



November 6, 2023
Editors- Chuck & Doris Jean Cabalka

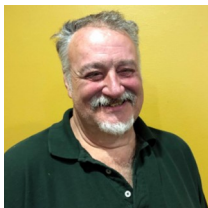
OFFICERS

- President, Tom Herron
515-988-4950
- 1st V.P, John Wolf
515-473-4982
- 2nd V.P., Vacant
- Secretary, Doris Jean Cabalka
480-216-8096
- Treasurer, Kathy Allen
515-473-0256
- One-yr. Dir., Hobey Darbyshire
563-528-9328
- One-yr. Dir., John Heckman
319-240-4880
- Two-yr. Dir., Chuck Helle
319-270-1189
- Two-yr. Dir., Norm Van Klompenburg
641-831-3419
- Immed. Past Pres., Chuck Cabalka
720-315-9264

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

B-days & Anniv.; Dealers	2
Luncheons & Rallies	2
Swiss Festival Rally	3,4
Oct. Rally at Hickory Grove	5

IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB



PREZ SEZ

Belated Happy Halloween.....Want to thank everyone that attended the installation at Colo in October. Think we have a fun year planned for 2024. It is our hope that summer comes quickly in the new year; sure seems like Christmas, election calls, and now the cold weather comes earlier with each year.

Hoping our Veterans Day Luncheon will be unseasonably warm and many can attend. Be sure and let Donella Watkinson (319-396-9088) know if you plan to attend so she can give the restaurant a heads-up on the number expected. Safe travels to everyone travelling, whether it be a long journey or local.

Have recently been receiving some great info from fellow Airstreamers regarding activities they enjoyed at long past rallies, that gave me encouragement to challenge you all to submit some of your own memories of activities you've enjoyed. Together we can make our experiences shine and create great memories.

Reservations have been open for Swiss Valley May's Rally. Be sure and grab a site and let Nancy Schoene know (515-240-4661).

SYDTR

Thomas Herron

Iowa Airstream Club President

MAKING MAY RALLY RESERVATIONS NOW IS A GOOD IDEA.

Now is not too late nor too early to make your reservation for the May 9 to 12, 2024 Rally at the Swiss Valley County Park Campground near Dubuque. Although the campground has 54 total RV sites, only 29 can be reserved. Inasmuch as the rally will be on Mother's Day weekend, the campground may be quite popular, as RVers travel to see their mothers. Consequently, it is advisable to make a reservation now to be sure you can camp with the rest of the Iowa Club members. According to President Tom, you can make reservations by going to **My County Parks** on your computer and following the instructions.

TRIP FROM H E ____

We are sure most of you have had a trip that you really want to forget. Your newsletter team is currently experiencing one of those. After leaving Newton on Sunday, October 15th, the two-day drive to the Denver area was uneventful. However, when the rig started up from the Denver elevation of about 5,300 feet to their son's residence near Conifer at 9,300 feet, the van suddenly did not have much power. After struggles, the rig finally made it to the planned stop at their son's. After parking the trailer, the van was taken to a repair business where they determined there was a big drop in engine compression. Since that business did not work on vans, the vehicle was taken to one that did work on vans and that is where it presently sits, awaiting their diagnosis. The trailer was winterized and sits at their son's. Chuck and their daughter flew to Des Moines, went to Newton, picked up the Buick that was in the garage and drove it back to Denver. From there, Chuck and DJ drove the car to Apache Junction where they now await word from the repair service. Hopefully, the needed repairs can be done and they can pick up the van at Christmas. We'll see!

DEALER SPOTLIGHT

Bill Thomas Camper Sales, Inc.
101 Thomas R.V. Way
Wentzville, MO 63385
1-800-367-5767
www.btcamper.com

CAMPERS INN RV
5120 N. Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52806
Phone: 563-468-4678
www.usadventurerv.com
Service Only

RV One
Superstores, Inc.
1400 Northridge Circle
Altoona, IA 50009
Phone: 515-280-1026

New RV Service

OPEN NOW

Specializing in Airstreams



Contact: Scott Jensen
Location: Adel, IA

IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER

1 - Louise Mercer
2 - Steve Cochran
11 - Chuck Helle
11 - Chuck Kiple
15 - Tom Whitehouse
21 - Chuck Cabalka
23 - Arden Taube

ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER

18 - Lynette & Kurt Rasmussen
19 - Sandie & Chuck Kiple
20 - Linda & Michael Rickert
24 - Carolyn & Gene Haller
27 - Jodi & Scott Jensen

The Winter Luncheon and 2024 Iowa Airstream Club Rally schedules have been finalized and they are being published here for your information. They are as follows:

LUNCHEONS

November "Veteran's Day" Luncheon: Saturday, 11:00 AM, November 11th, at the 16th Ave Grill, 3130 - 16th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, with hostess Donella Watkinson.

December "Christmas" Luncheon: Saturday, 11:00 AM, December 9th, at the Okoboji Grill, 1425 W. 19th St. S, Newton, IA, with hosts Norm and Pat Van Klompenburg.

February "Sweetheart" Luncheon: 11:30 AM, December 10th at the Pizza Ranch, 219 W. 4th St., Vinton, IA with hosts Chuck and Nancy Helle.

March "Lucky" Luncheon: 11:00 AM, March 9th at the Hickory Park Restaurant, 1404 S. Duff, Ames, IA with hosts Mike and Linda Rickert.

April "Almost Spring" Luncheon: 11:30 AM, April 13th at Winn's Pizza & Steakhouse, 122 W. Ashland Ave., Indianola, IA with hosts Tom and Shirley Herron.

RALLIES:

April 24-28 Region 8 Rally, America's Best Campground, 499 Buena Vista Rd., Branson, MO (watch newsletters for registration information).

May 9-12 Mother's Day Rally: Swiss Valley Campground, 9483 Whitetop Road, Dubuque, IA with hostess Nancy Schoene and co-hosts Tom and Shirley Herron. Reservations open now!!

June 13-16: Lake Wapello State Park Campground, 15248 Campground Road, Eldon, IA with hosts Terie and John Wolf and co-hosts Tom and Shirley Herron. Sites reservable February 13th or later.

July 11-14: Green Valley State Park, 1480 -130th St., Creston, IA with hosts Tom and Shirley Herron. This is a Buddy Rally.

August 8-11: Gehrkes Lake and Campground, 19747 -205th St., Iowa Falls, IA with hosts Tom and Shirley Herron.

September 12-15: Installation Rally, Little Wall Lake Campground, 3540 Little Wall Lake Road, Jewell, IA with hosts Tom and Shirley Herron. Phone 515-832-9570 for emailed site instructions.

October 5-12: International Rally, State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO. **NOTE:** There will be no Iowa Club rally this month due to the International Rally conflict.

WONDERFUL FALL RALLY

After safely arriving at the Swiss Festival Rally site of Winklepleck Grove Park just outside Sugarcreek, OH, true to tradition the Lafrentz's, Helle's and Cabalka's went out to a nearby restaurant for a buffet supper. As usual, there were more entrees to select from that one could hold; chicken, beef, ham, noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy and much more.

With nothing scheduled until Sunday evening, after visiting the interesting local hardware store, your newsletter team drove about 20 miles east to the city of New Philadelphia and the nearest Walmart store to get a couple of food items they had forgotten when leaving Iowa. On the way back, they gassed up to be prepared for the car caravans on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to visit Amish businesses in the area. Gas was just \$3.40 per gallon, which was quite a pleasant surprise! The rest of the day was spent getting re-acquainted with Airstream friends they hadn't seen since last year's festival rally, before listening to Mr. Lester Beachy (an elderly Amish gentleman) speak on the Amish culture and heritage in the evening.

Sunday started with the usual SkyMed presentation, after which the SkyMed rep provided Egg McMuffin sandwiches for breakfast. A safety seminar was held during the morning, before sign-ups for the various tours began in the afternoon. With five tours possible and only three days, it was a matter of choosing which three to go on. It was also at that time one could sign-up and pay to attend an Amish supper on either Monday or Tuesday evening. After accomplishing those chores, it was supper on your own until it was time for the Cambridge City Band to provide the evening's entertainment. The band has been in existence for 104 years, making it one of, if not the longest existing, city bands in the US. Hot chocolate and a cookie ended the evening before all retired to their Airstream for a good night's sleep in preparation for the tours starting the next morning.

The Monday tour your newsletter team chose was one which visited a nearby Amish school (while in session) and a museum displaying fantastic wooden and ivory carvings of dozens of trains. One, the Great Northern Big Boy locomotive contains 7,752 pieces and took nearly 8 months to



complete. Lunch was at the Buckeye Career Center Café. There, in addition to eating food prepared and served by students in the culinary program, we were informed about the school, itself. It has over 1,000 high school students from 11 surrounding school districts coming to learn a trade. They provide over 30 technical programs from which students can choose. After leaving the BCC, the final stop was at the residence and business of an Amish casket maker, where we saw beautiful and inexpensive caskets. One could get a beautifully-made, wooden casket for from \$400 to \$700. A few years ago, when Pat and Larry Dellamuth came to the rally, they purchased two cas-



kets and hauled them back to Iowa in preparation for their eventual deaths. The casket maker definitely remembered them and was quite glad to hear both were still alive. There was no program on Monday evening at the rally site, so your newsletter team spent the evening working on getting the October newsletter prepared.

The tour selected for Tuesday started with a visit to the Pearl Valley Cheese operation. This cheese plant has won numerous state and national contests and ribbons for their Swiss cheese. Naturally, there were samples of numerous types of cheese for all to taste and a lot of cheese was purchased and went out the door. The second stop of the morning was at Erb's Coleman Museum. An Amish gentle has made it his hobby (and business) to obtain as many of the products made by Coleman as he could, ranging from hundreds of lamps and lanterns, to coolers, lamp shades and stoves.



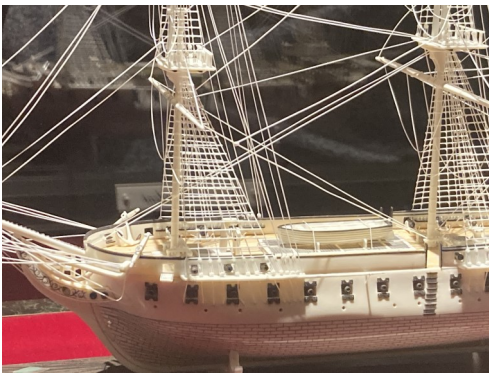
He has the largest collection of Coleman products in the world. Then, it was on to the small town of Charm where

IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB



the group ate lunch in the Kiem Lumber café. There, in addition to seeing the vast display of tools, lumber and lots of other items, the group got to see the stock of exotic woods the company had for sale. Wood from all over the world could be purchased for use by woodworkers to make about anything. They had over 50 kinds of exotic wood in stock. One of them was a beautiful naturally purple wood, costing \$359.99 per board. The final stop was at the Walnut Valley Broom business, where an Amish lady demonstrated how straw brooms were made. Naturally, several Airstreamers purchased one, or more, brooms to take back to their rigs. The day ended with a concert by the Sunday Drive Band, playing classic country, classic rock and roll, gospel and other types of music. It was a great way to first, busy day of the rally.

On Wednesday, your team's choice of tours started with a visit to the Stutzman Buggy Shaft/Wheel Works business, where the owner explained how they made wooden wheels and spokes. They make custom order wheels for old vintage cars, cannons on display on courthouse squares, etc. When asked, Mr. Stutzman said the largest wheel they had made was 10 feet in diameter. They even had to tip it side-ways to get it out of their shop door. Then it was on to a leather shop, where you could buy all sorts of leather goods, such as saddles, shoes, harnesses for horses and even custom-made belts. Several men ordered belts to be picked up the following day. After a stop for lunch in Berlin, it was on to Behalt, where a 265-foot long, circular painting depicted the history of the Amish and Mennonite religions. The final stop for the



tour was the David Wharther Carvings, where Mr. Wharther explained how he made scale model replicas of sailing ships from ebony wood and ivory, even demon-

strating how he made ivory string. He had just finished his 91st ship and had started on his 92nd. Such patience!

Then, it was back to the campground for a relaxing evening of campfire and socializing. Thus ended the days of tours at the rally.

The Amish were in the park on Thursday, ranging from the children from the school visited on one of the tours, some of the mothers of those children (bringing baked goods to sell to raise funds for the school), a couple making homemade ice cream, a gentleman making apple butter and two gentlemen with free buggy rides and free hay rack rides behind a 10-mule hitch. All in all, it was a busy day. To top it off, the only furnished meal of the



rally (the traditional ham and bean soup) highlighted the supper. The evening's program featured Joey Tomsic and the Shotski's; his polka band from Cleveland. This brought the activities at the rally site to a close, with the festival in town beginning the next day.

The Helle's headed home on Friday, while your newsletter team drove to Kidron, OH to visit the Lehman Hardware Store. This huge store not only

carries what one might expect from a hardware store, but it also had a huge kitchenware area, hundreds of puzzles and games, all sorts of coal-fired stoves and other non-electric appliances, but there was also a room displaying beautiful relief carvings of various scenes created by a Amish gentleman. AND, their fudge wasn't too bad either. Chuck and Doris Jean Cabalka got things pretty well buttoned up in their trailer in preparation to leave Sugarcreek the next day, while Dale and Joan took an Amish couple they had become well acquainted with out for supper.

Awakening to a pretty thick fog on Saturday morning, the Lafrentz's and Cabalka's pulled out of the campground about 8:00 AM and started the drive back to Iowa. The skies cleared by mid-morning and the rest of the day was clear and sunny. The sun was shining on the day the caravan arrived at the rally but never appeared again until on the way home. At least it didn't rain much, other than a brief, light shower one evening. The Saturday stop was at the city campground in Earl Park, IN (where the caravan's first night was on the way east) with Chuck and Doris Jean arriving home in Newton in the late afternoon on Sunday. Dale and Joan, having much farther to drive, didn't get home in Manilla until about mid-morning on Monday.

IT WAS A SOMEWHAT "SQUEEZED" RALLY

What was supposed to be a "plenty of space available" rally turned out to be just the opposite. When Tom and Shirley Herron had checked with the park ranger at Hickory Grove Campground in October 2022, while on their way back to Des Moines from our rally at "The Grove" near Liscomb, they were told that the four units then camped at Hickory Grove were about normal for October. Space availability for our October, 2023 rally would be no problem. Surprise! When the US Corps of Engineers decided to shut down all the campgrounds around Saylorville Reservoir for remodeling and upgrading, that chased hundreds of campers (mainly retired folks who full-timed it at the campgrounds) out of that area and they migrated to (and filled) nearby campgrounds, Hickory Grove included. As a result, ALL the 43 spaces at Hickory Grove were filled. Tom and Shirley, who took their trailer up on Tuesday, did have a couple of tents that they were able to erect and save a couple of sites, but the lack of spaces resulted in several of our Iowa Club members deciding not to attend. Who would have thought?

Thursday evening's supper found the hosts preparing and serving a ground beef entree on a bun, while attendees brought a dish to share. There were numerous and varied salads, as well as more desserts than one could sample. With the evening being quite cool and somewhat breezy, there was no campfire. All retired to the warmth of their Airstream. During the early morning hours on Friday, members were treated to the sound of light rain on their trailer's roof. However, by 9:00 AM, the time caravanners were to line up to drive to the Black's Heritage Farm just south of Ames, there was no rain, the clouds had broken somewhat and the cold wind arrived. The wagon ride to

most made the 25-mile drive to State Center, where they were led on a tour of historic old buildings in downtown State Center. Several attendees, who elected not to make the state Center tour, joined the group at St. Andrews Bar & Grill for supper. In ordering from the menu, the food enjoyed was quite varied.

Following the meal, it was back to the campground lodge for the installation of the 2024 officers for both the Iowa



L.-R. Rick Everson, Chuck Helle, Tom Wolf, Kathy Allen, Chuck & Doris Jean Cabalka, Tom Herron and John Heckman.

Club and the Iowa North Club. Region 8 President Rick Everson from the Greater St. Louis Club did the honors. The Iowa Club officers looked quite impressive in their white tops, dark bottoms and red ties or scarfs. Except for those who stuck around to work on a 2,000 piece jigsaw puzzle, the rest of the rally attendees headed back to the warmth of their trailers. The night had turned out to be quite chilly (it was only 48 degrees with a forecast low of 38). Guess it was really time to think about pastimes other than camping.

Following the Saturday morning breakfast of pancakes, bacon, juices and fruits, the Iowa Club held it's business meeting. With the tours and installations taking place on Friday, it was not possible to squeeze a business meeting in on Friday, so it was postponed until Saturday morning, with the 2023 officers filling the chairs. Bills were approved for payment and 2024 President Tom Herron announced that the November 11th luncheon will be held at in Cedar Rapids. He stated that he has most of the luncheons and rallies lined up for 2024, but still has a few items to take care of. As soon as he gets those nailed down, the information concerning those 2024 events will be published in the club newsletter, so keep your eyes open.

Sunday morning dawned bright and sunny and with NO wind! That was a good thing, since our hosts did not pay to reserve the lodge just for breakfast. Our biscuits and gravy breakfast was served outdoors at the Heckman Airstream. Jackets and heavy sweaters were the dress of the morning, but no one seemed to mind too much.



the pumpkin patch was the first activity. Included in the \$10.00 fee to visit the farm was your



choice of whatever pumpkin in the patch struck your fancy, and there were some BIG ones. Several Airstreamers got off the wagon to pick the pumpkin of their choice. Back at the barn, everyone got to view many of the heirlooms of the family, as well as enjoy pumpkin cupcakes, before heading out for lunch on their own. Following lunch,