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MN Airstream Club – #5148

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(open)

## Recording Secretary

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Minnesota Airstream Club – #7827

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MN Airstream Club – #7528

## Membership Chair

Monica Kubischta (Kenny)  
MN Airstream Club – #5592

## Caravan

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MN Airstream Club – #7528

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Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #6151

## Photographer

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Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #1336

## Historian

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Wisc-UP Airstream Club – #4478

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MN Airstream Club – #3113

## *President's Message*

### R7 President Chris Olsson



Tiz December, and the low temp this morning was -3 F. A tad bit nippy. We have about 5 inches of snow on the ground, and more is expected this weekend. In many ways, it's nice to see a more "normal" winter, with snow before Thanksgiving. Last January, I was not complaining about the lack of snow in January, but having snow is better since we're not traveling this winter.

I had thought about waiting until after the January IBT meeting to send out a newsletter, but there is something I want to chat about now. I may send out a January newsletter as well, depending on what happens at the January IBT. It's shaping up to be a very full meeting with several motions being voted on. You will all receive an email from ACI corporate telling you how to join the IBT as a listener about 2 weeks or so before the meeting. Also, you will be sent a link to look at the agenda for the meeting which will include any motions for the IBT to vote on. The IBT Meeting is January 22, 2026 at 10:00 am Central.

The primary reason for this newsletter is to talk about the International Rally being held in Minot, ND in August (Aug 22 – 27, 2026). If you want to attend, please register soon. Last I knew (2 weeks ago), the registrations were over 75% full.

As in years past, Region 7 will be hosting a Region get-together sometime during the International Rally. Chuck Zellermyer, the R7 1<sup>st</sup> VP, will be setting that up. Watch for emails a few months before the IR with more information.

We're looking forward to seeing you all there or at a local club rally in 2026!

Safe travels,

Chris



## ***69th International Rally – Minot, ND***

***August 22-27, 2025***

The International Rally is being held in Region 7 this year! Planning for the IR began several months ago, actually well before the last IR held in York.

As the Host Region for the IR, there are several opportunities available to help ensure a successful rally. Among these are the following Chair Positions:

- Ambassador Program Chair - filled
- Tours and Sighting Chair
- Meals and Refreshments
- Community Service

Jeff Hanson, the North Dakota Peace Garden Immediate Past President has volunteered to take the lead on promoting Region 7, and in particular, North Dakota.

Chuck Zellemyer, R7 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and his wife Janet, have volunteered to host a Region 7 Social get-together.

I have volunteered to be the Ambassador Program Chair.

On the following pages, I have included the job descriptions for the Tours and Sightseeing Chair, Meals and Refreshment Chair, and the Community Service Chair. Please look them over, and if you would like to either chair that committee or help by working on the committee, please let me know and I will get you in touch with the right person.

Chris – [cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net)

If you have not checked out the rally information on the ACI website, please do so. Here's the direct link:

<https://airstreamclub.org/rally2026>

It promises to be another fun get together of more than 1000 Airstreams.

Chris Olsson

## ***Ambassador Program***

I will be leading the Ambassador Program at the IR this year. If you have ever been to an International Rally, you have probably noticed the people wearing blue vests. These are the Ambassadors, and their job is to help people find things. Such as where the sessions are, where to find shuttles, and other things around the rally site.

Volunteer Ambassadors will:

- Receive a Thursday parking date and attend an orientation session on Friday.
- Thursday & Friday camping fees are covered by ACI.
- The first tank pump out will be that Monday. Pump outs are every 4 days.
- Fresh water delivery will also be every 4 days probably. Logistics are still being worked out. There are water spigots around the campground that you can use to fill up a jug and then bring water to your trailer. We will have a 6-gal water jug with us in case anyone needs it.
- Sign up for 3-hour shifts to be an Ambassador.

As an Ambassador, you'll be a friendly face, assisting attendees with:

- Answering questions, providing directions to events at the rally, and be an enthusiastic, welcoming presence.
- Learn rally logistics, set up the rally event app Cvent, and become familiar with using it.
- Wear a special vest provided by the rally identifying them as Rally Ambassadors.
- Post at strategic locations around the rally site to assist members with questions, directions, or local information.
- Staff the Exhibitor Hall doors before opening hours to allow only exhibitors to enter.
- Flexible shifts available – choose times that fit your schedule
- No special experience needed – just a friendly attitude and a willingness to help

I want to encourage all of you to sign up to be an Ambassador.

In December, all registered attendees from Region 7 will receive an invitation from *SignUpGenius* to sign up for 3-hour shifts as Ambassadors. You can certainly register for more than 1 shift. The shifts are 8:30-11:30 am, 11:30am-12:30pm and 4:30-7:30 pm. If you sign up for at least two shifts, you will meet the 4 hour minimum to qualify for the Rally Volunteer T-shirt and be able to attend the Rally Volunteer Appreciation breakfast.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Chris Olsson – [cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net)



# AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL RALLY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE: **Meals and Refreshments**

COMMITTEE #: **140**

RALLY TEAM LIAISON: **Debbie Wood**

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

### This position is responsible for:

Assisting with the planning and supervising of meals and refreshments at the International Rally, including the Leadership Appreciation Dinner, the Volunteer Appreciation meal, First Timers Get Acquainted Meeting, Ice Cream Social after Band concert, and others as requested by Rally Management.

## SCHEDULE:

### Prior to Rally:

- Meet with Liaison to discuss details for each of the planned events. Confirm numbers attending, budgets, meal preferences and preferred caterers, restaurants or concessionaires.
- Recruit committee members to assist with setting up and managing events.
- Work with caterers or restaurants on getting quotes for the meals. Finalize quotes three months before rally. Forward all proposed contracts to Liaison.
- For dinners, if cocktails are to be available, discuss options with caterer. This may be a “cash bar” and is sometimes arranged through a separate vendor.
- Liaison will provide a list of invitees for invitation-only event(s).
- Track number attending and special dietary requests for events as needed.
- After cut-off date for RSVPs, contact caterer(s) and let them know final numbers.
- If a deposit is required for the meal, notify Liaison to get check or credit card information sent.
- For events involving refreshments, determine food choices available. This could be prepackaged snacks, fruit and bottled water; deli trays ordered from a local grocery store; or other options.
- For ice cream social, this can be a pre-packaged novelty choice such as Klondike bars, sundae ice cream cups, or other.
- Check with the facility concession provider as they may have a source and freezer space to store ice cream.
- If concessionaire cannot provide ice cream, look for a local vendor.
- If no freezer space is available at the facility for our use, you may be able to find a supplier who can deliver in refrigerated truck.

### At Rally:

- Make appointment with caterer to meet where events are scheduled.
- Discuss menu in detail and make changes if needed. Confirm cost of meal plus any extras including tax and gratuity.
- For dinners, if cash bar is to be available, discuss with contractor the options and arrangements.
- If microphone and podium are needed, arrange with Event location personnel or, if event is at rally site, arrange with Audio-Visual Chair.
- Discuss with the Master of Ceremonies (MC) the program and introductions for Committee Chairs recognition.

- At Volunteer Appreciation meal, the Executive Director brings the awards to the event site. Place them on a draped 8' table near the podium. The President or MC conducts the giving of the awards from committee list.
- Round black table cloths with mint green runners are available in the rally container for use at the meals. Arrange for a committee member to have them laundered after the final use.
- Discuss the final payment with the caterer before the meal and, if the amount is confirmed, get a check from the Cashier before the event. This will enable you to pay caterer immediately after the event.
- If the final bill is not available before the event, receive the final bill immediately after event. Make out the proper requisition; take it to the cashier at the rally management office for cutting a check. Deliver the check if necessary.
- For events requiring refreshments, check with Tables and Chairs committee Chair to set up serving tables in venue.
- Have committee members scheduled to help with handing out refreshments and ice cream.
- Turn in receipts for reimbursement of expenses related to this committee to the rally office.

**After Rally:**

- Return tablecloths and other supplies to Property Logistics for storage in container. Complete inventory sheets for stored items.
- Provide a summary report at the end of the rally, including successes, challenges, and suggestions for next year. Include counts of number attending each event.



# AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL RALLY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE: **Community Service**

COMMITTEE #: **215**

RALLY TEAM LIAISON: **Sherrye McCabe**

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

This position is responsible for:

1. Identifying organizations in the city where the rally is to be held that would benefit from donations (monetary, pop tabs, goods, etc.) and services that the club can provide during rally.
2. Organize activities during rally to fundraise and provide support for the organizations identified.
3. Maintain good records of donations and provide reporting.
4. Write articles and updates to promote and recap community service projects.

## SCHEDULE:

### Prior to Rally:

- Research local organizations and select organizations that the club will support during rally.
- Act as liaison between local organizations and the club.
- Post articles in the Blue Beret to announce the community service projects and engage membership. Articles are due 2 months in advance of the publication date.
- Work with Rally Planning Team to designate an area for donations.
- Recruit volunteers to assist with donation collection at rally.

### At Rally:

- Set up and work a table at Welcome with information about the community service projects and an area to receive donations (including aluminum tabs).
- Provide daily updates to Rally Planning Team about items collected, goals, announcements, etc. to be published in the daily rundown communications to rally attendees.
- Process aluminum tabs through magnetic sorter. Once sorted, place tabs in boxes weighing up to 20 lbs. Seal with tape and contact designated charity to pick up the boxes. Inform the Youth Chair of the amount received for the tabs. (Coins that are recovered from the sorting are forwarded to Common Cents for Kids. Other items of value found among the tabs are turned in to Youth Chair for identification and dissemination.)
- Bag/box other items donated and coordinate pick-up/delivery to the designated charity.
- Provide Master of Ceremonies with community service project announcements (# of items collected, charities receiving items, money raised, etc.)
- Arrange for local representatives to attend the Closing Ceremony and speak briefly about the charitable organization and to receive the donation check (if applicable).

### After Rally:

- Write an article for the Blue Beret recapping the community service projects.



## AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL RALLY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE: **Tours & Sightseeing**

COMMITTEE #: **270**

RALLY TEAM LIAISON: **Sherrye McCabe**

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

This position is responsible for:

5. Coordinating professional bus tours to take place 1-2 days prior to the first day of Rally.
6. Set up guidelines for minimum number of participants, payments, tour schedules, tour pick-up location, etc.
7. Maintain good records of tour participants, how much they have paid and what tour they are attending. Rally Planning team can assist with JotForms for registration purposes.

### SCHEDULE:

#### Prior to Rally:

- Contact the Chamber of Commerce or Visitor Bureau of rally location and obtain a list of professional tour operators.
- Contact tour operators and review their day tour offerings (sites visited, costs/person, tour popularity, etc.) Obtain references if possible.
- Evaluate tour operators and choose one to work with.
- Work with Rally Planning Team to determine number of tours to be offered and tour schedule. Tours should be completed prior to opening ceremony of Rally.
- Work with Rally Planning Team on tour payments:
  - Confirm with tour operator if deposits are required, their payment process, if members can pay the tour operator directly, etc.
  - If ACI is collecting payments, determine payment process – online registration is preferred. Rally Planning Team can assist with JotForms and credit card payments.
- Create an article for the Blue Beret describing the tours.
- Compile a list of local attractions or day trips in the area that members may want to explore.
- Provide updated information for posting on Rally website and social media as tours develop or changes occur.
- Time commitment varies.

#### At Rally:

- If ACI is collecting fees, obtain checks from Cashier for tour company and ensure payment is delivered.
- Meet the tour director at the bus each day and verify tour attendees. See the tours off.
- Provide a short tour evaluation to attendees so we can use their feedback for future tour planning.
- Provide a final accounting to the Rally Planning Team of monies collected and paid for tours.
- Time commitment varies.





## The Gypsy Traveler

Vernon Petersen

Region 7

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

“There was nowhere to go but everywhere, so just keep on rolling under the stars.” Jack Kerouac

In Kerouac’s groundbreaking novel, “On The Road,” the hero of our story travels America in the spirit of self discovery in an era when conformity ruled social norms. The 1950’s, and I was born early in that decade, had little tolerance for those who refused to conform to middle class orthodoxy. However, there is one class of citizen who refused to follow the crowd. Wally Byam manufactured his travel trailers for travel and the spirit of discovery. I’ve often heard people proclaim that our Airstream Club is a camping club. ACI certainly is that, but Wally Byam intended his “home on wheels” to be used for travel. This is why he used his creation for the spirit of discovery. From Mexico, Africa, Canada, Europe and around the world, he visited and discovered societies far different from his own. It is with this spirit that Carry and I hit the road full time in 2014. We traveled North, South, East and West for six years before settling down in 2020 as Covid hit our shores. One would think that better than six years would be enough time to see all of America, but that is far from the truth. We didn’t even come close to experiencing all that our magnificent country has to offer.

It is with this spirit, this mind set, that we hit the road for York PA, and the ACI International in August of 2025. The itinerary we used to get to our destination put 1,257 miles on our Airstream, and we took 7 days for the trip. We planned the entire trip ahead of time and used Harvest Hosts for all except the final day before arrival. After all, we did need to empty our tanks before arriving at the York County Fair grounds. Not being in a hurry, we settled into our overnight stops no later than 2 or 3pm. Taking too long on the road leads to exhaustion and we certainly couldn’t enjoy our destination tuckered out.

Some Harvest Host destinations are better than others, but we’ve never stayed at a “bad” one. The Upick strawberry farm just outside of Madison was such a place. There was no one there when we arrived, but we eventually got ourselves settled. As the name implies, we were able to pick strawberries and settled in for a pleasant evening. The weather cooperated the entire trip and the terrible heat that August is famous for stayed away. Some hosts have the benefit of electric hookups, but Upick did not. This location was nearly in the middle of nowhere and except for the cries of coyotes at night, all was quiet. This was our longest travel day at 300 miles, so slumber was welcome.

Our itinerary included one Courtesy Parking spot just outside of El Paso, IL. Our hosts were beyond friendly, and we parked right in front of a bus that was being gutted and rebuilt into a RV. We got a tour of their project and couldn’t be more impressed with the skill that went into this rebuild. My many questions were answered with a smile and excitement. The primary thing I have learned about human nature is that if you take an honest interest in someone, they will respond with enthusiasm. This is the foundation of any relationship. And when we travel, we learn by opening our eyes and minds.

Two days before our arrival to York, we stayed at the Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum in Wheeling, WV. We were surprised to find two other Airstreams at this Harvest Host headed to the International. We arrived early enough to



patronize our host by touring the museum. For anyone interested in trains or toys in general, I couldn't recommend this host more. One thing about the Harvest Host parking system is that you sometimes end up spending more than you would for just a camping spot. But remember, you're also taking something away with you when it's time to leave. Wineries and breweries are notorious for this, at least for us. At one winery several years ago, we ended up leaving with eight bottles of wine. We normally don't indulge in such massive expenditures, but the host was so gracious and helpful we pampered ourselves.

As a side note, two of our favorite Harvest Host stops have been Morse Farm Maple Sugar Works near Montpelier, VT and Valcour Brewing Company on the historic Old Base near Plattsburgh, NY. I won't go into too much information here, but if anyone wants to experience American history from our founding as a nation, the Northeast is a must destination.

The day before our arrival at York, we stayed at Nature's Getaway RV Park in Schellsburg, PA. The office for this park, and residence for the owners, is a home built in the 1760's. For anyone traveling this section of PA, I recommend this campground highly. Very reasonable rates, and friendly management. We built our first campfire of the trip and experienced a very relaxing evening before our arrival to the big event in York. This home was built when America was still a British Colony. Staying at such a place can make your imagination run wild. George Washington traveled through this area during the French and Indian War and experienced his first battle near present day Farmington, PA; very close to the campground.



The next day was our shortest travel day being a mere 111 miles. But rather than take the expressway, which is also a toll road, we took the winding road through the mountains. Twisting north and south with one switchback, we finally arrived in York, and the Airstream International Rally.

Upon reflection, what was the purpose of our trip? Certainly, to arrive at the Rally spot in York; but so much more than that. The adventure begins with trip planning and the journey itself. I know, sometimes my fellow club members simply can't afford the time to enjoy travel because of other commitments. Employment and family sometimes need to take priority. That is understood. When the time is right, don't forget why our Airstream machines have wheels.

## ***Recognizing Members that earned Stars/Maple Leaves in 2025***

For new members, the red stars or maple leaves that you see next to members BRNs (Big Red Numbers) indicate membership milestones. One star/maple leaf is awarded for every consecutive 5 years that a member is part of the Airstream Club. Each member can select if they want stars or maple leaves to display.

In 2025, the following members earned a star/maple leaf. **Congratulations to each of you!**

### **MN AIRSTREAM CLUB**

Mike & Ruth Bash  
Diane Bhatia & Jeremi Hanson  
Brian Brown & Kellie Davies  
Gary & Myrna Burnham  
Charles & Joy Dodd  
Larry & Shari Erickson  
David Ferrier  
Ken & Laura Grant  
Kaye & Todd Grossman  
Paul & Nancy Harper  
Gene & Marilyn Hostetler  
Dan & Sheri Johnson  
Paul & Caroline Munro  
Gregg & Colleen Nelson  
Jason Overman  
Emily Park  
Keith & Gloria Peters  
Dave & Pam Rawn  
Larry & Robin Smith  
Robbie Wiggley & Griff Wiggley  
Cordell Woods & Janice Collins

### **ND PEACE GARDEN UNIT**

John Coates  
Bob & Mary Maier  
Gordon Picken

### **WISC-UP AIRSTREAM CLUB**

Richard & Vicki Alheid  
Kevin Allen  
Ronald & Roberta Augustyn  
Jeff & Jenny Bibler  
Jim & Pattie Cook  
Jim Guthrie & Joanne Peterson  
Kelly & Pamela Meer  
Jason & Kelly Staffin  
Chuck & Janet Zellermayer  
Charlie & Gail Francis

Note: If you have not received your star or maple leaf for 2025, please contact:

Monica Kubischta – Region 7 Membership Chair ([monicak 55@hotmail.com](mailto:monicak55@hotmail.com))

or

Chris Olsson – Region 7 President ([cwolsson@comcast.net](mailto:cwolsson@comcast.net)).

## ***Useful Links***

Region 7: <https://airstreamclub.org/region7>

MN Airstream Club: <https://airstreamclub.org/minnesota>

North Dakota Peace Garden Unit: <https://airstreamclub.org/north-dakota-peace-garden>

WISC-UP Airstream Club: <https://airstreamclub.org/wisc-up>

Membership Directory: <https://airstreamclub.org/members/membership-directory>

IBT Meeting Information: <https://airstreamclub.org/international-board-trustees>