

October 2011 Vintage Airstream Club

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Quick Links

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Calendar

Jan. 31-Feb. 6, 2012
Region 12
31st National Hobo Rally,
Blythe, CA

February 14 - 19, 2012
39th Florida State Rally
Sarasota, FL

March 26-31, 2012
Region 9, 43rd Annual Rally
Mineola, TX

April 24-28, 2012
Region 3 Rally,
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

May 30—June 3, 2012
Region 2 Rally
Frankford, NY

August 8—12, 2012
Region 7 VAC Rally
Spicer, MN

August 9-13, 2012
Region 10 VAC Rally
Monitor, WA

"Don't give me any reason why it can't be done."
Wally Byam

The Newsletter will take a break over the next two months, and return in January.

Message from Jim, VAC President

Jim Polk is the new Region 12 Rep. Welcome Jim. People like you who take on responsibility make the VAC succeed.

In this issue Joe Peplinski writes about the Around The World caravan. Its 50th anniversary is in 2013, and the VAC is going to celebrate. We are beginning to plan several simultaneous rallies that will be linked through the internet. International may be one site. Many more VAC members will be able to participate than if we asked people to travel to one central location. It will work and be a great success if we can share presentations and activities in real-time across all sites. We may incorporate a membership meeting where all sites can participate and vote. This is a big deal. It's not happen in the past. The discussion has started on the VAC Forum at http://vintageairstreamclub.com/component/option,com_kunena/Itemid,197/catid,36/func,view/id,545/. We have not yet determined locations, and are just starting to investigate the communication technology. There is a lot to do.

An outcome of having the communication technology will be the ability have people not at a rally conduct a live presentation. We may see this first at the 4 Corners Restoration Rally. Ken Johansen, our Region 11 Rep and rally organizer, is excited about the prospect.

Some of you have sent in future rally information. Last week I emailed the WBCCI Region Presidents asking if they would share information about rallies in their region that would be of interest to VAC members. I've already received three replies, and we will incorporate their events into the VAC calendar. Over the next two months, while the Newsletter is not being published, we will decide how to keep a current calendar available to you, and fill it with things for you to do.

One of our trailer neighbors at the Balloon Rally was wearing a RMVAC t-shirt and I mentioned that we had not seen them for a while. Turns out they had not been WBCCI members for about five years. Our conversation ended with an invitation to Colorado's VAC rally in 2012 and the response was, "We are not going to miss another good rally." Is that cool or what?

Lets all enjoy the coming holiday season. In the mean time I have to blow out the sprinkler system, and fix a leak in the Globe Trotter water heater.

Volunteers Needed — New Approach

In 2000. President Tom Reed wrote, "It is important to remember that the Vintage Airstream Club is an organization of volunteers and without a lot of hard work and sacrifice by these volunteers the club would not succeed."

As you read from Jim, the Region 12 position has been filled, We have a Region 12 Rep because he was encouraged and asked to volunteer.

We still need a VAC Librarian and Technical Advisor. Plus it has been suggested that the VAC could benefit from a Press Kit, providing background information about the VAC that could be easily shared with local reporters to publicize rallies.

Do you know someone that would be able to fill these positions? Please talk to them at the next event, send an e-mail or give a call. Sometimes a personal nudge is all it takes to find the next VAC volunteer.



Newsletter Schedule

The VAC Newsletter will not be published November and December 2011.

The next edition will be January 2012.

Keep sending information about upcoming rallies and events of interest to the VAC members. We will be sending out e-mail updates as we learn about rallies and have a more complete calendar ready for January.

Did You Know?

In 2000 the VAC Board purchased the Web site for \$5400.00 total cost. The club paid \$3000 down and continued payments of \$100 per month for 24 months.

In 2003 the website reached an all time high 150,000 hits per week with about 7500 unique computers logging in per week, showing that there was a great interest in Vintage Airstreams not just from members.

Articles Needed

Renovation, Rally or Historical Event Stories are need for the Vintage Advantage magazine.

Send ideas or articles to Kimber Moore, Vintage Advantage Editor.

Editor's Thoughts, Rhonda

If you have not attended the Four Corners Rally at the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM, you must put it on your Airstream Bucket List. Jim and I went for the first time. The organizers, including Ken Johanson, Region 11 Rep, put on a flawless rally and even the weather was perfect. We were parked with 100 Airstreams and many hundreds of balloons flying overhead for four days. The parking is perfect —just steps away from wandering the field with the pilots and crew for morning launches and evening displays. Mark your calendar for the **41st Balloon Festival Rally, October 5-9, 2012.**

One moment during the festival was a highlight for me. Sitting outside the trailer, I noticed a boy and his father jumping off their bikes and heading for our neighbor's trailer. Without hesitation Bobbie welcomes them to their trailer and she later shared that Jake, walked inside and said one word, "PERFECT!" Next Jake and his father wandered to our trailer and I invited Jake inside. I asked Jake about his interest in Airstreams as Jim spoke to his father. Jake has his heart set on getting an Airstream and as we talked he shared that recently he was thinking in his head about trailers, "It is all about sleeping!" He went on to explain that they traveled to the Balloon Fiesta in a 1946 canvas pop up trailer that can sleep six in many bed configurations. We learned in speaking to Eric, Jake's father, that the family has a campground with a drive in theatre in Guymor, Oklahoma called Coral Drive-In RV Park.. Check out their website at corraldrivein.com Jakes sells snow cones during the season and his father jokingly remarked that it would take a lot of snow cones to buy a vintage Airstream. Jake is only ten, but he has curiosity, motivation and a love for vintage. I know there is an Airstream just waiting to be owned by Jake and his family.

Around the World Caravan, Joe Peplinski, VAC Historian

The Vintage Airstream Club is about more than just researching, restoring, and even camping in vintage Airstreams. We like to know who owned our Airstreams before us and where they went in them. We enjoy reading about the many historic caravans that Airstreams participated in. We want to be associated with that great travel history.

Arguably the greatest Airstream caravan of all was the **1963-64 Around the World Caravan**. This caravan was Wally Byam's biggest dream, and thankfully the Airstream company and especially Wally's cousin Helen Byam Schwamborn made his dream come true for 47 Airstreams and 105 adventurous men, women, and children. The Around the World (ATW) Caravan assembled in Singapore, Malaysia in September 1963 and disbanded at Cabo Da Roca, Portugal in November 1964. In between were 403 days, 31,000 overland miles, and over 30 countries, including several that one cannot safely visit today. Famous photos from this caravan appeared in many magazines and were used in Airstream advertising for years to come. This caravan even resulted in the publication of a book detailing its adventures: **Thank You Marco Polo – The Story of the First Around-the-World Trailer Caravan.**

As the 50th anniversary of this great caravan approaches, your VAC leadership feels that we cannot let the opportunity pass without planning an anniversary celebration for 2013. Something of this magnitude cannot be thrown together overnight, so we are already in the initial discussion stages and many ideas are being proposed. Four of the six known surviving Airstream trailers from the ATW caravan are owned by VAC members and we'd like to have them participate in 50th anniversary festivities. We'd also like to have surviving caravanners and family members participate in the celebration. If you have any interest in such an event, please contact any of your VAC leaders to propose ideas or get involved in the planning. And by all means, watch this newsletter and the Vintage Advantage for further information and start planning to participate in the celebration.

Joe Peplinski Shares His ATW Trailer on the VAC Forum

Joe Peplinski shares pictures of his Around the World Caravan Trailer on the Vintage Airstream Club Forum http://vintageairstreamclub.com/component/option,com_kunena/Itemid,197/catid,12/func,view/id,541/

VAC Flags

Now is the time to get ready for the next rally season . Jim's tech article tells how to build a flag pole holder. Plus the Vintage Airstream Club has two different sized VAC flags for sale.

Large VAC Flag (3 X 5) \$70

Pennant VAC Flag (2X3) \$25

Contact Bill Kerfoot, VAC Quartermaster at wakerfoot@gmail.com or use the order form in the recent Vintage Advantage magazine.

Region Reps

Region Representatives should be your first contact for VAC information in your area.

Full contact information including addresses and phone numbers can be found on the VAC website or in the most recent Vintage Advantage magazine.

E-mail your representative:

Vacregion# @vintageairtreacclub.com

(insert region number in place of #)

Region 1: Gary Campbell

Region 2: Bob Novak

Region 3: George D. James

Region 4: Ken Faber

Region 5: Dwight Dixon

Region 6: Herb Spies

Region 7: Curt Gunderson;

Dick Parins, Reg. 7 Assistant

Region 8: Scott Allen

Region 9: Pat McDowell

Region 10: Iain Cameron

Region 11: Ken Johanson

Region 12: Jim Polk

Letters to the Editor

We heard from Cherie and Jay Guerin of Cheyenne, WY related to last month's axle article. They had an axle replaced on their '64 Bambi and it rides two inches higher, proving it really needed to be replaced. They also shared a hint on finding leaky seams: shoot compressed air along the seams; when you come across a void the skin will vibrate isolating the leak.

We also heard from Bob Cooper, WBCCI 1893, of the New Jersey unit. Jim and I both met Bob, but at different times during the DuQuoin International; both conversations started with are you related to Bud and Bettye? Unfortunately, we are not! Bob shared some recent facts he learned about a Bowlus trailer and upcoming rallies for the VAC to consider. He also mentioned the passing of Stanley Baston, a member of his unit and early President of the Vintage Club.

Getting to Know Your Region Representatives Region 7, Curt Gunderson

My wife, Julie, and I bought our 1972 Globetrotter in 1995. We have used it for many trips and caravans, especially to the South in the winter. I built up a 1955 Ford pickup to use as a tow vehicle using a 351W Ford engine with a C6 transmission and a 3.50 nine inch rear end gear and a Pull-Rite hitch. We have used it to take the Globetrotter to several Minnesota Street Rod Association events. A newer purchase is our 1961 Tradewind, which we are renovating. The job is moving faster since Julie took over the polishing task.

We live in Northern Minnesota, about 40 miles south of Duluth, where we have the local general store. Also, we have courtesy parking available and use our home as a bed and breakfast. <<http://www.homeinthepinesbb.com/>>

Traveling with the Airstream is an experience that has enriched our lives, in that we have met so many fine people and been to so many interesting places. We look forward to meeting more of you down the road.

Our next Region 7 VAC Rally will be August 8-12, 2012 at Spicer, MN. According to Linda Agre, 1st Vice President of Region 7, the rally will include an Antique Car show during the Vintage Open House.

Vintage Rallies 2012 Calendar

Iain Cameron, Region 10 Representative, has reserved the Wenatchee River County Park for a **VAC Region rally, in Monitor, WA, August 9-13 2010**. This is a buddy rally and all vintage enthusiasts are welcome— vintage, modern Airstreams, and Tin Can Tourists. Buddy rallies are a great way to introduce people to the club and makes rallies very dynamic and fun. Contact Ian Cameron at imcameron@shaw.ca to reserve a campsite.

Special Invite to Region Rallies 2012 Calendar

Bill and Beth Kerfoot attended the Region 12 National Hobo Rally last year and highly recommend VAC members attend. The **31th Rally will be held at Colorado River Fairgrounds in Blythe, CA, Jan 31– February 6**. A highlight for Bill was seeing a 1953 Flying Cloud ,WBCCI #79, brought to the rally by the grandson of the original owner. Pictures of early caravans including Mexico were shared. Check the Region 12 website for more details.

President, Rick Bell, invites the Vintage group to **Myrtle Beach, April 24-28** for Region 3 Rally at Ocean Lakes Campground. As usual there will be an open house for the Vintage group and any unit that would like to participate. Rick shares that the rally is open to any Airstream owner as a way of extending our hospitality beyond the WBCCI group. A coupon for the rally will appear in the Blue Beret.

C.C. Gartman, President of Region 9, would love to have VAC members attend the **43rd Annual Region 9 Rally , March 26-31 in Mineola, Texas**. Contact ccgartman@hughes.net for more information and a schedule of events.

Newsletter
6200 Choke Cherry Dr
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Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club

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The Vintage Airstream Club
Is an Intra-club of the
WBCCI
Wally Byam Caravan Club International

Quick Tech , Jim

I am occasionally asked how I built our flag pole holder. We have two trailers with different tongue jacks, and use the same holder on both. The picture tells most of the story, but there are some details to mention.



The pipes are electrical conduit with an ID (1 ¼) that will hold the poles. They are held to the plate (3/32 aluminum) with U bolts. The top of the plate is stiffened with ½ aluminum angle that has a rounded notch where it intersects the jack shaft. The plate is cut (on table saw) and the pipes mounted so that the outer pipes are 20 degrees off vertical. This assembly is held to the jack with muffler clamps.

The manual jack required 2 ¼ inch clamps, and the electric jack needed 2 ¾ inch clamps. The clamps are mounted permanently to the jacks, and the flag pole holder plate has separate holes for each jack. It takes a couple of minutes to move the holder from one trailer to the other. Note, the center pipe is cut shorter to clear the manual crank, and the electric motor is aligned to the side to accommodate the holder. Side alignment of the motor also means that it doesn't interfere with opening the truck tailgate.

The flag poles are extension handles for paint rollers. The flags are secured with small carabineers. The top one is in an eye bolt, and the sliding two are in two inch washers, with their center hole expanded to fit over the pole shaft. I wrap the poles with tape so that they fit tight at the top of the pipes to reduce rattle. All parts came from the big box store except the muffler clamps that the local muffler shop provided.