

NORVA NEWS



What's Inside

- The President's Corner
- New Members Rally
- Caravan Preview
- In Memoriam: Seneca
- NORVA Upcoming Events
- Other Regional Events

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Doug and Gail Perkins

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The President's Corner

We kicked off the new year with the New Members Rally at Bunnyman Brewery in Lorton. This event squeaked in just under the wire, safely ahead of an impending snowstorm. Doug and Gail Perkins did a great job providing an overview of the NORVA Airstream Club and highlighting our upcoming events. For those new members that could not make it, we are planning to get you a copy of the briefing.



I'm really looking forward to welcoming our new members at the NORVA Maintenance Rally, April 24–26 this spring. I'm a big fan of this rally because safety is paramount, and this event truly helps prevent accidents.

That point was reinforced during my drive home from Florida after Christmas, when my trailer suffered a rare double tire blowout. Fortunately, the training I've received over the years from our maintenance professional, DJ Mastin, owner of Broken Rivets, paid off. I was able to identify both failures before any damage occurred—even though my new rig was missing a critical cable that rendered my Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) useless.

Much credit goes to a Good Samaritan who pulled up alongside me and pointed out a smoking tire. The second failure followed shortly after getting back on the road from the first blow out, when I felt a shudder and heard a loud bang, prompting me to pull over again (see pics). All I could think about was how right DJ has always been about the importance of a TPMS. It's nearly impossible to know a tire is

January 2026

Stay in Touch

For all things NORVA:

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

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

Newsletter contributions, corrections 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

failing—or has already failed—without one. A properly functioning modern system also monitors tire temperature, which is critical for early warning of belt failures. It also reinforces why tires should be changed based on age and use, not just tread wear.

If you take away one thing from this story, let it be this: please make plans now to attend the April Maintenance Rally. Whether you’re a new member or a seasoned Airstreamer, the knowledge you gain there could prevent a breakdown—or something far worse—on the road. Registration is open at: <https://airstreamclub.org/norva-maintenance-rally-2026>, and I strongly encourage everyone who can attend to do so.

Looking ahead in the short term, I’m also excited about the Region 3 Rally, March 4–8 in Lakeland, Florida—which I am praying warms-up compared to the 20-degree temperatures expected in Florida in early February. I hope to see many of you at one (or both!) of these events.

Sign up, mark your calendars, and join us—your safety and your rig are worth it.

Keep warm,
Jim



New Members Rally

Four new members and a total of 28 people attended NORVA’s 2026 New Members Rally, hosted by our co-Membership Directors, Doug and Gail Perkins and held at Bunnyman’s Brewery in Lorton. It was a great way for new members to meet other NORVA members and learn about not only NORVA, but the bigger ACI organization. With a beautiful Powerpoint presentation the two of them tag-teamed informing and explaining all the features and benefits of belonging not

January 2026

only to NORVA but automatically belonging to the different tiers of the Airstream Club International (ACI), also known as the Wally Bayam Caravan Club International (WBCCI), among a couple of other names. Doug explained the club, breaking down information on the international club, regional clubs and local clubs. Other officers stepped up to share information about our club's rallies and caravans. It was a good time for new and old members alike.



Preview: 2026 ACI International Rally

John Bevis, our 2nd VP has planned a terrific caravan which will run from August 7-20, arriving early at the International Rally in Minot, ND, which will take place from August 22nd to the 27th.

For those who have previously traveled with NORVA caravans, this one may be a bit aggressive, as a couple of the day drives may push up close to 300 miles, most in 200-250 range. The caravan will convene 40 miles north of Pittsburgh at the Airstream only park, where we will have an organizational meeting before heading out. Some stops are 2 days, one 3, and others one day only, with total distance about



January 2026

1800 miles. The route takes the caravan across Northern Ohio, then Michigan, north to the “Upper Peninsula.” We plan 3 nights at a campground north of the Mackinac Bridge, with good access to several points of interest. From there we head westward through upper Minnesota lake country, before arriving at Minot. The northern portion follows U.S. Route 2 (not an Interstate). Along the way are various attractions and points of interest, which will be included. We will also plan some group activities and dinners.

Some of proposed stopping points and attractions.

Penn Wood Airstream Only Park. Two nights

Maumee Bay State Park, near Toledo. Two nights

National Museum of the Great Lakes Museum and lake ships for tours.

Lakeshore RV Park, St. Ignace, MI. Three nights

Multiple attractions including Mackinaw Island, Soo Locks, others

Duluth, MN. Two nights.

Multiple attractions including Great Lakes Aquarium, Castle Rock Lighthouse

Grand Forks, MN. Two nights.

Upper Minnesota Lake Country

While it's hard to know exact costs, my estimate is in neighborhood of \$1700-2000, covering campground costs and some attractions, dinners, etc. Upon signing up, we need a deposit of \$500, with balance due later (60 days) once final costs are determined. We have several already, and can add a few more, up to 10 max. Reach out to me if you are interested and I'll give more details.

John W. Bevis, 2nd VP; bevisjohn72@gmail.com; 703-203-6114

After you call John with your intent to join the caravan, please send the \$500 deposit to:

205 McHenry Street, S.E.

Vienna, VA 22180

In Memorium



Seneca Perkins

4/14/2015 - 2/27/2026

Gail's eulogy for Seneca follows:

January 2026

We got Seneca when he was 8 weeks old. His first camping trip was to Camp Hatteras in the Outer Banks. Doug said, "What if he doesn't like the water?" Well, before we put his little body into the water, his paws were going...he loved it! He loved swimming, retrieving toys from the ocean, rivers, lakes...it didn't matter as long as he was in the water.

He soon learned that camping was fun! All we had to do was hook the trailer up and he was behind us step by step...ready to go. No wonder he loved camping, he met the nicest people, especially in the NORVA Airstream Club. Seneca would proudly carry his disc everywhere, but he wouldn't give it to you. If you were able to pry it from his mouth, then he loved for you to throw it and he would retrieve it.

In his almost 11 years, we did not go on a camping trip without him. He traveled to Maine to the International Rally, he traveled on the Cowboy Caravan to Wyoming, and then toured all the states back home. He has been to Florida where he wasn't able to swim at one campground due to alligators in the water...that was torture for him! He loved laying by campfires in the evenings with his Airstream friends, fondly going around to make sure everyone had the opportunity to talk with him and pet him, and also, in case you dropped something you were eating, he would snatch it up quickly for you...no 5 second rule with him!

Seneca was a gentle giant...his size could intimidate you, but he was sweet as a teddy bear. We never heard him growl or get angry with anyone...he loved everyone, and he loved life. He brought such joy to our life, and we will always miss him.

Thank you for all your kindness, time and love you gave to him.

Forever in our Hearts
Gail and Doug Perkins

2026 NORVA Upcoming Events

March 4-8

Region 3 Rally

Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Campground
4075 James C. Ray Drive
Lakeland, FL 33811

**This rally is sold out already but here is a waitlist.
Sign up for the waitlist here: [Info and Registration](#)**



April 24-26

NORVA Maintenance Rally

Madison Vines RV Resort, Madison, VA
Host: Tom Carmichael
More Info to Follow

Register here: [NORVA Maintenance Rally](#)

January 2026

May 1-3

Chickahominy Riverfront Park Rally

Hosts: Drew and Elizabeth Morgan
John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Register here: [Chickahominy Riverfront Park Rally](#)

More Info to Follow

June 5-7

NORVA River Rally

Hosts: Doug and Gail Perkins
More Info to Follow

August 2-8

Old Fiddlers Convention

Galax, VA

This is a National Event Rally

More Info to Follow

August 22-27 Stay tuned for information about the NORVA Caravan out to this event. Dates TBA!
69th Airstream Club International Rally

North Dakota State Fairgrounds
Minot, ND 58701

Register here: [ACI International 2026](#)

September 24-27

2026 Virginia Commonwealth Rally

Endless Caverns Resort, New Market, Va
Hosted by Virginia Airstream Club

Register here: [Virginia Commonwealth Rally](#)

October

Alumalina Buddy Rally

The Alumalina campground site is being restored/refurbished and we are looking forward to this popular rally in Marion, NC!
More Info to Follow

November 5-8

Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally

More info to Follow

December

NORVA Holiday Party
More Info to Follow!

January 2026

Other Regional Events

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

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



New Airstream location! Blue Compass RV is the #1 Airstream Dealer Group in the World!

**Airstream of Virginia:
5921 Mallard Road
Woodford, VA 22580**



January 2026