



# The VINTAGE Airstream Club

An Intra-Club of WBCCI Since 1993

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016

## VAC 2016 RALLY CALENDAR

February 4th—7th  
Calico Ghost Town Rally  
Yermo, CA  
Contact: ASwifey on Air Forums

February 12th—15th  
Mardi Gras Rally  
Cornville, AZ  
Contact: Steve & Reg Bittner,  
herkypig@hotmail.com  
(write-up in Nov/Dec newsletter)

February 19th—21st  
Pinnacles National Park Rally  
Hollister, MI  
Contact: webspinner on Air  
Forums

March 31st—April 3rd  
Alumilina Spring Rally  
Cleveland, SC  
Contact: sandlapper on Air  
Forums  
(write-up this issue)

April 7th—10th  
Amish Country Rally  
Walnut Creek, OH  
Contact: Airbiscuit on Air Forums  
(write-up this issue)

April 21st—23rd  
Springstream Rally  
Hiwassee, GA  
Contact: ALANSD on Air Forums  
(write-up this issue)

June 9th—12th  
VACmidwest Rally  
Contact: Tom & Shirley at  
[ShirlsCookin@gmail.com](mailto:ShirlsCookin@gmail.com) or 515-  
556-9339  
(write-up this issue)

July 15th—18th  
VAC Region 10 Vintage Rally  
Farragut State Park  
Athol, ID  
Contact: Rob and Diane Nicol  
[robnicol@comcast.net](mailto:robnicol@comcast.net)  
(write-up this issue)

## Message from VAC President, Iain Cameron



There has been great interest and response from members making plans to attend the 2016 International Rally in Lewisburg WV, June 28 to July 5, 2016. Registration is up over 50% from the level of recent years. The rally is currently full with 660 Airstreams registered, and all 500 full hookup sites and 160 water/electric sites (with regular pump-outs) have been reserved for these people. There's a standby list, so if anyone cancels their booking, a site with services will be filled in the order of those on the waitlist.

In addition, WBCCI has now opened up dry camping sites for those still wishing to attend the international rally. We'll have more information on the overflow area in the new year. Remember that you can register and attend the rally for a shorter duration, up to three consecutive days, at a reduced cost. Once the rally schedule is prepared, you can select the best time window to attend the rally and take in the activities that most interest you.

There are currently 50 members who have requested parking in the vintage area with the VAC. These members are part of the 660 currently registered for the international rally. It's still very early to know details of the international rally schedule and VAC activities at the rally. Due to the high number of registrations, all efforts are currently focused on accommodating everyone with a campsite. I'm working closely with international rally organizers to get a good vintage parking area for all of us, and to co-ordinate vintage activities with the main rally schedule. As more information becomes available, I will post it on our VAC website, and provide you with an update in the next newsletter.

Save the dates for these VAC region rallies scheduled for next year:

- \* VACmidwest: VAC Region 8 rally, June 9 – 12, 2016 – Lake of Three Fires, Bedford IA  
Contact rally hosts Tom & Shirley Herron at [shirlscookin@gmail.com](mailto:shirlscookin@gmail.com)
- \* Rocky Mountain VAC Rally, July 7– 10, 2016
- \* VAC Region 10 vintage rally, July 15 – 18, 2016 – Farragut State Park, Sandpoint ID  
Contact Rob & Diane Nicol, VAC Region 10 representatives at [robnicol@comcast.net](mailto:robnicol@comcast.net)

Continue to let us know of next year's plans for vintage gatherings and rallies in your area. We will update the website to include all rallies where vintage airstreamers are welcome to attend. Reg would like to include all events in the newsletter, so please email her at [newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com) or [herkypig@hotmail.com](mailto:herkypig@hotmail.com).

Safe travels, take care

...Iain

# Membership



**No information to update.**

## Editor's Note



I got the scoop!

The long-awaited and famous Rocky Mountain VAC Rally is going to be July 7th—July 10th, 2016 in Westcliffe, CO. Keep an eye on the RMVAC website right after the first of the year for additional details.

## 50 Years Ago – New features in the 1966 Airstream Fleet

Submitted by Iain Cameron

The following is an excerpt from a 1966 Airstream publication:  
**a promise fulfilled for you**

The most recent travel testing endeavor was the famous Around the World Caravan. It took 45 Airstreams and 105 Caravanners over a year and covered 34000 miles! Because changes in the trailer have been gradual, because the basic monocoque configuration cannot be improved, Airstreams appear to be the same year after year. But the fact is, Airstream's "never stop testing" philosophy has put the 1966 Airstream so far ahead of its time, the rest of the industry may never catch up! On the following pages, I'm going to attempt to give you a short, step-by-step history of Airstream development. Come along with me on this armchair inspection tour of the 1966 Airstream . . . the travel trailer engineered to give you more of everything you buy a trailer for!

Sincerely,  
 Art Costello  
 President, Airstream Inc.

### CHASSIS AND BODY

#### WINDOWS

In 1954, Airstream first introduced the full opening, awning type window to provide protection and complete ventilation. In 1956 all windows in the trailer were made full opening. Then in 1958, Airstream introduced gear-operated windows to replace the lever-operated. Two years later all windows became literal escape exits when all vertical braces were eliminated. Snap-out screens were also introduced that year. In 1964 window area was increased an impressive 15% in order to provide a wide panoramic view of the great outdoors. Now in 1966, Airstream is the first and only manufacturer to offer safety glass on all windows as standard equipment. Airstream's exclusive new windows are made of *chemically* tempered glass that is *contoured* to the streamlined shape of the Airstream shell. This amazing new glass is far tougher than ordinary safety glass; it can stop a baseball at full force! Now conventional window frames are not required, water and dust can't seep in. Because Airstream windows do not require bracing and because Airstream interior layouts maintain the same see-through principle, there is a clear, unobstructed view from the front window to the rear window. If your towing vehicle is high enough, you will always enjoy a full view of the highway behind you through your rear-view mirror.

#### INSULATION

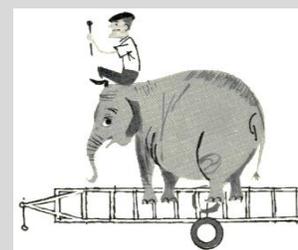
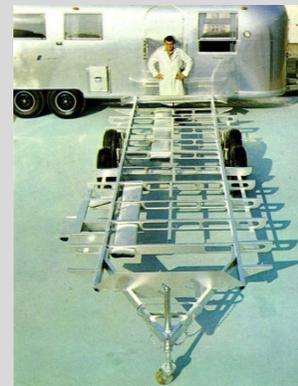
Insulation in an Airstream has improved continuously over the years. A good example is the wheel housing insulation. Until 1955, the metal wheel housings were single-walled without any insulation. It wasn't until later that year that felt padding was glued on the inside. Two years later a galvanized inside cover was added over the insulation. In 1958, Aero-Core Fiberglas insulation was substituted for the felt and in 1962 a vacuum-formed, high impact styrene cover provided even more insulation. The insulation of the entire shell has followed similar development. It was in 1958 that the Aero-Core insulation throughout the body was increased from 1" to 2". In 1963 it was increased to a 2¼" insulation.



## *50 Years Ago - New features in the 1966 Airstream Fleet ~continued~*

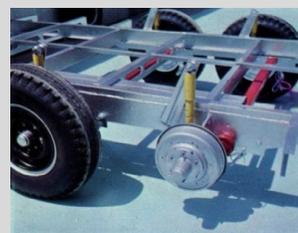
### CHASSIS

The chassis is a continuous project at Airstream as it is the weight carrying underpinning for the entire unit and being made of steel, it is the greatest contributor of weight. In 1955, the 3" frame was increased to 4" steel channel. In 1958, the outriggers were lengthened so that no part of the trailer body was unsupported. In 1960 outriggers were further strengthened and large vertical steel plates were added to the front and rear of the chassis to which the aluminum body was connected. But now we faced a paradoxical problem; we wanted to strengthen the chassis even more but reduce the weight. The old 4" steel channel weighed 5.4 lbs. per foot. Finally, in 1962 we introduced the now famous Aerostress chassis. Using a special roll form steel called X-10-50, we were able to go to a 5" steel channel that when flanged and perforated resulted in a chassis many times stronger than the old chassis, yet weighs only 2.94 lbs. per foot! When you consider the fact that every Airstream carries two main beams the full length of the trailer, it is easy to understand the importance of the strength-to-weight ratio. For many years Airstream has been famous for the enclosed underbelly that protects the under parts of the unit. This too has been improved with heavier rivets, stronger aluminum and better sealing. In 1964 a new feature was added; a stretch-formed, work hardened underbelly cap in front that resists denting and protects the front end of the frame. As a direct result of the Around the World Caravan, the 1966 Super Aerostress chassis has been improved even more. The two main beams now come all the way to the front edge of the body. The front attaching plate can now reach from main-beam to main-beam and allows for full width anchoring of the front end of the body to the chassis. The 1966 Super Aerostress chassis is undeniably the toughest, brawniest chassis in the industry.



### RUNNING GEAR

The most dramatic engineering breakthrough in the running gear came when the Dura-Torque axle was introduced in 1961. This rubber torsion bar axle does away with old fashioned leaf springs completely; eliminates some 148 parts, never needs lubrication and provides an additional 6½" road clearance under the trailer. The axle was tested for six years before it was put into production. Wally Byam personally tested the Dura-Torque axle in Central America and from Capetown, South Africa to Cairo, Egypt on the 12,000 mile African Caravan. In 1962 the axle was re-engineered to make it more easily removable and in 1963 the load carrying capacity of all Airstreams was increased. The Around the World Caravan was responsible for even more refinements in the Dura-Torque axle in 1966. Now, a self-lubricating nylon bearing carries most of the static load; the larger rubber torsion bars are able to flex more. The result is a running gear with a greater load carrying capacity and a substantially softer ride.



## Cornelia Rising ~ continued from November/December issue

Submitted by Steve Bittner

Hello all,

Hope all of you had wonderful holidays and maybe Santa dropped a little something off for your vintage prize.

Work on Cornelia has slowed some as the weather has cooled and gotten quite wet here in Northern Arizona. I am pleased to say that the exterior sheet replacement on Cornelia is complete and she really looks great.

We are now in the process of rebuilding the windows and door for the trailer which is a very time-consuming chore. The Hehr classic windows that were used on this trailer were in very poor shape. Ultimately, the windows were completely disassembled, soda-blasted and stripped. Some parts were so badly damaged it was decided to have a local sheet metal shop reproduce some parts. The frames for the front and rear oval windows were also quite trashed and as of this writing, the shop is still working on these. Lots of work with the shrinker-stretcher machine, but I have a lot of confidence in this shop. Back to side windows, I really need to find a complete replacement for one Hehr classic window. If anyone out there knows where to locate one, please contact me at [herkypig@hotmail.com](mailto:herkypig@hotmail.com).

Now on to the door, another fun project. The hinges on this door are of a very early design and I felt they were important to keep on the trailer. Unfortunately, sixty plus years of wear and tear have taken its toll. The hinges were taken to a local machinist to be rebored and fitted with new hinge pins, then off to a plater to be chromed. I was not sure when the door was actually last hanging on the trailer as it is badly twisted. Jigs are being made to straighten it and by next writing it should be reskinned and hanging on the trailer.

Next step will be to get the Doster's over to do an interior layout so wiring and installation can commence, then on to finish cabinetry and flooring. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

Steve



# Blips & Blurbs ~ from the Editor



**Dad Smiley's rigs keep showing up all over the place.**

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Welcome Back, Steve. If you've met Steve, let's talk beer.

The Largest Selection of Reproduction and Hard-to-find Parts for Vintage Trailers!

**BE SOCIAL WITH US**

Vintage Trailer ...  
Liked 12k likes

Vintage Trailer Supply  
2 hrs  
What vintage trailer brand uses a fish as its logo?  
**PopQuiz**  
2 Likes · 1 Comment

**AWNINGS**  
Booze! Our premium vintage awnings give a pop of style and big living space all at once.

**POLISHING**  
Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the shiniest trailer of all? Aircraft polish & tools create the look.

**WINDOWS**  
Our extensive inventory of gaskets, seals and hardware restore 1940s-1970s trailer windows.

# Catching Up, Rallies Past...

**2nd VAC WEST Rally held on October 29– November 1, 2015 in Columbia, CA**

**Submitted by Shirley Bollinger**

The 2nd bi-annual VAC WEST Rally was again a success! We had a small group (several cancellations due to illness, etc.) but we had a great Halloween weekend and saw some old friends that we hadn't seen in a few years. We kicked off the rally on Thursday with delicious scary Halloween appetizers for Happy Hour. We talked until dark and then headed to the movie room for popcorn and a viewing of the Clint Eastwood movie, "Unforgiven," which was partially filmed in the Columbia area and starring one of our very own members, John Lopez! Actually, he was an extra but you can see him on the train with Richard Harris.

Friday morning we opted for Bloody Mary's for breakfast in celebration of Halloween and talked about carving pumpkins, but by noon we decided instead to head for Murphys, CA for a little shopping and lunch. It was a beautiful day! We met back at the 49er RV Ranch for Happy Hour then participated in the RV park hot dog dinner (with all the toppings) and campfire sing-a-long.

Saturday morning, David volunteered to cook us all breakfast. It was a real treat to sample his moose sausage! Later we drove into Columbia, a beautifully preserved 1800's gold rush town and California State Park. We sat on the town benches and watched all the children dressed up for Halloween, then headed to the corner saloon for a sarsaparilla! We also managed to hit the old-time candy store on the way back to the RV park. Originally, we had planned a potluck dinner for Saturday night but the cooks voted for going out to dinner. We all dressed up in our costumes and headed for the Diamond Back Grill in Sonora, CA.

Sunday morning we all said our goodbyes and said we can't wait for another VAC rally!

VAC members attending: Co-hosts VAC Treasurer, Shirley Bollinger & John Lopez, VAC Past President, Kimber Moore, Patty and John Marsh, David Kirstien, Tim and Dorothy McKinsey, and Maureen and Larry Delorefice. Thank you to all for attending and a big thank you to Kimber for designing the commemorative t-shirts, VAC aluminum tumblers and coasters for all of us. Also, thank you to 49er RV Ranch for their wonderful hospitality and coffee every morning.





# Rallies, Future...



## Alumilina Spring Rally

March 31st—April 3rd, 2016

Palmetto Cove RV Park, Cleveland, SC

**This will be the 9th gathering, so plan to expect more of the same....great people, food, fun, fellowship, seminars, door prizes, raffles, open house, paroozing, lots of aluminum and “Rita”.**

**The Palmetto Cove will reopen for the season on Monday, March 28 for any early arrivals. You will not need a reservation, just please RSVP with us here.**

**The parking fee of \$25 per night for full hook up will be paid to the Cove upon arrival. They can only accept cash or check.**

**Our rally fee is yet to be determined but as always will be a bargain. It will be paid upon arrival also.**

**You will like it.**

**John  
sandlapper (on Air Forums)**

**Editor's note:** This will be one that you will have to meet up on Air Forums to organize yourselves and get back to John, the host. He writes:

“The Palmetto Cove handles the parking, but I could persuade them to be somewhat cooperative [to park us together]. I would need an approximate number and arrival date.”



# Rallies, Future...



## Amish Country Rally

April 7th—April 10th, 2016

Kandels' RV Park, Walnut Creek, OH

### Here is your weekend schedule of planned events:

(No events are required. Just join us whenever you wish and feel free to come and go)

#### Thursday:

Early arrivals are welcome to join us, no planned activities.

#### Friday:

**7-9am:** Donuts and coffee in the office building.

**11am:** (Pending weather) Lunch for those wanting to try some fresh chicken cooked to perfection! Some of us will be headed to Gerber Poultry Farms. (Please bring a camp chair as we will be eating outside with lack of seating).

**Anytime:** We will not be doing an organized "trailer crawl" due to weather being questionable. However, find the owners of the rig you wish to see for a private tour when they are available!

**6pm:** Hot dogs, a side dish or two, and other goodies await your arrival for supper and will be available in the heated office building. (Please bring your own beverages and table service).

We will have a campfire roaring in the evening, weather permitting. If no campfire, meet us in the office for some games, crafting, and chit-chat! Or if you don't want to check out the fire, come hang in the office.

#### Saturday:

**7-9am:** Donuts & Coffee in the office building.

**11am:** (Pending weather, if Friday didn't happen) Lunch for those wanting to try some fresh chicken cooked to perfection! Some of us will be headed to Gerber Poultry Farms. (Please bring a camp chair as we will be eating outside with lack of seating).

**Anytime:** We will not be doing an organized "trailer crawl" due to weather being questionable. However, find the owners of the rig you wish to see for a private tour when they are available!

**6pm:** Bring a dish to share and join us in the office building for a potluck dinner, raffle, and trailer park gift exchange.

- If you have any spare parts or anything to donate for the raffle it would be appreciated. (This is instead of a rally fee. We ask that you just buy a few tickets for the raffle. Any \$ above what is needed to cover will be awarded at the end of the raffle by choosing 1 or 2 tickets from all tickets entered.) You can drop off Raffle items starting Friday evening

- If you wish to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped item.

**7:30pm:** Raffle will be conducted

**8:30pm:** Trailer park gift exchange

We will have a campfire roaring in the evening, weather permitting. If no campfire, meet us in the office for some games, crafting, and chit-chat!

There is a great blog written in four parts from last year with lots of info and pictures:

<http://silvermineandhis.weebly.com/streamin/amishing-in-airstreams>

<http://silvermineandhis.weebly.com/streamin/amishing-continues>

<http://silvermineandhis.weebly.com/streamin/april-14th-2015>

<http://silvermineandhis.weebly.com/streamin/all-good-things>

Michael and Loren  
Airbiscuit (on Air Forums)

**Editor's note:** I asked Loren if we could park as a group and she replied, "We can park you as a group. We have the run of the campground so that shouldn't be a problem."





# Rallies, Future...



## Springstream

April 21st—April 23rd, 2016

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawasse, GA

Come up to the beautiful North Georgia Blue Ridge and set up on or right near the beautiful lake. Light schedule of activities including the ever popular "Tour of Homes". More details will be coming soon.

ALANSD (on Air Forums)



Dennis does the griddle at brunch.



The local newspaper took a photo of the group.



Hiawasse Mountains Color



The "not a band" plays for the crowd.

**Editor's note:** I asked the hosts if we they would accommodate our Vintage Airstreams and this is the response I got:

"Yes, for sure, if you call and tell the park that you are with the Georgia Airstream group or Tin Can Tourists, you can ask them to hold a grouping of sites until March or so. Then tell your members to ask for that section or area when they reserve after Jan 2. Pick an area from the map at [Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com](http://Georgiamountainfairgrounds.com) under campgrounds. Anywhere in B, C, D, E, F would be great. We will have TCT vintage trailers too and hopefully the park will shine with Aluminum! Also here is a link to [pictures](#); you can share. Let me know how I can help. Alan"

So, this will be one of those Rallies that we have to meet up with others who would like to go on Air Forums VAC forum.



# Rallies, Future...



**VACmidwest Rally—The Moonlight Serenade Rally**

**June 9th—June 12th, 2016**

**Lake of Three Fires Campground, Beford, IA**

Campground REGISTRATION opens March 9th. Limited reservable sites. Reserve your own site.

With lots to do in the area, the weekend will be as full of events or laid-back as you'd like!  
Why Moonlight Serenade?

"Moonlight Serenade" is a beautiful song by Glenn Miller. The marvelous 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival coincides with the VACwest June Rally. While we won't attend the entire festival, it provides more fun weekend opportunities in nearby Clarinda, Iowa.

We will share the VACmidwest Rally - The Moonlight Serenade Rally schedule soon.

Here's a link to 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival schedule:

<http://glennmiller.org/festival-2/festival-information/>

If you might want to attend, contact Tom & Shirley at [ShirlsCookin@gmail.com](mailto:ShirlsCookin@gmail.com) or 515-556-9339

Tom & Shirley, say "Early arrivals are welcome!"

Campground REGISTRATION opens March 9th. Limited reservable sites. Reserve your own site.



# Rallies, Future...



**Register Now for the VAC Region 10 Vintage Rally**

**July 15th—July 18th, 2016**

**Farragut State Park, Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho**

Next year's annual VAC Region 10 rally will be held in a new location on July 15-18, 2016. We will be gathering at Farragut State Park in western Idaho where we have 23 water/electric sites (includes 2 "companion" sites). There is also a cabin available if someone would like to come but can't bring their trailer.

Farragut State Park is located on the south end of Lake Pend Orielle. It is the former site of Farragut Naval Training Station during World War II that trained nearly 300,000 sailors in 30 months of operation. It also housed a POW camp for captured German soldiers. The Museum at the Brig honors that legacy and includes restored vehicles, memorabilia, and films on area history and geology.

There are over 40 miles of trails to explore, plus swimming, boating, and disc golf available in the park. Silverwood Theme Park is a short distance away.

Cost for 3 nights, including dinner on Sunday, is \$120.00 US, the cabin is \$185 US for 3 nights and dinner on Sunday. In addition, Idaho State Parks charge a \$5/day vehicle fee for all non-residents that is collected upon arrival.

Rally hosts are Rob and Diane Nicol. For registration information/questions contact them at [robnicol@comcast.net](mailto:robnicol@comcast.net), or call 541-745-7761.

**New this year! Payment needs to be made in advance to rally hosts.**

# Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



January/February 2016

The Vintage Airstream Club

is an Intra-club of the

WBCCI

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

## Closing Notes...

Please submit, as small as it might seem, blurbs, blips, stories, photographs, adventures, experiences, and lessons learned; someone out there is very interested in it!

Rally on!

Reg

(with LOTS of help from daughter, Gretel)

[newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com)



2015—2016

### VAC Officers

President, Iain Cameron

1st VP, Steve Laxton

2nd VP, Victor Blood

3rd VP

Recording Secretary, Mary Doster

Treasurer, Shirley Bollinger

Past President, Kimber Moore

2015—2016

### Regional Representatives

Region 1, Gary Campbell

Region 2

Region 3, George D James III

Region 4, Ken Faber

Region 5, Dwight Dixon

Region 6, Herb Spies

Region 7

Region 8, Scott Allen

Region 9, Lance McEwan

Region 10, Rob & Diane Nicol

Region 11, Chris Hildenbrand

Region 12, Melissa Yee