



# PRAIRIE ROSE

[www.airstreamclub.org/north-dakota-peace-garden](http://www.airstreamclub.org/north-dakota-peace-garden)

February 2024

## President's Message



I hope everyone has had a good winter, whether you stayed home or headed south. We have been working to set up an interesting rally plan for this year. I hope you can attend some or all of our 2024 rallies. As anyone who has tried to reserve a campsite realizes, it is not as easy as it used to be. It is even more challenging to set up a rally

and have sites held for us. The preliminary schedule we gave you last fall had Williston on it, however the reservation challenge was too much to overcome.

The Grafton and Fort Pierre rallies have sites on hold; please reserve your site as soon as possible. The Bowden and Harmon Lake (Mandan ND) rallies have sites on hold under my name. I ask that you let me know if you are coming so I can plan.

We are trying something new with the Bowdon ND 125th celebration. This is an urban rally North Dakota style, population 137. This is a very friendly little town that lost its school and converted the ball park to a campground. We have stayed there a couple of times and always the locals had treated us well. This will be dry camping as their six sites will be taken by local guests. There is a shower/bathroom on site. Please bring your quiet generator if you have one. I will bring an extra generator that can be used for folks needing electricity for medical and pets. Be sure to plan on full water and empty gray and black tanks.

Bruce Coonrod has been putting in a tremendous amount of work on our Fall Installation Rally. It is scheduled for the weekend before the Region Rally in Spearfish. This will make it easier for everyone that wants to attend both events. Again, please reserve your site at Fort Pierre as soon as possible. Hope to see you soon.

~ Larry

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## North Dakota Peace Garden Unit Officers

### Unit President

Larry Ruebel #10081

### 1st Vice President

Jeff Hanson #6555

### 2nd Vice President

Alan Towles #4103

### Treasurer

Roxanne Towles #4103

### Recording Secretary

Bev Wells #7394

### Corresponding Secretary

Cathy Ruebel #10081

### Membership Chair

Rose Larson #5606

### Newsletter Co-Editors

Ryan & Kelley Jilek #7165

### Website Manager

Ryan Jilek #7165



*At the All American Bike Barn in Ortonville with owner Kevin Backstrand (center).*

## Notes from the North

Finally getting to do the last write-up from the great year we had in 2023. This is being written from sunny and warm Yuma Arizona!

The last rally of the season was held at Camping 109 RV Park in Big stone City, South Dakota, from September 14th to the 17th. Pat and Rose, the owners, provided a great location and joined us in several of our meals. They also had souvenirs to remind us of the great time we had there. As well, they gave us several gifts to have as draw prizes. They are great hosts!

As this was a "Buddy Rally", Pat and Rose's friends, Sue and Randy Rhoades, arrived with their vintage Spartan trailer and joined in. They had such a great time that they are actively searching for an Airstream of their own so they can join our unit. Their friends, Tim and Tana Mundwiler,

arrived with their Airstream and also joined in with the rally. I am happy to announce that Tim and Tana had such a great time that they joined our Unit at the rally. They are from Milbank, South Dakota and own the Funeral Home there.

On Friday morning we toured the Old American Bike Barn in Ortonville MN. The owner, Kevin Backstrand, opened his doors to our group for over two hours, showing and talking about the amazing collection of restored Harley Davidson and Indian motorcycles, as well as the trove of memorabilia that he has collected over the years. Kevin answered any and all questions from our group and shared his wealth of information to us. What a great place to visit!

Friday afternoon found us at Rausch Granite, hosted by Mike Rausch and Mary Munson. We



## Notes from the North Eh! (Continued)

were given a tour of the granite works and shown how granite counter tops were made. Due to the workplace rules, the plant was not in production, but Mike explained how everything was produced and answered all of our questions. The next part of the tour was the headstone and marker part of the operation. Mike and Mary showed us how the stone was engraved with the amazing artwork that is seen on to many of the granite markers. They also explained the different colors of granite and the locations where they come from. Another great tour!

Saturday was a day to tour on your own, with some going to the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, and the Ortonville Museum.

As usual, all of our breakfasts and suppers together turned out great. Saturday night the Installation supper was held in Ortonville at Berkner Pizza. Our new President for 2024, Larry Ruebel, was sworn in, with our new first VP Jeff Hanson, second VP Alan Towles, also taking the oath of office. Rounding out or leadership of the new year is Roxanne Towles as treasurer, Bev Wells as recording secretary, Cathy Ruebel as corresponding secretary (and the Presidents advisor and right hand), Rose Larson as Membership chair, Rolly Wall and Cathy Ruebel as Trustees, and finally getting the hardest job of all, is Chris Wells as Trustee and nominating arm twister.

I want to thank all members of our Club for making 2023 a memorable and rewarding year for Bev and myself. We have had great rallies,

wonderful attendance at the rallies, and I have to send a great big thanks to Cathy and Larry for stepping in when Bev and I were unable to be at our first rally of the year. As our Unit goes into 2024, I know that we have great leadership, new members, and an exiting line up of rallies planned. Bev and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Grafton, ND for the first rally of 2024.

~ Chris



# 2024 Peace Garden Unit Rally Schedule

## June 6-9, 2024

### Summer Opener

#### Grafton Campground-Leistikow Memorial Park

715 W 5th St, Grafton, North Dakota

Reservations call 605-862-7650

Email: rvcamping109@gmail.com

**Grafton Parks & Recreation 701-352-1842**

**Please make your reservation by calling Grafton Parks & Recreation ASAP. They have online reservations, but it may cost more \$\$ that way. Make sure to mention the North Dakota Airstream Club.**

Sites set aside for our group : 47-56, 60, 62-64, 22-24, 26

Camp sites \$30 per night Full hook ups.

3 PM check in / 11 AM check out

Cabins rentals are available.

CAMPSITES - 48 hour notice is required on reservations. Credit Card is required for ALL reservations. If not cancelled before 48 hours of stay, credit card will be billed for entire reservation. You may choose to pay with US Funds when you arrive, but a credit card is needed to secure reservation.

Web: [www.graftonparks.com](http://www.graftonparks.com)

**THIS IS A BUDDY RALLY! Bring a friend or two!**

## July 11-14, 2024

### Unit Rally/Bowdon's 125th Celebration

#### Bowdon Park and Campground

4th Street NE & Stanford Ave

Bowdon, North Dakota 58418

(N47.47253948973617, W99.70480124718398)

Email the Unit President, Larry, to reserve your site. This will be DRY CAMPING \$10 per night– no electricity available - Bring your quiet generator if you have one; make sure you have sufficient water and gray/black tank storage. There is a shower house on site.

## August 8-11, 2024

### Dog Days of Summer Rally

#### Harmon Lake Recreational Park

3244 Harmon Lake Rd

Mandan, ND 58554

Email the Unit President, Larry, to reserve your site. More details will be posted as they become available. These sites are ELECTRIC ONLY - \$25 per night; come with sufficient water and empty gray/black tank for the weekend. There are vault toilets but no shower house. Potable water and

sewer dump is available. **THIS IS A BUDDY RALLY! Bring a friend or two!**

## September 6-11, 2024

### This Is the West: Cowboys & Buffalo Rally River View RV Park

910 Verendrye Drive

Fort Pierre, South Dakota 57532

Reservations, call Lila at 605-280-6266 directly – Don't use the online reservation and be sure to mention North Dakota Airstream Club. She has 10 sites set aside for us; some sites with a view overlooking the river are \$60.59 per night, and interior sites are \$49 per night. Call ASAP, even if you think you might be coming. Reservations can be canceled 7 days before beginning of the rally.



2023 Hazen Rally



# *This and That from Region 7*

**By Ginger Slattery, R7 President**

Happy New Year Everyone! I hope you all had a fabulous holiday season and are staying in good health! After the Baraboo, WI rally, we had so much happen in our personal lives (both good and not so good), I had to hang up my Airstream hat for a while. So much so that I have even gone for a few days without having time to even check emails! Back to work now!

We enjoyed all the rallies we attended in 2023! Each one was different, had lots to see and do. The best part is just spending time with our fellow 'Streamers! Thank you to everyone who hosted for giving us such great memories! Pictures will be included in the Region 7 Newsletter coming out in March.

We are looking for a couple of special people to help at the Region level! Robbie Wigley has had to step down as our Membership Chair due to health challenges. She did a great job in the short time she served. Thank you for tackling the position and best wishes for future good health! Please contact me if you'd like more information!

Secondly, we need a new treasurer! Chuck Zellermayer will move up to 1st VP August 1 and can no longer serve as Region Treasurer. He will be happy to let you know how much time he's spent working on things. Let me know if money is your specialty and I'll get you in touch!

The last IBT meeting was November 30, 2023. Here are some of the items addressed:

President Eric McHenry announced the organization of a Finance Committee to assist the International Treasurer to manage club assets "similar to sustainable non profits and public entities". Members include Alan Rabb, R3; Christine Kirk, R11 & Ken Johannsen, R11.

A partnership with Harvest Hosts to manage

Courtesy Parking program was presented. Harvest Hosts will have a separate area on their website that is only accessible to ACI members. Courtesy Parking hosts will be able to manage their own calendar on the site and block off times when their homes are not available for courtesy parking. Members will also be able to book courtesy parking on the website. An announcement was made in the online November Blue Beret. Courtesy Parking hosts may have already received an email describing the new program. It isn't up and running yet but in time for summer travel.

Under Executive Council reports:

Margaret Saylor, R2, was introduced as the new International Publication Chair following in the footsteps of Hedda Smithson.

John Becker read the ACI Political Policy and reminding members that all ACI functions should be politics free.

Jenny Schnettler, reported that outside funds were being raised to pay the cost of the feasibility study for the proposed RV park at Jackson Center. (All funds have now been raised and that study will proceed. The IBT will be looking for an update at the February IBT).

Lori Plummer presented her Corporate Manager's Report. As of November 13, 2023 there were 9,415 memberships (17,324 memberships).

Training of new employee, Justina, is almost complete. She is fitting in very well.

There has been an increase in "offensive, belligerent behavior towards staff members".

(Let's all work on being kinder to one another in 2024! Those who answer the phones at HQ are employees who only want to serve members in anyway they can. They are not policy makers or voting members of the IBT. If you wish to express

*I am really  
looking forward to  
this year's rallies and  
hope to see you all  
down the road!*

an opinion of something, please start with your Region President who is a voting member!)

- New postcards are available for use by Clubs/Members for outreach.
- 707/709 Building Purchase
- The first bid for remodeling was rejected. Waiting on 2nd bid.
- Orders for the 2024 printed Membership Directory are being taken until January 31, 2024.
- The following motions were approved:
  - Motion #2023-49 House keeping motion to remove all references to Delegates/meeting during International Rally.
  - Motion #2023-51 Region elections house keeping motion.
  - Motion #2023-46 Motion to allow Past Region 8 President Sisk to have a 200 series # assigned.
  - Motion 2023-47 Clarifies time a Region President is allowed to choose a 200 series number.
  - Motion 2023-48 Low Country Airstream Club Permanent Charter
  - Motion 2023-52 The title of the corporate manager of WBCCI shall be established as Executive Director.

I did want to make one (maybe 2) comment re: the printed Membership Directory. It has been a hard fight just to keep the printed directory for this year. None of us the Special Committee wanted any fee for it because it has always been covered by dues and not everyone is on line. That was before Covid and just like all other aspects of our lives have been hard it by rapidly increasing costs, so it has been with the directory. The online printing services looked at were not much cheaper than traditional printing. A decision regarding a printed 2025 issue will be made after evaluating this year's demand. Please contact me with any questions, comments, suggestions. (virginiabslattery@gmail.com; 906-250-6931). Thank you!



# Happy 50th Anniversary North Dakota Peace Garden!

Here's a shout out to all those members before us who came together 50 years ago to form the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International! On February 14, 1974, the Unit's Charter was signed by Charles O. Darko, President and R. F. Watson, Secretary. Many great people have shared the campfire over the decades and we are grateful for their insights and traditions; we strive with each rally to measure up to their examples. What a milestone for the Unit and all of today's members who keep the adventure alive in North Dakota!



**We are the longest-rolling, single branded RV club in the world. Our members share a common vision: the pursuit of fun, great adventures and incredible memories. Join us at one of our upcoming rallies, we'll have a chair at the campfire for you.**

For membership and rally information please visit [airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org)



## 2024 Region 7 Rally

**Dates:** September 12 – 19, 2024

**Location:** Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort  
20189 US Hwy 85  
Spearfish, SD 57783

**Phone:** (605) 722-1800

**Website:** [elkhornridgeresort.com](http://elkhornridgeresort.com)

**Host:** Chris Olsson - R7 1st VP  
[cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net)



We have 45 sites set aside for the rally, and 16 are currently reserved. All are pull-through sites with full hookups in one area of the campground. You can call and reserve a campsite anytime (do not reserve online). 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.

When you call to reserve a site, let them know you are with the Region 7 Airstream Rally.

### To attend the rally, you will need to do two (2) things:

1. Call Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort and reserve a campsite.
2. Register and pay the rally fees using the Rally Registration form that will be forthcoming. I hope to have it available in the March/April timeframe.

*We are very actively working on the planning for the rally. Here's a list of the planned activities:*

- Four Buffalo Feeding Tours (limited to 9 people each tour)
- Coffee every morning
- Happy Hours and Campfires most evenings
- A Potluck Dinner
- Ride the 1880 Train (Hill City to Keystone). Round trip with 3-hour layover in Keystone
- Fort Hays Chuckwagon Dinner and Show (Dinner served @ 6:30 pm. Show starts @ 7:15 pm.)
- Bus Tour to Mount Rushmore & Crazy Horse. All day (~9 am to ~5PM)
- A Breakfast (maybe oatmeal & ice cream)
- A Catered Dinner in the Event Center
- Coffee & donuts on last day

Still working on the rally fees! Will be listed on the registration form. Looking forward to seeing everyone!  
~ Chris

## Airstream Notes:

### BIG NEWS!

The International Rally  
will be in Minot, ND in  
August 2026!

### EDITORS NOTE:

We would love to hear more stories from all of you on your travels. Please include a photo or two if possible for us to add to these newsletters. We would also like to know if anyone has some content and story ideas they would like to submit. We're open to anything!

- Ryan & Kelley