



Keystone Courier

Keystone Unit - Region 2 - WBCCI

President's Message

Hello Keystoners!

Summer is here. July has arrived and it's time to celebrate our country's birth once again. Happy 241th Birthday America! As Airstreamers

we are particularly fortunate in being able to explore our country's beautiful scenery, interesting locales and fascinating diversity. Doing so with friends and family who share these interests enhances the experiences. This was clearly demonstrated in our unit's latest adventure which was participating in the Region 2 Rally in the Fingerlakes region of New York.

The rally was well attended with 52 rigs including 3 from our unit: the Kushto's, the Harrington's and the Mergelkamp's. The food was excellent and some of us neophytes discovered a new treat, courtesy of our Canadian friends: oatmeal with ice cream on top! In addition to breakfasts, we enjoyed two delicious dinners including an out-of-this-world pot luck dinner. As well as the 4 or 5 different macaroni and cheese dishes there were many salads, chilis, chicken wings and other goodies to sample. 52 rigs worth! People explored the many things to do in this beautiful part of New York State. Many of us also boned up on our cast iron cooking skills and square dancing techniques at the lessons that were offered. We were fortunate in having WBCCI International President and First Lady, Richard and Jan Girard, in attendance. Not only were they excellent company to socialize with, they also filled us in on what's happening at the International Rally in Escanaba. It was a fun gathering which is described more fully in the following note.

Next up on the calendar is the International Rally in Escanaba, Michigan. Several in our unit are attending and will be doing some sightseeing on the way there. Lighthouses, here we come! We are looking forward to meeting up with everyone there.

Safe travels.

Howard Mergelkamp

Upcoming Events

July 22

WBCCI International Rally
Escanaba, Michigan



August 17-23

Caravan to Niagara Falls
led by Jody/ Sue Dietz
(dates/details to follow)

September 7-10

Pennsylvania State Rally
hosted by Central Penn
Lebanon, Pa.
(coupon attached)

Stay Connected

Keystone on the web
<http://keystone.wbcci.net/>



Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeystoneUnit/>

Region 2 Rally June 1-4

Pine Creek Campground, Newfield NY

Phyllis & Don



The weather for the Region 2 Rally was cool but clear. The Mergelkamps, Kushtos and Harringtons attended from our Keystone Unit. A memorable seminar on Cast Iron Cooking was presented and all three of our couples attended. The information was very helpful and the food that was cooked was scrumptious! Some of us when we got home, purchased a cast iron

Dutch oven for future trips! The meals were delicious and the evening programs were good. One band played oldies and then the next night we were treated to a Square Dance. Everyone received a door prize. A highlight of the rally was the presence of Rich and Jan Girard, President and First Lady of WBCCI. They were very friendly and brought many

details about this year's International Rally in Escanaba. The mornings and afternoons were spent exploring the area, the Corning Museum, the Finger Lakes Wineries, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. All three couples from our Unit were appreciative of this year's Region 2 Rally.



2018 Dues

Unit dues will remain at \$15. WBCCI dues have not yet been confirmed. Once confirmed we'll add a renewal page to the Kourier and post on the website. As in previous years, renewals can be completed online with WBCCI, or by mail to Alan (PO Box 124, Kutztown, PA).

2017 Officers

President

Howard Mergelkamp

1st Vice President

Rick Pitts

Treasurer

Alan Kenney

Recording Secretary

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Peg Spahn

1 Year Trustee

Andy Pitts

2 Year Trustee

Phyllis Harrington

2 Year Trustee

Karen Kushto

Legislative

Jody Dietz

Membership

Don Harrington

Sunshine

Peg Spahn

Unit Supplies

Karen Kushto

Historian

Caryle Brayton

Kourier

Melissa Hancock

Jonathan Schau

Andy Pitts

Rick Pitts



Keystone Kamping

We all enjoy sharing stories about our Airstream experiences so this month we're introducing a new section to highlight what our members have been up to recently. As you travel or "Kamp", please send a brief note (or more) and picture of your air-ventures for future editions of the Kourier (r_pitts@verizon.net).



Just after Memorial Day we took off for a week's excursion through the Laurel Highlands of western PA. Our trip began south of the border in Cumberland, MD where we had beautiful weather and a leisurely ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. The tracks are now joined with a scenic and very 'bike-able' railtrail. Since it is uphill 16 miles from Cumberland to Frostburg, the train offers a 1-way trip up the trail so bikers can then coast back down to Cumberland. We opted for the roundtrip! We then wandered over to Farmington, PA where we visited the Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and took in its eclectic collection of art and structural design. Next stop was nearby Fort Necessity where the French-Indian war began, and Polymath Park where there are 3 Frank Lloyd Wright houses (his 'Duncan' house and 2 built by apprentice Peter Berndtson). If you are a Wright fan, Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob are also in the area.

Following Farmington we headed up through the Laurel Highlands to a rather damp, but pretty site in Somerset. We visited the new Flight 93 Memorial, a somber tribute to those who stopped the 9/11 flight headed for the Capitol. The Park Service has done a great job and we encourage you all to stop as you travel the turnpike. Later we visited the Johnstown Flood Memorial, located just outside of South Fork where the earthen dam gave way in 1889 and resulted in 20 million tons of water from the then Lake Conemaugh crashing down the valley, devastating the area in a matter of minutes. It is a chilling reminder of forces of nature.

On a lighter note, we ended our trip with a fun stop at Horseshoe Curve and the Railroaders Museum in Altoona (a combined ticket and both sites have great RV parking). We were treated to 2 trains rounding the half-mile curve that continues to be in use since construction back in the late 1800's. The museum offers a fantastic history of PRR (Pennsy) railroading in the area with lots of pictures, actual (big!) equipment and a cute park with several rail cars the kids (young and old) can climb through. We stopped that night at Cowan's Gap state park just off the turnpike near Sideling Hill. Recently refurbished, the sites are spacious and level (still electric only) and the park is beautiful. The weather gods were gracious - we had a wonderful evening (happy hour with the pellet stove) and night (windows open with a light chill and sounds of nearby creek) before heading home.

A great trip in our own Keystone state!

Andy and Rick Pitts



Greetings from Narrows Too campground near Bar Harbor, Maine. This is the Hicks' homestead for the summer. I can't decide if it looks cute or like a hobo camp but it's home while I drive an Island Explorer bus around Mt. Desert Island till September.



The free bus service delivers tourists from their hotels and campgrounds to all points on the island and Acadia National Park. Had one day of training so far. Equipment is old. "If a

yellow light comes on on the dashboard, keep going, if a red light comes on, you have 5 seconds to get off the road."

Bar Harbor is a quaint town with narrow streets and too many SUV's and pickup trucks with mirrors sticking out in the way. Last year the drivers took 80 mirrors off! We have been asked to try to keep that number down this year. I have been assigned three runs on three days totaling 23 hours. One is a morning run starting at 7:45 am, one a mid-day run, and one, the last run of the day, ending at 11:00pm. Should be interesting. Only working three days a week so plenty of time to slack out. Temps during the day here have been a freakish 85 degrees, but nights are cool and it is supposed to get more seasonably normal, mid 70's. Eating lobster and fresh fish daily is making the "daily grind" worthwhile.

Everyone is welcome to visit.

Janice & Jim Hicks



2017 PA State Rally September 7-10.

The Pennsylvania state rally, hosted by the Central Penn Unit, will be held at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center and Fairgrounds. (coupon attached).

Checkout the Expo center at: www.lebexpo.org for more information. The event calendar shows a Fall food and craft fair on Saturday the 9th. Come join the Keystone Unit for a great camping weekend!



You Meet the Nicest Folks "down the road"

One stop on our recent western PA trip was Benner's Meadow Run CG in Farmington, PA. Upon returning to our campground one evening we spotted a 30-footer checking in with FLA plates and AirstreamLife.Com decals.



Could this possibly be **Rich Luhr, editor of**

Airstream Life and author of my "bible", 'The (nearly) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance'?

So we turned into groupies and knocked on the trailer door. Sure enough, it was Rich who answered our knock. Rich and his family were returning from Alumapaloosa in Jackson, OH. Given tight schedules we didn't have too much time to visit, but his crew graciously agreed to a photo for the Kourier (we assured him our Airstream Life subscription was up-to-date). Turns out Rich had spent some time at Alumapaloosa talking with the same Airstreamer from CA who we had bumped into at an I-70 rest-stop when returning from the Indy 500 the week before. How lucky and fortunate we are to have these wonderful experiences as we travel "down the road"!

Andy and Rick Pitts



Sunshine Report

- Your healing thoughts for Karen Kushto (knee) and George Spahn (melanoma on arm) are helping their speedy recoveries!
- Vaughn Brayton's hip replacement surgery went very well. His surgeon used a newer technique which

doesn't include cutting the muscle, improving recovery time.

- Janice Hicks is in recovery mode from right knee replacement. Doing her rehab exercises regularly and slowly getting better.
- Barb Hillegass' summer started out 'iffy' – while recovering from rotator cuff surgery, she fell and broke her nose. Barb says she is not in any pain and is slowly recovering.
- The situation with John and Bea Buscaglia remains about the same. Bea continues to fight on, but only weighs about 70 lbs, and cannot even sit up in a chair any more. John is still battling bladder cancer and hanging in also. Life is surely tough for them, so send a card if you can:

34 W. Magnolia Avenue, Alden, PA 19018

Birthdays

July 12	Vaughn Brayton
July 28	Bud Vogt
August 5	Jody Dietz
August 5	Ellen Ouimet
August 8	Wayne Fitzgerald
August 11	Phil Fling
August 18	Sam Engelman
August 27	Jeff Michael
August 30	Nancy Arabinick

Anniversaries

July 7	Don & Joan Weaver
July 14	Wilson & Cindy Yerk
July 22	Bud & Cheryl Cattell
August 12	Will & Karen Kushto
August 25	Vaughn & Caryle Brayton

WELCOME TO LEBANON VALLEY



PA STATE RALLY HOSTED BY CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA UNIT 164
September 7 - 9, 2017
Lebanon Area Fairgrounds
MapQuest or GPS address: 80 Rocherty Rd, Lebanon, PA

Rally Fee Includes: Electric (30amp), Water, **(there is no dump site)**, 2 nights of Professional Entertainment
 2 Continental Breakfasts, 1 Catered Dinner, Evening Hospitality & Door Prizes, craft and flea market,
 Hassle Tassel, Seminars, Church Service, and of course WBCCI Fellowship and Fun

Make checks payable to **Central Penn Unit (American)**. Mail to John Bates, 164 Deer Dr,
Lebanon, PA 17046. Phone 717-679-5233, E-mail: KOALA1421.S@GMAIL.COM. Date for mailing registration
 is August 27, 2017. Refunds for cancellations are at the discretion of the rally organizers. Rally chairman,
 John Bates 717-507-7277, Rally Registrar, John Bates 717-5077277

Rally fee per person Includes Saturday Dinner	\$40.00 X _____ = _____
Children 0 to 12	FREE X _____ = _____
Parking per night – 9/7 – 9/10	
Please check below the nights you will be paying for # Nights _____	\$25.00 X _____ = _____
Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____	
	Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Spouse _____
 WBCCI#: _____ Unit Name or # _____
 Guest's Name _____ Children's Names & Ages _____
 Address: _____ City/Town: _____ State/Providence: _____
 Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Handicap Parking _____ First Rally: _____
 Officer: Int. _____ Region: _____ Unit President: _____ Arrival Date: _____

Invited guests or members not parking, Saturday dinner only \$20.00 x _____ = _____