



Minnesota Airstream Club

2022-2023 Unit Officers

President

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2nd Vice President

Byron Day, #2309

3rd Vice President

Dave Holtegaard

Treasurer

Cordell Woods #5148

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Deputy Treasurer

Chuck Dodd & Mary Day

Recording Secretary

Carry Ensign, #1573

Corresponding Secretary

Joy Dodd, #5153

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Brenda Schultz, #31475

Trustee's:

Kathy Yanke, #7528

Pete Yanke, #7528

Chuck Dodd, #5153

Cordell Woods, #5148

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Fall 2023



Vernon's Gypsy Traveler

Hi Everyone,

Airstream season, or simply camping season, has essentially ended here in Minnesota. So, "down the road" we go! Perhaps simply to winterize our Airstreams, or, for many, to head South. South or West to a place more temperate than here in the great frozen tundra of the North. Some very stalwart members of our club will travel "full time" in their Airstreams as Carry and I did for over 6 years. Many will head to warmer climates, and some of us are "left behind". But let's examine this "down the road" concept a little further by quoting American poet and author, Anne Waldman: "I'd like to invoke the Native American Navajo because their word for road is used as a verb. Their whole relationship to road has to do with how you travel it, who you are traveling it with, what the environment might be, where you're headed, in what direction, the weather and so on".



Ask any child in grade school, and we will be told that "road" is a "thing, or perhaps a "place", but certainly not a verb. But, why not! Waldman's quote expresses almost exactly how we travel as an RV club. We don't travel simply to get from one point to another. How boring would that be! We actively project into the future where we may want to travel. Which route will best get us there.

On a caravan, we're constantly having fun with new friends and old, not to mention the wonderful events along the way. And let's not forget the reason we traveled to a certain point in the first place. Is the destination the beginning or the end? Most of the time it's the former. So, the Navajo people have "travel" figured out in their culture. "Road", or "pathway", really is a verb and not just a thing.

We all have many examples of how our pathways become an action, rather than simply a place. Just one example will suffice. During our full timing days, Carry and I were heading west in Oct 2015, with the intention of traveling the west and south during the winter months. No pre-planned places to stop from night to night. We had a general idea of where we were headed, just not "exactly" each night. And plans change, even good plans; and mostly for the better. So, after crossing the Wyoming state line from South Dakota, we saw a sign for Devils Tower. Now, mind you, we had no previous plans to visit this well-known National Monument. But there it was! How could we resist? So, being off season, we

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spent two nights in the National Park campground without reservations and had a wonderful time. The entire trip, until we returned to Minnesota in Apr 2016, was a buzz of activity.

How we traveled the roads that winter will remain a mystery. Yes, events were recorded after the fact. But the excitement of the passage before us was a mystery. And isn't that why we travel? Adventure! Not a verb yet, but let's add (ed) or (ing) and we're off into the never-before-seen scenic byways of America! It's all a gift: A big wet kiss from the Universe.

So, wherever you are now, stay safe. Perhaps you're adventuring down the road, or just planning your next trip for Springtime. Whatever you're doing, or wherever you are; we'll see you down the road!

Vernon

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Welcome New MN Airstream Club Members

CJ & Teena Addison, #7825 – Myakka City, FL
Erik & Colette Lee, #6847 – Portage la Prairie, MB, Canada
Lynn & Dan Bainer, #16510 – St. Louis Park, MN
Patrick & Connie Wrase, #5051 – Eagan, MN
Noelle & Ted Haland, #5085 – Afton, MN
Rosemary & Mark Leone, #5117 – Victoria, MN
John Fedorwicz & Ellen Brakken, #2994 – Saint Paul, MN
Tammy & John Balliett, #5290 – Harrisburg, SD
Sharon & Mike Wagner, #5499 – Nisswa, MN
Beth and Bruce Schulthess, #5386 – Red Wing, MN
David & Julie Fanger, #8619 – Clearwater, MN
Christine & Mark Kvidere, #5989 – Tucson, AZ
Shane Wolf & Shawn Ranspot, #6887 – Kintnersville, PA
Nacy & Albert Salazar, #13197 – Prior Lake, MN



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

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2023 - MN Airstream Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Christmas Dinner	Dehn's Country Manor	December 8 th	Vern Petersen Carry Ensign

2024 - MN Airstream Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
Spring Rally	Brookside Campground Blooming Prairie, MN	May 16 – 19, 2024	Vern Petersen

<https://airstreamclub.org/mn-airstream-club-spring-rally-1>

2024 – Region 7 Club Schedule

Event	Location	Dates	Host/Leader
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Region 7 Rally: 2024 Region 7 Rally is scheduled for September 12 – 19, 2024 in Spearfish, SD at Elkhorn Ridge Resort in the Black Hills area. See page 18 for more details.

2024 – International Rally

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

[Have you registered for the International Rally in Sedalia MO 2024 yet?](#)

Reminder: In an effort to coordinate and communicate as a group prior to next year's International rally in Sedalia MO, a group has been started on the TeamReach app. So far, most MN registrants on the app have defaulted to choosing a Friday entry as that's what the MN caravan chose for Rock Springs 2023. Entry dates can be adjusted if the eventual caravan decides on a different entry date.

Install: Find and install the TeamReach app from your App Store or go to TeamReach (<http://www.teamreach.com/>)

Enter code: 2024-Sedalia

Join the conversation on the app and let us know when you've registered! Can't wait to see how big "Minnesota row" is in 2024!

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

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Photographs and Memories.....

2023 Fall Installation Rally

Clear Lake, MN September x-x



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Moonlight Golf was a Hit



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Installation Breakfast – Pancakes.....YUM!



Pancake Artist



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The Fall Rally Oktoberfest theme carried into Saturday night with a banquette that included an authentic German meal followed by a Polka Band.



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Region 7 Rally in Spring Green Wisconsin, September 15th – 21st.

Region 7 Rally in Spring Green, WI was a blast! First off, the town of Spring Green has an artsy, open-minded vibe with the American Players Theatre, Taliesin, coffee shops and art exhibits. We had a big group from our Minnesota Club who attended. Ginger planned a nice mix of group events and time to explore on your own. There was a silent auction that raised \$560 each for two organizations, **4Pete Sake** and **River Valley Housing Coalition**. 4Pete Sake helps families with chronic medical issues and expenses. River Valley Housing Coalition addresses the lack of affordable housing in the area.

Following are some photo highlights of the fun-filled events!

Wisconsin Riverside Resort



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Cedar Grove Cheese Factory

Cates Family Farm



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Golf Outing



Vintage Camper Restoration



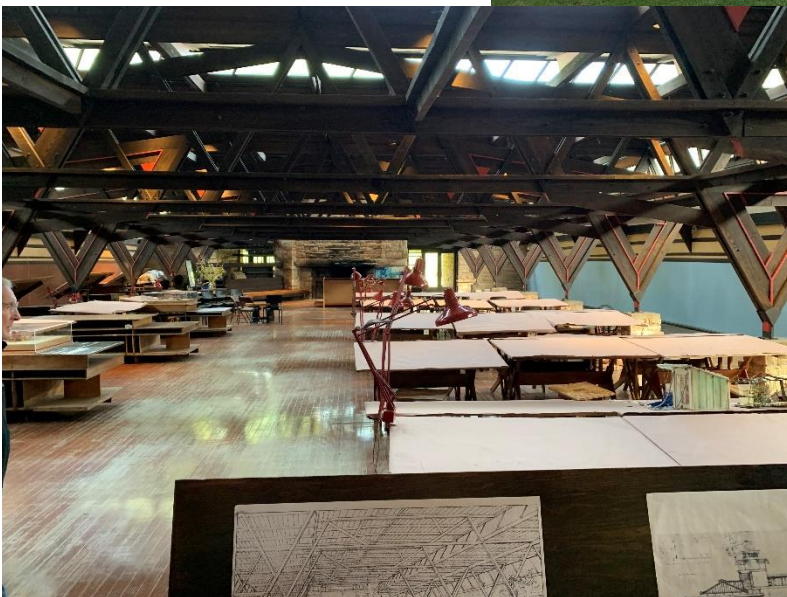
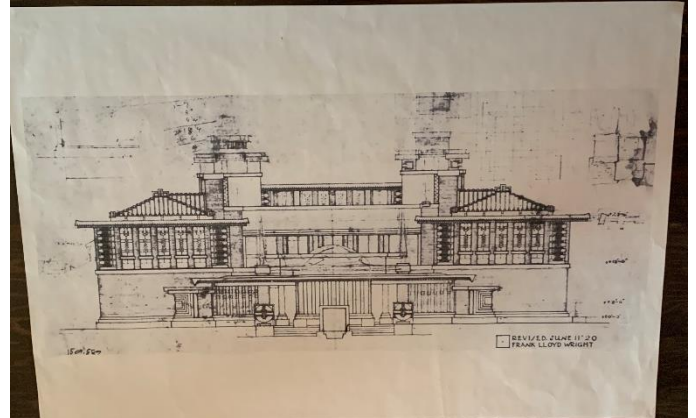
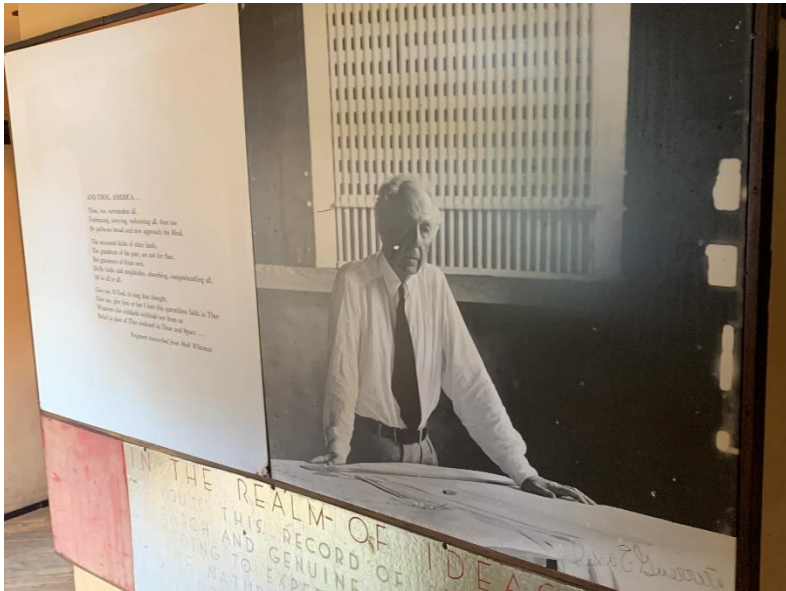
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American Players Theatre



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Frank Lloyd Wright - Taliesin



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Old Log Theatre



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If you are still 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	Vernon	vernon_petersen@icloud.com
1 ST Vice-president	Pamela	rawn.pamela@gmail.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 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>

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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.

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LOTS of dented Airstreams via online Auction!!



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In preparation for the impending Five weeks
of feasting from Thanksgiving to Christmas to
New Years.....



Here's what is on the menu.



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Photo by Daniel Johnson, BRN 2548



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REMEMBER

Renewals are due on January 1, 2024

Airstream Club International

MEMBERSHIP – REMINDERS/GUIDELINES

08/09/2023

International New Member Dues

International Dues for new members is \$75 for one year. The membership period is on an anniversary year which is based on 12 months from the member's original join date (Example: If member joined on May 1, 2023, the membership is good until May 1, 2024). HQ will collect one year of Local Club dues.

International Renewal Dues

International Dues for renewals is \$75 per year. The majority of our members expiration date is Jan. 1 with the exception of anyone who has joined since July 1, 2021. The renewal process for members will start roughly 120 days before the expiration date (**Sept. 3, 2023**). HQ will send out notifications reminding members it is time to renew. The member **MUST** be logged into the member-only portal to renew online. **ALL MEMBERS ARE NOW ABLE TO LOGIN AND RENEW ONLINE (Primary AND Partner!)** HQ will collect one year of Local Club dues.

HQ encourages all local clubs to promote **online** renewals due to the efficiency as well as the time and cost savings for the club. Local Clubs are welcome to do renewals the traditional way, but be advised of the lag time with the postal service. Local clubs are welcome to send funds electronically to HQ. When this happens, please notify membership@airstreamclub.org.

Renewal Forms

Paper renewal forms are available by request only. Members can contact HQ at 937-596-5211 to request a paper renewal form. Members can also select their preference of electronic or paper in the member-only portal. If your Local Club knows of members who would prefer paper renewals, please let HQ know ASAP.

Affiliate & Intra-Club Memberships

HQ is collecting Affiliate and Intra-Club dues for clubs. Members can join online anytime or when they are joining or renewing their membership.

Lifetime Membership

Lifetime Memberships **MUST** go through the renewal process. This lets HQ know the Lifetime Member is still active and is in good standing with their Local Club. If we do not receive a renewal for a Lifetime Member, they will **NOT** be renewed.

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Member Emails

To access your membership dashboard and the member-only benefits, each member must have a valid email address on file with HQ. This also enables members to vote in the election of International officers and amendments to the constitution. If you don't have an email address, it is simple to create a Gmail account with Google or with your Internet provider. Each member needs to have an **individual email** on file even if you share an email address with your partner. If your current email address is not on file, contact assist@airstreamclub.org or call HQ at 937-596-5211.

Membership Dashboard

Encourage all members to get logged into the [Membership Dashboard](#) on AirstreamClub.org. In the portal, members can update their information, see courtesy parking information, membership directory plus member-only benefits. If a member is having trouble getting logged in, please have them contact HQ via email at assist@airstreamclub.org or call 937-596-5211.

Renewals have been simplified to a financial transaction only. If a member needs to update their information, they need to utilize the membership dashboard.

Local Club, Affiliate Dues & Intra-Club Dues

Local Club, Affiliate dues & Intra-Club dues received by HQ will be paid to the Local Club twice a month. Direct Deposit is the preferred method of paying dues.

Auto-Renewal

Auto-Renewal is now available. Members can select this option online anytime or when they are renewing their membership online. We have changed our payment platform. Anyone who signed up for auto renewal prior to July 31 will need to re-enroll in auto renewal due to the payment platform change. We will be notifying the membership of this change.

Transfers

Members are allowed to transfer Home Clubs once per year. Transfers allow members to find a Home Club that best meets their likes and needs. HQ will inform each Home Club of the transfer. During a mid-year transfer, it is between the member and the Home Clubs to work out the Home Club dues portion of the membership.

Published Membership Directory

Any member who wants to be included in the published membership directory must renew before Dec. 31.

Do Not Publish

Members have the option of not having their contact information published in Club's directories. Do not publish means their name(s), region, local club and Big Red Number will be listed without any contact

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information. This is to provide a complete listing of members for our members while at the same time respecting the wishes of those members who do not want their contact information published.

Officer Reporting and Communication Form

This form is used to inform HQ who receives membership information as well as to update the database for officer changes. The highest-ranking officer of the Local Club must submit the form. An Officer must notify HQ of any changes by submitting a new club communication form or email the information to membership@airstreamclub.org This form is located at AirstreamClub.org →Current Members→Member Resources→Officer Toolbox→Official Forms or follow this link to the [Officer Reporting & Communication Form](#).

For changes in your communication list, the highest-ranking officer of the group must submit a new officer reporting and communication form. For single changes of officers or the communication list an email can be sent to membership@airstreamclub.org Region officer reporting forms are due to HQ by Aug. 1 each year and local and intra-clubs should be submitted within 30 days of elections or appointments. Dec. 1 is the deadline to include officers in the published membership directory.

990

U.S. based Local Clubs need to file an annual 990. The deadline for filing varies depending on the Local Club, as well as what type of 990. If you are unsure of your Local Club's deadline, please contact HQ at info@airstreamclub.org Regulations have changed, and an officer from the Local Club must be the one to complete the filing. HQ has step-by-step instructions available to help with this.

Local Club Activities

AirstreamClub.org is now the central database for all events. Local Club officers should be working with the Local Club webmaster to get this information posted to AirstreamClub.org If your webmaster is having issues accessing your Local Club information on the site, contact the Information Technology Committee at ITC@airstreamclub.net

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Chris O's Ramblings

As many of you know, we completely remodeled/rebuilt our 1972 Sovereign, lovely named Little Girl. I think one of the questions we get asked fairly often is, do you replace axles? The answer is no. Replacing Airstream axles has been added to my "Never doing this again" list. Some examples of things on that list are reroofing a house, blowing insulation into walls and an attic crawl space, and changing oil on cars/trucks. We are also asked for a recommendation of some place that will replace axels. Up until a month ago, I never had a recommendation. Now we do – Crystal Welding in Rogers, MN.

Back story: We blew a tire on the Airstream while traveling to Spearfish SD last August. Long story short, the reason was the shock mount on the front axle on the port side (drivers' side, street side) got bent by some unknown road debris and was rubbing on the inside of the tire. I managed to wail on it with a hammer and got it straightened some, so it was no longer rubbing on the tire, and we completed our trip. Purchased a new tire in Spearfish to replace the mostly shredded one.

Once we got back home, we brought the trailer into Crystal Welding to have the shock mount either repaired or replaced. Got a phone call a couple of hours later telling us our axles were bent and needed to be replaced. Ouch! We believe they were a causality from the Alaska Caravan trip. So, we had them order axles for us. This was Sep 25th. Axles should be in in 2 to 3 weeks, which was good because we were planning on leaving for Texas on Oct 25th.

Those of you that do remodeling projects have probably at some time or other, uttered the words, "while we're at it." Kay and I did the same thing, and asked them about raising the trailer 2 inches. Which they can do with a lift kit they fabricate in the shop. What the heck, it's only money...

Starting about Oct 12th, we started getting antsy since the axles had not arrived yet. They finally came in on Oct 18th, less than a week from our planned departure date. Brought Little Girl back to them to have the axles and lift kit installed. Then of course, more bad news. The axle supplier miss-welded the mounting brackets. They were offset to the left a half inch. We didn't have time to get new axles shipped and installed, so after talking with the techs, we opted to install the axles as is. They assured us many times that the tires would not rub on the frame or skins, and we would never notice the difference in towing. It would mostly be a visual thing if you knew what to look for.

The trailer was finally ready to go and we picked her up on Oct 24th – just one day before we planned to leave. Come to find out, they really didn't like the mounting brackets being off a half inch, so they cut them off and fabricated new mounting brackets with the 2" rise built into the mounting bracket instead of a separate lift kit. They busted their butts making sure we got her back in time! And the work they did was outstanding.

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Here's a pic with the old axles:



Here's with the new axles:

Notice that the top of the blue rims are now visible.



We drove to Texas without any incidents, and she towed just as she did before the new axles (like a dream). There we a couple of driveways in and out of gas stations that I know we would have dragged the rear of the trailer on, but the 2" rise kept that from happening. The biggest difference we noticed is when we stop at a rest area and need to get into the trailer. Before, we could easily climb in without putting the steps down. Now, it's more of a struggle, and opening the steps to we can use the top step makes life easier. She is at Texas Airstream Harbor for the next few months, hibernating and waiting for us to return mid-February. Should be interesting as we will be bringing Nala, our cat, with us as well as Ricky (dog).

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Minnesota Airstream Club

Silver Times Editor

Bart Schultz

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FIRST CLASS MAIL