

August/September 2026

NORVA NEWS



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NORVA Executive Officers

President: Jim Oxley

1st VP: Drew Morgan

2nd VP: John Bevis

Secretary: Leslie Stevens

Treasurer: Beverly Bevis

Membership Directors:
Doug and Gail Perkins

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Formoso

Webmaster: Patsy Nagel

Legislative Director: Jeff Tlapa

Parliamentarian: Gerry Nagel

Past President: Bob Nickel

The President's Corner

Hello, fellow NORVA Airstream Club members. I am happy to report that we have had a very successful season.

First, I am pleased to congratulate our newly elected 2026–2027 NORVA Executive Board and my successor, Drew Morgan. The new board represents strong leadership, continuity, and a tremendous amount of NORVA experience. All but one of its members are returning—either in their previous positions, moving up to new positions, or, in my case, moving over to the Former President role. In that position, I will continue advising the board, serve as a voting member, and chair the Nominating Committee.



A special welcome goes to the newest member of our Executive Board, Al Sweetser, who will serve as Second Vice President. John Bevis moves up to First Vice President, and our former First Vice President, Drew Morgan, becomes President.

Critical continuity also comes from our returning board members: Beverly Bevis — Treasurer; Doug Perkins — Membership Director; Gail Perkins — Assistant Membership Director; Patsy Nagel — Webmaster; Barbara Formoso — Newsletter Editor; Leslie Stevens — Secretary; and Jeff Tlapa — Legislative Director.

This is probably one of the most experienced boards NORVA has had in years, and I am proud to have served with each of them. The new board will formally take office at the Commonwealth Rally, September 24–27.

The board will also begin its term with a newly ratified Constitution and Bylaws, thanks in large part to the hard work of Jeff

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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 Byam

Tlapa, who led the effort to update the documents and guide them through the ratification process. Jeff, thank you again for your dedication and stewardship. His work is not finished, though. Over the next year, Jeff will lead an update of our Executive Board policies, focusing on better codifying the everyday procedures that help make our club work.

Looking back since our last newsletter, we have continued to do some great things, including the successful caravan led by John Bevis out west to this year's Airstream International Rally in Minot, North Dakota. It was another great example of what NORVA does best—bringing people together, building friendships, and enjoying the Airstream experience.

Since this is my final President's Corner, I will leave the club's look ahead to my successor, Drew Morgan, who will cover that in his first newsletter.

In closing, I want to thank my board for their unwavering support throughout my term, and I want to thank all of our NORVA members who volunteered, participated in our rallies and caravans, voted, and helped make this such a successful year. It has been an honor to serve as your President. I am proud of what we accomplished together, and I look forward to continuing to contribute to this great club in my role as Former President.

See you down the road!

Jim

North to Minot Caravan

Article by B. Formoso, Photos by Gail and Doug Perkins, Pete West, Joseph Formoso

Twenty people and 10 Airstreams met at the Penwood Airstream Campground in Penwood, PA on August 7 to start our caravan to the 69th Annual ACI International Rally in Minot, ND. The group included John and Bev Bevis, our terrific caravan leaders, Sue and Ken Trahan, Doug and Gail Perkins, Pete and Elizabeth West, Christine and Calvin



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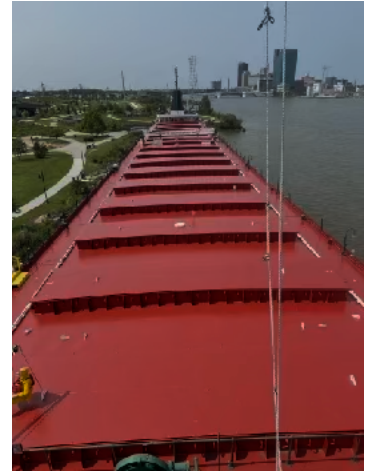
Carlsen, Drew and Elizabeth Morgan, Karen and Chris Braney, Joe and Barb Formoso, Jim Oxley, Bob Nickel and a new-to-us couple from Florida, Susan and Eric Arens. It was a great group which quickly meshed into a tight group of travel companions.



After two days of getting to know each other, we moved to a gorgeous Maumee Bay State Park near Toledo for two nights. The park's campground had wide sites with concrete pads and a lovely path along the Bay at the far western end of Lake Erie. While there we had a fascinating visit to the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo including self-guided exploration of a 1911 tanker, the Col. James M. Schoonmaker. It gave us a good idea of what life was like for commercial mariners, crew and officers alike, on the Great Lakes.



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From there, we stopped in Bay City, Michigan, for one night, where some of us, including our own firefighter, Pete West, visited the Firetruck and Toy museum. (Speaking of firetrucks, Pete also visited the Mackinac Island fire department where he took this shot of these vintage trucks from 1900.)



From Bay City, we traveled to St. Ignace on the far eastern edge of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, crossing the Mackinac (but pronounced Mackinaw) Bridge with Lake Huron to the east and Lake Michigan to the west. We were in a convenient campground on the shores of Lake Michigan from which to travel by ferry to Mackinac Island. What an interesting place! No motorized vehicles allowed, so all transportation is by horse drawn carts, including garbage pickup and Amazon deliveries. Leaving the main street in town, loaded with tourist oriented t-shirt, gift and fudge shops, we piled into a horse drawn carriage for a fantastic tour of the whole island. We were treated to spectacular views of the Grand Hotel and the wooded Macinac Island State Park, established in 1875 and covering over 80% of the island. We saw neighborhoods and beautiful forrest as well as a stunning natural bridge overlooking the water. Our island visit was surely a highlight of the trip.



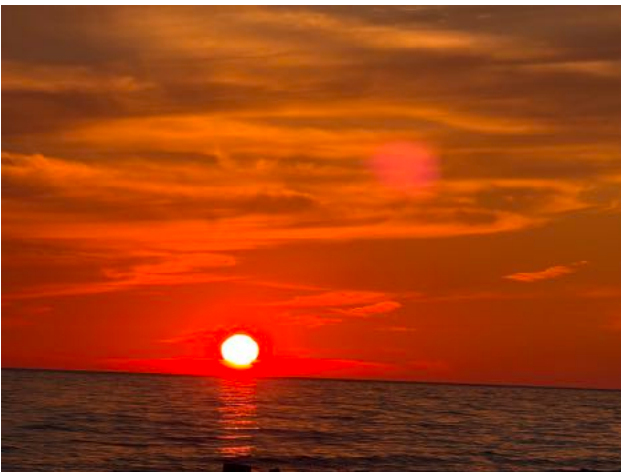
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The view of the Mackinac Grand Hotel from the ferry



The view of Lake Michigan from our campground in St. Ignace



These spectacular shots were taken by Doug Perkins from the beach below our campground

As we drove west across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, some of our crew stopped to see “Benny the Bearded Fisher” in Germfask, MI. This bearded troll is one of many sculptures by Danish environmental artist Thomas Dambo, who creates large, whimsical “trolls” using natural materials and discarded objects and hides them in out of the way places for people to discover and be delighted by.



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At the far west of the Upper Peninsula, we stopped for one night at Bewabic State Park and the next day on to Duluth, Minnesota where some of us enjoyed the downtown Canal Park and the Aerial Lift Bridge Museum, followed by a pot luck happy hour at the campground. We don't always arrive all at once but this time we sure did!



On to East Grand Forks, Minnesota, our final stop before Minot. It was a lovely town that had turned a flood disaster into a beautiful park with a gorgeous campground right on the Red River with a view of the bridge to Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was a two night rest stop to stock up before heading into the rally in Minot, and an opportunity to walk to a nearby restaurant for an "end of caravan" dinner together.



And so, finally Minot! We stayed one night there at the Valley View campground to get our bearings and get ready for the group entry into the rally the next day. It wasn't the loveliest of campgrounds, but Doug discovered that the wild turkeys liked it fine!



The next day was entry day into the Minot expo center, home of the 69th ACI International Rally. That went fine for our group, but a group ahead of us suffered a terrible loss when an Airstream had to stop on the railroad tracks just before the gate, could not move ahead in time and was actually demolished. Fortunately the people in the tow vehicle were not injured and the town of Minot took care of them with a hotel stay. But it was a bit of a shock for everybody.

The ACI 69th International Rally



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But, of course, the show must go on. The opening ceremony on Saturday night featured the procession of club flags, with NORVA well represented by our President, Jim Oxley. Drew and Elizabeth contributed their voices to the Airstream Chorus during the event. On Sunday, the rally was off and running with tons of seminars and gatherings of all kinds.



Jim with the NORVA flag, Elizabeth (front and center) and Drew (in front of the AM of My America) at the ceremony. Gail and Doug in the lobby for a photo op.



The weather was sometimes hot, sometimes not, and yes, there was some rain. This shot from Chris and Karen Braney's window was taken after Karen rescued a couple in her golf cart who were having a hard time getting back to their rig. It looks like she took it all in stride! Oh, and the electric hook-ups looked a little sketchy, but more or less did the job.



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Other highlights were the annual Airstream“prom” at which John and Bev looked especially stunning. There was also the traditional Vintage Airstream parade and the Region 3 brunch which served small dishes of delicious goodies where we enjoyed visiting with our friends from other regional clubs. Rounding out the NORVA fun was a surprise celebration of Gail’s birthday and a breakfast toward the end of the week. All in all it was a successful and enjoyable rally.



NORVA Business

NORVA Constitution and Bylaws Update — Approved!

I am pleased to report that NORVA’s work on updating our Constitution and Bylaws is officially complete. On **September 15, Airstream Club International’s Constitution and Bylaws Committee formally approved our updated Constitution and Bylaws.**

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We completed our membership referendum on September 9, with **72% of our membership casting ballots and 100% of the votes cast approving the updated documents**. This was an especially important turnout because we required the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of our membership to approve the changes.

I'm also very pleased that we achieved **100% member contact during the referendum**. Every member was contacted by email at least twice. For those from whom I did not receive a response, I followed up by phone—either leaving a message or having a conversation with them. Our goal throughout the process was to make sure every NORVA member knew about the referendum and had the opportunity to participate.

Following the vote, we forwarded the referendum results, our revision timeline, and documentation of the process to ACI for final review. In its response, the ACI Constitution and Bylaws Committee congratulated NORVA on our voting results and noted that achieving this level of participation in a club referendum was quite an accomplishment.

With ACI approval now in hand, **NORVA's revised Constitution and Bylaws are officially adopted**. Our next scheduled Constitution and Bylaws review will be in **2031**. The next step is to review and update NORVA's Executive Board Policies so they align with our newly approved governing documents. I will begin that work as Legislative Affairs Director and hope to have the policy revisions completed over the coming club year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the referendum and helped us bring this process to a successful conclusion. **A 72% turnout, unanimous approval among those voting, and final approval by ACI are a strong reflection of NORVA's member engagement.**

Jeff Tlapa

Legislative Affairs Director
Northern Virginia Airstream Club

NORVA Annual Business Meeting — September 26

NORVA's Annual Business Meeting will be held during the Virginia Commonwealth Rally on Saturday, September 26, at 12:30 p.m. at Endless Caverns Campground in New Market, Virginia. The meeting is open to all NORVA members. Members unable to attend in person may participate remotely.

Please refer to the Annual Business Meeting email sent to the membership by President-elect Drew Morgan for the meeting agenda, call-in information, and participation instructions.

All NORVA members are encouraged and welcome to participate.

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Upcoming Events

September 24-27

Virginia Commonwealth Rally

Dates: September 24-27, 2026 Endless Caverns Resort, New Market, VA

Hosted by Virginia Airstream Club

Registration: <https://airstreamclub.org/northern-virginia/norva-calendar>

November 5-8

Urbanna Oyster Festival: Hosted by Tom Carmichael

Look for information here: <https://airstreamclub.org/2026-urbanna-oyster-festival-boondock-rally>

November 5-8, 2026

Alumalina Buddy Rally

Palmetto Cove RV Park, 521 Table Rock Road, Cleveland, SC 29635

Call (864) 836-6221 to make reservations and inform them that you are part of Alumalina Rally.

\$35 per night FH

\$20 per night water (You can come as early as November 1, 2026)

December 5, 2026

NORVA Holiday Party, 12-3PM

Location: Electric Palm Restaurant, Occoquan, VA

Other Regional Events

For tons of upcoming events with other clubs in our region, click here:

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



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

Blue Compass RV
has a brand new Airstream location!

