

# Vintage Airstream TODAY

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



November/December 2020 <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/>

## VAC officers for 2021

President - Ed Valentin  
[president@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:president@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
1st VP - Lisa Sly  
[1stvp@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:1stvp@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
2nd VP - Lynn Talsma  
[2ndvp@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:2ndvp@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
3rd VP -??this could be you  
[3rdvp@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:3rdvp@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
Recording Sec. - Joel Ware  
[secretary@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:secretary@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
Treasurer - Shirley Bollinger  
[treasurer@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:treasurer@vintageairstreamclub.com)  
Past Pres. - Rachel Payne  
[pastpresident@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:pastpresident@vintageairstreamclub.com)

Items needed for upcoming newsletters: tech ideas, maintenance procedures, courtesy parking. Short articles with photos that you have taken this past year.

Newsletter Editors:

\*\*\* Help needed\*\*\*

## 2021 Rendezvous Rally

Wednesday, July 14 – Saturday, July 17, 2021

Dear VAC Members:

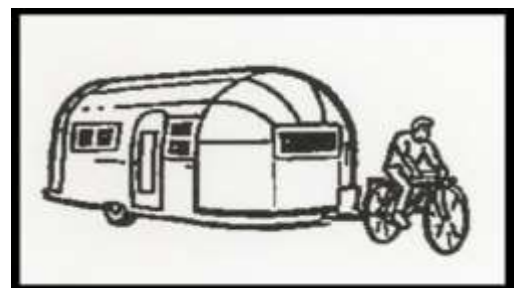
Please join us at the beautiful Cedars of Lebanon State Park for the 2021 Vintage Rendezvous rally. This state park is only ten miles south of Nashville, TN, so it's a close commute to the International rally that starts a few days later.

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 9 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](http://Tntstateparks.com)  
328 Cedar Forest Road  
Lebanon, TX 37090  
Phone 615-453-2769



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

Lisa Sly

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

## **Traveling to Baja Mexico for wintering over.**

**By Ed Valentin**

My wife and I have lived in the Northeast for many years. We enjoy the Spring, Summer and Fall, once we retired the northeast winters became a challenge. We decided to winter in Baja Mexico. It meets all our requirements for a winter getaway. We met a couple - members of the Airstream Ontario Unit - that have traveled from Canada to Baja Mexico for the past 25 winters - they are in their late 80's and don't plan to stop any time soon.. It did not take much convincing to winter in Mexico.. We considered traveling in our 1961 16ft Bambi, but with two adults a Golden Retriever and 5 months on the road the 1985 25ft Sovereign is a better "fit". We partake in a snowball caravan starting in Quebec, Canada with rigs joining as we head to Baja Mexico, rendezvousing in southern California. Typically there are about 42 rigs (not all Airstreams) that have joined the caravan by the time we arrive to the west coast. My wife and I are convinced our trailer is the most "vintage" in the group.

Planning is critical; the caravan leader(s) interact with us throughout the year as things change yearly. There are the boarder crossing and military check points that requires appropriate documentation. When traveling with a pet in Mexico there are additional requirements. We recommend several copies of all required documents. Some check points will contain copies of the documents others do not (figure!). It takes about 2.5 hrs for 42 rigs to cross the boarder. Our destination is San Felipe, Baja Mexico about a 4hr drive from the USA boarder. The landscape is magnificent and breathless. A Mexican police escort is provided once we cross the board to ensure the 42 rigs are able to get through the small towns, not having to stop for traffic lights breaking up the caravan. It is not for security reasons.. Mexico is safe ! At military check points soldiers ask questions and have the option to inspect your tow vehicle and / or trailer. We are not sure why our trailer is one of the "lucky " rigs to be inspected at these check points.. We suspect because our rig is a vintage airstream or the soliders enjoy playing with Huckberry (dog).

Once we arrive at our destination (on the beach) there is a full schedule of activities and plenty of free time. A significant number of RVers are full timers, the Mexico caravan is the highlight of their full time travels. The food is delicious, planned activities are plentiful and fellowship is wonderful. The locals are friendly and willing to help. As a vegetarian, finding something to eat is never an issue.

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So how does our 1985 Sovereign hold up after about 12k miles of Winter travel? We have made the trip from the Northeast to Baja Mexico with the Sovereign several times. Key is to ensure the rig is well maintained. During the time we are home in NY the unit is detailed inside and out; we replace any components that are questionable; and the rig is inspected by a local trailer inspector to ensure all is operational. During our years of traveling to Baja we had two incidents.

One morning, the hot water heater stop working; we concluded it was the mother board, purchased a replacement at a local camping world store - magic- hot water! The other incident was a flat tire - AAA came out and repaired. BTW - if you experience a breakdown on a Mexican road the police immediately calls a local road service and you are towed to a repair station, you don't have a choice!

My wife and I have discussed purchasing a new Airstream, but we are very pleased with our vintage airstream. The rig is 35 years old; we estimate it has over 200,000 miles (previous owner wintered in Arizona traveling from the Northeast for about 20 years) and continues to be very reliable. There is enough room for the three of us and we feel comfortable with the layout. There have been occasions, we are approached and questioned if we would be interested in selling our Airstream, we are flattered, but we know we have a solid rig we can depend on.

If you are considering long distance travel with your vintage, don't hesitate, they are designed to endure. One winter during our stay in Arizona another Airstream owner staying at the same resort informed me the number of rivets on my unit were about double the number on his 2019 unit (also 25ft). It was not something I observed, but now-a-days I do take notice, the spacing of the rivets on new units versus vintage rigs. So when I'm asked how old is our Sovereign.. my response is count the rivets!

Be Safe,

Ed

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**GIFT IDEAS**

Holidays are just around the corner and, of course, you'll need some gifts for those special people. It seems that I only think of VAC items during VAC Rallies. Quarter-master sent the following ideas. Go to the VAC web site <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/shop/> to order.

Show off your your love of Vintage Air-streams. The small flags are 2x3 for use on posts and poles. The larger 3x5 flags are used for flag poles especially at rallies.



These folding, collapsible coolers are wonderful for carrying to a picnic, keeping snacks and drinks cold in your tow vehicle during your road trip or even bringing to happy hour during rallies. With a handy pocket in front for your wine opener.



This versatile tote is good for shopping or carrying stuff back and forth to the shower. Nice canvas with a fun navy bandana trim and rope handles.



Show your Air-stream pride with this hundred percent cotton T-shirt. Men's sizes medium to XXXL. Various colors Navy, light blue, gray.

Show your support of the VAC even in cooler weather with these awesome blue men's vests. Sizes L to XXXL



Show your Airstream pride with one of these great women's cut v-neck and shorter sleeves. Chose white, Navy or gray. Sizes M to XXL



Magnetic Logo for Tow Vehicle



Decorate everything from windows to water bottles with these fun stickers



Represent your Airstream pride and keep warm with these amazing fleece >> vests which are a lady's cut. In Gray. Sizes M to XXL

## 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](mailto:president@vintageairstreamclub.com) or

Lynn Talsma [2ndvp@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:2ndvp@vintageairstreamclub.com)

### 3rd VP., Treasurer, Newsletter editor needed.

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



This is the last newsletter edited by Lee and Joyce Cantrell. We have enjoyed serving as your newsletter editor for the past three years. Serving in a volunteer position in the VAC has been a very positive experience for us. We have made so many wonderful friends along the way who share our love of Airstreams, particularly vintage Airstreams. If you like meeting people and hearing their stories, if you have a penchant for collecting news about activities taking place in the eight VAC Regions, and if you enjoy organizing the stories you've heard and feel comfortable using publishing software, then you would be the perfect candidate for this volunteer position.

Please contact Ed Valentin VAC President, [president@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:president@vintageairstreamclub.com)

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VACmidwest—VAC Region 8 Spring Rally 2021



**VACmidwest – VAC Region 8 Spring Rally**  
**Region 8 Vintage Airstream Club part of the Wally Byam Airstream Club**  
**Dates:**  
**Location: Robert’s Creek EAST Campground,1631 Fillmore, Otley, IA**  
**DO NOT turn into the West Campground**  
**6 miles west of the city of Pella on County Highway G28– [MAP & Website](#)**

In addition to the festival we will be near Knoxville Sprint Car Track and Museum.  
Also nearby is Red Rock Reservoir and Dam and Visitor Center.  
And the Cordova Tower, where 169 steps takes you up 106 feet to be able to view out 35 miles.

**[Pella Tulip Time](#)**  
**Hosts: Tom & Shirley Herron**  
**[Herrons13007@gmail.com](mailto:Herrons13007@gmail.com)**  
**Phone: 515-988-4950 // 515-556-9339**

2020 update: Thursday May 6th goes thru Sat May 8th,  
2021 Keep eye out after the 1st of year for more details.

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 none 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

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