

**March 2013
Vintage Airstream Club**

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Quick Links

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**VAC Newsletter 1993
Issue one
A Little Bit of History**

Volunteer It's been fun starting the club, but I spend about two full days a week at it. I can't possibly carry this full load next year. And what do you think about getting out 600 news-letters next year. The questionnaire gives you opportunities to volunteer; nothing will happen unless you do. Need a treasurer, right now please. Need a computer source of mailing labels too. Officers, sure.

R.L. Cooper, Editor in Chief

2012-2013 Officers

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

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

Wally Byam Creed

Message from Chris, VAC President

Like many vintage Airstream owners we have been busy this winter. Our current project is the restoration of Dr. Floyd and Ethel Yeager's 1962, twenty-six foot Overlander. As some may already know Floyd and Ethel Yeager and their 1962 Overlander were one of forty-seven trailers and 108 world travelers that circumnavigated the globe in their Airstreams. This adventure known as the Around the World Caravan was the brain child of Wally Byam. Wally and a few others thought they had such a great time on the Cape Town to Cairo Caravan they started making plans for the next great caravan. It was Wally's dream to follow the old caravan routes of Marco Polo, some seven centuries earlier. Unfortunately, Wally passed away in 1962 before the caravan departed. The good news is, Helen Schwamborn, Wally's cousin and secretary of the Wally Byam Caravan Club and Andy Charles, Airstream President at the time made Wally's dream happen. The adventure started in the fall of 1963 in Long Beach, California where a group of mostly strangers loaded their trailers and trucks on one ship and themselves on another and headed West. The group consisted of 108 men, women, and children with members ranging in age from nine months to some in their 70's. The group according to McGregor Smith Jr, visited thirty-one countries in total and covered over 30,000 miles, in thirteen months. The list of countries visited included Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Sikkum, Nepal, India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), West Pakistan (Pakistan), Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain, and finally Portugal.

With all the places in the world the Yeager's took our trailer and all the miles traveled on both good, bad and sometimes no roads, you cannot help, but wonder how this trailer or any of the forty-seven trailers survived at all. According to McGregor Smith Jr. and his book Thank You Marco Polo, two of the original forty-seven trailers did not survive the caravan. One was destroyed in an accident with a large truck in India and the second burned to the ground at a gas station in India. As Fred Coldwell, former VAC historian said, "The first two years of an Around the World trailer's life was the worst two years of its life." If our trailer is any indication, Fred is right! The trucks, trailers and their passengers survived everything from broken axles and torn belly pans to flat tires and engine rebuilds, all in the least convenient places. According to Joe Peplinski, current VAC Historian, six of the original 47 trailers are known to survive in the US and possibly two survive in England. None of the known survivors were in good condition when found and if this is any indication of the rest, most will have lost their identities or have been destroyed. Even with this sad reality, every once in awhile a previously unknown Around the World survivor does come out in the open. The most recent was the discovery of Fran Hall's WBCCI #83, just last summer.

At this point in time, the Yeager's trailer is an empty shell. All that is left on the inside is aluminum ribs and a severely rusted frame. Half of the belly pan has been removed to facilitate repairing the frame and to install a gray water tank. The entire interior is in my shop waiting its turn to be restored. We keep plodding on with the restoration when time allows. Our goal is to have the Yeager's trailer on the road and usable, but probably not done by the start of the 50th Anniversary Around the World Wagon Wheel Caravan. We plan to tow the trailer with a 1964 Ford F250 High Boy 4x4 truck, much like they did on the Around the World Caravan. We just hope the roads are a little smoother in South Dakota. Safe Travels, Chris

News and Views From WBCCI ECC Committee

Are you receiving the **News and Views from the WBCCI Electronic Communications Committee**? The March 2013, Issue 7 just arrived and it includes maps of courtesy parking locations, tentative schedules and seminars for International, book reviews, and articles about an Airstream resort in California and a campground in Arkansas. If you don't receive it, your email address at WBCCI headquarters is not correct or your email is blocked. Contact Cindy Reed at WBCCI to make sure your email address is correct.

2013 VAC Rallies or Events

April 24-28
Hutchinson, Kansas
"Let the Games Begin"
VAC Presentation, Vintage
Parking, and Open House
Contact Scott Allen, Region 8

May 17-19
Region 9
4th Lone Star VAC Rally
"The Shagadelic Airstream Gig"
Barefoot Camp, Bend, TX
Contact Lance McEwan, Reg 9

June 19-25
VAC 50th Anniversary Caravan
Hot Springs to DeSmet, SD

June 25-26
VAC Rendezvous at International
"Little Airstreams on the Prairie"
Laura Ingalls Wilder Homestead
DeSmet, South Dakota

June 27-July 4
56th International Rally
Huron, South Dakota

July 24- 30
"Tall Ship Festival"
Duluth, Minnesota
Contact Curtis Gunderson,
Region 7 Representative

August 2-4
39th Old Time Fiddlers Picnic
TCT and Montana WBCCI
Livingston, Montana
Contact dalsmilie@aol.com

August 9 - 12
Region 10 VAC Rally
Wenatchee River Vintage Rally
Monitor, WA
Contact Iain Cameron
Region 10 Representative

October 3 - 7
Texas Highland Lakes Unit
Vintage Airstream "Cradle of
History" Rally
Gonzales, Texas
Contact Fred /Judy Hazen jfhaz-
zen@earthlink.net or 512-261-
0122

October 17-20
Region 12 VAC West
"Wally Byam's Rustler Round-
up"
Lone Pine, California

2013 Upcoming Rally Highlights

Join the **VAC Rendezvous before International, June 25-26 in DeSmet, South Dakota**, on the grounds of the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Homestead**. The Homestead has fun for the whole family with tours of the grounds, where Laura was inspired to write her books, covered wagon rides, an 1880's school session, Ma's Little House, ponies and horses, a Prairie Exhibit and other pioneering activities, and a well-stocked gift shop. A special surprise is planned for the evening of "Little Airstreams on the Prairie." This will be an overnight stop before we become a caravan of silver wagons heading to the Vintage parking area of the WBCCI International Rally grounds in Huron, South Dakota. **Rendezvous attendees must be registered for the WBCCI International.** Registration for the Rendezvous is on the front page of vintageairstreamclub.com or contact Tim Kendziorski, VAC Vice President.

Celebrate the departure of the **50th Anniversary of the Around the World Caravan** by joining the **50th Anniversary Around the World Wagon Wheel Caravan starting in Hot Springs, South Dakota on June 19 and ending at the VAC Rendezvous in DeSmet, SD on June 25.** The caravan is designed to be fun for Airstreamers of all ages with plenty of time to explore four areas: Hot Springs, Hill City, Interior, and Pierre featuring historic sites, national monuments and parks, optional tours, wildlife and South Dakota geography. Details and registration for the Caravan is on the front page of vintageairstreamclub.com or contact Chris Hildenbrand, VAC President. Mail in registration can also be found in this newsletter.

The **Vintage Trailer Academy, previously known as the Restoration Rally is scheduled for May 2-5 in Albuquerque, NM.** An event for serious restorers to learn new skills, sharpen existing skills, and gain hands-on experience. The Academy features new sponsors, professional restorers, and do-it-yourself presenters from across the country. Visit the website VintageTrailerAcademy.com for information and registration.

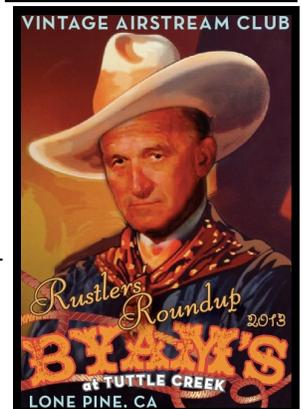
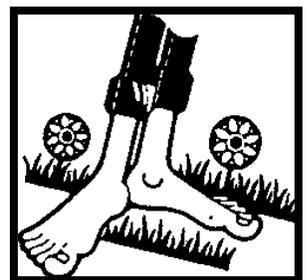
The **Lone Star VAC Presents the 4th Annual Campout, "The Shagadelic Airstream GIG" May 17-19.** It is time again to like join the vintage trailers and the vintage supporters and "book" on down to **Barefoot Camp, in Bend, Texas**, where we are going to 'take it to the limit,' and 'chill' along the Colorado River with 38 pull through sites with water and electricity. Events will include "Far Out" Happy Hours in the Psychedelic Pavilion. "Looking Good Shaggin Wagon" Open House, Don your threads for best dressed babe and man contest, and Big Tony's BBQ Dinner. Check out the "far out" places like Colorado Bend State Park, Gorman Falls and three miles of river frontage for canoes, kayaks, swimming and hiking. Call Jackie and Charlene Brewster at 325-628-3395 or barefoot@centex.net for camping reservation for Lone Star Event, \$20 per night. Rally fee is \$15 per person. WBCCI and Vintage Airstream Club membership will be required to attend; VAC membership available during rally. **Contact Lance McEwan region 9 VAC Rep., at lonestarcamp@gmail.com or 254-258-7095 for registration form.**

Paul Mayeux, VAC 2nd Vice-President at 817-919-3651 or Ann Flanagan, HOTC President at 817-919-6098 for questions

New VAC Rally!

VAC Region 12 (or as we will be calling ourselves, VACwest) will be hosting **Byam's Rustlers' Roundup, a Vintage Airstream Rally in Lone Pine, CA October 17 - 20.** Details are almost complete, but we will have tours of famous movie sites, the Cowboy Movie Museum displaying the cultural heritage of America's cinematic history in Inyo County and the Manzanar Relocation Center.

This will be a mostly dry camping weekend with a dump station and potable water available nearby. We will have plenty of activities during the evenings including films made around the area. Bring the family for an entire weekend of fun. Details and an online sign up form will be available shortly. **Contacts: Tim Kendziorski, Kimber Moore, Jim and Lynda Polk**



Region Reps

Region Representatives should be your first contact for VAC information in your area.

Full contact information including addresses and phone numbers can be found on the VAC website or in the most recent Vintage Advantage magazine.

E-mail your representative:

Vacregion# @vintageairstreamclub.com

(insert region number in place of #)

Region 1: Gary Campbell
Region 2: Bob Novak
Region 3: George D. James
Region 4: Ken Faber
Region 5: Dwight Dixon
Region 6: Herb Spies
Region 7: Curt Gunderson
Region 8: Scott Allen
Region 9: Pat McDowell
Region 10: Iain Cameron
Region 11: Ken Johansen
Region 12: Jim Polk

New System for Membership Data

The VAC has begun to use its new relational data base which replaces the spreadsheet. This is a significant improvement in efficiency and accuracy for the membership chair. It also provides new features for members. The data base can accommodate two email addresses for a membership. Renewal notices will be automated with the new system. A detailed description of the changes will be published soon.

Editor's Thoughts, Rhonda

Richard Girard, VAC member and Region 11 President, has been nominated for WBCCI International 3rd Vice President. In a recent Region 11 newsletter Richard stated, "Jan and I made the decision to run for this office after the International last year. It is a commitment that we take very seriously, and we look forward to serving the members of the club over the years to come." **Congratulations to Richard and Jan.**

I am still interested in finding all the charter members that belong to the VAC. I know there has to be more than three. I am still interested in hearing from you.

Quick Tech Idea, Jim Cooper, VAC Technical Advisor



What's the black thing? It's a pressure accumulator. So? Without it, any time you turn the water on, the noisy pump cycles. With it, you can run a little water, and the pump doesn't cycle. Why is that? As the water pressure builds, it compresses air in the top of the accumulator. Then when water is used, the compressed air expands to maintain the pressure in the system. There is no free lunch, when the pump does cycle, it will run long enough to re-compress the air, but at least it's not turning on every time someone touches a faucet. It will also reduce pump wear and electrical draw on the battery.

You can either buy or build. A DIY accumulator can be sized to fit the space, but the air pocket must be at the top of the tank. A purchased tank has limited size choices, but will work in any position. It has a diaphragm between the water and air.

Mine is made of four inch plastic pipe with end caps. The bottom cap has a fitting threaded into it. Water flows in and out the bottom. Unused for a long time, and the water will absorb the compressed air, and you will be left without air pressure. Each time your RV is parked with the pump off and not connected to external water, the water will drain out of the tank to be replaced by air, and ready to use on the next trip. The bottom of the accumulator can't be the lowest point in your system, and I'm not sure how long the accumulator will function if not drained, but mine has always worked for the past few years in our 1967 Globe Trotter. The view pictured is looking into the closet with the bathroom on the left and the wheel well and heater on the right.

Vendor List Jim Cooper, VAC Technical Advisor

Well, we are off to a very poor start. One member has recommended a service supplier. I see no point in publishing a list with less than ten part or service suppliers recommended. We need participation before the next newsletter. I can think of four recommendations myself, even though I have done most of my own work. What can you think of?

If you are happy with the parts or service you have received and believe your fellow members would be also, we need to hear from you. We need to know who, what service is provided, an address, phone and email for the provider.

Can you imagine the value of a nationwide list of VAC recommended vendors? Can you imagine having trouble with your RV hundreds of miles from home? Has anyone ever asked you where to get, or who can fit....? If you don't make the recommendations, there won't be a list. Send recommendations to: techadviser@vintageairstreamclub.com

Newsletter
6200 Choke Cherry Dr
Loveland, CO 80537



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

MARCH 2013

The Vintage Airstream Club
Is an Intra-club of the

WBCCI

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

50th Anniversary Around the World Wagon Wheel Caravan
June 19 –25 Hot Springs to DeSmet, South Dakota
Only 15 Spaces Left and Registration Closes May 1, 2013

Name _____ WBCCI # _____ Trailer length _____
Mobile Phone _____ Address _____
Pets (type and number) _____
Names of all participants with ages of children 12 and under _____

Caravan fee (per trailer) June 19th-25th, 2013 \$300.00
Per person fee

Adult _____ x \$65.00 per adult = _____
Child 12 and under _____ x \$40.00 per child = _____

Optional Tours

1. Mammoth Site tour and lunch June 21st, 2013

Adult _____ x \$25.00 per adult = _____
Child 12 and under _____ x \$20.00 per child = _____

2. 1880 Vintage Train w/ wine and cheese June 22nd, 2013

Adult _____ x \$40.00 per adult = _____
Child 12 and under _____ x \$22.00 per child = _____

3. Oahe Dam and Power Plant w/ lunch June 24th, 2013

Person _____ x \$5.00 per person = _____
Total _____

Send Form and Check to: Chris Hildenbrand 8888 W. 38th Avenue Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Questions: 303-726-7771