

# Vintage Airstream Today

30  
Years

1993 to 2023



## President's Letter

From Steve Blackmer

### Who is your new VAC President ?

Steve Blackmer lives in Linden, MI along with his wife Linda. They reside in Region 4 and are members on the NOVA Club. They have 3 children along with 5 grandchildren.

Linda and Steve purchased their first Airstream about 10 years ago when Steve was retiring from General Motors as a Manager in Labor Relations/Safety. Their first Airstream was a 1963 Bambi, followed by a 1947 Curtis Wright Model 5, a 1954 Safari, 1964 Globetrotter, and a 1955 Commodore Vanderbilt. Currently they camp in a 1978 Trade Wind, and also own a 1954 Wally Byam Holiday and will soon be starting a complete restoration project, thanks to some very good VAC friends.

You can usually find Linda and Steve camping in the Keys sometime in the winter and always in Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula throughout the rest of the year.

His goals in the upcoming year are to continue the efforts and direction of the previous president along with establishing a process of financial sustainability for the club, along with more social media involvement to increase membership and their involvement in club rallies and caravans.



Sept/Oct 2023

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## Rolling to Rock Springs June 22—30, 2023

What an amazing time we had in Rock Springs.

The **Rendezvous** kicked off Thursday, June 22 with a meet and greet in our fabulous VAC tent.

We had free time to explore Rock Springs the next day and country & Western Dance lessons that night.

On Saturday, after a nice catered breakfast 44 Rigs departed for downtown for an open house that was very popular. We departed midafternoon for the traditional parade into the Fairgrounds—and received lots of love from our fellow attendees.

Sunday, June 25 was our open house, well attended despite it being a hot day.

As usual our Vintage Flea Market on Monday was a huge success followed by the first of our two dances: Revisiting the 80's in style.

Tuesday saw us celebrating Wally Byam's birthday with the traditional cupcakes at "Byamville".

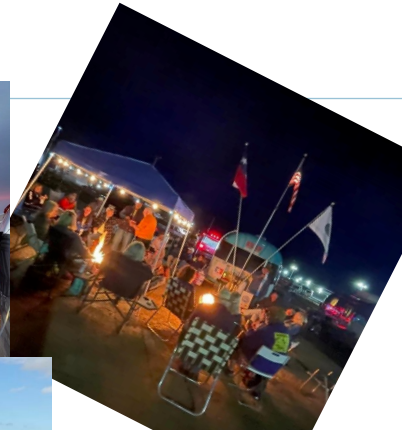
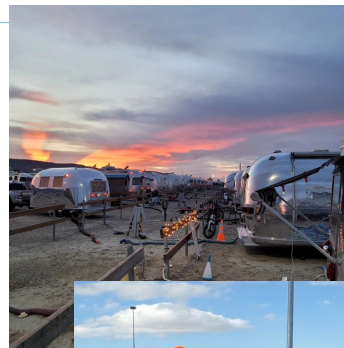
Wednesday was our annual meeting—more on that in the minutes on page 8.

Our last official VAC event was the Country and Western Dance on Thursday night.

A big shoutout to all our volunteers who make it all happen!



*"We had over 100 vintage trailers in Rock Springs, over 120 people attended the Rendezvous and over 160 at our annual luncheon."*



The fabulous parking crew aka RATs





# Thank you!



Outgoing President Lynn Talsma for all you did (and continue to do) for our Club.

Joke's on you—you still get to serve on the board for another year in your role Immediate Past President!!

*"Did you know that the VAC currently has 622 members? And 100 of those are new members since January 1. Welcome one and all".*

## Meet Your Board Members



**John Schnettler**  
**3rd VP**

Hi, I'm John Schnettler and my wife Jenny and I live in Canton Ohio about 3 hours east of Jackson Center. I am a retired research and development scientist and we have 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and a black lab puppy.

Having been a lifelong camper, mostly backpacking and canoe camping, we transitioned to Airstreaming in 2018 after having tent camped next to a family with an Airstream in Redwood National Forest. We talked about that shiny trailer while driving home from California, and a few months later we found our 1965 Caravel only five miles from our home. We spent the 2020 Covid year doing a complete restoration of the Caravel. Jenny and I really were unaware of the Airstream Club but wondered what those shadows of numbers above the front window were all about. Like many of you, searching for restoration information took me to the VAC website and Airforums, and the rest is history. We joined the WBCCI and VAC in early 2019 and brought our newly restored Caravel to the 2021 Lebanon Rally. The VAC was such a fun and inclusive group that I volunteered to become the Membership Chair and have enjoyed working with the VAC leadership team and serving our club members.

Jenny and I had such a great experience restoring the Caravel that we found a second trailer, a '94 Excella Classic 25', that we are currently in the process of restoring. Beside working on vintage trailers, I build and repair guitars and vintage tube amplifiers, home brew craft beer, and enjoy cooking. The best camping spot that we have been with our trailer is Sugarloaf Key KOA just east of Key West Florida.

My goal for this year as 3rd VP is to support our leadership team and to try to find new ways to have VAC give value to our members at events in addition to the International Rally.



## REGION 12 Vintage Rally November 16-19, 2023



Please save the date for our Region 12 Vintage Rally, November 16-19, 2023. We will be at the Angels Camp RV Resort in the heart of the California Gold

Country. Autumn should be bursting with color and the area has many activities to offer. Additional information about activities and rally fee will be sent in a subsequent email. For now, please see event info below and make your reservation.

### Event Info:

Angels Camp RV Resort  
3069 Highway 49 South  
Angels Camp, CA 95222  
209-736-0404

Members call to make their own reservation and say they are with the Vintage Airstream Club. Camp Cost: \$234.90 for 3 nights (with 10% GoodSam or AAA discount)

*Region Reps: Please submit your upcoming vintage rallies and events to [newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com](mailto:newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com) as soon as you can so you can be included in future issues.*

### 2024 International Rally Registration is Open

Registration for the 67th Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, MO is now open!! Rally dates are October 5-10, 2024.



## 2024 Upcoming Regional Events

**February 1-4, 2024 Streamin' on the Strand**—see ad below.

**End of May or Early June 2024:** Mark your calendars for the annual VAC Rendezvous. More details and exact dates will be announced as soon as plans are firm. It will be an exciting new twist on our annual event you won't want to miss.

Region 10 is planning the **2024 Rally to be Late** July on the North Oregon Coast, exact dates and location will be announced soon.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Region 9 presents the 3rd annual

**Streamin' on the Strand**  
National Event Rally  
February, 1-4, 2024

Registration opens September 14th

<https://airstreamclub.org/streamin-strand>







# And the winners are...

## 2023 Concourse D'Elegance Winners

Name	BRN	Award	Rig
Steve & Julia Noland	2166	Silver - Modified Condition	1962 Globe Trotter
Richard & Diane Espinosa	8049	Silver - Modified Condition	1976 Argosy
Pierre Bogros & Lauretta Smith	2329	Gold - Modified Condition	1971 Overlander
Tom & Holly Black	1959	Gold - Original/Improved Condition	1955 Cruiser
Dal & Jane Smilie	1103	Gold - Original/Improved Condition	1946 Curtis Wright Model 1
Dennis & Sandra Weber	6224	Platinum - Modified Condition	1947 Liner
Birgit & Hans Iliew	2944	Platinum - Modified Condition	1956 Bubble
Chris & Ron Lyrek	23588	Platinum - Modified Condition	1959 Trade Wind
Birgit & Hans Iliew	2944	Best Engineered Feature	1956 Bubble
Dennis & Sandra Weber	6224	Best Tow Combo Package	1947 Liner & Woody
Chris & Ron Lyrek	23588	Best of Show Modified Condition	1959 Trade Wind
Dal & Jane Smilie	1103	Best of Show Original/Improved Condition	1946 Curtis Wright Model 1
Jenifer & John Schnettler	6594	People's Choice	1965 Caravelle
Paul Drag & Nancy Stahlman	4556	People's Choice	1955 Flying Cloud

# Virtual Flea Market



Check out  
our  
Facebook  
Pages:

## The Main Club [Page](#)

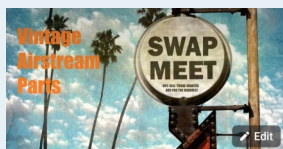


Vintage Airstream Club --  
The VAC / Intra-Club of the  
WBCCI >

Public group · 3.7K members

Joined Invite  
Reels You Photos Events

## Vintage Airstream Parts & Trailers Swap Meet - Buy/ Sell/[Wanted](#)



Vintage Airstream Parts &  
Trailers Swap Meet - Buy/  
Sell/[Wanted](#) >

Private group · 5.3K members

Manage Invite  
Reels Your Orders Discussion You



**RESTORED, UPGRADED,  
MANY ORIGINAL FEATURES**

*Great Condition -  
Vintage 1969 22 ft.  
Airstream*

I'm the third owner of this 22 ft Safari  
built in 1969 with the iconic airplane  
metal and unique engineering  
features that make Airstreams  
enduring. Registered with Wally Byam  
Caravan Club International.

- Original stove, bathroom lights & bathtub, cabinetry, clock & gauges
- New flooring and paneling painted
- New Sunbrella upholstery and cushions
- New Sound system including DVD player and Smart TV
- New Corian countertops and stainless steel sinks
- New toilet and system
- New AC/Heat
- New heavyduty vinyl blue awning
- Honda EU2200 generator (less than 100 hours use)



**\$32,000**

Near Greensboro, NC

(336)596-7514

carla@west65inc.com

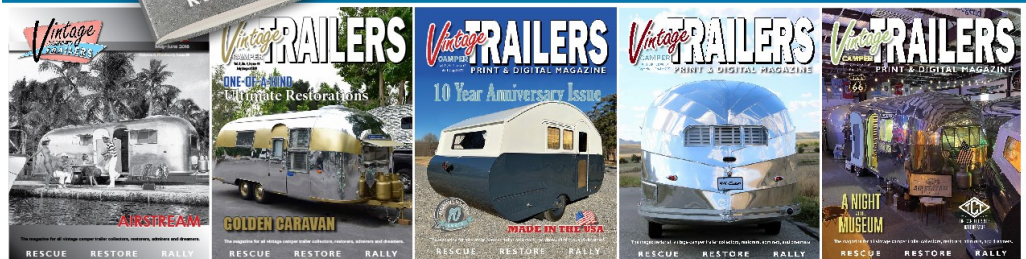


To encourage clubs and rallies  
that provide an endless source of  
friendships, travel fun and  
personal expressions.

-From Wally's Creed

**Vintage Camper Trailers Magazine**  
www.vintagecampertrailers.com

Use the promo code **BYAM** to **save 50%**  
on a digital magazine subscription.





## "A Tail of Two Toasters" or "Toastie Has a Twin"

Either title sets the stage for a very special several days with new friends. No, you're not seeing double.

This story begins at the Ohio Airstream plant in 1965. Just weeks apart and only a few serial number differences, two identical Globetrotter 20's were born off the production line. Well, as it turned out, through social media we discovered two things! Toastie's twin was alive and rolling in Western Michigan and a wonderful couple who would become great friends were the owners.

So, after a long winter of visits over the phone we got together this week. Steven and Janet Pinkham made the multi day trek from Holland, Michigan with their "65" for a P2 Rendezvous in Cannon Falls. All we can say is what a joy and what a unique and special several days we had together. Thanks S&J for making the trip. 1965 was a good year at Airstream, especially for us!

**What's in a BRN:** Pat and John have the number of the date they first met, Janet and Stephen have the same number off the 1963 Globetrotter that Janet grew up with.

*"Author Pat Johns and his wife Pam, BRN 3113 with their new friends Stephen and Janet Pinkham, BRN 18323".*



VAC Merchandise 2023

hit the road  
in style this  
year

Hats  
Shirts  
Patches  
Stickers  
Magnets  
Flags

[www.Vintageairstreamclub.com/shop](http://www.Vintageairstreamclub.com/shop)

## Important Membership Update:

### Vintage Airstream Club Membership Renewal

Your membership in the Vintage Airstream Club is coordinated with your Airstream Club International (ACI) membership dates.

Renewal dates vary. You will receive a renewal notice from ACI to let you know when you need to renew your ACI and VAC memberships.

Your ACI portal shows your actual renewal date under "Membership Information".

## How to Contact Your VAC Officers

### 2023-2024 Executive Board

Steve Blackmer, President  
president@vintageairstreamclub.com

James Schaal, 1st Vice President  
1vp@vintageairstreamclub.com

George Watson, 2nd Vice President  
2vp@vintageairstreamclub.com

John Schnettler, 3rd Vice President  
3rd@vintageairstreamclub.com

Joel Ware, Recording Secretary  
secretary@vintageairstreamclub.com

Tom Kirk, Treasurer  
treasurer@vintageairstreamclub.com

Lynn Talsma, Past President  
pastpresident@vintageairstreamclub.com

### Appointed Board Positions

Judi Moran (#4405) – **Membership Chair**  
membership@vintageairstreamclub.com

DJ Watson (#9309) – **Newsletter Editor**  
newsletter@vintageairstreamclub.com

Damon Beals (#4827) – **Webmaster**  
webmaster@vintageairstreamclub.com

Joe Peplinski (#6768) – **Historian**  
historian@vintageairstreamclub.com

Scott Goranson (#8671) – **Librarian**  
librarian@vintageairstreamclub.com

Open Position – **Blue Beret Editor**  
bbeditor@vintageairstreamclub.com

Christine Lyrek (#23588) – **Quartermaster**  
quartermaster@vintageairstreamclub.com

Holly Bart – **Parliamentarian**

## VAC REGION REPRESENTATIVES

These individuals are your best source of VAC information in your Region.

**Region 1:** ME-NH-VT-MA-RI-CT-NB-NS-NF-PEI-PQ

William Campbell (#3363) vacregion1@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 2:** NY-NJ-PA-MD-DE-DC-ON

Edward Valentin (#22531) vacregion2@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 3:** VA-NC-SC-GA-FL (exp. CT zone portion)

Dick Martin (#2753): vacregion3@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 4:** MI-OH-WV

Marc Cram (#3373): vacregion4@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 5:** IL-IN-KY

Damon Beals (#4827) vacregion5@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 6:** TN-AL-MS-AR-LA-FL (CT zone portion)

Judy Hardwick vacregion6@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 7:** WI-MN-ND-SD-MB

Ed Emerick (#4425) vacregion7@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 8:** IA-MO-NE-KS

Scott Allen (#3534) vacregion8@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 9:** OK-TX (except MT zone)

Richard Espinosa (#8049) vacregion9@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 10:** MT-ID-WA-OR-BC-AB-SK-YK

Rob and Diane Nicol (#1816) vacregion10@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 11:** WY-CO-UT-AZ-NM-TX (portion in MT) – MEX

Lisa Sly (#4354) vacregion11@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 12:** CA-NV

Steve Doster: vacregion12@vintageairstreamclub.com

**Region 00:** Europe

Established in 1993, the Vintage Airstream Club is an intra-club of our parent organization: Airstream Club International. Members who own vintage trailers (25 years or older) have the opportunity to learn more and receive advice about their vintage beauties while meeting other owners of these classy and historic RV's and possibly learn from their experiences and mistakes.

Anyone may join as an associate member and enjoy the benefits of being up-to-date on VAC events and gatherings.





## VAC Annual Business Meeting Minutes 06.28.2023

- Call to Order at 1253
  - ◊ Pledge of Allegiance, Canadian Oath
- Roll call Board Officers, Quorum present
  - ◊ President, Lynn Talsma
  - ◊ 1st Vice President, Steve Blackmer
  - ◊ 2nd VP, James Schaal
  - ◊ 3rd VP, George Watson
  - ◊ Treasurer, Tom Kirk
  - ◊ Past President, Lisa Sly
- Recognition of VAC Region reps, Past VAC Officers, International Officers, Dale Pee Wee Schwamborn, work teams, 1st timers, special recognition “Drag” family.
- Membership Quorum established with more than 50 members in attendance.
- Minutes from 2022 VAC Annual Business Meeting approved as written.
- Treasurer’s Report, Tom Kirk: cash balance \$24,128.84.
- Officers’ reports
  - ◊ President: Chaired 10 board meetings and several subcommittee meetings. Maintained an excellent working and reporting relationship with WBCCI/ACI. Many hours of planning for International. The board worked on Concours revisions, a new Cancellation policy, Sponsorship at region rallies, recruiting of candidates for vacancies, financial sustainability and prudent reserves, Facebook management, The required 5-year revision of the VAC Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL) began in January and is very close to being finalized by the C&BL subcommittee. Members are asked to watch for a coming Zoom meeting to adopt the revised C&BL in next few weeks.
  - ◊ 1st VP: Changes to the Concours d’Elegance, Rendezvous 2024 to be held separate from International in June, July, or August possibly in Jackson Center Ohio
  - ◊ 2nd VP: Attendance at VAC events is high, working on some upcoming events and looking forward to another successful year.
  - ◊ 3rd VP: Membership meetings via Zoom held quarterly, plan to resume in September 2023.
  - ◊ Past President: Remarks
- Reports of Committee Chairpersons
  - ◊ Membership Chair, John Schnettler: currently 589 members, continued integration of data and reporting through WBCCI
  - ◊ Quartermaster, DJ Watson: Inventory of merchandise on hand
  - ◊ Historian, Joe Peplinski: WBCCI Historical Committee includes many VAC members and is working on scanning some assets to make these available to all members in digital form. The WBCCI/VAC is more interested in donation of historical information now that Airstream no longer has an Archivist/Historian to manage their archives.
- Election of Officers: all existing officers advanced to the next position by unanimous vote of the membership.
  - ◊ Candidate for 3rd VP: John Schnettler and no additional nominations, elected by unanimous vote of the membership.
  - ◊ Candidates for Appointment by the Board: Membership: Judi Moran, and no additional candidates; Newsletter: DJ Watson, and no additional candidates, Quartermaster: Christine Lyrek, and no additional candidates. These positions will be approved by the new board.
- Officer Installation by Dale Schwamborn
- Announcements: Registration for International 2024 in Sedalia MO opens on 08/01/2023, look for an invitation to vote on and approve your revised C&BL in the coming weeks; 2023 Concours Awards will be announced directly following this meeting.
- Upcoming rallies: Rocky Mountain VAC in July, Region 12 Rally in November
- Thank you and gift presentation to outgoing President Lynn Talsma
- Adjournment at 1336

