



[www.cardinalvirginians.com](http://www.cardinalvirginians.com).

May Newsletter

### From our President

Hey Cardinal Virginians,

Well our season has begun and our first rally has taken place and we are gearing up for number two. Our first one was good with a great turn out and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The weather could have been a little nicer but we got through it ok.

Check your calendars for up coming rallies and get your reservations in soon, it is never too early to make them because you can always cancel.

There is still time to sign up to host or co-host a rally, so let our rally master know if you are interested. Hope when you took your rig out it was free from mothballs and that everything was working as it should. You never know what to expect when your rig has been setting for a few months.

Well, that is all for now, so hope to see you at one of our up coming rallies and remember be safe out there.

Gary Lambert  
President

### Hosting a rally

We now have most of our rallies scheduled for 2026! Thank you to everyone who stepped up and volunteered to host.

There may still opportunities available for hosting or co-hosting if you are interested.

We still have October and November open for 2026. It is never too soon to start looking ahead to the 2027 season either!

## **From our trail boss, Bob Sonnessa**

Greetings Cardinal Virginians,

We are excited to finally get back to our Group Rallies!!! We have some really good ones planned this year and hope many of you will be able to attend these events.

1. We still are looking for a host(s) for the October and November Rally's Please let me know if anyone is interested in planning an event or even if you would like to team with another member to host the event. If we cannot get anyone to assist we can always look to hold a "host-less" rally,,, Ugg, don't even like the word.

2. Please make sure you include me in any updates for the current or future rallies so I can ensure we are communicating correctly to the group.

3. We have an exciting trip planned in September joining forces with the PennCoachmen group from PA. If you are interested in attending please go to the [www.Penncoachment.org](http://www.Penncoachment.org) website to register. The dates of the rally are September 11 – 14 but they have an early bird opening beginning the 9th. Don't hesitate to register as this is filling up quickly.

### **5. WE ARE LIVE ON THE "ON LINE MEMBER DIRECTORY"!!!!**

Hopefully by now you have received a request to join the On Line Directory. We had the Madison Vine Rally group get started and register for the directory. You will need to do a couple of steps to get started which I have included below. PLEASE if you have problems contact me via cell or text me at 540-230-2431 and I can walk you through the process.

#### **GET STARTED WITH THE ON-LINE DIRECTORY**

1. Download "Online Directory app" on your phone or computer
2. Scroll to the bottom of page and click on Don't have an account yet? Sign up by using your email address
3. Once you have completed this you will receive a "User Details" message to add your email, set up and confirm your password, also add your first and last name
4. Search Member name by last name, this will pull up your profile
5. To add a picture, click on the Paper and pencil icon.
6. Edit and confirm information click on the "three dots"
7. If you make any changes, PLEASE HIT THE SAVE CHANGES BUTTON
8. Feel free to add additional fields located at the bottom
  - a. FRVA Number
  - b. Joined Date

## 2026 Rally Schedule

Dates	Host	Location	Contact information
April 29-May 3	Lamberts and G. Fergusons	Madison Vines campground	110 Campground Ln, Madison Va 540-948-4186
May 18- 21	Bartons and B. Fergusons	Jellystone RV Resort Natural Bridge Station	16 Recreation Ln, Natural Bridge Station Va 24579 540-291-2727
June 25-28	Compters and Handys	KOA of Wytheville, Virginia	231 KOA Rd Wytheville Va 24382 276-228-2601
July 23-26	Pittmans and Petersons	Cozy Acres Campground	2177 B Ridge Rd Powhatan Va 804-598-2470 <a href="http://www.cozyacres.com">www.cozyacres.com</a>
August 10-14	Joint Rally with Dogwood and Penn Coachman groups	Spacious Skies Shenandoah Views Campground	3402 Kimball Rd. Luray Va 22835 540-743-7222  <a href="#">Spacious Skies – Luray – Penn Coachmen</a>
September 11-14 Early arrivals Sept. 9	Joint Rally with Penn Coachman group.	Pocono Raceway 1234 Long Pond Road Long Pond, PA	Go to <a href="http://www.Penncoachmen.org">www.Penncoachmen.org</a> to register
October	OPEN		
November	OPEN		
December	Christmas Dinner	TBD	TBD

### May Rally Tentative Itinerary

Monday, May 18 -Thursday, May 21  
Jellystone RV Park, Natural Bridge Station, VA.

#### Monday, May 18

Arrival of Rally attendees. **Please bring your own tableware and drinks to each meal.**

4:30 - 5:00 Happy Hour Bring your favorite beverage and relax after your drive.

5:00 - 6:00 Dinner Provided by hosts will consist of Hot Dogs, Chili, Baked Beans, Potato Casserole, fruit, and dessert.

#### Tuesday, May 19

9:00 Potluck Breakfast: Bring you favorite Breakfast dish to share.

Lunch on your own. Enjoy your day at the park or visiting area attractions.

4:30 Happy Hour: Bring your favorite beverage.

5:00 Leave for Dinner at The Pink Cadillac Diner, 43475 Lee Hwy Natural Bridge

### **Wednesday, May 20**

Breakfast and Lunch on your own.

Enjoy your day at the park or visiting area attractions.

4:30 - 5:00 Happy Hour: Bring your favorite beverage.

5:00 - 6:00 Potluck Dinner: Hosts will provide BBQ, buns, and Corn soufflé. Bring a side or dessert of your choice.

### **Thursday, May 21**

8:30 Continental Breakfast provided by Hosts.

Depart for home. Safe travels

### **June 2026 Rally 6/25/26-6/28/26**

*Greetings! Barbara and I are new to the Cardinal Virginians, but we have volunteered to host the June 2026 rally, along with Tim & Donna Handy.*

We have confirmed dates for the June 2026 rally at Wytheville KOA (Wytheville VA):  
Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28

They have blocked off the entire lower ("L") section for us. That's way more than we'll need, but better too many than too few sites. (I didn't ask for that many – they volunteered it). These are all premium big-rig sites, some pull-throughs and some back-ins, but nothing that's difficult to get in or out of. I booked Site L17 for Barbara and me, and added a day on the front end for us to setup. Tim & Donna will also come a day early, and they will be staying in L18. (see site map, attached)

Reservations are available now, and the block will be held until April 30. Rates are about \$80-82 per night (standard). They said they don't usually discount for less than 25 RVs, but I'm negotiating with the owner about that. And of course, there's always a 10% discount for KOA Rewards members – I don't know how many of our group are also KOA members.

Meetings and group meals: They said we could use the pavilion at the upper part of the campground, but I think that's too far for many of our folks to walk (and it's a slight uphill). Either folks would have to rent a golf car or we'd have to ferry people back and forth, which would be a pain. I asked if we could just do the popup shelter thing like we did at Stuarts Draft, and they were okay with that. We would set up between the back-in sites (L17 – L22) and the pond. They could even move some extra tables and a fire ring there to accommodate us. We'll just have to pray for good weather!

Let me know your thoughts/questions/suggestions about this. Are we on the right track? If not, please let me know ASAP.

Larry & Barbara Compter

**July, 2026 Cardinal Virginians Rally 7/23/26-7/26/26**

Just a quick reminder that we only have 5 sites left for the July, 2026, Rally. The campground has agreed to hold the campsites until June, 2026, however, we recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible in order to get the site that you desire. They will require one night’s deposit to hold your site. As the event gets closer, we will be sending out a schedule of the chapter’s activities, meals and local attractions to those we know are attending.

The Petersons will be on Site 117 and the Pittmans will be on Site 118. All sites have full hookups. The sites that we have secured, along with the prices and a brief description, are listed below. If the sites we blocked are no longer available, the campground may have other sites, however, we encourage you to book sooner instead of later. **Remember to mention “Cardinal Virginians” when booking your site**

Site Number	Description	Price	Campers
37 VIP site	Pull through with Gazebo	\$90/ night	
38 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Handys
39 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	
52 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Sonnessas
53 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Bartons
54 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Bishops
55 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	Kates
56 Super Site	Pull through with paver patio	\$62/ night	
115 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	
116 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/ night	

117 VIP Site	Back-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/night	Petersons (co-hosts) Arriving 7/22/26
118 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/night	Pittmans (co-hosts) Arriving 7/22/26
119 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/night	Rapps
120 VIP (motorhomes only)	Pull-in Waterfront with a patio	\$80/night	Fergusons, Brent/ Mona

We have reserved the clubhouse for the weekend to be used in the event of rain.

**\*\*\*A reminder: Please let us know when you make your reservations and what site you chose. Having an accurate headcount is very helpful when planning meals and activities. You can email us at [shell2is67@gmail.com](mailto:shell2is67@gmail.com) (Michelle) or [karilypittman@gmail.com](mailto:karilypittman@gmail.com) (Karilyn)**



## **August and September Rallies 8/10/26-8/14/26 and 9/9/26-9/15/26**

Hope all is well and you all are staying warm!!

1. August Rally - we are teaming with Dogwood and Penn Coachmen group to head to Spacious Skies Shenandoah Views Campground. Dates of the Rally are August 10 -14, 2026. Here is the link for additional information and Registration which MUST be completed by April 30,2026. Also, they have 30 sites which do fill up quickly so make your reservations ASAP if you are interested in attending. I have also included a link for this event and the registration form for those who are interested in attending. [Spacious Skies – Luray – Penn Coachmen](#)
2. September Rally - We are headed to the Pocono Speedway from September 9 - 15 and joining with the Penn Coachmen group. We have recently sent information regarding this event via email. If you have additional questions contact Bob Sonnessa, Cell 540-230-2431 or email [ssonnessa@comcast.net](mailto:ssonnessa@comcast.net)

Bob Sonessa, VP/Trail Boss

## **April Rally Report**

Our first rally of 2026 was held at Madison Vines RV Resort from April 29 - May 3 Cinco de Mayo Weekend.

The rally was hosted by Gary and Jane Lambert and Gaye and Gehrig Ferguson.

Rally attendees included Brent and Mona Ferguson, Baynard and Sherree Barton, Mark and Karilyn Pittman, Bob and Sherry Sonnessa, and (daughter Kelsea, son-in-law Blane, and granddaughters Kennedy and Kinley), Dave and Mary LaClare (new members), Bill and Brenda Robbins and (guests Angie and Mike), Bill and Donna Brown, Rex Monroe and Betty Franklin, Larry and Michelle Peterson and (daughter Maggie, grandson Micah, and friends Dave and Angie), and Paul and Barbara Young.

On Wednesday our host provided light appetizer for the group. Several members went to The Bavarian Chef for dinner and others went to The Blue Ridge Cafe. We were surprised at the Bavarian Chef by Steve and Mona Horne

On Thursday, Betty did a tour of the Graffiti House for those that wanted to attend. Others relaxed at the campground, went shopping, or to local wineries. After happy hour, we went to social hour at the campground and played trivia.

On Friday we had a potluck breakfast, followed by a chapter meeting. Attendees had free time had to explore the area. After happy hour, we went to Social hour and dinner provided by the campground followed by Bingo.

On Saturday, we had free time to explore the area or attend activities in the campground. After a potluck Happy Hour we had dinner provided by the campground.

On Sunday, we had breakfast provided by the campground. Despite the cooler temperatures and rain, everyone seemed to have a good time.

Safe travels home.  
Sherree Barton



**A special note:**

I would like to thank our Cardinal Virginians for the plaque honoring my past presidency for the past 3 years.  
Baynard.



***New Members and Website***

Please welcome our New Members

Mary and David LeClair  
Chilhowie Va 24319

Kevin Keys  
Stephen Webber  
Rixeyville, Va 22737

\*Look on our website to print an application form.

Thanks to Kamal for his work on updates to [www.cardinalvirginians.com](http://www.cardinalvirginians.com) including Past newsletters, Rally dates, Application And other Information Check it out!

### **For Sale:**

BlueOX BX7335 Aventa 2 Tow Bar (10,000 lb) 2 Inch Receiver and RVi Brake 2 RV flat tow braking system with remote. Kamal Rojiani (540) 239-0610.

### **Care and Concern:**

We need to keep Gaye Ferguson in our thoughts and prayer. During our April rally she had to go to UVA Charlottesville because of concerns of a stroke. Recently she had a heart ablation and the doctor believes it was a stroke related to that procedure. Prayers for a quick recovery Gaye.

If you know of someone I need to reach out to please contact me at [fallenoakfarm@juno.com](mailto:fallenoakfarm@juno.com) or text 540-270-7219

Betty Franklin

### **Your Cardinal Virginians Officers**

President- Gary Lambert  
First VP-Kamal Rojiani  
Second VP/Trail Boss-Bob Sonessa  
Secretary-Donna Handy  
Treasurer- Brent Ferguson  
National Director- Bill Brown  
Care & Concerns- Betty Franklin  
Webmaster- Kamal Rojiani  
Newsletter/ Editor- Sarah Bishop  
Facebook Administrator- Sherry Sonessa  
Past President- Baynard Barton

### **Editors note**

If you have anything you would like included in future newsletters, please send it to the appropriate person or to me. You can email me, ( [bishops816@gmail.com](mailto:bishops816@gmail.com)) text me (276-613-5487) or even reach out through Facebook.

**\*Please ensure that anything you want included in future newsletters gets to me by the 25th of the previous month. ( for example, if you want something in the May newsletter I need it by April 25) This insures that I have plenty of time to make sure I include it.**

**Going forward, anything that is received after that deadline will not be included until the NEXT month's newsletter.**

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve the Cardinal Virginians as your newsletter editor

### **Newsletter Distribution**

Please remember that for legal reasons we send most of our communications through FMCA. Make sure you are on the FMCA mailing list to ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter and other important information from that source.

You can also check our website for the information or if necessary we can put this newsletter in the mail.

*Sarah Bishop*, editor