

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

October 2024

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# THE DELMARVA BEACON



Shiny Hineys all in a row  
See the Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan article starting on page 6  
Photo by Denis Clements

**WBBCI: Wally Byam  
Caravan Club International Inc.**

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

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**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

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, Centreville, MD;  
Host is DelMarVa AS Club  
More details in future issues

## Region 2 President

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

**Hello DelMarVa Members,**

Gary is on extended travel.

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

**Gary Russo, BRN# 1061**

# Crisfield, MD Rally

## A DelMarVa Airstream Club Rally

Text and Photos by Roger Samson

This year's September rally in Crisfield Maryland offered us perfect weather for most of our activities. If you have never visited or camped at the Crisfield American Legion facility you will want to add a weekend in Crisfield to your "must do" list. Our group enjoyed Friday evening steak-night at the Legion with waterfront dining which included sunset views from our table on the outside deck. Our host made us feel very welcome and no one left hungry!



Saturday morning provided time for a brief tour of downtown Crisfield and a true waterman's breakfast at Gordon's restaurant.

By noon it was time to board the Steven Thomas, for our afternoon cruise to Tangier Island.



We were able to have a pleasant walk through downtown Tangier and also enjoyed some of the area's best seafood at Lorraine's Restaurant.

The tides were a little higher than usual, giving us an appreciation for some of the challenges for those living in this eastern shore community. Our relaxing late afternoon included a special treat shared by all and provided by Tina Mudge who shared an authentic-locally made Smith Island Cake.



Saturday evening led us to Janes Island State Park for a meet & greet with ranger Mark Herring.

Ranger Mark shared some history about the park and also details of a project that are working on in an effort to become recognized as one of Maryland's "Dark Sky" certified locations, offering some of the best Stargazing on the eastern shore of Maryland.

As we were able to have a leisurely check-out, many ventured over to From Scratch restaurant for a delicious Sunday morning breakfast before heading homeward. A big thank you to Dave, Chris & Kyle, Elsa, Ron & Lynette, Dave & Tina, and Bella for helping to make this year's rally a great success. We greatly missed Bill & Sharon Turner who had to address some last-minute mechanical issues.



As we plan and prepare for 2025, I encourage any of our members to consider hosting a DelMarVa Airstream Club rally at one of their favorite locations. Contact me anytime if I can offer any help or input for your rally planning.

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# Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan

## An Airstream Club International Caravan

### September 10th – 19th, 2024

#### Text and Photos by Denis and Liz Clements

Liz, myself, and Owen the Wonder Dog completed the Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan last month. This is the Caravan that is meant for newcomers to Airstream Caravaning. The group is smaller, limited to 20 units, and the duration is fairly short at 10 days. Liz and I decided to revisit a couple of our favorite Virginia State Parks on the way to the caravan starting point in Whittier, NC. We spent a night at the Shenandoah River state Park near Front Royal, VA and then a night at Hungry Mother State Park near Marion, VA. Both parks are great options for folks traveling along Interstate 81 in Virginia. We then arrived at the Tuckasegee RV Park, our first campground for the caravan. Our leaders, Ed and Joni Hall, have led this caravan several times and are in the process of turning it over to another couple for the 2025 iteration. Their planning and execution was flawless, other than the weather, which caused some challenges on the Blue Ridge Parkway, a rockslide, along with fog and rain presented some difficulties for us, but nothing that could not be overcome. There were 19 units in our caravan, there was a last-minute cancellation that could not be backfilled. Each unit received a binder of info including a bio on the folks in each unit, daily activity calendars, and so much more. Most evenings included a Get Acquainted Meeting (GAM). Each unit hosted three or four other units in a one-hour conversation to learn about each other. By the end of the caravan everyone was pretty well acquainted with all of the other folks. We had three catered dinners, Bar-B-Que, Mexican, and Pizza, as well as the final dinner that was held at the Daniel Boone Inn in Boone, NC. We stayed at private campgrounds that each had a gathering area where we could meet and enjoy the catered meals. Everyone had a couple of assignments during the caravan such as server, photographer, etc., nothing too taxing.



Here is a picture of our first catered dinner held under a covered gathering area at the Tuckasegee RV Resort. Airstreams in the background.

One of the nights there, the owner and his wife entertained us with a blue grass concert, they were great.

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We had five activities planned for our participation during the 10 days of the caravan. The first was white water rafting on the Nantahala River on September 11<sup>th</sup>.



We got wet on a few of the rapids and the water was cool! Luckily no one fell out of the raft, though the guy in the front came close a few times. Denis & I stayed in the safe zone at the back of the raft. After the raft ride, folks went off to do their own thing during the afternoon.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> we did some early morning birding at Kituwah Farm then visited Mingo Falls near Cherokee (a short but steep hike).





We drove the Newfound Gap Road from NC into TN and then into Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park (Clingman's Dome Road was closed for paving when we went by).

Here's Denis and Owen at the state line

Traffic was heavy in Cades Cove, with a major "bear jam" where a bear was up in a tree - he was so high up that seeing him, let alone photographing him, wasn't possible.



I did get a photo of a coyote that crossed the road and a big bull elk that was walking along the side of the Gap Road on our way home (we had seen a couple female elk on our way to Mingo Falls in the morning, but I was so surprised by them that I didn't get my camera out before we had passed by them).

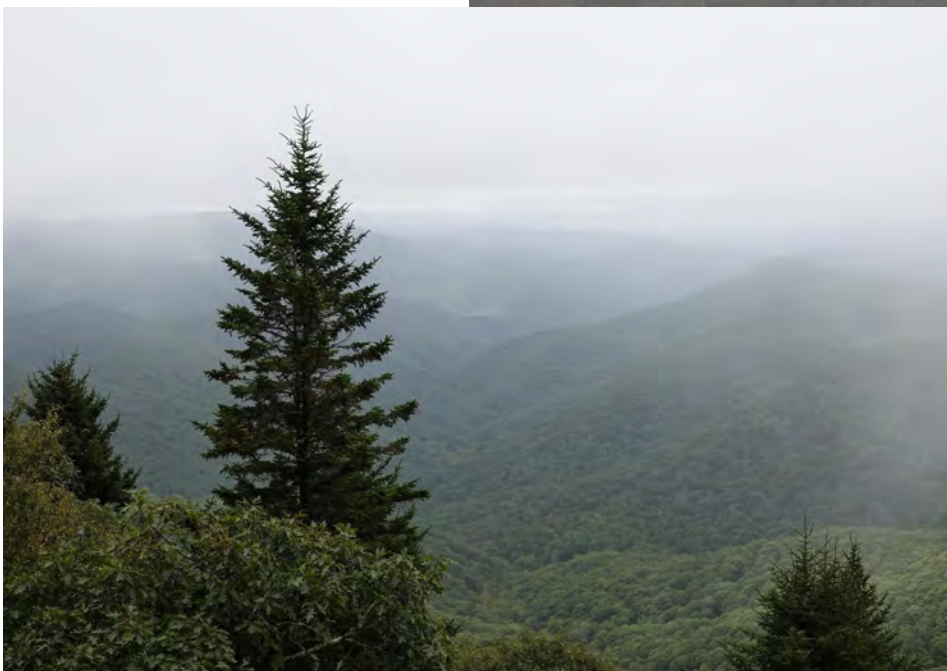
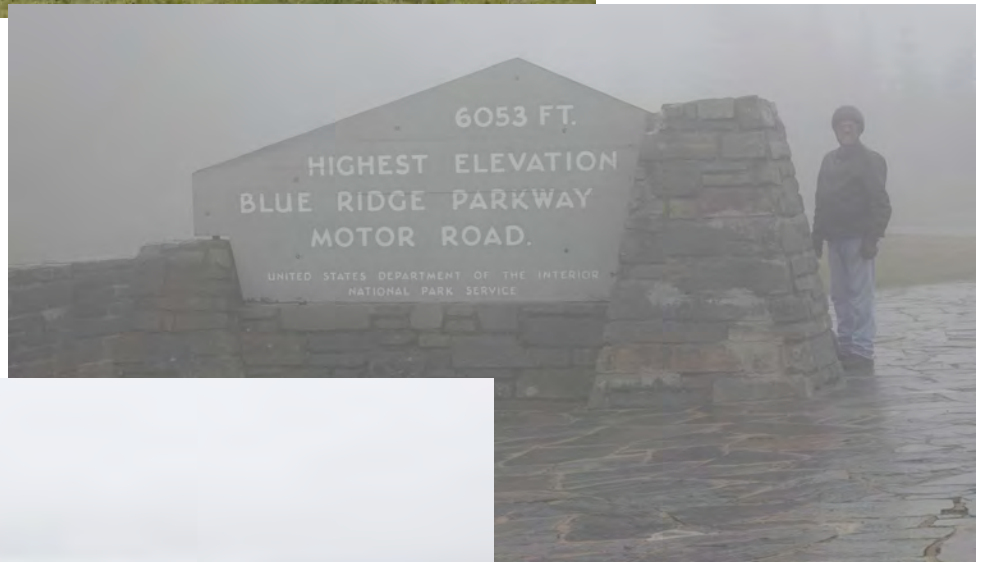


Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September was a travel day. The plan was for all 19 Airstreams to leave Whittier, NC before 11:00am and drive the Blue Ridge Parkway from Cherokee to Asheville and rendezvous at the campground in Asheville before 4pm. The weather and the elements tried to mess with us, but the plan worked. The skies were somewhat clear at the beginning with pockets of fog - the pockets got bigger and thicker.



Rains the night before caused a very large boulder to fall onto the roadway at about milepost 314 which shut the Parkway down for the rest of the day. Our leader made it past the rockslide but the rest of us were on our own to find alternative routes.

At the highest point on the Parkway - heavy fog and blowing drizzle. This motorcyclist had his bike behind the sign attempting to wait out the bad weather.



We turned back to a larger intersection while a few others braved a steep and curvy mountain road that's popular with motorcyclists.

We were not the designated "caboose" for this leg of the caravan, but we ended up being the last into the campground, just behind the "caboose".



The activity for September 14<sup>th</sup> was a visit to the Biltmore Estate.

Here's the caravan gang in front of the Biltmore Estate

The mansion, which we toured in the morning, was interesting and very opulent.

We also did the complimentary wine tasting which featured 6 different wines. We ended up buying 6 bottles (we only wanted 4, but there was a 15% discount for buying 6 bottles, so we doubled up on a couple to save a few bucks).

We came back in the afternoon with Owen to wander the extensive grounds.





On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Denis went ziplining in the morning with several others from the caravan group. I don't like heights or speed, so opted to stay behind and guard the Airstreams (along with a couple other ladies who share my feelings). Here's Denis' version of the "dead possum" pose looks more like a starfish

In the afternoon, we visited a small cemetery, Nesbitt Chapel Cemetery, in Fairview, NC where almost every one of the 325 dead people there are somehow related to Denis.



This is one of the many campfires held at the campgrounds that we stayed at. They usually had a very good turn-out.

September 16th was a free day since we opted not to go on the waterfall hike. We visited the North Carolina Arboretum in the morning to see the birds, trees, & flowers. The birds were a bit scarce but there were plenty of trees and flowers. A lovely place that we visited many years ago and wanted to see again



Recently planted mums (and not yet blooming)  
Fall quilt garden at the Arboretum

A beautiful landscape bonsai.

They had a very nice collection that was creatively displayed.



On September 17<sup>th</sup>, all the Airstreams in the caravan were supposed to travel about 130 miles up the Blue Ridge Parkway from Asheville to Boone, NC. The rain and the heavy fog had some of us going with alternate (highway) routes. A couple of brave souls drove the Parkway but said the fog was treacherous - not us, though we did go a few miles to the Southern Appalachian Folk Art Center before getting on Interstate 40, which also had thick fog and rain.



The September 18<sup>th</sup> adventure was a bicycle ride from White Top Mountain to Damascus, VA - 17 miles, almost all downhill. Here is the bicycle gang ready to depart from White Top. This is truly one of the most beautiful Rails to Trails rides in the country.

Green Cove Station, just down from White Top



Trail scenery

Liz on the trail



Shiney Hineys all in a row at the Boone KOA, our third and last campground for the caravan.



On the evening of September 18<sup>th</sup>, we had our Ice Cream Social and Game Night. One of our group, Andrew (Drew) McKeown provided some excellent guitar music with vocals. He entertained us on two different occasions during the caravan.

How many ladies drinking wine can you fit in an Airstream, at least ten it appears. They were admiring the Hall's customization of their Airstream courtesy of Ultimate Airstreams.





The final day of the "Smidge of the Blue Ridge" Airstream Caravan was September 19th. It was a free day with a meet up for an early dinner at the Daniel Boone Inn in Boone, NC.

We did some exploring on the Blue Ridge Parkway since fog and rain had interfered with exploring the previous days. As usual the weather started out okay but turned iffy as the day went on.



Bass Lake view at Moses Cone Memorial Park. The Moses Cone mansion has been restored, you can just make it out, the white structure near the top of the hill.

We departed the caravan on September 20<sup>th</sup> and made one stop on the way back home. We camped at the Bullocksville State Park on the Kerr Lake Reservoir and NC State Recreation Area, located west of Interstate 85 just south of the Virginia state line. A very nice campground, state parks are always our first choice.



View from our campsite in Bullocksville State Park. What a beautiful location.

Owen is ready for his next adventure



The caravan was on our bucket list for activities to participate in once we joined the Airstream Club International. We have also joined a local club, the DelMarVa Airstream Club, we participated in a number of club rallies. We participated in a Region 2 Rally last year and participated in the Maine International Rally in 2022. As advertised, the Smidge of the Blue Ridge Caravan is a great way to get a taste of a caravan. The leaders and the participants are what make the caravan. Get out there and enjoy what the ACI has to offer!



## 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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## 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

The DelMarVa Beacon is published monthly by the DelMarVa Airstream Club Inc., #026.

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Send articles and content to the Newsletter Editor, Denis Clements: [denis.clements@gmail.com](mailto:denis.clements@gmail.com)

Articles submitted for publication must be sent to the newsletter editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Kindly use AIRSTREAM NEWSLETTER in the email subject line.

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