



The Trillium

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August 2024



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Events Calendar

Sep. 6 - 8	Fall Rally & AGM Can-Am RV, London	Andy T. Contact Can-Am RV to register 1-866-226-2678
Sep. 5 - 8	2024 Pennsylvania Rally Emlenton Pennsylvania	If you're in the Pennsylvania area... Registration open now
Sep. 19 - 23	Fall Rendezvous Western Ontario Summer House Park	Jim & Ena F. See article for registration information
Oct. 5 - 10	67th International Rally Sedalia Missouri	Just a short hop from Ontario Registration open now
Aug. 23 - 28, 2025	68th International Rally York Pennsylvania	An even shorter hop from Ontario! Registration TBA

President's Message

Melanie C.

How can the summer be half over? We are looking forward to the Fall Rally at Can Am RV. As of July 1st we had 42 rigs registered for the rally. There may be some who stay home and commute to the rally, which is fine.

We will be holding our AGM at this rally so it's really important to attend if you are able. We will be looking for a 2nd Vice President and three two year term trustees. Being a trustee is a great way to ease your way in to the workings of the club. The trustees are the liaisons for the board. They are approachable about any issue you want to know about or have brought to the board. Don't be shy; the club depends wholly on volunteers to function. "Many hands make light work" is so very true all the while having fun and meeting fellow Airstreamers.

I am working on story boards to celebrate the 60 years of the Ontario Airstream Club. If you have anything you would like included don't hesitate to let me know.



Region 2 President's Message

Gary R.



Can you believe that it is August already?

We are just catching up with rallies and other Airstream activities now that we are back from our European River cruise up the Blue Danube River. I have included some photos from our trip. While in Budapest, Hungary, we found — you guessed it — an Airstream that was converted into a food truck!



While out of the country, so many good things have been happening in the Airstream arena. Here is a thumbnail sketch.

- The Sampson Rally that is sponsored by the New York Finger Lakes, Metro New York, and Hudson Mohawk Clubs, at last count had 68 trailers attending that event.
- The International Rally in Sedalia MO is sold out!!
- The renovation of 707 East Pike St. in Jackson Center is moving forward. The office staff expects to move from 803 into their new digs between October 21-31, 2024.
 - This will allow the staff an orderly move after the International in early October.

- Current results from the Explorer Program: Region 2 along with 3 other Regions accounted for 57% of the membership in this program. Region 2 had the second highest number of members in the program. Way to go Colleen Ahlers and local Membership Chairs!
 - One of the recommendations to come out of the results is to have a Newbie Region Rally. I'll examine rally opportunities that could occur before the end of the Region 2 camping season or have a meet and greet during the off months.
- ACI is returning to a standard accounting year, January 1 to December 31.
 - 'A calendar year makes more sense.' is a quote from the accountants.
- Save the date for the IBT meeting on August 22, so fire up your computer and go online to see your Club Officers in action!
- Last, but not least, the Region 2 Rally NEXT Year (I can't believe I'm already looking at 2025) is May 1-5.

See you down the road.

New Members

Please welcome our newest OCAC members.

David & Wendy J.
1964 Globetrotter 19

Jerry F. & Leah C.
2024 Flying Cloud 28

Raymond D. (Affiliate)
2023 Basecamp 16

Doug H. & Nancy R.
2022 Globetrotter 27

Shelley & Stephen P.
2023 Pottery Barn 28

Mark & Lily F.
2022 Globetrotter 30

Mirjana M. & Floyd C.
2024 Flying Cloud 27

Jennifer & Michael H. (Affiliate)
2022 Globetrotter 27

Brad M.
1977 International 31

Randall W. & Isabella L.
2017 Flying Cloud 25

New members are reminded to send in headshots (together with partner if applicable) to the [newsletter editor](#) or Kath B.



Thanks Can-Am for
all your support!

Fall Rally Update

Melanie C.

This year's Fall Rally is being held at Can-Am RV. Andy and staff are rolling out the red carpet for us. The dates are September 6, 7, and 8. Camping is Friday night and Saturday night only. Campers must not arrive before Friday afternoon and must depart by Sunday Afternoon.

Andy has room for 200 rigs. This is a boondock rally. Everyone should be able to make it through two nights with no power, water, or sewer hookups. There is limited, shared 15 amp power for those with medical needs, like CPAP.

The fee is \$45 per person. That includes a Friday evening catered meal, Saturday wine and cheese and a Can-Am sponsored chili cook off. Just bring your appetites; chili will be prepared by our volunteer chefs.

Saturday morning there is a Rotary pancake breakfast at the Lambeth arena. Andy's wife Heather is part of this organization. Good food at a great price for a good cause! Sunday morning will be a continental breakfast supplied by Can-Am RV.

As we celebrate our Club's 60th year there will be displays of 60 years of Airstreaming. Andy is doing a presentation and talk about boondocking, highlighting the newest Trade Wind model Airstream. There will also be an opportunity to meet the Can-Am RV staff.

We will be having our AGM to put your officers in place for the next year. New members will also be celebrated and officially welcomed to the club. David Hutzel, your incoming President, may be unveiling his exciting plans for next year's events.

If you have not yet registered, **please contact Can-Am directly**. Registration deadline is August 18, but don't delay! See the flyer on the following page for contact information.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

[Editor's note: This is the invitation send out by Can-Am RV to the general public]

Fall Airstream Rally

September 6 - 8, 2024

On site at 



Friday

Catered Dinner
Live Entertainment



Saturday



Wine & Cheese

*Chili & cooking supplies provided, just bring your secret ingredients!

Performance by Frankie and the Fairlanes
ft. Canadian Fiddle Champion Scott Woods



Sunday

Continental Breakfast



Boondocking Seminar ✦ Meet Members of the Airstream Club ✦ Backing Up Contest

Space Limited!

RSVP before August 18, 2024
1-866-226-2678 or info@canamrv.ca
Inquiries or questions: ana@canamrv.ca

\$90

per trailer

*Itinerary subject to change

NOTE: Come with full fresh tank and empty holding tanks - Dump station located at Flying J (Highbury Ave.)
*Limited parking available until Monday

Fall Rendezvous Update

Jim F.



September 19th - 23rd, 2024

The time and location is booked. Have you made your reservations yet? If not, it's not too late. They're taking reservations by phone or via e-mail. Call the park directly at 1-800-265-5557 or use their web-site, summerhousepark.ca. Be sure to mention you're with the Airstream Club. The parks' physical address is 197 Miller Lake Shore Rd., Miller Lake, On.

Your host team of Jim & Ena F., Dwayne & Margaret R., Mark H. & Lynn E., have a relaxed schedule of events planned for your weekend on the Bruce Peninsula. Just to give you a rough idea, Thursday will be open for early arrivals and the Rendezvous will begin on Friday. We'll meet in the "Club House" for our welcoming meeting / social hour to be followed with games night for those interested in pulling out their Joker games, etc.

Saturday afternoon we'll be having a presentation on solar systems to be presented by David Elliott of GWN Marketing. David has said he'll be bringing along some product for offer and will do installs if requested. David will also have some door prizes and swag to hand out. It sounds like it will be a good session to attend. We'll have our potluck dinner in the same hall Sunday night. The intent of this weekend is for you to relax, gather with friends, explore, and enjoy nature.

Some ideas of what to do while on the Bruce:

- Farm market on the bay in Lions Head, Saturday morning
- Hike a section of the Bruce Trail; Jim Forbes would be happy to make some suggestions
- Fish and chips in Tobermory
- The Trading Post on Hwy. 6 (see the Kodiak bear)
- Tom Thompson museum in Owen Sound
- St. Edmonds Township Museum just south of Tobermory
- The Interpretive Centre at Bruce Peninsula National Park
- Waterfall tour of Grey Bruce County
- Boating opportunities abound
- Check out info@explorethebruce.com
- There's something for everyone

Hope to see you there,

Your host team



The Club Room at Summer House Park

Spring Time in Kentucky

Lesley S. and Leanne J.

A Caravan

In May, we returned home from our four week Spring Time in Kentucky caravan. We missed the deadline for the previous newsletter but here it is now.

The caravan leaders were Bruce and Lynn K., who actually come from New York state. They did a wonderful job of leading a group of Airstreamers from all over the US and Ontario through the beautiful state of Kentucky. So well organized and action packed. There were two rigs from the Ontario unit: Ruth & Bud G. and Leanne J. & Lesley S.



As it is with most caravans, you meet as strangers at the start and leave as friends. Shared adventures, laughter, and experiences brings everyone together.

The caravan, as the name implies, stays within the state of Kentucky. There were five campgrounds used as we moved around the state.



The caravan started in Bowling Green. To get us started we had our evening meal together in a local restaurant on the town square. Our tours in this area included the Corvette museum, a dairy farm, mansion houses and caves.

Next stop, Bardstown (outside Louisville). There were historical sites and museums to tour, another mansion house and a Bourbon tasting and tour. Brunch at Churchill Downs racetrack and an afternoon of racing. What a beautiful track, such fun; all the people dressed to impress, ladies with their fascinators, men with outlandish racetrack jackets. A tour of the Louisville slugger museum, the home of the famous baseball bat. They make the bats for many of the major league players here at the factory.

We moved on to the Kentucky Horse Park Campground. All around this park are the rolling hills of Kentucky. Breeding farms, retirement farms, and racetracks. On Kentucky Derby day we went to Keeneland Racetrack to watch the races on the big screen. We visited a chocolate factory, then another Bourbon distillery tour.

Next stop, Paintsville Lake State Park. This part of the state is completely different from the rolling hills. This was coal mining and hard working people. Loretta Lynn country music star, of Coal Miner's Daughter fame, came from this area. The general store in Butcher Hollow still exists. We went to the country music museum one night for a front porch pickin' get together. Our own Bud Gerber joined in with his guitar. It was an event of music, toe tapping and dancing. The local high school in Paintsville was performing the musical Legally

Blonde. Since Airstreamers try to support local communities, 37 extra people filled the local theatre to enjoy an evening of entertainment provided by the students. There was more Bourbon tasting earlier in the day, and a taste of Moonshine.

Our last stop was the Renfro Valley KOA. From here we toured a Shaker village, Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, and McDowell house (home of Dr. Ephram McDowell, famous surgeon). We went to the town of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame where businessman Harlan Sanders developed his recipe to be served in his motel restaurant.

On Wednesday May 16 our final banquet luncheon was held at the Boone Tavern Inn.

We highly recommend this caravan. If you have never done a caravan, you should. They are fun and all the organization and planning is done for you. You just pay your money and have a good time.

We have signed up for the 2024 Mother Load of the Mother Road caravan down Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles. We will be on the road for three months including a stop at the International Rally Missouri. When we get back we will let you know how it went.



Lunch in Wellesley

Kim E.

We had a great day for driving to Wellesley, for a pre-lunch social get-together under the pavilion at the local community centre. New member, Chris L., stopped in on his coffee break to say hi.

Affiliate members Bob & Darlene C. (from Edmonton, Alberta) drove 2 hrs and 20 minutes from Essex to join us. Jeannie and I met Bob and Darlene at our first Airstream Rally that we attended for Region 10 in 2016 in Kalispell Montana. Pre-Covid, we ran into them at Travellers Rest near Dade City, Florida. It was good to see them again today. That is the great thing about our Club: the friends you meet from all over North America.



Schmidtsville Restaurant, which came highly recommended, via Allan Shuh's sisters, did not disappoint the 17 attendees. The food and service was fabulous.



Where's the campfire?!

Editorial

Steve A.

Airstream misadventure #23: Buses Welcome

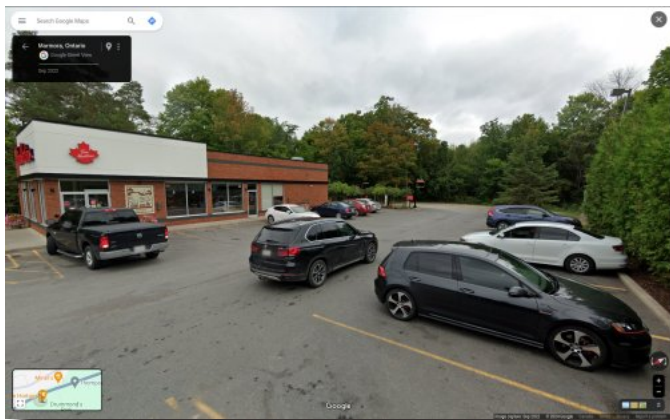
We were westbound on Highway 7, Bug in tow, returning from last year's rally at Sampson State Park. We'd been driving for some time and our eyes were peeled for a place where we could stretch our legs and maybe grab a coffee.

We passed the Tim Hortons sign just outside of the small town of Marmora. "5 Min. Ahead, Buses Welcome" the sign said. Perfect, just perfect.

The Tims was on the south side. On approach it appeared ... smaller ... than I had envisioned. But a sign is a sign. They must know what they are talking about. Right?

As we committed to the left-hand turn and pulled our 35 foot rig into the parking lot, we immediately realized our mistake; only a Volkswagen Microbus would have fit in this parking lot. By then, of course, we were fully in with no hope of backing up into the very busy Highway 7.

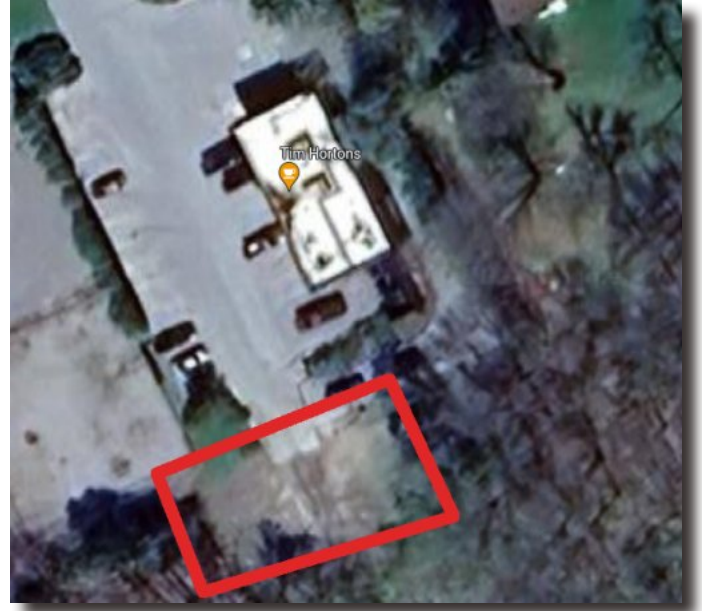
Crap.



I took a deep breath and tried not to panic. There was a patch of unpaved dirt at the back of the parking lot proper. Maybe that's where the buses were intended to go. We hopped out for a quick look.

We were in luck. Though not big enough for any bus larger than the aforementioned Volkswagen, the patch was just large enough to turn us around. Or get us impossibly stuck – no way to tell without trying. We didn't have the patch to ourselves. There were a few cars here and there as this was probably the staff parking area.

We whipped out the two-way radios and got to it – Karen on point, me behind the wheel. The details of our manoeuvres are tedious, but suffice to say that we got the rig in and squiggled around without hitting any vehicles (though we did get awfully friendly with a few bushes).



We were jackknifed diagonally across the space when a couple of young gentlemen in camo gear pulled their pickup into the drive-through. They slowed to look at us, shook their heads, and gave a little smile.

On the way out, as we merged with the drive-through, we again met the two young gentlemen. I just slowed to let them leave ahead of us and gave them a little smile.

And we never did get our coffee.

Sunshine Report

Lynn B.

Three cards were sent out in July:

- A Sympathy card was sent for the passing of Bill B. Bill and Elizabeth B. have been club members since 2017.
- A Get Well card was sent to Kathy M., who has been in the hospital for the past month, and is now going home.
- A Thinking of You card was sent to John H. who is having health problems.

Hope everyone is having a great summer! We're on our way to the Finger Lakes Rally at Sampson State Park.



Charging Down the Road

John R.

DC to DC Charger

If you follow any RV related You Tube channels, you will see that there has been some talk lately about adding a DC-to-DC charger to your RV. So, what is a DC-to-DC charger used for, and why would you need or use one?

In the past, for many of us, the battery in your RV was charged from your tow vehicle while driving down the road. This is because one of the pins in the seven-way connector is an auxiliary 12 V DC supply which will charge up your battery. Well, this was the case up till a few years ago when the tow vehicle manufacturers started using "smart alternator" or "variable voltage alternators" in their vehicles. These smart alternators monitor the voltage of the starting battery in the vehicle. If they see it is fully charged the smart alternator reduces its output voltage, thus sending only a maintenance voltage (13.2 V DC) to the starting battery and the auxiliary pin in the seven-way connector. This maintenance voltage is not enough to charge up a low battery. This is especially true for lithium batteries as they require a higher voltage to charge (14.2 to 14.6 V DC) than lead acid batteries charging voltage (13.8 to 14 V DC).

Why the change to smart alternators? With the regulations on fuel consumption and emissions, it is one of the ways to increase fuel economy and reduce emissions. The alternator does not have to work so hard due to the reduced output when the starting battery is fully charged. It means less fuel consumption and therefore less emissions.

How can I tell if my tow vehicle is equipped with a smart alternator? Look at the tow vehicle starting battery. If there is a sensor module mounted on, or near, the battery terminal (usually the negative terminal) then you have a tow vehicle with a smart alternator.

Installing a DC-to-DC charger will allow the tow vehicle to charge your RV battery while driving down the road if your tow vehicle is equipped with a smart alternator. There are lots of You Tube videos out there on how to install a DC-to-DC charger so I will leave that up to you to investigate further if you wish to install one.

Hope this helps you understand a little better what a DC-to-DC charger is for and when or if you need one. If your RV is equipped with solar then the solar panels will charge your RV battery when the sun is shining and travelling down the road.

Enjoy the journey.

Community Services Update

Pop Tabs - Rick A.

Pop tabs and plastic bread tags will be collected at the Summerhouse rally in the fall. (Please separate the two!) Thanks to all members again for all their support in filling my trailer at the rallies with tabs in support for our project "Tabs 4 Kids Wheels".

Project Linus

[Editor's note: No update this month, but keep up the great work making those blankets! They will be collected at a future rally.]

Airstream Ads

For sale: 1983 34 Foot Airstream

Longtime member of the Airstream Club, John H., has decided to sell his 1984 34' Airstream. Many updates and maintenance have been completed at Jackson Center. Please contact John directly for more information.