



PHOTO BY IAN JAMIESON, EUROPE UNIT, THÔNES, FRANCE

# ***News & Views***

December 2018

An informational newsletter from The Wally Byam Airstream Club

In this issue:

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Interesting WBAC Membership Data

Dealing with Condensation

Too-Hot Plugs

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Camera Obscura

The Oldest Factory-Produced Airstream



# AIRSTREAM CLUB NEWS

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Hello, Airstreamers of WBCCI!  
For detailed information on and registration for the  
2019 International Rally in Doswell, VA  
visit [doswell.wbcci.net](http://doswell.wbcci.net)



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## Call for Doswell Presentations



The Doswell International Rally is looking for potential speakers. Presentations would involve informal presentations of particular interest to members of the club or leading a round table discussion. The presentation would be limited only to a portion of the members who would be interested in attending that particular event.

I am looking for interested persons who would be willing to present seminars. If you could please respond to me with the names of potential speakers, it would be greatly appreciated.

Cheers,

Victoria Magnacca, Doswell Presentations Coordinator

[doswellpresentations@wbcci.net](mailto:doswellpresentations@wbcci.net) 561.445.0933

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WBAC Electronic Communications Committee [ecc@wbcci.net](mailto:ecc@wbcci.net)

In each issue of News and Views we will highlight one of the NEW caravans  
For a full list of Wally Byam Airstream Club Caravans visit  
<http://wbccicaravan.wbcci.net>

**WBCCI Caravans and Mexico are back together!**

## Three Mexican Jewels

Leader, Michel Bourassa

This inaugural caravan, custom-designed for Airstreamers by Caravans de Mexico in cooperation with Wally Byam Airstream Club invites you to sign up and enjoy a unique Mexican experience like no other. We have selected three Mexican gems that simply must not be missed: A 4-day trip by rail up the **Copper Canyon**, 3 days in **Mexico City** and a stay in **Mazatlán** in time to see a carnival that rivals Rio's. The setting for these jewels is just as attractive as the colonial central core of Mexico – Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende, Durango, Patzcuraro, Villa Coronado and other unique towns and cities from the colonial era. Along the way we will experience cooking lessons for those interested, hot springs for tired bones, ancient ruins from 200 BC, the magnificent Museo Nacional de



Antropologia in Mexico City and Aztec ruins for our art and history aficionados. In addition, caravanners historical and cultural presentations and, of course, beaches. Beautiful beaches in small out of the way away from the pressing crowds are found in many tourist areas.

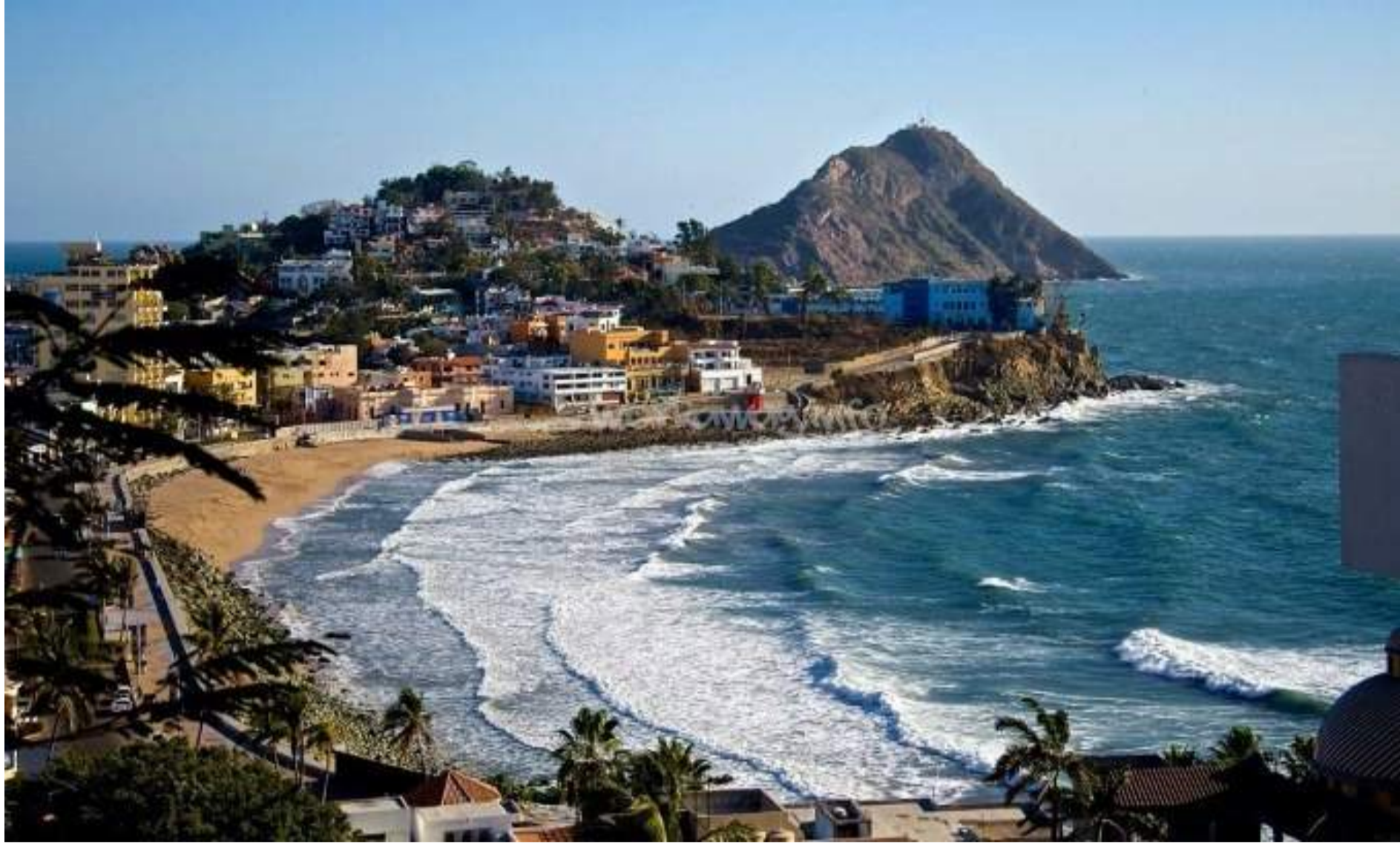


Copper Canyon



Mexico City





Mazatlan

We will enter Mexico from Nogales Arizona and drive directly to the west coast with a nice stop at Álamo a small Mexican town, to be treated to a walking tour of the town conducted by professional troubadours. As we drive down the coast, we will visit a unique pearl farm before boarding the train for our trip across the Copper Canyon. From Mazatlán we will head inland to visit Durango, Zacatecas, Mexico City then back to the coast for a few days on the sand with a few days at Mazatlán to experience the Carnaval from street side bleachers. Following that, we will leisurely drive back along the coast with stays at a variety of beach towns.

During hotel stays (included in the Kitty Fee) all rigs will be in guarded compounds. Pets are welcome. The Tail Gunners will be the Angeles Verdes – Green Angels – trained and equipped by the Mexican Department of Tourism to handle almost all automotive repairs that might be required, to facilitate our caravan in and out of large cities and through various checkpoints. They add to our safety and ease of travel. Total distance to be travelled is 4,800 KM (2,892 Miles) mostly over good roads but shoulders and guardrails are often absent. We will use toll roads when possible as they offer less traffic, more consistent caravan speeds and better surfaces. One road deserving special mention is the new highway from Mazatlán to Durango over the Sierra Madre. With over 80 tunnels and even more bridges across the most incredible scenery, there is nothing like it in North America.

Campground amenities are reasonable but expect a few days of dry camping, some modest facilities and some deluxe full-service RV parks and swimming pools.

Our contractor, Caravanas de Mexico, has been operating tours and caravans into Mexico for more than 20 years and has conducted more than 40 caravans within Mexico without any significant issues. The owner/operator Don Gabriel Romero knows his country and knows what we will like and to that end has made no effort in designing and supervising this, a caravan to remember. His goals are always safety, unique experiences, dramatic ruins, buildings and scenery and a strong dose of Mexican hospitality.

### **Additional Caravan Details**



Dates: Feb 7 - April 7, 2020 Start & Stop Location: Nogales, Arizona  
Total Number of nights: 60  
Number of stops: 16  
Leaders and WBCCI#: 2568 Michel Bourassa  
Email [rmbourassa@gmail.com](mailto:rmbourassa@gmail.com)  
Mailing Address: 145 Winter Cove Rd, Saturna Is. BC, CA V0N 2Y0  
Maximum RV Units With Leader: 13  
Kitty Fee \$10,800 CAD ( \$ 8,600 USD at time of posting)  
Deposit Amount: \$1,000 CAD Non Refundable- non transferable  
Dates of Payments: \$4,900 CAD on April 1 and Nov 1 2019

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## What's New in the Newsletters?

Each month the WBAC Publications Committee reviews all the unit newsletters to bring you interesting articles from Wally's World. Here are two from the **Arkansas Razorback Newsletter**.

["Your Own 5-Star Hotel Room"](#) by Jeff Dalrymple,

"This article reminded me of an RV park in Wyoming where we were given some Ande's mints to put on pillows as we were pulling our 5 star hotel room behind us." - Hedda Smithson



[Feel the Heat? You don't want Sparky to visit!](#) by Larry Madden



Evidence the shore power plug got very hot.

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A Caravan Opening for This Year? A Rare Opportunity

## "The American Revolution - Southern Campaign" Caravan April 10 – May 20, 2019

A funny thing happened on our American Revolution - Southern Campaign Caravan last fall when the caravan had to retreat to Virginia to avoid a potential run-in with Hurricane Irma. We liked what we saw and did in Richmond that we are including the area in the 2019 caravan.

A not-so-funny thing happened when we moved the date of our 2019 American Revolution – Southern Campaign Caravan FROM the autumn TO the spring. The new dates conflicted with other caravans and events that participants had already signed up for. Thus, they had to cancel their participation. Additionally, some folks had to cancel for medical reasons. **Therefore, we have six vacancies at present on the caravan.** So, if you are interested in American history and would like to walk in the footsteps of those who fought in the Revolutionary War on both sides and learn how and why this war finally culminated in victory for the Americans, we'd love to have you join us.

The caravan begins in New Bern, NC on April 10<sup>th</sup> and ends in Williamsburg, VA on May 20<sup>th</sup>. If interested, please visit the [Caravan Website](#) and send a completed application along with a check for \$1,850 (deposit for first payment) payable to Ed Jones to caravan leaders Ed and Beth Jones at 3704 Washington Woods Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309. Please feel free to call us if you have questions at 703-780-6597. HUZDAH!

### Some Caravan Highlights:

- Dinner at the historic Hanover Tavern
- Scotchtown, home of Patrick Henry
- St. John's Episcopal Church where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech.
- Camping at the Meadow Event Park in Doswell, VA, the site of the 2019 International Rally.
- The charming North Carolina towns of New Bern and Wilmington where Tryon Palace, Brunswick Museum, and Moore's Creek have intriguing 18<sup>th</sup> Century stories to tell
- Charleston, SC, historic district where we will explore the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon,
- The Heyward-Washington House and see The Powder Magazine.



- A walking tour in beautiful Savannah before heading north to the Carolinas
- Homes of several founding fathers: Jefferson's Monticello, Monroe's Highland, and Madison's Montpelier
- A day in Colonial Williamsburg,
- A day at the new, stellar American Revolution Museum at Yorktown
- A Ranger tour of the Yorktown Battlefield where the British surrendered
- Our final banquet at Two Rivers Country Club.

Images from the 2017 American Revolution Caravan, compiled by caravaner Sue Heist.



*General Nathanael Greene  
(1742 - 1786)*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton*

*General Horatio Gates  
(1726 - 1806)*





## 2018 Wally Byam Airstream Club Membership Insights

Compiled by Eric McHenry, Region 12 2nd VP

Have you ever wondered....

Where do our members live?

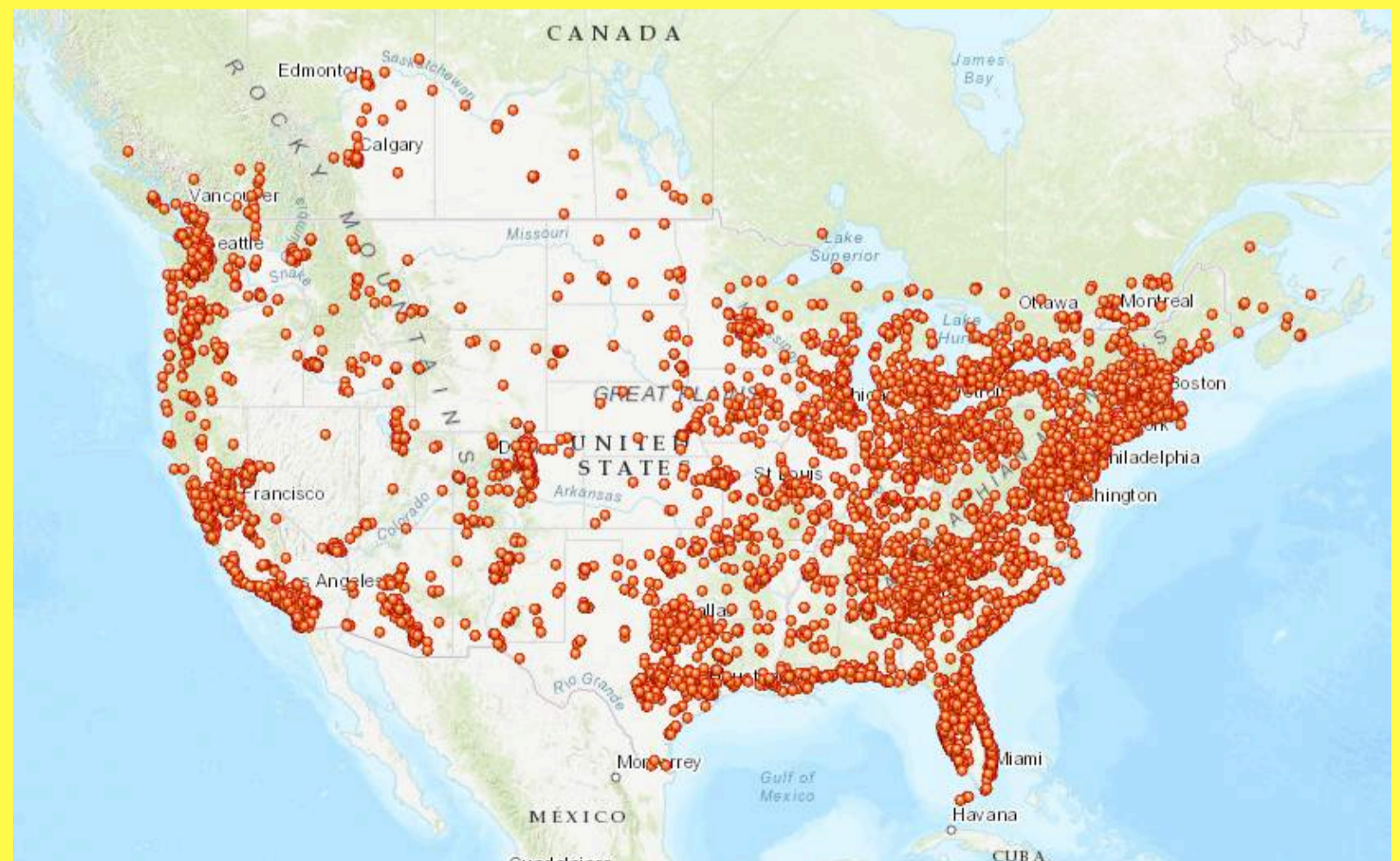
Which Regions do our members belong to?

How many members do our Regions have?

Where are our units located?

Where and how many Airstreams are sold each year?

[Click HERE for maps and answers .](#)



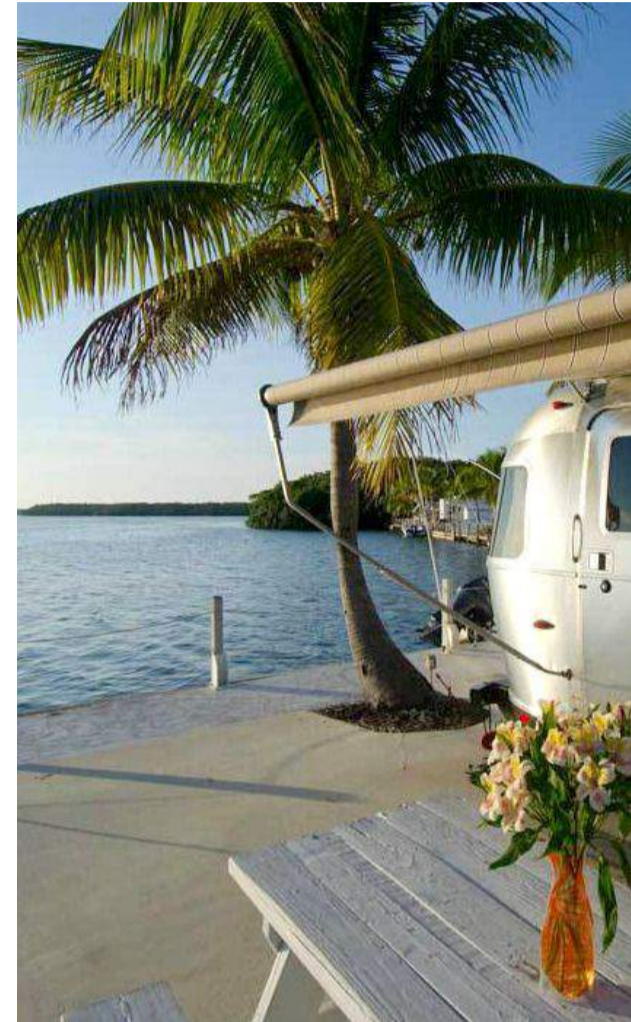


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## The Florida Code

Courtesy of Glenn Michael, reprinted from the Delmarva Beacon Newsletter

- When giving directions in Florida you must always start with the words, "take I-75, take I-4 or take I-95..."
- If you're a snowbird or a non-working retiree, you absolutely cannot drive between the hours of 6 A.M. to 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. This is considered to be RUSH HOUR and you are not in any rush. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Freeways can only go north and south . . . Not east and west.
- Traffic lights are not timed and never will be.
- We measure the distance we travel in time - not miles.
- If you travel more than 5-10 miles on any road in any part of Florida without seeing an orange barricade, you're lost!
- Once the light turns green, only 3 cars can go through the intersection; eight more go through on yellow, and 4 more on red.
- Know the difference between SunPass, Sun Fest, Sun-Sentinel and Sun Trust.
- It is perfectly acceptable to brag about the size of your generator.
- We have alligators here in Florida and they WILL bite you. Don't be stupid and try to feed or pet one.
- When a hurricane is headed our way, even though you have advanced warning and you are told to be prepared, you're not a true Floridian unless you wait until the absolute last minute to go to Home Depot up plywood or to Publix to stock up on water, ice, and potato chips.
- A true Floridian does NOT own a boat. They make friends with someone who already owns one. That don't have to deal with any of the headaches.
- It's normal to sweat when you are putting up your holiday decorations.
- There is a city called 'The Villages' where 77,000 old people live who all drive golf carts and dance in the streets.
- Seniors have to do their errands during the weekdays . . . not weeknights or weekends. That's for the w folks.
- Learn how to dress in layers. It will be 95 degrees outside. But inside any restaurant or business it's 65 degrees.







## Winter Camping and Condensation

by Don Russel, Unit 041 . Central Indiana Airstream Club

Don's presentation at the Salem International Rally received so many rave reviews we asked him to share his thoughts with all our members.

### Airstreams and Condensation



My wife and I have been Airstreaming for about ten years. We love Airstream, currently a model 28 Flying Cloud. We also love camping in the Northwest. Our daughter and family live in Portland, Oregon. We have heard, 'It rains all the time in Portland.' This isn't exactly true. The rainy season is October thru May. But if you are camping there in the 'rainy season,' condensation inside your Airstream is a big problem. We had condensation in the windows. It would then drip and accumulate in the window channel, flow through the latch opening and end up dripping down the wall and under the linoleum where it could rot the floor and grow mold. We also had moisture accumulate under our memory foam mattress between the mattress and the wood platform. The result was mold on the wood platform as well as on the mattress cover. This prompted me to research the issue for solutions to our high humidity. This is my attempt to share that experience with you.

So before we talk about the source and cause of high humidity and solutions to it, let's understand a couple of definitions.

**What is humidity?** Humidity is the term we use to describe the amount of water vapor in the air. We normally express this as a percentage.... 45% for example.

**What is condensation?** Condensation of water vapor occurs on surfaces when the temperature of the surface is at or below the dew point temperature of the atmosphere. This is what we notice as sweat in our windows or when our cold mug of beer drips on our wife's favorite coffee table.

**What is dew point?** The dew point of an air parcel is the temperature to which it must cool before water



in the air begins to condense. The more saturated the air, the higher the humidity and the higher the dew point. Hot air can hold more moisture than cold air. So the dew point varies with the amount of moisture in the air. When warm moist air comes in contact with a cool surface, the dew point is easily reached and the moisture in the air leaves as droplets of water (condensation) on that surface.

### **The Problem**

Even if you are not in Oregon during rainy season, condensation can be a problem. Condensation in the windows (sweating) may seem somewhat harmless. Water dripping from the new ducted air outlets may seem like an annoyance. But these are signs that the humidity inside your trailer is too high. If humidity is too high, mold can grow, which can lead to poor air quality and health problems. If undetected, and not corrected, it can rot the floor of your Airstream.

The Airstream trailer is an aluminum can (a nice can). It can be very air tight, especially in the winter or when weather camping when you have it closed up and the heat on. This is when high humidity is at its worst. The dew point is also high and water can easily condense, even where you cannot see it. What about condensation in Florida in July you ask? Well it may be extremely humid, but you will probably have the air conditioner on. The air conditioner will pull the humidity from the air and discharge it outside the trailer. We are most concerned with high humidity when it is cool or cold and the trailer is closed up tight and we are showering, cooking, breathing... living in our trailer.

### **Cause of High Humidity**

Sources of moisture we put into the air inside our trailers may consist of:

- Cooking
- Propane stove – a by-product of burning propane is water vapor
- Showers
- Refrigerator (1.33qt per day)
- Human Perspiration & Respiration (1.33qt per day per person)
- Humid air entering the trailer from outside



### **Controlling the Humidity**

If we want to control the humidity, we have two options. We can control the amount of moisture we put into the air and/or we can control the amount of moisture we take from the air.

Limiting any of the causes listed above can help reduce the humidity in your trailer. However, I am certain you are going to cook and take showers. Even if you were to reduce your use of these things, it is worth noting that an average human puts about 1.33 quarts of water vapor into the air each day. If there are two people in the trailer, they add over a half gallon of vapor to the humidity in your trailer each day. So there is only so much you can do to limit the water vapor we put into the air of our small living space.



Yes, we can turn the bath fan on when we shower and turn the kitchen fan on when cooking. Vent the moist humid air directly out of our trailer immediately. You can even turn on the Fantastic Fan or open the vents to let humid air to escape. Hot air will rise and carry with it the warm humid air replacing it with cool air from outside your trailer. Remember the cooler air outside holds less moisture than the warm air inside. Your heating will go up, but your humidity will go down.

Now let's look at the other option to control humidity, removing moisture from the air. Dehumidifiers are designed to remove excess moisture from air and reduce the humidity. The solution is simple, right??? It is until you start thinking about your small living space, possibly limited power, and the noise factor of traditional dehumidifiers. Anyone of these factors may be a deal breaker.

Traditional dehumidifiers utilize a compressor, just like your air conditioner. They are heavy, bulky, noisy, and not very efficient. These were all deal breakers for me.

I then came across a line of dehumidifiers known as desiccant dehumidifiers which are light, quiet, great at lowering the humidity and relatively energy efficient. They have no compressor. Unlike a compressor style dehumidifier their effectiveness does not drop as the temperature drops. This is important. Ratings on a compressor style dehumidifier will vary dependent on temperature. As the temperature drops, so does its ability to remove moisture from the air. A unit may be rated at 20 pints/Day at 86 degrees and 80% relative humidity. The same unit may only be rated at 10 pints/Day at 80 degrees and 80% relative humidity. 80 degrees is not the room temperature we typically maintain. A compressor type unit rated at 30 pints a day will seldom deliver that performance at 70 degrees.

Conversely a desiccant model is unaffected by the air temperature. It is worth noting that a desiccant model will warm the air passing thru it by up to 15 degrees. In our conditions this is a good thing because we are often in colder conditions. Proper humidity is between 30 to 50 percent with the ideal being 45 percent. With desiccant dehumidifiers, the desired humidity level can be selected and the unit will work to maintain that level.

I do not wish to endorse any manufacturer, but you can search for "desiccant dehumidifier" and find them. When selecting a unit, first determine how much water vapor it should be capable of removing from the air per day. It is better to have capacity you may never need than to have too little capacity all the time. If the unit is unable to remove enough moisture, it is worthless. I would recommend a unit rated to remove at least 10 pints per day.

### **Hot Humid Camping**

I mentioned earlier that you may experience condensation dripping from the air conditioner discharge outside. This, to my knowledge, is mainly on the newer Airstreams with 'ducted' air conditioning. This occurs because your interior air is so humid that when it makes contact with the cooler material around the a/c discharge, condensation occurs and water begins to drip. The solution is to dehumidify the air inside your trailer. The dew point will be lowered and condensation avoided.

### **Other Considerations**

- Air Circulation

I must also revisit some previous comments such as condensation under the mattress. If air cannot circulate, a dehumidifier is useless. Moisture can form and cause problems in areas where air cannot circulate. When I had moisture and mold under our mattress, my quick solution was to put shoes under the mattress every morning and hopefully remember to remove them when we went to bed. Thus the air could circulate and dry the



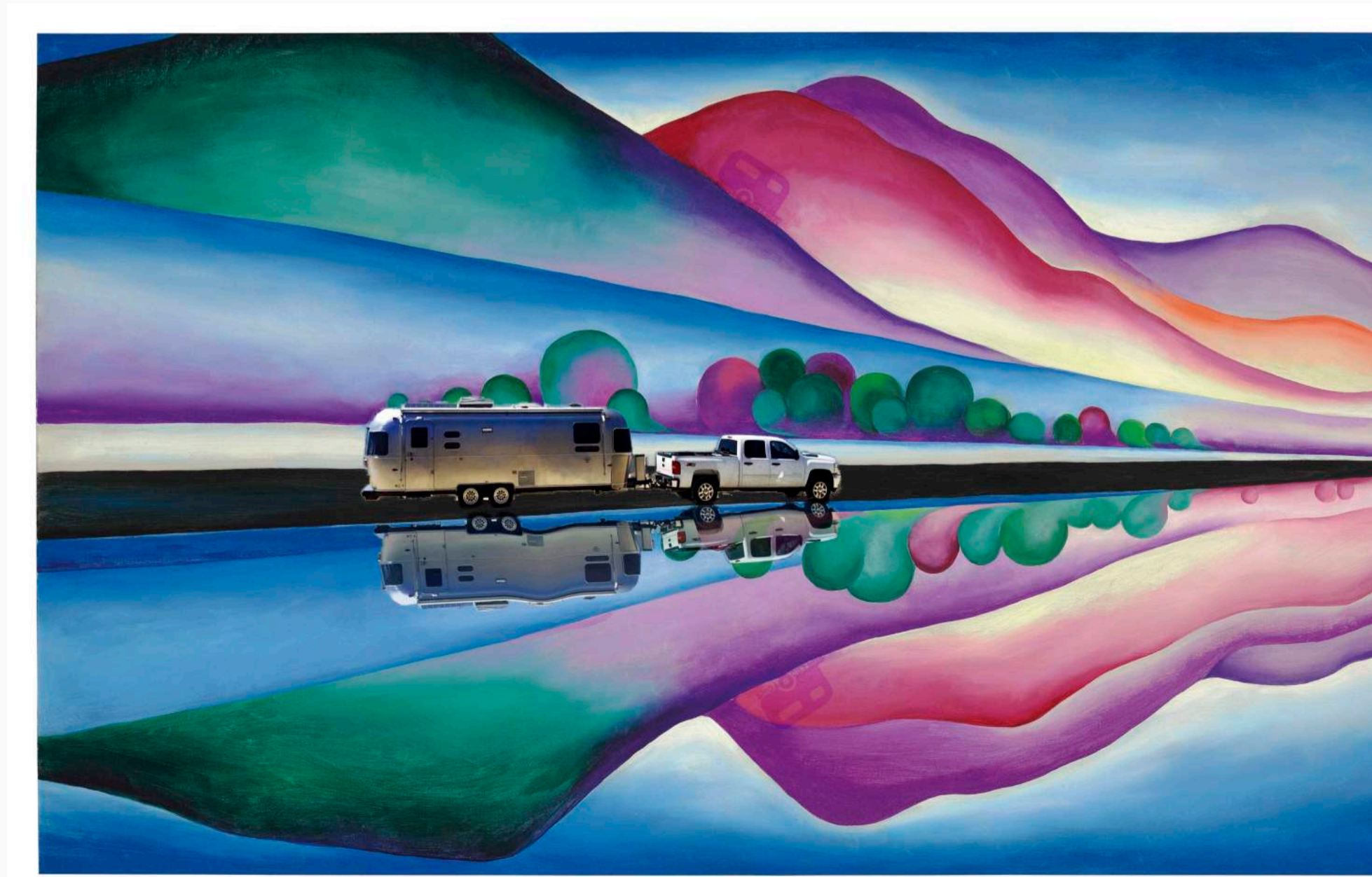
under the mattress. Since then I have added a layer of "HyperVent" under the mattress. HyperVent is a woven polymer mat that allows airflow thru it. You can find it and similar products online. Here are a couple links.....

- <https://www.mattressinsider.com/mattress-condensation-prevention.html?fbclid=IwAR1WsZNgjEAEnSLiR7O0aqctSfJN4KE6IIVSm-5Tj0GOTAG0RF0P2aSjQ70>
- <https://www.defender.com/product.jsp?id=1818021>

There are other solutions to the issue of condensation under the mattress such as drilling holes in the bed putting slats under the mattress. A better idea would be to prevent condensation in the first place.

- Insulation

Insulation is your friend. It is the lack of insulation and a vapor barrier that allows the moist humid air (with dew point) to contact the cold surface in a window that creates the condensation. The same is true on the condensation under our bed mattress. The difference is that we can insulate better under our mattress to keep that warm moist air from contacting a cooler surface and condensing. Not only did I put a woven mat under the mattress, but I also added insulation. If you desire to do likewise, you have many choices. Just remember to have a vapor barrier on the interior side of the insulation. Otherwise, moist air may flow thru the insulation and come in contact with the colder outer surface and condensate there.



Computer mash-up by Frank DiBona, Original painting by Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia O'Keeffe is a 20th century American painter best known for her flower canvases and Southwestern landscapes. She was born on March 15, 1887, in a farmhouse near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Photographer Alfred Stieglitz gave O'Keeffe her first gallery show in 1916 and the couple married in 1924. O'Keeffe moved to New Mexico after her husband's death and was inspired by the landscape to create numerous well-known



paintings. Georgia O'Keeffe died on March 6, 1986.

Georgia O'Keeffe is one of the most significant and intriguing artists of the twentieth century, known internationally for her boldly innovative distinct flowers, dramatic cityscapes, glowing landscapes, and images of bones against the stark desert sky are iconic and original contributions to American Modernism.

The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe New Mexico is well worth a visit.

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## 1936 AIRSTREAM SILVER CLOUD THE OLDEST FACTORY-PRODUCED AIRSTREAM TRAILER STILL IN EXISTENCE?

BY CHUCK AND TONI MILTENBERGER

Reprinted from the Vintage Camper Trailers Magazine. [www.vintagecampertrailers.com](http://www.vintagecampertrailers.com)



**VINTAGE CAR! VINTAGE TRAILER! VINTAGE PEOPLE!**

Read about the Miltenberger's trip to the 2018 Salem International Rally as featured in Issue #29  
<http://www.vintagetrailer.com/vintage-car-vintage-trailer-vintage-people/>

While Dr. Holman's 1935 Torpedo was officially recognized in 1984 by Wally Byam himself as Airstream's oldest known trailer in existence, we allow us to present this case — that this wooden/Masonite 1936 Airstream Silver Cloud is the oldest full factory production Airstream trailer in existence. The story goes that Dr. Holman read an ad for Airstreams in the May 1935 edition of Popular Mechanics. For 25 cents he could get a folder illustrating four Airstreams. He then purchased plans for five dollars for his Torpedo in 1935, but the trailer was not completed until 2 years later and wasn't on the road until 1937. In addition, it was not actually built by Airstream. Do-it-yourselfers used products from many different sources to build their trailers from the plans.



This Silver Cloud has the original tag emblem and was produced as trailer No.199. We would truly appreciate anyone with an older Airstream production number on a trailer to share that information with us. We have heard of an older emblem tag but the trailer no longer exists. We have the Dr. Holman Torpedo as “home built”. (Read more about this trailer in issue #25 of the VCT Magazine.) It is our belief that both historic trailers survived, because they were shielded with a metal skin at some point.

The 1936 Airstream Silver Cloud was considered to be the leader of the Airstream line at the time. Wally was influenced by plans found in England manufactured in England — thus the English Caravan look.

Some of the 1936 features of the trailer included a galley at the left of the door, a double bed at the rear [more like a 3/4 bed today], and a “clothes closet” [really small by today’s standard] with a hinged double door which could be used as a room divider. There was a chest of drawers, a place that could be used as a wash basin and a breakfast nook table with three positions that could be assembled to make another double bed or pull-out twin beds.

When we brought the Silver Cloud home, it was painted brown and white and skinned in metal with some replacement windows. When the skin was pulled off, the original wood and Masonite was painted blue and white. We decided to restore the trailer back to its original plans. During the restoration process, 70 percent of the cabinet material was saved. The door faces, closet, front bed frames, trim, hardware and everything else are original. The hardware has been cleaned and re-plated. 75% of the 1/2 inch plywood is still the same flooring; the only change to the flooring was in the front where a section of four feet was replaced. The bed framing material is all original. The actual structural sides had to be replaced because this particular trailer was built with 3/8” plywood — not 1/2” which Wally said about some of his other trailers plus 1/8 inch Masonite over that. Someone in the past had reworked the trailer and put aluminum skin over the exterior original painted Masonite. Underneath, the original framing showed markings for windows and holes where everything initially would have been located. The long windows put in during the earlier refurbishment are now replaced with the original sized windows. We repainted the trailer with a later 1936 paint scheme.

Wally liked to exhibit his aluminum 1936 Airstream Clipper with a Chrysler Airflow. We will be showing our 1936 Airstream Silver Cloud with a Chrysler Airflow — even though the Chrysler is mostly original and is in dire need of paint and new upholstery.

Thank You for your support, we appreciate it-

**Paul Lacitinola**, *American Trailerite*

**Vintage Camper Trailers Magazine**

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## Oregon Public Broadcasting features "Airstream Camping"

<https://www.opb.org/television/programs/ofg/segment/airstream-camping/>







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## Car and Driver Magazine Reviews "The Nest"

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/the-airstream-nest-trades-aluminum-for-fiberglass>





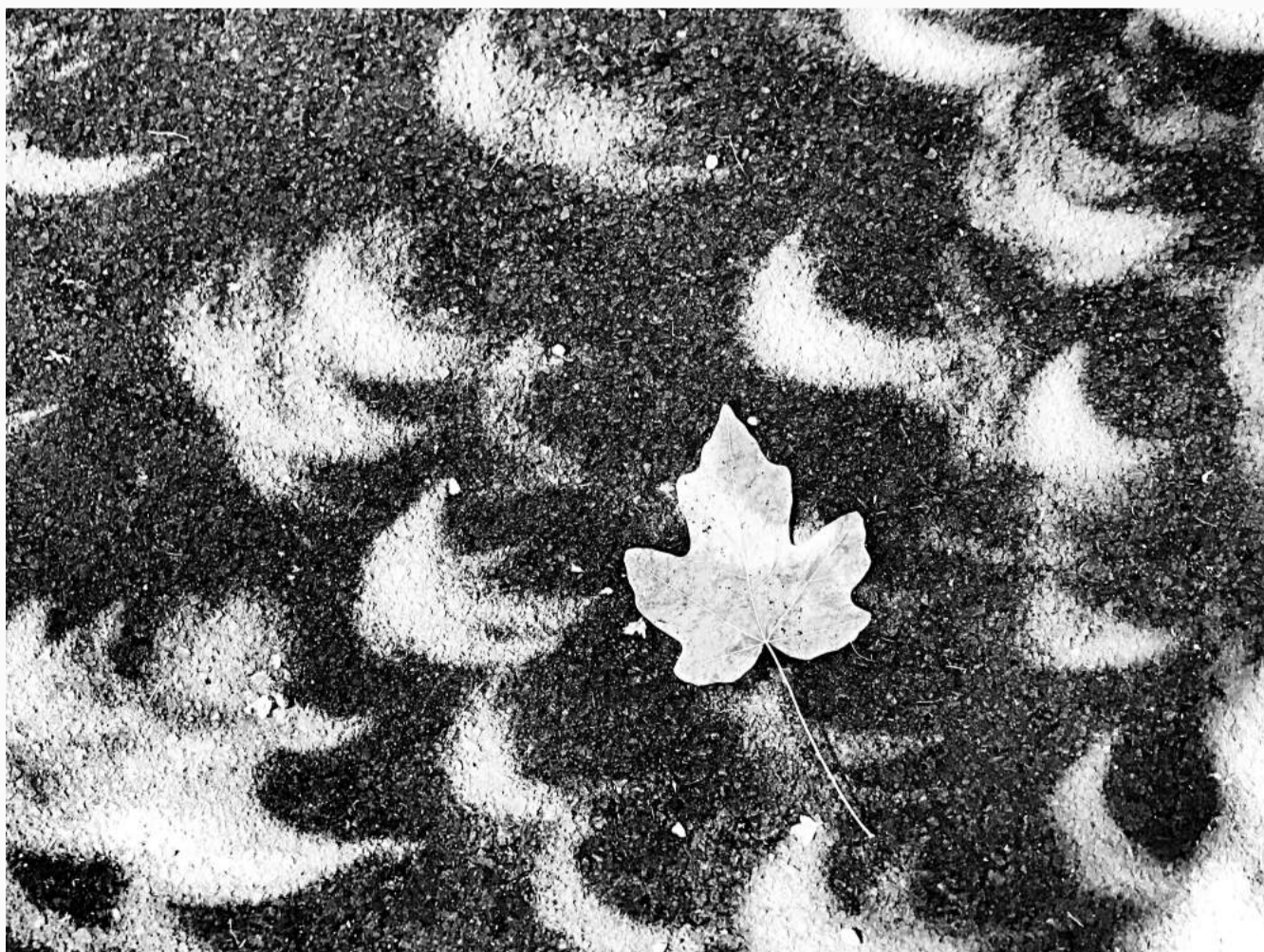


## Airstreaming Photographers, Learn about the Camera Obscura, the Very Earliest Cameras

by Virgil Turner, originally published in the Colorado Airstream Club Newsletter

I recently purchased an Apple iPhone Model Xr. As always, I am amazed with the advances which the engineers have made in combining software and hardware to replicate a photo lab which can fit in your pocket. I think these leaps in technology are fascinating and began to wonder about the early days of cameras and photography and how far we have come.

Some historians suggest a camera obscura image may have been the inspiration of the earliest prehistoric art found in caves. Camera obscura is often referred to as a "dark room". This term describes a natural optical phenomenon which occurs when an image of a scene at the other side of a barrier is projected through a pinhole as a reversed and inverted image to a surface opposite to the opening. During our last eclipse which occurred in August 2018, many observed this phenomenon as the partial eclipse was seen on the ground as the eclipse image passed through a canopy of leaves.



Camera obscura image on sidewalk of partial eclipse in August 2018. (Source Wikimedia Commons)

Camera obscura images can portray very accurate views of landscapes and it is easy to imagine how this inspired many (like our prehistoric artist ancestors) with the desire to share these images with others. The earliest written records of camera obscura date back to the 400 BC



Chinese philosopher who described an inverted image is inverted by a pinhole that collected the rays of light.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519), after an extensive study of optics and human vision, wrote the oldest known clear description of the camera obscura in his notebook in 1502, *“If the facade of a building, or a place, or a landscape is illuminated by the sun and a small hole is drilled in the wall of a building facing this, which is not directly lighted by the sun, then all objects illuminated by the sun will send their images through this hole and will appear, upside down, on the wall facing the hole.”*



Camera obscura image of Prague’s New Royal Palace projected on a wall in the attic of the Prague Castle by a hole in the tile roofing. (Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15982042>)

In the 16th and 17th centuries development of camera obscuras took two tracks. The first track was for education and amusement. Many tents were built to allow the public to view the phenomenon as a form of entertainment. Some of these camera obscuras still remain and have been added to our must see attractions on our future travels. (see: <http://brightbytes.com/cosite/usamaplist.html>)

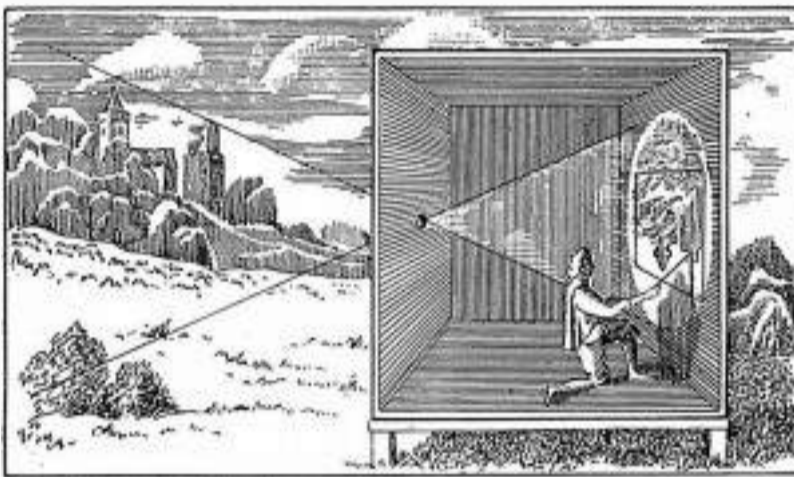


Print from the 1877 Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly showing a scene inside the Central Park camera obscura.





A 1948 Camera Obscura is still accessible to the public at the Cliff House in San Francisco



The second track of development was of portable camera obscura light boxes used as a drawing aid.

This is the track which later introduced light sensitive plates and papers to capture images as photographs. In 1822, French inventor Nicéphore Niépce first successfully captured an image by photo etching using a camera obscura which was the first successful photograph. While this first photograph was destroyed in an attempt to reproduce it, he was again successful in 1825 through 1827. Niépce coated a pewter plate with bitumen of Judea, a naturally occurring asphalt which hardened when exposed to light. After the exposure remained less soluble and was washed away with oil of lavender and alcohol spirits.



Earliest known surviving photograph from 1826 or 1827 taken by Nicéphore Niépce in Saint-Loup-de-Varennes, France, and shows parts of the buildings and surrounding countryside of his estate, Le Gras, as seen from a high window.

We have come far from the early days of cameras and photography. As I get frustrated to take advantage of the latest features of the camera on my iPhone, knowing what the early pioneers of photography went through will help me to keep striving to take better photos.





O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter...  
Photo by Ian Jamieson



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