

Our 62nd Year of Airstreaming

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj May 2026

President's Message



Hello everyone and Happy Spring!

We recently had our season opener rally at Holly Acres CG in South Jersey. We had a wonderful turnout with many new members among us. They brought enthusiasm and many contributions of food, crafts, and much appreciated helping hands.

Some of our new and newish members are stepping up and volunteering to help out and to host upcoming events. This is very exciting! I know they will have many of us at the ready to help co-

host or to lend a helping hand where needed. I'm sure there are others of us that have considered hosting but are not sure what to do or how to do it. So, it got me thinking about ways to make the prospect of hosting less intimidating. What came to mind was making the rally more of a communal endeavor. We would still need the host (and co-host) to, among other things, choose the venue and plan and coordinate the meals, etc. But we would also benefit, I believe, from having the other attendees volunteer for a task or two via a sign-up sheet. Tasks could include things like helping to set up or clean up a meal, take photos, do a writeup for the Hillbilly, some meal prep of items purchased by the host, take garbage to the dumpster after dinner, bring a bin for recyclables, bring and operate a grill. This could all be easily organized with Signup Genius or a similar tool. I understand that caravan coordinators sometimes employ similar strategies.

I welcome your suggestions and comments. We hope to see you soon! Happy trails and travel safe:)

Heidi



Region 2 President's Message

Editor's note: This month's Region 2 President's message comes from the current edition of The Region 2 Beat newsletter, which can be viewed in full [here](#).



E Pluribus Unum. Out of many, one. We all know this as a Latin phrase that morphed into a significant symbol in American history and culture. A motto to describe the unification of the original 13 colonies into a single nation. I think of our sacred club in the very same terms. 121 or so local and intra-clubs (out of many) that make up the grand vision of Wally Byam; the WBCCI (one). This concept couldn't have been made any clearer than two significant activities that I experienced this week. But before I reveal those, let's examine another clue from our high school Civics Class, "all politics is local", coined by former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill. In that context, meaning that people really only care about the pragmatic things that affect their daily life, versus some abstract national policy. I'll bootleg the term to make my point.

The power of the local club

As members, the local club is that runway where we experience a soft landing. It has a culture and identity, which over time lead to tradition and the values the club imbues. Successive generations are drawn to a club, because of the foundation that has been built. They eagerly add a new dimension to the club, like the rings of a tree adding strength to its core. In my experience, there is a club for everyone, you just have to stick your neck out and find it!

So, the first dose of good old local club lore came to be when I interviewed President Hollie Bart and Newsletter Editor Barbara Schultz from the Hudson- Mohawk Airstream Club for my series entitled, "What's in a Name." Check it out in this issue of the Region 2 Beat. To refresh some of our new readers, the series was started while I was pondering a way to highlight each of our 12 clubs that comprise Region 2, in a way that was interesting and colorful. By focusing on the origins of a club's newsletter name, we expand that into discussing the history and culture of the selected club. This is the third installment as we have previously covered the Al-Mon-O and Ontario Clubs.

When I finished my hour-long conversation with Hollie and Barbara, I felt like I had a unique window into their club. After all, that's what draws people in, by being hospitable and authentic. I wanted to jump into my F-150, grab the Flying Cloud and head to upstate New York. And it reminded me of why I joined this club in the beginning. We're a family. Let's not forget that.



Now, more on the family front. While I try to leave my personal life out of my writing assignments, it's often hard to ignore, because that's what makes all of us unique. I've struggled with thyroid eye disease for two and half years, and my vision is problematic because of it, causing a hiatus in pulling my own trailer. One of the first angels from the club to show up was 1st VP Matt Moore, who selflessly went out of his way to pull my trailer up to the IR in York last summer. Later, WDCU friends Danee and Kim Alaniz rushed to Virginia from Maryland to winterize my trailer before the November chill set in. Not once, but twice. And did so without favor or fanfare.

But this club has an uncanny ability to not allow despair to set in, through so many unsung heroes, like Matt and the Alaniz's. I'm hopeful that the life- altering surgery that I'll endure next month is successful. It's a pretty complicated operation, but I need it to resume my normal life. I'd be lying if I told you that I wasn't nervous- and my tough guy Jersey persona will not save me from normal human fear! Enter the WDCU, my local home club.

In last month's message, I spoke of "opening day" for many clubs. The Washington DC Unit, or WDCU coins our opening day as the Capital Kick Off Rally, or CKR. So, needless to say, I was thrilled when my WDCU buddy, Treasurer Diane Sheridan, who lives near me in Northern Virginia called. She offered to drive me out to the rally, which was set in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. So, roughly three-hours later, we snuck up on my guys at a local ice cream joint. While the word of my pending attendance kind of got out, it did not dampen the excitement I experienced when seeing my friends. And it took all of my tough guy persona not to tear up. The local club at its best. Hanging out under an awning, shopping for a dessert for the potluck, and just being together that's it. Enjoying the camaraderie, the food, the fellowship. Our unique sense of humor, the love, the friendship, THE FAMILY. And families have that internal countenance that insists on tracking your travels. So, at 70 years of age, I dutifully texted my friends, notifying them that I made it home safely. At almost 10 pm! A big day out! Thank you, Diane!

Many thanks to WDCU President Lisa Lichtenstein for leading our wonderful local club and hosting the rally and to all my bandmates for being the family that guides me through these golden years. And to Hollie Bart and her team, for making me feel part of their group in a Zoom call!

So, let's make Spring and these first few rallies as an homage to the Local Club. And with that, I hope that all of our members find family wherever their travels take them.

See you down the road!

Patti



Unbutton Rally

By Steve Germansky

The Annual April Unbutton was again another success to start off our 2026 camping season. Thanks to our hosts, Heidi & Brian Cullen, and co-hosts Saskia Schmidt, Brian Stein and Rebecca Glick.

For a second year, the Unbutton was held at Holly Acres Campground in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey from April 16-19. While we had some disruptions in the water supply and power, the campground led by Hailey did a good job of accommodating the club. Use of the indoor pavilion made our group meals and club meetings nice. Even amongst some winds kicking up, blowing open some of those flabby structure doors, we stayed comfortable.



As we all arrived on Thursday, with the temperatures reaching 89 degrees, we felt like we had overpassed Spring jumping right into the summer heat. It certainly was not a typical day for April. However, soon after, the weather changed with temperatures decreasing each day. By the time Sunday rolled around, there was a chill in the air, with a low temperature of 46 degrees, dark clouds forming and rain developing fortunately as we all hitched up and headed home.

Many folks enjoyed dinner out at Sweetwater Marina on Thursday night. While others were still rolling in and setting up camp. Many for the first time this season, some perhaps for the first time ever. De-winterizing, sanitizing, filling freshwater tanks, sweeping out some dust, opening windows, and extending those awnings. Checking on your hoses, opening propane valves and getting water heaters fired. And for the Kiesels, the fun of jacking 'er up, for a tire replacement.

Friday was a day of relaxation at the campground mingling with past friends and meeting new ones. That is truly the best part of being a Watchung NJ Airstream Club member. Our club has been in existence for many decades, and it is great to see it continuing with a solid membership. We all make the club, from those volunteering to be on the committee, to those hosting/co-hosting events, and everyone for chipping in.

With everyone bringing an appetizer and a hearty dish to share, Friday evening festivities kicked off well. Starting with Happy Hour, a few well blended or a few straight up, libations and brews. Followed by a Potluck Dinner with a wide variety of delicious options to choose from. We all enjoyed our good fellowship and a shared group meal. And of course, there was a campfire to follow. Much thanks to



Brian Stein, builder and tender of a well-organized blaze. And to George Kiesel for bringing a good stack of well-dried firewood.

Saturday was another relaxing day strolling the campground or checking out the area. As with the previous morning, our hosts/co-hosts took care of us with a hot breakfast to kick off the day. To re-group once again as that hour of happiness rolled around for some drinks, snacks and appetizers. The beef and chicken taco dinner, with all its fixings and sides, was scrumptious thanks to the Cullen's for taking care to feed us all.

Sunday, we cleaned up our sites & packed away all that stuff, then gathered for continental breakfast. Followed by the general business meeting for all. Recognizing new members, Linda Dereka & David Etherton and Laura & Darryl Zack. And going over some club pursuits, such as WNJAC apparel and flags. More to come on that.

The unbutton was a great start to our camping season. There are many great places scheduled in the 2026 calendar. If you could not join us in Egg Harbor City, consider joining an upcoming rally. Check out the calendar. And please consider hosting a future event of your own.

Until we see you again, safe travels.

Cynthia & Steven Germansky
BRN #8531





Oh no, flat tire!

By George Kiesel *as told to Derek Conley*



While Linda and I were at the Unbutton rally a couple of weeks ago I was talking with Rich Short and we got on the topic of trailer tires and specifically flat trailer tires. Afterwards I went back to our trailer and as I walked by, I happened to notice that the rear tire on the shoulder side looked low. I got out my tire pressure gauge and it was 20 pounds when it should have been 65! So, big sigh, must've picked up a nail when I got to the campground since the reading on the tire pressure monitor didn't change on the way there. I looked for a nail but couldn't see anything so I had to take it off to find out what was going on. I was hoping it was a nail in the middle of the tire that could be fixed with a plug.

Since the trailer was detached from the truck I decided to jack up the trailer. If the truck had

still been hooked up I would have pulled the front shoulder-side tire onto leveling blocks to get the flat tire off the ground but with the trailer disconnected jacking up the trailer was easier. I had most of the tools I needed but I had to borrow a bottle jack from Rich since mine was in my Winnebago RV back at the house. You have to use a hydraulic bottle jack to raise a trailer, not a screw-type car or light-truck jack, which can't support the weight of a trailer. Still, I was a little worried about Rich's jack, which was only rated for 4,000 pounds while the trailer weighs about 8,000 but I decided to give it a try. To jack up the trailer I positioned the bottle jack between the two tires and under the trailer frame. Now where





to place the jack on an Airstream is a huge bone of contention among Airstreamers. It's probably second only to what tire pressure to use in the number of opinions on Airstream Forum. The Airstream manual shows jack points towards the front and rear of the trailer but to me those points are so far away from the tires that there has to be a risk of twisting the trailer frame so I prefer to jack up the trailer between the tires. I'm guessing Airstream recommends those distant jack points because they are far away from the axles. If you put the jack under an axle by mistake you are going to bend the axle and then you are really in trouble.



I jacked up the trailer about halfway so the tire was still on the ground and wouldn't spin while I removed the lug nuts with a socket wrench. If I had packed for an extended trip I would have brought my 18-volt impact driver, which gets the lug nuts off much more easily and quickly than a socket wrench or breaker bar. They are worth the money (less than \$200) since they can also be used to raise and lower the stabilizers.



Lea Plant and Linda Kiesel supervised.

Once the lugs were off I jacked the trailer up the rest of the way to get the tire off and there, on the inside of the tire, was a big fat screw stuck right where the sidewall of the tire joins the belts. That's unfortunate because you can't plug holes that are anywhere near the sidewall because the plug won't hold. I was going to put the spare tire on the axle and buy a new tire later but when I pulled out the spare I discovered it had started to crack from age. So instead of using it I called around some local tire shops and found one that carried the same Goodyear Endurance trailer tire as the one with the screw in it. They put that on the rim for me and I went back to the trailer and put it on and of course used my torque wrench to set the lug nuts to the factory spec. Before I take another trip I'm going to have to replace the spare.

All in all, not my favorite way of spending an afternoon at a campground but it was a whole lot better than changing a tire on the shoulder of an interstate.




Announcements

Sunshine Report

This month the club sent a sympathy card to Mike and Judy Richards. The club also sent congratulation cards to Rob and Jenny Phillips, Steve and Cynthia Germansky, and Rebecca Glick, all of whom acquired new pups!

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

Joanne Forster	Margaret Noble
Wilma Crawford	Judy Cahall
Rebecca Glick	Hunter Lloyd
Glen Roth	



Missed Something?

Past issues of *The Hillbilly* going back to January 2021 are online at <https://airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj/newsletter-hillbilly>

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 Unit Flags are available



Watchung NJ Airstream Club flags are now available from the printer.

These flags are 3ft. x 5ft. Nylon and can be printed on both sides or one side.

The flag that we currently have that we use at international and region rallies is the double-sided type.

I am looking to see what interest exists to put together an order for the printer. One of our members has requested a flag and I thought this would be a good time to gauge interest.

Multiple flag orders are considerably cheaper than a single flag order obviously, so if we can get a minimum of 3, a sizable discount exists. Further discounts are offered for order sizes of 6, 12 etc.

The prices are as follows.

1 double sided 3 x 5 flag is \$280.00

3 double sided flags are \$144.00 each (almost 50% off)

1 single sided flag is \$167.00

3 single sided flags are \$139.00 each

There is a min set up fee of \$28.00 per order and of course shipping.

Please let me know if you are interested at 068membership@gmail.com

Thank you, George Kiesel



Watchung Club Events Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
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	Lois Wagner and Derek Conley	The Little York Tavern Milford, NJ



		Michael Koczwara		
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



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>

This rally is now closed

** 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](#).

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). **Host/co-host are Sites 78 & 79 for group meals.**

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

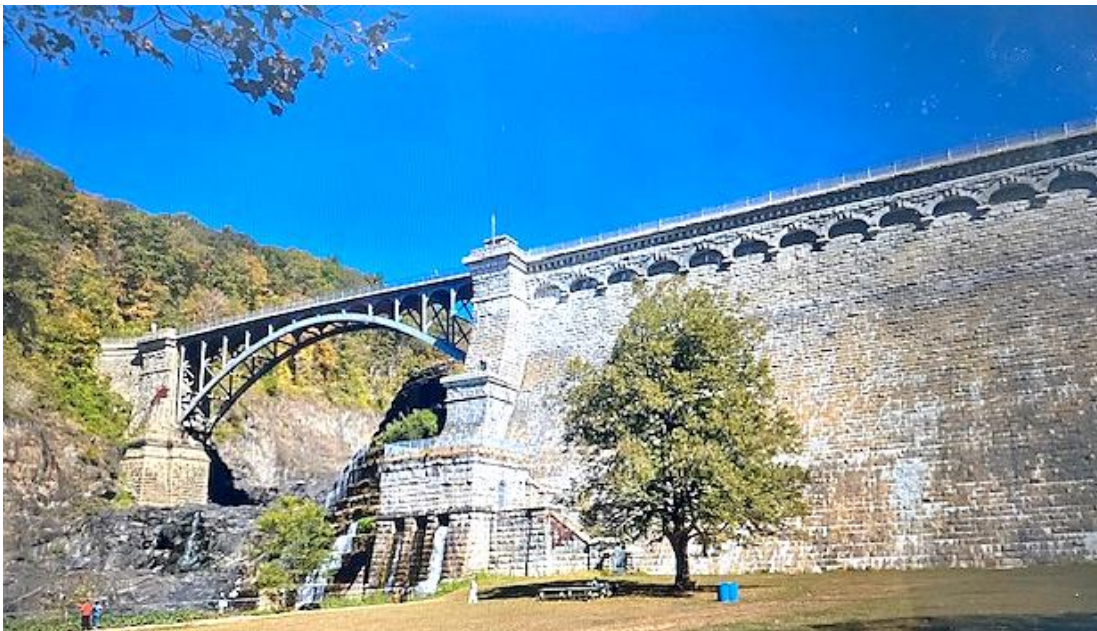
Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6W6GMwcGDP9hXSSz7>

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. \$65/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

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



Croton Dam in Croton Gorge Park is only three miles from the campground. Photo by Carl Dashman



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,

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.



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.**



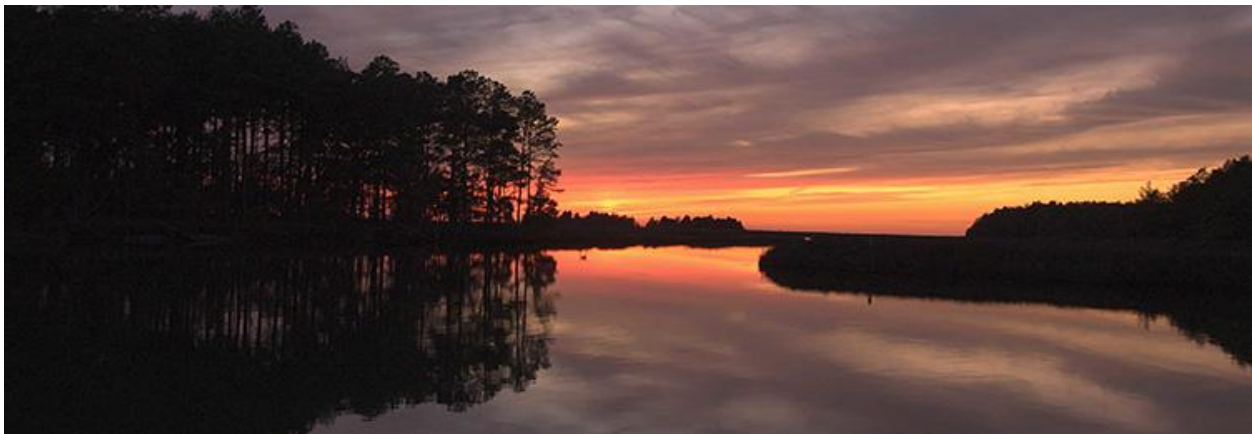
August Joint Rally Keystone & WAC

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: _____



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2026 Watchung Club Officers

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Other Club Roles

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