



# Vintage Airstream Club Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club

September 2011

The **Vintage Airstream Club** is an *Intra-club* of **WBCCI**  
*Wally Byam Caravan Club International*

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You must be a member of the WBCCI to join the Vintage Airstream Club.

[Join the WBCCI](#)

## Calendar

### Upcoming Rallies

**31st Annual Hobo Rally**  
**Region 12 Event**  
**February 6-12, 2012**  
**Colorado River Fairgrounds**  
**Blythe, California**

Please let us know about upcoming rallies so they can be included in the newsletter and posted on the website.

## Announcements

Please send announcements that need to be included in the newsletter.

## Did You Know?

***"Don't give me any reasons why it can't be done."***

Wally Byam

**If you want the VAC to be active, vibrant and successful, don't play from the sidelines.**

## Message from Jim, VAC President

Those of us living north of somewhere see the end of the trailering season on the horizon. We go to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta next week, and then winterize. Last week we spent a few days in Cody, Wyoming. Everything there is named after Buffalo Bill Cody. You can't comprehend the size and quality on their museum until you see it. From there we took a day trip to Cooke City, Red Lodge, and back. Charles Kuralt said the Beartooth Highway is, "The most beautiful drive in America." I agree, but don't do it with your trailer unless you want to climb 3000 feet in twelve miles with 19 switchbacks. This drive should be on your bucket list.

My compliments to Kimber for another great issue of the Vintage Advantage. She has presented us with outstanding content and quality. I especially appreciated the travel article by Dallas and Pam; after all, it's what Wally wanted us to do. Restoration isn't always about aluminum as Tim pointed out with his motor home engine article. How many of you have restored vintage tow vehicles to go with your trailer?

There are many VAC irons in the fire, but I want to mention changing the constitution. The Board wants the VAC to have greater flexibility regarding when, where, and how The VAC meets to conduct business. I will keep you informed of progress through this Newsletter, the Vintage Advantage, and encourage your comments on the VAC forums.

In 1963 Wally led the Around The World caravan. Our Historian, Joe Peplinski, suggested the VAC celebrate its 50 Anniversary in 2013. This is getting a lot of support among the officers, and some very exciting ideas are surfacing. VAC officers own two of the trailers that participated in the caravan, and Joe thinks there are two others owned by WBCCI / VAC members. Joe also knows of people who were on the caravan. Possibilities for this celebration will be a feature of the next newsletter.

## Constitution Changes, Jim

Members voted to change the VAC Constitution and Bylaws at the Du Quoin International, but we had to withdraw the change because it was not published to the membership early enough. I am now working with Bob Novak, our Parliamentarian to review the entire document. We intend to correct poor and conflicting wording, and build in flexibility.

Today the VAC is required to hold its annual Business Meeting at the WBCCI International in June. It must also hold a Board Meeting before and after the Business Meeting. Officers are also elected at the Business Meeting.

Technical Representative,  
Bud Cooper, wrote 250  
letters of advice according to  
the minutes of the general  
meeting of the VAC held on  
July 2, 1998 in Boise, Idaho.

In 1998 the VAC had over  
twenty appointed positions  
including Auditor, Internet,  
Librarian, Photographer,  
Parade Chair, Procedure  
Book, Sunshine, Blue Beret  
Editor, News Editor, VA  
Liaison, Membership,  
Nominating, Historian,  
Parliamentarian, Manuals  
Librarian, Concourse  
Steward, Sign-Up Table,  
Signs and Printing, Video  
Chair, and Bulletin Board.

Just like today, the VAC in  
1998 also had twelve region  
representatives.

**One More Time!**

**We Need You!**

Three VAC Vacancies:

- Librarian
- Technical Advisor
- Region 12  
Representative

**Please send Renovation,  
Rally or Historical WBCCI  
Event Stories to Kimber  
Moore, Vintage  
Advantage Editor**

a  
ce

**Facebook and  
Twitter**

We will propose changes that allow these meeting to be held when and where needed, with proper notice to the membership. Additionally, changes will allow for online and / or phone conference meetings, and possibly online voting. I have been in contact with current WBCCI President, Barry Heckenswiler, to assure him that the VAC remains committed to participation at the upcoming Internationals.

## **Editor's Notes, Rhonda Cooper**

Last month I took the Globetrotter to Estes Park, Colorado for a weekend. Three women with three shiny Airstreams trailers caused a little stir in the campground, first by the hosts and then our neighbors. We entertained many questions and held a few impromptu open houses.

A few years ago, many women at the Old Threshers Rally challenged each other to take the wheel and drive home. As a result I take my turn driving as we tow down the road and help getting hooked and unhooked, but I have never gone on a solo adventure until the Estes Park trip. Now I have come full circle and am ready for another weekend with friends, sans husbands.

I heard from Marian and Leo Beckman describing the Hobo Rally , "Many folks have been cabin-bound or snow-bound and love to go south for the Hobo Rally. It's a really laid back event and truly suits the VAC group. One of the most fun times we had at this rally was the warmth and friendship of the VAC group." The 31<sup>st</sup> National Hobo Rally happens February 6-12, 2012 at the Colorado River Fairground in Blythe, California. Check out the website for details including a Vintage Open House and registration form.  
[www.region12.wbcci.net](http://www.region12.wbcci.net)

## **Quick Tech -- Axles, Jim Cooper**

Over time the rubber in the axle losses its flexibility and becomes ridged. The inner square shaft shown in the picture, of a cut off axle, rotates with the swing arm by compressing the four rubber rods. The rubber rods in an old axle cannot be compressed. By the way, axle rating in pounds is increased at the factory by increasing the length of the rods, which applies more force against compression.

Check out the links on the back cover of the Vintage Advantage magazine for the Facebook and Twitter accounts for the VAC.

Past President Dallas Peak shared a few comments about Face Book. Facebook is amorphous. It is free form. It is what people are thinking at the moment. It's good to get on there and post something every so often to stimulate interaction.

Definitely use it to announce upcoming publications, rallies, events and to build enthusiasm. But also try to encourage people to post things they are working or fixing, or a trip they are taking.

Do you Twitter? Would you take a minute to share your thoughts about using Twitter?

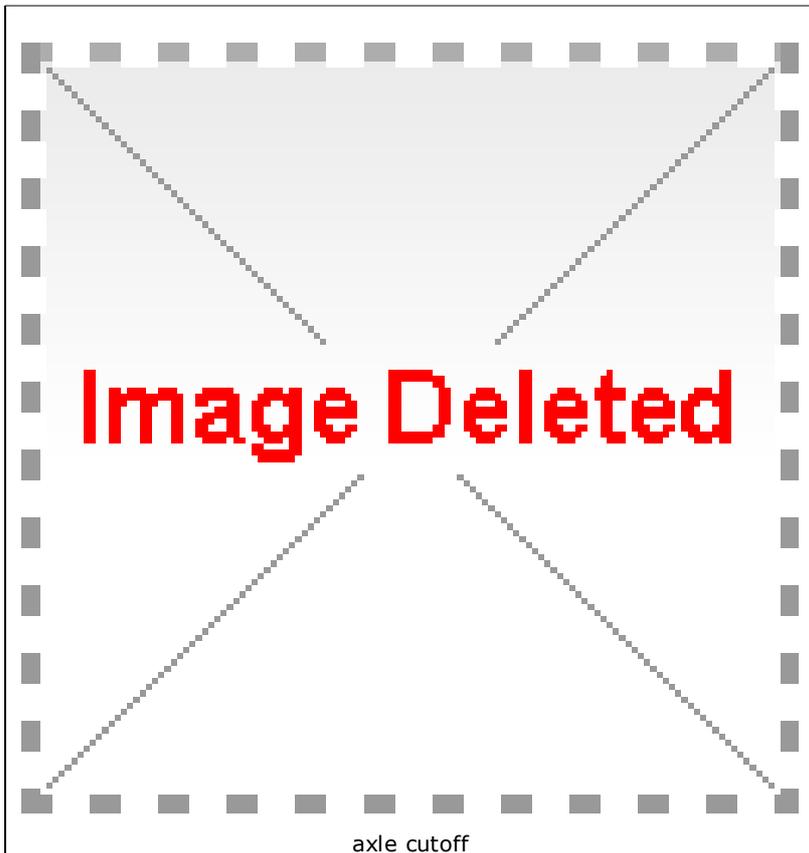
### Service to Tech Authors

Colin Hyde has served as the VAC Technical Advisor for some time. Current business demands don't allow him to continue in this role, but there is good news. Colin has agreed to provide a service to VAC authors writing technical articles. He will check and comment on technical content. He's not your wordsmith, but he will add to your technical confidence before the article goes to press. We want good technical information published, as it represents the VAC.

### Next Issue

Next month we will feature Region Representatives.

We have received a bio from Curt Gunderson of Region 7 and hope to have the others soon.



How do you know if your axle needs to be replaced? Here are the common symptoms:

- Swing arm is horizontal and won't drop down more than an inch at the spindle if trailer is jacked up.
- Rivets pop loose inside, or seams open in and around cabinets.
- Hangers and clothes bounce off rods
- Age of trailer axle
- Over 25 years old, think about a new axle.
- Over 30 years old, can you justify not replacing the axle?
- Over 40 years, replace the axle.

One last point, small trailers (Caravels, Bambi, and others) in the early sixties had five lug wheels and a smaller wheel spindle. They have broken as seen here. Don't take the risk. Replace the axle if it has a five lug wheel.

When ordering an axle, weigh your trailer. Add 500 pounds to the empty dry weight of a short trailer to get loaded weight, or 1000 pounds to a medium length. Increase the loaded weight by 15% to get maximum axle rating. If you over-rate an axle too much, the suspension will be too stiff. Modern axles have many options: swing arm down angle, mounting to raise the trailer, shock absorber brackets, self adjusting brakes, and others. Be sure you understand the options, and most importantly, the critical dimensions.

### Safety Message Dwight Dixon, VAC Region 5 Representative and Safety Chairman for Northern Illinois Unit

After my recent ambulance ride and three hours in the emergency room, I wish to share a few words of caution

Letters to the Editor

Your Quick Tech Article

Your Rallies or Announcements

with my fellow outdoor camping friends. I have been stung by many types of "bees" over the years and not had nearly this bad a reaction before. This time, I was cutting the grass where we park the old 1963 Airstream. I was stung by two ground bees on the ankles. I continued to cut and suddenly, within 10 minutes, I collapsed to the ground. Luckily, a neighbor called 911 and at the hospital, I was given an epinephrine shot and treated for shock.

There are 27 varieties of "bees" busy this time of year. "Bee" aware of them. Since the victims usually cannot identify the particular type of bee they were stung by, the incidents are all reported as bees, but actually include: bees, wasps, yellow jackets, and hornets. Just because you have not had a severe reaction to a particular bee sting in the past, does not mean you are completely safe. Different bees produce different venoms and your resistance can change over the years.

Anaphylactic shock is an over-reaction of the immune system. The basic treatment is the use of immune system blockers. The most commonly used one is Benadryl, which is an antihistamine. It is low cost and can be bought over the counter without a script. Epinephrine is much stronger and is the active drug in EpiPens. EpiPens can only be bought with a prescription and for a little less than \$100 and have about an 18 month shelf life.

When I might encounter bees, I have been told to keep Benadryl and an EpiPen on my person. I know of one other member of the Northern Illinois Unit who has had similar experiences and diagnosis. He carries an EpiPen with him whenever he is camping or outdoors. Be prepared! Everyone who is likely to encounter bees should have a rapid acting form of Benadryl immediately available in their car or camper. The liquid form is the fastest acting, but you can also chew the tablets or the liquid capsules. Do not wait until you feel the effects, as that may be too late. For an adult, some doctors recommend taking at least 50 milligrams of Benadryl immediately after the sting and try to prevent getting stung more than once. Do not drive after taking Benadryl, as it can make you drowsy or you might lose consciousness from the reaction to the sting. If your breathing becomes constricted, the tongue or lips swell or you become cold or start to shiver, have someone take you to the

nearest hospital or call 911. There are more specific recommendations on the drug packaging.

Here is a link to an article on WebMD about stings:  
<http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/bee-and-wasp-stings>

We need your feedback and suggestions, not just about the Newsletter, but about the Vintage Airstream Club in general. Your suggestions, questions, and comments will be forwarded to the proper club officer. Send to the [Editor](#)

**Sincerely,**

Rhonda Cooper  
Newsletter Editor  
Vintage Airstream Club

[Forward email](#)



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