

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj May 2024

President's Message



Tis the Season - As I write this, I am in the process of Unbuttoning my trailer in anticipation for our 'Unbutton Your Rig Rally'. By the time you read this, the rally will be over, we will have had our first meeting of the year and we will have had a great time.

I say 'in the process' because weather is not always on my side. To wash and polish my trailer, ideally, I wait for a cloudy day with little or no wind (sometimes hard to find here at the Jersey Shore). I push myself to get the washing and polishing done in one day, before the seagulls find it. I have found a trick for those of you who dislike ladders as much as I do. I wear a pair of plastic gloves (dumping gloves). This will help your hand not to slip with soapy hands while holding on for dear life. I am still waiting for a sunny, windless day to wash my awning.

With list in hand, de-winterizing the water went well. After 5 years of doing this, I am still adding to my list. I did get a bit nervous when the pump ran so long (or so it seemed). Next year I will know that for my trailer 12 seconds is not a long time.

Don't forget to check your Spam folder. Club information will be from an individual member sent to our Google Groups email list. Such information would include the monthly Hillbilly, rally coupons, new members or WBCCI business.

Especially if you reserved a site for a rally, please be sure to keep hosts up to date.

Lea #2256

Region 2 President's Message

Editor's note: First below is Gary Russo's message for the month of April. It came in too late to be included in the April issue of the Hillbilly. Gary's May message follows.



Spring is in the Air

For me April means one thing. Some of you may think of moving the clocks forward, as in spring ahead. For me the truck and trailer come out of winter storage.

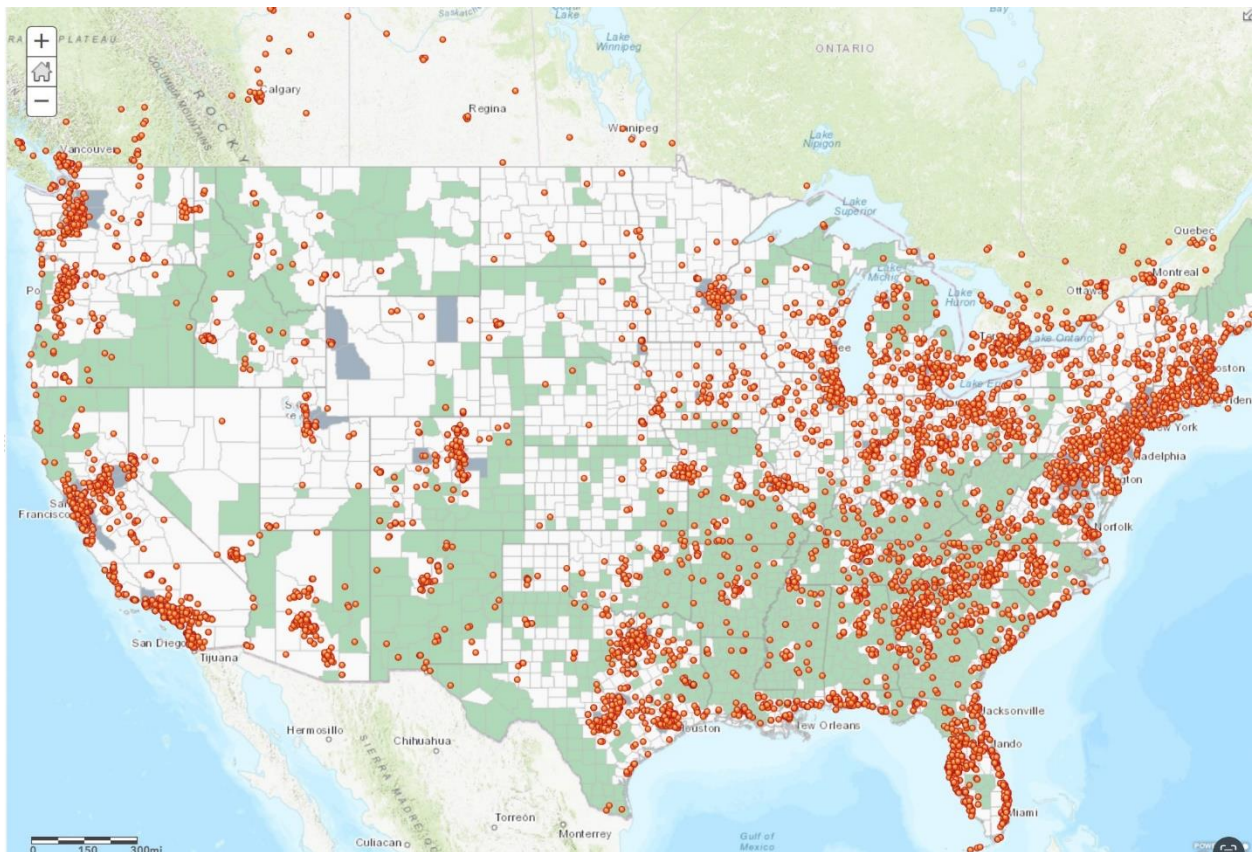
In March we had our Mid-Winter IBT Strategy meeting in Jackson Center.



During the meeting we discussed several Club concerns:

- Internal Communications
- External Communications
- Welcome and Retention of members
- Infrastructure (building and software)
- Training of officers (at all levels)
- Financial Literacy and Sustainability -- For further information, refer to the April 2024 Blue Beret Blog.

In March I sent out a News Flash about the June election. Below is a map of the members in North America. As you can see, there is a very high density of members in Region 2. As I pointed out in the News Flash, only 311 people out of 965 from Region 2 voted in the last election. Region 2 has 13 clubs so that means on average 24 members from each club voted. Jackson Center will have a Campfire meeting where the topic for the vote will be centerstage as well as sending out multiple emails on the topic. To make sure people without email access are notified, I will be contacting the local Club Presidents, and a snail mail notification will be sent to members without an email address. Jackson Center will send out a paper ballot if one is requested.



We have been working hard with 3rd party vendors to get benefits for our ACI members. Below is a list of these benefits along with links to their websites.

AIRSTREAMCLUB.ORG/BENEFITS

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & DISCOUNTS:

[Airstream Supply Company](#) – The Official Outfitter of the World's Most Iconic Recreational Vehicles.

ACI members save 10% off the "Airstream Love Collection".

[CampersCard](#) – A campground discount program that gives you discounts and perks at campgrounds across the nation. **ACI members receive 15% off a new CampersCard membership.**

[CampScanner](#) – A database of 9,600+ campgrounds at National Parks, State Parks and more that helps you snag reservations by providing your desired camp dates and location to be notified if a spot opens. **ACI members receive 15% off a new CampScanner membership.**

[CarGenerator](#) – A cool device no bigger than a backpack that turns your tow vehicle into a generator. It can then be used to power your Airstream while camping or for home backup of your oil or gas furnace and appliances in the event of a power outage. **ACI members save \$150-\$400 on each unit purchased.**

[Goodyear Tires](#) – Confident traction and responsive handling for your Airstream Adventures. **ACI members save 15% off select tires.**

[Griot's Garage](#) – Superior car care products recognized for their commitment to excellence by automotive enthusiasts and luxury brand owners' groups. **ACI members save 15% off the "car care liquids" product line.**

[Harvest Hosts](#) – A membership program that provides access to a network of more than 4,000 wineries, farms, breweries, museums and other unique attractions that invite self-contained RVers to visit and stay overnight. **ACI members receive 50% off a new Harvest Hosts membership.**

[KOA Rewards](#) – A program that provides 10% off daily registration fees at 500+ KOA campgrounds throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus the ability to earn rewards points that accumulate for cash off future stays at any KOA. Plus, exclusive savings and offers from great partners like Coleman, Anker, RV and RoadHelp. **ACI members receive a free first-year enrollment in KOA's Rewards program.**

[Michelin Advantage Program](#) – Heavy-duty, commercial light truck tires ideal for carrying heavy loads, towing, high duty cycles, and constant or near-constant driving. Michelin offers competitive savings on both new and retread tires. **ACI members save up to 20% off select tires.**

[Passport America](#) – A membership program that offers 50% off camping at nearly 1,600 participating parks, campgrounds and resorts across the US, Canada and Mexico. **ACI members receive anywhere from \$66-\$242 on the purchase of membership.**

[RV LIFE Pro](#) – A premier RV trip planning and navigation suite that includes a comprehensive trip planner, a mobile navigation app and more. By using the ultimate trip planning tool, RV LIFE Trip Wizard, everything you need is in one place: campgrounds, fuel stops, rest areas, satellite view, street view, elevation, grade, weather and more. **ACI Members: Receive a 50% discount**

off a first-year subscription.

Solo Stove – Personalized tabletop stoves, portable fire pits and propane pizza ovens etched with the ACI logo. **ACI members receive specially priced customized products made to order.**

Zarges – These riveted aluminum cases are a match made in heaven to pair with the design aesthetic of legendary Airstreams, with a diversity of sizes for every possible use! **ACI members receive 15% off a wide range of stackable case sizes.**

Gary's May message:



May is when my Cleveland Pear trees bloom and what a spectacular site it is. We have 4 20+-foot-tall pyramidal trees in my backyard, and my truck and trailer are now in the driveway. I have DE-winterized MaryAnn II. Hard to believe that we are less than a week away from the Region 2 Rally.

In this message I would like to talk about the Region 2 Facebook page. This Facebook page is for the advancement of Region 2, Club activities, Airstream trailer related issues, and How To videos. We are now working on the rules of the road for it. One aspect is the security and safety of people who are members of this Facebook page. Stay tuned for more information as we move forward.

As with the use of any social media:

- Use appropriate language and behavior when interacting with others (i.e. no cyberbullying)
- Respect the opinions and ideas of others
- Obey all intellectual property laws

- Do not use or share others' work without permission
- Follow rules and/or codes of conduct for the Facebook page
- Responsibility to report cyberbullying, threats, and inappropriate use of digital resources

See you down the road.

Gary



April “Unbutton” Rally Report

Leslie DeHerde writes

The April rally hosted by Joann, Stayla, Leslie and Frank took place at Camp Carr, New Jersey April 26-9.

As always it was a great start to our camping season. It was wonderful to see everyone again and unbutton. Camp Carr is a fine spot to relax and listen to the sounds of nature.

Friday night we had a great happy hour and a very nice, much-needed fire on a chilly spring evening.

Saturday continued to be cloudy and chilly but fortunately the rain held off. Everyone enjoyed the group dinner and the charity raffle was a success. The Germanskys and the Cullens, were the first recipients of the new member gift certificates, good for use towards their next rally fee. We are looking forward to seeing them again.


Sunday was beautiful and those that were able to stay enjoyed a super day.

Announcements

Sunshine Report

A Sympathy Card was sent to Meg Riley, following the loss of her brother.

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.



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.

May Birthdays

Joanne Forster
Meg Riley
Rebecca Glick
Patty Ciak
Margaret Noble
Judy Cahall
Hunter Lloyd



Spring Trip West

By Lois Wagner/Derek Conley

Sitting around bored in February we decided to change things up by taking a road trip to visit old friends in Oregon and Washington. We left March 25th and we are still on the road. Here are some first impressions and photos.

First takes:

- *The sky in Kansas is crisscrossed by dozens of contrails all day long.* The sky in northern Montana is empty all day long save for clouds.
- *Tens of thousands of acres for miles and miles in Kansas along I-70 were burning or burned when we passed through.* We wondered why. Wikipedia says some prairie fires in this area are deliberate to encourage new growth.
- *There's a fixation in the Midwest on "world's largest" attractions:* windchime (Illinois), ball of twine (Kansas), buffalo (statue; North Dakota); basket (Ohio); easel painting (Kansas). The list could go on.
- *Grain elevators are the skyscrapers of the Midwest.*
- *Vast wind farms stretch from one horizon to the other in the Great Plains.* Each blade is about 150 feet long; the trucks that haul them are really cool (it's a guy thing).
- *We've seen a lot of very large, very interesting farming equipment we've never seen before.* Some of them take up almost two lanes and look like real-life Transformers. We have no idea what any of them do.
- *AT&T mobile service does not know what time it is.* Four of the eight Kansas counties that border Colorado are on Mountain time, four are on Central. As soon as we hit the eastern border of the county we were staying in the truck clock switched to Mountain time. Our AT&T cell phones did not. When we got to the campground we asked the owner what time zone we were in. "Mountain", she said. We mentioned our phones still showed Central. "Do you have AT&T?" she asked, "because they don't switch to Mountain until you cross the Colorado border." Thirty miles into Colorado the phones switched to Mountain. Same time zone mobile phone issue crossing from Montana to North Dakota. What does Ford know that AT&T doesn't?
- *Lowest overnight temperature:* 22°F City of Rocks National Preserve, Almo, Idaho. We kept warm with our electric heater. The furnace came on once or twice between 4 and 5 am.
- *Favorite campsites to date.* We prefer remote, scenic spots and are happy to go without full hookups to get them. Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado Springs (full hookups!); Smoky Mountain, (Idaho state park co-managed with National Park Service), City of Rocks, Almo, Idaho (water and electric at the campsite but water was turned off due to the temperature); Sully Creek State Park, Medora, North Dakota. (electric only, watering station); Hells Gate State Park, Lewiston, Idaho (water/electric; fabulous in-park hiking along and way above the Snake River).
- *Montana State Parks and National Parks have no hookups,* just the campsite (at least the ones we investigated). We only stayed in campgrounds with electricity to run our heater; our AGM batteries can't keep the furnace going all night long. We are considering converting to lithium.

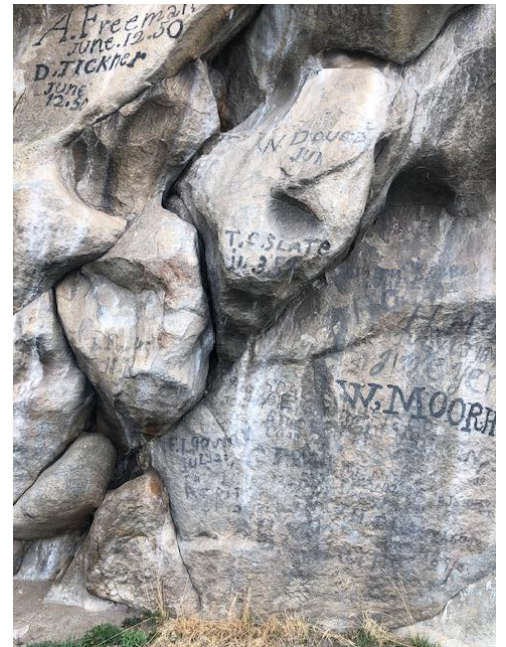
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Photos clockwise from top left: The end of a typical day's drive, gas tank full for the morning; sunrise at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado Springs; Lois explores the Twin Sisters formation in Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs; the highest point on I-80, Sherman Hill Summit, 8,640 feet, at the Wyoming Visitors Center, Happy Jack Road exit, still snowbound on April second; Lois and friend at Fossil Butte National Park, Wyoming, once an ocean, then a lake, then a swamp. *Photos L Wagner/D Conley.*



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Clockwise from top: on the geologic trail, City of Rocks National Preserve, Almo, Idaho in light snow fall; people passing through on the Oregon Trail in the mid-1800s wrote their names in axle grease on Register Rock at City of Rocks; fiddlehead ferns at the Pike Placet Market, Seattle; Snoqualmie Falls, Washington. The Salish Lodge, top left of the falls, was the setting for the Twin Peaks tv show in the early 90s. *Photos L Wagner/D Conley.*



2024 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
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			
November 2024	Luncheon/TBD	Michael Koczvara and Barbara Taylor		TBD
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/TBD	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	TBD

Alumalina is now open for signups

The 18th edition of Alumalina will be held October 24-27, 2024 at Camping World Rally Park, Marion, NC. Alumalina (aluminum + Carolina) is a non-sanctioned Airstream-only rally. Last year's rally attracted about 270 rigs from across the US and Canada. The rally features food, fellowship, seminars, a craft fair, flea market, beer swap, bourbon trail, and wine tasting as well as walking, biking hiking, paddling, picnicking, campfires and miles of aluminum. The rally park has over 300 full-hookup sites. The camping fee (paid separately on arrival to Camping World) is \$35 per night. Most attendees come early and stay late. The rally fee, also payable on arrival, is \$65 per person. Last year that included three dinners and three donut and coffee breakfasts. To sign up for the rally create an Air Forums account (airforums.com) then search for Alumalina 2024 and sign up on the thread. For more information please call or email Lois Wagner: 908-693-8090/airstreaminglois@gmail.com

Region 2 Rally Information

May 2-5, 2024

Who wants to start off 2024 with a great Region 2 Rally event?

The Region 2 team has been working hard to organize this event. Now we need you to sign up! Registration is now open!

The Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair better known as 'The Grange Fair' is the location for the 2024 Region 2 rally. The area is best known as the home of Penn State University. From beautiful waterfalls to historic buildings to caverns to museums, they are all in Centre County to explore!

Bald Eagle State Park is one of the most-visited state parks in the area. With 1,730 acres and Sayers Lake you have plenty to explore on a walk.

If you are into trains, there is the abandoned Coburn Railroad Tunnel. The abandoned Coburn railroad tunnel was constructed as part of the Lewisburg, Centre and Spruce Creek Railroad in the 1870s, and was in service nearly 100 years until it was officially abandoned by the Penn Central Railroad in 1970.

Penn's Cave in Centre County offers the only cavern tour in the United States that is conducted completely by boat. Woodward Cave contains 5 large rooms, hundreds of yards of tunnels and passageways and the largest stalagmite in Pennsylvania!

We are working hard to ensure that this will be a memorable Rally. Registration and Payment is now available on the Region 2 ACI website entitled 2024 Region 2 Rally or you can use the link below:

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

We have 100 sites available with water and electric, no pump outs are provided. Dump stations are on the fairgrounds. Our trailer rate is \$47 per night + kitty for food \$65.00/PP. The kitty covers 1 hot breakfast, 1 hot buffet meal and 1 continental breakfast. On Saturday night we have a spectacular band scheduled to play. The Rally is from May 2nd to May 5th, but the 'core' will be from Friday May 2nd to Sunday May 4th.

Start your camping season at this Airstreamers rally!

Gary Russo

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.mtgreylockcampsitepark.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

So far we have 16 trailers coming.

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		

