



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club Gopher News



WBCCI - Unit 059

December 2020

President's Message

COVID-19 Update Bad News/Good News

I am writing this message on November 23rd and the status of this subject changes daily, but those following this topic realize that close-in holiday contact could bring an increased risk of virus exposure. HOWEVER, there are now immunizations which could be ready for distribution as early as mid-December 2020.



The Bad. More than 12 million people in the U.S. have contracted the coronavirus since the start of the pandemic. On November 22nd alone, the Kansas City Metropolitan area added 1,200 new cases. Health care representatives advise that people reduce exposure, stay inside and so on. This of course is difficult during the holidays where we typically have guests and the weather encourages most to stay indoors.



The Good. This difficult recent news is tempered with the recent announcements by Pfizer, Moderna Inc. and AstraZeneca that they have developed vaccines which are more than 90% effective. The first shots could be available within weeks. *This is extremely good news.*



What do we do Now? Plan Future Rallies!

Given the Covid virus combined with the upcoming colder weather, I am generally staying indoors and starting to work on a few of the (hopeful) 2021 Airstream Rallies. Soon, I will start to confirm our group functions during the Spring Rally at the Mo-Kan Club Spring Rally. The Rally will be at the **Basswood Campground** near Platte City, MO from Thursday, April 22, 2021 to Sunday, April 25th. **Mark your calendars!** And cross your fingers. In addition, we have already registered for the International Rally. The International Rally is scheduled for July 17-24, 2021, and will be in Lebanon, TN. Lebanon is located just east of Nashville. Maria and I have decided to extend our trip and see some more of Tennessee and its surrounding area the week prior to the Rally.

See my current plan for the week prior later on page 5.

Web Sites and Applications.

Continuing on the theme of "What to do Indoors in the winter months while sheltering in place", **on pages 6-7**, I provide and discuss a short list of web sites and YouTube links that members might be interested in. We've only owned our Airstream for about four years, so our list may not be as extensive as some of yours, but I thought it was at least useful for me to compile them. The list includes helpful websites for those who plan trips, shop for accessories, work on their own Airstreams, own vintage units and so on. Thanks to **Lee Cantrell** and **Kirk Moore** for their help with this list.

Whether one spends time in the next few months with trip planning, RV maintenance or just relaxing, please stay healthy and be safe.

- John



Executive Officers

President:

John Eckardt
jeckar52@gmail.com

1st Vice President:

Charles Colbert
ccolbert9210@sbcglobal.net

2nd Vice President:

Stephanie Porto
sporto@sunflower.com

3rd Vice President:

Rachel Payne
purplehenfarms@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Linda Poage
lpoage@kc.rr.com

Recording Secretary:

Kerstin Roberts
annekrob39@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Glenda Ridgeway
ridgeway1@cox.net

Past President:

Tim Timmons
ttbikes@aol.com

Parliamentarian:

Rachel Hughey
rchl.hghy@gmail.com

Membership Chair:

Joyce Cantrell
ljcan@twinvalley.net

Newsletter Editor:

Kirk Moore
kcunitnews@gmail.com

News from the Road!

The first email we received from **Mike Bedinger** stated that his trailer had a freak accident with a chili pepper!



His second email told us not to worry – he found a replacement!

In reality, Mike and Linda were taking a long trip following the Santa Fe Trail, then heading south towards the Arizona/Mexican border. They'll be heading home soon – likely through Utah and Colorado.



Safe Travels!

Beware of Forest Fires... and COVID...

and falling Chili Peppers!



Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

LUNCHEONS

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, no luncheons have yet to be planned for 2021.

We hope to be together again soon.

RALLIES

April 22 - 25, 2021

Mo-Kan Club Spring Rally

Platte City, MO

Save the dates! More info later.

April 28 – May 2, 2021

Region 8 Rally

Amana, IA

Save the dates! More info later.

June 11 - 13, 2021

Just-Have-Fun Rally

Clinton Lake, KS

Save the dates! More info later.

July 17 - 24, 2021

Airstream Club Intl Rally

Lebanon, TN

Register now at - <https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon>

Don't Forget!

Deadline to Renew – Dec. 31st

- 2021 Membership dues are now \$75.00 a year. \$75.00 + \$15.00 local dues = **\$90.00 total**
- Local Clubs are **now encouraged** to renew online at airstreamclub.org/renew.
- If you are unable to pay online, you can renew over the phone - 937-596-5211.
- **Renew by Dec. 31st to be included in the published WBCCI directory**

Birthdays

Jeanette Branam – 12/08
Phil Spangler – 12/18
Myrna Wardrip – 12/23

November Celebrations!

Maria Stimach – 12/24
Denise Osgood – 12/28
Rachel Payne – 12/30

Anniversaries

Ronald & Helen Fults - 12/28
Everett & Denise Osgood – 12/29



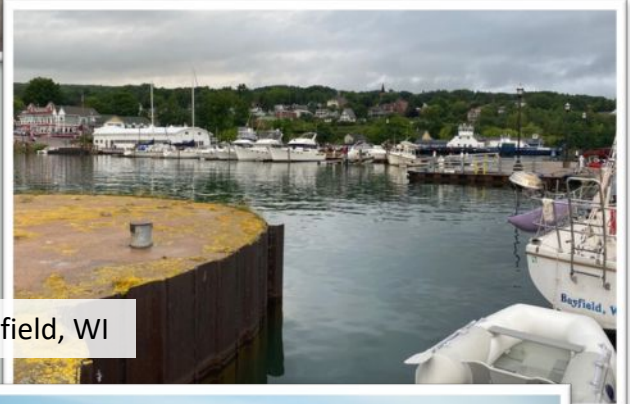
Travels with the Branams

After being cooped up for most of the spring due to COVID, Jeanette, Wren (our Jack Russell) and I decided to do some isolation in our Airstream. So the three of us headed out for **Bayfield, Wisconsin**. We had been there about 12 years ago and liked the area. Also, being avid sailors, we were attracted to the inland ocean called Lake Superior.

We spent about 3 weeks at the *Apostle Island Campground* just outside of Bayfield. We got there just at the end of their fruit season, enjoying all we could eat. Bayfield is a quaint town on the shores of the lake next to the **Apostle Islands**. We took the Apostle Island ferry excursion, which gave us the tour of the islands all the way out into Lake Superior. We hiked to the *sea caves* on the lakes south shore. Very unique to say the least. We went to the Farmers Market in Ashland on Saturdays which had some great produce and breads. The Bayfield area is a great place to visit. On the way home we stopped in **Winterset, Iowa**. Home of the *Bridges of Madison county*. A number of covered bridges to see with a cool town square.



Wren is ready to go



Bayfield, WI



Apostle Islands



Lake Superior Sea Caves



Madison County, IA
Bridges

(Continued on next page)

Travels with the Branams

(Continued)

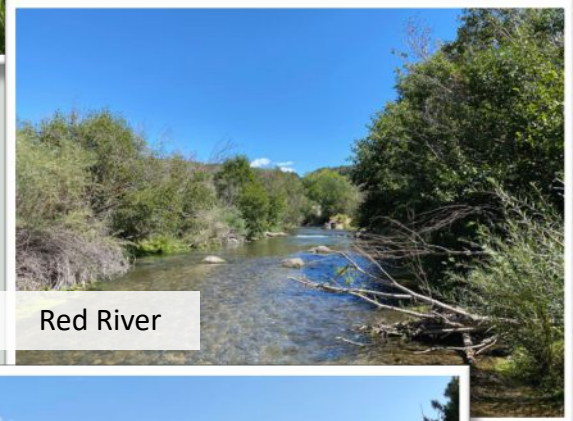
After being home for several weeks we packed up for some additional isolation. This time we headed to **Angel Fire, New Mexico**. We both love the mountains and we couldn't think of anyplace better to spend August than at 8,400 feet elevation and 75 degrees everyday. We had never been in the mountains of New Mexico. Very scenic. We stayed about 30 days at the *Angel Fire RV Resort*. A 5-Star resort for sure. The mountain landscaping in the park was outstanding. It took a little while to get acclimated to the elevation. We found all the Mexican restaurants we could locate. Also learned about red, green and Christmas chili sauce. Scouted fishing spots for when we come back.

We did get some fly fishing in on the **Red River**. We took a number of scenic drives north and south of Angel Fire. Visited Cimarron, Taos and Red River. We wanted to go to the filming locations for the TV show "Longmire" but almost all of sites were closed. We did enough scouting and liked the area enough that we decided to go back next summer for 2 months.

So the three of us and the Flying Cloud will enjoy the cool mountain air again next year.



New Mexico
Wildflowers



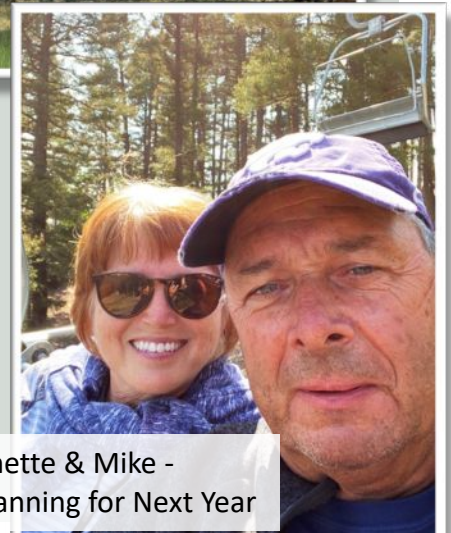
Red River



New Mexico
Mountain Range



Sunrise at
Angel Fire, NM



Jeanette & Mike -
Already Planning for Next Year

Planning for the International Rally! - John Eckardt



Knowledge of the recently developed vaccines makes me hopeful that our scheduled 2021 late April Spring Rally can occur. Time will tell but I'm planning as if it will. In addition, the International Club continues planning for the July 17-24, 2021 **International Rally in Lebanon, TN**. Maria and I have already registered.

We have decided to leave about one week early and do some "tune-up" camping in portions of Kentucky and Tennessee. Maria has never been there and there is a lot to see and do. Knowing that up to 800 Airstreams could arrive at Lebanon during the rally, and anticipating that others will want to do the something similar—camp in the region prior to the rally—we have now made camping reservations in three different locations. Our first stop will be three nights at "**My Old Kentucky Home State Park**" in Bardstown, KY on July 8--10. Bardstown is located about 45 minutes southeast of Louisville, KY. Some may recognize this location as the base location of the "Kentucky Bourbon and Beyond Caravan 2019" National Rally. Bardstown is often referred to as the Bourbon capital of the World. Likely because there at least five major distillers in and around the town of about 2,500 people. You may have heard of Willett, Barton 1792 and nearby Jim Beam Distilleries. We hope to tour a few distilleries and visit Louisville, Lexington and Mammoth Cave National Park. All of these sites are within a one hour's drive from Bardstown.

In the park, the *historic three-story structure* for which the State Park was named, was completed by the Rowan family in 1818 and made popular due to its connection to Stephen Foster's song "My Old Kentucky Home, Good-Night!" The park offers numerous tours. The "Mint Julep Tour" piqued my interest. We also hope to tour the Louisville Slugger Baseball Bat plant.



From Bardstown, we travel to the Smoky Mountains and stay three nights at the **Greenbrier Campground** a few miles east of Gatlinburg, TN. I've requested travel information from all stops and will be working on each stop's itinerary in the next few months. While in Gatlinburg, seeing the town, driving the 11-mile Cades Cove loop and hiking local park trails will be the core of filling the three days there. From Gatlinburg we travel about 150 miles southwest to **Harrison Bay State Park** located just northeast of Chattanooga, TN.

Topping the "must dos" in Chattanooga are seeing the *Choo Choo*, Rock City and Ruby Falls. With a little luck, the *Andrew Sisters* will be singing "The Chattanooga Choo Choo" to the Glenn Miller Band over the speaker system during our visit.



A representative of the Wally Byam International Rally, told me that those attending the **Lebanon, TN** event will get a "parking call" from the Club a few months prior to event start. She said that although the Rally starts on July 17th, parking for the event will likely begin on the 14th.

If anyone is interested in leaving early for the International Rally and seeing any of these sites, please contact me for information.

Quick Links to Airstream Resources

Due to the resulting health recommendations from the COVID-19 virus along with the coming winter months, I will likely spend a lot of time indoors researching Airstream articles and websites. Given the added available time, I thought I would assemble a collection of websites which specialize in not only Airstream life but RV life as well. I have now put together the links below and saved them to a file on my computer for easy reference and retrieval. I thought others may want to refer to them so I have listed them for the Newsletter. You will likely have many more as I am only modestly competent on the computer. *This list will also be available and updated on the Mo-Kan Club website at <https://airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas/resource-links>. If you want to add to this list, please send the link and a short description to me, or KCUnitNews@gmail.com.* - John

Website for 2021 Airstream Club International Rally in Lebanon, TN, July 17-24,

- airstreamclub.org/Lebanon

Websites of Airstream Clubs

- airstream.com
- airstreamclub.org/region-8 - Region 8 website
- airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas - Missouri-Kansas Club website
- airstreamclub.org/greater-st-louis - St. Louis Club website
- airstreamclub.org/missouri-greater-ozark - Ozark Club website
- airstreamclub.org/iowa-north - North Iowa Club website
- airstreamclub.org/nebraska - Nebraska Club website

Websites of Local Airstream Sales and Service

- btcamper.com - Bill Thomas Airstream Sales, Wentzville, MO
- rvonedesmoines.rvone.com - Altoona, Iowa
- reliablerv.com - Springfield, MO
- djsrvservice.com - DJ's RV Service & Repairs located in Adele, Iowa.

Websites for Airstream Parts

- outofdoorsmart.com - Well informed and friendly personnel from North Carolina. 8510 Norcross Rd., Colfax, NC 27235. 1-866-636-2267 or 1-336-993-4518. I've used this site many times for both advice and parts.
- airpartsinc.com - AIRPARTS INC., located in Kansas City, KS *and a member of our club!* Specializing in sheet aluminum and aluminum repair. 2400 Merriam Lane, KCK.
- kchometrailer.net - KC Home Trailer Co Inc., 1115 Merriam Lane, Kansas City, KS. 66103

Quick Links to Airstream Resources (Continued)

Websites for Airstream How To: Videos

- airstream.com/owners/how-to-videos - How-to videos on the Airstream website
- longlonghoneymoon.com - Sean and Kristy Michael are writers and filmmakers documenting everything to do with Airstream travel.
- rvrepairclub.com - Several YouTube videos on general RV maintenance. Small charge.
- camperisme.com/9-best-decorating-ideas-for-your-airstream - Airstream decorating ideas
- youtube.com/watch?v=R_Lpwn7_c6o&feature=emb_title - How to remove dents

Websites for Airstream Travel Aids

- rvtripwizard.com - \$49/year, visual trip planner, over 20,000 campgrounds, 57,000 points of interest, web based, calculates the cost of a trip, sets time and distances.
- goodsam.com/trip-planner - Features tools and information designed to help you have the best road trip; Point-to-point trip planning, thousands of Points of Interest, Options include avoiding highways and/or tolls, filters for low clearance avoidance
- campgroundreviews.com - Traveler reviews of campgrounds

Websites for Airstream Camping

- recreation.gov - For National Parks
- reserveamerica.com - For State Parks
- mostateparks.com/activity/camping - For Missouri
- tripsavvy.com/best-rv-park-review-sites - Best RV Park Review Sites
- alltrails.com - Trail Guides & Maps for Hiking and Camping

Websites for Vintage Airstreams

- vintageairstreamclub.com - Official Website for Vintage Airstream Club
- vintagetrailersupply.com - Vintage trailer parts and accessories for travel enthusiasts, Santa Fe, NW.
- tincantourists.com - Website for all makes and models of vintage trailer, camper, RV and motor coach club. Rally and camping, classified ads for sale and selling.

Websites for Airstream Problem Discussions

- airforums.com - The largest Airstream trailer and Airstream motorhome enthusiasts community online.

Websites for Viewing New Airstream Models

- colonialairstream.com/colonial-airstream-videos - Large seller of Airstreams that has made over 100 videos.

Applications for Plant Identifications (Free for Phone)

- plantidentifier.info