



Minnesota Airstream Club

Silver Times

May 2023



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b2schultz@comcast.net

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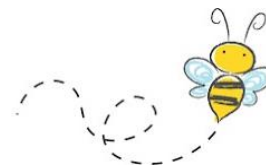
Kathy Yanke #7528

Pete Yanke #7528

Chuck Dodd #5153

Cordell Woods #5148

Brenda's Buzz



Hi Everybody!

Finally, we were able to gather with our Airstreams in Lanesboro. Lanesboro is an idyllic small town with kind, responsive people, a gorgeous setting with beautiful bike paths winding through the limestone bluffs along the Root River and nature. The town has a great pastry shop, breweries, unique shops and fun surrounding communities.

Our visit to the International Owl Center was an unexpected experience. Our owl expert was very passionate about the owls and protecting them. She talked about their habitat and how we can help to protect them in that habitat. She talked about what is being done for owls at this center in Houston, Minnesota for injured owls that cannot return to the wild. What they are doing is truly remarkable. I look forward to seeing the new building in the future.

The Distillery tour and tasting was great. Our timing was perfect for the outing, as the rain came and we were not stuck in our Airstreams or at an outdoor venue. Christian, the founder, farmer and head distiller organically farms the land as his father did before him. He plants, tends, mills and distills all within 20 miles of the distillery.

Crockpot oatmeal was a hit with all the fixings. I have included the recipe below. I believe we would all recommend the Branding Iron Restaurant where we had dinner on Saturday night.

Bart and I had a wonderful time at this rally. As I reflected on what made it so fun it was the people. The Minnesota Club is kind and generous. We raised \$376 for the City of Lanesboro to be used for park improvements. Here's the response I received from Darla after she received our donation:

Hello- Thank you for the wonderful card and donation to our park! We are happy to hear you enjoyed your stay in Lanesboro!

Darla

Darla Taylor
City of Lanesboro Deputy Clerk
507-467-3722

dtaylor@lanesboro-mn.gov

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When I saw the space at the park, I was nervous about how we would all fit in Sylvan Park. It was a tight fit but you all stepped up and made it work! Harry Ramler, you are the Campfire King! We are all grateful for your skills and the added bonus of the campfire popcorn!

Crockpot Oatmeal

1 Cup steel Cut Oats

4 Cups water (3.5 for thicker)

¼ tsp salt

Put in Crockpot for 8 hours

Use anything you want for toppings. Ice cream seems to be a hit!

I want to give a shout out for the Future Streamers Intra Club. They now have 75 members and 20 rigs are coming to the international rally. Three of those rigs are grandparents camping with grandkids! Their group will be parking together at the International Rally and have many activities planned with the kiddos. Misti and Mark Roach are part of the MN club, and we are really proud of the work they have done to encourage and find ways for families with younger children to join in the Airstream family! The photo of their family is compliments of the Minnesota Airstream Park. Misti's bio is also included.



Misti, Mark and their two boys: Will (10) & Jackson (8), have been traveling full-time for 2 years in their 2020 30FC Bunk. Their 30FC has followed them to 24 states so far, with another 3-5 additional states planned in 2023 including the International Rally.

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Misti and Mark both grew up camping in tents and other trailers, but always loved the iconic Airstreams. They purchased their first: 1972 International Sovereign in 2004, their second: a 1995 25 ft Excella, and in 2019 felt it was important to transition to the two-bedroom floor plan offered by the 30 ft Flying Cloud bunk.

Mark, Misti and The Boys spent the first 17 years of Airstream ownership occasionally renting in the Minnesota Airstream Park. In May 2021, they joined as members of this great Airstream Family and love spending a portion of their summer enjoying everything that the park has to offer! The Boys enjoy the pool, love to play golf, but most importantly they love talking to all the members of the park that have truly become an extended family. On more than one occasion, they've even invited adult members of the park over for a "happy hour" (Capri Sun's and Gatorade).

As a part of being full-time, Misti and Mark founded the Future Streamers Intra Club to connect with other families in Airstreams. The Future Streamers Intra Club's vision is to bring together other Airstreamers traveling with young travelers to create experiences and lasting memories that will continue the excitement of owning and traveling in an Airstream for generations to come. You can find Misti, Mark and the Boys @StreamingOurDream. We love meeting our fellow Airstreams on the road.

I will be sending out an agenda for the Installation rally in September soon. (Hint: Start looking for your Lederhosen!)

Till We Meet Again, Be Safe,

Brenda

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: For Pete's Sake, and River Valley Commons. 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.

Kay Olsson

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Welcome New MN Airstream Club Members

Keith & Cheri Pullman #02228 – Excelsior, MN

David & Teresa Green #31347 – Hillpoint, WI (a)

Delonna Darsow & Kathleen Johnson #21917 – Saint Paul, MN

Pamela & Patrick Johns # 03113 – Cannon Falls, MN

Pam & Robert Hansen #05354 – East Bethel, MN

Kathryn & Daniel Rominski #02701 – Key Largo, FL (a)

Greg & Jill Gowan #02843 – Chaska, MN

Kyle & Julie Weispfenning #02976 – Turtle Lake, WI

Sue Benson-Davies & Mike Davies #20417 – Whitewood, SD (a)

Cindy & Paul Western #02408 – Minneapolis, MN

(a) denotes an Affiliate Member

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them!

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2022 - 2023 MN Airstream Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Caravan to International	Various See page 7.	Start June 17 th Arrive on Friday, June 23 rd	Pete Yanke
International Rally	Rock Springs Wyoming	June 24 - 30, 2023	
Tag-a-long Caravan From International	Various See page 8.	Start June 30 th	Skip & Jan Chell
Duluth Rally	Indian Point Campground Link to Registration and Rally Schedule: https://airstreamclub.org/duluth-rally	July 27 - 30, 2023	Richard Narum
Northfield Rally	Northfield, MN Link to Registration and Rally Information: https://airstreamclub.org/mn-northfield-rally	Aug TBD	Pamela Rawn
Fall Installation Rally	MN Airstream Park Clear Lake, MN Registration for campsites is open. See page 9. Watch for Rally Registration soon.	Sept 7 - 10, 2023	Brenda Schultz

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2022 - 2023 MN Airstream Club Schedule (cont)

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Region 7 Rally	Wisconsin Riverside Resort Spring Green, WI	Sept 15 - 21, 2023	Ginger Slattery Region 7 President
	Link to online information: https://airstreamclub.org/region-7-spring-green-rally-2023 Call the resort to reserve a spot. Phone number is 608-588-2826.		

Looking forward: 2024 Region 7 Rally is scheduled for September 12 - 19 in Spearfish, SD at Elkhorn Ridge Resort in the Black Hills area. See page 34 for more information.

2024 International Rally is scheduled for October 6-11 in Sedalia, MO.

2025 International Rally is scheduled for August 23-28 in York, PA

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Caravan to International

We have a caravan. It will be slow moving covering only a couple of hundred miles a day. There will be 2 nights spent in the Southern part of the Black Hills near Hot Springs, SD. This will allow a little down time and some possible touristy things. This is a hop on/ hop off caravan. You will be making your own reservations and can leave or join at any point in the trip.

I will provide the campground info for my planned stops. If you would like the details, please send me your contact info (pyanke@aol.com). I would like your name, phone, BRN, and email. If you have already sent the info no need to resend.

As parking is done in arrival order, I will try to scope out meeting area for the caravan and those that care to park together if not with the caravan. If you have scheduled a parking date other than the 23rd, adjustments can be made thru HQ.

Travel Safe

Pete and Kathy Yanke

7528

pyanke@aol.com

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Tag-a-Long Caravan from International

Skip & Jan Chell

Jan and I are planning our route back to Minnesota from the Wyoming Rally. We're looking to travel up through Idaho, then just over into Washington, then back through Montana and North Dakota to fill in our map. Anyone else want to travel along?



Editor's note: The map is kind of fuzzy, but I think you'll get the idea of where they are going.

If interested or if you want more information, please contact Skip & Jan Chell at: mnychells@icloud.com

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Fall Installation Rally

The Fall Rally will be held at the Minnesota Airstream Park in Clear Lake, MN. Use the information below to reserve a campsite if you are not a member of the park. Please note that the Group Code is mnwbcc123, and not mnwbcci23 (it's a 1 and not an i).

The Minnesota Airstream Park online rental reservations system is now live. All available sites for the Fall Installation rally have been set aside in a "group hold" that expires June 1, 2023, only accessible with the code provided below. There are currently 16 sites throughout the Park for rent that weekend, with an option to expand at a later point, if needed. Any rental sites still available after June 1, 2023 will be released to the general public.

To book a site using the Group Hold, go to:

<https://app.fireflyreservations.com/reserve/property/MinnesotaAirstreamPark>

Fill out the search fields in the reservation portal and use the Group Code: mnwbcc123

Any campsite reservation specific questions should be directed to reservations@airstreampark.com

If all of the campsites are full, you will automatically be put on a waitlist by the Airstream Park. As of the date of this newsletter, there is 1 campsite still available.

Rally Registration, where you pay the rally fees and register to attend the rally, will be forthcoming. The first thing to do is reserve a campsite if you want to attend.

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May Newsletter

This and That in Region 7

Ginger Slattery, President

Hello, Region 7! So much going on in the next 8 weeks! So, let's get to it!

Hot off the presses from Jackson Center are the dates for the 68th WBCCI International Rally! Mark your calendars for **August 23-28, 2025** at the York Expo Center in York, PA!

The reorganizing of the Executive Committee, now known as the Executive Council, and the IBT continues. The May issue of the Blue Beret has all the Statements of Candidacy from all 30 members running for the 9 positions on the Executive Council! 30 members running! I was astounded at the number of members wanting to volunteer at this level! Please take the time to read them and get the background on this diverse group of candidates! You can also see short videos of a number of the candidates on the YouTube channel. All I had to type in was Airstream Club International and the channel popped up! You can watch one video after another and it's a great way to get a more personal feel for the candidates!

June 1st email ballots will be sent to all members who have email addresses. Voting will be conducted June 1-June 15. If you wish to receive a paper ballot, contact Jackson Center at 937-596-5211 BEFORE June 1st. All paper ballots must be postmarked by June 15! Please vote! The future of the club depends on all our participation! If you have any questions, please contact me! I will be happy to answer any questions!

The 66th International Rally in Rock Springs, WY is fast approaching! Please sign up for the Region Lunch Buffet if you haven't already! The buffet is an all-you-can-eat Mexican Buffet. That information will be attached again. We do have to give the restaurant a number June 1. I didn't organize breakfast this year based on attendees comments that breakfast was too early! Thanks!

Our Region Meet and Greet will be Tuesday, June 27 from 4-6 pm at the Wataha Park Pavilion. Anita Olson and Lizann Skelton, will be our gracious hostesses again this year. This is a large pavilion with bathrooms, water, ample parking and a playground close by. At least our fun won't end if the skies open up and shower us again! It's always fun to get together with our long-distance friends and meet new friends!

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Planning for our Region 7 “Spring Into Fall” Rally September 15-21 in Spring Green, WI continues! Please call Wisconsin Riverside Resort at 608-588-2826 to reserve your campsite! After May 15, our hold will be lifted, so you may not be near everyone, but there should still be sites available. There is so much to see and do in the area including House on the Rock, Cave of the Mount, & Taliesin East. There is hiking, biking, & golfing and much more! We are also having a silent auction for the benefit of 2 local charities. Kay Olsson is organizing the auction if you have any questions or would like to donate items. She can be reached at 612-751-9778 or at cwolsson@comcast.net. The registration form for the rally is a [JotForm Registration](https://form.jotform.com/231076677620155). The link is: <https://form.jotform.com/231076677620155>. I need lots of help!

Speaking of help! **Our Region needs your help!** We are looking for a 2nd VP, a Paliamentarian, and after many years of club service, Linda Agre, our Region Membership Chair, is stepping down. She has done so much for our Region and I thank her for all her years of service! So, if you’re a people person and would like to help our Region, let me know! Would love to work with you! We have an awesome team but need more help!

I am always happy to receive your comments, suggestions, questions and advice!

See you down the road!

Ginger

R7 President

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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 Zellermyer
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 to Chuck with check

Rock Springs Mexican Buffet Registration

BRN: _____ **Name:** _____

Attending: _____ **Amt pd (\$26.00 each):** _____

(make check payable to WBCCI Region 7)

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R7 2023 Revised RALLY CALENDAR

June 1-4 NDPG “Spring Shake Out Winter Rally” @ Hazen, ND @ Lewis & Clark RV Park
Hosts: Larry & Cathy Reubel

June 17-23 Caravan to International
Hosts: Pete and Kathy Yanke

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 17-20 Wisc-UP Monroe County Cheese Rally
Hosts: Linda & Chuck Meinholz

Aug 13-13 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” Region 7 Rally @ Wisconsin Riverside Resort, Spring Green, WI.
Host: Ginger Slattery

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

October 6-11 67th International Rally in Sedalia, MO

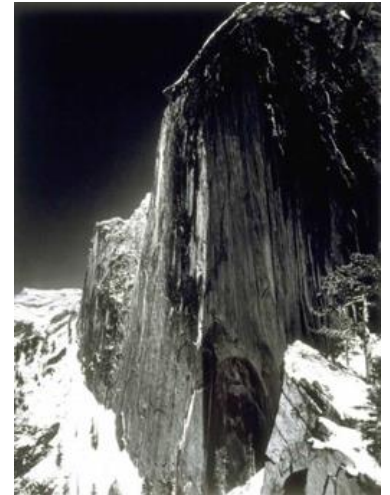
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Fryeburg

There and back again

Traveling back from the Airstream International this past year from Fryeburg, Maine, was, at least for me, a most satisfying road trip. The trip to the International was certainly incredible! We caravanned out from Minnesota, with excitement mounting at every stop. The termination of every day is a happy respite from a day driving. After all, we were on a time schedule, with scheduled stops every 250 miles, more or less. And, of course, the International itself was an amazing event. A bit hot for that part of the country, but we had a wonderful time...if I had a nickel for every time a local in Fryeburg declared that "it's never this hot in Maine," I could probably start a commercial enterprise of one kind or another. However, it was the travel back to Minnesota that made it all worthwhile.

Those who know me well also know that I spent a good amount of time living in the Northeast, which I consider the most beautiful part of our Nation. The Northeast? Really? Well, it's all subjective. That opinion belongs to me. Some will agree, some will hold their nose to my proclamation. I'll throw out a few words in simple explanation. The Rocky Mountains are huge and majestic, with towering peaks reaching well above the tree line, made famous through the lens of none other than Ansel Adams; the most famous of which is the face of Half Dome, in Yosemite Valley, California. The entire Rocky Mountain Range, from north to south, captures a beauty that can only be appreciated in person.



Or perhaps the desert in our American Southwest! Such beauty; especially during the Spring flower bloom. When Carry and I made our six-month western trip during the 2015 to '16 winter months, we witnessed an "explosion" of hummingbirds that I never understood existed in the desert. I didn't know! Another example of "you just gotta see it to believe it." And the Spring wildflowers! Gorgeous beyond belief. Or the huge saguaro cactus! How special are those living specimens?

Or how about tropical Florida! Steamy and hot in the summer, and very livable during the winter. The running joke is that if there's anyplace on the planet that has more mosquitoes than Minnesota, it certainly must be Florida. It's a fun place to stay in the winter, but rather crowded. When Carry and I were full time in our Airstream for 6 plus years,



we spent 3 winters in Florida. Probably the most memorable side trip we made was to Key West; the southern most point of the entire United States, with so much to see and do. From there we go to St. Augustine, the oldest city in the entire United States. My favorite lasting experience from the oldest city being the pirate museum. And we can't forget the pounding waves of the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf side is nice, but the Atlantic has some sort of unique, special quality that only a huge ocean could possibly possess. Of course, let us not forget Walt Disney and Mickey Mouse! Pictured on the right is none other than something called the "Airstream Ranch," which used to be located on Interstate 5 just outside of Tampa. Unfortunately, it's no longer there. The



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city demanded that it be removed for further development. I was there! And you really had to want to get there to witness the spectacle. We had to walk through some serious mud from a side road to reach this monument. One theory says it was an alien landing site. Not me. There are some strange people in Florida.



So, why should the Northeast be my favorite location within our beautiful, diverse Nation? Part of my belief is very personal, and where I certainly have no problem sharing those personal beliefs, I can't ramble on too long, so let's get to the heart of the affair. I would use this analogy; if the Northeast were a '50s pinup girl, it would be Betty Page. The Rocky Mountains command a certain majesty, but rather dull and plain to the naked eye. By contrast, most of the summits of the Northeast are below the tree line, which means they stay green during the summer, and a beautiful mixture of golds and reds during autumn. Rolling hills and small towns dot the landscape, where tradition and old town squares remind us of a time long gone. And the reason for this is twofold. The rolling landscape is steep and doesn't allow for massive re-development of old buildings. And there is a certain Yankee sensibility that says that things are "fine, just the way they are." Anyone who has spent anytime up in the Northeast knows exactly what I'm talking about.



But there's another, far more important reason for my love of this region. The history and the founding of our Nation. If you want to know where the roots of our Nation are found, go to Boston, and span out from there. On our way home from last year's Rally in Fryeburg, we took our time, with no particular schedule, and stopped wherever we pleased and spent valuable time. One such place was the old Air Force Base in Plattsburgh, New York, on the shores of Lake Champlain. I spent 3 years of my life on that base before I was sent overseas. The buildings all go back to the 19th Century and are on the National Historic register. They were once Officers Barracks, but have been turned into fancy townhomes, and one even a brewery. And the brewery is a Harvest Host. Seriously, check it out. It's great! Good food, and beer. Who can resist. And I spent a very special time walking the old cemetery. These are people lost during war, dating as far back as the War of 1812, and the famous Battle of Plattsburgh, on Lake Champlain. I walked this cemetery with careful contemplation, just like I use to, fifty years ago as a very young man. But I found something that I can't believe I missed so many years ago. An unknown soldier from the Revolutionary War.



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Who was this person? Obviously, we don't know. But we could write stories and allow our imagination to run wild. Was he killed in the area? Very likely, would be my guess. Where was his home? No one knows. My guess, if we knew who he was, he probably would have been sent home for burial. He was probably a poor farmer, as were most soldiers who fought in the war. But possibly also a laborer of one kind or another. And very likely rather young, most being about 20 years of age. It's very unlikely that he was an officer, because most officers of the day were mostly educated and wealthier, and less likely to be an unknown. As far as I know, there were no major land battles near Plattsburgh during the Revolution, with most action taking place on Lake Champlain against opposing Navies. But, there could have been a small skirmish along the shores of the big lake. Many such small battles never made our history books. Lake Champlain was used to move troops and supplies up and down the lake from Montreal. Is it possible that a small boat of British Regulars came ashore in the area and were opposed by Plattsburgh locals? We will never know. Our unknown will remain forever lost to history. May he rest in Peace!

VR Petersen

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Maple Syrup

Terry and I processed Maple Syrup this spring. Here is our story.

Terry and I live on over 11 acres north of Princeton. Terry has wanted to process Maple Syrup for years, so this was our first offering. Our neighbor did as well, so we went in on it together.

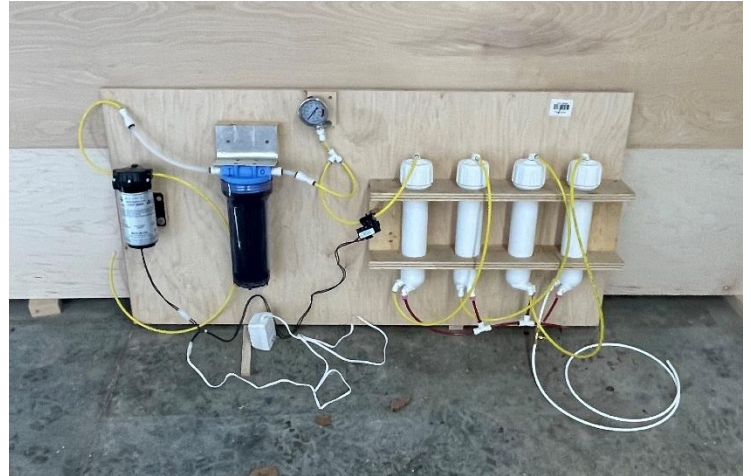
We started tapping in late March and ran the taps for about 10 days. It started out slow, but once it started flowing it came abundantly.



The snow was very deep, so it made getting the syrup out of the woods very difficult. ATV's and other equipment just got stuck, so we had to pull a sled. Those are two-gallon buckets that are full. Eight x two = 16 gallons. 16 gallons x 7 lbs. per gallons = 112 lbs through heavy snow got tiring. We had to do this at the peak once a day. It takes about 40 gallons to get one gallon of syrup. The syrup comes out as crystal clear water, and it has a light sweetness to it.

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From there it went into a machine we built that removes 50% of the water. It is called a reverse osmosis machine (to the right) this is a big-time saver as it takes hours and hours to boil off the water...and then it comes inside where it takes more time to boil it down.



The top pan on the stove (to the left) is a warmer pan, once we get the water boiling, we want to keep it there and the way we do this is keep four gallons simmering above the main eight gallon pan and allow it to trickle in real slow.

In the end we harvested over 160 gallons of syrup and ended up with about three gallons of syrup. The syrup is very creamy and of course is wonderful.

Steve and Terry



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Spring Rally Pictures

Below and on the following pages are pictures from the Spring Rally in Lanesboro, MN.



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Bart & Brenda Schultz



Cordell Woods & Janice Collins

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Sylvan Campground



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Steve Pfliegaar showing that we had a bit of rain. Standing in the fire pit outside our trailer (Chris & Kay Olsson). It never completely dried out while we were there.

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Riverview Campground



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Good Times!



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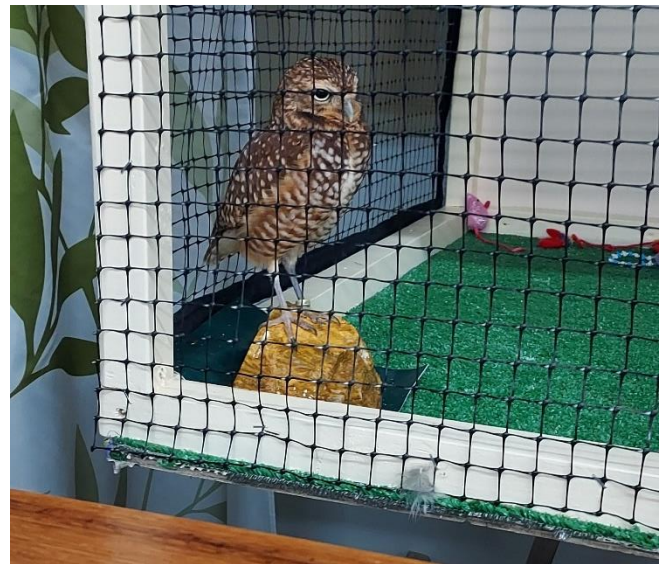
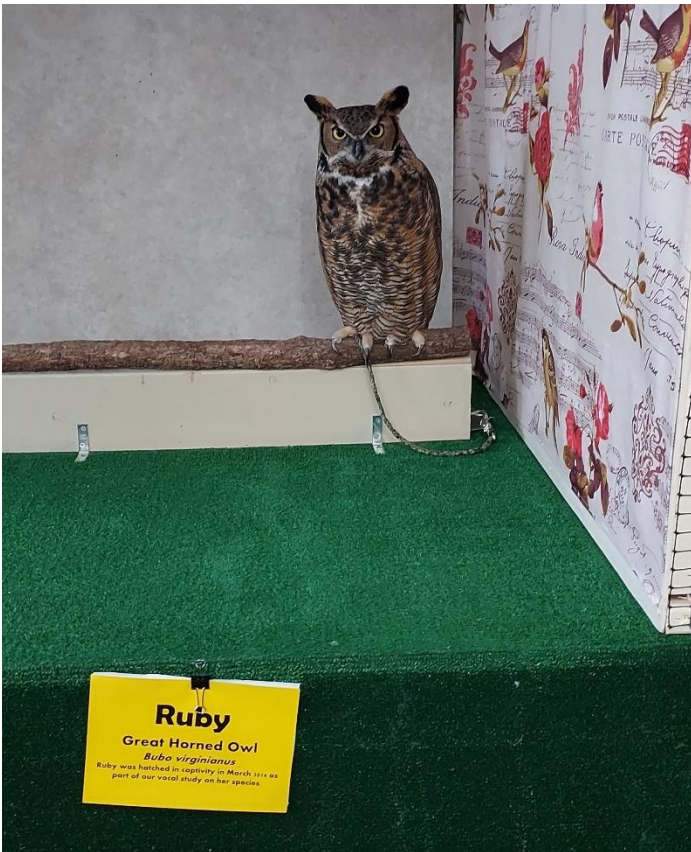


Harry Ramler - in charge of fire and popcorn! 😊

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Owl Center



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Rock Filter Distillery



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Pics from dinner at Branding Iron Restaurant



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I saw the Navy showcased
someplace in town,
but didn't think to
get a pic...



Silver Times

+Bird Friend
By Shelli Stanger Nelson
BRN 4062

Have you ever thought you could talk to the animals like Dr. Doolittle? Well, you can. And I have. Science now provides evidence of just such communication. Curious? Read on. If not, stop here!

We've made ourselves a lonely place. At once quiet and chaotic, overstimulated and yet often completely desolate. We fill our thoughts, homes, even the space around us and thus, our nervous systems with noise. Noise that ends up stifling real sounds. Sounds that produce not only peaceful feelings but honest to goodness healing. Where might we find these sounds? Hint: not from the TV or even through our listening devices. Swallow up the sounds of birds (and all of nature) for a true mood lift.

Listening became more important after losing my physical eyesight when I was 23 years of age secondary to diabetes. Never missing a teaching moment, I'll take this opportunity to educate sighted people about "other senses". First, stop questioning people who are blind about "other senses increasing"! We've been asked this same question about, oh, 50,000 times before. And secondly, no, other senses do not become more acute. They become more evident. Rather than seeing what's going on in the street outside my window as I write this I'm listening to the sounds. The sounds are easier for me to focus on because my attention isn't overtaken by what I'm seeing. Sure, because my vision isn't taking my concentration I can hear more details in sounds. But sighted people can also hear these same nuances just by closing their eyes. Or even merely deciding on purpose to target the sound rather than the vision. By doing this anyone will detect subtleties through their hearing.

Listening to birdsong involves much more than casually noticing it in the background. If we sit with the intention to understand it's musical language, in all of it's variations, we cause neurological changes in our brains. Changes that enhance memory, concentration and focus. In fact, studies show that people with brain injury or other degenerative brain processes see improved cognition when exposed to a steady dose of birdsong. Remarkable, right? This free therapy is accessible to anyone who decides to give it a whirl. Depression and symptoms of isolation and loneliness can lessen when we turn off the noise and let in the melodic sounds of birds.

"When we understand the meanings of a sound made by a bird, nerves in two different brains touch and signal to one another. The link between nerve cells is made from vibrating air, a connection as real and strong as the chemical links between nerves of a single brain in a single species. Birdsong then, is a sonic neurotransmitter that leaps between species."⁽¹⁾ What results is a new language forged by the listening of the human and the speaking of the bird. This inter-species communication can be restorative as well as informative.

Once we have conditioned the self to recognize this communication, we can respond to the invitation from the birds around our homes. They are inviting us to pause, to feel the greater world by listening, not by touching. They are inviting us to recognize the joy of life through their singing. They are inviting us to notice something larger and more constant than what lies in the limits of human desires or human troubles. After disasters, birds always sing, reminding us that hope endures.

If we wish to, we can interpret the bird's song and all of its idiosyncrasies. When we become attuned to the messages of birds, we then can step deeper into connection with all species and living things: the moaning of the bark of a tree, the fifty-plus different calls of a crow, the singing of the flowers (I've listened to a video in which a group of flowers literally emits the sound of music), the whistling of dew and the music of falling snow. A leaf tells a story far beyond that which our eyes can see. The story is told through communication that takes place through hearing but also through the heart and soul. We won't easily hear this story with our eyes fixed on the obvious but instead, by plunging into the abundance found only through concentrated focus. Eyes closed we are encouraged, or rather forced, to utilize senses beyond the restriction that eclipses our truly significant ways we hear. We must, however, buy into the idea that listening with focus is beneficial. That sitting in the quiet, with Facebook closed and the time-waster device set aside is entertaining, fulfilling, worthwhile and even healing.

I'm reminded here of a poem I once heard the great poet, David White, perform. Sadly, White never gave the author but said the poem is part of Native American legend. " "No two trees are the same to raven; no two branches the same to wren. If what a tree or branch does is lost on you, then, you are surely lost. Stand still, listen, listen. ..."

Silver Times

I had not come upon the aforementioned science when I forged a relationship with a male cardinal through communication based on listening. I know! Right?

It was an astounding and humbling experience for me to literally communicate with this beautiful creature. He was the one who began the relationship. He clearly sang in a different melody whenever he saw me. This caught my attention and I simply put effort into connecting with him. It quickly became obvious to me that he was being intentional about what he was doing with his voice. He waited for me patiently before I fully grasped what was happening in my little suburban home nestled in the deep woods. I still see him now, perched on the handrail of our deck, looking directly into our home just four feet from him, his head turning side -to-side like birds do. And letting out the most curious sounds that to this day I've not heard replicated.

The relationship worked like this most of the time: I might be in the kitchen and he'd land on our deck rail outside our sun porch. I'd come to the sun room and he'd get excited, chirping the way he did only for me. I intentionally expanded my heart energy toward him. He'd respond to this with more enthusiastic singing, again, in a way particular only in my presence.

I decided on purpose, in other words, set my intention, to try to communicate with him. Of course, I had no idea how to talk to a bird. I was, however, astute enough to know that I shouldn't try mimicking another cardinal. It came to me that he was purposely attempting to communicate with me in particular. He called me out from the house. Or he'd find me elsewhere on our property and change his melody. I gave thought to what sort of things I could communicate. Rather than pretending I could whistle as well as a bird, never mind having any notion whatsoever what my human whistle meant to the bird, I worked on simple messages such as communicating my delight in him. Or telegraphing single emotions such as love, happiness and sadness.

Bird Friend, the only name I ever had for him, responded to my signals by singing, tweeting out single chirps or more sophisticated combinations of melodies. I learned to pay attention to how he was singing and the amount of zeal he put into his communications. After this, I began to become curious if I could convey my desires to him. I wondered if I could actually create a give-and-take relationship. So, I began signaling him to do different things. I asked him to, for example, fly to a specific tree branch. Or to come closer to me or to move from railing to railing on the deck. Imagine my astonishment when, sensationally, he managed to follow my requests with mind-blowing accuracy nearly 90% of the time.

I seldom used verbal words with him. Most of my connection was made through pure intention; me making a conscious decision about what I wanted to say and being focused and clear. I learned to understand him as well. I could tell when he was lonesome, particularly happy or being playful. Sometimes when I was outside he'd sneak up on me by swooping down from his silent perch in the trees, flying unusually close to me, landing nearby and singing in a way I came to know as his laugh.

I know this sounds almost impossible, bordering on the ridiculous but our relationship was very mutual. My husband, Brent, observed the interaction between Bird Friend and me on many occasions. Our affair was singular between us and I relished the periods of shared connection. Our communications dwindled during the deep winter and to my absolute utter astonishment, I heard him call me to the deck in late February or early March following that first winter. If only birds had a longer life. After two summers and another autumn, I never heard him again. I was hopeful that third summer that he'd land on the deck railing and call me from the kitchen. It never happened.

While you're traveling, or at your home base, how about you give this a try? My best advice is to approach your bird with calm assurance. Avoid being "pushy" or willful. Likewise, avoid pulling on the bird or other creature. I learned that my energy was the pivotal component to the success of our friendship and communication. A great first start is to simply open your heart and appreciate these glorious creatures surviving here from the dinosaur age to fill the trees and our hearts with their healing songs.

#LivingWide

1) David George podcast

Silver Times

If you were wondering...

Got a question about the Wally Byam Airstream Club (aka, WBAC or WBCCI) or the MN Airstream Club? Wondering who you can talk to? These wonderful people are more than happy to hear from you and help answer your questions. Please feel free to email them. Your question may be forwarded to and answered by another member on the MN Airstream Club.

President	Brenda	b2schultz@comcast.net
1 ST Vice-president	Vernon	vernon_petersen@icloud.com
Membership Chair	Daryl	055membershipchair@airstreamclub.net
Webmaster	Chris	055info@airstreamclub.net



Name Badges

Did you know you can order new name badges from Airstream Club International? They have 3 different logos (show below) and cost \$3.00 each (plus shipping). Your name and Club name are printed on the badge instead of on a paper strip slid into a slot on the badge. They have Officer badges as well, including the Blue Stripes for Local Club President and Past President as well as Red Background for Region Officers and Past Region Officers.

Link: <https://store.airstreamclub.org/collections/stuff-for-people/products/name-badge>

Silver Times

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)

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.

Silver Times

Newsletter Editor Ramblings

Last November, I talked about how the cork floor in our trailer got damaged by a water leak and that we found and fixed the leak and pulled up the damaged floor. And that the cork floor was no longer manufactured, so we thought we'd solve the problem by installing all new cork floor in our family room and use the family room floor to patch the trailer floor. Sounded really good in theory, right? Well, I'm happy to report that we patched the floor in our trailer, but learned a couple of things in the process.

First thing we learned is that we bought the cork floor for the family room about a year after we installed the floor in our trailer. Same manufacture and model, so shouldn't be a fitting problem, right? Well, the family room floor tiles are about 1/32nd of an inch narrower than the original trailer floor tiles. Doesn't sound like much, but once we got $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across the trailer with the patching, the seams no longer lined up with the old floor tiles. So, we have a slight gap (1/8" wide) between two tiles about a foot long. Fortunately, it's mostly under the dinette table, so not overly noticeable. I have a plan to fill it after our next couple of trips. We decided to wait to see if traveling would shake things around a bit and maybe close the gap for us. Probably wishful thinking.

Second thing we learned is that the family room floor was exposed to sunlight a lot more than the trailer floor. So, many of the patch tiles are much lighter than the old tiles. Picture below shows the difference.



Silver Times

Kay read online that you can stain cork flooring, so she tried on some scrap pieces. The cork flooring does not accept stain hardly at all. Most of the floor is covered with furniture and a big area rug, so again, it's not overly noticeable. Kay says we are not going to try and sand and stain the floor. We'll just spill coffee and let the floor get darkened that way. 😊 On a very positive note, everything is all back together and we attended the Spring Rally with an intact trailer. And we're ready for our travels this summer!

On to a different topic. While in Alaska last year, we had the three rear red marker lights stop working. Well, one stopped working completely, and the other two were only half working. These are LED marker lights we installed 14 years ago while rebuilding her. Since we were never driving at night, we decided to wait until we got home to replace them. I replaced them a few weeks ago, and when I tested them, I discovered that the two rear red side markers were also bad. This is like where one thing leads to another. So, I ordered two more red marker lights (LED again) and installed them last week. Then I noticed that the old yellow marker lights were significantly dimmer than the new red marker lights. So, while I was at it, I ordered all new yellow marker lights and replaced them yesterday and today.



Old Marker Light



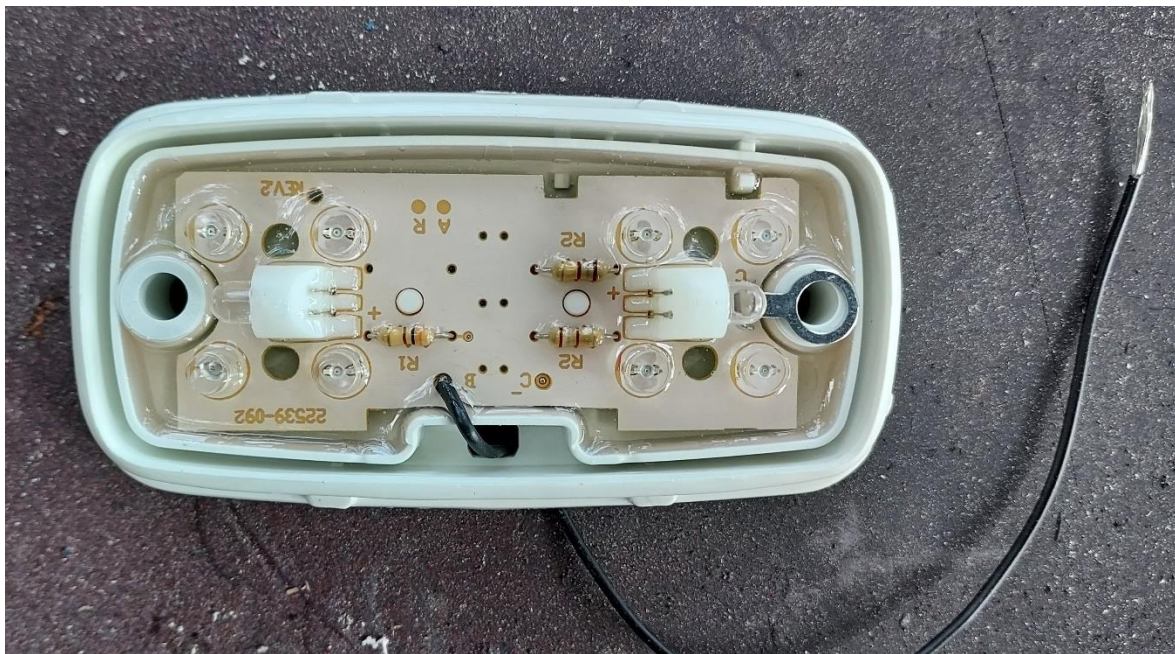
New Marker Light

Hopefully you can see the difference between the two. The pics lose some of the contrast because in person, the difference is more pronounced.

Installing them was pretty straight forward. Pop the outer cover off and remove two screws, and then pop the old light off the trailer.

Silver Times

The old marker lights are wired in with two wires. One for power and a white neutral or return (sometimes called the ground wire). I used a green colored power wire for all of the running lights on the trailer.



The new lights only have one black wire for power. The return/ground is via the metal ring in the light over the right-hand screw hole. The screw that attaches the light to the skin of the trailer provides the return/ground. However, I don't trust that completely, especially since I seal the screw hole with caulk to prevent a water leak around the screw.

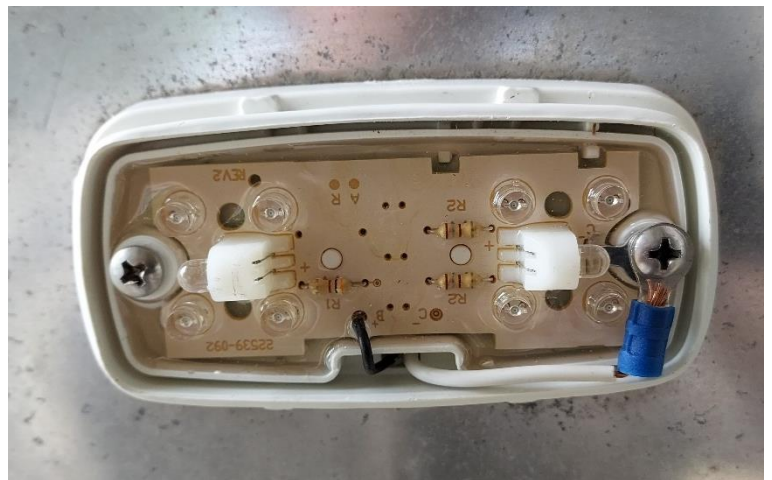
Silver Times

So, I made a pigtail to provide a better return/ground connection.



Here's a new marker light connected to the existing wiring.

Here's the new marker light wired in and screwed back down. The lug on the pigtail I made and connected to the white wire in the previous picture is attached to the light with the right-hand screw, ensuring a good return/ground connection.



Overkill? Maybe. But I tend to overengineer things sometimes. Just ask Kay. 😊

(Kay here: it's very true! You definitely don't want to take apart something Chris has put together....)

Silver Times

On to a third topic. It is with some sadness that I made the decision to stop being the Newsletter Editor for the Silver Times. I announced at the Spring Rally that this edition is the last edition that I will be editor. I've been editor since Sep 2016, and with Region 7 responsibilities taking up more of my time, I felt it was time to pass the baton.

I will continue as the webmaster for the MN Airstream Club, so email blasts and notices will still come from me. And I will keep our club's website up to date as well as do the JotForm registrations. And, I do plan on submitting articles for the newsletter from time to time.

It has been a great run, and I have enjoyed being the Editor and boring you all with my ramblings. As discussed at the Spring Rally, Bart Schultz will be the new editor with Terry Pflighaar as the assistant editor. At least, that's what I think was discussed... It's listed in the meeting minutes, so it must be true! 😊

Until next time, safe travels.

Chris Olsson

MN Airstream Club Webmaster

Region 7 1st VP

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Silver Times



Minnesota Airstream Club

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