

NORVA News

Published by Northern Virginia Airstream Club #3-110, Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC)

Volume XLIX, Issue 8

May 2020



2020 camping events remain on hold

NORVA President Tom Carmichael says “stay safe” as COVID-19 stalls the start of Club activities

I hope everyone is adhering to the guidelines from the nation’s health care experts and staying safely at home. I can report the Carmichaels are doing fine, but I admit I can take just so much of the worrisome TV news reporting these days. Instead, I often find myself turning in to shows from the good old days, like watching re-runs of Perry Mason. For one thing, the cars were especially awesome back then and the fuzzy TV images bring back pleasant personal memories of growing up in Arlington. I reminisce about enjoying family-oriented TV programs in low-definition, small screen black & white during those much simpler times.



Tom Carmichael,
uncharacteristically muffled.

Times have certainly changed. While our Club activities remain on-hold, we have an opportunity to work on improving communications among members. *NORVA News* remains primary, but we must also make better use of other digital methods.

You may have noticed that WBCCI and Region 3 are updating their websites to make it easier to obtain information on rallies and national caravans. We are going to do the same for NORVA’s website:

<https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>.

I am happy to report that Patsy Nagel has agreed to be NORVA’s new webmaster and I thank her in advance for her website modernization work in the months ahead.

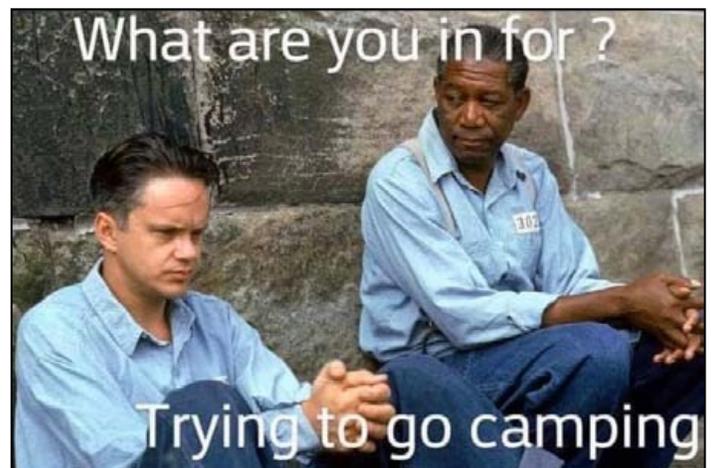
Likewise, Laural Veloz is taking on the role of “social media” coordinator and will manage our Club’s Facebook presence. I can’t thank her enough for stepping up! Those of you who have visited Laural’s superb Facebook page know that she is currently “full- timing” out west and having a wonderful time traveling in her Basecamp with her dog, Dixie. She plans to return east later this year.

As NORVA’s Facebook page and website undergo improvements, you will find it easier to keep up to date on the many great activities ahead of us. But we need your help. If you have communications skills, please consider volunteering some of your time and talents to assist our Club. Watch for a “help wanted” ad in the June issue of *NORVA News*.

You might also consider volunteering for a leadership position within NORVA. Each summer we elect members to serve as officers and directors who serve one-year terms beginning in the fall. New officers are inducted at the annual Virginia Commonwealth Rally every September. This year’s Rally, to be attended by members from all

(“Carmichael column” cont. on p. 2.)

Are you feeling imprisoned and itching to get out? So are Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, as seen in the 1994 film, “The Shawshank Redemption,” from Castle Rock Entertainment & Columbia Pictures.



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(Carmichael column, cont. from p 1.)
four Airstream clubs in Virginia, will be hosted by the Tidewater Airstream Club. It remains on the event calendar for Sept. 11-13, and will be held at the Small Country Campground in Louisa, Va. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or would like to learn more about volunteering. It's a rewarding experience!

While NORVA events remain suspended through May (probably through June as well), I can share with you an important scheduling update: our NORVA Club Caravan, which was supposed to begin on May 28th but was postponed by the pandemic, has been rescheduled. Caravan leader Jackson McBroom, was able to revise camping reservations being held at three Ohio campgrounds so, assuming we return to some degree of normalcy by the fall, the new dates of the "Ohio Presidents and Historic Icons Caravan," are tentatively Sept. 24 to Oct. 9, 2020. The cost of participation remains \$840 per rig for camping, plus \$240 per person for meals, tours, and incidentals. If you are thinking about getting in on the fun of this 15-day adventure, please let Jackson know and watch for a new reservation coupon in a future newsletter. You can also contact Jackson if you have any questions: jtmcbrm@aol.com.

Other changes to NORVA's 2020 event schedule will be reported as they become known.

We reached a Club milestone last month...we now have 70 "member households" (133 individuals, not including dependent children and pets). This is awesome! Over the coming months and years, I trust we will continue to earn everyone's annual membership renewal and that we will add many more Airstreamers to the roster.

On a personal note, this year my wife Cathy and I are celebrating our 15-year anniversary as WBCCI-NORVA members. The adventures shared over those years, and the variety of rewarding duties joyfully performed, have been wonderful in so many ways. Friendships forever, travel fun, and opportunities for good times and personal expression...these keep us going year to year.

While Cathy and I have been staying at home during these unusually difficult times, Airstream Technician DJ Mastin (Owner, Broken Rivets RV Service, Ashland, Va.) has given our Airstream an awesome makeover. Wow! He's converted our small 2008 Safari "Special Edition" into something truly special. Our trailer might now be mistaken for a 20-foot mini "Classic." See the photos included with this column.

We are so fortunate to have DJ and his wife, Jessie, as close friends of NORVA. I had the pleasure of working with DJ when we were both at Virginia's Airstream dealership. Now DJ operates his own repair shop. You will not find a more stand-up person (or better Airstream mechanic), one who takes so much pride in his work!

Although NORVA's April Maintenance Rally was cancelled, we plan to reschedule it (with DJ's participation) for later this summer or in the fall, after things get back to normal. Meanwhile, please remember to keep "social distancing," wash your hands frequently, stay safe, and think about the joys of future camping while we all wait out the COVID-19 pandemic.



Above: DJ Mastin, owner of Broken Rivets RV Service in Ashland, Va., did lots of makeover work on Tom Carmichael's 2008 Safari trailer. All countertops were replaced with Corian, a new kitchen faucet installed, and the old stove replaced with a new unit and convection oven. Repairs were also made to damaged outside aluminum.

Bottom photo: The 20-foot trailer just fits into the Carmichael garage.

NORVA votes unanimously for Region 3 leadership nominees

In April, NORVA members were polled by e-mail and asked to vote “yes” or “no” on the election of WBAC Region 3 officer nominees who, if elected, would serve two-year terms in the three top Region leadership positions. E-mail voting was necessary because the coronavirus pandemic forced cancellation of this year’s Region 3 Rally where the election would normally have occurred. Twenty-two NORVA member households responded to the e-mail and all voted “yes.” NORVA’s results were forwarded to R3.

Region 3 administratively covers 17 local Airstream clubs in the seven east coast states from Virginia to Florida. Because WBAC’s International Rally in June has also been cancelled, it is anticipated the three Region officer nominees will be elected and inducted unceremoniously next month. They are:



R3 officer nominees (l. to r.) Baum, Wilde, Peterson

Incoming president: **Bill Wilde** of Cumming, Ga., retired from the Navy in 2004 and from Southern Company in 2013. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 48 years and have two children and four grandchildren. Bill held leadership positions in the Top of Georgia Airstream Club, including a term as president. He is currently Region 3’s 1st vice president. Bill and Barbara are excited about the opportunity to serve Region 3’s local clubs for the next two years. Bill says “John and Susan Leake are leaving some very big shoes to fill, and while we can’t promise to be as entertaining as John, we will certainly do our best to make sure we have great Region rallies while taking care of the business stuff in the background.” His

mantra is “If you’re not having fun, you’re not doing it right!”

Incoming 1st VP **Christine Baum** lives in Doswell, Va. She and husband Joe have been married for 38 years with three married daughters and five grandchildren. The Baums are well known to many NORVA members because they are very active members of the Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club (formerly the Shenandoah Valley Unit). Christine is currently the club’s Vice President. She is a former teacher of Family and Consumer Science with experience teaching teenagers with multiple disabilities and court ordered juveniles in New Jersey. The Baums moved to Virginia in December 2010, where Christine worked for Richmond Cooperative Extension and 4H as part-time Master Gardener Coordinator and after school program instructor. The couple is relatively new to the Airstream community. They purchased a Flying Cloud trailer in 2016, discovered WBCCI, and enjoy camping more than they thought possible.

Jerry Peterson is the incoming 2nd V.P. He served as a submariner in the Navy and met his wife, Debra, while stationed in Charleston, S.C. They married in 1979 and have two children and four grandkids. After living in many exciting places during Jerry’s Navy career, the couple settled in Moncks Corner, S.C., where Jerry worked for 22 years as VP of Safety & Training for Bulldog Hiway Express. After retirement, the couple bought a 27-foot Flying Cloud trailer, joined WBAC, and find joy in camping as much as possible.

NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110 of the Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBCCI)
 Editor: Lew Brodsky
 Please send articles and photos to:
NORVAnews@cox.net
 Please visit NORVA’s website at:
<https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>

NORVA Officers

Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020

President
Tom Carmichael
 804-245-1710
tomc@sportsimageinc.com



1st Vice President
Gerry Nagel
 703-963-4143
gnagel@verizon.net



2nd Vice President
Jackson McBroom
 Club Caravan Leader
 757-746-6535
jtmcbm@aol.com



Secretary
Patsy Nagel
 703-963-4142
pmnagel@verizon.net



Treasurer
Kevin Quinn
 540-825-7785
kquinnur67@gmail.com



Membership Director
Gary Shepard
 304-261-7359
shepard.gr@gmail.com



Newsletter Editor
Lew Brodsky
 703-451-0122
lbrodsky@cox.net
norvanews@cox.net



Legislative Director
Beth Jones
 703-780-6597
thunderhorse16@yahoo.com



Storekeeper
Jim Timberlake V
 540-270-2339
timberlakeV@aol.com



Parliamentarian
Ed Jones
 703-780-6597
thunderhorse16@yahoo.com



Past President
Dick Arnold
 540-729-2095
janea40@gmail.com



Welcome the new members who joined NORVA in April!

It was a “boy meets girl” tale. **Karen & Rex Hendricks** met at “Winesday” Wednesday (a wine-tasting) at Whole Foods in Alexandria. Discovering they had much in common, they started dating. One thing led to another and they married on Feb. 15, 2019. The couple lives in a new home near Mount Vernon with a driveway long enough to park their 27-foot Flying Cloud trailer, bought this past February. Rex spent 28 years in the Army and also had civilian jobs with Northrup Grumman, Department of the Army, the VA, and DHS. Karen, a federal employee since 1990, is currently with the Transportation Security Administration and previously with the FAA. She, too, has Army service; a combined total of nearly 10 years active duty, Army Reserve, and California National Guard. The couple looks forward to traveling with their Airstream and meeting other Club members when the pandemic is over.



Karen & Rex Hendricks

Bob & Lois Hitchcock live in Winchester, Va., having moved there from New York. Bob is retired from IBM while Lois retired from the Federal Reserve, where she was a nurse practitioner. Having last owned an RV some 45 years ago when their children were small, their recent purchase of a brand new 27-foot Globetrotter trailer has them eager to get back to the adventures of camping. The couple decided on an Airstream because of “its reputation for quality, towability, safety and ‘delightful quirkiness.’” As NORVA members and Airstream “newbies” they hope to tap into the knowledgebase of experienced Airstreamers. They are looking forward to exploring America and enjoying good fellowship in the Club.



Lois & Bob Hitchcock with “Hudson”

NORVA EVENTS CALENDAR

2020

Check this schedule monthly. Dates and venues are subject to change.

Jan. 12, 2020 Sun. 1.00 p.m.	“Grease” the smash hit musical Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Bill & Sylvia Worrall	Aug. 3-8 Mon.-Sat.	Old Fiddlers Convention Rally, Galax, Va. Host: Julian Clements, Region 3
Feb. 2 Sun. 5:00 p.m.	Super Bowl Party Amissville, Va. Hosts: Hoosiers	Sept. 11-13 Fri.-Sun.	Virginia Commonwealth Rally Small Country Campground Louisa, Va. Hosts: Tidewater Airstream Club #111
Feb. 29 Sat. 1:00 p.m.	New Member Lunch. Host: Nagel Golden Corral, Manassas, Va.	Sept. 24-Oct. 9 15 days <i>Tentative new dates</i>	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan Ohio Presidents & Historic Icons Leader: Jackson McBroom
April 1-5 Wed. to Sun.	Region 3 Rally Ocean Lakes Family Campground Myrtle Beach, S.C. Host: Jon Jenke	Oct. 22-25 Thurs.-Sun.	“Alumalina” Rally Tom Johnson Park, Marion, N.C.. Hosts: Carolinas Airstream Club #21
April 24-26 Fri.-Sun.	Proclout & Maintenance Rally Small Country Campground Louisa, Va. Host: Tom Carmichael	Nov. 5-8 Thurs.-Sun.	“Silver in the Streets” Urban Rally Abingdon, Va.- Open to all clubs. Hosted by Virginia Airstream Club #109
May 7-10 Thurs.-Sun.	Spring Rally Phillipsburg and Winchester, Va. Hosts: Peter & Elizabeth West	Nov. 13-15 Fri.-Sun.	Exploring the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Va. Hosts: Jones, Nagel, Kropp
June 20-27 <i>Cancelled!</i>	WBAC International Rally Loveland, Colorado	Dec. 5, 2020 Sat., 12 noon	Holiday Brunch at the home of Ed & Beth Jones, Alexandria, Va.
July 17-19 Fri.-Sun.	Riverside Rally Shenandoah River State Park, Va. Hosts: Doug & Susan Anderson		