



Connecticut

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Chatter

Club No: 25

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

March/April 2024

Presidents Message

by Don Allers



This is my favorite Airstream photo and one of my first memories with our club. This was the destination of our family's first outing in our own Airstream; a ten day caravan to the 2016 Region One Rally in Montmagny, Quebec.

I remember when Eileen called me at work to tell me that she had joined the "Airstream Club." She had received a phone call from a lovely woman named Sandy and signed us up to travel to Canada with them in June. We hadn't even picked up our Airstream from the dealer yet, and I was perplexed. I grew up trailer camping in Idaho where that meant driving deep into the mountains to get away from people. But my ladies all thought it was a good idea, so off we went.

What a trip! Everyone was so welcoming, patient and generous with us newbies. I learned more about our Airstream from others on that trip than I could have learned from a dozen books. The four of us had a blast sightseeing on our own and also thoroughly enjoyed the group time to chat, eat, laugh and explore together.

Our Airstream was well down the line in this picture. There we were, parked awning to awning in a hockey arena parking lot; and it was one of the best camping experiences I've ever enjoyed!

Flash forward to April 2024, and it's time for our club to hit the road again. Our first camping event of the season is the Boondocking Rally at the CAMA Spring Power Up in Kent

Continued page 2

Rangeline Owner Story: The Perfect Blend



For Rangeline owner Scott Fortnum, Airstream's camper van built on the RAM ProMaster 3500 chassis was the perfect fit.

[Explore this link.](#)

Live Riveted®



What Do You Think?



What is it that no one wants, but no one wants to lose?

[Answers Page 8](#)

Link of the Month



Vintage Base Camp

Duane and Judy Penner, long time Airstreamers, are neighbors here in Travelers Rest Resort in Florida. Their son Greg operates the impressive Vintage Base Camp business. [Click this link](#) and take a look at some unique Airstreams.



Presidents Message

Continued

April 26 - 28. Then May is a busy month with both the region gathering and our club's spring business meeting and Southwest Fiesta Rally at Charlie Brown. Be sure to check out the schedule and plan to come join us. If you are new and skeptical like I was when Eileen called me in 2016, just give it a try... you won't regret it!

In other Club news, be sure to check out Bard's Region One Newsletter. There is a lot going on at the region and international level and we are fortunate to have a region president so focused on communication and keeping us up-to-date.

And finally, I want to express a hearty thank you to Joyce and Gilles Rousseau for hosting, feeding and entertaining us on St. Patrick's Day. Joyce was our caravan leader on that formative journey our family took to Quebec in 2016. Every time we are lucky enough to visit with the Rousseau's, I'm reminded that the many friends we made on that trip and throughout the club are among our very favorite people!

Connecticut Highlight

BRN - 2025

Bob & Andrea Curran are affiliate members of our Connecticut Airstream Club with the Metropolitan New York Airstream Club as their home unit. They have been enjoying the relative warmth here in Florida at Travelers Rest Resort and plan on doing so again next year, the year of their BRN.

During a recent conversation with Bob I learned about his authoring articles for the Blue Beret, revealing that I had only perused rather than, well, perused our club magazine.

[So click on this link](#) and enjoy reading about the *Canadian Rocky Mountain Caravan* by Connecticut member Bob Curran which appeared in the November 2023 Blue Beret.



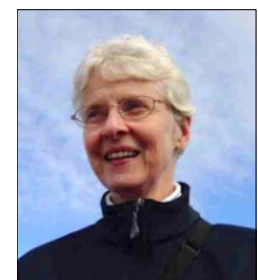
Photo by Rich Kushman

Front: Andrea and Bob Curran, (Dick & Kit's daughter) Kate
Rear: Mike and Sandy Sasuta, Dick Wheatley, (Dick & Kit's son) John, Kathy Kushman,
Dan and Sharon Zile, Martha and Bill Bigelow

Remembering Kit

Recently Dick Wheatley hosted a gathering of friends acknowledging those who were in some way a part in Dick and Kit's life through their most difficult time.

Delicious food, good conversation and happy smiles filled the room. ~ Ed



Kit Wheatley



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St. Patrick's Day Gathering



Photos and caption submitted by Joyce Rousseau



The group gathers! Mari-Jo Jones, Evie Watts, Howie Jones, Kathy Fuller, Candle French, Tom French, Steve Seitz, and Hally Schoen.



Dave Jensen, Sally Kerr, Eileen Allers, Jason Pershinsky, Don Allers, Gilles Rousseau and Bill Watts.



Checking out the beverages are Rhona Fuller, Bruce and Kris Fletcher, Bard Fuller and Candle French.



Howie, Bard, Kathy, Kris, Bruce, Moe and Jason and Mari-Jo get ready to start on the main course.



Hally, Steve, Dave, Tom, Sally, Candle and Joyce all enjoying the feast.

An Irishman is struggling to find a parking space.

"Lord," he prayed. "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up the Guinness and go to Mass every Sunday."

Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the Irishman says: "Never mind Lord, I found one!"



St. Patrick's Day Gathering

Continued



Hally wanted everyone to notice Joyce with the results of her cooking!



No one could skip this line, more than enough for all and many more!



Celebrating Rhona's birthday with the Bailey's chocolate cake made by Russ.

A priest is driving back to Dublin when he gets pulled over for speeding.

The Garda approaches the window and sees an empty wine bottle in the passenger's seat.

The priest rolls down the window and a strong smell of wine wafts out.

"Have you been drinking, Father?" asks the Garda.

"Just water," replied the priest.

"I can smell wine, Father," said the Garda.

The priest looks from the bottle to the heavens. "Good Lord, he's done it again!"



Yeah - not too many calories in those desserts - Yummy!



Bill, Evie, new member Patricia Whitcombe, Eileen, Don, Russ and Rhona and Gilles with empty plates!



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March/April 2024



by Sandy Sasuta

Welcome

Patricia & Nathaniel Whitcombe

8590

Danbury, CT 06810

HAPPY SPRING! Let's get those Airstreams ready to roll.

Congratulations to **BARD & KATHY FULLER** as the proud owners of a new Airstream Rangeline, way to go! And also to **DICK WHEATLEY** on the purchase of a new 23' Flying Cloud and Ford F-150 truck. It must be the Spring Buying Fling. Along those lines, **GLEN & CHRISTINE LESSIG** have purchased a site in the Cabana Area, 13-04, and are now a part of the TR family. Congratulations! Glad to see our affiliates **BOB & ANDREA CURRAN** as first time visitors to TR. The more, the merrier.



Dick Bartram

Sending get well wishes to **BERT CONTRACTOR** on his recent shoulder surgery; In time he will be hitting home runs. Also, wishing **RUSS FULLER** a smooth recovery from his hand injury, ouch.

On a sad note, our dear friend and member **DICK BARTRAM** has passed away on March 15, 2024. He was a member since 1987, Charter Oak CT President in 1993, Region 1 President in 2000 to 2002 and International Treasurer in 2005. Always a gentleman who was kind and caring. Sending our deepest condolences to the family. And, also sending our sincere sympathy on the passing of our affiliate **BILL CLEMENTS**. He and his late wife **SANDY**, were members of Cape Cod since 2015, and will be missed.

Hope your St. Patrick's Day was GREEN and tasty.

Fullers got a new ... what?

Russ gets an award!



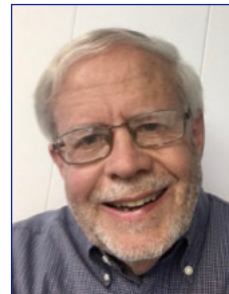
Tell me if you think Kathy and Bard look happy with their brand new Airstream Rangeline.



Right after Russ was pronounced a member of the New Britain Elks Lodge he was called back up and presented with The Medal of Service Award in recognition of 50 years of volunteer Firefighter service. This was the first recognition award given out and also the first one given to a brand new member in Elk history. Congratulations Russ on your amazing career in the Fire Service...so proud of you. 🙌🙌🙌 ~ Rhona Fuller



Region One News



by **Bard Fuller Region 1 President**

Greetings Region One Membership,

Even though our Airstreams are winterized and in storage, with the new year we are full of vitality in planning for what adventures await!

Upon the release of the registration for the Region One Gathering I was in awe that all 50 sites sold out within 36 hours. I totally misread the appetite that our membership has for such an event. Traditionally, we have a full blown region rally hosted by one of our local clubs every other year (odd number years). Statistically, over the last ten years region rallies have averaged ~73 Airstreams in attendance.

The even number years have been denoted as Gathering years. These are scaled back events with limited food, entertainment and no seminars that have been the hallmarks of a full Region One Rally over the years. The gatherings are hosted by a single individual, most often the region president, and are for the specific purpose of the required Region One business meeting. These gatherings have generally averaged ~37 participating Airstreams. I thought for sure that when I contracted for 50 sites for 2024 that there would be ample sites. I was obviously wrong. Going forward we will need to reassess the number of participants expected. More about this will follow at the Region Gathering.

Note that we have been able to register all the Region One officers and a representative from all our local clubs for the region business meeting. For those who did not make the registration cut, they may put their name on a wait list as it is likely there will be some cancellations.

Now, about the Region One leadership. I regret that the Region One Executive Board had to formally remove R.J. Dominic as the Region One 1st Vice President. R.J. knowingly did not renew his membership in Airstream Club International for 2024. Times change and interests may also change but we wish him the best with his future endeavors.

This past fall Eddie Carll, our current Region One 2nd Vice President, took over the leadership of the Cape Cod Massachusetts Club. He plans to fulfill his two-year term as Region One 2nd VP which will be ending at the end of July 2024 but not run in the Region 1 election this spring. I admire his strong belief that his time and efforts would be best spent in rebuilding CCMAC's vitality.

This brings us to the current election of our Region One officers. With Eddie's and my terms expiring this summer, we will be having to fill three elected positions. The Region Nominating Committee is composed of Eddie Carll, Carol Dubrowski, Past President of the Connecticut Club and Tess McShane, Past President of the New England Club. The Nominating Committee has recently reviewed the submitted resumes and have endorsed the three candidates seeking positions as region officers. They are Michael Giunta seeking the president's position from the Northeast Mountaineers, Rich Collins from the New England Club seeking the position of 1st vice president position and Diane Maillet from the Quebec Club seeking the 2nd vice president's position. Elections will take place through your local club in April. Write-in candidates are always welcome. More about the election will be provided by your local club president in the next several weeks.

A special salute goes out to Per Hamnqvist who has resigned from the International Executive Council. Per gave tirelessly to the club locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. He has been a past International 1st VP and International Treasurer. He has been seated on the Executive Board/Council for the past 4 years. Per has been a wonderful mentor of mine and an inspirational motivator for the entire International Board of Trustees as he quietly moved ACI forward. Although Per has resigned, he has assured me that his love of the Airstream way-of-life will remain as he continues Airstreaming while enjoying a better life balance.



STREAM LINES by Billy Steers



"ONCE I LEARNED HOW TO DO RIVET
REPAIRS I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF"

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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FOR SALE



2003 34 ft. Airstream Limited

Located at Travelers Rest Florida

Priced to sell: \$42,900.00

Rich & Kathy Kushman rich.kath@icloud.com

Click for Pictures and Details

Did You Know?

ACI Courtesy Parking Program will be powered by Harvest Hosts

The Airstream Club Courtesy Parking program is migrating to a user-friendly platform operated by Harvest Hosts late this summer. Why has WBCCI/ACI decided to partner with Harvest Host? Our Courtesy Parking program has been around for several years, but Hosts have been disappointed that they may only have one or two guests a year.

Many of our members belong to Harvest Host and say as guests, website ease-of-use and detailed location information are the primary reasons they stay at Harvest Hosts versus using the Courtesy Parking program.

Our website does not have the capability offered by Harvest Hosts to plan trips, post reviews, include large photo files, etc. and the cost for our club to offer a Harvest Host website experience would be over 6 figures! Harvest Hosts recognizes the Airstream Club as one of the most successful, premium RV product clubs and was enthusiastic about offering their expertise and experience as the latest benefit to us as members.

[Click on this link](#) for the FAQs about the ACI Courtesy Parking Program powered by Harvest Hosts.

Helpful LINKS

[Airstream Club International](#)

[Connecticut Airstream Club](#)

[Russ's Spring Checklist](#)

[Russ's Winterizing](#)

[Connecticut Club Supplies](#)

[Airstream Supply](#)

[ACI Resource Center](#)

[Blue Beret Magazine](#)

[Charter Oak on](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Courtesy Parking](#)

[Airstream USA](#)

[Air Forums](#)

[AllStays Camping](#)

[Campsite Photos](#)

[Exits & Highways](#)

[Passport America](#)

[Region One ACI](#)

[Reserve America](#)

[RV Park Reviews](#)

[State Park Guide](#)

[Tin Can Tourists](#)

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

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

Grand

April April 26-28

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 June 21-23

Adirondack Rendezvous at Scaroon Manor Campground, Pottersville, NY, hosted by Lynn and Carl Davis

July July 12-14

Joint Rally with Cape Cod AC, hosted by Eddie Carl 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?

A lawsuit.



All Chatters are available on the club website.

Connecticut Chatter

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

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

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

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



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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ADIRONDACK RENDEZVOUS JUNE 21 - 23, 2024

JUST CAMPING

This is just a rendezvous, meaning no planned meals or activities...just a fun way to explore a new place with Airstream friends. Who knows what impromptu happenings might occur?

This area of the Adirondacks has amazing hiking trails, biking, and water sport opportunities. Great small towns nearby for groceries and casual dining. Less than one hour to Fort Ticonderoga, for history buffs. Easy access from I-87.

* Scaroon Manor Campground is managed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. It is NOT a State Park



Click here to sign up online.

<https://form.jotform.com/240533876940159>

Join us

Charter Oak Connecticut Airstream Club

Share Your Smile

**SCAROON
MANOR
CAMPGROUND**
ON THE SHORES OF
SCHROON LAKE
POTTERSVILLE, NY

**RESERVE YOUR
SITE THROUGH
RESERVEAMERICA.COM**

BOONDOCKING
MODERN, CLEAN
BATHHOUSE
WATER AND
DUMP STATION ON SITE
GENERATOR HOURS

**EMAIL US IF YOU
DECIDE TO ATTEND**
GARDENGAL54@GMAIL.COM

**CHECK IN TIME IS 2:00 PM
CHECKOUT AT 10:00, SO
BOOK AN EXTRA NIGHT!**

HOSTS
Lynn and Carl Davis
BRN# 17566

We're on site #26,
Taylor Point Loop
RESERVE NOW!

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

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 CLUBS
CO-SPONSORED RALLY



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 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