



# Trailhusker



The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit – WBCCI

APRIL 2022

## President's Corner

Chris Leon



Hello, Airstream Club..

As we prepare to take our first trip of the season, we may need to have a check list to help us a bit. I'll share one I found on Airstream form and maybe it will have something that was forgotten:

I am excited to see everyone in a few days at Branched Oak. I hope to share lots of "almost" forgot stories about camping. And, I wish you all safe travels. In the words of Wally Byam: "Let us not make changes, only improvements".

Cheers,  
Chris Leon  
Airstream Club of Nebraska

### Departure Checklist

#### Up

1. Turn off awning lights
2. Stow awnings and lock down
3. Close ceiling vents
4. Look for branch overhangs

#### Down

1. Raise stabilizer jacks
2. Stow chocks
3. Connect tow vehicle
4. Raise hitch jack
5. Raise steps
6. Check hitch is locked
7. Check chains secured
8. Check breakaway line
9. Stow leveling blocks
10. Tighten sewer discharge cap
11. Lock sewer valves
12. Check tire pressure

#### Around

1. Stow power cord
2. Stow hoses
3. Turn off storage locker lights
4. Lock storage doors
5. Lock stove vent cover
6. Close and lock windows
7. Lock front window rock screen
8. Turn off gas
9. Lock door

#### Inside

1. Check battery and water levels
2. Turn on battery switch
3. Secure folding doors
4. Secure shower door
5. Turn off cabinet lights
6. Close windows and vents
7. Secure window blinds
8. Drain toilet
9. Stow chairs, carpets
10. Lock TV
11. Close skylight/clearstory blinds
12. Close stove top
13. Stow loose items
14. Stow lamps
15. Turn off water pump switch
16. Turn off refrigerator (inside door)
17. Turn off lights
18. Turn off heater
19. Turn off water heater
20. Check campsite for left items

#### Leaving

1. Check all lights
2. Ensure wheels roll and brake
3. Check for low-hanging branches
4. Check exit for obstacles
5. GPS next stop
6. Identify next gas
7. Dump holding tank (as needed)
8. Don't forget the dog



## *Birthdays*

**April** 12 Gordon Opp  
15 Suzanne McNamara  
30 Debra Opp

**May** 6 Jim Wherrett

**June** 9 Jeanine Wright  
20 Lana Olson  
23 Daniel Schachtman  
27 Lori Lorenz

## *Anniversaries*

**April** 2 Jim & Mary Wherrett 1977

**May** 13 Jim & Jeanine Wright 1972  
3 Bryce & Carmen Bunde 1997

**June** 6 Bill & LaDon Kallmer 1964  
10 Jeff & Christine Mann 1989  
15 Bert & Donajean Sherwin 1956  
24 Dwight & Lana Olson 1978  
25 Bruce & Carolyn Coonrod

## *2022 LUNCHEONS*

Mon, May 9  
Mon, June 13  
**SAT, July 9**  
Mon, Aug. 8  
Mon, Sept. 12  
**SAT, Oct. 8**  
Mon, Nov. 14

*Luncheons are located at Sapp Brothers Apple Barrel  
I-80 & Hwy50 @ 11:30pm*

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

**Region 8 Rally**  
**April 27 – May 1**  
Lancaster Event Center  
4100 N 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
Lincoln, NE

**Calamus Buddy Rally**  
JUNE 23-26  
Nunda Shoals Campground  
Burwell, NE  
Leaders: Larry & Marcia Link

**65<sup>th</sup> International WBCCI RALLY**  
July 23-29  
Fryburg, ME

**LATE SUMMER RALLY –**  
AUGUST (dates TBD)  
Yankton State Park

**INSTALLATION/Halloween RALLY**  
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 3  
*(Reservations begin April 3, 2022)*  
Mahoney State Park – Ashland, NE  
Lakeside Loop - spaces 136 to 148  
Leaders: Mike & Cheryl Sisk,  
Kevin & Ashley Kavan

# April in Tucson

By Sue Heist



*Evening at our campsite.  
The mesquite trees appeared dead when we arrived but  
are just starting to leaf out.*

Love of travel is the common denominator for most Airstreamers, that and the attraction to the iconic brand. We started our annual travels this year by “hiking it” to Tucson AZ in four days. Next time we’ll take five. We made reservations for an electric/water spot in Catalina State Park 11 months earlier so we had a timetable to meet. The sites are paved and mostly level and ours was a pull thru. We wanted to stay 14 days so that is why we had to make them as soon as our dates were available to reserve.

The park, situated at the base of Santa Catalina Mountains, is northeast of Tucson on the edge of Oro Valley. There are 120 sites with flush toilets and showers in each of two loops. There is also a dump within the park. So all the comforts of home.

There are numerous trails for biking and hiking (or as it is known to me, walking) within the park and extending into the Coronado National Forest and wildlife management areas that adjoin the park.

The park is an oasis, bounded on two sides by urban/suburban areas. Although we’ve not seen them we’re told there are bobcats, mountain lions and coyotes. We have seen a few different bird species, a Road Runner, a Dusty-capped Flycatcher (I think?), and a Lewis’ or Hairy Woodpecker. Of course there are also rattle snakes. I have not yet run across one but am told they are already active after their winter hibernation.

Although we’ve been to Tucson many times because Bob’s sister lives here and his brother bought a place just northeast of Tucson a few years ago, there is always something new to do or something we’ve done that needs redoing. April is a good time to visit because it isn’t yet unbearably hot and the spring flowers are blooming. We took the Sabino Canyon Crawler tour. It’s an hour-long ride in an electric, open-air tram that drives up the canyon beyond where there had been plans to build a dam on Sabino Creek in the 30’s. The road is 30’s era also so good they don’t allow cars anymore. Because you go up in elevation you travel through several different habitats which are explained on the audio tour.

Other things we may yet get to do are Mt. Lemon Scenic Byway, Arizona State Museum, DeGrazia Gallery & Museum, Tohono Chul Garden & Gallery, and the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum. Then there is always hiking/walking.



# *Airstream Renovations*

*by Ashley Kavan*

Our 1993 Classic Excella 1000 had three previous owners. Over the years it has endured renovations, as older trailers do. When we bought it it was obvious that the flooring was not original, and the dinette and couch had been reupholstered. Being that we will be sleeping five people in our trailer I decided that we needed to do something different with the couch area. Our couch, unlike most, was not a jackknife or pull-out style; it sat on a wood frame, and lifted up via two hinges on the back (like a toybox lid) with three removable cushions to lean up against, and two large drawers underneath. Similar to a jackknife couch, it was horribly uncomfortable for both sleeping and sitting. During our two-year old's naptime one afternoon I decided to take the couch top off. After removing the armrests and looking at the wood frame I realized that a large section of the frame was rotten and barely holding up that side of the couch. Naturally, I came to the conclusion that the whole thing needed to go (have I mentioned that Kevin and I flip houses for fun, and I get to do the demo work?!). It didn't take much to get the frame and the couch top out of the trailer. Without the couch, I now had a clear look at the battery boxes and converter, and the seam where the inner skins meet the floor. The original carpet had been replaced with a commercial grade berber and vinyl plank flooring. Looking at that seam I could see that there was some water damage (under the curbside curved window), clearly the cause of the wood rot on the couch frame. My curiosity was peaked so I pulled out the carpet, which led to me pulling out the vinyl plank flooring, as well. Now I could see that the front section of flooring from the door to the front of the trailer had been replaced with treated plywood. With a truly clean slate I then I had to figure out what I was going to replace the couch with.

Over the next two days we had a considerable amount of rain in Omaha. When I finally got back out to the trailer, I saw that we had a leak, actually, some leaks. The majority of the water looked to be coming in from around the battery boxes, but there was also some dampness under the front curbside window, and a very small drip from above the center front window. My heart instantly sank. This took place the first week of March, and with the Fix it Rally already booked for late April, I was sure we would have to cancel. Luckily, Scott and Jodi Jensen of DJ's RV Service in Adel, Iowa operate a full-service RV repair and

restoration business and they were kind enough to squeeze us in. Scott performs SealTech Leak Tests. Basically, he pressurizes the trailer, applies soapy water to the exterior and wherever there are bubbles...you have a leak. In a few hours, he was able to find and seal up all leaks. The process is repeated until there are no more bubbles, and therefore, no more leaks.

With the trailer back home, and after trying to use the power jack to lift the trailer for the trip to and from Iowa, I realized that our batteries are fried...probably because the trailer stays plugged in at our place, and we are still running the original Univolt converter (which never stops trying to charge the batteries if the trailer is plugged in to shore power). I've installed a new 3 stage converter and battery multimeter so we don't keep burning through batteries.

As for replacing the couch and flooring we went with Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring (the same stuff we have in our kitchen at home) from the front of the trailer back to the bedroom threshold. After consulting with Scott, at DJ's, we definitely have some subfloor rot in the rear of the trailer, and currently our bed is queen sized. We have yet to decide if we will convert the bed to two twin beds, or to king sized. Until we can get the subfloor repaired and decide what to do with the beds, we will keep the carpet. We replaced the couch with a mid-century modern style daybed. Down the road we may go back to an RV style couch, but for now having a twin size day bed allows us all to watch a movie together, and for an adult to sleep comfortably up front if the kids need company. I'm working on making some kind of trundle that will fit under the daybed, but leave room for the batteries and converter.

They say when you buy an old Airstream to be prepared to make repairs. So far, we've had plenty of things to fix, none particularly surprising, but I will say that knowing the leaks are sealed, and we can now put in place an ongoing maintenance plan to keep them sealed, makes everything else seem like a piece of cake.

# The Squirrel Cage Caper

By Bill Kallmer

With warm weather in Florida, there was a need to set the thermostat in our Airstream to allow the air conditioner to run. Several days ago, LaDon, who has excellent hearing like an elephant, yes elephants have super good hearing, told me that there was a noise coming from our air conditioner. It was noisy when starting up and shutting down. While running, you could hear extra noise while listening outside. The air conditioner was cooling like normal. I spent four hours one day going up, then down, then up again many times on the roof looking at it with the shroud off. I pushed and pulled on the squirrel cage where I thought the noise was coming from. I concluded that noise was from the squirrel cage hitting the cage enclosure. However, I did not solve it and I did not remove anything. It looked complicated especially at my age, and it was very hot up there. Maybe it was the heat and not my age. Just my opinion!

The next morning, the Rver next to us was out washing his car. I asked him if the noise bother him. He said, "I had a rear air conditioner that had a similar problem". He advised me that I should remove the plastic housing surrounding the squirrel cage. So after coffee and donuts at the clubhouse, I set up the ladder and grabbed a few tools. My neighbor, Jerry, said, "I don't want to get up there with you as the roof is not flat". Before I knew it, he climbed the ladder and was up there with me. At this point, I knew two brains are better than one. With the shroud removed you can see the motor, housing, and the squirrel cage. To remove the housing, you have to remove six screws, unclip five plastic clips, and break the insulation in two places that surrounds the compartment. The insulation, square in shape, keeps dirt out of the compartment area, but when done, the ends can be glued back together again.

When lifting the motor and cage, the noise went away. When we let go of the motor, the motor dropped down and the squirrel cage started hitting something. We concluded that the weight of the motor, with the metal supports, were too heavy for the thin metal on which it rested. To fix the problem, we agreed that we needed to put something under the motor to keep it from dropping down. We found some wood, cut it to size, and cut a curve on top so the motor would rest on it and keep the wood in place. With the housing removed and the motor lifted up, we spun the cage only to hear the noise again. It was not the housing as it had been removed. Ok, so now what! Jerry put his hands under the cage to lift it up again, then he felt something on the bottom. Under the cage, a mud dauber's nest emerged. It was about three inches long and smooth on both sides. You could see on the plastic cage the blades were worn down a small amount, but not enough for replacement. We thought the wasp built the nest on the side of the housing, and at some point, it broke loose and fell down under the squirrel cage. I'm wondering how a wasp was able to enter that compartment as I believe it's sealed off.

Originally, someone said, "I think it's the motor's bearing". I was thinking that the AC needed to be replaced, and where do I take it? The nest was removed, the housing put back in place, the insulation glued, and with the shroud installed, I was a very happy Airstreamer.

*(Photo continued on pg. 6)*



Photo from *The Squirrel Cage Caper*  
By Bill Kallmer

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## *New Member Q & A: Marjorie Plagman*

*Questions by: Ashley Kavan*

**Bio:** (include names, who you travel with (kids, pets, friends...), where you live when you're not traveling, anything interesting about you as individuals or as a couple, how long have you been camping (either tent or trailer), do you snowbird, full time, weekend warrior, some combination of these...)

- Marjorie Plagman. Since my husband died, I travel with my brother, Bob Wherrett. We are the siblings of Jim Wherrett who has been a long-time member of the Airstream club.

My husband and I traveled since our marriage in 1975, first with a pick-up camper, then a motorhome. We visited all the states and all the provinces.

**Airstream Year, length, bed type, trim package; Tow Vehicle: year, make, model:**

- Airstream Land Yacht Motorhome & I don't tow a car.

**Favorite trip:**

- Alaska (3 times)

**Bucket list Airstream trip: If you could go anywhere in the world with your Trailer where would you go?**

Alaska

**Why did you buy an Airstream, and why did you join the club?**

- I needed to replace my Winnebago—too many miles and no longer had a “resident” mechanic. This vehicle was a reasonable price with same layout and only 44,000 miles.

**Favorite campground:**

- Campers Paradise on Lake Belle Taine, Nevis, MN.

**Favorite camping food/recipe:**

- Frozen meals

**Must have travel item:**

- Books

# VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB RALLY!!!!

VACmidwest - Spring Rally 2022 – June 16-19 – Lake Keomah State Park



Rally Includes an in-depth tour of a restoration shop specializing in cars.

Vintage Airstream presentation – to be announced



366 acres woods \* 3-mile walking trail around the lake \* fish - bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass 84-acre lake \* kayak/canoe \* electric motor boat \* swimming beach

35 reservable campsites at the with electrical hookups \* other options available

Water faucets available \* modern shower house & restrooms \* dump station

<p>Lake Keomah State Park Lake Keomah Campground</p> <p>△ Reservable      ⊗ Non-Reservable ▲ 50-amp        ● 50-amp ▲ Non-electric    ● Non-electric</p> <p>The map shows a winding path around a lake with various site numbers. Sites 1-13 are marked with triangles, indicating they are reservable. Sites 14-40 are marked with circles, indicating they are non-reservable. Amenities like restrooms, showers, and a dump station are also marked on the map.</p>	<p>The window for <b>booking a campsite opens March 16th</b> We will be trying for sites 1 thru 13 area, and more as we fill up the first sites <b>REGISTRATION (Click on link)</b> Lake Keomah State Park, 2720 Keomah Lane, Oskaloosa, IA 52577</p> <p>Hosted by Scott &amp; Kathy Allen and Scott &amp; Jodi Jensen</p> <p><b>Please contact Kathy and let her know your site number!</b></p> <p>For additional info or questions contact <a href="mailto:KathyAllen3534@gmail.com">KathyAllen3534@gmail.com</a> or Kathy 515-473-2056</p>
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# *Paradise Park near Punta Gorda, FL*

*By Larry Link*

Marcia & I spent our 2nd year in Paradise Park near Punta Gorda, FL; two completely different years. 2021, due to Covid, there was nothing going on whereas 2022 was very active.



1st picture is a cornhole tournament we had in March;



3rd is the hall;



2nd is the boulevard coming into our park;



4th is a beautiful sunset looking out over the Port Charlotte Harbor, about 22 miles west of our park. Paradise Park is known as an Airstream park but allows airstreams and any brand of Class A motor homes. It has 341 sites; is a condominium park so you own the ground on your site. Your electric is metered; propane truck serves the area once a week; water is included with our annual site fee of \$2000; property taxes are extra but quite reasonable. The park offers golf on our 9-hole course (3 tournaments/week), pickleball, bocce ball, shuffleboard, cornhole (bean bag), swimming pool, bicycling, and dog park. The huge hall has a large kitchen, rooms for meetings, exercise, morning coffee, laundry and library. Remaining hall open area has a stage, billiards, sound stage, darts, ping pong, pickleball and dining, dancing, partying and church services.



# *Campground Review: Malibu Beach RV Resort*

*Christine Mann*

This February Jeff and I were lucky enough to take a trip to California staying along the Pacific Coast. One of those stops included a stay at the Malibu Beach RV Resort. This RV Resort has been on my bucket list ever since purchasing our Airstream and will be in my top 5 list of favorite places to camp of all time. Even though we camped during the off season I still highly recommend. It's a little cooler in the winter (60's and 70's) but when it's below zero at home and your not paying the premium price of high summer rates it's a win win.

We had a site that backed up to the Pacific Coast Highway. And although you get some highway noise you also get the sound of the ocean which makes it all worth it. Even during the chilly nights of Malibu we still were able to keep the windows open to hear the surf.

It is called a "Resort" and while there aren't tons of amenities, really just an office, small store and laundry, the views and proximity to Malibu and Los Angeles is what you are paying a premium for. I would not say this is a place that is kid friendly or a place that's going to have lots of activities. It's more of a relaxed beach community.

