

# The Road Awaits

## Club Officers 2023-2024

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Ken Tarrant

1st Vice President -

Joe Baum

2nd Vice President -

Nancy Lawn

Secretary -

Lisa Sachs

Treasurer -

Janie Tarrant

Membership -

Greg Heuer

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Directors -

Mike Burke

Jon Rathke

Tina Regan

Janeene Rider

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Web Master -

Jack D'Atre

News Editor -

Greg Heuer



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## The Photo Album Issue: The Fun Club for Good Food and Good Friends!

**Membership Report = 56 rigs as of this month.**

**Most of you Missed most of the fun during the past 90 days**

It's about "camping" of course, AND it's about the people surrounding you. Linda and I feel **\*\*so fortunate\*\*** to have the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club family around us.

As usual, this issue gives YOU a chance to add one or more of these events to your calendar for the rest of 2024.

More than that, this issue is a joyous look back at Region 3, Fort Valley, and Sherando through the lens of your fellow campers.

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# President's Corner

## Fellow Airstreamers,

Spring has sprung, and the camping rally season is upon us. This past month saw a terrific "Cinco de Mayo Rally" at Fort Valley Ranch. As usual Bob and Lisa Sachs did a great job leading the event.

This past weekend we moved into the month of June "Under the Shadow of the Blue Ridge" at Sherando Lake. Joe Baum and John Rathke planned and executed an exceptional experience. Phil Miller provided us a once in a lifetime tour of the Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative turkey processing plant in Hinton, VA. It was amazing to see a state-of-the-art processing facility in action...especially when the tour guide is the man who designed it. The final highlight of the weekend was a Happy Hour at the Heuer Cabin. A beautiful home and gracious hosts.

In **July** many of us will be off to West Virginia to "Salute America" during a rally at Pipestem. For most of us it will be a new experience. West Virginia promises to provide both fun and adventure.

**August** will find many of us in Galax for Old Fiddler's Convention. Streaming at Cool Breeze Campground is like coming home. Robert is the greatest of hosts. Fiddling, flat footing, courtroom visiting, hiking, biking and tubing...what's not to like. Oh, and do not forget the pork chop sandwiches at Felts Park.

This year we will be hosting the annual Commonwealth Rally ("A Family Reunion") in **September** at Madison Vines RV Resort. If you have not reserved a campsite, please do so soon. Let the campground know you are with the Airstream Group. There are still 15 sites available. Please let me know if you are available and willing to help with this rally.

For those of us who will not be attending International, **October**'s event is the "Warbird's Rally" in Pungo, VA. We will be dry camping (in a wagon wheel formation) on private property within a few miles of the Military Aviation Museum. The museum will be conducting their "War Birds Over the Beach" airshow that weekend. Contact Nancy Lawn to hold your spot...time is short, and spots are limited!

Once again, we will finish up our rally season at Camp Hatteras in **November**. Again, do not wait, make your reservations now. Rodanthe always provides a great time.

A final note, we have your input from our planning meeting in January and our questionnaire. We will be putting together a schedule for 2025 late this summer. However, to make next year's schedule a reality we need your help. Contact if you are willing to act as a wagon master for a rally. Thanks in advance.

Ken Tarrant, President - Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club

## Call for volunteers to serve on the SofVA Board

This year, two Directors on the Board will be finishing their terms. I ask that you consider joining the Board. The duties of a Director are not burdensome, generally a quarterly zoom meeting and the Annual Meeting. We would like you to participate in creating some of the activities that go on during the year such as a Rally.

Please contact me if you want more information or to put your name on the slate of nominees.

[Safari27fbse@hotmail.com](mailto:Safari27fbse@hotmail.com)

202-577-5860

Thank you,  
Bob Sachs, Chair, Nominating Committee

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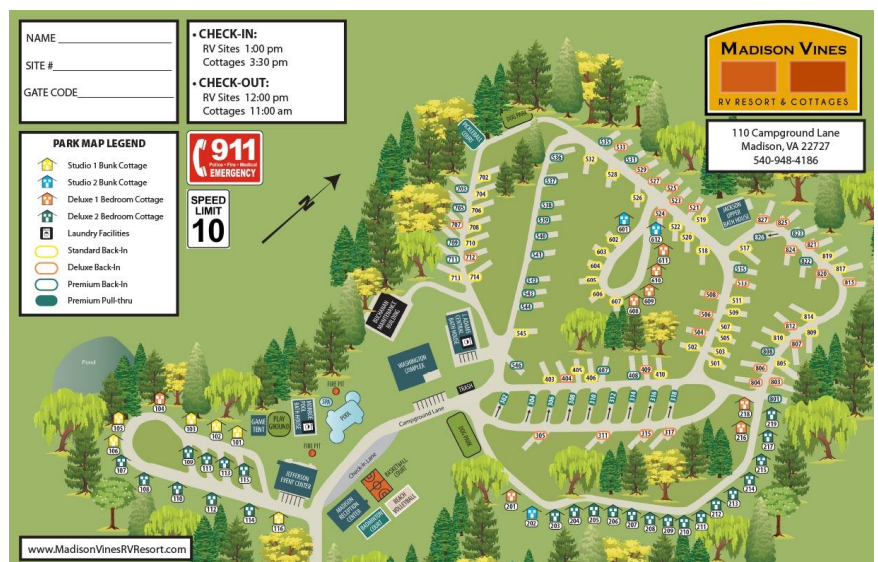
## Commonwealth Rally

SofVA is the sponsoring Club for this years Commonwealth Rally at Madison Vines Campground, Madison, VA.. The dates are September 4 -8. We held a rally there earlier this year and it was a big success. The campground is completely new with lots of activities and attractions. Madison Vines is in an excellent location, about ½ way between Charlottesville and Culpeper.

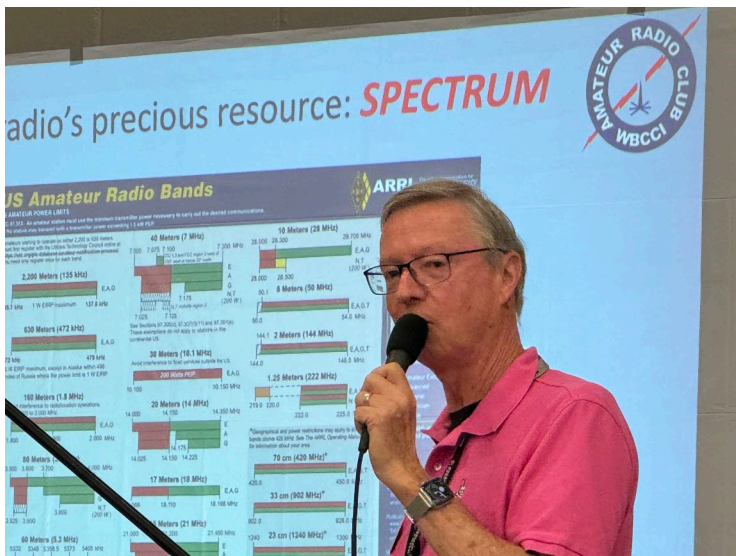
At this time, there are between 40-50 Airstreams registered and they have a few sites available for us. If you have not yet made your reservation and want to attend, please contact the campground directly at 540-948-4186 and ask to speak to Jamie. Tell her you are with the Airstream Club so she can set you up with a site as close as possible to the rest of us. She is coordinating the club event from the campground side.

Enjoy the summer and as many of the planned activities as you can.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Sachs or Ken Tarrant



# Region 3 Rally - Doswell, VA



# Cinco de Mayo - Fort Valley Ranch



# Sherando Lake Recreation Area









# FuturePlanning

## An Overview of Fun, Fellowship, and Learning

Year	Date	Rally	Location	POC
2024	11-14 July	Salute America Rally	Pipestem Resort, WV	Ken Tarrant
2024	4-11 Aug	Fiddler's Convention	Cool Breeze, Galax, VA	Christine Baum
2024	17 August	Annual Club Meeting	Rathke/Ottersberg Home	Jon/Christine
2024	5-8 Sep	Commonwealth Rally	Madison Vines RV Resort	Ken Tarrant
2024	5-11 Oct	International Rally	Sedalia, MO - It's close; shall we Caravan out?	
2024	4-6 Oct	Warbirds Rally	Pungo, VA , (dry camping)	Nancy Lawn
2024	31 Oct-3 Nov	Grand Finale	<b>Buddy Rally</b> Camp Hatteras	TBD
2024	14 Dec	Annual Christmas Party	TBD	TBD

**Buddy Rally events** encourage participation by ALL types of campers. Invite the Family and Friends to join the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club for fun, food, and fellowship.

[As with all things "calendar" related - Schedule subject to change. Stay tuned.](#)



## Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club Logo Merch

You can wear Land's End clothing with the Club logo embroidered on it. Click the link below, choose your favorite items, add the logo for only \$6.95v <https://business.landsend.com/store/spiritofva/>

# 11-14 July - Salute America Rally Pipestem State Park, WV

Call WVa Parks at (833) 987-2757, saying you're with the Rally



If you've been to Pipestem, then you've probably already registered. It's neat!

There are Three (3) full hook up sites left in our HOLD. Don't miss out.

The campground also offers a few electric/ water sites as well, but getting one during this PEAK season for camping will be a challenge.

Many of us will take the Aerial Tramway over to the restaurant for a sumptuous meal one of the evenings we are there.

There is golf, disk golf, swimming pools, scenic hiking trails, and more.

10% Veterans Salute Discount

Learn more at the Park Link below

[Click the Park Link here](#)



[Click here to Register](#)



## 4-11 August - 88<sup>th</sup> Old Fiddler's Convention - Galax, VA

### Cool Breeze Campground

**Do you love** American Bluegrass & Old Time music? Wonder what the difference is?

**This rally which** originated as a Virginia Unit event decades ago, is sponsored by Region 3. We rally at

Cool Breeze Campground <https://www.coolbreezecampground.com/> outside of Galax. The Convention is held at Felts Park in downtown Galax from the 5th to the 10th. But plan to check in at Cool Breeze on Sunday and depart on Sunday (7 nights). The campground is just off of the blue ridge parkway and lives up to its name (a plus in August!)

**One stop shopping....** register for a site and the rally through campsite owner, Robert Sales at (276) 236-0300 or [robert@coolbreezecampground.com](mailto:robert@coolbreezecampground.com) .

**The Convention activities** happen in the evening (except the final day, Saturday, which is all afternoon and evening). Check out their website to view the schedule.

**Daytime rally events** include outdoor activities (hike, tubing, flatfoot dancing) and "field trips" to explore local history and Appalachian Music Culture. Most evenings we have on-site performances at the Campground around Happy Hour time. Plenty of free time to do what you do. Find out why so many Airstreamers come back year after year.

**For more information**, contact Rally Leaders (Spirit of Virginia's Own) Christine Baum (609) 202 5015 or [baumjc@gmail.com](mailto:baumjc@gmail.com)

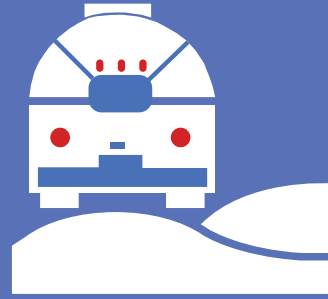


**5-8 September - All Virginia  
COMMONWEALTH RALLY**

# Virginia



# 2024



# Commonwealth

**The members of the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club are IN CHARGE** of making the wonderful, annual Commonwealth Rally happen this year. We negotiated with MADISON VINES RV RESORT CAMP to hold sites for us! We've arranged for a short extension on the hold. Register Now.

**To reserve a campsite with Madison Vines and receive the Rally Discount you must call in your reservation. Do Not use the on-line system. The numbers to call are the following:**

**Primary number—540-948-4186 — or — 540-407-0559, Jamie direct**

**When you call** ask for Jamie McGuire (manager). Let her know that you are with the Airstream Group.

**They assign campsites** based on the length of your rig.

<https://madisonvinesrvresortandcottages.com/>

# TechTalk

## BACKING TIPS

I have been towing a 30' Airstream since I was 18 or roughly 27 years. I have also been driving a tractor trailer for Pepsi the past 19 years. I have driven cross-country multiple times and driven to Alaska and Nova Scotia twice each. Here are some basic backing tips that may be helpful for you.

The most important thing to remember is to take your time. Don't worry if you are blocking the road or holding someone up. Make sure your rig is safely where it needs to be in your own timing. Trying to back up quickly out of someone's way in a campground or parking lot can lead to unnecessary damage.

Get comfortable driving your rig forward. Get to know how it turns, tail-swing etc. Watch the trailer wheels in your mirror as you make turns. Longer trailers drive and back differently than shorter ones.

When preparing to back into a campsite always try and back from the drivers side, so you can see your trailer out the drivers window as you back. Pull up so your trailer wheels are at least 6 feet beyond the site. Longer trailers turn backwards at a slower angle. Short trailers turn backwards quickly and are easy to jack-knife. Remember to look out for overhangs and tree limbs.

Place one hand on the bottom center of your steering wheel. Which ever way you move your hand is the direction that the rear of the trailer will begin to move. Go SLOWLY! Quick movements of the steering wheel are not good. The slower you turn the wheel the easier it is to watch your trailer and adjust for overcorrecting. If your tow vehicle angle gets too tight pull up and straighten out. There is no shame in pulling up!

Having one person to help you spot is good. Multiple people telling you different things is never a good scenario. If you are alone get out and look. Check the site for obstacles. Make sure the rear overhang of your trailer has enough room past the end of the site. Be mindful of where your stabilizer jacks come down.

If you must back from your blind side or passenger side be very careful. Remember your tow vehicle swing radius will be greater. Again pull 6 feet past the site. Watch your trailer wheels in the passenger mirror as you begin to back. Slowly! Ask someone to spot for you.

With time and practice you will be as comfortable backing as going forward!

Devin Bowman BRN#17989

# The Region 3 Newsletter Links

Big Bend Florida Airstream Club – ["The Big Bender"](#)

Carolinas Airstream Club – ["Tarheel Traveler"](#)

Florida Airstream Club – ["Good Life News"](#)

Florida Suncoast Airstream Club – ["The Sunbeam"](#)

Florida Treasure Coast Airstream Club – ["Pirate FYIs"](#)

Low Country Airstream Club - ["Low Country Newsletter"](#)

Northern Virginia Airstream Club – ["NORVA News"](#)

Palmetto State Airstream Club – ["The Bell Ringer"](#)

Piedmont North Carolina Airstream Club – ["The Shiney Hiney Review"](#)

Southeastern Camping Unit – ["SECU Camping Times"](#)

Carolina Coastal Airstream Club – ["SC Coastal Newsletter"](#)

South Florida Airstream Club – ["Fun Times"](#)

Spirit Of Virginia Airstream Club – ["The Road Awaits"](#)

Tidewater Airstream Club – ["Tidewater Tidings"](#)

Top Of Georgia Airstream Club – ["The Peach State Caravanner"](#)

Virginia Airstream Club – ["The Virginia Traveler"](#)

# ScoutingReport

A small worthwhile side trip is a visit to the headquarters of Bush's Beans. It free. There's lot of parking, even if you towing. Plan to have lunch at the Cafe. FABULOUS.



## HOURS OF OPERATION

### HOURS

#### MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

(CLOSED SUNDAYS)

**Museum:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Year-round  
**Store:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Year-round  
**Cafe:** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Jan. - Mar. 2024  
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Apr. - Dec. 2024

### MUSEUM

**THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL BEAN MUSEUM IS OPEN!**

Our museum is filled with incredibly tasteful exhibits. They'll feed your bean curiosity with 110 years of our Beautiful Bean story. Just set your BPS (Bean Positioning System) for Chestnut Hill, Tennessee that's located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains for a bean-tastic good time. Visit us Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### HOLIDAYS / CLOSED

**2024  
CLOSED ON**

Mon. Jan 15 - MLK  
 Fri. Mar 29 - Sat. Mar 30 - Easter  
 Mon. May 27 - Memorial Day  
 Thurs. Jul 4 - 4th of July  
 Mon. Sep 2 - Labor Day  
 Thu. Nov 28 - Sat. Nov 30 - Thanksgiving  
 Mon. Dec 23 - Wed. Dec 25 - Christmas  
 Wed. Jan 1 - New Year's

## CONTACT US

VISITOR CENTER ADDRESS  
 3901 US-411  
 Dandridge, TN 37725

**TO SCHEDULE A GROUP TOUR FOR 30 OR MORE PEOPLE AT THE BUSH'S® MUSEUM OR CAFÉ, PLEASE CALL 865-509-3077**

## EASY TO GET TO, FREE TO VISIT

EASILY A DAY'S DRIVE FOR TWO-THIRDS OF THE U.S. POPULATION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

