



# Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club

## Gopher News



WBCCI - Unit 059

September 2025

### President's Message

#### *Why Do We Love Campfires?*

Campfires do more than keep us warm on a chilly evening - they create an atmosphere of friendship, ease stress, and bring people together. Around the fire, new friends are made, old friendships are strengthened, and stories of new places to travel are shared.

Tonja and I had the pleasure of journeying with some of our club members through Wisconsin and Michigan this summer. Many campfires and conversations later, our adventure concluded in York, Pennsylvania, at the International Rally.

#### **What made these gatherings truly special? *The volunteers.***

Their countless hours of organizing and planning allowed us to enjoy these experiences together. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club volunteers for the time, energy, and dedication you give to making our club such a great success!

- Monty



### Mo-Kan Club's Intrepid Travelers



Here's the crew that made the journey to the  
**ACI International Rally in York, PA.**

More photos on page 4!

### Executive Officers

#### *President:*

Monty Sowder

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

#### *1st Vice President:*

Christine Embers

[cembers1@gmail.com](mailto:cembers1@gmail.com)

#### *2nd Vice President:*

Vacant

#### *3rd Vice President:*

Vacant

#### *Treasurer:*

Doug Brown

[dbrown194@comcast.net](mailto:dbrown194@comcast.net)

#### *Recording Secretary:*

Marsha Brown

[mkbrown3@comcast.com](mailto:mkbrown3@comcast.com)

#### *Corresponding Secretary:*

Christine Whitney

[chriswhitney1@gmail.com](mailto:chriswhitney1@gmail.com)

#### *Past President:*

Ed O'Connor

[eoconnor@pcpartners.net](mailto:eoconnor@pcpartners.net)

#### *Parliamentarian:*

Vern Wirka

[vvirka@cox.net](mailto:vwirka@cox.net)

#### *Membership Chair:*

Susan Griffey

[montegriffey@yahoo.com](mailto:montegriffey@yahoo.com)

#### *Community Service Chair:*

Christine Embers

[cembers1@gmail.com](mailto:cembers1@gmail.com)

#### *Newsletter Putertogether:*

Kirk Moore

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



### Welcome New Members!

**Kimberly Brixey** (Affiliate)

Pittsburg, MO

**David & Nancy Holsted** (Affiliate)

North Little Rock, AR

We hope to meet you at a future luncheon or Rally!

At the **Fall Installation Rally**, we will be voting in these 2025/2026 slate of officers:



Jill O'Connor  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



Heather Hosea  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



Teresa Bontrager  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Read their  
Bios on page 3



If you ARE attending the rally, you can vote in-person. But *if you're NOT attending* the Rally please vote by using this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/252216864923158>

**PLEASE VOTE BY SEPT 12, 2025**

**Experience the "Magic in Minot"**  
**at the 69<sup>th</sup> Airstream Club Int'l Rally**  
**- August 22-27, 2026!**

Registration has opened for the 2026 Airstream Club International Rally in Minot, North Dakota. Mark your calendars and get ready to head north for six unforgettable days, August 22–27, 2026, at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds.

## Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

### LUNCHEONS

[Please RSVP the Hosts if planning on attending the luncheon, ]

**September 6, 2025 - 11:30am**

#### Jack Stack BBQ

8721 Ryckert St., Lenexa, KS

Hosts - [Rick & Christine Embers](#)

**October 4, 2025 - 11:30am**

#### Sickies Garage

7111 W 95<sup>th</sup> St., Overland Park, KS

Hosts - [James & Kristal Thompson](#)

**November 1, 2025 - 11:30am**

#### Rodeo Mexican Restaurant

15510 State Ave #11, Basehor, KS

Hosts - [Dustin & Christine Whitney](#)

### RALLIES



**September 18-21, 2025**

#### Mo-Kan Fall Installation Rally

##### Topeka, KS

Lake Shawnee Campground

*If you missed the window to reserve a camping spot, please contact a Mo-Kan Executive Officer*

**April 29 – May 3, 20<sup>26</sup>**

#### Region 8 Spring Rally

##### Hutchinson, KS

Kansas State Fairgrounds

*More Details to Come!*

**Jun 4 - 7, 20<sup>26</sup>**

#### Joint Rally Get-Together

Mo-Kan Club and Greater Ozark Club

##### Morrilton, AR

Petit Jean State Park

*If you missed the window to reserve a camping spot, please contact a Mo-Kan Executive Officer*

**August 22 - 27, 20<sup>26</sup>**

#### Airstream Club Int'l Rally

##### Minot, ND

Info & Registration: [airstreamclub.org/Rally2026](http://airstreamclub.org/Rally2026)



**Remember!** There's lots of good info, photos and archived newsletters at our Club's website:

<https://airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas>

## Jill O'Connor Bio

We have been active members of our club for 4 years. Ed and I have had great fun with this adventure and have really enjoyed meeting so many nice people who also love the Airstreaming adventures. We are on our 3<sup>rd</sup> Airstream, a 2016 30' Classic; our first was a 2004 16' Bambi, next was a 2018 25' International Serenity. We love our Classic and have no plans to switch.

I retired from State Farm Insurance almost 10 years ago as an adjuster for the Fire Company (homes, farms, businesses...mainly doing liability claims) after a 37++ year career. In addition to all the serious and sometimes tragic liability claims I have handled through settlement, trials and mediations, I worked hurricane Katrina, Gustave/Ike, the Moore Oklahoma tornado and several other major disasters. You would all be surprised to know I've climbed many roofs in my day, looking for hail and wind damage! I have seen real devastation and was part of a system to help people recover and rebuild. It was a great career.

We have lived in the Kansas City area all our lives with the exception of 3 years in Austin, Texas due to a job transfer for Ed. Kansas City is our home.

*I look forward to being your **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**, if elected, and will be an enthusiastic and involved board member.* Thank you.

## Heather Hosea Bio

*I am honored to be nominated as **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** of the Mo-Kan Airstream Club.* My husband of 20 years, David, and I bought our first Airstream in 2021 – a 2019 25' Flying Cloud we named the Cozy Hosea House (or "Sheila" for short). We decided to go full time in early 2022, and sold our home and most of our possessions to hit the road in March of 2022. As we were both still working at that time, we decided we needed more space so traded in Sheila for our Big Sheila, a 2022 30' Classic. We were on the road until family events drove us to get a bricks and sticks home again in the fall of 2024.

We live in Smithville MO now, and both of us are retired (me just this year!!) and now consider ourselves "long timers" as we split our time between the home we share with my dad and in Sheila.

I am excited to spend more time with Airstreamers and supporting our club! My working career spread across military service (GO AIR FORCE!) and corporate roles, but common themes for my varied positions were leadership and project management. I separated from the Air Force as a Captain, and went to work for Perot Systems where I was a business consultant and ITIL Service Manager. I then spent the remainder of my career in the financial services industry primarily leading project management organizations supporting call center technology at Citi and PNC. My vision for my service to the MO-KAN Airstream Club over the next several years is to get to know the members, learn from Christine and other Executive Committee members, and to facilitate the activities and communications that we as members want. My leadership style is direct and inclusive. I am eager to support Christine in her role as President and to ensure we are the best club we can be! Thank you for the consideration, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

## Teresa Bontrager Bio

Hello, I am Teresa Bontrager, and *I am on the slate for **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President** of the Mo-Kan Airstream Club.* My husband Rich and I have owned our 23-foot Flying Cloud for almost three years, and have been members of the club for about two years. We travel with our rescue dog Maggie, who hates mosquitos but loves to watch squirrels.

Rich and I have been married for almost 40 years and have five adult children and two grandsons. Three of our children live locally (as do the grandkids), one in Philadelphia and one in Duluth. We have both been lifelong campers, and have a special fondness for our National Parks—to the point that our usual wedding gift is a set of National Park passports, a yearly pass, and a glossy National Park coffee table book. Our own passport books have stamps dating back to our honeymoon and are a trip down memory lane. After 37 years in various tents and tent campers, our 23 foot Airstream feels like a palace!

I have truly enjoyed our experiences with the MoKan club and with Airstream in general. I felt immediately welcome at the lunches and rallies. Rich and I have made numerous friends and have appreciated the hive mind that is always there for help. Because of our experience, I would love to do more to help both established and new members of the club.

What skills would I bring to the job? Five children and 20 years as an Emergency Department nurse have made me highly organized, good with groups of spirited people, and able to see and try solutions where others might not. Life experiences have given me a decent sense of humor and a general sense of optimism for the future. I believe I can utilize these skills in my position on the board.

Please consider me for the position of 3rd VP. I look forward to serving on the board for you, and Rich and I will see you down the road.



Fun times at the 2025 ACI International Rally in York, PA





## Airstream for sale!

Since **Glenda and Tracey Ridgeway** haven't been able to travel for some time now, they have made the decision to sell their **2005, 30ft. Classic.**

They are pricing it at \$47,000

They'll be advertising it soon, but wanted Mo-Kan Club members to have first chance if interested.

### Amenities:

- Dining-in Slideout
- Oak Wood floors
- Queen rear bed
- Newer hot water heater, refrigerator and microwave
- Standard oak cabinetry
- Double sink
- TV

**Ready to roll!**

