

NORVA News

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President's message

We are nothing if not flexible. As Beth and I drove home on Oct. 16, following the conclusion of “The American Revolution – Southern Campaign” caravan we’d led for the last 40 days, we thought the Airstream motto should be revised to read, “Fun, Friendship, Adventure, and Flexibility.” When the October issue of *NORVA News* was published, it reported we had begun the caravan in New Bern, N.C. It was Sept. 6, and Hurricane Irma was threatening to hit land. But nobody really knew the track the storm would take. Would she go straight up Florida, head up the coast or go west?

By Sept. 7, our Mount Pleasant/Charleston campground had cancelled our reservation and the KOA in Savannah, Ga., was closing the next day. Our stop after New Bern was scheduled to be Wilmington, N.C. Repeated phone contact with an emergency management official there gave us some confidence that Wilmington was not a target of Irma. However, where would we go after Wilmington since they were booked with evacuees from Florida, and our next stop, Charleston, had already closed? At a somber group meeting we decided to stay another day in New Bern to watch, wait, and consider our options. Five couples decided to leave the caravan. For the rest of us, one option was to travel inland, so we called the campground at the Charlotte Racetrack. Campsites were available there, but would it be far enough away from unpredictable Irma? Then NORVA’s Lew Brodsky and a Florida couple in our group recommended the site of the 2016 Region 3 rally - Meadow Event Park in Doswell, VA. Lew contacted the park director. They could take us. We gathered the group again and announced we were going north to Virginia the next morning, Sept. 9. It would be a long drive but we’d be in a grassy field with full hookups and most importantly, we’d be out

of danger. Our Airstreamers resoundingly supported the decision. Our three days in the Doswell area were enjoyable and quite “revolutionary.” (See the caravan article in this issue!).

By Sept. 12, it appeared safe enough to head south again and fortunately, we were able to obtain reservations at the Wilmington KOA which we had had to cancel just days earlier. From then on, our caravan was back on track, save changing the campground from the Savannah South KOA to Skidaway Island – an amazing stroke of luck at the 11th hour– and the cancellation of the Charleston stop due to flooding. We were extremely thankful that we were able to avert the storm but were so saddened by the devastation that Irma created for many – some of whom were family and/or friends of our caravanners.

After a rocky beginning, the caravan turned out to be a wonderful, eye-opening educational journey of our quest for independence. We couldn’t have been happier with our adventuresome, history-loving, FLEXIBLE caravan members either. But we learned a big lesson. The next time we run this caravan, it will be in the spring!



Ed Jones

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From the editor's desk

Hi, everyone. I'm writing this message at my computer and reflecting on my new job as our unit's "newsletter editor." I look forward to this challenge. This "November" issue is my first attempt to continue the great work done by an awesome woman.

My size 12 feet are undoubtedly larger, but they will have a very tough time "filling Della Hoosier's shoes." I do not underestimate the difficulty of taking on this task, one that Della has performed brilliantly for many years! Truth be told, NORVA placed enormous trust and confidence in Della, and deservedly so. We depended on her, almost exclusively, to be our great communicator, editor, directory compiler, sage, comforter, and often act as the go-between with other Virginia units, Region 3, and W.B.C.C.I. headquarters. She excelled in all respects. When we needed timely information shared, Della, more than anyone else in NORVA, was

the person who got it done. Our award-winning Della always knew what was going on, what was coming up, who was doing what, and where the club needed to go. Della established herself as NORVA's "voice," serving many presidents and the membership as a whole. We owe her our heartfelt thanks for all she did and all she continues to do for NORVA.

Della would be the first to remind everyone that a newsletter editor cannot function without contributors, so I will repeat her often-made request: please help me fill our newsletter with interesting articles and good photos. Send your digital text and photo files with captions to NorvaNews@cox.net. I will try to include



all I receive in future issues because your input will make this daunting job a lot easier! Thanks, and please enjoy *NORVA News*!

Most sincerely,
Lew Brodsky

A second installation ceremony conducted for NORVA officers

While many of the newly elected NORVA officers were installed during the Commonwealth Rally in September, several were not present because they were on the American Revolution national caravan. Past International President Don Shafer agreed to visit the caravan in Williamsburg on its last day, Oct. 15. At the American Heritage campground, Shafer presented badges of office to President Ed Jones and First Lady Beth (photo at right). Also installed were Treasurer Paul Pearce, 1st Vice President Edgar Simmons, 2nd Vice President Jackson McBroom, Newsletter Editor Lew Brodsky, and Legislative Director Kathy Simmons.

Shafer also said how much he admired NORVA because of the many good things the club does. He praised NORVA as one of the few W.B.C.C.I units that does an annual caravan.



NORVA News is published periodically for the members of the Northern Virginia Unit, 3-110, W.B.C.C.I. Editor: Lew Brodsky. Please contribute articles and photos to: NorvaNews@cox.net.

Special greetings in November

Congrats to those celebrating birthdays this month:

- 3 Darla Vest
- 4 Jane Arnold
- 5 Jackson McBroom
- 8 Chuck Walters
- 14 Laurel Brown
- 15 Kathy Simmons
- 15 Richard Stutler
- 17 Alan Barbee
- 20 Lew Brodsky
- 20 Jane Quinn
- 24 Lloyd Ulrich
- 29 Myrtle Bell



And anniversaries:

- 24 - Don & Myrtle Bell
- 27 - Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom
- 29 - Richard & Sally Stutler



One more b-day to celebrate: Paisley turned 10 years old.

An old trailer finds a new Georgia home

The vintage trailer looks as good as ever, with its aluminum polished to a mirrored shine. It has a new owner and a new home in the North Buckhead area of Atlanta, Ga. But as James Lane and wife Heather and their kids admired the recent purchase; a 1975, 27-foot, Airstream “Overlander” beauty; they noticed some-

thing unusual. When the sunlight bounced off the shiny skin in a certain way, what appeared to be the ghostlike outline of four numbers became visible: “2208.” These four numbers, long since removed, had left an indelible mark! Intrigued, Lane decided to contact W.B.C.C.I. to learn more about the trailer’s history. They told him that 2208 was the club membership

number of a long-time member!

Sure enough, Fred Carmichael, a NORVA member since 1979, had purchased this “used” trailer circa 1985 from a dealer near Manassas, Va., and he and late wife Christine enjoyed traveling in it for a dozen years. Then, Fred traded it in for a larger, 29-foot Airstream trailer at a Pennsylvania dealership in 1997. Apparently, after Fred, the 1975 Overlander had more than a few owners. Lane is at least the sixth owner, having purchased it from a Georgia firefighter who works in a car shop and who polished the trailer. Lane contacted Fred by letter and also spoke to, and exchanged e-mails with Tom Carmichael, Fred’s son and NORVA’s membership director. And he sent photos.



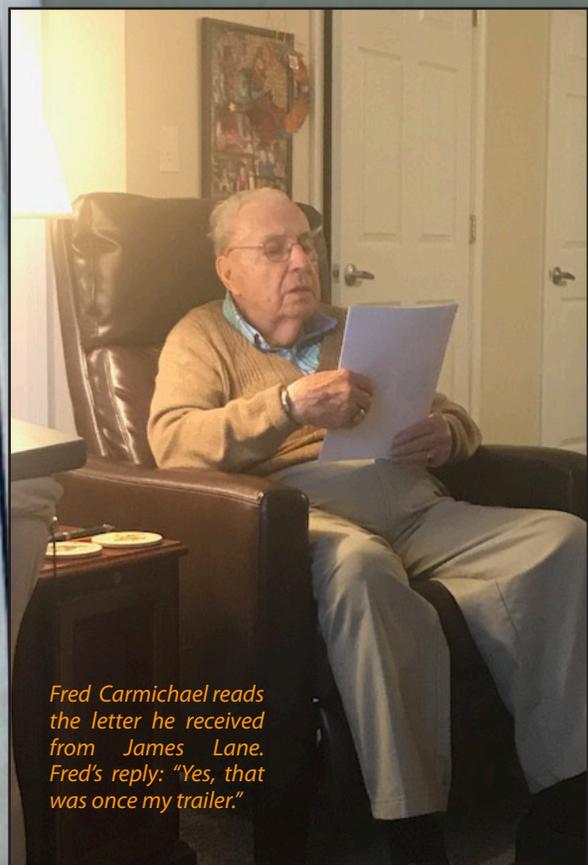
The Lane family enjoys their vintage Overlander Airstream, once owned by Fred Carmichael.

James Lane renovates and builds houses for a living and loves things “retro.” He and his family live in a 1959-era ranch home and he has a ‘60s-era convertible, so it was only natural that he and Heather would look for a vintage Airstream as their first RV. “We trolled the Airstream websites for two or three years. We kinda had an idea of what we wanted size-wise, and have a couple of friends who have Airstreams. The design of the Airstreams has always attracted us,” Lane explained.

Lane put on new axles, brakes and shocks, but decided to do very little with the interior. “Everything works and there are no leaks. Fred obviously took great care of it,” he said with admiration. And apparently its subsequent owners also treated it well. The last owner, the Georgia firefighter, had it under cover at a lake, where he and his family used it for seven years before deciding they needed something larger and selling it to Lane. Before that, it went through several hands, including at least one owner in Alabama.

Lane, who has not yet joined W.B.C.C.I., was eager to put his own stamp on the Overlander. “Originally my plan was to gut the trailer and re-do the interior as mid-century modern, but going back into it two days later, I decided ‘this thing’s kinda cool, we only have to take out some cabinets,’” he remembered. “But by the third time I sat in it for about an hour, I realized there was nothing wrong with it.” He decided to keep the retro look and do a minimum amount of alteration to the interior. “I had our cabinet shop go in and adjusted the beds to take out the sag and make the frames stronger, then we rolled down the road!”

James and Heather have two pre-teen children sharing their Airstreaming experience. Last spring they took the Overlander on a 1,400-mile trip to Gettysburg, Pa., and back. On the return trip, James locked himself out of the trailer. He had someone help him remove the FanTastic Fan and he was able to shimmy through the vent opening to unlock the door. Problem solving is a part of Airstreaming! It was probably the first of many great adventures the Lane family will enjoy as they “Live Riveted.”



Fred Carmichael reads the letter he received from James Lane. Fred's reply: "Yes, that was once my trailer."

Oh, what a remarkable six weeks on the road!

NORVA's Ed and Beth Jones lead Airstreamers on another National Caravan: "The American Revolution -- Southern Campaign"

During September and October, NORVA members joined dozens of other W.B.C.C.I. unit members for an amazing six weeks touring historical sites associated with "The American Revolution - Southern Campaign." Twenty-five Airstream trailers and motor homes were on-hand in New Bern, N.C., for the start of this adventure on Sept. 6, 2017. Participants included Airstreamers from Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia. After traveling approximately 4,000 touring miles, the caravan ended with a farewell banquet in Williamsburg, Va., on Sunday, Oct. 15.

The epic journey included multiple night stays at 12 campgrounds in 4 states. It visited parks, battlefields, towns, and 18th Century venues in Virginia, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Cre-



Leadership personified: When it comes to colonial costuming, it's hard to keep up with the Joneses. Photo by Edgar Simmons

ated, researched, organized, and led by Ed and Beth Jones (NORVA's president and first lady) this W.B.C.C.I. "national" caravan was "Part II" of two caravans about the nation's war for independence. Part I, which they conducted for the first time last fall, explored aspects of the war in the northern colonies. That caravan began in Boston and ending at Mount Vernon, VA.

This year Ed and Beth focused on the south. What surprised most people was how the war in the south was fought very differently. While volumes have been written about battles between Washington's Continental Army and British Redcoats in Boston, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey; comparatively little is written or taught about what happened in the south between 1776 and the victory at Yorktown in 1781. It became apparent to everyone that the southern campaign was really a civil war, mostly pitting patriot militias against their loyalist counterparts. For many of the battles, it was neighbor



An actor impersonating the infamous 18th Century British dragoon, Banastre Tarlton (often called "Bloody Ban" because of his cruelty on the battlefield) torments NORVA's Dick Arnold at the caravan banquet in Williamsburg.

Below: 20 caravan rigs parked at Oak Hollow Campground, High Point, N.C.



fighting neighbor, with relatively few Continentals or regular British troops involved. Also, the names of many of the patriot leaders in the south (Greene, Morgan, Pickens, Sumter, Buford, and others) are not as well known. Britain's Lord Cornwallis is remembered today mainly for his surrender to the combined forces of Washington and America's French allies at Yorktown, but Americans know very little about his many earlier victories against patriot forces in the south.

Unfortunately, all did not go as originally planned on Part II. Bad weather played a significant factor, as NORVA member Carol Luther reported in her preliminary article for October *NORVA News*. The northward track of Hurricane Irma caused the leaders to invoke a 480-mile detour soon after the start of the caravan. Seeking safe haven, Ed and Beth decided to move all the caravan-

At right: A docent at Virginia's "Red Hill Plantation" talks about the patriot who lived there : Patrick Henry.



Middle right: Contemplating the monument at Cowpens National Historic Battlefield, S.C.



Bottom right: The late guest of honor at a pig roast enjoyed by the caravanners. The group barbeque was hosted by Airstreamers Ray and Carol Combs at their beautiful home in Oak Ridge, N.C.

Bottom left: With David Reuwer (l.), a local attorney whose passion is the Revolutionary War, the caravan devoted several days to visiting battle sites in central South Carolina.

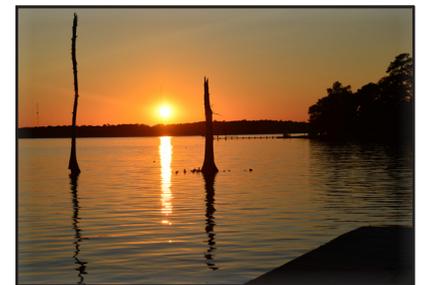


ners from New Bern, N.C., to Virginia's Meadow Event Park in Doswell to ride out the approaching storm. This unanticipated move and resulting delays forced cancellation of a scheduled four-night visit to Charleston, S.C. It also resulted in a switch to a different campground in Savannah, Ga. But the stouthearted caravanners were determined to be flexible and "go with the flow."



Also, there was a bright side: the hastily arranged Virginia detour gave everyone a “preview” of the location of an upcoming International Airstream Rally, scheduled to be held at Meadow Event Park in July 2019. For most in the group, the Doswell stay included a visit to Scotchtown (one of Patrick Henry’s homes), dining at historic Hanover Tavern, St. John’s Church in Richmond, where Patrick Henry’s “Liberty or Death” speech was made, and a delightful tram tour to learn about the 1973 Triple Crown-winning “Secretariat,” born at this former Virginia horse farm in 1970. The time passed quickly and, with the hurricane waning, Ed and Beth were able lead everyone south again and get the caravan back on schedule.

There were 14 NORVA travelers on this caravan (see the photo, below, to learn who they were!) Commented Cynthia Pearce: “The calm demeanor of our leaders was in no small way a large contribution to the successful culmination of six weeks on the road.”



Good caravans are worth repeating (not including the bad weather, of course!). The Joneses will be leading Part I once again in 2018 and will follow up with a reprise of Part II in spring 2019. Want to go? Check upcoming issues of *The Blue Beret* for details.

Top: In Georgia, Cynthia & Paul Pearce were observedly not happy that the British captured Savannah in 1778.

Above left: Introductory films were viewed at many battlefield visitor centers.

Above right: The calm before the storm! Sunset over the Neuse River in New Bern, N.C., as Hurricane Irma was about to make landfall in Florida.



The 14 NORVA caravanners thoroughly enjoyed the last night’s banquet, held at Two Rivers Country Club, Williamsburg. Left to right, standing: Dick & Jane Arnold, Carol & Bob Luther, Edgar & Kathy Simmons, Sally & Chuck Walters, Beth & Ed Jones; seated: Cathy & Lew Brodsky, Cynthia & Paul Pearce. Photo by Dale Spillman.



NORVA EVENTS CALENDAR

Note: Check schedule monthly. Dates and venues are subject to change.

Oct. 28, 2017	NORVA Business Lunch Fredericksburg, Va.	April 25-29	Region 3 Rally Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Nov. 2-4	Oyster Festival Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky	May TBD	NORVA Unit Caravan Leader: McBroom
Dec. 2	Holiday Rally Williamsburg, Va. Host: McBroom	June 8-9	Houstonfest, Galax, Va.
Jan. 21, 2018	“Mamma Mia” Rally Riverside Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Host: Ulrich	June 23-30	W.B.C.I. International Rally, Salem, Ore.
Feb. 4	Superbowl Rally Amissville, Va. Host: Hoosier	July 20-22	Shenandoah River State Park Rally Host: TBD
March 23-25	Maintenance Rally Fredericksburg KOA Host: Carmichael	Aug. 6-12	Old Fiddlers Rally, Galax, Va.
		Aug. 23-26	Mountain Rally, Highland Haven Airstream Park, Copper Hill, Va Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky
		Sept. 21-23	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Holiday Travel Park Virginia Beach, Va. Host: NORVA - TBD

HOLIDAY RALLY

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 - 4:30 p.m.

The Holiday Party/Social Gathering will be held at the home of Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom in Williamsburg, Virginia

The RALLY FEE is \$5.00 per person. It is not necessary to bring a dish to share, but if you want to do so, please let the McBrooms know on this RSVP coupon. Please RSVP by Nov. 15.

Name(s) _____

Number attending _____ Total fee enclosed \$ _____

Bringing a dish? Yes _____ No _____

Mail completed coupon to: Jackson & Mary Ann McBroom, 1661 River Ridge, Williamsburg, VA 23185
Need more information: Phone: 757-345-0060; Cell: 757-746-6535