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Quick Links

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Around the World Caravan

The Around the World Caravan started in Singapore, Malaysia in September 1963 and ended at Cabo Da Roca, Portugal in November 1964. Over thirty countries were visited in the 403 days of travel including 31,000 over-land miles.

The details of the caravan can be found in the book, Thank You Marco Polo—The Story of the first Around-the-

2012-2013 Officers

President, Chris Hildenbrand
1st V. P., Tim Kendzioriski
2nd V.P., Paul Mayeux
3rd V.P., Kimber Moore
Recording Secretary, Patti Reed
Treasurer, Pamela Peak
Past President, Jim Cooper

“TO ENCOURAGE CLUBS AND RALLIES THAT PROVIDE AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF FRIENDSHIP, TRAVEL FUN AND PERSONAL EXPRESSION.”

Wally Byam Creed

Message from Chris, VAC President

I do not know about you, but summer just seemed to flash by for me. We are now heading into fall and the rally season is for the most part behind us with a few notable exceptions listed in the calendar section of this newsletter. Even though all the up coming rallies are great rallies, the one rally I feel is a must do is the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Balloon Fiesta is one of the most memorable events I have personally experienced with all of the colors and excitement you cannot help but smile and have a great time. If you are not able to make the Balloon Fiesta or the other rallies listed for this year, don't despair, there is always next year.

On that note, planning has already started for 2013. The Vintage Airstream Club's goal for the next two years is to have at least one rally in each of the WBCCI regions. If you have an idea for a new rally such as a location or event a rally can be tied to, or are interested in helping with the planning process, please contact Jim Cooper. Jim and the other members of the 12x14 committee would be very interested in hearing from you.

If you do not already know the Vintage Airstream Club has two milestone anniversaries to celebrate in 2013. The first is the 20th anniversary of the Vintage Airstream Club. Believe it or not, it has been 20 years since Bud Cooper with the help of others, formed the Vintage Airstream Intra-Club and a lot has happened since then. I know a number of folks have been members of VAC from its inception, but most have joined somewhere along the way. Whether you are a founding member or have joined more recently, I think it would be nice for everybody to share their memories of all the great VAC events from the last 20 years. So with that in mind, I would like everyone to start thinking about your favorite VAC memories and in the next issue of the newsletter I will let you know how we will share these memories with everyone.

Another milestone is the 50th anniversary of the Around the World Caravan; the last great caravan that Wally, himself had a hand in planning. Even though Wally passed away before the caravan's departure in the fall of 1963, it was his vision and tenacity that made it happen. Our initial plans are to have a reunion at the 2013 International Rally in Huron, South Dakota with all the known surviving trailers and participants from the Around the World Caravan. Even though our plans to celebrate both anniversaries are in their initial stages with few details, please mark your calendars for late June 2013 and join us in the celebration.

Rhonda Cooper, Editor

One of the last presidential projects Jim accomplished was getting a VAC flag made for the current president and all past presidents to fly at rallies. If you need a VAC flag check the order form in the most recent Vintage Advantage magazine or contact Bill Kerfoot, Quartermaster at wakerfoot@gmail.com.

I have heard a couple of comments recently that are worth sharing. At International someone said that they could not do the restoration or maintenance work on their trailer, but they attend as many workshops as possible because they want to have the knowledge to understand the work they need to have done on their trailer. As membership chair of the Denver Unit I hear many comments about why people decide to join the WBCCI. Recently a member with a newly acquired vintage trailer said, “I realized that I cannot do this alone, I need a club!”

I need your ideas, suggestions, articles, and calendar dates. I would really like to feature more rallies from 2012 and generate ideas for rallies in 2013.

Submit Schedule for VAC Rallies or Events

Please send dates for rallies and events of interest to VAC members.

Information will be included in the calendar column below and articles can also be published with rally or event details.

2012

September 12-16, 2012
Pennsylvania State Rally
Centre Hall, PA

Sept 22-30, 2012
50th Annual Swiss Festival
National Rally
Sugarcreek, OH

October 5-9, 2012
Balloon Fiesta Rally
Four Corners Unit Rally
Albuquerque, NM

October 17-22, 2012
Region 12 Rally
Bakersfield, CA

2013

April 24-28, 2013
Region 8
Hutchinson, Kansas
VAC Presentation, Vintage Park-
ing, and Open House

October 3-7, 2013
Texas Highland Lakes Unit
Vintage Airstream "Cradle of
History" Rally
Gonzales, Texas

2012 Vintage Rally Highlights

3rd Lone Star VAC Rally April 2012 Decatur, TX Paul Mayeux

Spring time in Texas can be a very fickle time weather-wise. Last year, the 2nd gathering of the Lone Star Vintage Airstream Club was treated to 60+ mph winds and threatening fires. This year, however, was different and the thirty-five rigs coming from not only Texas, but Colorado and New Mexico were treated to mild nights and warm days with a clear Texas sky above. 2012 was the year for the "Old Black Magic" rally, paying homage to Dutch oven cooking. Kent Rollins, renowned chuck wagon chef and his wife Shannon brought their 1876 Studebaker out to the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands to treat us to some good old fashion chuck wagon grub and an informative Dutch oven cooking school. The comforting smells of biscuits and cinnamon rolls filled the air of the high plateau as rally participants, guided by Kent and Shannon, honed their own Dutch oven cooking skills. Afterward Kent and Shannon prepared a wonderful chicken fried steak dinner for the hungry crowd. The Lone Star VAC rally has traditionally been a "boondocking" rally, held in the sparse wilderness of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grasslands north of Decatur, TX. Stay tuned for plans for the 4th Annual Lone Star Vintage Airstream Club Rally. For 2013 we plan to move to a new venue for a change of scenery, but we will continue to camp in the tradition of Wally without hookups.



11th Rocky Mountain Vintage Rally July 2012 Gunnison, Colorado Rhonda Cooper

Seventy-two Airstream trailers representing twelve states, arranged in Wally style circles, dry camped at the fairgrounds in Gunnison, Colorado creating the Rockin' Wally B Ranch. Promising to return after taking a year off in 2011, the twelve member committee created a rally around the theme, "The Good, The Bad, The Vintage" with t-shirts, posters and movie night reflecting the 60's theme. The fairground setting is a preferred location for the committee, but it does present its own challenges—this year the daily cattle drive happened right past the trailers, moving the yearlings from pasture to the rodeo arena each day. The Rocky Mountain rally is known for trailer restoration and maintenance talks, a chili dump dinner, open house, Donnarita beverages, swap meet, happy hour gatherings under the big tent, plus time in the schedule to gather around the trailers swapping stories or explore the area. Rockin' Wally B Ranch night with Airstreamers dressed in their finest cowboy outfit or prettiest cowgirl dress including boots of all colors were treated to an Italian catered dinner keeping with the Spaghetti Western theme. Besides the western dress, rally attendees were asked to wear a mustache to get served and attendees embraced the fun. The committee will be meeting soon and we will let you know our plans for the next Rocky Mountain Rally.

Photos and art work by Shari Davis.



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# @vintageairstreamclub.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;
Region 8: Scott Allen
Region 9: Pat McDowell
Region 10: Iain Cameron
Region 11: Ken Johansen
Region 12: Jim Polk

Reminder

The goal for 2012-2013 is six bi-monthly newsletters starting with July 2012.

As discussed at International by officers, the VAC can only support one e-mail address and one mailing address.

Now that means —spouses, partners, significant others. it is your responsibility to make sure you forward the VAC newsletter and other email reminders or information.

It is critical to keep us informed if you change your email or post office address.

Vintage Airstream Concourse D'Elegance Awards Sedalia, Missouri June 24, 2012 Paul Fancy, Chairman

50's Awards: #5071 Ester and John Dona
60's Awards: #3546 Brenda and Gilbert Owens, #5382 Beth and David McCall, #10212 Rachel and Martin Hughey, #4169 Alice and Brad Reid
70's Awards: #3434 Carol and John Heckman, #3222 Donna Ivanko, #17330 Kimber Moore and Tim Kendiorski, #1871 Pat and Glen Harris
80's Awards: #8415 Darrin Baker and Mark Kennedy, #4292 Nancy and Vern Townsend, #4241 Joyce and Lee Cantrell
Bill Scott Best Bambi: #10212 Rachel and Martin Hughey
Best Trailer and Tow Vehicle Combo: No Entry
Best Engineered Feature: #4169 Alice and Brad Reid
Most Flags: #1935 Norman Holman
People's Choice: #4169 Alice and Brad Reid
Bud Cooper Best in Show: #10212 Rachel and Martin Hughey

Congratulations!

12 X 14 VAC Goal - VAC Rally In Each Region Jim Cooper

We are beginning to roll this goal down the road, albeit slowly. The rally and travel season is winding down, at least for us Northerners. You will see a report of significant progress in the next newsletter. The question is simple, how can the VAC encourage more VAC events across the country -- in your region as an example.

VAC Tech Advisor, Jim Cooper

I have become the club Tech Adviser, that was easy. I could wait for the phone or email to provide a technical question, and then try to answer it, that would be pretty easy. Instead I will share my thoughts about how I will approach the job. The position includes the obligation to write articles for the Vintage Advantage, which I will do. I will also continue to write Quick Tech articles for the newsletter. Beyond that, things ought to be done that add value to your VAC membership.

The purchase of our first Airstream made it clear that I didn't know where to find parts, service, or information. I get questions now asking the same thing. There is a need for a list of resources, but how to structure it, where to put it, and how to maintain it is less clear. I will work on this. Initially I think VAC members must recommend a source before it goes on the list. In the future I will be asking you for recommendations.

Articles and resources will keep me busy, but there is the suggestion that I become active on the non-VAC forums and Lists. I hesitate. How does it add value to your membership? I will let this suggestion rest for a while, but I don't intend to compete with non-VAC sources. Again, it's a value thing.

What do you think? The position of Tech Adviser needs to exist for your benefit, so send me your thoughts at TechAdviser@VintageAirstreamClub.com. It does seem to me that the VAC ought to be member's main source of technical repair and restoration information, and that feature should be an attraction to the club -- how do we get there?

Newsletter
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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 Idea Jim Cooper

Quick Tech can't get any quicker than on the spot when you need it. Some of us have installed computer fans inside the refrigerator vents to help draw heat off the cooling unit. This makes the cooling process more efficient and helps stabilize the internal temperature of the refrigerator. Others, at Sedalia when the outside temperature exceeded 100° F, just bungee corded a fan to the air input grill. Wonder how that traveled?

Again at Sedalia, a group gathered to problem solve trailer brakes that engaged when turning left. Brake and light wiring is a common problem. Airstream has changed the wire colors at least once, and you never know what a previous owner may have done to make their lights and brakes work. The last thing you would want to do is change the wiring in your tow vehicle to work with your trailer; you could never tow another trailer with non-standard truck wiring. Wiring in the trailer pictured was corrected using a volt meter and a diagram was made for future reference.

A simple fix to a missing lug nut is to bum one from a friend. Keep in mind, if you over torque the nuts on aluminum rims, they will loosen and fall off after a while -- so I'm told. Take care.

