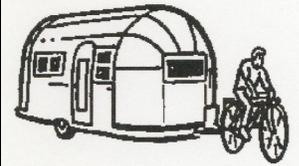


Twenty Years 1993-2013 Happy Birthday Vintage Airstream Club!



VAC Newsletter
Historical Edition
June 2013

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

Wally Byam Creed

THE VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB

Your Airstream, since it is a 1968 or older, is a Vintage Airstream. A number of us who know and admire these fine trailers have banded together to form The Vintage Airstream Club. This way we can meet together periodically, have a news letter, swap stories, help each other, and do all the fun things people do when they share a common interest. You can be proud of your trailer. What other make has 40 year old trailers still on the road?

Some of us bought these trailers new and never saw a reason to change. Others, with young families, chose this economical way to enter Airstreaming, and still others wanted to down-size to one of the easy-to-tow models. For years people have restored vintage automobiles, boats and aircraft. Now a growing number are interested in restoring vintage trailers (mainly Airstreams). Whatever your reason, The Vintage Airstream Club will offer support. To learn more, see the other side.

“The idea of the Vintage club, is an idea whose time had come.”

“Even people who have new trailers see the advantages to WBCCI and have been generous with support.”

“No one knows how many potential members we have. Larry Huttle has given me the names of 5000 people, both in and out of the WBCCI who are supposed to own vintage Airstreams.”

Quotes from Bud and Bettye Cooper - 1993

"JOIN"

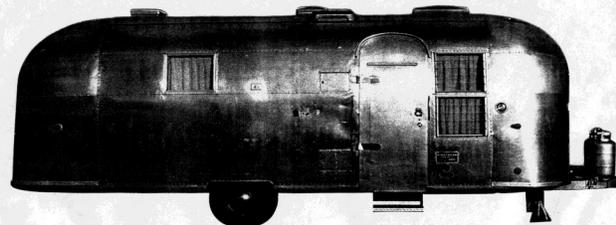
THE WBCCI VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CARAVAN CLUB INT.

AIRSTREAM MUST BE 1968 OR OLDER.

BELONG TO THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INT.

"AIRSTREAM"

THE LEADERS BY DESIGN



AIRSTREAM TRAILER 24' TRADEWIN CIRCA 1963.

VAC Fliers Created by Bud and Bettye Cooper 1992-1993

1992

Bud Cooper presented the idea for The Vintage Airstream club at the 1992 WBCCI International in Dayton, Ohio. The name *The Vintage Club* was suggested by Norm Hewer, Region 4 President.

The first VAC Newsletter was published March 23, 1993. In July the VAC Constitution and By-Laws were approved by IBT. The VAC became official with 115 members. **Bud Cooper** was the first VAC President. The first International meeting and Concours 'd Elegance of the VAC happened at the 1993 Bismarck, ND International. All 32 trailers participated in the open house and entered the Concours with visitors estimates from 500 to 1300. A 1937 trailer owned by Betty and Eugen Danaher was the hit of the show. On the evening of July 1, a severe hail storm damaged virtually every trailer at the International rally with estimates of total damage about \$8,000,000.

1993

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1994

205 Members

On March 30, 1994 there were 205 Vintage club members. The VAC newsletter masthead "The Vintage Advantage" first appeared on the April newsletter, the idea of Duane C Hedahl, Editor. At the Brandon Manitoba Canada International, twenty-two trailers parked in the VAC compound. Between 200-300 attendees watched "Dr. Shine" Bud Cooper do a polishing demonstration and Bettye Cooper organized VAC members to show a number of vintage fashions in the Fashion Show. The concours awards included "Worst Battle Scar." Concours Rules for Brandon International were simplified including no distinction made between Restored and Preserved and no person may win the same award in two successive years.



1994
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1995
205 Members

President **Stanley Baston's** goal for the club was to continue in Bud's path while trying to reduce the amount of work the President must do by developing traditions, routines, and guidelines so future Presidents' jobs will be easier." Since only 10% of VAC members attend the International, Stanley encouraged Vintage rallies at Region rallies allowing many members to share in the activities and events of our club. During the Amherst, MA International the VAC received approximately 20 new members bringing the total members to 360! "The spectrum of trailers was the broadest, the restorations the most awesome, and the people the most enthusiastic." VAC members could rent videos from the VAC Library by paying \$3.00, be able to keep the videos for 10 days and be responsible for return postage. Videos included Polishing, Removing Floor Tile, 1993 Bismarck Rally, Bowlus Trailer and "Home On Wheels In America."

1995
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1996
360 Members

At the winter IBT meeting, President **Bob Brubaker** heard Larry Huttle speak about the next generation trailers which would lighten the weight by one-third and lower the price. Bob comment, "I can't help but think that with the expanded sale of "square streams" and reduced production of "silver bullets" that our Vintage trailers will become more and more "classic" and desirable in the years to come." The Wagon Wheel Ways Caravan planned for Vintage trailers owners going to Rapid City International was promised to provide a taste of what things might have been like when Wally Byam first started leading caravans. The caravan was advertised as eight nights of camping, six evening meals for two with cost per trailer \$151.00. Forty two trailers caravanned into the Rapid City International site and forty-seven vintage trailers were parked together – both records for the VAC at International. The VAC decal featuring the M. Letourneur, a famous French bicycle racer, was sent to all members.

1996
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1997
750 Members

President **Dick Mumma** guided proposed changes to the VAC Constitution and By-Laws, bringing the documents in line with those of the International Club. Based on the welcome and interest shown by Huntsville residents at the Huntsville, AL International, the VAC scheduled a second open house on the weekend for the locals and they were lined up before trailer doors were opened. On April 1, 1997, the VAC's membership reached 659 (432 members, 36 Associates and 191 Friends), an increase of 65% in one year. This quote appeared in the Vintage Advantage, "Throughout the Vintage Club's short history, the enthusiasm and energy of its leaders have contributed tremendously to its growth." VAC through Tom Howarth and Pat Ewing found and establish the Vintage Airstream Club email List (VACList) The VAC Internet Homepage changed hands from Dan Burkhart, who originally put the site on-line and maintained it for nine months. Duane Hedahl became the new operator.

1997
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1998
750 Members

Clyde Wagner, VAC President stated in his initial message that as president he was given the opportunity to offer some repayment for all the fun, good times and fellowship enjoyed as a Vintage Club member. The VAC membership at the time was over 750 members and friends. Tom Howarth, *Vintage Advantage* Editor, changed the issue dates to Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. In addition to traveling over 7500 miles towing a 1953, 21' Flying Cloud with his wife, three young children and a cat, attending the International in Huntsville, Tom produced a 28 page *Vintage Advantage* Fall issue. The VAC flag featuring the bicycle pulling the Airstream became official at the VAC business meeting and approved by the IBT. Preston Pearson planned the 1998 VAC Wagon Wheel Caravan to Boise, ID International described as a celebration of self-sufficiency of our vintage trailers in the manner that Wally Byam designed them to be used. Fifty-one vintage trailers including 23 from the Wagon Wheel caravan parked together at the Boise International.

1998

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1999

1100 Members

VAC President **Forrest Bone** moved the club forward with his goals: greater VAC presence at Florida State Rally, Community Service project at International, development of rallies or caravans by geographic regions, developing standards for Concours d' Elegance, development of favorite places caravans, and development of program to move Friends subscribers to full WBCCI status. VAC events listed in the Vintage Advantage included VAC rallies in New York, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas and California. Eighty-four vintage club trailers attended International in Dayton, Ohio and forty-five participated in the concours. Participants were described as dedicated VAC members making their trailers even better than new. In April 1998, Canadian Evan McDonell, established the VAC airstream.net web site and was its developer and administer. By late 1990's Virtual vintage-Airstreaming was well established by VAC E-mail list and vintage airstream related web sites.

1999

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2000

1222 Members

Tom Reed, VAC President encouraged more participation from all VAC members and wanted the VAC to become a club that is known for having events held across the U.S. that bring people together to share their common interest in the beauty of the Vintage Airstream and maybe re-live the past the way "Wally" and his Caravans did. Toward the end of Tom's term he noted that the interest and acceptance of Vintage coaches has changed and VAC members are now being requested to attend rallies and host events like an open house. Twenty-five trailers joined the VAC Wagon Wheel Caravan headed to International and visited historical landmarks along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Forty-eight trailers parked with Vintage and most entered the Concours at Bismarck, North Dakota. Fred Coldwell was appointed as VAC Archive Historian. In the fall of 1999, Bryan Burkhart become the *Vintage Advantage* editor and switched to a magazine format. During that time the VAC also bought airstream.net and airstream.org domain names from Ewan McDonell.

2000

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2001

1278 Members

Don Perry encouraged VAC members to be more visible and active in the WBCCI regions and broaden activities to include younger members. He stressed the importance of a concerted VAC effort since we are all WBCCI members first. The VAC voted to support social activities at Region, National Hobo, Florida State and International with money, but the VAC representative was required to publish a recap of events in *Vintage Advantage*. The Fifth Wagon Wheel Caravan to International in Sioux Falls was cancelled, but a few units followed the planned route. RJ Dial replaced Kevin Allen as the web-master. In January 2000 ,VAC members founded the Washington DC unit (WDCU) of the WBCCI, the first new local chapter established in 20 years. The new unit's primary focus was vintage trailers.

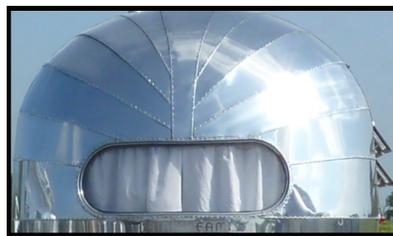
2001

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2002

1604 Members

President **Noland Vogt** encouraged VAC 'Friends' who own a Vintage Airstream and do not belong to the WBCCI to join up and enjoy the fun and share the enthusiasm for Airstreams. Noland presented a question related to the "the 25 year rule" and found out that if the club ain't broken, don't fix it. In other words, the founders of the Vintage club did a great job. Scott Sheuermann and Kevin Allen led thirteen trailers on the 2002 VAC Wagon Wheel Caravan to Rapid City. About 30 trailers parked with the VAC in Rapid City and everyone graciously tolerated days of 109 degrees and occasional whiff of forest fire smoke. Linda Moore, treasurer and membership chair, reported that Trailer Life magazine featuring the Vintage Spring Rally at Bass Lake in California (San Bernardino California Unit of the WBCCI) resulted in new members who had no idea there was a club just for them.





2002

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2003

1157 Members

Rick Davis encouraged participation at local, unit and regional activities to get the most benefit from WBCCI and VAC membership. Membership \$20 dues were approved at the 2002 International since expenses had exceeded income for the three years. Rick said the professional quality VAC magazine and fantastic web site were worth the cost. The VAC Board created a set of rally guidelines, approved by the WBCCI, to assure proper insurance coverage for Vintage events. The vintage trailers at Burlington, Vermont International were described as examples that even the factory will admire and perhaps, some day copy. Over 250 visitors were estimated at the open house. The Wagon Wheel caravan starting in Rhode Island and covering the east coast was filled to capacity before being publicized.

2003

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2004

672 Members

Tom Howarth became president as the VAC entered its second decade. Ten years produced a newsletter in magazine format; top web site for Airstreams, manuals and promotional materials; and topnotch rallies, rendezvous and gatherings across the country. Tom said, "Keeping the Shine has kept many VAC'ers busy, but now many are looking for new ways to enjoy the rigs and extend their travels." Tom promoted "boondocking" and promised articles about battery power, water storage and holding tanks. Tom also commented about a push for more independent activities outside the WBCCI, but stressed that the VAC represents the original ideals and goals of the Wally Byam and he encouraged the Board to focus on the Byam Creed. Forty-five trailers paraded, sixty-seven vintage rigs parked at International in Lansing and the first ever Best of Show was awarded to a 1970's decade Airstream. The gathering was described as more informal with determination of events decided at social hours; business meetings and award ceremony were held in the VAC parking area.

2004

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2005

739 Members

Bob Herman's primary goal was to continue to increase membership activities and get more younger members and families actively involved. He promoted Vintage 3 Day, Friday through Sunday Rallies, so working members could attend and enjoy the unique club. Bob complimented the web-site and magazine for creating great interest in the VAC. Bob and Bonnie organized the Wagon Wheel Vintage trailer caravan to International in Springfield – 16 days starting in St Louis, much of the traveling on Route 66. Four VAC seminars were presented in Springfield and all WBCCI members were invited. In 2003 a new Webmaster was named and the VAC purchased the web address www.vintageairstreamclub.org with one of the goals to provide on-line membership and credit card payment.

2005

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2006

743 Members

In his annual report, **Wayne Moore** credited the VAC for establishing itself as a vital component of a number of WBCCI units, contributing to membership growth and advertising. After three years, Wayne reported that a win-win agreement was finally reached with Airstream/THOR to co-approve a new VAC Logo design and a Merchandising Partner, able to produce items that could be sold at any club function and Internet sales for the future were discussed. Also an agreement was reached with *Airstream Life Magazine* to offer a discount subscription to Intra-club members only. Forrest McClure became the Vintage Advantage Editor in July replacing Bryan Burkhart, editor for seven years. Wayne Moore reminded members that the Intra-club runs almost entirely on volunteers, and support is needed to work toward a better Vintage Club. A conflict between the VAC and WBCCI peaked and resulted in his resignation, but it was never accepted by Ed Emerick, and Wayne rescinded his registration in September.

2006

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2007

643 Members

In his first message as President, **Ed Emerick** stated that the current Airstream Inc's marketing line of 'See More, Do More, Live More' truly expresses the Vintage Airstream club's outlook. In March 2007 Ed Emerick reminded the VAC membership that the true function of the VAC is to provide a resource to allow its members to have fun and offer events that highlight the Airstream product. These were concluding thoughts followed by reflections on the WBCCI name change, the motor home issue and future of the VAC, reminding all not to let political aspects exhaust the membership. Wildflowers in bloom greeted the sixty vintage Airstreams and Argosy trailers that paraded and parked at the International in Perry, Georgia. All was great except for the gnats and ants. Herb Spies, Concours d' Elegance Steward, expanded the judging team to get more VAC'ers involved. Kimber Moore became the Vintage Advantage editor.

2007

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2008

750 Members

Congratulations, **Shari Davis**, the 15th and first female president of the VAC. Shari started her term when the VAC was the largest Intra-club and the WBCCI was struggling with its identity. She shared her love for vintage focused rallies, but encouraged VAC members to integrate into every rally and local gathering, and use these rallies to keep friendships and camaraderie growing. Eighty-three trailers and motor homes participated in the Vintage Parade at the International in Bozeman, Montana – the line up was over a mile long. The VAC Intra-Club Merchandise was introduced sporting the new logo. Shari was instrumental in drafting job descriptions for VAC officers, Committee Chairs, and Region Representatives. The Bylaws with approved job descriptions was adopted on June 29, 2009. Shari's leadership and term should be recognized for initiating the healing and more positive relations with the VAC and the WBCCI.

2008

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2009

680 Members

Herb Spies goals were to improve relationships with all other Airstreamers, improve the Website and promote having fun with our vintage treasures. Forrest McClure, Librarian reported that eventually all items will be downloadable from the VAC website. Fred Coldwell, Historian stayed in touch with Dale Schwamborn to learn more about Airstream history with the goal to document, record and publicized the early history of Airstream and the WBCCI. Close to 70 trailers paraded through the countryside into downtown Madison and to vintage parking at the International. The VAC recognized the passing of Bud Cooper, founder of the VAC club by signing cards and collecting donations for his Church. A quote from an article written for the Vintage Advantage by Daisy Welch, "Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver, but the other is very highly polished."

2009

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2010

560 Members

Scott Scheuermann's goal was to improve club communications since the club is International and most members never meet face to face. He encouraged members to submit articles to the VA editor and asked region reps to reach out to new members. Fifty-four trailers parked in the Vintage area in Gillette, Wyoming, and the only challenge was getting a second tent when the first was destroyed in a storm. Membership procedures moved forward with the implementation of Paypal to join the VAC. The VAC library included 4 GB's of scanned materials on the website server featuring sales brochures, owner's manuals, appliance instructions, videos and vintage caravan movies.



2010

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2011

485 Members

Dallas Peak encouraged members to help move the club into the future and follow the Constitution's objectives: provide a forum for display, judging and enjoyment of vintage airstreams, provide a means for members to help each other, assist members in modifications, provide a buy/sell marketplace and promote fellowship and enjoyment. Dallas promoted the use of Facebook, Twitter and You Tube as networking tools. Thirty-five trailers parked with Vintage in Duquoin, but many of the 75 VAC'ers enjoyed the VAC gatherings and over 350 WBCCI members attended seminars presented by VAC members. In his final remarks to the membership, Dallas reflected on past turbulent relations with the WBCCI, but reported improved and mutually supportive directions for the WBCCI and VAC.

2011

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2012

469 Members

An on-line survey was used by **Jim Cooper** to guide his goals and results showed members wanted three issues of VA per year; maintained and improved VAC website; a monthly newsletter published on line; VAC involvement in unit rallies; and continued technical, travel and historical information sharing. The *VAC Newsletter* was started to compliment the *Vintage Advantage* magazine with timely information related to VAC goals, events, club business and technical tips. Jim succeeded in getting the Constitution and Bylaws changes approved at Sedalia, allowing the club to better operate in the future by allowing online meetings of the Board and membership. Jim volunteered to chair the 12X14 Committee after his term as president with the goal to have a VAC rally in all twelve regions by 2014. A rendezvous organized by Chris Hildebrand prior to International included gathering in Columbia and stopping for a historical home tour and brunch hosted by Region 12 in California, Missouri. At International in Sedalia, Missouri approximately 45 VAC trailers were in attendance and the local newspaper featured three articles about The Vintage Airstream Club.

2012

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2013

487 Members

Chris Hildenbrand focused his year as President planning celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Around the World Caravan and the 20th Anniversary of the VAC club for International in Huron, South Dakota. Chris also brought back a VAC tradition, planning a Wagon Wheel Caravan from the Black Hills to International. A new VAC membership database was implemented to improve membership accuracy and communications. Even though the VAC Board offered seed money to help VAC members get new rallies implemented, the expressed interest has been very low and the goal for a rally in each region in 2014 will probably not be met. The VAC contributed the Wounded Warrior Program in honor of Dr. Norman Holman Jr., owner of the 1935 Torpedo.

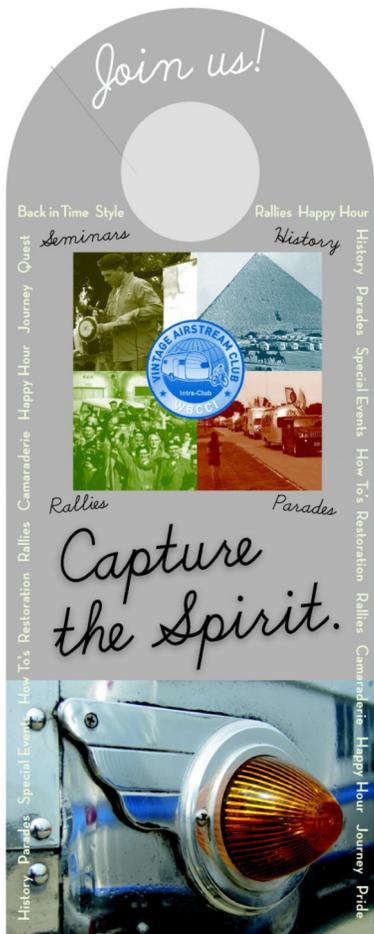
Thoughts from the Vintage Newsletter Editor

Everyone that reads this newsletter needs to understand that this document is my interpretation of the History of the Vintage Airstream Club. Jim and I have been members of the Denver Unit and VAC since 2003 and have attended five WBCCI Internationals since 2006.

I used my copies of the *Vintage Advantage*, read other editions on the VAC website and looked for specific facts in the secretary notes. I focused on the VAC Presidents, events at International and happenings that caught my interest. I wish I could have given credit to every officer, committee chair, appointed position, and regional representative for their contributions to the club. I wish I could have filled a page with the names of all the VAC volunteers that contributed their time and effort for the past 20 years to support fun and fellowship. I wish I could have written about the classified ads for trailers sales, the resources for trailer repairs, the wonderful stories submitted by members, the technical articles about trailer maintenance and safety, the categories used for membership and all the great VAC rallies. I never had a chance to meet Bud and Bettye Cooper, but I cannot forget to mention that I know Bettye was probably as instrumental as Bud in getting the club started, as are all the spouses, friends and partners of Presidents through the twenty years.

If my interpretation is not correct or if you would like to add to the history, please let me know and submit your information to the VAC Newsletter Editor. Your memories and experiences need to be shared with everyone. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rhonda Cooper, Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter Editor



2012– 2013 VAC Officers

Chris Hildenbrand (#5289), President

Tim Kendziorski (#17330), 1st Vice President

Paul Mayeux (#7162), 2nd Vice President

Kimber Moore (#11281), 3rd Vice President

Pamela Peak (#8481), Treasurer

Patti Reed (#1953), Recording Secretary

Jim Cooper (# 1967) , Immediate Past President

2012– 2013 Appointed Positions

Teresa and Glen Taylor (#8209), Membership

Joyce Cantrell (#4241), Membership Recruiting

Rachel Hughey (#10212) New Member Fulfillment

Joe Peplinski (#5768) Historian

Bob Novak (#11411) Parliamentarian

Paul Fancey (#6998) Concours d'Elegance

Rhonda Cooper (1967), Newsletter Editor

Kimber Moore (#11281), Vintage Advantage Editor

Bob Wotawa (#6472), Librarian

Tim Kendziorski (#17330), Webmaster

Bill Kerfoot (#5223) Quartermaster

Bob Herman (#8556), Blue Beret Article Coordinator

Jim Cooper (1967), Technical Advisor

2012– 2013 Regional Representatives

Region 1 Gary Campbell (#3363)

Region 2 Bob Novak (#11411)

Region 3 George D. James (#5324)

Region 4 Ken Faber (#3113)

Region 5 Dwight Dixon (#4122)

Region 6 Herb Spies (#1861)

Region 7 Curt Gunderson (#31920)

Region 8 Scott Allen (#3534)

Region 9 Pat McDowell (#1777)

Region 10 Iain Cameron (#5418)

Region 11 Ken Johansen (#5358)

Region 12 Jim Polk (#2705)

You Are Needed!

Will the VAC Still Exist in the Next 20 Years?

“12 X 14”

A VAC Rally in every region by 2014 -what a great idea! Simply pick a time, location, make it fun, keep it simple and announce it!

This idea was proposed at the Sedalia International in 2012 and described in the Vintage Advantage and VAC Newsletters. Now is the time to get started or this idea will be abandoned due to lack of enthusiasm and response. As Bud Cooper often said, “Let’s get past the talk and make it reality.”

Communication

The Vintage Advantage and VAC Newsletter Editors would love to have a pile of articles waiting to be published. Everyone has a story, we hear about them all the time and even read a few on the forums. Why not send those stories to us? Don’t worry if it is not a polished paper, give us the text, maybe some pictures and we will make it appear for all to read.

Volunteers

At the WBCCI unit level, Airstream owners gather often, get to know each other and personal strengths emerge. So when a volunteer is needed, the face to face approach almost always works.

The VAC as an Intra-club has one official gathering a year at the WBCCI International and a very small percentage of the club is in attendance. Recruiting volunteers is almost impossible unless someone knows someone who might fill the position. Some positions need extra help and others remain stale because no one has stepped up to take over.

How can you contribute to the VAC?

Newsletter @ vintageairstreamclub.com

President @ vintageairstreamclub.com

Rhonda Cooper, VAC Newsletter
6200 Choke Cherry Drive
Loveland, CO 80537

Newsletter
6200 Choke Cherry Dr
Loveland, CO 80537



Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter
The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club

June 2013

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