



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club

Gopher News



WBCCI - Unit 059

December 2023

President's Message

What a wonderful gathering of the Mo-Kan Club at our Holiday luncheon. *Ninety-seven members attended – representing 47 of the Club's trailers.*

Thank you so much for your support for our Club. I hope you had as much fun as I did.



To reiterate, the Club will start the camping year with the annual **Region 8 Spring Rally** – April 24th - 28th at the ABC Campground in Branson, MO. The next weekend is our **Mo-Kan Spring Rally** – May 2nd - 5th. We will gather at the Cottonwoods RV Resort in Columbia, MO. Then the **Just-for-Fun Rally** at Melvern Lake – May 30th - June 2nd.

We still need members to step up and be Rally Hosts!

If you're interested in hosting either Spring or Fall Rally, please let me know. Don't be afraid, you'll have plenty of support from seasoned Club members. (See pg. 3!)

Don't forget to register for the **2024 ACI International Rally** to be held October 5th - 10th in Sedalia, Mo. A fall rally is going to be a fun experience you don't want to miss.

It's going to be a fun year for the Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club – join in and be a part of it. You won't regret the time you spent with Club members.

- Ed

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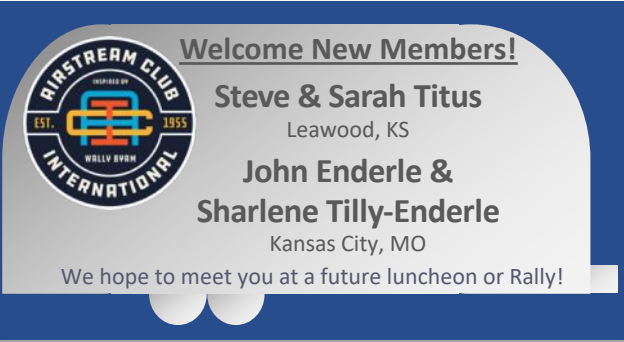
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In honor of our Club's 60th Anniversary, here's a quick history...

1955 - Wally Byam formed the WBCC (Wally Byam Caravan Club) at the Eastern Canada Rally in Nova Scotia, and it was later officially chartered in 1957. Shortly afterward, small groups within the WBCC started to form.

1959 - Bob & Helen Smith from Grandview, MO sent a letter around to form a local Airstream Club.

1961 - After many newsletters and lunches, a unit named the **"Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club"** was launched.

1962 - Elections were held for Board Members. There were 41 units and a treasury of \$89.

1963 - Per *new international club* rules, the unit was split into two parts - Missouri and Kansas. The Missouri club formed the Kansas City and St Louis clubs.

1964 - The WBCC gave an *official charter* to the **"Kansas City Airstream Club"** (Unit #59).

Airstreams at that time *might* have electricity (15 amps), and *maybe* plumbing - usually just a pipe led to a hole dug below the campsite - a "Gopher Hole" (**and thus our Newsletter's name**) - and campgrounds were often local farmer's fields or town square streets.

Today, our units are pulled by rigs with more computers than existed in 1964 and our units often have two AC's, WIFI, remote control TV's ...and *plumbing*.

2020 - After years of transformation, including re-merging with the Kansas Club, we once again became the **"Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club."**

2024 - Today, we have doubled our unit numbers to almost 100 - and growing!

But through all that time, the purpose of the club has remained close to how Wally Byam first defined it:

"To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions."

"To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end, and thus make your travel dreams come true."

Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

LUNCHEONS



January 6, 2024 – 11:30am

Fields and Ivy Brewery

703 E 23rd St., Lawrence, KS

Hosts – Stephanie & Dave Porto

Please RSVP woodsmitty52@gmail.com

February 3, 2024 – 11:30am

Olive Garden

650 NW Blue Pkwy, Lee's Summit, MO

Hosts – John & Maria Echardt

March 2, 2024 – 11:30am

TBD!

Hosts – Monty & Tonja Sowder

RALLIES



April 24 - 28, 2024

Region 8 Rally

Branson, MO

ABC Campground

More Info to Come!

May 2 - 5, 2024

Mo-Kan Club Rally

Columbia, MO

Cottonwood RV Campground

More Info to Come!

May 30 – June 2, 2024

Just-for-Fun Rally

Melvorn Lake, KS

Melvorn Outlet Campground

Reserve your own site [HERE](#)

Oct 5 - 10, 2024

Airstream Club Int'l Rally

Sedalia, MO

Info and Registration at

airstreamclub.org/rally2024



Remember! There's lots of good info, photos and archived newsletters at our Club's website:

<https://airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas>



On Facebook?

Join our [Mo-Kan Club Group!](#)





We need YOU! Consider hosting a rally!

Rallies are the primary activity that bring us together as a club. Rallies enable us to build friendships and to enrich our lives by enjoying the great outdoors in our beloved Airstreams

Hosting a Rally is not intended to be a cumbersome task. As Rally Host there are a few basic things that you need to do, most of which are organization and communication. You will also not be alone. There are many experienced members who are more than happy to provide guidance and share their experience...all you need to do is ask! Enlisting others to help is a must, and makes your job easier!

Co-Hosting a Rally is one of the best ways to gain experience and confidence while working with and experienced Rally Host. Everyone has something to contribute and being a Rally CoHost is one of the best ways to learn while doing

No two Rallies need be alike. Make your Rally your own by planning, organizing, and proposing events and activities that match your personality and utilize the resources, activities, and attractions at or near your Rally location.

Ultimately, as you know, rally participants just want to enjoy the opportunity to mingle, make new friends, and enrich existing friendships! When we all gather, it is always fun! Don't overthink the need to have a full day's schedule, folks are happy to just be camping!

The board has most often chosen the campground already, and each person books their own campsite (generally), however we are ALWAYS looking for campgrounds, so your input is valuable!

Spring and Fall Rallies there is usually one breakfast and one dinner provided. Your job (with your chosen team if you so choose) would be to organize these meals with a caterer, food truck or cook it yourself/your team and submit the costs to the board for approval. Other meals can be potlucks or just "on your own". As stated above, no two rallies need be alike, take a look at the local area of the campsite and decide if there is anything worth doing! You can also bring in activities, plan games, crafts etc. You are never intended to bear the cost of the food.

Summer, Just for Fun Rally, this rally is more laid back, there is no formal meeting, you can do as little or as much as you want to. The only expectation is FUN! You may have attended some where several meals are included, you may have attended some where most of your meals were on your own...there is no rule!

A Happy Hour is always fun! Encouraging community is never more fun than with a happy hour! You can do one every evening if you choose. These are usually potluck, again the hosts are not expected to incur any costs.

Our club is growing and so many of us do not know each other! Rallies are important to club health and longevity! We are looking for rally hosts and would truly appreciate if you would consider hosting with help from your grateful board!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ed O'Connor eoconnor@pcpartners.net

Holiday Luncheon – Dec 2, 2023
YaYa's Bistro, Overland Park, KS



