

Our 62nd Year of Airstreaming

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj April 2026

President's Message



Hello Airstream Family, and greetings from Florida! Just as the warm weather arrived in New Jersey (albeit temporarily), we hit the road for our first Airstream-powered trip to the Sunshine State. In case any of you are planning a trip down to Florida, here is what we have found in our stays along the way.

Our first stop was at Carolina Crossroads in Roanoke Rapids NC. There wasn't much to it but it was about a mile from I95 so it served our purpose.

Second was Creekfire RV near Savannah. This was a pretty campground, not shaded really but it had several nice pools including a lazy river which was not yet open for the season. But we did relax poolside for a bit. It is also close to I-95.

Next on to Clearwater to visit some friends. Here we stayed at the Clearwater/Tarpon Springs KOA. This was a pretty little oasis in a very busy and bustling area. The sites were small but pretty, with native foliage lining each one. A very friendly and welcoming staff greeted us and to our surprise, a simple complimentary breakfast was offered each day. Rather unexpected at a CG. Our friends took us to two fun little areas, John's Pass and Tarpon Springs.

Then off to Sarasota, a very pretty and less frenetic town. While visiting family there we found much to do. We enjoyed golf and a glass-fusing class, as well as some really good food, namely at BRINES, a seafood restaurant. While in Sarasota we stayed 3 nights at Sun Outdoors. This is a huge (*really* huge) CG with lots of seasonal people and tons of activities and amenities, including an enormous gym building. But because of this, it is also a very hectic place with lots of people milling about all over, so you have to be very vigilant if you are driving through for any reason. So, it has pluses and minuses like anything else.

The Hillbilly



Finally, we headed to our primary destination; Travelers Rest RV and Golf Resort in Dade City. Having just come from the very busy Sun Outdoors, TR felt like a soothing breath of fresh air. It is much more spread out, has plenty of activities, clubs, and friendly people, but without the hectic feel of the previous stay. We arrived 10 days ago and have enjoyed many activities already, so much so that we are considering a month for next year. TR was founded by Airstreamers in 1972 but later opened to anyone. TR is unlike any other camping spot we have ever been to: we have many, many Airstreamers as neighbors. We met several from New Jersey, the Watchung Club, and other R2 folks. After our two-week stay here, which is quite a treat as we aren't packing up and moving every few days, we will head home. After a return stay at the KOA Santee SC, a pretty little CG with a small beach, we will head up to the Raleigh area to visit one of our girls. We are looking forward to returning to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area as well. This is a beautiful, heavily forested CG just west of Raleigh that was recommended to us by Rich last year. From there we will make a quick stop at Lums Pond State Park, Delaware where we will regroup before getting home for two weeks to get ready for the Unbutton Rally 4/16-19!

Emails went out recently regarding the rally, with a link (and a revised link) to the event page and its link to the jotform. If you are registered for the Unbutton, please use the link to pay the \$20 per person rally fee, or mail a check to me at 253 Lily Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. More info will follow.



*Traveler's Rest marker and time capsule.
Photo Heidi Cullen.*



Airstreams parked at Traveler's Rest around the time it opened in 1972. Note the whitewall tires. Photo courtesy of Heidi Cullen.

Our camping season is getting off to a great start, with club and/or regional rallies nearly every month (and a joint rally with the Keystone Club in August). Brian and I are looking forward to seeing you all soon! By the way, we have just registered for our first caravan, the Texas Six Shooter trip in April '27. If anyone has been on this one and would like to share some tidbits of info with us, we would love to hear from you:)

Happy trails to you until we meet again.

Heidi

973-945-3406 heidi.watch.air@gmail.com



Region 2 President's Message



Play ball!

As I write, one of the prime dates on the Galupo calendar is coming up in notifications-Opening Day for the 2026 Major League Baseball Season. I couldn't help myself with a pictorial prop. If you look closely at my picture I'm sending for your April newsletters- you'll notice first and foremost the big "W" smack in the middle, just north of the bill of my favorite baseball cap. My good friend Diane Sheridan, treasurer and membership chair of my home unit, the WDCU, will know immediately that it's one of the many hats worn by our local team, the Washington Nationals. Look more closely and you'll see the "W" is split up the middle with an indentation of the outer rim and shape of the US Capitol. Look again and you'll see a couple of cherry blossoms- what better backdrop to use than my own garden with my very own cherry tree!

And what else does it conjure up?

It's also opening "month" for camping season! I love baseball, and I love getting the brain reorientated to what many of us love doing and what brought us all together. Hooking up our Airstreams. Our trucks are now in their own spring training mode, getting tuned up, oil changed, maybe rotating those tires and getting back to work! In perusing the Events Tab- we find many opening day, spring themed rallies on the calendar: the WDCU holds CKR in April- a fond acronym for Capital Kickoff Rally- it can either snow or be 85 degrees around here. But that doesn't stop us! Other traditional rallies include the Lums Pond season opener, which draws multiple trailers from the Keystone and Central PA Clubs. Ontario comes out of hibernation with two rallies, one on the western flank and a Spring Rally for the OCAC, both in May. President Jim Lorden of the New Jersey Unit is launching their season with a bang- a BBQ and seminars at Colonial Airstream. Delmarva puts on its toolbelt and conducts a maintenance and business rally for their home opener in April.

Speaking of Delmarva, you are hearing it first right here- President Jamie Bull and his crew have graciously agreed to sponsor the 2027 Region 2 Rally which will be held from May 13-16, 2027 at Sun Outdoors Resort in Ocean City, MD! We've gone from the mountains to the sea. You'll be seeing Save the Date materials in your goodie bags at our region home opener at the Pocono Raceway in May of this year.

So, that's all from here. Our Team worked hard all winter putting the finishing touches of two major rallies in one year; Sampson and Pocono. The seeds planted in the Fall are starting to produce fruit. We have a solid team, both within the region and in the field. There's something for everybody- you just gotta look!

See you down the road!
Patti




Announcements

Sunshine Report

Linda Kiesel, the club's Sunshine director, writes: *"While I did not send any Sunshine cards this month, George and I would like to thank the club for the cards and outreach on hearing of the loss of our much-loved dog Fritz. On behalf of Fritz, please hug your pets a bit tighter today."*

Would you like to have a card sent to another club member to wish them well or mark a milestone? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel our Sunshine Director at lkiesel@ptd.net.



How to Find, Sign Up and Pay for an ACI Event Online

- Log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
- Click on the EVENTS tab
- A map of the US will be displayed containing pins for all the events for all the Airstream clubs. Just above the map on the right side of the screen is the **Clubs** box. Click on the down arrow to display the list of clubs then scroll down to **Watchung NJ Club**. Clicking on this will cause the map to display only Watchung club events.
- Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
- A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says **More**.
- A new page will be displayed. If a registration form has been created for the event this page will give you two options: online registration or mail-in registration using a download of the form. The online form allows payment via PayPal. If you prefer to pay via check download and print the form, which includes payment instructions. If there is no registration form available yet one will be at a later date.

This Month's Birthdays

Chris Beddiges	Jay McCarthy
Jeanne Tanis	Andrew Dunkinson
Christine Kukel	Stayla Elacqua
Derek Conley	

W E L C O M E

Please welcome our newest affiliate members:

Lauri and Ralph Somma

Items for the newsletter?
Send them by the 25th of each month to: (dconley1810@gmail.com)

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?
Contact:
Membership: George Kiesel 068membership@gmail.com
President: Heidi Cullen (heidi.watch.air@gmail.com)



Watchung Club Events Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
April 2026	<i>Unbutton Rally/April 16-19</i>	Heidi and Brian Cullen	Saskia Schmidt and Brian Stein; Rebecca Glick	Holly Acres, Egg Harbor, NJ
May 2026	<i>Region 2 Rally/May 14-17</i>	NA	NA	Pocono Raceway, Blakeslee, PA
June 2026	<i>Club Rally/June 5-8*</i>	Steve and Cynthia Germansky	Rich and Kathi Short	Cedar Point State Park, Clayton, NY
July 2026	<i>Club Rally July 10-12</i>	Sharon and Joe Moran	Sheryl Skolnick and Carl Dashman	Croton On Hudson Park, NY
July 2026	<i>Regions 1 and 2 "Sampson" rally/ July 30-August 3</i>	NA	NA	Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY
August 2026	<i>Cowtown Rodeo Rally/Aug 20-23</i>	Keystone (PA) Airstream Club	Sharon and Andy Wright	Old Cedar Campground Monroeville, NJ
August 2026	<i>International Rally/Aug 22-27</i>	NA	NA	Minot, ND
September 2026	<i>Club Rally</i>	Host Needed	TBD	TBD
October 2026	<i>Club Rally and Business Meeting/October 9-12</i>	George and Linda Kiesel	Mark and Angie Ratliff	Jane's Island State Park, Crisfield, MD
November 2026	<i>Luncheon/TBD</i>	Barbara Taylor and Michael Koczvara	Lois Wagner and Derek Conley	The Little York Tavern Milford, NJ
December 2026	<i>Installation luncheon/Saturday Dec 12 1-4 PM</i>	Steve and Cynthia Gemansky	Heidi and Brian Cullen	Il Mondo Vecchio, Madison, NJ

* Buddy Rally



April Unbutton Rally April 16-19

Holly Acres campground, Egg Harbor City NJ.

Our rally is fast approaching, and we currently have 20 rigs signed up! To reserve a spot call Hailey at +1 (609) 965-5055. If you book Friday and Saturday, she will offer you Thursday at no extra cost. Check the website's map as we are currently booking sites in the A and B sections.

Rally Fee \$20 per person. This includes one dinner and three breakfasts. You can pay via Paypal using the form on this [link](#). This is the quickest and most secure way to pay. Alternatively, you can mail a check made out to Watchung Airstream Club of NJ, to: Heidi Cullen, 253 Lily Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Please include your name and number of attendees, and any food allergies.

Rally Reminders:

- Please bring and wear your name badges.
- For group meals, please bring your own table setting (plate, utensils, napkins, and a drink) and maybe chairs.
- We kindly ask that you leave pets in your trailer during mealtimes.

Rally Schedule

Thursday

- Check-in: After 12 noon
- 5:00 PM: Dinner at a local Winery or restaurant (optional) or on your own. We are planning an outing to Renault Winery or another local restaurant. Please let us know if you would like to join us so that we can get an approximate headcount.

Friday

- 8:30 AM: Cooked Breakfast tba
- 5:00 PM: Happy Hour (please bring a snack or appetizer to share)
- 6:00 PM: Potluck Supper (please bring a dish to share)
- Campfire and games/stories. Please bring an item or story regarding something that you found to be a helpful gadget or tidbit of information during your camping experiences.

Saturday

- 8:30 AM: Cooked Breakfast tba
- 5:00 PM: Happy Hour (please bring a snack or appetizer to share)
- 6:00 PM: Dinner (Beef and Chicken Taco and salad bar, plus dessert). **We will be collecting for this year's charity, STOMP out bullying and having a raffle with several prizes.**

Sunday

- 8:30 Continental Breakfast
Executive Board Meeting
- 9:30 General Business Meeting
- 11:00 Pack up and Departure



May Region 2 Rally: Pocono Raceway



The 2026 Region 2 Rally will be held from May 14-17 at Pocono Raceway, Blakeslee, PA, offering a mix of motorsport action and local attractions.

The Infield Campground offers full hookup sites for convenience.

The event begins with a catered breakfast buffet on Friday morning, providing a variety of morning dishes to prepare attendees for the day's events. As the weekend unfolds, a taco bar on Saturday night will serve beef and fish tacos. On Sunday morning, participants can enjoy coffee and donuts.

In addition to the food, the rally features activities that showcase the Pocono region's appeal. Attendees can take racetrack tours to learn about Pocono Raceway's history. For adventure seekers, the Pocono Outdoor Adventures Tours offer a chance to explore the surrounding landscapes. Motorsport fans might also have the option to book a Stock Car Racing Experience, depending on the 2026 schedule, for a chance to drive on the famous track.

The 2026 Region 2 Rally combines racing excitement with the charm of the Pocono Mountains.

Click [here](#) to sign up via JotForm.



June Club Rally*: Cedar Point State Park

Friday, June 5th – Monday, June 8th, 2026
Cedar Point State Park, 36661 Cedar Point SP Drive, Clayton, NY 13624
<https://airstreamclub.org/watchung-june-2026-rally>

Electric-only sites still available

** This is a Buddy Rally; friends of club members are welcome to rally with the club even if they don't own an Airstream.*

Hosts Steve and Cynthia Germansky have been camping here in the Thousand Islands region every season for the past five years. The park is directly on the magnificent St. Lawrence River. Nearby things to do include [Boldt Castle](#), the [Antique Boat Museum](#), take a ride down to where the St. Lawrence meets Lake Ontario at [Tibbets Point Lighthouse](#), visit the [Cape Vincent Brewing Company](#), or [The Cape Winery](#). Cedar Point State Park is a roughly six to seven-hour drive from New Jersey. Steve and Cynthia will be on-site from Monday, June 1st thru Monday, June 8th. If you want to break the trip up into two days some suggested places to camp are: [Chenango Valley State Park](#) and [Lackawanna State Park](#).

We suggest you **book now**; you can always cancel later. Canceling 8 days or more prior to arrival - \$7.25 Reservation Fee + \$7.25 Cancellation Fee. Canceling 7 days or less prior to arrival - \$7.25 Reservation Fee + \$7.25 Cancellation Fee + the cost of the first night's stay.

For campground details: [Cedar Point State Park](#).

Please book your site directly with [ReserveAmerica](#). Sites near the group area are electric only (see map on the ReserveAmerica site). Sites near the river with full hookups: 43, 41, 39 37, 35. Also 33, 31, 29 but these sites require backing into a tight site with trees. Full hookups away from the river are available at sites 138-159. **We have reserved sites 78 and 79 for us and our co-hosts Rich and Kathi Short.**

After you make your reservation, please email Steve your site number: egerms@verizon.net. Questions? Call Steve at 973-495-1067





July Club Rally Croton Point Park

Watchung Airstream Club July Rally
Friday, July 10th – Sunday, July 12th, 2026

Pleasantville Music Festival
Saturday July 11, 12:30-9

- Where:** Rally site is Croton Point Park, Croton Point Ave, Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520. Pleasantville Music Festival is held at 48 Marble Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570.
- Details:** <https://parks.westchestergov.com/croton-point-park>
www.pleasantvillemusicfestival.com
- Location:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6W6GMwcGDP9hXSSz7>
- Hosts:** Sharon and Joe Moran, Sheryl Skolnick and Carl Dashman

At 508 acres Croton Point Park is the largest peninsula on the east shore of the Hudson River. Sites are spacious and shaded with 30- amp service and sewer hookups. \$60/night. See the park's website for map. Be sure to read the park's rules and regulations which include no alcoholic beverages and no "ground fires".

Reservations by phone only, call the Westchester County Parks Department at 914-862-5290

Camping reservations are open now. Those who have called already and were placed on the reservation list will be contacted in the order in which the requests were received. No new reservations will be taken until park management has contacted those on the reservation list.

Discounted music festival [tickets](#) are on sale now



The view south from the park takes in the Tappan Zee, the new bridge that everyone calls by the old bridge's name, and the volcanic cliffs of the New Jersey Palisades.



July Region 1&2 Joint Rally Sampson SP



Link to register:

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/252602957334156>

Location: Sampson State Park, 6040-6144 NY 96A, Romulus, NY, USA 14541

Dates: Thursday, July 30- Monday August 3

Cost: \$188 per trailer, plus \$46 per person rally fee (\$30 for children age 5-14, under 5 free)

Check-in: Any time after 3:00 pm on July 30th

Departure: By 11:00 am on August 3rd

Rally reservation limit: 96 trailers. If the rally fills up we will maintain a waiting list OR you may make a reservation directly through ReserveAmerica. Please let the hosts know you will be attending.

Additional Information:

- This rally is co-hosted by Region 1 & Region 2
- All sites have electric. Water is available at spigots in each loop.
- There is one dump station locations across from the campground entrance. You are advised to dump before parking.
- Link to park website <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/154/>
- Please bring extra electric cords. The park has extras to rent for additional fees.

Planned activities include:

- Thursday Evening Welcome Happy Hour (details below)
- Friday - Optional Wine Tour (details below)
- Two evening Catered Dinners
- Super band Saturday evening
- Sunday Morning Continental Breakfast
- Daily morning coffee
- **Optional: wine tasting tour. \$160 extra per person. See <https://airstreamclub.org/sampson-rally-2026> for more details.**



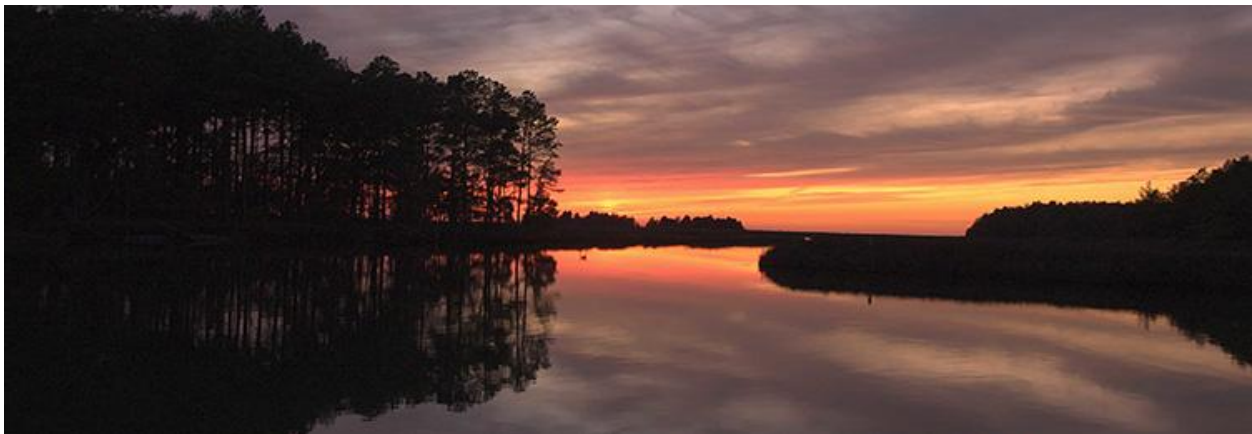
August Joint Rally Keystone & WAC

The Keystone PA Airstream club and the Watchung Airstream club are co-sponsoring the 2026 Keystone PA Cowtown Rodeo Rally August 20-23 at the Old Cedar Campground in Monroeville, NJ.

This rally features Saturday night's "The Best Show on Dirt", the only professional weekly rodeo in New Jersey. [Check out the action here.](#)

For more information contact Brian Mulligan of the Keystone Airstream club at mulligansix@rcn.com. To reserve a spot in the campground, contact Phyllis at (856) 358-4881.

October Club Rally: Jane's Island SP



October 10-12 (Columbus Day)

[Janes Island State Park](#) in Crisfield, Maryland

Hosts: George and Linda Kiesel, Mark and Angie Ratliff

Check out this [video tour](#) on Youtube.

The electric sites on Loop B have 30 Amp hookup with NO water and NO sewer hookups. There is potable water to fill your tanks and there is a dump station. Click [here](#) for site map.

You will need to make your own reservations via Maryland's park reservations website <https://parkreservations.maryland.gov/> or call [1-888-432-2267](tel:1-888-432-2267). Make sure to check that the site can accommodate the length of your rig.



Other Rallies: Flight 93 Memorial Rally



The Delmarva Airstream Club has invited the Watchung club to join them at a rally to be held this coming June at a state park near the Flight 93 Memorial. Delmarva has reserved and paid for 18 sites. The rally campground is also close to two iconic Frank Lloyd Wright homes: [Fallingwater](#) and [Kentuck Knob](#). The memorial is free. The Frank Lloyd Wright homes require a reservation and an entry fee. A little further west of the park are the [Fort Necessity National Battlefield](#) and [Jumontville Glen](#), site of the 1754 skirmish between French troops and a British detachment led by 22-year old George Washington that started the [French and Indian War](#) which then grew into the global [Seven Year's War](#). Britain's taxation of its American colonies to help pay for this war led to the United States of America. The campground is 10 miles south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Rally dates: June 11-14 2026.

Place: [Laurel Hill State Park](#), 14534 Laurel Hill Park Road, Somerset, PA

Camping fee: \$103 for three nights. 30-amp electric service only, no water or sewer at the site. The park has water spigots located throughout the campground, as well as a dump station (see [campground map](#)).

Rally fee is TBD.

To register, send the coupon below and a check to cover the camping fee to:

James Bull
32879 Watchtower Drive, Selbyville DE19975

Make checks payable to James Bull

Flight 93 Memorial Rally

Number Attending: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

BRN: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____



Other Rallies: NER Silver on the River

This National Event Rally features an exclusive cruise down the Rhone this July for ACI members. It's a rally on a cruise ship! Click [here](#) to see the details on the ACI web site.



What you can expect:

- Luxury, ultra all-inclusive cruise on Riverside Ravel by Riverside Cruises.
- An Airstream exclusive river cruise sailing from Lyon to Avignon through the Rhone Valley and Provence region of France.
- Inclusions: Gourmet meals, unlimited premium drinks, choice of shore excursions, all gratuities, and all panoramic balcony-window suites with butler service.
- Great pre-cruise group options include additional 3 nights on Ravel, tours to Normandy or Champagne region. Post cruise is an optional group trip to Paris.



July 15-22, 2026

More Info:

JASONGRENDAHL@GMAIL.COM



<https://airstreamclub.org/silver-river-2026>



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Recording Secretary	Richard Short
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Directors	Nancy Deibert
	George Trunk
	Jay McCarthy
	Christine Kukel

Other Club Roles

Membership	George Kiesel
Sunshine	Linda Kiesel
Web Master	Mark Ratliff
Directory	Chris Forster
Newsletter	Derek Conley
Quartermaster	Jason Pomerleau

