

NORVA News

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2020 camping season gets off to a late start

July's "River Rally" is NORVA's first outing as the pandemic eases in Northern Virginia

In the heat of July, light first appeared at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel as Virginia began "Phase 3" of what was hoped would be a slow return to a "new normal." The "River Rally," hosted by Doug and Susan Anderson, became NORVA's first camping rally of the 2020 season, July 17-19. Normally, NORVA's camping season begins in March, with rallies held throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Not this year. The menacing coronavirus pandemic caused the cancellation or postponement of every Club activity from March through June; including the International Rally in Colorado, the Region 3 Rally in Myrtle Beach, S.C.,



the Maintenance Rally (postponed to Aug. 28-30) and the NORVA "Ohio Presidents" Club Caravan (now rescheduled for Sept. 24-Oct. 9).

At the River Rally were 19 Airstreamers in 10 trailers, all of whom were glad to finally enjoy a weekend

(See "River Rally," p.2)

Above: Morning calm on the Shenandoah River alongside the State Park campground.

Left: Doug & Susan Anderson were the rally host and hostess.

Below: Late afternoon gatherings featured conversation, social distancing between couples, and no food sharing!

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("River Rally" cont. from p.1)

in the country with other club members. The turnout was relatively small because available sites at this Virginia state park were limited.

Participants from NORVA included hosts Doug & Susan; Lois & Bob Hitchcock; Bob & Wendy Nickel with son, Jacob; Steve & Stacie Plante; Tom & June Park; Doug & Gail Perkins; Eric & Norma Colby; Tom Carmichael, and Lew Brodsky. Also on hand were Guy & Nila Sager from Virginia Club #109.

Socializing is what being members of WBAC is all about...it's in the organization's genes. But because the virus has not yet been conquered, the camaraderie, food sharing, and group gatherings normally seen at NORVA rallies was somewhat dampened. Those at the River Rally practiced "social distancing." Even so, there was ample opportunity to strengthen friendships, share stories, hike trails, ride bikes, and explore the scenic Shenandoah Valley.

This was the Andersons first time as volunteer rally hosts. "We started planning this back in January," said Doug. "We were able to reserve ten sites at this beautiful park and, almost immediately, members signed up to occupy all of them! Aside from the stifling July heat this weekend, which was not in the plan, it turned out to be a great rally."

Tom Carmichael, NORVA's president, was delighted that a majority of the attendees were some of the Club's newest members. He told the group he hoped the worst of times is now in the rear-view mirror and expressed optimism that the remaining events on NORVA's 2020 schedule will go as planned. "I'm looking forward to a large turnout from all four Virginia Airstream clubs the last weekend of August when I will be hosting our rescheduled Maintenance Rally in Powhatan," Tom said. (See article and coupon in this newsletter on page 4.)



Above: After sunset on a very warm Saturday night, socializing continued around a campfire at Doug & Gail Perkins' campsite.

Right: U.S., Virginia, and WBCCI flags lit for nighttime display on the Brodsky trailer.

Below: Spacious, gravel-filled, beautifully maintained campsites at Shenandoah River State Park were occupied by River Rally Airstreamers, as shown in this drone photo snapped by Bob Nickel.



There's great strength in our common bond

President Tom Carmichael knows NORVA's shared camaraderie is a welcome comfort in stressful times

There was a recent radio news report that 46 million people so far have rented RVs this year, a new record for the industry. It seems that families who are not fortunate enough to own an Airstream (or any RV) are renting rigs like crazy, just to get away from cities and crowds and enjoy the virus-free safety of the great outdoors. Reflecting what's happening, someone came up with a description for the rented RVs. "They call them 'Pandemic Palaces,'" the newscaster said.

I sure hope everyone is well as the virus continues to complicate daily life. Maybe you've had the chance to hook up your Airstream, if only for a short weekend getaway. Because of COVID-19, NORVA is still dealing with many unknowns this summer and fall, but we remain optimistic and have exciting activities planned. We thank Doug and Sue Anderson for hosting the July "River Rally" at Shenandoah River State Park. It was our first rally of this "delayed-start" camping season.

Later in August, we will have our previously postponed "Maintenance Rally," starring Technician DJ Mastin, an Airstream professional and a truly great guy. Plan on attending and learning many things about the care of your Airstream and its systems. There are still campsites available for this rally so it's not too late to reserve one at Cozy Acres Family Campground in Powhatan (see the article and coupon on Page 4).



Photo: Tom with grandson, Tomlin. In June, they camped together in Tom's Airstream in Clarksville, Va.



The annual Commonwealth Rally planned for September has been cancelled but, as of late July, we are keeping NORVA's Club Caravan on the schedule, Sept. 24 through Oct. 9. Consider joining caravan leaders Jackson and Mary Ann McBroom on this 15-day tour of Ohio that focuses on visiting the homes of U.S. presidents in the Buckeye State, with many other interesting stops along the way. Read Jackson's update and see the coupon on pages 7 & 8.

If you have any questions about the Club or the event schedule, don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other NORVA officers.

Most of you know that my late dad, Fred Carmichael, was a NORVA member for decades. "We are lucky, Tom," he told me, often voicing his conviction that our family was privileged to belong to such a great club. I always agreed with him. The good fellowship within NORVA is very special, and it's so nice to travel and share good times with great friends. Our camaraderie is a real comfort. We care about each other in NORVA. We also share a deep sense of brotherhood and sisterhood with the many members of the other WBAC clubs in Virginia and throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Left: NORVA rally-goers enjoying each other's company in pre-pandemic times. (Shepherdstown, W.Va., May 2019)

HE AIN'T HEAVY; HE'S MY BROTHER

**A ballad written by
Bobby Scott and Bob Russell**
Performed by The Hollies (1969) & other artists.

The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where
Who knows where.
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him.
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.
So on we go.
His welfare is of my concern.
No burden is he to bear.
We'll get there.
For I know
He would not encumber me.
If I'm laden at all,
I'm laden with sadness
That everyone's heart
Isn't filled with the gladness
Of love for one another.
It's a long, long road
From which there is no return.
While we're on the way to there
Why not share?
And the load
Doesn't weigh me down at all.
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.

When my dad died last September, I chose to recite the lyrics of a classic song at his funeral. The words fit him so well, reflecting the full life he led and how he chose to live it...with lots of love and respect for fellow human beings. I want to share with you these lyrics (see box, above) because they resonate with profound meaning, especially today in these tense times of pandemic and social unrest.

Be optimistic. Stay safe.

Maintenance Rally is back on the event schedule. Sign up now! Open to all four Virginia Clubs!

Reserve your site at Cozy Acres Family Campground for August 28-30, 2020

NORVA's annual Maintenance Rally, usually conducted in late March or early April, was postponed this year because of the virus pandemic. On July 1, with cases of the virus rapidly declining in Virginia, the governor directed the state to enter "Phase 3" of its "reopening" plan.

As restrictions on group gatherings continued to ease, NORVA's president, Tom Carmichael, worked closely with 1st VP Gerry Nagel and they rescheduled the Maintenance Rally for Aug. 28-30 at Cozy Acres Family Campground, Powhatan, Va. The campground set aside 50 well-spaced sites to accommodate the Airstream group. As of July 20th, 30 Virginia Airstreamers had reserved sites; 20 sites were still available.

DJ Mastin, independent Airstream technician and owner of Broken Rivets RV Service, LLC, will be on hand the whole weekend to discuss all aspects of maintaining Airstream trailers and Class C vans. Attendees will learn how to keep their RV systems and appliances in good shape. Also, DJ will be available to perform minor work on trailers during the rally weekend at a discounted rate.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS RALLY!

FIRST STEP

Please call Cozy Acres to reserve a site. All sites are full-service, pull-through, for \$49.28 per night, tax included. Tell the campground you are with the NORVA Airstream Club Rally to get this rate. They will charge your credit card with the first night's fee as a deposit. Additionally...

Tom Carmichael will collect a \$15 per person rally fee (cash only, please) upon your arrival at the campground.

Don't wait. Reserve your campsite now by calling:

Cozy Acres Family Campground
2177 Ridge Road
Powhatan VA
804-598-2470

Ask them to tell you the NUMBER OF THE CAMPSITE they assign to you.

SECOND STEP

ONCE YOU KNOW YOUR SITE NUMBER, please print and fill out the rally coupon on this page and send it to

Tom Carmichael
NORVA President and Rally Host
2203 Turtle Hill Circle
Midlothian VA 23112

Or, better yet, send all the information asked for on the coupon to Tom by e-mail: tomc@sportsimageinc.com. Questions? Call Tom at 804-245-1710.



NORVA's 2020 Maintenance Rally

Held at Cozy Acres Family Campground
2177 Ridge Road
Powhatan VA 23139
August 28-30, 2020

To participate in this rally, please complete this coupon after you reserve a space at Cozy Acres and know the number of your assigned campsite.

Send no money. A rally fee of \$15 per person will be collected (cash only, please) upon your arrival at the campground.

Mail this completed coupon to:

Tom Carmichael, NORVA Rally Co-host
2203 Turtle Hill Circle,
Midlothian, VA 23112

Name(s) _____

How many attending? _____. I (we) will be in Cozy Acres site #: ____.

E-mail _____@_____.

Address (No., street) _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Cell phone: _____ WBCC# _____

Briefly list minor rig repairs requested from DJ Mastin:



Airstream Tech DJ Mastin

My Airstream is: Year: _____, Model: _____, Length: _____ ft.

Note: You can e-mail this coupon information to: tomc@sportsimageinc.com

Membership—now 72!

Two couples join NORVA in June

Tom and Maria Slowe live in Midlothian, Va., with their teenage daughter, Bridget. Tom is a healthcare information technology consultant, Maria is an investment analyst with Virginia College Savings Plan (Virginia 529), and Bridget is a rising freshman at St. Gertrude's High School. "We bought our 2016 30-foot Flying Cloud in January this year, says Tom. "Over the past several years, we have searched for the right travel trailer for our family and kept coming back to Airstream." Tom travels weekly and has grown tired of checking in/out of hotels, so the plan was to take the Airstream to client locations and have a "home away from home." But with the limitations on business travel caused by COVID-19, the Slowses have instead been making local trips and enjoying the trailer as a family. "We are excited to join NORVA. It gives us many opportunities to meet others who share a love for their Airstream," explains Tom. "We intend to learn as much as possible from Club members about how to take care of and enjoy this wonderful new addition to our family."

Stephen and Crissy Colvin have been together for 15 years. They live in Strasburg, an historic Virginia town about 70 miles west of Washington, D.C., near the intersection of I-66 and I-81.

"We are the "Colvin 5," says Crissy. "We had one child when we decided to become foster parents and now,



Tom and Maria Slowe

through adoption, we have three boys in all!" Their boys are 10, 6, and 3.

Crissy started out as an elementary school teacher before going back to school to become a library media specialist. Stephen is in sales. He happily sells golf carts and utility vehicles for Capitol Golf, out of Frederick, Maryland. The couple purchased a 1969 Airstream Ambassador. They named it the "Imperial Shuttle" and are currently restoring it. "We hope to be camping in it soon," reports Crissy. "The boys love the outdoors and we intend to help them experience it even more by 'glamping' in the Airstream." It will be cozy for the Colvin 5 in the 29-foot trailer, because they will also have with them their Golden Doodle, Bella, and "pot-bellied" Poodle, Anna. Once they get their trailer roadworthy, the Colvins are looking forward to many Airstream adventures with the Club. Says Crissy, "Happy trails! We hope to be meeting you all real soon!"

With these two new couples, NORVA's membership roster now totals 72 households.



"Imperial Shuttle" is the 1969 Airstream Ambassador trailer being restored by the Colvins.



Crissy and Stephen Colvin

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



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shepard.gr@gmail.com



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Storekeeper

Jim Timberlake V

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timberlakeV@aol.com



Parliamentarian

Ed Jones

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thunderhorse16@yahoo.com



Past President

Dick Arnold

540-729-2095

janea40@gmail.com



NORVA officer elections will occur in August

Business meeting to be held during the August Maintenance Rally to accept a candidate slate

Once again we approach that time of year when officers and directors for the Club's leadership positions are nominated, elected, and inducted. A call for members to fill these volunteer positions appeared in the June issue of *NORVA News*. Based on the response, the Club's Executive Board recently approved a proposed slate of candidates prepared by the nominating committee.

The membership will be asked to vote on this slate by e-mail ballot in early August. According to Past President Dick Arnold, who chaired the Nominating Committee, it is still possible to volunteer for one of these leadership positions. Arnold said he will accept additional nominations by e-mail (janea40@gmail.com) and will ask the Executive Board to add them to the ballot if he receives them before Aug. 1.

The duties of Club officers and directors are described in Article V of the NORVA "Bylaws," and may be read on Pages 43 to 45 of the *2020 NORVA Directory*. They can also be viewed on-line at: <https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>. On the home page, click on "NORVA Constitution and Bylaws." Note: Qualified candidates for any Club leadership position must be a "life" or "regular" NORVA member for at least six months. They cannot be members of another Airstream club who also joined NORVA as "affiliate" members.

In early August, a ballot showing a final slate will be e-mailed to all NORVA members eligible to vote. Each NORVA Airstream Club dues-paying "household" has one vote in the election. ("Affiliate" members do not vote.) **Members will vote by responding to the e-mail**, indicating either a "yes" or "no" vote on the slate. Although voting in favor of the slate is recommended by the Executive Board,

there will also be space on the e-mail ballot to write-in the name(s) of other Club members qualified and agreeable to accept a leadership position. If a member household does not vote by the cutoff date specified in the e-mail, it will be counted as a "yes" vote for the slate.

Election results will be announced by NORVA President Tom Carmichael shortly after the vote is counted, and the new leaders will be inducted at the NORVA business meeting to be held on Friday, Aug. 28, during the Maintenance Rally in Powhatan (see article on Page 3). The newly elected leaders will serve one-year terms that officially begin on Oct. 1, 2020.

The slate of candidates approved by the Executive Board in July appears in the sidebar at right. Each candidate listed has agreed to serve, if elected.

Proposed Slate NORVA Officers 2020-2021 Term

President	Gerry Nagel
1 st Vice President.....	Laural Veloz
2 nd Vice President...	Jackson McBroom*
Secretary	Janeene Rider
Treasurer	Kevin Quinn*
Newsletter Editor	Sue Shepard
Membership Director	Lew Brodsky
Legislative Director	Beth Jones*
Storekeeper	Jim Timberlake V*
Parliamentarian	Ed Jones*

*2019-2020 incumbent running for another term.



NORVA News is published periodically for members of NORVA—Northern Virginia Airstream Club, #3-110 of the Wally Byam Airstream Club
Editor: Lew Brodsky

Please send articles and photos to:
NORVAnews@cox.net.

Please note: NORVA's web address is:
<https://NorthernVirginia.airstreamclub.net>



Ohio caravan is still on the schedule

Hopefully, the upcoming fall event will proceed as planned

By Jackson McBroom, Caravan Leader

NORVA's Ohio Presidents and Historic Icons Caravan remains on schedule for Sept. 24 through Oct. 9 and currently has eight openings remaining to be filled for a maximum of 15 participating Airstreams.

If you enjoy vibrant presidential history written in America's most prolific growth years captured in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, come join us for a tour of Ohio and the eight men it claims as its own (W.H. Harrison, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, B. Harrison, McKinley, Taft, and Harding). Add planned (and/or elective) visits to the numerous icons of the Buckeye state including prominent underground railroad homes, the Wright brother's cycle and aviation museums, the new Airstream Factory, the National First Ladies Historical Site, the NFL Hall of Fame, the National Museum of the United States Air Force, America's only metal whistle factory, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and many more unique venues to suit even the most eclectic of tastes, and you have a journey designed to experience the joys of both American history and American culture. Participants will enjoy three (3) FREE days during the caravan, one in each camping location (Cincinnati area, Columbus area, and Cleveland area) to select and enjoy their own worthwhile venues to explore.

As caravan leaders, Mary Ann and I continue to monitor national and Ohio state government policies regarding COVID challenges. We will maintain regular communications with Airstreamers who have signed on for this caravan, as well as with each of the three campgrounds and the twelve currently planned venues. In mid-to-late August we will make a

final decision on whether to proceed as planned (approximately 5-6 weeks ahead of the September caravan start date), after reviewing the ability of each venue to offer the broad and enlightening experience we envision, unencumbered by onerous limitations. If we must cancel the caravan due to unacceptable restrictions, or venue unavailability, we anticipate reconstituting the same caravan in May/June 2021.

Each participant can anticipate being kept fully on-board in real time via email with respect to these communications and will receive a full refund of any monies expended should the caravan be postponed.

Whether this event is accomplished in Sept/Oct 2020 or May/June 2021, we commit to each participant our continuing best efforts to ensure a rewarding, robust, and enjoyable experience.

Thanks for your patience and confidence.

Want to go on this caravan?

Airstreamer's who wish to be a part of this grand Ohio caravan opportunity, should fill out and mail the coupon on Page 8, with a \$325 deposit check payable to Jackson McBroom.

Mail check and coupon to:

Kevin Quinn
NORVA Treasurer
440 Greens Court
Culpeper, VA 22701

Please do this by August 15th AND place a call to Caravan Leader, Jackson McBroom (Cell 757-746-6535 or land line 231-526-8693) to say you intend to participate.

Final payment for camping fees and tour costs is due by September 10th, and should be mailed to:

Jackson McBroom
1661 River Ridge
Williamsburg, VA 23185



OHIO PRESIDENTS & HISTORIC ICONS

NORVA CLUB CARAVAN, RESCHEDULED!

Now planned for Sept. 24 through Oct. 9, 2020



To participate, please complete and mail this coupon **by Aug. 15, 2020**, along with a **\$325 deposit check**, payable to: "Jackson McBroom." Mail to Kevin Quinn, NORVA Treasurer, 440 Greens Ct., Culpeper, VA 22701
 Total cost to participate is \$840 per trailer/MH (camping fees), plus \$240 per person (tours/meals).

Name(s): _____ WBCCI# _____

Address: _____

Member of which Airstream club/unit? _____ E-mail: _____ @ _____.

Phones: (H) _____ (C) _____ RV length: _____ ft.

How many participants? _____. **Deposit enclosed: \$325.00.** (Balance of caravan fee is due Sept. 10, 2020.)

Note: You can also e-mail the requested information to: jtmcbrm@aol.com.

If you decide to participate, or have questions, call Jackson: 757-746-6535 (C).



Jan. 12, 2020 Sun. 1.00 p.m.	"Grease" the smash hit musical Riverside Center Dinner Theater Fredericksburg, Va. Hosts: Bill & Sylvia Worrall	Aug. 28-30 Fri.-Sun.	Maintenance Seminar & Rally Cozy Acres Family Campground Powhatan, VA Hosts: Tom Carmichael, Gerry Nagel
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 Lynchburg, Va. Hosts: Tidewater Airstream Club #111
Feb. 29 Sat. 1:00 p.m.	New Member Lunch. Host: Nagel Golden Corral, Manassas, Va.	Cancelled!	
April 1-5 Wed. to Sun.	Region 3 Rally Ocean Lakes Family Campground Myrtle Beach, S.C. Host: John Leake	Sept. 24-Oct. 9 15 days	NORVA Airstream Club Caravan Ohio Presidents & Historic Icons Leader: Jackson McBroom
April 24-26 Fri.-Sun.	Breakout & Maintenance Rally Small Country Campground Lynchburg, Va. Host: Tom Carmichael	Oct. 22-25 Thurs.-Sun.	"Alumalina" Rally Tom Johnson Park, Marion, N.C.. Hosts: Carolinas Airstream Club #21
May 7-10 Thurs.-Sun.	Spring Rally Philomont and Winchester, Va. Hosts: Peter & Elizabeth West	Nov. 5-8 Thurs.-Sun.	"Silver in the Streets" Urban Rally Abingdon, Va.- Open to all clubs. Hosted by Virginia Airstream Club #109
June 20-27	WBAC International Rally Loveland, Colorado	Nov. 13-15 Fri.-Sun.	Exploring the National Museum of the U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Va. Hosts: Jones, Nagel, Kropp
July 17-19 Fri.-Sun.	Riverside Rally Shenandoah River State Park, Va. Hosts: Doug & Susan Anderson	Dec. 5, 2020 Sat., 12 noon	Holiday Brunch at the home of Ed & Beth Jones, Alexandria, Va.