

NORVA NEWS



September/October 2024

Message from the New President

by Bob Nickel BRN 11527



I am excited to take the reins as the President of the Northern Virginia Airstream Club and Wendy, Jacob and I look forward to another great year of camping. I would like to start by thanking Gerry Nagel for taking the helm as the president of the club for the past two years. Gerry has been a great mentor, helping me learn the ropes of the Northern Virginia Airstream Club. It's also great to have Jim Oxley and Drew Morgan helping out as the First and Second Vice Presidents of the club. They both have a lot of great things planned for this coming year for all of us and I look forward to working with them and all of our NORVA Board members to make those plans happen.

We have numerous rallies planned for NORVA including our annual Holiday Party in December and the ever popular River Rally next June. Drew is working on our annual caravan next year and I look forward to seeing what he has planned. We have rallies planned for every month this coming year and I've been meeting with the presidents of the other three Virginia clubs looking to add even more events in conjunction with their clubs. Watch our calendar for our club's upcoming events and opportunities to join up with the other clubs for some exciting rallies, including a Balloon Festival over the Fourth of July holiday at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia.

Thanks to all of our members for allowing me the chance to lead our club and I look forward to seeing everyone around the campfire this coming year.

What's Inside

- Message from the President
- Message from the Past President
- Commonwealth Rally
- Special Story by Lew Brodsky
- Upcoming Events
- NORVA Executive Officers



Message from the Past President

By Gerry Nagel

As you read this my tenure as President is coming to an end. I would like to thank all the all the NORVA Officers for their support and significant contributions to NORVA over the past year. It has made my job as President a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Bob Nickel, 1st VP, for coordinating all the rallies for the year.

Jim Oxley, 2nd VP, for an excellent "Endless Summer Caravan."

Beverly Bevis, Treasurer, for excellent work in maintaining the financial records of the club.

Patsy Nagel, Webmaster, for keeping our website updated and working with the various rally hosts in utilizing Jot Form for rally sign-ups.

Gail Perkins, Secretary, for maintaining records of board meetings and handling any correspondence as needed.

Lew Brodsky, Membership Director, for maintaining the addition and deletions to membership and providing an excellent welcome to NORVA for new members.

Barbara Formoso and Colleen Heron, Newsletter Co-editors, for keeping NORVA members informed of rally and event stories.

John Bevis, Legislative Director, for monitoring guidance from WBCCI and ensuring our constitution and by-laws were in compliance with WBCCI requirements.

Tom Carmichael, Parliamentarian, for his guidance and support.

Pete West, Past President, and chairman of the selection committee for his work in submitting a great list of candidates to lead NORVA in the future.

The future of NORVA is in good hands with the Officers for 2024-2025, listed below. Please give them your support for the coming year.

2024 Commonwealth Rally

Photos by Jim Oxley and Bev Bevis

This year's Commonwealth Rally was held at Madison Vines on September 5-8. New officers in each club were installed by Region 3 President Bob Early, and, as usual, a good time was had by all.

John Bevis, Legislative Director; Beverly Bevis, Treasurer; Bob Nickel, President; Jim Oxley, 1st Vice President; and Doug Perkins, Membership Director





Not pictured above are: Drew Morgan, 2nd VP; Gail Perkins, Secretary; Gerry Nagel, Past President; Patsy Nagel, Webmaster; Lew Brodsky, Parliamentarian; and Barbara Formoso, Newsletter Editor.



Aside from the formal, official activities, there was plenty of time to relax and enjoy the beauty of the setting and each other's company.





Small Town in the “U.P.” gets a Namesake NORVA Visitor

by Lew Brodsky

When three silver Airstreams and their tow vehicles partially blocked the street in front of the U.S. Post Office in Eckerman, Mich., Christie Metcalf, the postal clerk on-duty, was perplexed. Who are these people and why are they here? The tiny rural post office in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (U.P.), usually sees only a few “locals” each business day. But that morning in mid-September, three couples from the NORVA Airstream Club, paraded into the place: Chuck & Sally Walters; Lew & Cathy Brodsky; and, most importantly, Don & Peggy Eckerman. All were traveling in Michigan as participants in the 2024 “Ores, Shores, Waters, & Lights” Airstream national caravan (There were a total of 17 rigs on this caravan; including the 3 from NORVA).

On this day spent traveling to the third of five campgrounds booked for the tour, Don was focused on a personal genealogical mission. Why is the town named “Eckerman.” No other town in the entire U.S. of A. is named “Eckerman!” Is there any connection to my family? Does anyone named “Eckerman” still live in the town...perhaps a long-lost relative? Don thought, “Wouldn’t it be special to get a letter or postcard with an “Eckerman, MI” stamp cancellation?” Only one of these questions was answered affirmatively, as Ms. Metcalf joyfully hand-cancelled a few letters and postcards for Don.



Aside from the name, there was barely anything left of the town, and disappointingly, no modern-day residents named Eckerman, according to Postal Clerk Metcalf. However,

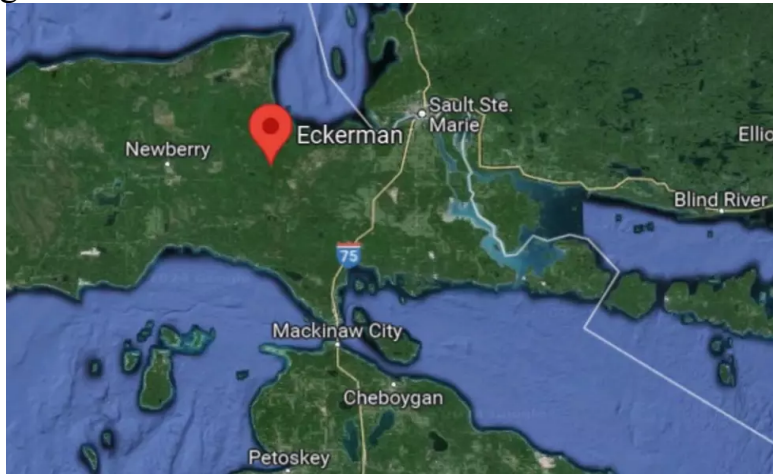
Local Michigan reporter John Robinson of WFMK Radio posted some on-line information about the town last March: “Eckerman may as well be labeled a ghost town, as there aren’t many people left...and maybe a couple of businesses.” Robinson says the town was founded in 1889 by a logger with the last name “Eckermann.” (Apparently, the last “n” was dropped from the town name, similar to what Don’s family did with their own Germanic surname decades ago.) Alas, the 19th Century Michigan logger’s first name, or anything else about him, is forever lost to history.



As a logging community, the town had its share of woes. Its economy was based on the fact that the post office doubled as a railroad station and depot for transporting lumber in the 1890s. But “the sawmill burned down twice: in 1925 and 1942,” Robinson says, “and when the railroad closed in 1931, it was a blow – no longer could they rely on logging by



rail; improved roads made it easier for trucks to haul the timber. The mill finally closed for good in 1958.”



Undaunted, Don, Peggy, and their fellow travelers walked through a nearby cemetery, looking for any graves occupied by deceased Eckerman(n)s. There weren't any. Looking on the bright side, at least Don got his "Eckerman" stamp cancellations.

Hitting the road again, the three NORVA couples headed for the caravan's next stop: Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., a sizeable city perched along the busy waterway connecting Great Lakes Superior and Huron.





Upcoming Events

October

67th Annual Airstream Club International Rally

Date: October 5-10, 2024

Sedalia, MO

Information and

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/rally2024>



Alumalina Buddy Rally

A note from John Leake...(<https://www.alumalina.com>)

I received a call today from the wonderful folks at Camping World of Marion, home of Alumalina. Marion NC had catastrophic flooding from Helene as did the entire area and the Rally park was all washed away. There were no injuries, so good news. The bad news: Alumalina 2024 is cancelled. Here at our house in SC we are well but with limited services so with the help of friends I bring you the sad news. As soon as we can we will bring you better info and as always wish the very best for everyone.

John and Susan



November

Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally

Date: October 31 - November 3, 2024

Urbanna, VA

Registration IS Open!

Event Web Page and

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/urbanna-oyster-festival-rally>



December

NORVA Holiday Party

Date and Location TBA



(Check our Facebook page periodically or wait for the November Newsletter.)



NORVA Executive Officers 2024-2025

President: Bob Nickel

1st Vice President: Jim Oxley

2nd Vice President: Drew Morgan

Secretary: Gail Perkins

Treasurer: Beverly Bevis

Membership Director: Doug Perkins

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Formoso

Webmaster: Patsy Nagel

Legislative Director: John Bevis

Parliamentarian: Lew Brodsky

Past President: Gerry Nagel

Join us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/norvaairstream>

<https://airstreamclub.org/northern-Virginia>

Information: <https://airstreamclub.org>



“Let’s not make changes,
let’s only make
improvements.”

Wally Byam

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome!

Send them to: bformoso@me.com



WHERE ADVENTURE BEGINS



(855) 570-4398
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