



VAC 2015 RALLY CALENDAR

July 9-12
Mayberry Rally
Piedmont, NC
Contact:
Richard Paschall
afo6@att.net
(write-up May/Jun newsletter)

July 17-20
Plunge in Pagosa
Pagosa Springs, CO
Contact:
Guiseppe and Maureen
Margiotta
gmostream@yahoo.com
(write-up Mar/Apr newsletter)

July 31-August 2
41st Old Time Fiddlers' Picnic
Livingston, MT
fiddlerspicnic.blogspot.com
Contact:
Steve and Reg Bittner
herkypig@hotmail.com
(write-up Jan/Feb newsletter)

August 7-9
Bend Classic Vintage Trailer
Rally
Bend, OR
Contact:
Dal Smilie
dalsmilie@aol.com
(write-up May/Jun newsletter)

August 7-10
Wenatchee River Vintage Rally
Monitor, WA
Contact:
Iain Cameron
imcameron@shaw.ca or by
phone (250) 862-2670 CAN
(write-up Jan/Feb newsletter)

September 4-7
Kampers Near Knoebels
Bloomsburg, PA
Contact:
Ben and Lynn Stiles
lbstiles@verizon.net
(write-up this newsletter)

The VINTAGE Airstream Club

An Intra-Club of WBCCI Since 1993

JULY / AUGUST 2015

Message from VAC President, Iain Cameron



I'm writing to you from the International Rally in Farmington NM where over 50 Airstreams are here in the vintage parking area and have enjoyed rally activities. On the weekend prior to this, 42 Airstreams from across the country gathered for the VAC Rendezvous at Vallecito Resort just east of Durango CO. Of those, 21 Airstreams paraded into the International Rally site. It was great to see so many attend the weekend Rendezvous even though they did not go onto the International Rally. Check out Facebook for photos and highlights of the Vallecito Resort Rendezvous and Farmington International Rally activities, people and their trailers. Past President Kimber Moore will have more in the next newsletter on the Jack Rabbit Caravan tour and Farmington International Rally.

I have a few key areas to let you know that we are focusing on for the Vintage Airstream Club:

- Ease of membership renewals, and for those wishing to join the VAC
- Regular communication, articles and information to all VAC members
- Rallies for vintage airstreamers across the country

Membership renewal using Paypal is now working again on our vintageairstreamclub.com website. Development of a new updated website is underway and you should see it go live by the end of the summer. We will continue to build website content to provide information and resources for members including VAC club information, membership join/renewal through Paypal, upcoming vintage rally information, library of newsletters and resources, and a listing of current officers and volunteer positions.

A key priority is regular communication to all VAC members, particularly through a bi-monthly newsletter. We will be mailing a printed newsletter to VAC members who prefer to receive a printed newsletter. Reg Bittner, VAC newsletter editor, welcomes your input to the newsletter. Please email newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com to give Reg short articles and tips, photos of your travels and vintage rally gatherings, and details of upcoming events for VAC members. The next newsletter will be published at the start of September. The deadline for submission is the third week in August.

Please feel free to contact any of your VAC officers with feedback on how we are doing and suggestions for improvements to your Vintage Airstream Club. As your President for the next year, I welcome input and will respond quickly to emails. You can reach me at president@vintageairstreamclub.com

Often the most fun and enjoyment comes when we get together at rallies or informal gatherings. I encourage everyone to get together in your local community or region across the country. Unplug yourselves and just get together for a relaxing weekend. An informal gathering is a great way to meet other vintage airstream club members near where you live. Many of the VAC rallies started as an informal gathering, and slowly grew with more scheduled events in later years. I've really appreciated the spontaneity that occurs when we all get together with offers to help out at the rally, local tours and activities, music and jam sessions, and evening entertainment. Make plans to get together with other Vintage Airstreamers in your area, and share your experience with us. We are here to provide assistance and promotion of your ideas and plans for VAC gatherings and rallies.

Safe travels, enjoy your summer!

...Iain

2015 VAC RALLY

CALENDAR

-continued-

September 14-20
50th Annual Pendleton Round-Up Rally
Pendleton, OR
Contact:
Teresa Taylor at (503) 440-1121 or ttdesign@ymail.com or Janet Howell at (604) 996-0953 or janet_howell@telus.net
(write-up Jan/Feb newsletter)

September 25-27
Gram Parson Guitar Pull & Tribute Festival
Waycross, GA
Contact:
Lucius and Danielle
lhermann@mindspring.com
(write-up this issue)

October 1-4
5th Annual Airbiscuit Anniversary Rally and Chili Cook-off
Berea, OH
Contact:
Michael and Loren St. Peter
argosybiscuit@gmail.com
(write-up in Mar/Apr newsletter)

October 22-25
Alumilina
Cleveland, SC
Contact:
John Leake
john@leakesantiques.com
(write-up this issue)

October 22-25
Texas Country Air Rally
"Urban Downtown Camping Event"
Quanah, TX
Contact:
Bill Price wa5nbp@sbcglobal.net
(write-up in Jan/Feb newsletter)

October 23-24
Falluminum
Hawessee, GA
Contact:
Alan David
(write-up this issue)

September 24-27
VAC Midwest Rally
Lake, KS
Contact:
Kathy Allen
kathyallen3534@gmail.com
(write-up in Sep/Oct newsletter)

Membership



Good news. Paypal is back for dues' renewal: <http://vintageairstreamclub.com/home/renew>. Thank you to everyone for your patience. I'm heading to International as I write this and your renewal may take awhile to reach me and get posted.

As I mentioned last Newsletter, what is the most popular Airstream model in our Vintage Club?
Starting at...

- # 10 is the Bubble
- #9 is the International
- #8 are the motorhomes, both Argosys and Airstreams
- #7 is the Bambi
- #6 is the Caravel
- #5 is the Flying Cloud includes Vintage and new
- #4 is the Sovereign
- #3 is the Globetrotter
- #2 is the Tradewind

And tied for first at 61 Airstreams each was the Safari and Overlander. # 1 goes to the Overlander since every Overlander is Vintage and many of the Safari's are newer models. I personally guessed Safari's would win and many of those who guessed thought the same thing. The Overlander at 26' has been the favorite of many, small enough for National Parks but large enough for extended trips. This versatile model toured Mexico, Africa, and around the world.

I would like to welcome our new Vintage Airstream Club members. We look forward to meeting you at a Vintage gathering soon:

John & Lois and their 1965 Tradewind
John & Shelley and their 1965 Caravel
Carl & Beth and their 1956 Bubble
Harry & Ruth and their 2002 Safari
Norman & Sylvia and their 2003 Landyacht Motor home
David & MaryAnne and their 1990 Excella 29
Bob and Tomi and their 2015 International
Mike and Sue and their 1965 Caravel
John and his 1961 Flying Cloud
Rob & Jennifer and their 1981 International
Jay & Betty and their 1999 Cutter
Charles & Paula and their 1964 Tradewind

We're not old, we're Vintage!
Teresa Taylor

Editor's Note



We now have a means of contacting other VAC members who are interested in the same Rallies. Janet Humphrey was so kind as to set up our own Vintage Airstream Club forum on Air Forums. Go to: Forums, Clubs, Organizations. This is how we can "meet-up" before a rally to find what interest is out there and form a group to be parked together.

Due to time constraints, the Rendezvous to International and Farmington International Rally will be reported on, complete with plenty of photos, in the next Newsletter.

Cornelia Rising ~ continued from May/June issue

Submitted by Steve Bittner

When last we left Cornelia, the body had been resettled on the frame. The next item to deal with was repairing and replacing some structural ribs. Cornelia had taken several serious hits in her long life, and the ribs in early Airstreams were flimsy at best. Repairs were made using 1 1/2x 1 1/2x 1/16" aluminum angle. Pieces were cut to length, then formed to follow the interior curve of the body. Two pieces of angle were put together to form a U channel and then buck-rivited together. The new ribs were both lightweight and strong once installed.

Next on the list is everyone's favorite job, bellypan replacement. Several years ago, I came up with an easier way to form pans. First, we templated the floor of the front and rear of the trailer, then transferred this onto cheap 3/4" plywood. These pieces were then set on sawhorses and then the frame members were mocked up out of 2 x 4"s and screwed into place. The idea is to build a mock-up of the frame upside down, so you are able to bend and form the pan while standing up, rather than laying on your back under the trailer. I used sheets of 2024-T3 aluminum in .025" thickness, since a fair amount of the pan will be visible on the finished trailer. It took a fair amount of notching and tapping with a rubber mallet, but the end result looks quite nice.

Two areas were left open for future installation of fresh water tanks, just forward of the axle. Suprisingly, Cornelia will hold 29 gallons of fresh water in tanks under the floor, thereby opening up more useable space inside the trailer.

Next time, we'll get into the fun of exterior sheet metal replacement as Cornelia is going to be completely re-skinned.



Pine Near Campground: Winthrop, WA—TESTED, RESTED & APPROVED!

Submitted by Dal Smilie



This is a very vintage friendly campground. A young couple purchased a very run down campground a few years ago. They wanted to re-create a grassy, relaxing, old style campground and they have. But probably with more effort than they thought.

The water rights were gone, the sprinkling/irrigation system was shot, and all the infrastructure was in ruins. But this is a couple with lots of energy. They really are sparkplugs in this little community. They regraded, replanted, re-piped, rewired, resodded and redid everything. And they did a great job.

Winthrop is just on the East side of the Northern Cascades. And on one of the most scenic highways in North America, Washington Rt 20, the North Cascades Scenic Byway. It isn't open in the Winter but tourism really takes off in the Summer. Pine Near is only a couple of blocks off the highway, close, but quiet. With resident deer wandering the grounds.

Pine Near is only a couple of blocks from the Western-themed downtown and the wonderful river. It is just across from the Schaeffer Museum. It is very quiet, the grass is green and luxuriant. It is all too easy to hole up and not leave your campsite. Great laundry and showers and even cabins or teepees to camp in. Well-mannered pets are welcome. Anna is on site seemingly all the time making sure every spot is perfect and every camper is happy. As I set up with our vintage outfit, one time, Anna stopped by and we shared vintage trailer themed Boulevard "Singlewide" beers, on her. Small town and friendly!

There were huge forest fires in the area a year ago that cut the power off for the town for awhile and closed roads. Those closures did not help a young couple trying to keep their business going but Anna contracted to do the laundry for firefighters which helped. The area around town and the campground remain perfect. And hiking or driving through the Northern Cascades is a must!

Anna hosts several themed special events at Pine Near. Some in conjunction with events in Winthrop and some on her own. VAC Treasurer Shirley Bollinger and "Harmonica" Johnnie Lopez plan to attend Winthrop's "Rhythm & Blues" festival in late July and camp there. And she commissions some of the best vintage artwork for her themed events, check out the Pine Near site.

The weekend after Labor Day, Anna hosts a wonderful all-brand vintage travel trailer rally. It sells out quickly so you will want to get on her list for future years. It is the same weekend as the 42-year old, "Wheels into Winthrop" car show, a big one. The cars all parade through the campground and vintage rally before parking down the main street. Lots of vintage tow rigs dot the campground at the same time. Great fun.



Anna is right next to me.
She was formerly "Ms. Concrete WA", a real town.

Vintage camper businesses get a tune-up

By George Demopoulos—Denver BusinessDen May 4, 2015



Bill Ward started his Airstream rental business about five years ago. *Photos courtesy of Living Airstream.*

Bill Ward III is steering his Airstream rental

business into a new direction.

Where he once rented the aluminum-clad campers to families and music festival attendees, he's now going corporate with Living Airstream.

Ward has been buying up vintage Airstream shells from the '50s, '60s and '70s for cheap – between \$5,000 and \$7,000 – and re-purposing them as event venues instead of campers.

"We're putting more of a focus on the corporate event type of rentals because corporations have extra money they can put towards these events," Ward said. "Some of these corporations can sustain rentals for months and months."

That's some significant income, Ward said, considering it costs up to \$3,600 per month to rent one of the Airstreams; day-trippers pay closer to \$220 a day.

"Even though we did do that before, this year we're actually creating specific Airstreams that are made for these events, whereas last year we just used normal models," Ward said.

Renovation can cost between \$15,000 and

\$20,000 depending on the model, Ward said. The trailers are between 28 and 31 feet long, and vary in size between 200 and 230 square feet.

Ward estimates that renting to businesses currently makes up about 15 percent of the company's income.

Ward got the idea when he began renting Airstreams to commercial real estate developers in 2012. The developers would use the Airstreams as swanky on-site sale centers.

But Ward isn't taking his eye off of the nostalgic customer.

"We do Coachella, Burning Man – anything you can think of," he said. "We have half a dozen trailers booked for going up to Red Rocks this summer."

Every one of Living Airstream's available trailers will be making the trek to Nevada's Black Rock Desert for Burning Man at the end of August. And there are 25 more people on the wait list.



Living Airstream renovates the interior of the campers for vacation or commercial use.

The majority of Ward's private clients – about 90 percent – hear about him online.

The rest comes through word of mouth, he said.

Living Airstream owns 20 trailers now and hopes to be up to 25 by the end of August. The company is based out of Denver, but maintains locations in Los Angeles and Scottsdale. The company made \$275,000 in revenue last year, up from \$122,000 in 2013, Ward said.

Ward also owns a credit card processing company, a market research consulting firm, and buys and sells real estate in addition to being the sole owner of Living Airstream.

He said he got into the rental business by accident.

"It was literally a mistake. I bought my first one five years ago. I was with my family on the East Coast and I walked out the door and my dad asked where I was going – I said I was buying an Airstream. He asked to go in half with me," Ward said. "I was driving to look at it, and a buddy from Denver asked what I was doing. I told him I was buying an Airstream, and he asked if he could go in on it with me, as well."

Ward said he started working on a website to rent the first Airstream out for tailgating. At the end of 2010, he'd finished the website and started getting calls from people who wanted to use it for travel. "I did something right and it just clicked," he said. "Next thing I know, I'm getting calls from magazines to do stories, and all of a sudden people started finding me and it just blew up."

Blips & Blurbs



New Homecoming for 1960 Tradewind at last:

All of you who don't have covered storage for your vintage (or newer) Airstream can understand the frustration of experiencing bird droppings, rain, ice, snow, dirt, sun, wind, rodents, fading drapes, re-polishing, sun-damaged tires, dirty tires/rims, worries, HOA/neighbor hassles, theft, etc. etc. etc.

Marilyn and I are in the final stages of construction of our new "retirement cottage" in North Scottsdale, AZ with a 3400 square foot garage under the main house, designed with 9' doors with the Tradewind in mind (and '36 fire truck, Model T, Woody, '34 Olds, '49 Buick, VW Bug, etc). Since it is a basement, I was stretching to make the Tradewind fit. My 1966/1968 Sovereigns will not fit because of the air conditioners (who needs air?) Stay tuned for pictures of the Tradewind in its new home later this summer.

Don & Marilyn Sluyk
4CU Phoenix, #1109



From Reg: I try to dig up a fresh article for an Airstream story but often get shut down when asking permission to use it. KVUE TV gave me permission to use this article as a link but not put the actual article in the Newsletter. This is about some female high school students and their engineering teacher turning a vintage Airstream into a teachers' lounge:

<http://www.kvue.com/story/news/education/2015/05/07/ann-richards-school-for-young-women-leaders-trailer/70972760/>

Catching Up, Rallies Past...

SPRINGSTREAM IN GEORGIA held on April 10-12, 2015 in Hawassee, GA

Submitted by Alan David

Our SPRINGSTREAM in North Georgia Rally was held April 11th weekend. Other than a rainy early Friday morning, we were treated to fantastic weather for the rest of the time. The Rallies are held twice a year at Lake Chatuge's Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds Campground.

The sites are full hook-up and the layout is such that there are lake views from almost every site. The Airstreams totaled about 38 in number with Vintage units as well as newer units. Our "tour of homes" was a favorite activity after a terrific potluck brunch on Saturday, and the evening event was highlighted by the "Not a Band" group playing live music at a lakeside campsite. Food, fun, and fellowship abound at these Rallies. Next up is our Falluminum event Oct 23-24 at the same venue. No fees other than the campsite rental.





Rallies, Future...



Kampers Near Knoebels

September 4-7, 2015

Bloomsburg, PA

Hosts: Ben and Lynn Stiles, lbstiles@verizon.net

We have been hosting this rally annually since 2001. The event started as a mainly VW Bus camp-out, and we were in our 1962 Corvair van camper. As our interests and camping equipment changed (we still have the old Corvair van- Ben's first car), we started inviting other owners of vintage campers, namely the Serro Scotty groups. Now we own a 1964 Airstream Bambi II and it is under reinvention. Last year, in addition to several VW buses and Scotty trailers, not to mention a Compact Jr., Apache, and other Marques, we also hosted 4 vintage Airstream trailers at our camp-out.



The event is laid-back. It occurs over the long Memorial Day weekend each year and the main weekend events include a caravan to Knoebels Amusement Park Saturday morning. Because most participants spend the entire day at Knoebels, instead of a potluck Saturday evening dinner, we offer a Sunday morning brunch potluck.

The rest of the weekend is free for hiking, road trips, biking, kayaking/canoeing on the Susquehanna River, and "trailer tapping." We have a facebook presence (<https://www.facebook.com/KampersNearKnoebels>) and a website (<http://kampersnearknoebels.weebly.com/>) outlining the particulars of the rally.

There will be a new logo for this year that not been created yet, but will be soon.





Rallies, Future...



Gram Parson Guitar Pull and Tribute Festival

September 25-27, 2015

Waycross, GA

Hosts: Lucius and Danielle, lhermann@mindspring.com

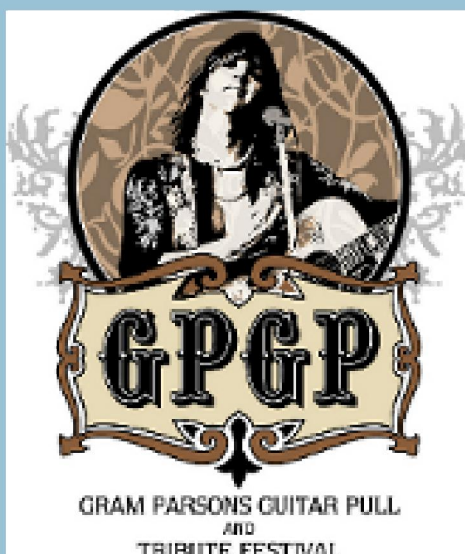
I think this would be a great event, particularly, for vintage. If people sign-up on the Air Forums thread I will definitely work on meeting outside the campground then driving in together so there will be a better chance of parking closer to each other. However, the campground is small so everyone attending will only be a short distance away. The event promoter is excited about the idea of a Vintage Airstream contingent.

The web site for the festival is <http://gpgpfest.com/>

The thread for the Air Forums discussion is <http://www.airforums.com/forums/f288/2015-gram-parsons-guitar-pull-9-25-and-26-waycross-ga-131924.html#post1619552>

The plan is to arrive on Friday September 25, by noon, in Waycross, GA. That will provide time to park, put out the awning, have a beverage and get ready for music on Friday night. Everyone should bring a chair, cooler with your favorite food and beverages (coolers are permitted at the festival), food for sharing -- i.e. informal pot-luck, along with sunscreen and bug spray. A hat is a good idea too, along with a poncho in the event of rain.

Food and beverages will be available from vendors at the festival but bringing your own (hey, you have an Airstream) is the preferred way to go in my mind.





Rallies, Future...



Alumilina

October 22-25, 2015

Palmetto Cove RV Rally Park — Cleveland, SC

Hosts: John Leake, john@leakesantiques.com

We would love to have your vintage crowd join us and I am sure they would love us as well.

Every site at the Palmetto Cove is identical....20 (some w/50) amp, water, sewer. Side by side rally style parking. Depending on how many you have coming we could probably set aside a # of sites for you...

Our 8th rally in 4 years, same format as always:

Great folks, food, fun. Seminars, open house, door prizes, paroozing. And a visit from Rita.

The move to the Palmetto Cove offers 140 full hook up sites in rally parking format. Plus, there is a meeting hall with kitchen, tables, chairs and a large covered pavilion with fireplace and lounge.

Parking fee of \$25 per night (includes taxes) will be paid to the Palmetto Cove upon arrival. They accept cash or checks only.

No reservations with the Park, they have the room. Just PLEASE sign up on the RSVP page so we can plan.

We are planning our famous Saturday Night Fish Fry so there will be a small rally fee to cover costs.

Plan now to join us this Fall for another great rally at Palmetto Cove RV Park, just off SC Scenic Hwy 11, in the shadows of Table Rock and Caesars Head Mountains.

Crisp Fall air, beautiful Fall colors, great friends.





Rallies, Future...



Falluminum

October 23-25, 2015

Lake Chatuge, GA

Host: Alan David

Falluminum in North Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains

Our Falluminum Rally is held the week before Halloween each year. The mountains are in Fall splendor with leaf color usually at its peak. Our Rally is at Georgia Mountain Campgrounds and is on the shore of Lake Chatuge with lake and mountain views from nearly every campsite.

We typically get 30-50 units and have a light schedule of activities to make it as relaxing and enjoyable as possible. Two pot luck meals, a gift wrap (bring a gift/get a gift), and the fun "tour of homes". Anyone is welcome to join us for the weekend. Rally fees, just go to <http://georgiamountainfairgrounds.com/campergrounds> to reserve a site.

Mention Georgia Airstream Campers group when you call.



Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



July/August 2015

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



2014—2015

VAC Officers

President, Iain Cameron

1st VP, Steve Laxton

2nd VP

3rd VP

Recording Secretary, Mary Doster

Treasurer, Shirley Bollinger

Past President, Kimber Moore

2014—2015

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, Curt Gunderson

Region 8, Scott Allen

Region 9, Lance McEwan

Region 10, Iain Cameron

Region 11, Chris Hildenbrand

Region 12, Melissa Yee

THE VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB