

Vintage Airstream Today

The Official Newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club
Established 1993



2024
January-February

President's Letter

From Steve Blackmer

Here we are in January, having a cup of coffee, looking out the window seeing nothing but gray sky and snow. How I long for the open road. If you are like me in the northern states or our friends North of the Border, you are either planning your upcoming Spring, Summer, or Fall Camping Trips, ... or starting to plan and pack for your getaway South. If you are in the South, this is your time to camp without the snowbirds taking up your favorite camping spots early this Spring.

As of this writing, we are about a week away from the sign-up deadline for the upcoming 2024 VAC Around the World Caravan and Helen's Homecoming Rally. The planning committee is very excited about what we have developed for the participants and we are continuing to work on the details. We are really looking forward to this happening within VAC Region 4 & 5.

On the other hand, some of us prefer not to travel long distance to a rally or caravan, or can't get the extended time off of work, so I encourage you to contact your Regional Representative and inquire if they are thinking about wanting to put on a Regional VAC Rally or Caravan. If they are or even if they are not, you could get personally involved yourself in planning a Rally or Caravan close to your home base. Contact your VAC Regional Representative or one of our VAC Board Members for details on how to go about the process.

Finally, be sure to check the Events Page on our VAC Website for upcoming events.

See you down the road,

Steve Blackmer

BRN 1095

VAC President


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Upcoming Virtual Chats:

All chats are via Zoom at 8 PM EST

January 24, 2024
Harvest Hosts

April 17, 2024
VAC Caravan and Rally

June 12, 2024
Tires

January VAC Virtual Fireside Chat

The first VAC Virtual Fireside Chat of the new year is scheduled for Wednesday January 24th at 8:00pm EASTERN time.

Join VAC 3rd VP John Schnettler, ACI President and VAC member Eric McHenry, and a representative from Harvest Hosts as we talk about using the Harvest Hosts program to find unique, safe, and inexpensive places to camp overnight as you travel throughout the country on your Airstream journeys.

Did you know that Harvest Hosts now has a partnership with the Airstream Club International for managing booking and communicating with club members for ACI courtesy parking?

Here is your opportunity to learn all about what Harvest Hosts has to offer. Of course, you will also have an opportunity to chat about anything else that you might have on your mind.

Please keep your eyes out for the Zoom link via email and also on the VAC Facebook page. See you there!



VAC Members on the Road

George Watson (2nd VP) and I had the privilege of meeting up with Past VAC President **Tom Reed** and his lovely wife **Patti** at the Canopener Rally this month. He served from 1999 – 2000 when the club had 1222 Members. As president Tom encouraged more participation from all VAC members and wanted the VAC to become a club that is known for having events held across the U.S. that bring people together to share their common interest in the beauty of the Vintage Airstream and maybe re-live the past the way “Wally” and his Caravans did. Toward the end of Tom’s term, he noted that the interest and acceptance of Vintage coaches has changed, and VAC members are now being requested to attend rallies and host events like an open house.

Tom shared with us: “the campers that were new when I was president are now vintage”. Tom and Patti recently moved to Florida.

~ DJ Watson

For more VAC history and trivia visit our history page at <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/vac-history/>



Why in the World.....



KREMLIN WALL--Travel trailers of the Wally Byam Around the World Caravan park just outside the Kremlin in Moscow during their historic overland circuit of the globe. (Airstream Photo)

Helen Byam Schwamborn . . . You

may wonder how the upcoming VAC Helen's Homecoming Rally is related to the upcoming **VAC Around the World Caravan (ATWC)**. The answer lies in this photo. Helen was the ATWC lead researcher and coordinator that did most of the behind the scenes work developing the original 1963-64 Airstream ATWC starting in 1960 and continuing until it ended in late 1964! She even accompanied the ATWC on the ship across the Pacific Ocean setting up caravan committees. She then flew around the world herself, ahead of the ATWC, meeting with government officials in countries including Burma, India, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, France, and the Netherlands. Once back in the USA she continued to manage the ATWC budget and make schedule adjustments, including eventually getting the permission for the ATWC to go behind the Iron Curtain to Moscow, Russia.

This photo is of Helen in front of an ATWC Bulletin Board back in her office at the USA, circa late 1964.

Here is an interesting photograph from the **1963-64 Around the World Caravan (ATWC)**.

Let's examine this August 1964 photo by the numbers:

- 45:** The number of Airstream trailers (plus 2 support trucks) that began ATWC
- 34:** The number of Airstreams still with the ATWC when it went to Moscow, Russia
- 27:** The number Airstreams parked in a line in Red Square, just in front of the Kremlin
- 16:** The number of Airstreams in this photo that can be identified
- 8:** The number of Airstreams in this photo that are known to still exist
- 5:** The number of Airstreams in this photo that are currently owned by VAC members
- 1:** The number of Airstreams in this photo that are currently in the Airstream Heritage Center
- 4:** The number of Airstreams in this photo that may participate in the 2024 VAC ATWC and Helen's Homecoming Rally (5 if we include the one in the Heritage Center)



Meet Your Board Members

Christine Lyrek
Quartermaster



Ron came to me 8 years ago with a crazy idea to renovate a vintage Airstream. "Why, we don't camp" I said but Ron lured me in with the promise that I'd get to decorate!!! We quickly got alluminitis and 15+ Airstreams later (6 have been fully restored) we are hooked and love all things Airstream. We currently own a 1961 22' Safari, a 1978 31' Excella and a 1959 24' Tradewind.

My favorite camping spot/event is the vintage camper show at the Gilmore Car Museum in Michigan.

One objective as the new Quartermaster is to introduce new items into our store and broaden our assortment mix.

Visit the [VAC Store Online](#)



Membership Update

The Vintage Airstream Club membership is growing!

In 2023, we welcomed 165 new members and renewals were strong with over 87% of the calendar year renewals completed by the December 31 deadline. We currently have 583 active members, up from 512 a year ago.



If you missed your January 1 renewal deadline, you have until March 1 to renew and maintain your January 1 membership date.

Your Renewal Notice provides the opportunity to review your membership information and make sure everything is current and correct. If you moved, got a new phone number, bought and/or sold an Airstream or made any other changes, this is the perfect time to update your membership record.

Here are the instructions to keep your membership information up to date:

- Go to the ACI website at <https://airstreamclub.org> and sign in. Click on your member name in the top right corner, and in the drop-down box, click on "Membership Dashboard."
- Click on your member name a second time, and now select "Membership Information". Alternatively, you can click on the "Membership Information" link under the "Popular Links" in the blue box in the middle of the page.
- On the left side of the "Membership Information" page, you can select "Personal Information" to update your phone, email and/or address information as well as Partner and Pet information. You can also indicate if you offer Courtesy Parking.
- On the "Airstream Information" page, you can update your Airstream information. Please note that your Airstream VIN Number is required.

It is important to keep your qualifying recreational vehicle information updated on the ACI website as that is the main source of member information and is used to determine your VAC Membership Status. Your Airstream age (25 years old and older) determines if you are a full regular member with the right to vote and serve on the board.



2024 Mark Your Calendars

- ◇ **February 1-4, 2024 Streamin' on the Strand**—<https://airstreamclub.org/streamin-strand>
- ◇ **On Monday, April 8, 2024**, the United States will experience our next total solar eclipse, passing from the southwest to the northwest. [Here's](#) a look at the path of totality. Campsites are booking fast— you may want to check it out soon including the [Airstream National Event Rally](#) in Greenville, OH
- ◇ **Vintage Camper Event at the Gilmore Car Museum in Michigan on May 11th.** This is the 3rd annual and it's so well run. The grounds of the Gilmore are picturesque, complete with cool, restored barns, miles of walking paths, a vintage diner with yummy food and live bands. The actual cars on display are breathtaking, the largest collection in North America. The event is one day only but we spend 5 days there because there are other events at the car museum you don't want to miss. Register by calling the Gilmore Car Museum 269-671-5089
- ◇ **May 26th – 30th, 2024 - The 2024 VAC “Around the World Caravan”** to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the 1963-64 Around the World Caravan (ATWC). Tour of the RV Hall of Fame and Fort Recovery Historical Museum and caravan through “worldly” places such as Paris, Warsaw, Palestine, Athens, Mexico, Peru, Miami, London, Frankfurt, Alexandria, Dunkirk, Montpelier, Geneva, Ceylon, Berne, Vera Cruz, Fort Recovery, Versailles, Russia, Sidney, Cairo, `Lewistown, and end in Jackson Center. Along the way, participants will learn of the importance of some of these locations to Airstream history.
- ◇ **May 30th – June 2nd, 2024 – Helen’s Homecoming Rally at the Club Headquarters in Jackson Center, OH**, to celebrate Helen Byam Schwamborn as the founder of our WBCCI / ACI Club and as the key organizer of the ATWC.
- ◇ Region 10 is planning the **2024 Rally to be Late July** on the North Oregon Coast, exact dates and location will be announced soon.

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.



Vintage Airstream and Trailer Show



JOIN US WITH YOUR VINTAGE AIRSTREAM!



916-572-8554

vintagecampertrailers@gmail.com

Zephyrhills, Florida
March 9, 2024

www.trailerfestrally.com



California Rallies

Request the Vintage Airstream Club Section
when you make your reservations.



280
Trailers

San Dimas, CA
April 4-7, 2024

916-572-8554

vintagecampertrailers@gmail.com



South Lake Tahoe, CA
September 5-8, 2024

www.trailerfestrally.com





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

More Upcoming Events

2024 Region 7 Rally

Dates:

September 12 – 19, 2024

Location:

Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort

20189 US Hwy 85

Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 722-1800

Website:

<https://elkhornridgeresort.com>

Host:

Chris Olsson (cwolsson@comcast.net)



We have 45 sites reserved for the rally. All are pull-through sites with full hookups in one area of the campground. We are working on the planning for the rally.

Some of the things we're looking at are:

- Buffalo feeding tours
- Golf outing
- Bus tour to Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore
- 1880 Steam Train Excursion
- A potluck dinner
- Happy Hours and campfires
- A catered dinner on the last night

You can call and reserve a campsite anytime (do not reserve online). The sites are being held until 2 months before the rally. 2023 costs are ~\$70 per night. There is a weekly rate plus they offer Good Sam, AAA, Military/Veteran, First Responder/Nurse discounts.

If you call to reserve a site, let them know you are with the Region 7



Rally Recap

The Region 12 Vintage Airstream Club held its Autumn Rally the weekend of November 16th-19th, 2023 in Angels Camp, California at the Angels Camp RV Resort. We had a group of 8 rigs representing the 40's, 60's and 80's. The gold country was in full Autumn swing with the leaves turning and on and off rain. The days were crisp and the nights, crisper. Since we had full hookups, everyone was able to keep warm and toasty in their rigs. The rain even offered the opportunity for some of us to track down any mysterious leaks without being too bothersome.

Everyone gathered for coffee each morning which offered us the opportunity to start off our days socializing and planning our activities. Participants enjoyed hikes, visiting historic Columbia, and wine tasting in nearby Murphys. Friday night we had a fun Happy Hour and potluck where we christened our new rally cocktail, The Brown Derby. Saturday night was a fun time at a local, "old school" pizza joint that probably matched the vintage of some of our rigs, with good pizza and great company. We all had a great time socializing and began to come up with ideas for our next rally. We are really looking forward to the next time we all meet and hope to grow our ranks in Region 12.

The Brown Derby recipe. (Thank you Garry and Anne)

1 1/2 oz Bourbon

1 oz grapefruit juice, freshly squeezed

1/2 oz honey syrup

Add the bourbon, grapefruit juice and honey syrup into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled.

Fine-strain into a cocktail glass.

Express the oil from a grapefruit twist over the drink and drop the twist into the drink to garnish.

Cheers,
Ingall W. Bull





NAME	REGION	UNIT	TRAILER INFO	YEAR
December, 2023				
Awan, Gail & Safdar	3	21	Globe Trotter 19'	1963
Baum, Joseph & Christine	3	149	Flying Cloud 25'	2015
			International Sovereign 31'	1977
Braden, Cynthia	6	5	Trade Wind 25'	1978
Flores, David & Diana	9	168	Safari Landyacht 22'	1968
Herrmann, Lucius & Danielle	2	170	Excella	1992
Jacobs, Melia	3	22	Safari SE 23'	2007
Janoski, Cheryl	3	21	Bambi 16'	1963
Kent, Terry & Sharon	3	27	Caravaner 22'	1956
Madl, David & Tawnya	8	59	Flying Cloud 25'	2019
McElroy, Drew & Carol	4	6	Flying Cloud 25'	2011
Measures, Gerald & Susan	10	90	Caravel 17'	1967
Morrisette, Laura & George Blaszczynski	1	64	Safari Twin 23'	1972
Olson, Stephen & Anita	7	55	Safari 25'	1999
Rogers, Deborah & Kevin	10	112	International CCD 28'	2005

November, 2023

Bell, Linda	02	170	Trade Wind 24'	1961
Bowe, Scott & Lois Kelsey	04	000	Trade Wind 25'	1975
Fenton, Tam & Chuck Davis	03	022	Land Yacht 23'	1967
Gathany, Todd & Jacquie	10	112	21/8G 21'	1972
Griggs, Kendall & Claire	09	088	International Srenity 19'	2012
			Overlander	1958
Halford, Raymond & Anita	06	158	Classic 31'	2006
Lynch, Barbara Anne & April Mardock	10	121	Globe Trotter 20'	1967
			Bambi 20'	2019
Mount, John & Jodi	03	012	Argosy 27'	1978
Nutt, Cliff & Elizabeth	09	088	Excella 25'	1994
Powell, Jerry & Virginia	06	001	Excella 34'	1984
Quickel, Ashley & Tommy Volkmann Jr	02	066	Caravel Land Yacht 17'	1969
Rethemeyer, David & Brandon	02	053	Trade Wind 24'	1966
Ricketts, Robin & Brian Brieske	11	024	Overlander 26'	1957
Sander, William & Lori	11	024	Safari 22'	1959
			Safari 22'	1960
			Safari 22'	1967
Smith, Rickie	09	103	Argosy 29'	1989

October, 2023 not in November Newsletter

Barre, Vincent	12	014	Globe Trotter 18'	1959
Golden, John & Maureen	12	014	International Serenity 30'	2017
Rhoads, Hal & Betsy	03	000		2005
Tilmant, James & Barbara	11	024	Caravel 17'	1965
Van Klompenburg, Norm & Patricia	08	046	International Sovereign 31'	1976



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

David Gulley (#12540) – **Librarian**
librarian@vintageairstreamclub.com

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

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

Hollie Bart (#4597) – **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 (except UP)

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

Region 5: IL-IN-KY

Christopher Seplak (#246) vacregion5@vintageairstreamclub.com

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

Judy Hardwick (#14000) vacregion6@vintageairstreamclub.com

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

John Schnettler (#6594) 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-AK-OR-BC-AB-SK-YK

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

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

Lisa Sly (#4354) vacregion11@vintageairstreamclub.com

Region 12: CA-NV

Steve Doster (#4583): 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 affiliate member and enjoy the benefits of being up-to-date on VAC events and gatherings.

