

**Official Newsletter of the  
DelMarVa Airstream  
Club #026**

September 2024

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# THE DELMARVA BEACON



Taste of New York Joint Rally  
Finger Lakes Region, New York  
Article by Gary Russo  
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**WBBCI: Wally Byam  
Caravan Club International Inc.**

[airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org)

**Blue Beret online**

[blueberet@airstreamclub.org](mailto:blueberet@airstreamclub.org)

**DelMarVa  
Airstream Club #026**

[airstreamclub.org/delmarva](http://airstreamclub.org/delmarva)



**DelMarVa Airstream  
Club #026  
Officers and  
Volunteers**

President.....  
Vacant

1st Vice President.....  
Vacant

Recording Secretary.....  
Katharine Dowell

Treasurer.....  
Chuck Helwig

Trustees.....  
Katharine Dowell  
Andy Dowell

**Member Engagement**

Membership Chair.....  
Roger Sansom

Webmaster.....  
Andy Dowell

Newsletter Editor.....  
Denis Clements

**From the DelMarVa Club Acting President**

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**Andy Dowell**

**Hello DelMarVa Members,**

Andy is on extended travel.

**Kind Regards,  
Andy Dowell  
410-212-4431 (phone/text)**

## DelMarVa Airstream Club Calendar

Sep 20-22, 2024: DelMarVa Club Rally;  
Location: Crisfield American Legion, MD;  
Host is DelMarVa AS Club;  
Contact: Roger Sansom

Oct 5-10, 2024: 2024 International Rally;  
Location: Sedalia, MO;  
Host is ACI

Oct 11-13, 2024: Joint Rally with Keystone AS Club,  
Location: National Apple Harvest Festival at South Mountain Fairgrounds, Route 234 near Arendtsville, PA;  
Campground will be near Gettysburg, PA;  
Host is Keystone AS Club

Oct 25-27, 2024  
DelMarVa Installation Rally  
Location: 4H Club Campground, Centerville, MD;  
Host is DelMarVa AS Club  
More details in future issues

## Region 2 President

By Gary Russo, BRN# 1061, President, Region 2

### Hello DelMarVa Members,

On August 22, 2024 a 4-hour IBT meeting was held where we covered many topics. I'm going to hit only the highlights from the meeting.

- 707 East Pike remodel is on budget, and the staff plans to move in late October after the International Rally.
  - To accomplish this, there was a high level of volunteer labor.
  - PPG and Sherwin Williams donated paint supplies and material.
- Harvest Host Courtesy parking benefit is now available to all members.
  - Currently there are 350 host members.
  - JotForm for the parking is being updated with the following:
    - NO fee to use the 350 sites.
    - Pictures of the sites.
    - Services that are available at the site.
    - Jackson Center sites will be on the Harvest Host Courtesy parking.
    - There will be a Harvest Host representative at Sedalia MO.
    - Boondocking sites TBA.
- During the IBT meeting Alan Rabb, the International Financial Director, gave a deep dive into the financial health of WBCCI.
  - After his presentation, he and the financial committee made the motion to raise the annual membership fee to \$99.00.
  - The committee recommended that the membership fee be reviewed to stay in line with the inflation rate, which was one of the reasons the fee fell behind.
- I know this was a hot button for many of the Region 2 membership, and I heard from both sides of the discussion. I was in favor of an increase of \$10.00 to \$85.00 with the caveat that the financial committee continue with a line-item review of the budget. If, after the review, an increase was still needed, then we would go forward with the rate increase to \$95.00.
- Another assumption I heard was that the rate increase is due to the purchase of 707 East Pike. A breakdown of the membership fee showed the building purchase accounted for only \$4.00 of the increase. The inflation rate was the biggest cause for the increase.

One example of inflation was that a senior coffee in December of 2023 was \$1.07 at a McDonald's in Rochester, New York. That same cup of coffee is now \$1.72. That is a 61% increase in less than 1 year.

- After the discussion, the voting majority felt that it was better to raise the membership fee once, instead of going back to the membership the following year. I voted against the rate increase.
- The \$99.00 increase will take effect in September 2024.

The Region 2 luncheon at the International Rally is still open for registration. Mike Giunta, the new Region 1 President, has reached out to us to see if we could have a joint luncheon because we share the same time and are in the adjacent room. I agreed with this proposal. Doing this will allow us both to have great food options at the event.

- Monday October 7, 2024 - 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- Missouri Electric Coop
- Bldg. MEC 2

The link for the luncheon is below:

<https://form.jotform.com/240456396910157>

Don't forget to stop by the Region 2 table during the Sedelia rally.

**Can you believe that we are already adding rally dates to the 2025 calendar?!!!**

- May 1 to 5 Region 2 Rally, Grange Fairgrounds PA
- July 31 to August 4 Sampson State Park NY
- August 23 to 28 International Rally, York PA

**With that said, safe travels and see you down the road!**

**Gary Russo, BRN# 1061**



# A Taste of New York

## A Joint Rally of Hudson Mohawk, Metro NY, and NY Finger Lakes Airstream Clubs

### Text and Photos by Gary Russo

August was a full month, with attending the Taste of New York Rally hosted by the New York Finger Lakes, Metro New York and the Hudson Mohawk clubs on Seneca Lake. What a fun time! The rally had people attending from California, Texas, Florida, Region 1, and Region 2 was well represented. Attendance was 130 people with 67 rigs. The three clubs put on quite the event! I've included some pictures from that rally.





# An Airstream Summer and Fall (in two parts), Part 1, The Oregon Trail Caravan

Text and Photos by Katharine Dowell

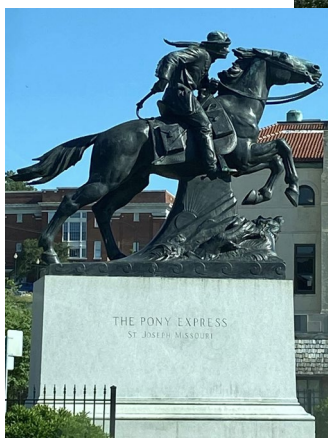
Part 1 will cover the trip from Lewes, DE through the “Nuts for Ruts” Oregon Trail Caravan to the West Coast. Part 2 will be in the November issue and will cover the return from the West Coast including participation in the International Rally in Sedalia, MO.



Made it to Ohio on our cross- country trip heading for St.Joseph, MO. ‘Moochdocking’ at our friend’s farm.

June 25th began our Airstream Club Oregon Trail Caravan. First visit was to St Joseph. MO where we delved into Pony Express history. Enjoyed a tour and then a yummy group dinner.

Group picture in our new bonnets and neckerchiefs. At the Pony Express Museum.



Statue of a Pony Express rider at the Pony Express Museum, St. Joseph, MO





Me and Andy at our first wagon rut site on the Oregon Trail Caravan. This site is where visible pioneer wagon ruts descend in a swale to cross a river.

And the wildflowers! So cool!



Spent the afternoon of June 29th at the Great Platte River Road Archway. This museum of the history of Western settlement with an immersive experience spans Interstate 80. The Platte River was both sustenance and waypath for pioneers.





On June 30th we visited Ft. Kearny State Park. A place my family toured in 1968 on our way out West. Very important supply post for westward emigrants. Also a Pony Express station. So of course I had to recreate the pix as much as possible!



Two stops on July 1st. First one: Buffalo Bill's retirement home called Scouts Rest Ranch. Such beautiful ornate buildings and lovely, lovely sylvan setting including very posh horse barn. If I were to ever have a ranch it would be this one.



Second stop was Golden Spike Tower — the largest railroad yard in the world and also where you can view Union Pacific history. Andy says his Dad may have come through the depot on the Troop Trains! Fascinating what the town did for the soldiers passing through.



July 2nd travels: A visit to Ash Hollow State Park and Windlass Hill. The hollow was a special treat to weary Trail emigrants where they could camp and feed and water their livestock abundantly. Unfortunately to get down to it from the steep bluffs they had steadily climbed for days they had to let their wagons slide downhill with wheels locked! We climbed to the top and saw remains of rut swales.



On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we visited two monuments/landmarks for emigrants on the Oregon Trail: Scotts Bluff and also Chimney Rock. Seeing them encouraged weary pioneers.

Scott's  
Bluff

Chimney  
Rock



Our Oregon Trail Caravan bonnets. I never realized how practical! They keep the sun off your face and neck plus keep your hair out of your face. The unceasing prairie wind will take any hat but these ties hold it in place. I'm rather attached to my bonnet out here! At Scotts Bluff National Monument.





Oregon Trail Ruts State Historic Site, Guernsey, Wyoming.



Officer's quarters, Ft. Laramie,  
oldest building in Wyoming

On July 10th, we crossed the Continental Divide. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we toured historic Ft. Bridger. Founded then abandoned by Mountain Man Jim Bridger, it was later a Mormon outpost then Army Fort. The Mormon, California Trails and Pony Express all passed through here.



There is a recreation of Bridger's original trading post and many restored buildings of the later 1800s. Plus a nice museum and cute tourist cabins from the dawn of automobile travel on the first national road —Lincoln Highway. Fascinating place.



Idaho! Such a great stop at Lava Hot Springs for several nights of much needed break. Still on the Trail — as pioneers had enjoyed the natural hot springs. But a huge family tourist mecca now.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, we tubed the Portneuf River that runs right through town. Had a real blast! Busy with tubers on Saturday like bumper cars and little waterfalls and rapids.



The entire town was filled with excited screams of riders and large tubes being carried back up hill. So much fun.

The water was quite chilly so we decided to hit the hot pools on our way back. Today I got a massage after dip in private hot pool. Bliss.



Enjoyed our visit and stay at Three Island State Park, Glens Ferry, ID. This was the point where the Oregon Trail pioneers had to make a decision to do the dangerous three island crossing of the Snake River and shave travel time plus have better forage or take the longer route on the south side.



Later, we drove to spectacular Shoshone Falls also on the Snake River. Higher waterfall than Niagara!





Along the mighty — and windy — Columbia River.  
Nearing the Trail's End!



Beautiful day on Mt Hood including a group luncheon. Pioneers upon reaching the Columbia River either had to put wagons on rafts and attempt to float down waterfalls (insane) or take the Barlow Road around Mt. Hood's southern flank. We drove on parts of the old Barlow Rd.



July 26<sup>th</sup>, End of the Oregon Trail! Site of original settlement and trading post.



June 25<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>, a month and a day and we made it!

## Installation Rally 2024



**October 25-27, 2024**

[ No Thursday Arrivals]

### Rally Fee \$ 120 / Trailer

#### Rally Fee Includes:

Two nights camping with water and electric.  
 Dump station available on Sunday.  
 Breakfast Saturday morning Dinner on Saturday evening.  
 All meals For Saturday morning and the evening meal will be provided your club treasury.  
 The evening menu will include Prime Rib, Barbecued Chicken Twice Baked Potatoes, a vegetable, dessert and bread.  
**Please let us know if you are only Coming for the meeting and Dinner**

#### Venue:

4-H Park  
 1945 4-H Park Rd.  
 Centreville, Md.  
 21617

### Rally Coupon

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
BRN: _____
e-mail: _____ Cell: _____
Number Attending _____

To register for the rally: clip the rally coupon and mail with check to:

**Charles Helwig**  
**206 Rocky Meadow La.**  
**Dover, DE. 19904**

**Sign-up Deadline: Oct 15th**

Make checks payable to: Delmarva Airstream Club

Contact Number: 302-270-7618

Contact e-mail: helwigcw@icloud.com

**To hold the rally we need a minimum of twelve units signed up by Oct 15**



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# Crisfield, Maryland Rally

## A DelMarVa Airstream Club Rally

### September 20th - 22nd, 2024

Location: Crisfield American Legion 126  
Lorrie Quinn Drive, Crisfield MD.

To reserve your waterfront site, mail an  
\$80.00 check (for a two-night stay) to  
Chuck Helwig, Club Treasurer, by July  
26<sup>th</sup>. Early arrivals or late departures are  
available for an additional \$40 per night.  
The sites offer electric and water hook-  
ups, a dump station is available. Make  
checks payable to: Delmarva Airstream  
Club.

Chuck Helwig, 206 Rocky Meadow Lane  
Dover, DE 19904



**Sites are limited ! (only 12)**  
**Sign-up early!**



# A Taste of Crisfield!

## Photos from a Past Crisfield Rally 2021





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## Meet the DelMarVa Airstream Club Officers and Volunteers

Being somewhat new to the DelMarVa Airstream Club myself, I thought it would be great to publish photos of our Officers and Volunteers so you might be able to pick them out at upcoming meetings and rallies.

**The President and Vice President positions are Vacant at this time**



**Chuck Helwig, Treasurer**  
(with Maggie)

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**Katharine Dowell, Recording Secretary and Trustee**



**Andy Dowell, Webmaster and Trustee**

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**Roger Sansom, Membership Chair**  
(with Celeste)



**Denis Clements, Newsletter Editor**



## **The Looking for Information, Advice Corner, and For Sale Items from our Members**

If you would like to post a question or comment for the DelMarVa Airstream Club folks, please let me know.

Looking for nuggets that would be good info for our club members.

Looking for questions that you would prefer to keep in the club.

## **Editorial Review**

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