

# IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB

March, 2025

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515.988.4950

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515.360.7887

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515.473.4982

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515.473.0256

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319.270.1189

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641.791.9547

2 yr. Director: Margaret Jespersen  
563.422.8182

2 yr. Director: Shirley Herron  
515.556.9339

## Prez Sez

Hope everyone that didn't make it to our fantastic February Luncheon had a great Valentine's Day. Our First Time Hosts Tom and Wina Spread did a wonderful job and even came up with some great ideas for a possible future rally there locally. Great opportunity to talk with them about a Co-Hosting rally. Had some attendee's that hadn't joined us for a while, always great to catch up with friends, despite the weather we all had a great time.



As we rush to March Madness, we wish luck to our local athletes across the state to be safe and play a great game. Also, March 15th Don't forget to join the Wolves and Us for a wee bit of BBQ in Ames. We find ourselves easily daydreaming for camping season. Be sure to keep an eye out this month as May and September (2) of our rally locations, booking time announcements will be arriving soon.

And we're STILL waiting for the announcement regarding Region 8 Details for April's Region Rally.

Located in our last newsletter was an engaging article (Thank you, Hobe) covering his fun recent Mother Lode of the Mother Road RT 66 Caravan hopefully everyone has the opportunity to attend this historic travel. I have it from a great resource there's one (1) spot left for 2025 caravan.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Thomas Herron



## Caravan Corner – Deb and Earl Gass

My wife Deb and I completed the Viking Trail Caravan this past summer of 2024. It was our 3rd caravan. We have thoroughly enjoyed all three. Each caravan was different—but all have been filled with adventure and new developed friendships



The Viking Caravan started and ended at ‘The Arm of Gold’ campground in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. Our caravan leader, Pat Leggatt and husband Murray of London, Ontario had guided us through many planning menus to not only prepare the kitty expenses (international funds through Canadian banking), the usual biographies submitted as background information, and reservations for various activities. We arrived at the campground on Saturday, June 22nd and returned on Saturday August 24th

Our border crossings were uneventful. There have been exceptions, but respectful courtesy will serve you well. Of course, a valid passport is necessary. If you have a pet, be mindful of the vaccinations and appropriate documentation required both directions. Leave your guns and weapons at home; you will not need them and it will greatly complicate your crossing entry. Our experience was very similar to international air travel

Our ferry trips were pleasant; the crossing to Newfoundland is about 7 hours. We also explored Labrador for a few days, a shorter ferry trip and Fogo Island, an even shorter ferry trip

A memorable conversation was had with a Labrador resident while awaiting loading our truck and trailer. He noticed my Iowa license plate and inquired if I knew Caitlin Clark. The Caitlin Clark effect is everywhere.

The Viking Trail Caravan consisted of 20 units with 3 from Ontario and 17 from the United States: 3 from Texas, 1 each from California, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, Tennessee, Mississippi, Florida, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Maine. A geographic diverse group, all wonderful people.

There are two main categories of memories for me: 1) The people of Newfoundland are refreshingly genuine and caring. The musical ‘Come From Away’ accurately captures how the people of Gander responded to the airplanes and their passengers that were ordered out of the sky due to





the September terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. The 38 passenger planes over the North Atlantic were carrying around 5,000 people which basically doubled the population of Gander—and they did not know when and if nor how the planes might depart.



The people of Gander and the surrounding communities were compassionate, innovative, and caring during the week that the planes were in Gander. We saw that same remarkable human qualities wherever we went in Newfoundland. As part of the caravan, we saw the musical ‘Come From Away’ in Gander. The constable during this 9/11 event was Oz Fudge. He came to our campground and visited with us for an hour. In preparation for a visit to Newfoundland or to view the musical, I highly recommend the book ‘The Day The World Came To Town’.

One example of that personable, caring nature: I was at an event and typically there is minimal space to park. I was boxed in—no way for me to exit the truck and I resigned myself to be patient and wait. A local approached me and asked if I wanted to leave. I answered, yes, but waiting is my only option. He answered, perhaps not. In Newfoundland we leave our fob or ignition keys in our vehicles as a courtesy for neighbors or emergencies. He looked inside the car, found the keys, moved the car and I was on my way.

I heard more than once that there is little theft in Newfoundland as businesses and homes are minimally secured. If something goes missing, they needed it more than I.

The coastal topography and communities are gorgeous, wonderful to explore, the hiking trails and vistas are memorable.

If you enjoy geology, Gros Morne National Park is delightful. The age of our planet, the outer crust and shifting tectonic plates over eons of time—this is one of the premier locations for these studies. Tablelands is the specific area of the park, explained by a competent guide to our caravan. A direct opposite of this park adventure is the freshwater fjord of Western Brook Pond which was viewed from a vessel with another excellent guide. Probably the most challenging hike is inside this park, excellent vistas throughout



Gros Morne is an extension of the

plate that has formed the Appalachian Mountains; you soon understand why the eastern Maritime provinces affectionately refer to Newfoundland as 'The Rock'

Other parks included Port au Choix National Historical Site ( original natives); L'Anse Aux Meadows National Historic Site (Viking settlement from 970 to 1030) which was around 500 years before Columbus arrived in North America and Red Bay, Labrador National Historic Site which was the center for commercial whaling

The early fishing and whaling industries started in the early 1500's (a hundred years before Plymouth Rock and Jamestown). Regional fisherman (the Normand's, the Bretons, and the Basques) visited, settled, and the shipping industries to support the harvests back to Europe. Soon, the harvesting of seal pelts followed. With over harvesting protections for seals and whales were enacted and in 1992 the lucrative cod fishing industry was shut down due to overfishing. Private fishing and limited commercial fishing have commenced again, but the main livelihood has changed dramatically. Tourism has replaced some of the gap; but many young people leave Newfoundland to find work in Ontario or the oil industry of Alberta. Several of our stops had museums and other exhibits that explained this cultural history in detail. Deb and I were able to catch a few cod with a technique called 'jigging'



We also had some good history references. Newfoundland has always been strategic for travel and national security. The Gander airport referenced previously was important as a refueling station in earlier aviation, not so much today. Newfoundland was its own commonwealth, closely aligned with Britain. It was until around 1949 that it became part of Canada. I had to reference and recalibrate my U.S. History with World history. World War I was from 1914-1918. The United States was in the war from 1917-1918. Likewise, WWII was from 1939-1945. The United States was in the war from December 1941 to 1945. Supplies from the United States were going to Europe well before our entry in December 1941, but the tonnage sunk in the North Atlantic was significant through 1940, 1941, and most of 1942 before our Navy was able to counter the German submarines and provide security. In depth historical references were at several stops, with the most comprehensive at our easternmost stop of St John's With these stops I gained a greater perspective of the world stage during this era; and made me appreciate the national defense importance of The Panama Canal and Greenland and the Suez Canal

Animals like moose are always prevalent at dusk/dawn and night. We avoided travel during this time for safety and it worked. Whale sightings, dolphins, puffins were memorable. We did not take our bicycles and for us it was the correct decision. There are little to no shoulders on most Newfoundland roads; makes biking less enjoyable

There are occasions when the gnats and black flies are bothersome (dawn and dusk). Having the appropriate

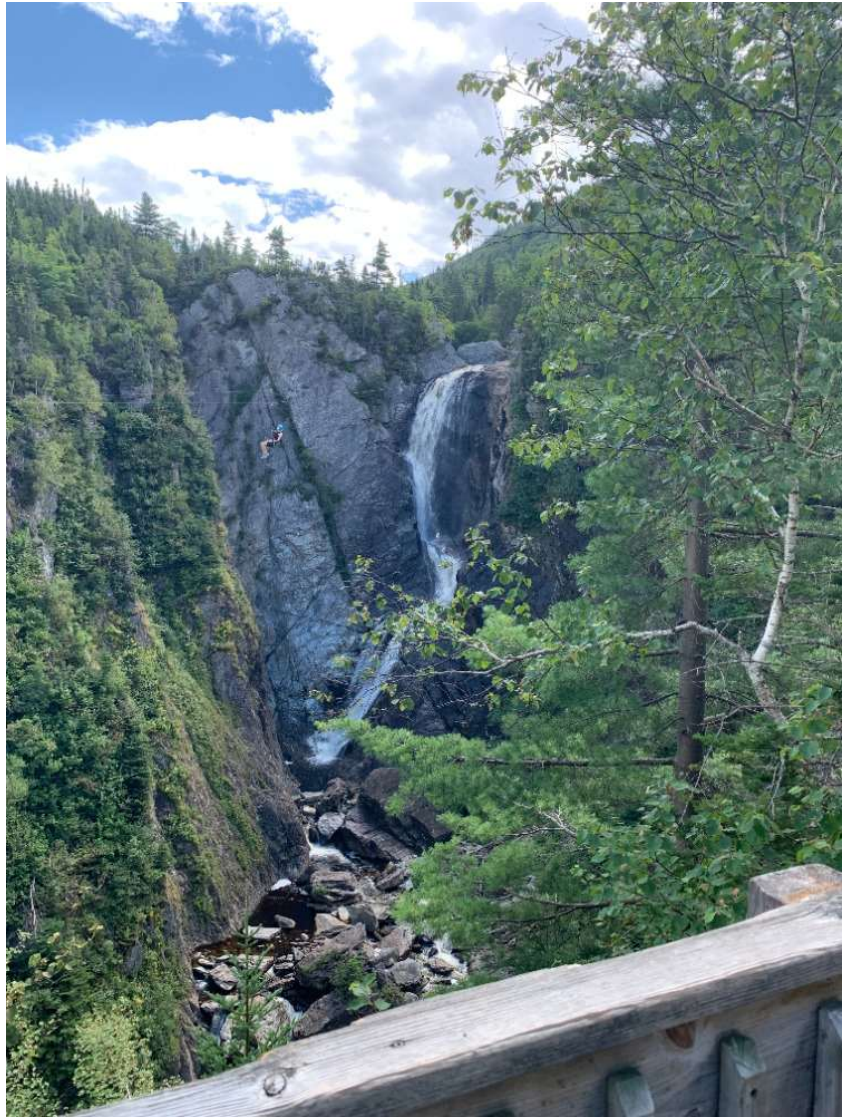


netting headgear, long sleeves, pants is appropriate. The weather can be everything. We did run our air conditioner, but not much: likewise, we did run our furnace, but not much. We ran our ventilation fans often. A small dehumidifier (the humidity is like Iowa and it does rain); rain gear for some days and boat rides for Gros Morne and whale watching

Other activities of interest: 1) ATV rides/driving. 2) zip lining in a zig zag pattern down a beautiful mountain across a waterfall-stream. 3) antique car museum in Swift Current with Vernon Smith. He was a character, what a delight. 4) many restaurants, craft breweries, bakeries, and one forgettable winery 5) Newcomers are 'Screched In' a welcoming ceremony

My only regret is not carving out placeholders on our itinerary before joining the caravan and after the caravan. There is even a post Viking Trail caravan called 'Meandering The Maritime' which would have been ideal as Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are worth exploring. We did explore the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton National Park, although at a faster pace than I would have preferred. We also dropped by Quebec City, again too quick. Exploring the 'Plains of Abraham' to ponder a different outcome leading up to Treaty of 1763 and then King George imposing a dreadful tax on the Colonies leading up to our Declaration of Independence 1776. We made our re-entry at Chain of Lakes, New York and made our way to South Bend, Indiana for a family gathering.

Our memories include the wonderful new people we met, our new friends, and our leader, Pat Leggatt—I cannot offer enough compliments to Pat and the previous leaders that forged this itinerary and splendid arrangements with limited suppliers. Just as we renew friendships at our local rallies, the National Rallies are opportunities to see the fine people we have met on these caravans



Looking for members who are willing to share the highlights of a caravan or camping trip they have participated in the last few years. It doesn't have to be long and I can send you some questions to help. Please reach out to Terie if you are interested in sharing your adventures with the club.

## March Birthdays

5-Michael Allen  
12-Linda Beu

## March Anniversaries

none

\*\*New members, please send me your birthday and anniversary as I don't have them and I don't want to miss it.

## WINTER LUNCHEONS:

Please let all of the hosts know if you plan to attend

### March: Lucky Luncheon

March 15th, 2025 @11:30 am (new time to allow for members traveling)

Hickory Park

1404 S Duff Ave, Ames, IA 50010

Host Terie and John Wolf

515-360-7887

[Terie62@icloud.com](mailto:Terie62@icloud.com)

### April: Almost Spring Luncheon

April 12, 2025 11:30 AM

Pizza Ranch

219 W 4th St, Vinton, IA

Hosts Nancy and Chuck Helle

319-270-1189

[nancyandchuckhelle@gmail.com](mailto:nancyandchuckhelle@gmail.com)

## February Winter Luncheon:



Our February Luncheon was hosted by Tom and Wina Spread in Muscatine, Iowa at Boonies on Avenue. We had a really good turnout considering the snow that we received earlier in the week and the frigid cold. Boonies on the Avenue is located fairly close to the river and had really good food. I would have to recommend the tenderloin.

Fun fact, Tom Spread is quite the Muscatine historian. I had no idea that Heinz ketchup was made in Muscatine and you will not find other ketchup brands around town. Evidently Kraft Heinz's second production facility and the first outside of Pittsburgh was constructed in Muscatine in 1893.



Also, Muscatine was known as the "Pearl Button Capital of the World" during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The National Pearl Button Museum is located in Muscatine. Muscatine's pearl button industry hit its peak between 1908 and the '20s, when the factories in Muscatine produced 1.5 billion buttons.

Thank you to Tom and Wina for being wonderful hosts and giving us a break from the cold with lots of social time.

We also had an opportunity for Denny to talk about all of the options for our August Rally in Spillville. We voted on all of the options of social time together. In order of

highest votes to lowest:

- Toppling Goliath Brewery Lunch
- Bily Clocks/Dvorak Museum, Spillville
- Wildberry Winery
- Pulpit Rock Brewery/The Landing Market
- Visit Dunning's Spring
- Toppling Goliath Brewery Tour
- Westerheim Norwegian-American Museum
- Pivo Brewery in Calmar
- Mabe's Pizza
- Porter House Museum Tour
- Trout Stream Fishing
- Decorah Fish Hatchery
- Explore downtown Decorah
- Seed Savers Exchange
- Hike/Bike the Decorah Trails
- Pizza Ranch





We also decided to take the mayor up on his offer to smoke our Saturday night dinner. Finally, as we entered the restaurant, Denny welcomed us with signs that he made that can be used at our rally's. He also shared a sticker that he makes that you can put on a window. If you are interested in having a sign or sticker made for your trailer, please reach out to Denny on his email at: [denny.chapman@rocketmail.com](mailto:denny.chapman@rocketmail.com) or Facebook and he can give you a reasonable quote.





## 2025 REGION 8 AND INTERNATIONAL RALLY

### April 30 - May 4th, 2025 – Region 8 Spring Regional Rally - A SEA OF SHINING AIRSTREAMS!

Amana RV Park Event Center  
3850 C St,  
Amana, IA 52203

The agenda with registration instructions has been posted on the website and you should have received it in your email

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### August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 "Let's Make History"

68th International Rally  
York Expo Center  
334 Carlisle Ave  
York, PA, 17404



## 2025 Iowa Airstream Rallies

### May 15 - 18, 2025 – Mother's Day Camping

Albert the Bull Campground  
1110 E Division St  
Audubon IA 50025  
Host Tom and Shirley Herron  
515-988-4950 Tom  
[Herrons13007@gmail.com](mailto:Herrons13007@gmail.com)

### June 19 – 22, 2025 – Tri-Club Rally (Iowa, Iowa North, Nebraska)

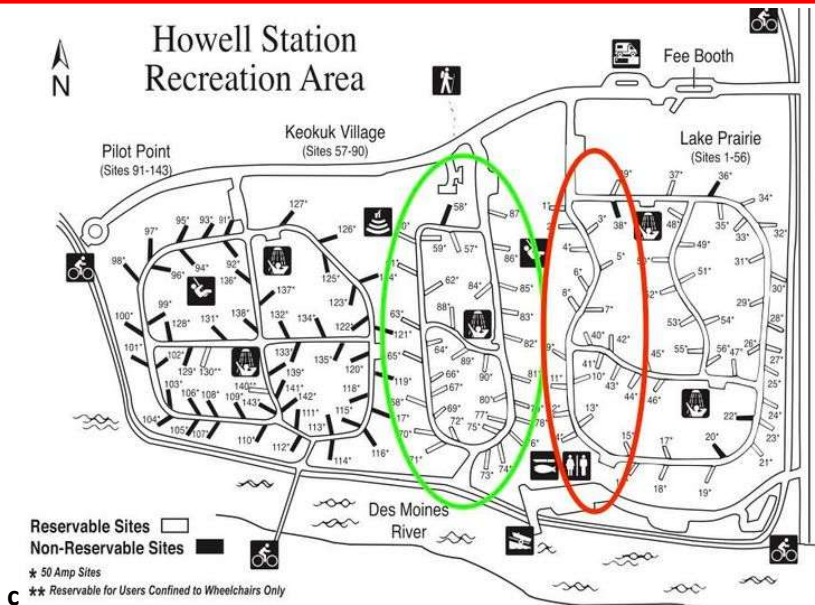
Lake Red Rock Corp of Engineers  
Howell Station Campground  
1081 198th Pl  
Pella, IA 50219  
Iowa Host Tom and Shirley Herron  
515-988-4950  
[Herrons13007@gmail.com](mailto:Herrons13007@gmail.com)

Co-Host: Tom and Wina Spread  
563.554.0145 (Tom)  
[tomsprad@gmail.com](mailto:tomsprad@gmail.com)  
563.5540146 (Wina)  
[winasprad@gmail.com](mailto:winasprad@gmail.com)

## Make your reservation for the Tri-Club Rally:

Contact the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) toll free at 877-444-6777 or on-line at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

After you book, please let me know your site# and attendees as soon as possible for meals and activities are going to be planned based on attendees. Host for Iowa club Tom Herron 515-988-4950.



For the June Rally, try to reserve a spot in the **Green (sites 57-90)** or **Red (sites 1-16 or 40-45)** circle.

**July 17-20, 2025 (This is an Iowa North Rally but Karen and Dave Cole are hosting-so if you are an affiliate, they would like to see you there)**

**Lake Manawa State Park (book sites 18-40 which is closest to the water)**

1100 S. Shore Dr.

Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Reservations need to be made by April 17.

Host: Dave and Karen Cole

[dckc@cox.net](mailto:dckc@cox.net)

**August 7 - 10, 2025 – Exploring Upper Iowa – This is a Buddy Rally -invite your friends**

**You can still make your reservation for this rally**

Riverside Campground

116 Bridge St

Spillville, IA 52168

Dennis Chapman and Margaret Jespersen

563-380-1385

[denny.chapman@rocketmail.com](mailto:denny.chapman@rocketmail.com)

**September 11 - 14, 2025 – Camping on the River (register for this rally on 3/11-have your lifetime Golden Age Passport or National Park discount pass handy)**

Corp of Engineers Thomson Causeway - ([www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov))

1600 Lewis Avenue  
Thomson, IL 61285  
Dana and Mike Johnson  
563-340-1410 Mike  
563-271-3030 Dana  
[airtandem@hotmail.com](mailto:airtandem@hotmail.com) Dana

**October 9 - 12, 2025 – Fall and Installation Rally**

Lake Ahquabi State Park  
16510 118th Ave  
Indianola, IA 50125  
Terie and John Wolf  
515-360-7887 Terie  
[terie62@icloud.com](mailto:terie62@icloud.com)

**Reservations can be made on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** Please do not delay as this park will fill up quickly. I will send a map when it gets closer to camping season.

**Additions or corrections for the Directory:**

Pg 9 (missing page #)

BRN 146      Beu , Norman & Linda  
Winter address: 200 Walnut Hill Ave. #6  
Hillsboro, TX 76645

BRN 10638      Dailey, Jamie & Michelle  
1004 Ballard Drive  
Huxley, IA 50124



## IOWA AIRSTREAM CLUB MARKETPLACE:

**For Sale:** 1979 Airstream Land Yacht Tradewind 25Ft. It is self-contained. Everything works. It has 2 new axles and a new furnace. Rear bath. A twin bed and a couch in front. Gas/electric refrigerator, 4 burner gas stove with oven, gas water heater. Newer TV antenna, radio will run CD's & other. 2 recently new 50 lb gas tanks and tires. All water and holding tanks have been replaced recently.

Asking \$30,000. or best offer. Have several extra's that can go with it. If interested, contact Donella Watkinson at 319-396-9088.



\*\*Anyone interested in posting a gently used/new camping item for the Marketplace, please send the information on your item and a picture to Terie at [terie62@icloud.com](mailto:terie62@icloud.com) and I will get it posted in the next newsletter.