



Trailhusker



The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit – WBCCI

JANUARY 2022

President's Corner

Chris Leon



I want to wish everyone a happy new year. January 2022 is here and again I write a note on a 50-degree day from Lincoln Nebraska, the world we live in seems upside down. However, we are resilient people and we continue to plan for the eventual spring and a new camping season.

This year's calendar is jam packed with new adventure and destinations that I hope will bring joy and comradery as we continue to grow our Airstream Nebraska club.

I would like to welcome our new members and continue to hold close our already established membership base. This year looks to be an amazing time to be part of a caravan club.

I leave you with one more quote "Keep your eyes on the stars, and the stars in your eyes... see if you can find out what's over the next hill, and the next one after that."
Wally Byam, Airstream Founder.

Wishing everyone safe journeys where ever they may lead.

Chris Leon, President Nebraska Airstream Caravan Club



UPCOMING EVENTS

FIX IT RALLY – APRIL 23-26

Branched Oak Lake SP, Area – South Shore
Raymond, NE

Leaders: Jim & Jeanine Wright

Region 8 Rally – April 27 – May 1

Lancaster Event Center

4100 N 84th St.

Lincoln, NE

Calamus Buddy Rally – JUNE 23-26

Nunda Shoals Campground
Burwell, NE

Leaders: Larry & Marcia Link

65th 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



2021 Christmas Party

A big thank you to our President Chris Leon for putting together a festive Holiday gathering at his home where we shared food, drink and merriment that Chris and friends provided. It was so nice to see and visit with all during the “off season” and we missed those that were unable to attend. We had the chance to catch-up on all the different trips that members had taken and those that are in the works. All in all it was a wonderful time with a wonderful community, Airstreamers are the best. Happy New Year!

Welcome New Members:

Carmen & Bryce Bunde
Omaha, NE

Marjorie Plagmen
Irwin, IA

2022 LUNCHEONS

- Mon, Feb. 14
- Mon, March 14
- SAT, April 9**
- 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*

2021 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Jim Wright



This last year we were able to check off another bucket list item when we attended The Albuquerque Balloon Festival in Albuquerque New Mexico. For 10 days every October over 500 hot air balloons from all over the world lift off together. This year included 84 special shape balloons and pilots from seven different countries - Brazil, Canada, France, Mexico, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the U.S.

Our group had 150 Airstream trailers parked together right next to the takeoff area. When the balloons lift off they all pass right over us, so close that it is required that no flag poles can be up.

About 6:00 am everyone grabs their coffee, blanket, chair and camera to watch the balloons right outside your door. The balloons are so close you can talk to the pilots as they go over you. You can also walk onto the field in the evening for the balloon glow where the balloons are tied down and all of them light up together.

The Albuquerque Balloon Festival is known as the World's most photographed event.

I can see why as you can't help but take way too many photos.

If anyone is interested just let me know and I'll show you some of the thousand I have.

This Airstream event is sold out every year with a waiting list. We had our name on the list for 2 years before being picked. We highly recommend this one and it is now on our other bucket list of things to do over again.

As Jeanine and I trudge the road of happy destiny we hope to see you down the road,
Jim

website <https://airstreamclub.org/albuquerque-balloon-fiesta-national-rally>



Birthdays

January 4 Steve Kenyon
12 Cheryl Sisk
15 Dwight Olson
20 Dale Ann Hoyt
23 Christine Mann

February 6 Bill Larson
12 Chris Leon
27 Dan Hoyt

March 1 Ashley Kavan
6 Diane Larson
8 Mike Sisk
8 Jim Perrin
16 Larry Link
31 Jeff Mann

Anniversaries

March 22 Steve Kenyon & Mary Stolinski - 2008



In Memory Of...

Elma Joyce Shanks "Joyce"

October 26, 1927 – November 26, 2021



Elma Joyce Shanks was born on October 26, 1927, in Springfield, MO to Hazel Case Selvidge and Grover B. Selvidge.

She attended Southwest Missouri State in Springfield, obtaining an English Degree and Teaching Certificate. Though her parents discouraged her from dating, Jim Shanks and Joyce managed to not only date, but steal away and elope. It is of note that Joyce passed on the date of their 74th wedding anniversary.

After Jim and Joyce retired in 1982, their traveling adventures began with their Airstream and the NE Airstream Club. During their 20 years of membership, they found opportunities to assist in all levels of their club and valued the friendships they made in this group. She served as president of Nebraska in 2001.

Joyce is survived by daughters, Julie (Steve) Renier, of Shasta Lake, CA, and Sharon (Jerry)

Connealy of Whitman, NE; grandchildren, Nate Renier and Rachel Renier, Jed Connealy, Ben

Connealy, Hannah (Erik) Raudsepp, and Gabriel (Becca) Connealy; and 8 great- grandchildren.

New Member Q & A: Bryce and Carmen Bunde

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...)

- Bryce and Carmen Bunde with our 2 little dogs, Ginger and Panda.

- We live in Omaha, NE and started camping together when we were first married. We primitive camped at Calamus a couple times. When our oldest was 5, we tented in the back yard. Shortly after, we looked in the newspaper (yes, we still used the paper for that!) for a pop-up camper. The first one we saw was pristine and had been stored indoors, we bought it immediately. Camped 5 years in the pop up, then upgraded to a Winnebago Minnie-Winnie for 5 years. We sold it when it was hard to get camping on the calendar with the kids' schedule. We missed it so much we bought an affordable trailer that we quickly sold. Now that we have become empty-nesters, we chose a trailer just for us!

- This year we plan to camp some weekends and are planning a 2 week trip around Lake Michigan.

Rig/Tow Vehicle: does your trailer have a name? **Airstream:** Year, length, bed type, trim package; **Tow Vehicle:** year, make, model

- Our Airstream is a 2022 International 27 FBT named CeCe - partly because the interior is called Coastal Cove and because we plan to take her Coast to Coast! Right now, we tow it with a 2019 Ford F150.

Favorite trip:

- One year we were supposed to visit friends in northern Minnesota. They had an emergency and we had 10 days with nowhere to go. We jumped in the motorhome with our boys who were 9 and 12 at the time. We visited Colorado National Monument, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon (north side), dipped our toes in Lake Mead, drove through Las Vegas, and with a few days left, asked our boys which route they wanted to take home. Man vs Food was popular then and our 12 yo chose Salt Lake City so we could go to Crown Burger and Bruges Waffles & Frites. It was the best trip and completely unplanned!

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

We look forward to retirement, so we can see more of this beautiful country.

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

- We love the aesthetic and the quality of the Airstream! After we put money down on the trailer in March, we looked into all things Airstream and found the Nebraska Airstream Club. I saw they were at Branched Oak the following weekend. We decided to pop down there later Saturday afternoon to see what the group was like. We were so impressed with their friendliness and open arms! Now that we are planning our trips for 2022, we joined so we could camp with these fine folks a few times!

Favorite campground:

- Don't have a favorite.

Favorite camping food/recipe:

- Doesn't everything taste better when you're camping?

Must have travel item:

- Coffee, cell phone and charger, an Atlas is great too!

Funny or embarrassing story involving your Airstream:

- I bet you'll let us know when we get one! lol!

Kallmer's Airstream Story

My wife, LaDon, and I have been camping over 45 years. In 1975, my father gave us his very small Towlow trailer. Our two kids were young at the time and we used that trailer for several years while living in Omaha. In 2000, LaDon's parents owned a 1978 Airstream Excella 500. They were no longer using it after their son was living in it while he lived in Arizona. Her father tried to sell it, but with no success. He eventually asked us if we wanted it, but since we were still working and not sure we wanted it, we finally said we'd accept it. For the next two years, I worked on fixing things. I said many times, LaDon's brother never fixed anything, but he never threw anything away. We replaced the carpet, curtains, tambour sliding doors, repaired leaks in the shower, bought pots and pans, new bedding, and many other things to get it ready to use. Before using it for the first time, our storage lot was broken into, trailer door was damaged, and all our new items were stolen. They even took our gold shower head.

At work, I had an employee whose parents-in-law were members of the Nebraska Airstream Club. They were told that LaDon and I owned an Airstream and they reached out to invite us to the monthly Airstream luncheon. Since I was still working on the Airstream, I decided to attend the luncheon so I could ask them questions concerning some repairs. I attended many luncheons and soon felt comfortable with such weird people. Just kidding as we soon loved them all.

We bought all new items and our first Nebraska rally was in Madison, NE where we were inducted into the club whether we wanted too or not. Soon after that, we made our interstate maiden voyage to the 2002 International Rally in Rapid City. That was our first international rally and maybe our last. On our way in South Dakota, our door flew open while on the Interstate 90 and damaged the curvature of the door. Big problem for another time. One thing I didn't replace was the Michelin tires, which were old and cracked, but had decent tread. We didn't make it back home before having two blowouts. It was hard to buy tires on the week-end, so we had to spend the week-end in Canton, SD. At this point, we didn't want to Airstream anymore. In 2004, both LaDon and I retired from paid work.

In 2006, we wanted a newer trailer. We found our current trailer on Ebay, purchased it, and traveled to San Antonio to pick it up. The trailer is a 2003, 31' Classic. It was set up just like we wanted it. Our tow vehicle with the 1978 Airstream was not up to the job pulling it, so in 2003 we purchased a 2002 Ford Excursion with a V10 gas engine. It was a great upgrade and does a good job with the newer Airstream. At this time, our two kids were young adults and they were living on their own. They have not traveled with us, but they, and our daughter's three children, have stayed overnight many times in the trailer while camping in their cities. We did, however, have an English Springer Spaniel, Rocky, who traveled with us up to 2008. While at the International Rally in Bozeman, MT, Rocky won first place for tricks. I just had to mention that. I always told Bert that Rocky was a humanoid, but Bert wasn't sure he was.

There are many important items to take on a trip and I have a full sheet of typed items that I must take. One item I always take is a telescoping ladder. While traveling on the highway to a rally in Iowa a few years ago, our main skylight flew off the trailer and landed in the ditch. We were in a caravan and Bert Sherwin, who was behind us saw it fly off. Bert recovered it, but some parts were broken and the skylight had a lot of cracks. While passing through a town, I bought a heavy, plastic hallway runner. At the rally, and with help from other people, we taped the skylight back on in the rain, covered it with the plastic, and taped the heck out of it. So without a tall ladder and being by ourselves, I would not have been able to get on top of the trailer.

We've traveled with the Airstream over the years to International, Region, and local Nebraska rallies. I have served as the Nebraska president in 2006 and 2014. LaDon has served as corresponding secretary and recording secretary for many years. We love the club and all the other members. We have been members for 20 years now. So that is our story.

Bill and LaDon Kallmer
Omaha, NE
#25395

Shopping Local on the Road

Ashley Kavan

Traveling has always been a part of my life. My parents love to travel, and because they didn't get to travel as kids it was a priority that their kids get a chance to see the United States and the world. My first trip was to New Orleans as a fourth month old. I obviously don't remember a lick of that trip, but I still have a photography book that we brought home with us. That book was the first thing I showed my brother after he was born. Books have also played a huge role in my life. I always had a book in hand as a kid, spent most dinners during middle school reading a book, and read about different cities around the world that I might live in after I moved out of my parents' house. I majored in English Literature in college, and worked in higher education book publishing for seven years. Books were a vehicle for adventure when I wasn't on a trip with my family, and on every trip I took I made it a point to search out local bookstores to feed my habit. Elliot Bay Book Company in Seattle, Powell's in Chicago, The Tattered Cover in Denver (where I worked while ski bumming after college), Parnassus Books in Nashville, City Lights in San Francisco (I could go on...and on) are all places of wonder.

What is so great about the local bookstore? I always encourage people to shop the local bookstore for a few reasons. One, the staff knows their stuff. They're book NERDS. They love books, all books, no matter the subject or size, local bookstore staff can, and will, help you find exactly what you are looking for. They love to help people love books. Two, I have found that local bookstores really want to promote their town, their people, their places. They will have all kinds of resources for finding what there is to do in the area. If you need a book on local art culture, or best day hikes, or local poetry the independent bookstore is your place. Three, there are a great source of information about other local shopping opportunities.

So how do you find local bookshops? A quick google search is a great start, but the easiest way is to visit bookshop.org. This website has a search option and will connect you with the closest local shop to your current location. What's great about the website is you can order books from the site, and have them delivered to you at home, or to a destination down the road, or you can use it to find a shop to visit in person. This website is great because your money is going to independent stores instead of say, Amazon.

If books aren't your thing, another way to find local places to shop is Harvest Hosts. We enjoyed a great review of Harvest Hosts in our last edition, but even if you don't stay with a Harvest Host, you can still shop with them! I have visited Harvest Hosts in the Omaha, Kansas City, and Southwest Missouri areas without our trailer and thoroughly enjoyed each experience.

Farmers' Markets are another great way to find local craftspeople, farmers, and businesses. Even if it is not market season, most larger farmers' markets have websites that list their vendors, and many of those vendors sell their goods in OTHER LOCAL SHOPS!

As travelers we are out to see new sights, experience new places, and meet new people. Shopping at local stores helps the economy of the places we visit and opens up opportunities to further immerse ourselves in local culture. And, when you need a break from the local culture you can curl up with a good book, bought from a local shop, and start planning your next adventure.



A Frig Thought

Bill Kallmer

Have you suddenly wondered why your refrigerator is getting warmer? Is the frig going bad again? Well, the other day that is exactly what was happening to my third Dometic refrigerator. Then I thought that this happened before, but it was not caused by a mechanical failure. My third Dometic was install by Camping World and it work perfectly up to the point of leaving for the winter. In the first week of December, I found that the frig was not cooling after a couple days of running. It was an icy morning with an inch of snow. I hooked the trailer up and hauled it to Camping World. Fortunately, the weather kept most all the other camper owners home warm in bed. The mechanics at Camping World were twiddling their fingers and were eager to jump on my problem.

Problem solved in a half hour. The mechanic said to me, "I have good news and some bad news". I said give me the good news first. He said, "We have the frig working perfectly". Okay, that's good, so what is the bad news. He said "Even though we didn't do much other than checking things, I have to bill you for a half hour of labor". At this point our schedule for leaving town was only one day behind. I was pleased, happy, lucky, and fortunate with the good and bad news.



So when the frig warmed up the other day, I recalled my other previous problem which was solved by Camping World. Back then, I was shown a plastic piece that should be attached to the aluminum fin on the right upper side in the refrigerator box. Also, there is a white quarter inch diameter plastic tube that needs to be inserted into the plastic piece. This connection attached to the fin, and I don't know how, communicates to the cooling brains of the frig. So remembering this, I looked into the box, and yes, the tube and plastic piece were separated from each other and from the fin. Moving food in and out of the frig can cause this to happen. I reattached it and during the night, it was down to the proper temperature in the morning.

North Texas Airstream Community

Christine Mann



If you're looking for place to stay in Hillsboro, TX (30 minutes north of Waco, off I-35 NTAC (North Texas Airstream Community) is the perfect place to stay for the night with your Airstream. We recently stayed overnight to and from the Texas gulf coast and had a fantastic stay both times. They have a 24 space paved terraport with full hookups for club members at a rate of \$20 a night and \$120 a week for 30 amp service and an additional \$3 per night for 50 amp service. There is also a Dog Park, Business Center and Clubhouse. It's fun to walk around and see all the "full time" Airstreams parked at the Villas, metal building shelters for Airstreams, and Homes with Airstream parking at the community and visit with everyone who lives there as well as visitors at the terraport.

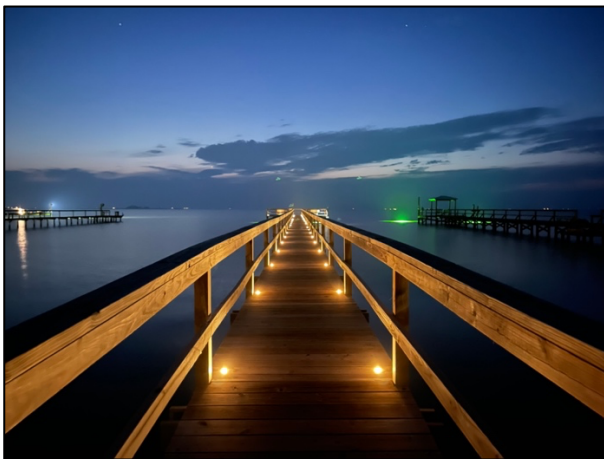
RV Resort Review:

Copa Copa, Rockport, TX

Christine Mann



We recently stayed at two different RV Resorts which were both fabulous in their own ways but very different. The first was the Copa Copa in Rockport, TX. It's a private gated lot right on the Copano Bay with two concrete pads and a shared pier with lights and crab pots. The Copa Copa I and the Copa Copa II are available through Airbnb and book out pretty far in advance. The lot is beautifully landscaped with tropical plants many of which attract butterflies. The property was thick with butterflies the entire time we were there. Our puppy, camper loved chasing them. The two campsites share a dipping pool, picnic table and mini beach. I would highly recommend this spot if you are looking for a place for some R & R and you really want to stay in one spot. The perfect place if you have friends you want to camp with in the site next to you. The town of Rockport is still recovering from Hurricane Harvey in 2017 which was evident in this area but there is a nice HEB grocery store nearby and small shopping area and few restaurants.



Info: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/31883076?quests=1&adults=1>

RV Resort Review cont. :

Gulf Waters Beach Front RV Resort Port Aransas, TX on Mustang Island

Christine Mann

The Second Resort we stayed on the Gulf Coast was at Gulf Waters Beach Front RV Resort in Port Aransas, TX on Mustang Island. This is an ownership resort, and all sites are individually owned and rented when available. The lots are beautifully landscaped and most have outdoor kitchens/bars and furniture. There are four ponds, a heated pool, community center, laundry and welcome center. Everyone was very friendly and visitors are welcome to attend all events (happy hours, water aerobics, bingo, morning coffee, etc.) They aren't exclusive to just owners. There is a short boardwalk to the beach which goes forever. We rented a golf cart which you drive along the beach and into town. The town had many shops and restaurants. The locals called us over 55'ers "Winter Texans" but then said around March we all leave and the spring breakers all ascend. We absolutely loved the Gulf Waters Beach Front RV Resort and would definitely return. Everyone we met there said it was the nicest resort they had been to. Compared to other high end RV Resorts I found the prices to be reasonable as they had discounted weekly rates. NOTE: You can also camp for free right on the beach if you don't mind sand in your Airstream. You are just required to purchase an annual parking pass.



Info: <https://gulfwatersrvresorttx.com>