

Keystone Kourier

President's Message

Keystone Unit #092
Region 2 - WBCCI



Hello Keystoners,

It's time to celebrate our great country's Independence Day once again. Two hundred forty-three years have passed since those brave patriots risked everything in Philadelphia to give birth to a new, free nation. It's also time to remember another anniversary which was critical to extending that independence to all Americans: the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1 – 3, 1863.

Those of us fortunate enough to attend the Region 2 Rally had a great opportunity to explore the Gettysburg battlefield and surrounding area. Although Arry and I have been to Gettysburg several times, it never gets old and we always learn new things. This time we visited the Eisenhower Farm where the President and Mamie finally retired after a lifetime of service to the Country. It's an impressive place that looks as if the Eisenhowers still live there. A time capsule of the Fifties and Sixties including black and white TV's, and pink and yellow bathroom fixtures. The Rally was well attended with all units participating. The food and entertainment were excellent as were the various presentations. Keystoners were well represented with six rigs: Don and Phyllis Harrington, Rick and Andy Pitts, Jody and Sue Dietz, Sue Walton, Jim and Janice Hicks, and Howard and Arry Mergelkamp. Our former Treasurer and current President of the Pennsylvania Unit, Alan Kenney, also joined us. Our thanks to Rich Short and Mark and Debbie Hammer and all the other volunteers for organizing this outstanding event.

Next up on the calendar is the International Rally in Doswell, Virginia. It looks like our unit will again be well represented as at least 6 or 7 Keystone rigs are expected to be there. The location is ideally situated for Civil War and Revolutionary War buffs as well as those wanting to take advantage of Washington DC's monuments, museums and historical sites. Kings Dominion is nearby for the daredevils among us.

Following the International Rally, Howard Mergelkamp and Don Harrington will be leading a week-long Exploring Central Pennsylvania Caravan. This should be an interesting and fun trip for those wishing to visit where the French and Indian War began, architectural masterpieces by Frank Lloyd Wright, a memorial to Flight 93, the site of the Johnstown flood tragedy, an outdoor U.S. Army Museum and Harrisburg's Capital Building and museums. Details are included below along with the signup coupon. Those interested in joining should let us know as soon as possible to ensure a space on the trip. Those unable to join the caravan are welcome to join the ending weekend at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Carlisle for fun and friendship.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming International Rally. Happy travels.

Howard Mergelkamp

Upcoming Events

July 20 - 27

62nd International Rally

Meadow Event Park
Doswell, VA

Aug 12 - 18

Exploring Central PA

Caravan meets at Hamburg
Cabellas Monday Aug 12

Aug 16 - 18

Unit Camping

Join returning caravaners at
Pine Grove Furnace St. Park
Gardners, PA

Sept 5 - 8

PA State Rally

Grange Fairgrounds
Centre Hall, PA

Stay Connected

Keystone on the web

<http://KeystonePA.airstreamclub.net/>



Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KeystoneUnit/>

Region 2 Rally

(excerpt from the Region News)



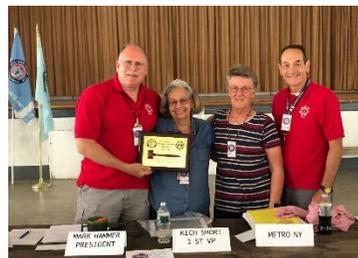
75 Airstream families and their rigs filled the South Mountain Fairgrounds for the Region rally. The weather more than cooperated and a great time was shared by all. Beautiful Adams County offered plenty to do including touring scenic back roads and visiting the numerous fruit farms, wineries and brew pubs that dot the countryside. The visit

to the area was not complete without a tour of Gettysburg with several families going back 2 and 3 times. Back at the Fairgrounds there was plenty of food, fun and Airstream camaraderie to go around. Ralliers enjoyed two evenings of music, three breakfasts, a delicious catered dinner, a visit by a great BBQ food truck, informational seminars and, of course, plenty of ice cream. We were able to send a check representing the proceeds of a "silent auction" to the Upper Adams Food Pantry along with several boxes filled with canned goods donated by our members.



It was announced that the 2020 Region 2 Rally will be held at the Rideau Acres Campground in Kingston, Ontario Canada on May 21-24, 2020. <https://www.rideauacres.com/> The annual Rally has not been held in Ontario since 2010 so it is time to make a trip to visit our members north of the border. Get your passports in order and mark your calendars now.

Rich and Kathi Short took over the reins as president and first lady from Mark and Debbie Hammer. We offer a big 'THANKS' to Mark and Debbie for their service, and join the other units in welcoming Rich and Kathi. BTW – the region still needs a VP if you are interested in helping out!



Upcoming Rally Fun:

62nd International Rally – this year in nearby Doswell, VA at the Meadow Event Park, birthplace of Secretariat. **July 20 – 27.**

<https://wbcci.org/home/caravans/rallies/international-rally/2019-doswell-va/doswell-registration>

In addition to collecting donations of pennies, aluminum tabs, pet food & supplies and personal care items, the Doswell rally is collecting for the Richmond based **Home Again** charity which assists homeless shelters for families, single women and operates the Veterans Transitional Home. Items needed are new towels & washcloths; twin-size blankets, bed-sheets and standard-sized pillows; new and gently used furniture; school & craft supplies; kitchen & cooking supplies; men's adjustable belts; and household cleaning supplies. Check page 41 of the June **Blue Beret** for more information.

2019 Officers

President

Howard Mergelkamp

1st Vice President

Jody Dietz

2nd Vice President

Don Harrington

Treasurer

Rick Pitts

Secretary

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Arry Mergelkamp

1 Year Trustee

Barry Heckenswiler

2 Year Trustee

Andy Pitts

Legislative

Jody Dietz

Membership

Don Harrington

Sunshine

Karen Kushto

Unit Supplies

Karen Kushto

Historian

Caryle Brayton

Kourier – Web Pages

Andy & Rick Pitts

"Taste of the Blue Ridge" Caravan

Will and Karen Kushto completed their caravan through the Blue Ridge mountains and provided this update:



We had a fantastic 25 days traveling the length of the Blue Ridge Parkway with old friends from previous adventures and making new ones. This was a very active trek that included white water rafting, ziplining thru the forest, horseback riding in Moses Cone Park and biking 17 miles downhill on the Virginia Creeper Trail. Beautiful hikes included Mt. Mitchell, the waterfalls & cave at Linville and an after dark experience with the Blue Ghost Lightening Bugs. The scenery was breathtaking! Travel days were short distances but offered numerous pullover vistas and trailheads. For the history buffs, there were trips to Biltmore Estate, Monticello, Poplar Forest, Montpelier and a private tour of UVA. Of course, we ate our way across North Carolina & Virginia and Will checked out the craft brews. As with all caravans, this was just a taste of what the Blue Ridge has to offer. Think we'll need to go back for seconds!



Don't be discouraged if a caravan is listed as "wait list". Send an application or email to the caravan leaders, especially if you have a flexible schedule. Last minute cancellations and openings happen!

Staying in Touch with Members heading 'Down the Road'

Chuck & Linda Chowns moved from Utah into Idaho and sent some more awesome pictures:



Rick & Andy Pitts rambled through the Blue Ridge mountains on their way to the Region rally:



Send us your pictures, we love to include them in the Kourier!

Sunshine Report

As we're trying to stay cool during the summer's first heatwave, Barb & Jerry Hillegass are continuing to recoup from surgery and injuries. They hope to be in good travel condition by International.

Barry Heckenswiler had his last stent procedure and will begin rehab. Keep those healing prayers coming!

Safe travels on your summer adventures, especially Keystoners heading to Doswell.

Have a festive and safe 4th of July

Let us know of illnesses, surgeries, friends needing a kind word - and better yet, recoveries.

Karen (kkushto@comcast.net or cell 215-266-2410)

Happy Birthday to:

July

Vaughn Brayton (12th)

Melissa Goins (14th)

Bud Vogt (28th)

Sharon Keefe

August

Jody Dietz (5th)

Wayne Fitzgerald (8th)

Sam Engelman (17th)

Jeff Michael (27th)

Happy Anniversary to:

July

Bud & Cheryl Cattell

Don & Joan Weaver

Wilson & Cindy Yerk

August

Vaugh & Caryle Brayton

Will & Karen Kushto

We have, and like to celebrate many birthdates and anniversary months but if we've missed you please email Rick/Andy (r_pitts@verizon.net)

Updated 2019 Activities Schedule

2019

July 20-27 (Sat-Sat) – International Rally, Doswell, VA; Howard Mergelkamp to coordinate

August 12-18 (Mon-Sun) – Exploring Central PA, Keystone Unit Caravan.

Visiting Carlisle, U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center, Indian School, Harrisburg and others.

Howard Mergelkamp to coordinate.

August 16-18 (Fri-Sun) – Unit camping at Pine Grove Furnace State Park with visits to Carlisle and Harrisburg.

Pine Grove Furnace State Park (Charcoal Heath Campground) 101 Bendersville Road, Gardners, PA 17324

September 5-8 (Fri-Sun) – Pennsylvania State Rally, Penn-Lehigh coordinating

Centre Hall Fairgrounds, 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall, PA; Howard Mergelkamp to coordinate for Keystone

September 21 - 29 – invitation to join 57th Annual Swiss Festival National Rally, Sugarcreek OH

If you have any questions, please call Larry & Karin Kurkowski, Larry at 248-421-5315; Karin at 586-214-1777.

October 2 – 6 – invitation to join Storytelling Festival Special Event Rally, Jonesborough, TN

Contact Harry or Teresa Herrmann at 865-966-2222 or harry22222@gmail.com

October 4 – 8 – invitation to join Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta National Rally, Albuquerque, NM

Sold out this year.

November - Local Day Trip and lunch -- Date & locations to be determined.

Howard Mergelkamp and another to coordinate

December 14 (Sat) – Holiday luncheon at Plumsteadville Inn, Plumsteadville, PA;

Peg and George Spahn coordinating

EXPLORING CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CARAVAN

August 12 – 18, 2019

This 1-week caravan will explore world famous architecture, sites of terrible tragedies, the site where the French and Indian War began and museums for train enthusiasts and Civil War buffs, all in south central Pennsylvania.

The group will depart from the Hamburg Cabellas Monday, August 12 and drive to Ohiopyle State Park where we spend 2 nights. On the way to Ohiopyle we stop at the Flight 93 Memorial (9/11 crash site near Somerset).

The next day (Tuesday) will be spent visiting two Frank Lloyd Wright locations (Fallingwater and Polymath Park) and exploring the waterfalls at Ohiopyle.

Wednesday, we head to Wrights Orchard Station Campground which will be our base for 2 nights as we explore Johnstown and Altoona. On the way we'll stop in for a quick visit to where George Washington helped start the French and Indian War at Fort Necessity. After setting up camp we'll visit the Johnstown Flood Museum and take the Incline tramway to the overlook above Johnstown. Thursday we'll visit Altoona where we'll go to the Railroad Museum and scenic Horseshoe Curve, a marvel of 19th century railroad engineering.

Friday we head to Pine Grove Furnace State Park, our base for 2 nights while we visit Carlisle and Harrisburg. After setting up camp, we'll go to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle to tour the outdoor park/museum's military displays of important periods in the country's history. For a sweet change of pace we'll visit the Lindt Chocolate Warehouse in Carlisle where we'll have a chance to purchase a variety of fresh chocolate truffles and other goodies.

Saturday we'll spend the day in Harrisburg. There are 3 places to visit either as a group or on our own: The State Capital Building, the State Museum of Pennsylvania and the National Civil War Museum.

We welcome campers who can only join us on the weekend at Pine Grove Furnace State Park and who wish to explore Harrisburg and Carlisle with us.

After the week's adventures, we depart for home on Sunday.

EXPLORING CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CARAVAN COUPON

August 12 – 18, 2019

We have reserved 7 sites for each campground, first-come/first served, for the caravan and camping weekend. Rick will confirm receipt and let you know if you may need to make separate reservations for the weekend.

Caravan Fee: \$206 camping plus \$81/person entrance fees (2 members: \$368, 1 member: \$287).

This covers 6 nights camping (4 nights at PA state parks with electric at site – water refresh and dump site at campground, 2 nights private campground mid-week with full hookups including sewer), and entrance fees to the following:

- Frank Lloyd Wright locations at Fallingwater and Polymath Park
- Johnstown Flood Museum and Incline Plane Tramway
- Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum and Horseshoe Curve

Note: Senior discounts will be refunded at the end of the trip.
There should be no entrance fees for Fort Necessity, the Flight 93 Memorial, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, and the State Capital Building.
Meals and any other entrance fees (State Museum of PA \$7/Person, National Civil War Museum \$13/person), will be paid by the participants during the trip.

Campers who can only join us for the weekend at Pine Grove Furnace State Park are welcome and camping fees will be \$31/trailer per night (\$62 for weekend).

Provide the Information Below

Name(s): _____ Member # _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Cell # _____

Airstream: (trailer or coach) _____ Length: _____

Amount of check enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: **Keystone Unit WBCCI**
Send to: **Rick Pitts, 930 Stoney Run Drive, West Chester, PA 19382 by August 1, 2019**

Also notify Howard Mergelkamp of your intention to join the caravan as soon as possible in order to preserve a spot.

For questions and information contact:
Howard Mergelkamp at 267-733-3565, howardsan70@gmail.com or
Don Harrington at 856-362-1908, pastordkh21@aol.com

Andy and Rick Pitts
930 Stoney Run Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19382



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE KEYSTONE UNIT?

Contact:

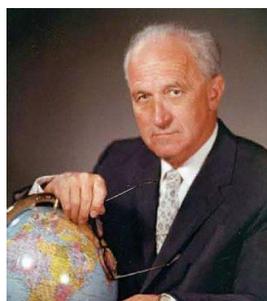
President: Howard Mergelkamp

howardsan70@gmail.com

Membership: Don Harrington

pastordkh21@aol.com

Keystone Courier



Wally Byam
Born July 4, 1896