



VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB NEWSLETTER

An Intra-Club of Airstream Club International

Welcome from Our President, Lisa Sly



Lisa and Rod Sly

In this issue:

- A Letter From Lisa Sly, 2021-22 VAC, President
- Concours de'Elegance Results
- Keepin' It Safe – a checklist to review before traveling
- VAC Virtual Flea Market
- Rally Schedule
- Hail Caesar – a super easy version of the famous salad recipe
- Gremlin Airstreams?

It is my honor to be your Vintage Airstream Club President for the 2021-2022 term. I look forward to working with our dedicated and very qualified group of board members who have volunteered their time to see that our organization continues to grow and operate more efficiently.



*Ed Valentin at 2021 VAC
Rendezvous*

I'd like to thank Ed Valentin, Past-President, for all his hard work getting our organization back on track after the cancellation of last year's rally and the uncertainty of holding this year's rally. We now use Zoom to hold our board meetings and will be sending out newsletters and email updates on a more regular basis. It is also my goal to update the VAC website, update the Concours d'Elegance judging sheet and protocols, and to improve our communication across all the Airstream-related sites, i.e. the VAC newsletter, the VAC Facebook page, and the Blue Beret. We will also continue to hold on-line virtual chats covering the many topics that vintage restorers will find helpful, and we're excited to have our on-line store with Lands End

up and running.

My husband, Rod Sly, and I purchased our first Airstream in 2001 and immediately joined WBCCI and the VAC. Our travels have taken us to many spectacular places, but attending international rallies, unit rallies, and VAC rallies has been the highlight of our Airstream experience. The Airstream community is the most generous and skillful group of people we've had the pleasure of interacting with. So many of you have helped us with our own restoration dilemmas, travel plans, campground recommendations, and on and on. Rod and I love all Airstreams, old and new, fully restored, or abandoned vintage originals found in a field.



*Lisa Sly at 2021 VAC
Rendezvous*

Please don't hesitate to contact me, your region rep, or anyone on the board if you have questions or need assistance. Watch for future newsletters and emails where we will announce upcoming rallies, events, on-line chats, and anything else the VAC deems necessary to inspire you to keep your beautiful trailers running safely and smoothly.

Below is a list of all the positions that make up the VAC organization and who occupies those positions for 2021-2022. Thank you to all our great volunteers. Refer to the website for each member's email address and

WBCCI number.

VAC 2021-2022 Board Members:

- President: Lisa Sly
- 1st VP: Lynn Talsma
- 2nd VP: Steve Blackmer
- 3rd VP: James Schaal
- Secretary: Joel Ware
- Treasurer: Tom Kirk
- Past President: Ed Valentin



Lynn Talsma and Antsy McClain at 2021 VAC Rendezvous

Appointed Positions:

- Membership Chair: John Schnettler
- Newsletter: Susan Coppedge
- Webmaster: Damon Beals
- Historian: Joe Peplinski
- Librarian: Scott Goranson
- Blue Beret Editor: Bridget Pierson
- Quartermaster: DJ Watson
- Parliamentarian: Open



Lining up for the Vintage Parade into the International Rally, Lebanon Tennessee

2021 Concours de'Elegance

Congratulations to the Winners!

From Lisa Sly, VAC President

This year's Concours de'Elegance at the International Rally in Lebanon was a great success. There were 18 entries in the Concours, and judging took place on the first Sunday of the rally along with the Open House. The VAC had the distinct pleasure of awarding the Bud Cooper Best of Show award to TWO winners – yes, we had a tie. Congratulations to our two winners:

★ **Linda and Steve Blackmer – 1955 Commodore**



★ **Chris and Ron Lyrek—1978 Excella**



You

couldn't have a wider contrast in style and elegance with these two beautiful Best of Show winners. Except for the usual upgrades like an AC, an awning, and a new floor, the '55 Commodore is just about in the same condition as it was the day it left the factory. This 30-foot trailer was hardly used before the Blackmer's purchased it 2017. It even has a full-sized bathtub. It's named after Cornelius "Neil" Vanderbilt, Jr., an old friend of Wally's.

At the other end of the spectrum is the Lyrek's '78 Excella with a full, shell-off restoration. The trailer was beautifully remodeled from the ground up. Upgrades include cabinetry, lighting, upholstery, flooring, and new appliances like a washer/dryer combo and a dishwasher!

I encourage everyone in the VAC to consider entering your vintage trailer in future Concours events. Other rallies around the country also have Concours events, not just the International. For more information on how the Concours works, please visit the VAC website. There's useful information on how to prepare your trailer for judging, a sample judging sheet, and a list of the various awards we give out.

The remaining Concours award winners are listed below:

★ **Best Engineered Feature:**

Barry & Karen Ollette, AC Unit - 1954 Flying Cloud

★ **Platinum Award:**

Steve & Linda Blackmer, 1955 Commodore

Ron & Chris Lyrek, 1978 Excella

Barry & Karen Ollette, 1954 Flying Cloud

Perry & Linda Tilghman, 1947 Clipper

★ **Gold Award:**

Richard & Diane Espinosa, 1976 Argosy

John & Jenny Schnettler, 1965 Caravel

Ronald & Denise Sims, 1962 Globetrotter

Michael & MJ Stallings, 1964 Overlander

Scott & Vickie Graham, 1993 Excella

★ **Silver Award:**

Stephen Cook & Matty Garrett, 1976 Overlander

Robin Gieniewski, 1964 Bambi II

Lynn Talsma, 1964 Overlander

John & Amy VanArtsdalen, 1984 Sovereign

Steve & Ginger Zeringue, 1982 Excella



Safety Checklist

We've all had things happen while traveling with our Airstreams. Sometimes we get distracted, forgetful, or simply do not know the correct procedure on how to prepare a trailer for travel. Rod Sly gave a talk about Axles, Brakes and Safety at the 2021 Vintage Airstream Club Rendezvous in Lebanon, Tennessee.



Rod Sly talks about Axles, Brakes and Safety

Here is part one of his list of things to check and consider before setting off on your next Airstream adventure.

- **Check your fire extinguishers** - both in the tow vehicle and trailer
- **Check your carbon monoxide detector**—in the trailer
- **Check for propane leaks** - with a detector or install gauges on your propane tanks – to use gauges pressurize the system and then turn off the tanks; if the gauges go down you have a leak
- **Check the batteries in the smoke detector**
- **Verify emergency braking device is still functional**—Pull the cable from braking device and pull the trailer forward – it should feel like the brakes are activated
- **Cross your safety chains in an X shape** – this will act like a cradle for the tongue of the trailer should it come off the trailer ball
- **Water Leaks**
 - Body – A lawn sprinkler is a great way to test for leaks on your trailer
 - Fresh water – If the water pump is intermittently turning on even when water is not in use; you should inspect your water lines
- **Carry a spare long stick butane lighter**—for your cooktop/oven, water heater and refrigerator
- **Tires**
 - Check tire pressure and spare prior to road trips
 - Consider purchasing a tire pressure monitor system -it can notify you of slow and/or rapid tire pressure loss
 - Use a torque wrench to check your lug nuts
 - Replace tires every five (5) years maximum - they may look great but are not safe

Carry tools to change and torque your tires

- Batteries**

Disconnect battery or consider a battery tender if not using trailer for 30 days or longer

Consider storing batteries inside during winter

Make sure your battery is fully charged before storing it -letting a battery freeze results in warped plates and damage to the battery

Look for signs of a bent axle – a sign is uneven tire wear, typically on only one wheel. You should replace the axle as soon as possible and always inspect new axles as they can be damaged in shipment
- Trailer Prep at Rallies**

DO NOT distract the owner(s) when they are unhooking or hooking up their trailer, if the process is interrupted some critical steps can be missed

Trailer jacks / stands could be left in the up or down position

Receiver hitch may not be secured to the truck properly- this can result in damage to the trailer and/or tow vehicle

Items can be left behind

Rod says some of the material included herein was stolen from:

Luke Bernander— Luke’s Maintenance & Repair Company, Fort Collin, CO. AirstreaminCO@msm.com

Uwe Salwendar— Area 63 Productions, Orange County CA salwendar@sbcgobal.net



Dale PeeWee Schwamborn (in golf cart) and Diane Bailey (in first truck/trailer) greet Airstreamers as they lead the VAC Parade into the International Rally

For Sale

VAC Virtual Flea Market

Let us help you trade/sell your vintage Airstream items. Send a description and photos to Newsletter@VintageAirstreamClub.com

Currently no items are listed.

Rally News

An update from Kathy Allen for Midwest
Vintage Airstream Club Rolling Rally 2021

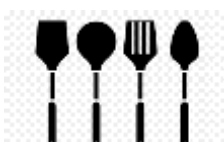
August 20, 2021 thru September 7, 2021
Hosted by Joyce and Lee Cantrell

Joyce and I have planned a Rolling Rally which begins August 20th for a second year to escape the summer heat in Region 8. The rally begins at the Pammel State Campground near Winterset, Iowa and for some will end at Fall Lake Campground located near Ely, Minnesota. Joyce and I chose the route and stops and participants made their own reservations. This type of rally is designed so the participants can come and go as they wish. For this year's rally the participants started making their reservations as early as possible. At this time, camping spots will be limited but not impossible. If you are interested in joining us, please either call or send us an email.

ljcan@twinvalley.net or (785) 564-0190



Hail Caesar!



Who invented the first Caesar Salad? The answer is unclear, but all the stories involve Caesar Cardini, a northern Italian who immigrated to America in the 1910's and then opened a restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico to escape prohibition laws. The now world-famous salad was originally meant to be eaten with your fingers instead of a salad fork.

With that in mind, here is a delicious recipe that is easy to make and requires very few ingredients – perfect for an Airstream Happy Hour! The great thing about this recipe is that you can make this salad for two or twenty, depending on how many lettuce leaves you use.

You will need:

Romain Lettuce Hearts
Sun-dried tomatoes, julienne cut packed in Olive Oil
Light Caesar Salad Dressing
Shaved Parmesan Cheese



Cut off the top ¼ of the head of Romaine Hearts and discard or save for another salad. Separate the leaves and arrange in a petal pattern on a serving platter. Generously spoon the Sun-Dried Tomatoes onto the lettuce leaves. Drizzle with dressing and oil from the sun-dried tomato jar. Top the leaves with a generous handful of

shaved Parmesan Cheese.

Finito! Your salad is ready to eat! Pick it up and enjoy.



Fun Facts

(to know and tell)

About Airstreams

? Gremlin Airstreams ?



From Airstream.com's Blog
Source: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/history-spotlight-airstreams-forgotten-models/>

The 1973 oil crisis resulted in fuel shortages and steep gas prices across the United States. The impact of the gas shortage on trailer sales was greater than

anyone could have imagined at the time. Determined to find ways of offsetting declining sales, Airstream established a Diversification Committee to find potential markets with a need for high-quality aluminum products. In this History Spotlight, we shine a spotlight on some of these lesser-known products whose stories are preserved in the Airstream Archives.

One result of the Diversification Committee's work was Airstream's involvement in the production of miniature car bodies. Airstream manufactured 7' long, 2' high vacuum-formed car bodies for American Motors in the shape of Gremlins, Vegas, Mustangs, and VWs. These miniature cars could travel up to 15 mph and were given to children by American Motors as part of a promotion when their parents purchased a new car. (Keep this fun piece of trivia in mind when you want to stump your fellow Airstream history buffs!)

We are always looking for interesting vintage Airstream stories!

Send us yours!

Newsletter@VintageAirstreamClub.com

