



Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club

August 2011

The **Vintage Airstream Club** is an Intra-club of **WBCCI**
Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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Newsletter Editor
VAC President](#)

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You must be a member of the WBCCI to join the Vintage Airstream Club.

[Join the WBCCI](#)

Calendar

Upcoming Rallies

Region 7 Vintage Club Rally at Road America in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin
Sept 9-11, 2011,
Deadline is Sept 1,
Contact Don Stenz at 920.946.4122

Please let us know about upcoming rallies so they can be included in the newsletter and posted on the website.

Announcements

"Don't give me any reasons why it can't be done."

Wally Byam

The Vintage Airstream Club leadership is committed to additional and more timely communication.

This newsletter will compliment the Vintage Advantage magazine and the VAC website.

Message from Jim, VAC President

Here we are with the second newsletter, and I want to encourage you to share it. I have forwarded the July letter to three prospective members we met at a Denver Unit rally last month.

Emailing the last newsletter resulted in seventy-four bounced emails. Post cards were sent to each, and thirty-six have replied with corrected emails. Lee Cantrell and I have been working to get the membership database correct. Perhaps we can provide members with a directory in the future.

This month we started a Quick Tech feature in the newsletter. It will share technical fixes and innovations that can be described in roughly 200 words. These are the little things we see and do that are just cool ideas and techniques. I have two or three more in mind, and then I run dry. Send yours to the Editor.

Have you looked at the Website lately? Read the Du Quoin Memories and enjoy the pictures. Tim has done a great job restructuring the site's Front Page. I just entered a **post** on the site's Forum. We have two '67 Airstreams with Corning windows. One was recently broken and is now Plexiglas. I'm considering replacing all the windows with plastic, maybe Lexan Thermoclear, but I need advise. Can you help? Link to post:
http://vintageairstreamclub.com/component/option,com_kunena/Itemid,197/catid,40/func,view/id,537/#537

Rhonda said my message space is limited, so enjoy the newsletter.

Please send announcements that need to be included in the newsletter.

Membership Update

Lee Cantrell, Joyce Cantrell and Rachel Hughey work as a team to manage the VAC membership.

Read the article about membership and then check to see if your profile on the website is correct.

An updated profile assures that you will receive the newsletter, Vintage Advantage magazine and membership reminders on time.

Did You Know?

In 1997 Immediate Past President, Bob Brubaker, proposed that the Vintage Airstream Club adopt the vintage logo of the 1959 Airstream trailer being pulled by a bicyclist on a field of blue. After considerable discussion about color, placement of the logo and size, the motion was passed at the General Business meeting on June 27, 1997.

VAC Merchandise

Survey Notes, Jim Cooper

Last spring the VAC surveyed its' leadership, membership, and past members. Your officers felt that the club had become static, wasn't responding to members, and needed to change. We learned, you want communication, activities, and trailer talk.

The Leadership said resources should be invested first in publishing the Vintage Advantage, second in supporting events, and third evolving the website. These investments should result in increased activities, more articles and seminars, and a more interactive VAC community.

You, the members, listed activities first, articles and seminars second, and an interactive community was third.

Our past members miss reading about and discussing vintage trailers and restoration. Some were dissatisfied with the VAC due to few activities. Their biggest reason for leaving was frustration with the WBCCI, followed by no longer owning a vintage trailer.

The communication triad which includes the Newsletter, Vintage Advantage Magazine and Website can build an interactive community where trailer talk thrives. The VA needs articles, the Newsletter needs event notices and the Website needs forum participation. Let's just do it.

Editor's Notes, Rhonda Cooper

As I prepare the August newsletter, I am reflecting on our participation in the Rocky Mountain Vintage Airstream Club rally. After ten years the planning team took a bold move and said, Let's take a year off and participate in other rallies before deciding our next step." Many of us traveled from Colorado to Texas in April for the Chisholm Trail to Rally. We had a grand time! The rally was dry camping and it has been our experience that some of the best rallies happen without facilities. At the end of July, Jim and I joined the DenCo unit for a dry camping rally. Nearly forty trailers, new and vintage, mingled well. If you have not planned or participated in a dry camping rally, you should.

On August 1, I received my first newsletter correspondence You often hear that the best part of Airstreaming is the people you meet. John and Carol Heckman wrote to say, *"Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed our first International Rally primarily due to the great folks in the Vintage group. It was great to be at the big event for the first time, but we found more common ground with our new friends in Vintage."* They also shared that they attended the Aviation show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin and were planning to attend a rally

You can sell VAC merchandise including caps, shirts, and flags at your upcoming rally? Contact Bill Kerfoot, VAC [Quartermaster](#) and he will mail you a box of merchandise.

Next Issue

Feature on
Region
Representatives

Tips for Updating
Your Profile on
the VAC Website

Another Quick
Tech Article

Your Letters to
the Editor

Your Rallies or
Special Notices

with the North Iowa Unit. They ended their note by saying, " *Hope everyone is enjoying their summer as much as we are.*" Ditto!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My name is David Barker, WBCCI #8887. Ten months ago I requested a list of all VAC members addresses and phone numbers. I was told there was not one. Sometimes we feel alone out here with our vintage Airstreams. The rallies are hundreds of miles away or not convenient to attend. I just think that a membership list would be a way for members to contact each other; they might be in the same locality and not even know it. Even when traveling to different states it might be helpful to be able to contact another member. Generally speaking, vintage trailers usually experience the same problems and issues. This might be a nice gesture on part of the VAC. Thank you.

Dear David,

We will send you a list of members with their addresses and phone numbers. We will not include e-mail. The VAC leadership agrees that this is important. A lot of time is being spent currently to get the data base correct and make a directory available to all members.

Membership, Lee Cantrell

You will be hearing soon from your WBCCI unit about renewing your membership. If you have always paid your VAC dues at the same time as unit dues, now is the time to renew. The current membership dues remain \$20. There are two options for dues payment: PayPal through the VAC website or by check to the Membership Chair, Lee Cantrell.

In the future the membership chair will send out reminders one month before your renewal date. Until this is in place, members who have not renewed by February will receive a postcard reminder and then a follow up e-mail. In order for either system to work we need to have current email and mailing addresses up to date at all times. It would be a big help if all VAC members would set up their profile on our web site and keep that information current. If you have difficulties setting up your profile, please contact Tim Kendziorski - webmaster@vintageairstreamclub.com or Lee Cantrell - membership@vintageairstreamclub.com.

Important Open Positions, Jim

The VAC needs your help. We have asked for volunteers

to help with the Vintage Advantage and the Website, but I want to focus on two appointed positions that need to be filled, **Technical Advisor** and **Librarian**. You will find descriptions of these positions on the front page of the Website. Our members have said in surveys that they want to talk about vintage airstreams and restoring vintage airstreams. These positions are right in the middle of talk and restoration. Please don't think you have to be the country's expert, you just need to make the effort and do your best. The job will be what you make of it. Our club is full of technical experts, can you help channel questions to the right people, and get information published? The library consists of a couple of large file drawers, and we are considering having it all digitized. Can you help? "Uncle Sam needs you."

Quick Tech, Jim Cooper **Refrigerator Electric Side Monitor**

Most of our old refrigerators work on gas and electric. On the gas side it is possible to see and/or hear the flame increase when cooling is called for, but how do you know if the electric side is responding when required?

I solved this problem by adding a 120VAC indicator light. The light is connected directly to the 120VAC heater element. You will find this on the back of your refrigerator on the side of the chimney and above the burner. The light is from Radio Shack, and mounted in a ¼ inch hole drilled in the electric control panel.

Rotate the control from OFF toward MAX and the light will turn on when power is applied to the heater element. The refrigerator will cool until the control is satisfied, and then the power will be switched off as will the light.

The big benefit is knowing the refrigerator is cooling when the light switches on and not when off. Thus, the cooling unit and electrical side of the refrigerator has demonstrated correct operation. If your frig doesn't cool properly using gas, the problem is in the gas supply, control, or burner. You already know that the cooling unit works.



**Vintage Advantage Articles
Kimber Moore, Editor**

**Do you have Renovation, Rally, or
Historical WBCCI Stories?**

It's no secret that we've got a bunch of talented writers and photographers disguised as talented trailer renovators, restorers, party throwers, or vintage-Airstream-stuff collectors! I know you are out there...this message is for you...

The *Vintage Advantage* is looking for stories and photographs from you, about vintage trailers, trips, maintenance or events-or, maybe you know someone who has a story to tell and you could pass this message along to them?

Send your story with photographs to vaeditor@vintageairstreamclub.com and bathe in the glow of having your story published. Be a star amongst your friends and other vintage club members.



Image Deleted

Specifications:

{**single-page story w/2-3 photos:** 250-350 words/5x7 photos at 300 dpi or standard digital camera images (18 x 13 at 180 pixels/inch) in jpeg format.

{**two-page story w/up to 5 photos:** 400-800 words/5x7 photos at 300 dpi or standard digital camera images (18 x 13 at 180 pixels/inch) in jpeg format.

{**story ideas:** By all means, if you have a story or idea outside the above parameters, please, just send it to me, or email or call me to discuss.

WE NEED YOU!

We need your feedback and suggestions, not just about the Newsletter, but about the Vintage Airstream Club in general. Your suggestions, questions, and comments will be forwarded to the proper club officer. Send to the [Editor](#)

Sincerely,

Rhonda Cooper
Newsletter Editor
Vintage Airstream Club

[Forward email](#)



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