

# NORVA News

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A few observations and suggestions from NORVA's president, Dick Arnold

## Ah, the joys of being “clubbed”

Why do we love Airstreaming so much? Why do we enjoy “clubbing” in WBAC so much? (Note: “WBAC”—the Wally Byam Airstream Club—is the latest acronym in common usage for W.B.C.C.I.). It all boils down to the people we are Airstreaming with. What are two good ways to meet fellow Airstreamers? 1) Participate—show up at rallies and caravans for a good time. 2) Volunteer at all levels—help plan a rally, help with parking, help with meals, and eventually, help as an officer.

At the International Rally this year, it will be easy to participate and volunteer because it’s happening in our “backyard.” In July, at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, you will not only meet Airstreamers from throughout the U.S. and Canada; you will have the chance, as rally co-hosts, to talk about and show off our state. The *Blue Beret* includes requests from various committee chairmen asking for help at the International Rally. Please check it out and volunteer. Or, send an e-mail today to NORVA’s Ann Newman ([27anewman@gmail.com](mailto:27anewman@gmail.com)). She is coordinating Virginia tours and hospitality for the big rally and needs assistance. Tell Ann you want to help.

Another good way to get to know your fellow Airstreamers is to go on caravans. When you spend two or six or eight weeks on a caravan together, you become part of a small community. The leaders plan routes, book campgrounds, arrange meals, schedule places to see, and assign jobs for traveling as a group. You get to know each other by sharing in all these activities. If you have been on a caravan you know it’s emotionally hard to head home at its end. You will miss

your new “family.” One of the reasons to go to International Rallies is to see friends from past caravans. Jane and I remember traveling on the West Coast and learning that a local WBAC club was having a rally. We called and they said, “Come on in.” We did not think we would know anyone there, but when we arrived, four couples we had met on previous caravans welcomed us. We were delighted to renew our friendships.

We also share Airstream adventures by visiting Airstream Parks. We have done this throughout the country whether in Washington State, Texas, Georgia, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida, or Virginia’s Highland Haven.

Taking advantage of the camaraderie that membership provides, we consistently reaffirm that WBAC never stops delivering fun, fellowship, and adventure!

*NORVA President Dick Arnold welcomes spring to his home in Bridgewater, Va.*



### Inside this issue of *NORVA News*:

- New couples join NORVA in March & April... 2
- On the road to a quirky & unusual place .... 3
- Almost here, “Almost Heaven” (coupon) ... 4
- Region 3 rally draws east coast members... 5
- “Last call” PA-NY Caravan coupon ..... 8

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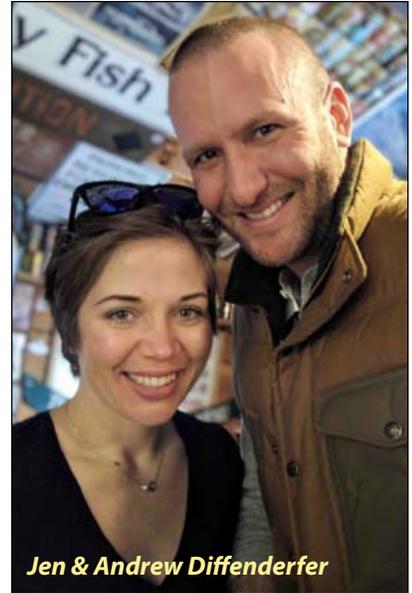
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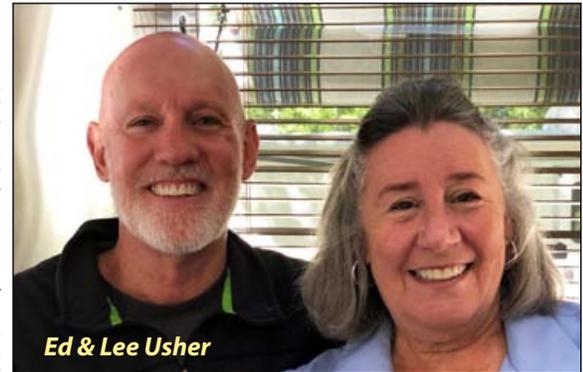
## Welcome three new couples/families to the club

Andrew & Jen Diffenderfer of Ashburn, Va., bought their 25-foot 2017 International Signature trailer from a dealership in California. “We were looking for quality in an RV and everything about Airstream fit the bill,” said Andrew. They joined NORVA when they stopped in at W.B.C.C.I. headquarters in Jackson Center, Ohio. The Diffenderfers hope to do everything the club offers and will enjoy spending time with others who are passionate about Airstreaming.



Jen & Andrew Diffenderfer

Making their home in Dumfries, Va., Ed & Lee Usher outgrew their 19-foot Airstream and recently bought a 27-foot Tommy Bahama trailer. They have always loved everything about Airstreams but wondered what the red numbers they were seeing on other Airstreams were all about. Googling the question gave them the answer. Happily enjoying their new trailer, they look forward to meeting and connecting with other Airstream owners in the club.



Ed & Lee Usher

Brent & Paula Burger live in Herndon, Va., and have a 23-foot, 2019 Flying Cloud. Enjoying tent camping throughout their married life together, they decided it was time to move up to a trailer. “We chose Airstream because it’s a well-made icon of American craftsmanship.” Brent explained. In joining NORVA, the couple says they look forward to exciting travel with others who appreciate the joys of Airstream ownership.



Brent & Paula Burger

NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—

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Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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Please send articles and photos to:

[NORVAnews@cox.net](mailto:NORVAnews@cox.net)

Visit NORVA’s website: <https://northva.wbcci.net>



# On the road again!

*Editor's note: The writer is a long-time friend of NORVA's Cathy and Lew Brodsky.*

## Two Virginians stop at a "Quirky and Unusual (Airstream) Place"

by Sharon Demello

"On the Road Again!" It was the mantra we recited each day on our 9,000 mile road trip, traveling north from Alexandria, Va., crossing the U.S.A. to the west coast, then returning east on a southern route. My good friend Margaret Harbour and I, retired teachers, wanted to see how America had changed since we each made road trips in the 1970s with our husbands. Back then, we had visited all the National Parks, so we decided to explore quirky and unusual places this time around. We researched a variety of destinations through the aptly named website, "Quirky and Unusual Places to Visit", and that led us to a number of adventures and fun lodgings!

Neither of us owns an Airstream, or any other brand of RV for that matter. We set out in a rental car; just the car, the two of us and our luggage, but our journey included an Airstream experience nonetheless!

It happened when we spent a night at "The Shady Dell Vintage Trailer Court" in Bisbee, Ariz. This place offers unique overnight lodging in any of several classic RVs on the property. Guest accommodations include a variety of "travel" vehicles with 1950s décor, vintage accessories, and mid-century furniture. The radios play only "era appropriate radio programs", the magazines are several decades old, and the televisions display only black and white images. We stayed in a vintage, highly-polished, 21-foot, 1955 Airstream, parked about 50 feet from a 1957, 10-stool, "Dot's Diner." Reviews of the diner stated it had good food in a nostalgic setting and served both campers and area locals. Alas, it was closed to the public the night we were there! It



was being used as an "on location" set. The cooks and waitresses were gone, replaced by a movie production crew and actors. We were not only disappointed, we were hungry. We had not eaten dinner and it was nearly 10 p.m., so we searched the nearby small town for something to eat. Luckily, we found a Burger King just before it closed and we scooped up the last two of the day's hamburgers!

Nearing midnight, it was truly a step back in time as we sat in a retro Airstream, on a retro 1950s couch, eating old and cold hamburgers, while

watching the crew next door create a retro movie, complete with cowboys and annoyingly strong lighting!

Despite all the distractions, the Airstream provided a comfortable night's sleep, and by morning, we were rested and ready for another adventurous day, "On the Road Again!"

### **Photos (more on Page 4):**

***Shady Dell Vintage Trailer Court is in Bisbee, Ariz.***

***Below: The writer and her friend spent a night in this restored 1955 Airstream trailer***





**More photos of the "Quirky & Unusual (Airstream) Place:**

***Above: Dot's Diner was not serving food that evening, it was being used as an "on location" set for a film crew making a movie.***

***Top right: The interior of the 1955 Airstream featured twin beds and 1950s appliances and décor.***

***Right: The couch in the Airstream was the seat from which the movie-making was viewed and cold hamburgers were consumed. Note the vintage phonograph!***



## Coupon for the "Almost Heaven Rally"

May 16-19, 2019 - Camping at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Kearneysville, WV

Camping reservations not required - Pay the rally host \$20 per night upon arrival. All sites are 20-amp electric; 18 have water. There is a dump station. Bring a "Y" hose connector and two hoses for daisy-chaining water hookups. Overflow sites are 20-amp electric only, but a potable water tap is nearby to fill your tank. All sites are first come-first-served.

To attend this rally, please complete and mail this coupon today, along with your \$45 per person rally fee check payable to:  
**Gary Shepard, Rally Host, 79 Shepherd Lane, Shepherdstown, WV 25443**

Your name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Member of which Airstream club/unit? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45 rally fee = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Your arrival date (check one): Thu. May 16 \_\_\_\_\_, Fri. May 17 \_\_\_\_\_, Sat. May 18 \_\_\_\_\_.

If you wish, you can e-mail the requested information to [shepard.gr@gmail.com](mailto:shepard.gr@gmail.com).

Questions? Need more information? Call Gary Shepard at 304-261-7359.



# Region 3 mountain rally draws 168 rigs

The large open field at Tom Johnson Rally Park in Marion, N.C., was filled with 168 Airstreams trailers, vans, motorhomes and Basecamps; occupied by 326 members of the Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC). They all converged on this western North Carolina town, “Where Main Street meets the Mountains.” This year’s Region 3 event, called “Rally in the Blue Ridge,” was hosted by Region president, John Leake of York, S.C.

*(Story continues on Page 6.)*



**Photos:**

*Above: Some of the rally attendees pose for a group photo at the Tom Johnson Rally Park in Marion, N.C.*

*Left: Region 3 President John Leake welcomes the crowd at opening ceremonies.*

*Below left: Jane & Dick Arnold ready NORVA’s club flag for display during the rally.*

*Below right: Patsy & Gerry Nagel put omelet ingredients into plastic bags. Beaten eggs are added, then the sealed bags are dropped into large vats of boiling water for 13 minutes. The result: “Omelets in Bag,” a unique group breakfast event for the 366 rally attendees.*



*(R3 Rally - cont. from Page 5.)*

The 2019 gathering included representatives from 18 units and clubs in the five states which comprise WBAC's Region 3 (Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida). The rally lasted five days, from April 24 to 28, and featured seminars, lots of food, drink, crafts, mountain scenery, relaxation time, and fine fellowship.

Members of all four Virginia units and clubs were on hand. NORVA participants included President Dick Arnold & first lady, Jane; Gerry & Patsy Nagel; Tom Carmichael; Doug Anderson; Scott Arnold; Darla Thoman & Carla Ciaramella; Cecil & Della Hoosier; and Lew & Cathy Brodsky.

*(Cont. on Page 7.)*



*Above: Deviled crabs were cooked and served at the sumptuous "fish fry" Saturday night, which also included shrimp, haddock, hush puppies, french fries and coleslaw.*

*Right: Dick Arnold parades in holding NORVA's flag at the Rally's opening ceremonies.*

*Left: Darla Thoman and her daughter, Carla Ciaramella, are visited by "Paisley," owned by Lew & Cathy Brodsky.*

*Below right: Many Airstreamers brought their dogs to the rally, as this gaggle of Golden Retrievers demonstrates.*

*Below left: Jackson Grimm (guitarist) & "The Bull Moose Party" bluegrass band provided an evening of entertainment.*



*(R3 Rally - cont. from Page 6.)*

Next year, the Region 3 Rally is set to be held at the same venue that was used in 2018: Ocean Lakes Family Campground in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The scheduled dates are April 1 to 5, 2020. The campground is taking reservations now.

[\(https://www.oceanlakes.com/\)](https://www.oceanlakes.com/)

Looking ahead, the 2021 R3 Rally is planned for Tallahassee, Fla.

***Rally photos, clockwise from right:***

*Della Hoosier.*

*Cecil Hoosier.*

*The "help yourself" chow line at the Saturday night fish fry.*

*Region 3 officers and club/unit presidents conducted a board meeting on Saturday morning in the campground pavilion.*

*NORVA members hike along the crest of nearby Mount Mitchell, highest peak east of the Mississippi River. The 28-mile drive to the summit from the rally park had scores of hairpin turns and took nearly an hour.*

*At the summit (l. to r.) Patsy Nagel, Gerry Nagel, Tom Carmichael, Cathy Brodsky, Lew Brodsky (with "Paisley").*



**LAST CALL FOR SIGNING UP!**

## NORVA AIRSTREAM CLUB #3-110

50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CLUB CARAVAN, #U-48-434, June 1-16, 2019  
**“PA-NY POT POURRI”**

To join this caravan, please complete and mail this coupon along with your \$300 deposit check payable to:  
**Gerald A. Nagel, Caravan Leader, PO Box 346, Occoquan, VA 22125**

Please write “Caravan U-48-434” on your check’s memo line.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Member of which Airstream club/unit? \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

How many participants? \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit enclosed: \$ 300.00

Note: You can e-mail the information requested to: [gnagel@verizon.net](mailto:gnagel@verizon.net)

For more information, call Gerry: 703-490-4625 (H) or 703-963-4143 (C)



Jan. 13, 2019 Sun. afternoon <i>Cancelled - Snow Emergency</i>	“La Caze Aux Folles” Rally Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Larry & Sun Riley	July 20-27 Sat.-Sat.	W.B.C.C.I. International Rally Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Va. Hosts: Int’l Pres. Barry Bell & the four Virginia Airstream Clubs
Feb. 3 Sun. evening	Super Bowl Party Williamsburg, Va. Hosts: The McBrooms	Aug. 4-10 Sun.-Sat.	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
March 29-31 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Maintenance Rally American Heritage RV Park Williamsburg, VA Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky	Sept. 20-22 Fri.- Sun.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Newport News City Park, Va. Hosts: Shenandoah Valley Club
April 24-28 Wed.-Sun.	Region 3 Rally Marion, N.C. Host: R3 Pres. John Leake	Oct. 10-13 Thurs.-Sun.	“Silver in the Street” Urban Rally Main Street, Farmville, Va. Host: Carmichael
May 16-19 Thurs.-Sun. <i>Sign up today! — Coupon on Page 3!</i>	Almost Heaven Rally Shepherdstown, W.Va. Hosts: Gary & Sue Shepard	Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Thu.-Sun.	Oyster Festival Rally Urbanna, Va. Hosts: Carmichael/Brodsky
June 1-16 16 days <i>Still room — Coupon above!</i>	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan “PA-NY Pot Pourri,” U-48-434 Leaders: Gerry & Patsy Nagel	Dec. 7, 2019* Sat. *Tentative	Holiday Get-together Location TBD. Hosts: TBD