

VAC 2016 RALLY CALENDAR

June 3rd—5th
Terry Bison Ranch Rally
Cheyenne, WY
Contact: Orbic at
wattmungall@gmail.com
or 434-730-3840
(write-up this issue)

June 9th—12th VACmidwest Rally— Moonlight Serenade Contact: Tom & Shirley at ShirlsCookin@gmail.com or 515-556-9339 (write-up this issue)

June 20th—28th Vintage Rendezvous Ends in Lewisburg, WV Contact: Steve Laxton at laxtonsteve@gmail.com (write-up this issue)

June 24th—July 5th
2016 International Rally
Lewisburg, WV
Contact: Iain Cameron at
president@vintageairstrea
mclub.com
(write-up this issue)

July 7th—11th 2016 Rocky Mountain Rally Westcliffe, CO Contact: RMVAC Committee (write-up last issue)

July 15th—18th Farragut State Park Athol, ID Contact: Rob and Diane Nicol (write-up last issue)

August 5th—7th
Fiddlers Picnic Rally
Livingston, MT
Contact: Steve & Reg
Bittner at
herkypig@hotmail.com
(write-up this issue)

August 10th—14th Bend Classic Vintage Trailer Rally Bend, OR Contact: Dal Smille at dalsmilie@aol.com (write-up this issue)

September 15th—18th VACmidwest Autumn Built Like a Rock Rally Dundee, IA Contact: Ed & Eileen Pauley at <u>epauley@itt.net</u> (write-up this issue)

The VINTAGE Airstream Club

An Intra-Club of WBCCI Since 1993

MAY / JUNE 2016

Message from VAC President, Iain Cameron



This is the 24th year vintage
Airstreamers will come
together at the WBCCI
International Rally. The
Vintage Airstream Club was
chartered at the 1993

Bismarck International Rally in North Dakota, where 32 vintage Airstreams paraded into the rally site, the first Concours d'Elegance was held, and the club "took on a life and personality of its own" as Bud Cooper, founder of VAC, used to say. Over the years, we continue to meet up with charter members of the VAC at the International Rally. This year is no exception and we look forward to seeing everyone again: those who started up the club and gave us this opportunity, many who have taken on volunteer and leadership positions in the club over the years, and lots of friends to reconnect with or meet for the first time.

The vintage Airstream community has grown rapidly over the last twenty years. Many more travelers and families have found an old Airstream, renovated it, and taken to the road on an adventure. In the mid-1990's when I first looked for a vintage Airstream, the only source of information was through the VAC. The club had the first website with resource information, many knowledgeable Airstream owners who had restored at least one trailer, and a whole lot of curiosity to find out more about them. At that time, there was very little written information and history about Airstreams. The rapid development and customization of the trailer design and production during the 1950's and 60's led to some unusual discoveries.

Today, there are many more choices and opportunities for owners, and a wealth of information and resources online. Yet the VAC continues to be a central community bringing all Airstreamers together: friends and connections, history, resources, rallies and gatherings for everyone.

I encourage you to get involved and share your experiences with us. We are active on social media: Facebook, Twitter, and AirForums. Our website www.vintageairstreamclub.com is up-to-date with current bi-monthly newsletters, rallies and resources, including past newsletters and Vintage Advantage magazines. If you would like to contribute an article to our newsletter, please contact Reg Bittner at

newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com.

At the Lewisburg International Rally, we hold our annual general meeting and elect VAC officers. We are looking to fill a couple of positions on the VAC Board: second vice-president, and third vice-president. There are other, less formal volunteer opportunities as well. If you are interested in getting more involved with vintage Airstreaming, please consider a volunteer position. Much has been done over the last few years to accommodate volunteers, support their efforts and make it flexible and enjoyable. For more information on positions available and what is involved, contact me at president@vintageairstreamclub.com or Kimber Moore at

pastpresident@vintageairstreamclub.com.

Lewisburg International Rally is full with 750 rigs registered and we have over 60 Airstreams parked together in the vintage area. The VAC caravan parade into the rally site will start at 11:00 am on Monday June 27th, 2016. We gather at the bullpen, west side of southbound US 219 at West Virginia State Fairgrounds. Even if you have been given an earlier date to park at International, you can join us on this date and time for the parade and parking in the vintage area. Please let me know if you are joining us in the parade.

Safe travels, take care ...lain

2016 VAC RALLY

CALENDAR

-continued-

Membership



No information to update.

Editor's Note



To read the Newsletter asap, go to the VAC website, <u>vintageairstreamclub.com</u>, to get it. It is posted as soon as I

give it to Iain, generally on or before the $1^{\rm st}$ of every other month; January, March, May, July, September and November.

Introducing the Hodsdons

Submitted by Joe Peplinski

The stories of most early Airstream caravanners are almost lost to time. These people may appear as nothing more than names in a Membership Directory to us now, but they each have a story of how they came to own an Airstream and join an early caravan. One such pioneering couple was brought to light recently when the WBCCI office was contacted by a woman named Ellen Lawson who wanted to write a family history about her uncle Floyd Hodsdon. Early Membership Directories were used to confirm that Floyd and Germaine Hodsdon were Charter Members of WBCCI with the membership number #82 and that they participated on their first of five Airstream caravans before the club was even formed. They caravanned with Wally Byam himself to Mexico in 1954 and Europe in 1956. They later caravanned to Cuba in 1958, Eastern Canada in 1963, and Alaska in 1966. Photos from a Life Magazine photo archive were found showing #82 on the 1956 European Caravan. A short time after providing this information to Ellen, she sent us the following story of Floyd and Germaine Hodsdon as pioneering travelers. Their story is interesting reading and even shows that the Hodsdons attempted to go around the world by themselves in a VW sedan in 1964 at about the same time as the famous Airstream caravan was making a similar trip.

Enjoy.

∼By Ellen Nickenzie Lawson Ph.D. c. 2016

Submitted by Joe Peplinski



Ellen states: Floyd Hodsdon was my mother's brother and an influence in my own life.

Floyd and Germaine Hodsdon were charter members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club and, in their #82 Airstream, they traveled with the club to Mexico, Europe, and Cuba in the 1950's and to Canada and Alaska in the early 1960's. They were on their own on a round the world trip in the 60's which ended in Pakistan because the roads were so bad. Floyd died a few years later while Germaine lived to her 90's in their Sarasota, Florida retirement home.

Floyd Hodsdon was born on a farm in Clarksville, Iowa, in 1890. Both parents were school teachers before they took up farming. As a teen, he applied for a pas sport. Wanderlust was in his blood, perhaps from his Hodsdon grandparents who lived close by. Both were immigrants as children, one from England and the other from eastern Canada and lived in rural Maine, New York, and Wisconsin before settling in Iowa right after the Civil War.

A student at lowa State, Floyd was scheduled to finish his degree in mechanical engineering in 1913, but when his father died of typhoid Floyd took a year off to help his mother and five younger siblings. He received his degree in 1914 and war broke out in Europe that summer He would soon be in Europe himself, but not as a soldier.

Upon graduation, he began working with International Harvester Company (IHC), formed a decade earlier when McCormick Harvester and Deering Harvester merged. The company had just introduced to the market a new, smaller tractor for pulling plows at a time when American farmers were still using 20 million horses to pull their plows. IHC had offices in Europe and sent a corps of young engineers to France to teach farmers how to maintain and use the new tractors because the French government was offering a 50% subsidy to groups of farmers who purchased and shared these tractors. According to one of Floyd's adult children, "He jumped at the chance to go to France--- an lowa farm boy who had a curiosity about everything and wanted to see the world."

In Nantes, he met dark-eyed curly haired Germaine Padioleau, a bilingual secretary at IHC. Her widowed father was a caretaker for a local winery, and the family lived in a fourth floor walkup. She had been warned the arriving American engineers were "a wild lot" and to take care whom she dated. While Floyd Hodsdon was serious, and respectful, her older sister chaperoned their dates for the first six months. A difficulty to marriage was religious--Germaine was Catholic and Floyd was Protestant with both an uncle and a brother in the Presbyterian ministry. This religious difference may explain his mother's initial reaction on hearing of the couple's engagement: She wrote him "not to bring that woman home." But she soon changed her mind and sat for her portrait in lowa to send to her French daughter-in-law. Floyd thought on seeing his mother's portrait, "She looks so natural and so grand and fine looking, just like she always does." It amused him that his French in-laws thought his Iowa mother "looked rather French," the highest compliment.



The armistice ending World War I was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (November), seven months after the Hodsdon wedding. Floyd wrote home that he "had just gotten off the street car and started to walk across the bridge when all the whistles and sirens began to blow. We ate dinner as fast as we could and went up town and bought some flags. The streets were just full and everybody was so hilariously happy they did not know what to do. You cannot imagine how happy all the French people are that the war is over and won and all Alsace and Lorraine to return to France [lost to Germany in 1870]."

~ continued~

In early 1919, the newlyweds returned to the U.S. with Floyd taking a photo of pregnant Germaine sitting, well-wrapped, out on ship's deck. After a visit to the folks in lowa, the Hodsdons settled in Milwaukee near IHC headquarters. They had a growing family of five children. They lived there for the next 30 years although Floyd worked for IHC in Chicago for eight of these and commuted home on weekends. He loved his job which was perfecting the milking machine which had been invented half a century earlier but required continued updating and improving. His main focus was the rubber in the tips used on the teats. His division tested these at farms around Milwaukee. He himself is listed by the United States Patent Office with 24 patents as a result of this work including inventing: liners for teat cups, pulsators for the machines, valve mechanism for the pumps, pressure releasers, milk pail covers with fluid trap, vacuum tank drain valves, flushing arrangement, etc.



If milking machines were his passion at work, traveling and camping were his passions for his summer vacations. In 1926, with three children under seven, the Hodsdons began exploring the United States using a large tent and his own invention, a collapsible table which folded up inside the car but expanded inside the tent. In the 1930s with five children including several teens, the family bought a trailer for these.



Floyd carefully marked and dated each trip on a road map: the first was to the shores of Lake Superior above Duluth, next a

trip around Lake Michigan, then a trip south to Kentucky and northeast to Montreal, then a trip through Canada to Calgary, a trip up the St. Lawrence River and back through New Brunswick, Maine and New York and a trip to the Southwest through Colorado, Arizona, and up along the West coast. When Floyd's sister married an easterner, the Hodsdons headed for Boston that summer to visit the newlyweds and to New Jersey to meet the bridegroom's family. In 1939, they made another circuit East, to the World's Fair with Germaine's sister who was visiting from France. The last trip on the map is dated 1940 and was through Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

World War II stopped this travel as Floyd was too busy commuting from Chicago and, in addition, gas was rationed and rubber tires hard to get. Floyd planted a huge Victory Garden in an empty lot a block



from the family home. One year, after he spread chicken manure over the garden before returning to Chicago, Germaine found the local authorities at her door insisting she and her children dig up the garden immediately as the flies, attracted by the chicken manure, might spread polio.

The only Hodsdon son, a teenager, served in the war but was not sent to fight abroad. The oldest child, a daughter 24, died during the war in a freak accident in downtown Chicago where she worked. A platform, used for washing windows, fell several stories to the street, killing her, a co-worker, the window washers, and severely injuring several others. This death made Germaine want to go visit France as soon as the war ended, afraid someone else might die before they could have a reunion. So the family sailed for France in 1946 and brought along their new American car as Floyd accurately foresaw that French trains would not be up to pre-war standards nor would automobiles be produced in large enough numbers easily purchase.

International Harvester discontinued its milking machine division in 1953 so Floyd took early retirement. He and Germaine began traveling around the country in their newly-purchased Airstream trailer, #82, visiting relatives and also creating an extensive family tree in that era before internet searches and ancestry.com.

~ continued~

Travel in 1950's was a vast improvement over pre-war travel as the nation now had, under Eisenhower, a good interstate highway system. Likewise, the Airstream was a vast improvement over earlier trailers. Made of aluminum with a rounded front and side door, the early Airstream was designed by the same engineer who designed Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*. Wally Byam, owner of the Airstream Company, took the caravan to Mexico in the winter of 1954 -- 500 trailers were on it. *Look Magazine* featured an aerial photo of the caravan parked for the night in circles like the Wagon trains of the old West.

The Hodsdons most adventurous caravan was to Europe. Only 37 other Airstream families could afford to ship their trailer over and spend six months journeying through Germany, Luxembourg, France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, finishing up in the Netherlands. Then the Airstreams were shipped back to the U.S. The *National Geographic* featured this journey in pages of text and photos and explained to readers how Europeans, at each stop, toured the trailers and expressed amazement at American ingenuity.

Floyd and Germaine Hodsdon, in their 70s, began their most adventurous trip solo in 1964. The goal was to drive around the world in a VW sedan bought in Europe. They got as far as Pakistan before giving up. They never did make it around the world. But in their lifetime they had a lot of miles traveling for a modest couple from Iowa farm country and from a four story walk-up in Nantes.

Please note that the pictures below are from the old Life magazine, as noted. The others were supplied to us by Ellen herself.









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Cornelia Rising \sim continued from March / April issue

Submitted by Steve Bittner

Cornelia is starting to move along once again as more parts are fabricated and rebuilt. One feature the Dosters wanted was some solar power that had to be permanently mounted to the trailer. We decided on a flexible panel that is typically attached directly to the trailer's roof. I decided on a little twist on this and mounted the solar panel on a separate sheet of .050 aluminum that was attached to 1 ½" stand offs that were buck-riveted to the roof. The theory was that now the panel will have some airflow under it to reduce heat build-up in the trailer and also if the panel got damaged, it would be much easier to remove. Also, while on the roof of the trailer, a new Fantastic vent was installed to help with airflow. As you can see, the panel and vent blend nicely on the roof.

Next came the tedious task of rebuilding those classic Hehr windows. Some parts were severely beat up and I decided to have my local sheet metal guy make new parts. In the end it was much faster to take this route. Windows are now installed, complete with new tempered glass, screens and seals.

Finally, the entry door had to be completely rebuilt including rebuilding some frame components and fabricating all new skins. Sadly, the only original parts on the door are the hinges and a latch that secures the door within the door. All in all, it has been a lot of work, but Cornelia is starting to look like a trailer again.

Currently, I am still fighting those oval window frames. No one seems to have 1940's technology anymore or is able to adapt new technology to remake these pieces. As my attempt to resolve this issue, I am now waiting on some custom-made rollers for the bead roller.

Hopefully, by next issue, Cornelia will be fully weather-tight.

Till next time... See you down the road, Steve









1966 Cadillac International Rally—a look back 50 years

Submitted by Iain Cameron

1965-66 International President Clarence & Crystal Mathes (4171) St. Paul, MN

2828 Airstream trailers parked in a wagon wheel outward from main tents at center for gatherings Cadillac, Michigan





Past International Presidents inside circle of wagon wheel, from left to right: 1962-63

Robert & Helen Smith (49) Santa Maria, CA

1961-62

Bill & Agnes Carlson (303) Franklin, OH

1959-60

Charles & Ethel Kiefer (1104)
Palm Beach, FL
1958-59

Andy & Dell Anderson (00) Lansing, MI (painted mid-50's Airstream, matching mid-60's Cadillac)



Outer rim of wagon wheel, From left to right:

5418—Harold & Grace Caeron and family, London Ont. 1961 Tade Wind—24'.

15105—Lewis & Barbara Hersey and family, London Ont. 1966 Sovereign—30'.

Blips & Blurbs ~ from the Editor



In the last newsletter, the upcoming rally in Pagosa Springs, CO from July 14-18th now has a refund deadline of June 15.

Joe Peplinski's column, the Beatrice years, will be back in future issues. He writes for other Airstream publications and couldn't get to it this time. A lot more research is involved in the one he does for us. Instead, he has supplied us with another story of interesting Airstream history from Ellen Nickenzie Lawson. THANK YOU, JOE!



Speaking of...

There is a correction to the Beatrice years in the Mar/Apr newsletter:

"1969: Airstream proclaimed that 1969 Airstreams were "all new". This was definitely true with respect to the shell, and likely very few exterior or interior parts actually carried over, but the models, interior layouts, materials, and systems of most 1969 Airstreams were generally similar to their 1968 counterparts. As noted in the last installment, the 1969 Airstreams introduced a modern new shape compared to previous models. . . ."

The underlined words were inadvertently omitted in a copy and paste.

Catching Up, Rallies Past...

De Anza Rally held on April 7th—April 10th at Amado, AZ

Submitted by Reg Bittner

We attended this fantastic rally. What a blast! I should say blast from the past as the theme was 50's, 60's, 70's, etc. Folks dressed up in their era, everything from poodle skirts, diner uniforms, beatniks and hippies.

Friday morning started with coffee and breakfast burritos (the other mornings, coffee and goodies).

In keeping with the theme, Friday night there was this great band, "Retro Rockets" that played all the old tunes and from young to old, everyone danced to everything. It was wildly fun!

The owner and staff couldn't have been nicer. It was in a large old Greyhound racetrack building with some of the dogs' pictures scattered around. There was a restaurant and a bar in it and large dance floor, which was packed. Friday night was a sit-down dinner of fish or roast beef.

On Saturday night, the RV park put on a free Margarita night on the patio. Afterward, was the potluck...meat was provided and we brought sides and desserts.

Highly recommend this fun, fun, fun rally or go on your own. It is worth it for the dance alone every Friday. It is open to the public and the retirees of Green Valley, AZ all came out with their dancing shoes on.













VACmidwest—VAC Region 8—The Moonlight Serenade Rally

June 9th-12th, 2016

Lake of Three Fires Campground, Bedford, IA

Want to join us? It's only Spring but we sure are thinking of upcoming warmer weather!

Why Moonlight Serenade?

"Moonlight Serenade" is a beautiful song by Glenn Miller. The marvelous 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival coincides with the VACmidwest June Rally. It provides more fun weekend opportunities in nearby Clarinda, Iowa.

Tom & Shirley, your hosts, are preparing the rally schedule.

Here's a link to 41st Annual Glenn Miller Festival schedule: http://glennmiller.org/festival -2/festival-information/

Tom & Shirley say "Early arrivals are welcome!"

Campground REGISTRATION opened March 9th. Sites that can be reserved are limited. Reserve your own site.

http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/ camping/lake-of-three-fires-state-park/r/ campgroundDetails.do? contractCode=IA&parkId=610110

Hosts: Tom and Shirley Herron, shirlscookin@gmail.com, (515) 556-9339

Submitted by Kathy Allen (For Scott Allen, VACmidwest Region 8 Representative).







Fiddlers Picnic Rally

Mercier Ranch, Livingston, MT

August 5th-7th, 2016

This is more of a get-together than a Rally. The focus is on the music and it goes on and on at folks' trailers as well as in the barn. It is held in a farmer's field, dry camping. We will host a meet and greet appetizer Happy Hour on Friday at our trailer. Look for the "Welcome - Steve and Reg" sign out front. The picnic has been going on for 35 years and is put on by the Fiddlers group on Saturday afternoon, so bring a side. Grilled meat is provided. Optional \$20 donation for the Fiddlers putting this on. This is a VAC/Tin Can Tourists event.

To contact the Fiddlers folks directly:

https://www.facebook.com/Montana-Old-Time-Fiddlers-Picnic-Aug-5-Aug-7-2016-403947783036154/

http://www.visitlivingston.org/festivals-events/

Hosts: Steve and Reg Bittner, herkypig@hotmail.com





Bend Classic Vintage Trailer Rally

August 10th-14th, 2016

J Bar J Ranch, Bend, OR

The Bend Classic Vintage Trailer Rally will be held at the J Bar J Ranch just East of Bend, OR. Camping will be on a grassy field with the Cascade Front in full view. There is some water and 110 electric but this is a ranch and not a trailer park.

This is the same weekend as the HUGE Flashback Cruz car show in Bend. Bend is packed with places to go and things to do. Proceeds will benefit the youth programs of the ranch. It is a Tin CanTourist rally, please come and enjoy.

Attendees will get a personalized branded permanent event name tag with preregistration, window placard and an "event" open/closed sign. \$50 registration includes camping.

Host: Dal Smilie, dalsmilie@aol.com







VACmidwest Autumn Built Like a Rock Rally

September 15th—18th, 2016

Backbone State Park, Dundee, IA

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks-Rec-Areas/Iowas-State-Parks/ParkDetails/ParkID/610105
"Nature reserve with climbing, hiking, biking, fishing, snowmobiling, camping & cabin & boat rentals." (Sure hope we don't have snowmobile weather!)

We will be camping in the modern South Lake campground with electric and some full hookup sites to accommodate those with small vintage tanks. The campsites can be reserved, 90 days in advance JUNE 15th. Sites 1-23 preferred. Cable rentals and tent sites are also available. Make your own reservations: http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/backbone-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610105

Please let us know you are coming!

The area offers fishing (with lowa license and trout requires the additional trout stamp). Trout fishing in lowa! Let Scott know if you'd like to join him. Also hiking, mountain bike trails, rock climbing, and canoeing on Maquoketa River are possibilities. There is a lot of CCC era infrastructure in the park.

Editor's note: I had to ask Kathy Allen what CCC stood for and Wright's Cedar Rock? this was her reply:

"CCC is the Civilian Conservation Corps. They were people, generally young men, who needed a job during the depression years. The government hired the young men, fed and housed them, and paid them to build government projects, like park buildings, trails, etc. The men were expected to send part of their pay back home to their families. They worked long hours at hard exhausting work, which also kept them tired and less likely to create mischief/lawlessness. CCC also hired artists to paint murals, many can be seen in old post offices."

Cedar Rock, one of the most complete designs by Frank Lloyd Wright, a Usonian house is nearby and Eileen could arrange a group tour Saturday morning. It is our rally theme - "Built Like a Rock Rally"!

*Bring your own chair, place settings, cups, utensils- - for meals and for happy hours.

Thursday night:

Welcome campfire with popcorn.

Friday:

Day on your own to explore, relax, hike, bike, fish, canoe. Happy Hour with shared munchies about 4-6, campfire following.

Saturday:

Morning, Blueberry pancakes, BYOC, BYOOJ (bring your own coffee and orange juice).

Morning, drive/Carpool to Frank Lloyd Wright's Cedar Rock. Open House in the VAC tradition 2-4 Saturday, bring your restoration photos.

Happy Hour with shared munchies about 4-6, campfire following.

"Rock the Crock" Potluck, 6pm, bring a one-pot dish to share (not necessarily crockpot) - main dishes, sides, or dessert.

Sunday:

Morning, VACmidwest Famous Biscuits and Gravy, BYOC, BYOOJ (bring your own coffee and orange juice). A breakfast vintage presentation is being planned. Details to follow.

Interested? And are you interested in touring Frank Lloyd Wright's Cedar Rock?

Hosts: Ed and Eileen Pauley

Until July 31, 2016-- contact me: <u>KathyAllen3534@gmail.com</u>

or <u>515-473-0256</u>

After July 31, 2016 contact Eileen: epauley@jtt.net or 319-827-3167

SYDTR!

Submitted by Kathy Allen

(For Scott Allen, VACmidwest Region 8 Representative)

Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



May/June 2016

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



2015—2016 **VAC Officers**

President, Iain Cameron

1st VP, Steve Laxton

2nd VP, Victor Blood

3rd VP

Recording Secretary, Mary Doster

Treasurer, Shirley Bollinger

Past President, Kimber Moore

2015—2016

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

Region 8, Scott Allen

Region 9, Lance McEwan

Region 10, Rob & Diane Nicol

Region 11, Chris Hildenbrand

Region 12, Melissa Yee