



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA PEACE GARDEN UNIT

PRAIRIE ROSE

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

January 2025

Jeff's Comments



Greetings North Dakota Peace Garden members. I hope everyone had a good 2024 camping season. I know Barb and I did, and we are looking forward to 2025. We had 5 club members attend the International Rally in Sedalia. We had met up with the Larsons and Maiers in Nebraska City and I knew the Klassens were arriving early also. I knew the Berrymans were also supposed to be in Sedalia but I had not made contact with them. Fate then intervened after the opening ceremony. I had proudly carried our flag in and was visiting with the lady next to me when I heard the lady behind me ask her neighbor what club he was from? When I heard the "North Dakota Peace Garden Club", I turned around and said "I'm the president but we've never met". It was the Berrymans! What were the odds of that happening?

We had a great week attending seminars, seeing old friends and making new friends. We had an impromptu wine tasting at our trailer featuring the wines from our local Fargo winery, Bear Creek. Barb and I also did some volunteering and were rewarded with these fashionable neon yellow T-shirts. Next year's

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International Rally is in York, PA, but in 2026 it's in Minot, ND. This was our second International Rally, and they are a lot of fun.

The 2025 Rally schedule is as follows:

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

I just wanted everyone to put these dates on your calendars. I will provide more information about registration soon. I know we all have busy lives but I sure hope we can see everyone try and make it to at least one rally this summer.

P.S. On a personal note I want to thank all of you who reached out to check on me after we had to cancel our trip to the Pierre Rally. For those of you who don't know, we had to turn around and deal with a health issue with my mom who was living in an assisted living facility in my hometown of Northwood. I'm happy to report that we have moved my parents to Fargo and celebrated her 92nd birthday on November 9th.

~ Jeff

**North Dakota
Peace Garden Unit
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

Harmon Lake Rally



***Dreaming
of the next
perfect
campfire!***

We're looking forward to seeing you all again soon. Safe and happy travels!



Airstream Notes:

News Flash!

Read through each article! Let us know if you have any additions or comments you think the club would like to hear.

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

Region 7 Ramblings

by: Chris Olsson



Greetings from the new Region 7 President! I'm Chris Olsson, married to Kay for 47 years. We have been ACI members for 13 years. We grew up in Michigan (Trolls since we lived in the Lower Peninsula – Under the Bridge), specifically in Grand Haven & Spring Lake. We transplanted to Minnesota 43 years ago following my 6-year Navy enlistment. Kay is a retired RN with 40+ years of long-term care experience, and I am a retired mainframe computer engineer. We are enjoying traveling with our puppy boy, Ricky, and our cat, Nala, in our 1972 Airstream that we renovated ourselves over a 6-year period. We are active members of the Minnesota Airstream Club as well as Region 7. I'm a model railroader (N-scale) and a hobby woodworker. Kay is a quilter, so we detour pretty much every trip to go find a quilt shop. As we have learned over the last few years, while quilt shops are plentiful (even in Alaska!), model railroad stores are few and far between (as in none in Alaska).

Upcoming Region 7 events include the Region 7 Rally in Spearfish, SD and a Region 7 Breakfast at the International Rally in Sedalia, MO. There is still lots of room for the R7 Breakfast, so if you would like to attend, please complete the registration form: (<https://airstreamclub.org/region-7-breakfast-buffet->

sedalia).

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we travelled to Texas for two months in February, March, and April. Left home on Feb 13th and got back home on Apr 14th. Just in time to mail our tax return! We took our 9-year-old cat Nala for her first long trip, and she fared really well. She was confined to a fairly big kennel in the truck, but travelled well. She was familiar with the Airstream already, so that became her second home. She was very ok in the trailer and the truck, but she hates to be picked up, so carrying her between the truck and the trailer was not a real fun time for her. Or for us sometimes. The wounds have all healed now, and she put holes in one of my new shirts. Oh well. We now have the kennel configured small enough we can put her in it before moving her to the truck, and then let her out of the kennel once she's back in the trailer. Much easier.

By now, you should have received some emails regarding a potential ACI dues increase. I encourage you to read through the information in my email plus an email that should be coming from Eric McHenry (which you should have received by the time you read this). Eric's email should have a link to more details about what will be discussed at the IBT Meeting on Aug 22nd. There is also a pair of Fireside Chats with Eric on Aug 14th, and I think it will be worthwhile attending one of them as I expect him to talk about the ACI dues. If you have any thoughts that you would like to share with me, please send them to my email address below.

I am so looking forward to being your Region President for the next 2 years! I hope I meet your expectations.

Lastly, I have been asked several times if there will be a Region Rally in 2025. I'm still undecided about that. If you have any ideas about where we could hold a shorter region rally (think 3-4 days instead of 7), please let me know.

That's it for now.

Safe Travels!

Chris Olsson

R7 President

Email: cwolsson@comcast.net

Tim & Hilda's Big Adventure



September 24 - October 16 2024: Each fall for the last 10 years, my wife Hilda and I have planned 2-6 week vacations usually south US, park the RV in a storage facility in Missouri and drive home. We return mid February, pick up the RV and choose a southern state to spend a couple months.

This year for our fall adventure, we chose Missouri mainly because of the International Airstream Rally which took place from Oct 5 - 10.

Here's our 3 week adventure.

Sept 24 - 29 Falcon Lake Provincial Park:

With our 2018, 25' Airstream in tow (aka Lucy), we began our vacation by travelling to Falcon Lake and camped for 6 days.

Falcon lake is a Manitoba Provincial park located in Eastern Manitoba, 100 miles east of our home in Winnipeg and a beautiful treed park with lots of biking, hiking, walking trails, grocery store, marina and an excellent campground.

We stayed at the "Beach Campground" and it worked out perfectly!

Fires every night and lots of bike rides and walks.

We even had some friends over one night and ordered pizza from the townsite.

We'd recommend Falcon Lake to any who have never experienced the place.

Sept 29 - Oct 3 Road trip to the Rally:

We left Falcon Lake and travelled south to Fort Frances Ontario and spent the night at the "Point Campground" located on the US border and just several hundred feet from a main rail line. Certainly makes you wonder if some





Campgrounds are deliberately planned close to busy rail lines? Anyway, lucky to have brought ear plugs!!

Next morning we made our way to Duluth Minnesota and straight to a Costco to load up. By the way, we can't bring most foods over the US border so a grocery stop is first priority.

Next night was boon-docking at a "Cracker Barrel" in South Minneapolis and the next stop later in the day was the historic town of Hamilton Missouri for two nights.

We were glad to have camped there in a newer campground close to several interesting museums.

The J.C Penny museum is there since the founder grew up in that town and for quilters, the Missouri Star Quilts Co. is a quilting haven and will leave you in awe of the magic of fabrics and designs.

There were several "Airstreams" in the campground, all who were also on their way to the International Rally.

Oct 3 - 10 International Airstream Rally:

We left Hamilton and drove about 100 miles to Sedalia Missouri and the location of this year's International Airstream Rally. We arrived two days early to beat the rush on opening day and glad we did so.

Easy access, well organized and we were lead directly to a nice grassed site c/w full hookup which surprised us that somehow 1300 other

Airstreams also had full hookups!

This place is massive and by Oct 5, there really was 1300 airstreams and I'm sure you'd be able to see them all from the US Space station especially during the light show on Thursday night when we all had our lights on c/w decorated lit up golf-carts, bicycles and whatever else had lights.

On day one we attended the "opening ceremonies" and again we were impressed with how many flags of various clubs as well as the talented "Airstream Band" which performed.

This being our first international rally was quite an experience. Two large buildings c/w vendors showing and selling just about anything you could want or need and even new 2024 Airstreams on display inside!

We noticed a "Zip-Dee" vender so we stopped in and mentioned that our elec awning didn't work well and we asked for advice. They took my phone number and said a technician would stop by and have a look.

Sure thing, the next day I received a call and





a large van pulled up to our campsite and 4 guys immediately got to work replacing parts, aligning the awning properly and making it work perfectly. Took them over an hour and when I tried to pay them, they refused payment! Hats off to Zip-Dee And "THANKYOU" to this awesome company.

Our neighbours and good friends had the same experience with "Dexter," the company which supplies the axles and brake systems.

Dexter stopped by and removed the wheels, replaced a bunch of brake parts and made all the necessary repairs and adjustments. Again, good service, excellent advice and they refused payment. This went on for the 5 days of the rally as we saw these service vans the entire time.

Then we watched the "vintage Airstream parade" with over 120 beautiful airstreams go through the camp ground. When they parked, there was an open house for all to see inside and out with proud owners sharing their stories and history of ownership.

The entire 5 days of the rally was one amazing thing after another and we made many new friends hoping to meet again at future rallies.

Was sad to leave on the last day of the 5 day rally.

Oct 10 - 16 Arrow Rock State Park MO:

We left the Rally around noon and only 45 miles north we came to "Arrow Rock State Park" and the town of "Arrow Rock. We pre-booked a campsite last May when we booked the International rally and lucky we did. It just happened to be the "Annual Historic Festival" which takes place in the town and a short bike ride or walk from our campsite.

Another great event and two days of history, vendors, numerous people dressed in the era of the mid 1800's, music, food vendors and lots to do and see.

We stayed at that State Park campground for 5 days and then traveled to St Joseph Missouri where we put Lucy in storage, said our sad goodbyes and travelled north approx 800 miles home.

That concludes this adventure and we're looking forward to picking up with Lucy around mid February and possibly choosing "New Mexico" or maybe Arizona for our winter getaway.

Tim + Hilda Klassen BRN6949

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

This and That from Region 7

By Ginger Slattery, Outgoing vR7 President

Well, this is it! My last newsletter article as your Region President! Where has the last 2 years gone??? It has been an honor to serve you all in this capacity! When I started, I had no idea what I was even supposed to be doing and now that I finally have a good idea, I'm done!!!!

I feel we have accomplished a great deal in the last 2 years. When the membership chose for all the Constitutional changes, we have been implementing all those changes! There have been extra IBT meetings at times to accomplish all those changes and they are still on going. For my part, it was very important to be transparent and keep you all informed of what was happening on the IBT. There has been some pretty dry reading of those summaries but you have been kept informed!

I have been a fierce advocate for our Region, often being the solo "NO" vote! I voted not only for what I thought was in the best interests of our Region but as a Club as a whole. When I asked for your

opinions, I really wanted to know how to vote! So, in the future, when the next President asks your opinion, please be forthcoming!

Paypal has been established on the Region level now. That should make paying for Region events simpler!

The absolute best benefit has been meeting members all across our Region! You are all so special, warm, caring, funny.... I look forward to going camping with you without all the added responsibilities!

Our Region is going to be in great hands! Please welcome Chris, as President, Chuck as 1st VP and Vernon as 2nd VP, Cordell as Treasurer and Kay is continuing on as Recording Secretary. They will all be installed during the Mischief in Marquette Rally August 1-4!

Thank you all for stepping up and serving our Region and Club! I look forward to seeing you all down the road and thanks for the memories!

Pierre Rally

It was a warm morning when we went downtown Fort Pierre to visit a couple museums. As we were walking to the museum, Bruce sees an open door to a nondescript little old building simply marked "Saddle Shop" Bruce quipped, "Should we go in there and smell the fine leather and glue?" A tall cowboy working at a table greeted us with a friendly smile and Bruce explained our curiosity. He was happy to talk, showing us the old treadle sewing machine he started making saddles with in the 1950's. Then he proudly pointed to a beautiful saddle on a rack in the middle of the crowded little workshop. He had just finished his 2,000th saddle, with the gleaming brass medallion on the back. The tall cowboy was Dale Dahl, the world renowned saddle maker and 1968 South Dakota Rodeo Association Saddle Bronc Champion. That's the belt buckle he earned for the win. Bruce asked if we could take his photo and he was very happy to pose for the occasion. He said he was keeping this saddle for his family. How cool was it to witness this milestone and take this photo!



Installation Rally

Due to a family emergency, incoming unit president Jeff Hanson and wife Barb were unavailable to attend the Installation Rally and were installed virtually via FaceTime.

We enjoyed a picnic dinner and beautiful evening at Fischers Lilly Park on the banks of the Missouri River. This exact location was noted in the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Corp of Discovery.



SD State Capital

On our tour of the South Dakota State Capitol Building, we learned that the mosaic floor tiles were all hand laid. The guide pointed out special heart-shaped tiles. Each artisan who labored on the floor was given one small blue tile that they could place anywhere. Only 55 of the 66 have been located - some have disappeared under permanent fixtures or during remodeling. Much time was spent paying attention to the very smallest details of the capitol - we spotted a fair number of blue tiles, but may have escaped our attention.



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



Standing Butte Ranch

High clearance vehicles were required to journey out to where the buffalo roamed on the Standing Butte Ranch. We were giving a private tour of the vast 45,000 acre ranch on the open prairie, learning of its practices to return the prairie to its original health and vigor. In the farthest corner of the ranch was the current herd of 1,400 buffalo, which the manager explained they are no more than 4 years old. This ranch is owned by media owner Ted Turner who takes an active interest in his ranches.



Triple U Buffalo Ranch



Prior to Mr. Turner's purchase, this was known as the Triple U Buffalo Ranch; it is where the movie "Dances with Wolves" was filmed. The entire property is staffed by three people.