

Washington DC Unit



WBCCI

# THE CAPITAL TIMES

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## Links

WDCU Website

<http://www.servintfree.net/wbcci-dc/>

Vintage Club

[www.airstream.net](http://www.airstream.net)

## OFFICER MESSAGE - Rob Baker

Wow, where has the summer of 2008 gone! All I know is that it's been alot of fun Airstreamin and that there's still some more to come. Since Cherry Blossom there's been the Celtic Festival Rally in Chatham, NY, the East Coast VAC Rally, the Pageant of Bands Rally and then we dropped in at the first annual Vintage Trailer Jam in Saratoga Springs, NY where GSM Vehicles, Vintage Trailer Supply and Airstream Life put on a great time! Now, there's the Outer Banks Rally later this month, the 18-21 September **Beachcomber Camping Resort Rally** in Cape May, NJ and then our 2008 Installation Rally October 2-5 in North Norwich, NY in the town park where the leaves will be awesome! Still lots of fun too have. Zoe, myself and the boys head out on August 13th for a stop at the Airstream factory and then are running up to the Metro Detroit Rally 15-17 August, in Milan, MI to spread the WDCU spirit! I know it's been great seeing everyone this year at the rallies we've made, and are looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming rallies. I know it's been tough with the gas prices increasing costs, but in reality, a trip today from Virginia to NY is only about \$50 different as compared to last year....so - a couple less pizza's and you can still do the trip :)

I'm living out of our 1958 Sovereign near Quantico, Virginia at the Travel Trailer Village in Dumfries during the week and commuting home to NY on the weekends, so if you're traveling north or south on the I-95 corridor, stop on in (it's a nice stayover).

I'm really excited about next year too! There are a few of you out there bringing on some new rallies and then we've got the International in Wisconsin and we're looking at a Caravan out there and back with a WDCU get together while we are out there. Those details are in the works. For those of you working on those new events, keep up the good work and we're looking forward to pushing out more about those events at the Installation rally.

Here are a few of our member's blogs and helpful links that I think you'll all enjoy:

Rob and Zoe's sweet Sovereign Sophia - <http://sweetsovereign.blogspot.com/>

John and Laurie Kwasnik - <http://1961airstream.blogspot.com/>

Frank and Beth Yensan's Annalumanum "Anna" - <http://annalumanum.blogspot.com/>

Mary and Rick Dotson "Tales of the Toaster" - <http://www.toastertales.com/>

Mary runs our [Yahoo](http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/WBCCI_WDCU/) Washington DC site as well located here:

[http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/WBCCI\\_WDCU/](http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/WBCCI_WDCU/) where lots of news about the unit get's put out from.

So, until our next newsletter or the next rally I see you at I want to say be safe and I'll See ya down the Road.

Rob, your 1st Vice President

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## Plan a Christmas Trip in August - Paul Waddell

The weather's hot, the days are long and the last thing on your mind is Christmas, well it shouldn't be. This is when you should be making plans to stay at the beach for the Christmas break. I know, I know, you say "But what about the family?" I say, "Who do you think you're taking to the beach!" This past Christmas my family had the joy of heading just a "little" south during the week between Christmas and New Years Day. It was all planned, Christmas Eve spend time with my side of the family, Christmas morning spend time with Mary Kim's side of the family which would come over for breakfast. We got the trailer ready, hitched up and pack the day before. All we needed was the last dish to be put into the dishwasher and kick the last relative out the door. For some reason, we just could not get Mary Kim's Uncle Massie to leave! We looked at the clock, 10:30am, 12:30pm, finally around 1:30-2:00pm, he said his goodbyes, and I think if he'd been doing anything under the speed limit when he left, we would have passed him going out the road from our house. Don't get me wrong, we love Massie it's just he was between the beach and us.

Our destination, Myrtle Beach, SC, some may say "I don't like Myrtle Beach on a good day". Well, that's because you've been going during the summer months when you can't breath because of all the people. I can tell you, I wouldn't like Myrtle Beach in the summer either. But we found, during the week of Christmas the weather to be perfect and the town half empty! With temps in the 60-70 degree range during the day, 45 degree temp at night, no one could ask for anything more.

Because of the late start and the long days doing the Christmas thing before leaving, we were a little tired, so we knew we would not make it to the beach on Christmas day, so after driving part of the way down we decided to stay over the night at a hotel. The next day, we were up and out early looking forward to a little fun in the sun at the beach. We pulled into the campground around noon. As soon as we parked, Virginia was ready to hit the sand and waves. With a t-shirt and Capri pants, out on the

beach she went chasing the waves. There was hardly anyone on the beach. With the campground only about 1/3 full, it was like we had it all to ourselves. Over the next couple of days we had fun spending time on the beach and using the indoor pool.



During the winter months we found, all the "good" places to eat are still open, no 45minute lines to get a seat just walk right in. We had the pleasure of going to our first Brazilian Steak House, which had just opened up a few months earlier. If you've never been to that type of steak house, we highly suggest it. Another night we went and saw a show called "Christmas on Parade" at one of the opera houses. I had more fun watching my daughter Virginia watching the show than I did watching the show itself. Her eyes just lit up when they brought this big white horse out on stage during one of the songs.

All in all, it was the most relaxing time we have ever had during the Christmas holidays. In fact, before we left to come back home, we made reservations for next year during the same week (right on the front row, next to the beach). We found many folks head on down to Florida for the week or skiing up north. Not many folks think about that nice South Carolina beach weather during the week between Christmas and New Years Day. After reading this, if you're thinking of doing the same, make your plans soon. Spots up front go fast, though spots can be had in the back rows. We stayed at "Ocean Lakes" it can be found on the web at [www.oceanlakes.com](http://www.oceanlakes.com).

Hope to see ya there!  
Paul Waddell, WDCU Past Prez

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## Beachcomber Rally - Sept 18-21

**Beachcomber Camping Resort Rally**  
462, Seashore Road, Cape May, New Jersey 08204

**Thursday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Hosted by: Sonia and Jerry McConnell**



Come join us and let us take you on a trip to the beautiful Polynesian Islands with a Luau on Saturday night and live entertainment by the Mele Kini Polynesian Dance Studio.

Enjoy the following activities:

- Classic Car show/Hot-rods at the campground
- Harvest Festival with apple bobbing, pumpkin painting, hayrides and a full moon bonfire at the campground
- Boardwalk Classic Cars Show (4 miles away in Wildwood)
- Irish Fall Festival (also in Wildwood)
- Food and Wine Festival in Cape May

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**Have a Hula-of-a-time  
On  
Saturday night starting at 6PM  
In the Lakeside Pavilion**

**Feast on a catered pig roast dinner; enjoy a Hawaiian Luau with live entertainment by the Mele Kini Dancers. Let them take you on a trip to the Polynesian islands, with dances from Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Samoa.**

**Watch the dancers as they sway to the Hawaiian Hula, shake their hips to the Tahitian fast Oteas and twirl Maori poi balls.**

**You can even participate and learn the Hawaiian Hula. Grass skirts will be loaned for the dance. There will be prizes. So come with your Aloha wear. We will give you a flower lei to complement your outfit.**

All sites for the rally are the Ultra-VIP sites, with Electric/water/sewer/cable hookups and a post light at each site. Sites can accommodate large rigs. Wi-Fi is available for a fee.

Colonial Airstream's Pat and Lauren will be attending our rally. They will bring along a 2009 model unit and let us see the latest that Airstream has to offer. John (one of the owners) is trying to be there too with his family. Colonial Airstream is working on donating some "prizes".

### **Some Helpful Links:**

Beachcomber Camping Resort – [www.beachcombercamp.com](http://www.beachcombercamp.com)

Cape May – Lewes Ferry (2 miles away) – [www.CMLF.com](http://www.CMLF.com)

Tours and activities in Cape May – [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org)

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Boardwalk Classic Car Show – Wildwood – [www.ThunderMoto.com](http://www.ThunderMoto.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Classic Car Auction – In the Convention Center in Wildwood – [www.wildwoodnjclassiccarauction.com](http://www.wildwoodnjclassiccarauction.com)

Irish Fall Festival in North Wildwood – [www.Northwildwood.com](http://www.Northwildwood.com)

Cape May Wine and Food Festival – [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org)

Morey Piers Amusement Park – [www.MoreyPiers.com](http://www.MoreyPiers.com)

Mele Kini Polynesian Studio – (in case you are planning a party) – [www.melekini.com](http://www.melekini.com)

### **Rally Schedule:**

Breakfast - 7:30AM to 9:30AM

Happy Hour – 4PM and on.

Luau is on Saturday – 6PM in the Pavilion – dinner followed by the Polynesian show

### **Campground Registration:**

Please call the Beachcomber ASAP (800-233-0150) to register. **After August 1<sup>st</sup>, the campground can not guarantee a site with the rest of the group.** When you call, please mention that you are with the WDCU or Airstream group.

Prices:\$36/night if staying Thursday to Sunday (3 nights)

\$43/night if staying Friday and Saturday (2 nights)

We have a 3PM late checkout on Sunday, for those of you that wish to stay a little bit longer.

Note: Beachcomber has a card-controlled entry gate. A separate \$10 refundable cash security deposit is required at check-in.

Golf carts are available for rent.

**Registration form**

Please register early to give us time to coordinate with the caterer.  
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Name(s); \_\_\_\_\_

Children and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

WBCCI #: \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fee :                      \$20/per person\*

Please make checks payable to WDCU and mail them to:

Sonia McConnell

32 Fountayne Lane

Skillman, NJ 08558

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## Installation Rally - Oct 2-5, North Norwich, NY - Rob Baker

To all,

Well, since I've been recalled to Active Duty and am the one putting on my Installation Rally, I've been busy working on the location and dates of where and when. Originally, I had it down for October 16-19, but those dates are not good for central NY - all locations have facilities closed by that date, so I started looking for a location more south, but they are all booked. So, I've changed the dates of when I can host the rally to the first weekend in October - October 2-5, to be held in North Norwich, NY 13832. This is a central NY location in the Leatherstocking Region, not too far from Cooperstown, NY. The leaves should be in peak color at this time. I'm working on Saturday night entertainment where I'm trying to line up the Sons of Ireland, a local family Irish band - they are good. I've got leave planned and am looking forward to it. Hope you all can make it. If you plan on attending, send me an email to [airstreamnut@gmail.com](mailto:airstreamnut@gmail.com) and I'll start a running list. Also, I'm going to start a thread on the Airforums with a Rally signup page and a thread on the rally itself.

I won't be making the Hatteras Rally, but am planning on making it for Friday and Saturday night to the Cape May Rally, working on that time off right now.

We are headed for the Airstream Factory, leaving Quantico on the 13th with the 58 Sovereign of the Road and then making it up to the Detroit Metro Rally in Milan, Mi on the 15th and 16th.... it should be a good time to spread the WDCU fun!

Hope you all are out on the road with your Airstream!! More to follow soon.

I apologize up front for having to change the dates - but the season and Marine Corps (I'll be headed for Japan on the 18th), sometimes makes things change.

Take care everyone, and I'll see you down the road... I'm currently parked in the Prince William Travel Trailer Village in Dumfries, Virginia.

Rob, your 1st WDCU VP.

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## Membership Report - Star Grover

JULY 2008

Rallies are a great place to recruit new members. WDCU seems to have more than it's share of people from other units willing to come far and wide to our rallies and it is a compliment to us.

At Trailer Jam '08, held in Saratoga Springs early in July, I met so many interesting people who were INTERESTED in hearing more about our unit. Sure, sure, I coerced several into becoming affiliates and one MAL is coming into the fold, but more than anything, they all had good things to say about the Washington DC Unit and how friendly our members are. This means that you have all been doing a good job as ambassadors and that makes my job easier and easier.

This month we welcome:

Tom and Lisa Crosley of Sperryville, VA  
Don and Sue Stanton and family of Norwich, NY  
Derek Jackson and Nadene Neel of Silver Spring, MD  
Russell Ley of Scotia, NY (a former member who is rejoining)

Keep doing such a good job of promoting the unit and send me any info via e-mail at [sgrover@voicenet.com](mailto:sgrover@voicenet.com) and I will be sure to contact all perspective members.

See you down the road, Star Grover

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## 2008 Rally Schedule – The last three of the year

### Cape Hatteras Seashore Rally

August, 17-23 2008  
Host: Gayle McClellan & Margaret Natof  
Contact: 301 – 384-4223  
Email: [gmcclell@verizon.net](mailto:gmcclell@verizon.net)  
[www.WashingtonDCUnit.Org](http://www.WashingtonDCUnit.Org)

### BeachComber Rally

Cape May, NJ  
September 18-21, 2008  
Host: Jerry & Sonia McConnell  
Email: [Sonia.McConnell@jpmchase.com](mailto:Sonia.McConnell@jpmchase.com)  
[www.WashingtonDCUnit.Org](http://www.WashingtonDCUnit.Org)

### WDCU 2008 Installation Rally

Norwich, New York - October 2-5, 2008  
Host: Rob & Zoe Baker Email:  
[Rob.Baker@apogen.com](mailto:Rob.Baker@apogen.com)

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## Officer Listing

President – Pete Daniel - [pete@consultadc.com](mailto:pete@consultadc.com)

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Rob Baker - [robandzoe@adelphia.net](mailto:robandzoe@adelphia.net)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Star Grover - [sgrover@voicenet.com](mailto:sgrover@voicenet.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Gayle McClelland – [gmcclell@verizon.net](mailto:gmcclell@verizon.net)

Immediate Past President - Paul Waddell – [balloon@rideair.com](mailto:balloon@rideair.com)

Treasurer – Margaret Natof - [natofs@aol.com](mailto:natofs@aol.com)

Membership – Star Grover

Trustee – Marc Weimer- [marc@penn.com](mailto:marc@penn.com)

Trustee – John Gililand - [foxdown@aol.com](mailto:foxdown@aol.com)

Trustee – Matt Worner - [wormmatt@plateautel.net](mailto:wormmatt@plateautel.net)

Trustee – Kim Alaniz - [daneekim@yahoo.com](mailto:daneekim@yahoo.com)

Webmaster – Marc Weimer

Newsletter – Linda Moore – [moorelinda2@prodigy.net](mailto:moorelinda2@prodigy.net)

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## One Moore Thing - Letter from the Editor

I hope that everyone is having a fun and safe summer Airstreamin'! Speaking of safe, I came across this article on the Trailer Life magazine website. I hope to include other interesting items that pertain to towing, travel and life style. If you have interesting articles, please let me know about them.

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, please submit to me by August 30th. Send to [moorelinda2@prodigy.net](mailto:moorelinda2@prodigy.net).

Just campin'.

Linda Moore #151166

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## Be Aware! Safe Towing

– Plenty of practice and defensive driving skills lead to safe and enjoyable towing.

Brad Clayton – Trailer Life, February 2008

Towing a trailer is certainly not difficult, but it does represent a step up in complexity from driving a solo vehicle, requiring new awareness of combined vehicle length, trailer width, braking distance, turning characteristics and several other vital factors that must be considered while towing a trailer.

Most of us drive trucks, SUVs or passenger cars daily, and graduate to RVs only occasionally. Thus, it's always necessary to make a mental transition and try to keep the size and handling characteristics of the larger rig in mind.

Allowing solo-vehicle habits to take over may result in a tendency to make turns too tightly, run over curbs, hit stationary objects such as overhanging tree limbs or to follow too closely.

### Eyes on the Road

The first towing precautions are those that precede towing -- matching the tow vehicle and trailer correctly, adhering to weight limits and making sure hitch selection and adjustment are correct. And it's also important to refresh defensive driving skills. From there, the real fun begins.

The combined length of tow vehicle and trailer, as well as the combined weight, must be in the forefront of your mind, right from the start. Maintaining extended following distances is one of the most important towing-related driving habits that initially is difficult to adhere to because we tend to fall into our typical driving habits.

Even though trailer brakes may be functional, braking distances almost always are extended. It's also important to make lane changes carefully and slowly, and to allow extended distances for passing. Good, solidly mounted extendible mirrors with large reflective areas -- adjusted properly -- are also essential.

Speedy traffic seems more tolerant of slow 18-wheelers than of slow RVs, which makes courtesy an important safety factor for RV owners because an irate driver trying to pass can be a serious safety threat; courtesy is not only the consideration of others, it's a safety issue. Frequent monitoring of rearview mirrors is necessary; when a vehicle is tailgating and trying to pass, we should help by driving slightly to the right to give the other driver a better view of the road ahead, even if a passing opportunity does not exist at the time. We should use turnouts whenever possible and avoid following another vehicle so closely that a vehicle overtaking from the rear cannot return to the proper lane.

### Time for a Brake

While RV brakes are adequate for most situations, care is necessary to avoid overheating, which can lead to brake fade. If brake fade occurs, it will likely be on steep downgrades. If this happens, friction will raise the temperature of brake pads and linings to extremely high levels, resulting in temporary loss of braking.

The cure is prevention -- downshifting to a gear range that is low enough to retard speed sufficiently that brakes need not be used more than occasionally. This way, enough braking performance is reserved to make an emergency stop, should it become necessary.

When braking on a grade is necessary, apply the brakes intermittently, with moderate pressure, and release the pedal to allow the brakes to cool.

The action of electric trailer brakes should be apparent to the driver, and sufficient enough to handle the trailer's weight. The controller should be adjusted so that maximum braking action does not cause trailer-wheel lockup. Improper controller adjustment is a major cause of inadequate braking, so it's wise to study the manufacturer's instructions. Travel-trailer instability (fishtailing) should not occur in a well-balanced, well-hitched combination, but if it does, independent actuation of trailer brakes usually will bring the trailer back into line.

### Back-Up Plans

All trailers require more space for turns, and travel trailers follow the tow-vehicle track more closely than do fifth-wheels, which track farther to the inside of a turn. There is need for continual awareness, which should eventually become second-nature after a modest amount of on-the-road experience.

Fifth-wheel trailers are different to back than conventional trailers, and require more practice for someone accustomed to backing a conventional trailer. A well-used technique involves placing one's hand at the bottom of the steering wheel and moving it in the same direction the trailer is intended to go. It's more effective with travel trailers than with fifth-wheels, which often require more turning of the steering wheel. Hand-held two-way radios can allow an assistant to more effectively relay backing instructions to the driver.

Before each trip, it's essential to check the tires to assure that inflation pressures match those molded on tire sidewalls (cold), or that they are appropriate for your load (consult load/inflation tables). Also, be sure to inspect all vehicle fluids and make sure trailer-wheel lug nuts are tightened to factory specifications.

Trailer is a great way to explore the new horizons and a great way to check out the wonderful camping destinations that are available to owners of recreational trailers. But always keep in mind that defensive driving will pay off in safe travel.

