



Issue 30

<https://airstreamclub.org/region7>



## **President**

Ginger Slattery (Joe)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #2041  
[virginiabslattery@gmail.com](mailto:virginiabslattery@gmail.com)

## **1st Vice President**

Chris Olsson (Kay)  
Minnesota Airstream Club – #7827  
[cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net)

## **2nd Vice President**

(open)

## **Past President**

Jane Carmichael (Ed Klein)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #219

## **Treasurer**

Chuck Zellermyer (Janet)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #10230

## **Corresponding Secretary**

Joe Slattery (Ginger)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #2041

## **Recording Secretary**

Kay Olsson (Chris)  
Minnesota Airstream Club – #7827

## **Parliamentarian**

(open)

## **Membership Chair**

Linda Agre  
Minnesota Airstream Club – #5628

## **Caravan**

Pete & Kathy Yanke  
Minnesota Airstream Club – #7528

## **Newsletter Editor**

Tim Doherty (Connie)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #27507

## **Newsletter Publisher / Webmaster**

Bob Manak (Heidi)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #6151

## **Photographer**

John Cooper (Terri)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #1336

## **Historian**

Gail Harrower (Bruce)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #4478

## **Vintage Rep**

Ed Emerick (Sandy)  
Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #4425

## ***President's Message***

### **R7 President Ginger Slattery**



Spring fever has exploded! Can't wait until it's warm enough to get the Silver Twinkie ready for camping! We're ready for rallies, meeting new members and seeing everyone again! Winter was long enough!

A warm welcome to all the new members! Our Membership Chairs do such a great job of reaching out to new members! You didn't just join a local club but you are also a part of Region 7! Region 7 encompasses North and South Dakota, Manitoba, Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan! I hope you get to a rally or 2 or more! Being active members is how to really feel like you belong! Just owning an Airstream is a conversation-starter! We've met fascinating people at rest stops all over the country! Do not hesitate to reach out to any officers, since they are the most visible, if you have any questions!

Your membership means you can attend rallies anywhere you are travelling! All the rally information can be found online at [www.airstreamclub.org](http://www.airstreamclub.org) or in the back of the Blue Beret! A list of rallies within Region 7 is included in this newsletter. All 3 of our clubs have such unique and fun personalities! Again, welcome!

I have only been your President for seven months and it has very busy! I won't lie, I have felt overwhelmed at times! Who doesn't in a new position? I find I say "sorry" frequently! 😊 That probably won't change! Best part is meeting all of you! I'd like to do another newsletter in October so while you are sending articles and pictures to your club newsletter editors, send some to me also, to share with the whole region! I would like to include favorite camping recipes, stories, favorite locations, anything! Ed Emerick threatens the Wisc-UP club with "If you don't send me anything, I will have to make something up about you"! It's super effective but I won't go that far! Doesn't mean I won't borrow some from the club newsletters!

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



## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Message – Chris Olsson**

Two things come to mind:

1. I am busily in the process of setting up the 2024 Region 7 Rally.
2. We need a R7 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

The 2024 R7 Rally will be held at the Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort in the Black Hills area of South Dakota on September 12 through September 19, 2024. Yes, that's about a year and a half from now, but early planning is better. We have 45 sites reserved for the rally. All are pull-through sites with full hookups in one area of the campground. Please see page 10 for more information.

Region 7 is in need of a dedicated and fun-loving person to be the 2nd VP. Unlike the President and VP officer positions in your Local Club which are 1-year terms, the Region President and VP positions are 2-year terms. This provides for a fair amount of time (up to 4 years) to learn about the Region, the IBT, and how the Club is run before becoming the Region President. As in the Local Clubs where VPs advance, the Region 2nd VP becomes the Region 1st VP and then the Region President.

I am in my first year as R7 1st VP, and Ginger Slattery is in her first year as R7 President. Together, we are planning the Region 7 Rally for September 2023 as well as taking care of the paperwork that keeps the Region running and helps keep Local Clubs running, and we are having fun doing so.

If you would like to get involved in the Airstream Club at the Region 7 level, or learn more about the Region, please seek either me or Ginger out. Other people you can talk to are Pete Yanke and Linda Agre. Both are serving Region 7 as the R7 Caravan Leader (Pete) and the R7 Membership Chair (Linda).

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## **A SHORT NOTE FROM YOUR REGION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Wow! Minnesota and Wisc-UP units are signing up new members Right and Left! Great Job! Now it's up to all the members of those Units to reach out and make the new members feel Welcome. So why the unit members? Isn't that the job of the Unit membership chair? NO! It takes a village! It's up to every Unit Member. So why and how?

1. Get that new member to a rally. Give them a call (the personal touch). Please not an email. We were called on a Monday for a Weekend rally starting Thursday night, picked up our Airstream on a Tuesday and were at the Rally on Thursday. Never for a minute was I ever sorry I had called Jackson Center with questions about the Airstream Club.
2. Put them to work helping with a breakfast. My first rally I was put to work making and serving Pancakes. May I say I hate to cook, (I do not consider cooking an 'art'), but I made lifelong friends and I also made a lot of pancakes.
3. Many of our Units are now getting 'Singles' or 'Solos'. I know I became a Solo in 2008 after I lost the 'Love of my Life' and almost gave up my life of Silver. So make a point to invite that new member, that Solo to ride with you to Planned and Unplanned events.

I have only listed 3 things and I know seasoned members can think of many more reasons on how to make new members not only feel Welcome but to retain them. Remember down the line you will need that new member to be a Vice President or Rally organizer. You can't do everything yourself. So, remember Welcome and Retain.

Linda Agre

## 66th International Rally – Rock Springs, WY

Show of hands, 🙋 who is excited to attend International this year? We are! This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> International. We learned quickly to bring bikes to get around the grounds and lots of water bottles! For first-timers, do consult the articles in the Blue Beret about other items to bring, especially for connecting one water source to another camper, surge protectors, and other hints!

Most attendees last year in Maine said breakfast was too early! I listened! This year we are having a Mexican all-you-can-eat lunch buffet! More information is included on the next page in this newsletter and was sent to the local clubs and on the region website. A few have already inquired about it so if you have any questions at all, let me know!

Please mark your rally calendars for the Region Meet and Greet on 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 International planning committee is still checking out a messaging system for the rally I will pass along to the local clubs when we know what that will be so any updates can easily be passed along.

Whether you are joining a caravan to the IR or going on your own, like us, it will be a fun adventure and I am looking forward to finding you all when we get there! We are arriving on Wednesday, one of the early ones. We did just join Future Streamers and hope to be parked with them so our granddaughters will be closer to other kids! It will be a fun time no matter where we are parked!

Ginger Slattery



Fryeburg, ME. Blue arrow is our Airstream!

## 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 – by 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 Zeller Mayer

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!

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Cut and return to Chuck with check

### Rock Springs Mexican Buffet Registration

BRN: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt pd (\$26.00 each): \_\_\_\_\_

(make check payable to **WBCCI Region 7**)

## R7 2023 RALLY CALENDAR

**April 6-9** Wisc-UP Easter Campout @ Ottawa Lake in South Kettle Moraine State Park

Hosts: Morten Lindstad & Jan Treolo

**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 For Region Presidents @ 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

Hosts: Larry & Cathy Reubel

**June 24-30** 66th International Rally @ Rock Springs, WY

**June 30-?** Tag-a-long Caravan from International to MN

Hosts: Skip and Jan Chell

**July 20-23** NDPG “Summertime Fun Rally” @ Teulon, Manitoba, Canada @ Teulon RV Park

Hosts: Gordon Picken, Eric Jensen & Deb Metcalf

**July 20-23** Wisc-UP Cherry Picking Rally in Lower Door County Rally

Hosts: Ed & Sandy Emerick/Kriss & Kathy Willequette

**July 27-30** MN Duluth Rally @ Indian Point Campground

Host: Richard Narum

**Aug 2-6** Wisc-UP “Kids, Kids, Kids Rally” @ Indian Trails Campground

Host: Zach and Megan Lee

**Aug 10-13** MN Northfield Rally @ Northfield, MN

Host: Pamela Rawn

**Aug 17-20** Wisc-UP Monroe County Cheese Rally

Hosts: Linda & Chuck Meinholz

**Sept 7-10** MN Fall Installation Rally @ MN Airstream Park

Host: Brenda Schultz

**Sept 15-21** “Spring Into Fall” Region 7 Rally @ Wisconsin Riverside Resort, Spring Green, WI.

Host: Ginger Slattery

[\(see next page\)](#)

**Sept 14-17** NDPG “Let The Leaves Fall” Installation and Buddy Rally @ 109 RV Park Big Stone City, SD

Host: Chris Wells

**Oct 5-8** Wisc-UP Fall Installation & Rally @ Skillet Creek Campground, Baraboo, WI

Hosts: Tim & Patti Valenza

## 2024 Region 7 Rallies

**September 12-19** Region 7 Rally @ Elkhorn Ridge Resort in Spearfish, SD

Host: Chris Olsson

[\(see page 10\)](#)

**October 6-11** 67<sup>th</sup> International Rally in Sedalia, MO



## Region 7 “Spring Into Fall” Rally

The “Spring into Fall” Region Rally is September 15-21 in Spring Green, WI. Planning is still on-going but sites have to be reserved 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!

What is there to do in Spring Green? According to Trip Advisor, these are the top 15 attractions:

1. Taliesin Preservation, Inc
2. House on the Rock
3. American Players Theatre
4. Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center
5. Wisconsin Riverside Resort (Got this one covered!)
6. Spring Green Reserve
7. Tower Hill Stat Park
8. Seven Seeds Farm
9. The Opal Man
10. Peck’s Landing
11. Harrisburg Troy Historical School
12. Peck’s Farm Market 1 West
13. Arcadia Books
14. Spring Green General Store
15. Wilson Creek Pottery

These are just the beginning! A lot of attractions haven’t opened yet for the season, but once they do, I will be able to include prices, hours of operation, etc.

An important part of rallies is sharing meals together! A volunteer has offered to coordinate a taco bar Friday evening and I am thinking a pancake breakfast one morning. How about an Italian night potluck and a Wisconsin foods cook off? According to Wikipedia: “Known as

"America's Dairyland", Wisconsin is famous for its cheese as well as other dairy products, such as cheese curds and frozen custard. Other notable foods common to the region include bratwursts, beer and Old-Fashioned cocktails, butter burgers, fish fries and fish boils, cranberries, and booyah stew." That should be enough to get your creative, competitive juices flowing!

**This is my first rally to organize and I need LOTS of help! Who is good at planning? Who is crafty and would like to make table decorations or share a skill? Who is a pet lover and would like to coordinate a Pet Parade? Is there something you enjoyed at a rally and want to do again? I am open to all suggestions! Is there anyone who heats with wood in Wisconsin and would like to share some wood for the evening bonfires? Joe and I have the past 2 years, but we can't bring our UP wood into Wisconsin! Do you love to bake and want to provide baked goods for morning coffee?**

**We're going to have a harvest/fall decorating contest. I'd like to try having Happy Hour or two Hosts! You get to decide on an activity! Scavenger Hunt, Cribbage tournament, yard games, or what you come up with!**

**Rumor has it there is a golf outing being planned,,,**

**No matter what we come up with, it will be a fun time!**





## Spring Green Charities

Doing something to help others has always been important to Joe and I. We love that about Airstreamers, too! The two Spring Green charities during our fall rally are River Valley Housing Coalition, [rivervalleycommons.org](http://rivervalleycommons.org) and 4 Pete Sake, [4petesake.com](http://4petesake.com). I am inviting representatives from each organization to come speak at our Friday evening gathering to tell us about their charities.

## 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: 4 Pete Sake, and River Valley Commons Housing Coalition. 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](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net).

Kay Olsson



**There's going to be so many activities, we may not get to all of them but if you don't reserve your site by April 30, you may not get to join in the fun!**

## 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 ([cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@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 (do **not** reserve online). 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.

## *Treasurer Report*

### **WBCCI Region 7 Balance Sheet As of April 3, 2023**

	Apr 3, 23
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Waukesha State Bank	7,837.42
Total Checking/Savings	7,837.42
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	104.00
Total Other Current Assets	104.00
Total Current Assets	7,941.42
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,941.42</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	96.55
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,956.72
Net Income	-111.85
Total Equity	7,941.42
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>7,941.42</b>

**WBCCI Region 7  
Profit & Loss by Class  
July 1, 2022 through April 3, 2023**

10:35 AM  
04/03/23  
Accrual Basis

	All Region Officer Pizza Party	General	Int. Region 7 Breakfast	Int. Region 7 Lunch	Region 7 Rally 2022	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>						
Income						
International Lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	156.00	0.00	156.00
International Lunch Buffet						
Total International Lunch	0.00	0.00	0.00	156.00	0.00	156.00
International Pizza Party	540.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	540.00
R7 Rally Breakfast						
R7 Rally Breakfast Income	0.00	0.00	693.22	0.00	0.00	693.22
Total R7 Rally Breakfast	0.00	0.00	693.22	0.00	0.00	693.22
Silent Auction						
Silent Auction Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	993.00	993.00
Total Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	993.00	993.00
Total Income	540.00	0.00	693.22	156.00	993.00	2,382.22
<b>Expense</b>						
Operations						
Postage, Mailing Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.90	9.90
Printing and Copying	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.50	13.50
Supplies	0.00	79.04	0.00	0.00	203.76	286.80
Total Operations	0.00	79.04	0.00	0.00	223.16	312.20
Rally Expense	498.20	0.00	1,404.34	250.00	29.30	2,181.87
Total Expense	498.20	79.04	1,404.34	250.00	262.46	2,464.07
Net Ordinary Income	41.80	-79.04	-711.12	-94.00	730.51	-111.85
Net Income	41.80	-79.04	-711.12	-94.00	730.51	-111.85

## **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 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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## **Trailer Preparations for the first towing of Spring**

### **By Chris Olsson**

I thought I'd chat about the things we do every Spring to get Little Girl and truck ready for the camping/traveling season. Little Girl is our 1972 Sovereign Airstream. 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 ½ 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. Brake shoes have been ordered and delivered, waiting to be installed once the snow melts and it warms up enough to work outside. On a side note, we got 10 inches of heavy wet snow last night (It's April 1<sup>st</sup>). Tomorrow is supposed to be 50 degrees, so hopefully most of it will melt.

**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 are also checking the water pump and the system for leaks. We also make sure the water heater works, which needs to be checked when it's full of water and not empty.

**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. We have a clicker dial on our stove to light the burners.

**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 outer ones.

Check the breakaway 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 breakaway switch, defeating its purpose in life. If you cannot pull the plunger out, time for a new breakaway 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 the 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 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.

WBCCI REGION 7  
BOARD MEETING - APPROVED  
MAY 14, 2022

FLYING GOOSE CAMPGROUND, FAIRMONT, MN USA

The meeting was called to order by Region 7 President Jane Carmichael at 10:07AM. There were 23 Region 7 members in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Roll Call was completed by Recording Secretary Kay Olsson:

President Jane Carmichael: present

1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery: present

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chris Olsson: present

Recording Secretary Kay Olsson: present

Treasurer Chuck Zellermeier: absent

Corresponding Secretary Ed Klein: present

Minnesota Unit President Terry Pflighaar: present

North Dakota Peace Garden Unit President Monica Kubischta: absent

Wisc/UP Unit President Chuck Zellermeier: absent

A quorum was declared.

Reports:

Region 7 Membership Chair Linda Agre congratulated the MN Unit on the number of new members in the MN Unit. She explained the red stars that are given out after every 5 years of membership in the WBCCI, and where they are to be placed in relation to the BRN.

Region 7 President Jane Carmichael reported that Region 7 Recording Secretary position as been filled by the appointment of Kay Olsson.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery reported that Region 7 Corresponding Secretary opening 2022 – 2024 will be filled by the appointment of Joe Slattery by incoming Region 7 President Ginger Slattery .

Region 7 Rally sites for 2023: 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery reports that she's considering Spring Green, WI for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of August, 2023 as the site for the Region 7 Rally. The site for the 2024 Region 7 Rally is still under consideration.

Treasury Report : the Treasury Report from the March 17, 2022 Region 7 Newsletter was approved as published.

Caravan Chair Pete Yanke explained that he has passed on the execution of the Caravan to International Rally in July 2022 to Vernon Petersen since Pete is unable to go this year. The route planning is complete. Pete is available to assist with any caravan planning in the future.



Board open positions for Region 7 that still need to be appointed include Membership Chair, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP after July 31, 2022.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery reported that the Recording Secretary's minutes of the August 20, 2021 Executive Board Meeting as posted on the Region 7 website were approved.

No report available from the Webmaster Bob Manak.

New Business:

1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery: Region 7 Breakfast at the International Rally, 2022 is being organized by Ginger. Costs charged by caterer are \$18 per person. Ginger made a motion that Region 7 will not pay more than \$650 to help cover the cost of the Region 7 breakfast in Fryeburg, ME. The motion was seconded by Cordell Woods. Discussion included possible numbers attending which are unknown at this time. Tickets will be \$25/2, or \$12.50/1. Ticket sales will stop when the \$650 maximum Region 7 subsidy is reached. The motion was passed by all members attending.

Announcements:

Region 7 Social Hour at the International will be hosted by LizAnn Skelton and Anita Olson at a campsite and date to be determined.

Installation of 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ginger Slattery and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chris Olsson will be after supper this evening (May 14, 2022) by Linda Agre and Pete Yanke followed by cake and ice cream courtesy of Region 7.

There will be a Zoom meeting May 17, 2022 at 10:30AM with a panel discussion of the 2 proposed amendments to the Constitution.

The meeting was adjourned by President Jane Carmichael at 10:39AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Kay Olsson, Recording Secretary

Approved on Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at the Region 7 Executive Committee Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Kay Olsson, Recording Secretary

## International Board of Trustees News

**The quarterly IBT was held via Zoom on February 23. Much of our time is taken up with the reorganization of IBT the membership voted on last year.**

**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 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 [virginiabslattery@gmail.com](mailto:virginiabslattery@gmail.com) or text me at 906-250-6931. Please tell me who you are, club, BRN!

Other actions by the Board were:

President McHenry reported Joanne Miller, Parliamentarian, was stepping down after many years of service. It was recommended to provide continuity that a new Parliamentarian be brought on to cross-train with Mrs. Miller. One strong candidate was interviewed by several members with positive comments. This candidate will be introduced at the May IBT.

The IT Committee is investigating messaging apps for events where attendees wish to converse, share photos, view event updates, etc. Not looking at Facebook or

Instagram. Grupio still recommended for large events with venues, presentations, etc.

Secretary Terri Warren reported Approvals for Logo for Pensacola Airstream Club; Flags for Music City Airstream Club and Kentucky Airstream Club; new name for the Illinois Lincolnland Airstream Club.

Lori Plummer, Corporate Manager reported there are 8,617 memberships as of 02/15/2023. A new membership statistic tracking report is being developed.

Members at large have been placed into “Regions”. This will make it easier for region representatives to invite Members at large to events.

The Historical Committee has been issued a license for DropBox space.

Part 1 of the Website Navigation Webinar had 288 attendees. Participants had lots of great questions.

Club emails are being moved from airstreamclub.net to airstreamclub.org emails. Emails outside of standard email will cost \$72/year per email.

#### Rallies:

2023 Rock Springs: As of 02/14/23, 1258 registrations with standby list of 248. Boondockers total 74 with 26 additional sites still available. All committee chairs have been notified of park dates.

2024 Oct 6-11 Sedalia, MO The committee is working on a theme logo.

2025 York, PA Rally committee is visiting the week of February 27 to work out details.

2026 Still working on a location

Membership survey results are presented and can be found in detail in the meeting book for this meeting pages 23-259. In the future, long items will be placed in the BoardEffect library for viewing.

Treasurer Matt Hackney reported that total income is \$1,460,296 with total expenses of \$1,276,002.

Membership dues are up slightly over forecast at \$534,025 due to a higher renewal rate than forecast.

General club expenses are about 7% above forecast at \$879,469. Blue Beret/Directory production is forecast to finish the year at 123% of forecast.

The May IBT is in person at the Jackson Center facility in Ohio. We will be focusing on strategic planning for the club. Parts will be broadcast via Zoom if members are interested in being in the know! The candidates for the Executive Council will be presented in time for the June election.

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