



STREAM'N & DREAM'N

The newsletter for the Greater St. Louis Airstream Club

International Rally

August 22 - 27, North Dakota
State Fairgrounds, Minot, ND.

September Rally

September 17 - 20, Northeast
Missouri (NEMO) Fairgrounds,
Kirkville, MO.

October Rally

October 15 - 18, Double J
Campground, , Chatham, IL.

December Luncheon

December 12, Defiance Ridge
Vineyards, Defiance, MO.

A Word from our President

Greetings! Here is a review of the next two rallies following International in Minot, ND this month.

The **September rally**, an important rally, is our **annual business meeting** in Kirkville, MO, 9/17 - 9/20. We rally at the NEMO Fairgrounds, 2636-2684 East Illinois St., (\$25.00 per night with water and electric), starting on **Thursday the 17th**. **There is no check-in time** which allows for early arrival. An early arrival allows for setup time prior to leaving for the evening BBQ and business meeting at the Point Shelter, on the lake in Thousand Hills State Park. The park is about 15 minutes' drive with the gathering starting at 5:30p.m.

Friday the 18th is a morning tour of the Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine beginning at **9:30a.m.** We will have a guided tour of the museum, the library with interesting teaching devices, and the medical patient simulation lab. The tour is 1-2 hours.

Lunch will be on your own with several options up-town, just 3-4 block distance from the campus.

At **1:30p.m.** we have an hour discussion presented by Mary Beth Turner, an instructor at Truman University, on energy sustainability. This presentation takes place at the Chamber of Commerce Building just two and a half blocks south of the city square on N. Franklin St.

Saturday, the 19th revolves around the "Red Barn" Arts and Crafts Celebration downtown and all



around the square in Kirksville including the Red Barn on the Truman University Campus.

Don't forget, **Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:30a.m.** there will be coffee and tasties with lots of conversation.

A little more about Thousand Hills State Park – If you paddle board, kayak or canoe there are 573 acres to paddle around. The park also offers a swimming beach, fishing and trails for hiking. Take a look at the petroglyphs from 1,500 years ago. For breakfast, lunch or dinner on Friday or Saturday night, think about eating at Lakeside Grille at Thousand Hill State Park! (Outdoor and indoor seating.)



As there is still plenty of time and spots to register for this rally, **please call/text Deborah Schuetz at (573) 263-1398 or e-mail dschuetz73@gmail.com and let her know you will be attending.** Payment for camping and rally fee will be collected by our GSLAC Treasurer Berta Everson on Thursday evening.

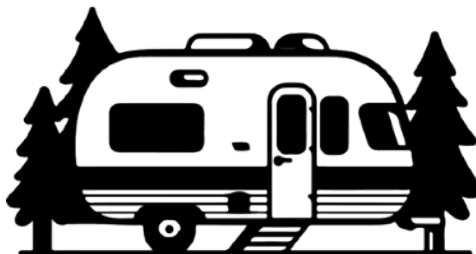
October rally, (10/15 - 10/18) and the last GSLAC rally of 2026 season, will take place at the Double J Campground in Chatham, IL just south of Springfield. (217-483-9998). This is our **annual leadership installation** rally.

Hosting the **October rally** are Louise and Carl Richards along with Berta and Rick Everson. **Please let Louise** know you will be attending by **texting her at (217) 473-0774** . Much more details to follow concerning this event.

NOTE: Christmas Luncheon, December 12/12/2026, Defiance Ridge Wine Garden

Safe travels!

Hugh



Q&A with Bob Brennecke



Q; Where are people connecting their break away cable? My cable is quite long so I loop it through itself and connect it to the truck hitch.

A; Ideally the cable should be as short as possible. This so the brakes will activate should the trailer accidentally fall off the ball but is still attached by the safety chains. This scenario is where those coiled breakaway cables for sale in the store probably won't work, because it is too long. They are handy but they won't pull the plunger on safety switch.

The other scenario is where the entire hitch falls off the tow vehicle. If the breakaway cable is attached to the hitch it won't activate the brakes. Mounting the breakaway cable to a discrete metal eye attached to the bumper just below the tailgate would help but not to a plastic molded covered bumper. The plastic on the bumper cover is molded and is not something structural to mount to the break-away cable to.

The cable should be able to pull the plunger out of the safety switch to actuate the trailer brakes. If the ball comes off the hitch and your chains are dragging the swinging trailer behind, you want the plunger on the break-away switch to energize the electric brakes. You want your trailer to pull on the tow vehicle, not to slam into it. If the switch cable is longer than the stretched tight chains, the break-away switch is of no use and thus the trailer brakes will not engage.

There is some debate about the proper function of the break away. Some folks believe that if it activates with the chains still attached ... that's a problem. They like a longer pull cable. The folks in the "activate fast" group want shorter cables. Which truck is best? There are long and passionate debates about this. The one thing that most agree to is that the break-a-way cable needs to be attached to the TV.

Ideally you would want it attached to someplace other than the receiver structure and someplace else other than the chain attachment point. Good luck finding anything that remotely comes close to meeting those requirements on the typical vehicle. The typical answer is to attach to the same location as the chains, but that "ain't" perfect.

There are some that ask the question, "What if the hitch comes lose from the frame of the car? ". I personally check the undercarriage of my tow vehicle periodically for signs of rust to make sure the frame is not rusted away. I also check to see if the bolts are in place and at least look to be tight, although it wouldn't hurt to put a wrench on them to make sure.

Hitch assemblies are usually bolted to the frame, or in the case of un-i-body, to the main structure, so it is a very good idea to check the bolts for tightness. I heard of one failure where the hitch ball came off the truck and the breakaway stopped the trailer without damage. That would not have happened if the chains were shorter than and the break a way cable. The way a hitch comes lose is if the welds on the hitch are faulty, and that should be checked at least yearly.

If the tow vehicle is used in a practical manner and never "Overloaded", a periodic inspection of the towing assemblies (should) be sufficient, "barring catastrophic" hitch fatigue.

Member Travels

Luck was on his side when Steve Mentz was picked up for the Canadian Rockies Caravan on a cancelation. His first caravan was fantastic all around. The pictures will do the talking.



Canadian Prairie Sunrise



Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump UNESCO World Heritage Site



Elk in Banff National Park



Cantilevered walkway in Johnston Canyon



Lake Louise from the ski slopes across the valley



Looking down at our camp in the Kootenay Plains



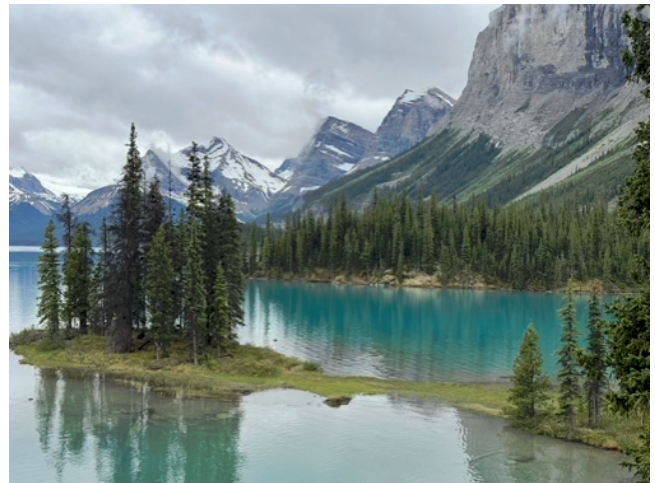
Peyto Lake in Banff National Park



Heading north to Jasper National Park



Elbow River Camp at the Calgary Stampede



Maligne Lake in Jasper National Park



Chuck wagon races at the Calgary Stampede



Grandstand Show at the Calgary Stampede

GSLAC Schedule

Note: Please let the luncheon host know you will be attending the luncheon. Also let the rally host know you will be coming to the rally, and that you have made reservations at the campground. Do not make campground reservations through their website but by calling and stating you are with the GSLAC.

August: International Rally

North Dakota State Fairgrounds
Minot, ND 58701
Caravan organization and parking:
Dan Atchison: 859-380-1579
Joe Hauser: 636-278-0535

September Rally: September 24 - 27, 2026

Northeast Missouri (NEMO) Fairgrounds
2700 E Illinois St
Kirksville, MO 63501
Fairgrounds: 660-665-8800
Hosts: Hugh & Deborah Schuetz
Deborah: 573-263-1398
Co-hosts: John & Debbie Lange

October Rally: October 15 -18, 2026

Double J Campground
9683 Palm Rd
Chatham, IL 62629
Campground: 217-483-9998
Hosts: Louise & Carl Richards
Louise: 217-473-0774
Co-hosts: Rick & Roberta Everson

December: Christmas Luncheon

December 12, 2026, 11:30 AM
Defiance Ridge Vineyards
2711 S. Highway 94
Defiance, MO
Hosts: Bill & Kathy Wharton
Bill: 314-541-6086
Kathy: 626-388-3613

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