



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club Gopher News



WBCCI - Unit 059

July 2020



President's Message

Happy Fourth of July Everyone!



The 2020 International Board of Trustees' Summer meeting took place on June 22 – 27. *A big thanks to **Charles Colbert** for serving as our delegate.* The summer 2020 IBT meetings were held online, via a broadcast ZOOM meeting and the WBCCI YouTube Channel. The 2021 slate of officers was elected, and all three proposed amendments were passed. ***A summary of the voting results is presented on page 7.*** You can find more information regarding the IBT summer meeting at www.airstreamclub.org.



Last month we asked you to donate \$19 per club member to FEEDING AMERICA and help those in need during this Corona Pandemic. The *July 12th deadline* for our fundraiser is fast approaching. To date, we have collected \$915.00, but our goal was to raise \$2,000 to provide 20,000 meals to those in need.

We need your help!

Please consider sending your donation today!

Make checks payable to	Mo-Kan Airstream Club
Designation:	Corona Virus Fundraiser
Mail checks to:	Linda Poage, Treasurer Mo-Kan Airstream Club 1904 Honeysuckle Ave. Kearney, Missouri 64060



As always, thanks for all you're doing and stay safe!

-Tim

Executive Officers

President:

Tim Timmons
ttbikes@aol.com

1st Vice President:

John Eckardt
jeckar52@gmail.com

2nd Vice President:

Charles Colbert
ccolbert9210@sbcglobal.net

3rd Vice President:

Unfilled

Treasurer:

Linda Poage
lpoage@kc.rr.com

Recording Secretary (acting):

Paula Timmons
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Corresponding Secretary:

Paula Timmons
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Past President:

Mike Bedinger
bedingerea@gmail.com

Parliamentarian:

Henry Roberts

Membership Chair:

Joyce Cantrell
ljcan@twinvalley.net

Newsletter Editor:

Kirk Moore
kcunitnews@gmail.com



In Remembrance of Wendell Sisk

Wendell Sisk passed away on June 5th at the age of 96. He and his wife Shirley lived in Olathe, KS.



Wendell and his wife were long-time club members and both served as Club President. (Their son Mike Sisk is our current Region 8 President.) Wendell's obituary noted that they "loved to travel by RV. They toured all of the US, Canada, Mexico, Central and Western Europe. They were long-time members of the Wally Byam International Caravan Club, an Airstream RV owners organization and led many Airstream caravans from coast to coast."

Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

LUNCHEONS



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

RALLIES



Although Charles Colbert continues to plan a Fall Rally, we have *not* yet made a decision on whether or not to hold it. It's unlikely that we would have a Fall Rally if the National Airstream Club recommends against it.

My thinking, at this time, is that trying to conduct a rally in compliance with CDC guidelines would not be feasible. If you have opinions on this matter, please feel free to contact me at 785-691-7112 or ttbikes@aol.com

- Tim

Find all 2020 Club activities at

<https://missouri-kansas.airstreamclub.net>

...when we get some again...

Member Health News

Please keep Carol & Marion Pember in your thoughts & prayers. Carol recently fell ill and is now in hospice care.



Welcome New Members!

Jeff & Lisa Stasch

Garden City, KS

Dean & Linda Frazier

Prairie Village, KS

We hope to meet you at a future luncheon or Rally!

A BIG THANK YOU TO CHERYL BALL

The club wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Cheryl Ball for her service to the Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club. Cheryl has been an actively involved club member, and served on the executive board as recording secretary for five years. She also served as our community service chair. Although we hate to see them go, we wish John and Cheryl "safe travels" and "happy trails" (with their new "SOB" camper) in the years ahead.

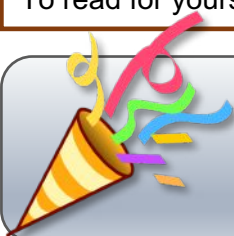


BUT BEFORE CHERYL LEFT...

...she sent the Gopher a link to these new retail shops in the Jacksonville FL area. (Cheryl's daughter lives down there.) Called "Airstream Row," the triplet of retro trailers form a shopping subcommunity at Vilano Beach.

To read for yourself, here's the [link](#), OR Google "Airstream Row Jacksonville, FL"

Thanks for the Fun Tip!



Birthdays

John Eckhardt, 7/03
Kirk Moore, 7/06
Sue Anderson, 7/10

Glenda Ridgeway, 7/10
Ronald Fultz, 7/13
Kay Corder, 7/20

July Celebrations!

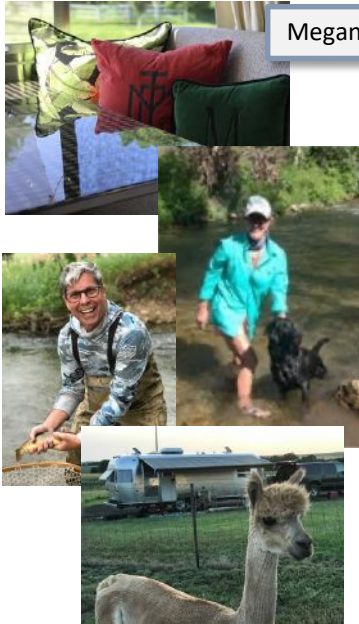
Anniversaries

Martin & Rachel Hughey, 7/01
David & Claudia Sokolowski, 7/20

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! Send them to kcunitnews@gmail.com.

Megan & Cliff Ira



First let me say, boy did we buy an Airstream at the right time! We only used it two weekends last year and we spent this year updating the cushions, mattress and a few other things. We also built a really cool dinette table out of epoxied checkered cloth from Nell Hill's, and surrounded it with metal strapping to give it that retro-diner look. Our favorite part however, is the charging stations we drilled into the top of the table! No more crawling around to plug everything in!

We finally did get out for our first full week of camping in June - an early 10-year anniversary trip to SD. We stayed in Niobrara National Park on the way and did some family history research in Lynch, Nebraska. Then we drove up to Spearfish SD, stayed in their city park and could not recommend it more! There were several other Airstreamers there and we talked with a few of them (at a distance!) The park was lovely and within walking distance to the town with some great trails and streams running through it. Spearfish was a great home base for our day trips around the area.

We are back now and while that is sad, I do feel a lot safer, controlling my environment is a bit easier. My husband is busily back at work with medical supplies and I am continuing to paint. I've got a ton of landscapes I want to do from our trip! I do miss the club lunches and social interactions though. If anyone wants to reach out, feel free!

We came home from Port Aransas, Texas on March 18. We had been there since January 3. We missed our month in April at Fredericksburg, Texas. So with the Airstream winterized again (never planned on that) we placed her in storage. We hunkered down for the month of March, April and May. Our caravan to Prince Edward Island was cancelled, and we wondered -- what could we do during our time at home? We got a travel buddy. "Wren" is our new Jack Russell terrier pup. We have been investing our free time walking and training Wren. Wren has been investing her time training us also. We plan on going to Bayfield, Wisconsin in July, then on to Angel Fire, New Mexico in August.

But our biggest news is that we will be grandparents for the first time around Christmas!

Mike & Jeanette Branam



Wren also enjoys a good ride in the convertible.

Dustin & Chris Whitney



We are newer members, joining in the fall of 2019. We have a 1962 Overlander. Chris owns Airparts Inc in Kansas City KS, where you can purchase aluminum sheet and rivets for your restoration needs, see airparts.com. In early 2020, Dustin retired from being a self-employed carpet installer for 30 years, he attended the CDL program at JCCC and graduated right before the college closed due to COVID. So it's life on the road for him -- unfortunately not towing our Airstream, but driving a semi. In May we welcomed our 1st grandchild, Mila Christine, who is just perfection! Grammie and Pops are smitten! A two-week trip to Door County, WI is the plan for July, be sure to watch for us! #11234

The Corona Connection (continued)

A Dept of Agriculture Retiree friend and I just returned from a trip to Sevierville, TN (home of the famous country star singer, Dolly Parton) and the Great Smoky Mountain area. Since there were lots of vacationers there, we decided to find things to do away from the crowds who were there mostly for hiking in the mountains, doing the water activities, zip lining and all the many other attractions that included Dollywood. We were near Knoxville which has a lot of Civil War history. We went to Fort Loudoun State Historic Park, Fort Dickerson, Marble Springs Historic Site (Last Home of John Sevier) and the Ramsey House as well as driving up to Clingmans Dome in the Smokies and visiting the Smoky Mountain Heritage Center. Fort Loudoun State Historic Park preserves the history of Fort Loudoun and the role it played in the French and Indian War. Built in 1756, the fort was one of the earliest British fortifications on the western frontier. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), the British Colony of South Carolina felt threatened by French activities in the Mississippi River Valley. To counter this threat, the Colony sent the independent Company of South Carolina to construct and garrison what became Fort Loudoun. This move helped to ally the mighty Overhill Cherokee Nation in the fight against the French and guaranteed that trade would continue between the Cherokees and South Carolina. In the course of the fort's four-year existence between 1756 and 1760, relationships between the British and the Cherokee nation broke down. In August 1760, the British surrendered Fort Loudoun to the Cherokee, and its garrison was attacked and taken hostage 15 miles from the fort. The fort was reconstructed during the Great Depression. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

Fort Dickerson, one of the best-preserved earthen forts from the Civil War era, is nestled in a spectacular city park in Knoxville. There is an interactive trail around the fort, which includes three authentic replica cannons.

Marble Springs Historic Site & Farmstead was the last home of John Sevier. John Sevier was an American soldier, frontiersman, and politician, and one of the founding fathers of the State of Tennessee. He played a leading role in Tennessee's pre-statehood period, both militarily and politically, and he was elected the state's first governor in 1796. Sevierville was named after him. The Historic Site included his original farm home where he lived until his death in 1815.

The Ramsey House built in 1797 was The Finest House in Tennessee, just minutes from downtown Knoxville. It boasts the first attached kitchen. It was built for Colonel Francis Alexander Ramsey. The Georgian-style home was designed by architect Thomas Hope and constructed of East Tennessee pink marble and blue limestone. Ramsey house is decorated with period furnishings, some original to the Ramsey family.

Clingmans Dome is the highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains, at 6,643 feet. There is a short paved trail hike to the dome.

The Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center is located in Townsend and a museum whose mission is to preserve, interpret and share the history and culture of the diverse peoples and Native American who have inhabited the Southern Appalachians including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and offers exhibitions and programs for educational and cultural enrichment.

It was nice to get in some traveling, even though it wasn't in an Airstream! A bit of information if you are traveling (without an Airstream) on a Sunday! We needed a "pit" stop and stopped at a McDonald's - closed, gas station - closed, across the street was a Baptist Church and it was "open" so we drove over to the parking lot and asked if we could use the facilities. They couldn't say "no" and they even offered to pray for us! Therefore, we had a wonderful, adventurous, safe trip!

Kay Corder



Tim & Paula Timmons

Tim and Paula are happy. Their first grandchild was born on June 19th.



Tim and Paula are sad. They are in Lawrence, Kansas, and their new granddaughter, Nora, is in Miami, Florida.



Our Trip to the Balloon Fiesta

- Lynn Anderson



I've thought since last fall that I should write an article about our 2018 and 2019 Balloon Fiesta experiences and share the procedures of where, when, and how you maneuver through it. In January 2018 we mailed our application to attend the Balloon Fiesta on the morning the application process started. Several weeks later our check was deposited and we got an email saying we were "in" and I started planning our trip to Albuquerque (ABQ). We had read about Texas Country Air, an urban rally, that was scheduled two and a half weeks after the Balloon Fiesta. We decided to attend both events and planning began. We made all the reservations in Feb 2018 from our winter home in Texas with planned stops in Pratt, KS, Palo Duro TX State Park (The Grand Canyon of Texas), Santa Fe for one week, ABQ for the Balloon Fiesta, Carlsbad Cavern, Big Bend National Park, Austin and area side trips for one week and then on to Texas Country Air in Brownwood (about 120 miles southwest of Dallas). All the reservations were made, then the bottom fell out of our lives. Sue had a 3D Mammogram which discovered a very small tumor. A biopsy and many appointments led to a scheduled lumpectomy on Oct 4, the same time we were to be at ABQ. We had to cancel everything (for good reason) and we received refunds from everyone except the Airstream Balloon Fiesta Rally as we were beyond their refund date. We would need to repeat the application process again in 2019! The good news was Sue's big C was caught early and radiation in November was successful, and that was the most important thing to us.

In 2019 the Airstream Balloon Fiesta Rally process started with a Facebook post announcing the date to mail in your application that had to be post marked on Jan 19. Larry and Linda Poage, Roger and Sara Masters and us all mailed our applications from the same Post Office in Rockport, TX. Luckily all three of us were accepted. We know of several couples who applied but didn't get selected in the drawing and their names were put on the waiting list to be given first choice for the 2020 Fiesta or cancelations for 2019.

As most of the planning was done for 2018, we were able to repeat our reservations. After the Fiesta we would go on to Carlsbad Cavern, Ft Davis Mountains State Park to the Star Show at McDonald Observatory, on to Big Bend National Park, to Sonora Caverns, to the Austin area and on to Brownwood for Texas Country Air Urban Rally. The Urban Rally had Texas music every night and interesting seminars during the day similar and better than those at the International 2018 in Oregon.



When you go to the Airstream Balloon Fiesta Rally I would recommend that you stay at ABQ for two nights (or at least one night) at Enchanted Trails RV Park that the committee recommends. There you can rest, empty your tanks, fill your fresh water tank and get ready for the most beautiful balloon scenery you will ever see. Enchanted Trails is off I40 on the west side of ABQ. You can see Camping World from the RV park, as it's located on the same service road. If you want to be next to a group of friends at the rally you leave together for your journey up the road to Camping World (100 yds away) after 8am on Friday. The committee greets you and will line you up. Camping world is open and has coffee and restrooms. Everyone is so excited and anxious to

(Continued next page)

get to the field. They take you in groups of 4-7 Airstreams to the Balloon Park east on I40 to I25 north and exit at the Park. Having worked Surveillance in Boston and Kansas City I wondered how our group would stay together with stop lights etc. No problem you can see an Airstream for miles on an Interstate and continue to follow the leader to the park. The committee members with pink flamingo head gear directed us into the parking area, south of the 80 acre Balloon Field. Our group was parked side by side facing the Balloon Field. They parked each Airstream with the trailer ball on a line and your street side wheels on a line in perfect rows and you each have a 20 by 50 foot space. When all AS are parked you were instructed row by row to move your tow vehicle to park behind your AS starting with the back row. A very smooth procedure. That evening (Friday) the committee had a Mexican dinner for all and made announcements. Saturday morning we were up early, it was foggy and the balloons only inflated and for the first time could not launch due to dense fog. Saturday night some Texans in the group cooked a pig and we had a BBQ and pot luck dinner. Later there were awesome fireworks. Sunday morning around 6am the dawn patrol (several balloons) went up to test the winds. And then it happened, hundreds of balloons inflated, arose, and then floated over our Airstreams while we sat in our chairs drinking coffee and trying to stay warm for 2 1/2 hours. If you wanted you could stay inside and watch them through your skylight or side and front windows, amazing. Sunday afternoon there was a car show on the field. Sunday night was awesome fireworks again. Monday and Tuesday mornings were the same as Sunday AM. The Balloon Field is ringed on the east side and south end with many food and other vendors similar to a State Fair. I started wondering how 150 Airstreams would leave by 11am on Tuesday morning. They told us it would go smooth and it did. Some left Monday night and people just got ready and left when they wanted. We stayed on the lot with the exception of leaving Monday for lunch with our old and new friends. There are bike trails and bike rides and plenty to do while there, as well as interesting food opportunities at the vendors. We were never bored. The balloons fly till about 11am. You are not allowed to move your vehicles while the balloons are flying. We found out why when a balloon had to make an emergency landing between airstreams! Each day we could run our generators to charge our batteries. We also ran the generator on Sunday night watching the Chiefs on TV. I just ran our generator on the tail gate of our truck.

At the Friday night dinner we were told that 90 percent of the 150 attendees were WBCCI members. There was so much interest 75 people were on the waiting list for the 2020 Fiesta. I decided we would apply again in 2020. This year we were told on Facebook a week ahead of the postmark date. I have read that 80 percent of the applications made it this time and the others who sent their applications in on the correct date will be on the waiting list for the 2021 Rally. We hope we have recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic enough to go again this year along with many of our friends. There are about 100,000 people on the field each morning so hopefully social distancing will be over by then.



This trip was a total of 35 nights, 11 campsites, 2880 miles pulling the trailer, and 4000 miles driven on the truck. The longest duration we've done so far. We look forward to more.

I can discuss the details of this trip if anyone has an interest in planning a trip to Balloon Fiesta, in person, by phone, or email

A postscript to Lynn's article: Because of the current COVID19 pandemic, the 2020 Balloon Fiesta has been **postponed** until October, 2021. For more information, visit balloonfiesta.com.

Summary of voting results from the 2020 WBCCI International Board of Trustees'
Summer Meeting – June 22 - 27

2020 Delegate Voting Results

As of June 1st, 2020: 106 active Clubs with 6,465 votes available

At close of the election period: 94 Clubs reported and 5,597 Votes cast

Amendments

	For		Against		Abstain		Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
#1 Article VI , Title: Qualifications of Members	5428	97%	169	3%	0	0%	5597	100%
#2 Article XII , Delegates Meeting	5399	96%	198	4%	0	0%	5597	100%
#3 Changed from Unit(s) to Local Club(s)	5408	97%	124	2%	65	1%	5597	100%

Candidates/Offices

	For		Against		Abstain		Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
International President								
Andrew Selking	5558	99%	0	0%	39	1%	5597	100%
International 1st Vice President								
Tye Mott	5539	99%	0	0%	58	1%	5597	100%
International 2nd Vice President								
Eric McHenry	5550	99%	1	0%	46	1%	5597	100%
International 3rd Vice President								
Per Hamnqvist	5511	98%	0	0%	86	2%	5597	100%
International Treasurer								
Beth Hackney	5571	100%	0	0%	26	0%	5597	100%
International Recording Secretary								
Judy Bechthold	5563	99%	0	0%	34	1%	5597	100%
Nominating Committee								
Victoria Magnacca	5538	99%	0	0%	59	1%	5597	100%
Mark Hammer	5173	92%	0	0%	424	8%	5597	100%