



IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

May 12, 2023
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IVAN CURTIS

Word was received from Nancy Helle that Ivan Curtis, a previous member of the Iowa Club, passed away on the morning of Wednesday, March 28th. He had been in poor health for the past several weeks. Ivan and his wife, Jo, lived in the rural area near Mystic, IA. Ivan and Cheryl Burrows were brother and sister. Condolences go out to Jo and the family. Ivan had expressed a desire to be cremated, so there were no services.



PREZ SEZ Well, the Region 8 Rally is over and it is time to begin our Iowa Airstream Club rally season. Those of you who didn't make it to the region rally missed a wonderful time. I trust the five rallies upcoming will be of interest to all of you and that we will see a lot of our members gathering for fun and fellowship. Our rally hosts have put in a lot of time and effort in preparation for our rallies and it is only right that we attend to make their efforts worthwhile. In particular, I hope some of our members who we have never seen and who have not attended a rally will join us. Names mean something, but faces are more important. Those Airstreams have wheels for a purpose – so, use them and attend a rally.

Chuck

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR UPCOMING RALLIES

This is another reminder that it isn't too late to get your reservations made for our June Rally at Wilder Park in Allison, our August Rally at Terrace Campground at Westlake County Park in Davenport and our September Rally at the Municipal Campground in Independence. If you have problems making an on-line reservation for Allison, try phoning the City Clerks Office at 319-267-2245. Reservations for Davenport must be made on line, while those at Independence are to be made by phoning the campground host at 319-440-0472. We hope to see a good turnout at all three rallies. Remember, there is a free concert by the Glen Miller Orchestra on the evening of Sunday, June 11th at Allison.

MAY 15 DEADLINE FOR VOTES ON CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

All of the Iowa Airstream Club members should have received information and copies of the proposed updated Constitution and Bylaws, either via email or hard copy for those few who require them. You can get your vote back to our Secretary, Doris Jean Cabalka, by either emailing your vote or phoning her at 480-216-8096. Your vote needs to have been received by May 15th, unless you are coming to the May Rally at Winterset, at which time you can vote in person. Remember, husbands and wives and partners each get a vote. Hopefully this go-round will be acceptable to the International Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

DEALER SPOTLIGHT

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BIRTHDAYS MAY

1 - Paul Ryan
9 - Karen Kvidera
17 - Norm Van Klompenberg
20 - Cheryl Burrows

ANNIVERSARIES MAY

(none)

NOTE FROM NANCY HELLE ABOUT THE VINTON LUNCHEON

The following information was received from Hostess Nancy Helle concerning the April Luncheon in Vinton. A big **THANK YOU** goes to Nancy for the information. The photograph was provided by Norm Van Klompenberg to whom also goes a big **THANK YOU**.

"There were twenty-four people attending the April Luncheon held at the Pizza Ranch in Vinton on April 15th. Those attending were Scott and Kathy Allen, Norm and Linda Beu, David Chapman and Margaret Jespersen, Mike Donahue, John and Carol Heckman, Chuck and Nancy Helle, Tom and Shirley Herron, Scott and Jodi Jensen, Mike and Linda Rickert, Bill and Connie Smith, Arden Taube, Norm and Pat Van Klompenburg, Donella Watkinson and Deb Blaha. Scott and Kathy Allen gave a summary of their Cajun Caravan, which they took in March. The benefits of going on caravans were discussed.

Tom Herron reminded us of the dates for the May Rally in Winterset. The rally will be the third weekend instead of the normal second, due to Mother's Day falling on that second weekend. The group signed a card to be sent to Deb Ford while she is recovering from her back surgery.

The group was told about a phone call received from Gary Burrows. He informed us that former member Ivan Curtis had passed away. He was the brother of Cheryl Burrows. Gary also reported having difficulties getting supplies to repair the damage to their Florida home resulting from the hurricane that occurred there last year.

Good food and good conversation were had by all."



2023 REGION 8 RALLY

Three Iowa Airstream Club couples, along with 60 additional Airstreams, attended the 2023 Region 8 Rally at Sycamore Springs Whitetail Ranch, about 5 miles NE of Sabetha, KS and about 60 miles west of Saint Joseph, MO. They were Tom and Shirley Herron, John and Carol Heckman and Chuck and Doris Jean Cabalka. The activities started off with a semi-potluck supper on Wednesday evening, April 26th. Region 8 provided the pulled pork and buns, while attending members brought covered dishes. Last names ending in A thru L brought salads or a side dish, while those beginning with M thru Z brought desserts or a fruit dish. This made for a great variety of food from which to choose. This was reversed for the Thursday evening meal, with Region 8 providing fried chicken.

The rally site, Sycamore Springs Whitetail Ranch, was a unique one, having a history that goes back to the early 1800's, and earlier, when Indians congregated at the site. The location got it's present name due to the mineral springs and the fact that the current owners raise whitetail deer on the property. Indian tribes frequented the location for many, many years. There are two mineral springs that were thought to have healing powers. Shortly after the end of the Civil War, some enterprising gentlemen thought they could make money by building a hotel and hospital at the site and charging people to come to experience the healing waters. The 3-month stay was probably pretty expensive, even at that time. According to the present owners (a middle-aged couple and their children) the waters are heavily loaded with magnesium sulfate (milk of magnesia), so the clients probably did experience some sort of change in their life. By 1886, Sycamore Springs was widely known as an outstanding health resort in the Midwest. A fire in 1916 destroyed all the buildings. The present hotel was built in the early 1920's. Besides the hotel and hospital, Sycamore Springs once had a post office, general store, barber shop and pop bottling plant. Over the years, and with several owners, things were let run down and were finally semi-abandoned. Today, thanks to the Grimm family and their restoration efforts, it is a group gathering site, with 2 campgrounds, a 10-bedroom hotel that can handle 30 people, a house for 10 guests, a huge roller skating rink and several other facilities. In addition to farming, the present owners are doing a lot to bring

the old resort back to life. You can find more about the place at sycamorewhitetails@gmail.com.



Our rally meetings and meals were in the Red Barn, although all the buildings except the hotel and house, were open for rally attendee usage and viewing. Soft vanilla ice cream cones were available for free at all times - just help yourself. Breakfasts consisted of orange juice, raised donuts and coffee, while there were the two noted semi-potluck suppers, as well as one catered supper on Saturday evening. All lunches and Friday's supper were on your own. There were not a lot of seminars, with contests, such as miniature golf and pickle ball tournaments (along with two tours) making up the rally activities.

The only seminars conducted dealt with CB radios and learning to back your trailer for beginners.

There were two off-site tours. One visited Grimm's Gardens; a plant and tree nursery. The main attraction at this stop was a wagon ride to see a 400-year old burr oak tree. The nursery owner, who conducted the tour, was quite proud of the tree and explained that it had lived much longer than most burr oaks were expected to survive. While at the Gardens, we also got to see the garden's owner operate a portable sawmill



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A tree trunk being cut into boards.



One "Sister" with an alpaca.

that he had recently purchased. The other tour, to the Sisters Farm, was quite unusual. The brother and sister-in-law of the couple that own Sycamore Springs Resort (our rally site) have five daughters ranging in age from 8 to 25, all of whom want to remain in farming. As a result, they named the farm the Sisters Farm, although the official name is the GS&L



A few of the goat herd.

Farm LLC. The girls look after the animals, while their father takes care of the field work and their mother looks after the homemaking. Among the numerous kinds of animals they raise are a herd of about 100 goats. They use the goat milk to make goat soap; a real soap that can be used for cleansing. Additional animals we saw were an alpaca, Scottish Highlands cow, rabbits, a kennel where they raise and sell dogs and puppies, pigs and beef cattle. It seemed as if the only animal they didn't have was an elephant. In expressing that to one of the sisters, she said "Just give us time!"

At one of the group sessions at the rally, it was announced that the 2024 Region 8 Rally will be at the ABC Campground in Branson, MO on April 24-28, with discount tickets to some of the Branson shows. The 2024 International Rally will be in Sedalia, MO in October. Also, Bill Thomas was in attendance with his son-in-law (now managing the business), as well as a crew of three service personnel and their sales manager. Bill retired from active involvement in the business several years ago. The service personnel performed minor repairs on Airstreams at the rally, at no cost except for parts, which was greatly appreciated by those needing help. This is the first time that Bill and his crew have attended a region rally in several years.

The last evening of the rally, following the catered supper, Region 8 President Greg Vadner conducted an auction of items donated by members. Proceeds from the auction went to the Common Cents program. With Greg's antics, it was an hilarious session and raised several hundred dollars for the program. The usual dozens of hats, blankets, and stuffed animals were donated to a children's closet in Sabetha.

The 400 Year-Old Burr Oak Tree

A "pass-the-hat" effort yielded enough donated money to purchase 3 bricks (at \$250 each) in the name of Region 8 for the memorial area planned for the Resort. Following the closing of the rally on Saturday evening, Mike Sisk's band, Nearly Normal, played for the attendees dancing and listening enjoyment.

Sunday morning saw the usual rolls, juice and coffee breakfast before rally attendees headed back to their respective homes. It was a great rally, with dry (but very windy) and cool weather. The facilities were more than adequate, the tours were interesting and our owner hosts were just great. If any of our Iowa Club members are passing through NE Kansas and are looking for a spot to overnight, their campground is ready and waiting. Signs on Hwy. 75 north of Sabetha, and at all intersections, lead you to Sycamore Springs.