

Our 62nd Year of Airstreaming

# The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

[www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj](http://www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj) September 2026

## President's Message



August turned out to be a busy camping month with the better part of three camping adventures consuming a lot of our planning time and energy.

First up was The Sampson Region 1 and 2 rally. We started off the weekend with a wonderful Watchung happy hour. It was a nice reunion with our club members and some region 2 people as well, and with great food of course! We were camping in a beautiful part of NY state, and our sites were large and grassy. Sampson State Park is on Seneca Lake, one of the Finger Lakes. There was a lot to do in that area, such as visiting many wineries, breweries, distilleries and waterfalls. It is close to Watkins Glenn State Park and an easy drive to the Corning Museum.

A few days after we returned, Brian and I drove up to the area surrounding Cherry Springs SP in Pa., another lovely part of Pa that we had never seen before. We went at that time specifically to witness a meteor shower which promised to be amazing if the



weather permitted. The weather did not. There was a lot of cloud cover. However, we did see more stars in that sky than I had ever seen before! And we also witnessed some shooting stars, just not as many as we had hoped for. All in all, it was beautiful and dark and a relaxing midweek break.

Last on the agenda was Old Cedar Campground near Cowtown Rodeo in southern NJ, where we joined the Keystone Club for a rally. Old Cedar is a pretty, moderately sized CG in Monroeville, a very beautiful part of south Jersey. We were surrounded by farmland. The CG was even bordered by fields of grass-fed cows roaming lazily around the pasture with their calves romping around like puppies. It was a pretty backdrop for changing a flattened truck tire. Just a minor setback, bound to happen eventually.



I think most of us would agree that one of the best outcomes of the weekend was that we thoroughly enjoyed joining up with the Keystone club. We found that our two clubs felt very compatible, and we are already looking forward to doing something together again next year.



Many thanks to Steve Germansky for connecting the two clubs and to Sharon and Andy Wright for co-hosting the rally! More on the weekend in Lea's writeup.

Hard to believe that our summer camping season is winding down already! We are looking forward to our final club rally of 2026 at Jane's Island in October, with the Kiesel and Ratliffs at the helm.

Thank you again to Christine Kukel for getting us some cozy new club sweatshirts:) and George Kiesel for the new flags which are beautiful! We do have one or two in stock if anyone else is interested.

At our October rally we will have our meeting scheduled and will be electing our new Executive Board. We have some wonderful people stepping up to fill the openings! As of this writing, the open positions are treasurer, recording secretary, historian and 2nd VP. Please let me know if you are interested.

With Autumn just around the corner, nights in the Airstream are getting cooler. What a great time for sleeping, with that cool, crisp fresh air floating in through the AS windows!

Happy trails everyone and safe travels, Heidi



## Region 2 President's Message

Roll Call! State of the Region Address.

It's hard to believe that over a year has passed since the new R2 Team was seated at the IR in York, PA. And it got me thinking about what these volunteer jobs entail, the roll of the Region in the overall IBT structure, and the services that we strive to provide to our members.

But, at the end of the day, it's that core value of one Airstreamer lending a helping hand to another. For those of you keeping up with my musings, I tend to talk about that a lot. The human element. JotForms and fun aside, without that attitude of what I call, shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart; all of this would be a giant rote exercise of just going from one point to another.

So, it started out with Matt Moore driving all the way to Virginia to get my trailer to York because of my persistent eye problems. Herculean effort number one; and done without fanfare or notice. We quickly went to work there, hosting a lunch on our own turf; and putting together a leadership happy hour of the local units/club Presidents and their successors. We've worked really hard this year to bulk up our communication efforts; whether it be through social media, and something we put in place very early; direct communication with our members through mass emailing.

You can't duck challenges; and there have been a few at the IBT level this year. We've done our best to be transparent and accountable; while keeping our members informed through sound communication. We don't always get it right; but we do our best to address issues head on.

Sometimes the best thing one can do is just LISTEN. We heard the concerns from some of the Members-At-Large that they felt unseen and out of touch. Working with our Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor, we again used direct email to get important information out to our MAL's to bolster the communication that they already receive from the Membership Chair, Colleen Ahlers. MailChimp has been a great investment for the region as well as establishing our own JotForm account.

Speaking of our newsletter; this was a huge undertaking and something we are very proud of. Cody has done a fantastic job of leading the charge. And it's rightfully earned a reputation as being not just a useful communication tool; but editorial wise; includes what I call human interest stories. Again, shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart.

Now to the fun! And there is no fun without hard work. We hosted not one, but two major rallies in 2026. Pocono Raceway was the scene of the traditional R2 Rally, and we cohosted Sampson with Region 1. These events were only two months apart. Both were very well attended and received with open arms and enthusiasm. Past R2 President Gary Russo led the charge at Sampson; but as any experienced camper and rally host know; these require a huge investment of human capital. And a true Team Effort. When asked by Gary as he was rotating out on whether we would take this on, I told him under one condition, that R2 Treasurer Will Kushto needed to be on board. As always, Will rolled up his sleeves and again; to run two large rallies and the attendant spreadsheets was a huge effort.

But, to see literal "happy campers" makes the effort worthwhile to all of us.



This year saw the merger of Penn-Lehigh with Central Penn. That's another reality of the evolution of this club. And again, it's not always what happens in this life, but how it's handled. Outgoing Penn-Lehigh President Cindy Collister and her wingman, Past President George Collister handled this sensitive situation with grace and dignity. Receiving President Terry Hauschild of Central Penn made for a soft landing. After 43 years, the Collister's did what was best for their members; do you see a pattern emerging here?

I feel we've been particularly effective in planning ahead. To keep the "fun" part of region duties activated, we've already launched the registration for the 2027 R2 Rally, co-hosted by DelMarVa Club and their fearless leader, President Jamie Bull. Within 48 hours, we've had over 30 registrations! ([Region 2 Rally Signup](#)).

One of the challenges of this entire club, from the local units, up through the regions, is to maintain a full slate of officers. Without people, our most valuable resource, the entire operation begins to crumble. After a full year of searching and seeking volunteers, we've installed New Jersey Unit President Jim Lorden as the R2 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. I will rotate out of my position on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027. I've always considered training and development as one of the most important tasks of the sitting president. To that end, Matt will be more than ready to take over the reins as I rotate out. But there is much more to do before then.

This upcoming year, we'll focus on shoring up our R2 governance documents (Jim is leading the charge on that) and working more closely with the local clubs on training matters. One task will be to work with the Finance Director to complete the annual treasurers report for all clubs. And the fall season starts the election and installation process for our 12 local clubs.

Lastly, this operation runs because of the R2 Team and its volunteers, and all the local club officers. I'm thankful and proud of our R2 Team, and will shout out the remaining officers, Secretary Judy Cahall and Webmaster Ron Silco. This place cannot operate in a vacuum, and with all of you, our volunteers, officers and members from across the board, will ensure that we will continue as a vibrant region!

Bring on Fall!

Patti





## Cowtown Rodeo Rally



Joint rally with  
Keystone Pennsylvania  
Airstream Club  
Old Cedar Campground,  
Monroeville, NJ August  
20-23, 2026

By Lea Plant

It has been a long time since Watchung has had a joint rally with another Airstream Club. Thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve Germansky for reaching out to Brian and Katherine Mulligan (President-Keystone) and to Andy and Sharon Wright (Watchung's co-hosts). It was fun as our two clubs had fun together.

People who arrived early afternoon on Thursday were lucky enough to be able to set up camp without rain or wind. Happy Hour started off between raindrops. When the wind and rain began, people left. Some watched the weather on their TVs to notices of possible



flooding and tornados. Friday, the weather was beautiful. Sunny with a slight, refreshing breeze. A great day to sit 'trailer side' and visit with new and old friends or trips into town.

At 5pm, we all met at the campground pavilion for a chili competition (*photo right*). A total of seven people brought chili to compete for prizes. We were each given a penny to place in the labeled cup for our favorite recipe. First place went to Charles Como, second to Sue Deitz (both from Keystone) and placing in Third was our own Cynthia Germansky. If chili wasn't your thing, there was also sausage and peppers, appetizers, and delicious desserts.



Saturday morning began with coffee and a light breakfast while plans were made for the day. An organized bike ride was attended by several people. Brian and Heidi suffered a flat tire on their tow vehicle. Luckily it was discovered in the campground. The main event Saturday evening was the rodeo at Cowtown Rodeo in Pilesgrove, NJ. The weather held out for tailgating (who knew that was 'a thing'), complete with an easy-up, appetizers and Jenga. This allowed us to gather so that we could sit together at the sold-out event. Thank you to Watchung and Keystone members who contributed to our annual charity for STOMP Out Bullying.

Sunday saw dry weather for a Watchung General Meeting before packing up, good-byes and thank yous.



# Announcements

## Sunshine Report

The club sent a card to Lois Wagner and Derek Conley congratulating them on the marriage of their daughter Ally.

*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](mailto: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 Birthday

Mark Ratliff  
Linda Kresge  
Robert Cucci  
David Hargrave



**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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to: [dconley1810@gmail.com](mailto:dconley1810@gmail.com)

### Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

Membership: George Kiesel [068membership@gmail.com](mailto:068membership@gmail.com)

President: Heidi Cullen ([heidi.watch.air@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.watch.air@gmail.com))



## Watchung Club Events Schedule

| DATE          | WHAT/WHEN                                           | HOSTS                               | COHOSTS                      | VENUE                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 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           |

### Region 2 Rally 2027

Sun Outdoors Campground, Ocean City, MD • May 13–16, 2027

Full hookup RV site  
Swimming pools and splash pad  
Mini golf  
Fitness center  
Sports courts  
Walking trails

Dog parks  
Clubhouse facilities  
Resort activities  
Courtesy Shuttle Service Ocean City and Assateague Island  
Catered seafood dinner

For more information and to register click [here](#).

To view the Sun Outdoors Ocean City website click [here](#).

# October Club Rally: Jane's Island SP



**Janes Island State Park** Crisfield Maryland

**When:** October 11<sup>th</sup>, through October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Come early, stay late.

**Where:** Janes Island State Park, 26280 Alfred J. Lawson Dr., Crisfield, MD 21817

**Hosts:** Mark & Angie Ratliff and George & Linda Kiesel

Come join us for a relaxing fun-filled weekend. Janes Island is set on the Chesapeake Bay with beautiful sunsets in a pine forest environment.

**Friday:** 3pm – Arrival and official campground check-in  
5pm – Happy Hour  
6pm – Dinner, hot dogs and hamburgers with fixings. Campfire weather permitting.

**Saturday:** 8:30-9:30am Breakfast, blueberry pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice.  
5pm – Happy Hour  
6pm – Dinner, **Thanksgiving in October**. Mark and Angie will provide smoked turkey for all to enjoy. Linda will make Mac and cheese. Please bring Thanksgiving side dishes to round out the meal. Campfire weather permitting.

**Sunday:** 8:30-9:30am Continental Breakfast 8:30-9:30. Annual club business meeting and election of 2027 officers.

**Please bring your own plates, utensils and chairs to all meals.**

**Please do not bring your pet to Happy hour/mealtimes. Thank you.**

**Janes Island State Park prohibits alcohol.**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

**Rally Fee per adult:** \$30.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ number of adults = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the side dish you will bring to Saturday dinner. \_\_\_\_\_

Please note we may need to ask you to change your side if we get too many of the same dish.

Make checks payable to: Watchung NJ Airstream Club or pay online

Mail checks to: Lois Wagner 29 Colony Court New Providence NJ 07974

**OR Register online** <https://airstreamclub.org/watchung-october-2026-rally>



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#### 2026 Watchung Club Officers

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| President                      | Heidi Cullen    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Steve Germansky |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Rebecca Glick   |
| Correspondence Secretary       | Brian Cullen    |
| Recording Secretary            | Richard Short   |
| Treasurer                      | Lois Wagner     |
| 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 |

