



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club

Gopher News



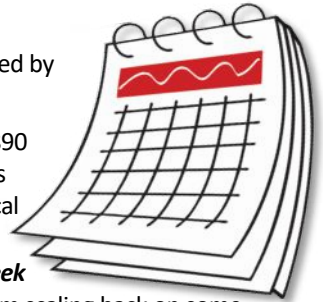
WBCCI - Unit 059

February 2021

President's Message

I just closed from attending an on-line Region 8, Club Presidents' meeting. The meeting was called by Mike Sisk, Region 8 President. Following are points discussed at the Zoom Meeting:

Region 8, Rally. The Region 8 Rally to be held **April 28—May 2 2021** at the Amana RV Park, 2890 C Street, Amana, Iowa, 52203 is still scheduled but the activities will likely be scaled back. To this point, over 50 rigs have shown interest in attending. The Rally is held in conjunction with the local *Maifest Celebration*. <https://amanacolony.com/things-to-do/festivals/maifest/>. **Both the application for attending the Amana Rally and the Region 8 Newsletter will be sent out the week of February 1st.** The delay of sending out the application has been due to the unknown costs from scaling back on some activities and food. *Tom Herron* (Iowa Club) is in charge of Parking for the Region 8 Rally. If individual Club members plan to travel together from their area to Amana, please let *Tom Herron* (Iowa Club) know when these small groups plan to arrive and how many units are in the Rally. Tom's contact is: Tom Herron, 515-988-4950 and Herrons13007@gmail.com. Also, please contact me at John Eckardt, 816-729-0660 and jeckar52@gmail.com so I can keep track of those going and perhaps offer assembly assistance. Although the Rally will have access to a large indoor facility, indoor activities will likely be kept to a minimum. Social distancing and masks will be requested. Club meetings will likely be held outdoors so please bring lawn chairs. Some may want to bring additional awnings or larger tents with sides so that small groups can gather safely outside. There will be a four-night minimum stay and the cost will likely be \$35/night. Our Club (Missouri-Kansas) is responsible for serving the meal Friday night, April 30. The format will likely be that food is delivered and placed on a long table. Our Club volunteers will be masked and gloved and serve those passing by into Styrofoam plates. Eating will likely be outside or in individual rigs. More to come within the next week or so.



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club Spring Rally. The Spring Rally to be held **April 22-25, 2021** at Basswood RV Resort in Platte City, Missouri is also still scheduled but like the Region 8 Rally, I have held back on sending out the application because the activities and food are unknowns at this point. The Club has reserved 20 camping spots at a cost of \$15 per spot (\$300 total) non-refundable. Our contract with the Park states that if 20 sites are filled, the Club receives free access to the adjacent Clubhouse. It is still unclear to me if we will fill the 20 spots, how much we will need the Clubhouse and if the Club will be issued any refunds if up to 20 spots are not filled. Within the next few weeks, I will consult with the Club Board, arrive at an Agenda and send out an Application for our Spring Rally. Last month, as requested by the Region 8 President, I asked that all Club members contact me with their interest in: 1) Attending our Club Rally, and 2) Attending the Region 8 Rally. Of our roughly 65 Airstream ownerships, 20 responded. Twelve (12) stated an interest in attending the Club Spring Rally and Ten (10) stated interest in the Region 8 Rally. We will go from there and hope for a few more attendees for each.

International Rally and News. The *National Rally* scheduled for **July 17-24, 2021** in Lebanon, TN is still on. Over 550 rigs have registered to date. To stand a better chance of being placed with others you know, it is best to arrive at the same time and go in together. Some Clubs have agreed to travel separately, but meet up near the Rally site and go in together. Caravans of 5 or more rigs are requested to notify Lori Plummer at lplummer@wbcci.org at least 45 days prior to arrival, of when they plan to arrive. Lori is the Corporate Manager on the WBCCI staff. *Lifetime membership* prices will increase effective August 1, 2021. Now would be a good time to secure the current rate, if interested. *Caravan Fees:* In 2020, 22 caravans were scheduled and 19 were cancelled. The National's Caravan Funds were depleted due to all of the cancellations and several vendors not refunding WBCCI. Some policies on Caravans are changing this year. All registrations will be done online. A Caravan fee will be 3% of the kitty fee. A \$100 cancellation fee may be administered plus any non-refundable fees. A \$25 administration fee will be administered for signing up for a caravan and will be non-refundable. Eventually the fees will be reduced when the fund is built-up to its pre-existing level. Tom Smithson recently sent out *updated By-Laws* to individual Clubs allowing for electronic meetings.

- John

Happy Valentines Day!



And GO CHIEFS!





Welcome New Members!

Richard & Christine

Embers

Lenexa, KS

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

Don't Fight an RV Fire!

Tim Timmons shared this article with some good tips in a dangerous moment – summed up with this sentence: *“...a fire in an RV is impossible to fight, so the best you can do is get yourself, everyone else and your pets out of the RV...”*

Here's a link to the entire, valuable article:

<https://www.rvtravel.com/rv-electricity-jam-dont-fight-rv-fire/>



Ask an Airstreamer

Chaz Colbert shared this series of videos from the Airstream company. He thought they may be of interest to our members.



Staying Connected

Maximize your digital connection

▶ [Watch the video here](#)



Power Systems

Tips and tricks to keep the electricity flowing

▶ [Watch the video here](#)

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

Attendance Application coming soon!

April 28 – May 2, 2021

Region 8 Rally

Amana, IA

Attendance Application will be sent with
February Region 8 Newsletter.

June 11 - 13, 2021

Just-Have-Fun Rally

Clinton Lake, KS

Bloomington East Campground
For more information, contact Lee & Joyce Cantrell;
ljan@twinvalley.net

July 17 - 24, 2021

Airstream Club Intl Rally

Lebanon, TN

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

Find up-to-date info at airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas



Time
to
Rally
Again!



Birthdays

Don Sutton - 2/07
Josh Schukman - 2/08
Helena Fults - 2/09
Ginny Gurtler - 2/15

February Celebrations!

Terry Mercer - 2/17
Julee Shields - 2/26
Glen Harris - 2/28
Nadine Colbert - 2/28

Anniversaries

Tracy & Glenda Ridgeway - 2/10
Don & Myrna Wardrip - 2/10
Phil & Linda Spangler - 2/24

News from the Road...



Larry & Linda Poage are enjoying the wonderful 80 degree weather in Rockport, TX – their “Winter Home.”

...and from the *Road of Life!*

Congratulations are in order for **Betty Sullivan**. She and James Terry were married in November.

The New Door Hangers are Here! The New Door Hangers are Here!

Last month, it was reported that work was being done on the design and completion of the Club's door hangers. Their purpose is for distribution amongst the Club members so that our members could hang one on the door of an Airstream -- perhaps in their neighborhood or vicinity, in hopes of increasing the Club's membership. I recently received 500 of the completed hangers from VistaPrint (See photo). This past month, I contacted sales representatives from the Bill Thomas Airstream Dealership in St. Louis, Reliable RV in Springfield, RV One Airstream Dealership in Des Moines and DJ's RV Service in Adel, Iowa—and mailed 40-50 hangers to each. They all seemed enthusiastic to receive them and said they would display them either on their desks where Airstream sales were made or in a public display area. I plan to bring the hangers to our next function (either a luncheon or the Spring Rally) and give to those interested in their distribution. - John



Johnson County Community College is offering two RVing courses this February: “Intro to RVing” and “RV Boot Camp”. Learn more [here](#).



**JOHNSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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Meeting Minutes from the Region 8 Executive Meeting

January 9,2021

A Zoom meeting of the region 8 officers was called to order by the Region 8 President, Mike Sisk. Also in attendance were, Dwight Olson, Past President Region 8, Greg Vadner, First Vice President Region 8, Joe Hauser, President Greater St. Louis, John Eckhart, President Missouri-Kansas, Jeff Petersen, President North Iowa, Tom Herron, President Iowa, Dan Hoyt, First Vice President Nebraska ,and and Dale Ann Hoyt, Recording Secretary Region 8. Colette Krupco, President Missouri Ozark was unable to make the virtual connection.

There was a brief introduction of those in attendance.

New business

The purpose of the meeting was discussion of the 2021 Region 8 Rally planned for April 29 through May 2, 2021 in the Amana Colonies. Mike has spoken to the campground manager and she said they are still planning on us and that as of now the town festivities have not been cancelled. We have three catered meals planned along with two unit-sponsored breakfasts and Sunday doughnuts. In order for the club to break even we need 50 rigs in attendance. Mike called on each club president to give an estimate of how many rigs they expect their club to have in attendance. At this time there are a possible 44 rigs planning to attend depending on the virus vaccine, state regulations and the general feelings of safety. Due to these circumstances it was decided to hold off on registration for another month.

The Vintage Airstream Club is planning a rolling rally August 20 through September 7,2021 starting in Winterset, IA and ending in Ely, MN. Dan Hoyt made a motion to approve this rally and Jeff Petersen had the second. There being no objections the motion was approved.

The current officer terms expire in July. At this time there is a need for a second Vice President. It was stated that if anyone knows of a candidate they should contact Dwight Olson.

Another Zoom meeting is planned for Saturday Feb 13,2021 at 10:00 a.m. for further discussion of the Rally.

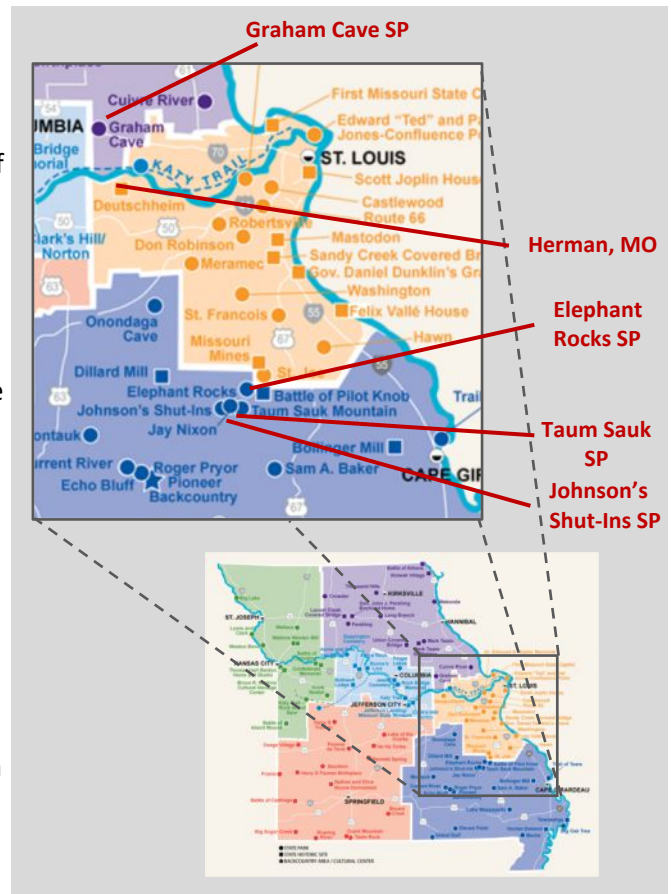
Mike adjourned the meeting.

Johnson Shut-Ins State Park Trip, October, 2020

By John Eckardt, 2008 28-ft. fb Classic limited, TV 2015, F-150

Remember Ninth Grade Geography? *Teacher* - "Okay Class, is everyone ready for a test?" "Take out paper and pencil". First question. *What is the highest elevation in Missouri and where is it?* Hint—the elevation of Kansas City, MO is 951 ft. (above sea level). Also, "What is a Shut In"? Finally, "How many wineries are in Hermann, MO, population 2,754"? Hearing "Jeopardy" music yet?

Since the Missouri River flows from northwest to southeast, I initially thought that the highest elevation in Missouri would be near the northwest corner of the state. Wrong! Ruler across the knuckles! Ouch! The highest elevation is at the top of the mountain in **Taum Sauk Mountain State Park**. This state park, along with *Johnson's Shut-Ins*, *St Joe*, *Sam A. Baker* and *Elephant Rocks State Park* are all relatively close together and in a location of southeast Missouri called the *St. Francois Mountains*. The mountains are really old for mountains. They are 1.485 billion years old and were formed by volcanic activity. By comparison, the Appalachians are 460 million years old and the Rockies are 140 million. Did I mention they were old? Oh, and the highest elevation in the state --1,772 ft. Until now, I didn't know Missouri had mountains. I've skied in Colorado many times. Keystone Mountain for example is 12,408 ft. high and the longest ski slope there (*Schoolmarm*) is 3.5 miles long! Now that's a mountain! But 1,772 ft.? The dictionary states that a mountain is: "Mountain". *A landmass that projects conspicuously above its surroundings and is higher than a hill.* Okay, I guess it's a mountain.



For many years, I've heard of and wanted to visit these closely located state parks near St. Louis, especially *Johnson's Shut-Ins*. I remember hearing back in 2005, when the Taum Sauk Reservoir, a hydroelectric station, breached--sending 1.3 billion gallons of water down nearby Proffit Mountain. The breach changed the park by depositing large boulders and debris through many of the lower areas. According to a Ranger there, many of the boulders were simply left at the main entrance as a remembrance of the event. Since we had five days and an RV, we decided to go see the effect of that breach and the other nearby state parks. Our trip took us on I-70 from Kansas City, skirting the southwest part of St. Louis, then south-southwest down I-55, US-67, State Route 32 and State Route 21 to *Johnson's Shut-Ins SP*. We camped in Site 317 of Loop 3, in the Park campground. Loop 3 is an Electric only camp area. We tried getting into the full-service Loop 2, but it was full. The campground was clean, spacious, had plenty of shade and affordable, like most of Missouri's state parks. Best of all, it's centrally located to other close-by interesting areas.

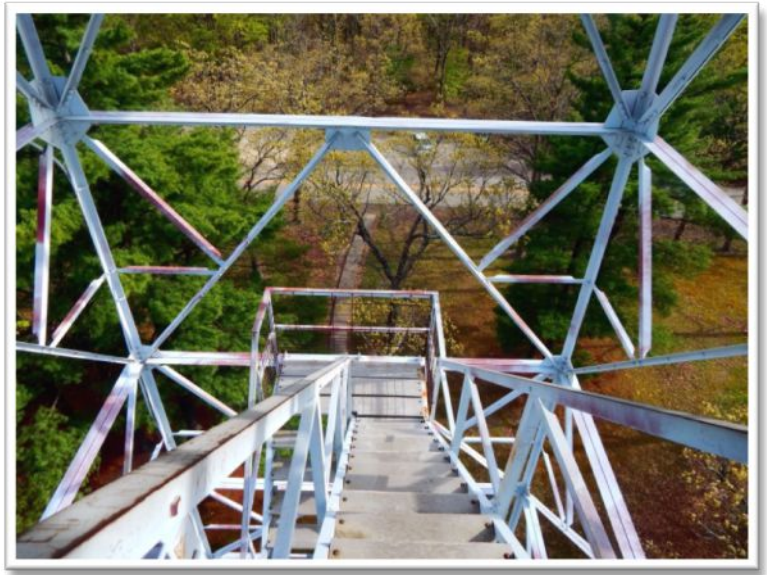


Why the name, ***Johnson's Shut-Ins***, for the 8,780-acre park? Earlier, I mentioned about the area's "mountainous" creation. At this location, the East Fork of the Black River flows through the area. The term "shut-in" refers to a place where the river's width is limited by the hard rock formations that are resistant to erosion. The river is therefore "Shut-in", by the rock formations. The river flowing over and through these rocks as well as the general area within the park is truly wonderful. We hiked two scenic trails in the park our first day. They were the *Shut-Ins Trail* and the *East Fork Wild Area trail*. The Shut-Ins trail is 2.3 miles, was the more scenic of the two and follows the East Fork of the Black River and nearby rocky gorges. The views along the river and trail alone were worth the trip--and obviously popular based upon the number of hikers we saw on the trail.

After a few hours hiking at *Johnson's Shut Ins SP*, we drove about 20 miles east to ***Taum Sauk Mountain State Park***. This state park is about the same size as Johnson's at around 9,000 acres. The east entrance, off of Mo 72/21 was a little difficult to find and the park is generally in more of a "natural state" and not as developed as other state parks we've been in. For example, some of the interior roads were gravel and the camping is limited to tent camping only. However, the park possesses the highest point in the state of Missouri, the 132-foot Mina Sauk Falls waterfall, access to the 230-mile Ozark Trail and the Taum Sauk lookout tower. We skipped the waterfall because we didn't think there would be water flowing at the time of the year (October) and because it was part of a 3-mile walk. We also skipped the 230-mile Ozark Trail hike because, well... We did however walk the 200-300 ft. level hike from the parking lot to the "survey confirmed" highest point in Missouri (see photo). We also drove the short drive to the *Taum Sauk Lookout Tower*.



Through much of the early 1900s, into the 1960s, 260 fire watch towers were located along the southern portion of Missouri as the primary way to spot forest fires. There are about 60 remaining. During the time of the lookout tower's use, men and women would spend hours scanning the surrounding area for smoke and flames. These potential fire areas could be miles away. To accurately hone in on the fire's location, the spotters would use an *Osbourne Fire Finder* and record the azimuth, which is the angle between the fire and another known location. After the 1960's though, airplanes, increased population and more technical communication equipment replaced the need for the towers.



The **Taum Sauk Lookout Tower** is 72-feet high, was constructed in 1949 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only watchtower in the state of Missouri with a catwalk that is still in use. I got excited when we drove down the short entry road and saw the tower. Like many I imagine, I have a “love-hate” relationship with towers, and heights in general. It wasn't very windy the day we were there and the tower access was open, so I started up. This is the “love” part. The unflinching but untested confidence combined with the anticipation of a wonderful view that could not possibly be seen just as well on the ground. The first floor was fine. The stairs felt firm, solid and wide and there were hand grips on both sides, perfect. By the second floor, I thought of one of my good friend's recent visits to his doctor for an annual physical when he was advised to “*never get on a ladder at his age*”. It was not lost on me that we were the same age. The higher I climbed, the more concentration I felt I needed. I never used to need concentration; I just went. Now I need it. On the third level, near the top, a bumblebee buzzed my head. Several times. I haven't mentioned, but in the last few years, I've developed a hint of vertigo. Not to the extent of that in the 1958 Hitchcock movie “*Vertigo*” starring Jimmie Stewart, but still a little bit. My doctor said not to worry, it was nothing. The bee did not help though. Near the top, it started creeping in and my palms were starting to sweat. It was not the weather. I also think the top of the tower was moving in the wind. Just below the highest level, both hands on the rail, I looked up to see that the top access was boarded and blocked off and signs stating to **Go No Further!** No problem! The way down was much easier. Back to the love part. I *think* the views were good but not totally sure? A lot of trees. I totally forgot to look for a fire. Stupid bee.

Back on the ground, we hopped in the truck and drove about 20 miles north to our favorite stop on the trip, **Elephant Rocks State Park**. The park is small and very accommodating for a picnic and short hike. There is no campground. The highlight of the park is the series of billion-year-old pink granite rock formations extending throughout the park, including the entrance friendly picnic area. A one-mile braille signed loop above the campground was helpful in making the walk accessible for all. We spent about two hours there with a lunch and thoroughly enjoyed it.

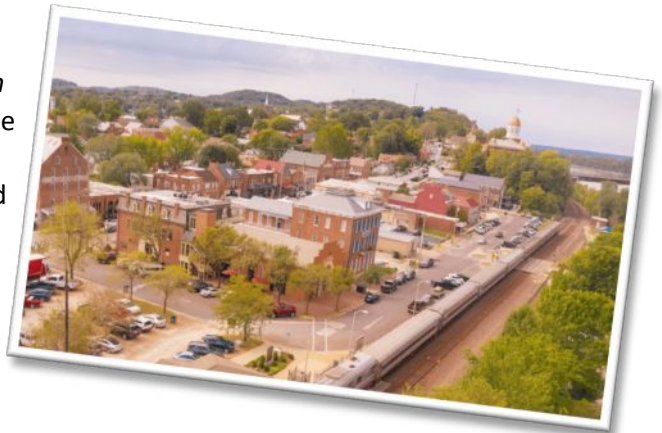


We were told by one of the Park Rangers that the ice cream in the nearby town of **Caledonia** “was really, really good” and since we were only about 10-miles away, we went there next. It’s a pretty small town, only a few hundred population, but close by and well worth the trip. The entire Village is listed on the U.S. Department of the Interior historic register with over 20 homes, businesses and churches to visit. Driving around the town didn’t take long, and we eventually stopped at what looked like the main attraction- *The Old Village Mercantile*. The Mercantile was built in 1909 and was like walking into a store from an old Turner Classic Movie. We had a coffee while strolling around the store, looking at the two floors of candy, antiques, gifts and the old fashion ice cream case. A good stop.



I read one travel website which stated that all four of these stops (*Johnson Shut-Ins SP, Taum Sauk Mountain SP, Elephant Rocks SP and the Town of Caledonia*) could be seen in one day. I think that's possible but I also believe many interesting aspects of the trip would be missed. I think two to three days is a reasonable stay. Canoeing is also good in this area, depending on the time of year.

Since it was October (Octoberfest), we planned to stay near **Hermann, Missouri** on the way back to Kansas City. On a prior trip to Hermann, we stayed at *Graham Cave SP* and really liked the campground and park. One can easily hike to the Cave from the campground. *Graham Cave SP* has easy access and generally located on the north side of I-70 at mile marker 170. It's only 20 miles north of Hermann. When *Graham Cave SP* is full, we've camped at the *Lazy Day Campground*, located just south of *Graham Cave* ([Home \(lazydaycampground.com\)](http://home.lazydaycampground.com)). In the two times we've camped at the *Lazy Day*, an RV Club has been there as well.



Hermann is a beautiful and historic town to visit, with many all-brick structures and over 150 buildings on the historic register. And many people do visit, as the town of about 2,300 population has over 40 bed and breakfast locations. We've visited Hermann many times and enjoy walking around the town seeing the architecture, German heritage and live-music at the wineries during Octoberfest. According to the City's website, Germans in Philadelphia in the mid-1830's purchased lots from school teacher George Bayer, who had previously purchased 11,000 acres where Hermann now exists. Planners in Philadelphia platted the property and lots were sold. When the boat arrived from St. Louis carrying the new Philadelphia German residents, many were dismayed to find their purchased lots were actually vertical cliffs or on steep hills, as the planners back east assumed the land was flat. They decided to use the hills for making wine. Those who visit now are able to benefit from this long-ago initial mishap and eventual solution. There are two wineries in the City of Hermann, *Stone Hill* and *Hermannhof*. However, the *Adam Puchta* winery is only located about one mile southwest and *OakGlenn* is about one mile east. The Missouri Wineries list (<https://missouriwine.org/>) shows more than 19 wineries along the Missouri River between Hermann and St. Louis. The **Montelle Winery** near Augusta was recently voted the most scenic, and we agree, with its offering of a beautiful view from their mountain winery overlooking the Missouri River Valley to the west. The *Defiance Ridge* Winery, just a few miles east, had the best live music on our recent visit. And who can pass up visiting a winery in a city named *Defiance*? A few years ago, we toured four wineries in Napa Valley California. If one hesitates spending \$25 for a wine tasting at Robert Mondavi or \$100 for a bottle at the Peju Winery, a very good alternative is the Hermann, Missouri wine tour. The scenery is better and after the first tasting, the quality of the wine narrows greatly.

