

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj June 2024

President's Message



Watchung's first rally and meetings of the season are over, with great success! It was wonderful to see so many 'newer' members. The General Meeting turned out to be a real learning experience for many members regarding Watchung's rally process. 'Older' members have a wealth of information...you just have to ask. I hope everybody learned that hosting a rally is not that scary. Thanks to Leslie & Frank DeHerde and Joanne & Stayla Elacqua. Watchung would not be what it is without people to step up.

With a 2 ½ day turn around, it was off to the Region 2 Rally in Centre Hall, PA. Region 2 President, Gary Russo along with the 'Region 2 Team' did a great job.

The weather was to the liking of everyone. One day, the AC was on, next the windows were open and old and new friends gathered outside, then came the rain and the thermostat was kicked up. Rich and Kathi Short volunteered to get up early and help serve a delicious hot breakfast on Friday morning. I on the other hand offered to take a later shift of serving ice cream after the Barbequed Beef Brisket dinner with all the fixings dinner on Saturday night. Sharon and Joe Moran did some hiking with their dogs at Bald Eagle State Park and the Butterfly Trail. They also took advantage of some tours, including the self-guided Underground Railroad.

Please do not delay in signing up for our October Rally (Oct. 24 - 27). This is an important rally as we vote on our Slate of Officers for 2025. The campground will be releasing our saved sites on June 15th. You will still be able to attend, however there is no guarantee you will get a site near our group. After signing up, be sure to let Rich know that you want to join in on the fun and what site you reserved.

* If you did not see the email with important details for signing up for our October Rally from Rich, PLEASE be sure to check your spam folder.

Watch your emails from info@airstreamclub.org for voting information in June.

Lea #2256



Welcome New Members!

Ceyan and Cynthia Birney of Short Hills, New Jersey

Camp Carr Unbutton Rally Photos



Cool enough for a campfire and for members to don their 'Barbara Hats'. For several years, a member has knitted hats/socks/scarfs and handed them out at Camp Carr. Photos by Lea Plant.



Announcements

Sunshine Report

In May the club sent a congratulations card to the Ratliffs on the occasion of their son John's graduation from college, a get well card to Fred Brugmans, a "thinking of you" card to BettyLou Walker, a get-well card to Cal Bacon, and a sympathy card to Linda Ward.

Would you like to have a card sent to another club member to wish them well or mark a milestone? 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.

June Birthdays

JoAnne Elacqua
Lois Wagner
David Cahall
John Dillion
Karen Smith
Frederick Reinhardt
Jean Brugmans
Linda Kiesel



2024-5 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
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/August 16-18	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
New! October 2024	Club Rally Oct 24-27	Rich and Kathi Short		White Oak Campground, Quarryville, PA
November 2024	Luncheon/TBD	Michael Koczwarra and Barbara Taylor		TBD
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/TBD	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	TBD
January 2025	Luncheon			
February 2025	Luncheon			
February 2025	Special Event/Oct 14-15	Contact Lea Plant		Colonial Airstream, Millstone Twp.
March 2025	Luncheon			Knights of Columbus 130 Main St. Woodbridge NJ
April 2025	Club Rally/Meetings			
May 2025	Region 2 Rally			
June 2025	Club Rally/			
July 2025	Club Rally/			
August 2025	International Aug 23-28	WBCCI	N/A	York, PA
September 2025	Club Rally/			
October 2025	Club Rally/Annual Business Meetings			
November 2025	Luncheon/			
December 2025	Installation Luncheon	Laura/Meg Riley	Leslie/ Frank DeHerde	TBA

July Rally Information

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 14 rigs signed up. We have sites 30 through 38B reserved (see map on website). Your hosts are in sites 31 and 35, which is where we will have our group tent set up.

Planned Schedule (subject to change)

Friday, July 19

9:30 AM – Hiking, biking, or other activity for those that arrive early (see [Area Activities](#) below).

2:00 – 9:00 PM – Campground check-in time.

5:30 PM – Happy Hour/Dinner*: Please bring hearty appetizer to share. Also please **bring your own chair, plates, utensils, and beverage**—at host sites (31 + 35).

7:30 PM – Campfire (weather permitting) and Game.

Saturday, July 20

8:30 AM – Coffee, tea, oatmeal with fixings, crumb cake*. **Please bring your own bowl, plate, utensils, and coffee mug**—at host sites (31 + 35).

10:00 AM – Optional group activity; choice of 3. (see Area Activities below for more info)

1. Drive/Hike Mount Greylock:

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/mount-greylock-state-reservation>

2. Mass MoCA: <https://massmoca.org/>

3. Hancock Shaker Village: <https://hancockshakervillage.org/>

Lunch – On your own.

4:00 PM – Happy Hour. Bring chair and beverage—at host sites (31 +35).

5:00 PM – Dinner catered by Zucchini's.* Please bring cash for charity raffle (St Jude's Childrens Hospital). **Please bring your own chair, plate, utensils, and beverage**—at host sites (31 +35).

After dinner group activity – Liquid Courage, Classic Rock Band (till 9:00 PM) provided by Mount Greylock Campsite Park; **Bring your own beverage and lawn chair.**

9:00 PM – Campfire—at host sites (31 +35) weather permitting.

Sunday, July 21

8:30 AM – Coffee, tea, yogurt, fruit—at host sites (31 +35).

12:00 PM – Check out time for those departing.

*Please, no pets during meals.

Note: For this rally we are trying something new. Rather than attempt to guess the rally budget in advance and ask for payment up front, the per-person fee that covers our meals and sundries (the campground fee is paid when you make your reservation) will be calculated and collected Sunday morning after we have added up our actual expenses. This method is used by other Airstream clubs to eliminate overpayment and the no-show issue. Based on our past hosting experience we anticipate the fee will be \$20 or less per person. Payment can be made by check, cash, or Zelle.

Mt. Greylock Campsite Park Area Activities

[approximate driving time, miles from campground]

Mount Greylock Hike: Mount Greylock has a variety of self-guided and guided hikes, many include part of the Appalachian Trail; visit the Visitors Center at Mount Greylock State Reservation for maps and information. Dogs welcome.

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/mount-greylock-state-reservation> [7 min, 1.5 mile]

Mount Greylock Driving Tour/Hike: Auto Road at Mount Greylock State Reservation. *Mount Greylock's Hidden Treasures, A Driving Tour* Brochure is available at the Visitors Center – Allow 40 minutes to drive through the park, but there are several scenic views and short or long hikes along way for a longer outing; Dogs welcome. No entry fee, but \$2 fee to park at summit. **See website above.**

Bike: Ashuwillticook Rail Trail: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/ashuwillticook-rail-trail> [15 min, 5 miles to trail]

Bike or Kayak Rentals: Berkshire Outfitters (store is 300 yards from rail trail): <https://www.berkshireoutfitters.com/> [20 min, 11 miles]

Art Museums/History:

Mass MoCA: Modern contemporary art; vast galleries with unusual art. Adults \$25; seniors \$22. Only service dogs allowed. <https://massmoca.org/> [31 min, 19 miles]

Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. Masterpieces of European and American painting, sculpture, works on paper, and decorative arts from the Renaissance to the early twentieth century. www.clarkart.edu [20 min, 13 miles]

Hancock Shaker Village: a living history museum with animals. Tours available or self guided. Adults \$20, Seniors \$18. Only service dogs allowed. <https://hancockshakervillage.org/> [26 min, 13 miles]

Norman Rockwell Museum: <https://www.nrm.org/> [40 min, 23 miles]

Bennington Battle Monument: <http://www.benningtonbattlemonument.com/> [40 min, 27 miles]

Bennington Museum: <https://benningtonmuseum.org/> [40 min, 27 miles]

Music: Tanglewood (various concerts): <https://www.bso.org/tanglewood> [31 min, 16 miles]

Dance: Jacob's Pillow (Social Tango Project and other events) <https://www.jacobspillow.org/festival/ticketed-performances/> [46 min, 27 miles]

Relax/swim/fish at campsite: <https://www.mtgreylockcampsitepark.com/activities-and-events>

See campground website for more ideas, including wineries, breweries:

<https://www.mtgreylockcampsitepark.com/nearby-attractionsdd>

August Rally Information

August at Lake Glory Campground—Buddy Rally*

96 Eisenhower Rd. Catawissa PA 17820

570-356-7329

*Buddy Rally allows for Non Airstream members and guests to attend.

Please let George Kiesel know what site you have booked so he can keep a tally of who is where: gkiesel861@gmail.com. George & Linda Kiesel 908-930-0550 Jay and Cathy McCarthy 215-833-8647

When: August 16th to August 18th, 2024. Hosted by Linda and George Kiesel, cohost Jay and Cathy McCarthy. Come join us for a relaxing fun-filled weekend. The campground runs a no-cost shuttle to Knoebels amusement park. Other attractions in the area include the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine tour in Ashland PA, Geysers Big Mine Run, and several covered bridges in the area.

Friday: arrivals.

3 PM: Campground check-in time.

5PM: Happy hour.

6PM: Pizza and salad dinner 6pm. Bring your own plates and utensils to all meals.

Saturday:

8:30-9:30: Breakfast. Blueberry or apple pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice.

Rest of the day: On your own.

5 PM: Happy hour.

6 PM: Dinner. Potluck Supper. Check Box on the form below to indicate what dish you are bringing.

7:30 PM: Re-Gifting Bingo, bring at least 2 affordable gifts to play. Details to follow.

Campfire weather permitting, After dinner: **St.Jude Childrens Hospital charity raffle.**

Sunday: Departures

8:30-9:30: Continental Breakfast

Executive Board mtg. at 9:30 and General Mtg. at 10am.

2:00 PM: Check-out time

Please note that you are asked not to bring your pet to the pavilion during happy hour or mealtimes.

Name _____ Email _____ Cell _____ BRN _____

Rally Fee per adult \$15.00 x number of adults = \$_____ .

Make Checks Payable to; Watchung NJ Airstream Club or pay [online](#)

Mail Checks to Lois Wagner 29 Colony Court New Providence NJ 07974

I/We will bring (please check one): Main Entrée___ Side___ Salad___ Dessert___-

Directions to Lake Glory Campground

Please note the campground website states DO NOT FOLLOW GPS, as it will bring you on roads with height restrictions. Please avoid McIntyre and Esther Furnace road due to a covered bridge.

Directions from Knoebel's website:

Lake Glory Campground Entrance — 40°54' 08.80" N 76 ° 2731.73"W

From 1-80 West

For trailers we suggest taking the Buckhorn exit 232 Route 42 South to Catawissa. Cross the bridge and watch for Route 487 south to bear right up an incline. Stay on Route 487 approx. 4 miles, turn left onto Ashton Hollow Rd then Left onto Hemlock Road, then left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

From 1-80 East

Take Danville Exit 224 to PA Route 54 east through Danville. PA 54 turns Left to Elysburg. Turn left onto PA 487 North at the Light. Turn Right onto Ashton Hollow Road, then Left onto Hemlock Road then Left again onto Eisenhower Rd. The campground will be on your left,

From 1-81 South

Near Hazleton, Take the 1-80 and 1-81 Junction and follow Route 80 West. Take the Buckhorn exit 232 Route 42 South to Catawissa. Cross the bridge and watch for Route 487 south to bear right up an incline. Stay on Route 487 approx. 4 miles, turn Left onto Ashton Hollow Rd then Left onto Hemlock Road, then Left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

From 1-81 North

Take Minersville Rd exit 116. Turn left onto Route 91 west to PA Route 54 west. Turn right onto PA Route 487 North at the lights Turn right onto Ashton Hollow rd., then left onto Hemlock Road, then left again onto Eisenhower Road. The campground will be on your left.

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

October Rally Information

We have 18 sites reserved at White Oak Campground in Quarryville, PA. **OCT. 24-27, 2024** for our October Rally. White Oak Campground offers full hookup sites and a large rec hall for our use. Located in the beautiful Amish countryside of Lancaster County, there will be plenty to do exploring the area. Full Rally details will follow over the Summer.

October is our annual General Business Meeting where we elect our new slate of Club Officers and we always have a great turnout. The October Rally is traditionally held over the Columbus Day Weekend but with this year's scheduling of the International Rally in October, our schedule is a little off kilter.

We have these sites on hold ONLY UNTIL JUNE 15 and we will need to release any unbooked sites after that date. It doesn't mean you won't get a site after that date but with no guarantee they will be with the group. The Campground is offering us a 12% group discount and has a reasonable cancellation policy if your plans change. **So don't wait or procrastinate.... book today! Come on out and support your Club.**

TO RESERVE YOUR SITE first review the instructions posted on www.whiteoakcampground.com/groups then click on the "book online" button to make your reservation. Our group code is **short_october24**.

You can also reserve by calling White Oak Campground directly at (717) 687-6207. You may ask for Kaylee.

Our Group Reservation is for four (4) nights...Thursday thru Sunday, October 24-27. If you want to come early, stay later, or less than the four (4) night reservation please call the Campground directly to select and book your site.

Please let me know when you have reserved a site and provide your site number. Any questions, please give me a call.

Thanks!

Rich Short
1512
609-618-0355

Spring Trip West part 1

Text and photos Lois Wagner/Derek Conley



It wasn't until we crested a rise on I-70 and the snow-covered peaks of the Rocky Mountains came into view that we knew we weren't in Kansas anymore. It was March 31, Easter Sunday, and we were just west of Stratton, Colorado with the Rockies still over 100 miles away, but at last we felt our long drive was starting to pay off.

We had left New Jersey on March 27 for a long-dreamed trip out west to see again, after a hiatus of many years, the wide-open landscapes, the mountains, and deserts of just a small part of the country. We were headed for the Northwest, Washington and Oregon, to see old friends and to take in as much of the landscape as we could along the way. Originally the plan had been to take Interstates 90 and 94 right across to suburban Seattle but a check of the weather for our travel week showed that even in late March daytime highs along much of the route would not make it much above freezing and nighttime lows could reach the teens, making trailer living a little too complicated for our taste. Instead, we decided to take a more southern route, I-70, about 600 miles south of I-94, as far as the Rockies before angling northwest through Wyoming and Idaho. That route promised daytime highs in the 40s and even low 50s and nighttime lows in the mid-20s.

For the first several days of the trip we just wanted to make as many miles a day as we could without pushing so hard we needed a day off. We averaged around 425 miles in a seven-hour travel day and kept the trailer hooked up on our overnight stops. For convenience we stopped whenever we could at KOA Journey campgrounds. These are usually located close to interstates and like McDonalds or Marriott have a certain predictability of service level, amenities, and price, between forty and fifty dollars a night on this trip, that we find desirable when we want to make time to our ultimate destination. Nights 1, 3, and 4 we camped at KOAs in Washington Pennsylvania, Kansas City Missouri, and Goodland Kansas. Between Pennsylvania and Missouri we couldn't find a KOA that was about halfway so on night two we stayed in Indiana at Lieber State Recreation Area, an 8,000-acre park about 40 miles west of Indianapolis and just off I-70.

On the fifth day we arrived in Colorado Springs and stayed two nights at the most amenity-rich state park we have ever seen: [Cheyenne Mountain state park](#). If the name is familiar, it is because buried deep inside the mountain is the headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. The park sits several hundred feet above the city of Colorado Springs. At night the vista reminded us of the view of Los Angeles from the Hollywood hills with seemingly a million lights receding to the horizon. Because the campsites are terraced into the mountain, each has that superb view which of course includes spectacular sunrises. The campsites are well spaced, each on a level asphalt pad with a separate tent site on a railroad-tie and gravel platform, a steel and Trex picnic table, and fireplace. All the campsites are full hook ups for \$41 a night (not including the separately collected and irritating \$8 per day parking permit we had to pay at the park office each morning; why not include it in the camping fee? Several western states follow this annoying practice). We noticed that some of the people staying there were commuting to work from the campground (maximum stay is fourteen days).





On day six, our first off day, we toured [Garden of the Gods](#), a private park of marvelous rock formations in Colorado Springs that the Ute tribe considered sacred and which, amazingly, is free. While we were there the weather began to close in and we guessed, correctly as we could see the next day, it was snowing on Pikes Peak, which overlooks the park. Shortly after we were back at the trailer it began to rain, then sleet, then hail, and finally snow, but it was over in a couple of hours and the snow was gone the next morning.

From Colorado Springs we headed north on I-25 to Cheyenne, Wyoming where we picked up I-80 and again turned west crossing the [Great Divide Basin](#), also called the Red Desert, from which no water ever escapes. We camped that night in Rock Springs, Wyoming at a campground that had full hookup spaces for at least 200 trailers packed side by side in rows on a gravel lot as flat as a pool table. We were one of three trailers there. We could only imagine what it would be like at the height of travel season. Wherever we went in the west we found an abundance of campgrounds, and those were just the ones we could see from the roads we travelled. We also found dump stations all over: in rest stops and truck stops, sometimes at municipal facilities and of course all the parks. The West is a very camper-friendly place.

The next day we headed east to Little America, Wyoming, which is not much more than a large gas station, restaurant and gift shop, there departing route 80 to follow US 30 (one of the original cross-country highways before the Interstate system) north to Idaho and our next layover, Lava Hot Springs. Starting near Kemmerer Wyoming US 30 picks up the Oregon Trail where it crosses east to west through [Oakley Draw](#), a narrow pass between two mountains occupied by, aside from US 30, the Union Pacific railroad tracks, old route 30, and at least five named creeks (Clear, Twin, Chicken, Bullpen, and Smallpox). About in the middle of this mountain pass is [Fossil Butte National Monument](#) which contains a superbly curated selection of the many millions of lacustrine fossils that have been extracted from the butte over the past 150 years. Fifty million years ago, much of Wyoming was a freshwater lake, thus the monument's slogan, "America's aquarium in stone". The monument's scenic drive was closed due to snow, and we didn't have time to take the hike to the butte itself but, as so often on this trip, we had, to our delight, the museum pretty much to ourselves with the friendly and very knowledgeable ranger pointing out and explaining the highlights of the collection.



Fossil dung display in the restrooms at Fossil Butte National Monument.

Back on the road we stopped again at The National Oregon-California Trail Center in Montpelier, Idaho and were disappointed to find that it is only open from Memorial Day to September 30. Despite its name it is a private organization without government funding, or at least not the funding the national park system gets, so it is only open in the high season.



KOA Holiday Lava Hot Springs.

Throughout our trip we encountered a number of attractions and campgrounds that do not open until sometime in May and close no later than October 30 and often September 30. Still, we were happy to be traveling when few others were.

Pressing on, we arrived for our two-night stay at the KOA Holiday Lava Hot Springs Idaho (KOA Holidays tend to be close to tourist attractions and are geared to longer stays than KOA Journeys). It is arguably the nicest, and certainly the most expensive (\$75 a night full hookup) of the five campgrounds in this tiny resort town that clearly, from the number of

restaurants, hotels, raft trip vendors, and ice cream, gift, and coffee shops, gets very busy once school is out. Looking at the map and at the license plates in town it's no wonder: the Springs is just 45



minutes from Pocatello (population including the suburbs about 90,000) and just over two hours from Salt Lake City (1,250,000). We didn't quite have the place to ourselves but there was plenty of room for us in the 102° pool at the [municipal hot springs](#) facility, one of five pools ranging from



there up to 112°, which was way too hot for us; ten degrees more doesn't sound like much but oh boy, it sure is when you are sitting in it. As the spring is known to have been used by native Americans for maybe, oh, five to ten thousand years before the settlers arrived, founded the town and built the pools, the town gives free passes to all members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribes who reside on the Fort Hall reservation, just a half hour north. Everyone else pays \$7 for a day's soak. By the way the heat for the 2.5 million gallons of water that flows through the pools every day comes from the [Yellowstone Hot Spot](#) that underlies much of the region, including most famously Yellowstone National Park.

We left Lava Hot Springs for a completely different experience at [City of Rocks National Reserve](#). To get there we could take either the northern route, which involves interstates and other main roads, or the southern route, which featured what we thought would be less-travelled country roads. We chose the southern route and yes, they were less-travelled country roads but about half of the three-hour drive was on dirt roads. And it was snowing/sleeting/drizzling. By the time we arrived the truck and trailer were covered in mud. Still, we had one highlight on the trip. Just where the road briefly dipped into Utah before turning north again into Idaho, we passed through the village of Snowville and there, standing in the fenced front lawn of one of the little houses that lined the street, was a zebra. We had many questions, but the zebra wasn't forthcoming.



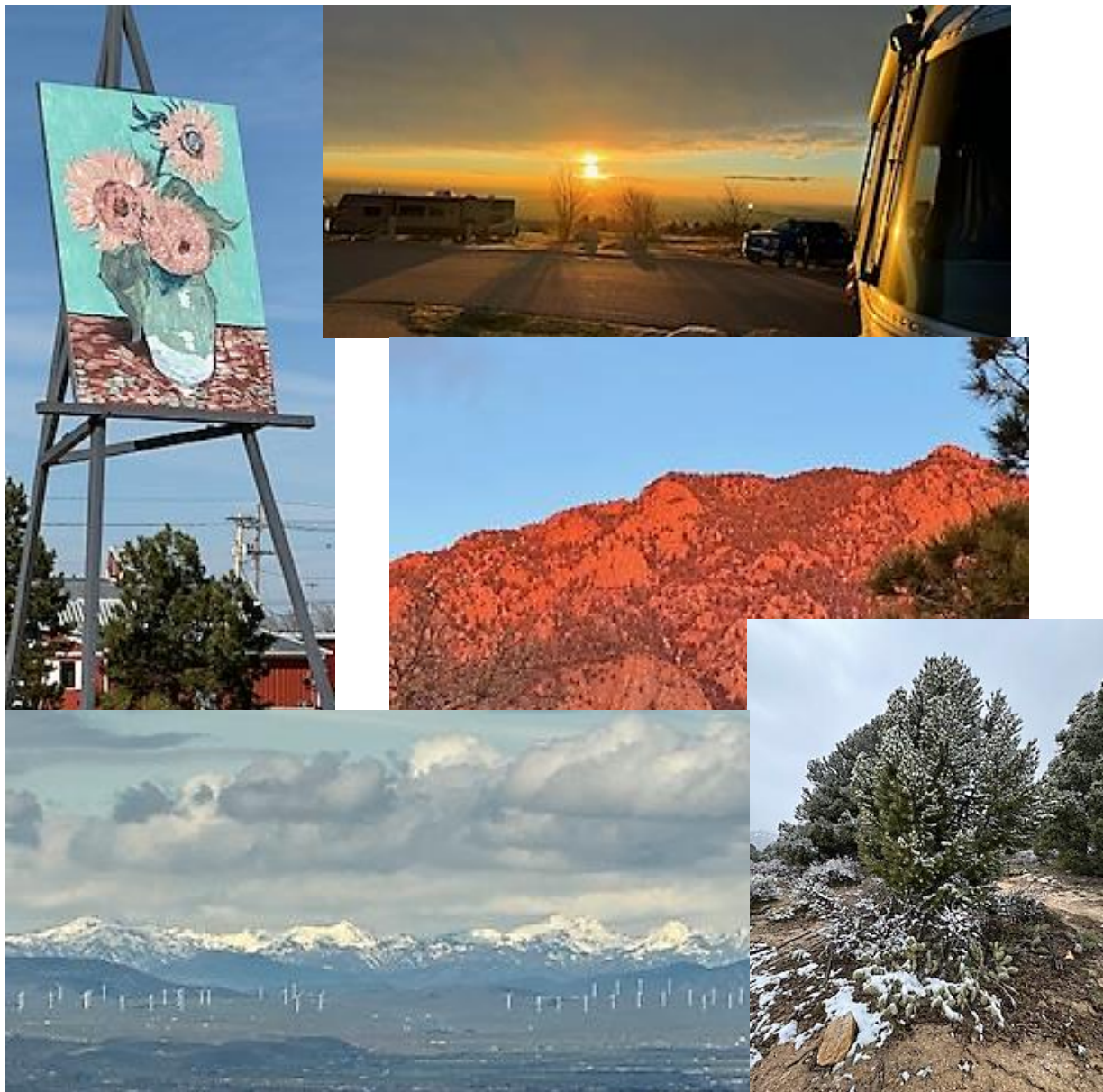
In 1849 James Wilkins, an emigrant travelling west on the California trail wrote in his diary that his party "encamped at a city of rocks." By then the site was a well-known landmark and favorite camping spot for California-bound travelers. In 1852 52,000 people passed through on their way to California. Today, an average of 80,00 people per year camp at the park, many of them coming for the 1,000-plus rock-climbing routes. For most of the day we were the only campers in the park (two more trailers arrived just at nightfall; there were no tents). Our site was an electric and water asphalt pull-through, a semi-circle off the camp road completely surrounded by piñon pines (though the water was turned off due to sub-freezing temperatures). With light snow falling we took a hike of about three miles along the park's geologic trail which features numbered markers near formations of particular interest, the numbers corresponding to a self-guided tour brochure from the park office. The silence, the gentle snowfall, the marvelous rocks (some among the oldest in the US) and being the only two people there made for a very special afternoon.



The next morning we left City of Rocks for our final push to Seattle. After an hour's drive north, this time on paved roads, we rejoined the Interstate system, first on I-86 then I-84 north to La Grande, Oregon where we spent the night at Grande Hot Springs RV resort which has their own indoor hot spring

pool on premises. We were tired and had to get up early so we did not take the waters but we did very much enjoy the park's setting: a lovely green meadow in the shadow of a tall butte to the west. Up early the next day we went up and down the [Wallowa mountains](#) (said by geologists to have once been islands in the Pacific) and into the semi-desert of eastern Oregon and Washington. The route took us through Pendleton, famous for its [annual fall roundup](#), then over the Columbia and up through thousands and thousands of acres of vineyards lining both sides of the road between Prosser and Yakima. How in the world do they sell all those grapes profitably? Finally we joined I-90 at Ellensburg and crossed Snoqualmie pass on Sunday afternoon in the rain (it rains most days left of the Cascades October through April). We had arrived at our first destination, Sammamish, Washington, a suburb of Seattle.

Next time: The Oregon coast, following Lewis and Clark, Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa, and home. *(Below from top left: World's largest easel, Goodland Kansas; sunrise over Colorado Springs from Cheyenne Mountain State Park; Cheyenne mountain at dawn; cactus in snow under piñon pine, City of Rocks National Reserve; wind farm, Colorado.*





Landscape near Almo, Idaho

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)

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