

President's Message



Spring is in the air. I put the snow blower away on Saturday, then proceeded to mow grass wearing a winter coat and stocking cap. Soon spring will turn into summer and we will start the rally season. It appears our first rally at Grafton will be very well attended. If you still want to attend, be sure to call in your reservation soon. We will have a special guest, Region 7's 1st Vice President Chris Olsson.

Our hosts for the rally are Chris and Bev Wells and Jeff and Barbara Hanson. Bruce Coonrod has put a lot of effort into the Fort Pierre Fall Installation Rally. Reservations need to be made ASAP, as the campground is filling up with other campers.

~ Larry



No this isn't really Larry mowing snow in his yard but rather what AI can generate when you ask it to!

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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

Editors Note: The following are a couple of articles that Bruce Coonrod wrote. He had sent them in to be included in previous newsletters, but for some reason, we never received them. We have finally worked things out and hence, here are Bruce's articles. Thank you, Bruce!

By Bruce Coonrod

Big Stone Rally Recap

We enjoyed the installation rally at the Hwy. 109 campground just north of Big Stone City, SD. Several activities were also just across the border to the east in Ortonville, MN.

We were the last vehicle to leave the campground for the evening buffet and installation of officers at Berkner Pizza in Ortonville. Leaving just ahead of us was our new member from Milbank, Tana Mundwiler. Approaching US 12, Tana's F250 was nowhere in sight. It had disappeared. Several vehicles were ahead of us, but not Tana's.

We took US 12 to Ortonville and made our way to Berkner Pizza. There was Tana and her granddaughter, the first to arrive. Once inside, I asked, "You must know a shortcut." Her reply was, "I do."

We thought we had figured it out on our return trip to the campground. But as we left the rally and were saying goodbyes, I mentioned to Tana that I now knew the shortcut. She replied, "Not all of them."

We now need to return to Big Stone City for another rally.

Our new members, Tim and Tana Mundwiler, own the Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home of Milbank and also ones in Ortonville, Clinton, Granville and Browns Valley, all in Minnesota.

Saturday afternoon's activity was a vehicle tour through the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, led by Larry and Cathy Ruebel. Lots of waterfowl to be seen.

In the refuge was a rest stop. Carolyn wandered over and was examining something. It was a granite bench, dedicated by the Ortonville High School Class of 1987. On it were three names, who were born on different days but died on the same day, May 11, 1990.

Who were the boys? How did they die? Why a memorial in the refuge?

Back at the campground, I asked Tana if she knew. She didn't but promised to find out. She asked husband Tim, who knew the right person to ask.

On the night of May 11, 1990, four boys who palled around together were in a car in the refuge. A turn was missed, the car rolled, and three of the four were killed. The driver lived. We can all now know the sad story of those four boys, three of whom died that May day in 1990.



Crazy Hail Storm!

The rumble of thunder or the forecast of severe thunderstorm warnings once would increase my anxiety level to extremely elevated. But not for the last 20 years after having a metal three-sided, roofed shelter installed to park our Airstreams under. It has lots of deficiencies, but the steel roof adequately keeps hail off our now only one trailer.

On July 18, three days after returning home from the Teulon rally, a small cell developed northwest of town. At first, it seemed it would pass north of us. But then it veered south. The storm wasn't large, but it packed a punch. It began to rain, and the winds picked up. Soon the rain turned to small hail, then to larger hail. Hail larger than I've ever seen.

The vehicles were in the garage and the 1968 Tradewind under shelter of the metal building, the same place I was. It would hail, then let up, then start again. I was awed at the size of the hailstones.

After the hail mostly stopped, I collected a few from the backyard. One hailstone went through the pear tree and embedded itself two inches into the lawn. The largest were the size of tennis balls. But nary a one touched the Airstream.

A month later, an insurance adjuster totaled the house shingles and gutter guards.



Minutes - Installation Rally Business Meeting

NORTH DAKOTA PEACE GARDEN (NDPG) UNIT

RV 109 Campground, 14144 SD Highway 106, Big Stone City, South Dakota

September 14-17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Wells at 9:32 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Unit members present were Coonrod; Fikkert; Hanson; Jensen, Doug & Marie; Kuehn; Larson; Maier; Picken; Ruebel; Towles; and Wells. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was sworn.

Roll Call of Officers:

Present:

President Chris Wells

1st Vice President Vacant

2nd Vice President Larry

Ruebel

Recording & Corresponding Secretary Bev Wells

Treasurer Roxanne Towles

Past President Absent

Trustee Rolly Wall

Trustee Allan Towles

Trustee Cathy Ruebel

Secretary's Report: Minutes from Fall Installation Rally Business Meeting of September 16, 2022 were circulated. A motion was made by Wilton Kuehn to approve the minutes of September 16, 2022 as circulated, and seconded by Barb Hanson. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of Spring Business Meeting of June 2, 2023 were circulated. A motion was made by Gord Picken to approve the minutes of June 2, 2023 as

circulated and seconded by Jeff Hanson. MOTION CARRIED.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Treasurer's Report was given by Roxanne Towles. Opening Balance of \$1,576.57 with income of

\$478.00 and expenses of \$544.88, with a current bank balance of \$1,509.69. A motion was made by John Fikkert to accept the Treasurer's report and seconded by Wilton Kuehn. MOTION CARRIED.

Rally Fee is \$5.00 per person, fee to be paid to Treasurer Roxanne Towles.

Nominating Committee President Chris Wells reported the slate of Officers as follows:

President Larry Ruebel

1st Vice President

Jeff Hanson

2nd Vice President

Allan Towles

Recording Secretary

Bev Wells

Corresponding Secretary

Cathy Ruebel

Treasurer Roxanne Towles

Trustees: Chris Wells

Roland Wall

Cathy Ruebel.

A motion was made by Wilton Kuehn, to accept the Nominating Committee report and seconded by Ron Larson. MOTIONED CARRIED. Installation will take place at the supper tonight.

Old Business:

NDPG Unit Constitution and By-law, adopted at the Spring Rally in Hazen, ND were submitted to Thomas Smithson, the WBCCI CBL Co-Chair, for approval. The Constitution was acceptable, but additional changes were required to the By-law due to changes made at the IBT. The proposed amending By-law was circulated by email to the NDPG Unit membership with acceptance to changes to be approved at the Fall Business meeting.

A motion was made by Cathy Ruebel that the NDPG Unit By-law be adopted as presented, and seconded by John Fikkert. MOTION CARRIED.

Announcement:

Rolly and Wanda Wall hoped to be at the rally today, but are unable to attend. The Wall's have courtesy parking, and would be happy to host any members or just stop in and visit.

New Business:

Badges:

The WBCCI new membership name tags do not have an officer individual slot indicating the member's position in the Unit. Badges can be purchased from WBCCI that could include the member's name, officer position and unit name.

A motion was made by Larry Ruebel that the NDPG Unit

authorizes the purchase of name tags for the incoming officers, and seconded by Jeff Hanson. MOTION CARRIED.

Table Cloths and Collapsible Garbage Can

Currently borrowing members table cloths and portable garbage can, President Wells recommended the NDPG Unit purchase these items. A motion was made by Jeff Hanson that the incoming President and First Lady purchase table cloths and a collapsible garbage can, and seconded by Gord Picken. MOTION CARRIED.

2024 Rally Schedule:

Incoming President Larry Ruebel welcomed members and acknowledged the volunteers that make each rally a success.

First Spring Rally to be at Grafton, ND at the Leistikow Park Campgrounds, June 6 – 9, 2024. Group sites have been reserved, with reservations should be made by phone to ensure location and discounted price.

The Fall Installation Rally will be at Fort Pierre, SD, September 6 – 11, 2024, immediately before the Region 7 Rally which is being held at Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort, Spearfish, SD, September 12 – 19, 2024. Bruce Coonrod is organizing the rally. Bruce provided information about possible tours and Fort Pierre is the oldest city in South Dakota. RV park information to follow, with reservations being made after January 1, 2024, with

a registration deadline.

Rally to be held at Williston, ND, proposed for August 8 – 11, 2024. Final dates and location to be confirmed and provided to Unit members. Members indicated their interest in attending a rally at Williston.

As the International Rally is being held October of 2024 there is an opportunity to hold a fourth rally in July. Investigating further and will keep the members posted.

International Rally is at Sedalia, Missouri, October 5 – 10, 2024.

Other Business:

Allan Towles inquired about a blessing or grace prior to commencement of meals. The President will determine at each rally.

President Wells thanked everyone for their help this rally. Special thank you to Larry & Cathy Ruebel for stepping in and looking after the Hazen Rally. Cathy Ruebel acknowledged Ryan Jilek for jumping into assist with events for the Hazen Rally.

Pat Hart and Rose Kruger-Fuchs of RV 109 Campground held a door prize draw.

President Wells thanked Pat and Rose for hosting the NDPG Unit Rally Also confirmed that the Hanson and Wells will be hosting the Grafton Rally in 2024.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Cathy Ruebel that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

Installation of Officers:

Bruce Coonrod, Past President of the South Dakota Unit completed the swearing in of the Unit Officers and acknowledged the work completed by the previous officers for the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit. The following Officers were installed:

- Larry Ruebel President
- Jeff Hanson 1st Vice President
- Allan Towles 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer Roxanne Towles
- Recording Bev Wells
- Correspondence Secretary Cathy Ruebel
- Trustees Chris Wells, Roland Wall & Cathy Ruebel



Bev Wells with a new friend while out for supper with Wanda and Rolly Wall and friends in Parker Arizona, April 2024

2024 Peace Garden Unit Rally Schedule

June 6-9, 2024

Summer Opener

Grafton Campground-Leistikow Memorial Park

715 W 5th St, Grafton, North Dakota

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

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.

IMPORTANT FALL RALLY INFO

Bruce checked with the campground and the following have made reservations for the Ft Pierre River View campground: Hansons, Towles, Larsons, Miers, Wells, Ruebels, Coonrods. The campground is still holding sites for us but they are getting lots of calls and the park is starting to fill up. Please make your reservations as soon as possible if you would like to attend.



Camping at Ryan Park Campground in Wyoming



This and That from Region 7

By Ginger Slattery, R7 President

After our long non-winter we're back to rallying together! Doesn't it feel good to get together again? Unfortunately, Joe and I didn't have our camper for the first Wisc-UP rally in Sturgeon Bay last weekend. We ended up at the Best Western Maritime Inn. Truthfully, that wasn't as much fun as when we're in the campground with everyone! Thank you to Sandy and Ed Emerick for planning such a fun weekend! All is well now that we have our truck back, after extensive tornado damage was repaired and I went to collect our Silver Twinkie after extensive repairs over the winter. Thanks to Steve and Clayton Prouty for all their hard work to get us back on the road. They did an awesome job! She's almost brand new!

During your spring business meetings, a couple of topics will come up! First is the very important membership vote on a Constitutional change. After much discussion, the IBT is proposing to change the International Treasurer to a Finance Director. It is felt that with the growth of the Club that there are significantly more assets to track other than membership dues. Now there are substantial assets to track, and far more responsibilities expected than what would be covered by a treasurer. President McHenry and ACI has released a number of articles covering the need for this change, and I encourage all of you to read these so you can be informed prior to the June vote. Because this is a change to our Constitution, it requires a 20% participation of the membership to vote. If you know someone who is not online, please encourage them to contact Headquarters asap to request a paper ballot and one will be sent to them. Everyone else will receive an electronic ballot. If you don't again, contact HQ to make sure they have a good email address for you. This is our club and we all need to take an active role! Please read the relevant articles and vote! Thanks!

At the Region level, Vernon Peterson, current President of the Minnesota Airstream Club, came forward to serve as 2nd VP. His letter of candidacy should be read at your Spring Business Meeting. Then a motion will need to be made, seconded and voted upon. He was unanimously voted in at the recent Wisc-UP Spring Business Meeting. Thank you for stepping up, Vern! I, as outgoing President, am super happy that Chris Olsson will have a full contingent of officers as he takes over August 1. Cordell Woods stepped

up as Region Treasurer, replacing Chuck Zellermyer as Chuck moves up as 1st VP and cannot serve in 2 positions. Thank you all for taking a turn!

We do still have 2 important positions to fill. First is a Region Membership Chair. This person will welcome new members to our Region, especially those not attached to a local club. They will also track our membership growth through the year and track those who have been members for 5 years and more. Please contact me for more information. We all have been new members and know how much that Welcome really means!

The second position is Region Parliamentarian. This person helps us conduct our meetings in proper order. We do like to be pretty laid back here in Region 7 but we still need to make sure business is conducted properly. Again, if this is your passion, let me know!

Finally, I don't know if I properly thanked everyone who made our September Region Rally in Spring Green a success! Our Sponsors were Minnesota Airstream Club, Vintage Camper Restoration/Midwest Airstream Service, Wisconsin Riverside Resort, Airstream Club International, Stan Schwenke with Air Med, Steph Morrill with River Valley Housing Coalition (she was instrumental with the lecture we attended and dinner with the food trucks and put me in touch with others that we visited!) and Minnesota Airstream Park donated a couple of certificates for overnight stays. Chris and Kaye Olsson were my boots on the ground! Thank you for all the various things you helped with! Joe Chovan shared his passion of fly fishing one morning! Thank you all who donated items to our silent auction that benefitted the River Valley Housing Coalition and 4 Pete's sake.

Our next Region Rally is Where the Airstreams Roam in Spearfish, SD September 12-19. Chris and Kaye have a lot of great activities planned and will be a lot of fun! Get registered on the ACI website!

Our next IBT is May 23 and will actually be my last one! Hard to believe! It has been my pleasure to serve you this past 2 years! I have loved meeting all of you! I have worked hard to represent you on the IBT. This isn't good bye, yet! Still a couple of months left! Our Club is successful because of all the wonderful people involved!

Take care! Safe Travels and hope to see you down the road this summer!

Spring Checklist Before the First Trip

Submitted by Chris Wells, Past President

Before the first trip of the year I like to go over the rig and check out things to make sure that the initial trip of the year go's well with no problems.

EXTERIOR

- Wheel bearings, I like to repack the bearings, and at the same time check the brakes and adjust if necessary. Do it yourself or at a shop. Check tire pressure.
- Check for missing or loose rivets and replace if necessary.
- Check all compartment doors and lube the locks with spray silicone. Do the entry doors and hinges as well.
- Check the propane tanks and fill if necessary. Check and replace hoses if hard or cracked. Make sure tank hold down's are tight.
- Drain the antifreeze from the water system, fill the water tank and sanitize, pressure up the system with the pump and check for leaks.
- Fill the water heater, start the propane heat, checking for good flame and any leaks. Check the electric element works (if equipped). Check for nests.
- Connect the trailer to the TV (tow vehicle), and check all the lights and electric brakes. Check breakaway switch works and cable is good. Make sure the jack works.
- Check the gray and black tank dump valves to make sure there are no leaks. Don't want any surprises at the first dump!
- Start and run the propane furnace, fridge on propane and electric, A/C if it's warm enough, and any other propane appliance. Check for nests or obstructions.
- Check the belly pan for any loose panels and missing screws or rivets.
- Lube the hitch and ball with grease. Check all the pins, clips, and bars for damage or missing parts. Check the hitch lock and adjust if needed.
- I like to open each window and spray the weatherstrip with a lubricant so that the windows



John Fikkert and Ron Larson replacing a curved window in an Airstream!



Ron Larson and Chris Wells replacing panels on an Airstream.

- open freely. I use a spray weatherstrip conditioner.
- Check all the vent covers and A/C cover, as well as the pumbing stack. I like to blow out the A/C fins at this time, and check for any wasp nests.
- Put the step down and lube.
- Check spare tire pressure. (If equipped). Check to make sure spare tire holder is secured correctly.
- Check your batteries, top up with distilled water if necessary. I like to load test the batteries at this time.

INTERIOR

- Check the fridge door closes and latches correctly. Check all the shelves and crispers for damage.
- Check all cabinet door catches and hinges and tighten or replace as needed.
- Plug in shore power and make sure all 110 volt systems work.
- Make sure all the taps, drains, and toilet work. You may have to remove the faucet aerators and clean them. Check the sink drain plugs seal.
- Light the stove and cooktop to make sure they work, and that propane is going to all appliances.
- Turn on all the lights and make sure they work.

- REPLACE THE BATTERIES IN THE SMOKE DETECTOR AND TEST. CONFIRM THE PROPANE AND CO DETECTORS WORK AND ARE CURRENT. REPLACE IF NOT WORKING OR PAST DATED.
- Check the entry door interior handles are tight and the deadbolt works. Lube if necessary.
- Open all the compartments, under bed storage, and any place rodents might have entered and clean if necessary.
- Check for missing rivets, screw, etc and replace.
- Check all the interior lights are fastened firmly. Tighten if required.
- Check all sliding or folding door retaining straps are in good condition.
- Check range hood vent fan and exterior cover.
- Put GRAIN BELT BEER in fridge to cool and have a great first trip!

I also like to get the Tow Vehicle checked over before the first trip of the year.

Hopefully these tips will help you get ready for the first trip of the season.

SEE YOU ALL IN GRAFTON, ND!

Airstream Notes:

Attention Artists!

The Hobby/Art Show and Fundraiser at the Sedalia International Rally will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 5 pm during the Rally Welcome Dinner. The details are being finalized and will be posted on the website soon under Hobbies/Activities. They will also be in the August Blue Beret.

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

Some fun pictures from Jeff and Barbara Hanson's trip to the International Rally in Rock Springs last summer. They drove in the caravan with fellow Peace Garden members to the rally in Rock Springs. The Hansons are looking forward to the upcoming camping season and seeing everyone this summer.



We had met Eric Mchenry our club president at Alumapalooza a few years ago so it was fun to see him again.



A cool picture spot



We participated in the Grapes and Grains event which was a lot of fun. We brought some Fargo products to share.



Our group was parked in the red area of this picture.



Partial group photo (in that cool picture spot again!)



The whole crew from our group.



We stopped at Devils Tower on the way home. A very cool stop.

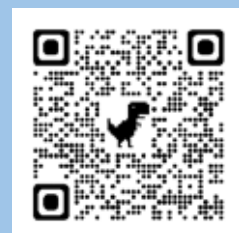


Come and cruise on the **Celebrity Edge®** with your fellow ACI members to Alaska!

- ➔ See whales, glaciers, eagles, orcas, mountains, and waterfalls
- ➔ Our group rate includes internet for one device and Celebrity's Classic Drink Package
- ➔ Choose your stateroom and travel arrangements when you book
- ➔ Our travel agent is an ACI member, so you'll get service from someone who knows rallies, Airstreams, and will cruise with us to make sure the experience is awesome



- ➔ When: July 4 – 11, 2025
- ➔ Embarkation location: Seattle, WA
- ➔ Ship: Celebrity Edge
- ➔ Itinerary: Ketchikan, Endicott Arm / Dawes Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, and Victoria BC
- ➔ Optional ACI Events on the cruise:
 - Daily happy hours
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 - Group shore excursions
- ➔ Prices start at \$4121 for double occupancy (including taxes and port fees) and includes internet on board and the classic drink package
- ➔ **Visit the JotForm here to sign up:**
<https://form.jotform.com/240837797148067>



Where the Airstreams Roam R7 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

Host: Chris Olsson - R7 1st VP
cwolsson@comcast.net

Come join us for a fun filled week in Spearfish, SD! The rally location is the Elkhorn Ridge RV Resort. We have 45 sites set aside for the rally, and 22 are currently reserved. All are pull-through sites with full hookups in one area of the campground.

Here's a list of the planned activities:

- • Dessert on the first night
- • 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 Hot Breakfast
- • A Catered Dinner in the Event Center
- • Coffee & donuts on last day

More details, how to reserve a campsite, and the rally registration form can be found on the Region 7 Website. Here's the link: airstreamclub.org/region-7-2024-rally

Like the logo? We are planning on selling insulated stemless wine tumblers (suitable for hot and cold drinks) as the Region 7 fundraiser this year. A BIG thank you to Pam Rawn for creating the design!

We will also be collecting donations for the Spearfish Foundation for Public Education, a local non-profit benefiting many school programs in the Spearfish area. We will have additional information about this organization at the rally.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

~ Chris



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

