

Volume 13, Issue 4

The Vintage Advantage

The newsletter of the **Vintage AIRSTREAM Club**
(An Intra-Club of the WBCCI)



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December 2006
\$5.00 US

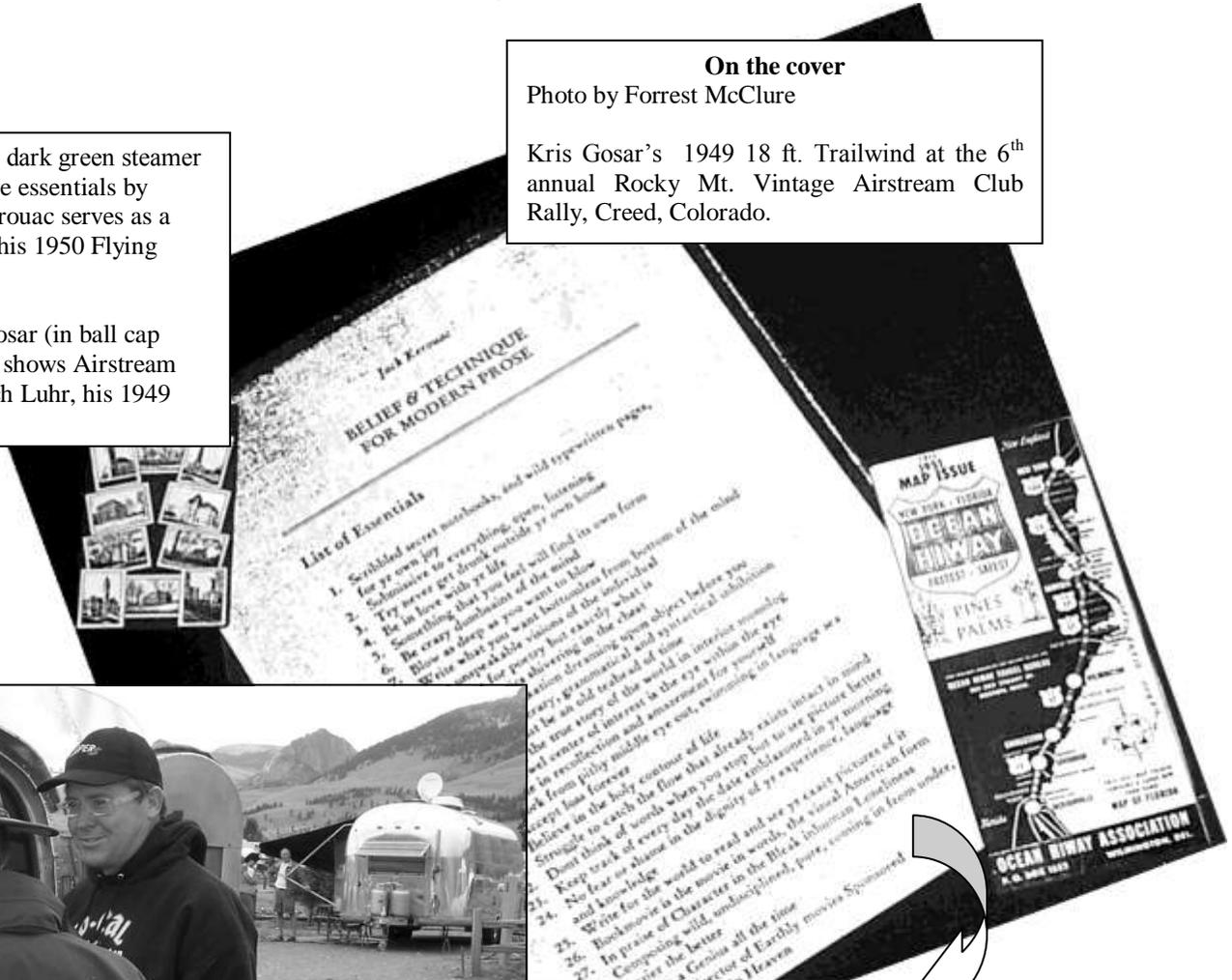
On the cover

Photo by Forrest McClure

Kris Gosar's 1949 18 ft. Trailwind at the 6th annual Rocky Mt. Vintage Airstream Club Rally, Creed, Colorado.

Right: Gosar's dark green steamer trunk with prose essentials by author Jack Kerouac serves as a coffee table in his 1950 Flying Cloud.

Below: Kris Gosar (in ball cap facing camera) shows Airstream Life editor, Rich Luhr, his 1949 Tradewind.



CONTRIBUTIONS

E-mail any plain text file, or include within the body of an e-mail your letters, stories, articles. Attach photos to e-mail but do not include them in the body of the text. Leave text unformatted, but do provide an explanation of the photos - who, what, when. Photos can be up to 800 KB in size per image per e-mail message. Alternatively, you can burn your drafts and photos to a CD-R, or even mail them the old fashion way via USPS to:

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Departments

This newsletter will be what you, the member, makes it. Nearly every category of this newsletter needs regular contributors. The Back Bumper is open to anyone wishing to submit a personal essay, and/or cartoon. The Announcements section is the place to tell the VAC about your upcoming rallies. Feature articles should be about subjects relating to vintage Airstreams, places, people and history.

Kris Gosar's Vintage Airstreams

Right: Side by side, 1950 20' Flying Cloud & 1949 18' Trail Wind (behind).

Below: Compare the running lights of the 1949 Trail Wind (left) with the 1950 Flying Cloud (right).



Kris Gosar is a trained illustrator, lives in Monte Vista with his wife Jill, teaches painting and drawing at Adams State College in Alamosa. He also designs and builds houses. To make a living in southwest Colorado it helps to have more than one job.

The Flying Cloud has teardrop taillights and has a painted mauve interior.

The shorter Trail Wind has round taillights, a painted yellow interior. It was purchased a week prior to the Creede rally from a family living in Monte Vista. They'd kept it parked behind their house and Kris had been after it for quite some time. It took awhile for the family to get together and agree to sell it. The family inherited it from their father who was the 2nd owner, having bought it in 1959. The family used it for camping in Creede and the San Luis valley. Their father was the post master in Creede and still lives there. He saw Kris towing the trailer to the rally and cried when he learned that it was going to be back on the road and well taken care of. Kris already had the oxidation off the ends and sides but hadn't yet done the roof in time for the rally.

Kris's own father visited the rally during the open house phase and became so enthused he went out and bought a '67 Safari and is currently refurbishing it.

Below: compare the rear interior of 1949 Trail Wind (left) with the 1950 Flying Cloud (right).



Go to
page 25
for more
photos!



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President's Message by Ed Emerick



Happy Holidays to all of you Vintage Airstream enthusiasts! Sandy, our girls and I wish you a happy, healthy and safe New Year. I have to say 2006 has been a good year for the VAC and I can't wait to see what 2007 will bring. I hope all of you continue to be involved and help make this a great club.

In 2006 we had many new WBCCI members also become VAC members, some by letting their coaches age into the club and some by finding the "right" vintage Airstream to purchase. The later was the avenue that one of my WBCCI friends decided to take. For the sake of protecting the innocent I'll call this friend "Bob"!

Bob has purchased a number of newer Airstreams in the past. To be honest, there are times I would like to have a newer 30-foot with a rear queen bed that needs nothing repaired. But I just can't part with my '68. Bob is a WBCCI member and has toured many vintage trailers at the different VAC open houses. After awhile he caught the fever and had to find one for himself. I'm sure many of you have received the same call that I did, it went something like this: "Where do I find a vintage Airstream?" To which I often respond, "Check out the VAC web site classifieds, e-Bay, Airstream dealers listed in the Blue Beret, or even put a want ad in your local newspaper." Bob has never had to repair his other Airstreams but said he was looking for a fixer upper. He hoped to find one that would only need a good cleaning.

A few weeks later, Bob called, saying he found his dream vintage Airstream. The seller told him it only needed a couple of new tires and wheel bearings repacked. Otherwise it was ready to be towed and all the inside needed was a good cleaning as everything worked when he last parked it. The seller forgot to mention that it had been parked eight years. I warned Bob that it might be a "money pit," but he didn't agree and purchased the trailer anyway. I went with him to rescue this poor old trailer. Bob had expectations that he would be able to take his first trip with it the next weekend. He was being too optimistic...

We packed for a quick trip to southern Wisconsin where the 1967 Sovereign had been used only as a deer camp. I should have known what was to come. My 1959 had been used as a fishing camp in South Dakota. Four years of restoration, five pints of blood, hundreds of hours of work and thousands of dollars

invested were needed to get it back on the road. I admit I didn't share that fact with Bob. The look of pure joy on his face stopped me dead in my tracks.

A quick inspection of the trailer told me we should have brought a pump and chain saw along. The tires were almost flat from having sat in the same spot for so long and it took all of our driving skills just to get around the trees that had grown up around it. The seller said getting it out wouldn't be a problem – he pulled it in, it should come out!

We wiggled the truck up to the trailer only to discover the ball on the hitch was the wrong size and the power cord was reduced to a four-prong, which left us without lights or brakes. There were no stirrups for the spring bars, but since the trailer was supposed to be empty I thought it would be okay to tow without them. Further inspection revealed the old trailer had been turned into a sort of cottage with wheels. Electricity was hard wired and water hard plumbed to external sources. I didn't ask about the sewer! After cutting the lines and changing the ball we hooked up and were ready to find our way out of that forested retreat. The whole time, I prayed, "please, get me out of this scene from Deliverance."

Success came in small ways. I didn't hit any trees on the way out, but once on a paved road I noticed it pulled like five tons. I decided it would be a good idea to look in the cabinets to see why it was so heavy. We discovered canned goods hunters had saved over the years. There was stuff in every nook and cranny – Spam, beans and wieners, cases of old beer, pots and pans, fire wood – we could have opened our own roadside market! After off loading all that extra merchandise we made a run for the remaining daylight and backed Bob's "Prize" into his driveway for the night. He could hardly wait for the next day's adventure of checking out the systems. As for me, I went home and turned off my telephone. I didn't want to hear the results.

But it came anyway at six a.m. the next morning. A call from Bob, "Come on over, I'll buy breakfast and we can see how much needs to be fixed, I want to take it out next weekend." I like free breakfasts, I like Airstreams, and most of all I like to watch when someone starts a major restoration. I jumped out of bed and was out the door with camera and toolbox in hand thinking, "this should be good!"

Needless to say, that old coach did not make its first weekend maiden voyage as Bob planned. As a matter of fact, Bob spent five weekends just making the trailer roadworthy. It started with new Goodyear Marathons, new wheel bearings, a new power cord and a couple of clearance lights. Then the real fun began. Bob's wife said she wouldn't go anywhere in that "thing" until the

mildewed carpet was replaced and real curtains installed. This led to an interior renovation that included repairing and installing new floor to replace the rot at the rear of the coach and around the main door. A three weekend cleaning spree was followed with couch covers and new curtains. Bob chased water leaks for weeks, and I began to think that if he said one more time "Do you see the leak yet?" I would go crazy. After 10 tubes of Vulkem, he only has 2 more leaks to find. He replaced the Armstrong air conditioner after one rainy night when it dripped water onto the head of his lovely wife at 2 a.m.! I continue to get phone calls regarding popped rivets; the door falling off; a weird buzzing noise; and why did the battery go dry? Bob reports that the rear window fell out, water is running out from under the front couch and bed, and what the heck is that black stuff coming out of the sink? On and on it goes with equipment failures while his 2003 Airstream sits idle in his yard. He is determined to fight the vintage Airstream battle. By now Bob has a couple of hundred hours of repair time and thousands of dollars sunk into his '67, and has a number of interesting scars, but he surely loves that old trailer.

I've been asked a million times, "Why do this?" and my answer is the same as Bob's, "It's the people!" He discovered the fraternity/sorority of the VAC members in his quest for information on how to put his vintage trailer back together. This group of people has offered their knowledge, experience and time. He's made many new friends by saving his trailer from being parked forever in Deliverance. Bob has attended a number of VAC sponsored events including the parade and parking at International. He's said to me more than once that he found a whole new way to look at the WBCCI and Airstreaming than what he first saw with his newer trailer.

You see Bob and his wife were WBCCI members for many years and they have enjoyed the club's offerings. But with the addition of their vintage trailer they have expanded their enjoyment through the benefits of the VAC. As with most of us in the VAC, they have learned there is more to the club than meetings, rules and protocol. There is a group of us that want to talk about restoration and history and not get sidetracked with club rules and regulations. Bob's vintage purchase and involvement with the VAC helped renew his involvement and improve his outlook.

You have the chance to help all the other "Bobs" out there do the same. In doing so we'll see more vintage rigs on the road and more "Bobs" down the road. Until next issue, I'll keep my rivet shaver tool ready for his next repair and hope he calls in time for breakfast!

The Editor's Desk



With my wife, Patrice, at Bullards Beach State Park, Oregon wearing "off-duty" berets. They helped keep us warm on cool days and nights along the Oregon coast.

Something many of you noticed in the last issue was that it had two blank pages. My bad, it was the result of "on the job" training. It has to do with the total number of pages being divisible by 4. If not, the printer has to add extra pages to make the publication come out right.

I didn't visualize that in my head, each sheet of paper containing 4 pages because I'd never printed anything that way on my home printer, but I'm still on the learning curve.

There are a number of other proofreading errors, and other small goofs, but I've decided to let it be a game. Each of you can add up the errors and when you think you've found all of them e-mail them to me. The winner will be the one who finds the most.

What does the winner get? Oh, a copy of the VA of course. And extra copies we have. In fact, once I realized how many I had, It gave me an anxiety attack! There were 300! Yikes! I telephoned the printer right away. "Oh, my God," I exclaimed, "was there a problem with the address list?"

"Don't panic," they assured me, "there is always a printing over run to make up for copies that get mangled by the mailing. We just didn't have many get mangled, so you have a lot of extras."

"Oh, whew!" I'm breathing easier now. My poor heart. The extras were freebies, no cost to us.

Anyway, our Membership Chairman, Scott Scheuermann (#13497) has them if you want some. I'm leaving it to him to work out the cost and mailing of back issues.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| see more ... | |
| do more ... | |
| have more fun | |
| IN AN AIRSTREAM TRAILER | |

Letters

Dear Editor:

We were at a Rally last weekend when our new Vintage Advantage arrived. Our consensus is that it is a very good first issue. Thanks for taking on this job and running with it ... looks good! Tommy says thanks for including the picture of the "strummin' streamers". Happy trails!

Kathy Green (#5350)

Hello to All,

Well, at International, Tommy and I made the mistake of looking at all the new Airstreams, as many of you probably did. We got hooked! Since we are spending more and more time on the road these days, we just decided that we need a little more room and comfort. So, in San Diego, we checked out the 2006 23 ft. Safari Special Edition, and fell in love with it. The dealer made us an offer we couldn't refuse, so we bought it. Since we have limited space here, we couldn't keep both, so we sold our 1953 Flying Cloud. It was a tough decision, but we sold it to a nice couple, close by, and we do have "visiting rights".

We have loved being involved with all the Vintage friends we've made these past few years. We will always be Vintage in our hearts, after all, Vintage is a state of mind. We plan to see all of you down the road at Caravans and Rally's!

Happy trails, Kathy & Tommy Green (#5350)

Thanks for the kind comments Kathy. We wish you & Tommy well. Remember though, as affiliate members of the VAC you can still attend our rallies & caravans! Hope to see you then! – all the best.

Dear Editor:

There is a new podcast, www.TheVAP.com. This is produced by Tim Shepard, and we will make him a member yet, with Rob Baker and Colin Hyde, both members of the VAC and WDCU units. They discuss restoration, rallies and how to repair and restore your trailer. Perhaps a question column could be added to the newsletter, with someone answering the members' questions or with the answers supplied by the membership in the next issue.

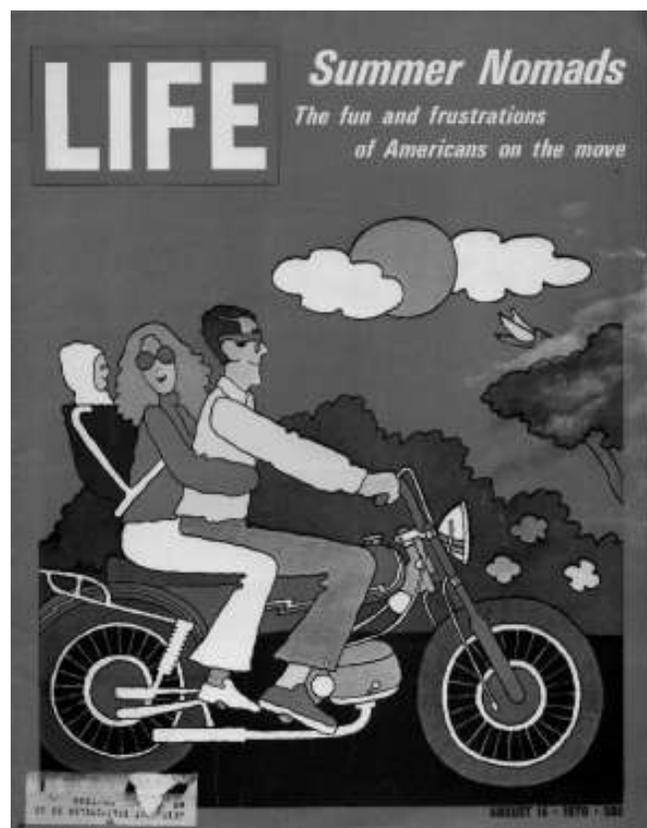
Bill Kerfoot (#5223)

Dear Editor:

Please put on your historian hat. Do you have a copy of the exceptional color photograph of two concentric circles of Airstreams that was published in Life Magazine in 1970? This shows Airstreams at night - all lights of tow vehicles and trailers were lit and you can see folks illuminated by their headlights with city lights in the background! My guess is that it was taken from a helicopter. Really neat. The photo is entitled "Circled Wagons 1970" and it was taken at Great Falls Montana. The magazine was a "Collectors Special Edition - Winter 1996. The Life cover has the tail fins of a 1959 red Cadillac - like the one I sold last year. Too many toys but it sure could pull a '59 Traveler like a breeze.

Thanks, Herb Richter (#2672)

Herb, I think the photo was in the August 14, 1970 issue of *Life* magazine (cover shown below), p.24-25, in an article titled, *Caravans on the open road*, and you're right, it was taken at Great Falls, Montana. The photo you mention, by Bob Crane, is on the following page.



Pulled up like an Old West wagon train, a caravan settles in for the night at Great Falls, Mont. Owners drove here from all parts of the country, got their marching orders and headed into Canada for a 61-day, 5,100-mile journey to Alaska and British Columbia.



Dear Editor:

Greetings! I have yet to join since my vintage AS is still in a field in VT being held up in paperwork and what have you. Please keep your fingers crossed for me. It's actually a trailer Rich Luhr and I found together during a rally. With that said, as soon as I can join the VAC you can count on me to help add to your publication.

J. Rick Cipot

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your first issue of the VAC Vintage Advantage! It looks great. I think you've done a smashing job.

Kimber Moore (#17330)

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your first issue, although I am confused by the blank pages on the inside front two pages, but in reading the issue, I don't think that anything is missing.

Nice to see a letters to the editor section, hope this will be fun and constructive and not a complaint section. Nice report on the 2006 International in Salem and especially the picture of the Strummin' Streamers from El Camino Real. Informative article from Fred Coldwell, as usual. Good work!

Bill Kerfoot (#5223)

Dear Editor:

Thank you for sending me the September copy of the Vintage Advantage. It is a very informative publication. I really enjoyed reading it and this gives me more incentive to hurry up and join the WBCCI and the VAC. Thanks, for the acknowledgment on page 17! I'm glad the manuals were useful and hope many members will be able to benefit.

Dacia Susleck

Dear Editor:

Great first edition!!! Love your cartoon. :-)

Pat Glick (#1288)

Dear Editor:

The "Letters" from Rich and Wayne and "Back Bumper" by Forrest brought forth bittersweet memories for Ronnie and I. We were charter members of an antique car club founded by owners fed up with clubs where trophies were more important than friendship and business meetings replaced tours. Clubs were so strangled with "rules" that no one drove their vintage cars, children were a bother, talking behind "friends" backs was the norm, and the almighty dollar was utmost. Our "new" club had NO by-laws, NO business meetings --- just monthly tours and GREAT ADVENTURES! We enjoyed 10+ years without any problems! If someone broke down, everyone stopped to help – if a new member couldn't get his car going, members headed to his garage to lend a hand – if someone didn't have a car, everyone started looking. Then sadly, someone suggested we join a National Organization which meant by-laws, can & cant's, do's & don'ts, and today, that club has become what caused it to be created!

Now as members of the WBCCI, and VAC, we see the same struggle.

At our 1st rally, some WBCCI members made it clear that our "Caution, Adults at Play" spare tire cover was excessive, Trumper's interior colors were "really too bright!" and we were told we were bothering others by sitting outside our trailers after dark, laughing & visiting with other vintage owners. That experience was enlightening because at my 1st WBCCI meeting, when I mentioned that I'd never "camped," someone replied: **"YOU DON'T CAMP in an AIRSTREAM!"** and walked off without telling me what one does in an Airstream. At that 1st rally, I learned to follow the program and the rules until after dinner when, if you don't play games, you return to your unit & watch TV until bedtime! Well, not us! With or without a club, the Molleres will have FUN and GREAT ADVENTURES sitting in a circle laughing and joking with other "campers."

I pray the VAC can remain steadfast in keeping focused on what is really important. If it doesn't, Rich, Wayne, Forrest, and any of you who love hospitality, friendship, laughter, and fun, come on down to Mississippi and "camp" with us!

Anne (and Ronnie) Mollere (#3167)

Dear Editor:

Several months ago, after we returned from International at Salem, I wrote a letter for inclusion in the VAC quarterly magazine. And I have been watching and have not seen it. So, I thought I would try again.

There are 2 entire pages [in the September 2006 issue] without so much as a period on them (plenty of room for a "letter to the editor"). Additionally, on the letters to the editor page, there are [only] 2 letters occupying the entire page. I thought a small letter could be included. So here it is:

A Thief in the VAC

I would like to thank a member of the VAC for the theft of a vintage Airstream maintenance manual. It was taken from the table in my trailer on 3 July 2006 at the International in Salem. It had been for sale at the flea market that weekend. Apparently it cost too much, at \$20, for you to purchase. You had to have it for "free".



You had a lot of nerve entering my rig in broad daylight. But you did. I hope you think of how you obtained this book each and every time you use it - and are proud of your actions. And I hope you have no bad thoughts of someone else who might steal from you - you have no room to bitch.

Sincerely,

Jim Kolhoff (#23533)

Jim, not to make fun of you, so please don't take this the wrong way, but how can you know it was a member of the VAC? Haven't you assigned guilt by simple association?

If you want, tell me what year and model manual you lost, and I will see if I can at least replace it with a PDF copy from the VAC Library.



Concours d'Elegance by Herb Spies, Chairman

Here is the following list of awards given in the 2006 Concours d'Elegance held at the WBCCI International Rally this last July in Salem, Oregon.

Bud Cooper Best of Show Trophy – Fred & Penny Delaney (#7271) – 1956 Safari.

Best Engineered Feature – Dr. Norman Holman (#1935) – for an alarm system.

Best Tow Vehicle/Trailer Combo – Jim & Joan Randall (#2306) – 1938 Crew Cab and Caravanner.

Bill Scott Best Bambi Award – Not Awarded due to no Bambi entered in Concours.

Platinum Level:

Tom Reed (#10283) – 1950 Tradewind

Iain Cameron (#5418) – 1955 Globetrotter

David Hale – 1965 Caravel

Gold Level:

Tommy & Kathy Green (#1530) – 1953 Flying Cloud

Mark & Patty Carr (#1722) – 1954 Flying Cloud

Paul & Mary Drag (#4556) – 1955 Flying Cloud

Gary Campbell (#3363) – 1962 Safari

Lynn & Jim Foster (#6620) – 1965 Caravel

Dave & Letty Orcutt (#3637) – 1972 Safari

Bob Clark (#4230) – 1972 Overlander

Silver Level:

Paul & Gwen Faby (#2126) – 1954 Tradewind

John Chapman (#2098) – 1958 Traveler

Lauren Carlson (#7532) – 1959 Tradewind

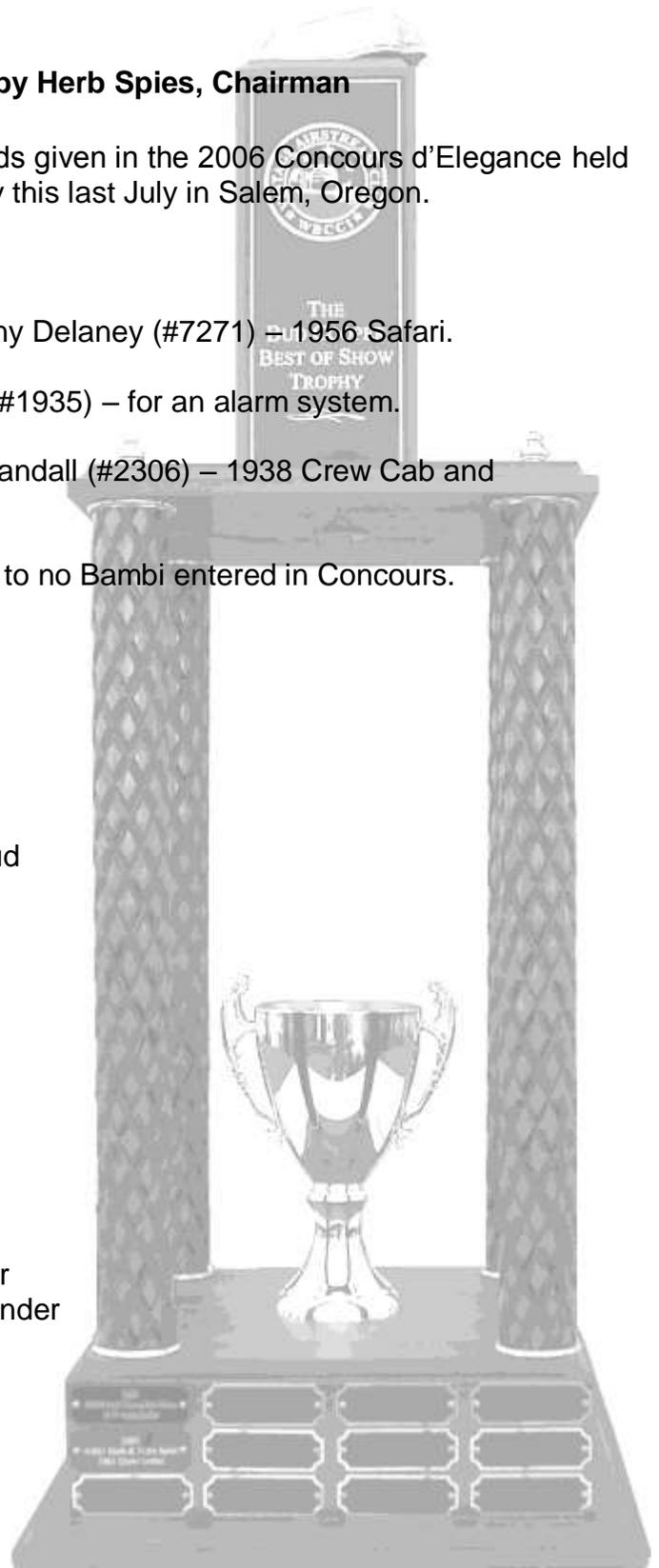
Don & Joyce Alexander (#1920) – 1959 Overlander

Scott & Lisa Scheuermann (#13497) – 1960 Overlander

Mel & Glenda Wood (#2889) – 1967 Caravel

Jerry & Sherry Hartman (#30790) – 1970

Bill Westbrook (#6044) 1979 Tradewind



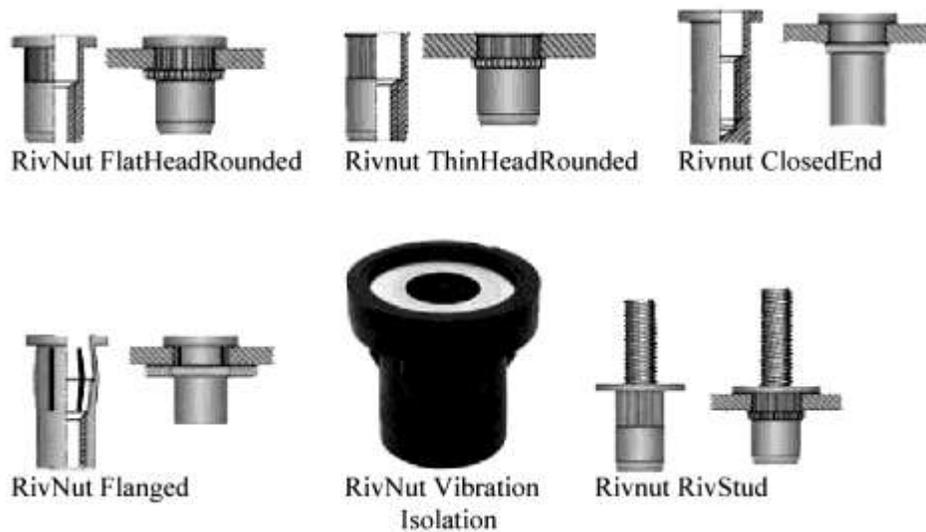
Tips and Hints

Rivnuts? Okay just what is a Rivnut?
by Leo Garvey

Rivnut®: A trademarked name applied to the first blind threaded inserts developed by BF Goodrich to attach rubber flaps to airplane wings. Originally registered in 1975, the trademark is currently owned by Rivnut-Bollhoff. The fastener business was sold by BF Goodrich and became known as Rivnut Engineered Products, sometimes referred to as REP. In 2000 Rivnut Engineered Products were purchased by Bollhoff, a 125-year-old European fastener company, and now uses the Rivnut-Bollhoff name.

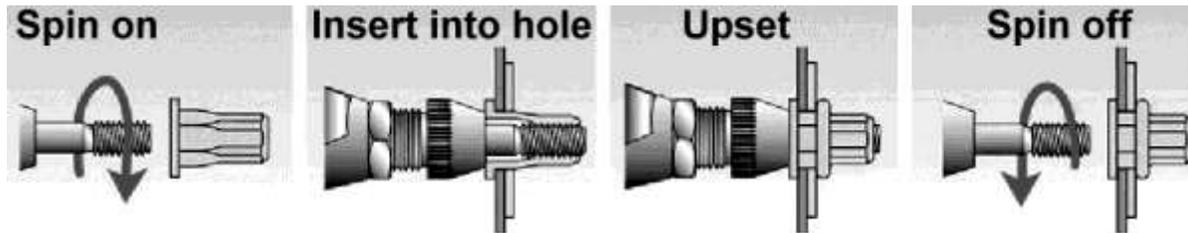
If you're a vintage owner once you find out what a Rivnut is your eyes will probably open wide, your eyebrows will raise, and you'll likely say, "Man I wish I knew those things existed when..."

Examples of Rivnuts:



Rivnut: It's the best way to put an attach point onto thin metals and plastics. The Rivnut can provide a threaded hole for you to put a bolt in or a rivnut can supply you with a stud protrusion to attach something to. A Rivnut can also be a vibration isolation attach point. With a Rivnut in place your attach point load is placed over a larger square area than a normal rivet. Best of all, a Rivnut works exactly like a pop-rivet gun. Drill a hole, insert the Rivnut, expand it, and now attach your accessory.

Here's a series of graphics that really show you how a Rivnut works:



Notice during the "Upset" that the backside wall of the Rivnut collapses, shortens, and grips to two pieces of metal together. So in this instance not only did the Rivnut provide a threaded hole to attach something to, it also pulled two pieces of metal together to further strengthen the attach point and spread the mounting point hole.

Curious Sightings



Sighted this month, a large advertising poster at a Target store's camera department kiosk in Aurora, CO. It appears to be a 1948 or '49 18' Trail Wind. Does anyone know who the owner is?

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Rocky Mountain VAC Rally

by Chris Hildenbrand (Region 11 VAC Representative) & Forrest McClure



Above: Mt. Views at Rivers Edge RV Resort & Park south of Creede, CO.

Below: Rhonda Cooper stirs the chuck wagon size pot of Alfred Packard Chili for the Friday night chili dump. "Good chili doesn't have beans in it," she was told, "just meat!"

Photo courtesy Pat Glick.



Crisp air and an unforgettable view of the La Garita Mountains greeted us for the sixth annual Rocky Mountain Vintage Airstream Rally in Creede, Colorado. The rally started with the bang of thunder and an afternoon shower. What more could you want than to bring everyone together with some good victuals in a cozy mountain lodge. **The Alfred Packer Chili dump** was a big hit as usual, and there was more of it than you can shake a thighbone at. This explosive opening event has become a Rocky Mt. VAC Rally tradition where everyone dumps their homemade chili into the community cauldron. This results in a tasty and sometimes dramatic culinary experience.

Packer, Alfred (1842 - 1907)

The name conjures up gruesome thoughts. Packer was convicted of murder and admitted to the cannibalism of his victims.

An epileptic, he scouted for gold prospectors in the Rocky Mountains. On February 9th, 1874 Packer led five men from Montrose into the San Juan Mountains. A blizzard hit, forcing the party to camp at the base of what is now called Slumgullion* Pass (11,361 ft.), about **25 miles NW of Creede**. What happened during their prolonged and bitterly cold encampment has always been questioned because Packer was the lone survivor.

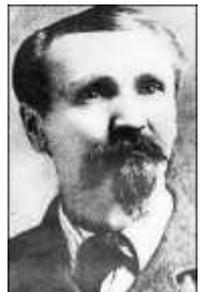
Ironically, his cause of death in 1907 is listed as "stomach trouble."

*Slumgullion is a descriptive term for a watery meat stew!

In the Colorado Rockies
Where the snow is deep and cold
And a man afoot can starve to death
Unless he's brave and bold

Oh Alfred Packer
You'll surely go to hell
While all the others starved to death
You dined a bit too well

---from *The Ballad of Alfred Packer*

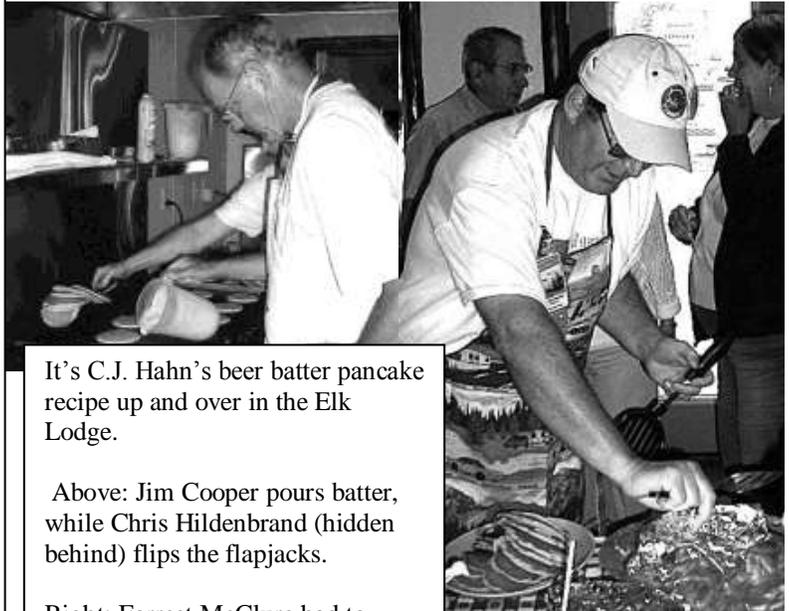


Alfred Packer in 1901, after his release from prison.

Saturday morning greeted us with clear blue skies and a hearty pancake breakfast.

We followed breakfast with a day of open house. The open house in the morning was private to give rally participants a chance to look at each others trailers. After lunch, there was another open house to give the local public an opportunity. For some of us our pancake breakfast had to last us all day. We were having so much fun looking at each other's trailers and talking, we forgot to eat lunch. An afternoon mountain shower came rolling down the valley giving us a short but much needed break. Then we were off to happy hour and our western dinner. Do cowboys really wear some of this stuff? Well, anyway the food prepared by a local Mennonite family was mighty tasty, particularly all the fantastic pies. I won't say how many pieces of pie I had, but I do know I was not the only person in line for seconds. The evening was topped off by a story and magic show that still has a few of the rally go'ers baffled.

Oh, the smell of cinnamon rolls and fresh coffee. Sunday morning started with a sugar and caffeine rush quickly followed by a fast paced swap meet. If you were not on your toes here you missed out on some great deals. We returned home with far more stuff than we sold. I am not sure how this happens, but it seems to always work that way. After the



It's C.J. Hahn's beer batter pancake recipe up and over in the Elk Lodge.

Above: Jim Cooper pours batter, while Chris Hildenbrand (hidden behind) flips the flapjacks.

Right: Forrest McClure had to work fast to keep the serving table loaded. Cute apron though!

Photos courtesy Pat Glick

Right: Chris Hildenbrand samples New Belgium's Fat Tire Beer at the Saturday evening happy hour.

Below: Yes, the beer really is named after the company's fat tire bicycle, shown here with raised letter tire tread.



sugar and caffeine wore off some of us headed to town for a quick lunch followed by a 4X4 tour to the top of the Rockies. We toured the Bachelor historic mining district. The views, the history and unbelievably large mushrooms left us all in a state of Rocky Mountain High.

The last two days were pretty much on our own. Some happy campers took advantage of the many things to do and see, while other folks tried their hand at fishing in the Rio Grand River. Some toured the Silverthread Scenic & Historic Byway; a few took in the Creede Repertory Theatre, and the tired just hung out and relaxed.

We topped all this off with some great seminars. We had seminars on polishing, tires, axles, weight ratings, electrical systems, disk brakes, trailer identification and much more.

We had a great time meeting friends old and new. The food and drink was superb, the seminars very informative, the scenery was awe inspiring, and the aluminum very shiny. – Chris Hildenbrand



Above: The Texas group's shiny rigs lined up nicely.



Upper right: Patti Raimondo giving her Women On the Road Seminar – how to hitch up, tow a trailer, etc. under sunny blue skies.

Below: Wanna be cowgirls, (left to right) Donna Thomas (AKA Donarita the margarita gal), Rhonda Cooper and Patrice McClure.

Right: Luke Bernander, Donarita's partner in crime and wanna be popcorn concessionaire.



Left: Rob and Shari Davis (VAC 2nd VP) showing off their finest western wear duds.

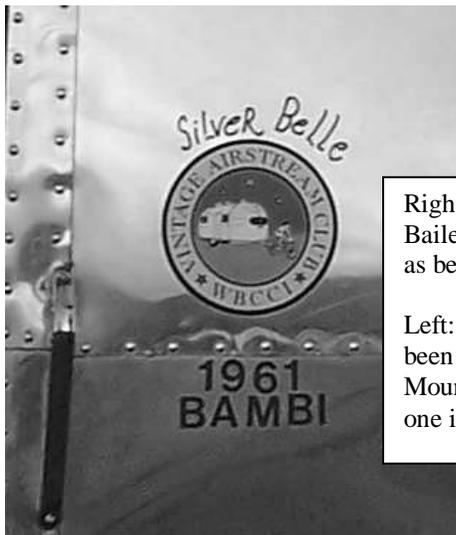
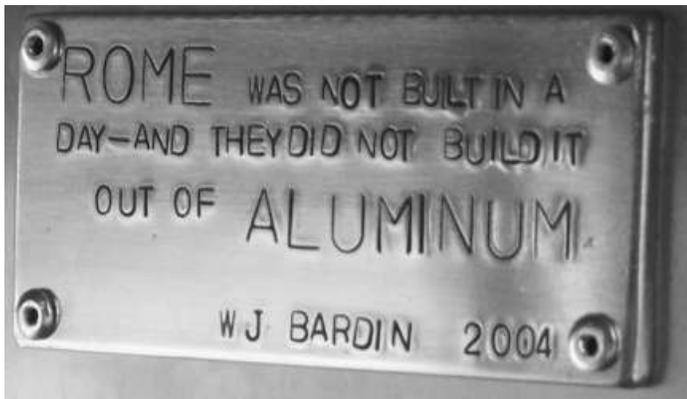
Right: The Davis's perennially shiny 1964 19' Globe Trotter (nick named Maxwell) with Shari's turquoise color fat tire bicycle parked in front (it was her birthday present last year).





Left: The swap meet and flea market where anyone could lay their surplus trailer gear out on their horse blanket to exchange for cash, or trade.

Below: Emma Luhr reaches bravely into the cowboy magician's bag. Any ideas who the magician might be?



Right: VAC Charter Member Diane Bailey proves that Texas women are as beautiful as they are ageless.

Left: Diane and her little trailer have been to every annual Rocky Mountain VAC Rally since the first one in Estes Park, Colorado in 2001.





Above: Bob Stephan shows Rhonda Cooper his scary snake hat.



Right: David Tidmore, sales/service mgr. at Roger Williams Airstream, Weatherford TX, gave a seminar on how to stop a vintage Airstream on a dime by retrofitting disc brakes and keep it supplied with electricity away from the power grid by installing a solar panel system.

Right: A wet summer combined with ideal acidic soil high in mineral content in and around the Creede area contributed to an exceptional bumper crop of really *WILD* mushrooms. These aren't your run of the mill Portabello mushrooms either! No, sir! Pat Glick reclines in this group found at about 10,000 feet to give an indication of the size they grow to in Colorado. Some measured 8 feet in diameter! The black and white photo doesn't do justice to their stunning ruddy red caps.



Left: Best Tow Vehicle/Trailer Combo? Patrick & Candace Phippen tow the Bridges Argosy trailer with their 1976 20' Argosy motor home.

‘Mug’ shots of some of the rally’s participants –
my apologies to those I missed.



Aparisio, Diane & Gene,
'78 Ambassador



Bailey, Diane, '61 Bambi



Bertch, Michael & Tracy,
'89 345 LE MH



Bridges, Ray & Billie, '76
Argosy



Butterworth, Ben &
Molly, '71 30' Sovereign



Chew, Brian & Lois
Angerami, '78 Tradewind



Collier, Tom & Norma, '02
Land Yacht MH



Davis, Rob & Shari, '64
19' Globe Trotter



Fisher, Bill & Candy, '54
Flying Cloud



Gehricke, David & Judy,
'67 Overlander



Gosar, Kristian, '50 20'
Flying Cloud



Hogan, Linda & Mike, '58
Globe Trotter



Huizinga, Dan & Pat, '59
18' Traveler



Lane, Jim & Chris
Hildenbrand, '67 GT



Luhr, Rich, Eleanor,
Emma, '05 Safari LS



Mackey, Bill & Margrit,
'62 Globe Trotter



Neu, Lynn & Michael, '63
Globe Trotter



Phippen, Candace & Pat,
'72 Argosy MH



Pulver, Polly, '64 Globe
Trotter



Raimondo, Patti & Tom
Reed '54 Flying Cloud



Scott, Charles & Donna,
'80 25' Caravelle



Stephan, Bob, '64 Bambi
II



Super, Rob & Sadie, '73
Safari



Taylor, Denise & Fred
Coldwell, '48 WeeWind



Tidmore, David & Bret
Waisner, '02 Bambi



Truitt, Kim & Harry, '66
Safari



Turner, Virgil & Sheila,
'66 Tradewind



Underhill, Janine, Mary
Jane & Will, '02 Bambi



Unter, Randy, '66 '26
Overlander



Wool, Barb, '62
Overlander

“Say Cheese!”

December 2006

Clockwise: The sign put up by Mt. Views says it all. Another most excellent rally ended with everyone asking when and where will the next one be?

Rich Carpentier grimaces after learning that the rally ended. Either that or the Alfred Packer chili was having its effect!

Below: The Rio Grande river runs past the lower RV parking area. These sites, though separated somewhat from the larger group area, had the premium location. Rich Luhr's Tour of America rig is in the lower right corner of the photo.



rocky mountain vintage airstream club

SAVE THESE RALLY DATES!

The 7th Annual Vintage Airstream Club Rocky Mountain Rally will be held **July 27 to August 1, 2007**, in Breckenridge, Colorado. Registration forms and information will be posted on the Rally web site (www.rmvac.org) and printed in the March 2007 issue of The Vintage Advantage.

Mark your Airstream calendar today!

From the VAC Library:
An AIRSTREAM
advertisement from
August 1960.



LAND YACHTING—THE DISCRIMINATING WAY TO TRAVEL!

With an Airstream Land Yacht you go in exclusive privacy, whether your destination is Palm Beach, Florida, or Palm Springs, California. Always accompanying you, night and day, are cultivated surroundings—the kind you are accustomed to and that you take pride in showing to your friends—with sophisticated appliances that pander to your slightest need or whim. Quietly distinguished decor in a spacious living area. A luxury-liner galley with blue-flame range and turkey-size oven. A handsome refrigerator with freezing compartment and always ready ice-cubes. A really elegant bathroom ensemble with every modern accessory and loads of hot-and-cold water under pressure for shower or tub. Magnificent beds. Plenty of closet, drawer and storage space. City-bright electric lighting for entertaining—even a thousand miles from power lines and water mains. Like that of Rolls-Royce, the prestige of Airstream ownership is self-evident. Everyone knows that each vehicle is engineered for optimum freedom from imperfection; both are hand fitted to satisfy fastidious standards of travel performance; possession of either proclaims one's sophistication, discrimination, mature good taste. Obey that good impulse. See the distinguished Airstream Land Yacht today.

*Only Airstream construction will
take you anywhere in the world. Write for
free copy of "World at Your Doorstep"*



AIRSTREAM INC.

WRITE NEAREST FACTORY: 150 CHURCH ST., JACKSON CENTER, OHIO • 12804 E. FIRESTONE BLVD., SANTA FE SPRINGS 2, CALIF.

Your Region VAC Representatives

Want to get in touch with VAC region representatives to see what they got going on? Do you want to organize a rally? Well here is the list of your region representatives to get it going. You never know when you'll be a thousand miles from nowhere and want to find an Airstream caravan ...

REGION 1

ME-NH-VT-MA-RI-CT-NB-NS-NF-PEI-PQ
Nancy Platt, # 2940
26 Birchmeadow Rd
Amesbury, MA 01913
silvertwinkie@adelphia.net

REGION 2

NY-NJ-PA-MD-DE-DC-ON
Walt Sandy #4159
1157 Rt.40 Pilesgrove, NJ 08098
swsandy@mindspring.com

REGION 3

VA-NC-SC-GA-FL (exp. CT ZONE PORTION)
George James III #5324
348 Iotla Street
Franklin, NC 28734

REGION 4

MI-OH-WV
OPEN

REGION 5

IL-IN-KY
Jeff Elliott #3132
1331 N 1709th Rd
Streator, IL 61364
jelliott@illmo.com

REGION 6

TN-AL-MS-AK-LA-FL (CT ZONE PORTION)
Herb Spies #1861
P.O. Box 844
spies@nwflorida.com

REGION 7

WI-MN-ND-SD-MB
Dick Parins, #2867
16025 County Road T
Townsend, WI 54175
dkparins@ez-net.com

Region 7 Assistant:

Curt Gunderson # 31920
88816 Wild Oak Loop
Kerrick, MN 55756
curgund@aol.com

REGION 8

IA-MO-NE-KS
Ben and Molly Butterworth #14637
2267 Lewis Ln
Villa Ridge, MO, 63089
molly4006@aol.com

REGION 9

OK-TX (except MT ZONE)
CW Flynt, #1256
36097 Farm Road 2480
Los Fresnos, TX 78566
cwtravlin@aol.com

REGION 10

MT-ID-WA-OR-BC-AB-SK-YK
Steve Laxton #3957
9101 Steilacoom RD SE #168
Olympia, Washington 98513
360-871-5827
dfn30@earthlink.net

REGION 11

WY-CO-UT-AZ-NM-TX (portion in MT) - MEX
Chris Hildenbrand #5812
8888 W. 38th Avenue
Wheatridge, CO 80033r
childenbrand@comcast.net

REGION 12

CALIFORNIA-NV
Herb Richter #2672
1809 Woodbine Place
Oceanside, CA 92054
superquake@cox.net
760-439-9849

PAST

*****Dues are now ^ Due*****

I apologize for the mix up in the last issue. The printer neglected to include the dues paid through date on the mailing labels. Hopefully this is now corrected. **If you have 2006 on the bottom line of your mailing label, this is your last issue.** If you have 2007 or greater on your label, you have already paid and you are off the hook. If there is no date on the label we are in trouble! At the time of this writing (early November) only 200 of our 700 members have renewed their membership! Or put another way, **only 30% of you have renewed!** I have to believe that this is an oversight for the majority of you. If you are a part of the majority, **please send your dues in right now!** Next year please get them in by Nov 1st. The dues year runs the same for the VAC Intraclub as it does for WBCCI. When you renew your WBCCI membership please use the very next check to renew your VAC membership.

Adding to the confusion of the last issue, I moved. After the move I discovered that SBC GLOBAL does not live up to its name. Either that or Iowa is not on the globe ☺. Either way I have a new email address to go with my new mailing address. My correct contact information is below. If you happened to mail your dues to my Ohio address don't worry, the postal service will still forward items for a while. If you don't like to cut up your copy of the VA you need not use the form below. Just include the information requested along with your check. You may contact me by email at: **VACMembership@iowatelecom.net** or at the address below.

---Scott Scheuermann, Membership Chair

~~~~~  
Vintage Intraclub Membership is \$20 (US)/year. **Make checks out to: "Vintage Airstream Club"**

WBCCI #: \_\_\_\_\_ Region #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # or name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country (if other than USA): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Vintage Trailer Information:

Year: \_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_ (ft) Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail payment and this completed form to:  
Scott Scheuermann, VAC Membership, 1310 Plum St, Tipton, IA 52772

**\*\*\*Not a member of WBCCI?\*\*\***

It is time to renew your subscription to the VA. Subscriptions are \$20 (US) per year and checks may be made out to: "Vintage Advantage Subscription"

Please mail payment along with your complete mailing address to:  
Daisy Welch, 3213 W Main St #117, Rapid City, SD 57702

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Texas Highlands Lakes Vintage Rally  
Jan. 31 to Feb. 4, 2007**

Havens Landing  
Montgomery, TX

For information contact:  
Jerry Jackson (#2497) at jerry@gaj.com,  
or 512-832-5663 or 512-431-8536.  
Region 9 web site: www.wbregion9.org

**Airstream Life  
magazine  
subscription offer**

“The offer stands: any VAC member in good standing may purchase a one-year subscription to Airstream Life magazine for \$15, provided that they are a new subscriber (not renewing an existing subscription) and that the member does so through the club. Checks should be made payable to the [VAC], and the [VAC] can retain \$3 for its own treasury.”

Rich Luhr, Editor Airstream Life magazine. 7/12/06



**Vintage Airstream Given to Raffle Winner**

Bobby Parker, who lives in Pensacola, FL, won the 1958 Pacer that the Pensacola WBCCI Unit restored. Region President Phil Risher drew the winning ticket at the Region 6 Rally in Gray TN. Bobby was notified immediately via cell phone from the stage. Bobby picked up the Pacer at Mystic Springs Airstream Park at the Pensacola Unit's October rally a week later. He collects old cars and tractors and was thinking about putting the Pacer in one of two car museums he has in Gulf Breeze FL and in Vermont. He bought the winning ticket at a car show in Milton FL in September 2005.

Thanks to all our friends across country that helped by purchasing raffle tickets and to all that helped to restore the Pensacola Pacer. Proceeds from the project will be used to make improvements to Unit 29's campground at Mystic Springs. Come visit us next year and see what we've done to improve the park.

Herb Spies (#1861)



**Above:** Unit #29 President Herb Spies & wife, Sidra, shown giving away the keys to the '58 Pacer to raffle winner Bobby Parker.



Regions 5 and 7 Vintage  
Airstream Rally  
“Airstreams and Airplanes”  
June 14 – 17, 2007

Join all us VAC folks at the Poplar Grove airport “Wings and Wheels” museum. Park your vintage trailer next to authentic 1930’s era hangers, gas station and garage. Poplar Grove airport is home to many vintage airplanes and on any nice weekend the air is filled with the sound of round engines and fabric covered aircraft. Our location will provide a safe and excellent view of the activities and the airplanes themselves.

In addition to the museum we are planning hangar tours. Weather and aircraft permitting, we will be raffling off a few rides. The local area has some great places to visit including Anderson Japanese Gardens, Midway Village, and the Illinois Railway Museum. We are also hoping to have a workshop on riveting and interiors. We may be able to feature a restored 1935 Bowlus.

We have water and electricity for about twenty trailers but there is plenty of room for everyone “off the grid”. We can transport water if needed. Trailers may empty their gray water tanks on the grass but not on the pavement. This is a Buddy Rally.

If you have any questions or would like to register please call or E-mail Don or Maureen Alesi at: 847-426-7880 (home), 224-213-5017 (cell) or E-mail: [n2084v@comcast.net](mailto:n2084v@comcast.net)



Vintage Rally in British Columbia  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The first ever BC Canada Vintage Airstream Club rally will be held July 5-8, 2007 - at Hazelmere RV Park, Surry, BC Canada. Hosted by the VAC and the BC Unit. This is a buddy rally.

Host & contact is Iain Cameron (#5418) of the BC Unit.

Send e-mail to: [imcameron@shaw.ca](mailto:imcameron@shaw.ca).

There are about 50 sites with hook-up and the rest will dry camp. Go to <http://www.hazelmere.ca> on the web for more information on this fabulous location!

Hobo Sign:



meaning,  
“Clean water,  
safe camp.”



**Hobo Rally**

Held annually for 26 years the Hobo Rally is coming up soon and vintage parking will be available per tradition there. The dates are February 5 - 11, 2007 and we look forward to seeing a group of you there.

Contact John Boutwell at:  
[johnboutwell@earthlink.net](mailto:johnboutwell@earthlink.net)

### Here's a Brief Tidbit from Region 8

by Molly Butterworth #14637

The Vintage Airstream Open House was a popular event at the 2006 Show Me State Rally, held in Kirksville, Missouri, from September 28 to October 1, 2006. From a restored 1948 Trailwind to late 1970s Sovereigns, the open house offered a glimpse into the evolution of Airstream design.

Vintage parking and an open house will also be features of the 2007 Region 8 Rally, to be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa, from May 2 to 6, 2007. The rally's theme of "On Track" reflects the rich railroading heritage of the Council Bluffs/Omaha area, and Region 8 vintage owners are encouraged to attend the rally, park with other vintage owners, and share the unique joys and challenges of vintage ownership with the rest of Region 8.

### News From Region 12

by Herb Richter #2672

Our California and Nevada VAC membership has grown! The new list of 2006 paid members is now at 135 rigs - up from 120 in 2005. To those new to the club, "Welcome Aboard" and we hope to see you at one of the events announced below.

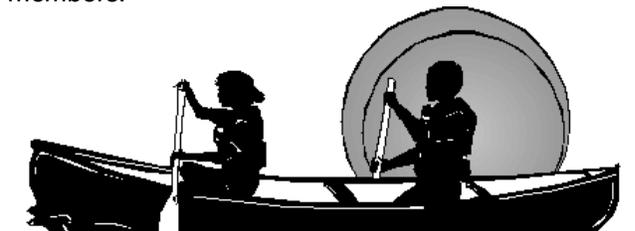
Our plans for a 2007 Spring Rendezvous are firming up. The majority of suggestions pointed us back to the Rendezvous at Bass Lake. We are working up a reservation system that will be similar to Sisters. Reservations will be based on the date we receive your check so please stay in touch if you are interested.

In response to requests from those who want to help at the Rendezvous, Bob Stephan and I put together a list of volunteer jobs. There are 10 small enough to not interfere with our main requirement to have fun. If you are interested e-mail for a copy of the list. Some jobs are spoken for: Bob Stephan will handle the registration/treasurer task and the food. I will be your wagon master and morning PBJ and coffee maker. The Fosters and Delaneys will be our photographers. John and Rosalyn Skadden, who co-hosted the earlier VAC gatherings at Bass Lake, have done advance scouting for us. We would like to include your name in the second list of volunteers!

How about 2008? Yes, we are already making plans since reservations at nice parks must be made up to 2 years in advance. We are thinking of a Rendezvous in early June 2008. Some suggestions include South Lake Tahoe - the Nevada side, somewhere near Jackson or Columbia, or at Coloma. In general a camp north, south, or east of Placerville, if that makes sense. The Rendezvous may also be a staging event for a caravan that will wind its way north with 4 or 5 stops - 2 or 3 nights each - on the way to Bozeman for the International Rally. Some have suggested a Fall VAC Rendezvous at Newport Dunes RV Park, perhaps September or October? They take reservations 2 years in advance and it is a very nice place! Who would like to take on the Wagon Master job and start the ball rolling? A good deal of advance planning information and free advice awaits you. We hope to see you soon out on the trail.

### RENDEZVOUS AT BASS LAKE

Join us next spring in the Sierra Mountains amongst tall pines and clear air at Bass Lake, California. We will be camped near the famous Yosemite Valley on the western slope of the Sierras where there are many beautiful spots to explore. Bring your vintage Airstream and vintage tow vehicle to show off at our Open House. The Rendezvous is open to all WBCCI members.



So pack up your canoe, kayak, or fishing gear to explore Bass Lake or the nearby Merced River. The event begins Thursday, May 3rd 2007 and will end either Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> or Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> - your choice. Our registration deadline is April 1, 2007 and we have 40 sites reserved. The camp has a great clubroom with a fireplace and bar for social gatherings. The rate for our group will be \$30 per night + tax for full hookups.

More information will be posted soon on the Vintage Website ([www.airstream.net](http://www.airstream.net)).

Contact Herb or Pat Richter at [superquake@cox.net](mailto:superquake@cox.net)

**Kris Gosar's Vintage Airstreams** (continued from page 1)



Above: compare the front interior of 1949 Trail Wind (left) with the 1950 Flying Cloud (right).  
Below left: the Trail Wind's galley has aluminum cabinetry.



Above: Detail of the Flying Cloud's turn light.

From the VAC Library: October 1950 advertisement for the 1951 model.

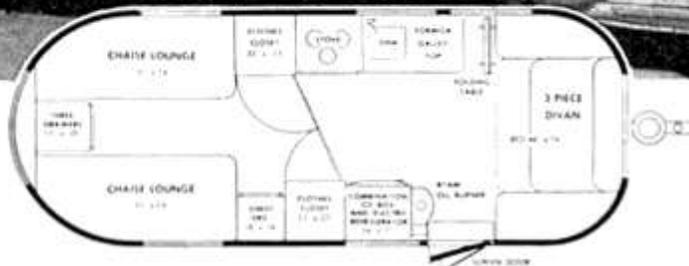
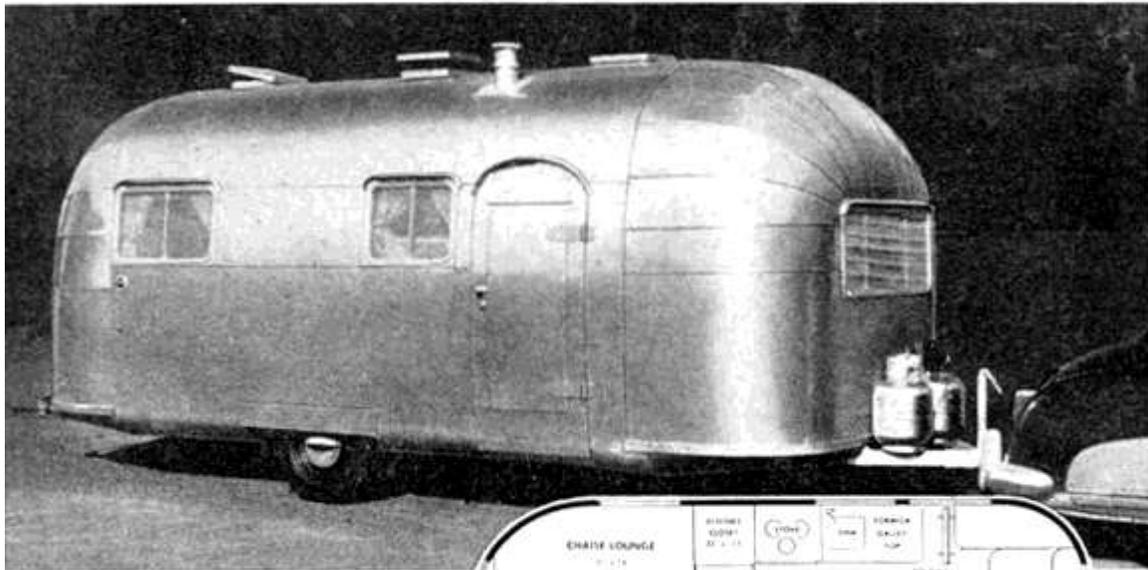
# "AIRSTREAM—"

— The airplane-type trailer that "flies" behind your car

Writes a retired Navy admiral—

"We take the hills at half throttle, and sail on the straight-aways at the legal limit with the throttle barely cracked."

**Lighter, Safer, Longer Lasting—with more Travel-Living Comfort**



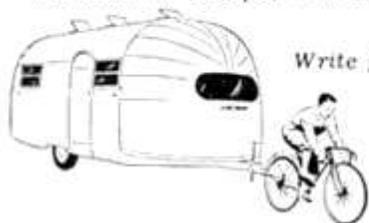
## THE NEW 21½ FT. FLYING CLOUD

Loaded with features, all aluminum, all riveted, 6 open windows, including the front one, see through vision, 3 vents, 2 chests of drawers (one a highboy), 2 clothes closets, formica topped galley, stainless steel sink, combination electric and ice refrigerator, oil heater, 2 twin beds and one double bed, sleeps 4, hydraulic shock absorbers, Yale locks, about 165 lbs. on the hitch, easily pushed around by hand. Toilet and shower optional at extra cost.

### Other Models

Cruiser, 24 ft. with flushing toilet and shower. Liner, 30 ft. tandem for superb travel luxury, Clipper, 18 ft. for vacations. Since 1934 Airstream has catered to world travelers in Europe, Alaska, Canada, U.S.

Central and South America, Hawaii and the Philippines. We welcome custom models requiring special interiors and installations, gasoline generator light and power plants, 6 volt and gas refrigerators, electric and manual pumps, air-conditioners. Free estimates.



Write for free 16-page illustrated booklet with prices and dealer lists.

Wally Byam

# AIRSTREAM TRAILERS, Inc.

1755 No. Main St., Los Angeles 31, Calif.

Dealers write direct to the factory

**1949 22' Curtis Wright Clipper**

by Dal Smilie

We got this trailer from the desert around Palm Springs a few years ago. The truck is a 1948 Studebaker with some subtle changes that make it a much better modern towing rig. I had one of these when I was younger. Very stock looking however.



**Photos by Jeff  
Miller  
of Helena, MT**

Wally Byam went to work for Curtis Wright after World War II and this was his first post-war trailer design.

Curtis Wright later sold to Silver Streak who continued building the Clipper. Byam took the same design and restarted Airstream.



Since Wally designed and built the Curtis Wright Clippers they qualify for VAC membership.



We replaced the pipe frame with a ladder frame chassis, refurbished the cabinetry with birch wood, re-upholstered, re-wired, replaced the floor and so on. We still need to relocate the propane tanks and put a really fine polish on them.

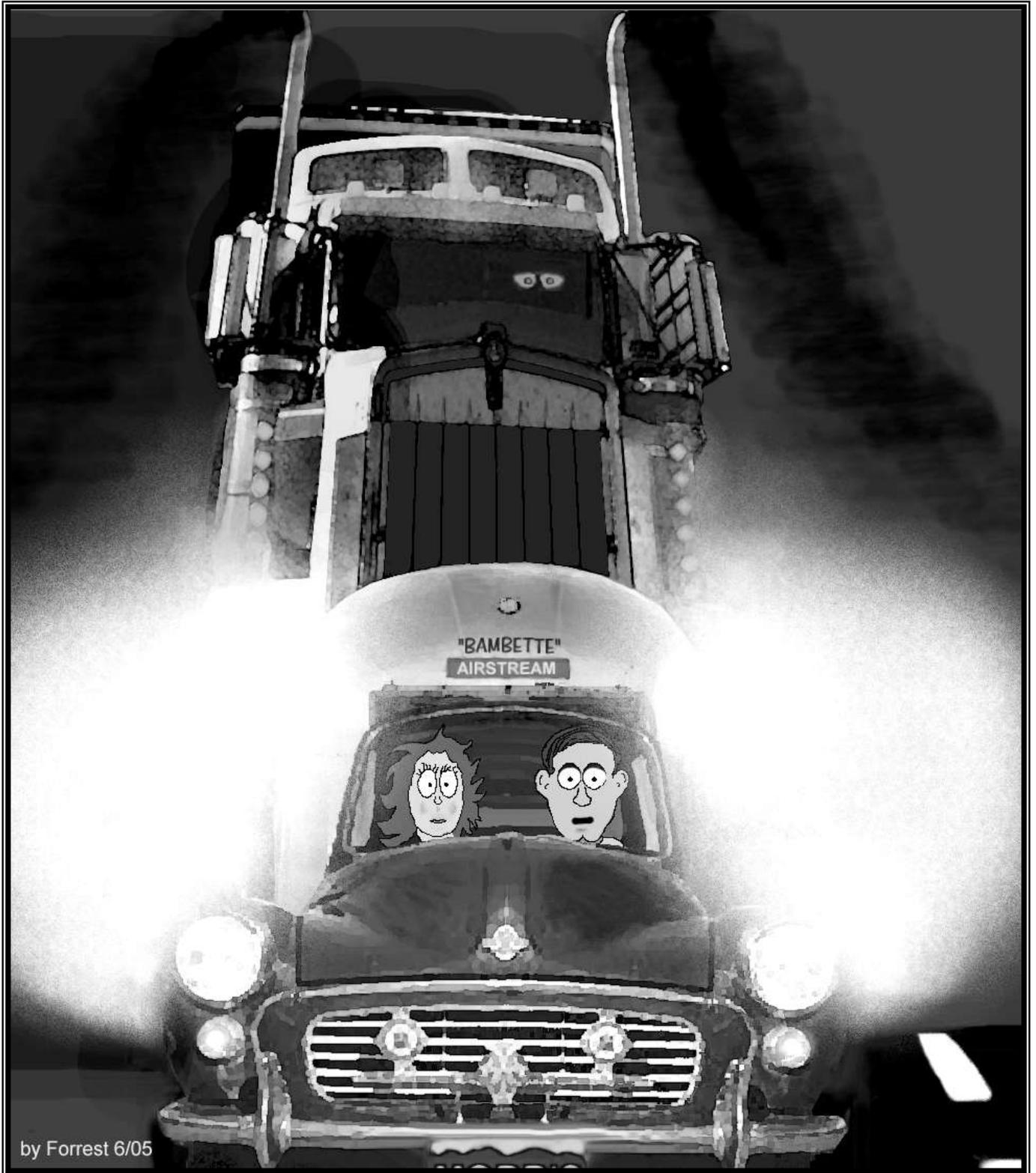
Jane and I live in Helena, Montana. I'm an attorney and Chairman of the American Motorcyclist Association. Jane is a senior public health executive for the State of Montana.

We love to camp and hike with the dogs and the Curtis allows us to do that. We love the memories of older and simpler times. The shape and feel of the Curtis and Studebaker help feed those memories.



December 2006

## The Back Bumper



by Forrest 6/05

**"Deer in the Headlights"**

