



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Terri Warren, Region 10 President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Most of us have tucked our Airstreams into their winter beds through some will undoubtedly tough out the winter weather and continue traveling. We love to drive up to Winthrop WA for the balloon festival in March...depending upon the weather, of course. The last time we went, they had to dig out camping spots up there at Pine Ne'er Campground for us with snow walls about five feet tall! We just kept all the doors open to the cabinets involving water with the heat on continuously and all went well. I'm sure some of you also have fun spots that you enjoy for winter camping. So tell us about them! Post your favorites on the Region 10 Facebook page. Winter camping is just not as difficult as one might think and the crowds are certainly smaller.

Most of the Region 10 units are finalizing plans for the coming year and from the newsletters I have seen recently, there is an amazing amount of activities that have been scheduled. With that in mind, I am going to be sending out links to all the unit newsletters to all Region 10 members. We have managed to set up a MailChimp account, thanks to Carolyn Beardshear, to include all of you in that email. Hal and I have been traveling around the region in the past couple of years and it's fascinating to see how things are done differently in different units. We got all sorts of pearls we can use in our unit! I would encourage you to visit just beyond your own unit to see how the camping world looks from a slightly different perspective.

As we move into December, Hal and I would like to wish all of you the most joyous holiday season. We are kindling the lights of Hanukkah this week and I think many of you are putting up your Christmas trees and finalizing your decorating. Or perhaps you are thinking about the principles that inspires Kwanzaa. Whatever your holiday, we hope you will enjoy your friends, family and traditions.

 *Terri and Hal*



inside this month...

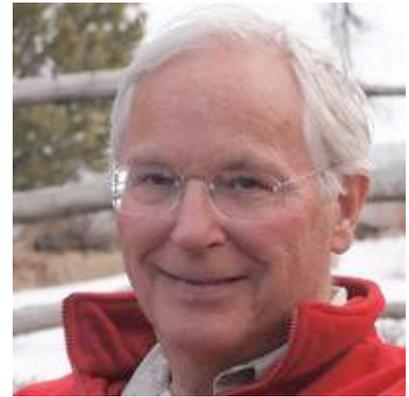
- 2 From Our 2nd VP
- 3 Unit President Spotlight
- 4-5 Meet our Region Secretary
- 6 Membership News
- 7-8 Safety News
- 9 Sun Valley Rally Re-Cap
- 10 Sun Valley Rally Photos
- 11 Board/Leads/Unit Presidents
- 12 From the Editor

From Our 2nd Vice President

Michel Bourassa, Region 10 2nd Vice President

This summer, I went to Region 10 Rally at Mount Hood, Oregon, for a good time with new and old Airstream friends – and I had a good time but somehow, I came home as the 2nd VP of Region 10! I don't know how it happened but there you go - tell God your plans and make Him laugh!

I have been involved with organizations in the past and as usual, we are presented with a conventional triangular flow chart with the executives and president at the peak, intermediate management midway down, and members at the wide bottom. I have always felt that such a structural depiction was misleading in that it is upside down. To me, the triangle should be inverted with the top management at the base, intermediate execs in the middle and the membership at the top. It is the job of the executives to support the membership from the bottom up! The executive is there for the members, not the other way around.



That concept reflects my view of successful organizations and will govern me in my work as VP. I am in this role to serve the membership in anyway I can. So please, don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any use to you, your Unit or the organization.

My agenda within the Club is twofold and simple: Community and Caravans.

When we meet new Airstreamers, they are not strangers as we are already compatible and have a base for solid friendship: We love Airstreams, travel, adventure and community. This is a huge strength for our club and one that must be nurtured and promoted in every way. Friends are precious and important and lie at the heart of our community.

I love caravanning! I have itchy feet and a restless mind so being on a new road, or any road for that matter, is heaven for me. To that end I have taken caravans and solo trips all over Mexico, across Canada and the USA and in doing so, put about 30,000 km on my International 23'. With help from my Unit, BC 121, a caravan to Mexico in January 2019 was organized and is now sold out. Another caravan to the Copper Canyon, Mexico City and Mazatlán for its Carnival, with lots of stops in between, is in the works for 2021 and I am now building a small working group to explore the possibilities of a Caravan to Europe for 2022. The latter two caravans will hopefully be WBCCI sanctioned caravans. I hope to generate interest and involve more members to follow Wally Byam's mission in promoting caravans and adventure.

About me: I'm retired but not tired. I live on a small island on the west coast of Canada, moving here after 25 years in Canada's arctic where I serve as a Judge; married to Ellen for 46 years and blessed with two children and now, two grandchildren. After sailing the Pacific coast for many years, including voyages to Mexico, in 2010 I graduated to an Airstream trailer, met many WBCCI members and have never regretted it.

~*Michel Bourassa* (email: rmbourassa@gmail.com)

unit president spotlight

Ralph Vanderheide
British Columbia Unit



Thank you for the opportunity to introduce ourselves.

First of all we live in the small community of Keremeos BC approximately 4 hours east of Vancouver. We retired here from busy professional lives after living in Kamloops for over 35 years and wanted a quieter lifestyle. We have a home by the peaceful Similkimeen River and enjoy the beauty of the North Cascade mountains.

We have no children, however we do have many wonderful nieces and nephews. Our mini red coat dachshund is our "kid". Palmer is a very mischievous, smart dog who has now come out of the terrible twos and threes and is starting too mature. Yay!

We have been members of the BC Unit since 2004 and have never regretted our decision to join. The members are a further extension of our family and we enjoy getting together with them at rallies and functions. We had the privilege to be invited to a rally in 2004 close by our home. We just went for the day to see what it would be like and regretted not taking the trailer and staying for the next couple of days as we enjoyed ourselves so much. The decision to join the unit was an easy one.

We currently own a 2018 International 25 foot which we purchased just a couple of months ago. We have had several other Airstream products over a 30 year period.

There have been many wonderful rallies as we explore our beautiful province. However the most memorable one for my wife Lalani and me was the 2010 International Rally held in Bozeman, Montana. The venue, the city of Bozeman, and the vistas were breath-taking. We also travelled through Yellowstone Park with all its many beautiful things the park has to offer.

In our spare time Lalani volunteers her time researching and submitting papers for different organizations in health care . As Lalani retired as a critical care nurse and educator for the ICU unit in Kamloops Hospital, it is her passion to continue mentoring and doing research via her computer. We both travel to Palm Springs for the winter to enjoy our travel trailer and the warm weather.

Once we return home in the spring of 2019 it will be a busy year. As president and first-lady of our unit we look forward to an exciting year with our Airstream family. Lalani and I thank the members of our unit as they have entrusted us to be leaders of this great club.

~Ralph & Lalani Vanderheide



meet our secretary

Marie Efira, Region 10 Secretary

Our fascination for Airstream goes far back in time - and not just because my Dad used to wear a blue beret like most men did in France years ago! I was still in art school when I met Ed, a starving musician. We shared the same bohemian aspirations and Ed had a revelation as a child when he saw his first Airstream in Paris... Who knows, that might have been Wally's trailer!

In the early seventies, Ed was hired by a famous French singer for a tour of "La Belle Province". It was our first time on the American continent. We saved every penny during the tour and flew from Montreal to LA with a plan to rent a camper for a cross-country road trip...but we ended up with an old Corvair that let us down before we could even reach Las Vegas! So, we promised to return.

After our children were born, both of us went back to school and got proper jobs. I worked in the marketing department at the headquarters of an insurance company. Ed was in Artificial Intelligence when his company chose him to open an office in California...back in the USA!

Our Airstream story begins in 2001... Our first trailer, a 19' Bambi, unfortunately spent more time in our driveway, somewhere in the heart of Silicon Valley, than on the road, until that fateful day in 2004. I had carefully planned all the details of our first big trip on my computer but didn't expect a tornado in Arizona! We were extremely inexperienced but we managed to outrun the storm at 55 MPH on a narrow road, with the radio broadcasting warnings, and nowhere to stop to take shelter. No time to take a picture, but the view of a herd of white mustangs against the red mesas with the sky turning dark green will remain printed on my mind forever.

The day we reached Monument Valley was going to be life changing for us. As we were checking in, a group of Airstreamers approached us and invited us for happy hour. We became best friends right away and followed their Classic Airstream Club caravan to the Region 11 rally in Cortez, Colorado, where then International Membership Chairman Marilyn Collins (Hello Marilyn!) signed us as WBCCI Members. We had learned on the field what a caravan, a rally and an intracamp were but didn't understand at the time why we should join a unit... So we became Members at Large. The following year, we joined our new friends from all over the country at our first International Rally in 2005, in Springfield, Missouri. Since then we have never missed an international rally (except for work or health reasons). During our third international in Perry, Georgia, we discovered the joy of working for different committees and the WBCCI band, and now cannot imagine not volunteering in some way.

We fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and discovered the Washington Land Yacht Harbor in Olympia while attending our first Region 10 rally, after the 2006 International in Salem. Everybody was so welcoming that, once again, we said "we shall return" and we did: four years ago, we joined the Washington Unit and became part of a great community when we moved into a small house with a long porch facing the terraport. On top of belonging to a very active unit, we are lucky enough to get opportunities to chat with the Airstreamers passing by. Don't forget to knock on our door the next time you park there!

(continued on Page 4)

meet our secretary

(continued from Page 3)

Our first unit was in fact the California San Diego unit, with a bunch of creative Airstreamers and hilarious rallies like a dog wedding in Las Vegas, breakfast-in-bed rally or a Trailer Trash rally with Tang and Velveeta pairing. That made my job as newsletter editor quite satisfying, I must say! In the meantime, I also continued to be newsletter editor for the Classic Airstream club. Participating in several CAC caravans, we discovered incredible places far from the beaten path in Texas or Louisiana. Those caravans were not as elaborate as the three national caravans we participated in later, but it was a wonderful way to meet the locals and to embrace their customs. Not surprising that when Ed, after a first try at retirement, went back to work, I decided to get myself a degree in Anthropology, a wonderful experience that I cherish every day. When I was young I studied philosophy, now my philosophy is to be opened to whatever comes our way: we travel with a destination in mind but very rarely make reservations, except for a few state or national parks in the summer months. So we get what we get: it can be a regular campground, some dusty fairgrounds, or a charming tent site by a river! To prepare my itinerary, now I trust my fellow Airstreamers more than Google map. If we get lost and wander in unknown territory, that's usually when we make the most interesting discoveries.

I always manage to grow plants in my trailer. Last year in Michigan we ate our first Airstream grown tomatoes. I do admit that we have a bigger trailer! Ten years ago we traded our 31' Classic for our third Airstream, a 30' with a king size bed. We love it and have spent months on the road, visiting 40 states in the company of Ed's Cairn Terrier and my cat who happened to be a great travel companion. She loved to sit behind the screen door, very appreciative of the daily change of scenery. In the truck, she would never ask "are we there yet?" and if she emitted a timid reminder, we knew that a few notes of Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 revisited" would send her back to sleep.

After all those years, we are still living the dream of discovering America the beautiful. Hard to say where our favorite place is, but there are places we always like to go back to, like Bozeman, Montana, or Abbeville, Louisiana, in that RV park where the armadillos roam and it rains caterpillars sometimes. We have seen magnificent landscapes, met wonderful people and engaged in passionate conversations with strangers in the most unexpected places. We've had some scary "Long Long Trailer" moments too (I would not recommend US 16-ALT in the Black Hills of South Dakota with a 30' trailer, despite the gorgeous views of Mount Rushmore) but as long as we are in our Airstream, we are happy.

We are so fortunate to belong to a such a beautiful and diverse region: my favorite task as secretary has been to greet many of you at the region table in Salem last summer. So I am very much looking forward to see you again in Doswell, Virginia in 2019.



membership **news**

from Darlene Caldwell, Membership Chair



Wow, 2018 is almost over. The year flew by very fast. It was a very good year for the Airstream dealers in Region 10; sales were very good. Our Units were very successful as well; we gained many new members. The synergy between these dealers and our Units and the benefit to all our members is becoming clearer.

Several of our Units, with the support of local dealers, have held special rallies for new Airstream owners. These small “Newbie” rallies have been successful. These rallies enabled new owners to test and enjoy their Airstream in a camping experience with our very knowledgeable club members. The rally assists the Dealer by providing a more in-depth experience for the owner than the “walk through”. It assists the new owners by enabling a testing and trial experience while gaining practical knowledge of parking, setting up, packing and checklists from our experienced members. Our club benefits as new owners learn about the benefits and value of club membership. It is a “win - win” plan for all concerned. Camping World and RV supply stores gain also! Ha ha!

If you want to learn more about this idea, please contact me.

“As visions of new Airstream adventures dance in your head”, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Bodhi Day.

However you plan to celebrate the season, may you enjoy good health, happiness, kindness, compassion and peace wherever you may be!

Safe travels!

Darlene Caldwell

Dcaldwell4076@me.com

Safety News

by Ray Putnam, Maintenance Chairman

Safety notice: (A longer version of this article will appear in the next *Blue Beret*.) If you use the Andersen Hitch on an Airstream trailer, Andersen, has announced the following: *"The Atwood 88xxx series couplers are incompatible with our Weight Distribution Hitch. ALL OTHER Atwood couplers are fine (80xxx, 81xxx, 82xxx, etc.). Although we have some customers who are using the 88xxx series without problem, for the best solution our official stand is this – if you have one, change out your coupler. Luckily it is not a common coupler, but it is popular on Airstream trailers. What can happen: Because of the design of the Atwood 88000 series coupler, there is a lot of extra movement inside the coupler as compared to other couplers on the market. When combined with the reverse pressure that our Weight Distribution system places on it, over time, the slack in the internal mechanism of the some of these couplers slowly works its way backwards trying to unlatch from the top 'fin' - and eventually it can wear the fin down enough that it does not fully latch anymore."*

Airstream owner comment: Virtually all Airstream trailers (and Argosies) made since about 1970 use the 88007 Atwood coupler. I use a snug fit 3/8 pin or bolt in mine to eliminate any slop and fin damage. That did require a slight drilling out of the original hole to 3/8". I have had no issues with any wear or damage, and like the hitch very much.

Airstream owner comment: Because the Andersen puts a lot of force on the back of the ball and that there is a lot of forward thrust the fins that seat into place on top of the coupler in the closed position can get rounded. There are two basic fixes:

1. Drill out the pin hole on the coupler to exactly 3/8" and use a bolt through it which effectively eliminates the coupler movement and there is absolutely no wear showing anywhere on the coupler or fin. You drill the hole through the coupler holes while in the closed position, so that they are the same size as the middle ring hole that is fixed on the top of the coupler. They are currently slightly different sizes which results in some slop.
2. Buy a Latch Repair Kit: Replacement Latch Repair Kit for Atwood Yoke Style A-Frame Couplers, part AT15775 for \$19.95 from etrailer.com. Installing the repair kit requires removing the original parts, which means grinding off the staked end of the original pin. The replacement is a shear bolt with a self-locking nut, to avoid any need to replicate the staking operation. Details direct from Atwood (maybe now Drew Industries, see below).

NOTE: Atwood has been sold to Drew Industries. Drew Industries has agreed to acquire the seating and chassis component business of Atwood Mobile Products. When I checked with etrailer.com I found out that repair parts for the Atwood 81911 series are not available to them. Etrailer.com is recommending the Bulldog 028499 coupler as a replacement for the Atwood coupler.

(continued on Page 10)

Safety News (continued from Page 9)

You have several options: (1) Airstream owner 1. above; (2) Airstream owner 2. above; (3) Find an Atwood MPD 81911 or the applicable repair parts, which “may” be available from Drew Industries or others; (4) Or, replace the Atwood 88xxx with 80xxx, 81xxx, 82xxx, etc., Atwood couplers; (5) Or replace the Atwood 88xxx (rated at 10,000#) with the Bulldog 028499 (rated at 12,500#) coupler (**my choice**); (6) Or, replace the Atwood coupler you have with the Marvel coupler; (6) Or, replace the weight distribution (WD) hitch. **Please keep in mind that Andersen’s recommendation is to replace the coupler.** We are not aware of any warranty issues related to coupler replacement. I’m told the original warranty was only good for two years. I have found that the shop time and charges, quoted above by Andersen, is not accurate. (See more below on cost to replace the Atwood coupler.)

Actual experience by this writer: I replaced the Atwood coupler with a Bulldog 028499 coupler. The actual time to do the work and finish the job was twice the estimate above in cost – actual cost about \$200.00 for the fabrication shop work. Included was the cost to close up the open A-frame tubes under the hitch, and, realign the bottom jack mount with the new top mount in the coupler, and, weld two 3/8" mechanical chain connector links on the sides below the new coupler for the safety chains. And, I found that the Andersen chains had to be lengthened four links each to allow proper hook-up. Andersen provides P/N 3366 which is a mechanical connector link and six additional links to extend the standard fourteen link chains originally provided. The cost for this (set) of extensions is \$45.99. The repair link makes up for two chain links. I cut off the excess links because the clevis connector to the A-plate wouldn't fit through the end link otherwise. And, I found that the ball on the hitch had to be raised one hole to complete the mechanical line-up. To remount the jack, I used three 3/8" x 1-1/2 stainless steel (ss) hex bolts, 6 ss flat washers, 3 ss lock washers, and 3 ss 3/8"-18 washer nuts (which had to be tack welded to the bottom of the Bulldog jack coupler as the Bulldog jack coupler does not have threaded mounting holes for the jack, but, is slotted). **Total out-of-pocket expense was less than any WD hitch available (and I now have a better coupler and, can continue to use the Andersen WD hitch).** Personal note: I have the same Bulldog coupler on my farm trailers. I really like the simplicity of the coupler and the sure-and-simple coupling.

PS: I have an Andersen WD Hitch hook-up/un-hook instruction sheet. I have added additional comments based upon personal experience that you might find helpful. If you would like a copy, email techhelp@WBCCL.org and request it. I will forward it back to you by return email.

Happy Trails to you!

See you, safely, down the road.

-Ray Putnam

Sun Valley Rally Re-Cap

from Carol Ortiz

If you were not in Sun Valley, ID in October 2018, you missed a wonderful rally and lots of activities in a beautiful setting! The WBCCI National Special Events Sun Valley Jazz Festival Rally took place from October 13 - 22. This rally is sponsored by Region 10.

Arriving on Saturday, the 13th, amid the beautiful snow-topped hills and golden leaves of the Aspen trees, rally attenders parked their rigs in the River Run Lodge parking lot which had been striped for the Airstreamers. Pat Mann, WA Unit, was the one who designated where the rigs would park with big "X"s. That first evening, we joined the Idaho Unit at the Wiseguys Pizza in Hailey. They were having a rally centered on the "Trailing of the Sheep Festival."

Sunday, we took in the "Trailing of the Sheep Festival" parade in downtown Ketchum. This is the time of the year that the shepherds are moving sheep from the high mountains down into the valleys for the winter. Before the sheep came through town, several groups of shepherds did their traditional dances in their traditional attire, and showed us their campers and horses, etc. The original shepherds came from the Basque area of Spain and Peru - we also got to hear their music. Then all was quiet when over 1000 sheep came racing through the street, inches from where we were watching. One might think that it would have been noisy with sheep bleating and dogs (who kept them herded) barking - but that was not the case. You only heard the feet of the sheep, who ran side by side, fifteen or more across, following the leaders. It was an amazing sight!

With time to explore the Sun Valley area (and fish), on Monday we met at the Tyrolean Best Western lobby for our Happy Hour. The hotel was so gracious to let us do this. By the 15th, there were 38 Airstreamers who had arrived from many parts of the US and Canada: WA, OR, ID, BC, AB, TX, CA, OH, MI, NV Tuesday, we met at the Smoky Mountain Pizzeria for Happy Hour with the



appetizers provided by the Rally Fee. In our group were many volunteers (22 folks) for the Jazz Festival. So, on Wednesday, we attended seminars to prepare for our jobs and enjoyed a wonderful luncheon. The Festival began that afternoon.

Once the Festival began, we scattered to do our volunteer jobs or enjoy the music of nearly 40 different groups from Big Band to Zydeco to Dixieland Jazz. Such a wonderful variety! It was so awesome! There were 6

or 7 venues in the Sun Valley Inn, the lodge and other sites. You could stay in one venue from 9:30am - 11:30pm or move around to follow your "favorites." Shuttles were available and food was available. You could strike out on your own or go with some other Airstreamers. After the final note was played and sung at the Grand Finale on Sunday, October 21st, our rally group met for dinner back at the Smoky Mountain Pizzeria. Here we reviewed our favorite groups and said our good-byes. Pat & Diane Mann and Carol Ortiz (co-hosts for the 2018 year) said our "thank-yous" and announced that Bob and Darlene Caldwell (Immediate Past Region 10 President and First Lady) have volunteered to be hosts in 2019. So stay tuned for news from them for the Sun Valley Jazz Festival Rally in 2019. And plan now to attend!

Sun Valley Rally Photos



REGION 10 BOARD & LEADS

President-Terri Warren

Caravan Chairman-Tom Akam

1st VP-Sharon Cairns

Community Service-Maureen Ostyn

2nd VP-Michel Bourassa

Maintenance Chairman-Ray Putnam

Secretary-Marie Efira

Membership-Darlene Caldwell

Treasurer-Ray Schmitt

Newsletter-Cara Goedeking

Past President-Bob Caldwell

Parliamentarian-Jerry Collins

Website-Russ Decker



Region 10 Unit Presidents for 2018-19

Randy McGillivray

Alberta-Saskatchewan

Michael Giau

Montana

Ralph Vanderheide

British-Columbia

Brad Taylor

Oregon

Tom Usselman

Idaho

Darlene Leslie

Washington

note from the editor

As some of you I'm sure noticed, this newsletter did not get "published" on time...my apologies, but life comes first. With that in mind, and Terri's blessing, I am going to change to a seasonal distribution of the newsletter - there will be a Winter newsletter (out in December or January), a Spring newsletter (out in March or April), a Summer newsletter (out in June or July) and a Fall newsletter (out in September or October). Why? Honestly, more flexibility for me. I'm a busy mom of a teenager and I just started a new small business, so extra time is something that I don't have a lot of. BUT I really enjoy putting together this newsletter for you and want to continue. With this flexibility, I can. Thanks for your understanding and support. I wish you the most wonderful holidays!

~Cara Goedeking, Newsletter Editor



REGION 10 WEBSITE-<http://region10.wbccci.net>

REGION 10 NEWSLETTER

Cara Goedeking, Editor
email: caragoedeking@yahoo.com

Next Issue: Spring 2018

deadline for submissions:

March 15, 2018