

THE CLASSIC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019



The *Classic Airstream Club* is an IntraClub of the *Wally Byam* Airstream Club International

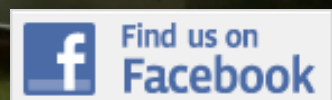
Fall Colors Edition

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There's nothing better than sleeping without the buzzing of the AC and opening our shades to a colorful morning. Airstreamers quickly learn that Fall is the best time to travel. Most parks and camping facilities are opened for you to enjoy, usually at lower rates than during the busy summer months, and they have plenty of room to welcome our caravans and gatherings of happy Airstreamers.



CAC President's Message



After some time as being an inactive Club, things are looking up! We are now compliant with WBCCI thanks to the work by our Past President **Pat Shaw** getting our Constitution approved.

Where has the time gone since the International Rally in Doswell, VA? If you were there I trust you really enjoyed the Rally. **Kay Corder** with assistance by **Marie Efira** and a bit by me looked after our CAC desk during the registration at the Rally welcoming old members and talking to prospective members. That was successful as we increased our membership by 15 so we are now about 155 members. **Kay** also ran a seminar talking about our CAC Club and did an excellent job. We also held our business meeting traditionally coupled with either an ice cream party or a pizza party at each international. This year it was pizza and was it every good – 5 different kinds from Dominoes Pizza including for those who were vegetarians or dairy intolerant, plus soda and water – no one went hungry and as a reminder this is free for members – with our dues still at \$10, certainly is a fantastic deal! Thanks go out to **Ken Shay** for picking up the pizza and to everyone who pitched in to help.

During the Meeting we covered a number of points which you can find in the Minutes. But I really want to emphasize how much I appreciate and thank all those who volunteered to serve as officers as we were able to fill every position and now even have a Caravan Chairperson – **Tony Land**. His main job is to help others who may wish to organize a caravan. As most of you know we really want to run short caravans of 10-15 days ideally following an international rally. During the Meeting, the members approved a motion to run a Wandering Wyoming Caravan following the Loveland, CO Rally. We are now looking for a few people to volunteer to organize and run this Caravan. It has been a long time since our last caravan but with help this Caravan can be done be a lot of fun – if you are interested in helping please contact **Tony** at tonyland53@bellsouth.net.

As we move into 2020 we are looking for not only the caravan following the International Rally, but perhaps other great opportunities. One thing we could do is have small rallies with other CAC members in your area – even 3 or 4 rigs can be fun and provide another opportunity to get to know others. If you have any suggestions regarding our CAC please feel free to contact me at silverbulletspider@gmail.com as our Club is only as good as our members make it.

Please send me an email if you have registered for the Colorado Rally or planning on being there so we can do some preliminary planning. One area where you could help is to spend a couple of hours helping to man the CAC desk during the registration. We could use about 6 people to share this job – and I can tell you it is actually fun chatting with people. Let's hope as many of you as possible will attend these great get togethers and enjoy the fun, food and camaraderie.

We wish each of you safe travels and good health – enjoy this great gift that we all have with our rigs and friends.

Don McKelvey
Classic Airstream Club
President
email:silverbulletspider@gmail.com



Where do we all come from?

What makes our intraClub so special is that our members come from **all over the United States and Canada**. Our President Don McKelvey and First Lady Kathy live in Ontario, Canada. Our officers and dedicated volunteers come from Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Washington State or California. Our members usually only meet once or twice a year but we manage to keep in touch and have built close friendships along the years. The distances do not hamper our enthusiasm as we share the same passion for traveling in our “Classic” Airstreams, enjoying along the way informal get-togethers, affordable rallies and caravans organized by local volunteers.

Let's caravan and rally together!

Did you say “Classic”?

As all of you know by now, the Classic Airstream Club is an IntraClub of the Airstream Club International (WBCCI). Our membership is opened to all WBCCI members who own an aluminum Airstream recreational vehicle (trailer or motorhome) with the iconic aerodynamic shape, regardless of its age:

NOT exclusively “Classic” models but Flying Cloud, Globetrotter, International Serenity, Bambi, Caravel and all other aluminum models with the iconic shape.

Do you know that if you own an Argosy trailer or motorhome, you can be part of our CAC family as well?



The short story of the Argosy began in the early 70's when “Airstream wanted to offer a medium-priced trailer.” The Argosy were not built in Jackson Center but in a new plant in Versailles, OH. The production of Argosy trailers and motorhomes ended in 1979 with the closure of that plant.

Compared to the Airstream, the Argosy “shared the aerodynamic aluminum structural design and featured an identical axle. (...) Many of the differences were in the shell itself and the paint applied externally. The company used lower-grade aluminum as a cost-saving measure. The paint job

sometimes hid scratched and dented aluminum sent over from the Airstream plant, and cost-effective steel formed the front and rear dome segments.” (Source: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/argosy-short-history-painted-airstream/>).

Today many Argosy owners take advantage of that cream painting as a blank canvas to unleash their creativity while some even decide to scrub the paint and to make them shine.

An Argosy is not a yacht but, as Merriam-Webster defines it, a large ship, and this less known Airstream product has recently become very desirable because of its unusual look and rarity.



On the group picture above, an Argosy motorhome with its original cream paint (owned by Washington Airstream Club Past President Darlene Leslie) and another Argosy remodeled with a Southwestern flair by owner Richard Stolarik from the WA Airstream Club as well.



CAC Presence at the International Rally in Doswell, VA



For those who are new to our Club or did not get a chance to attend, the 62nd International rally of the Airstream Club International was held this summer in Doswell, Virginia, from July 20 to July 27. Was it hot? Oh yes, hot, very hot at time, and humid. Well, you just had to adapt. Walking at 6 in the morning was a fine way to start the day: you would meet lovely people and take advantage of the beautiful setting with heritage trees and the greenest grass carpet. The Meadow Event Park surely deserved its name. There was a vegetable garden, and butterflies, many butterflies. The facilities were absolutely beautiful. One pavilion was called "the Mansion", that says it all! During the day all the buildings were air conditioned to a very pleasant

temperature and we even had an outdoor misting system to cool us down. At night the temperature was perfect for impromptu gatherings or jam sessions outside of our trailers. We were fortunate to be entertained by very talented musicians/Airstreamers and many of them will be in Loveland, Colorado in 2020.



This year, the presence of the Classic Airstream Club was even more noticeable than usual with a welcome/sign-up table, a presentation of the history of our club by Kay Corder, charter member, and a great finale, our traditional pizza /business meeting.

At the opening ceremony, Don McKelvey, then Vice President, was our proud Classic Airstream Club flag bearer. Kay Corder's presentation took place in one of the most prestigious building and an attentive audience listened to the history of our intra club and the description of some of the caravans that we have organized in the past (see page 7 of this newsletter).



To be continued next page

CAC Presence at the International Rally in Doswell, VA (continued)



Our annual meeting took place in a large room on the hill, opened on all all sides for a natural ventilation. After pizza and refreshments were served, Don McKelvey thanked everyone for attending and called the Annual Meeting to order. After the introduction of the current and past officers, charter members, new members, and guests, a roll call by Acting Secretary Susan Swearingen confirmed a quorum. Don McKelvey thanked President Pat Shaw for her work, notably updating the constitution. Acting Secretary Susan Swearingen read the minutes of the previous meeting held June 2018 in Salem, Oregon.

Kay Corder, Treasurer, gave her report on the financial situation of our Club. We also heard reports from Marie Efira on the newsletter, the Facebook page and, in absence of Ed Efira, Webmaster, on the website. Don McKelvey asked for volunteers to run our Club and he must have been very persuasive because the positions were filled promptly. Then we proceeded to the election of our 2019-2020 officers. We are pleased to welcome new faces to the Board and we thank the new officers for their willingness to serve.

Next item was caravans. One of the main reasons our Club exists is to have caravans after the International Rally. President Don McKelvey suggested a caravan following the 2020 International Rally in Loveland, Colorado. It could be called "Wandering Wyoming." A motion was made and the vote was unanimous. So now we have that caravan in the planning.

Tony Land, #5466, volunteered to be Chairperson of the Caravan Committee. His job will be to assist the board in searching for qualified candidates to run the caravan. The Chairman would not be responsible for running the caravan, unless he so desire.



Tony Land, Caravan Chairman

At the end of this successful annual meeting, Becka Bennett of the Pensacola Florida Unit drew the winning names for the door prizes. Congratulations to the winners of the Walmart \$25 gift cards, Gail & Bruce Harrower, Vickey & Jimmy Johnson, Sandra & Neal Enfinger, Donna & Gary Thorson and the winners of the 2 Classic Airstream flags, Elizabeth & Douglas Whitley and Linda & Ron Dittelberger.



Welcome New Members!



During the the get-together at the International Rally in Doswell, Virginia, President Don McKelvey ask the new members to stand! Quite a few this year! Hopefully no one is missing on the picture(s)!



Thank you for stopping by at the Classic Airstream Club table to get information about our Club, to fill up an application or renew your membership.

Classic Airstream Club
A WBCCI IntraClub
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: ____/____/20____
 New Member
 Renewal

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____
(Please Print)

(Spouse) _____

WBCCI # _____ WBCCI Unit _____

Street, P.O. Box or Private Mailbox # _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Call _____

E-mail _____

My Classic Airstream is a _____
(CHECK ONE) Trailer Motorhome

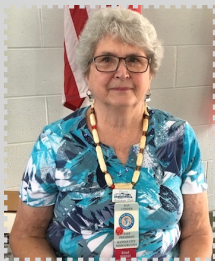
Model _____ Year _____ Length _____

Annual Membership \$10.00 (US Funds) Cash Check # _____ PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CLASSIC AIRSTREAM CLUB

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO WBCCI MEMBERS OWNING A CLASSIC AIRSTREAM AS DEFINED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CLASSIC AIRSTREAM CLUB, AN INTRACLUB OF WBCCI.

Submit to: Kay Corder, CAC Treasurer, 1002 SW Allendale Blvd, Lee's Summit, MO 64081



Kay Corder
CAC Treasurer

Membership Application

To join the Classic Airstream Club or renew your membership, download the application

from our website <https://classicairstream.wbcci.net>

Direct link: <https://classicairstream.wbcci.net/members-application/>

Mail your application to:

Kay Corder, CAC Treasurer
1002 SW Allendale Blvd
Lee's Summit, MO 64081
Email: kayceelsmo@gmail.com



CAC Caravans



A Message from Our Caravan Chairman

My name is Tony Land and I am in the planning stages for our 2020 CAC caravan. The caravan will not have a kitty fee so reservations and payments will be your responsibility. We will start after International and end in Wyoming for Frontier Days (approx 20 days). If you want you can leave the caravan at any time. I am open to suggestions for the agenda.

If you are interested in joining us please contact me at
1 850 994 0296 tonyland53@bellsouth.net

Past Classic Airstream Club Caravans

The Classic Airstream Club has organized quite a few caravans since its creation:

Natchez Trace – from Natchez to Nashville with stops in Vicksburg and Tupelo, MS (birthplace of Elvis Presley), Tuscumbia, AL (Helen Keller home) and Nashville (the Grand Ole Opry)

Branson, Mo to Mystic Springs Airstream Park, Florida (we attended the Unit Rally) with stops in Little Rock and Hot Springs, AR and Vidalia, LA (the RV Park offered views of the Mississippi River traffic).

Arizona Adventure Rally where we had a rally and short caravan which included Historic Jerome, Verde Canyon RR, Sedona, Indian Ruins and more!



Autumn in the Ozarks- from Flippin, AR to Kimberling City, MO with stops in Little Rock to tour the Clinton Library and traveled very scenic roadways.

The “4-Corners” Caravan from Las Vegas, NV to Albuquerque, NM for the Balloon Festival

Big Bend in Bloom – from Pecos, TX to Terlingua seeing Ft. Davis National Historical Site and the mystical Marfa Lights then participating in a star party at the renowned McDonald Observatory. Some went on to the Region 9 Rally in Glen Rose.

Eastern Wisconsin Lighthouses – From Madison, WI, International Rally visiting many lighthouses and famous Door County included a stop at the Lambeau Field and Experimental Aircraft Museum.

“Let the Good Times Roll”, which was led by “Cajun” members along the back roads of Southwest Louisiana (see our 2019 summer newsletter on our website <https://classicairstream.wbcci.net>)

“Meandering Minnesota” following the International Rally in Huron, South Dakota.

A well-thought improvement for Airstreamers with disabilities

After his wife Kathy spent 8 months in a rehab hospital following a nasty fall, Don figured out that she might now need another way to get in and out of their Airstream. One option was an electric lift but this might affect the resale value of their trailer if they decided to buy another Airstream. The other option Don considered was a wheelchair ramp. Ideally for a rise of 20 inches that would mean a ramp of 20 feet which did not seem possible especially considering where could it be carried. A 14 foot portable tri-fold ramp such as the Ez-Access model 6820 might just work, but a 14 foot or even a 10 foot ramp would be a real problem with most campsites. He considered a 14 or 10 foot ramp running parallel to the trailer and having a 4 x 4 platform with adjustable legs made. But this would have been really heavy, cumbersome and taking a lot of time to put together.



After talking with Andy Thomson from Can-Am RV in London, Ontario, a new plan emerged. He bought a 6 foot (and a 5 foot) folding ramp and a 2,000 lb ATV winch to be mounted in the trailer and pull Kathy in her wheelchair in as well as safely lower her out. As Don explains “one problem is most ramps are too wide for our 26 inch door. Initially I was going to trim 1 1/2 inches off each side of the ramp lip. However simply cutting a 1/2 x 1 1/2 groove on each side would work. Then place the ramp in, unfold it and the door frame should go in the grooves. No need to drill a hole in the floor for a pin thru the lip to keep the ramp in place. Only bad thing is the door will not close with the ramp in place so each time going in or out would mean moving the ramp”.



We all were anxious to hear from Don and Kathy. We wondered if they were going to be able to make it the International rally in Virginia, but the good news came: “It is done and we tested it today, everything worked perfectly. A couple of changes though. First, the ramp is a 6 footer and I had to trim off about 1 1/2 inches of each side of the top plates as those ramps are too wide. Then to be really safe I drilled 2 holes in the aluminum door frame, cut down 2 clips and put them through the top plate and frame so the ramp cannot move. The winch was installed by my local dealer Can-Am RV on the floor so the cable is in a direct line with the center of the ramp. It is wired into our 12 Volt system. This winch has the added advantage of having a wireless remote control, so I can be behind my Wife and if necessary guide the wheelchair and not worry about a wire from the remote getting in the way. I also bought

a 'tree hugger' belt (normally used around a tree to which the winch connects and uses to enable an ATV or truck to pull out of a mud hole, etc) and used that belt around the main frame of the wheelchair. One lesson I learned is to maintain a taut pull on the winch cable when it is being going back in so it coils properly.

As pointed out earlier, the one negative with this system is the trailer door cannot be closed with the ramp in position, but it takes little time to take the ramp out of the truck and set it up - maybe 2 min.”

Now as soon as Kathy can walk enough to move around in the trailer, Don said, they should be good to go camping again. After 2 weeks of using this system he was pleased to report everything worked just fine. “A little bit noisy when using but a God sent for those who need it. The wireless hand held remote is perfect and ever so functional. Total cost was about \$600 CAD including Installation of the winch (\$475 or so USD). As I leave the ramp out next to the trailer I use a lockable cable through the trailer wheel to ensure it does not 'walk away'...”

Thank you for sharing Don and Kathy! This is a beautiful Airstream love story. We hope that it will inspire those of us who may find themselves facing this eventuality and encourage them to continue to travel and enjoy our Airstream way of life.



CAC 2019-2020 Officers

President- Don McKelvey #205
Vice President- Elizabeth Whitley #12544
Secretary- Cheryl Land #5466
Treasurer- Kay Corder #17774
Past President- Pat Shaw #6318

Council Members

1 Year- Marie Efira #5495
2 Year- Gary Burnham #16471
3 Year- John Smith #6366

Caravan Chairperson- Tony Land #5466
Webmaster- Ed Efira #5495
Newsletter Editor/Facebook - Marie Efira #5495



*Many thanks to our
2018-2019 past officers
President Pat Shaw, #6318
Secretary David Shaw, #6318
Jim Johnson, Council, #3996*



The CAC newsletter is published quarterly. We welcome everyone's participation and new ideas. Let us know of any upcoming events you want published or any technical issues you want addressed. We encourage you to share your pictures and stories about your travels for publication in the newsletter and Facebook page.

We made it easy for you: to access our website type "Classic Airstream Club" in your browser. To locate the CAC's Facebook page, go to "search Facebook" and simply type in "Classic Airstream Club." Don't forget to "like" our page.

For all inquiries regarding our club, contact us at classic.airstream.club@gmail.com

Marie Efira,
Newsletter Editor/Facebook page
[wbcci5495@gmail.com](mailto:wbcc5495@gmail.com)



Photo credits: Marie Efira, Don McKelvey, Pat Shaw

Classic Airstream Club

A WBCCI IntraClub

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date:/.....20.....

New Member

Renewal

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____
Please Print

(Spouse) _____

WBCCI # _____ WBCCI Unit _____

Street, P.O. Box or Private Mailbox # _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

My Classic Airstream is a

(CHECK ONE) Trailer Motorhome

Model _____ Year _____ Length _____

Annual Membership \$10.00 (US Funds) Cash, Check # _____ PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CLASSIC AIRSTREAM CLUB

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