

# RIVETED RAZORBACK



## September 2024

### I am their leader . . . which way did they go?

By Dave Wessinger, president

The title reflects my belief that our club is so full of strong leaders, capable of taking charge and implementing actions that push forward the best interests of our club, that the role of president is largely relegated to not standing in the way of good leadership. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as President of the Arkansas Razorbacks Airstream Club (ARAC) the past two years. I may be biased, but I think our club is the best in the ACI.

How did we get here? Through the work of many committed club members, working at the local, regional and national levels to put

on a full calendar of fun events for our club. Special thanks are due to the event leadership for our ARAC rallies, our Region 6 Rally and the Airstream Club International Rally. It has been a full year:

- **January**—*Big Airstream Southern Sojourn*, hosts Trent and Jennifer Roberts. (This rally is now elevated to a National Caravan for 2025, re-named Gulf Coast Crawl.)

- **February**—*UBT* (Unit Board of Trustee Meeting), open to all ARAC members, hosts Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel.

- **March**—*Early Spring Rally at Horseshoe Bend*, hosts (again) Trent and Jennifer.

- **April**—*Moonshadow Eclipse Rally*, hosts Mark Magie and

Annette Murray (with help from quite a few colleagues)!

- **April**—*Airstreams on the Square*, hosts Jan and Charles Heavener, Paul Moore, and Mark Magie.

- **May**—*Hot Time in Hot Springs*, hosts Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel.

- **May**—*Region 6 Rally, Streaming in the Ozarks*, hosts Jan and Charles Heavener.

- **July**—*White River Rally*, hosts Larry and Terry Madden.

- **September**—*Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*, hosts Laura Wessinger, Terry Madden and Katie Gulley.

**October** will prove to be a busy month. There's the Airstream Club International

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## ***I am their leader . . . which way did they go?, cont'd from page 1***

(ACI) Rally in Sedalia, MO, October 5–10. Many club members are going early to volunteer with set-up. ARAC club members are also working at the regional and national levels to support our Airstream club. We also have *Arkaluma (aka Burning Mouse)* a popular boondocking rally at the Museum of Automobiles on Petit Jean Mountain, hosts Paul Greene, Dave Wessinger and Jason Landrum, and the *Buffalo Point Rally*, hosts Dana and Jason Landrum. (Come join us! See rally schedule for details.)

We will hold a unit business meeting at our Arkaluma Rally on October 26, 2024 (time to be announced) at the Museum of Automobiles' conference room to elect club officers for the upcoming year. Per our club bylaws, our ARAC Executive Board, consisting of our ARAC officers and immediate-Past President Michael Shelley, selected a nominating committee: Mark Magie (past president), Larry Madden (past president), and Mike Loftin (member). The nominating committee put together a slate of nominees for the club officer election (see box below). I'd like to thank the nominating committee for their careful consideration of future officers.

Happy Streaming!

### **PROPOSED SLATE 2024-2025**

#### **Officers**

**President:** David Holsted (current VP)  
**Vice President:** Katie Gulley (current 2<sup>nd</sup> VP)  
**Second Vice President:** Meagan Walker  
**Secretary:** Cindy Kugel (continuing)  
**Treasurer:** Laura Wessinger (continuing)

#### **Board of Directors**

Pam Belk (2024-2025)  
 Zach Bullock (2024-2025)  
 Melissa Anthony (2024-2026)  
 Jack Blakley (2024-2026)

## **Please Welcome Our Newest ARAC Members!**

**James & Gayla Burnett BRN 9236**, Crested Butte, CO, 2019 Flying Cloud 25; **Bob & Wilma Bonds BRN 7173**, Fayetteville, AR, 1995 30; **Ted & Stephanie Clouser BRN 6461**, Roland, AR, 2023 Bambi Sport 20; **Dave & Phyllis Gehle BRN 6323**, Fayetteville, AR, 2023 Globetrotter 25; **Timothy & Annelle King BRN 5728**, Little Rock, AR, 2018 International 24; **Barbie & David Johnson, BRN 28205**, Van Buren, AR, 2012 Flying Cloud 25; **Kristin & Matt Manos BRN 8909**, Star City, AR, 1960 Ambassador 28; **Kevin & Pam Mattingly BRN 6282**, Jasper, AR, 2022 Bambi 20; **Todd & Wendy Rawson BRN 4318**, Bella Vista, AR, 2024 Globetrotter 25; **Chris & Lisa Roe BRN 19606**, Bentonville, AR, 2012 Internation 27; **Donna Wheeler BRN 12894**, Lead Hill, AR, 1965 Globetrotter 19



*Phena & Mike Loftin chatting with Charles & Jan Heavener at the Region 6 Rally in Fayetteville, AR (see more on pages 4-5)*

## Member Spotlight: Tim, Amanda & Weston Welch

We are Tim and Amanda Welch, married for 13 years. We have a 5-year-old son, Weston, and two Yorkie Poos, Sadie and Apollo, who often accompany us on our adventures. Our home on the road is a 2014 Airstream International Onyx Edition that we bought new in 2015.

Our journey into the world of Airstreams began with an unexpected twist. Amanda had a conference in Salt Lake City, so we decided to turn it into a cross-country road trip. Initially, we visited Crane RV with the idea of purchasing a small camper. But, as anyone who knows Amanda might guess, once she laid eyes on the Airstream on the lot, it was love at first sight. By the end of that day, we had traded the idea of a small camper for the beautiful Airstream!

Before heading off on our grand adventure, we decided to test it out with a weekend trip to Maumelle Park to familiarize ourselves with how everything worked. That weekend, we were fortunate enough to meet wonderful people like Bill and Charlene Allen, along with David, Jonathan Gulley and their family, who welcomed us into the Airstream community with open arms. David introduced himself as a fellow enthusiast and even invited us to join the Airstream club.

Just a few days later, we embarked on a 21-day journey, traveling to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, and then through Salt Lake City, Yellowstone, Montana, Wyoming, and beyond. From that moment on, we were hooked, and we officially joined the Airstream club soon after.

Because of our love for the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Riveted Razorbacks, we've hosted many rallies at Road Hog Park, an RV park located at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. We absolutely love bringing our friends together at these rallies to celebrate some of our favorite things: Airstreams, Razorbacks, baseball, and quality time with our friends.

Over the years, we've formed lifelong friendships in the club and feel incredibly fortunate to raise Weston in such a welcoming, supportive community. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child," and we are



truly grateful that this wonderful group is part of our village. Weston is always full of laughter, having fun, and making friends wherever he goes, and we attribute much of his outgoing personality to growing up surrounded by this vibrant, joyful community from the very beginning.

Looking ahead, our hope for the future of the club is that we all continue to embrace new members with the same warmth and kindness that we were shown. This sense of community is what makes our club so special, and we look forward to being lifelong members, building friendships and memories for years to come.

We hope to see you down the road, sooner rather than later.

*All our best, Tim, Amanda, and Weston Welch*

## 2024 REGION 6 RALLY: AT THE FAIR!

*By Jennifer Gulley*

Everyone had a great time at our 2024 Region 6 Rally at the Washington County fairgrounds in Fayetteville, Arkansas! Things started off with a bang when Delvis (Elvis) entered the building for our "Meet Me at the Fair" day! Our group also enjoyed delicious hot dogs and bratwursts served fair style before kicking back to watch the fabulous talent on display for the Jam Session!

Breakfast started every morning off right with hot coffee, and even biscuits and sausage gravy one day!

Musicians from all over the Region came together to entertain us as we sang along to songs from the past and present. Karaoke with Jeff Dalrymple is always a crowd favorite! The grand finale of the rally was the entertainment provided by The Swinging Franks, courtesy of their band mates and our fellow members Frank Cox and BJ Davis!

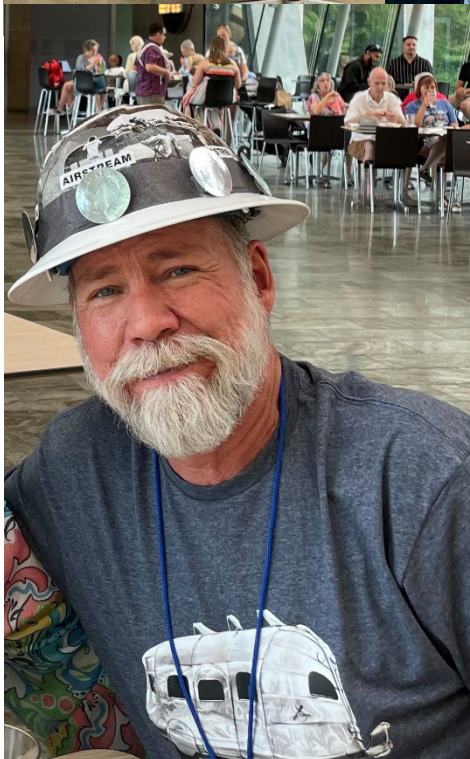
The rally wasn't just fun and games though, it was also a great opportunity to learn new things and reconnect with all our Region's units! We want to give our thanks to Safety Beyond the Airstream and Ozark Electric Cooperative for an exciting and informative seminar.

The Region 6 business meeting was held in front of a packed house where everyone could touch base and have their voices heard. Thank you for your continued support and participation! We got to thank Susan Martin for her years of service as our treasurer before welcoming Cindy Kugel into the position.



The next day was spent enjoying the beauty and art of Crystal Bridges Museum. The tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright home was a favorite among members! After some free time and dinner on our own, we came together for an auction to raise money for The Airstream Foundation and Cents for Kids. Thank you to everyone on the region for your generosity and support of these great causes!

The rally ended on a high note in the spirit of coming together, giving back to others, and celebrating the bond that Airstream has given us with one another! Thank you to all who attended for helping make this rally a success. We look forward to our next annual Region 6 Rally in Sevierville, Tenn. in 2025 – see y'all then!





## Inaugural White River Rally

By *Larry Madden*

As our guide was navigating us through the dense fog that was clinging to the White River, I heard a very familiar voice behind me express a nervous question to him, “How do you know where you are going when we cannot see?”

The Inaugural White River Rally was held at the Dam Site RV Park in Bull Shoals, Arkansas, July 11-14. Sixteen Razorback Club Airstreams and one out-of-state visitor were in attendance. In the early planning stages, Terry and I envisioned this rally to be one dedicated to relaxation! The schedule of events was limited to allow ample time to enjoy the beautiful White River, Bull Shoals Lake, and most importantly, our Airstream family.

Thursday night we started off with a planned hot dog roast; however, Eleanor Jester upped the ante by supplying all the fixings to create Chicago style dogs. Jan and Charles Heavener cooked onion rings, and Jerry Carter prepared his famous Dutch Oven cobbler. With all the other contributions of food, what started as a simple hot dog roast evolved into a feast!

Friday morning, we started the day with early bird’s hot coffee, followed by a magnificent continental breakfast. Terry Madden orchestrated a variety of items for everyone’s tastes. After breakfast we were off to tour Bull Shoals Lake. Our scheduled departure time was 10 a.m. from the Bull Shoals Marina, and just like a well-run Navy ship, we departed on time. At the helm and guiding us on our tour, was a very knowledgeable park interpreter along with Bull Shoals State Park Superintendent, Stewart Taylor. Superintendent Taylor displayed a great sense of humor as he shared many interesting stories and facts about the state park, the lake and the dam. We closed out Friday night enjoying frozen Margaritas lovingly prepared by David and Nancy Holsted, followed by a delightful dinner at Gaston’s White River Resort.

Saturday was an open day to enjoy the river, sightseeing, or just relax in the beauty surrounding us. Mike and Phena Loftin joined Terry, Luanne Billingsley and I on a guided fishing trip. While we were in separate boats, we all caught our limit of Trout and had a fantastic time. Dave Wessinger and Melissa Anthony chose to go fly fishing, and had an exceptional experience with their guide, catching and releasing an abundance of Trout. After enjoying a dinner of piping hot pizza Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel set up their movie screen and we all enjoyed *A River Runs Through It*, starring Brad Pitt.

Sunday morning, we returned to Gaston’s for brunch before all but a few departed for home. Those of us who chose to extend our stay another night were treated to fresh Trout and all the trimmings. Many thanks to all who contributed their time, effort and food to make our inaugural White River Rally a fun and enjoyable experience.





**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!**  
**TOMPKINS BEND • LAKE OUACHITA • September 5-8, 2024**





## 2024 RALLY SCHEDULE

**October 5-12: International Rally – Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO**

**October 24-27: Arkaluma aka “Burning Mouse” – Museum of Automobiles, Petit Jean Mountain.** Eighth annual boondocking rally with Airstreams parked in the magical wagon wheel arrangement. Evenings by the campfire in the middle of the circle, potlucks, a big-sky full of stars, and hiking nearby. *Hosts: Paul Greene/Dave Wessinger/Jason Landrum (Paul: [1pggreene@gmail.com](mailto:1pggreene@gmail.com)).*

**October 31 - November 3: Buffalo Point Rally, Buffalo National River.** We return for this annual rally on America’s first national river to take in the wildlife, Fall color, local hikes, and feast on Dutch oven cooking! Make your own reservations in Loop C at Buffalo Point Campground six months in advance @ [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). *Hosts: Jason & Dana Landrum ([jdlandrum@mac.com](mailto:jdlandrum@mac.com)).*

## 2025 RALLY SCHEDULE

**February 20-23: Unit Board of Trustees (UBT) (open to all members) in Stuttgart, Arkansas.** *Host: Zach Bullock ([zachdbullock@me.com](mailto:zachdbullock@me.com)).*

**March 14-16: Arkansas Food Bank Rally, Little Rock, AR.** *Hosts: Trent and Jennifer Roberts ([dtrent@gmail.com](mailto:dtrent@gmail.com)).*

**May 15-18: Fun in Fort Smith, Arkansas.** *Hosts: Larry & Terry Madden ([h70man@cox.net](mailto:h70man@cox.net)).*

**August 23-28: International Rally – York, PA**

**September 4-7: Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.** Location TBD. *Hosts: Laura Wessinger, Terry Madden and Katie Gulley. (Laura at [llwessinger@gmail.com](mailto:llwessinger@gmail.com)).*

**September 24-28: Region 6 Rally.** Join us in the heart of the magnificent Smoky Mountains at The Ridge Outdoor Resort in Sevierville, TN. Registration will open later this fall. *Hosts: David and Mary Gulley ([dmgulley@gmail.com](mailto:dmgulley@gmail.com)).*

**October 16-19: Airstreams on the Square, El Dorado, Arkansas.** The extremely popular urban camping weekend around the Union County Courthouse square. *Jan and Charles Heavener, Mark Magie, and Bad Paul Moore (contact: Jan Heavener [bassjan@gmail.com](mailto:bassjan@gmail.com)).*

**\*\*\* STAY TUNED – MORE 2025 RALLIES ARE STILL BEING PLANNED! \*\*\***