

Doswell, Virginia

Lew Brodsky #2585



As summer quickly approaches, so does the International Airstream Rally in Doswell! We know you will want to make the most of your travels and take time to experience some noteworthy attractions here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This then, is the last in a series of six articles prepared for the *Blue Beret*, describing things to see and do. In this one, we look at the busiest, most congested and densely populated part of Virginia; but it is also (arguably) the most exciting part of the state. Let's put it this way: if by attending this rally you are visiting the "Old Dominion" for the first time, it would be very sad if you went home without seeing some of the world-renowned sites lying about 84 miles NORTH of The Meadow Event Park.

First, let's talk about our Nation's Capital. Did you know that the District of Columbia originally included a slice of Virginia? In 1791, a 100 square-mile plot of land was ceded by Maryland and Virginia to form the District. One third of it was on the Virginia side of the Potomac River and included what is today Arlington County and most of the City of Alexandria. But the entire Virginia parcel was given back to the state in 1846, thereafter confining the District boundaries to the Maryland side of the river.

It would take weeks, if not months, to experience all the things to see and do in D.C. and Northern Virginia, so we will only mention highlights. Please consult the two destination charts we've included for details and links to various web sites.

Right up front we need to inform you that getting in and out of the D.C./ Northern Virginia area is problematic. Traffic on I-95 is always a mess, and once you get there, parking is difficult, especially for larger vehicles. Complicating matters this summer is the fact that all MetroRail stations south of Reagan National Airport will be closed for major repairs from



Inside Udvar-Hazy Museum

Memorial Day through Labor Day! Because of this, some alternatives are under consideration. For example, one of the scheduled bus tours (Monday, July 22) will go to the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Institution's

Air & Space Museum. It is located in Dulles, VA, next to the big airport. After

spending time at that amazing museum, there will be a drive-through "window tour" (no getting off) of D.C. with a stop at Arlington National



Signs at Arlington Cemetery

Cemetery to see the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Kennedy graves.

At the time this article was written, rally planners were looking into the possibility of chartering busses for an optional trip to D.C., possibly on

Thursday, July 27. This would enable a full day of "on-your-own" sight-seeing on the National Mall where the famous monuments, memorials and museums are located. If interested, please pay attention to pre-rally e-mail communications and check the rally website (<https://doswell.wbcci.net/>) where more information should be available.

That's sums up D.C. in a nutshell. Now let's focus on things to see and do in Northern Virginia.

It's a 76-mile drive from Doswell to George Washington's estate and home at Mount Vernon, located on the edge of the Potomac River, south of Alexandria. At the entry to the estate is a wonderful and relatively new museum to explore, and a colonial-theme tavern for dining. In addition to touring the mansion, gardens, and outbuildings, you can pay respects to our Nation's first president at his grave, located on the property.



King Street, Alexandria

A few miles upriver is "Old Town" Alexandria, established in 1746. Washington really did eat and sleep here! Walk the quaint streets, shop and eat at the delightful establishments along King Street, stroll through a newly completed riverside park, and

tour the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The whole town is dog friendly! If you are more adventurous, you can rent bicycles at Big Wheel Bike Shop on Prince Street and pedal part or all of a 14-mile paved riverside bike path between Old Town Alexandria and Washington's Mount Vernon.

Airstreamers who are Civil War buffs might consider driving about 80 miles to Manassas National Battlefield. There, in July 1861 near the stream named "Bull Run," the first major battle between North and South ended in a Southern victory, when confederate commander Thomas

Jackson stood his ground “like a stone wall” against Union troops. And it was this same ground where North and South fought a second major battle in August 1862, with Stonewall Jackson again playing a pivotal role.



Pentagon

In modern times (for the last 76 years), Northern Virginia is where you find the headquarters of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and U.S. Department of Defense. All share space in The Pentagon in Arlington, the world's largest office building.

Tours of the building are offered, but you need to make reservations weeks in advance (see chart). Along one the Pentagon's five sides, the side where a plane hijacked by terrorists impacted on 9/11, there is a poignant memorial to the 184 innocent people who died in that attack.

Attention shoppers! The best shopping complexes in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area are in Northern Virginia. The sprawling Potomac Mills Mall, located In Woodbridge off I-95 (Exit 156), has over 225 outlet stores and was, for some time after it opened in the 1990s, the “biggest tourist attraction in Virginia.” Or, if an upscale shopping experience is what you crave, it's hard to beat two malls

located next to each other in the Tysons Corner area. Tysons Corner Center and Tysons Galleria are large, attractive, multi-level complexes with scores of restaurants and hundreds of retailers including Bloomingdales, Nordstrom, Neiman-Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor, Gucci,



Inside Tyson's Corner Center (Mall)

Cartier, and many others. If you possess a military ID, one of the newest and largest PX and Commissary complexes in the world is at the Army's Fort Belvoir, off I-95 Exit 161 and U.S. Highway 1. Somewhat closer to Doswell, is the BX and Commissary at Quantico Marine Base, just off I-95 Exit 148. It isn't as large or as new as Belvoir, but it's certainly adequate, and it's close to the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

As you see, Northern Virginia has a lot to offer and you may wish to spend more time there, before or after the Rally. Unfortunately, there are no commercial campgrounds in the area; however, the two public and one military campground (military ID required) listed are very good and worth a stay.

Whew! This wraps up all six articles about what to see and do while you are visiting Virginia. WBAC membership in our state includes more than

Pet Show

Lilli Hamnqvist #285

Traveling pets (and owners too), are you ready for the great annual International Rally Pet Show? This fun filled event will take place in:

Doswell, VA on Sunday, July 21

Check-in time is 1:00 PM sharp

Show starts at 1:30 PM and will be held in the Farm Bureau Building

This year we made some changes in the 4 categories: Combined Tricks and Obedience into one “Best Trick” and added a new exciting category “Best Look-a-Like.” Best Looking, Best Costume and Best in Show remains the same.

The judging will be done by members from the local Great Dane Club.

We are also looking forward to seeing the audience participate in voting for the ever popular “People's Choice Award.”

All Pets from the show will be invited to be part of the Parade as THE TAIL END entry.

All types of pets are welcome, but must be pre-registered and traveling with its owner in the Airstream.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Pet Show registration table or email me and I will send you the form. Drop completed form at the Copy Center or leave at registration table. Registration closes at 10 AM on the day of the show.

Mark your calendars, work on your pet's costume (and maybe yours), tricks and look and get ready to showcase your pet.

Can you help the day of the show? Need more information? Contact: Lilli Hamnqvist #285 lilli@hamnqvist.org

150 families. Many of us will be camped in our rigs alongside yours at Doswell. Look for us at the rally. We will be wearing buttons that exclaim, “I'm from Virginia. Ask me!” As co-hosts, we are delighted you are coming! We are certain you will enjoy the rally and the time you spend in the Commonwealth of Virginia!





Virginia Points of Interest Driving NORTH from The Meadow Event Park - Chart 1	# miles from Doswell (Est. driving time)	Website	GPS Coordinates
Washington, D.C., the Nation's Capital White House Visitor Center 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20003 202-208-1631	85.7 (north) (1 hr. 30 min+) via I-95 & I-395 Parking difficult. Expect traffic delays!	www.nps.gov/nama www.nps.gov/whho www.unionstationdc.com/	Middle of the National Mall 38.89016N -77.0385W
Mount Vernon George Washington's Estate and Grave 3200 Mount Vernon Highway Mount Vernon, VA 22121 703-780-2000	75.8 (north) (1 hr. 20 min.) via I-95 Exit 161, U.S. 1, & VA 235	www.mountvernon.org/	38.71082N -77.08632W
Old Town Alexandria Visitor Center: 221 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-746-3301	82.3 (north) (1 hr. 17 min.) via I-95 Exit 177-B, U.S. 1 & King Street	www.visitalexandriava.com	Visitor Center 38.80467N -77.04234W
Mount Vernon Bike/Hike Path Big Wheel Bike Rentals 2 Prince Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-739-2300	83.5 (north) (1 hr. 17 min.) via I-95 Exit 177-B, U.S. 1 & Prince Street	www.bikewashington.org/trails/vernon/index.php	"Big Wheel" bike rental: 38.80296N -77.03989W
Pentagon Tour and 911 Memorial Address for parking: Pentagon City Mall garage and lot 700 block of Army-Navy Drive Arlington, VA 22202	83.3 (north) (1 hr. 20 min) via I-95 & I-395 Exit 9-C	www.pentagontours.osd.mil/Tours/ Advance reservation required	Parking: 38.86583N -77.06121W
Arlington National Cemetery 1 Memorial Avenue Fort Myer, VA 22211 703-796-2606	84.6 (north) (1 hr. 19 min.) via I-95, I-395, & VA 110	www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Visit www.arlingtontours.com	Visitor Center 38.88297N -77.06557

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the 62nd International Rally!

G & N RV

Zip Dee products, Fantastic Vent products

Kitchen Craft

American Made Stainless Steel Cookware,
perform cooking demonstrations

Main Stage Events

John Holly, #1045

Volunteers needed to assist with all main stage events in
Doswell, VA. No experience necessary, but a background
in theatre or the performing arts would be helpful.

Contact John Holly, Stage Manager, at johnholly@aol.com
or 213-304-7769.



Virginia Points of Interest Driving NORTH from The Meadow Event Park - Chart 2	# miles from Doswell (Est. driving time)	Website	GPS Coordinates
Manassas National Battlefield Park 6511 Sudley Road Manassas, VA 20109 703-361-1339	79.5 (north) (1 hr. 17 min.) via I-95 & VA 234	www.nps.gov/mana/index.htm	Visitor Center 38.81292N -7752153W
Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway Chantilly, VA 20151 703-572-4118	87.0 (north) (1 hr. 30 min.) via I-95 & VA 234	www.airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center	Parking Area 38.91077N -7744433W
Iwo Jima - Marine Corps War Memorial off N. Meade Street, Arlington, VA 22209 703-289-2500	84.1 (north) (1 hr. 20 min.) via I-95, I-395, & VA 110	www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm	USMC Memorial 38.89025N -77.07118W
Air Force Memorial 1 Air Force Memorial Drive Arlington, VA 22204 703-979-0674	82.2 (north) (1 hr. 20 min.) via I-95, I-395, VA 27 & VA 244	www.afdw.af.mil/afmemorial/	Air Force Mem. 38.86817N -7706617W
MAJOR SHOPPING! Potomac Mills Outlet Mall 2700 Potomac Mills Circle Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-496-9330	61.9 (north) (60 min.) via I-95 Exit 156, Dale Blvd & Gideon Dr.	www.simon.com/mall/potomac-mills/stores	Potomac Mills 38.64264N -77.29542W
Tysons Corner Center & Tysons Galleria (2 classy malls) off Chain Bridge Road Tysons, VA 22102 703-893-9400	84.8 (north) (1 hr. 20 min.) via I-95 & I-495 Exit 46-A	www.tysonscornercenter.com www.tysonsgalleria.com/en.html	Chain Bridge Rd. (at a point between these two malls) 38.92090N -77.22176W
Fort Belvoir Post Exchange & Commissary 6050 Gorgas Road Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 PX: 703-806-5416; Comm: 703-806-6674	71.7 (north) (1 hr. 10 min) via I-95 Exit 161, U.S. 1, VA 286, & enter at Kingman Road	www.belvoir.army.mil/services/px.asp www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/fort-belvoir	38.72356N -77.15073W
Camping in Northern Virginia Bull Run Regional Park Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA 20121 703-631-0550	82.3 (north) (1 hr. 25 min.) via I-95, VA 234, & VA 28.	www.novaparks.com/parks/bull-run-regional-park	38.80390N -77.47722W
Pohick Bay Regional Park 6501 Pohick Bay Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 703-339-6104	71.1 (north) (1 hr. 9 min.) via I-95, U.S. 1 & VA 242	www.novaparks.com/parks/pohick-bay-regional-park	38.66885N -77.16832W
Fort Belvoir Travel Camp (military) 10155 Johnston Rd Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 703-805-3081	73.8 (north) (1 hr. 15 min.) via I-95 Exit 161-B & U.S. 1 Enter at Tulley Gate	https://belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation	38.68366N -77.15459W