

Region 7 News



February 2021

Issue 28

<https://airstreamclub.org/region7>



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- 1st Vice President**
Beth Zelten
- 2nd Vice President**
open
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- Caravan Co-Chairs**
Pete & Kathy Yanke
- Newsletter Editor**
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- Newsletter Publisher & Website**
Bob Manak
- Blue Beret Contributors**
All Region 7 Members
- Youth Chair**
open
- Photographer**
John Cooper
- Historian**
Gail Harrower
- Vintage Rep**
Ed Emerick

President's Message



By Jane Carmichael

Hello to Our Region 7 Members,

Hearts? Chocolate? Flowers? Love? When I asked Ed what he thinks when I say Valentine's Day, he said, very quickly, "Flowers and Candy." Your thoughts?

It is a pleasure to report to you about what has happened and what is going to happen in Region 7 (R7). We hope you enjoy this issue and take a moment to review the last issue, if you have time. <https://region7.airstreamclub.net/2021-region-7-rally/>

Go to Newsletters which is listed along the left column.

My discussions with other Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) members resulted in wonderful suggestions about how to conduct a Safe & Fun Region 7 Rally.

While your safety is my uppermost concern, everyone's safety will require your compliance and cooperation during the August 19 -24, 2020 R7 Rally.

In short, you will experience a "new" way to Rally.

Region 7 was represented via Zoom and in-person at the Mid-Winter International Board of Trustees (IBT) meeting held in Sarasota, FL. Please see R7 First Vice President Beth Zelten's report.

As always, may your kind approach to life bring you contentment.



Happy Valentine's Day.

Jane Carmichael
Region 7 President
WBCCI # 219



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Region 7 History

Arlene Bailey, Past 1st Lady Region 7
1998 - 2000



I write this article for the Region 7 newsletter as your Historian, only to be the bearer of sad news. Arlene Janet (Huseth) Bailey, loving wife of John (Jack) Bailey passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on January 13, 2021 surrounded by family in Fargo, North Dakota. Jack & Arlene were married on July 15, 1950 and had 5 children - Jacquelyn, Cherlyn,

Kyle, Howard & Wesley. They had 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Joining the WBCCI in 1987, Jack was President of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit (Arlene was the 1st Lady) from 1990 to 1991, as well as 2017 to 2018. In 1992, they began their journey up to being Region 7 President and 1st Lady from 1998 to 2000, with the Region Rallies being held in Hutchison, MN and Superior, WI. Arlene was active at many International and Region rallies where she sang the National Anthems of the USA and Canada, and served as an Usherette who guided the members to their seats during the evening performances. At many a rally, she would start to sing around the campfire and everyone would join in. She will be remembered but missed by all who knew her. Rest in Peace Arlene.

Submitted by Gail Harrower, Region 7 Historian

WI Ilene Starin & Will Lichtig
WI Randall Amacci & Karyl Rice
WI Jo Hill
WI Harry & Faye Knol
WI Dick Dittmer
WI Cheryl Racette & Allen Stasiewski
WI Cris & Suzanne Rosario
WI Kelly & Pamela Meer

FLASH— "Please give a thumb's up to our Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisc-UP Club Membership Chairs!"

Mid-Winter IBT Rally

By Beth Zelten Region 7, 1st Vice President

Sarasota, Florida was the home of the WBCCI Mid-Winter International Board of Trustees (IBT) for 2021. Turnout was about half of normal due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Matt Hackney, event coordinator from Region 3 and his crew did an awesome job keeping the attendees safe, with plenty of hand sanitizer stations and wiping of the tables and chairs in between sessions. We were all required to use masks inside the building except when eating.

International President Andy Selking had encouraging information about the Lebanon, Tennessee rally; as of 1/21/21 about 560 rigs were signed up.

Current International President Andy Selking had encouraging information about the Lebanon, Tennessee rally; as of 1/21/21 about 560 rigs were signed up, with a few additional registrations still coming in each day! February we will start to see some of the plans evolving and entertainment lined up that will make this International Rally the highlight of 2021. Sign-up information is in the Blue Beret.

Lori Plummer, corporate manager for WBCCI, gave us the update on the WBCCI numbers which were exciting! There were 6,525 memberships as of 1/19/21. Because of the COVID-19 virus there's been an increase in the sales of Airstream trailers which in turn has shown up in new memberships for the Club. We discussed how to effectively get information about the Club into the hands of buyers of both new and used Airstreams to help continue the growth. One such suggestion was the development of a pamphlet for each Region that could be handed out by the dealers to new owners. Also discussed was encouraging our current members of Local Clubs to reach out to Airstream owners we come across while on our travels. A good word about WBCCI goes a long way!

During the Executive Committee meeting, Justin Humphreys, vice president of sales for Airstream, Inc, spoke in depth about the expansion of the Airstream factory in Jackson Center, Ohio. He said it was the largest expansion in Airstream history! They will ultimately double the employee force to get caught up on all the orders from the past year. In addition to the new floor space for construction, they have included training centers, a health clinic

New Region 7 Members! Wow!

Amanda Hughes is in charge of Membership Services at our WBCCI Headquarters in Jackson Center, Ohio. She provided a list of the new Region 7 members who have joined since July, 2020. A Great Big Welcome to You!

MN Jason & Renee Rawn
MN Ken & Laura Grant
MN Peter & Danielle Reuss
MN David & Pamela Rawn
MN Tai Truong
MN Lancelot Honer & Valerie Ouarve Honer
MN Marco & Key de Bruin
MN Cristofer & Donna Gears
MN Lindsay Brice & Nancy Orr
MN Mark & Misti Roach
MN Charles and Janis Chell
ND Alan & Ellen Lukes
ND Bob & Mary Maier

Mid-Winter IBT Rally, from Page 2

for employees and their dependents, a cafeteria, and a museum.

Was a wonderful break catching up with friends and enjoying the warm weather. Look forward to the next IBT at the International Rally in Lebanon, Tennessee in July, and the next Mid-Winter IBT in Savannah, Georgia on Jan 17-21, 2022.



Jane's Zoom setup for the Mid-Winter IBT

IBT Meeting Records

Want to see the agenda, read the Minutes, or view the video from the 2021 Midwinter IBT?

Use this link:

<https://airstreamclub.org/2021-international-board-of-trustees-mid-winter-meeting>

Then scroll down to find all of the above.

Mark Your Calendars

Do you plan ahead? Or are you a last minute get-up-and-go type? Regardless, you may look forward to these events.

July 10 or 11 Minnesota Caravan to International (see page 7)

July 17 - 24, 2021 International Rally - Lebanon, Tennessee

*** Delegates will cast their Club votes on 3 Constitutional changes from the IBT

*** You are invited to join the Region 7 Social Hour

*** No Region 7 meal this year, instead we will have Group Therapy

July 20, 2021 Breakfast in Building E for Region 7 attendees & guests

Tickets sold at the Region 7 Table during registration

August 19 - 24, 2021 Region 7 Rally Rippling River Resort Marquette, MI

September 7-12, 2021 Alumapolooza 11 Jackson Center, OH
Sign up at www.alumapolooza.com.

January 17 - 21, 2022 WBCCI Mid Winter IBT
Creekfire RV Resort, Savannah, Georgia

July 23 - 30, 2022 International Rally - Fryeburg, Maine

June 23 - July 2, 2023 International Rally - Yakima, WA

This and That

By Beth Zelten, R7 1st Vice President

*Lifetime membership fees going up effective August 1, 2021. Get on board! You may sign up by going to the AirstreamClub.org webpage. Select Current Member and Lifetime Membership.

*Checkout the NEW Member Benefits on the AirstreamClub.org webpage! Again, go to Current Member and then Club Benefits.

*Discounts listed are:

- Harvest Hosts
- Passport America
- Michelin Tires
- Griot's Garage

More coming soon!!

*Also you may order your logo'd merchandise from Land's End at the Club Store!

Stars? What Stars??

Every year at the Region 7 Rally dinner and Region Meeting, I call up to the stage everyone who has been a member for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 years, etc. You get the drift. It has been with great pleasure that I get to hand out two stars to each of the Region 7 members who have been with the Club so long. So what do the stars signify and where do you put them? Each star is for five years of continuous membership in the Airstream Club. (Please note that I say "continuous").



Those who have continuous membership receive two stars, one each for the front and back of their camper. The star is placed next to your big red membership number. If you are unable to attend the Region Rally you will receive your "Stars" at your next Unit Rally or in the mail. However, please try to attend, as it is a great place to meet your officers and other members. Last year I had the pleasure of sending Mary Anderson-Shull of the Minnesota Unit stars for 50 years of membership! That is rewarding to me and is why I love this job.

I did not get to do that this year. Darn COVID! No Region 7 Rally, darn COVID! No Region 7 dinner, darn COVID! B-Van tires getting square, darn COVID! I know, I know, I know, we're all in this thing together, but still. The awards are not diminished, just delayed.

So what now? I called our Region 7 President, Jane Carmichael and explained the situation. Together, we decided to combine two years of star awards and make a special awards ceremony at next year's Region 7 Rally in Marquette. Hopefully Headquarters will have membership updates finished and I can receive that report.

Grounded for now,
your Region 7 Membership Chair,
Linda Agre

Region 7 Zooms

Your Region 7 Officers and appointed Committee Chairs held a discussion via Zoom on January 7, 2021. Notes were taken by Ginger Slattery, our Region 7 Secretary. Please take a look!



Region 7 Zoom Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 7, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

- Charles Dodd - MN Pres, Region Board Member
- Ken Kubischta - ND Peace Garden, ND VP
- Jane Carmichael - Region President
- Rod Fierek - Wisc/UP Pres, Region Board Member
- Gail Harrower - Region Historian
- Bob Manak - Region Webmaster, Newsletter Publisher
- John Cooper - Region Photographer
- Chuck Zellermyer - Region Treasurer
- Tim Doherty - Region Newsletter Editor
- Linda Agre - Region Membership Chair
- Ginger Slattery - Region Secretary
- Beth Zelten - Region 1st VP (Joined late- schedule conflict)

4:06cst MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

A. Members introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their roles for the region and their areas.

B. Linda spoke of the responsibilities of membership recruitment and the importance of contacting new Airstream owners. That it's important for the Presidents to reach out personally via phone.

C. SAFE RALLIES

1. North Dakota is planning an event at the Peace Garden in June. Canadians attending would have to quarantine for 14 days after returning but not Americans at this time. A passport is required but Americans may also use an enhanced driver license. Tim clarified the location of Peace Garden as a unique piece of real estate on the border. Chuck Dodd asked, "What is the Peace Garden?" Linda asked if there was a video of the monument dedication. Gail thought there was. Discussion ensued as to what amenities are available, ie, RV park, gift shop, etc.

2. Minnesota held an installation Rally at Airstream park. Food was arranged and mostly prepackaged. Up to 30 units in attendance. Campfire was socially distanced. Chuck Dodd also reported cancellation of all Feb/Mar events. Future events will depend on vaccination progress. They are hoping to hold the Spring Rally the weekend of May 22/23. Also a rally the weekend of June 10-12 at the Airstream park. July rally is the National rally in Lebanon. August rally in Marquette and the Fall rally at Prairie Island in Winona.

3. Wisc/UP Rod reported all events through the end of March are cancelled. So far April, May and June events are still scheduled. All will depend on Covid status and progress of immunizations. June 24-27, there is a rally at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls, WI August 19-24 the Region 7 rally is hosted in Marquette at the Rippling River Campground. September 21-24 is the Rally on the River in Stillwater, WI.

D. NEWSLETTERS

Jane wanted feedback from the areas regarding the newsletter that was put together last July. It was 6 pages with lots of pictures. Bob said there are usually up to 4 newsletters. In the past distribution was up to area webmasters. This time he got a list from National and was able to send to each member. Rod agreed central distribution is very effective. He also expressed his appreciation to Jane for handling "political" issues. He supports the Region newsletter. Gail supports the Region newsletter. Linda supports the Region newsletter as there can never be enough communication. Chuck Z responded it's good to let everyone know what the hot items are and to use other newsletters for ideas. Monica Kubischta hadn't seen the Region newsletter. Asked if spouses could receive newsletters separately as spouses don't always share. Linda asked if Presidents could make sure that membership chairs & VP's could be given a copy of newsletters, especially of the directory. Jane reported the next Region Newsletter will be published February 14. Deadline is the end of January

E. REGION CARAVAN

Linda reported a caravan to the Region Rally in Marquette in August. Would leave from MN Airstream Park. Is still in planning stages but would like members to know to see about interest.

F. Women's Skill Class

Beth informed the group she and Kenn are planning to hold another class teaching women rules of road, backing up with rigs, driving around trucks, and beneficial apps. A date hasn't been set. Beth will also be the Region 7 representative at the Sarasota IBT January 18-21, 2021.

5:43cst Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted
Ginger Slattery, Secretary Region 7
01/10/2021

Mask Maker Unmasked!

Thank you for submitting your guess as to who created the Airstream mask featured in the July, 2020 R7 Newsletter. We did not have a winner. Our mask maker is: TERI BOEHMER.

Thank you, Teri (and George) for being our generous and loyal Wisc-UP members.



Yoopers for a Week

by Gina Eggers

*Anatomy of a Murder Region 7 Rally
Rippling River Resort
Marquette, Michigan
August 19th – 24th, 2021*

Yoop-er | \ 'yü-per \

Definition of Yooper

: a native or resident of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The word Yooper, in use since about 1979, comes from the common nickname of Michigan's Upper Peninsula—the "U.P.". But it's only in recent years that those beyond the U.P. and its geographical neighbors have begun to encounter Yooper in common use. The word Yooper was added to the Merriam-Webster dictionary in 2014, after delegates from M-W visited us to see what being a Yooper was all about.

And what is *The Anatomy of a Murder*? Both a book written by U.P. judge John Voelker, and a classic 1959 movie starring Lee Remick and James Stewart. It is a true crime drama that occurred in Big Bay in 1952. The movie was filmed in Marquette. Our visit to Big Bay during the Region 7 rally will give you goosebumps!

The upper peninsula of Michigan is known for its clean water, clean air, forests, lakes and stunning flora and fauna. Yoopers are friendly folks, you'll find that everyone will want to talk to you and know where you are from. Marquette is the largest city, with about 21,000 people, and the center of life in the Yoop. It has a long history of logging and mining. There is so much to see and do, especially if you love the outdoors and history. Marquette lies along Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area.

Before you get to Marquette, if you are coming from the west or southwest, there are many places to visit along the way. The Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon (near Ironwood on the west end of the U.P.) is one worth visiting. This 60,000-acre park is one of the few remaining large wilderness areas in the Midwest. It's home to a 35,000-acre old-growth forest, roaring waterfalls, miles of rivers and streams, more than 90 miles of hiking trails, camping, fishing, and the Lake Superior shoreline.

Also along the way is the Keweenaw peninsula, jutting up into Lake Superior with many options for sightseeing. The main city is Houghton, home of Michigan Tech University. And don't miss the Keweenaw Brewing Company in Houghton. At the tip of the peninsula is the small town of Copper Harbor, and the beautiful Fort Wilkins Historic State Park. The campground frames Lake Superior on one side and Lake Fanny Hooe on the other, with historic Fort Wilkins a must-take tour. Don't miss visiting the Byzantine monk owned and operated Jam Pot in Eagle Harbor on your drive to Copper Harbor. Jams from locally picked berries, baked goods and breads are worth the visit, though the wait is often out the door.

If you will be crossing over the Mackinac Bridge, and coming to

Marquette from the East, you can't miss Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Paradise, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Munising. There is lovely camping at the State Park at Tahquamenon Falls, but not a lot of choices in Munising. One of the best is Tourist Park, a private campground but it fills up quickly in the summer.

And Marquette, the jewel of Lake Superior! I'm a former troll (someone from lower Michigan, who is from below/under the Mackinac Bridge), who moved to the U.P. in 2006 and never looked back. There is solitude up here, but also a bustling small-town life. It's where you can kayak or sail, hike or ride a bike. There are paved paths along Lake Superior, and single-track through the woods if you bring your mountain bike. There is excellent food; everything from Cajun to steakhouse, Thai to Mexican. Some of my top picks are Elizabeth's (high-end steakhouse, reservations usually needed), Thai House, Lagniappe (Cajun), and right on the lake with outdoor seating is Iron Bay restaurant. For lunch I'd recommend Donckers, a local eatery and candy store that dates back to 1896!

I'm a former troll (someone from lower Michigan, who is from below/under the Mackinac Bridge), who moved to the U.P. in 2006 and never looked back.

The U.P. excels in its micro-breweries, and in Marquette you will find several. The Ore Dock Brewery and Blackrocks Brewery are two to check out. Want wine? Everyday Wines on Baraga St. sells most wines under \$20 that are vetted by owner Dan himself. You will find unusual and small production wineries; and I've never had one I didn't like. They also have a wine tasting and small plates restaurant named Zephyr, just a block away.

And what else to do in Marquette? Take a walk along the beach or around Presque Isle. Swimming is allowed most places and there are lots of beaches, but the water is cold! Visit the Maritime Museum. One of the requirements of visiting Marquette, where we take all new visitors, is on a hike up Sugarloaf Mountain. This small mountain, 15 minutes NW of Marquette has an easy hiking trail with two options. Small children, dogs and senior citizens can make it easily in under 30 minutes. The view from the top is spectacular! You can see a great expanse of Lake Superior and the surrounding forests. A photo opportunity not to be missed.

I hope you come visit us!



Pictured Rocks, Munising, MI by Gina Eggers



Tahquamenon Falls by Gina Eggers

Your 2021 Region 7 Rally Will Be Unique

Your Region 7 Rally will be held at the Rippling River Resort in Marquette, MI from August 19 - 24, 2021. We will be outdoors and under “overhead-only” tent areas. You will need to use your own chairs.

And, yes, there will be food, entertainment, and the chance to learn about the book and movie, “Anatomy of a Murder.”

In the planning stages are:

- Anatomy of a Murder film (on the side of an Airstream?)
- Anatomy of a Murder Introduction
- Self-guided tours
- Silent auctions & UPAWS Charity
- Door prize drawings
- Coupons for Food Trucks
- Coupons for Wine Tasting
- Costumed Pet Parade (be creative)
- Putt Putt Golf Tournament Guided Hike to Morgan Falls
- Biking at Blueberry Ridge
- Quilting Sessions with Lori
- Fly Fishing Demo by Derek
- Flamingo Day (Go Wild)

We will follow the Marquette County Department of Health directives, per the State of Michigan and we will expect you to do so, also. No discussion.

Our Region Treasurer, Chuck Zellermyer, is setting up the account in order to collect your Rally Fee. (\$80 per person). 50% refund before July 20, 2021. Please go to: <https://region7.airstreamclub.net/2021-region-7-rally/> to pay.

Message From Rippling River Resort

We have had many discussions with our extremely capable and pleasant Event Manager, Joanna Emigh. She welcomes you to the Rippling River Resort and looks forward to meeting you.

In a recent text she re-confirmed the cancel/refund policy.

“You may cancel your campsite reservation at least 2 weeks in advance for a full refund.

If you cancel within 2 weeks of arrival date, you will not receive any refund.”

ALERT: NO REFUNDS FOR CAMPSITES IF CANCELLED WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF YOUR ARRIVAL DATE

Region 7 Rally will have a Full House

Here is a listing of our WBCCI members who have sites reserved at the Rippling River Resort, Marquette, MI for the 2021 Region 7 Rally.

Thank you, Ginger Slattery, our Region 7 Secretary, who organized this info.

Please know that you are more than welcome to join this group and to share, within our safety protocols, this Airstream gathering. Check the website <https://Region7.airstreamclub.net> for details.

If we have omitted or misspelled your name, please let me know. Of course, your site number might change. The Rippling River Resort reserves that right.

Region 7 Rally Alphabetical List 2021

Last Name First Name, Site # at Rippling River Campground

Adams-Kyle, Pearl #2	Kubischta, Kenny #13
Agre, Linda #63	Larson, Rose #10
Alsvig, Mary, Ellen #14	Lindstad, Morten #51
Arechavala, John #60	Lovlien, Jon #39
Augustyn, Roberta #31	Manak, Bob #1
Bryant, Sharon #71	Marlette, Julia, C16
Carmichael, Jane #33	Mott, Tye #40
Carmichael, Jane #34	Nickel, Raymond #53
Chovan, Joe #64	Olsson, Christopher #21
Cobb, Thom #15	Overman, Jason #41
Coonrod, Bruce #19	Picken, Gordon #6
Cooper, John #43	Piotrowski, Steve #56
Depre, Keith #9	Ramler, Harold #22
Dittmer, Dick #49	Scheuerell, William #44
Dodd, Chuck #8	Schwenke, Stanley #20
Emerick, Ed #16	Sellers, John #45
Farrell, Kevin #27	Sheasby, Connie #5
Fierek, Rod #42	Slattery, Ginger &, Joe #28
Fisher, Karen #32	Solka, Thomas #23
Flietstra, Caroline #26	Staffin, Kelly #47
Fulcher, Doreen #35	Stinnett, Danny #54
Garrett, Kevin #59	Vigneau, Diane #11
Guthrie, Jim #3	Wall, Wanda #72
Herrmann, Daryl #12	Watson, Derek #37
Holloway, William #52	Wells, Chris #46
Hyer, Gregg #24	Woods, Cordell #48
Idso, Arthur #30	Yanke, Pete #4
Jorgensen, Kurt #7	Zellermyer, Chuck #36
Klare, Lee #18	Zelten, Beth #29
Knol, Harry #25	

MN Caravan to 2021 International Rally

By Pete Yanke

Kathy and I are planning to lead a traveling caravan to the International in Lebanon, TN. Details are still sketchy. It looks like 4 stops leaving MN on 7/10 or 7/11. It will be a hop on, hop off caravan. You can join at any point along the way. We generally travel about 300 miles per day. I will plan stops and distribute the info to those interested in travelling together. If you are interested please email me at pyanke@aol.com. Use Lebanon as the subject and I will confirm. Please include your contact info and your Big Red Number (BRN). I will forward to Jackson Center to request a parking date.

Thanks, Pete Yanke

Destination Marquette

Region 7 Rally – August 19-24, 2021

By Linda Agre

I'm sitting in St. Cloud, Minnesota, wishing I was in Arizona with my Escapee RV Club friends, jeeping in the desert, or that it was April and I'm back in my 34 foot Airstream at the Minnesota Airstream Park. These cold Minnesota winters have you longing for warm and sunny days. For anyone who knows me, it's really hard for me to sit still. In my spare time, I'm planning a caravan to the above designation, and I need your input.

For those of you who are new to this, WBCCI Numbered Caravans have to be 9 days or longer, so I'm thinking of a shorter caravan of five to six days. So, this would not be a numbered caravan. The caravan would leave the Minnesota Airstream Park in Clear Lake, Minnesota on either August 14th or 15th and arrive at the Rippling River Resort in Marquette, Michigan the afternoon of August 19th between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Of course, we have to arrive in time for Social Hour!

Please respond to the following questions before April, 1st, 2021:

1. Yes, I am planning to go to the Region 7 Rally: _____
2. I'm Interested in caravanning to the Rally: _____

The caravan would be led by Pete Yanke, Region 7 Caravan leader, and myself. The caravan would be open to all members of Region 7, but would be limited to 10 to 15 units. The route would be through some beautiful country along the shore of Lake Superior in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Planning needs to be done well in advance, so please let me know of your interest soon. Contact me with questions by phone or email.

Linda Agre Cell: 320.295.1117 or email: agre5628@aol.com

Calling All Pets!

By Linda Agre, #5628

Are you one of those traveling Airstreamers who has a pet or pets that take over the Airstream? It may be the sofa or the bed or the hallway. I once asked an Airstreamer where his Great Dane slept in his Bambi? The answer I received was "Anywhere he wants to".



Planning a rally and finding things to do safely, especially during the past two years has been a challenge. Our Wagon Master, Jane, asked about having a Costumed Pet Parade, which I agreed would be fun.

So get ready to 'Highlight' your pet, in costume, just being a pet. Prizes will be awarded.

Put on your thinking cap, warm up your sewing machine, and help us make a fun night of entertainment. Sign up at registration table when you arrive for the Region 7 Rally.

Delegates to Vote in Lebanon, TN

Tom Smithson, Chair of the Constitution & ByLaws Committee, has prepared a summary of the amendments that will be presented at the International Rally in Lebanon, TN in July.

Thank you Tom for developing this information for the Region 7 Newsletter. Our appreciation!

Amendment #1 will remove the duties of the International Officers and Nominating Committee from the Constitution. In TN motions will be introduced to place revised Officers duties and a proposed new method for generating nominations for International Officers into the Club's Bylaws.

Amendment #2 provides for electronic election or mail ballot, members choice, to elect the International Officers in place of the Delegates meeting. If approved new language, to be placed in the Bylaws and Policy of WBCCI in TN, will establish the duties of the Constitutional Delegates meeting created by this Amendment.

Amendment #3 removes the complex and confusing language for amending the WBCCI Constitution and establishes a straight forward structure. In TN a new policy statement will be proposed outlining the process for making amendments to the Constitution.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will submit a detailed report in March on the amendments as well as present the proposed draft motions to be submitted to the IBT in TN. All of the replacement motions are drafts and subject to revision. Any draft motion will only be submitted if the associated Constitutional amendments pass.

Saving Energy while Airstreaming



By Tim Doherty, Region 7 Member #27507

It is said that you should only write about what you know; I'll write about energy for this column. I have, for most of my 40-plus year career, been involved in energy. The use of energy, the sources of energy, and the conservation of energy, analyzing the economics of, and implementing conservation and renewable projects. My first professional work was as power and heating plant engineer, first aboard ships, and then in shoreside plants. Next, I was an automation engineer, automating commercial building systems so that they save energy and power. For the last 28 years of my career, I administered energy conservation programs for gas and electric utilities, helping our customers save energy and power.

So what can Airstreamers do to save energy?

First and foremost, inflate your tires to the proper recommended pressure. This is easy to do and it helps increase the life of your expensive tires by promoting proper wear. The precise pressure for each tow vehicle, trailer, and motorhome will vary, but the point here is that you ensure your tires are not under-inflated. Under-inflated tires will cause you to use substantially more energy, and transportation fuel is our greatest energy expense. Some of you have tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), and these are a great way to ensure proper inflation. If you don't have a TPMS, here are two things you can do: monitor your mileage, and visually inspect your tires daily. Low tire pressure will be made evident by decreased fuel mileage. It's easy to do a walk-around of the vehicle and trailer daily to observe their status.

Second method to save energy: Slow down! Wind resistance increases exponentially with your speed. The faster you go, the greater percentage of energy consumption goes to overcoming wind resistance. Besides, speed kills and slower is safer, and what's your hurry anyway?

Third method: replace any incandescent lights in your camper with LED technology. LED lighting has advanced more rapidly than any technology that I have ever worked with. There is now an LED option for nearly every lighting application. LED lights last longer and use less energy than incandescent, which will save you in the long run. This is also important because energy efficient lighting will help preserve precious battery capacity while boon-docking. LEDs cost more to purchase than incandescent, but they pay for themselves many times over. Incandescent never pays for itself.

Fourth method: Reduce your weight. No, I'm not talking about eating fewer s'mores-I would never suggest that. I'm referring to your camper; you may be hauling more stuff than you need. I know that we were definitely hauling more than we needed in our first year of fulltiming. After gaining experience, we learned of what we can do without. We left a lot of things behind during our last visit home. If you don't think the extra weight takes more energy, try walking around for a day with a backpack full of rocks. Alrighty then.

Fifth method: Turn it off! Remember when your dad used to yell at everyone to turn off the darn lights when you weren't in the room? "I'm not made of money!" he would exhort. It turns out dad was right (as usual); your lights can't use energy when they are not on. Some folks also turn off their propane gas solenoid when not using propane, which saves electricity and is also a safe thing to do. Shut off your inverter/charger when not needed. This will also save some of that precious battery capacity when boon-docking. Your inverter/charger uses energy whenever it is on, even if it is not powering devices.

Sixth method: turn down your thermostat at night and cuddle up under nice warm sleeping blankets or sleeping bags. I don't know about you, but I sleep better in the cool. You can have your doggie or kitty cuddle up to you too. You've heard of a "three dog night" haven't you?

Well, it works. Turn off your furnace and water heater when away. This reduces standby losses. Your unit will heat up quickly when you return. So will your water heater.

In warm weather, if you have cool nights, turn off your air conditioner, and open windows and turn on your roof fan. This uses a lot less energy.

How much will you save by implementing some of these ideas? That amount will vary, depending on a number of factors: how much you drive each year, how much time you spend in your camper, and on your energy behaviors.

Most people rarely or never think about energy conservation. Why should they when energy is so cheap? However, using less energy also preserves your assets: your batteries, your engine, your tires, and so on. Let's say you saved \$500 in a given year by being energy efficient. That \$500 stream of savings could be worth over \$2,700 after five years. That's a lot of pink flamingos.

Region 7 Vintage Airstream Club Winter Update

Hello Fellow VAC Members!
I hope you and those all around you are doing well, staying safe and healthy. As we enter 2021 plans are moving forward with the Region 7 Rally as well as the International Rally. I hope that the VAC is well represented at both events, they both sound great.

At the Region 7 Rally I want to host a happy hour to get us together and to discuss what we want from the VAC at the Region level and how to get there. I will announce the time and gathering place at the rally. Also, Regionally, I would like to have a VAC rally but I'm still not sure how the pandemic is going to shake out. With that said, I am going to plan on a late September date right now. I will adjust this as the winter moves into spring and see how the numbers look regarding infection levels and vaccinations administered.

In 2022 I will have a VAC rally in either Western Wisconsin or mid Minnesota. I am looking for rally site suggestions, if you have a place or event that you think would fit a vintage Airstream enthusiast, drop me an email/text/call.

As I have mentioned in the past, the VAC Board has a virtual meeting each month or so that I attend. The focus of the last meeting was this year's International Rally. At the time of the call the word was that the International Rally will go on as planned and the VAC will have events at that rally.

One of the events planned is the VAC parade into the International. If you get a chance you should participate, it is one of the highlights of the rally. The parade this year is on the 17th. All VAC members will be parked together at the rally site.

The 18th is a very busy day starting with the Open House, VAC flea market, and a dance that night. The VAC dinner is on Wednesday night, which is always fun to attend!

The VAC will host a coffee gathering each morning starting a 7AM and a happy hour every day at 4 PM. Last, a movie will be shown each night in the VAC area at 9 PM. There are other events that are planned to keep you very busy that week. If you have not yet had a chance to experience the VAC at the International Rally here is your chance, I guarantee you will have a blast!

One last comment about the Vintage Airstream Club, all Airstream product owners are encouraged to participate in Region's vintage activities. Participation is not restricted to the year of the product, all WBAC members are welcome.

I look forward to seeing you down the road. Until then stay safe and have a good ride.

Ed Emerick
Region 7 VAC Rep
edward.emerick@gmail.com
920-475-7891