



Missouri-Kansas Airstream Club

Gopher News



WBCCI - Unit 059

January 2026

President's Message

I hope you all are ready for the adventures that our **"2026 Riveted Together"** schedule has in store. As I began this year and my presidency, I wanted a theme that truly reflects the spirit of our club. When we chose in 2020 to purchase our iconic, riveted Airstream and join a camping club—without knowing exactly what a camping club did or what benefits it offered—we took a leap. We attended luncheons and rallies and quickly discovered that we are "riveted" by our shared experiences, passion for camping, adventure, and exploration.

We've met people we never would have crossed paths with otherwise, coming from all walks of life, careers, and perspectives. Yet we are united by our love for this remarkable brand. Our club offers a way to spark new interests, develop hobbies, and embark on exciting adventures. Through these experiences, we are "riveted together," building lifelong friendships and forming an Airstream family.

As I like to say, we are "Riveted Together," which is the theme for my 2026 presidency – "2026 Riveted Together." This iconic brand, with its riveted design, brings us together and gives us a vessel to enjoy each other's company and the beauty of the outdoors.

January brings a wonderful sense of renewal, making it the perfect time to dream and plan for the journeys that await us this year. My family and I will be ringing in the new year in Florida, where we will also take a Disney Cruise in celebration of my 60th birthday. Turning sixty feels like an opportunity to embrace new experiences, so I am challenging myself to sixty new adventures in the coming year. These will include exploring new destinations and picking up new hobbies. If you have ideas or suggestions for adventures, I would love to hear them!

Whether you are a long-term Airstream enthusiast or have just joined our club, I am delighted to have you with us. This year, we have a full calendar of rallies and events, all designed to help us share stories, discover new places, and forge lasting friendships. Your ideas for club activities or travel destinations are always welcome. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me directly, on our Facebook page, or in the newsletter, your input keeps our club vibrant and engaging!

Let's work together to make 2026 a memorable year filled with camaraderie, adventure, and joyous travels. Thank you for being an essential part of our Airstream family. Here's to new journeys, new friendships, and another fantastic year ahead!

Happy New Year!
- Christine

Executive Officers

President:

Christine Embers
cembers1@gmail.com

1st Vice President:

Jill O'Connor
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2nd Vice President:

Heather Hosea
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3rd Vice President:

Teresa Bontrager
ptbontrager@aim.com

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Recording Secretary:

Marsha Brown
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Corresponding Secretary:

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Past President:

Monty Sowder
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Parliamentarian:

Vern Wirka
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Membership Chair:

Susan Griffey
montegriffey@yahoo.com

Community Service Chair:

Deb Mitchell
mitchdeb@gmail.com

Newsletter Puttogetherer:

Kirk Moore
kcunitnews@gmail.com

Please Note: Due to lack of volunteer Hosts, **we are cancelling the following monthly luncheons - June 13, August 1 and October 3.** All other monthly luncheons will go on as planned.



Be on the Lookout!

A NEW 2026

Membership Directory

will be sent out to you in January on email and will be posted on our website soon!

airstreamclub.org/missouri-kansas



Also! On January 15, an **Interest Form** for a rally and associated tours with the Iowa & Iowa North Airstream Clubs will be made available. Please watch your email for this form and submit your response if you would like to participate in this joint event.



GATEWAY AIRSTREAM
adventure, inspired by
AIRSTREAM

Join us (June 11-14) for a rally at our
Midwest Airstream dealer

Bill Thomas Camper Sales is a family-owned, Midwest Airstream dealer continuously representing Airstream trailers for over 55 years. They will be hosting a rally for our club at their facility, and we will be camping on their property for a weekend of camaraderie, informative workshops and a chance to connect with our local Five-Riveted Airstream Dealer.

Registration for this rally is January 5th. (Look for email to register) Since we are camping at the dealership there will be limited parking, so prompt registration is highly recommended!

Plus! Stop by and see

Bill Thomas Camper Sales showcasing several Airstreams at the **Kansas City RV Show** (January 23-25).

For more information:

<https://rvshowkc.com>



Going to the 69th Airstream Club International Rally in Minot, ND?

Please let us know if you are thinking about or have registered for the International Rally by filling out this form: <https://form.iotform.com/253007204917148>
We are planning on parking together as a club and hope you can join us! Our club parking hosts are **Rich & Teresa Bontrager**, and they will be coordinating this opportunity for our club.

Upcoming Mo-Kan Club Activities

LUNCHEONS

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

January 3, 2026 - 11:30am

Nick & Jake's Restaurant

6325 Lewis Street, Parkville, MO

Hosts – **Monte & Susan Griffey**

February 7, 2026 - 11:30am

Jack Stack BBQ

9520 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS

Hosts – **Teresa & Rick Bontrager**

March 7, 2026 - 11:30am

Stone Canyon Pizza

504 NE 70th St., Gladstone, MO

Hosts – **Steve & Karen Rapp**

RALLIES



April 23 – 26, 2026

Mo-Kan Spring Rally

Topeka, KS

Lake Shawnee Campground

More Details to Come!

April 29 – May 3, 2026

Region 8 Spring Rally

Hutchinson, KS

Kansas State Fairgrounds

More Details to Come!

May 28 - 31, 2026

Just-for-Fun Rally

Melvern Lake, KS

Melvern Outlet Campground

More Details to Come!

Jun 4 - 7, 2026

Joint Rally Get-Together

Mo-Kan Club and Greater Ozark Club

Morrilton, AR

Petit Jean State Park

Jun 11 - 14, 2026

Bill Thomas Airstream Dealer Rally

Wentzville, MO

August 22 - 27, 2026

Airstream Club Int'l Rally

Minot, ND

Info & Registration: airstreamclub.org/Rally2026



December Holiday Luncheon – Dec 6, 2025 Six Mile Chophouse, Lawrence, KS

We had such a fabulous last club event of the year - our Christmas luncheon at *Six Mile Chophouse, Lawrence, KS* on Saturday, December 6th! We had over 28 BRNS represented plus 2 guests of **Stacy Cooper**, Mila and Shannon in attendance. That's the largest luncheon we've had since August 2024! (Thanks to **Jill O'Connor** who has been keeping track since then) We did miss many of our members who were not able to attend due to health and other conflicts with our event.

I also want to give a special thanks to **Monty & Tonja Sowder** for hosting with us!

- Rick & Christine Embers



Always looking for Volunteers!



Volunteering plays a vital role in making our club's events and activities successful. We encourage everyone to consider volunteering - even a small contribution of your time or talents helps strengthen our community and ensures we continue to thrive. Please check the newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

If you're interested in getting involved or have ideas about how you'd like to contribute, please reach out! There's a place for everyone, and volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with fellow members while giving back to the club.

Sunshine Committee - Need volunteers to help with connecting with members! Please consider joining this committee to stay connected and reach out to members.

The Sunshine committee will be a group who will focus on the following - If you know a member who is ill or facing tough times, reaching out with a simple card, call, or message can mean a lot. Offering a helping hand—whether it's preparing a meal, running errands, or just spending time together—shows our support and care for one another. Small gestures of kindness can make a big difference and help our friends feel connected and valued within our club community.

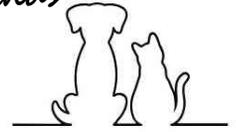
Traveling Group Club Hosts to the 2026 International Rally –

We are looking for volunteers to help plan and host a caravan for all our club members that are going to this year's International Rally in Minot, ND.

For any questions and to volunteer, contact **Christine Embers**

Hey fellow furry friends

(and your humans), It's me again – **Bailey**, the current First Dog of our Mo-Kan Airstream Camping Club, and I'm thrilled



to announce the creation of **HAPPY TAILS** MISSOURI KANSAS AIRSTREAM CLUB

our very own **Pet Directory** - a who's-who of wagging tails, twitching whiskers, and the occasional dramatic hiss. This directory will finally let us put faces to the names we bark at through the windows and sniff at in passing. Let's unleash some fun and fetch a directory to be proud of!

I'm calling on you to help make our pet directory the ultimate showcase of our community! Please send in your favorite photo, your name (and any nicknames you go by), your breed or special mix, and your top treat. If you have any funny habits or stories, don't be shy—share those too! With your help, we'll sniff out the best directory around and make sure no tail or whisker goes unnoticed. Can't wait to see all my buddies—dogs, cats, and beyond—shine in our club's new pack list!

Please fill out this JotForm with your Pet's information **by Feb 1, 2026.**

<https://form.jotform.com/253554430746055>

All human questions should go to **Kara Lay!**



LAKE SHAWNEE CAMPGROUND

(MOUNTAINS NOT INCLUDED)

Mokan Spring Rally

BE PREPARED!!!

April 23-26

ACTIVITIES • FUN • MERIT BADGES • PRIZES • FRIENDS

??? SEE GOPHER NEWS OR EMAIL TERESA PTBONTRAGER@AIM.COM