THE REGION 2 BEAT

From Silver Trailers to Sandy Shores!

Region 2 Is Heading to Ocean City!

Pack your beach chairs and get ready for some coastal fun! The 2027 Region 2 Rally is heading to Ocean City, Maryland, May 13–16.

➡Read more on Page 5

What's in a Name?

From Hillbillies to Billy Goats!

What do a New Jersey Airstream club, a campground in New York, and a billy goat have in common? More than you might think! In this edition of *What's in a Name?*, Region 2 President Patti Galupo explores the fascinating history of the Watchung NJ Airstream Club, the story behind its newsletter, *The Hillbilly*. You won't want to miss this one!

➡Read more on Page 11

From Pennsylvania to Texas

Nine Buc-ee's Stops and a Little Club Business!

What happens when you combine a road trip through six states, two dogs, nine Buc-ee's stops, and an ACI Strategy Session? Find out as Cody shares the journey to Texas, highlights from the International Board of Trustees meeting, and a few unexpected purchases along the way!

➡Read more on Page 8



President's Message

From the Autumn Equinox to the Winter Solstice.

This finite time of year signifies change and a discernible shift edging toward hibernation. As the fall foliage morphs from the greens of summer to the vibrant oranges and reds of Fall, the changes in Region 2 include a major turnover in the officer ranks in most of our 12 Units/Clubs. As the solstice calls for long dark nights and shorter days, camping basically shuts down for everyone minus the snowbirds. But what doesn't slow down is the daily work of our R2 Team; and the 12 clubs that are Region 2.

I'm now entering my final year as your president. And with the changeover in the local clubs, I started thinking about the importance of building a deep bench and ensuring that club presidents are trained up, so they can also integrate their vice presidents into the operation. It's been a daily practice and part of my own

Region 2 Club Officers

President:

Patti Galupo, BRN 22010

1st VP:

Matt Moore, BRN 3937

2nd VP:

James Lorden, BRN 12359

Secretary:

Judith Cahall, BRN 4058

Treasurer:

Will Kushto, BRN 818

Membership:

Colleen Ahlers, BRN 5505

Newsletter Editor:

Cody Klingler, BRN 3937

Webmaster:

Ron Silco, BRN 6958

Immediate Past President:

Gary Russo, BRN 1061

management style; hands on; that I learned in over 30 years of working in the federal law enforcement sector.

We hear it all of the time. We're just camping! Why the struggle to get volunteers to run the operation, from the local clubs straight to the IBT? It's probably simpler than it seems. Fear of the unknown and questioning whether any of it is necessary are solid impediments.

To further illustrate the point, can we have a 20,000-member camping club without structure and governance? And experience all of the great things that make this club great; from the local rally, to the region rally, the international rally and the hallmark of Wally's dream, the caravan. My experience tells me NO. Without structure and process, it turns into chaos. You can't run an organization on enthusiasm alone.

Which leads to my other point. Training. Comprehensive training. On governance and management of resources and people. So, that when we are all recruiting around a fire at midnight, someone doesn't say "no" because of fear.

Trust me. I felt overwhelmed at first. It's a huge learning curve going from local club officer into the region ranks and being part of the IBT. Robert's Rules. Constitution and Bylaws. Policy. It's a lot. And we need to do a better job of developing training programs across the ranks.

We're trying. On the IBT level, I, and three other region presidents and the CBL Chair, have been tasked with writing a Region President Handbook. I want to spend time with the 12 clubs this year on this type of project. I know some clubs have adopted their own material, but we need to garner all of the experience that's in the field and standardize it to ensure that we can recruit future leaders.

This is just one example of shoring up our governance acumen. Expect more calls with region leadership in the upcoming year focusing on this type of agenda. For example, in that vein, the Finance Director has agreed to participate in a training Zoom with the club presidents and their treasurers on financial reporting requirements.

I recently sent Matt Moore, our 1st VP to the IBT strategy session in Texas this past week. I couldn't attend; but this is a major point in having a deep bench; he was completely prepared to go. Why? Because we spend hours and hours discussing issues, working on specific tasks, learning the Board Book etc. so he can step in for me for any reason. And, I'm one to immerse these guys in this type of situation. As we used to call it in the old days, trial by fire. Call me old fashioned, but its still effective. We're doing the same with 2nd VP Jim Lorden. Nobody is indispensable. Life will go on long after I'm gone. But it's my responsibility to hopefully leave the place a little better and stronger than when I came.

And trust me, I want the guys and you guys in the field to keep me in check. That's how it works!

So, as the winter solstice stares us down, our region team wants to thank all of the outgoing local officers and congratulate all of the incoming officers. We're all in this together.

And, here's to health and happiness to you and your families as we embark on the holiday season.

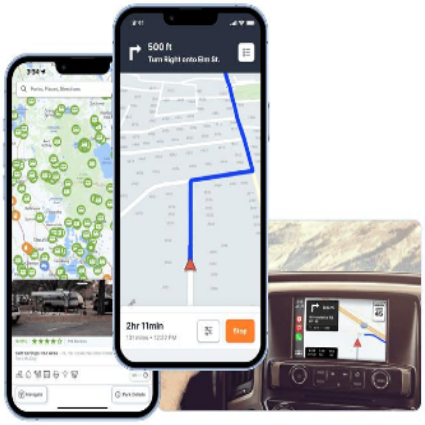
With gratitude,

Patti



Photo of Patti eating a seafood boil while at the Hershey RV Show

Tech Corner: No Signal? No Problem! - Why Offline Maps Belong in Every Airstreamer's Travel Toolkit



We've all been there. You're traveling through unfamiliar territory, following your GPS, when suddenly your phone loses its cellular signal. Maybe you're in the mountains, traveling through a rural area, or heading toward that beautiful campground tucked away from civilization.

Fortunately, losing your internet connection doesn't have to mean losing your way!

Download Your Maps Before You Leave

Did you know that Google Maps and Apple Maps allow you to download maps for offline use? Before leaving home, you can save an entire area to your phone, allowing you to continue navigating even when cellular service disappears.

In Google Maps, tap your profile picture, select *Offline Maps*, and choose the area you want to download.

For Apple Maps on supported iPhones, tap your profile picture or initials, select *Offline Maps*, and download your desired area.

Once downloaded, your phone can continue using GPS to determine your location without an active internet connection.

Know the Limitations

Offline maps are incredibly useful, but they aren't perfect. Depending on the application, features such as live traffic updates, alternative routes, and certain points of interest may be unavailable.

More importantly, standard navigation apps don't always account for the height, length, or weight of your Airstream and tow vehicle. Always double-check your route for low clearances, restricted roads, and other potential hazards.

Save More Than Just Directions

While you're preparing for your next adventure, consider downloading a few other essentials:

- Campground reservation confirmations and arrival instructions
- Maps of nearby state and national parks
- Emergency contact information
- Important travel documents
- Your Airstream owner's manual

Saving these items directly to your phone or tablet means you won't have to depend on campground Wi-Fi or cellular service to access them.

A Little Preparation Goes a Long Way

Technology has made traveling easier than ever, but it's still important to have a backup plan.

Before your next trip, spend a few minutes downloading your route and important information. You might never need it, but when you find yourself without service, you'll be glad you did.

And remember, even with all this technology, keeping a good old-fashioned road atlas in your tow vehicle isn't such a bad idea!

Rally Recipe: Hobo Stew - A Little of This, a Little of That!

There's something special about sharing a meal around the campground, especially when everyone has a hand in making it

At our recent Al-Mon-O and WDCU Joint Rally, we enjoyed an old-fashioned favorite: **Hobo Stew!** The concept couldn't be simpler. Everyone brings an ingredient to contribute, and everything goes into one big pot. You never know exactly what you'll end up with, but somehow it always turns out delicious!

Ingredients

There really isn't a set recipe, and that's what makes it fun! Each person or family brings something to add to the pot. Suggestions include:

- Canned corn, green beans, peas, or carrots
- Diced or sliced potatoes
- Canned diced tomatoes or tomato sauce
- Kidney beans, lima beans, or other beans
- Beef or vegetable broth
- Cooked ground beef or other fully cooked meats
- Onions, celery, or other vegetables
- Salt, pepper, and favorite seasonings
-

The Golden Rule: NO "Cream of..." Soups!

Leave the cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, and other cream-based soups at home. We're making a hearty, broth-style stew, not a creamy casserole!

Directions

1. Have each participating family bring an ingredient to contribute.
2. Start with a large stockpot and a little broth or tomato juice as the base.
3. Add the contributed ingredients, making sure any meat is fully cooked before it goes into the pot.
4. Stir everything together and add additional broth or water as needed.
5. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook until the vegetables are tender and everything is thoroughly heated.
6. Taste, adjust the seasonings, and serve hot!

Rally Tip

For larger gatherings, have someone coordinate the contributions so you don't end up with 15 cans of green beans and no potatoes! A little variety makes for an even better stew.

And remember, the best ingredient isn't something you put into the pot. It's the friendship and camaraderie that come from making and enjoying a meal together.

Every pot is different, and that's the beauty of Hobo Stew!

Where is Region 2 Headed

Calendar of Events

General Business Meeting & Elections
November 7
John Rudy Park
400 Mundis Race Rd.
York, PA 17406
Host: Terry Hauschild
haus599@comcast.net

Keystone PA Installation Rally 2026
November 13-15
Country Acres Campground
20 Leven Rd.
Gordonville, PA 17529
Host: Brian Mulligan
mulligansix@rcn.com

Watching November 2026 Luncheon
November 14
The Little York
569 Spring Mills Rd.
Milford, NJ 08848
Host: Michael Koczwara
allofus1989@gmail.com
Signup Here

Holiday Dinner - Central PA Club
December 5
Marzonis Brick Oven & Brewing
4925 Ritter Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Host: Terry Hauschild
haus599@comcast.net

Al-Mon-O PA December Luncheon/Business Meeting 2026
December 5
Primanti Bros.
200 Executive Dr.
Cranberry, PA 16066
Host: April Weber
aweberdecorativefinishes@gmail.com

2026 Holiday Lunch
December 6
Enzo's Restaurant
451 Mamaroneck Ave.
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Host: Colleen Ahlers
airstreamclubmembershipchair@gmail.com

Watchung December 2026 Luncheon
December 12
il Mondo Vecchio
72 Main St.
Madison, NJ 07940
Host: Steve Germansky
egerms@verizon.net
Signup Here

WDCU Capitol Kickoff Rally
April 15-18, 2027
Pocahontas State Park
10301 State Park Rd.
Chesterfield, VA 23832
Host: Amy & Richie Fisher
amyllf2@gmail.com

Region 2 Rally 2027
May 13-16, 2027
Sun Outdoors RV Resort
Ocean City, MD
Host: Jamie Bull & Matt Moore
jbull4@verizon.net
mattgmoore53@gmail.com
Signup Here

Eastern PA Opener, Lums Pond State Park, DE
May 21-23, 2027
Lums Pond State Park
3355 Red Lion Rd.
Bear, DE 19701
Host: Rick Pitts (Keystone) & Terry Hauschild (Central PA)
r_pitts@verizon.net
haus599@comcast.net
Reserve your Campsite Here

Quemahoning Rally
June 11-13, 2027
Quemahoning Family Recreation Area
Quemahoning Dam Rd.
Hollsopple, PA 15935
Host: John & Jen Smindak
jsmindak@outlook.com
Reserve your Campsite Here (beginning March 1)

Silver Bullets & Devilish Brews
July 15-18, 2027
Devil's Backbone Basecamp
30 Three Ridges Ln.
Roseland, VA 22967
Host: Anton's & Scott's

70th Airstream Club International Rally
June 26-July 1, 2027
Rock Springs, WY
Signup Here

2027 PA State Rally
July 29-August 1, 2027
Codorus State Park
540 Dubs Church Rd.
Hanover, PA 17331
Host: Cody Klingler
cwk5292@gmail.com
Signup Here

Finger Lakes Flamboyance
September 9-12, 2027
Finger Lakes RV Resort
3645 Tichenor Rd.
Hector, NY 14841
Host: Mary Edington, Richard Jones, and Paul & Elaine McVinney
edingtonmaryc@gmail.com
Signup Here

PA Wilds Caravan-II
September 20-October 6, 2027
Starting at Clear Creek State Park
38 Clear Creek Park Rd.
Siegel, PA 15860
Host: Ralph Olson & Drew Potts
ralpho226@gmail.com dpotts528@gmail.com
Signup Here

Welcome to Your New Region 2 Newsletter!

Welcome to the Region 2 Newsletter, *The Region 2 Beat*! This publication is designed to keep you informed, inspired, and connected to all the great things happening across our region. From rally highlights and upcoming events to member spotlights and helpful tips, we're excited to share your stories and celebrate our vibrant Airstream community. Have a story or photo to share? Send it to Cody Klingler - cwk5292@gmail.com by October 15, 2026 for the November issue.

From the Mountains to the Sea: Region 2 Heads to Ocean City!

May 13–16, 2027 | Sun Outdoors Ocean City, Maryland

Get ready to trade the mountain views for ocean breezes! The 2027 Region 2 Rally is heading to the Maryland coast, and registration is now open!

After enjoying the excitement of Pocono Raceway in 2026, we're changing the scenery for 2027 as the Delmarva Airstream Club welcomes Region 2 members to Sun Outdoors in the Ocean City area, May 13–16.

There's something special about a Region Rally. It's an opportunity to reconnect with friends from across the region, meet fellow Airstreamers from clubs you might not otherwise get to visit, and enjoy a few days together without the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

This year's location brings a whole different atmosphere to our annual gathering. Ocean City and the surrounding Eastern Shore offer plenty to explore, from the beaches and boardwalk to local restaurants, shops, and coastal attractions. Whether you enjoy sightseeing, discovering new places, or simply relaxing at the campground with friends, there's something for everyone.

A big thank you goes to Delmarva Airstream Club President Jamie Bull and the entire hosting team for taking on the planning of our 2027 rally. Putting together an event like this takes plenty of time and effort, and we appreciate their willingness to bring Region 2 together for another memorable weekend.

If you've never attended a Region Rally before, make 2027 the year you give it a try! You don't have to know everyone when you arrive. That's part of the fun. By the time the weekend is over, chances are you'll be heading home with a few more friends and plenty of stories to share.

Registration is open, so don't wait to make your plans! Take a look at the accompanying flyer for additional information and visit the registration form to reserve your spot.

We hope to see plenty of silver trailers rolling into Ocean City next May. After all, the best part of any rally isn't necessarily where we go, but the people we share the experience with.

See you at the shore!

Rally Dates: May 13–16, 2027

Location: Sun Outdoors, Ocean City area, Maryland

Register: https://submit.jotform.com/252582870185060

Rally Information: https://airstreamclub.org/2027-region-2-rally



The Airstream that Time Forgot - Matt Moore, 1st Vice President

One forgotten Excella, a road trip with Dad, and the beginning of another Airstream adventure.

Every once in a while, an Airstream comes along that you just can't get out of your head. You know the kind. It might need a little work, a lot of work, or perhaps a small miracle. But something about it catches your attention, and before you know it, you've already started planning how to bring it home.

That's exactly what happened to me this summer when I learned about a 1994 Airstream Excella that had been sitting in Connecticut since 2010.

This wasn't just any old Airstream. It was a 25-foot Excella, purchased new by its original owners and, according to what I was told, used only three or four times before being parked and largely forgotten.

The couple also owned a 1965 Airstream Globetrotter, which they actually used for their camping adventures. The husband was deeply involved in the Vintage Airstream Club and had even served as its president at one point. Clearly, Airstreams were an important part of their lives, even if the Excella never got much opportunity to experience the open road.
Unfortunately, the Excella's story took a difficult turn this past summer when the husband passed away. His wife was left with the difficult task of downsizing and sorting through a lifetime of belongings.

Those who knew the couple will understand that this was no small undertaking. Her husband had a well-known habit of never parting with anything. And when I say anything, I mean anything!

The 1994 Excella was no exception. It had been sitting for more than a decade, and it was still packed full of stuff. What kind of stuff? I honestly have no idea. I haven't gotten that far yet, but I have a feeling there are going to be some interesting discoveries along the way.

A Day Late and a Dollar Short… Again

Back in June, a close Airstream friend (you know who you are Joe) told me about the trailer. I immediately started putting together a plan in my head. I could picture bringing it home, going through everything inside, and seeing what kind of life it might have left in it.

There was just one problem. As usual, I seemed to be a day late and a dollar short. Someone else had already made a deal to purchase both trailers.

Well, I wasn't about to forget about it that easily.

I kept checking in with my friend, asking whether the deal had gone through. Weeks passed, and then another month or two went by. Much to my surprise, the sale still hadn't happened.

Before long, I found myself on the phone with the owner in Connecticut, making plans to come see the Excella. And apparently, once I get an idea in my head, things can move pretty quickly.

The very next weekend, my dad and I were headed right back to Connecticut with a much bigger goal than simply looking at a trailer. We were going to try to bring it home.

A Little Preparation Goes a Long Way

We left Friday after work and drove about five hours before stopping for the night in New Jersey. The next morning, we got up early and drove the final hour or so, traveling through New York before arriving in Greenwich, Connecticut.

We had a busy morning ahead of us.

Over the next four or five hours, we installed new wheels and tires, fitted a new anti-sway hitch, and gave the trailer a much-needed scrub. After sitting outside for so many years, it needed a little attention before we could reasonably expect it to look presentable on the highway.

Fortunately, having time to plan ahead paid off. We had the equipment we needed, the preparations went smoothly, and before long, the Excella was ready for its first real road trip in approximately 16 years.

Just before noon, we pulled out of Connecticut and pointed the truck toward Pennsylvania.

We made it all the way to somewhere around Exit 242 on Interstate 80 before stopping for fuel. After filling up, we climbed back into the truck and covered the final 200 miles home without a single incident.

The 400-mile trip was surprisingly uneventful. No tire trouble, no roadside repairs, and no dramatic moments that would make for a great story around the campfire.

Of course, that was the easy part!

The Real Adventure Begins at Home
Now that the Excella is safely home, the real work can begin.

First, I have to unload it. And when I say it's packed, I mean it's PACKED. There are years of accumulated belongings inside, and I have no idea what I'm going to find. I'm hoping there might be a few treasures tucked away among all the stuff. Given the original owner's connection to the Vintage Airstream Club, it's certainly possible there could be some interesting pieces of Airstream history hiding in there.

Once everything is out, I can finally get a good look at the interior and determine what I'm dealing with.

Time hasn't been particularly kind to the trailer. It has apparently had some unwanted residents over the years, including mice. Just how much damage they've done remains to be seen. I won't really know the extent of the work required until I can get inside, empty it out, and start looking more closely.

Thankfully, I do have one advantage. Over the years, I've accumulated a pretty substantial stockpile of RV parts. Air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, and just about one of everything else you might need for an RV repair seem to have found their way into my collection.

Some people might call that hoarding. I prefer to think of it as being well prepared for the next Airstream project!

Hopefully, some of those spare parts will come in handy as I begin bringing this old Excella back to life.

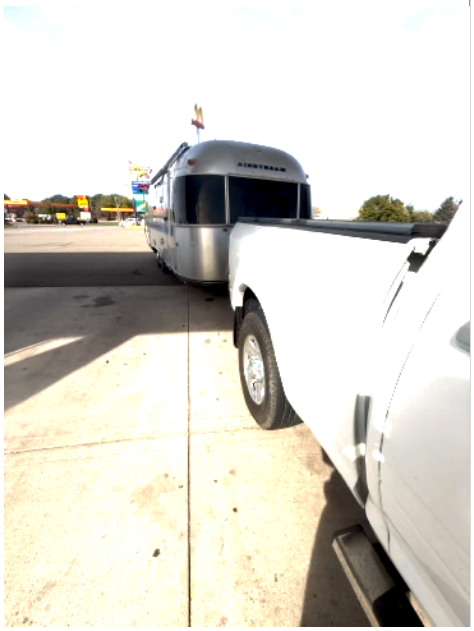
What Could Go Wrong?
I don't know yet whether this trailer will turn out to be a relatively straightforward restoration or a much bigger undertaking than I anticipated. There will undoubtedly be surprises, and I suspect some of them won't be the pleasant kind.

But that's part of the fun, isn't it?

There's something special about rescuing an Airstream that has spent so many years sitting still. This one was purchased new, barely used, and then left behind while life moved on. Now, after all these years, it has another chance at an adventure.

I also realize that this trailer represents more than aluminum, appliances, and a long list of repairs. It was part of a couple's story, and the husband's involvement in the Vintage Airstream Club makes its history even more meaningful. I hope that as I go through it, I'll uncover a few reminders of the life it once had.

For now, the plan is simple: empty it out, assess the damage, make a list of what needs attention, and start working through it one project at a time.



And who knows? Maybe someday this 1994 Excella will be back out on the road, doing what Airstreams were meant to do.

Until then, I'll be sorting through 16 years of accumulated belongings, trying to figure out what's worth keeping, what belongs in the trash, and just how much work I've gotten myself into.

Stay tuned. I have a feeling this is only the beginning.

After all, the name of the game is *What Could Go Wrong?*

Nine Buc-ee's Stops, Two Dogs, and a Little Club Business! - Cody Klingler, Region 2 Newsletter Editor and ACI Executive Council Member

Our Road Trip to Texas for the ACI Strategy Session



Wally and Stella stretching their legs during our trip to Texas.

When Matt and I decided to drive to Texas for the Airstream Club International Strategy Session, we knew we were in for a long trip. What we didn't know was that we'd end up stopping at four different Buc-ee's locations a total of nine times along the way!

We left Pennsylvania on Sunday, October 18, with Wally and Stella along for the ride. Our route took us through Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas before finally reaching Texas. That's six states for the dogs, who probably couldn't have cared less where we were going, as long as they got to come along!

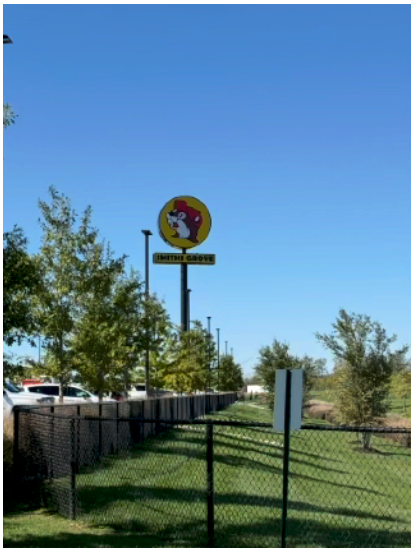
We broke up the drive with an overnight stay in Jackson, Tennessee, both going down and coming home. The drive itself was great, just long. Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and we didn't run into any issues along the way.

Now, about those Buc-ee's stops!

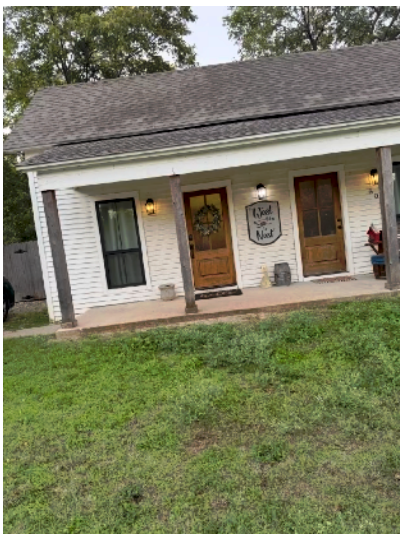
Neither of us had ever been to one before, so naturally, we had to see what all the fuss was about. Our first stop was Smiths Grove, Kentucky, followed by Benton, Arkansas, and then Royse City and Hillsboro, Texas. Between the trip down and the trip home, we managed nine visits to those four locations!

We tried all kinds of food, picked up a few T-shirts, stickers, and magnets, and Matt even came home with an automatic ice cream maker. I'm still not entirely sure how that became a necessary road trip purchase, but that's part of the fun of Buc-ee's, I suppose!





Our first Buc-ee's experience in Smiths Grove, Kentucky. Little did we know there would be eight more stops!



Our home away from home in West, Texas.

I can certainly see why people make a point of stopping at these places. And apparently, once wasn't enough for us!

Of course, Buc-ee's wasn't the reason for the trip. We were headed to the North Texas Airstream Community (NTAC), where ACI was holding its Strategy Session October 20–22.

We stayed in nearby West, Texas, and spent most of our time at NTAC. We had originally hoped to do some exploring around Waco, but with the schedule we had, that unfortunately didn't happen. Maybe next time!

If you've never been to NTAC, it's a great Airstream park, and I'd certainly encourage anyone traveling through the area to consider spending a few nights there. We had an opportunity to see some of the park while we were there, and it's a pretty neat place.

The NTAC folks were wonderful hosts. We spent most of our meals there, including a potluck they put together on the first evening. It was a great opportunity to visit with everyone before getting down to business.



A few of the Airstreams at the North Texas Airstream Community.

The strategy session itself took place over three days and included training, discussions, and plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas about the future of Airstream Club International.

As someone still relatively new to the Executive Council, I found the experience extremely valuable. There's a lot that goes into serving in a leadership position, and having the opportunity to learn from others who have served in different capacities throughout the club was one of the highlights of the trip.

One thing I really appreciated was the opportunity to ask questions and hear different perspectives. It's one thing to read documents or participate in meetings online, but there's something to be said for sitting around a table and having conversations face-to-face.



One of the many conversations taking place during the strategy session.

Wednesday was our International Board of Trustees (IBT) meeting. This was my first opportunity to participate in a mostly in-person IBT meeting, something that had largely gone away following COVID.

We had 15 people attending in person and another eight participating virtually. While virtual meetings certainly have their place, I can tell you that being in the room makes a difference.

It's much easier to read the room, have conversations, and get a better feel for where everyone stands on an issue. Just having that face-to-face interaction with fellow trustees was worth a lot.



A chance to catch up with ACI President Millie O'Donnell during the strategy session.

All the motions introduced during the meeting passed, including the Special Interest Groups (SIG) policy revision that I've been involved with. We also approved the 2027 budget, addressed future membership dues, and handled several other matters affecting the club.

It was especially rewarding to see the SIG motion pass, knowing the time and effort that went into developing the proposed changes.

While I won't go into the specifics of the strategy session discussions, I will say that it was encouraging to see the level of thought, effort, and dedication being put into the future of our club.

For me, the biggest takeaway from those three days wasn't necessarily any one motion or discussion. It was the opportunity to listen, learn, and exchange ideas with people who care deeply about the future of Airstream Club International.

With the challenges our organization is currently facing, including the ongoing lawsuit, I left Texas feeling encouraged. There are a lot of dedicated people working behind the scenes, and hearing the ideas and conversations firsthand gave me an even greater appreciation for the work being done.

I also came away with a better understanding of my own role on the Executive Council. There's always something new to learn, and I think that's one of the things that makes serving in these positions worthwhile.

Outside of the meetings, it was just nice to spend time with fellow Airstreamers. Some of the best conversations happen before or after a meeting, over a meal, or just while visiting. Those are opportunities we don't always get when everything is done virtually.

And of course, Matt managed to find a little time to relax!

We headed home and arrived back in Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 24, after another overnight stop in Jackson, Tennessee.

Wally and Stella had officially traveled through six states, Matt had his ice cream maker, and we'd made enough Buc-ee's stops to last us a little while. Maybe.

Would I make the drive again? Absolutely. Although next time, I might add another day to break up the driving a bit more. It's a long way from Pennsylvania to Texas, especially when you're trying to get there and back in a week.

All in all, it was a great trip. We got to experience something new, spend time with fellow Airstreamers, and come home with a better understanding of the work happening throughout our club.

And really, isn't that what makes being part of Airstream Club International so rewarding?



Matt taking a well-deserved break at NTAC!



ACI leadership gathered at the North Texas Airstream Community for the October 2026 Strategy Session.

What's In A Name? - Patti Galupo, Region 2 President



What do Tusten, NY, a billy goat, and a hillbilly have in common?

Look no further than the Watchung NJ Airstream Club. Intrigued? Read on!

Now listen up! (a Jersey term of endearment). I'm gonna exert a few street creds here. Most of you know, I am the daughter of the Jersey Shore. Born and raised in the heart of the pine barrens, City of Absecon, County of Atlantic, the Great State of New Jersey. So, when I asked President Heidi Cullen and her team, Past Region 2 President Rich Short, Club Historian Lea Plant, Newsletter Editor Derek Conley and all around Watchung guy, George Kiesel (who has held numerous positions in the club along with Lea) to Zoom with me for this series, I thought I knew what to expect. Boy, was I wrong.

First, a quick behavioral profile of Jersey folk (enter street creds). We are known to be a collection of contradictions; that have been turned into numerous memes. Think, "which exit" (off the NJ Turnpike, in reference to where you live) the Jersey devil, the entire view of North Jersey as a chemical dump. I could go on and on. But what most don't pick up immediately, is that the directness, or brashness that is almost inbred, is truly shrouded in humility. We are "in your face", but if something goes south, we'll be the first to lend a hand! Our pride is really an outtake of intense loyalty- and we are sometimes embarrassed to tout our own accomplishments.



So, I had to drag it out of them!

Let's start with geography and demographics. Watchung recently celebrated their 60th anniversary in 2025. Chartered on June 26, 1965 as the Watchung New Jersey Unit, they formed to fill a void for the campers from northern New Jersey, who didn't quite connect with the current New Jersey Unit (primarily drawing campers from south Jersey) because of the geographic stretch. They huddled up with clubs from Pennsylvania and New York, but enter "loyalty"; it just didn't feel right. So, Watchung was born!

Here's the first stunner in their history. Trying to help out with the gas shortages of the early 70's (yes, I remember those days, long lines at the pump, odd-even days based on your tag) they did what any motivated club would do, BUILT THEIR OWN CAMPGROUND.

What?

Just over the most northwest point of Jersey, right up the remnants of the Delaware River and in the foothills of the Catskills, they morphed into true-blue pioneers. In the little town of Tusten, NY, they bought land by offering shares to their roughly 90-member club at that point. They cleared the land, built a pavilion, added stacks and voila, had a place to leave their trailers and economize on fuel to drive the short distance to do what we all signed up to do, CAMP. That's pure resilience and joy; all wrapped up together. (see photographs of their charter and Tusten below).



Adaptable is as adaptable does. As the gas shortage eased, they



knew that the silver machines were meant to travel to new places; experience new adventures, so they sold the property.

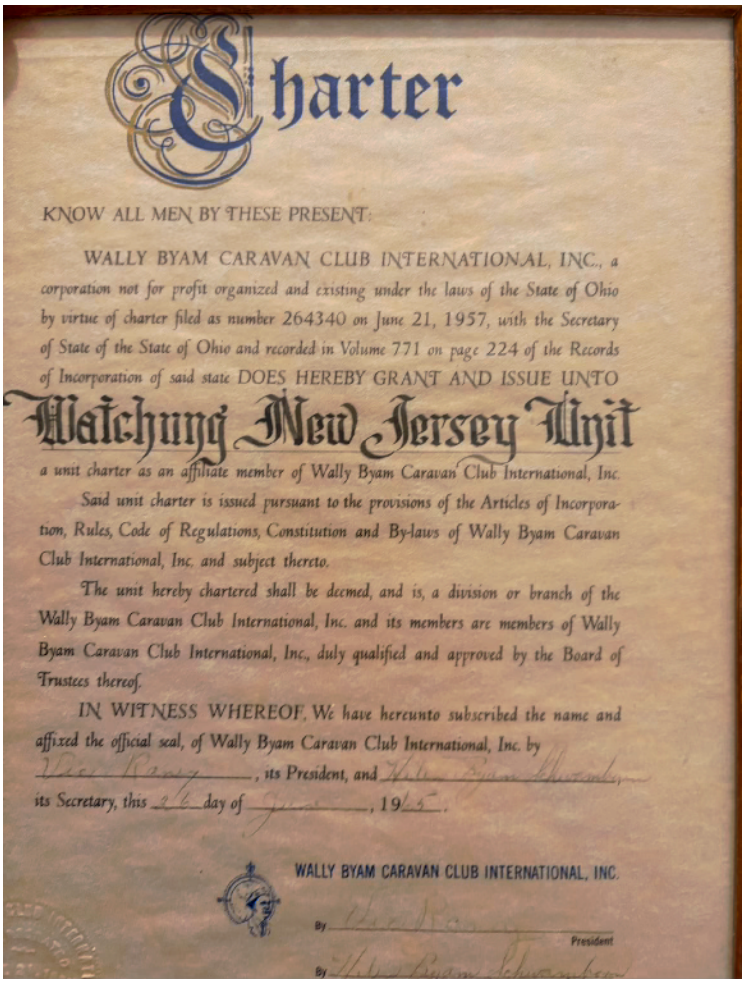
Now to what started this series- the name of their newsletter, The Hillbilly. Being from the pine barrens of the south, I couldn't quite connect the word hillbilly to anything that is "Jersey." So, I had to rid myself of my own Jersey perceptions based on what and where I knew. The flat pine barrens of south Jersey are imbedded in white sand. Around them in adjoining counties are vast swaths of farmland that give our state it's license plate moniker "The Garden State." When you head north up the Turnpike or the Garden State Parkway toward the Big Apple, Jersey gets very hilly, to the point where the Watchung Mountains reside; a series of three long ridges of volcanic origin between 400-500 feet high. Local lore tells us that in the early 20th century, there was a section of town colloquially referred to by the locals as the "Hillbilly" section. Leave it to Jersey to be just a tad bit sarcastic!



Editor Derek Conley and former editor Lea Plant recall the days when the newsletter was actually MAILED to members. With an envelope and a stamp! Imagine that! Then they added a mascot, the billy goat. Go figure! (see the little creature above all decked out for Mardi Gras).

But when you read through it, it contains many personal touches; birthdays and anniversaries of their members, little nuggets of meditation (we all could use some of that!) and a sunshine section; where George's wife Linda makes sure that folks who need an extra boost because of a health problem or something else going on in their life, is tended to. I was the lucky recipient of a "sunshine card" from the Club when I was sick. The thoughtfulness is never forgotten.

Another part of the Watchung culture includes giving back to the community. Each year, the incoming president chooses a charity and the Club holds raffles throughout the year to support that charity. This year, its Stomp Out Bullying. These are the things that I had to pull out of them. They don't want to draw attention to themselves or any one individual, but to do their work quietly and with humility. My respect shot up ten-fold after this interview.



Charter

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:

WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC., a corporation not for profit organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio by virtue of charter filed as number 264340 on June 21, 1957, with the Secretary of State of the State of Ohio and recorded in Volume 771 on page 224 of the Records of Incorporation of said state DOES HEREBY GRANT AND ISSUE UNTO

Watchung New Jersey Unit

a unit charter as an affiliate member of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

Said unit charter is issued pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Rules, Code of Regulations, Constitution and By-laws of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. and subject thereto.

The unit hereby chartered shall be deemed, and is, a division or branch of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. and its members are members of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc., duly qualified and approved by the Board of Trustees thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed the name and affixed the official seal, of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. by _____, its President, and _____, its Secretary, this 26 day of _____, 19__.

WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

By _____ President

By _____

To gain members you gotta get out in the field. Besides a heavy rally schedule, Watchung sets up a table at Colonial Airstream to recruit new members every President's Day weekend in February. They've worked hard with Colonial in forming this partnership over the years. Derek will mail copies of the newsletter to them as well in pursuing this effort.

In closing, these guys stick together. They draw others in with their quick wit, welcoming smiles and do perhaps the most important thing any of us can do- SHOW UP. That's the take away. As I was ending the Zoom, Lea Plant summed it up perfectly. When she lost her husband 10 years ago- she was ready to hang it up. Couldn't see herself camping anymore. Her club wouldn't let her. They winterized. They made sure she was okay.

Who wouldn't want to be part of the Watchung NJ Airstream Club?

Wally would be proud. And Region 2 is a better place because of them.

A Look Back at Sampson - Cody Klingler, Region 2 Newsletter Editor



It's hard to believe we're already looking back at our summer rallies, but before we get too far removed from camping season, I wanted to share a few pictures and thoughts from our Region 2 gathering at Sampson State Park.

And if there's one picture that sums up the weekend pretty well, it might be this one:

That was a lot of Region 2 under one tent!

We had a great turnout at Sampson, and throughout the weekend that tent became our gathering spot. Sometimes it was full for a meal, other times there were smaller groups scattered around the tables, and there always seemed to be a conversation happening somewhere.

That's one of my favorite parts about a Region rally.

Our clubs cover a pretty large area, and most of us naturally spend the majority of our camping time with the people who live closest to us. When we come together at a Region event, those circles get a little bigger.

You catch up with somebody you haven't seen since another rally. You finally meet someone whose name you've seen in a newsletter or on Facebook. You sit down beside somebody from another club and before you know it, you've spent an hour talking about Airstreams, campgrounds, places you've traveled or somewhere you both want to go next.



There was plenty of that happening at Sampson.

There was also plenty of eating happening at Sampson, but I don't think anyone will be particularly surprised by that!

Feeding that many people takes some work, and there were a lot of people pitching in throughout the weekend. Meals don't magically appear on the tables. Somebody has to plan them, shop for everything, prepare it, serve it and then clean everything back up afterward.

It's easy to enjoy the finished product and forget about everything that happened before we sat down.





And speaking of the finished product...

These individual charcuterie boxes were a fun touch!

Sampson State Park itself was also a great setting for the weekend. It's a beautiful park in the Finger Lakes with plenty of green space and a campground that I'd happily visit again.



But when I look back through my pictures from the rally, the campground isn't really what catches my attention.
It's the people.

Nearly every picture has somebody talking, laughing, eating or sitting around a table with friends. That's probably a better description of a successful rally than anything I could write.

A big thank-you goes out to everyone from Region 1 and Region 2 who helped make this year's Sampson Rally such a great experience. I'd also like to give special recognition to Past Region 2 President, Gary Russo and the New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club for their years of involvement in hosting this rally. Events like this don't just happen on their own, and it takes a lot of time, effort, and dedicated volunteers to keep them going. Their contributions over the years certainly deserve our appreciation, and I'm grateful for everything they've done to make the Sampson Rally such a memorable event for so many Airstreamers.

Region 2 covers a lot of miles, but weekends like Sampson make it feel quite a bit smaller.

And I think that's a pretty good reason to keep getting together whenever we can.

Maintenance Corner - Don't Let Winter Catch Your Airstream Off Guard!



As another camping season winds down, many Airstream owners are preparing to park their silver beauties until spring. While it might be tempting to simply park the trailer, close the door, and call it a season, a little preparation now can prevent some expensive surprises later.

Winterizing Is More Than Just Antifreeze

Protecting your plumbing system from freezing temperatures is essential. Water left in pipes, faucets, pumps, or the water heater can freeze, expand, and cause significant damage.

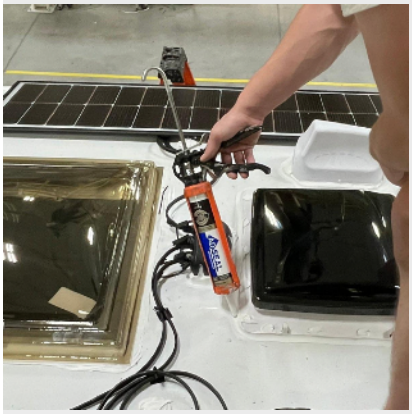
Follow the winterization instructions for your specific Airstream model. Depending on the system, this may involve draining the tanks and water heater, blowing out the plumbing lines, and using RV-safe antifreeze where required.



Don't Forget Your Batteries

Batteries need attention even when your Airstream isn't being used. Fully charge them before storage and follow the battery manufacturer's recommendations for disconnecting, maintaining, or removing them.

Lead-acid and lithium batteries have different storage requirements, so be sure you know which type you have.



Give Your Exterior Some Attention

Before putting your Airstream away, give it a thorough wash and inspection. Pay particular attention to roof seams, windows, vents, and exterior sealants. Cracked or deteriorating sealant can allow water to enter, potentially causing damage that goes unnoticed until spring.

Check your tires for proper inflation, visible damage, and signs of uneven wear. Consider tire covers if your trailer will be stored outdoors.

Keep Unwanted Guests Out

Mice and other critters love finding a warm, protected place to spend the winter. Remove food, crumbs, and other tempting materials. Inspect openings where rodents might enter, taking care not to block necessary ventilation.

One Last Walk-Through

Open the refrigerator and freezer doors slightly to prevent odors, make sure the propane is turned off, and secure everything inside and outside the trailer.

Winter storage doesn't have to be complicated. Spending a little extra time now can make your first camping trip next spring much more enjoyable.

After all, nobody wants their first adventure of the season to be a trip to the repair shop!

Minot Memories - Colleen Ahlers, Membership Chair

From themed celebrations to time spent with fellow Airstreams, the 2026 International Rally in Minot, ND, offered plenty of memories. Thanks to Colleen for sharing these snapshots from the festivities!









Region 2 Membership Update - Colleen Ahlers



R2 Membership Count as of 10-14-26:

Row Labels	Affiliate	Regular	Grand Total
Al-Mon-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club	14	22	36
Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club	16	69	85
Delmarva Airstream Club	13	40	53
Hudson-Mohawk New York Airstream Club	8	40	48
Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club	18	48	66
Member at Large - Region 02		190	190
Metropolitan New York Airstream Club	12	31	43
New Jersey Unit	11	84	95
New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club	23	68	91
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	17	190	207
Pennsylvania Airstream Club	14	74	88
Washington DC Unit	64	108	172
Watchung NJ Airstream Club	10	65	75
Grand Total	220	1029	1249

New Members from 7-1-26 to 9-30-26:

We had a total of 77 Members that joined R2 as either a Regular or Affiliate Member:

Club	Big Red Numbers	Member Name	Partner Member Name
Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club	02930	Jessica Linde	Judson VanVliet
Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club	17020	Ken Frohnert	Gail Frohnert
Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club	19315	Ron Davis	Jonna Davis
Delmarva Airstream Club	03678	Matilde Ott	Dennis Powell
Delmarva Airstream Club	11103	Phyllis Rosello Mercurio	
Hudson-Mohawk New York Airstream Club	09349	Susan Reichardt	Al Reichardt
Hudson-Mohawk New York Airstream Club	11692	Tom Overman	
Hudson-Mohawk New York Airstream Club	31891	Craig Small	Jodie Small
Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club	03804	Bryan Humbarger	
Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club	06263	Christeen Lemunyon	John Lemunyon SR
Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club	20406	Chelsea Shepherd	
Member at Large - Region 02	03968	Marci Drews	Mark Drews
Member at Large - Region 02	04437	Stephen Meyer	Pam Meyer
Member at Large - Region 02	04895	Robert Grief	Fran Grief
Member at Large - Region 02	05178	Michael Villasenor	Ting Guo
Member at Large - Region 02	05211	Mark Bowen	Lynda Bowen
Member at Large - Region 02	06302	Joe Sofia	Sandy Sofia
Member at Large - Region 02	08426	Craig Dyson	Casey Dyson
Member at Large - Region 02	09527	Victoria Brannagan	
Member at Large - Region 02	10464	Natalie French	Chris French
Member at Large - Region 02	11228	Brian Kapsner	Beth Kapsner
Member at Large - Region 02	12101	Sharon Killough	John Paul
Member at Large - Region 02	12411	Patrick Kolsch	Odina Kolsch
Member at Large - Region 02	14804	Peter Rooney	Wendy Rooney
Member at Large - Region 02	15074	John Hulse	Debra Hulse
Member at Large - Region 02	19114	Ron Henseleit	Andrea Helwig-Henseleit
Member at Large - Region 02	23360	Mike Trelfa	Amy Riley
Member at Large - Region 02	26051	Brian Tracey	Nicola Charity
Member at Large - Region 02	26766	Michael D Yon	Sharon Yon
New Jersey Unit	04667	Lee Purcell	
New Jersey Unit	13127	Tameeka Chang	
New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club	04135	Cody Baldwin	Cooper Baldwin
New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club	05443	Nina Graham	
New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club	06306	Chris Feenaughty	Julie Feenaughty
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	05372	Glen Ireland	Nancy Ireland
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	05906	Steve Jenkins	
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	06159	Tanya Smith	David Smith
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	18591	Cheryl Reid	Brent Reid
Ontario Canada Airstream Club	23167	Debbie Conine	Scott Conine
Pennsylvania Airstream Club	18464	Lise Hardie	Robert Hardie
Washington DC Unit	10881	Peter Piscitelli	Christine Sullivan
Washington DC Unit	23432	Edward Gutowski	Julie Gutowski
Watchung NJ Airstream Club	07702	Michael Crawford	Susan Crawford

ACI Region 2

Region 2 of the ACI is made up of more than a dozen local clubs covering the Mid-Atlantic states. If you own any trailer, van or motorhome manufactured by AIRSTREAM, we can offer you fun and exciting opportunities to enjoy your Airstream and the unique AIRSTREAM lifestyle. Each club caters to their local community of Airstreamers with fun, active camping and adventures.

Region 2 Airstream Clubs

Hudson-Mohawk New York Airstream Club; #71
President: Stanley Stokloas
Email: **stanstok89@aol.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/hudson-mohawk-new-york**

Metropolitan New York Airstream Club; #72
President: Debbie Hammer
Email: **debbie@halimer.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/metroplitan-new-york**

New York Finger Lakes Airstream Club; #02
President: Chris Cappelletti
Email: **ccapp68@me.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/new-york-finger-lakes**

Watchung NJ Airstream Club; #68
President: Heidi Cullen
Email: **heidi.watch.air@gmail.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj**

New Jersey Unit; #66
President: Jim Lorden
Email: **jclorden@hotmail.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/new-jersey**

Al-Mon-O Pennsylvania Airstream Club; #131
President: April Weber
Email: **aweberdecorativefinishes@gmail.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/al-mon-o-pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Airstream Club; #91
President: Bill Woodford
Email: **bill.woodford@outlook.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/pennsylvania**

Keystone Pennsylvania Airstream Club; #92
President: Brian Mulligan
Email: **mulligansix@rcn.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/keystone-pennsylvania**

Central Pennsylvania Airstream Club; #164
President: Terry Hauschild
Email: **haus599@comcast.net**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/central-pennsylvania**

Delmarva Airstream Club; #26
President: James Bull
Email: **jbull4@verizon.net**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/delmarva**

Washington D.C. Unit; #170
President: Lisa Lichtenstein
Email: **lisalichtenst3@gmail.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/washington-dc**

Ontario Canada Airstream Club; #124
President: Leslie Stewart
Email: **ocacpres2026stewart@gmail.com**
Website: **airstreamclub.org/ontario-canada**