

Iowa Airstream Club

September 2026

Notes from the President:

Sorry for such a late newsletter. We have been so busy with our travels to the International Airstream Rally in Minot, ND and unlike a few of you, I had to go to work right after returning. So, I decided to wait until after Labor Day weekend so I could also include pictures from the Wedding Anniversary Celebration for Chuck and Doris Jean Cabalka. I included them a bit later in the newsletter.



We have 2 more rallies for this season. September in Central City and October in Spillville. I believe there are still openings to both. Just let the hosts know if you plan to join. The September Rally looks to be focused on the art of Grant Wood and the Czech-Slovak culture and museum with a little education on bird watching. I have been to the Grant Wood studio but have not visited the National Czech-Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids. I am really looking forward to both museums and especially visiting the Czech-Slovak museum since they rebuilt after the flooding of 2008. I didn't realize that this museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate. The October Rally in Spillville looks to be fun as well. Denny has already mentioned having a "Pot Party". Hopefully the weather will be amazing so some of us can do a bit of hiking and possibly kayaking/canoeing the Upper Iowa. We will also have the installation of officers to kick start 2027.

There is an article in the newsletter providing more information on the Urban Rally next October, 2027. Please read and send questions to either Tom Spread, Denny Chapman, or myself by the end of the month. We want to answer any questions that you may have and we want your ideas.

Terie

Iowa Airstream Club Executive

President: Terie Taylor-Wolf
Vice President: Terry Cochran
Vice President: Wina Spread
Secretary: John Wolf
Treasurer: Kathy Allen
Director: Shirley Herron
Director: Margaret Jespersen
Director: Carol Heckman
Director: Scott Deetz
Committee Chairs
Constitution and Bylaws: Terry Cochran
Membership: Tom Spread
Directory Editors: Tom & Wina Spread
Ethics and Grievance: Terry Cochran
Newsletter: Terie Taylor-Wolf

SAVE THE DATE!

Plans continue to evolve for "*Aluminate Decorah*," an Urban Street Rally in Decorah, Iowa.

Here are the details so far:

- Host: **Denny Chapman** (Terie Taylor-Wolf has offered to co-host)
- Location: **Pulpit Rock Campground & Water Street, Decorah, Iowa**
- Dates: **October 13-17,2027**

Denny Chapman has been hard at work developing this rally in cooperation with the City of Decorah and the Decorah Chamber of Commerce. The general concept is for the club to camp at Pulpit Rock Campground from Wednesday through Friday. On Saturday morning, we will caravan to Water Street to park on both sides of the street, boondock overnight, and depart Sunday morning.

Pulpit Rock Campground is managed by the City of Decorah, reservations for the entire season open on March 1st at 8:00 AM and typically sell out by noon. However, the City has agreed to hold 25 -30 campsites for our use. Campground fees at Pulpit Rock range from \$35 (back-in) - \$42 (pull through) per night; both 30 and 50 amp sites are available. The pull through sites range from 90' to 110' and we understand that some are shareable (there are two (2) posts). The fees for the shareable sites are \$42 nightly plus \$22 nightly for the second unit (making the nightly cost per trailer \$32). The campground accommodates two (2) adults per site; additional adults are \$8 nightly, children under the age of 18 are free. Water is shareable and is available throughout the campground. There are three (3) dump stations on site.

The club plans to manage the campsites sites on behalf of the membership. You should expect us to open site reservations to club members as early as November, 2026 with payment due at that time. If we do not fill all available sites, we will open registration to Airstreamers from the Vintage Airstream Club, the Fly Fishing Club, and neighboring state clubs (Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, etc.). **If we cannot fill the allocation, we will simply reduce the number of sites we secure on March 1st.** If there is overflow, other area campgrounds are available, and a municipal parking lot in Decorah can accommodate additional units that do not fit on Water Street.

For the Saturday and Sunday portion of the event, two blocks on Water Street would be closed. This provides a 900-foot area utilizing both sides of the street (1,800' total), which can accommodate 25 to 30 campers depending on trailer and tow vehicle length. Overflow space is also available at a nearby municipal parking lot. Closing Water Street requires a Special Use Permit at a cost of \$25 per day (\$50 total).

Assuming a commitment of 25 trailers, here is the pro forma rally expense:

Pulpit Rock Camping Fee: \$110.00 / \$131.00 (3 days at \$35 or \$42 plus a \$5 booking fee per reservation)

Special Use Permit: \$2.00/rig (\$50/25) There are no additional camping fees to boondock on Water Street.

Rally Fee: to be determined

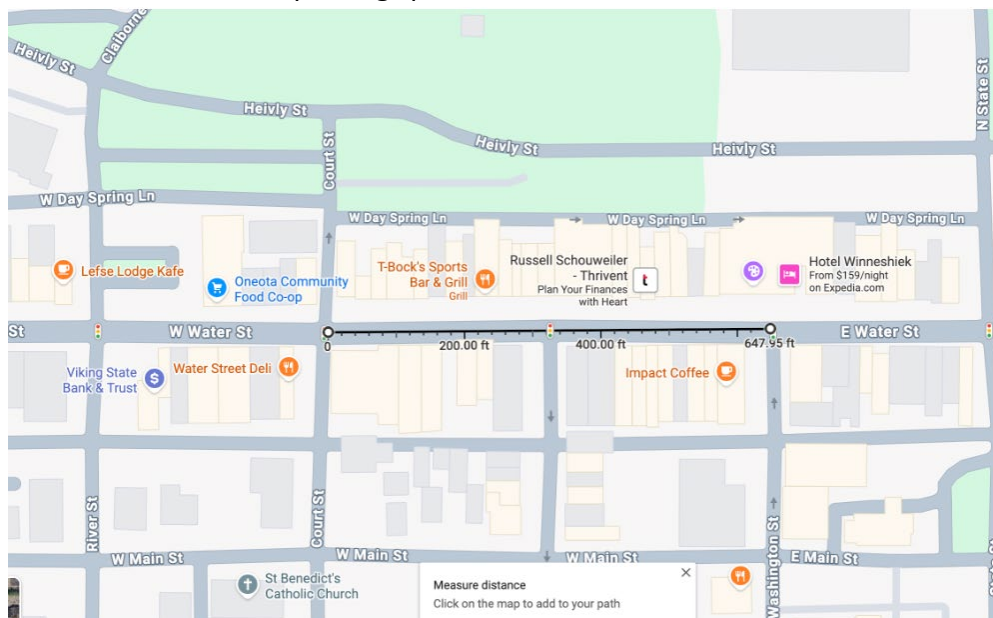
Denny has approached the Decorah Fire Department about a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning.

Additionally, consideration is being given to development of a Rally Logo, which carries a \$200 design fee. The logo could appear on shirts, sweatshirts, flags, etc. all of which would be available for purchase to participants. The logo expense could be shared among those who order shirts; it could be part of the Rally Fee; or the Iowa Airstream Club has sufficient funds to carry the expense.

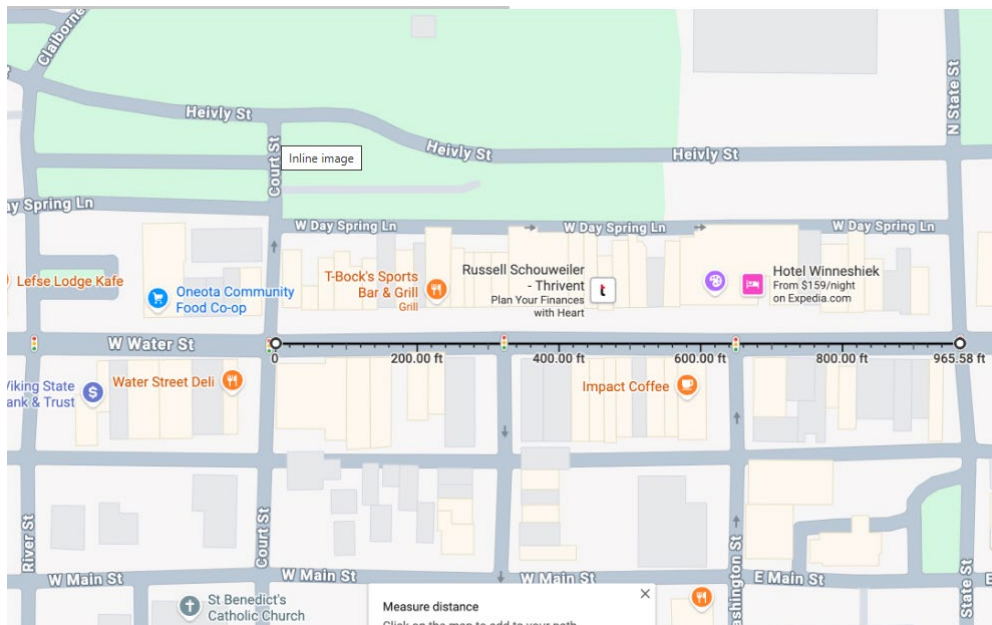
Please let your opinions be known via email, phone call or discussion by the end of September and we will discuss further at our next meeting in October. This is an exciting new possibility for the club; we hope to see all of you there!

See you down the road!

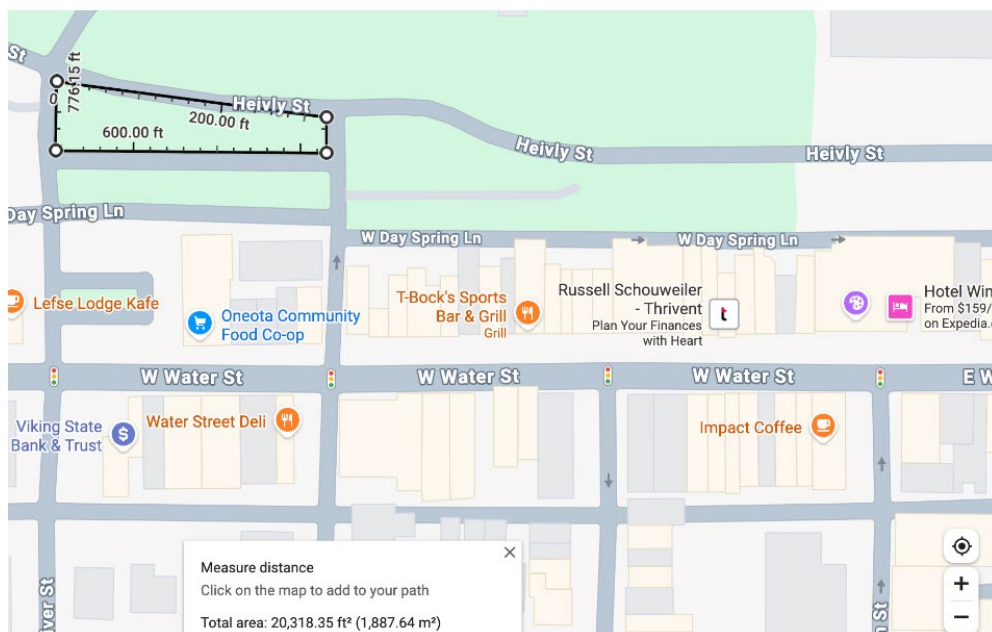
Below is Water Street and the main business district street in Decorah. The cross streets for us would be Court St. to Washington Street, approximately 650 feet. Parking on both sides would get us about 1300 feet of parking space.



If we could wrangle three blocks of Water Street that would net us about 1900 feet of parking.



In the upper left-hand corner is the city parking lot that is used for Farmer's Market. In October it should be available. That section is about 200 feet long. This can be used as overflow boondocking space. The west end is about 75 feet wide and the east end is about 40 feet wide, room for another dozen or so rigs.



Meet the Iowa Memberships: Robbie & Christie Arkovich

Christie and I are new members of the Iowa Airstream Club and would like to introduce ourselves and share our story. We met in October of 1985 in a photography class early in our college careers in Florida. Christie had recently moved to Florida from the Van Meter area, just west of Des Moines. I grew up in Florida but my family is from the Sioux City and Ames areas. We enjoyed our Iowa connection during the early years and now it has brought us back to this great state now in retirement.

I grew up traveling. The family had a small Winnebago when I was a child and that morphed into car trips across the country and my introduction into tent camping. My last tent camping trip was scheduled for the weekend that met Christie. I figured she would be more interesting than my smelly friend in a tent so I ditched the trip to hang out with her. Christie, who had never traveled, was eager to hit the road with me but tent camping was out of the question. To this day, she is proud of the fact she has never peed in the woods.

Christie and I made travel a priority during our years together. We never let our careers get in the way. I was a police officer and had plenty of vacation and comp time to burn. Christie is an attorney who owns her own law firm and that allows her the freedom to travel. And travel we did. Local, cross country, and we even went to Europe for our honeymoon in 1991. We had rail passes, a map, and no reservations. During the 2026 International Airstream Rally in Minot, we learned during a presentation by Kristy Halverson that this type of travel is coddiwompling. We have coddiwompled our way around the US, Europe, Canada, and even South America for the last several decades.

In 2017, Christie and I traveled with my sister and brother in law several times in their newly acquired Class A motorhome. We quickly fell in love with RVing and in early 2018, we purchased our first Lance travel trailer. Like most first time purchasers, it was way too small and we upgraded rather quickly. We towed that new Lance 2285 around the country for 85,000 miles until the slide went out on us in August of last year here in Iowa. It was an easy decision to upgrade to our Airstream, a 2025 International 25fbq. We are approaching 15,000 miles on the new Airstream and thus a combined 100,000 miles of RV travel. I think that milestone will be cause for celebration.

We love RV travel. It allows us to bring Stormy Waffles, our adventure kitty (and Chloe before her). It allows us to see all the beauty our country has to offer. We love spending time in small towns, State and National Parks, and the open countryside as we criss cross the country. The pandemic during 2020 affected everyone and it changed our lives forever as well. Prior to the pandemic, we only traveled for a week or so at a time as that was all Christie felt like she could be away from the office at one time. After Christie had been working remotely for three months, I suggested we go to the Georgia Mountains for two weeks so she could try working remotely on a longer trip. We got home five months later. As it turned out, long distance remote work went well for Christie. The

pandemic, as well as the heat, in Florida that summer was going crazy so it just made sense to stay out. We made it as far west as Yellowstone and as far north as Philadelphia.

So now, this is our sixth Summer not suffering the heat and hurricanes in Florida. But this year we made a change. We just recently sold our Florida house and hit the road with barely a plan. We have had a vacation/retirement home in Ames for 10 years so now that will now be our homebase. Yes, we are the only people who have ever retired back to Iowa. Iowa will be a much better jumping off point for our long trips. It will allow us to see places out west that we have not been to yet.

We are excited to be members of the Iowa Club and look forward to participating in rallies and other events while we are here. When we are not here, please follow along with us on Facebook (Robbie Arkovich) and Instagram (arkovichrobbie) as we travel and figure out this new life we have found ourselves in.



Thanks

Robbie, Christie and Stormy Waffles

Magic in Minot International Rally, Minot, North Dakota

It was a great turnout for the 69th annual International Airstream Rally. I don't know the total attendees yet but there were many airstreams from Iowa attending the rally. A few of us started our adventure by going to Medora, North Dakota prior to the rally. We visited the Medora Musical and the Pitchfork Steak Fondue prior to the show. We visited



International Peace Garden



the Teddy Roosevelt National Park, Painted Canyon, saw bison as well as the Teddy Roosevelt Presidential Library. I would highly recommend going to the National Park as well as the library if you ever find yourself near Medora. Tom and Shirley enjoyed the International Peace Garden on the border. As always, there were so many interesting sessions.

Tom, Wina, John and I ended our trip at the Minnesota Airstream Park. It was a great place to relax and we spent an afternoon going to the Munsinger and Clemons Gardens in St. Cloud, MN.





Prom King & Queen at Rough Rider Campground



Region 8 – Opening Ceremonies



Grapes and Grain



Clemons Garden in St. Cloud.

Celebrating 70 years of Marriage

A few of us joined Chuck and Doris Jean in helping them celebrate 70 years of marriage. It was so good to see them both. (Paul & June Ryan, Norm & Linda Beu, Tom & Shirley Herron, and Terie Taylor-Wolf)



Paul and June Ryan and Linda Beu



Norm and Linda Beu who also celebrated a wedding anniversary this month

September Birthdays

7 – Ed Pauley
9 – Scott Jensen
11 – June Ryan
20 – John Heckman



September Anniversaries

2 – Dellamuth
5 – Beu
8 - Cabalka



2026 Iowa Airstream Rally Schedule:

September Rally:

September 24-27, 2026 – **NOTE NEW DATE**

Pinicon Ridge Park – Firefly Campground

Reservations: Make your reservation **NOW**

My County Parks

Hosts: Scott and Kathryn Deetz

Phone: 845-219-3650 email:

scottadeetz@gmail.com

Itinerary:

Thursday, 9/24

- Arrival and Campfire
- Dinner on own or could go to Foxy's Chill and Grill in Central City

Friday, 9/25

- Morning Bird Walk around the park
- Breakfast-on your own
- Drive to Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
- Guided Tour of their Grant Wood Collection and Grant Wood Studio
- Lunch at Pickle Palace or Big Grove Brewery
- Free Time in the afternoon
- Deutsche Dinner in honor of the start of Oktoberfest
- **Bring a German themed side dish or dessert
- Movie night-The Big Year with Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson

Saturday, 9/26

- Morning Bird Walk around the park
- Breakfast: Deutsche Fruestueck, coffee
- Drive to the National Czech-Slovak Museum and Library
- Guided Tour of the Czech-Slovak Museum and Library
- Drive/lunch at Cedar Ridge Distillery
- Distillery Tour (\$10 includes samples along the way)
- Free Time in the afternoon
- Potluck at the campsite
- Campfire

Sunday, 9/27

- Breakfast (possibly Czech themed)

October Rally: (Installation)

October 8-11, 2026

Riverside Park Campground

116 Bridge St., Spillville, IA 52168

Reservations: Make your reservation **NOW**

Hosts: Denny Chapman and Mugsy Jespersen

Phone: 563-380-1385

Email: denny.chapman@rocketmail.com

Reservation info.: Click on the link below to make your reservation. Once you click on "Book your Camping Spot Now" it will take you to the reservation page.

<https://www.spillville.org/business-attraction/riverside-park-campground>

2027 Iowa Airstream Rally Schedule:



Region 8 Rally – **More Details to Come**

May 19-23, 2027

Branson, MO

2027 International Rally – Rolling Back to Rock Springs, WY

June 26-July 1, 2027

Sweet Water Events Center - 3320 Yellowstone Rd. Rock Springs, WY

<https://airstreamclub.org/rally2027>

Reservation: **NOW**



NOTE: PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU LET THE HOST KNOW WHAT SITE YOU HAVE RESERVED SO THEY CAN PLAN ON YOUR ATTENDANCE. IF PLANS CHANGE, PLEASE LET THE HOST KNOW SO THEY CAN REACH OUT TO ANYONE THAT IS ON A WAITLIST.