

RIVETED RAZORBACK



December 2022

President's Message by Dave Wessinger

For years Laura and I were tent campers. Every summer we took our girls island camping on Lake Ouachita with the Kymer-Davis family — boondocking in its purest form. In 2003, while planning a two-week vacation to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Laura suggested we up our camping game, so I started shopping for a used pop-up. I stumbled across a former deer-camp Airstream in our price range and we ended up buying it instead. As new Airstreamers, we joined the Arkansas Razorbacks Airstream Club (ARAC), but we were busier with careers and kids back then and mostly went our own way camping.

In 2013, while camping at Devil's Den, we met Jason and Dana Landrum. Airstreamers are like moths to a flame around other Airstreamers. They were very enthusiastic about their club experiences and encouraged us to reconnect with ARAC, which we did.

Oh, my gosh, they were so right! An early camping trip with our renewed ARAC membership was the 2018 Ball Game Rally hosted by Tim and Amanda Welch. The weather was cold. Our Airstream was really little more than an aluminum tent — we had no plumbing, our tanks were out of commission, but I think we did at least have heat. Road Hog RV park did not have any public bath houses which put a cramp in our style. But we soldiered on, and had so much fun!

Our ARAC family is very active. In the past few months, we have had the “Girls Just Want to Have Fun Rally” (just for ARAC women) at Lake Ouachita in September. Then, Airstream Club International Region 6 Rally at Johnny's Lakeside RV Resort in Foley Alabama in October (organized by ARAC's very own Region 6 President and former ARAC Pres. Larry Madden). Later, in October and November, we had back-to-back rallies: Airstreams on the Square in downtown El Dorado, followed by a caravan stop at Crater of Diamonds State Park. That transitioned to the Arkaluma Rally (aka “Burning Mouse”) at the Museum of Automobiles on Petit Jean Mountain followed by the Buffalo River Rally at Buffalo Point.

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Member Spotlight:

Mark Magie & Annette Murray

*By: Laura Wessinger
& Mark Magie*



Laura: How did you get interested in Airstreams and can you tell us about the Airstreams you have owned? How did you get involved with the Airstream Club? How long have you been a member? How has the club changed/evolved while you have been a member? What are some things you like about the club and what are some ideas you would like to see implemented, if any? Where have you been in your Airstream? Favorite trips/rallies, experiences, etc.

Mark: I became interested in Airstreams as a youngster, seeing the Airstreams owned by two of my uncles in the 1970s. The “aluminitis” hit us in 2012 and the search was on! Annette located an Airstream for sale on craigslist in Mena, Arkansas, and one Sunday afternoon, we drove to see it, a 1974 27-foot Overlander International. It was love at first sight – we had an Airstream before we had a tow vehicle.

For several months, we replaced curtains, cushion covers, and shag carpet, all the while keeping true to the 1970s decor. We affectionately named our first Airstream “Amelia” since female names have been given to ships and airplanes. We chose to honor Amelia Earhart, the female aviation pioneer, because Airstreams and airplanes are both aerodynamic and held together with rivets.

It was a couple of months later that Annette and I were walking across the Clinton Bridge toward North Little Rock. As we reached the crest of the bridge, I could see dozens of Airstreams parked at the Downtown Riverside RV Park on the north side of the Arkansas River. I told Annette we needed to see why so many Airstreams were at the campground.

As we neared the park, I asked a couple about the Airstreams and was told it was a region rally. I had no idea what that meant. The man, whose name I don’t remember, introduced himself as the president of the Mississippi Airstream Unit and invited us to check it out.

We made our way to the large pavilion where people were gathered and who should I see but “Bad” Paul Moore. We had crossed paths in earlier newspaper careers. Bad Paul explained the Wally Byam Caravan Club International and introduced us to Carol Barton, who at the time was the Arkansas Razorback Airstream Unit’s president.

We joined the Arkansas Razorback Airstream Unit (now referred to as club) right away and received our Big Red Numbers, staying as close to the original numbers as possible. We attended luncheons and rallies and met members who had been with the club for decades. It was like having a support group – people who

Member Spotlight, cont'd from page 2

had experience and who could answer our thousands of Airstream questions.

Amelia's maiden camping adventure was to Maumelle Park site B35 on Feb. 16, 2013. The high temperature was 45-degrees, with a low of 30-degrees ... so cold that the coals in our Webber grill went out and we had to finish cooking chicken on the campfire.

Our first WBCCI International Rally was in Farmington, NM in 2015. Since then, we've been to international rallies in Escanaba, MI in 2017; Salem, OR in 2018; Doswell, VA in 2019; and Lebanon, TN in 2021. One of our favorite adventures early on in 2013 was to the International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM. We've attended Region 6 rallies in Rayne, LA; Muscle Shoals, AL; Vidalia, LA; Foley, AL; and several times to CanOpener at Santa Rosa Beach, FL. We attended the Sunken Lands Caravan in Arkansas, and I was able to go on the Cajun Caravan.

In 2016, we had an opportunity to purchase a 2015 28-ft. International from club members Darian and Beth Plate. We sold Amelia to Bad Paul Moore and gave our new-to-us Airstream the name "Meeley" which is Amelia Earhart's childhood nickname. We were able to get 24797 as our Big Red Numbers – Earhart's birthday, July 24, 1897. We still get to see our first love, Amelia, when Bad Paul brings her to rallies.

I followed Larry Madden as president of the Arkansas Razorback Unit and received a lot of encouragement and advice from Larry and Bad Paul Moore. Annette served as secretary. Bad Paul said, "Plan a lot of different kinds of rallies, knowing that not everyone can attend them all, but there will be something for everyone." With the help of the officers and directors, we did just that, which I credit with our club's growth. Our club does a lot of fun things in fun places. Word has gotten out that the Arkansas club is a fun group, and we've grown to include many affiliate members from other states.

One thing I would like to see in our club is a mentor program, where "new" members are paired with "old" members who can explain what happens at a rally, what are "set-ups" at mealtime, where to find out what's going on, etc. One of the growing pains we suffer is staying in touch with members. It's a hit-or-miss to reach everyone by email, on Slack, through the newsletter, or on Facebook.

With my journalism background, I accepted the editorship of our club newsletter from Carol Barton and published the "Riveted Razorback" for several years. Dana Landrum now edits the newsletter. For a while I published the Region 6 newsletter. I have been a contributing editor for Blue Beret for several years writing the Region 6 News, and feature articles from our club (Foodbank rally) and articles for the newly formed National Event Rally committee.

Through our Airstream experience, Annette and I have made wonderful friends and seen places in America that we probably would have never visited. When people ask, "Why an Airstream?" my response is: "They're nice, obviously, but it's the people you meet." We like to stay true to Wally Byam's words: To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end, and thus make your travel dreams come true.

2022-2023**Officers**

President: Dave Wessinger

Vice-President: David Holsted

Secretary: Cindy Kugel

Treasurer: Laura Wessinger

Board of Directors

Patti Kymer

Ivy Lincoln

Tammi Terry

Katie Gulley

Other

Paul Beck, Webmaster

Dana Landrum, Newsletter Editor

Trent Roberts, Membership Chair



2022 INTERNATIONAL RALLY • FRYEBURG, MAINE

This year's International Rally was held July 23-29. The opening ceremony was standing room only. The flag presentation starting with the US and Canadian flags being posted, followed by flag bearer from all twelve regions and local clubs. During the rally, Eric McHenry, an affiliate member of our club (pictured top left with his wife LaVerne), was sworn in as President of Airstream Club International. LaVerne also serves as Region 12 President and is on the International Board of Trustees.

The Arkansas Razorback Airstream Club (ARAC) played a vital role in the success of the rally. Our club members worked long hours volunteering for various committees, which are essential for the smooth operation of the International Rally. As hard as we work, our members play hard too! Almost every evening, after and during Happy Hour, fresh food was prepared in the camping area to include scrumptious fresh Lobster. Typically dinner was followed by live music being played by a variety of very talented musicians.

During the rally there was more to do and see than time allowed. The vendor area is always a popular place to visit and purchase the hard to find items for our Airstreams. And this year there were a number of new Airstreams to tour as well. The days were fully occupied with business meetings, region luncheons, visiting the local communities and tourist attractions.

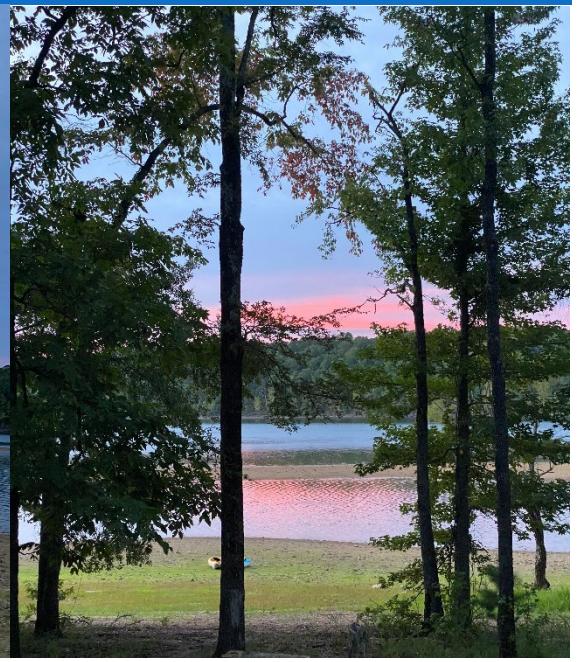
The Vintage Airstream Club held fast to their party tradition by sponsoring a 70's music night held in their big circus tent. It featured dancing and music that many of us grew up listening to. Many of those who attended dressed properly for the time period. It was a night to remember, but unfortunately I don't, except for sore legs and knees!

All good things come to an end, but it just opens the door to more exciting adventures ahead. Next year we all will be on the road again to Rock Springs, Wyoming for the 66th International Rally June 24-30th.

-- Larry Madden, Region 6 President & Member, International Board of Trustees







GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN • LAKE OUACHITA, September 7-9, 2022



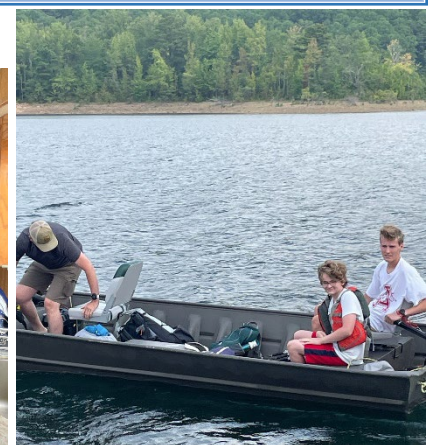


SATURDAY ON THE LAKE



BOYS • BOAT • BOURBON

Meanwhile, some of the boys drank bourbon on the Lincolns' house boat.



REGION 6 RALLY

By Larry Madden, Region 6 President

The 2022 Region 6 Rally was held at Johnny's Lakeside Resort in Foley, Alabama on October 13-16. The Rally was well attended, with forty Airstreams registered and a number of participants who live close and chose to attend the festivities while leaving their Airstreams home.

With an emphasis on food and entertainment, the Rally was kicked off by an entertaining evening of karaoke presented by our own Jeff Dalrymple.

Friday we started the day off with an old fashioned pancake breakfast, complete with sausage patties, orange juice and ample hot coffee, expertly prepared by Tony Land, Neal Enfinger, Tony Olm and Bill Lancaster. The ladies' luncheon was held at the Gift Horse and was attended by many of the men too, as we also wanted to enjoy the great food! The weather was perfect and a number of attendees opted for a relaxing float on the lazy river in the park.

Friday night's entertainment was provide by Bill and Betty Lancaster. They played a great mix of their own music and many classics as well. Their repertoire was enjoyed by all. To close the night out, we followed the music with a classic movie on a big screen: The Long, Long Trailer.

Saturday morning we got everyone fired up with Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, coffee and orange juice. (Also known as a southern continental breakfast). Saturday was a free day to explore and enjoy the beautiful Gulf Coast.

We closed out the Rally Saturday night with a bang! Our dinner was catered by Cafe Acadiana. The food was simply fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. After dinner our entertainment was provided by Tony B and the Operators; for three hours the five piece band provided fantastic music to dance and sing along with.

Thanks to the generosity of the Gulley family we were able to raffle off some very nice gifts to raise money for the Airstream foundation, specifically the Cents for Youth Campaign. We raised \$760.00 for this worthwhile cause.

By any measure, the 2022 Region 6 Rally achieved its goal of relaxing fun, good food, entertainment and fellowship.



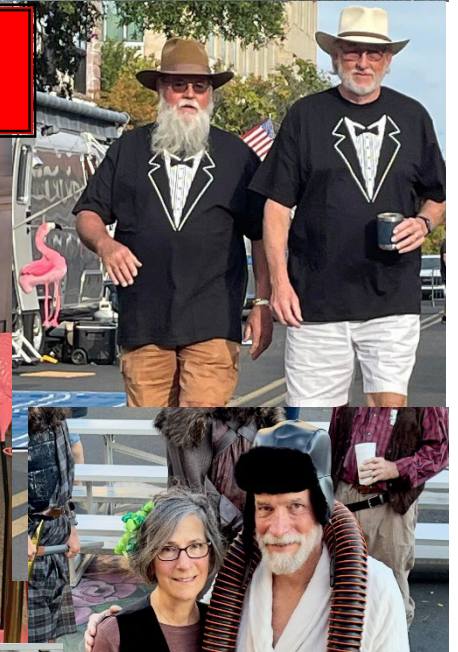


Airstreams on the Square, October 20-23

In partnership with Main Street El Dorado, the Arkansas Razorback Airstream Club hosted its fifth annual urban street rally around the Union County Courthouse in El Dorado, Arkansas. This year's rally featured a Hollywood theme, local entertainment, karaoke, dance party, costume contest, camper decorating contest, chili competition, canned food drive, and more!



Send newsletter submissions to Dana Landrum at: RBACKAIRNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM



SHOWTIME!



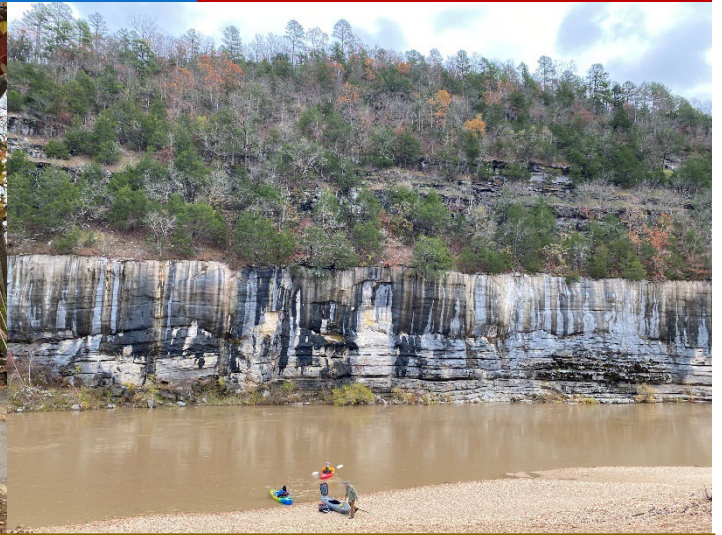
ARKALUMA
a/k/a
BURNING MOUSE

**PETIT JEAN
MOUNTAIN**

Oct. 27-30







**BUFFALO POINT RALLY
DUTCH OVEN COOKING • HIKING • HANGING OUT**





Please Welcome Our Newest Members!

Unit Members. Wyman & Kim Atwell, Rogers, AR, 2021 Classic 30; Angela & Gary Benedetto, Shreveport, LA, 2017 International 25; Ellen & Harry Carpenter, Hot Springs, AR, 2019 Flying Cloud 25; Greg Haag, Jonesboro, AR, 2023 Classic 30; James & Ann-Marie Matalone, Longboat Key, FL, 2022 International 25; Mike & Beth Mitchell, Smackover, AR, 1968 Sovereign 30

Affiliate Members. Judy Burton, Mount Olive, AL, 1984 Excella 31 [Alabama Airstream Club]; Gene Camargo, 2011 Flying Cloud 30; Randall & Mary Colston, Nesbitt, MS, 2019 Flying Cloud 25 [Mississippi Airstream Club]; Jim & Jane Foster, West Fork, AR, 1967 Safari 22 [Missouri Greater Ozark Unit]; Stephen Cook & Matty Garrett, Tucker, GA, 1976 Overlander 79 [Southeastern Camping Unit]; James & Jenice Johnson, Nashville, TN, 1992 Excella 29 [Music City Airstream Club]; Catherine & Donald Koone, Santa Fe, NM, 2016 Pendleton 27 [Colorado Airstream Club]; Don & Carol Williams, Buckatunna, MS, 2019 Globetrotter 27 [Mississippi Airstream Club]

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For 2023, we already have events planned through next November! How do we keep up with all this, you wonder? Several ways! Email reminders are sent to the entire membership when it is time to make reservations for rallies; the rally schedule is included in every newsletter (sent to membership and available on the webpage); and it's also on the Riveted Razorbacks Facebook Group page. Please contact me if you need help finding our group and/or the list of events available there. Once a list of rally-goers is made, the organizer will email that group only. Some members are also using the Slack app to communicate about upcoming rallies. If you need help finding us on Slack, let us know!

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns and suggestions at wdwessinger@me.com or 501-804-3073.

2023 RALLY SCHEDULE

January 4-19: Big ASS Caravan (aka Airstream Southern Sojourn). *Host: Trent Roberts*

- **January 4-9: Dauphin Island Park and Beach.** *They have some FHU sites but are limited, depends on the size of camper. 251-861-2742; talk to Nicole to make a reservation.*
- **January 9-13: Davis Bayou - Gulf Islands National Seashore Campground, Ocean Springs, MS.** *Reservations available on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) W/E sites. The inside loop is better for larger rigs.*
- **January 13-19: New Orleans RV Resort and Marina.** *FHU. Formerly known as Pontchartrain Landing. Call Cecily at 504-286-8157 for reservations. There are deluxe waterfront sites as well as less and more expensive options. It's Nola, what is there to say? Plenty to do and minutes from the French Quarter.*

February 24-26: Unit Board of Trustees (UBT) (open to all members) at Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel's place, Jay, OK *All sorts of fun and some sort of meeting. Emphasis on fun. Hosts: Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel (fdcaptjd@gmail.com).*

March 30-April 2: Hog Wild Baseball Rally

It's back! The popular rally for Hog fans to watch the University of Arkansas Razorback baseball team play at Baum Stadium. We camp, have happy hours, and tailgate at Roadhog Park a block from the stadium. On Saturday, we take our chairs and ice chests to the Hog Pen to cheer on the Hogs. Hosts Tim Welch and Amanda Pace-Welch. RSVP and reserve a site with Tim Welch at timwelch85@hotmail.com. (Pay Tim, not the campground.)

2023 RALLY SCHEDULE, Cont'd.

April 14-16: Community Service Rally. Join us at the Arkansas Food Bank for our third annual community service rally. We will camp at the food bank, 4301 W 65th Street, Little Rock. Contact Trent Roberts at dtrentr@gmail.com for more information.

May 18-21 - Spring in Eureka Springs. Nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains, Eureka Springs offers small-town charms along with award-winning dining, arts, and entertainment. Members make their own reservations by calling 479-253-7385 and stating you are with the Arkansas Airstream Club. **Reservations can only be made Jan 9, 2023-Jan 31, 2023.** This is the window of time the park will hold 25 spots for this rally. **DO NOT CALL FOR RESERVATIONS BEFORE JANUARY 9th PLEASE.** Hosts: Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel (fdcaptjd@gmail.com).

June 24-30: International Rally, Rock Springs, WY. Six days of fun, friendships and all things Airstream at the 66th annual Airstream Club International Rally. <https://airstreamclub.org/2023-international-rally-rock-springs-wy>

September 7-10: Girls Just Want to Have Fun Rally, Tompkins Bend, Lake Ouachita, AR. Join us for a Girls Only Weekend! We will eat, drink, swim and whatever else floats our boat. Make your own reservations in Loop D (as close to #50 as you can get) six months in advance (contact host before canceling). Hosts: Laura Wessinger llwessinger@gmail.com and Terry Madden blowdry@cox.net

September 27-Oct 1 Region 6 Rally, Bayou Wilderness RV Campground in Carencro, LA. Phone: 337-896- 0598. More information to come. Hosts: Jan and Charles Heavener (bassnjan@gmail.com)

Airstreams on the Square - dates to be determined. The extremely popular urban camping weekend around the Union County Courthouse square in El Dorado, Arkansas. Hosts: Jan and Charles Heavener, Mark Magie, and Bad Paul Moore (contact: Jan at bassnjan@gmail.com).

October 26-29 (dates tentative) Arkaluma. Seventh annual "Burning Mouse" with Airstreams parked in the magical wagon wheel arrangement. Evenings by the campfire in the middle of the circle, potlucks, a big-sky full of stars, and hiking nearby. Boondocking. Dates and location to be determined. Hosts: Paul Greene/Dave Wessinger/Jason Landrum (Paul: 1pggreene@gmail.com).

November 2-5 (dates tentative) Buffalo Point Rally. Always beautiful on America's first national river. We return for this annual rally to take in the wildlife, changing colors of leaves, hike to Indian Rock House cave, tour Rush - an abandoned mining town, and feast on Dutch oven cooking! Make your own reservations in Loop C at Buffalo Point Campground six months in advance @ recreation.gov. Host: Jason & Dana Landrum (jdlandrum@mac.com).

2024 Save the Dates

April 8, 2024: Solar Eclipse Rally, Morrilton, AR – dates to be determined.

October 5-12, 2024: International Rally – Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO