip to Winterthur winterthur.com check it out, maybe it's also for you. Hope to see you down the road where we can kick back around the SOLO and tell the tale of travel. There is plenty to do!

Jody and Sue

### Club Officers

President, Jody Dietz [dietz4361@gmail.com](mailto:dietz4361@gmail.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP, Jennifer Eggers [jeggers@leadershiftinsights.com](mailto:jeggers@leadershiftinsights.com)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Brian Mulligan [mulligansix@rcn.com](mailto:mulligansix@rcn.com)  
Treasurer, Richard Pitts [r\\_pitts@verizon.net](mailto:r_pitts@verizon.net)  
Secretary, Susan Dietz [sdietz4361@gmail.com](mailto:sdietz4361@gmail.com)  
Immediate Past President, Howard Mergelcamp [howardsan70@gmail.com](mailto:howardsan70@gmail.com)  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee Don Harrington [pastordkh21@aol.com](mailto:pastordkh21@aol.com)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee Katherine Mulligan [mulligansix@rcn.com](mailto:mulligansix@rcn.com)  
Newsletter Editor Tabb Adams [crosscuttabb@gmail.com](mailto:crosscuttabb@gmail.com)

### Stay Connected



[Facebook Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club](#)

[Keystone on the Web](#)

[Airstream International Website](#)

Interested in joining the club? Contact Jody Dietz  
[dietz4361@gmail.com](mailto:dietz4361@gmail.com)

### Attention!!!

Content for the newsletter is needed, Photos, Trip Reports, history of the club, Rally and Caravan details from leaders. I'm trying to have a couple of rally spotlights each month! If you would like to submit anything, please email Tabb Adams Newsletter Editor!  
[crosscuttabb@gmail.com](mailto:crosscuttabb@gmail.com)

# 2024 Rally and Caravan Schedule

## Rally Reminder!

If you have secured a site for the May 3-5 rally at Lum's pond, please complete and send the rally coupon [Keystone PA / Central Penn Joint Rally @Lums Pond 2024](#) with your rally fee (\$25/adult) to Rick . Thanks!"

### March 2024

### June 2024

No Events Scheduled

### September 2024

#### Sept 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

Installation of new officers  
Host, Mulligan and Dietz Details to follow!

Sept 5-8 2024

Pennsylvania Rally  
See form for more info:  
<https://form.jotform.com/240015014357039>

### December 2024

#### Dec 7, 2024

Christmas, Holiday Luncheon  
Barb and Jerry Hillegass,  
Plumbsteadville

### April 2024

### July 2024

#### July 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

World of Outlaws Race Week  
Host, Richard and Andy Pitts, Jody and Susan Dietz Details, Eastern Museum of Motor Racing, BAPS Motor Speedway and Williams Grove Speedway, two race nights, 2 great Speedways along with Outlaw racing. Can't be better than that.

### October 2024

#### Oct 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

International Rally  
See Blue Beret for info.

#### Oct 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

National Apple Harvest Festival Joint Rally with Del-Mar-Va Unit Biglerville, Pa  
[appleharvest.com](http://appleharvest.com)  
Rick and Andy Pitts  
Details to follow.

### May 2024

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Lums Pond Joint Rally Host, Rick Pitts and Howard Mergelkamp Details, Lums Pond Delaware

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

R-2 rally Center Hall Fairgrounds  
Center Hall, PA

#### May 31<sup>st</sup>- June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Chester County BBQ Festival  
Host, Kathleen Quinn  
Details, French Creek State Park PA.

### August 2024

No Events Scheduled

### November 2024

#### Nov 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Gonna Need Campfires Rally Host, Jody and Sue and your name here  
Fredericksburg VA,  
Washington DC South KOA  
One of the best times of the year to camp in our opinion.  
Fredericksburg is a beautiful town steeped in History, Close to many Bicycle Trails, DC, National Parks, more info coming.

# Eastern PA Opener Rally

Lums Pond State Park, Bear, DE

May 3-5, 2024



- . **Friday evening** Burger Bar hosted by Central Penn (rally tent)  
(bring a side/salad/dessert to share, your beverage, and plate with utensils)
- . **Friday evening** campfire (weather permitting)
- . **Saturday morning** coffee and buns hosted by Keystone (rally tent) (bring mugs)
- . **Saturday morning** bike-a-thon, meet near rally tent at **9am**
- . **Saturday early afternoon** kayaking at **1pm**
- . **Saturday 3:30pm** Corn hole tournament with **PRIZES**
- . **Saturday 5pm** Cinco de Mayo "Mini" Margarita  
Happy Hour (rally tent)
- . **Saturday 6pm** Taco Bar hosted by Keystone (rally tent)  
(bring beverage and plate/tray with utensils)  
Beef and chicken tacos with fixings/Corn-Bean  
Salad/Warm creamy potatoes/Dolce de Leche  
topped vanilla ice cream
- . **Saturday evening** campfire (weather permitting)
- . **Sunday morning** "hasta luego" coffee (rally tent)(bring mugs)





# Eastern PA Opener Rally Registration

Lums Pond State Park, Bear, DE  
Friday May 3 – Sunday May 5



Get ready to party at the pond!

If you have secured a site at Lums for the rally please return the coupon and rally fee prior to April 15.



Early event planning includes:



- . Friday evening Burger Bar hosted by Central Penn (please bring a side/salad/desert, your beverage, and plate with utensils)
- . Saturday morning coffee and buns coordinated by Keystone (bring mugs)
- . Saturday afternoon corn hole tournament with prizes
- . Saturday evening Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar hosted by Keystone (bring beverage and plate with utensils)
- . Sunday morning coffee (bring mugs)

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## Eastern Opener Rally Registration

(please return by April 15<sup>th</sup>)

Campsite Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fee per adult: \$25 x number of adults = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks out to Keystone Airstream Club and mail to: Rick Pitts, 930 Stoney Run Dr, West Chester PA 19382



# Rally Spotlights



## Keystone PA Apple Festival Rally

Adams County, PA  
October 11-12-13

Located in the heart of Pennsylvania Apple country, The [National Apple Harvest Festival](#) celebrates the fall season with beautiful handmade crafts, delicious food, and live entertainment. The Festival has something for everyone... steam engine displays, live music, antique cars, orchard tours, pony rides, tastings... and much more!



We will be camping at Charcoal Hearth Campground at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Gardners, PA. Make your camping [reservations](#) now as sites (especially pet sites) will fill quickly for this weekend. Rate is \$27/night. The [park brochure](#) has a map of the campground. Stay Friday through Sunday if you can, so that you may enjoy either or both days of the festival. Sites are electric only, so fill your water tank before arrival. There are dump stations onsite.

Friday evening we'll provide a burger bar and on Saturday you can enjoy great food at the festival. With clear skies we will have campfires and BYO snacks Friday and Saturday. Coffee service Saturday and Sunday mornings. There is no rally fee.

The festival in nearby Biglerville will be open Saturday 8-6 and Sunday 8-5, rain or shine. You can purchase tickets online in advance (\$10), or get them at the festival grounds. Fire police will direct you to parking fields and shuttle bus service is provided to festival grounds (included in admission). Pets are not permitted at the festival. More about the festival here ([National Apple Harvest Festival](#))

If you have any questions please contact Rick or Andy Pitts, your Keystone hosts (Keystone Host site #11 Mule Team Lane). [r\\_pitts@verizon.net](mailto:r_pitts@verizon.net) or 610-793-9262



## Get your Motors Running



### *World of Outlaws Keystone Raceweek*

July 21 – 28



#### Receweek Schedule

#### **Sunday, Monday, Tuesday: Camping at Pinch Pond Family Campground**

Manheim, PA Full hook-ups

Tuesday day trip to Roots Country Market & Auction

Call Pinch Pond at 717-665-7640 or [pinchpond.com](http://pinchpond.com) for reservations. Be sure to say you are with the PA Keystone Airstream Club (reservation rate is \$57/night).

Area attractions include:

- . Mt. Hope Winery, Manheim PA
- . Excellent bicycle trails: Lebanon Valley Rail Trail and North West Lancaster County River Trail
- . Roots Country Market, Manheim. Tuesday's only. Great produce, meats, flea market and more.
- . Mount Gretna, a very cool little town just north of the campground.
- . City of Lebanon

#### **Wednesday: Caravan to BAPS Motor Speedway, York Haven, PA**

Free **DRY** camping in lot next to Speedway

World of Outlaws Brickers Bash, 6:30 pm (gates open at 5pm),  
general admission \$35

#### **Thursday, Friday, Saturday: Caravan to Walmar Manor Campground**

Limited number of sites

Dillsburg, PA Full hook-ups

Sites being held, just pay on arrival \$46/night

Thursday evening potluck dinner

#### **Friday: 10am guided tour of Eastern Motorsports Museum, York Springs, PA**

#### **World of Outlaws Summer Nationals, Day 1,**

Williams Grove Speedway, 7:30pm (gates open 2hrs before race),  
general admission \$35

#### **Saturday: World of Outlaws Summer Nationals, Day 2**

Williams Grove Speedway, 7:30pm (gates open 2hrs before race),  
general admission, \$40

If you have questions about the rally please contact either of your co-hosts:

Jody Dietz, [jdietz4361@gmail.com](mailto:jdietz4361@gmail.com), 484-941-1151

Rick Pitts, [r\\_pitts@verizon.net](mailto:r_pitts@verizon.net), 610-793-9262



# Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon

The St. Patty's Day Luncheon was held on March 16th at Lori and Joe Pfahler's house in Quakertown. Turnout was fantastic with about 18 club members in attendance. Joe and Lori made Shepherd's Pie to celebrate Irish cuisine. The sides and desserts provided by our club members were delicious. Following the expert example of hosting by Sharon and Wayne for the Valentine's Luncheon, the club members played several rounds of the "Roll the Rainbow" game to win some fun St. Patty's themed prizes. Luncheon attendees had to enter Lori and Joe's house through the garage to avoid disturbing a nesting duck. Included in the photos of the event is a picture of the ducklings that hatched on April 11. The mama duck quickly moved her nine ducklings to greener pastures and now the Pfahlers can finally use their front door again.







An Early Spring Outing  
Rick & Andy Pitts,  
BRN 27489

As with many of you, we got Spring Fever and had to pull the rig out for a short trip. We met up with Howard & Arry Mergelkamp and headed north to New York's Hudson Valley for a few days. It was 'wet' but not too 'soggy' for our Airventure. The Newburgh KOA was our base for 3 nights. It is a convenient stop for the many interesting venues in the Hudson Valley area.



We had the good fortune of dining at 2 of the Culinary Institute's fine restaurants in Hyde Park (Bocuse and Post Road Tavern). Ample portions of beef tartar, pork tenderloin, mussels, scallops, pot roast and scrumptious desserts (all wonderfully prepared and served by the students) left us very, very happy!



We also found a gem of a stop just north of the CIA, the Mills Mansion in Staatsburg. We spent over an hour touring this 'home' from the gilded age (1 of 5 Ogden and his wife Ruth Livingston Mills owned) with a wonderful docent. Maintained by the State, the mansion is still in use for special functions. Andy is already redesigning our dining room to best Mrs. Mills...(wish me luck as both of our Airstreams would easily have fit in the Mills dining area!).



Happy travels and see you down the road!

Will & Karen Kushto  
BRN 818

Hi! from Columbus IN where we attended the Region 5 Eclipse Rally. The Kushto's have been busy this year already. Below are some photos from our adventures.

The first three are from the Georgia On My Mind Caravan: Whistle Stop Cafe (site of Fried Green Tomatoes); Kadie the Cow in Macon; & The National Infantry Museum. The Caravan visited several plantations, Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains and FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs.



After a month touring Georgia, we visited our son in Knoxville and enjoyed a day in the Smoky Mountains, including climbing Clingman's Dome. Columbus IN Region 5 Eclipse Rally had about 70 rigs at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds. The County provided two nights of bands and a BBQ food truck. Great to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.



Off to the Mothership for an awning repair before heading to Pittsburgh for Will's mom's 102 birthday and then our home base, the Hope to see our Keystone Family at the maintenance rally in Centerville MD.



(I haven't heard of anyone for Sunshine. KK)



# Maintenance Rally Highlights



Jennifer Eggers  
BRN 4825



## In Search of Nestor

We (Nestor, Sulak, and I) got to Flagler Beach for the first leg of our 3-week North Florida tour. We spent a night on the beach and moved over to the riverside of Gamble Rodger's State Park. If you haven't stayed at this park, it's a real gem and the sites on the exterior of the riverside loop are incredible. Not a lot of shade but beautiful and some have quite a bit of privacy. You want the riverside instead of the beach and the people are very friendly. Our site backed up to the woods and was the perfect place to open the back hatch and relax. At least until Nestor, my indoor Peterbald cat (who identifies as Merriweather Lewis, the explorer) figured out before I did that he could bust right through the screen on the hatch. By the time I figured out he was missing, he had been gone for over an hour. I abandoned all plans of work for the afternoon and started calling him - he's an indoor cat - he couldn't be far. The camp host quickly figured out that something was amiss and asked me what was up. She immediately radioed the ranger station and launched a full-blown manhunt. Every park ranger and volunteer joined the search. They rustled up some campers and all told, we probably had about 10 people, 4 golden retrievers, 3 labradoodles, a Chihuahua, and several dogs on the case. Evidently the woods are filled with bobcats, rat snakes, and Florida panthers so we all figured Nestor didn't stand a chance. Frankly, between a pack of barking dogs circling the woods and an old lady running around screaming, 'here kitty kitty' at the top of her lungs, I figured he was unlikely to emerge from hiding ever. After a couple hours, I had just about given up when Ranger Jim (a self-proclaimed cat whisperer) told me he had seen him about half a mile away and took me to the spot in his ATV. But alas, the cat that comes when he's called and responds to shaking a bag of treats, didn't. I decided to walk the loop around the woods a few times when I remembered I had stuck an Apple AirTag on him before we left. But alas, there was no cell service in the Florida woods. On the second trip around, though, I got a ping. The tag had tracked him to exactly where Jim said he was. I ran there but couldn't find him in the palmetto jungle. After 35 more minutes, I started to walk home. A quarter mile later, it pinged again, and my phone flashed, "Nestor is with you." Darned if I could find him, but he had to be following me just inside the woods. Another 30 minutes went by, and it pinged again with him 10 feet behind me. I turned around and there he was crouched down trying to blend into the black dirt right in the middle of the trail. All told, he had been gone 5.5 hours and traveled farther than he's ever walked before. I carried him a quarter mile back to camp and found a group of people debating whether they should tell me about the snakes and the bobcats. Ranger Jim said he'd lost count of the number of cats they had lost that year. But Nestor was safe, against all odds. I'll never forget seeing him terrified on the trail, not even crying out to me like he does at home when he sneaks out.

We left Gamble Rodgers after a week and moved to Salt Springs to explore central Florida. By the time this is published, we'll also spend a week in Jacksonville and then head home. Here's to hoping the rest of the trip will be less eventful!







What looks to be a late 70's Argosy on a MAN truck chassis, built by Freddy Fast Racing over in Europe. Marcus Winkler AKA Freddy Fast has put a lot of thought into this build with seamless integration of the MAN Truck and the old Argosy. Being a rear engine truck you can see the radiator ducts on both sides of the rig. 54" tires make this an off-roading monster. The Argosy is fully restored on the inside with a full bath, queen-size bed, and roof top access to a deck with cargo carrying capabilities. Freddy named this beast Raumschiff which in German means spaceship. It's a great name for such a radical truck as you could see this in a science fiction movie. Since Freddy does the Dakar Rally every year the truck travels with the crew to provide accommodations during the rally. If you are interested in more details check out Freddy Fast racing on Instagram!



## Maintenance Tips

Don't Let this Happen to You!

Tire maintenance is one item you don't want to forget in your Airstream travels. While a blowout can happen from any number of road hazards, there are steps you can take to help prevent significant damage to your rig. As part of your spring opening, check the pressure and bring it to specs. Check the sidewall for any sign of wear/tear and replace as necessary. Check the manufacturer date of your tires and, generally, if more than 5 years consider replacing (even if the tire looks to be in good shape as sun exposure can weaken the tire). Consider using a TPMS (internal or external) on your tires as it will alert you to any sudden drop in pressure. And do check the speed rating of your tires and take your time travelling 'down the road'.







Newsletter Editors  
Tabb & Ruth Adams

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# F r o m T h e R o a d

## Reflections

March 5th, 2024 marked a milestone for Ruth and I—two years of exhilarating full-time travel. Our journey had been a whirlwind of discovery, spanning 38,000 miles across the vast tapestry of America. Yet, amidst the breathtaking landscapes and unforgettable experiences, lessons awaited us at every turn.

While I've always been very handy, I was apprehensive at first not knowing much about the complicated systems of our 2018 Classic 33FB. So one of the first upgrades we did was lithium batteries and moving them into the airstream and out of the battery box. I was in contact with a well-known Youtuber that had a great channel showing his work. The craftsmanship looked great, so we decided to have him do the work. After the work was done, I checked it over and all looked good. We got back on the road shortly after and headed for the mountains of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. After traveling for three months we pulled into Big South Fork National River Area. The road to the campground was very hilly, as I pulled into the campground, I said to Ruth that the truck hadn't been stopping like it had. Unbeknownst to me when the RV tech installed our batteries, he unplugged the cable that controlled the Airstream brakes. So we had been towing for 3 months all over the Appalachian Mountains with no brakes working on the Airstream. Just glad the truck could handle the 10'000 lbs. of the Airstream without the brakes. After that I decided that no one would ever work on the Airstream except me!

Next, we learned that you never judge a campground just by the great pictures they use on their website. One of the first places we visited on our travels was the gulf coast of Alabama. We had booked a week's stay and what seemed by the website a great campground. As we pulled into the campground, I had a sinking feeling that we had been tricked, but our sense of adventure was still fresh, so we pulled in and hooked up. As with a lot of campgrounds there are never a shortage of waves, welcomes and hellos, but here was a different story. We were welcomed with scowls, loud trucks, and a very unkept campground. We braved one night and decided the next day to move on to greener pastures. After that experience we did better at researching the reviews and google maps pictures.

Our Airstream, once a pristine canvas of aspiration, bore the scars of life's imperfections with grace. After a year of trying to keep it clean and shiny and scratch free I gave up. I decided to apply a ceramic coat to the Airstream in hopes it would help keep it cleaner. While not a small job it was better than paying \$8000 to have it done by a shop. I took my time over 4 days and polished and applied the ceramic coat in the heat of an Indiana August. Since applying the ceramic coat I've maybe washed the Airstream twice in over a year. Any cleaning is done with a ceramic speed shine every 2-3 months and that's it, the Airstream stays very clean. So I highly recommend a good ceramic coat I use Griots Garage products as we get a discount through ACI they have great customer service for any of their products.

The last lesson of many we learned was that things for the most part go right with hiccups along the way. One of the lessons learned was not to always trust the technology. The tire pressure monitoring systems are great for alerting you to a tire issue. However they can be misleading as we found out on a big western trip. We had pulled into a TA truck stop to refuel just east of Albuquerque, NM off I-40. They had just had a pretty bad storm roll though with a combination of wind, rain, and snow. During the storm the truck stop had lost power and we could not fuel up. As I pulled through the lot there was a large puddle of water with a deep pothole hidden within it. I drove the truck and airstream though the cold water and the TPS System lit up like a Christmas tree and alarms sounded that we had 2 completely flat tires. I thought what's the chances of two flats on one side at the same time, had I hit something in the pothole? I jumped out of the truck to inspect the carnage and to my surprise both tires were just fine. Later I figured out that the sensors are sensitive to sudden temperature changes, and as they were submerged in the icy cold water. The sensors thought that they had lost all pressure because of the rapid temperature change. Breathing a sigh of relief we continued our journey thought the western states.

I hope you enjoyed some of our experiences from our full-time travel, see you down the road!

Ruth & Tabb!