



# Trailhusker



The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit – WBCCI

OCTOBER 2022

## Outgoing Presidents Message

Chris Leon



As this will be my last note as outgoing President, I find myself reflecting on the camping season. I remember many amazing adventures in pictures, some I'm a part of and others I could only imagine my enjoying. It was a good year!

We will miss the members who have gone and we welcome the new.

Within the next year, we have an amazing group of members who fill many unseen administrative tasks. I thank this group of members who all do their part, and more, by providing the stability that allows our group to flourish.

Thank you for continuing on this journey. Our club is unique because we thrive within a family of nomad spirits; wanting for the adventure over that next hill.

I leave you with one last Wally-ism;

**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.**

Safe travels everyone, Chris Leon

## Incoming Presidents Message

Dan Hoyt



Good morning, NE Airstream club members. As new officers have been installed for the '22-'23 year, I want to welcome them! My top-of-the list thanks to the past members begins with Past President Chris Leon. Many thanks to him for his gracious acceptance to trade officer years as president of the club

Dale Ann and I were going to be on the road quite a bit for the past year so I asked Chris to trade. This worked very well for us and I hope for Chris, as well. Also, thanks to the current officers whether they are serving their first term or another term!!! Another thanks goes to Cheryl Sisk for handling the installation meeting while we were on a caravan. I also want to thank ALL past members for their dedication to the Club over the years.

It is very encouraging to see the interest and enthusiasm that the recent new members have brought to our club. New ideas are always good to discuss and this is what keeps the club going. New things like moving the monthly Luncheons to Saturdays to help attendance from those that work weekdays. If you have an idea, be sure to mention it to others - whether they are officers or not. The upcoming Rally destinations include some places we have visited before. But many have not been to these areas so it will be new to them. And as always things change all the time! Dale Ann and I won't get to meet with you for the Luncheons until April. We snowbird to Florida for the winter. But we are looking forward to the time that we can meet with the group again.

Dan Hoyt

## *Birthdays*

October	5	Marjorie Plagman
	8	Roscoe Shields
	16	Bruce Coonrod
	17	Roger Brandt
	25	Sue Heist
November	4	Carolyn Coonrod
	19	Mary Stolinski
	20	Bert Sherwin
	26	Carmen Bunde
December	1	Bryce Bunde
	2	Mary Wherrett
	5	Fran Olson
	12	Ellen Marsh
	14	Bob Heist
	22	Donajean Sherwin
	29	Scott Allen

## *Anniversaries*

October	13	Scott & Kathy Allen	1990
	27	Kevin & Ashley Kavan	2012
November	22	Dan & Dale Ann Hoyt	1969

## *2022 LUNCHEONS*

*NOW every second Saturday of each month*

November 12  
December 10  
January 14  
February 11  
March 11  
April 8

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

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

### ***Spring Fix It Rally***

Branched Oak SP  
April 20-23, 2023  
Committee: Opp's & Wrights

### ***Region 8 Rally***

April 26-30  
Sycamore Springs Whitetail Ranch  
3126 Bittersweet Rd., Sebetha, KS

### ***INTERNATIONAL RALLY***

June 24-30, 2023  
Sweetwater Events Complex  
Rock Springs, WY



### ***Willow Creek Campground Rally***

LeMars, IOWA  
September 14-17, 2023

### ***Wilson Island Campground Rally***

October 12-15, 2023  
Missouri Valley, IOWA

# 2022 International Airstream Rally

## Fryeburg, Maine

by Christine Mann



Nearly 1000 Airstreams gathered in Fryeburg, Maine between July 23 and 29 this summer. Among those many airstreams included 4 from our club in Nebraska. Sisk, Knowles, Mann and Opp families enjoyed all that Maine had to offer as well as the journeys getting there.



Cheryl Sisk carries Nebraska flag at opening ceremonies

Some of us did a 1,330-mile b-line to “The Pine Tree State” while others took a little more time. Some even extending their trips or caravanning afterwards. The Manns and Opps caravanned on the way to Maine stopping along the way in Iowa City, Indiana Dunes State Park, a marina in Erie PA, and Saint Johnsville, NY.

The Rally is billed as “Six days of Fun Friendship and all Things Airstream” which is a pretty great description. There are also lots of opportunities to go out and explore local attractions. We made day trips to Kennebunkport, Portland, and the L.L. Bean Headquarters in Freeport, ME. And of course, had to try the ever popular, and pricey, *LOBSTER ROLL*.



Portland Head Light, Cape Elizabeth, ME

As this was our first International Rally, we were given special ribbons to attach to our nametags that stated “1<sup>st</sup> TIMERS” (sometimes followed by cheering and a cowbell). Many that saw those would stop to welcome us and congratulate us for it being our 1st time. A fun ice breaker but honestly, we didn’t “need more cowbell”.

On the last day of the Rally, we headed out to explore Vermont and then back home.



# *Northern Lights and Polar Bears Caravan*

*by Dale Ann Hoyt*

Eighteen Airstreams and thirty-six excited people met in Carberry, Manitoba on September 11 to begin a bucket list adventure to Churchill in search of bears and Northern Lights. Among those lucky travelers were Jim and Jeanine Wright, Dwight and Lana Olson, Bonita Martin (Lana's sister), and Dan and Dale Ann Hoyt, all from the Nebraska Airstream Club.

Our journey led us up the western side of Manitoba with stops in quaint little towns, a canola farm, a honey production and packaging farm, a wild rice processing plant, a hydroponic vegetable growing project with a very interesting story, and an authentic and delicious Ukrainian meal and tour of an historic Ukrainian church. We made stops in Neepawa, Dauphin, Swan River, The Pas, Flin Flon, and finally Thompson, the end of the road.



*Ukrainian Church*



*Ukrainian Dancers*

From Thompson we braved a 16-hour train ride on up to Churchill. Bleary eyed, we were met at the train station by a chipper tour guide that gave us a good look at the town of Churchill (population 900 and only accessible by train, boat or plane). We spent the night in a hotel with a real bed and a shower. Did I mention the train ride? Next morning, we had a dog sled experience, a polar bear education at the Polar Bear Institute, lunch, shopping opportunity and then finally away we went in a tundra buggy on the lookout for polar bear.



*Tundra buggy*

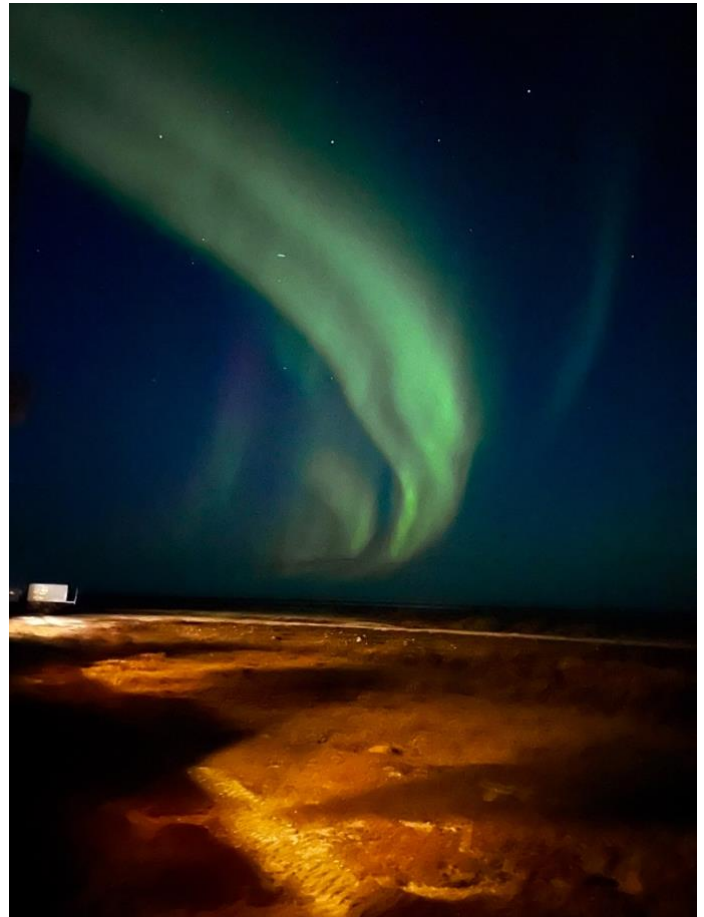


*Tundra Logge*

The tundra buggy lodge is a series of buggies connected and sitting out on the tundra. It is on wheels although it doesn't move around. You must go to it. This is where we had dinner and slept bunk house style. We ate breakfast here and then got back on the tundra buggy to roam around. After dinner that first night we saw the most amazing display of Northern Lights you can imagine.



*Polar bear trap*



*Northern lights and tundra at night*

Altogether we spent 48 hours on the tundra and our feet never touched the ground. No, I didn't see a bear. A lot of the caravaners claim to have seen one but it was far beyond my range of sight so I'm saying no.

The final stop was in Winnipeg where, at the zoo, I did indeed see polar bear.

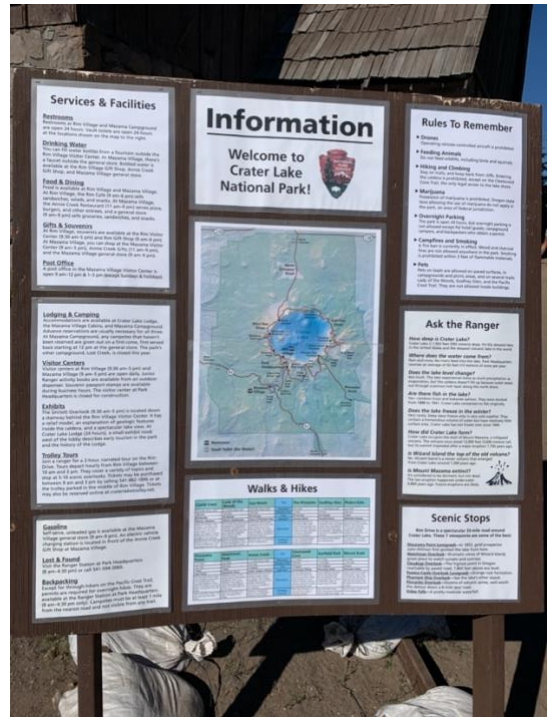
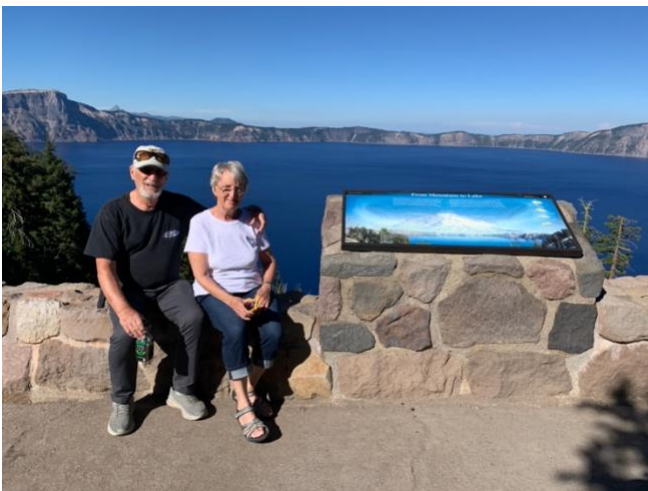
I am recommending this caravan. No, I didn't see a bear on the tundra. I did have the **experience** of the journey up there and the breath-taking Northern Lights. I spent two nights under the stars on the tundra and I made a bunch of new friends. I'm a happy camper. See you down the road.



# Link's to Oregon

by Larry Link

In Aug the Link's made a trip to Oregon and a side trip to Crater Lake, the deepest lake in USA. I would highly recommend it if you are in the area; crystal clear blue water.



The Links sold their 25' 2002 Safari to a couple from Arlington, TX, delivered a 2005 22' Safari to brother-in-law in Albany, OR and picked up a 2014 30' Flying Cloud for ourselves in Roseburg, OR, all in the month of Aug! That is a great month; married my sweet heart in Aug (a few years earlier I may add) as well! Larry

# Balloon Fiesta 2022 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*by Christine Mann*

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta has been on our “bucket list” since we got our Airstream. We put our name in “the lottery” to go with Airstream in 2021 but everyone said “you won’t get it the first year” so knowing this we got online back in January when they opened up reservations to the general public. YIKES! This is not for the faint of heart. If you decide to go this route, BE PREPARED (Time and good internet connection are a plus. Also, know which lot(s) and days you want.) The minute the website opened, it quickly crashed then selling out in minutes. We did manage to get on a waiting list and by some miracle did secure a spot in the VIP East lot, which we now consider one of the best for eleven days. 5000 others were not so lucky and remained on the waiting list.

Most all of the Camping available is dry camping with the exception of the President’s Compound and premium sites in the south lot which have some hookups. For more information on RV sites go to: <https://balloonfiesta.com/RV-Information>.

For more information on participating with Airstream go to: <https://airstreamclub.org/region-11/balloon-fiesta-national-rally>



We arrived at the VIP East campground the Monday prior to opening of the event which began on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Much to our surprise as the days got closer to Saturday many mornings started with balloons on the field. We were treated with many early morning preview shows with no crowds of people. It was spectacular.



*Early Preview Day on the Balloon Field*



*VIP East Campground – View down on the Field from Bluff*



# Balloon Fiesta 2022 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CONT.

*by Christine Mann*



Since the Balloon Fiesta is so weather dependance I would highly recommend attending for as many days as you can afford. This year's event had many overcast and rainy days with delays and cancellations. Many of the evening glows were cancelled so if you aren't a person that can "go with the flow" this might not be the event for you.

For me the best way to describe 650 hot air balloon all around you is just MAGICAL. I hope to go back again and again.



*Met up with fellow NE Club Members Bob and Sue Heist at the Airstream Lot*



*Airstream Lot located South of the Balloon Field*





# Campground Reviews: *Waubonsie State Park in Iowa*

*by Gordon Opp*

I've been going to Waubonsie State Park since I was a child. My parents took us camping there and we camped in tents. My wife and I took our kids there in a pickup camper when they were little. It's only an hour from Lincoln; just minutes across the river into Iowa from Nebraska City which offers many interesting sites to visit while camping.

The park is located on the site of the Lewis and Clark Historical Trail and the Lewis and Clark visitor center is close by. The Center is very interesting and includes a very informative video. Some Airstream people have been known to pose as ground hogs while touring the center. Arbor Lodge State Park is also close by where you can tour the J. Sterling Morton home. There are also apple orchards where you can eat lunch and take home some goodies.



The camping sites are nice and include electrical hookups. There are very nice bathrooms with showers which don't demand quarters. If you have friends who don't have a camper, there are cabins to rent as well.

Walking trails are plentiful and offer outstanding vistas of the Missouri River Valley. While hiking through dense foliage you will be surprised as you encounter open areas where you can see for miles. There is usually a bench for you to sit on a while and take in the beauty.

Recently, three of us Airstream couples spent a few nights there. We always have a good time and this 'close-by' adventure was no exception. You might want to check it out.

