

TIDEWATER TIDINGS

Published by Tidewater Virginia Airstream Club #111, WBAC Airstream Club International

Volume MMXIX, Issue II

Tidewater Club

Officers

President - Greg Worcester

First VP - Larry Evans

Second VP - Frank Munoz

Treasurer - Richard Duncan

Recording Secretary - Ellie Worcester

Corresponding Secretary - Open

Trustee - Jayne Munoz

Trustee - Rhonda Evans

Trustee - Janae' Whitacre

Standing Committee Chairs

Caravan Leaders - Open

Constitution and Bylaws - Don Shafer

Historian - Open

Legislative - Open

Membership - Joanna Duncan

Safety - Open

Sunshine - Ellie Worcester

Parliamentarian - Virginia Sutton

Nominating - Ed Whitacre

Newsletter - Frank Munoz

Webmaster - Jojo Lotuaco

Club Directory - Greg & Ellie Worcester

From the President

Happy November Airstreamers



Best wishes to everyone for a great fall season and Happy Thanksgiving in advance. We've made some progress on our calendar for next year – please see the updated version in this newsletter. We do have a couple of rallies that are in need of hosts. March and April are tentative for Williamsburg KOA and Newport News City Park depending on host's choice. Hosting a rally can be as easy as telling folks where we are going, some suggestions for lunch or a dinner (can be potluck), a happy hour and/or campfire one night, and a day activity to an interesting place we can all trek to. Let me know if you would like to get involved with either the March or April event.

The last few rallies have been great. I've written a bit on the Commonwealth Rally and my thoughts are included in this newsletter with some pictures. The First Landing Rally was great fun and the weather could not have been better. Some of our members participated in the Silver in the Streets Rally in Farmville the same weekend. Several of you camped in Urbana the first weekend of the month and enjoyed the Oyster Festival. Ellie and I wish we could attend the Oyster Festival too, but we have a twenty plus year tradition of attending the steeplechase races at Montpelier with my old park service friends and their families. With any luck reasonable fall weather will hold so we can continue to enjoy our Airstreams and club fellowship through the holidays.

Hope to see you!

Greg Worcester

*Please join in celebrating
our Club's newest
members.*



2019 New Members

Nick and Jojo Lotuaco
Virginia Beach

Matthew and Melanie Sawyer
Suffolk

Kerry and Renee May
Hampton

Tracy and Thomas Heiner,
Williamsburg

Martin and Diana Berend,
Lancaster

Edward Stillwell
Hampton

William and Cris Plack
Ocean Pines, Maryland

Edward and Patricia Fornel
Ashland

This Month

*We all look forward to
getting to know you and
sharing some great
Airstream adventures!*



On the Road

Highlights of 2019 Member Travels

*Streaming in the Street Rally at Farmville
October 10-13*

This Rally was sponsored by the NORVA Club. There were 18 airstreams in attendance with one couple from Arizona, one from North Carolina, and our Region 3 President John and Susan Leake from South Carolina. Tidewater had



two trailers present, Pat and Page McLemore and Rhonda and me. Initially, fourteen trailers staged at the Fireman's Arena just outside town Thursday afternoon. After a pizza dinner, 4 trailers left to park in the Green Front Furniture Parking lot on Farmville's Main Street. We had to set up parking for 18 trailers, 34' to 22', in a parking lot designed for cars. Friday morning Bojangles provided breakfast biscuits and coffee after which the parking team at the Fireman's Arena sent 2 trailers at a time as requested by the Green Front parking crew, led by Tom Carmichael, based on the lengths of the trailers. Parking and unhitching were completed by 11:30. At 1:30 three High Bridge Trail State Park Rangers provided a history of Farmville and continued, after we caravanned to the High Bridge, with the Civil War history and finished

Happy Birthday!



*Happy 50th Birthday
Tidewater Airstream Club*

Nick Lotuaco - Nov 12



with history of the bridge itself. After returning to camp and a happy hour, we had a wonderful buffet dinner at Charlie's Restaurant. Saturday we were treated to Danish and coffee and free time until 1:00 when all trailers hosted an open house until 4:00pm. It was hard to say how many people visited our Airstreams but we had 23 peek at ours and we were way in the back of the parking lot. For dinner, Saint Theresa Catholic Church provided a very good spaghetti dinner with home made spaghetti sauce and meatballs. The evening was warm and many members enjoyed each other's fellowship until late in the evening. Sunday started with Danish and coffee for some and others having breakfast at local restaurants all within walking



distance. Later in the morning, members started hitching up and readying for the return home or the next stop, with all present saying what a good time they had and looking forward to the next Streaming in the Street wherever it may be in Virginia. Everyone had a chance to discover what a charming and exciting town Farmville is and hopefully the merchants were happy with our presence and our dollars. In addition, the rally fee was given to the Rescue Squad who greatly appreciated the \$400 plus dollars we donated. Thanks to Lew Brodsky and Tom Carmichael for their work in setting up and hosting this rally. *Submitted by Rhonda and Larry Evans*

First Landing State Park Virginia Beach

Thursday October 10 – Sunday October 14, 2019

Frank and Jayne Munoz hosted the Tidewater Club's October Rally at First Landing State Park from October 10th through 13th. There were five



First Landing Beach

Airstreams 'in attendance' along with their human caretakers. We were also blessed with the participation of four furry friends Winston, Abby, Sully and a cat. We all met Thursday night at the Munoz campsite for a welcome happy hour. There were lots of goodies, great conversation and JoJo's cornucopia centerpiece.

On Friday, we visited the Military Aviation Museum (<https://militaryaviationmuseum.org>) in Pungo, the home to one of the world's largest private collections of fully restored and flyable World War I and II aircraft. In



Happy Hour at the beach



Touring the WWI hangar



P-51 Mustang "Double Trouble Two"



WWII Aviation Art



Touring the WWII hangar

addition to aircraft, the museum houses many artifacts and art from these periods. We were treated to an impressive 2 1/2 hour private tour of the collection by one of the museum's expert docents. He took us through four buildings containing incredible examples of World War I and II airplanes and related items. If you are an aviation buff or interested in history this museum is a must see!

Friday night we enjoyed a pulled pork and rib fest back at the campsite. We were happily joined by Joyce and Bill Werner, whose schedule did not allow them to camp with us, but who could join us for dinner. We were also joined

by the State Park camp hosts who were great company. For the rest of the evening we sat around the campfire and enjoyed lively conversation and our favorite beverages.

On Saturday, eight of us enjoyed a visit to the Virginia Beach Aquarium and Marine Science Center (<https://www.virginiaaquarium.com/about-us/Pages/default.aspx>) and an Aquarium Dolphin Adventure boat ride. The weather

was perfect and the seas were calm which allowed us to view lots of dolphins and the beautiful Virginia Beach waterfront. The Aquarium also conducts great whale watching boat trips from late November through March. In addition to the boat trips the museum houses a fine collection of local aquatic species as well as other exhibits.



Ready to get underway on our dolphin trip



A majestic sea turtle



Scary! Touring the aquarium

Saturday night we all had dinner at a favorite local seafood restaurant, Dockside Restaurant, on the Lynnhaven Inlet. In addition to our planned activities, we enjoyed bike rides in First Landing park and walks on the beach. The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all! *Submitted by Jayne and Frank Munoz*

Virginia Commonwealth Rally Newport News City Campground September 19-22

The Shenandoah Club hosted an excellent rally at Newport News City Park for our four Virginia clubs. Twenty eight Airstreams were there and participants enjoyed good weather, crisp evenings around the fire, and visited with Airstreamers from around our state and West Virginia too. The Shenandoah Club arranged for a Civil War battlefield tour and a nature walk - both ranger lead. There was also a make and take centerpiece craft workshop one morning. The on-site golf club building was the location for a catered dinner with live music provided for our entertainment. The “Gong Show” they put on around the



Guided ranger walk

On a personal note - Ellie and I brought our kayaks and had them out a couple times to explore the Lee Hall Reservoir and take in a sunset. Local friends showed up after the installation for a bike ride we enjoy through the Yorktown Battlefield to the Yorktown Pub for lunch and back. It's a good haul but worth the effort – some folks went by car and met us at the pub. Ellie and I stayed an extra night and left Monday. During the rally, John Leake put on a seminar on tools and supplies recommended to take on the road and it was very informative. I borrowed one of his tools and removed a dent in my trailer that I always thought would require a big production. I had 80% of the dent out in five minutes with an inexpensive suction cup tool. A bonus to a great weekend!

It is our turn to host the Commonwealth Rally in 2020. After discussing with the other clubs, we decided on September 11-13 in the Richmond area. The other clubs expressed thanks that we would head out their way a bit for the next one. Several people have mentioned Pocahontas State Park south of Richmond for a possible site. I have not been there but it sounds good to me. I'd like recommendations from club members before we commit to a site. I love our state parks for their economy and beauty and I also appreciate private campgrounds in terms of making advance reservations of particular loops and meeting facilities. I'm sure we can collectively come up with a great spot and put on an excellent Commonwealth Rally in 2020. I welcome your ideas and input!

Submitted by Greg Worcester

fire one night was fun and raised over \$600 for the Wounded Warriors Foundation. Our club hosted a morning breakfast; another club did the same another day. Sunday AM there was a brief non-denominational opportunity to worship through song and reading of scripture. Before folks packed up, there was a club installation of new officers facilitated by Region III president John Leake.



Ellie on the lake

Urbanna Oyster Festival Rally

November 1-3

Twelve Airstreams converged upon the field behind the Urbanna Firehouse. This is a great location being only 1 block from the Festival Activities. We share the field with other non-Airstream RVers so it is a very festive group. The rally was hosted by Tom Carmichael, President of Northern Virginia Airstream Club, and Lou and Kathy Brodsky. This was the third Urbanna Rally Frank and I have attended, and it is always a good test of our dry camping skills since there are no hookups or facilities available at this privately-owned field. The land owner is very accommodating and allows dumping grey water and the use of generators. This year the crisp fall weather gave us an opportunity to run our furnaces.



Urbanna parking (file photo)

Frank and I arrived on Thursday, Halloween, as did most Airstreamers. Tom and Lou helped everyone park on the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the field that the Airstreamers were allocated. Of the twelve trailers that camped, we were very proud that our Tidewater Club numbered 7 of them!

The weather was crisp and nice when we arrived on Halloween day. On Thursday evening, Lou, Kathy and Tom hosted a pot-luck happy hour, where we all re-introduced ourselves and had lots of great conversation and food. Most of the excitement revolved around the predicted weather for that night. And sure enough, around 11 pm, the winds and rain arrived. By our estimate, we had wind gusts that reached 60 mph and really buffeted the trailers. Rains were very heavy. Morning brought a beautiful day and we were all relieved to find we had all survived intact (including trailers). The furnaces got a real workout this weekend as the weather was pretty chilly (high in the low 50's, and down in the 30's at night).

The festival was great. Virginia Avenue was lined with concession booths selling oysters in every way shape and form (raw, roasted, fried, fritters, po-boys) and crab delicacies (crab cakes and crab bisque) and even corn dogs, funnel cake and BBQ if you didn't go for the sea-food. There were lots of crafts for sale. Bands played at three different locations.

We walked to the Urbanna waterfront to see the visiting boats and the historical oystering vessels, such as a Bug-eye, Skipjack and Buy-boat, all of which were part of local marine museums. We always enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Factor Store Museum on the way down to the marina.



Bill and Joyce ready for oysters

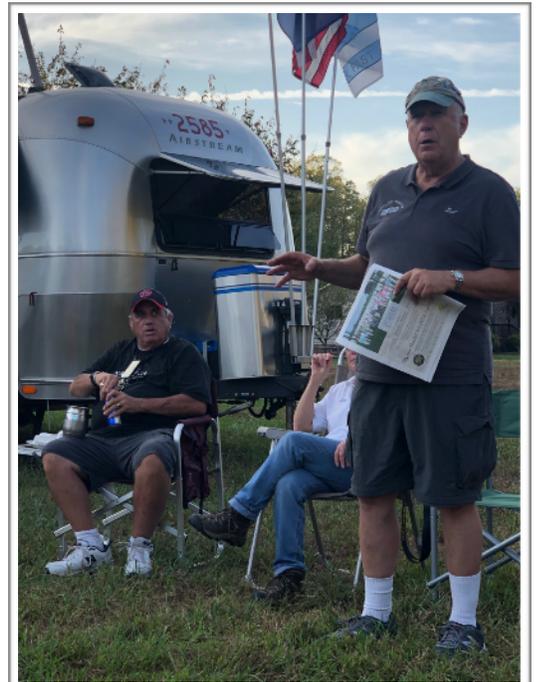
On Friday night, the traditional fire engine parade, with lights and sirens blaring, was held. Fortunately, Joanna Duncan came equipped with earplugs and generously shared them with those of us who forgot them. Those trucks and emergency vehicles sure are noisy!! (Dogs were left back in the trailers for their own good!!) On Saturday afternoon, the Festival parade took place, starring high school marching bands, Red Hat Society ladies and the Shriners. I think all the guys wanted to sign up to be a Shriner because they obviously have so much fun wearing fezzes and circling in their mini-NASCARS. The Shriners also have great pirate and hillbilly floats. Not to mention the wonderful work they do to heal children in their Shriner Hospitals.

As usual, our rally was marked by impromptu get-togethers and happy hours outside our trailers by the light and warmth of a fire-ring. And as usual, a great time was had by all!

Submitted by Jayne and Frank Munoz



Argh - take me to the oysters!



Our hosts Tom Carmichael and Lew Brodsky NORVA Club



Local high school band



Shriner hillbilly band float



Proud Shriners pass in review



Every grown man's dream - to drive one of these!



Mrs. Oyster



Mr. Oyster



Joyce and Sully Lotuaco



Frank and Jayne - home sweet home

Technical Talk

Editor's note; I was asked to rerun this article. If you have a technical issue you are interested in hearing about or have learned something of a technical nature that might be of interest to other Airstream owners please let me know. We'll include it in our newsletter. Please provide the source of the information as we want to give credit to the author(s).

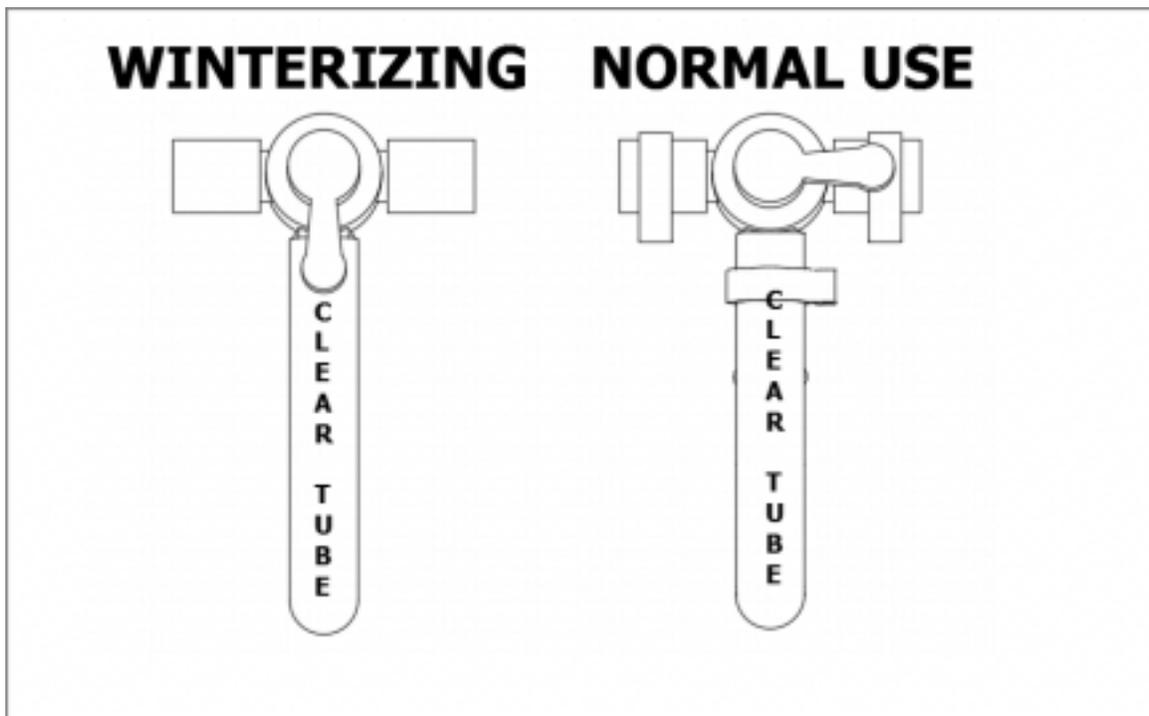
How to winterize an Airstream travel trailer *by Airstream, Inc.*

When storing your travel trailer for short or long periods, use the same precautions as you would in your own home in regard to perishables, ventilation, and rain protection. In addition, for prolonged storage periods, flush out all the drain lines and the holding tanks. Also drain the entire water system including the water heater and the water storage tank. Instructions for draining the water system are explained in the following paragraphs on winterizing.

The main consideration in winterizing your travel trailer is to guard against freeze damage to the fresh water system lines, tank, and pump, the waste drain system including the traps and tanks, the water heater, and the batteries.

To completely winterize your travel trailer, follow this procedure:

1. Level the travel trailer from side to side and front to rear. Open all faucets.
2. Turn the water pump switch to the ON position to expel water from the storage tank
3. Open all drain valves including drain plug or valve on water heater and exterior water service valve.
4. While the water is draining from the system, open and flush the toilet-flushing valve. Depress hand spray lever while holding the spray head down inside the bowl. Depress hand spray thumb button on the telephone shower head while holding down inside the tub and drain all water from the flexible hose. Unscrew the heads on both spray units and store.
5. Turn the pump switch OFF after all water has been removed from the storage tank.
6. Disconnect outlet hose from water pump.
7. If your unit has a winterization kit installed, open valve to the winterizing position and remove plug. If your unit does not have this valve, disconnect the water pump inlet connection. Turn the pump on until all the water is expelled. This water, about 1/2 cup, can be caught in a towel or rag.



8. Lower the front of the travel trailer as far as the jack will allow until water ceases to drain, then crank the jack up as high as it will go and allow any remaining water to drain out.

9. After the water has stopped running from the drain lines, apply 50 lb. of air pressure at the city water inlet. An air-to-city water adapter is available from your dealer's RV accessory store. Be sure the toilet valve, all drain valves, and faucets are open and pump outlet hose is disconnected. This can be done at a service station and will force any remaining water from the water heater and remove any water that may be trapped in low areas.

10. Pour a cup of non-toxic RV antifreeze that has been approved and listed by a recognized testing authority such as Underwriter Lab into the lavatory, sink and tub drains to prevent trap freeze-up.

11. Be sure to open the waste-holding tank dump valves and drain and flush the tanks thoroughly (this is very important as the sewage in the tanks, if frozen, could seriously damage the tanks). Plan ahead and have this done at a dump station.

12. Remove the batteries from your travel trailer and store in a cool, dry place where there is no danger of freezing. It is very important for optimum life of a battery to check it periodically and to keep it fully charged.

13. Remove any items (food, cosmetics, etc.) from travel trailer interior that might be damaged by freezing, or that might damage the travel trailer if containers should break.

Remove all RV antifreeze spillage from all drain and faucet parts after winterizing. Failure to do so could result in damage to the plumbing fixture's finish.

An Optional method for winterizing protection, is to add a non-toxic antifreeze (approved for drinking water system) to the water lines using the following procedure:

1. Reconnect all lines except the hose to the pump inlet port. If you have the winterization kit installed, just reconnect the outlet hose. Close all drain valves.
2. Turn water heater bypass valve to bypass position. Refer to Water Heater Bypass Valve illustration.
3. If you do not have the winterization kit, attach a length of hose to the pump inlet port. This piece of hose should be long enough for the free end to be inserted into and reach the bottom of the antifreeze container.
4. For antifreeze usages follow manufacturer's instructions found on label of container. 5. Open all water faucets.
6. Insert hose length into the antifreeze container, turn the pump switch on, and run the water pump until the antifreeze solution fills all water lines. Flush toilet. Work hand shower spray while holding down in tub.
7. Shut off the pump and close all faucets.
8. Disconnect the hose length from pump inlet fitting and reconnect water system inlet line. If you have the winterization kit, turn valve back into normal use position and reinstall hose plug.

In Case This Happens to You

Furnace won't operate

During the Urbanna Oyster Festival rally the temperatures dipped into the 40s giving us an opportunity to fire up our furnaces. One of our members was having difficulty keeping his furnace lit. It would light off however it would not sustain the required flame to operate the furnace correctly. Being an engineer he went through a methodical trouble shooting process, checking the electrical and gas connections and making sure the thermostat was functioning properly. After confirming these were not the problem he took his trailer to Airstream of Virginia for repair. What they determined was the combustion air to propane ratio was wrong on the furnace. They had to increase the air pressure by 2 inches of water. He said this has been a problem since the beginning, which loaded up the inside of the furnace with soot which simply exacerbated the operating problem. There also was a gasket missing between the burner flange and the furnace itself which further complicated the air/propane mixture issue. It took them over 1 hour to clean out all the accumulated soot. It normally would be several seasons before a soot build up like this occurs. He basically had one season of use on the furnace since this is a 2019 trailer purchased in April of 2018. The service tech said that the furnace should be checked for soot build up every season. There is nothing about this in the operating, service, or maintenance manual. Fortunately in this case the trailer was under warranty.

Product Review

*EditorsNote: We all have invested in various gadgets that we believe will enhance our camping experience. In some cases that has happened and in others maybe not so much. What I would like to do is include a section in our newsletter that features some of these items. The idea is share ideas and experiences **not as an endorsement of a product**. If you would like to contribute to this section please let me know.*

Flojet 18555-000A Portable Macerator Pump.

In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes and having to dump our tanks! This is normally not a big deal and most of the campgrounds we frequent have either dump sites or sewer hook-ups. When they are not available or if you don't want to wait in line to dump or if you want to spend some time doing a black tank flush but have a line of cars waiting, there is another option. I recently purchased a Flojet Portable Macerator Pump (Amazon \$209). This "poop pump" comes in a very nice case and with nearly all you need to connect to your trailer dump valve. The only thing you'll need is a hose and a place to run the hose. In my case I have a home sewer clean-out about 75 feet from where I park my trailer. The pump connects to a 12 volt power supply (I use my trailer battery) and has a convenient in-line power switch. When operating, the macerator grinds black tank contents to 1/8th inch sized particles that easily flow through the hose. You just have to follow the normal cautions with what you put into your black tank. The macerator does not do well with heavily fibrous materials, such as wet wipes. It can be easily disassembled to be unclogged if that becomes a problem. My trailer is parked below the level of the clean-out trap so I was concerned about pumping uphill. The pump was able to easily accomplish this. Once connected I go through the normal dump process, run a little grey first to ensure all connections are tight, black tank dump, black tank flush, grey tank dump and then flush all the hoses with clean water. So far I am pleased with my investment particularly the extra dump option it provides.



Submitted by Frank Munoz

Upcoming 2019 Tidewater Club Rallies

Tidewater Airstream Club Christmas

Saturday, December 14, 2019

4:30 pm



Come and join your fellow Tidewater Airstream friends for our Christmas Gathering. This year we will enjoy dinner at Craft 31 in Williamsburg, with the possible appearance of a very special guest. Following dinner, we will have the opportunity to attend the annual Christmas Concert at the Williamsburg Community Chapel.

*Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 4, 2019
to Richard & Joanna Duncan*

richard.joanna.1972@cox.net

740-319-1950

Craft 31

*3701 Strawberry Plains Road
Williamsburg, Virginia*

Williamsburg Community Chapel

*3899 John Tyler Highway
Williamsburg, Virginia*

WBAC Tidewater Club 111 EVENTS 2020

January 11 – New Years Dinner, Rib City, Virginia Beach, hosts Greg and Ellie Worcester

February – Lunch or Dinner TBD, *hosts needed*

March – Breakout Rally - Williamsburg KOA, *hosts needed*

April – Region III Rally – Myrtle Beach

April 1-5 - Newport News City Campground, *hosts needed*

May 14-17 – Ft. Monroe – *hosts Bill and Joyce Werner*

June 20-27 – International Rally in Loveland CO

June 20-27 - Belle Isle, *hosts Tim and Beverly Supler*

July – Kiptopeke State Park, *hosts Greg and Ellie Worcester*

August – Rudds Creek – *hosts Larry and Rhonda Evans*

September 11-13 – Commonwealth Rally, Location TBD,
hosts Unit 111

October 8 -11 – First Landing State Park Virginia Beach - *hosts Frank and Jayne Munoz*

November 5 - 8 – Urbanna Oyster Festival*

December – Holiday Dinner – TBD

Dates and locations will be firmed up as quickly as possible. Our monthly newsletter will have an updated calendar each issue.

** NORVA Club will not be hosting this rally in 2020. We are considering assuming hosting responsibilities. So if there is enough club interest and interest from the other Commonwealth clubs we will press forward. NORVA has done a great job hosting this rally over the years. It's a great last camping event of the season.*