



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA PEACE GARDEN UNIT

PRAIRIE ROSE

www.airstreamclub.org/north-dakota-peace-garden

Jeff Hanson

President's Message

Greetings North Dakota Peace Garden Unit. I hope everyone survived the winter and is ready for another camping season. Barb and I are excited to see everyone this summer. Our first rally is rapidly approaching on Jun 12 at the Hawk Museum. Barb and I got a head start on rally season by attending the Minnesota spring rally at Crow Wing Campground by Brainerd. Unfortunately our hot temperatures the previous weekend gave way to temperatures in the 40's and 50's and rain on Thursday and Friday. The rainy weather did allow me to install the cabinet brake on the cabinet above our fridge (Thanks Bob and Mary for the gift). We did a dinner cruise on Gull Lake Saturday and as you can see from our picture it was a bit chilly. The campground let us use their storage shed for our breakfasts and dinners which was well appreciated. It was fun to see how other units do their rallies. This one was a lot less structured. We had breakfast and happy hours scheduled, but most of the day, people did their own thing. This is something we might consider for our group for future rallies.



2025 Rally Schedule

June 12-15: Hawk Museum, Wolford, ND

July 17-20: Shadehill Reservoir, Lemmon, SD

Aug 23-28: Airstream Club International Rally, York, PA

Sept 18-21: Nome Schoolhouse, Nome, ND

If you plan to attend the rally at Nome Schoolhouse on September 18-21, please let me know by June 27. E-mail me at jhanson19751980@gmail.com.

Cathy Ruebel

The Big Silver Car Carrier: Willy's Scary Adventure

What started out as a stressful trip to the vet for a dental cleaning, became a very scary journey in Willy's life, and for his human staff, too. Willy was a feral kitten adopted by Larry, and named after the killer whale in the "Free Willy" movie. But like any movie, that's only make-believe. After taking him to the vet to treat a very serious leg wound, there was nothing "free" about this kitten anymore. Willy quickly adapted to being leash trained and slowly acquired house manners. Willy is now thirteen years old and lives with his cell mate Sable in the garage, his kingdom plus all of the outdoors.

Shortly after the dental procedure began, the vet called to say that they discovered a large growth in the back of Willy's mouth, which in her experience was most likely cancerous, inoperable due to the location. She spoke of palliative care - we were stunned.

After a day of thinking, then some research on the internet, we left a message for our regular vet to call and enlighten us. They considered this tumor is inoperable because of its proximity to the larynx and would require overnight care not available in Bismarck. Fargo has a 24-hour Emergency Vet Hospital, highly recommended. Our vet arranged a referral for a consultation on April 15 (yep, Tax Day), with surgery tentatively scheduled for the next day.

Now the logistics of traveling with a sick, medicated cat. The Big Silver Cat Carrier. This would certainly be the earliest we ever de-winterized, but staying overnight in a hotel did not appeal. Willy was never a good traveler, howling all the way to the vet and home. The West Fargo Fairgrounds, close to the Vet Hospital, may or may not be open. Wanda and Rolly kindly agreed to let us park at their farm if the fairground was not an option - Thank you Wanda and Rolly for easing one stress.

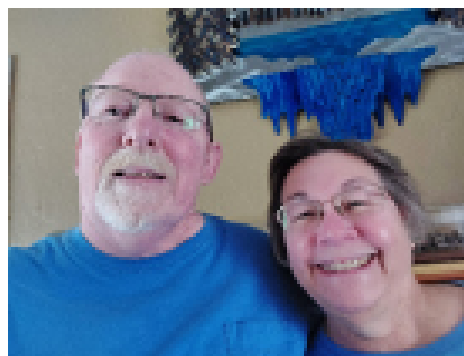
We thought long and hard about how to "cat-proof" the Airstream. There are a lot of crevices that a frightened and determined cat could squeeze through, some which could require de-riveting to extricate the varmint. A large dog kennel and pillows stuffed into the crevices would have to do. Willy settled down after the first fifty miles, sort of. The surgeon inspired confidence, though not giving any false hopes. We decided that, while the surgery might kill Willy, we knew the tumor definitely would. The people at the Vet Hospital were so kind and helpful. We got updates during the surgery, which he survived with flying colors! In the meantime, were able to visit with some old friends and unload some club stuff on President Jeff. The hospital staff even sent a photo at 2 am of Willy watching goldfish swim across an iPad screen.

We decided to stay an extra day after Willy was released to make sure he was travel-ready. In the Airstream, Willy really liked going from window to window to look out...continuing through the night, digging into everything. About 4 am, he managed to tunnel down into the sofa, so that had to come apart. The humor was lost on his human staff, so it was cat jail time.

The trip home was long - that rear seat is not so good on an old lady's back. All in all, Willy's traveling and Airstream time went better than envisioned, but not likely to ever be repeated. He is doing OK now. Pathology determined squamous cell carcinoma, so it will likely return someday and will be his demise. But we have his companionship for a little while longer. Willy takes care of us and we take care of him, that's how it works.



Willy



Region 7 Ramblings

Notes from Chris Olsson – R7 President

At the April 17, 2025 IBT meeting, there was only one motion put before the IBT, and that was to change some of the wording in the job description for the Recruitment Oversight Committee's role in vetting candidates. The motion maker thought the wording may be misleading and might deter candidates from applying for candidacy. After some discussion, the motion was defeated with 18 no votes and 2 yes votes.

Other motions approved by the IBT using electronic voting prior to the IBT Meeting were:

- Policy Amendments to Align with the Finance Director Position Constitutional Change and to Close Gaps and Clarify Ambiguities.
- Boondockers Badge Logo for the Boondockers Intraclub.
- Georgia Airstream Club Permanent Charter

If you want to read the minutes for the April 17th IBT meeting, you can find them here:

<https://airstreamclub.org/2025-international-board-trustees-april-17-2025-business-meeting>

Scroll down to the Meeting Minutes Link and you can download them.

As a member of the IBT, I have had the honor of helping to start a new intraclub: The Fly Fishing Airstream Club. This new Intraclub has been put together by Anothny Robbins from the Carolinas Airstream Club, with me as the sponsor. If you know me, you may be asking what does someone who does not fish, fly fish, or really even like fish doing sponsoring a Fly Fishing Intraclub? The answer is simple. I asked what was involved and the answer looked pretty straight forward, so I said I would be their sponsor. Turns out, an IBT sponsor doesn't need to know anything about the new intraclub, just be willing to help them get through the process. I am happy to report that they are almost there! All of the background work has been done, officers elected, and dues set. They needed 10 charter members to start and currently have 90. They are even almost done with a really cool logo! My job now is to submit a motion to the IBT requesting that the Fly Fishing Airstream Club have a permanent charter. Draft motion is written and is being reviewed. By the time this newsletter is published, they will be a chartered intraclub. If you want to join, you can do so here:

<https://form.jotform.com/241686210915153>

This is the form to join any intraclub. Scroll down and you'll find the Fly Fishing Airstream Club.

The next IBT Meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025. Watch your email for information on the IBT Meeting and how to watch it live if you want to.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or something you would like me to bring to the IBT, please let me know.

Chris Olsson

R7 President

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North Dakota Peace Garden Officers

Unit President

Jeff Hanson #6555

1st Vice President

Alan Towles #4103

2nd Vice President

Mary Maier #21606

Treasurer

Roxanne Towles # 4103

Recording Secretary

Bev Wells #7394

Trustees

Larry Ruebel #10081

Chris Wells #7394

Roland Wall #4008

Membership Co-Chairs

Cathy Ruebel #10081

Rose Larson #5606

Newsletter

Jeff Hanson #6555

Ryan & Kelley Jilek #7165

Website

Jeff Hanson #6555

Ryan Jilek #7165



From Bruce Coonrod: “ I was polishing the trailer with the cyclo polisher and fleece wrap. It’s actually the last step in the polishing process. I haven’t done the others for a few years. The other steps involve a variable speed polisher, wool polishing pad and various polishing grades to remove oxidation of the aluminum. It’s a dirty job, and I’m getting too old to do it. The cyclo polisher is heavy. I spread out this year’s polishing over six days.”

Jeff’s Response: Thanks for the beautiful picture! If my mirror breaks, I can use your trailer as a backup to shave in the morning!



ACI Election Information

The 2025–2027 Airstream Club International Executive Council Election It's that exciting time once again — when Airstream Club International members have the opportunity to shape the future of our organization through the power of their vote. The 2025–2027 Executive Council Election is officially underway, and this year brings a fresh new way to get informed, get involved, and make your voice heard.

Meet the 2025–2027 Candidates

This year's candidates represent a dynamic mix of experience, perspectives, and dedication to the Airstream community. These individuals are stepping forward to lead the Airstream Club International with integrity, vision, and passion. To explore their backgrounds and platforms, head to AirstreamClub.org/IBTCandidate. Each candidate profile includes written statements and, coming soon, recorded one-on-one interviews.

Your Voice, Their Answers

NEW THIS YEAR: The Recruitment and Oversight Committee is conducting in-depth interviews with each candidate. Candidate videos will be released mid-May on the ACI YouTube channel. Then, mark your calendars for a live, interactive experience: Live "Ask the Candidates" Webinar, May 21, 7 p.m. ET Join the ACI community for this open forum where candidates will answer your submitted questions and take live questions via chat. Can't attend? The webinar will be recorded and available afterward on the ACI YouTube Channel.

Key Election Dates

Stay engaged with the full election timeline:

- Mid-May – Candidate interviews published on ACI YouTube channel
- May 21 – Live "Ask the Candidates" webinar at 7:00 PM ET
- May 27 – Deadline to request a paper ballot Silver Times 14
- June 1-15 – Voting period open to eligible ACI members
- June 18 – Election results announced (pending receipt of paper ballots)
- July 17 – New International Officers announced
- August – New Executive Council officially seated August 1 and installed at the International Rally

Make Your Vote Count

The Executive Council is a vital part of the International Board of Trustees, driving key initiatives and shaping impactful member programs. Now, it's your opportunity to help select the leaders who will guide this important work. Voting will once again be held through ElectionBuddy, a secure and confidential platform. All members with an email on file will receive a ballot on June 1, 2025. To ensure you receive yours, confirm your email in the Member Dashboard or Membership Directory. Prefer to vote by mail? Contact Club HQ at 937-596- 5211 by May 27 at 4:00 PM ET to request a paper ballot. Completed paper ballots must be postmarked by June 15, 2025.