



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club

Gopher News



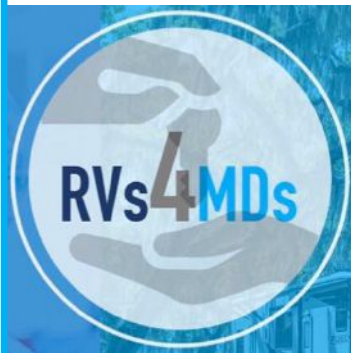
WBCCI - Unit 059

May 2020

President's Message

Hello Quarantined Campers,

As we continue to shelter in place during the Coronavirus Pandemic, I wanted to share with you some of the good being done by members of the RV community.



A program called "RVs 4 MDs" matches people who are willing to lend or donate their recreational vehicles to doctors, nurses, EMS, and other first-responders who need a safe place to quarantine, in order to protect their families while they are fighting the Corona Pandemic. So far, this Facebook group has connected more than 1,000 essential workers with recreational vehicles. [RVs 4 MDs To Fight the Corona Virus Public Group | Facebook](#)

The RV industry convinced California, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania that RV parks are essential businesses, reversing those states' decision to close RV parks. While the hotels are closed, RV parks, campgrounds and marinas are playing a vital role in providing a safe place to stay, often at no charge, to healthcare workers, food bank workers and traveling medical professionals.

RVs are also being used as medical facilities for patients and as shelter-in-place environments for homeless people.

In "RV Travel," I read about an owner of a Virginia RV park who is allocating a number of free sites to those who are having difficulty finding a place to stay overnight.

Arthur Ashe, a man who suffered many hardships during his childhood, achieved incomparable fame as a tennis player and contributed so much of his wealth to charitable causes suggested the following:

**"Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can."**

It's heartwarming to know that so many in the RV community are using what they have and doing what they can to help others.

Stay safe, friends. Hope to see you soon.

- Tim

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Keep Collecting Pop Can Tabs!

Eventually we will all meet again at an International Rally, our collected tabs will be sold, and the money donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Key Corder wanted to pass on this information about the collection: "I worked with Glen Waters, the Region and International Community Service Chairman. At last year's Rally they discovered that they can sell the steel tabs as well as the aluminum - so please start saving them!

Some smart Airstreamer used a magnet underneath a metal tray to separate the steel tabs from the aluminum tabs. You would be surprised at what else it catches, safety pins, money, you name it!"



Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

LUNCHEONS

????????????

RALLIES

????????????



Find all 2020 Club activities at
<https://missouri-kansas.airstreamclub.net>
 ...when we get some again...

Missing Your Friends From Other Region 8 Clubs?

Don't forget you can look up each club's newsletters and see what they're up to - *and maybe see some of their smiling faces!* Here are a list of quick links to the clubs' websites with up-to-date postings:

Region 8

<https://region8.airstreamclub.net/news/>

Missouri Greater Ozark Unit

<https://mogrtrozark.airstreamclub.net/88-2/>

Nebraska Airstream Club

<https://nebraska.airstreamclub.net/news/>

Iowa Airstream Club

<https://iowa.airstreamclub.net/news/>



Thinking of What-Could-Have-Been...

Mike Bedinger and Linda Bryant did a quick drive through of a nearly-empty Basswood RV Resort, home of our now-cancelled Spring Rally. "It was really quite sad. No Airstreamers."



May Celebrations!

Birthdays

Lynn Anderson, 5/7 Neil Crain, 5/13
 David Sokolowski, 5/7 Tracy Williams, 5/20
 Charles Colbert, 5/13 Tim Timmons, 5/23

Anniversaries

Ryan Beasley & Lisa Buchholz, 5/4
 Don & Shirley Sutton, 5/4
 Kirk Moore & Denise Chevalier, 5/14

The Corona Connection

During the Pandemic, we're asking members to periodically drop us a note to let us know how you are doing. **Tell us where you are, what you're doing, and what you are learning and experiencing.** Share humorous stories, camping information, or anything else of interest to the group. Since we won't be taking photos at lunches or rallies, please include a photograph or two, and send them to kcunitnews@gmail.com.

Pat & Glen Harris

"We are doing fine and hope that everyone is doing well and staying healthy. We were looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Rally. On April 18th, we celebrated 61 years of marriage, and our family gave us a drive-by parade. This picture is from that day. We appreciate all of your continued support and wonderful friendships. Stay safe!"



Linda & Larry Poage



"We had a great time in Rockport, TX again this winter. Linda quilted with the ladies and Larry played lots of pool. We got home the first of March and feel so "blessed" that we did because, two couples we saw regularly got the Coronavirus at the end of March. Larry has been doing yard work and watching Netflix. Linda has been making face masks for family. We are missing all of our Airstream friends. Stay safe."

John Eckardt & Maria Stimach

"Our life is pretty simple right now. It revolves around gardening, reading the paper, relaxing, playing the piano, and for Maria, working from home. We also go to Costco about once a week. I'm starting to plan a mini golf vacation for the Airstream around either Missouri or Kansas."



Cheryl & John Ball



"John and I have been staying safe and healthy. Since the schools are closed, John is finished driving school buses. John says he has been a couch potato, but he has been doing chores around the house. I have been taking daily walks. We are conducting virtual Sunday School which has been very fun, and our youngest granddaughter, who lives in Florida, is able to join in. Mikayla moved down to the Lake of the Ozarks with her grandpa and his wife. We are hoping and praying this is what she needs to be successful. We hope you all are staying healthy. We miss you."

The Corona Connection (continued)

Henry & Kerstin Roberts

"We're doing fine, especially on these pretty days. I haven't had any luck so far in making a nice looking mask. It's been 6 years since I'd used my sewing machine, and I've had to get re-acquainted with it. Henry's been making good progress on a 1500-piece jig saw puzzle. It has been fun learning new ways of getting together with family members remotely by Zoom meetings, "going to church" on Sundays via YouTube videos made by our pastors and music by our choir director who has a wonderful voice. We sing along with him from our living room. We send greetings to all of you Airstream friends, hope all of you are well and that we can see each other again before too many more months go by."



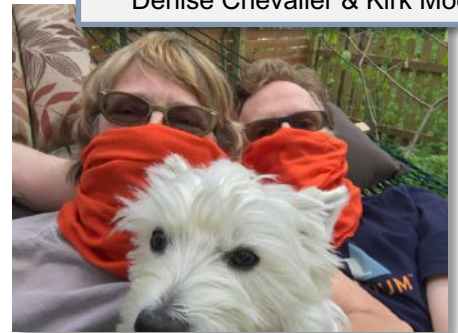
Jerry & Carri Lamb



"I didn't get a picture taken with me and Carri with our masks on, but I have been active on the Airstream Forum with my vintage Caravel project. I drove down to Texas to pick it up, camped overnight in my Sprinter, refueled and was in-and-out of there like a "Black Ops" - no human contact. Working on it is keeping me from going nuts with the shutdown. We are able to practice medicine, so next Tuesday we'll open to take care of our Migraine patients that we treat with Botox. Here's a photo of the inside - ready to put back together."

"It's amazing how many projects you can get done when you've got nowhere else to go! We've fixed and expanded our backyard picket fence to make space for our large hammock stand, deep-cleaned and reorganized our garage, decided NOT to call a repairman and fixed the dishwasher ourselves, did a lot of landscaping, walked Rulo, binged TV shows we've missed... and the list keeps going. If Colorado opens up their State Parks, we may get to keep our June reservations with 'Rosalie.' Stay safe everybody!"

Denise Chevalier & Kirk Moore



Paula & Tim Timmons



We sold the sportscar, the 1964 trailer, had a contract on the house, and were planning to leave for Miami, Florida on May 5th just in time to meet our first grandchild. With COVID-19, we decided it wasn't a good time to be on the road, so for now, we're still at home in Lawrence. Take care everyone!

... and speaking of quarantine...



The story of the Airstream Mobile Quarantine Facility.

As NASA was preparing to send astronauts to the moon in the 1960s, concerns arose in the scientific community about the threat of unknown lunar pathogens. Fears spread that astronauts could come into contact with bacteria on the surface of the moon and expose others upon their return, leading to an outbreak of disease.



While this threat was considered minimal, the need for precaution led to the creation of the Interagency Committee on Back Contamination (ICBC) who searched for ways to safely deal with the threat of lunar micro-organisms. The ICBC and NASA agreed that the astronauts and the samples they collected should be transferred from splash down to the Lunar Receiving Laboratory in a Mobile Quarantine Facility (or MQF).

NASA contracted with a company known as Melpar, Inc. who then subcontracted with Airstream to build the MQF. In total, Airstream built four MQFs which were essentially modified travel trailers. An [Airstream travel trailer](#) seemed like the natural choice due to its “aircraft-like” construction, self-containment features, and high-quality living quarters that could withstand the rigors of transportation.

The MQF was 35’ long and adapted for transport by ship and cargo plane. The sealed aluminum trailer utilized exhaust fans and filters to create an internal negative pressure for biological isolation. A decontamination transfer lock feature was added to allow for the transfer of samples and film that the astronauts had collected. Inside, the MQF provided comfortable living areas much like a standard Airstream trailer including bunk beds, a kitchen, and a bathroom. There were also several unique interior features including a medical examination table in place of the typical credenza table. In addition, each person had a mounted seat with a seat belt and straps on their bunk bed to be used during flight or while moving from one carrier to another.

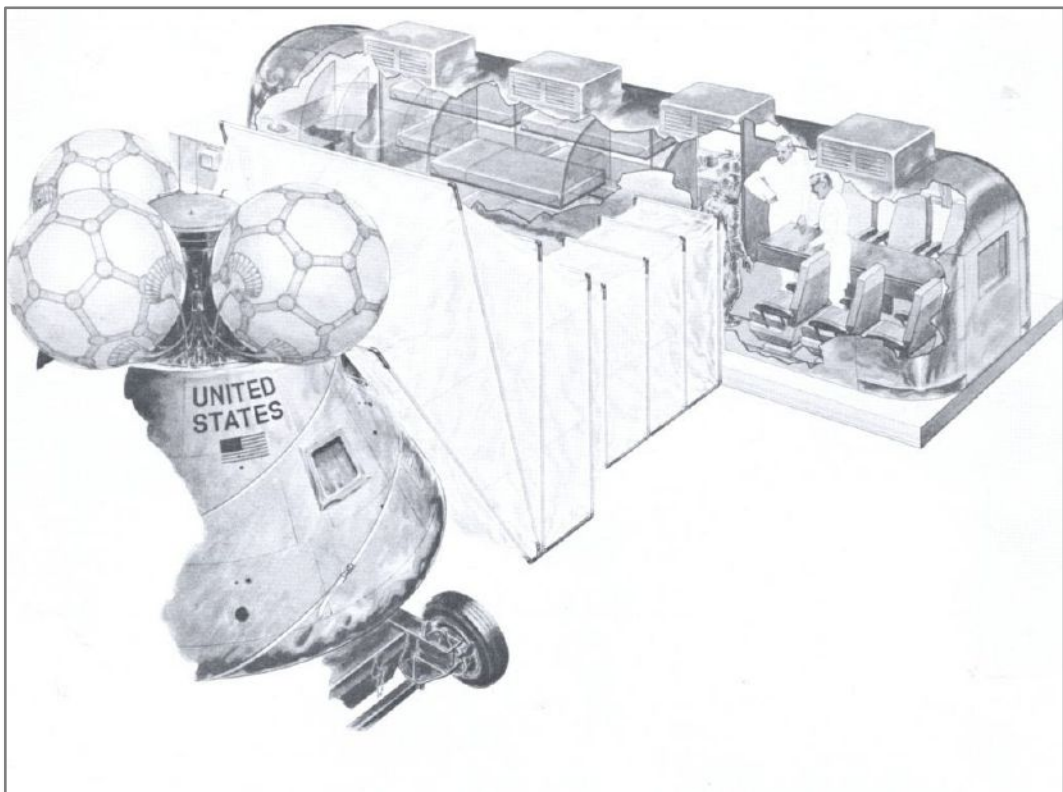


The first MQF was used for Apollo 11 astronauts Commander Neil Armstrong, Command Module Pilot Michael Collins, and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. They became the first people to land on the moon on July 20, 1969. A few days later, on July 24, 1969, they returned to Earth and splashed down into the Pacific Ocean. They were given hazmat suits and transferred to the USS Hornet where they entered the MQF along with Recovery Engineer John Hirasaki and Flight Surgeon Dr. William Carpentier.



Employees here at Airstream beamed with pride at their televisions as they watched the astronauts speak with President Nixon while peering through the rear window of the MQF. While in the MQF, the astronauts went through medical exams and filled out reports. They also ate, relaxed, and shared stories of their adventures with Hirasaki and Carpentier.

MQFs were used for Apollo missions 11, 12, and 14 before it was determined that lunar pathogens were not a threat and their use was discontinued. An MQF was intended for Apollo 13 but was not used as the mission was aborted due to an onboard explosion. Currently, three of the MQFs produced are on display in various locations. The MQF used during the Apollo 11 mission is on display at the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia. The MQF used during Apollo 12 is on display at the U.S. Space and Rocket Park in Huntsville, Alabama. The MQF used during Apollo 14 is on display at the USS Hornet Sea Air and Space Museum in California. The MQF that was intended to be used during Apollo 13 was transferred to the USDA and its location is currently unknown.



Airstream's relationship with NASA did not end once the MQFs were no longer in use. In 1983, NASA began using a modified [Airstream Excella Motorhome](#), known as the [Astrovan](#), to transport astronauts from the Operations and Checkout Building at the Florida Kennedy Space Center to the launch pad. The Astrovan was used from 1983 until the program was discontinued in 2011.