



The Online Trillium

For Public Viewing

A Publication of the Ontario Canada Unit of



June 2020

ontariocanada.airstreamclub.net

President's Message - June 2020

It has been a somewhat cool, dull spring and now, as I write this at the end of May, we suddenly find ourselves in the middle of a heat wave! In normal times, Ken and I would be on the Rocky Mountain Caravan heading to the International Rally in Colorado right now. Instead we find ourselves doing yard work, planting some vegetables (since it looks like we will be around to tend them) and sitting with our Airstream in the backyard. Ah, the best laid plans . . .

Today things are as uncertain as ever as the pandemic continues to disrupt our plans for travel and camping and we remain locked down in Ontario. I

have been cheered to see photos on Facebook of Airstreamers happily "camping" in their own backyards - a testament to the resilience of our members and to the fact that we can enjoy some lighthearted fun wherever we find ourselves. I've also heard stories from some of our club members who are taking advantage of the current situation and using this opportunity to freshen up or even renovate their Airstreams.

We're not sure what the next few months will bring, but with any luck we will be able to get some camping in before the snow arrives.

While the pandemic has hampered engaging in any outdoor camping enjoyment, it has given us the opportunity to work on some club administration issues. The first of these was to vote on changing our club name. Thank you to everyone who used the electronic voting platform to cast a vote on this important issue. In keeping with the spirit of moving forward and making improvements, we are now unofficially the Ontario Canada Airstream Club. Unofficially because a couple more things need to happen to make it official. Later this month our name change will go before the International Board of Trustees of WBCCI for approval. And our new name won't be truly official until we amend our club Constitution.



Ken, Kate, Murray and Tanner in their back yard with their Airstream.

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President's Message: Cont'd from page 1

Members are being asked to consider documents prepared by the Constitution and By-Law Committee with proposed amendments. This is the culmination of work that began in 2018 and required much thought, hard work, feedback from International, and more hard work. The members of this small but mighty C&B-L Committee deserve a big pat on the back for all the effort they have put into getting us to this stage of amending the club constitution and bylaws. Amending a constitution doesn't happen often. A constitution is an important document that should stand the test of time and the proposed amendments speak to that. By-laws on the other hand are relatively easy to amend and will change over time as our club changes and adapts to the times. A lot of the content in the current (old) constitution more properly belongs in the by-laws and you will see that the proposed amendments address that. Ways of operating and communi-

2020 Unit Calendar of Events

To date, COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of our regular events from May to August. Decisions as to further cancellations will be made closer to the date.

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 11 - 14, 2020 | Fall rally & AGM Can-Am RV Centre, London |
| CANCELLED Sept 9 - Oct 1, 2020 | Around Superior Caravan |
| Oct 2 - 5, 2020 | Fall rendezvous North Toronto KOA, Cookstown |

Check us out!

If you own an Airstream and are curious about what being a member of the Ontario Canada Unit and the [Airstream Club International](#) (WBCCI) would be like, think about checking us out in person! We invite you to attend one of our events. Of course, event fees apply. See our calendar of events above and watch for further postings on our website—
ontariocanada@airstreamclub.net

cating also change and this is also reflected in the proposed amendments. Over time, emails have replaced "snail mail" and this pandemic has certainly shown us the value of electronic means of communicating. With any luck, we will be able to vote in person on the amendments at our fall general meeting in London at our Fall Rally, but if that isn't possible, we will explore other ways of moving forward.

So, Ken and I are very happy that we at least have our Airstream close by in the backyard and we haven't completely given up hope that we can get some camping in this summer. And just to shake things up a bit, I'm off to help Ken hitch up the trailer so that we can pull it forward a few feet into the front yard for a change of scenery!

We miss our Airstream family and look forward to the day we can meet again. In the meantime . . . take care, stay healthy, and wash those hands often and well.

Kate

"Sunshine Corner" - by Linda S.



Hello Airstreamers,

Not that we feel like Airstreamers; we know we are, yet we aren't, with no wheels turning and no place to go and no Airstreamers to see. It's a disconnection but I will continue to look forward to the day when we can travel and socialize together at our rallies and rendezvous. What that may look like remains to be seen but, somehow, we'll figure it out!

My job as your Sunshine VIP has been pretty much non-existent over the past three months. I have made phone calls and connected through the Ontcanunit on Facebook so I am hoping your silence means that you are safe and well in spite of Covid-19. However, if you know of anyone who could benefit from a greeting, please contact me and I promise to follow up.

The highlight these past few weeks arrived on May 17th! Evie and John F. came home to Ontario via our front door! Yes, we had visitors! In this COVID-19 environment, it was indeed a pleasure to provide courtesy parking. They stayed for 2 nights and because of our large parlour and the extra board in the dining room table, we physically distanced! All except once . . . when Evie and I had our heads into the Directory looking for You! Our two fellas laughed and made a comment about the sudden lack of social distancing. Well, we had the social part going well but neglected to include the distancing!

Evie and I had it all figured out until that Directory landed on the dining room table! What I didn't consider, Evie did!

Evie and I had it all figured out until that Directory landed on the dining room table! What I didn't consider, Evie did!

Thanks to the layout of our home, there was happy hour in the parlour and dinner in the sunroom overlooking the Thesalon River. We walked the town with Evie busy on the camera. The hardest part of the whole visit? No hugs . . . ugh! That's tough for Airstreamers!

So continue to stay safe and mind the rules even as they change. Take care of yourselves and enjoy the summer months . . . maybe even rolling down the road!

No longer seeking sunshine,

Linda



Evie & John F. took advantage of the courtesy parking we offered. Here's their home parked in our driveway.

Photo by Linda

Notice of Cancellation – 2020 Around Superior Caravan

May 1, 2020 - As I'm sure you can imagine, it has been a stressful time trying to make arrangements for the planned caravan during this pandemic situation. Many of the planned venues are either not open now (so plans can't be confirmed) or don't know if they will be open at the planned time for the caravan.

As a result, I regretfully find it prudent to cancel the **Around Superior Caravan** for 2020. Please let me know if you are interested in a similar caravan in 2021 and I will re-start the planning for then.

Ray B. ray@adventure.as

A Can-Am Contribution to Combatting COVID-19 That Makes Us Proud to be RVers

by John K.



Kirk heading out with a delivery to a health-care worker.
Photo downloaded from Can-Am's Facebook page.

“Conscious Capitalism”. It’s a lofty expression that’s much talked about in the world of big corporations such as Whole Foods, Starbucks and Panera bread. It’s all about corporations aligning their business model with the communities they serve and giving back. It’s important that businesses do well but they must also do good. That’s the *“talk of the talk”* at business conferences as well as the elite Ivey School of business MBA program at Western University, just up the road from Can-Am RV Centre.

Can-Am is demonstrating how you take the next step and actually *“walk the talk”* in the current COVID 19 Pandemic environment. It all started with a concern by intensive care unit (ICU) nurse, Barbie Allen. She’s on the front line caring for patients who are either directly or indirectly linked to COVID-19. Barbie has a spouse and three children. She was growing increasingly worried about the risk to her family in coming home after a shift and being in close quarters with them. She was desperate to find a way to self-isolate while maintaining contact with her family.

Friends suggested she look into renting an RV, parking it on their driveway and using it as temporary living quarters. Barbie called Can-Am and was connected to Kirk Thomson. Under stress, it was understandably a teary-eyed call. For those of you who know Kirk, you won’t be surprised to learn that upon hearing the nature of the request there was a teary-eyed response from him. He quickly put her at ease and told her he that he would deliver an RV to her residence at no

charge. This was a contribution that Can-Am was making to support the courageous work that front line health care professionals were making to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Two days later Kirk towed an RV to her home and backed it into her driveway. A very grateful Barbie thought that this was a contribution that the public should be aware of and contacted local media. Lo and behold, a beaming Barbie Allen and a smiling Kirk Thomson were featured on City TV news video several days later. The video was a family affair with relieved Barbie waving from the RV to her children watching from the window of the house. That video went viral. Within days, requests came from other health care professionals in similar situations.

Now, for the more important *“story behind the story”*. Not surprisingly, Can-Am has now delivered 20 RVs to the homes of health care professionals. Hauling 20 RVs out of storage, servicing and then towing them to 20 different destinations is a team effort. The Can-Am team coalesced into crisis management mode. Technicians were brought in and strategically stationed in bays that ensured there was never more than one person in a bay and that social distancing was put in place. Kirk was designated as *“Tow-er in Chief”*. That meant that one truck was set aside that only Kirk had access to so as to minimize any secondary contact between the Can-Am team and the high-risk health care professionals. Kirk didn’t

Cont’d on page 5: Walking the Talk

enter the premises or the bays. He hooked up the RVs outside the bays once they were serviced and towed them to the designated residence for delivery. It's required him to be on the road towing trailers every day.

Now that's what "walking the talk" of conscious capitalism is all about. And, of course, as Airstreamers who know the com-

mitment that Can-Am makes to providing us with quality service, it's no surprise and the response we know we can expect from Kirk and Andy Thomson and the Can-Am team in times of crisis. Hats of f to Kirk, Andy and the Can-Am team!

John K.

Dr. Alison Goes Back to Work



In April of 2019, I retired from family medicine and my work as rehab hospitalist in Markham after 41 years – a career that I loved. Early in my practice, my mentor, an old school GP, taught me what an honour and privilege it was to be a physician and to have such a long and

intimate relationship with patients. Fortunately, this sentiment found a place in my heart.

But after 41 years, the time had come, so my husband Rob and I bought an Airstream last winter to begin our adventures. We camped in Kincardine, Inverhuron and Sandbanks last summer before attending our first rally in Lombardy and then joining the wonderful caravan, under Kerry's expertise, to PEI. What a fabulous trip! We then headed to Florida for the winter where we own a townhouse. We did little camping in Florida as we found the parks already booked months in advance. However, when it was time to make the hasty retreat home to Canada in March 2020, we were grateful for our aluminum cocoon. Never were we so happy as when we landed on Canadian soil.

After our quarantine period, I began to think about what I could do to help out and was approached by an enterprising Canadian who operated a home support company.

Kumocare had been operating home care services, primarily to seniors, including nursing, PSW, occupational and physiotherapy etc. The company had just added medical support to the business and was looking to recruit physicians. Telehealth Ontario had already filled their quota of doctors. I had worked in the front lines of SARS and at my ripe old age, was not keen to do front line work so an opportunity to do telemedicine sounded perfect.

So, every morning from the comfort of my home, I phone patients who have sought a telephone appointment. What a diverse group of people from across the entire province! Many patients do call, wondering if they have symptoms of COVID-19 and whether they meet the criteria for testing. I have spoken to residents of First Nation reserves; have spoken to residents of shelters. One lady presented with cough and fever and the answer to the next question as to where she worked was at a shelter. Many of the patients either do not have a family doctor or could not access their doctors as their offices were closed. Many of the clients are new Canadians. Certainly a different population than the patients that I saw over my years in Markham. Everyone has been so grateful and hence the work has been so rewarding for me.

How long will I continue to work? Many physicians have had little work as patients have avoided going to clinics. COVID-19 has certainly accelerated telemedicine and virtual medicine. So as my medical licence comes due at the end of May, I will consider my options. Like many of you, I pine to head out on the highway, looking for adventure. Safe travels everyone.

By Alison V.

Brantco Facemasks—A Grassroots Initiative

by Steven N.

Brantco Facemasks is a grassroots initiative started by Janet Nentwig on March 21st, 2020. It began one night as Janet and I were watching the news. The virus had not yet been declared a pandemic but it had hit the west coast and the news was showing frustration and pleading for personal protective equipment (PPE) as hospitals were becoming overwhelmed. The projections were out there that the virus, now called COVID-19, was spreading everywhere and it was just a matter of time until it would hit our vicinity, Paris, Brant County, Ontario.

There were stories about the shortage of the N95 mask and that groups were beginning to make cloth masks. Janet, being a sewer and in a local quilt group, figured she could make some masks, too. Having worked in the hospital system in Hamilton for 23 years, she had a little experience as to how the system worked. Instead of all kinds of groups donating to health services, why not streamline through one source? Janet emailed Brant Community Healthcare Services (BCHS), our local hospital, and was contacted by Chad DeBlock, director of finance, decision support and procurement for the county healthcare system. Janet had made a few masks and he came to the house, (social distancing) to have a look. It was agreed that she and her volunteers would be the only providers of cloth masks for the hospital and it would only require a phone call for masks to be delivered to the hospital. This arrangement required no hospital resources.

Soon Janet and her group of 25 sewers were making cloth masks from material most sewers had laying around. The idea was that the masks be free to the hospital, healthcare and essential workers, seniors, and those in high risk category. Anyone else was asked for a \$5.00 donation to put towards material costs. The masks were put in packets at the door with a jug for donations on the honour system.



A local graphics designer quickly rendered the group's logo.

Then the big phone call, St. Joe's Long-term Care in Brantford had an outbreak and were requesting 1,500 face-

masks. Janet put a call out through Facebook for help and the volunteer group jumped to ninety. A closed Facebook group was formed where patterns, plans, organization, coordination would be handled. A local graphics designer was asked to come up with a logo. It was out the next day. All the hospital's needs were channeled directly from Chad. Things began growing exponentially and the phone and emails were non-stop up to 14 hours per day. Individuals jumped in and donated material and supplies.

Home Depot donated 58 boxes of a towel that is used for filters in the masks. Tom's Upholstery in Brantford was idle and offered their mass cutting so all masks in the kits were pre-cut. Darby Sports in Paris was also idle and they were offering their industrial machines for a week. With restrictions, they were able to have about 9 people at Tom's and 10 the next week at Darby's. A Go Fund Me page has been set up by a local doctor's wife to help pay for the purchasing of supplies.

As word spread, media interviews began. Janet was featured in The Brantford Expositor newspaper twice and also on the front page of our local newspaper, the Paris Star. An interview with CTV for the local Kitchener station CKCO took twenty-one minutes of interviewing for about 2 minutes air-time. The latest interview was for a local Brantford news sta-

Cont'd on page 7: Grassroots



The dining room table—and probably those of the many sewers Janet recruited—was soon overtaken by masks in the making (Photo from Janet's Facebook page.)

tion called Brant One on YouTube with a much more in-depth article. (Click [here](#) to view the YouTube video.)



This photo of Janet displaying some of the finished product appeared in the Brantford Expositor on April 15. (Photo by The Expositor)

There are a few pickup/drop off spots for masks in Brantford including, of course, our front door. People order their masks, they are packaged and left at the door for pickup. For the sewers, there are packaged kits with all the materials needed to make 25 masks. The sewer collects another kit when dropping off the finished one.

Other items were needed as well such as 350 scrub caps, 466 Isolation gowns and scrub bags. Over 400 scrub bags were given out for nurses' week. The health care worker puts work clothes in after shift, ties it up, keeps the bag tied and throws it all in the wash – bag and all.

We have people at the door all the time. Masks have been given to Sobeys, local pharmacies and seniors' residences. People pick them up for personal use. At this point, 5,000 masks have been made and another Healthcare service requested 2,000 more masks, 750 of which have been delivered.

Deane and Judy C. with whom we have become friends in dealing with the now defunct 2020 Canadian Rocky Mountain Caravan liked the idea and Janet mentored them to get a very successful group started in Toronto. Judy appeared on City TV with Breakfast Television revealing their story for their area in Toronto. They have been helping us with donated supplies and vice-versa.

Ours has been a busy place with people coming and going when most houses are idle. We've met a lot of great people from emergency doctors, nurses from all areas of the medical field and the public. In the past eight weeks, the cards, the smiles and the genuine appreciation that people express has made it well worthwhile.

With clinics beginning to open, requests are coming in for isolation gowns from all over Ontario, Ottawa and places in Quebec. An anonymous donor has just donated a truckload of boxes of material and the list keeps going. It could not be done without all the volunteers. They are long days for Janet but make a nice sense of accomplishment.

Thanks everyone and stay safe.

Steven N.

John is Ready to Rally!

Wearing his Ontario Unit ball cap and hoodie and a mask constructed from his recycled Canada One-Five-Oh Caravan t-shirt, John G. is "ready to rally"! That's the spirit, John!



Nana Joy

Joy became a first time "Nana" on April 28th with the arrival of her grandson. She had planned to be in Austria to celebrate his arrival. Instead, she sported a balloon and had a celebratory ice-cream. Until she can meet him in person, she is enjoying virtual news and photos of him. Congratulations, Joy!



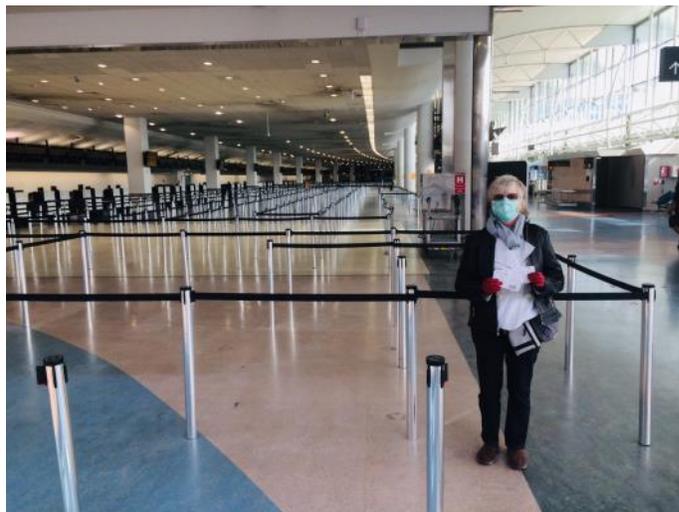
Can-Am RV to Our Rescue—by Larry & June D.

April 22, 2020, found us in New Zealand under a strict lockdown. To make matters worse we were on the South Island about 18 miles south of Nelson Airport. As far as isolation goes, it was a very safe location, on a farm about 2 miles of dirt road from a main highway. Every day we would check on our flight back to Toronto and the times and dates kept changing. It looked like the earliest we could go was May 7th. On Wednesday April 22nd we left early in the morning to get groceries. Under NZ lockdown rules we could only travel to get groceries or go to a drug store. So, we were doing our weekly shopping and that meant only June could go in the store while I waited in the rental car.

When we returned to the farm with a little over \$200 of supplies, I checked on our flight home and it had disappeared from the Air New Zealand site. I called them and then spent the next 2 hours on the phone talking to a woman who was working from home. I could hear the kids in the background. It came down to a choice, board a plane at Nelson Airport for a 7:05 am departure the next day or wait until May 21st. We thought we had better go the next morning because waiting just seemed too risky.

So, 7:05 am to 7:45 Nelson to Wellington, 9:15 am to 10:20 Wellington to Auckland, 9:45 pm to 2:55 pm (LA time) Auckland to Los Angeles. Then to our booked hotel, an overnight stay, then on April 24th 12:30 pm to 8:02 pm (Toronto time), LA to Toronto. Simple right! Well, not really! We had to do laundry, pack, arrange returning the car to a company that was closed, book a hotel, put the insurance back on our truck, and figure out what we would do on Friday night in Toronto when we got off the plane. We knew about the 2-week isolation thing, but we have been full timing since 2009. Our truck and trailer had been stored at Can-Am ever since we'd left the country at the end of October 2019.

Desperate for ideas I emailed Andy Thomson— it was titled "Panic". He answered right away, "No problem, I will send one of my guys to the Airport with your truck. He will have a car hooked on the back of it, you take the truck and he can go home in the car. You can do your two weeks in your trailer here on our lot, we're closed anyway".



June at the deserted Auckland International Airport on April 23, 2020.

Well, talk about a relief! It all worked out fine. By 10:30 pm Friday night we were in our pre-warmed trailer with power and water. The next issue was groceries. Pat L. came to our rescue. She gave us groceries from her own stock and then by Sunday we could add to her on-line order to tie us over.

Isolating in an Airstream Trailer turned out to be no problem with the authorities. When they asked us at the airport if we knew we had to isolate for two weeks we just said we did and we had a plan! They never asked what the plan was. Can-Am also let us stay on longer while we waited for our RV Park to open May 20.

We want to give our heart felt appreciation to all the staff at Can-Am RV and especially to Andy for coming up with a great plan. While he was taking care of us, we saw Kirk out taking RV's to help front line staff to use so they could isolate themselves from their families.

A great big Thank You goes out to Pat and to Murray who also gave up his homemade stews and soups!

Stay safe. Be kind.

Larry and June

Three Mexican Jewels Caravan by Pam & Ted G.



Inspired by my parents' tales of past adventures on two WBCCI Caravans through Mexico (Yucatan and Baha), Pam and I leaped at the opportunity when we heard WBCCI was planning another Mexican Caravan.

The caravan was custom designed for Airstreamers by Caravanas de Mexico, a well-established Mexican company, in cooperation with WBCCI. The *Three Mexican Jewels* consisted of a four-day trip by rail up the Copper Canyon and back again with 2 nights in Creel, three days in the heart of Mexico City, and a stay in Mazatlan in time to see a carnival that rivals that of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The setting for these jewels was just as attractive being the colonial central core of Mexico - Durango, Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Patzcuraro, Taxco, plus other unique towns and cities from the colonial era. We also toured ancient ruins from 200 B.C., the National Anthropological Museum in Mexico City, Aztec ruins, a Monarch Butterfly Biosphere, to name a few. In addition, we enjoyed historical and cultural presentations plus beautiful beaches in small out-of-the-way towns away from the crowds found in many tourist areas.

We entered Mexico at Nogales on February 8, 2020. Our caravan consisted of 13 Airstreams plus our Wagon Master's RV.



Native Children posing for pictures on brink of Copper Canyon.



"It's a dog's life on beautiful Mazatlan beach in Mexico"- Ginger.

Cont'd on page 10: Jewels

Our Wagon Master was contracted by Caravanas de Mexico who has been operating tours and caravans into Mexico for more than 10 years. Our Tail Gunners were the Angeles Verdes-Green Angels, who are trained and equipped by the Mexican Department of Tourism to handle almost all automotive repairs that might be required, to facilitate our caravan in and through large urban areas, and through various government and military checkpoints. They added to our safety and ease of travel. Between the expert guidance and care of our Wagon Master plus the Green Angels, our entire group had no major issues during our caravan.



The 3600 ft Baluarte cable-stayed bridge is an engineering marvel. Made of pre-stressed concrete and at 1320 feet above the Baluarte River, it is the highest bridge in the Americas.

We traveled a total distance of approximately 3,300 miles over mostly good roads, but shoulders and guard rails were often absent. We used toll roads a lot because they offered better surfaces, less traffic, and more consistent caravan speed. At all times we had to be on the look-out for topes, which are speed bumps on steroids, plus potholes, even on the highways. One highway that deserves special mention is the new highway from Mazatlan to Durango through the Sierra Madre Mountains. With 61 tunnels and 115 bridges, including the 3600-foot Baluarte cable-stayed bridge, the highest in the Americas. The highway is an engineering marvel. The scenery was incredible and the views breathtaking,

Campground amenities were rather basic. We had several days of dry camping, some modest facilities and a few deluxe full-service RV parks with swimming pools. Good consistent

hydro could be an issue in most places so we relied on our solar panels and propane converted Honda generator. As drinking water was questionable, we bought five-gallon jugs of water, which could be found everywhere for approximately 30 pesos per jug, and dumped them into our water tank. We added 4 ml of bleach per jug for added peace of mind. Laundromats were non-existent but a laundry service could usually be arranged at most campgrounds for a very reasonable fee. For groceries we usually stocked up at Walmarts which were located in most of the cities. Fuel, gas or diesel, was never an issue. Getting our propane bottles filled was not an issue.



Ted and Pam at Teotihuacan Pyramids—an ancient Mesoamerican city located 50 km northeast of modern Mexico City. Read more about this UNESCO site at <https://www.history.com/topics/ancient-americas/teotihuacan>

There were three dogs on our caravan. Twice we had to leave them for a few days at our trailers while we ventured into the Copper Canyon and Mexico City. Staff at the respective campgrounds provided excellent pet care while we were away.

A lot of our lunches and dinners were arranged for us. We experienced many traditional Mexican foods. On quite a few occasions we were treated to Mariachi music at meal time. We also enjoyed our share of Margaritas.

Our caravan was supposed to run for 60 days, however it was cut short by 11 days due to the Coronavirus situation. For the most part we did not have access to English speaking TV or radio. Family members of our group started texting and emailing us about the severity of the pandemic back home.

On March 21st we had a group meeting and unanimously agreed to end the caravan and return to Arizona, as a group. At this time, we were just east of Puerto Vallarta. On March 27th and approximately 1,400 miles later, we crossed into the U.S. at Lukeville, Arizona, with no U.S. border issues. On April 2, 2020 and approximately 2,370 miles later, we crossed into Canada at Fort Erie with no Canadian border

issues. Traveling through the U.S. we overnighted at truck stops.

All in all, it was a great trip full of wonderful memories of a very beautiful and varied country full of friendly, accommodating people.

Pam & Ted G.



This donkey carried wine as we followed a band of Troubadours thru the streets of Alamos.



Above: The Mazatlan Carnival (Mardi Gras) has been held almost annually since 1898. It's reportedly the 3rd largest in the world after Rio De Janeiro and New Orleans.

From the Editor's Desk



With Club events having been cancelled until at least September, I worried that this issue would be an empty dud!

Instead, it is full of stories most of which touch on the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to the authors for sharing the stories and thank you to those of you who have volunteered time and resources to help out during this crisis. We are so proud of what you are doing!

With no events happening between now and the next issue, I invite you to send in your stories—either what you're up to or reflections of past travels or anything else that you think might interest your fellow members. Airstream renos are always fun to review. And photos are always welcome!

As Kate mentioned in her message, it's time to amend the Constitution and By-Laws. Yes, it can be tedious to wade through these types of documents, but they are so important. Please take time to review them.

And lastly, we are mid-way through my last year as Editor. Hint, hint!

Kathy B. 124editor@airstreamclub.net

Camping in a Post-COVID-19 World by Don M.

In addition to all our normal camping etiquettes, in a post-COVID-19 world we now need to think of other measures to reduce the chances of contracting a future round of the disease. Here are some suggestions we should all take most of which are simply thinking of others and ourselves.

1. One of the first things to do is a thorough inspection of the Airstream, determine if there are any repairs or maintenance required and contact your dealer as soon as possible as they may have a lot of appointments. In addition, there may be a delay in obtaining parts.

2. It is likely that getting private and national/provincial campgrounds sites will be more difficult as many people who would normally travel by cruise ships or airlines will choose to find other options. RVing is certainly, as we know, safer. More advance planning and reservations (rather than relying on 'drive up' availability) will probably be necessary, especially since some campgrounds may not be operating this season. On-site amenities, however, may not be quite as quick to open. Pools, clubhouses, and other recreation areas could be slow to return depending on their size, placement, and demand.

3. Some RVers will choose to camp later in the season so winterizing, if done, may be later and possibly a little more challenging given the cold weather.

4. Stock up on food, medicine, etc., before heading out to ensure you will have what you need. Where you go may not have sufficient supplies.

5. Where possible pay for services in advance to minimize contact with staff and eliminate the need to handle pens and credit card machines.

6. When possible do not park right next to other RVers so that everyone has as much distance as possible.

7. Although the sun and UV light will kill the virus within a few hours, to be safer, consider disinfecting the electrical box, water handle/ tap and picnic table with Clorox/Lysol wipes or a spray bottle with Clorox and water.

8. Carry protective gloves or plastic bags as well as disinfecting wipes when using other public facilities and in particular bathrooms and showers. Wipe down anything you might touch with your hands such as door handles or light switches. And leave them cleaner than when you went in.

9. Have masks, gloves and disinfecting wipes available when going shopping in case they might be necessary. Bread bags, magazine bags, etc., can also be used instead of gloves, but remember to use them only once and safely dispose of them. Never touch your face with your hands until after you wash your hands with soap and water.

10. Carry disinfecting wipes in the tow vehicle for use on things such as gas pump handles, steering wheel, etc.

11. Never drive with a mask on as it restricts oxygen and there have been vehicle accidents when a driver wore a mask and passed out.

12. Continue to wash your hands particularly each time you return to your RV.

13. Remind any of your accompanying family how important it is to not cut through other RVers yards and respect their space.

14. Where necessary consider social distancing and remind others of the same.

Hopefully we will be fine and our Airstream activities will be back to hugs and friendship.

Stock up on food, medicine, etc. before heading out—where you go many not have sufficient supplies.



The Vintage Airstream Club is Recruiting: The Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) invites WBCCI members who own an Airstream that is 25 years or older to join them. More information about VAC can be found on their website <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/>

VAC is presently recruiting for a 3rd Vice-President. Contact Ontario member Ed V., who is the incoming VAC President, for information about the position. You can reach Ed at edwardva@outlook.com

From Your Region 2 President - by Rich S.



June 2020

COVID-19, the cancellation of this year's International Rally, and subsequent work-from-home orders have created unprecedented challenges for your leadership team and staff at HQ in Jackson Center.

The Executive Committee, Lori Plummer, and her crew are all working awfully hard to keep everything on track. Delegate Voting this year will be done by either Electronic Ballot or Paper Ballot. Accordingly, we needed to provide HQ with one (1) delegate per local club and other pertinent voting information. I sent out an email to our local clubs and had the info HQ requested returned to them within 48 hours! I want to thank all sixteen (16) of our local club Presidents for responding to me so promptly. Thank you all for your support. I greatly appreciate it. Voting materials will be provided by HQ in the coming weeks. We will be voting on our slate of International Officers as well as several amendments to our Constitution and By Laws. Details may be found in the most recent Blue Beret. If you have questions, please reach out to me.

HQ and the Information Technology Committee (ITC) are also working on the new membership database. Additions to our webpage will include a "members only" portal.

As mentioned previously, our Region 2 website has been transitioned over to the new AirstreamClub.org website. You can find us at <https://airstreamclub.org/region2>. Our Webmaster, Lawrence N., did a great job facilitating that transition and wrote two user manuals for our local clubs and Region webmasters to use. Those two tutorials, as well as three others, can be found at the Information Technology Committee

site <https://itc.airstreamclub.net/airstreamclub-org-resources/>. Local club webmasters will find those user manuals and other valuable information there. Remember, it is the local clubs' responsibility to update their event calendar on the main airstreamclub.org website. You will be getting notice very soon to start transitioning your club website over. Now is the time to start planning an update to your club's site.

With many of our states starting to relax guidelines and opening their State Parks and other facilities to overnight camping, I have had questions as to whether the Club has an official position on local clubs holding rallies, etc. As far as I know, there is no official club directive other than to pay attention and adhere to local and state guidelines as well as CDC and health department directives. Be prudent. Be smart. Be safe and, importantly, mindful of others. I think we are all anxious to get out but wise enough to do so cautiously.

We still have a handful of our local clubs who have not taken the steps to change their names to include *Airstream Club*. I believe it is one of the most important things you can do to push your club forward. If your club has not, please consider doing so. I would like to see all the local clubs in Region 2 take advantage of our unique and valuable licensing agreement with Airstream, Inc. Please let me know if you need further info.

Best regards to all and we will see you down the road! Soon!

Rich S.

Editor's note: Our Unit will be amongst the first five in Region 2 to transition to the new platform. Webmaster Gordon D. is standing by, awaiting direction from ICT.

Breaking Region 2 News: On May 27, President Rich Short, who is beginning the second year of his term, chaired a Zoom meeting for the Region 2 Executive and Committee Chairs. To quote Rich "It is with great pleasure and great relief that I announce we have a full slate of officers". The vote was unanimously in favour of the slate.

RJ M., of the Washington DC Airstream Club, has stepped into the role of 1st VP and Gary R., of the Finger Lakes Airstream Club, into the role of 2nd VP. Judy C. of the Watchung NJ Airstream Club continues as Recording Secretary, Kathi S., of the Watchung NJ Airstream Club, as Corresponding Secretary and Will K., of the Keystone PA Airstream Club, as Treasurer.

This is certainly welcome news! Congratulations and thank you.