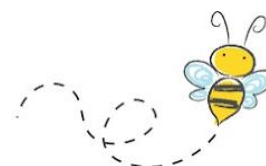




# Silver Times

January 2023



## 2022-2023 Unit Officers

President

Brenda Schultz #31475

[055president@airstreamclub.net](mailto:055president@airstreamclub.net)

1st Vice President

Vernon Petersen #1573

[055vicepresident@airstreamclub.net](mailto:055vicepresident@airstreamclub.net)

2nd Vice President

Pamela Rawn #9757

3rd Vice President

Byron Day #2309

Treasurer

Steve Pfliegaar #13303

[055treasurer@airstreamclub.net](mailto:055treasurer@airstreamclub.net)

Deputy Treasurer

Cordell Woods #5148

Recording Secretary

Kay Olsson #7827

Corresponding Secretary

Joy Dodd #5153

Membership Chair

Daryl Herrmann #1868

[055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net](mailto:055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net)

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Chris Olsson #7827

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Immediate Past President

Terry Pfliegaar #13303

Trustee's:

Kathy Yanke #7528

Pete Yanke #7528

Chuck Dodd #5153

Cordell Woods #5148

## **Brenda's Buzz**

Happy New Year Minnesota Airstreamers!

Bart and I just returned from a two-week taste of retirement in Florida. (Bart retires in June) We had a blast. It only served to want more.... More trips, more time, more beaches, more sunsets, more adventures, and more friends. We did not have our airstream with us but were able to meet up with airstream friends and get great ideas to plant ourselves during winter next year. We truly feel that there is a special connection with our "Airstream people". Is it the open road that connects the open minds? Is it a vagabond spirit among us or the stories we share? The Hawkins', also MN Airstreamers, were wonderful hosts when we visited and introduced us to the world of geocaching while biking. When the picture of Bart and Patti Hawkins was sent to our adult kids, the reply from our daughter was, "I guess Old geezers need helmets to do it?" Isn't she the funny one?



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As we look towards retirement, it begs the question of how do we gracefully age? What is our legacy? How do we enjoy life to the fullest, and give of ourselves in a way that makes a difference? A very easy read, no regrets by Allen Hunt & Matthew Kelly is a fable about living your 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of life intentionally. (Yes, many of us are in that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of life.) The authors talk about the 5 keys to living and dying with no regrets. It is quite inspirational.

There are some people in life that make you laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger, and live life just a little better... In early February, we will be sending out the sign up for our first 2023 rally in Lanesboro, MN. I know I'm excited to see everyone, visit the International Owl Center, perhaps a tour/tasting at an organic distillery and of course laughing – perhaps a bit louder, with all of you!

We also have the Valentine luncheon on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Please sign up on the MN Airstream club site by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our Minnesota Airstream Club continues to grow. We now have 145 Units including 13 affiliate members!

Looking forward to adventures in 2023!

Brenda

MN Airstream Club President

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## Silent Auction!

There will be a silent auction at the Region 7 Rally in September benefitting 2 charities local to the area we will be at in Wisconsin: For Pete's Sake, and River Valley Commons. I am looking for donations for the Auction which can include handmade items or purchased items. Items can be brought to the Region 7 Rally if you are attending, or given to me at any upcoming rally I am at (Spring and Fall Rallies for MN, June Rally for Peace Garden Unit). Contact me if you need further information: 763-786-4217, or email at: cwolsson@comcast.net.

Kay Olsson

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## *Welcome New MN Airstream Club Members*

Greg & Elizabeth Garner #09567 – Denver, CO

Mike Festa & Mitzi Biondich #01207 – St. Louis Park, MN

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



I received the following note from Linda Agre:

Odin Olson, Past Minnesota Unit President, Past Region 7 President, and for many years, a shareholder on Circle C at the Minnesota Airstream Park passed away in June. Odin and his wife Lois organized many rallies for Shorewood RV (now Lazydays).

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## 2022 - 2023 MN Airstream Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Valentine's Luncheon	The Tavern Grill in Blaine	Feb 11, 2022	Chuck Dodd
<a href="https://airstreamclub.org/2023-valentines-luncheon">Link to online information and Registration form: https://airstreamclub.org/2023-valentines-luncheon</a> Registration deadline: Feb 9, 2023			
St. Patrick's Day Luncheon	TBD	Mar TBD	TBD
<a href="#">Looking for a volunteer to organize.</a>			
Spring Rally	Sylvan Park Campground Lanesboro, MN	May 11 - 14, 2023	Brenda Schultz
<a href="#">Watch for a registration email in February.</a>			
Caravan to International	Various	Start June 17 <sup>th</sup> Arrive on Friday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pete Yanke
<a href="#">See page 6.</a>			
International Rally	Rock Springs Wyoming	June 24 - 30, 2023	

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## *2022 - 2023 MN Airstream Club Schedule (cont)*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Host/Leader</b>
Duluth Rally	Indian Point Campground	July 27 - 30, 2023	Richard Narum
Northfield Rally	Northfield, MN	Aug TBD	Pamela Rawn
Fall Installation Rally	MN Airstream Park Clear Lake, MN	Sept 7 - 10, 2023	Brenda Schultz
Region 7 Rally	Wisconsin Riverside Resort Spring Green, WI	Sept 15 - 21, 2023	Ginger Slattery Region 7 President
<a href="https://airstreamclub.org/region-7-spring-green-rally-2023">Link to online information: https://airstreamclub.org/region-7-spring-green-rally-2023</a> Call the resort any time before the end of April to reserve a spot. Phone number is 608-588-2826.			
Looking forward:	2024 International Rally is scheduled for October 6-11 in Sedalia, MO.		

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## *Caravan to International*

We have a caravan. It will be slow moving covering only a couple of hundred miles a day. There will be 2 nights spent in the Southern part of the Black Hills near Hot Springs, SD. This will allow a little down time and some possible touristy things. This is a hop on/ hop off caravan. You will be making your own reservations and can leave or join at any point in the trip.

I will provide the campground info for my planned stops. If you would like the details, please send me your contact info ([pyanke@aol.com](mailto:pyanke@aol.com)). I would like your name, phone, BRN, and email. If you have already sent the info no need to resend.

As parking is done in arrival order, I will try to scope out meeting area for the caravan and those that care to park together if not with the caravan. If you have scheduled a parking date other than the 23<sup>rd</sup>, adjustments can be made thru HQ.

Travel Safe

Pete and Kathy Yanke

7528

[pyanke@aol.com](mailto:pyanke@aol.com)

Being the editor, I get to inject a note here. 😊

If you like trains, there's an 1880 Steam Train (<https://www.1880train.com>) that runs out of Hill City, SD, which is about 45 miles north of Hot Springs, SD. Maps says it's about an hour drive up US 385. Another plus is you would drive past the Crazy Horse Monument.



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## And What A Party It Was

This past year we witnessed an extravaganza seen only once every year. No, we're not talking about the Airstream International! As special as that no doubt may be. We're talking about the Minnesota Airstream Club Annual Holiday Party held at Dehn's Country Manor on Dec 10, 2022.



The Evening started out with mingling and enjoying beverages with Airstream friends new and old. And, I should add, missing our good friends who escaped the frigid Minnesota winter for warmer climes. We were thinking of you! We had club members from as far north as Duluth, and as far south as Fairmont. No small feat considering our unpredictable winters. The weather did cooperate the evening of our event, but, we were somewhat concerned the previous day. And we were absolutely thrilled by the number of new members to our club that dined with us at our party.

Next, we moved on to a wonderful dinner where our members had a number of choices, including a vegetarian dish, as well as gluten free for those needing these choices. Mike, the head chef at Dehn's, as well as the servers, go out of their way to make everything as pleasant and charming as possible for their guests.



As our plates were being cleared, we moved on to fun and games. Everyone received a playing card as the evening began before dinner. As a card was drawn from a separate deck, the lucky winner was called, and a prize awarded. We certainly had a lot of fun calling out the winning cards.

The prizes included one large homemade Christmas Wreath, with the rest of the prizes purchased from the Airstream Heritage Center in Jackson Center, Ohio. Some lucky winner received a ceramic camping trailer, truck and

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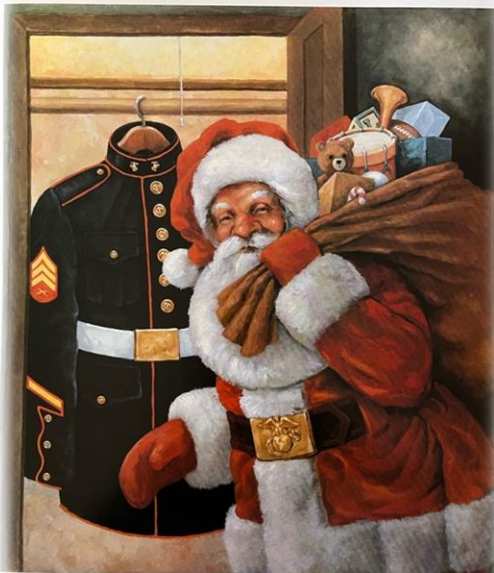
Christmas tree. Other prizes included a coffee mug, a pound of special Airstream coffee, or a bath/lotion basket. Not to mention enough chocolate to cake the entire North Pole twice over.



After fun and games, we cut into our cake, specially made by Cub foods, and enjoyed an overabundance of sugar with our coffee, and or tea.

The evening ended as we talked and relaxed, while friends slowly filtered out into the December night.

## TOYS FOR TOTS



**U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE**

For more information go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)



And perhaps the highlight of this year's party was that we received special permission from the Marine Corp Reserve in the Twin Cities to collect Toys for Tots. I'm happy to report that our membership responded with overwhelming support and our box was overflowing. I delivered the toys to KARE channel 11 the very next Monday. They didn't have the television cameras out at that moment, as they sometimes do. It would have been neat if our club could have gotten a mention in the media, but the higher mission was for the kids. Thank you for everyone's support. We made a lot of kids happy.

VR Petersen



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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	Brenda	<a href="mailto:055president@airstreamclub.net">055president@airstreamclub.net</a>
1 <sup>ST</sup> Vice-president	Vernon	<a href="mailto:055vicepresident@airstreamclub.net">055vicepresident@airstreamclub.net</a>
Membership Chair	Daryl	<a href="mailto:055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net">055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net</a>
Webmaster	Chris	<a href="mailto:055info@airstreamclub.net">055info@airstreamclub.net</a>



*Northfield Rally 2023*

*Date TBD*



We had such a great time at our first urban rally in Northfield last summer that we're going to try it again! So, if you wanted to attend but didn't or if you want to do it again, keep August 2023 in mind and stay tuned for details... we'll let you know as soon as we know more!

Pamela Rawn

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## *From Pam Rawn*

This winter season for us has been one of exploration, adventure, curiosity and learning to go with the flow. Since we sold our house in May 2022, this is our first full winter to try out the snowbird life. And we don't want to "do winter" any other way again! The Airstream Park in Clear Lake was our summer home and we left from there for our winter adventure October 2.

Some highlights since our departure:

- Camped in 6 different states
- Visited 8 National Parks
- Crossed into Mexico in a rowboat (in Big Bend Natl Park)
- Boondocked in some epic locations
- Stayed at many various state parks and Elks Lodges
- Towed 3340 miles
- Fallen in love with Arizona's desert
- Learned to be flexible with plans
- Met up with so many of our MN friends along the way and hope to see many more
- Discovered that the BEST parking sites are frequently down a gravel road... and that's OK!
- Learned that the desert smells AMAZING after a rain
- Still like each other! hehe

If the rest of our winter is even a fraction as great as our first four months on the road, we will consider it a success. Here's to more adventure!

Pamela and Dave Rawn  
9757

(There are more pics  
from Pam on the  
following 3 pages – Ed.)



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At the Organ Pipe National Park are (left to right) Ed Klein & Region 7 Past President Jane Carmichael, Minnesota Airstream Park President Dave Rawn & Minnesota 2nd VP Pam Rawn, and Chuck & Linda Meinholtz (Wisc-UP).

Submitted by Jane Carmichael

Picture to the right was submitted by Linda Agre

Saturday afternoon in Benson AZ watching a mom start her young daughter in Barrel Racing.



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## *From Wendy and Frank Norcross*

Hello!

Here is an article that I worked on with the Alzheimer's Association on - it is also on their website.

After our 63-day trip to paddle Alaska (and a few states along the way), we have checked off 20 states thus far and raised over 6,000 for the Alzheimer's Association.

We bought our Airstream in 2021, aka Violet, to be our home away from home. She's been with us on every paddle!

We've talked to countless people in our travels, from caregivers to healthcare professionals along our way. There couldn't be a better way to travel and take a cause that's close to your heart in the road!

Thanks!!

Wendy and Frank

Note: the article below was copied from the Alzheimer's Association website with Wendy's permission – Ed.

<https://www.alz.org/blog/alz/june-2022/the-purple-canoe-floats-again-for-the-longest-day>

## **The Purple Canoe Floats Again for The Longest Day**

***Wendy, husband Frank and her team fight to end Alzheimer's as part of The Longest Day team The Purple Canoe.***

Some people fall into adventure by chance, and the last few years have taken me into uncharted waters. It has been an unimaginable path with heartache and sweet, humble joys. Today, it is the JOY that moves me forward. I have realized that passion and purpose, together, can lead to infinite possibilities.

In fall of 2020, I had been thinking of my mother, contemplating how I could best honor her memory. Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia have unfortunately been a big part of my family's lives. My mother lost her sister to early-onset Alzheimer's in the early 90's. From that point on, mom became a regular supporter of the Alzheimer's Association. Then, in 2016, Mom received her own Alzheimer's diagnosis.



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After both of my parents passed, I became active with the Alzheimer's Association, taking the first steps on my journey into the world of Alzheimer's advocacy. There still remained a desire to do something that tapped into a passion already in my soul. That is how I first got involved in [The Longest Day](#).

## The Bucket List

Over the years, I had been working on a bucket list, taking mine and my husband's love of paddling and visiting all 50 states. We had great paddles across the United States, from kayaking amongst the houseboats near San Francisco to whitewater rafting in the mountains of North Carolina, and spending countless hours on the Minnesota-Canadian border. We were well on our way to reaching the 50-state goal, but it became clear, as I was thinking about my mom, that I needed to reboot the bucket list and start afresh with a mission in mind. That mission included a canoe, and the color purple!

While in the brainstorming phase for The Purple Canoe, incorporating The Longest Day became a perfect fit. What could be more appropriate than launching a canoe on the summer solstice, June 21?! It was exciting to think that we could pursue a lifelong passion while raising funds and awareness for a cause that meant so much to us. Giving others the opportunity to support the Alzheimer's Association and the incredible work that they do became an integral part of the plan.



## Setting Afloat for Family

On June 21, 2021, The Longest Day, we officially launched The Purple Canoe at a lake near my childhood home. My vision for the day was filled with boats of all kinds, purple covering the landscape and people enjoying a beautiful day. We planned a picnic beach party with friends and family to celebrate the start of the adventure!



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As people who have been impacted by Alzheimer's know all too well, one learns to expect and embrace the unexpected. You learn that humor is often your very best friend. Our truly sunny day of launch came with near gale force winds blowing straight into the beach! I watched a colorful purple balloon arch deconstruct balloon by balloon, the pavilion draped in purple. Yet kayaks and canoes stayed securely strapped to cartops, and spirits stayed high. With smiles and laughter, The Purple Canoe forged ahead. Shoes came off, pant cuffs were rolled up, and we launched with friends and family cheering through the strong winds. We were off!



Over the last months, our paddle trips have taken us to 13 states, raising nearly \$6,000 in the fight to end Alzheimer's, and counting. This June is shaping up with paddles planned across the country, opportunities to hear from so many others affected by Alzheimer's and dementia, whether around a campfire or at a gas pump.

Through our advocacy work with the Alzheimer's Association and involvement in The Longest Day, we have found that people impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementia often simply need an outlet to share their experiences. Whether it is the voice of a caregiver, or a person living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, there are countless stories that need to be told. The Purple Canoe opens the door, and opens hearts.

Through all of my experiences with Alzheimer's and dementia, there were so many things to be grateful for. We were fortunate to have wonderful caregivers, and my parents also had each other, and their steadfast love. My mother never lost her sweet gracious nature and her radiant smile was ever-present. That smile stays in my heart each and every day.

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My husband and I are grateful to have been able to take our passion and given it a deeper, more meaningful purpose. Through this adventure, we are finding we are enriched far more than we ever could have imagined. Come and paddle with us!



[Visit Wendy and The Purple Canoe's team fundraising page](#), and see where they are paddling next by visiting their [website](#).

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## *A DAY OF FISHING IS BETTER THAN...*

*By Daryl Herrmann #1868*

A few years ago, an acquaintance of mine invited me to join him for an afternoon's fishing trip to a nearby lake. Having always enjoyed fishing, I said yes.

On the designated afternoon, my friend picked me up at my house in his pickup truck, towing a very nice fishing boat. It was a warm, sunny, and lovely that day. Having only been in Minnesota for a couple of months, I had no idea where we were heading or how we got there. After about 45 minutes, we arrived at the lake, and my friend backed his boat onto the ramp and slowly started to put it in the water. The ramp was fairly steep, so he was going very slowly. All of a sudden there was a thunk, and he immediately slammed on the brakes.

After setting the emergency brake, he climbed out to look at the boat, now mostly in the water. "Oh my goodness," he said. "There appears to be a hole in the lake bottom just beyond the ramp, and one tire of the boat trailer has fallen into it." "So, what do we do?" I asked. "We'll have to pull the boat out and try to put it in farther away from the hole. Made sense to me.

He next told/asked me to get out of the boat and into the water as he took the boat off the trailer. This seemed odd to me. I was to tie the boat to the dock after it floated free of the trailer. I hadn't planned to get wet this afternoon, but everything I had on would dry. Not knowing what the bottom of the lake was like, I chose to keep my tennis shoes on.

After securing the boat to the end of the dock, I climbed back on the dock to see what was going to happen next. My friend asked me to watch the trailer as he pulled it out of the water to make sure it didn't hit anything. OK. As he put his truck in gear and started to pull the trailer up the ramp, the truck started to slip on the ramp. The ramp was textured concrete but it had sand and moss in some of the grooves. "Put it in 4-wheel drive," I shouted. He responded, "I don't have 4-wheel drive!" (Who has a pickup truck in Minnesota without 4-wheel drive?) He tried to pull the trailer, but the truck kept sliding on the ramp toward the dock. He finally gave up when the rear wheels on the truck were about four inches from the edge of the dock. He shut off the motor, got out, locked the doors, and said he was going to walk down the road to see if he could find someone to help. That left me soaking wet from the waist down, standing on the dock. At least it was fairly warm and sunny.

After maybe 15 minutes (I haven't worn a watch since I retired, and my phone was locked in the truck), I sat on the dock and took off my shoes, emptied the water from them, wrung out my socks, and just sat there. There were no other boats on the lake, no cars/trucks in the parking lot, and no people in sight. Oh, well, it was a nice day.

A few minutes later, I watched a pickup truck drive past the entrance to the lake, slow down, back up and turn into the parking lot. A nice man asked if I needed help. Obviously, there was a truck/trailer on the ramp with the boat in the water. I told him the story and said my friend had walked down the street to find help. We

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introduced ourselves, and he said he would wait to see if he could help. His name was Dave, and I told him the boat owner was also named Dave.

After a few more minutes, I saw my friend walking back into the parking lot with a gentleman in an electric wheelchair. My friend introduced me to his companion, also named Dave. Dave #3 had only 1 leg because diabetes required the amputation. So, we then had 3 Daves and a Daryl. Maybe we could all fit in my Airstream and hit the circuit as a new rock band!

Dave #2 offered to pull Dave #1's truck off the ramp and suggested I get into the truck to steer while Dave #1 pushed on the side of his truck to keep it from hitting the dock. Dave #1 said, "absolutely not," and jumped into his truck. Dave #2 was able to pull both truck and trailer off the ramp while Dave #3 and I cheered him on. Obviously, Dave #2 had 4-wheel drive!

Dave #1's truck was pulled into the parking lot, the trailer was unhitched from his truck and hitched to Dave #2's truck. Dave #2 then backed the trailer onto the ramp and into the water. Dave #1 pulled his boat over and onto the trailer, and both trailer and boat were pulled up next to Dave #1's truck in the lot. Whew.

The trailer was transferred to Dave #1's truck, and we profusely thanked Dave #2 who then headed off to do whatever he had planned to do before he offered to help me. Dave #3 said goodbye and headed home after telling us what a great fishing lake this was.

I was still very damp from my "swim," but Dave #1 said it was ok to ride in his truck, and he gave me a towel to sit on. We drove toward home on completely different roads, and I couldn't find this lake again if you paid me, not that I'd want to. On the way home, every once in a while, one of us would start to chuckle about the day's experience, and then the other would join in. It was quite a funny ride home! Glad I hadn't planned to have fresh fish for supper.



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## *Newsletter Editor Ramblings*

Tiz -3 and we have over 2 feet of snow on the ground. So, naturally, our thoughts turn to Spring, upcoming camping season, and road trips this Summer. I was hoping to provide an update to our floor repair project, but minor surgery on the back of my left hand has postponed removing the cork floor from the Family Room for a bit. My doctor, her nurse, and Kay all threatened me to not do anything that would put strain on the stitches, and so I haven't. They are out now, and we can start the flooring project this coming week. I will have an update in the March newsletter.

So, I thought I'd chat about the things we do every Spring to get Little Girl and truck ready for the camping/traveling season. Some of these may not apply to you and your equipment, but they are good guide for us to help make sure we don't miss anything. The list is in no particular order.

Tires - check for uneven wear and tread depth (are the wear bars getting close to the surface?) For trailer tires, they typically will not wear out tread wise before they reach 6 or 7 years old. We replace the trailer tires every 6 years (max) no matter how much tread is still left on them. Last year we replaced them after 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  years because we were going to Alaska.

Repack Wheel Bearings - Not always a do-it-yourself project for some, if not most of you, but after sitting all winter, it's a good idea to get fresh grease into them. Takes us (yes, Kay helps!) 3 - 4 hours to do all four wheels. Convention says to repack them once a year, or every 10,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Check trailer brakes - While the wheels are off, I inspect the trailer brakes. Last Spring, I found that they are probably worn enough that I will want to replace them this Spring. So, I will hopefully remember that, plan ahead, and have the parts on hand before I pull the wheels to repack the bearings.

Sanitize the freshwater system - Important if you plan on drinking the water out of your fresh tank. Or wash your hands, brush your teeth with it, etc. During this process we also are checking the water pump and the system for leaks. We also make sure the water heater works.

Check the furnace. I turn up the thermostat, let it run for a bit and make sure it's blowing warm air, and then turn it off to make sure it shuts down ok.

Check the fridge to make sure it cools. Usually takes a few hours before you know.

Check the stove to make sure all the burners light.

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Check all the lights that you can without hitching up.

Awnings - Make sure they open and close ok. And we lube the sliding awning rails on the big patio awning with silicone spray. Spray it on a rag, and wipe it on the inner tubes that slide into the other ones.

Check the break away switch. Can you pull the plunger out? If yes, then put it back in. If you have not done that for a few years, the plunger may be seized inside the break away switch, defeating its purpose in life. If you cannot pull the plunger out, time for a new break away switch. (BTW: don't use the trailer breakaway switch as a parking brake for your trailer. The brakes will not tolerate it for a long period of time.)

Check all external hardware on any accessories you may have. Things like stone guards, window rock guards, etc.

Do a visual inspection of the hitch receiver on your truck. I look for cracks, major rust, and broken parts. Never found anything broken, but I still check every spring.

Inspect the umbilical cord plug on the trailer and the connector/outlet on your truck. Look for any corrosion and clean off (easier said than done in some cases). I use a self-cleaning hitch plug (Bargman I think). It's the style that supports both round pin and flat blade contacts. A bit of di-electric grease can help ward off corrosion and provide a better electrical connection, but you have to be careful that you don't use too much and create a short between two of the contacts,

It's worth the time to hitch up before you plan on going anywhere if you can. During this, we check the trailer running lights, brake lights, and turn signals. Our truck tells us when a trailer with electric brakes is connected, so I verify that. I also verify I can hear the brake magnets when the brakes are applied.

While doing the first hitch-up, I inspect the hitch and make sure that all of the bolts, nuts, etc. are tight and torqued to their specs. Worn parts should be replaced. Don't forget any hitch parts that are bolted onto your trailer, like the brackets for the weight distributing / sway control bars.

Check you tongue jack, especially if it's an electric one. Nothing slows down that first camping trip if you can't lower the tongue because your jack seized over the winter (ask us how we know this - it seized so badly that even the manual wrench wouldn't budge it).

Back to tires and wheels for a sec. Any time you have a trailer tire taken off and put back on (repacking wheel bearings, new tires put on, or a flat tire repaired and remounted), torque the

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lug nuts to spec. Little Girl has Dexter axels and steel rims, so they get torqued to 100 ft/lbs. After 50 - 75 miles or so (we do this at our first rest stop), re-torque the lug nuts. After that, I check them every morning before towing. If you have aluminum wheels, they generally need to be re-torqued more often than steel rims. Check your owner's manual for the torque spec and how often to check them. May seem like a pain, but losing a wheel is no fun. Torque wrenches are available at many places and are not terribly expensive. If you have one with a dial on the end of the handle that you use to set the amount of torque, be sure to return it to zero after using it to help the wrench stay in calibration. If you're not sure what I'm describing, come find us at a rally and we can show you our torque wrench.

Check tire pressures before towing, and weekly while on a trip. Check them while cold in the morning. Having a decent portable air compressor is very handy.

Lastly, as mentioned in a previous newsletter, we seal all of the outside seams every other year.



This weekend, I was able to get back to a house project. I'm building a coffee table out of a walnut slab we bought a few years ago. This pic shows the slab in my workshop with two coats of epoxy on it. Needs to cure for 72 hours before I can mount it on the legs.

Until next time, safe travels.

Chris

Email: [055info@airstreamclub.net](mailto:055info@airstreamclub.net)

# Silver Times



Minnesota Airstream Club

Silver Times Editor

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