



The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER of the
NY FINGER LAKES AIRSTREAM CLUB

THE GRAPEVINE—February 2021

Website: <https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/>

Volume 20, Issue 2

In this issue.....

- 2021 President's Corner
- 2021 Officers
- Welcome New Members
- Sunshine Corner
- 2021 Calendar of Events
- Sampson State Park
- See You Down the Road, Gary Russo, 1st VP
- We Were Robbed in St. George, UT
- Les and Jean White
- Region 2 Rally Cancellation
- Region 2 News, Rich Short, Region 2 President



The Grapevine

The Grapevine will be published **at least** 8 times/year (Feb/March, April, May, June/July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov) or as needed.

Newsletter Editor is Liz Kirk.

Deadline: The 1st of each Month of publication. **Next deadline is March 10th**

Unit Membership Directory is published each

The President's Corner

This month I thought I would update you on what Diane and I have been doing this winter. Back in November we packed up the Airstream, loaded our two dogs, Monty and Zephyr, into our truck and headed out on a road trip that would continue for the next five months. Our destination was Virgin, Utah, where we would spend the months of December and January in an RV Park 14 miles from Zion.



Getting there is sometimes the best part of the adventure. On our trip out, we found some great roadside attractions to visit - like in the town of Casey, Illinois, where Main Street has a collection of record-holding, world's largest items - pencil, rocking chair, golf club, a ruler and many other items.



We got to travel along some of old Route 66, stopping to see many of the sites along the way. In Catoosa, OK we saw "The Blue Whale" - a large concrete whale that was made by a father for his daughter as a swimming platform in their pond. In Shamrock, TX we stopped in front of the Tower Gas Station and posed for pictures with the station in the background. And of course we left our mark at the Cadillac Ranch.

In New Mexico we spent the night at an Alpaca ranch that was also a Harvest Host location. We got to feed the alpacas snacks and pick up some unique gifts at the owners' store. If you are not a Harvest Host member we encourage you to join as they offer many opportunities to overnight at different locations like wineries, museums, farms and many other places.

We also toured around northern Arizona visiting Flagstaff, Lake Havasu, Sedona and Williams before continuing on to Utah. In our past travels we have never stayed in one place for more than two weeks so staying in Virgin, Utah for two months would be a new experience. During our stay we made many visits to Zion and got to hike a number of the trails. Except for the holiday weeks, December and January are a great time to visit Zion. The crowds are small and at times we felt like we had the trails all to ourselves.

Continued on page 2.....

**NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club
2021 Officers and
Committee Members**

President: Randy Hill
002president@wbcci.net
585-820-0061

1st V.P.: Gary Russo
fulloflife123@yahoo.com
585-967-6636

2nd VP: OPEN & recruiting

Treasurer: Ted Smith
teddonasmith@aol.com

Recording Secretary: OPEN & recruiting

Directors: John Dona (1 yr.)
Jim Gillio (2 yrs.)
Charlie Kirk (3 yrs.)

Membership Chair: Randy Hill
002president@wbcci.net
585-820-0061

Caravan Leader: Ray Wagner
rwagner2722@outlook.com

Safety Czar: John Hussar
hushhearts@greygoosegraphics.com

**Newsletter Editor
Webmaster**

Membership Directory: Liz Kirk
002newslettereditor@wbcci.net

Sunshine: Diane Hill

Continued from page 1

The weather is another reason to visit southern Utah in the winter. Most days the high temperatures were between 50-60 degrees with bright sunshine that made it feel 10 degrees warmer - great weather for outdoor hiking. The nights were cold and we did wake up to a little snow one morning.



We were sad when our time in Utah came to end as we had gotten comfortable staying there. That is not to say it was not without problems - one Saturday, while visiting St. George our truck was broken into and Diane's purse was taken.



As I write this we are now back on the road again traveling through southern Nevada. Last week we were at Valley of Fire State Park where our dogs enjoyed climbing on the large rocks along the trails. The park is located 40 miles outside of Las Vegas but you will feel like you are in the middle of the desert as there is nothing in-between the two.

We still have a couple of months left before we will head back to New York for the summer. Our plans are flexible, as you never know what new adventure is just around the next corner.

See you down the road...

Randy & Diane Hill
30678



**We'd like to welcome our
newest members**

Yvette and Glenn Vincent
Ransomville, NY

John and Mary Fahner-Vihtelic
Rochester, NY



Diane's Sunshine Corner

Happy February from sunny Nevada - I hope all of you are enjoying your winter wherever you may be spending it! Since Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on February 2 it sounds like we are in for six more weeks of winter! I hope all of you have been able to enjoy yourself in some way, even if it means just staying inside!

Before we know it our weather will be warming up and more of us will be getting their trailers out and ready for another season of camping and other fun! Many of us will be traveling back to our homes in the Northeast. We have many plans in the works for upcoming events and look forward to seeing each of you in the coming months!

“Happy Birthday” to our members celebrating this month



Lisa Marshall - February 12
Nancy Town - February 23
Eleanor Vroman - February 28



“Happy Anniversary” to our members celebrating this month

Clyde and Elaine Millspaugh

Recently we received some sad news which we want to pass on. Jean White, a former member of our unit, has passed away. For those who knew Jean a Commitment Ceremony has been planned. The information is as follows for those who may wish to attend:

Saturday, May 22, 2021

11:00 AM

Highland Cemetery

Town of Montour, Schuyler County, NY

Corner of Jackson Hill Rd (CR14) and Mitchell Hollow Rd

The location is about two miles up the hill (east) from SR 14. If you wish to attend there is camping at the town of Montour Falls at Havana Glen Park.

Les has shared he would be delighted if members would like to attend.

If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, or if you have any event that you would like to be included in our newsletter, please let me know by sending me an email at diane.hill@me.com

That's it for February - please remember to stay safe, stay well, and enjoy yourselves!

Diane Hill, Sunshine Chair

#30876

NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club 2021 Activities

All activities are subject to change.
Please refer to upcoming issues of The Grapevine Newsletter for current activities. You can also find activities listed on our website.

TBD	<p>Executive Business Meeting via Zoom Host: Randy Hill, President</p>
<p>May 20th-23rd Information coming soon via E-BLAST or March Grapevine Waiting on a few more details from Sampson SP</p>	<p>Spring NYFLAC Rally Sampson State Park Romulus, NY Hosts: Suzanne & Gary Russo Mary & Mark Sweeny</p>
<p>SAVE THE DATE Tentative June 10th-13th</p>	<p>CANCELLED Region 2 2021 Rally York Expo Center, York, PA Information coming soon!</p>
<p>July 11—24, 2021 REGISTRATION OPEN https://airstreamclub.org/ lebanon-2021- international-rally-0</p>	<p>64th Annual WBCCI International Rally Farm Bureau Expo Center Lebanon, TN</p>
<p>August 13th-15th</p>	<p>Hickories Park Rally Owego, NY Hosts: John & Nancy Hussar</p>
<p>SAVE THE DATE September 16th-19th</p>	<p>Fall NYFLAC RALLY Lakeshore State Park Waterport, NY Host: Randy & Diane Hill</p>



Excerpts from NYupstate.com article published January 2019....

Sampson State Park: Swimming, hiking, military history, entry fees and more By [Marisa Enzinna](#)

Whether you visit for the day or spend a long weekend, Sampson State Park offers plenty of ways to have fun this summer. At the park, which encompasses more than 2,000 acres on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, you'll find hiking trails, basketball and tennis courts, a beach, campsites, a history museum and more.



Park history

The park's rolling woodlands with grasses, wildflowers and trees surrounding ravines didn't always look that way. The area that is now the park was mainly farmland until 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved construction of a Naval Training Station. The base, named in honor of a local native Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, who fought in the Spanish-American War, trained more than 400,000 recruits from 1942 to 1946.

After World War II, a portion of the grounds became Sampson State College, which educated returning servicemen until the Korean War. Then, the Navy transferred the land to the Air Force, and more than 300,000 airmen trained at Sampson from 1950 to 1956. The New York State Park System took ownership of the land in 1960 and opened the park three years later.

Military museum

While most of the military buildings and roads have been modified or removed, the park houses the Sampson Military Museum in the former stockade/brig. The museum highlights the park's past as a Naval Training Station and an Air Force Basic Training Center and features memorabilia, including photos of some of the recruits who trained there.



If the museum is closed, you can still view the Spirit of Sampson, a restored aircraft; "Pitching Up," a monument dedicated to those who trained at Sampson Air Force Base; a T-2C Buckeye on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla.; as well as a memorial dedicated to Sampson Navy men who died in action during World War II.

Trails

You'll find two trails at Sampson -- the 3.5-mile Lake Trail and the 6.5-mile History Trail. The latter features nine stops highlighting the park's military history.

Swimming beach and playgrounds

On hot summer days, you can head to the beach and cool off in Seneca Lake. Beach opens in June. Kids can enjoy several playgrounds. There are swings and equipment for all ages.

Camping

The park has 309 campsites - 245 with electric and 64 non-electric sites.



See You Down the Road.....

Gary Russo, 1st Vice President

Today was a notable day for me. Three weeks ago I was randomly chosen to get the Pfizer vaccine. My name was provided by my primary care doctor (to my surprise) and today was vaccination shot #2. I originally had an appointment at the Rochester Dome Arena for mid-March. Shot #1, I had no ill side effects and time will tell with shot #2!! Unfortunately, Suzanne is not quite of age, nor does she have a preexisting health condition, making her ineligible for the vaccine. She's hoping for the one and done vaccine from Johnson and Johnson. At the time of this newsletter they are in the process of getting emergency use from the CDC.

I spent the afternoon shoveling off the driveway again. Overnight we got 3 inches of the white fluffy stuff (again)! It just won't stay off that darn driveway. Well, the groundhog says we have another 6 weeks of winter. Yuck. The Canadians have a saying for the winter weather, Embrace It. At least I can snowshoe around the neighborhood. The neighbors behind us installed an ice rink in their backyard for the neighborhood kids and those young at heart. Needless to say, during the day Suzanne and I put our skates on and were on the ice for an hour plus, it was a fun time!

As we promised, plans are firming up for our Unit's 1st getaway and we have blocked off 15 sites at Sampson Park for our club for the dates of May 20 -23. The getaway theme is 'On the Road Again' with my friends, from the Willie Nelson song. As always, this getaway is **NOT** limited to adults, so don't forget to bring the kids and/or the grandchildren along! Sampson is a pet friendly so they can come along too.

Mary and Mark Sweeney and Suzanne and Gary Russo will be the points of contact for this event. **You do not need to use Reserve America** for this event; sites have already been allocated by the park for our use.

To get your interest peaked, here is a testimonial from Mary Sweeney: "*Sampson State Park has been a camping destination for us for years. The sites are large with electric. We always find lots to do in the area...the Sampson Memorial Museum, great fishing, nice beach, bicycle trails, boat rentals, local wineries and always a great place to enjoy a book.*"

We plan on adding a twist during the getaway in the evenings. Weather permitting, we will be showing 2 movies, RV with Robin Williams and National Lampoon's Vacation with Chevy Chase. Make sure you bring a lawn chair, blanket and your favorite snack and drink for the nights. If someone in the Unit has a digital projector, please contact Gary Russo. Right now, we have a projector on reserve from the local public library.

As always, we will be following NYS Covid-19 rules, social distancing, masks and NO common food is allowed. We followed these precautions last year during the summer and had no issues.

See you down the road,

Gary Russo
1st Vice-President



While visiting St George, UT on our current trip out west our truck was broken into. We had stopped at Pioneer Park, a popular local park to get some exercise and walk our dogs, Monty and Zephyr. The parking lot was full, about 10 cars, with only one empty space for us to park. We enjoyed the park for about an hour. When we returned, we found two windows were broken on our truck. After a quick inspection the only missing item was Diane's purse, but that included credit cards, driver's license, a small amount of cash, checkbook, her new cellphone, a pair of eyeglasses and numerous identifications.



Looking back, the first thing I am going to tell you is don't get mad at your partner - it's not their fault this happened. We have all left things in our vehicles thinking they would be safe and up until now they have been. You are also going to be mad at yourself, but this is not going to help you very much at this time. I know, I did both of these. Here's what you need to do...

Call the local police or sheriff department to report the break in.

In our case, we were told to fill out a report online, and an officer would get back to us.

If you have a second phone available, log into your phone's account (for Apple it is iCloud). Here you should have a few options available -

You can lock your lost phone with a password and Lock Screen message to call you if found.

You can trace your phone location (as long as you have a cell signal).

You can remotely erase your phone's data.

First, lock your lost phone and add the message to call your other phone. Then trace your phone's location. Because cell phones can be traced, they have little value to thieves and may be disposed of quickly. In our case, we were able to find Diane's phone after a few hours, 5 miles from the park along the expressway.

Call your credit card company to cancel the stolen credit card - do this for each stolen credit card.

This task can be made easier by creating a list of all your credit cards and which ones are in your wallet. Include the card number and phone number. Some people have suggested taking photo of your cards to record the information. Be careful as this may make too much information available if the photos were to get into the wrong hands. I would only suggest recording the bank name, phone number and the last 4 or 8 digits of the card number.

Call your bank.

If you were like us and had your checkbook in your wallet/purse you will need to lock your checking account and open a new account as the world now not only has your checks and ID but the account and bank router numbers. This was the most time consuming task for us as you will have to redirect all your automatic direct deposits and withdrawals to the new account. For this reason we strongly suggest to only carry your checkbook/check when needed.

Call your insurance company.

Damage to your vehicle will be covered under your vehicle insurance policy. The stolen contents are cover under your homeowners policy. Both of these are subject to your deductibles and will limit what you will be reimbursed. In our case we had full glass coverage that paid for our two broken windows. Our insurance also covered replacing our missing keys. We were not able to claim any contents as the loss did not meet our deductible amount.

Driver's license, insurance cards and other IDs.

These items can easily be replaced online at the DMV and other websites.

Continued on page 8.....

Continued from page 7.....

What have we learned and what would we do different?

Only carry what you need in your wallet/purse.

We now only carry one credit card and one debit card in our wallets when traveling. Today you only really use one card and the others are carried if needed. Keep the others back in your RV.

Take an inventory of everything in your wallet/purse. Keep a list of everything you carry and remove items you do not need. Remember the less you carry, the less you will need to replace.

Limit the amount of cash you carry. We split our cash equally between us and only carry as little as we need. Today you really don't need as much cash as everything is done on a credit cards anyways.

Make sure that you have different card numbers for each of your credit cards on your account. In our case most of our accounts had different numbers, but one card had the same number requiring both cards to be locked.

Don't leave valuables visible in your vehicle.

This one may be a little harder for us RVers. The back of our truck is our garage and many of us load it up with bikes and other items we take with us when traveling. The truth is, most thieves are looking for a quick score. They are more interested in the cash in your wallet than the camera or bikes in your truck. In our case, they passed by thousand of dollars in camera equipment by taking only the purse. That said, don't make it easy for them. Hide your valuables in the glove box, center console or other places. Also, cover items in the back of your truck.

Alarm systems and other deterrents.

I don't feel that alarm systems are very effective in stopping a break-in to your vehicle. We have all walked through a parking lot and heard the horn beeping and thought "glad it's not my vehicle." We have added a dash camera that records both the outside and inside of our truck. The camera will automatically turn on if it senses movement or if the vehicle is bumped. I have added warnings stickers on the windows informing that you are being recorded. The video file can be automatically uploaded to the internet by the camera to preserve the document.

Tinted windows - If your state allows them, tint your windows to reduce visibility into your vehicle. Window tint film has an added benefit in making it harder to break the windows.

It's easy to let the fear of having your vehicle broken into ruin your trip, but you shouldn't let it. It can happen to any of us, but if you are prepared, you can limit the impact on your vacation.

Randy



Many of our long-term members will remember Les and Jean White fondly. The White's were active members of our NYFLU of WBCCI and supported our club activities for a number of years. Les and Jean lived in Horseheads, NY before moving to Ft. Meyers, FL in 2011 and remained affiliate members for several years. Les was 1st VP in 2009 and president in 2010. Les and Jean hosted our 2008 Installation Dinner at Lascas's Restaurant in Auburn, NY as well as hosting our club rally in 2009 at Havanna Glen Park at Montour Falls, NY.

Jean passed away on Oct. 30, 2020 at her home in N. Ft. Myers, FL. A Memorial Service was held December 19, 2020 in Coral Gables, FL. As mentioned, an Interment Service is to be held May 22, 2021 at 11:00 am, Highland Cemetery, Montour, NY.



I WANTED TO GO

Yes, we know...but the 2021 R 2 Rally scheduled for June 10-13 at the York Expo Center has been **canceled**. Disappointing, but it's just not time yet. Still too much concern about you-know-what. Stay safe and be patient. Better days are coming!

NOTICE: REGION 2 LUNCHEON

Will be held at the 64th WBCCI INT'L RALLY in Lebanon, TN
12 NOON on Wednesday, July 21st 2021
Rally attendees: Mark your calendars now.
Registration and menu options will follow soon.

Region 2 News—February

Submitted by Rich Short, Region 2 President

The Mid-Winter IBT meeting held in Sarasota, FL January 18-22 has concluded, and it was a successful blend of in-person and Zoom attendees. This hybrid model of meeting has proven to be excellent and continues to be improved upon by our staff at Headquarters and the team of on-site club member volunteers. It was reported that 58 rigs were camped at the Sarasota Fairgrounds where the meetings, Club Officers and members were hosted by Region 3. Our travel plans changed, and I attended and participated in the meetings via Zoom. I want to thank our R2 1st VP RJ Marquette and R2 2nd VP Gary Russo for participating by Zoom as well.

There will be several Constitutional Amendments up for approval at the International Rally Delegates Meeting in July, to include continued efforts to simplify the Constitution and move some sections to Bylaws and Policy where they belong. There will be one to simplify the Amendment process and one to allow for electronic or mail ballots for electing International Officers. That motion will eliminate the need for Delegate Meetings at the International Rally unless there are Constitutional Amendments proposed. One of the results of our push to increase Member Benefits was the approval of a motion to add an additional paid staff person at Headquarters, in the position of Marketing and Communications Director. A permanent charter was granted to the new Indie Streamers Intra-club. More info can be found at <https://airstreamclub.org/indie-streamers>. There was one local club name change and several logos and flags approved. Due to the recent membership dues increase and persistent low interest rates, the Lifetime Membership fund was re-analyzed and an increase in the one-time fee will take effect August 1st. If you have thought about becoming a Lifetime Member of the Airstream Club, now would be an opportune time to do so and save some money.

One of the highlights of the IBT meeting for me is getting to listen to Justin Humphreys, the VP of Sales at Airstream, Inc. give an update on Airstream and the RV industry. His assessment of the sales environment, in one understated word, was BUSY! With no slow down in sight, dealers are literally sold out of product and have hardly any inventory in stock. Airstream is faced with fulfilling thousands of retail sold orders. Although the expansion of the manufacturing plants in 2019 and early 2020 was worrisome when the pandemic hit, it turned out be perfect timing. The expansion, the largest in the company's history, now includes a 700,000 sq. ft. trailer manufacturing facility, a 230,000 sq. ft. motorhome facility, and a Base Camp shop whose size was increased by 50%. There are now almost 1100 employees in Jackson Center and the company is looking to hire another 200 to 250 people by July! Our Airstream Club is reaping the benefit, with new memberships being added at record pace. Please, take advantage of the efforts of our Membership Chair, Lea Plant. Reach out to those new Airstream owners in your area. Invite them out to a rally, to have some fun and learn about their Airstream and what the Airstream Club can offer them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Region 2 News—January

Submitted by Rich Short, Region 2 President

CONTINUED From Page 10It was announced that the 2022 Mid-Winter meeting is now scheduled for 01/17-21/2022 in Savannah, GA at the Creek Fire RV Resort. More info will follow later in the year. The 2021 International Rally to be held this July 17-24 in Lebanon, TN is still a “go”, with over 550 rigs registered to date. There is still time to register and reserve your spot. The 2022 International Rally is scheduled for Fryeburg, ME and it was announced the 2023 Rally is now planned for Yakima, WA. I love how our Int'l Rally moves around the country, providing more opportunities to travel and see this great land. Get out the maps and start planning a trip!

As I reminded everyone at the Zoom meeting, Region 2 will need a 2nd VP to step up and join the leadership team, as my term as your President ends this Spring. Please consider volunteering to continue the efforts of these past few years to Renew Region 2. We have made great strides, have able leaders in RJ, Gary, and others on the Executive Committee but we need a full slate by Spring. With so many talented and enthusiastic members, I am confident someone will step forward. Please feel free to call me anytime to discuss what you can do for the Region. Thank you.

Kathi joins me in sending our best regards to all the members of our 15 local clubs in Region 2.

New York Finger Lakes
Airstream Club
2021 Member Directory



Wally Byam Airstream Club
Region 2
Unit 2



OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS:
[https://
newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/](https://newyorkfingerlakes.airstreamclub.net/)



OR
find us on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/1472017733005344/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1472017733005344/)

By now you should have received the electronic copy of your 2021 NY Finger Lakes Airstream Club Membership directory. It was sent via email along with the January Edition of The Grapevine.

Colton RV is diligently working to get the print copy produced and out to the membership ASAP. As you have heard, RV sales are through the roof this year and they've been quite busy.