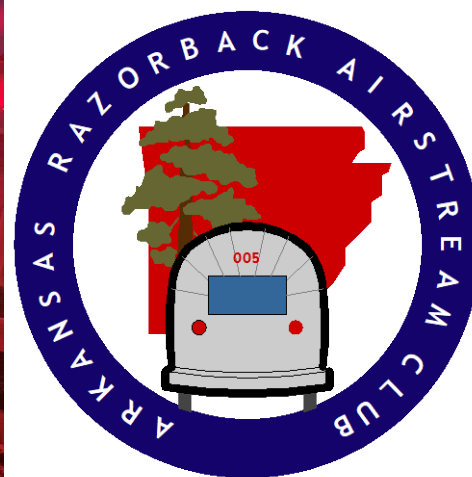


RIVETED RAZORBACK



September 2023

President's Message

By: *Dave Wessinger*

Our Arkansas Razorback Airstream Club (ARAC) has been very busy since our last newsletter. In June, after celebrating our 35th Anniversary with our entire family, Laura and I rushed off to attend our *first* International Rally. We weren't able to catch up with the ARAC Wyoming Caravan (led by Cindy Kugel and Jeff Dalrymple) on their epic journey to International. But we were really happy to meet up with our posse in Rock Springs. International was an amazing experience —1,192 Airstreams converged on the Sweetwater Convention Center was a sight to behold. We especially enjoyed our volunteer work—

driving folks around in golf carts. What a great way to meet Airstreamers from all over the US and Canada. From the constant stream of happy hour and campfire visitors to our camp area it was obvious our club is well thought of outside our Arkansas borders. Proud to represent you folks!

A fun time was had at the Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Rally, (hosts: Laura Wessinger, Terry Madden and Katie Gulley) where over 30 Airstreams took over the entire D-Loop at Tompkins Bend COE Park on Lake Ouachita. The “left-at-home partners” rally, aka BoyzonBoatz, held at the same time was, by comparison, a quiet affair, enjoyed by all (host: Ivy Lincoln).

Laura and I are prepping for

the Region 6 Rally at Bayou Wilderness Trail in Carencro LA (Sep 27–Oct 1). It will be fun to camp with new friends from International, and many old friends, at our *first* Regional Rally. FYI, Region 6 includes our club, the clubs from Alabama, East Tennessee, Music City, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Pensacola, Florida. ARAC club members who are elected officers at the Regional level include Jan Heavener (president), David Gulley (1st vice president), Jeff Dalrymple (2nd vice president), and Jennifer Gulley (corresponding secretary). Larry Madden is the immediate past president of Region 6. We have friends in high places!

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Member Spotlight: the Gulleys

An Airstream Family Tradition

By: Jennifer Gulley

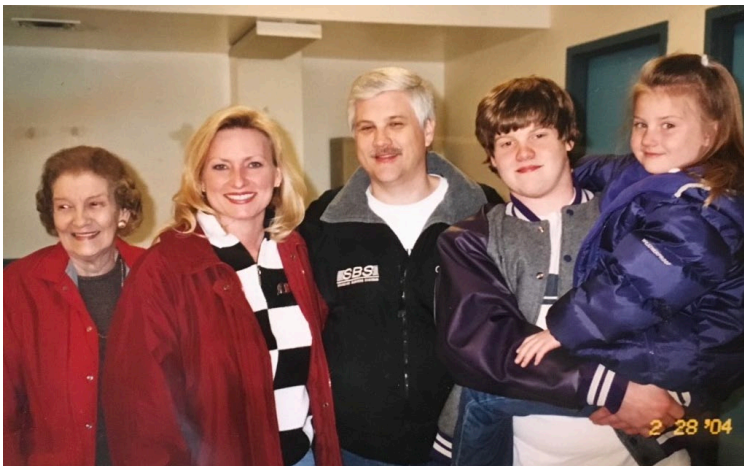
David and Mary Gulley are more than just Airstream enthusiasts and vintage trailer collectors. They are also passionate about restoring and preserving the history of the Airstream, as well as others like it. By preserving a trailer's story, they also memorialize the collective stories of the people who spent their lives happily camping in those very same trailers. The collection of Airstreams and vintage campers is also a very personal goal, since the Gulley family history is deeply intertwined with that of the Silver Bullets in particular. David and Mary's passion for their hobby stems from their childhoods when their parents would take them camping. Once they became parents themselves, they raised their two children traveling in Airstreams. I would know, since I am proud to be one of those two children who get to call them Mom and Dad (and got to take my first steps in an Airstream).



Our family history with vintage campers began with my paternal grandparents. David's parents fell in love with Airstreams in the 1960s as soon as they purchased their first one, a 30-foot 1964 Airstream, when my dad was a child. In the early 1970s, his parents traded that trailer for a 26-foot 1968 Airstream. They loved Airstreams so much, that in 1975 they custom ordered a 31-foot 1976 model, and it is with this trailer that our family history with Airstreams truly takes off. During this time, my grandparents joined the Arkansas Unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI). In 1976, David and his parents attended the 19th International Rally in Louisville, Kentucky, the largest Airstream rally ever held with over 4,500 trailers in attendance. They were very dedicated members, and attended rallies whenever they could until my grandfather passed away one night in that very same Airstream in 1986. My grandmother sold their Airstream quickly after, and our family lost track of it for the next nine years. That is, until one coincidental day in 1995.

As my family was traveling through Hot Springs, Arkansas, they spotted an Airstream on an RV lot. My dad pulled over to inspect it when he noticed the faded outline of their WBCCI membership number above the window, and he immediately knew it was his parents' 1976 Airstream that he had been hunting for close to a decade. Although it looked completely different on the inside, the pattern my grandmother had special ordered for the awning and folding chairs had been maintained, another clue that let my dad know it was theirs. Needless to say, he bought it back immediately. Today, my grandparents' trailer sits at the forefront of my dad's collection, completely restored to its original intended condition and cherished beyond belief.

The rediscovery of my grandparents' trailer inspired my family to join the Arkansas Razorback



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Member Spotlight, cont'd from page 2

Unit in 1995. That following year, they attended the 39th International Rally in Rapid City, South Dakota, with my grandmother. The trip also doubled as a celebration of the 1976 Airstream's 20th Anniversary. After the rally, David and Mary became interested in the restoration process, and by the late 1990s they had collected and restored 17 Airstreams. They had enjoyed collecting cars for years, so it seemed natural that they extend their collection to include their love for Airstreams. When I was born, multiple friends from our club were there to meet me in the hospital. These people became adoptive grandparents to my brother and me, and the club gave our family so many precious memories with so many amazing people. We are so lucky to have joined when we did, because we got the opportunity to befriend many of the club's original members, founders and leaders. David and Mary inducted into the club by founding members, Greg and Erma Wilson. All of us were also fortunate to befriend and travel with Charles and Emogene Duran during Charles's tenure as international president. During the opening ceremony of the 1997 International Rally, Charles and Emogene brought me up on the stage with them when I was only a few months old.

These friends fueled my family's passion, inspiring my parents and brother to serve in leadership positions in the club. We became dedicated to attending numerous international and regional rallies, including a 50th Anniversary Rally in 2007 at Bull Shoals, Arkansas, where the first ever international rally was held in 1958. A plaque to commemorate the anniversary was placed in the James A. Gaston Visitor Center during this event.

By 2010, both of my parents, as well as my older brother, Jonathan, had served as president of our local club a total of eight terms altogether. Meanwhile, I was everyone's "Bambi," a nickname that has given me great sentimental attachment to that particular Airstream model (and might account for the fact that we now own four of them). Having sold all the trailers from their original collection, apart from my grandparents' 1976, my parents resumed collecting and restoring Airstreams in 2015 as well as gathering our family's personal history together and collecting memorabilia. Mary oversees the interior of all the restoration projects, crafting drapes and cushions appropriate to each trailer's era. Her creative eye allows for the entire look to come together.



Our family's love of Airstreams continues to grow as we plan future road trips together. The family hobby has even spread into a fourth generation thanks to my brother, Jonathan, his wife, Katie, and their son, Harrison. Since Jonathan joined WBCCI at such a young age, he was able to become one of WBCCI's youngest club presidents ever to serve. When he married Katie in 2009, she joined the club immediately and they are now both lifetime members. Just like his parents, his grandparents, and his great-grandparents before him, my nephew Harrison loves the "Airstream Life," and has been a member since he was born. He is easy to spot at rallies because he is always socializing and rearing to play Joker with anyone. He is a future president in the making!



Our family has seen many changes to the club over the last 30 years. Gone is the formality instilled in us by our club forefathers when WBCCI was created in 1955. We no longer wear uniforms and blue berets to every meeting. The ceremonies are shorter, the atmosphere is more relaxed, and we've switched out our fine china for paper plates. (Even

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Member Spotlight, cont'd from page 3

WBCCI now goes by the name Airstream Club International (ACI), and our unit has been renamed the Arkansas Razorback Airstream Club (ARAC)). We have enjoyed the changes, but the feeling is bittersweet. We miss our old friends that are no longer with us. The same people who made sure that they were dressed to the nines for every rally, who taught us to play Joker, who made pancakes every Saturday morning, and who had such a hand in raising all of us. We carry their memory with us at every rally and we continue to take positions in the club in their name.

Although we miss our old friends, we are so happy to have made many more not only in our Arkansas club, but throughout the rest of Region 6! In 2021, David decided to follow Larry Madden and Jan Heavener's lead and run for a regional position as 2nd vice president, something he had yet to try for. He is now our Region 6 1st vice president, and a member of the International Historical Committee. With David comes Mary, who is always busy making sure everything runs smoothly, and looks good on top of it. Katie is now serving as an ARAC director, and I am the newly appointed Region 6 corresponding secretary, my first official position in the club. We are all happy to serve in these positions for you, and we look forward to meeting even more members and making new friends!

We are proud to be a part of Airstream's new Heritage Center in Jackson, Ohio. Bob Wheeler, the president and CEO of Airstream, Inc., recently awarded David and Mary with the "Rivet Award," for their contributions to the museum and for their efforts to preserve the history of Airstream with each trailer they restore. We are equally proud to consider Dale "PeeWee" Schwamborn, WBCCI founder Helen Schwamborn's son and cousin of Wally Byam himself, a member of our family. If you ever met PeeWee, then you know he is a fascinating storyteller, and it is impossible not to learn something new when you listen to his recollections of the past. We are so glad that Harrison is growing up hearing first-hand accounts of the beginnings of Airstream's history from PeeWee.

At the end of the day, Airstreams are not just travel trailers for us. WBCCI is not just an organization, and the ARAC is not just a club. Being members of WBCCI and traveling together is about celebrating the collective history of those who loved camping before us. It is about remembering my grandparents, and the members that have passed on who became like grandparents to my brother and me. It is about continuing to make memories with one another as a family, spending time with members who have become family to us, and making new friends with those who join. This is my family's legacy, a club that is close to our hearts, and we are proud to continue maintaining that legacy for years to come.

Please Welcome Our Newest Members!

ARAC Members. **Travis & Melinda Broach BRN16789**, Mabelvale, AR, 2016 International Serenity 30; **Anna Riggs BRN5189**, Little Rock, AR, 2023 Basecamp 16; **John & Paula Ronza BRN19617**, Little Rock, AR, 2024 Globetrotter 25; **Chris & Barbara Talley BRN 9790**, Trumann, AR, 1989 Excella 1000 36

Affiliate Members. **Robert & Linda Liles BRN6831**, Bartlett, TN, 2017 Flying Cloud 23 [Mississippi Airstream Club]; **Robin & Charles Morgan BRN23368**, West Plains, MO, 2019 International Serenity 25 [Missouri Greater Ozark Unit]; **Laurie & Don O'Neal**, Buda, TX, 2015 Flying Cloud 25 [Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club]; **Larry & Pamela Pearce BRN3914**, Fayetteville, AR, 2019 Flying Cloud 25 [Missouri Greater Ozark Unit]; **Angela Speight BRN1536**, The Woodlands, TX, 2022 International Serenity 25 [Region 9 At Large]; **Jim & Shelby Trimble BRN8811**, Avinger, TX, 2000 Safari 25 [North Texas Airstream Club]; **Jim & Alice Trusley BRN4251**, Homosassa, FL, 2022 Classic 30 [Florida Airstream Club]; **Kathy & Kevin Walsh BRN24571**, Ellisville, MO, 2012 Classic 30 [Greater St. Louis Airstream Club]

2023 International Rally • Rock Springs, WY • June 24 - 30**Arkansas Razorback Airstreamers Invade Wyoming**

By: Larry Madden, BRN 3909

Lindsborg, Kansas is a quaint little town with a population of 3,776. However, for one night this past June, this town's population swelled as the Old Mill Campground was the rallying point for 21 caravanning Airstreams enroute to Wyoming. The second stop in our epic journey was located in Arapahoe, NE. The third and last overnight stop was at the Pine Bluffs Distilling Company in Pine Bluffs, WY. While the rain preceded our arrival, it was unsuccessful at dampening anyone's spirits! (See what I just did there?) The owners and team members of the distillery treated us like royalties with unmatched hospitality.

After our arrival at the Sweetwater Events Complex, all 21 rigs in our caravan were parked fast and efficiently. With parking completed, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Without exception, every Razorback club member who attended the International Rally worked as a volunteer in pivotal areas. Our club members supervised and worked in Registration, Member Services, Transportation, and Vehicle Maintenance. The Razorback Airstream Club has a long and respected reputation for volunteerism. It's the very characteristic that propels our club to the front lines when a job has to be done and done right!

Despite Wyoming's temperamental, fickle weather, which at times temporarily disrupted Happy Hours, we persevered. We adjusted our Happy Hour tactics by anchoring down the pop-up shelters, stowing our tables and chairs efficiently as an Indianapolis 500 pit crew, and simply waiting out the storm to continue Happy Hour. While we experienced hail, wind gusts up to sixty miles an hour, and sideways falling rain, we continued to march through the mud puddles to get her done. Cheers to all those who visited and joined the Razorbacks during Happy Hours, it was fantastic to meet you.

Our members took advantage of the many opportunities to see this beautiful state and visit historical sites. Many of us took a raft trip on the Green River, which traversed through the Flaming Gorge.

During the closing ceremony, six new Region Presidents were introduced. Our own Jan Heavener was warmly welcomed as the New Region 6 President.



RAZORBACKS WORKING . . .





... AND PLAYING!



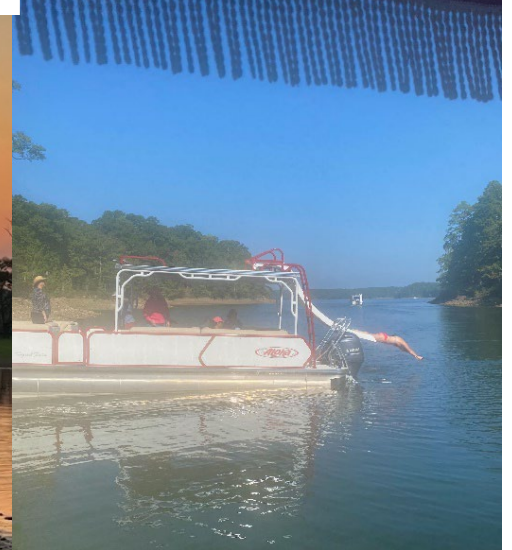


**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!
LAKE OUACHITA • September 7-10, 2023**





SATURDAY
ON THE LAKE



**2023-2024****Officers****President:** Dave Wessinger**Vice President:** David Holsted**Secretary:** Cindy Kugel**Treasurer:** Laura Wessinger**Board of Directors**

Patti Kymer

Ivy Lincoln

Tammi Terry

Katie Gulley

Other

Paul Beck, Webmaster

Dana Landrum, Newsletter Editor

Frank Cox, Membership Chair

President's Message, cont'd from page 1

Our club is being recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, AR Chapter, for our volunteer efforts with the Arkansas Foodbank. The past three years we have held a boondocking/service rally in their parking lot. This May we bagged 1800 5# bags of sweet potatoes and raised \$9,890 (will be matched). Our club is being recognized among the National Philanthropy Day Honorees as the 2023 Outstanding Volunteer Organization. Trent Roberts has been the organizing force behind this effort.

Pay attention to our list of upcoming rallies! You can track our activities on our Airstream Club International (ACI) page and on our Club Facebook page. We would love to see you there. Remember to register early, these events often fill up to capacity quickly. Our semi-annual club business meeting will be held at Arkaluma this year.

2023 RALLY SCHEDULE

October 19-22: Airstreams on the Square, Union County Courthouse, El Dorado, Arkansas. Hosts: Jan and Charles Heavener, Mark Magie, and Bad Paul Moore (contact: Jan Heavener). It's a who-dunnit murder mystery!

October 26-29: Arkaluma aka "Burning Mouse" – Museum of Automobiles, Petit Jean Mountain. Seventh annual boondocking Arkaluma rally with Airstreams parked in the magical wagon wheel arrangement. Evenings by the campfire in the middle of the circle, potlucks, a big-sky full of stars, and hiking nearby. Hosts: Paul Greene/Dave Wessinger/Jason Landrum (Paul: 1pggreene@gmail.com).

November 2-5: Buffalo Point Rally. Always beautiful on America's first national river. We return for this annual rally to take in the wildlife, changing colors of leaves, hike to Indian Rock House cave, tour Rush - an abandoned mining town, and feast on Dutch oven cooking! Make your own reservations in Loop C at Buffalo Point Campground six months in advance (@recreation.gov. Hosts: Jason & Dana Landrum (jlandrum@mac.com).

2024 RALLY SCHEDULE

January 7-24 Big ASS Caravan (aka Airstream Southern Sojourn)

January 7-12: Dauphin Island Park Campground (251-861-2742)

January 12-16: Davis Bayou Campground, Gulf Islands National Seashore ([recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov))

January 16-21: New Orleans RV Resort and Marina (504-286-8157)

January 21-24: Bayou Wilderness RV Resort, Carencro, LA (337-896-0598)

Last year we enjoyed riding bikes on the ferry, exploring a couple of forts, an aquarium, art museums and historic home guided tours, a maritime museum, the WWII and Mardi Gras World museums, a lunch cruise on the Mississippi, \$5 hurricanes for happy hour, a wonderful brunch at the Art Deco old airport, strolling the French Quarter, and visiting a world class antique store plus some great meals together and a whole lot of fun. *Hosts: Trent and Jennifer Roberts (dtrent@gmail.com).*

February 23-25: Unit Board of Trustees (UBT) (open to all members) at Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel's place, Jay, OK. All sorts of fun and some sort of meeting. Emphasis on fun. *Hosts: Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel (fdcaptjd@gmail.com).*

March 7-10: Early Spring Rally, Crown Lake RV Resort in Horseshoe Bend, AR. 25 sites are set aside at \$32/night plus tax. Park has an outdoor and indoor pool and hot tub, an onsite restaurant and bar, a dog park, mini golf, pickleball, walking trails, and a fitness center. Please contact the park at 870-291-5171 or email sabrinaclrv@gmail.com. *Hosts: Trent and Jennifer Roberts (dtrent@gmail.com).*

April 6-9: Moonshadow Solar Eclipse Rally, Morrilton, AR. The daytime skies will turn to night during this celestial rally. 75 rigs will be boondocking with an emphasis on the heavens, stars, planets, food, fun, and maybe an extraterrestrial visitor! Generators welcome. *See email for registration link or contact Mark Magie, mark.magie@yahoo.com.*

April 25-28: Airstreams on the Square, El Dorado, Arkansas. The extremely popular urban camping weekend around the Union County Courthouse square. *Hosts: Jan and Charles Heavener, Mark Magie, and Bad Paul Moore (contact: Jan Heavener).*

June 19-23: Region 6 Rally at Washington County Fairgrounds, Fayetteville, AR. More info to come. *Hosts: Jan and Charles Heavener (bassjan@gmail.com).*

July 11-14: White River Rally at Dam Site RV Park in Bull Shoals, AR. Save the date! More info to come. *Hosts: Larry & Terry Madden (h70man@cox.net).*

September 5-8: Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Rally, Tompkins Bend campground on Lake Ouachita. Join us for the fourth girls' only weekend. We will eat, drink, swim and whatever else floats our boat. *Hosts: Laura Wessinger, Terry Madden and Katie Gulley. (Laura at llwessinger@gmail.com.)*

September 5-8: Boyz on Boats, Lake Ouachita. *Host: Ivy Lincoln (ivy.glen.lincoln@gmail.com)*

October 5-12: International Rally – Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO

October 24-27: Arkaluma aka "Burning Mouse" – Museum of Automobiles, Petit Jean Mountain. Eighth annual boondocking rally. *See description on 2023 schedule.*

November 7-10: Buffalo Point Rally, Buffalo National River. *See description on 2023 schedule.*