

January 2023



Vintage Airstream Club Celebrates 30 Years

An Intra-Club of WBCCI

Take a Stroll Down Memory Lane

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Bee Aware!

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Something New**

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*From Lynn Talsma,
VAC President*

Greetings from the Talsma family. I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season, and that you are safe, healthy and ready to travel.

This year the VAC celebrates 30 years as an Intra-club of the WBCCI. This is really something to celebrate! Our club is strong, numbering over 500 memberships, the number of individuals is more than 900. Thank you, VAC members, for keeping this great club going by participating in events, and volunteering to serve this club for many years. I love your enthusiasm. Your leadership team is hard at work to keep this club current and fun.

I encourage all members to visit our website and enjoy learning about vintage Airstreams.

Can you eyeball a trailer and quickly identify the decade of manufacture? There are some easy to learn key characteristics that define many production years. Try learning these fun details, then challenge yourself to guess the age of the Airstream. I will give you 1 easy tip: Corning windows using frameless glass are only found on 1966 and 1967 Airstreams. These trailers have a "sleek and slippery appearance" according to Fred Coldwell in an article from 2005. *Take a look at this article here:*

https://vintageairstreamclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Airstream_Trailers_1958-1968.pdf

YOUR TRAVEL DREAMS COME TRUE!

Go where you please, stay as long as you like. Explore the byways, relax by a rippling stream ... enjoy the sea, the woods, the mountains - travel carefree with all the comforts of home, whether it's an extended vacation trip or a weekend camping jaunt. Write today for free booklet!

FREE BOOKLET

WORLD AT YOUR DOORSTEP

AIRSTREAM TRAILERS Dept. A
110 CHURCH ST., JACKSON CENTER, OHIO
12804 E. FIRESTONE BLVD., NORWALK, CALIF.

Personally speaking, it is fun to pull a 59 year old beauty down the road. Many times strangers reach out and ask about the trailer. They are amazed to see something which has been on the road for several decades and continues to be a luxurious home on wheels. It is a little like having a good looking dog, quite a conversation starter.



Greetings from Frodo Talsma

Oh and check out the VAC's YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/@VintageAirstreamClub/videos>

Watch Luke B. back a double trailer, see an interview with founders Bud and Bettye Cooper, look at some beautiful trailers.

Looking forward, we are planning to have a good time at the International in Rock Springs Wyoming, as well as the VAC Rendezvous, this summer. I hope you were able to register for the International as it is now sold out. If you missed registering, but wish to attend, please get on the waiting list. There are always cancellations.

Finally, we are seeking candidates for the position of 3rd Vice President. Candidates will need to commit to serving for a period of 5 years. Once elected, the member will progress from 3rd VP all the way through to President and Past President. I can tell you from experience that this time flies. It is not hard work. It does require some time commitment. This is a great opportunity to serve your club, please consider submitting your name, or nominating someone to serve. Email me directly with your nominations, and any comments or questions you may have:

president@vintageairstreamclub.com

I am looking forward to camping with many of you soon. Safe travels and see you down the road.

Lynn



Did you know that there are 9 Airstream trailers in the movie **Mars Attacks?**

Tim Burton Productions rented trailers from Airstream owners in Kansas. This science fiction comedy is about a group of people traveling across America who are followed by Martians, and then attacked.

From The Vintage Advantage,
Volume III May 1996 Issue #4

Read the full story on page 6.

LIFE IN A BUBBLE.

It was all Linda's doing. She had been talking about little old Airstreams for many years...ones that could be towed behind our Jeep Cherokee. I wasn't convinced until we hit the worst black fly season in recent memory while crossing the Trans-Labrador Highway...running to the tent with biting flies covering our backs. The search began in Canada and ended in our town of Borrego Springs, California, where we found a little Airstream—badly corroded, with lots of miles, but, basically in original condition. It was registered as a 1955 Bambi, but we later learned from Fred Coldwell that it was a 1956 Bubble...a rare one with an L-shaped couch across the front instead of a dinette and water closet.

Cross-Country

Then came the truck. Driving across Indian Country on our way to Colorado that year, Linda announced that we must have a matching year four-wheel drive pickup to tow the trailer with. Tough call! As fate would have it, we found a bright yellow 1956 Chevy in Durango that was built to pull a triple-axle utility trailer...a little overkill, but classic just the same.

We're normally independent travelers, but we joined two WBCCI Units and the VAC to

get trailer restoration information. During our visit to the RMVAC rally in Estes Park in 2002, Bonnie Herman remarked to Linda: "Honey it's going to change your life."

In restoring the Bubble, we wanted to have the ability to dry camp for extended periods, tow the trailer in rough conditions and have mechanical and electrical systems that would be trouble-free in the outback. We also wanted to keep everything looking as original as possible for vintage 1956. After seven months of full time work and a polish job, the Bubble was ready for the road.

During the summer of 2003 we traveled for three months on the back roads of California and Oregon camping in mountain areas and along the seashore. The truck had to have a few repairs, but the trailer was wonderful. We were hooked. The next year we drove Route 66 from Santa Monica to Chicago, attended the International Rally in Lansing, Michigan and wandered slowly back. In 2005 we took the rig to Alaska and marveled at the comfort compared to our earlier tent camping experiences. Now we were really stoked. In 2006-2007 we set out on a 15

month run that took us across Canada, down to Key West and back across the States, meandering along the way. Since then, the Bubble has continued to roll up the miles on our adventures shielding us from the uncertainties of nature and mankind.

So what's life in a Bubble like? A Bubble is a made-up double bed...it definitely beats camping in a VW bus.



Jeremiah St. Ours, the motorcyclist that we met in the Yukon, found us again in Utah, in 2009.



On the road in Utah, in 2011.





Jack sitting with Bonnie and Bob Herman in 2006—thanks to Bonnie for her comment!

It has more room than you'd think, especially when you take the table outside. It has most of the conveniences of home unless you're in a place where the outside shower can't be rigged, or you want to bake and your only oven is a Dutch. It is warm and cozy in bad weather, if you can convince your wife to come in from the great outdoors. You can park it in tent sites—they're often better than other sites. It attracts interesting people, like the woman who hurriedly ran out of the state park restroom with her hair in curlers to take a look inside before

we left. Or, the man in the early dawn, poking his camera out of the bushes to take a picture. It inspires you to do crazy things like trying to duplicate the Airstream postcards: Linda catching a trout on her fly rod reflected in the trailer, or cocktails overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge.

Looking back at our life in a Bubble, our most precious experiences have been the people, both on the road and in the Airstream family: The motorcyclist we met along the Yukon River on his way to Tierra del Fuego, who found us camped in a remote spot in Utah four years later; The doctor we met in Glacier who had seen our rig on the motorcyclist's website and went on to buy a new Airstream and join us. Then there is the Airstream family...the Units and the VAC...rallies, caravans and happy hours. After trying to pass Airstream caravans on two-lane roads in the old days, I never thought we'd be one of them. Now we love being in a row of shiny aluminum trailers winding their way through the National Parks or other scenic places.

Being vintage is being special. Yes, Bonnie, it's changed our life. 🐉



Jack and Linda behind the trailer at the VAC rally in Salida, CO.

Left: Airstreams caravanning through Yellowstone to the International in 2008.

from <https://vintageairstream.com/photo-archives/1953-clipper-17/>

1953 Clipper 17' Ohio | O-2001 to about O-2026
(November 1953 production start) California | 2001 to ~2020

An all new A-frame chassis trailer, replaces the pipe-framed trailers that preceded it with the same name. First made in the new Ohio factory starting in November of 1953. While officially classified as 1954 model year trailers, these early Ohio serial number trailers were 17 feet, changing during the year to 18 feet – so I put the 17 footers in the 1953 year archive. 1953 saw square end California trailers made before changing over to the more familiar 18' slope back with whale-tail crown trailers that predominated the 1950's



California trailers.

This polished example (O- 2014) has a custom remake of the standard interior layout. Notice the square end that makes this a 17 foot trailer vs. the later 18 footer.

Next year (1954) sees the introduction of the same size trailer but with a bathroom ("Globetrotter"). The original taillights are always Bargman #2's. No actual "Clipper" nameplates ever existed.

How to Pull Dents

Airstream Dent Pulling— Airstream and Argosy owners may have dents that they would like to have removed. This article is from Marty and Susan Genz. Following is what Susan wrote:

“Like many Airstreamers, we inherited a few ugly dents when we purchased our 1982 Excella Trailer. While we love “Loretta” we didn’t want her nickname to be Lumpy Loretta reflecting on the four dents on her rear end.

A fellow vintage Airstreamer loaned us a pneumatic dent puller to take care of the problem. Although we were eager to pull the dents, it took us a few weeks to get up the nerve to actually try it. The biggest concern was to make the problem worse: and also I was concerned that it would be a very difficult job with the hard to reach areas.

We started on the deepest dent which was the only one accessible from the ground. It took some finessing and a lot of patience. The dent puller consists of a long rod about 24” with a suction cup on one end and an air hose connection on the other with a sliding weight in



between. The suction cup is placed on or around the dent area: and it is necessary to repeatedly pull up on the weight to slowly pull the concave space back to convex. The placing of the suction cup is a guess and it needs to be repositioned many times. The first dent is still visible, and we did put a mark on the trailer with the dent puller (my fears realized) but the area does look much better than it did before pulling the dent.

On to the dents at the top and back end that required a ladder or getting on the roof. These were easier to return to mostly original condition. There was a concern that being on the rear end of the roof while pulling dents would be perilous at best. While getting to the area was tricky, there was a small area to sit on directly behind the roof air conditioner to work on the top dent. Some leaning was involved to reach the very end of the trailer but it was easier than expected.

As you can see from the before and after photos, Loretta is much less lumpy. This DIY is definitely doable and we encourage you to try it.”
Susan and Marty Genz



2023 Events

VAC (Vintage Airstream Club) Rally
May 11-14, 2023



Watkins Mill
State Park
26600 Park Road N.
Lawson, MO 64062
Hosts: Scott & Jodi Jensen (515-321-0703)
Scott & Kathy Allen (515-473-0256)

Reservations are open now:

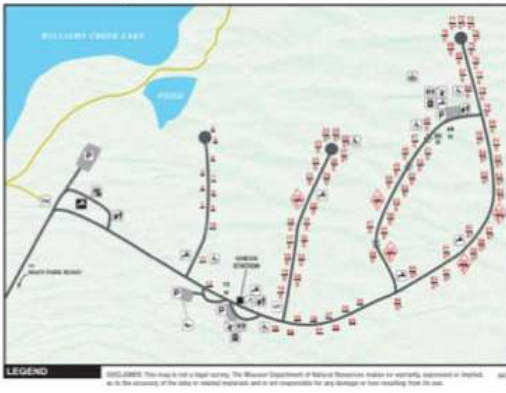
<https://mostateparks.com/park/watkins-mill-state-park>

Campground map:

https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Watkins_CG.pdf

SITE TYPE	ON-SEASON (April 15 through October)	Per night fee:
Basic	\$15	
Electric - 30 AMP	\$25	
Electric - 50 AMP	\$27	
• Family/Electric 30 AMP	\$40	
• Family/Electric 50 AMP	\$44	

MISSOURI STATE PARKS WATKINS MILL STATE PARK
Campground



Click on link above to
expand campground
map:

**Recommended sites:
40-47 & 60-84**

Please let your hosts
know what site you book.
We look forward to
seeing you in May!



30th VAC Rendezvous 2023 June 22/24

Please join us for the VAC Rendezvous 2023 immediately prior to the WBCCI International Rally 2023 at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, WY. We will be camping at the exact site where the International Rally will be held at the conclusion of the VAC Event. The Sweetwater Event Complex is a beautiful maintained facility where we will have designated parking for VAC Members and a special area to hold our Rally activities. All sites are full hookup, back-in, with the majority on gravel. The camping fee is \$50.00 per night. Sweetwater Events Complex, 3320 Yellowstone Rd., Rock Springs, WY 82901

2023 66th International Rally June 24-30 Rock Springs, WY

For more information on the 2023 Rally please see the official Rally Page <https://airstreamclub.org/Rally2023>

For more information on the VAC events at the 2023 Rally please see the VAC Int Rally Page <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/vac-rendezvous/>

A note from Terry and Michelle Bone

Three years ago, Dal Smilie (Tin Can Tourist Representative) wanted to recognize those that were considered the first sparks in the vintage trailer movement. His idea was to see if it would be possible to get Forrest and Jeri Bone inducted in the Recreational Vehicles / Motor Home (RV/MH) Museum Hall of Fame.



*** Forest Bone was the 1998- 1999 Vintage Airstream Club President***

He did the research on what was required and began the journey. The first step was to work on the required documentation. The museum has a list of criteria, eligibility requirements and a complicated process. What made it more complicated is that this nomination was going to be atypical of the normal submission. All but one of the HOF inductees have been RV inventors, engineers, manufacturers, retailers, suppliers, or trailer park operators and only .002% are club/community leaders. Also, their inductees are for individuals and not for a married couple who shared the responsibilities and work. Undeterred, Dal gathered the supporting information. He received support and references from vintage trailer community leaders.

The Hall of Fame nomination submission was completed and submitted in 2019, the year Forrest and Jeri retired as leaders from the Tin Can Tourists after having led the club for 21 years culminating in the centennial celebrations (1919-2019). Then we waited and waited, while keeping this all a secret from Forrest and Jeri.

In 2020, we were respectfully informed that the nomination was declined but we were told that rarely does anyone get in the first year of nomination and that the submission was good for 5 years. Dal felt that the time was right and based on some conversations the RV/MH were warming up to the idea of recognizing club/community leaders.

A few weeks ago, Dal surprised us with an email that Forrest and Jeri Bone will be part of the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees with a ceremony on Monday August 21st at the Recreational Vehicle / Motor Home Museum in Elkhart Indiana! Tickets for the dinner will be available by January 31st – so mark your calendars and buy your tickets for dinner!

In typical TCT spirit, the plans are already in the works to have a celebratory rally during the induction weekend and really enjoy this moment. We are hoping to be able to pack the hall for the induction dinner. Watch the website and look for emails as we share the plans, and we hope that as many TCTers as possible can join us and share in the fun! We personally want to thank Dal Smilie for the pushing hard for this and for his persistence. Thanks to many others for their support and encouragement.

My parents are beyond excited and have plans to spend a couple months in Michigan this summer, so it will be a short drive to Elkhart!

See you down the road, Terry and Michelle Bone

The VAC Board has been working to improve the Concours D 'elegance. We have tentatively approved some revisions to the guidelines as follows:

1. The Concours D 'elegance entry is divided into 2 categories. The entrant will choose to enter either the Original/Improved category, or the Modified category. Further description is available on the VAC website (see link below).
2. We will concurrently hold a third category named "People's Choice". All VAC members may enter this category separately. The intention here is to encourage participation by all members, even if their trailer/MH has already finished competing in the main concours, and to provide a vehicle for fundraising for a local charitable organization.

Please take some time to read over the details of the revised concours as it is currently listed on the VAC website here:

<https://vintageairstreamclub.com/concours-delegance/>

The board wants to hear your comments and ideas about these changes. To that end we sent an email, on Dec 12, 2022 to all members announcing this change and calling for comment. We also listed these changes on our Facebook page.

If you would like to send your comments to the board please do so by using the contact form in the link below:

<https://vintageairstreamclub.com/contact-us/>

During our February board meeting on 02/20/2023, the board will review all comments submitted by the membership. The board plans to vote on adopting these improvements at this time, unless further revision is required.

Thank you for taking some time to consider these changes.

Lynn

Approved January 16, 2023

VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB Refund Policy

GENERAL REFUND POLICY:

Members who cancel after being registered for any event will forfeit any third-party non-refundable fees incurred by VAC or the event sponsor including but not limited to reservation fees, processing fees, site cancellation fees, prepaid excursion, tour, entertainment and event fees. Every attempt will be made to return "refundable" prepaid expenses if and when VAC or the event sponsor is able to recover those funds. Such fees are subject to the cancellation policy of the vendors, suppliers or rally/event venue operators. Rallies require significant advance planning for a variety of elements including camping venues, entertainment, excursions, catering, advance food or supply purchases, etc. Any member/registrant who cancels within 30 days of the Rally start date will forfeit any prepaid rally fees and depending on the venue, potential RV site fees. Regardless of the reason or cause, if the timeliness of cancellation of your attendance does not allow the VAC or it's Host(s) to find replacement attendees or obtain refunds from any of the vendors or providers, a refund will not be made, and forfeiture of those costs will be incurred by the cancelling member.

If VAC should cancel a rally or event, all fees paid by any

member/registrant will be refunded.

This Vintage Airstream Club refund policy is premised on the concept that the Club should neither profit from nor subsidize the cost of any member or registrant who cancels after registering for a VAC sponsored or hosted rally or event. We understand that circumstances arise where a cancellation may be necessary, and every effort will be made to minimize the financial impact to both the Club and the member/registrant.

Any member/registrant who does not agree with a refund decision made by the organizers of a VAC sponsored event may appeal that decision to the VAC Board by filing a written appeal request, including the reasons for a reversal of the refund decision, within 30 days of the original refund decision.

Wally Byam

QUOTES

“With no worry as to where you are going to stay or how the means are going to be when you get there...you have plenty of carefree time to see the sights instead of hurrying through them.” “Adventure is where you find it, any place, every place, except at home in the rocking chair.”

“Let's not make changes, let's make only improvements.”

“Don't stop. Keep right on going. Hitch up your trailer and go to Canada or down to Old Mexico. Head for Europe if you can afford it, or go to Mardi Gras. Go someplace you've heard about, where you can fish or hunt or collect rocks or just look up at the sky. Find out what's at the end of some country road. Go see what's over the next hill, and the one after that, and the one after that.”

If you don't know what else to do, drink beer.

To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.