Vintage **Airstream** Today

2024 March - April



President's Letter

From Steve Blackmer

Your VAC board has been working extremely hard over the past few months to bring to you, the membership, some really cool things that you need to try to take advantage of. We developed the 2024 VAC Around the World Caravan and Helen's Homecoming Rally at Jackson Center (registration is now closed), we have provided a Fireside Chat with Harvest Hosts to explain our joint adventure, and we have implemented a VAC Caravan Policy which is included in this Newsletter to assist and encourage our membership to develop and participate in local/regional caravans.

Now, in conjunction with David and Mary Gulley, we bring to you another event with no rally fee: the Retro-Rally at the Gulley Collection! Please see details included within this Newsletter on page 10 and posted on our website's event pages. The sign up period is now, and the deadline to secure your camping space, at your cost, is on March 29th, 2024.

Finally, like us, it's time for you, or someone from the membership to step forward and put your name in the ring to be our VAC 3rd VP starting this summer. Please take a few minutes to consider this, and review my invitation which is available in this Newsletter on page 2.

See you down the road,

Steve Blackmer

BRN 1095 VAC President

Inside every issue

President's Message1
Upcoming Events5
Find us on Social Media 7
Contact US15

Special points of interest

- Upcoming Virtual Chat Schedule and Details ...Page 2
- Join our Team...Page 2
- Meet vour Librarian Page 4
- Regional Rallies ... P 8
- Retro Rally at the Gulley Collection ... Page
- Membership Update Info ...Page 11
- VAC Caravan Policy ...Page 13





Upcoming Virtual Chats:

All chats are via Zoom at 8 PM EST

April 17, 2024
Restoring Vintage
Airstream Trailers and
Coaches

June 12, 2024

Tires

April VAC Virtual Fireside Chat

Our next VAC Virtual Fireside Chat is scheduled for **Wednesday April 17th** at **8:00pm EASTERN time.**

Join our host VAC 3rd VP John Schnettler, as we talk about **restoring vintage Airstream trailers and coaches**. We would like to have veteran restorers and those interested in, or in the middle of a restoration project join in the discussion.

Preserving our vintage Airstream beauties is what we do and sharing our experiences and resources with others is one of the best benefits of being a member of VAC. We 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!

John

SPECIAL NOTICE

Like any organization that has a volunteer leadership, the strength and success of an organization comes from its membership and those who step forward and volunteer their time and energy to help steer that organization into the future. According to our constitution and bylaws, each leadership position has a one year term. Mine will be coming to an end this summer, and as a result, leadership will be moving up within the chairs and we will have an opening for the Vintage Airstream Club 3rd Vice President.



I am asking you to please consider volunteering a little of your time to help make our club better each year, by considering to submitt your name to be on the voting ballot for the VAC 3rd Vice President.

Please follow this link to review the roles and responsibilities of the VAC 3rd Vice President: https://vintageairstreamclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DUTIES 201806276.pdf

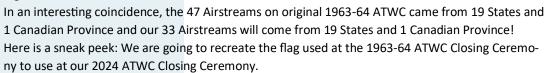
Please email me at steveblackmervac@gmail.com, or you can contact any of our VAC Board Membership if you wish to volunteer for the VAC Board.

Respectfully, Steve Blackmer, BRN 1095, VAC President



2024 Around the World Caravan News

The registration window for the 2024 VAC Around the World Caravan and Helen's Homecoming Rally has closed and all participants have been notified. We are pleased to announce that we were able to expand the size of the ATWC and all 33 Airstreams that requested to participate will be going with us!











Helen Byam Schwamborn, a woman working in a man's world – circa 1966-67? I

In this undated photo, you can see Helen Byam Schwamborn sitting and talking with a group of Airstream and WBCCI leaders, all men, among them Art Costello, President of Airstream, Richard Paschke, the 1966-67 WBCCI International President, and Ray Haycraft, the 1967-68 WBCCI International President. They are all sitting in front of Richard Paschke's Airstream bearing the BRN 93.

Participants will learn more about Helen at the VAC Helen's Homecoming Rally to be held May 30-June 2, 2024, in Jackson Center, OH.

We are looking forward to this very special event that will take place immediately following the Around the World Caravan 2024—and rumor has it there will be a few special guests.



Meet Your Board Members

David Gulley
Librarian



Hello, my name is David Gulley and I am the newest Board Member and appointed Librarian of the Vintage Airstream Club. I am also currently serving as the 1st Vice President of Region 6, and as a member of the WBCCI Historical Committee. In the past, I have served multiple terms as President of the Arkansas Razorback Unit.

My love for Airstreams began as a child in the 1960's. My family were avid campers and we traveled all over the country together in our thirty-foot 1964. My parents went on to order a custom built 1976, which sits at the heart of my collection to this day. My wife, Mary, and I joined WBCCI in 1995. A few years later in 1998, we joined VAC. During the early years, I was fortunate to befriend Bud Cooper and Forrest Bone.

For almost thirty years, Mary and I have been active and passionate members of WBCCI. It is a tradition that we have passed along to our two children, our daughter-in-law, and our grandson. We are especially interested in, and dedicated to, preserving the history of the Airstream through our collection of trailers and memorabilia. I am proud to have been nominated by Steve Blackmer for the position of Librarian. With the VAC archives, access to WBCCI's documents, combined with the knowledge and expertise of Joe Peplinski and Dale Schwamborn, I will be able to maintain and share our club's rich history with our VAC members.

We recently came across an interesting article from our friends at Tin Can Tourists. We thought you might enjoy this article.

Origins of the Vintage Trailer Movement

by Dal Smilie

With the 100th anniversary of the Tin Can Tourists (TCT) and the induction of (re)founders Forrest and Jeri Bone into the Recreational Vehicle/Manufactured Housing Hall of Fame, I thought I had a pretty good understanding of the origin of the vintage trailer movement. But I wanted to understand more about its roots in the West. So, I set out to learn what I could and put this article together that includes information about early vintage trailer clubs and events across the country.

Continue reading

https://tincantourists.com/2024/01/11/origins-of-the-vintage-trailer-movement/



2024 Events At A Glance

- 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
- ♦ VACmidwest Region 8 VAC ,Spring rally May 16-19, Waubonsie State Park, Iowa. on Page7.
- 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, Champoeg State Park in the Willamette, Thursday, July 18, 2024 through Sunday, July 21, 2024 (3 nights). Details on Page 9
- ♦ Region 7, September 12 19, 2024 Location: Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort. Details on Page 8
- ♦ Retro-Rally at the Gulley Collection, Little Rock, Arkansas, September 30 & October 1, 2024 Details on Page 10
- ♦ Registration for the 67th Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, MO is now open!! Rally dates are October 5-10, 2024. <u>Details here</u>

Our <u>VAC events page</u> is continually updated—be sure to visit often for more rallies and caravans.







California Rallies

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





vintagecampertrailers@gmail.com

916<mark>-572-8554</mark> vintagecampertrailers@gmail.com



South Lake Tahoe, CA September 5-8, 2024

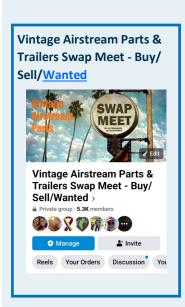
www.trailerfestrally.com





Our Facebook Pages:





Upcoming Region Rallies

Region 8

Reserve Campsite Today! Limited Sites (Hosts are in sites 4-5-6)

VAC Rally (Vintage Airstream Club)

May 16 – 19, 2024

WAUBONSIE STATE PARK

2585 Waubonsie Park Rd, Hamburg, IA 51640



LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES:

Booking window opens February 16th, 2024

Campground MAP (pdf)

Some things planned below

Tour: Kregel Windmill Factory Museum

Visit: Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center

Dinner: Whiskey Springs

Food option: Runza – Nebraska City

Arboretum: Arbor Lodge State Historical Park (Park & Arboretum FREE / Tour of Mansion \$)

OPEN HOUSE (optional) – it is always fun to peak & see what all has been done to trailers

VAC presentation/demonstration



Hosts Scott & Jodi Jensen 515-321-0703 (let us know what site you book)

Co-Hosts: Scott & Kathy Allen

AGENDA to be sent at a later date



Upcoming Region Rallies continued

Region 7

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.

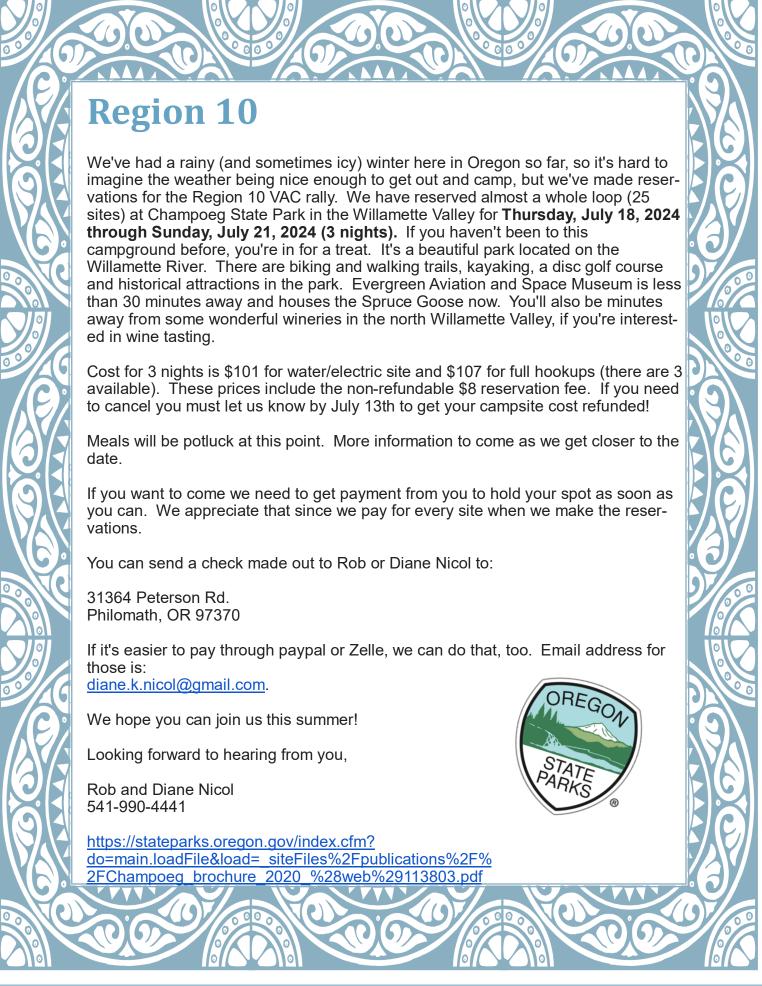


Some of the things we're looking at are:

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 Airstream Rally.





Retro-Rally at the Gulley Collection Hosted by David and Mary Gulley Little Rock, Arkansas

September 30 & October 1, 2024

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the Gulley Collection! David and Mary Gulley have graciously invited us to see their personal collection of vintage Airstreams and other rare and unusual vintage travel trailers, each meticulously staged with period camping supplies, and their collection of vintage automobiles and memorabilia.

The Rally dates were selected to allow viewing the Gulley Collection on your way to the WBCCI/ACI International Rally in Sedalia, MO, but it is an <u>independent event</u>. You can attend this Retro-Rally even if you are not going to the International Rally.

The only requirements to attend are that you are a current VAC member and that you pre-register by March 29, 2024. You will make your own campground reservations. There is no participation limit planned, but registration may close early if demand is very high.

Viewing may be split up over two days, Monday 9/30 and Tuesday 10/1 depending upon demand. Additional activities may be planned once demand is known. A listing of things to "do and see" will be provided to allow you to explore Little Rock on your own.

Next Steps to attend this event:

Register by March 29, 2024 to confirm you plan to attend using this link:

https://vintageairstreamclub.com/retro-rally-at-the-gulley-collection-2024/

No Rally Fee!

Make your own Campground Reservations at the following recommended campground:

Maumelle Park Campground (a US Army Corp of Engineers campground)

9009 Pinnacle Valley Rd. Little Rock, AR 72223 (501) 868-9477

Reservations: Must be made online: https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/233098

Dates: Arrive Sunday September 29, 2024 / Depart Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Registration Opens 6 Months Before the Camping Date – Sign up on March 29, 2024 for September 29 – October 2, 2024.

YOU MUST REGISTER FOR A CAMPSITE ON MARCH 29, 2024

(Should this Campground Fill Up, Please Contact Steve Blackmer for Additional Campground Recommendations.)

Should you have any questions, please contact: Steve Blackmer / BRN 1095 / VAC President steveblackmervac@gmail.com







Membership Update

Thanks to all our new members as well as the substantial percentage of loyal VAC Members who renewed their memberships into 2024, our Intra Club has grown to over 600 memberships. We hope that you will take advantage of all the membership perks, especially by joining us at a rally New Members! or caravan where we can get to know and learn from each other. We look forward to seeing you down the road.

Judi Moran, BRN 4405 VAC Membership Chair, membership@VintageAirstreamClub.com

NAME	REGION	UNIT	TRAILER INFO	YEAR
January, 2024				
Anderson, Gregory & Kathryn Lyster	7	116	Safari 22'	1967
Ard, Seth	3	27	Excella 500 31'	1975
Bihary, Dan & Dawn	4	. 6	Ambassador 30'	1960
			Sovereign 30'	1980
			Classic 30'	2006
			Safari 23'	1970
Bluhm, Kimberlee & Thomas	7	55	Sovereign 31'	1972
Evans, Brady & Lisa	5	49	Overlander 26'	1967
Felder, Kendall & Melanie Wheeler	3	C	Ambassador 28'	1965
			Excella 29'	1992
Hanus, Amy & Chris	9	99	Flying Cloud 25'	2021
Hedges, Lee & Kathe	12	15	Safari 22'	1965
Landry, Ada	6	50	Trade Wind 25'	1972
Mayer, Richard	4	115	Caravel 22'	1980
McCauley, Joseph	9	168	Ambassador 29'	1972
Meeks, Ralph & Ruth	3	161	Excella 500 31'	1975
Rydel Fornter, Monique	12	178	Globe Trotter Custom 18'	1958
Serface, Terry & Nancy	9	C	Flying Cloud 25'	2015
Stevens, Shawn	11	108	Trade Wind 24'	1967
Waldo, Jean & Edward	12	14	Sovereign 21'	1993



Membership Update continued

NAME	REGION	UNIT	TRAILER INFO	YEAR
February, 2024 (thru February 22)				
Brown, Tom & Ella	4	6	International 25'	2018
Gray, Corey & Katie	11	24	Flying Cloud 23'	2018
Newell, Andrew	0	0	Overlander 26'	1963
(from the United Kingdom)			Excella 25'	1996
Harrison, Sarah & Patrick	11	24	Overlander 27'	1974
Gosnell, Wayne & Martha	9	104	Safari 23'	1969
Ehalt, Jim & Cindy	7	55	Globe Trotter 18'	1954
Martchek, Todd & Tanya	9	99	Overlander 27'	1972
Corder, Shannon	5	49	Excella 32'	1987
Gipson, Kessiah & Bronn	3	32	Safari 22'	1964



We know we missed some but here are a few of the VAC members who attended the Canopener 2024 rally — picture taken right after we fed the crowd with tomato sandwiches, RC cola and moon pies. Courtesy of Judy Hardwick BRN 14000



VAC Caravan Policy

The purpose of this VAC Caravan Policy is to encourage Members of the VAC to develop and host VAC Intra-Club Caravans, and to set forth the manner by which a proposed Caravan is to be submitted for approval by the VAC Board.

All such VAC Intra-Club Caravans, as have been duly approved by the VAC Board (each, a "VAC Caravan") will be assigned a VAC Caravan Registered Number, using the format "VAC" followed by a sequential number (e.g., VAC-01, VAC-02, et seq.). A running list of numbered VAC Caravans will be maintained on the VAC website and include the VAC Caravan Registered Number, Caravan Name/Theme, Caravan Leader(s), starting and ending dates, locations, and a list of participants, when available.

To be considered for Board approval, each proposal for a VAC Caravan must comply with the following minimum requirements:

The VAC Member(s) who wishes to serve as leader(s) of a VAC Caravan must complete the attached VAC Caravan Form and submit it for review and approval by the Board as soon as practicable but in no event less than 30 days prior to the start date of the proposed VAC Caravan.

A VAC Caravan must be open for participation by all VAC Members. A member of the WBCCI who is not a Member of the VAC may be allowed to participate, if capacity allows, after having given priority participation to VAC Members.

VAC Caravan participants must be selected using a fair and equitable process (e.g., order of application, random drawing, etc.).

A VAC Caravan must have seven (7) or more participating Airstreams.

A VAC Caravan must include a <u>minimum</u> of three (3) or more travel days and overnight camping at four (4) or more locations, which may include the starting and ending points, and time at organized rallies.

VAC Caravans are encouraged to be developed around a theme and will be self-funded.

Each VAC Caravan Leader(s) must certify compliance with the minimum caravan requirements set forth herein.

Upon meeting the minimum requirements noted above, the VAC Board may approve the VAC Caravan and issue a VAC Caravan Registered Number. All decisions whether to approve the VAC Caravan are in the sole discretion of the Board and are final.



VAC Caravan Approval Form

VAC Caravan Name / Theme:	
(Attach an additional s	heet if necessary to provide further details.)
Dates of Caravan:	
Caravan Leader(s):	
Starting Location:	
Ending Location:	
# of Rigs:	
# of Travel Days:	
List of Overnight Anticipated	
Stop Locations:	
_	
_	
_	
Participant Selection Method:	
Submitted By:	
Submission Date:	
Submission Bute.	
For completion by the VAC Board	
VAC Board Approval/Denial Date:	
Approved VAC Caravan Number:	





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: OH-WV-MI (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-MI (UP)

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

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

