

PRAIRIE ROSE

Notes from the North



Or really from the warm south in Yuma AZ!

It's getting close to that time to head north, back into the cold soon. Spring is fast approaching and soon will be time to get the Silver Bullet out and ready to hit the road. While in Yuma this winter, we visited with Art and Kathleen and Rolly and Wanda. It has been an unusually cool winter in Yuma this year with lots of wind and sand storms. Now, onto the spring!

Registration for Teulon Rally is open now, so I suggest booking ASAP as there are limited sites. Gord, Eric and I are planning some great things to do and see while visiting "Friendly Manitoba"! Call 204-886-0505 to get your spot! I also suggest calling Pat at the RV109 Campground to book for the fall rally. The number is 605-

862-7650. I have coffee with Pat almost every morning, and he is really planning a great time.

We have experienced some different weather here in Yuma this year. One day it looked like home with blowing snow, only it was sand with very low visibility! Now it is raining and has been for the last three hours.

I had a nice visit with an Airstreamer from Oregon that was in our park. He is full-time, a member at large, and was going "where the weather is great". A very different lifestyle than most of us. Bev and I have done quite a bit of touring this year, visiting Palm Springs and several towns in Southern California. It is really amazing to see how much of this area produces the vegetables that we get in our stores at home. A fellow I met told me that there are over 1000 truck loads of vegetables leaving the area every day for stores in the US and Canada. It is really interesting watching the workers picking the vegetables.



In this issue...

- **NOTES FROM THE NORTH**
- **2023 RALLY SCHEDULE**
- **THIS AND THAT FROM REGION 7**
- **CARRIED AWAY**
- **INTERNATIONAL RALLY NEWS**



That has to be one of the hardest jobs there is. Every day hundreds of bus loads of pickers and workers come in from Mexico to pick vegetables and work the fields. It is also interesting to see how much alfalfa is grown in the area. Everything is put in large square bales here and some of the bale yards have thousands of bales in stacks of about 100 in each stack.

Enough rambling! Bev and I are looking forward to seeing everybody in the spring at the first rally in Hazen June 1-4th. It will be a great rally with lots of things to do and see. Until then, stay safe, stay warm if you are in the north, and have a Happy Easter!

~ Chris

**North Dakota
Peace Garden Unit
Officers**

Unit President

Chris Wells #7394

1st Vice President

Gordon Picken #14532

2nd Vice President

Larry Ruebel #10081

Treasurer

Roxanne Towles # 4103

Recording Secretary

Bev Wells #7394

Membership Co-Chairs

Cathy Ruebel #10081

Rose Larson #5606

Newsletter Co-Editors

Ryan & Kelley Jilek #7165

Website Manager

Ryan Jilek #7165

2023 Calendar of Events

June 1-4, 2023

Hazen, North Dakota
2-12th Ave Southwest
Reservations call 701-748-2267
Please book starting in April.



July 20-23, 2023

Teulon, Manitoba
Teulon-Rockwood Green Acres Campground
Reservation call 204-886-0505
Can book any time. Please book early, as I have told them we will need 15 sites.

September 14-17, 2023

Big Stone City, South Dakota
RV109 Campground
14144 SD Highway 106 (About 4 miles north of Big Stone City)
Reservations call 605-862-7650
Email rvcamping109@gmail.com
I am with the owners in Yuma now!!
THIS IS A BUDDY RALLY!!

June 24-30, 2023

International Rally
Rock Springs, Wyoming
Book online!
We are planning the unit going as a caravan, arriving on June 23rd, so you should book an extra day at the start of the Rally.
More information on the caravan in the spring.

Airstream Notes:

IMPORTANT!

Read through each article! Some rallies require reservations to be acquired very soon!

EDITORS NOTE:

We would love to hear more stories from all of you on your travels. Please include a photo or two if possible for us to add to these newsletters. We would also like to know if anyone has some content and story ideas they would like to submit. We're open to anything!

- Ryan & Kelley



This and That from Region 7

By R7 President Ginger Slattery

It's March! Is everyone getting a little spring fever yet? I sure am! Can't wait until it's warm enough to get the Silver Twinkie ready for camping! I'm ready for rallies and seeing everyone again! Winter can be so isolating.

I am including a list I compiled of all the club rallies in our region in case anyone wants to explore another club! All three of our clubs have such unique and fun personalities! I've enjoyed getting to know you all!

Speaking of rallies, for International in June, I have included the information for the Region 7 Lunch! Most attendees last year in Maine said breakfast was too early! I listened! A few have already inquired about it so if you have any questions at all, let me know!

Also, please mark your rally calendars that the Region Meet and Greet will be Tuesday, June 27 from 4-6 pm. Once again, Lizann Skelton and Anita Olson are graciously co-hosting! Thank you, ladies! This year, I was able to reserve a pavilion with bathrooms, near a playground and lots of parking so if we are blessed with liquid sunshine again this year, we will not have to curtail our fun!

The "Spring into Fall" Region Rally is September 15-21 in Spring Green, WI. Planning is still under way but sites have to be reserved early by April 30, so please contact the Wisconsin Riverside Resort at (608)588-2826 to make your reservation. Let them know you are with the Airstream group!

Kay Olsson is organizing the Silent Auction to benefit two local charities. I know we have many talented members! Please contact her if you have any questions or to let her know what you will be donating. She can be reached at (612)751-9778 or at cwolsson@comcast.net.

The quarterly IBT was held via Zoom on February 23. Much of our time is taken up with all the reorganization the membership voted on last year. I will go into more detail in the Region newsletter I hope to get out in the next couple of weeks also!

One item was postponed to the May IBT so we could get membership feedback. It pertains to the BRNs (Big Red Numbers for our newbies!) The current policy as written states:

16.6.10 Airstream Numbers (7/19/21)

16.6.10, D, 2. 4, a. The display of Airstream Numbers is required during club activities to assist

R7 2023 RALLY CALENDAR

- May 5-7 Wisc-UP Spring Business Meeting & Rally @ Wyalusing State Park @ the Homestead sites 245-255. Hosts: Mary & Kurt Jorgensen
- May 10-12 IBT Planning Session In person @ Jackson Center, OH
- May 11-14 MN Spring Rally @ Sylvan Park Campground. Host: Brenda Schultz
- June 1-4 NDPG "Spring Shake Out Winter Rally" @ Hazel, ND @ Lewis & Clark RV Park
- June 24-30 66th International Rally @ Rock Springs, WY
- July 20-23 NDPG "Summertime Fun Rally" @ Teflon, Manitoba, Canada @ Teflon RV Park
- July 20-30 Wisc-UP Lower Door County Rally. Hosts: Ed & Sandy Emerick
- July 27-30 MN Duluth Rally @ Indian Point Campground. Host: Richard Narum
- Aug 2-6 Wisc-UP "Kids, Kids, Kids Rally" Place TBD.
Host: Bree Moore-Lawrence
- Aug 17-20 Wisc-UP Monroe County Cheese Rally. Hosts: Linda & Chuck Meinholz
- Aug TBD MN Northfield Rally, @ Northfield, MN. Host: Pamela Rawn
- Sept 7-10 MN Fall Installation Rally @ MN Airstream Park. Host: Brenda Schultz
- Sept 15-21 "Spring Into Fall In Spring Green" Region 7 Rally @ Wisconsin Riverside Resort. Host: Ginger Slattery
- Sept 14-17 NDPG "Let The Leaves Fall" Installation and Buddy Rally @ 109 RV Park Big Stone City, SD
- Oct 12-15 Wisc-UP Fall Business Meeting & Rally @ TBD

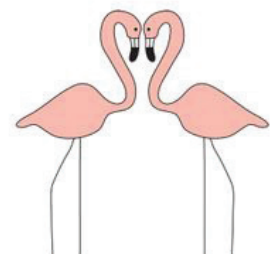
with the identification and location of club members for logistics and safety (e.g., first responder) considerations.

Many people now do not like putting the BRNs on their camper for a variety of reasons. I have seen clever ways of displaying those numbers without attaching them to the rig. Think of the upcoming sold out rally in Wyoming. 1284 rigs so far will be attending. Can you imagine trying to find somebody without the BRNs showing in some fashion?

What say you? Should the policy stand as written or should there be wording to allow alternative ways to display those all-important numbers? Please let me know your thoughts by April 15. Thanks!

Email is virginiaabslattery@gmail.com or text me at 906-250-6931. Please tell me who you are, club, BRN!

In the meantime, keep smiling and looking forward to camping!



flamingo love

Carried Away

By Ray Jilek #12162

Laura and I, along with Ryan and Kelley Jilek, enjoyed a bucket list event that did not disappoint. In fact, we got “carried away” at the world's largest, annual hot air ballooning event that takes place in New Mexico the first week of October. We were able to take in the 50th Annual Balloon Fiesta with the best seats in the house!

It started with us entering our names into the lottery for coveted sites with the “Balloon Fiesta National Airstream Rally”. We submitted our names into the lottery in January, along with perhaps a thousand others, and were notified in February that we were in! These sites are sought after because you are literally camping in the parking lot of the Balloon Fiesta Museum, along with 150 other shiny airstreams. It is just a short walk to the launch field and more than 90 vendors, so you are fully immersed in the experience. Don't want to get up early and walk to the launch field? Grab your coffee and watch as hundreds of beautiful balloons fly over your trailer!

The Balloon Fiesta is in early October and the experience was beyond anything we imagined. But for Laura, the fun began as soon as we knew we found out we were chosen. She started the planning process and put together a trip of a lifetime.

Ryan and Kelley left Dickinson and spent the night with us in Spearfish before we began the 900 mile journey. We knew we wanted to get beyond the Denver traffic, so drove to Colorado Springs the first day. We spent the night at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. It is just outside the city, but feels worlds away in a beautiful mountain setting. It was quiet, with stunning views of the city below. The next morning, we were off to Albuquerque and the Enchanted Trails RV Park.

The Enchanted Trails is an RV park on the Historic Route 66, but for us, it is the staging sight for our trip into the Balloon Fiesta Park. We were encouraged to spend Thursday evening at the Enchanted Trails so that Friday morning we could be caravanned in groups of 10 over to the our sites at the Balloon park. In order to be parked together with Ryan and Kelley, we just



had to leave Enchanted Trails together. Camping at the Balloon Park is dry camping with generators allowed. We filled our tanks before going, but water and pump service were available if needed.

The caravan went smoothly and quickly and it was time to get started. Ryan had brewed a keg of Hatch Chili beer, so we had a nice group of people visiting and getting to know one another. That evening was a group dinner with introduc-

tions and instructions. All of the people that put this group together are volunteers, so kudos to them.

The next morning we are treated to an outstanding drone light show at 5:45am. We make our way to the launch field for the Dawn Patrol at 6am. Dawn Patrol balloon pilots take off just before sunrise so that fellow balloonist can watch the balloons and get an early idea of wind speeds and direction at different altitudes. On Mass Ascension days, about a dozen Dawn Patrol balloons treat the crowd to a choreographed inflation and launch set to music. It is visually stunning and a great way to start our weekend.

Mass Ascension is the launch of all the participating balloons, going out in several waves. With 500-600 balloons launching, the morning is filled with a stunning onslaught of sounds and color. The first morning of Mass Ascension, the four of us made our way down onto the launch field. We are literally walking among the balloons as the crew layout and prepare the balloons for launch. Spectators being allowed on the field to feel the heat and hear the swoosh of the hot air filling the balloons is what makes this a once in a lifetime experience. Watching them grow into these fabulous shapes and colors and then launch into the sky is beyond description. You literally need to experience this for yourself.

We spent most of the morning on the field, taking hundreds of pictures and thoroughly enjoying ourselves. After lunch, we visited the Balloon Fiesta Museum and learned of the history of ballooning and of the Fiesta in Albuquerque.

In the evening, we are treated the Balloon Glow. Right at dusk, many of the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time. It is quite spectacular as the balloons light up the evening sky like giant holiday ornaments. A fantastic fireworks show closes out the evening.

The second morning of Mass Ascension, Laura and Kelley start the morning on the field while Ryan and I have an extra cup of coffee and wait



Laura, Kelley and Ryan Jilek at Great Sand Dunes National Park

for the balloon to fly directly over the mass of Airstream trailers. It was a perfect morning for the “Albuquerque Box”. The Albuquerque Box is a wind pattern that sets up during the morning hours, mainly during October. Winds at a lower flight level push balloons to the southwest toward the city. As balloons rise in altitude, upper-level winds will then carry balloons back to the northeast. It resulted in the sky above us being filled with hundreds of balloons, some at lower altitudes and some returning to the area at higher altitudes.

The Airstream Rally is Friday through Tuesday morning, while the Balloon Fiesta continues through the next weekend. So on Tuesday, after the morning festivities, we packed up the trailers and headed north on the Turquoise Trail. This is a great alternative to Interstate 25 between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The entire route includes a drive along Sandia Crest Byway then through the old mining towns of Golden, Madrid and Los Cerrillos.

When planning the trip, we knew we wanted to spend some time in Santa Fe and also the Santa Fe Mountains before heading home. We found a gem of a campground in the Black Canyon Campground (USFS campground). It was a quick drive into Santa Fe and a nice drive to Bandelier National Monument for some hiking.

As we made the trek home, we spent a night at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Pre-

serve in southern Colorado. From there we continued north, avoiding I-25 by driving the western side of the Front Range.

This was truly a trip to remember. While the Balloon Fiesta is an event worth doing regardless, if you can score a site with the Airstream group, it will make the trip that much sweeter.

For more information on the Airstream Rally, join the Facebook Page "Balloon Fiesta National Airstream Rally".



66th WBCCI International Rally Region 7 Buffet Lunch

When: Monday, June 26 from 11:30 am to 1:00pm

Where: Santa Fe Southwest Grill 1635 Elk St, Rock Springs, WY 82901

Who: Region 7 Attendees, Families and Friends

Cost: \$26.00/person (Includes tax and tip but not beverage)

Hello Happy Campers! I listened to all who attended breakfast last year! This year, we're doing an all-you-can-eat Mexican Buffet! Buffet includes beef & chicken enchiladas, hard & soft tacos, green chili, bean burritos, rice, beans, homemade chips & salsa and sopapillas. (Nothing too spicy) Unfortunately, beverages are not included since Covid. Because the International Rally is so early this year please sign up as soon as possible - June 1st so we can get a count to the caterer. Thank you!

Please send registration and check made out to WBCCI Region 7 to:
Chuck Zellermayer
400 Garland Ct,
Waukesha WI 53188

Have questions? Call/text Ginger at 906-250-6931. I'm so excited to see you all at Rock Springs!

Cut and return the information below to Chuck with check.

Rock Springs Mexican Buffet Registration

BRN: _____ **Name(s):** _____

Attending: _____ **Amount paid (\$26.00 each):** _____

(Make check payable to WBCCI Region 7)

International Rally News

Help put the Peace Garden Unit on the map at the International Rally!

Support the 5 x 5 Art Exhibit & Fundraiser

At this year's International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming, there will be a 5 x 5 Art fundraiser that is open to all member of WBCCI – you don't have to attend the rally to participate. Here's how it works: You create your work of art in a wide variety of categories, like painting, knitting, crocheting, jewelry, leatherwork, woodworking, metal, or any other media. Finished size can be no bigger than 5 inches square, or if it is three-dimensional, no larger than 5 inches cubed. You donate your art piece to the Rally – either mail it in by May 15, or take it to the Rally. They will be selling all pieces for \$20, first come, first served. All proceeds will go to the United Way charity selected by the Rally. Your entry does not need to be perfect – you're among friends and this is for a very good cause.

Then, for those of you attending the Rally at Rock Springs, there is also an Art Show where you can show off your hobby, but you are not limited to size of your artwork. This Art Show will be judged and ribbons awarded in the categories listed.

You do need to register in advance for the fundraiser and art show. See page 40 of the March issue of Blue Beret, or visit the club website at ACIRALLY2023 HobbiesActivities | ACI (airstreamclub.org) for the rules and details, and the registration form. Super easy to sign up online.

For those of you going to Rock Springs, there are



Artwork by Cathy Ruebel

other opportunities to showcase your talents and our small by mighty unit. There is the Photo Contest with a number of subject areas, for those musically talented, the ACI Band and Choir, a Golf tournament, Pet show – Go Molly!, and a Flea Market – Craft Show. Our unit may be small, but let WBCCI know that the Peace Garden Unit was there.

We are the longest-rolling, single branded RV club in the world. Our members share a common vision: the pursuit of fun, great adventures and incredible memories. Join us at one of our upcoming rallies, we'll have a chair at the campfire for you.

For membership and rally information please visit airstreamclub.org



Looking Ahead

2024 Region 7 Rally

Dates: September 12 – 19, 2024

Location: Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort in the Black Hills area:

20189 US Hwy 85
Spearfish, SD 57783

Phone: (605) 722-1800

Website: <https://elkhornridgeresort.com>

Host: Chris Olsson (cwoolsson@comcast.net)



We have 45 sites reserved for the rally. All are pull-through sites with full hookups in one area of the campground. We are working on the planning for the rally. Some of the things we're looking at are:

- Buffalo feeding tour
- Golf outing
- Bus tours of the Black Hills area
- A potluck dinner
- Happy Hours and campfires
- A catered dinner on the last night

You can call and reserve a campsite anytime. The sites are being held until 2 months before the rally. 2023 costs are ~\$70 per night. There is a weekly rate plus they offer Good Sam, AAA, Military/Veteran, First Responder/Nurse discounts.

If you call to reserve a site, let them know you are with the Region 7 Airstream Rally. ■



*Dreaming of the
next perfect
campfire!*

We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Safe and happy travels!