

May 2025

NORVA NEWS



Our “Dead Presidents and a Bourbon Chaser” Caravan

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(From the left: Ed Jones, Beth Jones, Barb Formoso, Drew Morgan, Elizabeth Morgan, Pete West, Elizabeth West, Barb Kohler, Jeff Kohler, Pam Reising, Bev Bevis, John Bevis, Scott Arnold, Joe Formoso, Bob Nickel)

Fifteen participants in nine Airstreams had a really great time on the 12 days of the club caravan in May, led by our gracious leaders, Drew and Elizabeth Morgan.



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Days One and Two

Our first stop was at the Jellystone Park in Akron/Canton, Ohio. We kicked off with a welcome dinner at the Hartville Kitchen, an Amish restaurant with great home cooking.

The next day was jam packed , starting with a visit to the memorial, museum and home of William McKinley.. We climbed the 108 steps up to the two marble caskets of our 25th President (March 1807 until his assassination in 1901) and his wife. The museum was informative and the home held an impressive collection of period artifacts and styles.

Then we were off to the National Football League Hall Of Fame. After a quick lunch in the cafe there, we had an almost two hour of the *immense* expanse of all things football. Overwhelming (to some of us). Our guide could not have been more enthusiastic and generous with his time. One of the most impressive portions of the tour was the literal hall (wall, room, gallery?) of fame, holding a bronze bust of every inductee in the 63 years since the opening of the Hall Of Fame.



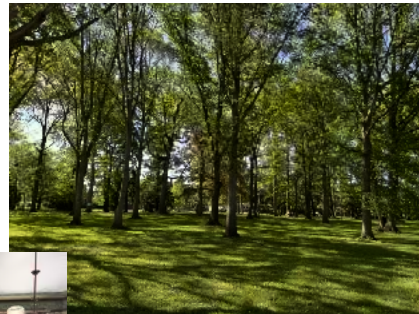
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That evening, we enjoyed our first happy hour. Beth shared that on their many international caravans, these were called GAMs (get acquainted meetings). We got a good start on that with many more to come.



Days Three, Four and Five at East Harbor State Park in Sandusky, Ohio

After a low-key travel day, we were up and at 'em for an early call to visit president #2, Rutherford B. Hayes. This might have been the highlight of the four 19th and early 20th Century presidents on our trip. The property, on the grounds of the gorgeous Spiegel Grove in Fremont, Ohio, contained the Presidential Library and Museum as well as the family home of Hayes and descendants from 1873 to 1965. Beautifully preserved and restored, it was such a pleasure to tour, again led by a terrific guide who had grown up in the town and had an obvious affection for the family's story and the property. The grove was dotted with trees affixed with plaques commemorating visits by dignitaries down through the years, including sitting presidents. What an unexpected treasure the Morgans showed us!



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That stop was rounded out with a group dinner at the unique and delightful Twin Oast Brewery in Port Clinton. Wow, what a place, with a great vibe and delicious food. It was a very special evening. Only pictures can do it justice.



The next day we had a relaxing day on our own but continued the fun in the evening for a tour, tasting and dinner at the Firelands Winery, the oldest and largest in Ohio. The name came from the original winery was located in 1880 and named because Connecticut winemakers whose homes were burned by the British relocated there in 1779. Once again a super enthusiastic guide led our tour and talked us through the tasting of four of Firelands wines from different grape varietals which was followed by a modest dinner in the tasting room.



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Days Six and Seven at Indian Lake State Park

After a 90 minute drive in the morning, we met in Marion, Ohio, site of the Presidential Library and home of Warren G. Harding who, like William McKinley before him, was famous for his presidential front porch campaign. He brought the public and the press to him rather than campaigning from trains. Very friendly to the press, he built a “press room” in a small



building in the back yard of the house. The library was a modest museum with some oddities displayed like a gigantic paper mache potato, presented as a gift during his trip to Idaho. An hour's drive from there took us to our next stop at Indian Lakes State Park.

The next day found us at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center. If you have never been there, put it on your bucket list as an Airstream owner. Touring the factory floor and visiting the museum is not to be missed!



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We ended that day with a smashing pot luck dinner highlighted by Bev Bevis' chili and Pam Reising's Ohio-famous Buckeye dessert. So much fun.



Days Eight and Nine at Indian Lake State Park

Our travel day was broken up by a visit to Wright-Patterson AF Base, home to the National Airfare Museum, which is huge (several times bigger than the Air and Space Museum in D.C.). Everyone was on their own to tour the vast galleries, arranged in chronological order from the Wright Brothers and WWI all the way through to our current space age. There were four interesting movies to choose from (ask Liz who saw them all). Again, like the NFL Museum, overwhelming.



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Our final “presidential” visit was the next day to Ulysses S. Grant’s birthplace and a few miles away, his boyhood home. We just can’t get enough of over-enthusiastic docents and these two sites did not disappoint. We learned all kinds of details about Grant’s parents and ancestors, that his first name was actually Hiram, but his dad wanted Ulysses. Apparently the “S” in his name stands for nothing in particular. We heard from both guides multiple times that Ulysses was bound and determined not to be the son to carry on the family’s tannery business. In the hope of helping young Ulysses find his path, his father arranged through contacts to get him into West Point. The rest, as they say, is history. Both sites were enthralling visits.

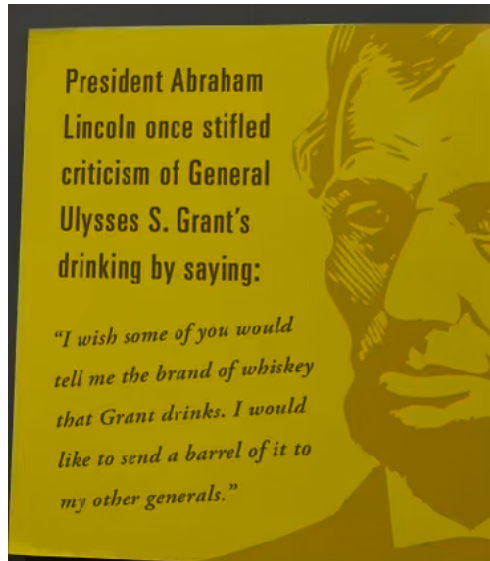


Our day ended with a delicious pizza feast under the watchful eye of Smokey the Bear and Pete West.



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Days Ten-Twelve at White's Acres Campground in Bardstown, KY



Finally, after all that serious historical touring and learning... **bourbon!** President Lincoln's joke made the perfect link between the two parts of our caravan.

We were all on our own to visit distilleries on the way to Bardstown and on the our final day of the caravan. Joe and I chose Evan Williams in the heart of downtown Louisville, the oldest commercial distillery in Kentucky, founded in 1783.



The next day the Kohlers, the Wests and the Formosos were treated to the Queen of Enthusiastic Guides (her energy could have lit up a small city) at the Preservation Distillery right in Bardstown. They have a beautiful property including a farm with longhorn steer.



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That evening our farewell dinner was at Mammy's Kitchen and Bar on Stephen Foster Avenue in Bardstown. They provided lots, and I mean lots, of very down home cooking. Think deep fried cinnamon roll and cornbread burger. We did not leave there hungry.



Thanks to Liz and Drew's hard work in planning, this caravan was a smashing, unmitigated success! If you have never been on a club caravan (or any caravan), put that on your bucket list. It's a great time getting to know other club members better, seeing sights you might not ever have seen otherwise, and just enjoying the ride.

New Member Profile

Sam and Felicia Masoudi

Sam and I recently moved to Virginia full-time to be closer to family. We spent multiple times last forty years boating. Over the course of that time, we owned four different sailboats and in 2015 purchased our dream boat, a Selene Ocean Trawler. We loved boating and were fortunate enough to live, work and boat in some of the most stunning coastal areas in the US, Mexico and Canada. We say we have sailed the "Four-Corners" of the US (the South, New England, the Desert Southwest and the Pacific Northwest).



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When Sam retired five years ago, we decided to divide our time evenly between Virginia and the Pacific Northwest. We spent six months each of the last three years exploring Canada and Alaska. Last November we decided it was time to explore inland. We looked at a few RV brands, but quickly zeroed in on Airstream. By December we had found our Globetrotter in Seattle, and by January we were on our first trip bringing her home from Seattle to Virginia. Mother Nature threw everything she had at us. We drove through freezing rain, hail and a couple of major snow storms. Undeterred, we are looking forward to many new Airstreaming adventures.

Sam is a retired aerospace engineer and I retired in 2008 from the mortgage industry. We have one son RJ, who is also an RV'er, a daughter-in-law, Lauren and two grandsons, Kai age nine and Dax age four.

Sam and Felecia Masoudi
Ashburn, Virginia
2024 Globetrotter 30 RBT

Upcoming Events

June 6-8: NORVA River Rally

Hosts: Gail and Doug Perkins/Bob and Wendy Nickel

It's here, people! If you want to jump in on this super-fun rally, there may still be time and space. Call or email Doug and Gail right now!.

Late Summer and Fall NORVA events:

August 4-9 Old Fiddler's Convention, Cool Breeze Campground, Galax, VA

Host: Christine Baum

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/galax-old-fiddlers-rally> August 23-28

August 23-28 : Airstream 68th International Rally, York Expo Center, York, PA

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/rally2025>

Plans are in the works for a rally point on Friday to go into our sites together. Stay tuned here and on Facebook for specifics.

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Stay in Touch

For all things NORVA:

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

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

Newsletter contributions and comments are welcome:

bformoso@me.com

For all things WBCCI:

<https://airstreamclub.org>



*"Let's not make changes,
let's
only make
improvements."*

Wally Bayam

September 26-28: Virginia Commonwealth Rally, American Heritage RV Park, Williamsburg, VA

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/2025-commonwealth-rally>

November 7-8: Urbanna Oyster Festival

Click here for the [festival website](#) for all the information on the weekend. Stay tuned on Facebook and next month's newsletter for registration information.

To check out other opportunities for fun rallies and events with other Region 3 clubs, click the link below:

<https://airstreamclub.org/events?from=&to=&type=736&state=-1&club=-1&list=1>

