

News and Views

An informational email from the WBCCI
Electronic Communications Committee

Issue # **4**

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A personal message from Don Clark

As many of you are aware it became necessary for me to resign my position as International 1st Vice President on April 9 due to having been diagnosed with lung cancer. Jan and I returned to San Jose for further tests. I have met with my Oncologist and my radiologist, which confirmed this diagnosis. I am currently scheduled for chemo every 21 days. An aggressive treatment plan has been developed and my first chemo treatment was on May 25th. I have completed my first round of chemo and have had very few ill affects normally associated with this type of treatment. At this time I am feeling quite well considering the circumstances. I am scheduled to meet with the radiologist on June 5th to determine a radiation therapy schedule.

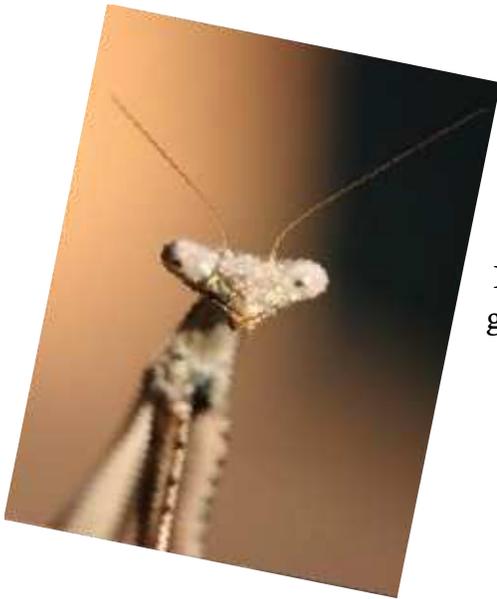
Jan and I want to thank all those that inquired about my health and for the great outpouring of good will, wishes, and prayers being expressed. At this time, I feel it is now necessary to donate all our attention to my health and treatments. As I will not be able to respond to your emails and well wishes in the future, I will periodically update News and Views on my progress.

In closing I want to encourage everyone to attend the 2012 Sedalia Rally and to support John Boutwell as he prepares for the 2013 International Rally in Huron, South Dakota.

WBCCI Facebook Pages –

Where “friends” make friends.

By Suzy Shepard, WBCCI # 2424 Greater St. Louis Unit



Bug Off, Facebook! Facebook is like the praying mantis. At first, it seems like a pesky little bug. But then you find out it EATS pesky little things. Praying mantes get rid of flies while Facebook gets rid of the pesky inability to keep up with WBCCI groups! Here are five reasons not to **BUG** off of Facebook.

Put a BUG in your ear. (Impart useful information in a subtle, discreet way.) Facebook can be a useful tool in your WBCCI unit and region. WBCCI is a relationship. Facebook allows the relationship to continue even after the rallies and caravans are long over. A closed unit or region Facebook Groups can be formed to share your past or upcoming events,

BUG someone (get attention): Facebook is the wave of the future in staying connected. Younger generations are relying more and more on electronic social networking. Let’s get WBCCI online, join secure WBCCI groups, and get connected with the wave of future effective relationships – especially those new owners who will be carrying on the banner of WBCCI.



BUG out (run away)! Don’t run away – no way! Are you thinking, “I’m running away from Facebook because it’s dangerous, unknown and time consuming!” Well, rest assured WBCCI Facebook Groups have privacy protection, an easy learning curve, and take little time – much less than snail mail, phone calls, and waiting for another event. The relationship is available any time, any day and you control how much or how often you want to be part of it!



BUG off (avoid): Take gradual steps to get to know Facebook and its advantages for WBCCI members. A first step is to Join Facebook (facebook.com). Then type in the Facebook search field: WBCCI. You’ll see over fifteen WBCCI groups to explore. Your unit doesn’t have a Facebook group yet? Talk to your president or web master and see how one can be started.



5. **BUGGED** (electronically eavesdropped or informed): Well now, considered yourself bugged. There is a whole world of fun and potential in the WBCCI Facebook Groups. Most beneficial of all, you can stay connected to your WBCCI Group even when you've left an event! Take care. See you in the cyber social world – our next precious place to meet. Suzy Shepard 2424, Greater St. Louis Unit.

Make friends with Facebook by attending the International Rally Seminar on Facebook in Sedalia, June 29, 3 pm – 4 pm Room AH 102

**Make even more WBCCI friends.
Follow the Links to WBCCI-Related Facebook Pages.**

WBCCI	Vintage Airstream Club	Airstream, Inc.
New England	Oregon Unit	Washington DC
New Jersey	Central Indiana	North Texas
Wisconsin	Four Corners Unit	Piedmont NC
Greater New Orleans	Texas Highland Lakes	Nebraska Unit



[Jen Eckhardt](#)

Jen would like your ideas about Airstreaming with Kids.

Give your Club a Hand!
Click on the links to contribute your ideas.

[Marion Pember](#)

.... will help you advertise your unit's or region's short caravan on the WBCCI web site.

[ECC](#)

Send us your ideas, pictures, or whole articles for future News and Views.

An Old Fashioned Rally in Jackson Center - By Matt Hackney #3518

So what's unusual about Airstreams in Jackson Center. They STILL make them there, right? Recently there were 175 Airstreams of almost every conceivable vintage and model behind the factory for a gathering called Alumapalooza Three. This event is held annually by Airstream Life Magazine and Airstream and includes an interesting assortment of activities, seminars, vendors, entertainment, competitions, food, and just plain fun.



From the stories and photos of those early WBCCI Rallies, I would say Alumapalooza is very much like the first few International Rallies. How is that? Start with Airstreams parked on a grass field, add 3-amp rally electric and water, include a large tent or two for gathering together, a daily 4 PM meeting where the events of today and tomorrow are discussed, entertainment, a swap meet, and throw in several hundred kindred folks who enjoy friendships old and new. The result is an old fashioned rally that could have been held in the 1950s, just as easily as in 2012. I know, this sounds a lot like any WBCCI Rally of today. There are many similarities. In fact, I would guess that approximately 30-40% of the participants are active members of the WBCCI. Big red numbers were everywhere.



Sword Swallowers? At a Rally??

Yes, the competitions are as varied as the participants. Prizes are awarded to the team that installs the most rivets in a simulated Airstream or the team that completes an obstacle course, backing and parking a short, wiggly trailer in the least amount of time.

The activities and entertainment are equally diverse: morning yoga, Dutch oven cooking, a short documentary film, roving happy hours, a blues singer and, yes, sword swallowers. The Saturday night feature act was a "trailer park" band that plays music that sounds like James Taylor crossed with Jimmy Buffett.

It wasn't all fun and games, though. There was a hefty offering of seminars on Airstream ownership and maintenance: cooking in an Airstream, awning maintenance, towing, tool-chests, Airstream feedback (men and women separate), interior and exterior cleaning, and lots of impromptu "how-tos" with fellow Airstreamers and the helpful crew from Airstream, Inc. It was fun for all, especially the dogs!





The new WBCCI.ORG is now live! Look for these new features:

An on-line “Join” option for all new members

Expanded Airstream Parks Info

Listing of Short Caravans

Airstreaming for Kids

Members’ Photo Gallery

Blue Beret Copy Editor Dot Stengel Retires from WBCCI

Dot Stengel, copy editor of the Blue Beret, is retiring July 31, 2012 after 28 years of service to WBCCI.

Dot has been a valued employee during her long tenure at WBCCI. Consistency, accuracy and dependability best describe her outstanding performance. Dot’s ability to interact with the multi-layers of the WBCCI structure, from the individual member, Unit, Region up to the International Board of Trustees enabled her to serve WBCCI with excellence. To the staff, she is our friend, and we will miss her.

On behalf of all of WBCCI, we wish Dot and her husband Homer a long and happy retirement.



The ECC is looking for a WBCCI members with expertise and experience in creating objective surveys. Contact ecc@wbcci.net if you’d be willing to help us or know someone who would.

Hands of Peace Garden Project

In 1975, the Wally Byam Caravan Club Inc., (WBCCI) and the City of Brandon, jointly donated a "Hands of Peace" sculpture that was placed in the International Peace Garden during the 1975 International Rally held in Brandon, Manitoba. This sculpture was a symbol of the achievement by two nations working together for peace. Years later, it was removed as it deteriorated to a point of non-repair.



Through a special committee approved at the January 13, 2012 WBCCI IBT meeting in Hattiesburg, MS the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit of Region 7 is restoring and replacing the original "Hands of Peace" monument at the International Border.

This is not what I have done, nor is it what we might accomplish but rather it is ..

"That two great nations acknowledged the dignity of man, insured his freedoms, achieved two hundred years of Peaceful co-existence; now these two hundred years are re-dedicated as a model to future generations all around the world as a way of life."

Vern Zink
ND Peace Garden Unit
WBCCI

Today, WBCCI has the opportunity to participate in the four-year celebration commemorating 200 years of peace since the War of 1812 between the nations of the United States of America and Canada by restoring and replacing the original "Hands of Peace" sculpture.

The most important part of this Monument restoration and replacement is the fundraising that must be done within the next year in order for this project to proceed.

For more information and to donate to the restoration and replacement project, email handsofpeace.wbcci@gmail.com

The International Peace Garden is a 501©(3) organization in North Dakota and a registered charity (127250181RR0001) in Canada.



**Wally Byam Caravan Club International
The Airstream Owners Association**

803 E. Pike Street
Jackson Center, Ohio 45334



**An Old Fashioned Rally at Jackson Center, Ohio
The more things change, the more they stay the same.**