



THE GREATER MOZARKIAN

Missouri Greater Ozark Newsletter

WEBSITE airstreamclub.org/missouri-greater-ozark

Vol. XXXVI-9

December 2021

Pub. McLouth KS.

Presidents Message: Hello! Hope everyone is well. To begin with, this will be my last president's message. I would like to thank everyone who planned the rallies and caravans for 2021 and those who came to the rallies it was a great year. I really appreciate all the support everyone gave me. John Krupco will be your new president for 2022. Remember it's time to renew your membership go to airstreamclub.org/renew.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Colette Krupco, President

October Rally: For those of you who didn't attend the October Rally, you missed a great rally. We had fantastic weather. The RV Park was very nice. There is so much history in Coffeyville. Those who attended the rally were John and Colette Krupco, Rick and Marsha Keith, Larry and Ann Barclay, Mike and Joyce Allen, and Steve and Jane Mathias.

October 14th Some of us went to Isham's Hardware and they told us the history of the store. Some also visited the Dalton Gang Defender Museum. The museum was very informative about the Dalton Gang and the Defenders. There was a section in the museum of the people who were famous and came from Coffeyville and the famous people who attended Coffeyville Community College and other history of the town. We had dinner at the campground it was bring your own sandwich and a side dish (thank you everyone for the side's).

October 15th The women went to Edna, KS. to a quilt shop. The men went and rode around town. Some of us went to the cemetery where the Dalton Gang was buried.

Some went to the Brown Mansion and took the tour. Some of us checked out the flea markets and antique stores. We had Chili supper tonight (provided by John and Colette Krupco) and everyone brought their favorite side dish or topping. Afterwards we had a fire (Thanks Rick and Marsha Keith for providing the fire pit).

October 16th Everyone went their separate ways this morning, checking out the town. Most of us met at Pappy's State Line BBQ for lunch. In the afternoon we all went to the Air Museum. That evening we had leftover chili and chili dogs. We also had another fire and roasted marshmallows. Marsha Keith gave everyone banana bread for their breakfast the next morning. It was very good.

2022 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Article by Brian Peterson BRN 4218

Several of us from the Missouri Greater Ozark and Region 8 Airstream Club International were lucky enough to attend the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta this year. Brian and Jo Ann Peterson (4218) and Harry and Patti Kelly (5479) from the Missouri Greater Ozark and Tracy & Glenda Ridgeway (28948), Jim & Jeanine Wright (4967), and Lynn & Sue Anderson (4747) from Region 8 all met at the Trails Route 66 RV Park outside of Albuquerque, NM. The Thursday before the Fiesta rally was to begin.

The RV Park began to fill with Airstreams from around the country, and more from neighboring campgrounds arrived Friday morning to begin the staging and caravan process to the Fiesta grounds. As luck would have it, Kelly's and we were among the last to get tapped for the queue, but as we were assured, there wasn't a bad seat in the Fiesta lot- they weren't wrong!

Within 3 1/2 hours, almost 150 Airstreams had made the 19-mile trek to Balloon Fiesta Park and were efficiently parked by volunteers in the VIP RV parking area. Efficiency at its finest! Later that evening we had an orientation by the organizer Ken Johansen (Region 11), followed by complimentary burritos and a meet and greet with fellow streamers.

5:00 am Saturday came way too early but had dogs to walk, coffee to drink and a few thousand steps to cover to the launch field before 6:00 am start to the 49th Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. As the crowds gathered in the morning chill, the silhouette of the Sandia Mountains to the east gradually emerged in the predawn glow. In the distance the "Dawn Patrol" balloons began cold packing" with their fans and started taking shape in the darkness. The crowd cheered as the first flickers of the flame illuminated the colorful patterns of the balloons and roared in appreciation as the first balloon of 2021 Fiesta

took flight.

As the 6 Dawn Patrol Balloons followed aloft in the twilight, the Krispy Kreme sponsored “baker’s dozen” began their morning glow show. As dawn neared you could see the field fill with literally hundreds of balloons beginning their inflation. At official dawn the flagbearer balloons ascended to the National Anthem followed by a formation flyover by Albuquerque’s Chile Flight, honoring medical workers and first responders. The mass ascension began and the sky filled with the colorful balloons slowly making their way over the field of airstreams toward points unknown. As balloons left the field, more teams took their place and began the inflating routine. This overwhelming display went on for almost 3 hours! The official launch count escapes me. But there were over 540 balloons at the event. An awesome sight to behold at any count.

The afternoon included the start of the gas balloon race, plenty of midway-style entertainment along the ground’s sidelines and of course a nap.

Evening festivities began with skydivers, followed by an evening Balloon Glow, where dozens of balloons inflated but remained anchored, firing their jets to the MC’s prompting. “Full burns” and “flicker burns” lasted well past dark.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the Balloon Fiesta is that audience participation is not only allowed but encouraged. You can walk among the towering balloons, lend a hand where needed, take pictures up close and personal, and just become totally immersed in the sights and sounds that are hot air ballooning. Difficult to describe but impossible to forget!

Following the evening glow, the Fiesta folks put on impressive fireworks show. A few glitches in timing but impressive, nonetheless.

Sunday was pretty much a repeat of day one but let’s face it, it just doesn’t get old. The balloon pilots (and us spectators) were treated to the meteorological phenomenon called the “Albuquerque Box”, where the balloons rose off the field quickly to the south (low over the Airstream group), and as rose in altitude, they floated to the north back over the field. As they descended, they repeated the pattern. With this “box” in place, the skies literally filled with every balloon that launched during the mass ascension! Oh, what a sight

The evening festivities were a repeat of Saturday’s only this evening glow featured a full field of balloons and fireworks were even more spectacular, and on time, too!

The Monday and Tuesday morning ascensions involved only about half the balloons of the weekend’s mass events. This was because the other half were launched upwind, off sight to take advantage of the winds to return to the field and try their hand at accuracy events on the field. I’ll admit watching the balloons land on the field is nearly as

impressive as watching them launch!

The afternoon and evening were free to explore Albuquerque and surrounding areas. History, culture, shopping, and food rounded out our experience. While it was sad to say goodbye to our new friends and the Fiesta that was only halfway through, our time at the rally was up. Sad to begin the long trek home, but admittedly nice to feel real green grass under our feet and shade from a tree again.

Birthdays/ Anniversaries for December

Birthdays: Leanna Love the 10th, and Doug Gerard the 28th

Announcements:

Please welcome new members Bryan & Charlene Nelson, BRN 25118

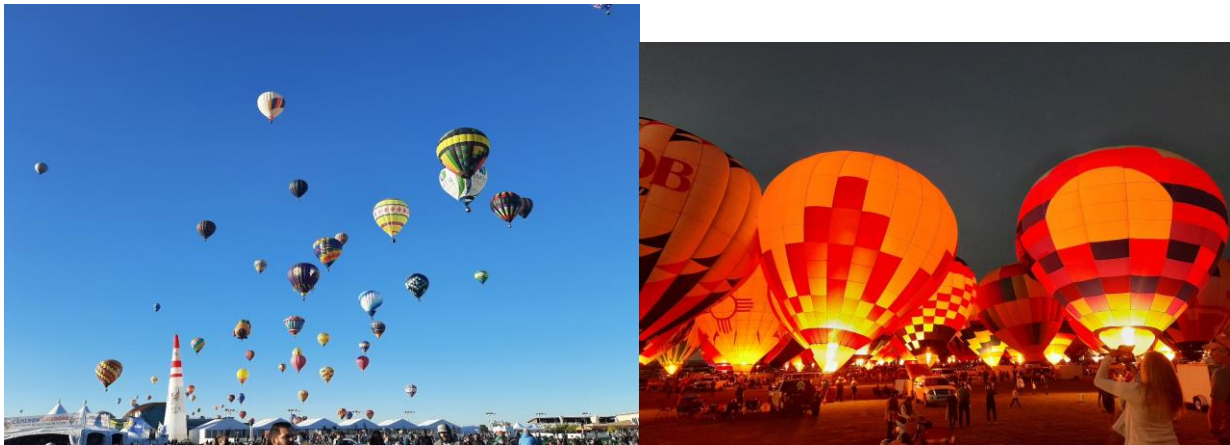
Time to renew your membership go to airstreamclub.org/renew or call International Headquarters #937-59-5211

Next newsletter will come out in January

Club Directory will be mailed in February

Follow Your Dreams with Your Airstream for Fun Fellowship and Adventure

Brian Peterson pictures from the Balloon Fiesta



Pictures October Rally Coffeyville, KS

