

# NORVA NEWS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is finally here, the trees are showing new growth, the tulips and other spring flowers are blooming, and the birds are proclaiming warm weather in song. If you haven't done it yet, this is the time to get your Airstream ready for travel for the year. Put air in the tires, flush out the antifreeze from the fresh water system, check the fittings, torque the wheels, etc. Of course you'd know all this if you had attended the very successful Maintenance Rally at Airstream of Virginia on April 8th set up by our 1st VP Jackson. He reported around 30 people attended the rally including four of our new members who joined in 2016 and 2017, along with at least one prospective member. The Airstream team

gave an in-depth maintenance presentation and answered all of the questions given to them. Next is the Region 3 Rally in Hiawasse, GA from April 26 to April 30. The schedule indicates that Region 3 President John Frerking and his staff have arranged a very informative and fun filled rally. I am representing the Unit Presidents on a panel at the end of the rally along with International 1st VP Jim Cocke, John Frerking, Teresa Taylor, International Membership Chair, and Jay Thompson, International Caravan Chair. The title of the round table discussion is "What's On Your Mind." It should be an adventure. Then on May 12 to May 14 is the Service Rally at James Monroe's Highland where we will paint and do some clean up. We will be there for only the weekend so many hands are needed. I hope you will join us. Lastly, let me remind everyone of the Mystery Caravan beginning on June 2 and ending on June 16. Edgar reports that 10 units have signed up to be led by he and Kathy and space is still available so there is still time to sign up. Edgar has the reputation for leading great caravans.

We welcome new members Mike and Jody Stanage who joined in April. They are both retired and living in Richmond. Before retiring, Mike was an architect and Jody was an attorney. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. This is their first trailer. Again, welcome to you both! I hope someone will volunteer to be their mentor. The other three couples who have joined in 2017 have mentors.

We were sorry to hear recently that Jane Quinn has been diagnosed with cancer and is awaiting a course of treatment. Please keep Jane and Kevin in your prayers



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A big **congratulation** to **Lew Brodsky** for being honored, by the Department of Defense and the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The “James M. Roche Spirit of Volunteerism” Award was presented to him at an awards banquet of the Virginia ESGR Committee in Fredericksburg. It is the highest award that the Department of Defense gives to an ESGR volunteer. His letter and his response to the award is on page 8-10.



- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 5 Jack Hornbeck     | 19 Lisa Harlow  |
| 7 Kevin Brown       | 29 David Baker  |
| 16 Mary Ann McBroom | 31 Scott Arnold |



- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Billy & Barbara Cox      | 11 David & Cathey Baker  |
| 8 Bruce & Danette Campbell | 23 Kevin & Laurel Brown  |
| 10 Bill & Sylvia Worrall   | 30 Edgar & Kathy Simmons |

## Maintenance Rally at Fredericksburg/Washington, D.C. KOA, April 7-9, 2017 Kevin Quinn

Friday evening turned out to be a cold and chilly time, so Airstreamers gathered in the Activities Room at the campground. Jackson and Mary Ann McBroom provided a tasty repast for folks as they mingled and talked about their Airstreams and their travels.

Saturday morning found the group, plus other Airstream owners from the area who were not camping, gathered in the work bays at Airstream of Virginia near Thornburg. There Airstream mechanic, BJ, talked to the group about the care and maintenance of trailers. We were told a little about the upcoming merger of Safford RV with Camping World. The local manager and an Airstream Company representative also spoke.

Safford provided lunch after the session at Angela's in Thornburg. There the group enjoyed salad, drinks, garlic bread, linguini in alfredo sauce, chicken parmesan, and baked ziti. No one left hungry as the main dishes were served family style.

Saturday evening attendees gathered at the patio site occupied by Erin and Tom. We snacked on more food as good Airstreamers must. It was a great delight to see so many new Airstream owners that were excited and enthusiastic as they begin the Airstream traveling life.

Folks attending the rally were Randy and Xan Rinehart of the Virginia Unit, Russ Harper At large, Ron and Virginia Sutton from the Tidewater Unit. Members from NORVA are Dick and Jane Arnold, Gerry and Patsy Nagle, Doug Anderson, Bob and Carol Luther, Kevin and Jane Quinn, Tom Carmichael, Lew and Cathy Brodsky, Darla and Dorothea Vest, Larry and Sun Riley, Glenna Winnie and Jeff Cooper, Greg Philpot and Debra Farnell, and of course Jackson and Mary Ann McBroom. Dorothea Vest is 97.

### Airstream personnel that spoke at the Rally.

Tim Maxwell Airstream Eastern Sales Director  
Steve Krapp Safford RV Service Director

Ken Baker Safford GM sales Manager  
DJ Airstream Service Technician



# Mystery Caravan June 2017

**Caravan Start Date: June 2**  
**Activity June 7-June 11**  
**Caravan End Date: June 16**

Caravan plans have been completed. Our rendezvous will be within 100 miles of Northern Virginia on Friday, June 2. Our final activity will be on Friday, June 16. You will be within a days drive from Northern Virginia. The caravan will have five stops.

There is one activity on the caravan that starts on June 7 thru June 11, 2017.

Reservations need to be made as soon as possible. There is a 50 unit limit to attend this event. It was sold out the last year it was held. As of February 17, there are still openings for this event. This activity is a dry camping event. There will be a free water service.

They will be asking for money around the first of April. The cost of this event is \$250.00 (175.00 singles) and is separate from the caravan fee.

I will continue to take reservations until the activity is filled. Let me know by text, email, or phone if you are interested in participating in this fun filled NORVA Mystery Caravan.

The total cost for the caravan is \$1200.00 (\$785 single) with a deposit of \$300.00 due before or on Friday, March 10. Check is to be made out to Edgar Simmons and mailed to 9070 Centerville Road, Bridgewater, VA 22812.

The only cancellation fee will be the non-refundable fees that have been made.

Edgar and Kathy Simmons  
Caravan Leaders  
540 421 1756  
edsimmjr@aol.com



The Mystery Caravan is still a mystery, however arrangements have been made for camping, eating places, sightseeing, guided tours, trolley rides, boat rides, museums and fun. **We do have room for standbys.** Looking forward to a fun caravan.



## A note from Chuck and Joyce Gregory

We've stayed close to home this winter but alas no NORVA members have made a visit. We will celebrate our 50th Anniversary in June with a trip to Ireland, Scotland and England. Arriving back home the end of June, we load up the motor home and head for Escanaba, MI as early workers in the Sign Shop for the International Rally. From there we head southwest to Colorado to join up with the Southwest Caravan.

This fall will mark our 32nd year as WBCCI & NORVA members...a lot of miles and wonderful memories along the way and a lot of those with NORVA members past and present. As is the case for many members we move away from our past homesites and long time members and miss out on continuing activities in our unit...but for the grace of God and WBCCI we stay in touch and see each other from time to time along the way at rally's and caravans. NORVA has always held a very special place in our lives...in many aspects WBCCI and NORVA members have been our family. We have been blessed by Airstream and the opportunity to travel for so many years. Looking back in time we held the very first NORVA Take Pride in America Rally at Hump Back Rock Visitor Center area in March of 1987. We must have been crazy but God blessed us with a warm spring day and lots of eager NORVA volunteers. We pulled two dump truck loads of rubbish along and out of the gullies along the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's so rewarding to see the "Volunteer Service" rallies still being conducted. We are so proud of NORVA and its members.

Hugs and love to NORVA and thanks to all the Members who serve and re-serve our club.



Happy Hour Maintenance Rally



# NORVA MEMBERS WHERE ARE THEY?

## NORVA Mystery Caravan

June 2—June 16, 2017

- Leaders Edgar & Kathy Simmons
- Lew Brodsky
- Cecil Hoosier
- Ed & Beth Jones
- Bob & Carol Luther
- Larry & Sun Riley
- Doug & Susan Anderson
- Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich
- Ralph Uttech
- Dick & Jane Arnold

## International Rally July 22-29

- Edgar & Kathy Simmons
- Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich
- Myrtle & Don Bell
- Dick & Jane Arnold
- Paul & Cynthia Pearce
- Lew & Cathy Brodsky
- Bob & Carol Luther
- Chuck & Joyce Gregory

## Ores, Shores, Waters, and Lights Caravan

July 30-August 13

Edgar & Kathy Simmons

## "American Revolution - Southern Campaign" Sept 6-Oct 14 2017

- Leaders Ed & Beth Jones
- Dick & Jane Arnold,
- Lew & Cathy Brodsky,
- Edgar & Kathy Simmons,
- Chuck & Sally Walters.
- Paul & Cynthia Pearce
- Bob & Carol Luther

## Region 3 April 26-30

- Lloyd & Elaine Ulrich
- Edgar & Kathy Simmons
- Lew & Paisley Brodsky
- Tom & Fred Carmichael
- Darla Vest

## Galax Rally August 2-12

Ceil & Della Hoosier

Let us know where you are and what you are doing. We would love to see an article about your travels. We may want to travel to some of the same places.



**EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE**  
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350-1200

MAR 8 2017

Mr. Lewis Brodsky  
6829 Ridgeway Drive  
Springfield, VA 22150

Dear Mr. Brodsky:

Congratulations on your selection to receive the James M. Roche Spirit of Volunteerism Award, the highest award given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to a State Committee volunteer.

The Roche award is named for Mr. James M. Roche, who served several years as the ESGR National Chair after retiring as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board at General Motors Corporation and other senior leadership roles at PepsiCo, Jack Eckerd Corporation, and the New York Stock Exchange.

Mr. Roche was quoted as saying "Anybody who achieves a top position in an organization owes a debt of some kind... If you have a talent and you have your health, you should help others."

In testament, this award recognizes your sustained quality service as an ESGR volunteer over a substantial number of years. Your selection highlights your patriotism, good citizenship, and public service, at times achieved through great personal sacrifice. Your active participation has significantly enhanced the effectiveness of ESGR and the defense of our Nation, for which we are extremely grateful.

Thank you for your superlative service to our National Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Mock", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul E. Mock  
National Chair

cc:  
Virginia ESGR State Chair  
Headquarters ESGR Director of Volunteer Support

Acceptance remarks  
by Lewis C. Brodsky  
Recipient of the James M. Roche Spirit of Volunteerism Award  
Virginia ESGR Annual Planning and Awards Meeting  
Fredericksburg, VA  
April 22, 2017

I suppose most of you are asking yourselves, “Who is James Roche?” I actually met Mr. Roche, but it wasn’t recently. It was when I was a young lieutenant on active duty in the early 1970s and serving in the Pentagon office of the Chief of the Army Reserve. You see, back then, the draft had just ended, the All-Volunteer Force was just beginning, and ESGR was just getting organized. The Chief of the Army Reserve, was initially responsible for funding the new ESGR program on behalf of the National Guard and all military reserve components. The Department of Defense took it over years later. In 1973, James Roche, had recently retired from being CEO of General Motors, and was tapped by President Nixon to be the first ESGR Volunteer National Chairman. He served in the position for several years. Mr. Roche passed away in 2004 at the ripe old age of 97.

I was more or less an eye-witness to ESGR’s birth, so I have had first-hand experience with the Committee, on and off, for the past 44 years, although I did not sign up as a committee volunteer until later.

Do you know what my principal job was as a junior officer in the Pentagon? I was the general’s speech writer. So thank you, Steve. Receiving this award has given me the opportunity to dust off old skills and prepare a short speech!

This formal recognition is certainly a great honor. I don’t know if my contributions were really as impressive as the award makes them out to be, but thank you for thanking me! I asked Steve if I could share with you some thoughts with you about the commitments and partnerships we choose to make. What was he going to say...no? So I would like to discuss things we choose to get involved with because we want to. Things we are often very passionate about. Marriage is a great example.

My wife is not here tonight, but she would attest to the fact that we lovingly tied the knot in 1968. If you are counting, that was 49 years ago. I can report to you that this partnership, this commitment, has achieved outstanding results. We produced two of the best children in the world, and, by extension, a pair of outstandingly brilliant grandchildren. Along the way, we have always strived to contribute to the well-being of family, friends, community and country. Especially country. That’s why, it was a really special moment, on a recent Veterans Day, when my mail included an unexpected thank you card. It was hand-written by my seven-year old grandson, Benjamin. He wrote to tell me how thankful he was that his “Pops” had served 28 years in the Army and Army Reserve. “That’s awesome,” he said. “Awesome” is one of his favorite words. His recognition of my military service surprised me...we had not talked about it before, and it never occurred to me that today’s very young people ever even think about such things. His recognition and thoughtfulness was, for me, one of those, “Gee, life is really great” moments. Not unlike the feeling I have tonight.

Continued on Page 10

Remembering that Veterans Day moment leads me to dwell on the ever present need for all Americans to honor those who **today** serve in our Nation's military. ESGR makes that obligation relatively simple. It's all about making a commitment of one's spirit, time and energy to a deserving cause. For me, serving with the Virginia Committee is a profound privilege, because it allows me to show my support of the fine young men and women in uniform, especially our National Guard and Reserve Forces. Every minute and every hour I have devoted to ESGR has been aimed squarely at helping them. Like many of you, I have walked in their shoes as a Reservist, and have also been a senior manager in civilian life, so I know first-hand that the relationship between an employer and the employee citizen-soldier can have its ups and downs. I'm sure you know it too. Thank goodness for ESGR and the work it does. We are an organization that celebrates and encourages the ups, and works hard to alleviate the downs. And we've been doing it successfully for decades.

I am grateful to our ESGR State Chairman Steve Villalpando, Awards Chair Barry Vanlandingham, Northern Virginia Area Chair Geambro Hollis, the other Area Chairs, Jennifer and Monica on the full-time support team, my long-time friend and fellow Northern Virginia committee member Erv Bedker, and the many other ESGR members, too numerous to mention by name, who serve at the core of this program. From this podium, I can see your faces clearly, but in my mind's eye, I also see the faces of others. I see images of Virginia ESGR volunteers from years gone by...the volunteers and leaders of decades past. Some are living; some have passed on. I know that Erv, Steve, Omer Pugh, and some of the other old-timers in the room can picture them as well. Great people. Like Howell Simmons, Fred Berke, Wally McGraw, George Hutter, George Chase, Doug Manley, Henderson Graham, Carol Thackston, and Mary Sunderlin, to name just a few. I mention them because I am deeply indebted to them. They motivated me, and allowed me to share their passion. They set a high standard for selfless, patriotic service, which today's committee members are obligated to carry forward. It is my fervent hope that the positive energy our efforts generate proves contagious! And that many more people catch the bug!

It's getting late, so please forgive me for consuming time this evening. But, in the "Spirit of Volunteerism," I wanted to share with you what being a committee volunteer means to me. Rest assured that with my dear wife Cathy's continuing support, and with many friends at my side, I intend to stick with the ESGR program for a while longer! So for now, please let me close by saying that it's truly great to receive this award from my peers. I am deeply honored, humbled, and most grateful, for your special recognition of my volunteer service. Thank you all.

## Continue to Pray

Jane Quinn has her surgery on May 24 and she will see the Radiologist on June 27 to begin her 20 doses of Radiology. She is doing fine now and hopes to make it to the American Heritage Service Rally.

## Galax Special Event Rally and Old Time Fiddlers Convention Hosted by Region 3

Julian & Lynn Clements

Do you like Old Time or Blue Grass Music. The Galax rally is the place to be. Not only may you go to the Fiddlers Convention and listen for hours. The rally folks have some of the best musicians at the campground. A lot of these musicians are young people like Carson Peters who was on the Little Big Shots TV show. Cecil and I will be attending and would love to see you there.

## Welcome New Members

Mike & Jody Stange  
7419 Three Chopt RD  
Richmond VA 23226  
804-638-0325 Home  
804-332-5150 Mike's Cell  
804-638-0483 Jody's Cell  
safehaven77@verizon.net Mike  
rachel48@verizon.net Jody



## Commonwealth Rally

Front Royal Virginia  
Hosted by Virginia Unit

NORVA the Commonwealth Rally is being held in Front Royal Virginia this year. The NORVA unit had a rally last October where Historic Front Royal was the focal point of the rally. It was a wonderful rally. The Virginia Unit is planning some exciting things for the rally and every one of you that can attend we will look for you there. Details and information will be supplied by the Virginia Unit.

Some of you will be on the "American Revolution - Southern Campaign" Sept 6-Oct 14 2017 but everyone else should try to come. This is the time when new officers are installed.

Plan to attend: Region 3 officers normally come to install the officers. It is a good time to meet some of your Region 3 officers.

## May Holidays

1 May Day  
4 Star Wars Day  
5 Cinco de Mayo  
6 National Teacher's Day  
8 VE Day, WW II  
14 Mother's Day - second Sunday  
20 Armed Forces Day - third  
Saturday  
29 Memorial Day



**Be Safe**

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## 2017 NORVA SCHEDULE

January 29	Riverside Dinner Theatre Frederiksberg Virginia Host Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom	June 1– 16	Mystery Caravan Edgar and Kathy Simmons
February 5	“Super Bowl LI” Rally At the Hoosier Amissville Virginia Host Cecil and Della Hoosier	July 22-29	International Rally Escanaba Michigan
March 11	“Splitsville” bowling center, Frederiksberg VA 12:30 for Lunch and Bowling	August 7-12	Galax Special Events Rally Host Region 3 Julian & Lynn Clements
April 7-9	Maintenance Rally @ Safford Camp at KOA Campground Host Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom	September 22-24	Commonwealth Rally Front Royal VA
April 26-30	Region 3 Rally Hiawassee, Georgia	October TBD	
May 12-14	<b>“American Heritage” Service Rally James Monroe’s Highland Host Jackson McBroom</b>	November 3-4	Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally Folks want to do it again!!!! Host Tom Carmichael and Lew Brodsky
		December TBD	