

Vintage Airstream TODAY

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



September/October 2020 <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/>

VAC officers for 2021

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president@vintageairstreamclub.com
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Past Pres. - Rachel Payne
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Items needed for upcoming newsletters: tech ideas, maintenance procedures, courtesy parking. Short articles with photos that you have taken this summer.

Newsletter Editors:
Joyce and Lee Cantrell
Email us newsletter items at: cantrellnewslettervac@gmail.com

A note from our Vintage Airstream Club President Ed Valentin

It has been a challenging time as we deal with COVID-19 and balance outdoor camping activities. Many VAC members at this time are catching up on their vintage trailer projects. Some of us are replacing components in our rigs, polishing and reupholstering furniture. I decided it was time to replace the axles on our 1985 Sovereign. It sounds like we are making the best of this challenging situation. The VAC board is busy focusing on next year's rendezvous and 2021 VAC International Activities. A pavilion has been assigned to VAC for our weekly international events. Feel free to share "things" we should consider hosting during the International Rally Week. We are in the planning phase; the best time is now to share with us; all suggestions are welcome. Lisa Sly is focused on the rendezvous and will have more to share in the coming months. The board will be hosting a virtual (Zoom) chat session in October; and an email will provide more information. The goal of the virtual chat(s) are for members to call in and share, ask questions and make suggestions. We can learn from each other. The session(s) will be recorded for future reference. We are also planning another virtual "rendezvous", but we need volunteers. If you have something you wish to share with other members on a project you are working on, an upgrade you are considering or technical guidance - consider recording it and sharing it during the next virtual rendezvous. Always, feel free to reach out to any of the board members. We are here to listen and make VAC a valuable part of owning your vintage Airstream trailer or motor home. Be safe, Ed

Dear members,

We are scheduling a virtual chat (zoom) October 24, 2020 @ 2PM CT. It will be similar to the virtual rendezvous (videos and interaction). Our focus for the chat session will be polishing techniques. If you wish to share your polishing technique(s) with us, you are welcome to submit a video; it will be shared during the chat session and open to questions. A video is not required, your participation is encouraged!

Mark your calendar, if you wish to submit a video please respond by Oct. 19, 2020 to:

president@vintageairstreamclub.com

Looking forward to greeting all of you.

Ed Valentin-VAC President, Lisa Sly - VAC 1st VP, Lynn Talsma-VAC 2nd VP

Go directly to page 8 do not pass go for a very important message from Lisa Sly, 1st VP, VAC regarding the 2021 VAC Rendezvous
Rendezvous updates will be on the website and future newsletters.



**VAC VIRTUAL OPEN
HOUSE 2020**

Dear Members—

Recently, the VAC hosted a virtual Rendezvous (Zoom meeting) since it was not possible to meet in Loveland, Colorado due to the COVID-19 situation. The VAC board was committed to share with members its traditional open house held during the yearly International Rally. It was agreed upon to embrace technology and sponsor a virtual open house which we did.

The turnout was pleasing and many shared insights surrounding upgrades and restoring techniques. The sessions were recorded for future access. The virtual "rally" allowed for the audience to question the presenter, enhancing their knowledge and potential application of the subject that was discussed. It was very interactive and many of us learned from each other, following up with the member presenting the material (polishing, 12volt appliances, axle replacement, restoring approaches...)

Our commitment is to continue to enhance our knowledge and establish a network of information and contacts for our members. During the next few months, we will continue to host virtual sessions. We are reaching out to you, requesting you to share your restoration experience, insight, approaches and to brainstorm with others. Please contact one of the VAC officers or Newsletter Editor and we will schedule you for a Zoom Virtual session. Looking forward to hearing from you; we can all learn from each other!

Be safe—Ed

3rd VP. , Treasurer, Newsletter editor needed.

Link to Constitution , By-Laws/Duties of Position: <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/vac-operations/>

LP Gas Lesson by Vern Wirka, #2139

One of the difficult hurdles in writing a story is to find the best starting point to grab attention and get the reader involved immediately. So, the first question asked in preparing this piece was should the story start before or after the fire department arrived. Now that your attention has been obtained, it must be noted that no one was injured and there was no property damage.

Our vintage Sovereign Airstream is equipped with two 30-pound tanks for LP gas. On a Friday afternoon both tanks were topped off by a local bulk propane supplier. The re-install of the tanks was normal. One gas line hose was replaced as part of routine maintenance because the existing hose, while not leaking, showed some cracks in the outer covering. Careful use of a spray bottle filled with soapy water confirmed there were no leaks on the connections to the tanks or to the switching valve regulator. With that part of the work completed, the next task was started.

The next task had nothing specifically to do with the LP tanks but in order to tell the complete story some details need to be shared. After an exhausting series of trial and error steps, an intermittent ground connection between the tow vehicle and the trailer, affecting the brake controller, was finally resolved on a hot Kansas Sunday afternoon, almost three days after the LP tanks were filled. In order to test and set the brake controller gain, the Airstream was towed to a nearby public park that has a large gravel parking lot. With my wife's assistance as observer, the brakes were tested and the controller gain was set. All was well and we headed back home. The Airstream was carefully backed into its storage space next to our house.

As preparations were being made to unhook the truck and trailer, the pungent odor of LP gas struck the olfactory cells with extreme force. The distinct sound of escaping gas resonated in the ear drums. This was not some run-of-the-mill ordinary propane gas leak. As the lid covering the LP tanks was removed, it was obvious that the pressure relief valve on one of the tanks had opened. The pressure relief valve is on the other side of the main tank control valve for obvious reasons as it is there for protection when the pressure exceeds safe limits. At this point help was needed. A major amount of LP gas was coming from the tank. The truck was still attached to the trailer. While an explosion may not have been imminent, the frightening thought of a plume of flame meant the situation had to be resolved quickly. A 911 phone call did not seem necessary, but advice was needed on what to do so the non-emergency police number was called. The very professional dispatcher on duty took down the information and said a call would be returned after conferring with the battalion fire chief. The battalion fire chief had a crew of three firefighters dispatched to our location, no lights or sirens.

Upon arrival the firefighters assessed the situation and decided they needed advice from the hazmat chief. Following the advice of the hazmat chief, the leaking tank was removed from the Airstream and carefully carried out to the street where a bleeder valve was attached. The main tank valve was then opened to relieve some pressure in the tank in the hope that the pressure valve would close. After about 45 minutes some three to four gallons of the liquid propane had been released and the pressure valve finally closed.

LPG cylinders are to be typically filled to 80%, meaning 80% liquid and 20% vapor (see figure 1). The percentages change as gas is consumed but the internal pressure depends upon the temperature of the contents. This, in turn, is affected by the ambient temperature [<https://www.elgas.com.au/blog/1969-how-much-pressure-is-in-lpg-propane-cylinders-in-what-state>].

In our case the leaking pressure relief valve was on a tank that was certified in 2017. Tanks older than ten years can no longer be used until inspected and recertified. It is possible the leaking pressure relief valve was the result of too much LP gas in the tank, and there was no room for expansion of the gas during the hot weekend weather or that the valve itself failed to operate properly. It is interesting to note that in our case the fire department approach was to reduce the internal pressure by bleeding off some of the LP gas with the bleeder valve they carry with them on the fire truck. Since the pressure is tied to internal temperature, there are some recommendations to spray cold water on the tank. This approach might lower the temperature thus reducing the pressure and getting the pressure relief valve to close [<https://www.propane101.com/safetyreliefvalve.htm>].

Under most circumstances the cost of recertification just about equals the cost of a new tank. In this case since the pressure relief valve opened, it needed inspection, at a minimum, and likely replacement. The old tank, with the suspect pressure relief valve, was returned to the bulk supplier. A new tank was purchased. The bulk supplier followed their policy and filled the new tank with 6.5 gallons of LPG, well below the rated 7.1 gallons for a 30-pound tank.

This experience was another valuable lesson in the care and operation of our vintage Airstream but also applies to anywhere LP gas is used.

LPG is liquid in a cylinder with an area at the top of the cylinder where it turns into LPG vapor under pressure. The LPG gas vapor pressure is held in the top of the bottle and the liquid LPG at the bottom, as shown in the Fig. 1 image [<https://www.elgas.com.au/blog/1969-how-much-pressure-is-in-lpg-propane-cylinders-in-what-state>].

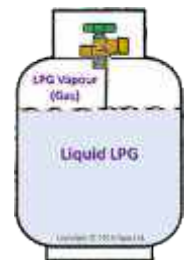


Fig. 1

VAC REGION REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Region Representatives are your best source of VAC information in your region. The VAC does have positions open for **Regions 4 and 12**. Being a Region Representative is a good way to be involved. If interested contact:

Ed Valentine president@vintageairstreamclub.com

A note from Lynn Talsma, VAC 2nd VP : “I am happy to announce that we have a new Region 3 Representative, Dick Martin, who has volunteered to serve in this position. Dick has been a VAC member for several years and has at least 3 vintage trailers including a couple of 345 Motorhomes. Dick is also involved in solar panel installations.”

On the lighter side - TRUTH OR LEGEND? By Bob Brennecke #11773

When I was a kid I remember sitting around caravan campfires listening to stories from the “Old Folks”; well it seems I have moved into that category, OLD. Since my Dad and Mom were involved in traveling for many years, they had many stories that I have not been able to glean truth from legend but many are entertaining.

This story is very close to many of us that travel after a large meal at a lunch stop. As it goes, a husband and his wife always try to make as many miles a day to get from place to place and travel as many miles in the daylight as possible. After registering many miles on the couple’s trip, they stopped for lunch. After lunch the wife frequently noticed that her husband gets groggy ready for a nap. She knows this because of drifting out of the lane they are traveling. She always keeps an eye on him and gets him engaged in conversation to keep him alert.

Although the husband usually drove while pulling the trailer, she was very capable of pulling the trailer especially since there were no curves, mountains or cities for many miles. Since the back seat was filled with things she suggested he go back in the trailer and take a nap where it was comfortable. He agreed and pulled over to go back to the trailer. Now we all know some states do not allow anyone to ride in the back of a trailer being towed but who was there in the middle of nowhere to stop them. She got out and walked her husband back to the trailer, put the steps back up when he climbed in and locked the door behind him. She then drove off slowly and carefully. (cont. on page6)

As soon as the husband got into the trailer he took off his shoes and pants and got onto the bed. About a mile down the road the wife noticed a box being blown towards the car. As she got closer it stopped moving but as soon as she got right up on it blew into the side of her car. She slowed down to a stop and got out to see what damage the box had done. Since it was a small box it didn't do any damage to the car. She quickly got back into the car to drive off so as not to obstruct the traffic that was nonexistent.

Since the husband felt the trailer stop moving he quickly got up and stuck his head out of the trailer door to see what was up. He saw nothing and since they were in the middle of nowhere he decided to get out in his underwear to see what the story was. As he took the last step down to the ground he felt the rig pull away quickly. There he stood in his socks and underwear frantically waving and screaming for his wife to stop.

The wife drove the speed limit for about an hour and a half until she saw flashing lights behind her. She pulled over and watched the trooper walk up to the car and ask her something that took her aback. The question was not, "do you know how fast you were going?", or "did you see that stop light?", but "did you lose anything?" She was very confused until she saw in her rear view mirror her husband walking towards the trooper. She was wondering why he got out of the trailer to confront a trooper in his underwear.

The trooper then said that he had been driving for a long time at a great rate of speed to catch her. She knew she had not been driving over the speed limit so why was he chasing her for a long time at a great rate of speed. She was then informed by her husband that he had been standing on the gravel next to the road in this dress or un-dress for over 45 minutes with everyone "going to and coming from waving at him." She was still confused and did not understand what was going on as yet. The husband then explained that when she stopped an hour and a half ago he got out of the trailer to see what was going on and why she stopped, and was surprised to have been left standing on the side of the road at the mercy of everyone who just wanted to wave. The trooper got the information at the restaurant they had eaten at earlier, that there was some "crazy man in his underwear in the middle of nowhere waving at everyone as they passed".

The husband thanked the trooper for giving him a long ride to catch his wife, then went back to putting his clothes on.

Greetings from Lynn Talsma, #06098, your VAC 2nd VP.

When I attended the International Rally in Doswell VA in July 2019 the extreme heat caused me to travel solo while my husband and dog stayed home and cool. Despite being alone, I was made to feel very welcome by the membership and spent the week socializing with and learning from these friendly folks. At the end of the week I decided this was a club I could volunteer with. I was inducted into the position of 3rd VP by non other than Pee Wee Schwamborn, how cool is that!!

So what is it like to step up and commit to serve this club?

First of all, the existing board welcomed me and assured me I would be guided along in my development in the club leadership. The officers mentor the junior officers, past officers remain present and contribute to the collective learning. One can expect to attend a phone conference call or Zoom meeting approximately once a month. Most board members are present as well as several of the Region Reps. Some tasks develop from these meetings and these are worked on as needed.

Second, your relationship with the club changes. You get to know and appreciate many of the people working to make this club a great club. You gain an understanding of the complexities of managing the organization, reporting to the parent organization, WBCCI, handling of merchandise, recruitment of members and officers, and the fun of planning rallies. You gain an appreciation for the history of the club and the people who built this club. You look forward to seeing your fellow volunteers at future rallies and gatherings.

Third, is there a lot of work and time commitment? Of course there is some work, but you have plenty of time to complete your tasks. This is fun! I enjoy serving with a group of people who share my passion for vintage airstreams.

Finally, I would like to urge you to consider serving in this club. Take a look at the open positions and see what fits. You will find a full description of position duties and responsibilities on the VAC website. The board members will be happy to help you transition in your new role.

All the best my vintage friends! See you down the road. Lynn Talsma, VAC 2nd VP

Vintage Airstream Club

2021 Rendezvous Rally

Wednesday, July 14 – Saturday, July 17, 2021

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Dear VAC Members:

Please join us at the beautiful Cedars of Lebanon State Park for the 2021 Vintage Rendezvous rally. This state park is only ten miles south of Nashville, TN, so it's a close commute to the International rally that starts a few days later.

All participants must make their own reservations. Please pick Area 2 as your first option to keep most of our group together. I will send out an itinerary of activities during the rendezvous, which will include a catered dinner, swap meet, entertainment, open house, parade, etc. A rally fee will be collected at a later date.

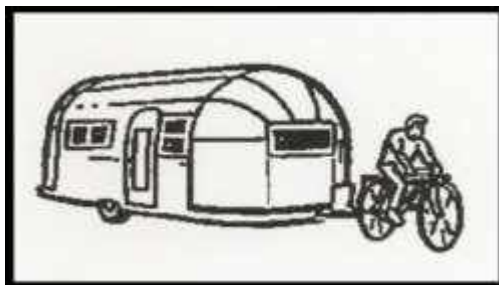
The Tennessee State Parks website is easy to use and very informative. You can also call them to reserve your spot (a real human actually answers). Please don't delay making your reservation even though this rally is still 10 months away. Camping and RVing have become extremely popular these days, and campgrounds fill up fast. TN State Parks will issue a full refund if you cancel within 48 hours of your arrival.

Further info:

Cedars of Lebanon State Park
Tntstateparks.com
328 Cedar Forest Road
Lebanon, TX 37090
Phone 615-453-2769

Please contact Lisa Sly, VAC First VP, at [li-
sa.sly@att.net](mailto:lisa.sly@att.net) for questions. I look forward to VAC members next July in Lebanon, TN.

Lisa Sly



seeing all

Rendezvous updates will be on the website and in future newsletters.

VAC Membership - Lindy Brown

New Membership Chair

Lindy Brown has volunteered to be the next VAC Membership Chair. Lindy is enthusiastic about the appointment and I know she will bring her personal touch to the membership process. Past Membership Chair Rhonda Cooper.
