



Message from VAC President

I'm writing this after returning home to Texas from the International Rally in Escanaba, Michigan. We had at least 60 vintage Airstreams near the VAC tent and more dispersed either in the fairgrounds or in outlying overflow campgrounds. The rally began with the VAC parade thru town led by a city fire truck and several vintage cars. At the head of the parade was WBCCI president and VAC members Richard & Jan Girard with their vintage trailer followed by over 30 additional vintage trailers.

VAC had a successful rally at International and the events at and around the tent included a fried chicken dinner, over 50 trailers for open house, the Concours D'Elegance, a wine and cheese tasting sponsored by a local winery, the annual members meeting, a seminar by Jim Polk about vintage trailer values and appraisals, coffee every morning and movies each night. The movies didn't have too many attendees because it didn't get dark until 10:00 p.m. and the mosquitoes were fierce!

Last year the Website was moved from a private server to the WBCCI server which should resolve some of the communication issues including not being able to send mass emails to members. Larry Scovotto, the Region 3 rep. has taken over the website and is actively working with the WBCCI web administrator and past administrators. The information on the website is now up to date.

As soon as we can get all the protocols and programming tools up to speed, we will be adding a shopping cart to the website so VAC merchandise can be purchased online with Paypal which will greatly simplify and speed up the process. Our new Quartermaster Christine Kirk has updated our merchandise and added a number of new items. The order form on the website is now correct with the new merchandise.

Last year Rhonda Cooper took over as VAC membership chairman. She is handling the transition to annual dues aligning with WBCCI dues, notifying members when those are due and will be sending introductory letters to new members. Her husband, past VAC president Jim Cooper, designed both ours and the WBCCI databases and they mesh seamlessly. Rhonda emailed me that she processed 40 new VAC members when she arrived home from the International Rally.

Next year will see the first WBCCI numbered VAC caravan in almost 20 years which will run from Baker City thru the Oregon mountains to the Rendezvous and the Salem International Rally. The WBCCI Caravan Chairman is encouraging VAC to create our own caravans and would like to see more! He has even modified the numbering system with a VAC suffix to distinguish ours from the regular WBCCI caravans.

It is very important for the health of the club to re-establish regular communication to members, particularly through our newsletter. We have not had a newsletter emailed for a year, and Lee & Joyce Cantrell have graciously volunteered to take over those duties. Please email Lee and send information about upcoming rallies, so we can publish those and any stories, photos, adventures, experiences and lessons learned so we can add them to upcoming newsletters. Upcoming rally information can be put into the Blue Beret as well.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of your VAC officers with feedback, suggestions or ideas for improvements to the club. As president, I welcome your input and usually respond quickly to emails. You can email me at president@vintageairstreamclub.com

Information about my wife and myself: I am a "semi" retired commercial Architect, and my wife AJ (VAC recording secretary) is a retired elementary school counselor. We live in Euless, Texas, midway between Dallas and Ft. Worth and own two Argosies. A 1977 Argosy 28' which we are renovating and a 1978 Argosy Minuet 6.0 (20'). We have been members of WBCCI since early 2014 and members of VAC since attending the 2014 International Rally in Gillette, Wyoming. We are also members or affiliates of three Texas WBCCI units. We are looking forward to the coming year as VAC president and recording secretary and hope to meet many new members at rallies and events this year.

Safe travels and see you down the road!

Victor & AJ

BEND CLASSIC RALLY, 25th Anniversary VAC Rally

Submitted by Dal Smilie



This rally will be held June 17-20 with campers pulling out by the morning of June 20. It will be held on the J Bar J Youth Ranch at 62895 Hanby Road, Bend, OR 97701. Fees are \$25 per night the proceeds of which go to the Youth Ranch, a 501c3.

There is limited water and 110 electric available but there will be porta potties. But consider this as dry camping. Propane fires only! The ranch is on a paved road and about 3 miles from the center of town

The rally is open to all vintage Airstreams, Argosys, Byam Holidays and Curtis Wright trailers and any other Airstreams on their way to the International Rally. It is a way point for the 2018 Baker City-Salem VAC Caravan

The Bend Classic is urging all Airstreamers who play acoustic roots music to bring their instruments and play. We expect to have some of Bend's bluegrass/old timey music community there also. If you don't play, come and tap your toes.

Flytecamp will host us at an open house and BBQ on June 18.

Bend has 140 restaurants, 36 micro breweries, a river running through it and lots to do.

Contact Dal Smilie, Rally Host at dalsmilie@aol.com or 406 461-3714

VACation in Oregon!

VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB

Submitted by Dal Smilie and Paul Drag

VAC Caravan, Baker City to Salem

number U-47 VAC

June 13 -21, 2018

25th Anniversary of the WBCCI Vintage Airstream Club



The Caravan will encourage strumming & picking along the way. It begins in Baker City Oregon & ends at the VAC Rendezvous 2 days before the Vintage Parade on Sat, 23 June.

Starting in NE Oregon for 2 days at Mt View RV Park in Baker City, (Wally Byam's birth place), we'll visit Wally's Museum & the Oregon Trail Museum. We travel through fields & canyons of wheat & ranch land to the Fossil Beds National Monument, on to the Wilson Guest Ranch for a BBQ & cowboy music staying the night. Next, down to the Columbia to Hood River, camping at the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum.

Going south from there by way of Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood, to Bend for 2 days at the

J-Bar-J Ranch for the Bend Classic VAC Music Rally, which will be open to VAC & all WBCCI camping & local non camping toe tappers & pickers. Starting the second segment in Bend with an open house & BBQ at Flytcamp, we drive to Crescent Lake Hoodoo USFS Group Campground that brings us to the Free Emigrant Road leading to Eugene. Going North again into the Cascade Range through Westfir, we stay at Belknap Hot Springs Resort on the McKenzie River before our last days drive into Salem to meet up with the VAC Rendezvous at Heritage Power Land in Brooks Oregon. The Caravan is in 2 segments: Baker City to Bend (June 13-17), Bend to Salem (June 18-22). Both segments together have priority. Maximum number of rigs on the Caravan is 15. Sign up is required with a \$200.00 deposit, refundable before 1 March & applied to the Caravan kitty of \$470.00 per rig, due 1 April. Kitty Fee is \$270.00 for camping & \$200.00 for 3 camp meals & 3 catered meals.

Caravan Leaders: Questions to:

Paul Drag, ...pdrag1933@gmail.com....tel 949 6777512

Dal Smilie, Dal...dalsmile@aol.com.....tel 406 4613714

Send check to: Shirley Bollinger...P.O Box 99, Sutter Creek, Ca 95685

Shirley....moondogranch@me.com

VAC NEWSLETTER 2017

Submitted by Dal Smilie

6th ANNUAL FIDDLERS PICNIC RALLY, 2017, Livingston, MT

The Fiddlers Picnic Rally was held August 4-6 at the Mercier Ranch just South of Livingston, MT. The Tin Can Tourist but VAC friendly rally is held on the same property and at the same time as the Montana Old Time Fiddlers Picnic each year. It is a fundraiser for the Picnic. The Picnic has been held for over 40 years and the Rally is in its 5th year.

About 500 pickers attend and many of them camp on the ranch. The Fiddlers Picnic Rally attendees parked in their own area and benefitted from "surround sound" all weekend. Some of our attendees brought their instruments and joined the fun. The Picnic provides the meat and condiments for a well attended potluck and a free pancake breakfast Sunday. With plenty of coffee for those who were toe tapping too late into the evening.

Trailers from Michigan, Florida, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana attended. There were some rare brands, some cool vintage tow vehicles and great restorations. New friends were made and old friendships renewed. There were first



timers and rally veterans. One trailer didn't make it because forest fires limited egress from their property in Western Montana, another couple of trailers had problems on the road (campfire tales for the future!).

No campfires were allowed due to the extreme fire danger but tales were told and a pop up hors d'oeuvres party filled the need for dinner. The weather was grand, with a near full moon.



The Old Mercier Ranch is on the South side of Livingston which is the gateway town for Yellowstone's North Entrance. It sits on the bank of the Wild and Scenic Yellowstone River. The town is fun and there is lots of fishing, hiking, biking and horseback riding to be had in the area.

We look forward to seeing you August 3-5, 2018 for the 7th Annual Fiddlers Picnic Rally.

Hi Lee,

Terry Tyler WBCCI #6477 - Washington DC Unit, VAC

Now that I'm rolling and using a Verizon jetpack - receiving your request for an article was a stroke of luck. Today I'm in the middle of my first trip - enjoying radiant floor heat in my 50 year old Airstream. It's cat's meow on chilly mornings here in the mountains.



The below website answers the usual questions asked by other traveling RVers these last few weeks. It describes how the floor is warmed with radiant heat whether boondocking on undeveloped land without any hookups using my own 12 volt battery power, — or parked in a commercial campground using an electric cord connected to their power grid..

<https://www.proudgreenhome.com/articles/radiant-floor-heating-for-rvs-and-travel-trailers->

How did all this come about? Last year, my RV Tech [trusted friend who makes house calls] removed everything inside my smaller Airstream [into his big garage]; reinforced its frame in two locations to accommodate four new Duracell 6 volt group 27 GC batteries [in vented battery boxes]; then upgraded the inverter to 3,000 watt [a PD4000 Series Power Control Center]; and installed a 12' strip of radiant heat.



All told - everything functions as designed - including an all new suspension system etc., etc. installed two years ago by P&S. You guessed it, I'm just another one of those die hard Vintage Airstream guys whose interest in modifying and experimenting with his "oldies but goodies" is still brisk, active and fun to do.

The outside and inside of my Airstream looks like any other similar vintage Airstream. It's subtle details that tell another story, for example - all wiring has been done to 2017 specifications including installing GFI Duplex receptacles [with usb ports] and even a battery disconnect switch.

New but generally not noticed changes are a water heater by-pass kit, hot and cold water faucets [and shower sprayer], a 2" A frame coupler, a replacement vinyl awning, 30 amp circuit breakers, and all the fittings and materials associated with these and other "attention to detail" labor items.

As you might suspect, my 1967 Airstream has the usual features: a very shiny exterior, polished 30# propane tanks with the spare tire and bracket behind them, two solar panels [bought used years ago], a brightly lit license plate light, resilient plank flooring, and the list goes on.

What not page ?????



Photos taken at the VAC area during the WBCCI International Rally 2017 Escanaba, MI.



Movie night



VAC Dinner



Jim Polk Seminar



Wine and Cheese Presentation

Very interesting note submitted by Ryan Knowles from Beatrice, Nebraska, on securing your propane tanks to your vintage trailer.

“I did this on our trailer so it would be at the very least a little more difficult for my tanks to walk away.”

First I drilled a hole in the tank locating strap. (1)



I then marked the tank with a sharpie and drilled a hole (2) in the ring at the bottom of the tank.



A short lock (3) is preferable so it would be more difficult for the bolt cutter to cut.”



Newsletter editors are Joyce and Lee Cantrell

Please submit articles by the 20th of each month. Our goal is for creating 6 issues a year. This depends on how many articles are submitted.

Let us know of any VAC Rallies from your region and submit a article with photographs.

Submit information/articles to: newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com