

AIRSTREAM VINTAGE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Life is better around the campfire!

Board Members

Ed Valentin - President

**Lisa Sly - 1st Vice
President**

**Lynn Talsma 2nd Vice
President**

**Vacant - 3rd Vice
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Joel Ware**

**Treasurer
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**Newsletter Editor can be
reached at
newsletter@vintage**

Board meetings @ 9PM EST

- April 19, 2021
- May 17, 2021
- June 21, 2021

Zoom Meeting Link.

[https://zoom.us/j/97244762156?
pwd=c1BsRjczQitlTkJXRmxlTVZLTjF0QT09](https://zoom.us/j/97244762156?pwd=c1BsRjczQitlTkJXRmxlTVZLTjF0QT09)

Meeting ID: 972 4476 2156
Passcode: vac



President Message

With longer days and warmer weather ahead, we are anticipating a well-deserved camping session. COVID has put a damper on travel and winter camping in the South and Mexico. That is about to change, VAC international events are in the planning stages, rendezvous registration continues, and several rallies are planned for this year. WBCCI recently reached out to VAC reminding us events at international will comply with COVID guidelines as defined by the state of Tennessee. As guidance is provided it will be shared with membership. Virtual chats continue to be scheduled; we are pleased with participation. It is an opportunity to share and learn, members provide insight, guidance, and resources to enrich our knowledge, our next chat session is March 27, 2021, consider participating, you won't be disappointed!



OFFICERS

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Meet the Officers

Lisa Sly - 1st Vice President

Rod and I bought our first Airstream, the Wally Byam Club. We fell in love son was eight years old at the time, hit the road.



a 1976 Safari, in 2001, and immediately joined with travelling in an Airstream immediately. Our so it was the perfect opportunity for our family to

Our travels have taken us to so many parks, private RV campgrounds, and us in awe of what a beautiful country we live in. There's no way to appreciate the gifts that an on-the-road journey can give you until you've taken a month-long vacation over the highways and byways of the USA.

spectacular places. The national parks, state boondocking locations around the country have left

Another unexpected surprise from travels in our Airstream is, without a doubt, attending Airstream International Rallies, Unit Rallies, and Vintage Rallies. What an absolute great time we've had at each and every one of them. The Airstream community is the most generous, kind, and entertaining group of people we've ever had the fortune to interact with. We love all Airstreams, whether they're old, new, renovated, or dilapidated. We've met people with such great imaginations and renovation skills, which always inspires us to keep our current model running smoothly and freshly polished.

Speaking of polished, we now own a 1956 Safari, 22 feet. It's polished to a mirror finish and gets a lot of attention on the road and at rallies. We are just the temporary placeholder for this beauty and hope it lasts for another 65 years.

I hope everyone in the VAC can attend our pre-International rally in Lebanon this summer. It will be held at the beautiful Cedars of Lebanon State Park, about 10 miles south of Lebanon, Tennessee. The dates are July 14-17, 2021. The registration information is on the website and in this newsletter.





2021 VAC Lebanon International Rally Key Activities

The following activities are tentatively planned at the VAC pavilion

- Open House / Flea Market 7/18 (afternoon)
- 60's Dance 7/18 (evening)
- VAC Dinner 7/20 @ 4PM - Tickets required
- Morning Coffee @ 7AM
- Yoga Stretch @ 7:00AM
- Happy Hour @ 4PM
- Evening Movie @ 9PM

We are in need of volunteers for VAC international events. If you are available reach out to a board member or newsletter editor. Please note, the VAC dinner has been rescheduled from Wednesday 7/21 to Tuesday 7/20. The yoga stretch will commence at 7AM instead of 7:30 AM.

Virtual Chats.

If you were unable to join the February 13, we hope you can join us at our next session March 27, 2021. The following was discussed during our recent chat:

Vintage Trailer Insurance challenges, participants recommended we work with Jim Polk. He is a professional appraiser and a member of VAC.

Establishing and researching the original purchase price of vintage trailers for insurance purposes. Joe Peplinski, is the Airstream historian and shared with the audience an approach.

Trailer Tracker GPS options and tools available - Ed Valentin shared he installed - TRAK 4 in his trailer and can monitor the location of the trailer from his cell phone.

WI-FI signal booster options and considerations - Dean Provide us with a tour surrounding the installation of his configuration in his 1974 Airstream.

Thank you, to all who participated and provided input / guidance. We look forward to our next virtual chat!

Scheduled Virtual Chats March - June 2021 Starting at 4PM EST

- March 27, 2021
- May 8, 2021
- June 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting Link.

<https://zoom.us/j/97244762156?pwd=c1BsRjczQitlTkJXRmxtTVZLTjF0QT09>

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EVENTS

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VAC midwest Spring Rally 2021 Thursday, May 6 – Sunday morning May 9, 2021

Hosted by Tom and Shirley Herron
Lacey Keosauqua State Park

The window for **booking a campsite opens Feb 5th**
We will be trying for sites 5 thru 29 area.

<https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/laceykeosauqua-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=IA&parkId=610103>

This is the current link to book a campsite.

Please contact Shirley and let her know your site number!

For additional info or questions contact Herrons13007@gmail.com or Tom
515-988-4950.

Booking a campsite - opens Feb 5th

EVENTS

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Arizona Airstream Club Dolores River Rally - June 3rd thru 6th 2021

Reserve your site with Dolores River Campground – **Then Register with Arizona Airstream Club**

LOCATION INFORMATION:

Dolores River Campground
18680 Hwy 145
Dolores, CO 81323

Rally Fee: is \$12 per adult.

To get your campsite at our rally:

- Call Lainey at Dolores River Campground and Cabins, (970) 882-7761.
- Identify as an Arizona Airstream Club member; payment is required at time of booking:
- \$42.00 per night back-in + 6.8% tax.
- \$50.00 per night Pull-thru + 6.8% tax.
- \$95.00 per night for camping in the refurbished on-site 1953 Flying Cloud.
- (Campers may append days. If you can stay for a week, the 7th night is free).
- May 26th cancellation is required to receive a full refund minus \$10.00 processing fee.

[Dolores River Campground – Link](#)

To Register with the Arizona Airstream Club:

After you reserve your Dolores River campsite (or `53 Flying Cloud), register online with the Arizona Airstream Club and complete the interest survey for the Montezuma Restaurant meal.

The Dolores River Festival costs \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the gate. River rafting is free. [Dolores River Festival – Link](#)

Our group restaurant meal will be “order from the menu”;

[Montezuma Mexican Restaurant – Link](#)

EVENT CONTACT:

Rick and Cheryl Carmichael
rick@carmichael.be

EVENTS

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VAC 2021 Rendezvous Rally Wednesday, July 14 – Saturday, July 17, 2021

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Cedars of Lebanon State Park Tntstateparks.com
328 Cedar Forest Road Lebanon, TN 37090
Phone 615-443-2769

The park is 12 miles south of Lebanon, participants must make their own reservations. Please pick Area 2 as your first option to keep most of our group together. An itinerary of activities will follow in the near future, 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. TN State Parks will issue a full refund if you cancel within 48 hours of your arrival.

Please contact Lisa Sly, VAC First VP, at lisa.sly@att.net for questions.

EVENTS

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Region 8 Midwest Vintage Club Rolling Rally August 20- September 7, 2021

Participants must be current members of the Vintage Airstream Club. We're planning a rolling rally beginning August 20, 2021 to escape the summer heat in Region 8. We'll begin the rally at the Pammel State Campground near Winterset, Iowa, and end at Fall Lake Campground located in the Lake Superior National Forest near Ely, Minnesota. You can join us anywhere along the rally stopping points and leave the rally as your schedule dictates. Participants will make their own reservations and should do so as soon as the reservation window opens for the campgrounds we'll be using. Please let us know no later than January 31, 2021, of your interest in participating in the rolling rally. Contact Lee and Joyce Cantrell at ljcan@twinvalley.net. You will then be provided with the campground information and itinerary so you can make your reservations once the reservation windows open. It is important to make reservations sooner rather than later since 2021 is predicted to be a busy camping season and camping sites go quickly in Minnesota and Iowa. We are limiting the number of units attending to fifteen. Hosted by Joyce and Lee Cantrell

INSIGHT

Life is better around the campfire!

Don't Discount That 70s Vintage Airstream - David Johnson #8607

The 70s trailers do not have the best of reputations among vintage Airstream enthusiasts. But do not believe everything you read and hear. Take a closer look. A 70s Airstream can be renovated into a genuinely nice travel trailer for about a third of the cost of a new one, and they look like a new one. They are usually less expensive. In most cases replacement parts are readily available. Here are some thoughts for your consideration.

For several reasons, 70s Airstream's frames rust. This fact does require more work and more cost than other vintage Airstreams, but the frames can be repaired stronger than new. It is nothing an experienced welder or fabrication shop cannot do pretty easily. My 75 Overlander, suffering from rear end separation caused by frame rust and rear subfloor rot, had its frame repaired in a day by a mobile welder at a cost of \$850.

The plywood subfloor can usually be patched and supported to be as strong as new, or even stronger. It takes time but can be done. Most vintage Airstreams have some subfloor problems needing repair.

Airstream was designing for "light weight and low cost" in my view during the 70s. There was a recession, a major oil crisis and federal emission requirements on tow vehicles that generally causing a significant loss in power. Airstream wanted low tongue weights, low gross trailer weights and lower cost. Thus, batteries and water heaters were moved rearward. Most importantly, Airstream started building interior cabinets with aluminum extrusions instead of wood. The aluminum was stronger and lighter than wood. Unfortunately, the special light weight laminates Airstream was using at the time tended to warp, separate, and come apart through the years. Making new cabinet faces over the aluminum extrusions makes for a very strong interior.

The electrical system wiring seems very robust. Most vintage trailer renovations usually need a new converter and battery. The plumbing system is about the same as a 60s trailer, but you do get a large freshwater tank under the subfloor. The wastewater tanks can be replaced giving more capacity. And PEX plumbing system can easily replace the old copper plumbing. Most of us have done this kind of work.

A replacement furnace, refrigerator, stove, or air conditioner may be required. These things are rather routine maintenance items.

Then decorate your 70s vintage Airstream to your liking. Install your new axles and plan your maiden voyage. You will enjoy the extra room and comforts of a 70s Airstream.

Sure, it is a lot of hours, but that is why we enjoy the vintage Airstream hobby.



FLEA MARKET

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1974-30' VINTAGE AIRSTREAM SOVERIGN. Frame up renovation completed in 2007 including new electrical, plumbing, and insulation. Exterior polished to a bright shine in 2011 and stored in a garage. Interior walls stripped to aluminum, oak plank hardwood floors. United day/night shades, new Dometic refrigerator and Coleman-Mack air conditioner with cover. Rear twin beds, split toilet/shower, large closet, and front salon layout. Owners were non-smokers. Well-equipped and ready for travel. Full inventory and photos available. Professional appraisal completed in 2016. Asking price \$31,155. Contact tin7633882@windstream.net.



Hughes Voltage Regulator and Surge Protector Brand New never used Retail \$340 sale \$240
 Progressive Industries 30 amp Hard Wired Surge Protector New in box retail \$261 sale \$200

Progressive Industries 50 amp Hard Wired Surge Protector New in box retail \$290 sale \$240
 Weboost RV Cellular Signal Booster new \$500 sale \$300

Greg Walker
 NTAC Hillsboro
 254-205-5859
grwalk@swbell.net
 WBCCI 1455

Please Note: VAC club and board members provide Flea market items for sale as a courtesy to membership. We do not sponsor or suggest any guarantees of the items for sale.