



October 07, 2022
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IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB



MIKE'S MUSINGS

Greetings! This will be my last Newsletter as President of the Iowa Club. I wish to thank all the members who volunteered to be luncheon and rally hosts. I also wish to thank all of the officers and directors for their help. Everyone did a great job. I wish to thank Chuck and Doris Jean for the publication of the Newsletter. This requires publishing skills and they publish a well-written report of our Iowa Club activities.

A special thank you to my wife, Linda, for organizing the luncheon and rally that we hosted. She did a great job of planning and making lists for me to follow. And, a big **THANK YOU** to all the members who attended the luncheons and rallies. Your attendance enables the Iowa Club to succeed. Often the members contribute in ways that are unrecognized. I think of "education". The members have knowledge and skills that are passed from one person to the next during our conversations. How many times we learn about maintenance of our camper or tow vehicle. The list can go on.

I hope all of our members plan to attend the October rally at the Grove near Liscomb on October 13-16. The hosts, Chuck, Nancy and Marilyn have planned a great rally. Let Nancy know at 319-270-1189 if you plan to attend, so they know how many to expect for meals. I know the "Matchstick Marvels" is a national attraction. It is famous.

This will be the installation meeting for the 2022-23 officers and directors. We will welcome Greg Vadner, President of Region 8, who will be doing the installations. In closing, I hope that you have enjoyed the past year of Iowa Club camping.

Best wishes, *Mike*

NEW OFFICERS DRESS CODE

The officers to be installed at the upcoming October rally at "The Grove" are reminded of Item 2 in the Iowa Club Policies on Page 37 of the 2022 Directory. That states "Officer attire for installation is a white shirt (or blouse), red tie (or scarf) and navy blue (or dark) slacks or skirt. Blue berets are optional." It is hoped that all officers to be installed will be so attired.

DUES ARE DUE

Although this notice is going out somewhat later than normal, you are all reminded that the 2023 WBCCI International and Iowa Club dues are payable, **as soon as possible**. The International dues have remained at \$75.00, while the Iowa dues have stayed at \$15.00, for a total of \$90.00. Life Members, Affiliates and Friends pay only the \$15.00 Iowa dues. Make your checks payable to WBCCI, Iowa

Club and mail them to **Kathy Allen, 2802 - 38th St., Des Moines, IA 50310-4019**. The deadline for submitting the International portion of the dues to Jackson Center is November 30th if you want to be included in the 2023 International Directory. Also, Shirley Herron is already working on the Iowa Directory and your dues will need to be paid to be included.. **PLEASE** sit down right now, write that check and get it in to the mail. There isn't much time left!

DEALER SPOTLIGHT

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IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER

3 - Kay Vaughn
14 - Dale Lafrentz
19 - Gary Urich
21 - Hobart Darbyshire
24 - Sandie Kiple

ANNIVERSARIES OCTOBER

13 - Kathy & Scott Allen
18 - Karen & Mark Kvidera

RESERVE VERY EARLY FOR SITE AT MAY '23 WINTERSET RALLY

Tom and Shirley Herron will be our rally hosts for the May, 2023 rally to be held in Winterset, IA. The site will be the City Park Campground. Tom and Shirley have contacted the city offices and have been informed that, in order to assure a reserved campsite, a deposit of \$25.00 per site is required by November 15th. The remaining \$20.00 per night is due at least three weeks prior to the rally. The \$25.00 charge includes a \$5.00 reservation fee, while the final payment requires just the \$20.00 daily fee for the remaining number of days. The rally will be May 18-21, 2023. **NOTE:** This is the third weekend in May, since the second weekend (our normal rally weekend) is Mother's Day weekend. **PLEASE** mail your checks as soon as possible, **but no later than November 10th**, to the Herron's at 4765 NE 32nd St., Des Moines, IA 50317. When Tom and Shirley checked on the location several weeks ago, they found nearly all the campsites in use, so, if you want to be assured of a campsite at the rally, make sure the Herron's get your check. There may NOT be a campsite if you plan to wait until May.

INFO ON NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

The winter luncheons, the 2023 rallies and the corresponding hosts have been pretty well determined. Your incoming president wants to thank those who were willing to host the various functions. Without their willingness to do so, not much would happen. The hosts have been determined but some of the luncheon locations are still to be confirmed on a couple of them. **The November Luncheon will be at 11:30 AM on Saturday, November 12th at Tommy's Restaurant, 393 Edgewood Dr., Cedar Rapids, IA.** This is the same restaurant we had to go to in the emergency in August, 2021, when the Pizza Ranch in Cedar Rapids had a fire the night before we were to be there. As the remainder of the luncheon sites are confirmed, the information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter.

While at Sugarcreek, one of the tours visited a wholesale leather business. This saying was on the wall. There were several other employee-encouraging words, such as honesty, integrity, etc. However, this writing caught one's eye. It's titled **"Smiles"**.

It costs nothing but means so much.

It enriches those who receive it

Without impoverishing those that give it.

For it happens in a flash,

But sometimes the memory lasts forever.

None are so rich that they can get along without it

And none so poor, but are rich for it's benefit.

It is rest for the weary, daylight to the discouraged,

Sunshine to the sad and nature's best antidote in time of trouble.

Yet, it cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen,

For it is something that is of no earthly use to anyone unless given away.

And if in the rush of business a man is too tired

To give you one, then leave one of yours.

For no one needs a SMILE so much

As those who have none to give.



Pond filled with spring water in front. Trailers backed up to Upper Iowa River. Pic from Doug Ford.

SEPTEMBER RALLY IN IOWA'S SWITZERLAND

Twelve Iowa Club Airstreams and two Friend's units gathered at the Upper Iowa Resort about 12 miles north of Waukon, IA for the September rally. Several rigs were parked on nice, level grass spaces, while the others (parked on gravel) were backed up to the beautiful Upper Iowa River. The warm early September weather on Thursday made the evening potluck supper perfect. Following the supper, several members followed President Mike and Linda to visit their farm, about 4 miles from the campground.

Friday morning saw a first for the Iowa Club. Your newsletter team has been in WBCCI for more than 55 years and have attended about 300 unit rallies and over 900 breakfasts and the Friday morning breakfast was a **FIRST. Breakfasts were brought to each trailer!** In a small zippered insulated bag, each rig got four muffins, 2 hard boiled eggs and small bottles of juice. The hosts even brought containers of coffee to fill member cups. This was quite a surprise! Almost as good as breakfast in bed.

Following breakfast, rally attendees caravanned about 25 miles SE to Lansing, IA (a town of about 975 residents), along the west shore of the Mississippi River, where the first stop was at the Allamakee County Conservation's Driftless Museum. The initial activity at the museum was the viewing of a movie explaining how the rugged terrain of NE Iowa was formed and how the word "driftless" came into being. Several thousand years, when most of North America was covered with glaciers, NE Iowa, SW Wisconsin and NW Illinois were spared. It seems that the ground both east and west of this area was lower, while the rock within the area was harder and more difficult to erode. The end result was that the huge shields of ice took the

easy route and went around the 3-state area. When glaciers spread over the ground, the pulverized material created and left behind was called "drift". Since the glaciers spared the area, no "drift" was formed and the area became known as the "Driftless Area" The group then en-



joyed numerous displays in the museum and all agreed, it had been a wonderful stop. While on the outer deck at the museum, Norm Van Klompenburg shot a couple of beautiful pictures of a bald eagle that had just snagged a fish from the river.

Then, it was back to Sheps Restaurant in Lansing for lunch. The restaurant overlooked the Mississippi River and many members has ring-side window seating to watch the river flow by. The food was good and the views were great. Following lunch, nearly everyone migrated to the stores in downtown Lansing, particularly to Horsfalls.Variety Stores (there were two), where, as President Mike had noted in

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the rally schedule, there were “lots of things that you didn’t know you needed”. And, boy, was he ever right! Both stores were so full of “stuff” that it was nearly impossible to walk down the aisles and when you did, you had to walk sideways, hoping you didn’t meet anyone. It seemed to be a Fire Marshal heaven! As far as anyone knows, no rally attendee walked out without having purchased something.

Several members then drove to the top of Mount Hosmer, a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. From the crest,



about 440 feet above the river, everyone got wonderful views of the Upper Mississippi River, including the bridge from Iowa to Wisconsin. Before heading back to the campground, several stopped at the Skinny Dip Ice Cream Shop to get refreshed with some tasty delicious ice cream. Arriving back at the campground and following time to relax and visit, it was time for our evening meal provided and served by our hosts Mike and Linda Rickert and John



and Carol Heckman. The meal of taco salad and all the normal toppings, along with various desserts, really hit the spot and all enjoyed the meal. At the campfire gathering, the Iowa Club members welcomed our newest member couple, Denis Chapman and Margaret “Mugs” Jespersen, from West Union, IA. Then it was time to retire to the

trailers and prepare for a good night’s sleep after a busy, but enjoyable, day.

Upon awakening on Saturday morning to a light rain, everyone gathered at the shelter where our hosts prepared and served “eggs in a frame”.

Apparently a few had had these before, but, for most it was the first time.

It involved creating a circular hole in the center of a slice of bread, buttering both sides, placing the bread on a griddle and cracking an egg into the hole in the bread. By frying the egg and turning the bread over, the end result was a



fried egg in the center of your toast. Quite an ingenious way to serve a meal!

After breakfast, everyone caravanned to the W.W. Homestead Dairy in Waukon, IA, where cheese and ice cream were made and sold. In the hour, or so, that the group was at the dairy, a lot of various flavored cheese curd were sampled, resulting in a lot of cheese curd and ice cream being sold. Guess that is just typical of Airstreamers. The mere mention of ice cream will draw a crowd. Upon

leaving the dairy, several members drove to the Amish stores and shops SE of Waukon and others browsed the stores in Waukon, while still others returned to the campground in a light, but steady, rain.

Saturday evening, following the afternoon club business,

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the attendees traveled into Dorchester where all ate supper at Wings Bar and Grill. As the group arrived, the clouds broke up to provide a beautiful sunset to end a busy day. The food was good and everyone enjoyed the meal. Upon arriving back at the Resort, everyone retired to their trailer, since the afternoon rain had pretty well soaked everything, plus it had turned cooler

The usual rolls, juice and coffee at the shelterhouse were the fare for the Sunday morning breakfast, after which Scott Allen did a fine job auctioning off the surplus food items. Several dollars were painlessly raised. Since there was no Common Cents recipient at the International Rally in Freyeburg, ME, it was decided to have the club treasurer set up a Charity Fund into which various moneys, derived from excess food sales, etc, will be credited for fu-

ture charitable purposes. Then, it was time to hook up and head out. Except for the weather, over which no one had control, the rally was a huge success and all enjoyed the gathering. A great big **THANK YOU** goes to Mike and Linda Rickert and John and Carol Heckman for hosting a wonderful rally.



Most of the unidentified pictures were taken by Doug Ford

AN INTERESTING TRIP TO SUGARCREEK

Late in the afternoon of Tuesday, September 20th, your newsletter team joined Dale and Joan Lafrentz at Westlake County Park in Davenport to rendezvous for the drive to Sugarcreek, OH to attend the 59th Swiss Festival Rally. The Wednesday drive to the city park campground at Earl Park, IN (just across the IL-IN state line) was uneventful, just the way one likes it to be, except the temperature was warm - very warm, a high of 97 degrees. However, upon arising the next morning, a cold front had moved through and the temperature was just 54 degrees. Quite a shock, but appreciated. The day's drive was under partly cloudy skies, with a nasty northwest-to-north wind of about 18 mph, with gusts to 27, resulting in some rather intense driving. Except for a 12-mile detour in the vicinity of Decatur, IN, the drive to the Terraport at Jackson Center went as planned, with arrival at 1:35 PM. Following getting parked and eating a late lunch, Dale, Doris Jean and Chuck (Joan wasn't interested in going) drove out to the new Airstream factory. It had been hoped that a tour of the new plant could be had, but apparently tours are very popular and require tickets, although they are still free. When contacted about two weeks before the trip, there was only one ticket left for the day of arrival, so a tour was not possible. However, the threesome did get to spend some time in the Airstream Museum. There were several memorable trailers on display, along with numerous artifacts from both



Wally Byam's family and other Airstream donors. Your newsletter team even saw the orange beret they had donated last year at the Lebanon International Rally. That non-blue beret had been authorized for the Antelope Rally in Wyoming and was the only non-blue beret ever permitted. If you ask your newsletter team why the orange, they can tell you. The small statue to the left was given to the winner of the Gopher Hole decorating contest back when a hole was dug behind the trailer to dispose of black and gray water. Among the Airstreams on display were the gold trailer that Wally used on the Capetown to Cairo Caravan in 1959-60 and his white Airstream from the 1956 European Caravan. He had it painted white

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to match the Cadillac he used to pull the trailer. Talk about vanity!

The next morning, Friday, September 23rd, found the two trailers at WBCCI Headquarters, after dumping the holding tanks at the Terraport. Before hooking up, Chuck and Dale had driven the 20 miles south to the nearest Walmart bakery at Sidney, OH, to purchase sweet rolls and donuts. Then, the two couples drove their rigs to HQ and shared rolls and coffee with the staff before heading on to Sugarcreek and the rally. This "donuts and coffee" stop has become somewhat of a ritual on the Iowa caravans to Sugarcreek.

Upon arriving at the Winklepleck Grove rally site (the city park about one mile outside of Sugarcreek) at about 3:15 PM, both rigs were immediately parked and the two couples were ready for the rally festivities. As has been the case in the past several years, the two couples went to the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Walnut Creek to celebrate their safe arrival at the 59th Swiss Festival Rally.

SWISS FESTIVAL RALLY AS FUN AS EVER

The 59th Swiss Festival Rally in Sugarcreek, OH provided a little bit of everything but heat. Daytime temperatures in the 50's and 60's, with nighttime temps in the 40's made for a cool rally. There were several brief periods of rain, but nothing to compare to what occurred in 2018. At that rally, the tractor driver was kept busy pulling trailers and tow vehicles out to solid ground. You can ask the Helle's and the Cabalka's about that FUN? This year's rally found only 65 Airstreams in attendance; a much lower number than in recent years. However, the rally still had a great deal of fun and fellowship.

On Saturday evening, an Amish gentleman came to the rally and explained the Amish culture and way of life. He also answered questions from the audience. On Sunday evening, the program was the Cambridge City Band. At 181 years of existence, it is the longest running municipal band in Ohio; maybe in the entire country. Several WBCCI musicians sat in with the band and played right along with them. The entertainment on Monday evening consisted of a disc jockey and karaoke, with several rally attendees doing a great job singing. Rock and Roll music from the 60's, performed by a group named Aftermath, was Tuesday evening's entertainment. If you liked that vintage music, you were in heaven. Unfortunately, your newsletter team never was into rock and roll. The campfire and so-

cial scheduled for Wednesday evening was somewhat of a flop, as there was a misty rain, a light breeze and temperatures in the low 50's - not very conducive to sitting outside.

Rally attendees could purchase tickets to a family-style meal in an Amish home on Tuesday evening and a lot did so, including your newsletter team. Following the meal, which was delicious and bountiful, the host gentleman told of the weddings of four of their five daughters (one yet to go). Attendance at Amish weddings is not like most of us have ever experienced or imagined. The attendance at the four weddings was in the hundreds (two of them having 800 and 900 guests), with the bride's parents being the hosts. AND, the bride's family cooked and served food to all. Seems like it would almost pay to encourage the couple to elope!

The three days of tours to Amish and Mennonite businesses was interesting, as usual. Your newsletter team visited an Amish school while in session, the Pearl Valley prize-winning cheese operation, Keim Lumber (a 700,000 sq. ft. facility handling much more than lumber), the plant manufacturing Teardrop trailers, two leather businesses and a second cheese-making operation. Some of the trees were just starting to turn color, which made for a beautiful countryside.

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IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

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Thursday was the big “Day In The Park”, when an Amish couple made and served “putt-putt” ice cream, another Amish gentleman made apple butter, mothers from the two visited schools brought and sold all varieties of home-baked goods to benefit their schools, free buggy and four-mule team hayrack rides were given, and, best of all, the Amish children from the schools on the tours were bussed to the park, where they were provided lunch and an opportunity to play and ride on a golf cart around the



grounds. Incidentally, the title “putt-putt” comes from the one-cylinder John Deere gas engine that is used to turn the ice cream maker. One of the rally attendees had a small, single-seat red convertible and gave the children rides, one at a time. It took a long time and a lot of gas, but it turned out to be the highlight of the day for the kids. It sure beat that slower golf cart. The owner/driver even left the park and got up speed which really gave the kids a thrill. This was also the day when the traditional ham and bean soup was cooked to be provided to rally attendees for their evening meal. Cornbread from the Amish ladies and the bean and ham soup made for a great meal! The day ended with the Joey Tomsick Band, doing their usual outstanding job providing music for all to enjoy.



Several Airstreams pulled out on Friday morning, including Dale and Joan Lafrentz, as Dale had medical appointments the following week. Chuck and Doris Jean went on the final tour of the rally (at an extra cost) to the Age of



Steam Museum and Roundhouse near Baltic, OH. A young lady led everyone on a guided tour of the roundhouse and explained the various steam engines housed inside the building. They ranged from one of the smallest locomotives, to one that must have been 80-100 feet long.



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The engines are from the collection of a private railroad buff who donated them and built the museum. It was a very interesting tour, but it would have been better if the young lady had spoken a little slower. A lot of the info she presented went right over everyone's head due to her rapid speech. Following the tour and lunch at the restaurant in Baltic, the Chuck and Doris Jean drove back to the orchard at Walnut Creek to purchase apples to take back to Iowa to make applesauce, while the rest of the group went on to view a collection of Coleman lanterns that an Amish

gentleman had collected over the years. Upon arriving back at the campground, Chuck and Doris Jean hooked the trailer up in preparation to moving out on Saturday morning. The big parade was scheduled for downtown Sugar Creek on Saturday, but the couple needed to get home to get the trailer to Scott Jensen for some problem solving. All in all, the rally was good, with cool temperatures but little rain. Rumor has it that there will be a limit on the number of Airstreams in 2023, so that everyone will have 30 amp electric. Keep your eyes and ears open to see what develops.

MORE PICTURES (BY Chuck) OF THE RALLY AND TRIP



Heritage Museum,
Jackson Center



Painting of Eagle at Driftless Museum.



Group atop Mount Hosmer, overlooking the Mississippi. L. to R: Pat Dellamuth, Pat Van Klompenburg, Kathy Allen, Doris Jean Cabalka, Linda Rickert, Chuck Cabalka, Scott Allen and Norm Van Klompenburg .
Picture by Mike Rickert.



Country scene from home of Erb's Amish Dinner.

IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

OCTOBER INSTALLATION RALLY

October 13-16

"The Grove"

1259 Knapp Ave., Liscomb, IA 50148

Hosts: Chuck & Nancy Helle and Marilyn Mulbrook

Driving Directions: From the North, drive 1.4 miles south from Liscomb on County Road S-75, then turn right on 130th St. (a gravel road) for 1.6 miles to Knapp Ave.; turn right and then an immediate left into the campground. If coming from Albion, drive County Road S-75 north 3.3 miles to 130th St., turn left for 1.6 miles to Knapp Ave, then a right turn and an immediate left into the campground.

Parking is \$20.00 per night w/ 30 amp electricity

Water and dump station are available

Bring table service to all meals - coffee will be furnished

Thursday: Parking

5:30 pm Bring your own sandwich and a salad or dessert to share.

7:00 pm Puzzles, etc in the building or visiting around the campfire

Friday:

8:00 am Pancakes and sausage

9:30 am Leave for Gladbrook

10:00 am Tour Matchstick Marvels, 319 - 2nd St., Gladbrook - \$5.00 cash only

12:00 Lunch on your own

Return to campground

1:30 pm Games

4:00 pm Tassel Hassel – Be prepared to share a story of something that happened (good/bad) while out with your RV

5:30 pm Sloppy Joes furnished. You bring salad or dessert to share.

7:00 pm Card Bingo - Every person bring a wrapped white elephant gift.

Saturday:

8:00 am Oatmeal & Ice Cream Breakfast.

9:30 am Scavenger Hunt

12:00 Lunch on your own.

1:00 pm Games. Please encourage your team.

5:30 pm Pot Luck – bring a meat dish and a salad or dessert to share

7:00 pm Business Meeting and installation of officers

Reception to follow.

Sunday:

8:00 am Donuts and coffee

SAFE TRAVELS AND SEE YOU DOWN THE ROAD!