



Silver Times

September 2021



2021-2022 Unit Officers

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055president@airstreamclub.net

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2nd Vice President

Kevin Garrett #4109

3rd Vice President

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Kay Olsson #7827

Corresponding Secretary

Joy Dodd #5153

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Backup Webmaster

Renee Rawn

Immediate Past President

Chuck Dodd #5153

Trustee's:

Sharon Ramler #5332

Kathy Yanke #7528

Pete Yanke #7528

Chuck Dodd #5153

Terry's Tidings

Hello, my name is Terry (Tremblay) Pfleghaar, and I am your president for this next year. I live in Princeton, MN with my wonderful husband of 36 years, Steve. We have three grown children, and one grandchild. I am a retired public librarian, and I love to camp!

My dad worked for Parks Canada, so I grew up in Canadian national parks. I was born in Jasper National Park, Alberta, then we moved to Waterton National Park, Alberta, for five years. When I was seven years old, my dad was commissioned to create a new park in the Yukon Territory, Kluane National Park. So, we moved way up north to the mountain village of Haines Junction, where I grew up and graduated from high school. Those of you who have driven the Alaska Highway (and right past my old house), can surely understand why I still miss the magical pull of the far north. There is nothing like it on earth.

Being an adventurer like the rest of my family, as an older teenager, I often travelled alone around Canada and to "The States", visiting family and friends. I spent two summers volunteering as a counselor and musician at a Christian Youth Ranch for troubled kids in Riverton, Wyoming. The second summer brought more counselors, and one of them was a smart and cute

Minnesota Unit Website

<https://airstreamclub.org/minnesota>

Region 7 Website

<https://region7.airstreamclub.net/>

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college student/cowboy (a bull rider) from Buffalo, Minnesota. We were married 36 years ago, and have enjoyed exploring Minnesota (and other areas) by bicycle, hiking shoes, canoe, kayak, tent, and camper. Minnesota is another magical place, and I love living here!

Of all of the (many) different kinds of campers we have owned, Steve and I have realized that the Airstream is the best there is. We own a 2003 Classic, and absolutely love it! His name is Sir Winston (named after Churchill). Our experience wouldn't be complete without our faithful dog, Hank (who, at 13.5 years old, sadly JUST passed away on Sept 11th, and our little kitty, Stuart - ask me about the best camping cat litter ever! ;)

This is our third Airstream, and one thing we learned is that not all Airstreams are alike. Ask your fellow 'streamers if you can tour their particular camper. They love to show it, and to share storage and living tips and tricks. There IS a layout that is perfect for your unique situation.

Even better than the Airstream itself is this amazing group of fellow enthusiasts in the Minnesota Airstream Club. We joined them in 2016. They are warm and welcoming. They are smart and accomplished. They are gracious and kind. They even forgive you when you leave the group to buy a "white box camper", and realize you've made a horrible mistake! (Ask me how I know! ;) They come from diverse backgrounds and life experiences, have wide-ranging (and fascinating) talents and skills, and yet they all share the love of adventure and travel.

When people from around the world would stay at our home in the Yukon, my dad, in jovial hospitality, would lead them to the refrigerator stuffed with delicious foods my mom had made, and declare, "If you starve to death at our house, it's your own fault!" I amend that here: I offer to you this incredible Airstream Club, packed full with smart, talented, caring, friendly, and good people who are thrilled to help or advise, to share (ideas, stories, labor, or even food), or just to listen. So, I say to you, "If you walk away from an event not having your questions answered, or your problems fixed, or having had a ton of fun and made friends, it's your own fault!" 😊

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We have some fun things planned this year. Several of them are over the winter, without our Airstreams (I haven't found any takers for a winter rally, but if you'd like to organize one, let me know!). This is a chance to get to know your fellow club members, and to make great friends before we start camping together in the spring. Some of you are retired, some of you are in the thick of raising children and making a living. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or ideas, or even special skills or talents you'd like to share. The club only gets better the more we all contribute to its success.

Keep your belly pan parallel to the pavement,

Terry Pflagher



Please note the new Club Leadership listed on the first page.

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2021 - 2022 MN Airstream Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Christmas Party	TBD	Dec TBD, 2021	Brenda & Bart Schultz
Valentine's Luncheon	TBD	Feb TBD, 2022	Chuck & Joy Dodd
St. Patrick's Luncheon	TBD	Mar TBD, 2022	TBD
Spring Rally	Flying Goose Campground	TBD	Terry Pflagher
Caravan to International	TBD	TBD	TBD
Fall Rally	Biwabic Area	TBD	Terry Pflagher
Installation Rally	MN Airstream Park	Sept TBD, 2022	Terry Pflagher/ Brenda Schultz

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Caravan to International

I am glad that most of our caravan to TN was not as exciting as the first hour. Less than an hour into the trip we were in a construction zone on I-35 when the pickup in front of us veered off the road, thru the plastic barriers, thru a fence, over a ditch and came to a stop about 30 yards off the road. Kathy Yanke said it was the first time she has seen a car fly. As we were trying to dodge debris and get to the side, she was out the door headed for the pickup almost before we got stopped. I placed the 911 call and then headed to the truck. Kathy already had the gentleman, no visible damage to him, on the tailgate. He was having some kind of medical emergency as he stated that he blacked out. Local officer was pretty quick to the scene, ambulance and state patrol took a while. After relating the story to the trooper we hit the road.

There were 2 other units with us in our section of the caravan. They stayed right with us available to help if needed. One of them pulled the debris from under the truck so I could get farther off the road. This is why we travel as we do.

The trip home managed to have a little excitement also. We blew a tire about 30 miles South of Waterloo, IA. The damage to the trailer was not too bad.



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Waited for AAA to change the tire. Thanks to Chuck and Joy Dodd for hanging with us. The trailer now has new skins all around.

The bright spot that day was a Municipal campground in Nashua, IA. \$20 for water and electric on a lake.

Be alert, be careful and as always, travel safe.

Pete Yanke

7528

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HOW TO CLEAN YOUR AIRSTREAM, etc.

Compiled from notes taken by Renee Rawn and Terry Pfleghaar at a talk given at the Region 7 Rally, August 2021. Compiled by Terry Pfleghaar.

Aluminum interior:

- A cloth diaper only

Airstream Exterior:

- For sunscreen handprints use dawn dish soap and a white microfiber cloth.
- Use Sharkskin as an aluminum protective
- Collin Hyde Podcast
- For corrosion, take the clear coat off, and polish and wax.

Awning:

- Awning cleaner from Zip-Dee: spray on both sides of the awning, roll up, wash your camper, then unroll and rinse the awning..

Blinds:

- Vacuum them.
- Use Well-worth Fabri-Foam on a toothbrush for fly stains.
- Use Pledge on a white cloth to dust.

Carpet or Cloth:

- Well-Worth Fabri-Foam
- Don't rub-press down hard, but dab.

Curtains:

- Wash in hot water with 1/2 C. OxiClean. Rinse in cold water. Squeeze out excess water. Hang to dry until nearly dry, then hang up in camper.
- Hang in the sun to sanitize.

Floor:

- The best way is on hands and knees. Otherwise, a Steam Mop works well.
- Softscrub and a fingernail brush, or inside-out white socks, or white microfiber cloth.

Directions:

Use a shop vac or other vacuum cleaner to suck up dirt. For spots and stains spray hot water and dish soap or Well-worth Fabri-Foam on the stain. Get on your hands and knees and use the brush or inside out white socks to get the chemicals to capture the stain. Let sit for 10 minutes. Use white microfiber to blot up the water. This will pull the dirt/stain into the rag. Do not rub back and forth as this will spread the dirt.

Leather:

- Just use water.
- Lexall Leather Conditioner-works well for truck leather and is safe for pets.

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Mouse Fur (fuzzy interior walls):

-To a clear 1 quart spray bottle, add 1/2 C Clorox Bleach. Fill it with cold water and 1 ice cube. After the ice cube melts, spray the whole panel (cover anything you don't want the solution to touch). Walk away and let it work its magic. DO NOT SCRUB.

Odors:

- In camper, pour baking soda on the carpet and close up the camper for one week in hot weather. Then vacuum.
- Cloth Couch-use Well-Worth Fabri-Foam and rub in with an inside-out white sock.
- Leave a bag of charcoal open on a plastic garbage bag and that will also absorb the smells. Great to use when winterizing the trailer.
- Odor Science can purify a vehicle by putting pod in a cup and turning on car for a bit. Let sit for a day and then open up windows.
- Dryer sheets will also remove smoke smells from cars.

Pests:

Ants: Apple cider vinegar in a spray bottle. Spray on tires and jack stands.

Rodents (Chipmunks) - pour beer in a pan and they will drink it and get drunk and drown.

Mice - Cling Free brand fabric softener 'Summer Breeze' (never lilac scent-they love it!). Put one in every drawer and compartment.

Bugs on Windshield: Keep aforementioned dryer sheets in a bag the next spring, and use to wipe bugs off of windshield.

Pleather or Vinyl:

- Use Dawn dish soap in water.
- Use a soft toothbrush in the seams to knock out dirt.
- Use a white cloth or white paper towels. (Printed can leave ink stains).
- Use painters' tape or masking tape to lift/remove any silicone that gets on the couch or seat.

Rock Guards:

- Dollar General brand Stainless Steel cleaner.

Shower, etc. (camper toilet, sink, anything outside the camper):

- Bike Spirits Motorcycle Spray Cleaner and Polish. Clean the item VERY well, then spray with this. It will keep dirt, soap scum, etc. from building up.

Walls (like wallpaper):

- A tiny bit of vinegar and Dawn dish soap in a gallon of water.

Windows and mirrors:

- Reuse dryer sheets to get bugs on window shields.
- Use blue microfiber cloths for windows and mirrors using Windex.

Vehicle Carpet (road salt stains):

- Black brewed coffee (not instant coffee!)

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Nevers!

- NEVER use anything with citrus or silicone in it (this includes products such as Pledge Lemon, Armorall, and Well-Worth Fabri-Foam Orange can (with citrus)).*
- Don't use lysol on materials that animals will lie on. Do not use on leather/pleather.*
- Do not use Armor All. It heats up material and causes drying, and cracking. It is also unsafe for pets.*
- NEVER clean anything in sunlight.*

Supplies

- Microfiber cloths (microfiber.com): white for most stains; blue for windows; orange for makeup stains.
- White cloth diapers
- Dawn dish soap
- Well-Worth Fabri-Foam - Fabric and velour cleaner (Pink/Purple can **only**)
- OxiClean
- Odor Science-purifies and sanitizes car, etc. Good for allergies.
- Charcoal
- Cling-Free brand fabric softener 'Summer Breeze' (never lilac!)
- CRC Brakleen-cleans very bad stains-leaves no residue.
- Bike Spirits Motorcycle Spray Cleaner and Polish-use on shower, camper toilet, sink, anything outside the camper
- Coffee (brewed, not instant)
- Beer
- Apple Cider Vinegar
- Pledge (NO citrus-NOT Lemon Pledge)
- Clorox bleach
- Sharkskin
- Soft tip toothbrush
- Scrub brush
- Steam Mop
- Shop vac or other vacuum cleaner
- Lexall leather conditioner
- Windex

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New Website

The new MN Airstream Club website is now online. It's part of the new web stuff (technical term) that the AIC (Airstream Club International) has put together. You can check it out here:

<https://airstreamclub.org/minnesota>

If you have a link in your browser to the old website, it will automatically redirect to the new website.

If you think of anything we can add or change on the new website, please send me an email: 055info@airstreamclub.net

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Membership Renewals

If you have been a member since before 2021, your membership renewal date is Jan 01 of each year. Members that have joined during 2021 have a membership renewal date that is on the anniversary of when they joined. Either way, about 3 months prior to your renewal date, you will receive an email from International reminding you to renew. Renewals are now processed online and are paid via a credit card. When we renewed, PayPal was not an option.

To renew, log into the airstreamclub.org website with your primary email address and password. Follow the instructions in the renewal email you received.

One thing to point out is that if your membership includes two people, one is the primary member and the other person is the partner member. Each member needs a valid email address as online voting is now one vote for each member instead of one vote per unit. If only one email address is listed for both members, be sure to edit your information to add a second email address before finalizing your renewal.

If you have any issues with the online registration or simply have questions about your membership, you can contact the Membership people at International via email or phone:

membership@airstreamclub.org

(937) 596-5211.

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Welcome New MN Airstream Club Members

Amy & Mike Ruegsegger #06469 - Woodbury, MN

Jason & Lori Linkous #07477 - Ely, MN

Brent & Shelli Nelson #04062 - Bloomington, MN

Mollie & Richard Shoquist #06281 - Chisago City, MN

Dave & Tessa Holtegaard #16195 - Rochester, MN

Deb & Brad Eilts #04311 - Le Center, MN

John Hardy & Dawn Wilson #04422 - St. Paul, MN

Frank Wattunen & Wendy Norcross #04276 - Golden Valley, MN

Cheryl & Greg Dahl #04921 - Excelsior, MN

Bonita & Kevin Pflug #04927 - Clear Lake, MN

Nickolas & Christine Nyhus #05124 - West Lakeland, MN

David & Cindy Montgomery #05033 - Duluth, MN

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them!



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Awards Earned at the International Rally



Harry Ramler won First Place for his woven rug.

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Gary Burnham won three First Place and one Second Place ribbons for his photography.



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YOUR BEST!



Gary Burnham

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LANDSCAPES



Gary Burnham

FIRST
PLACE



W. B. C. C. I.
64th
INTERNATIONAL
RALLY

LEBANON
TENNESSEE
2021

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Fall Installation

Dinner at Whalens At Westfield.

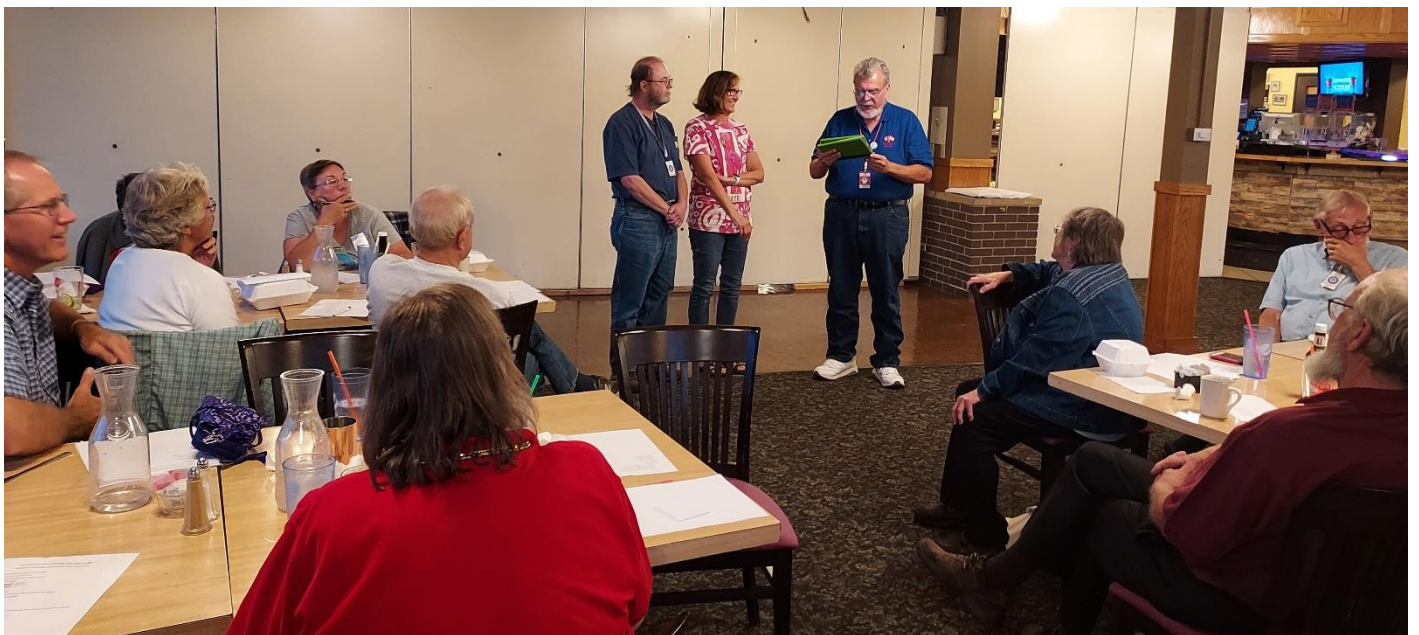


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Installation of Officers

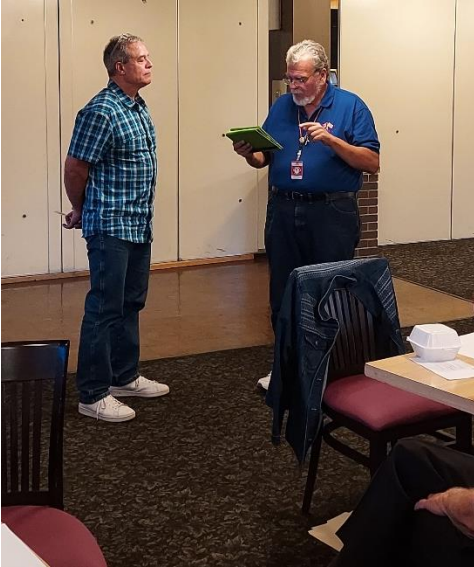


President Terry Pfliegerhaa installed by Pete Yanke (Past Region 7 President).

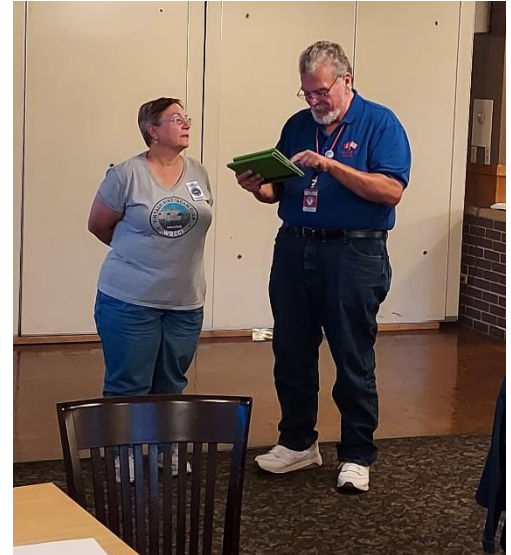


1st VP Brenda Schultz & 3rd VP Vernon Petersen

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Treasurer Steve Pflgebraar



Recording Secretary Kay Olsson



Trustees (left to right) Sharon Ramler, Chuck Dodd, Kathy Yanke, & Pete Yanke
installed by Linda Agree (Region 7 Past President)

Sitting is Joy Dodd - Corresponding Secretary

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Terry presenting Chuck his Past President flag



Linda Agre (left) introducing Daryl Herrmann
as our new Membership Chair

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Random Pictures from Fall Rally



Harry Ramler - fire tender.

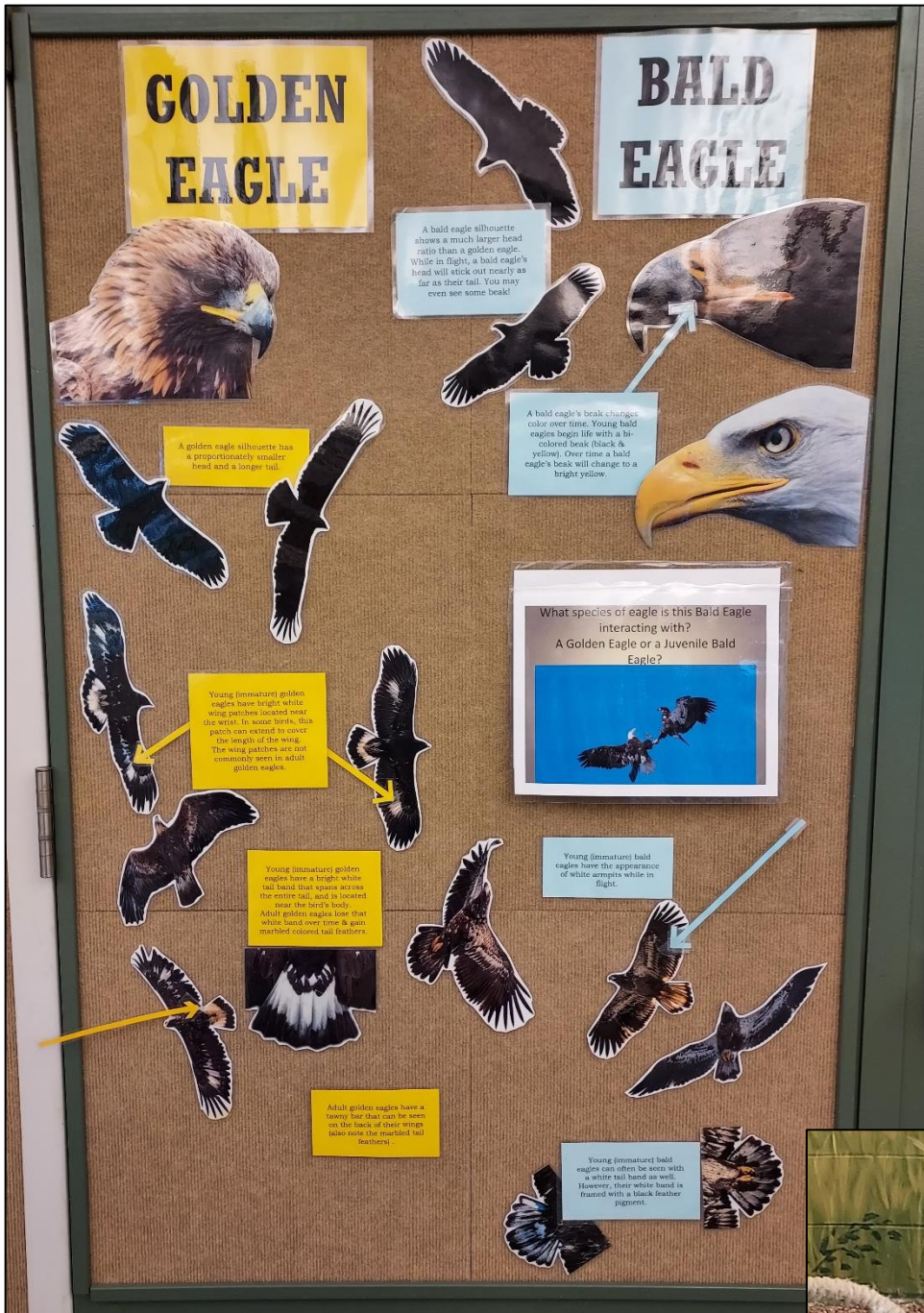
Business Meeting



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Moon rise Saturday night.

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Chuck's Final Corner

Greetings fellow Airstreamers,

It has indeed been two interesting years as your president. I was honored to serve in this role and happy with the way our club is moving along. New and younger members are joining, our rallies are holding steady, and our treasury is in good shape. We overcame covid restrictions and have adapted in ways healthy for our future. I am looking forward to the plans coming from our new President Terry Pflieghaar. Our Airstreaming future is indeed looking bright.

I have decided to skip the review of two years of rallies and events. Instead, I want to thank all of you who have attended and supported Airstream of Minnesota. We are a changing club headed towards a more relaxed atmosphere, fun, and friendships. I think our national president Tye Mott has it right in stressing the fun we can have together in our clubs and helping those who need our understanding and support. It is my sense that his look towards the future is shared by all of those in charge at national. Time will tell. For sure, your continued voluntary efforts at supporting our club are essential if we are to keep moving forward. Volunteer, you will not regret your time.

Joy and I attended the Wisconsin (Wisc-UP) rally after our fall rally in Winona. It was a perfect bookend to a great year of Airstream rally's, caravans, and campfires. A concluding two-hour dinner cruise on the St Croix from 6 to 8 was most enjoyable, particularly with new and old friends who are members in both clubs. It is this membership ability to gather as friends and support one another that is the main driver for me.

Again, Joy and I thank each one of you for your support these past two years. It came together only with your help. My thanks to a very understanding spouse who put up with my demands and gave me the support I needed. I Love you Joy.

See you all down the Road

Chuck

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If you were wondering...

Got a question about the Wally Byam Airstream Club (aka, WBAC or WBCCI) or the MN Airstream Club? Wondering who you can talk to? These wonderful people are more than happy to hear from you and help answer your questions. Please feel free to email them. Your question may be forwarded to and answered by another member on the MN Airstream Club.

President	Terry	055president@airstreamclub.net
1 ST Vice-president	Brenda	055vicepresident@airstreamclub.net
Membership Chair	Daryl	055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net
Webmaster	Chris	055info@airstreamclub.net

I am always looking for articles to include in the newsletter. Any topic is welcome, and pictures are always great!

For example, what modifications have you made or had done to your Airstream? Something simple like installing an extra shelf, replacing furniture with something that works better for you, etc.

If you have recipes to share, please email to me and I will include in upcoming newsletters. It does not need to be a food recipe. For example, one time I published a bug repellent recipe.

Please email me any articles or ideas you have (055info@airstreamclub.net).

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Newsletter Editor Ramblings

Tools I bring

When traveling with your Airstream, I feel that there are certain tools you should carry with you at all times. Most of them I hope you never need to use, or use very often, but when the need arises, having a good set of tools can save you time and frustration just in case something goes awry.

Here's the tools I carry with me faithfully. Almost all of them fit in a medium sized toolbox, with the exception of the socket set, which is in a separate toolbox.

Socket set (both metric and US Standard)

Normal hand tools (screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, etc.)

Hammer

Small battery powered tire air compressor

VOM (volt ohm meter)

Pop-rivets & Olympic rivets

Rivet tool

Cordless drill

Drill bits for the different rivet sizes

Torque Wrench (lug nuts)

I check the lug nuts before every trip. If you have aluminum alloy rims (wheels), they should be checked every 100 - 200 miles. We have steel rims, so I check them before every trip, and then once a week while on the road.

No matter type of rims you have, if they were removed and re-installed for any reason, check them after 50 and 100 miles. Check the axle manual or your Airstream manual for the correct torque amount.

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One thing we were taught by Kay's parents is to always carry pop-rivets of various sizes and a pop-rivet gun. Eventually, you will have rivet or two fail, and if it's in the outside skin somewhere, a failed rivet is now a hole for water to get in. Replacing the rivet is quick and easy, even if you have to drill out the old rivet that's still in the hole. The common sizes that I carry are shown below.



From top to bottom:

1/8" dia x $\frac{1}{4}$ " long

1/8 dia x 1/2" long

3/16" dia x 5/8" long closed end

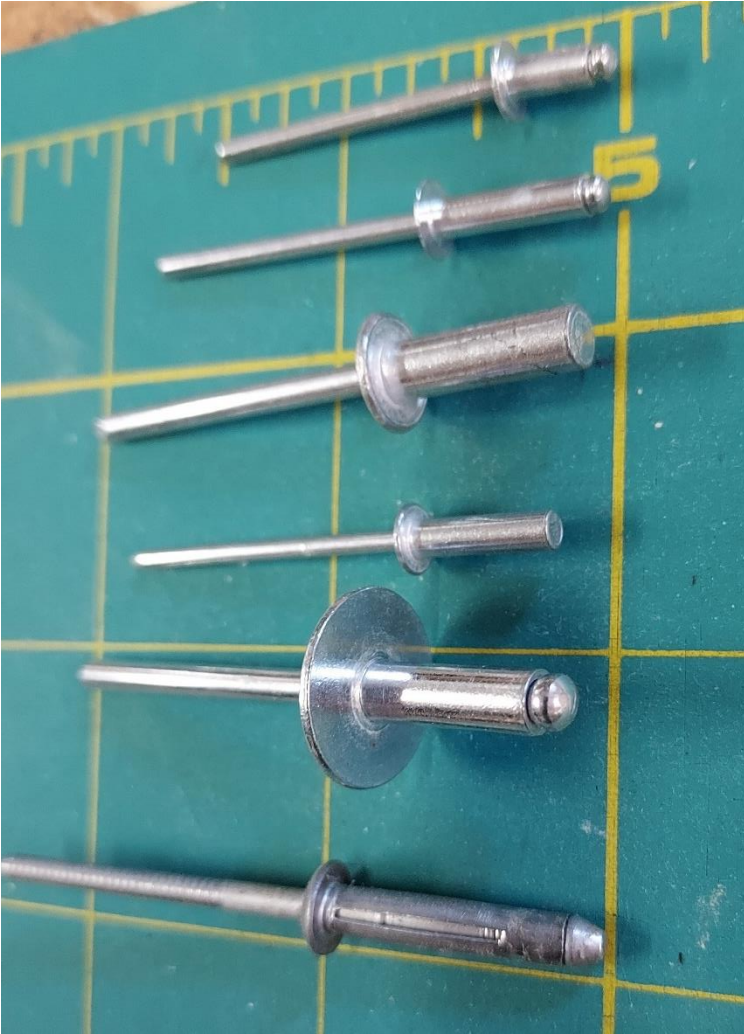
1/8" dia x 3/8" long closed end

3/16" x 1/2" long large head

3/16" x 7/16" Olympic rivet

The closed end rivets are great for replacing rivets in the skin. On our trailer, we used them to hold the trim pieces on.

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Here are the ends of the rivets. You can see that the two closed end rivets have a solid bottom so water will not leak through them.

In an ideal world, when replacing a rivet in the skin, you would drill out the old rivet using the proper sized drill bit ($1/8"$, $3/16"$, etc.), and then squirt a drop of aluminum safe sealant in the hole, and then install the rivet. Note that most silicone sealants are NOT safe for aluminum. Vulkum (aka, Trempro 635) is the preferred sealant for airstreams, and is available from several online places (Vintage Trailer Supply and Out of Doors Mart to name two). If you buy a household sealant or caulk for your airstream, be sure it says its safe to use on aluminum. Home Depot and Menards also sell Trempro 635.

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Most of you will never have a need for Olympic rivets (shown to the right). These are used to replace outside panels. Very useful in that you do



not need access to the back side of the panel to install regular "buck" rivets (which is how your airstream shell was put together at the factory). They are special in that the rivet has 3 wings that expand to really hold the backside of the panel. If you look closely at the picture, you can see two of the slits that separate the wings. When installed properly with sealant, they do not leak, and almost match the original profile of the factory installed buck rivets. This is accomplished using a special tool called an Olympic Rivet Shaver, which is quite pricey. We have one, so if you ever need to borrow it, let us know! 😊

If you have never seen a pop-rivet tool here a picture of one. It can be used for any of the rivets shown in the pictures.



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Where to buy:

The rivet gun and the regular pop-rivets were bought at Ace Hardware. Any home improvement or hardware store will have them.

Be sure to buy all aluminum rivets! Many aluminum rivets have a steel mandrel (the center part used to expand the rivet as you install it with the rivet gun). Steel mandrels rust over time and do not play well in your airstream.

The closed-end rivets I bought at The Rivet Gallery (www.therivetgallery.com). Very prompt shipping service.

I buy Olympic rivets from Vintage Trailer Supply. I get the kind without the little rubber gasket. The gasket is supposed to provide a water-tight seal without using any sealant, but over time, it decays and then you have a loose rivet that leaks.

Hope you found this useful.

Until next time, safe travels.

Chris

Email: 055info@airstreamclub.net

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Minnesota Airstream Club

Silver Times Editor

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