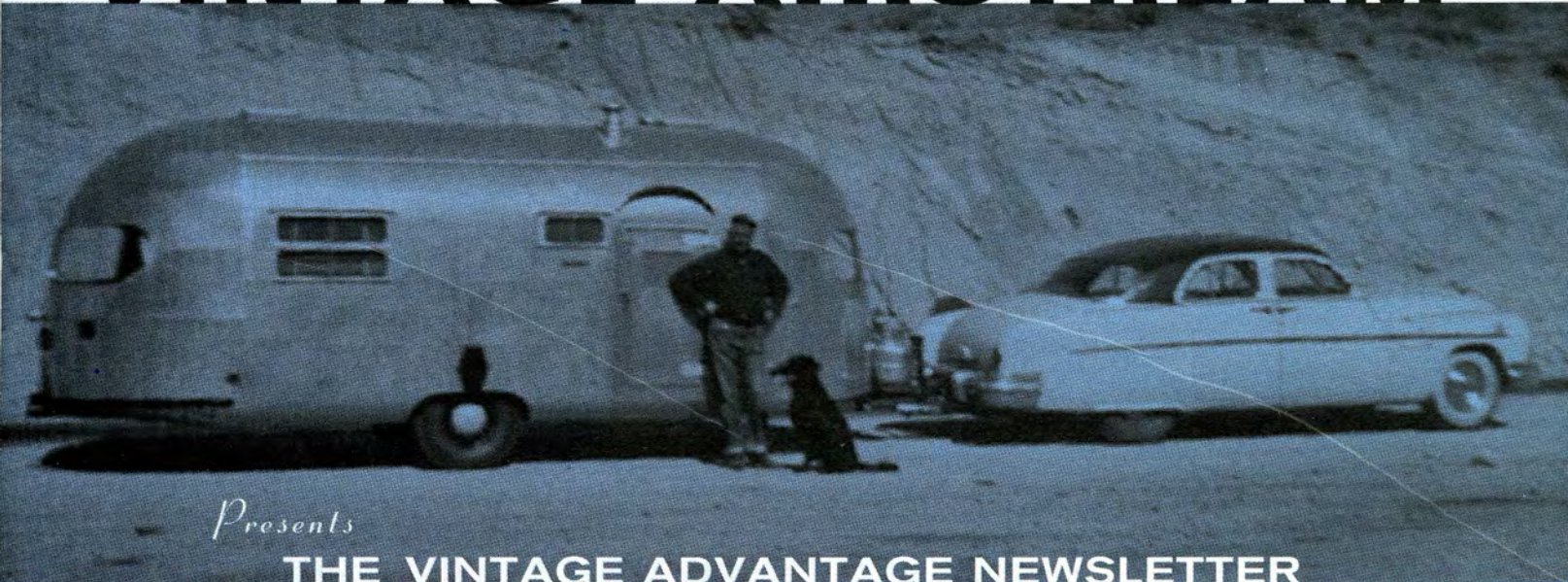


The **VINTAGE AIRSTREAM** *Club*



Presents

THE VINTAGE ADVANTAGE NEWSLETTER

In this issue

- ⊕ **THE CARAVAN FROM HELL** bud cooper
- ⊕ **THE INTERNATIONAL RALLY** forrest bone
- ⊕ **CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE** bill scott
- ⊕ **YOU WANT TO LEAD A CARAVAN?** clyde wagner
- ⊕ **COOP'S CORNER** bud cooper
- ⊕ **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE UNIVOLT** bud cooper

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Issue #1

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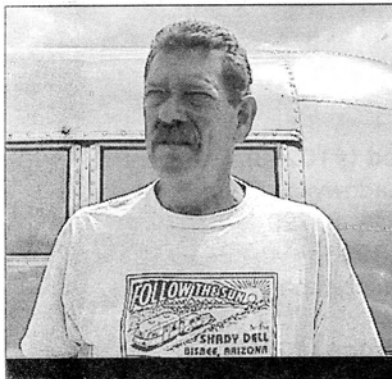
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I would like to thank Forrest Bone for setting a precedent of leadership that will provide a road map for success of the VAC in the years to come.

At the beginning of last year Forrest outlined a set of goals that encouraged formation of events for VAC members, involvement in community service projects and restructuring of the rules for the "Concours d'Elegance" to allow broader participation by the members. All of his goals were accomplished.

During my term as President I will do my utmost to follow through with the standards that have been established by Forrest and the VAC Presidents that preceded him.

A special thanks to Clyde and Ellen Wagner for hosting an interesting and memorable Wagon Wheels Caravan across the back roads of Ohio. For those of us that have never had the opportunity to experience Amish culture or see the beauty of Ohio, the Caravan provided with a once in a life time opportunity. While on the subject of Wagon Wheels Caravans, I am pleased to announce that Kathy Hunt (17792) and Kevin Allan (6359) have volunteered to host next year's Caravan before the International rally in Bismarck, North Dakota. Kathy and Kevin are so enthused about hosting the Caravan that they have already planned a preliminary itinerary of "must see" places through Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota before we left the International Rally in Dayton, Ohio in July. Look for postings in future Vintage Advantage Newsletters and on the VAC web site for updates about next year's Caravan.

This year attendance by VAC members at the International Rally grew significantly. Eighty-four Vintage trailers came to this years event compared to

approximately fifty-four last year at Boise, Idaho. Participation in this year's Concours d'Elegance grew even more significantly. Forty-five trailers entered the competition this year compared to sixteen last year. It is gratifying to not only see an increase in participation but to also see the dedicated efforts VAC members are putting into their trailers to make them even better than new.

At this years general board meeting, two additional appointments were approved. It was voted that responsibilities of the Concours d'Elegance Steward be an appointed position instead of the responsibility of the 1st Vice President. Bill Scott (3221) who has been quite involved with the VAC for a number of years and whom has an excellent knowledge of Vintage Airstream trailers has accepted the Concours d'Elegance Stewardship appointment.

The other appointment is "Media Coordinator", whose responsibilities will be to oversee the format and content of the VAC web site as well as assisting with the publication of the Vintage Advantage Newsletter. Tom Howarth (6490), past Editor of the Vintage Advantage Newsletter has accepted the appointed position of Media Coordinator.

With the ushering in of the year 2000 it seems appropriate that the Vintage Airstream Club has become a club that represents the dream that Bud Cooper visualized when he founded the VAC. The club has grown from a few Vintage trailers meeting once a year at the WBCCI International Rally to groups of Vintage owners getting out and enjoying their trailers all across the U.S.

In the last issue of the Vintage Advantage there were ads for VAC events scheduled in New York, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas and California. If you have not had the

The Presidents Message

(continued)

opportunity to attend a VAC event, I encourage you to do so and join in on the fun.

I have one simple primary goal for this year, "increased participation by VAC members." In the near future I will be contacting those that have volunteered as region representatives of the VAC across the U.S. to encourage them to recommend interesting places to host VAC gatherings. I also encourage all VAC members to become involved with their local WBCCI units and participate in Region Rallies.

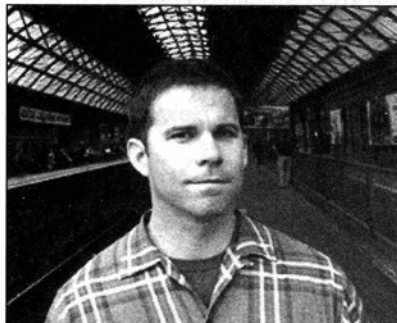
The Vintage Airstream Club has a great future ahead. As younger families recognize the enjoyment and satisfaction of restoring a Vintage Airstream, the more the WBCCI and the VAC will continue to grow. At this year's International Rally I was asked by the WBCCI Membership Committee Chairman to recommend someone from the Vintage Airstream Club to be on the WBCCI Membership Committee. My recommendation was Tom Howarth who has accepted the position. I am sure that Tom's fresh ideas will be of great value to the WBCCI in recruiting new members.

One issue that Tom is totally in tune with is the scheduling of WBCCI Events that make it difficult for working families to attend and also the need for planned activities for families with children.

I am confident that Tom will be very effective in recommending new ideas to encourage growth in membership but the real potential for change is in the hands of the VAC members. Everyone needs to participate and become involved and I am positive that the more involved you become the more fun you will have.

It is my desire to see the VAC 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.

Tom Reed



The Editor's Desk

"Hello, Is this Bryan Burkhardt?" asks Tom Howarth on the phone... "Yes, this is, how are you doing?" I ask... We haven't seen each other since the International Rally in Boise, Idaho, 1998... We talk a bit about this and that, then Tom asks, "Hey, how would you like to take over the VAC Newsletter?" "You mean, take over your role as Editor?" I ask... and that's where it started. So after saying yes, all of a sudden I start receiving all kinds of information for the upcoming issue (this one).

Ok, I have some big shoes to fill and my Flying Cloud isn't as shiny as Tom's, but let's see how it goes.

I want to continue on with the newsletter, adding a 2-color cover and start a **"LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"** section. You can send me questions or thoughts containing **THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY**, and we will take it from there....**HEY PRESTON**, I'm talking to

VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

Region 12 Fall Rally

When: October 11- 16, 1999

Location: Mariposa County Fairgrounds , CA
Off the scenic Hwy 49

Description:

This year's Rally will be held in one of the most scenic locations in California—Mariposa. Mariposa is in Gold Rush country and is on the doorstep to Yosemite Valley. The Region 12 Rally will be held at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds October 11-16. The Vintage Airstream Club will have a special parking area with water and electrical hookups.

For reservations contact: Don Guy (or look for coupon in the WBCCI Blue Beret magazine.)
PO Box 1296
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

followed by:

1st Annual California Vintage Airstream Club Fall Caravan / Rally

When: October 16 - 19, 1999

Description:

Immediately following the Region 12 Rally, October 16 - 19, there will be a Vintage Airstream Club Caravan along the famous "Golden Chain Highway 49" to beautiful Bass Lake where we will spend four nights at the Five Star rated Bass Lake Recreational Resort. We will have full hookups and use of the Clubhouse facilities. Now is your chance to visit one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world, Yosemite National Park, before it is closed to vehicular traffic. While you're there you can climb Half Dome, ride the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Steam Train, join us and other VACer's for dinner at the

> continues next page

Editor's Desk: (continued)

you! Feel free to respond to articles. send postcards with a story, send photographs of your adventures and discoveries. I will post some of this in the upcoming issues if you would like. We will continue to announce upcoming rallies and caravan events, new articles each issue, (perhaps some that continue from issue to issue), Tech Talk, Coop's Corner, The Best of the Web with Charlie Burke, the VAC membership report, and yes we will have classifieds. Also, I will also re-run articles that Airstream has been in recently, most recently *DOMUS*, an Italian design magazine, ran a big article on "Nomadism" and Airstream was a major influence throughout the article. Its a way for us all to keep connected to the latest stories that take notice of Airstream's rich history and design importance. I know that is nothing new to you all, but it is always nice to see what others are writing and thinking about.

VAC Announcements *for places to go and people to see*

1st Annual California Vintage Airstream Club Fall Caravan / Rally (continued)

Wawona Lodge, visit the towns that were born during the California Gold Rush of 1849, pan for gold along the rivers and streams, visit the giant redwood trees or just kick back and fish at Bass Lake. If you are unable to join us at the Region 12 Rally come and join us at Bass Lake. Arrangements can be made for those that wish to arrive before October 16, fee \$20 per evening.

Registration Fee: \$120 per unit. Costs include parking with full hookups, continental breakfasts and catered dinner. If you are a member of Coast to Coast, AOR, or ROD the parking fees will be reduced to special members rates.

Make checks payable to:

Tom Reed (1st Vice President VAC)

Mail checks to: R. Skadden

4010 E. Huntington Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93702-2918

For additional information please contact: Rosalyn Skadden at 559-255-8622

2000 Florida RV Super Rally:

When: January 12-16, 2000

Location: Florida State Fairgrounds
Highway 301 at Interstate 4
Tampa, Florida

Registration Fee Includes:

4 nights camping for two persons per rig
Coffee and Doughnuts each morning
3 night's Entertainment and Refreshments
Free Unlimited Admission to the Supershow

Preregistration Fees: \$75.00 - 15 Amp Electric Service, each additional person \$10.00

Group Discounts: The Tin Can Tourists will receive a \$10.00 discount per rig if registrations are received together. The \$10.00 discount will become part of a kitty for TCT activities. Tin Can Tourist's Members will make a trip to Bradenton, Florida, for a visit to Braden Castle Park an early (1920's) TCT campground.

For registration material, send a SASE to: Forrest Bone,

PMB 10918
209 Rainbow Drive
Livingston, Texas 77399-2009

Those interested in receiving regular updates can join a mailing list at <http://www.geocities.com/~tctour/>

Hobo Rally

Mark you calender for February 2000 for the 40th Hobo Rally in Blythe, CA

NEWS RELEASE: The Caravan from Hell (presented by the South Texas Unit) What started out to be just another unit rally has blossomed into a noteworthy event. Airstream history buffs will travel half way across the country just to hear this program, "The Caravan from Hell." On hand will be as many as five people who were on this famous caravan; the caravan which will never be repeated, the Cape Town to Cairo caravan.



After working furiously all day, the caravan racked up a total headway of one quarter mile. This and other unbelievable events will be described. A caravan "insider" will reveal many unpublished details. Meet and talk to these celebrities.

Fredericksburg, Texas Rally: The Caravan from Hell

When: February 10-13, 2000

Location: Oakwood RV Resort

take SR 16 South 2 miles Turn right at Tivydale Rd. (FM2093), see park / Fredericksburg, Texas

Contact: Ray Mandes II, ph 956.682.7854 e-mail: verray@aol.com

Registration Fee:

\$80 per 2 persons, \$70 per 1 person, includes parking. Day visits and late arrivals accommodated. Meals only, \$12.50 per person. For guaranteed parking on site, registrations close January 1, 2000. After this date, registrants may be parked elsewhere. The South Texas Unit of WBCCI invites you to attend a unique rally at which the focus will be vintage Airstream trailers, their owners, and the unique way of life that they promote. Featured will be a display of the vintage trailers from all over Texas and surrounding states. Promised: A Bowlus trailer (forerunner of Airstream) on display. There will be a Concours d'Elegance with a trophy for Oldest-in-Show, open house, demonstrations, and history talks. Plus lots of slack time for talking, eating, laughing and swapping tall tales. Two pot luck breakfasts. * Also featured will be a slide show of the last caravan to Central America.

Schedule:

Feb. 10	Parking all day / At 4pm R&R with intros, later, dinner on your own.
Feb. 11	8am: potluck breakfast / At 9am: shopping / 4pm R&R, later, dinner on your own. 7pm program: Capetown to Cairo with Art and Toni Ruiz
Feb 12	9am-12p: Open house and judging / 1pm free time / 4pm R&R 6pm: BBQ dinner (bring your own appetite and own service) 7pm: Awards. Program: "The last Central America Caravan"
Feb. 13	8am: Potluck breakfast.

Vintage at Region 2

When: May25th-May29th, 2000

Where: Kutztown, Pa.

Region 2 is planing Vintage parking & open house at the Region 2 Rally in Kutztown, Pa. This is in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. There will be tours, flea market, seminars, parade, etc.

Contact: Don Perry
4 View St.
Greenwich, CT 06830 (via snail mail)
or
Don-dee@airstream.net (email)

Registration Fee: 2 Persons,5 nights \$110 (\$165 Canadian)
Weekend \$85 (\$128 Canadian)

Notification By May 1st, 2000-----See Future Blue Berets for complete information.



SUBJECT:
INTERNATIONAL RALLY Dayton, Ohio, 1999

*Special thanks to Kevin Allen for taking all photographs of the International Rally, The Wagon Wheel, and Concours d'Elegance.

Schedule of daily events at the International Rally

Thursday, June 24

Meet at pre-rally site, Springfield, Ohio. The Wagon Wheels Way Caravan of 22 trailers, led by Clyde and Ellen Wagner, arrived at Springfield, to be greeted by an additional 31 Vintage beauties for the parade into Dayton.

Friday, June 25, 11:00 am

Vintage Parade into Rally Site

The stream of trailers traveling down 70 and 675 was a beautiful sight. After a brief stop in lot 7 to raise our flags and be met by WBCCI President R.C. Wagon, the procession proceeded through the rally grounds for a short parade around the Nutter Center's flag pole and the Vintage Club took up permanent residence for the rally.

Saturday, June 26

Community Service Project

The club's first ever community service project was very successful and will become part of each rally. The VAC provided 75 hours of building labor to Xenia Habitat for Humanity, plus a donation of \$381. The living legend Preston Pierson, VAC Community Service Coordinator, and the club members that participated in the Habitat for Humanity project are to be congratulated. Anne Barrett, Chairman, WBCCI Community Service Committee, has indicated that Bismark has a Habitat chapter and is looking forward to our group's arrival.

Saturday, June 26 4:00-6pm

VAC Welcome Reception

One hundred and fifty plus members met at the Friendship Tent at the Wright Patterson Airforce Museum for fun and fellowship. It was a great way to begin the week's activities.

Sunday, June 27 Community Service Project

A morning thunder shower and threatening skies canceled our day's participation in the Habitat for Humanity building project.

Monday, June 28 1:00-2pm

VAC Board Meeting

The board received the Treasurer's Report - submitted by Patrick Ewing, the Nominating Committee Report by Clyde Wagner, Membership Report by Dick Mumma, a report on Internet activity on both the Forum and the VAC Discussion List by Tom Howarth, 1999 Wagon Wheels Way Caravan Summary by Clyde Wagner. The new standards and categories for the 1999 Concours d'Elegance were presented by Tom Reed; the role of Regional Representatives was discussed, the need for regular Constitutional review discussed; it was agreed that the dues structure remain the same as last year, the club's current use of its membership directory will be continued, the Membership Chairman was directed by the board to replace the DOS Membership Program currently in use and Tom Reed reported on prospects for the 2000 Wagon Wheels Way Caravan and candidates for 2000 Concours Steward's position. The board was updated on the club's annual breakfast and the WBCCI's 4th of July Parade.

Tuesday, June 29 11:00-12pm

Don Grayson "Physics of Towing"

Don's speech was well received. Don did an outstanding job providing the participants with very practical and useful information. Bottom line: don't drive over 55 when towing. Attendance 192

Wednesday, June 30 1:00-4pm

Concours & Open House

The participation was outstanding. 70+ trailers were open for inspection by rally attendees and community members. Those that had visitors sign guest books estimated the crowd to be over 300. Club members made the rounds before casting their ballot for Member's Choice, the club's favorite Airstream. The club's revision of the concours categories was well received with half of the 70 trailers at the Vintage site participating in the Concours.

Thursday, July 1 2:15-3:30pm

VAC Membership Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance-Tom Reed

Roll Call of Officers

Minutes of 1998 Annual Meeting-submitted by Mariann Pruitt

Treasurer's Report-submitted by Patrick Ewing
Correspondence Recommendations of Nominating Committee-Clyde Wagner. Seeing no nominations from the floor a motion to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee was made and voted upon. Installation of 1999-2000 Officers by Mr.

Norman Hewer

Reports: Membership by Dick Mumma, Internet Site, 1999 Wagon Wheels Way Caravan, 1999 Concours d'Elegance - Tom Reed, Vintage Advantage - Tom Howarth, Blue Beret column - Terry Tyler, Community Service Project- Preston Pierson. Club voted to make a \$250 contribution to Habitat for Humanity. A collection was taken after the meeting and another \$138 were added to the club's contribution.

Old Business

Regional Representatives

Constitutional review

New Business

Dues structure

Membership Software

Medic Systems - Dick Mumma



Preston "Letourneau" Pierson get his turn at demonstrating the mythic bicycle pull of an Airstream trailer.

Environmental Concerns - Dick Mumma

Announcements

Breakfast and awards

4th of July Parade - Tom Reed

2000 Wagon Wheels Way Caravan-Tom Reed

2000 Concours-Tom Reed

International Rally Pictures -Kevin Allen

Special Event-Wright Patterson Museum Parking Lot - 2:00 p.m. Adjournment. 3:30-4:30pm New Board Meeting. Tom Reed's board discussed plans for the next year. Look for updates in future issues of the Vintage Advantage

Friday, July 2, 9:00 -10am Bud Cooper "In Search of Wally Byam"

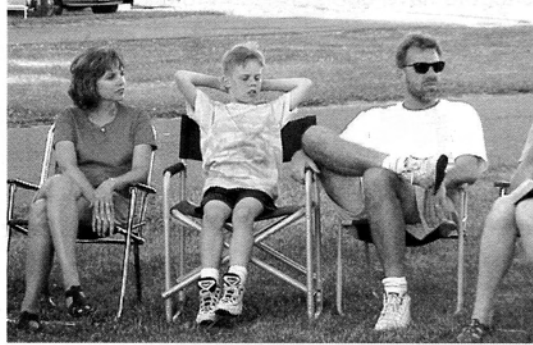
A great talk presented by one of the foremost authorities on Wally Byam and Airstream. Bud provided the participants with an insightful look a early caravans and helped us separate the myth from the man, Wally Byam.

10:00-11am Dr. N. Holman, Jr., "The 1935 Airstream Torpedo"

Bud's talk was followed by an equally informative presentation on the oldest known Airstream product the 1935 Torpedo, built from plans purchased by Norman Holman for \$5.00. A slide presentation and early camping gear were included in this excellent seminar.

INTERNATIONAL RALLY Dayton, Ohio, 1999

Kathy, Ben and Tom Howarth



Dee and Don Perry



Saturday, July 3 7:30-9am VAC Breakfast

Berry Room, Nutter Center. The breakfast and Concours award's ceremony was attended by 150 Vintage Members. Tom Reed announced the winners and presented the awards.

Sunday, July 4 1:00pm

WBCCI Parade - VAC Participation

Parade participants included a 1936 Clipper, 1935 Torpedo, 1949 Two Door Liner, and concours winners in Best in Show, Member's Choice, and Best Tow/Trailer Combination.

Monday, July 5

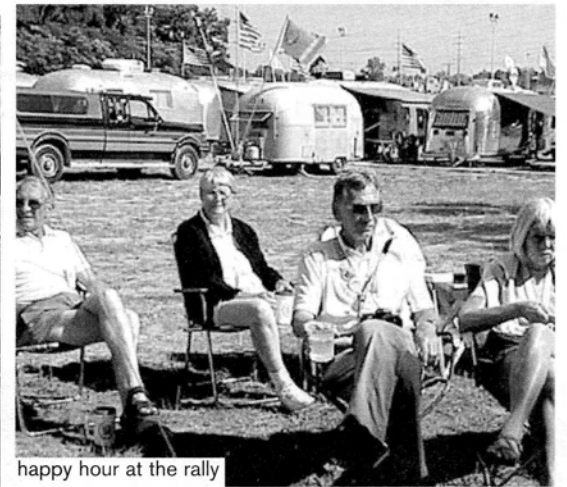
Departure



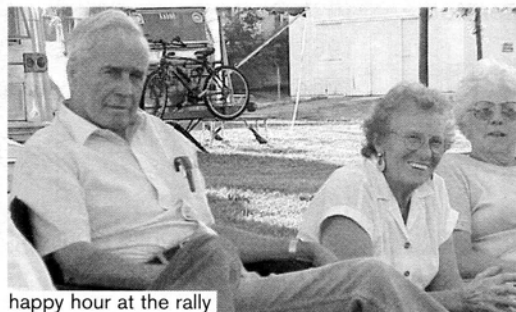
happy hour at the rally



happy hour at the rally



happy hour at the rally



happy hour at the rally



leonie dixon via new zealand

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE By Bill Scott

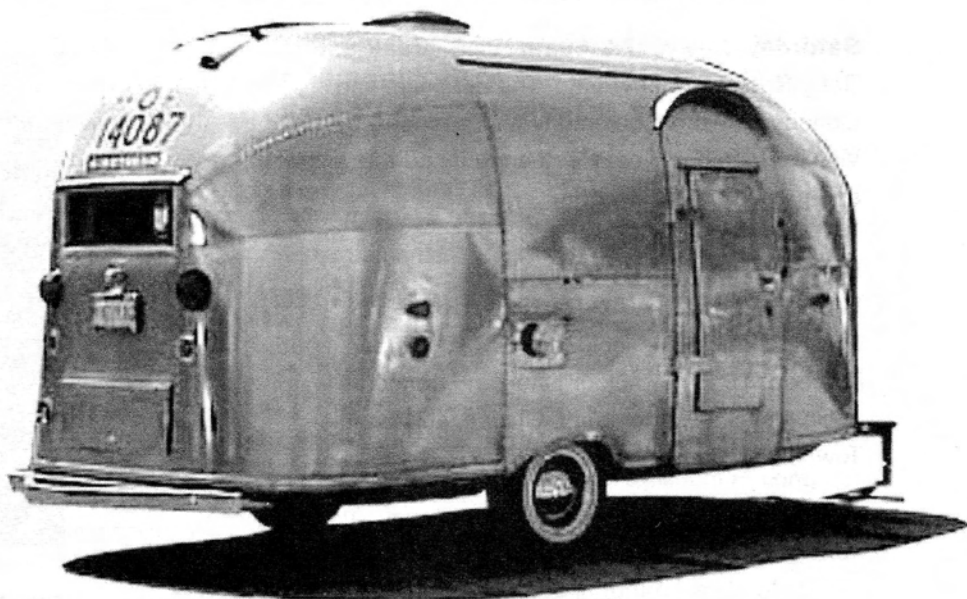
Categories for participants in this years Concours have been changed to allow more members to participate.

The Categories are:

1. **Best of Show**
2. **Best of Decades; 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's.** Depending on the number of entries the contest will determine: Best in class(one to three entries), Reserve Best in class, (up to six entries) and Honorable mention in class (seven or more entries).

3. Special Categories

Best Bambi
Shiniest Trailer
Awesome Interior
Best Tow / Trailer Combo
Members' Choice
Great Ideas



This year was particularly stressful for the judges because of over 40 entrants and such quality coaches. Here goes;

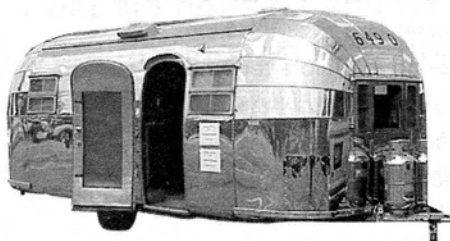
Best of 30's	1936 Clipper, Eugene & Betty Danaher
Best of 40's	1948 Liner, Bud & Bettye Cooper
Best of 40's Reserve	1949 Whirlwind, Wayne & Dorothy Kispert
Best of 50's	1953 Flying Cloud, Tom & Kathy Howarth
Best of 50's, Reserve	1955 Bubble, John & Ester Dona
Best of 60's	1964 Globetrotter, Clyde & Ellen Wagner
Best of 60's, Reserve	1960 Overlander, Scott & Lise Scheuermann
Best of 60's, Honorable Mention	1968 Tradewind, Jim Carey
Best of 70's	1970 Safari, Robert and Judith Brubaker
Best of 70's, Reserve	1973 Tradewind, Jack & Ginny Severs
Best of 70's, Honorable Mention	1970 Sovereign, Lee & Jocelyne Bartholomew
Best Bambi	1962 Bambi, Lee & Joan Baltzell
Best Bambi, Reserve	1964 Bambi II, Herb & Faye Spivey
Best Bambi, Honorable Mention	1961 Bambi, Jim Stewart
Shiniest Trailer	1953 Flying Cloud, Tom and Kathy Howarth
Awesome Interior	1936 Clipper, Eugene & Betty Danaher
Best Tow/ Trailer Combo	1975 Chevy Caprice Convertible 1961 Bambi, Jim Stewart

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE (continued)



Cooper's 1948 Liner

Howarth's 1953 Flying Cloud



Members' Choice: selected by members voting by secret ballot, 1953 Flying Cloud, Tom and Kathy Howarth and the three boys.

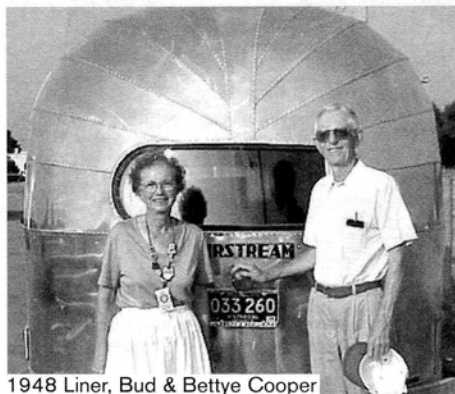
And last but certainly not least, is the Overall Winner of the Concourse deemed to be the **"Best of Show"**: Tom & Kathy Howarth, and boys, Ben, Sam and Colin, with their immaculate 1953 Flying Cloud.

All of the winners should be especially proud, because the competition this year was particularly keen. Congratulations and keep up the good work for next year's Concourse in Bismarck. I hope I have not forgotten any special class, and if I have, please chime in.

We picked up many new members and many new friends during the month of June. This caravan and rally will go down as one of the best.



The Howarth five



1948 Liner, Bud & Bettye Cooper



1936 Clipper, Eugene & Betty Danaher



Walt & Ester Overgaard

THE WAGON WHEELS 99 CARAVAN

So, you want to lead a caravan by Clyde Wagner

Our retired newsletter editor, Tom Howarth, said to me near the end of the caravan "Clyde, you need to write an accounting of this caravan." As Ellen and I were the caravan leaders, I did not feel we would reflect the real feeling of the caravan participants so I procrastinated and did nothing hoping our new "inexperienced" editor, Bryan Burkhart, would not agree. Of course that was wishful thinking on our part because Bryan sent us a note requesting a story.

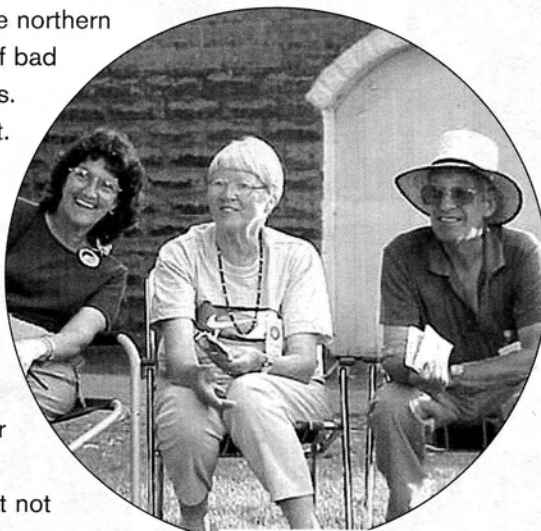


So here it is from the eyes of the leaders.

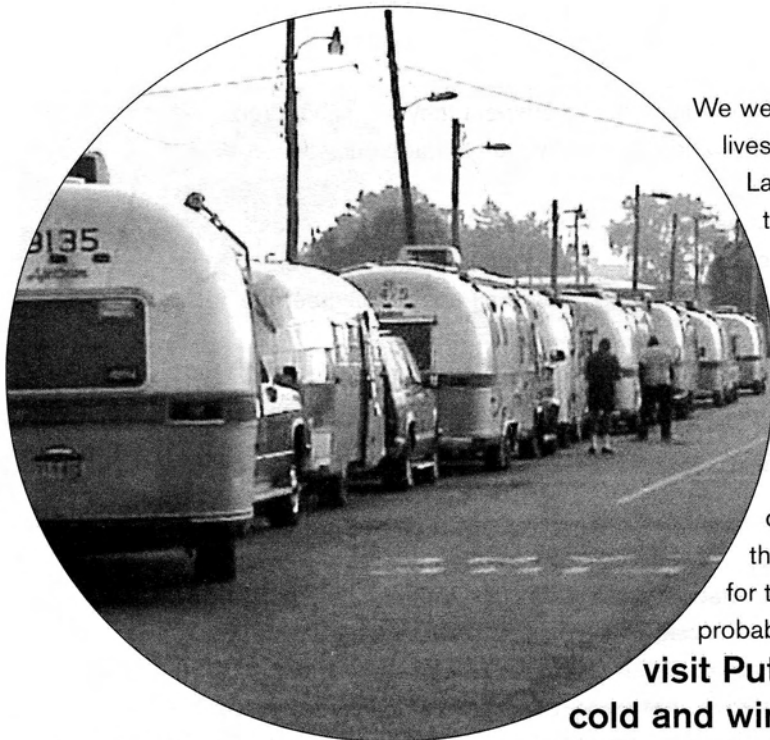
Let's go back to the beginning in 1997. There was no caravan in Huntsville and at the time of the Huntsville Vintage meeting we had no volunteers to lead a caravan for 1998 in Boise. So following our election in Huntsville I made the statement that "there would be a caravan in Ohio" thinking why not we would have 2 years to locate a victim to be the leader. About that time Preston Pierson volunteered to lead a very enjoyable caravan in Boise. This took the heat off us for an Ohio caravan—after all what's worth seeing in Ohio after what we saw in Idaho. I made a few weak attempts to find a leader but figured a caravan every other year and skipping uninteresting Ohio would be satisfactory. With this mindset we coasted through our year of presidency thinking only of the business at hand. Boy was that a mistake because the minutes were read in Boise stating "Clyde Wagner said he would lead a caravan in Ohio." I didn't say that! At least I don't think I said that. Well maybe I did say that but I meant I would "try" to find a leader. There I was in front of 300 members attempting to weasel out of the caravan leadership. It didn't work. You would think that as old as I am I would know when to keep my mouth shut. Mistake number one.

When we arrived home from Boise the summer was in full bloom. There were many wonderful summer things to do and we did them all. The caravan planning, that could wait till the bad weather arrived. Mistake number two. We wanted the caravan to start in the northern part of Ohio and work south to the International Rally in Dayton. The northern Lake Erie Island area would be interesting so at the first sign of bad weather we drove there to begin making plans and reservations. Mistake three. The Lake Erie Island area is a big summer resort. We found everything closed and no one there. Our procrastination was now beginning to catch up to us.

After more trips to visit all the planned or hoped for locations we finally were able to put a semi-satisfactory caravan plan together. The first problem was that in order to save the desired areas in an Ohio State park, you must put a camper on each reserved area at least a day early. We reserved four areas so we would need four campers. We could put the trailer on one and the van on another but that leaves us missing two areas. I know, I'll just invite someone to come early. So I did but not wanting to slight anyone I mentioned it to everyone. WOW! Almost everyone came early. It was great.



faye spivey with leone+ eric dixon



We were born in Ohio and have lived here all our lives. In fact we have even seen May flies in the Lake Erie shore area but never gave them a thought. Mistake number three. Guess when the biggest May Fly hatch of the decade occurred? Don't drive at night and never ride your motorcycle but if you do, keep your mouth shut. Our first formal get-together was touring a winery followed by a served meal. The person I made the reservations with "is no longer employed by us." "We can't do it for that price." "Your meal doesn't include the dessert agreed upon." We wrote the check for the agreed upon price and even had desert but probably will not return soon.

The day we planned to visit Put-in-Bay Island turned out to be rainy, cold and windy. This made the lake rough but the boat did not sink and no one got seasick. We did notice two water spouts as we were getting ready to board the boat. Waterspouts look like tornadoes but everyone still got on the boat. Vintage caravanners are very brave!

Because of all the flies we couldn't go anyplace at night so Rich and Shirley Rodrigues were assigned to provide entertainment. They somewhat overdid this as the games they had us play caused so much laughter that people were seen holding their sides in pain. We had carefully planned our first move to an Ohio Amish community. The idea was to take the braver caravanners through a quaint valley on the way and I provided, what I thought, were accurate and easy to read directions. Everyone got lost! When we finally arrived in the Amish pasture to park in a big wagon wheel like Wally did it, we quickly discovered the pasture had just been "organically" fertilized. We discovered that after a while you hardly noticed the smell. Everyone seemed to enjoy shopping at the Amish stores and flea market that were within walking distance of our campsite. Our restaurant meal was much better this time and no unexpected changes occurred.

The next move was to the Dover Ohio fairgrounds. Being Sunday morning and the fact that I had no confidence in my directions I decided to lead everyone to Dover. **While we were forming up on the road Ellen said "did you put the TV on the floor?" I said "No I thought you put the TV on the floor." Well the TV put itself on the floor. Oh well we really didn't like that TV very much.**

So off we went, all 22 trailers in a big long line. We encountered a few Amish buggies and lots of the stuff that the buggies leave on the road but no other problems. In fact we only lost a couple of trailers.

We visited the Warther Carvings museum and the children in our group were each given small wooden pliers carved for them by Mr. Warther. We enjoyed a very nice picnic supper under some trees at our campsite. We also became aware of the Dover fairgrounds tradition of providing trash pickup at 4AM. Everyone was able to awaken and observe the source of all the banging and clanking with some even getting back to sleep.

Having a little more confidence in my directions to Coshocton and the fact that it would not be possible to travel with more than a few trailers in line, we left Dover. I couldn't believe what I saw. The road paving crew was paving the road, which we had just checked out the day before. Detour! I was

sure we would again lose everyone but to my surprise they all made it. I suspect they all just ignored my directions and followed a map but they were very kind and did not say that. Vintage caravanners are wonderful people.

Our arrival in Coshocton was hardly noticed. The reason for this was that Coshocton was hosting a stop over of GOBA. That's Greater Ohio Bicycle Adventures. Three thousand bicycles were there, yes 3,000! We had bicycles everywhere. Sigh! Good planning, Wagner. I don't remember the number of that mistake.

We visited Historic Rosco Village, a restored village on the old Ohio Erie Canal. We also rode on a restored canal boat pulled by horses. Our boat Captain assigned us along with the Howarth children the arduous task of turning the boat around. It was a tough job but Colin, Sam and Ben did an excellent job.

Our New Zealand caravanner, Leonie Dixon led us in another sing-along, only this time we sat around a fire. It was a small fire and being a large group we were able to be a long way from it this very warm evening. At bedtime, all those without shower facilities in their trailers planned a nice refreshing shower. But all the showers were locked! All but one. The ladies. The office people all went home. This required the posting of guards so as not to cause screams. Vintage caravanners are very resourceful! The good thing is that Bud Cooper was not there to video these happenings as he did all the others throughout the caravan.

We had a wonderful farewell meal at the Village Inn and our missing caravanners arrived. I guess I forgot to tell you we had been missing a trailer since the start. We all were very glad to see them and the Inn added more seating without missing a beat. Following our meal we thanked everyone for being so patient and understanding about our mistakes and they thanked us for leading a good caravan. We were truthful; they lied. The caravan was over so it was off to the Springfield Pre-Rally and to meet the other Vintage members except for a stop to visit the Longaberger Basket facility. Our hosts at Springfield provided us with a nice meal and evening entertainment but the most fun was meeting the other Vintage members.

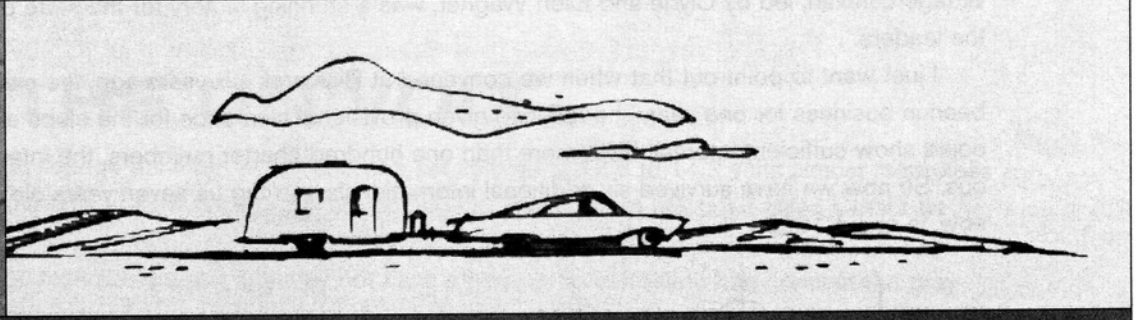
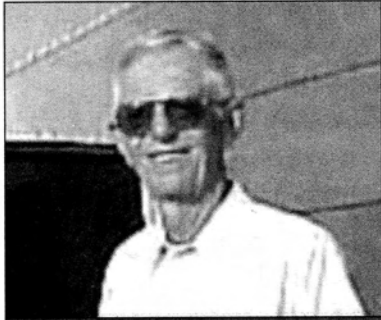
During the caravan the local newspapers visited each of our campsites and we were interviewed and photographed. I think the locals liked our old trailers and their wonderful owners too.

Thinking back and in spite of the problems we encountered, I must say that Ellen and I had a wonderful time during the caravan. **The reason for this is because the people attending Vintage caravans are the nicest, most understanding friends you could ever meet.** Our only hope is that the Wagon Wheels 99 caravan attendees enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

Clyde and Ellen Wagner #8441



Wagon Wheel @ Kidron, Ohio at an amish farmers field.



Coop's Corner

IT AIN'T FAIR

Several of us got our e-mailed brains together the other day. We discovered that with our heads together we had about the same intelligence as an average moron. So what do we plan to do about something? What we have not done is keep the membership informed about all the services that we are prepared to give you. We have a dandy bulletin which often gets sent to people asking if they should join. But, for those of you who just went ahead and joined, we never told you anything about how to get help. Help is on the way. In this and future columns, I will talk about some of them.

COPIES OF OLD MANUALS AND NEWSLETTERS

Mr. Noland Vogt, 447 Maple Way, Woodside, CA, 94062. Ph 415.364.7458. noland@flash.net

This gentleman operates an invaluable service. He has a library of vintage owner's manuals, service manuals, literature, and old newsletters. Even though there were no real manuals till 1964, he has literature packets similar to what was handed out in those by-gone years and he will quote prices if you ask. He sells at cost. Old newsletters the same. He has an index to past technical articles.

FLAGS

contact: Tom Reed 1038 Meadowview Court, Corona, CA 91720 ph. 909.735.3920

tereed@pacbell.net For a mere \$20 you get a 2x3 ft. dark blue nylon flag with the club logo in gold mailed to your house. Great gift idea!

RIGHT ON!

Jerome and Nancy Ticknor of North Street, Michigan, recently sold their '79. Jerry, like the good guy he is, promptly called and offered to send me his service manual. I said yes, and forwarded it to (you guessed it) Noland Vogt. His cover letter was so good that I want to quote part of it.

"Enclosed is the service manual we spoke of. Five more years and the '79 Airstreams will be in the club." "We enjoyed our trailer and went everywhere with it. We were always disappointed that the Wally Byam Club had lost its way. They were more interested in "dinner" or packing 1000 trailers in a football field. The Airstream was meant to be used. Adventure is what they are all about."

"From northern Canada where there was no place to camp with "hook-ups" (we didn't need them) we used all the blocking that could be found and still couldn't get the trailer level. That was a fun trip."

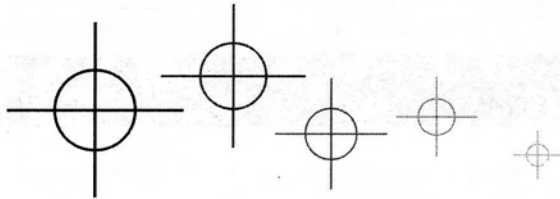
"In West Virginia one early spring, the bridge deck had been washed out in a flood. Someone had laid planks across. Figuring that everyone drove a pick-up, it must be the right "gauge", so over we went with the Airstream to stay on the side of a mountain so steep that the wheels were on blocks, the back bumper was on the ground and still not level."

In his brief observations, Jerry has clearly shown the essential value of the vintage trailers, and The Vintage Club. I hope we keep those trailers rolling.

SEVEN YEARS

I will leave it to your officers to talk about the Dayton Rally. It was a huge success. The preceding vintage caravan, led by Clyde and Ellen Wagner, was a stunning victory for the state of Ohio and for the leaders.

I just want to point out that when we convened at Bismarck, six years ago, the club had already been in business for one year. The IBT had given provisional clearance for the clubs existence, if we could show sufficient interest. With more than one hundred charter members, the interest was obvious. So now we have survived six additional internationals, making us seven years old. Membership now, is about 1300.



Let's Talk About **THE UNIVOLT**

The first Airstreams had a single wiring harness throughout the trailer for lighting and it could be energized from the automobile battery or from an outside house current source. Owners carried an extra set of light bulbs so as to switch from 120 volts AC to 6 volts DC. There were extra plugs on the front of the trailer to bring power from say an automobile battery, but no on board batteries until about 1962. Accessories such as vent fans could be made to operate from either voltage by means of a manual switch.

The introduction of the power unit in 1965 was a great step forward. An on board battery was kept charged from the tow car generator or from shore power through the power unit, whichever was available. A single lighting harness had 12-Volt bulbs. Such things as fans could be 12 Volt without bothering with changeover. When demand was high (all lights turned on) the power unit supplied enough DC so that the battery was never drained.

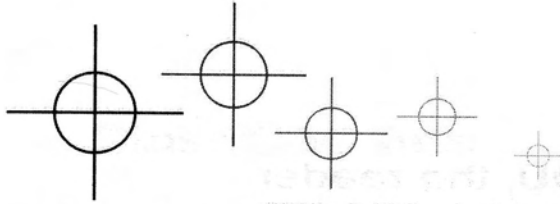
Owners were delighted with this slick arrangement. Later, they were grumpy about the frequent failures, and the cost of repairs. Then, Airstream changed to the Univolt made by Wabash Magnetics (later called Magnatronics). This cut the failures to a trickle and owners hailed this as the ultimate solution. Some of these units are now more than thirty years old and naturally failures do occur. Magnatronics, is now out of business. Replacements (other makes) cost about \$250. Trailer dealers and supply houses have various brands with acceptable characteristics.

While this product was current, the factory discouraged anyone from repairing one in the field, preferring to have them returned to the factory where a repair facility was maintained. This service has been discontinued and replacements are not available.

The Univolt was durable and very highly rated by owners. There were only three disadvantages to this unit. 1) there was a substantial hum so the units often had to be turned off at night, 2) weight, 3) the units delivered a constant 13.8 to 14.2 volts. In normal circumstances this would keep the battery charged perfectly without care. If a trailer were in storage, however, it could not be connected for weeks unattended or it would overcharge the battery, boiling away the electrolyte with subsequent damage to the battery and its surroundings. Consider limiting charging to two weeks if the trailer is not in use. The principle of operation was simple, and field repairs by courageous owners are possible. The only danger is that univolts contain capacitors which when charged can be lethal. Do not open the blue box unless you understand how to handle capacitors.

The starting point is a constant voltage transformer. This delivers the required 13.8 to 14.2 volts AC. The current is then rectified and the ripple removed with capacitors. The good part was that long, undersized supply cords did not damage the unit. It has no electronics, no PC boards.

To repair, start with the simple things. Open the door and look for failed fuses. Look for bus-bar connections which do not conduct, wires broken from vibration, and other obvious problems.



Let's Talk About **THE UNIVOLT** (continued)

The constant voltage transformer will deliver a set voltage of 13.8 to 14.2 volts almost regardless of how poor is the supply. Low voltage will not damage it. They seldom fail, but if failed cannot be repaired.

Note that the replacement you buy may not have a terminal to which you can connect the gray wire. This wire drives the "power on" light on the control panel. There are various solutions, such as: **1)** plug in a night-light where it can serve the purpose, **2)** do without, or **3)** by adding a relay (Radio Shack) the light can be made to work.

The Univolt brand name converter/charger is no longer in production. Airstream now installs a converter/charger made by Todd Engineering, called power source. They make 20, 30, 40, 45, 55, and 75 amp models. New units come with a lifetime warranty They are half the size and weight of the old models. Call 1-800-HEY-TODD (800-439-8633). Available at any RV dealer and if not in stock can be ordered in four days via UPS. Todd also makes a line filter if you encounter TV interference. (The above paragraph by Ed Stanley)

On the Internet, there has been a sudden flurry of interest in Univolts. This suggested that I should put together what I know on the subject and make it available.

Next issue I will do tambours.
R. L. Cooper

tam·bour (tam'boor) *n.* [ME. < MFr. < OFr. *tambor*, a drum < Ar. *tanbūr*, altered (prob. after *at-tambūr*, a stringed instrument) < Per. *tabīrah*, a drum] **1.** a drum **2. a)** an embroidery frame of two closely fitting, concentric hoops that hold the cloth stretched between them **b)** embroidery worked on such a frame **☆3.** a door, panel,

VAC Membership Report

Since the Summer 1999 Issue of The Vintage Advantage we have welcomed 82 new VACers. They include: Members (49), Associate Members (6), and Friends (27). The total number for the three categories together, as of September 7, 1999, is 1,190. The subtotals are as follows: 692 Members, 70 Associate Members, and 430 Friends. These figures demonstrate a continuing interest in VAC membership and subscriptions to our newsletter, with which we can be very pleased.

To understand the levels of VAC membership and subscribers, the following classifications are provided.

Member: Members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) who own a vintage Airstream trailer (where a vintage trailer is defined as an Airstream trailer 25 years old or older). This is the dues paying voting membership. A VAC member may hold office or be appointed to a position.

Associate: WBCCI members who do not qualify by owning a vintage Airstream trailer but wish for mutually beneficial reasons to belong. Associate members pay dues, vote and have all the benefits of a regular member, except that they may not be elected to office or park their trailer in the Vintage area at the annual WBCCI International Rally. A VAC associate may be appointed to a position.

Honorary Member: Membership bestowed upon VAC benefactors provided they are WBCCI members. This is a non-dues paying and a non-voting membership.

Friend: Any person 18 years old or older who has an interest in vintage Airstream trailers and wishes to receive the VAC newsletter (The Vintage Advantage). **Trailer ownership is not a requirement, but you will have a lot more fun if you get one! (See Classifieds)** This category is for non-WBCCI members who want a subscription to the newsletter only. It is the hope of the VAC that the Friends subscribers will be introduced to the WBCCI through the VA and then join the WBCCI such that they may be full VAC members.



Important notice for YOU, the reader

Important Notice #1 –You will note next to your name on the address label that there is a designation that reads (Jul99), (Jul2000), (Jul2001), etc. If the designation is (Jul99) it means that you are past due with your annual dues that became due 7/1/99. The next issue of The Vintage Advantage (Winter 2000) will be the last issue of the newsletter that you will receive if your dues for the current year are not received by February 1, 2000. Please note that the date shown represents the time your membership expires in the absence of annual renewals.

Important Notice # 2: This newsletter, The Vintage Advantage, will not be forwarded by the US Postal Service. To ensure that you will continue to receive the VA, please notify me of any address changes at:

670 Plantation Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
Phone: 407-269-8209
Email: RDMumma@aol.com

Dick Mumma, #04333
VAC Membership Chairman

VAC Treasurers Report *dollars in, dollars out...*

For the reporting period of 7.01.98 to 6.30.99. (Last year's final report.)

Beginning: \$9,173.79
Income: \$9,948.79
Expenses: <\$10,260.20>

Ending Balance: \$8,862.38

For the reporting period of 7/01/99 to 9/11/99.

Beginning: \$8,862.38
Income: \$3,649.37
Expenses: <\$1,976.87>

Ending Balance: \$10,534.88

Classified Ads

COMMERCIAL

MEMORABILIA:

Three-dimensional pewter vintage camper key chain, perfect for the trailerite or collector. RV is a replica of a 21ft. 1953 Airstream Flying Cloud travel trailer. Available for \$12.99 plus \$2.00 S+H (US), payable by check or money order.

See us on the web at: <http://users.rcn.com/jnpdesign/TRH>

Allow six weeks for delivery. TRH Enterprises, 5860 Scaggs Road, Owings, MD 20736.

ROUTE 66 HISTORIC RV TOUR:

Chicago to L.A. on the most famous highway in the world. Join our group of fellow vintage RV enthusiasts for a fun filled trip. Adventuretours (VAC member owned).

Call 800.455.8687 www.adventuretrek.com

TRAVEL TRAILERS FOR SALE

1961 16' Bambi, \$9,500.00. Serial # SN161T145 made in Jackson Center, Ohio. Clean, fun to use. Automatic gas furnace, fridge, water heater, holding tanks, electric brakes, awning, and extras.

Garaged. Traveling condition with minor service.

Cecil MacGregor (#249), Corvallis, OR, phone 541.752.6309.

1964 17' Bambi II, \$3,500.00 firm. New tires and brakes. Everything else is original. Exterior needs polishing. Roadable. Charlie Leiner, 2640 So. Ruess Road, Owosso, Michigan 48867 phone 517.725.8314.

1962 19' Airstream Globe Trotter, \$7,450.00. Completely restored. Interior cabinetry original, new drapes, upholstery, floor covering, gas/electric refrigerator, overhead air conditioning, gas/electric automatic ignite water heater, demand water pump, queen size pull out bed, carefully buffed exterior in excellent condition. Stored under roof. Dave Keller, phone 941.485.4746 (Florida)

1962 19' Globe Trotter, \$4,500.00. Call for specifications and pictures.

Trailer is located in California. Contact Gil Jones, (281) 996-9845.



TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE VINTAGE ADVANTAGE

*(Future Ads for Trailers: Please include photographs. I would like to have a small image of the trailer for sale.)

Anyone may advertise in the Vintage Advantage. Membership is not a requirement. please submit your ad with (\$5) payment to Mr. Patrick Ewing; Treasurer, 3661 Alm Rd., Everson, WA 98247, who will then forward them onto the Editor in the format shown. Payment MUST accompany the ads to be considered for publication.

Ad guidelines. 1 Only advertisements deemed of direct interest to the VAC membership shall be accepted. 2. All commercial advertisements in the VAC cost \$25 per issue. 3. Commercial ads will be placed only in the classified advertisement section of the VA. 4. Commercial Advertiser must be a VAC Member. 5. WBCCI members receive 20% discounted rate.

Announcements for non-VAC sponsored Rallies and activities of direct interest to the VAC will also be provided in the classified ad section. These ads are free to the organization and are encouraged in order to promote other vintage activities within the club.

until next issue:



Keep your eyes on the stars,

and the stars in your eyes . . .

See if you can find out what's over the next hill,

and the next one after that.

Wally Byam

membership application
The Vintage Airstream Club
a WBCCI Intraclub

Please Print

Date _____
Last Name _____ First Name (his) _____ (hers) _____
Mailing Address _____
Telephone Number _____ WBCCI # _____ Unit Number & Name _____
Trailer Year _____ Length _____ Model _____ Serial Number _____
Hobbies & Interests (His + Hers) _____
Occupation (now or before retiring) _____
Winter address & Telephone number _____ email _____

- Please check one:**
- Member** (own a vintage Airstream & belong to WBCCI)
 - Associate Member** (do not own a vintage Airstream but belong to WBCCI)
 - Friend** (am interested in vintage Airstreams but do not belong to the WBCCI)

Send this application, along with your dues payment of \$10.00 to Dr. Richard Mumma, Membership Chairman,
670 Plantation Drive, Titusville, FL 32780 (email: rdmumma@aol.com)

Note: If your are not a WBCCI member, we will be happy to assist you with the application.

Caution: JOINING THIS CLUB COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE



The Vintage Airstream Club
Vintage Advantage Newsletter
Dr. Richard Mumma,
Membership Chairman
670 Plantation Drive
Titusville, FL 32780

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