



THE CAPITAL TIMES

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WDCU Website

<http://www.servintfree.net/wbcc-dc/>

Vintage Club

www.airstream.net

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Letter from the President - Paul Waddell

Well, it's that time again. Yes, Spring. The time to do the things we need to do, to do the thing we love to do. That's right, we need to repack wheel bearings, check brakes, water and propane system, frig, stove and the list just goes on and that's just on the trailer. Add to it, the hitch, etc... and if you are using a vintage puller, the list just tripled!! At times, one must step back and wonder, "Is it all worth it?" I know, I do. I'm currently looking at a stove and floor replacements (not that the trailer "needs" it) I just don't like what's in there. Add to that, wanting to use my 1962 Galaxie Conv. more this year to pull, I know, the car needs a rear main seal and I should replace the U-joints just to be safe side, work, Work, WORK!! Not to mention, I have a real job, a part-time business and a five-year old daughter and an old house to boot! I'm beginning to understand and even appreciate the whole "couch potato" thing. Having fun is a lot of work! It would be so much easier just to stay inside, on the couch, with the TV on some movie I've seen 15 times in my life, eat junk food and yell to the wife "Get me a beer!" Would that not be great! It would be a lot less work, a lot less to worry and stress, maybe even a lot less money (until I need the triple by-pass).

But, if I did the "couch potato" thing, there are many people, I would not know at this point and time in my life. People, that I feel are part of a much larger family. Friends that I know, I could call in the middle of the night and they would be there in a heartbeat or friends I could ask to stop and get me a starter for a 1968 International Travelall on their way to a rally. People that when you see them, they give you the biggest and best hug you've ever had in your life. People, that when they have pain or misfortune in their lives, you feel their pain or misfortune in your life. If, I did the "couch potato" thing, there would be many places and experiences, my family would never have known about. Things like watching a movie with popcorn and all the trimmings on the side of a trailer at the OBX. Or getting to see the home of George Washington and watching a 1700's style dance in full costume. How many people can say they have seen "The Battle of the Band's" (marching bands). Who do you know that's ridden in a Jeep while taking a tour of a cave? What about getting to put their feet in the sand not only on the east coast, but also the west coast of Florida in less than a week? I guess if I did the "couch potato" thing my daughter by the age of five would not have been to FL, GA, TN, SC, NC, VA, MD, WV, MO, PA, NY, NH and MA. She still talks about most if not all the trips we have been on over the past five years. For her, like us, there are memories that can never be taken away from her and people that she may never forget. I know in my heart, these people and places have help shape her into a far better child and someday adult.

So, when I sit back and think about all that work that still needs to be done, I know in the end, it will be more than worth it. My wife said to me just tonight, "Do you realize we campout eight months of the year?" I said, "Yep, but we can do more". I'm sure like many of you, I don't want to be in the hospital bed taking my last breath and thinking, "I'm so glad, I got to see "The Good, The Bad & the Ugly" for the 16th time".

Until Next Time,

Creekside Rendezvous, Edinburg, VA - September 7-10, 2006

Creekside Campground, Edinburg, Virginia
Written by Harley Muse
Rally Hosts - Harley Muse & John Gililand

There were 10 families attending this small gathering in early September and the weather could not have been better for a late summer meeting. They came from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Florida.



We occupied all of the campground's sites along Stoney Creek in Edinburg. By the time the hosts arrived mid-day on Thursday there were several members already in place and waiting for us. The creek was running swiftly and was calling. The leaves were just beginning to turn and some had fallen already.

Activities included wandering the roads of the Shenandoah Valley in search of antiques and Civil War sites, yard sales and artwork, nature and just hanging out with those we hadn't seen in awhile. There were geocaching sites to be found nearby also, and we found a few.

There were a number of children in attendance as well as our canine friends and all enjoyed themselves, whether it be taking walks with their masters or just playing in the puddles. It doesn't take much to entertain some of us, does it?



Our group enjoyed the standard WDCU happy hour each afternoon at the host's site and then stayed up late into the evening swapping tales and fish stories enjoying the company and camaraderie.

As usually happens at every rally there were those of us who had some maintenance items to deal with, and this rally was no exception. Harley Muse and John Gilliland had experienced a storm at their home earlier in the month that had taken the rear window out of their trailer. Pete Daniels happened to have a temporary replacement and brought it along. There were other small problems that others had to deal with, and there was always someone who had experiences to relate and expertise to share.



Saturday's breakfast was served by John Gilliland and included waffles. The pavilion provided cover from a light mist, with promise for a nicer day promised. By noon the mist has dissipated and the kids decided it was time for a swim in the creek. This lasted most of the afternoon and provided entertainment for the entire group.



Saturday evening's dinner was provided for our group at a local gathering hall up on the hillside across the creek from the campground. We gathered for a dinner prepared especially for us that consisted of Cornish hens, salad, vegetables and apple puffs. After dinner it was back to the campground and our last gathering around the campfire.

Sunday morning came much too soon. There were those of us who had to return to school and for the adults their work situations called. The goodbyes are always the hardest but we all know that somewhere "down the road" we'll meet again. And when we do meet, there will always be another story to tell, more pictures to show and always new friends to get to know.

That's what the WDCU and WBCCI is all about!

Don't Change the constitution - Letter from Jim Mickle #6980

Our elected leaders have proposed changing the constitution of the oldest single manufacturer RV club to allow other brands in, in the hope of reversing the ongoing membership drop. Rather than increasing membership, I believe that, if approved, it would lead to the largest drop in membership in recent years. Even if it isn't approved, the proposal will probably result in membership drop because of the controversy and hard feelings it will have caused.

"We own two Airstreams, a 2000 motorhome and 1991 trailer. We are opposed to letting other brands in the club. This is an Airstream club and it should stay that way.

Part of the rationale for this proposal is to allow current Airstream motorhome owners to replace their unit when it wears out, and if we don't we will lose these members. From what I can determine, there has been no survey of these owners that would substantiate this rationale. How many of the current motorhome owners expect to ever replace their current motorhomes? Do Airstream motorhomes really wear out to the point that they can't be repaired/refurbished? How many of the current motorhome owners have classic Airstreams? They don't seem to wear out to the point that they are unreparable.

I believe that those who think that allowing Four Winds class A motorhomes into the club will increase membership are dead wrong! Why would any non-Airstream motorhome owner want to join this club when FMCA is available? FMCA is less expensive and offers a better magazine, more perks, units and rallies. Any non-Airstream owner joining WBCCI would not likely receive a warm welcome at any WBCCI event, and probably would not attend another one. Unfortunately, even Airstream owners, whether towing a trailer or driving a motorhome, are often not given a real warm welcome at their first WBCCI event.

If we were to really go after Airstream owning non-members, we could make a much greater impact on membership numbers than going after non-Airstream motorhome owners. Unfortunately, there seems to have been little, if any, effort along those lines recently. I have proposed that we go after new, younger, members by encouraging the formation of new units that meet their needs rather than trying to force fit them into existing units. Some of the current officers seem to be listening and making moves in that direction.

Why did over 1400 members not renew for 2007? I know that age is a factor, but there must be other reasons. We need to determine those reasons and address them.

I believe we can rebuild this club with forward thinking members who will carry it to new heights if we do the right things. Letting other brands in is not one of the right things!

Please vote NO on any proposal to allow other brands in the oldest single manufacturer RV club. Let's take our time and work out proposals that will not destroy the very roots of our Airstream club.

Jim & Marianne Mickle # 6980

2007 Rally Schedule

8th Annual Cherry Blossom Rally – April 12-15, 2007 - Host: Clayton & Christie Rogers, Co-host: Doug & Terry Rowbottom mossbackdoug@yahoo.com Only a few spots left for this anxiously awaited yearly event. Contact Doug to find out if there is still room. Rally schedule below.

Region 2 Rally– May 23-27, 2007 – Bloomsburg, PA

Pageant of the Bands Rally – May 31-June 3 CANCELLED

Caravan to International – June 23-25, 2007 - Caravan Leader: Paul Waddell - balloon@rideair.com

International Rally - June 27-July 4, 2007 Perry, GA

Radio Observatory Rally – July 4-8, 2007 - West Virginia – Host:Bill Jacobs - bjacobs1@citlink.net

Woodsman Festival Rally – August – PA – Host: Linda Bell - belrnr13@suscom.net

Caravan of Presidents Born in VA – September – 12 day caravan ending in Staunton, VA – Rally to follow – Caravan Leader: Margaret Natof – natofs@aol.com

Staunton VA Rally – September – Host: Paul & Mary Kim Waddell - balloon@rideair.com, Co-host: Pete Daniels - pete@consultadc.com – Rally not included in Caravan of Presidents.

Newport News, VA Installation Rally – Oct 4-7 – Host: Garnett Horner gch2878@earthlink.net

CBR Apr. 12 - 15, 2007

Well it's time for winter to end and the cherry blossoms are right on schedule for blooming during the Cherry Blossom Rally. We have lots of registrations but there is room for more so this year we are making it open to buddies. If you have any friends wondering where you get off to with your Airstream trailer every April, bring them along.

This year clean out your garage and bring along all those extra trailer parts and stuff and set up during the open house. Find treasures and spare parts you can't live without. Help some of us make room for more trailers at home.

Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan the food for Saturday dinner and morning breakfasts.

THURSDAY - Arrivals and set up.

4:00pm Happy hour and meet and greet in the tent

FRIDAY - Breakfast and Coffee in the tent.

See Washington before the weekend crowds.

Happy hour in the tent at 4:00pm.

Spring Business Meeting – See email below.

Pot Luck dinner in the tent.

Visit and tell your travel stories in the tent.

SATURDAY - Breakfast and Coffee in the tent.

Get together groups for the big parade in Washington at 10am.

Open house for trailers at the farm 2:00- 4:00.

Bring extra parts and stuff for sale or free during open house.

Dinner supplied in the tent after happy hour.

SUNDAY - Breakfast and Coffee in the tent.

Most will leave for home, welcome to stay overnight.

PLEASE CONTACT DOUG ROWBOTTOM TO VERIFY OPENINGS mossbackdoug@yahoo.com

Spring Business Meeting - April 13, Friday Prior to Potluck

Members of the WDCU,

As many of you know, our Cherry Blossom Rally is right around the corner. At this rally, we normally have our "Spring Business Meeting". We plan to hold this meeting on Friday, before the potluck dinner. I'm sure there will be some items of concern for some of you. We will "not" be taking any votes at this business meeting. All voting is done via "email" or over the phone. I will try to get an email out to the members after the "CBR" with highlights of the meeting. If you have something say or a point to make and cannot attend the meeting, please send a copy of what you want said to me balloon@rideair.com and I will read your comments for you to the group, please make them short, sweet and to the point. Items I know that will be of interest to some:

1. An amendment to change our constitution to allow non-Airstream products into the WBCCI through a motorhome amendment.
2. A possible name change amendment from Region 12 to include the name "Airstream" into our clubs name. (Voted on last year, rejected)

If you need any information in regards to the above matters, you may email me directly or check the web at the following locations:

1. <http://www.wbcci.org>
2. <http://www.airstreamforums.com>
3. <http://savewally.org>

If you any questions, concerns, ideas or just want to flat out complain, I and the other officers of the WDCU are only an email or phone call away! Please let us know what's on your mind. If we don't know, we can't do. Also, we are always looking for new and interesting places to have rallies and events. If you would like to host or co-host a rally, caravan or just let everyone know you'll be camping at a certain campground, with over 100 members across the USA, I'm sure there will be someone or many that would love to be there.

Last bit, if you are going to the International rally this year, we have a caravan heading down. If you want to join us, let me know ASAP.

Paul Waddell
WDCU President

Officer listing

President – Paul Waddell – balloon@rideair.com

1st VP – Pete Daniel - pete@consultadc.com

2nd VP – Rob Baker - robandzoe@adelphia.net

3rd VP – Star Grover - sgrover@voicenet.com

Immediate Past President - Bill Jacobs - bjacobs1@citlink.net

Treasurer – Margaret Natof - natofs@aol.com

Membership – Star Grover

Trustee – Marc Weimer- marc@penn.com

Trustee – John Gililand - foxdown@aol.com

Trustee – Matt Worner - wornmatt@plateautel.net

Trustee – Gayle McClelland – gmcclell@verizon.net

Trustee – Kim Alaniz - daneekim@yahoo.com

Webmaster – Marc Weimer

Newsletter – Linda Moore – moorelinda2@prodigy.net

One Moore Thing - Letter from the Editor

(I can't take credit for that play on words, it came from Paul Waddell.)

Only two short weeks until the CBR. This will be our eighth CBR since we started Airstreamin'. Since joining this unit, we have seen many wonderful sites in the United States, met many wonderful people and just had a great time. One thing that I have been thinking about for many years was that we are all happy to have a great time but we don't "do" anything in the way of community service as a unit. Many units do have pet community service projects but we don't.

I would like to present the WDCU membership an opportunity to "do" something. Since we are a unit that is made up of people from many states all over the country, it would be tough to benefit any one community or state. I would like to be the contact for collecting and sending travel size items for our wounded troops in an American hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is the hospital that the wounded are transferred after leaving the middle east but before being transferred to a hospital in the U. S. Depending on their injuries, they could be there for some time until they are stable enough to make the trip home. It doesn't matter which side of the debate you are on to contribute, the fact of the matter is our men and women need our support especially when they are at their most vulnerable physical state.

I am a member of the Blue Star Mother's of America and many of you know that our son has been in Iraq since October, 2006 so you know where my motivation and focus comes from. My parent support group will be collecting what products we can collect and send them to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. This would be an ongoing project. Since our unit is the Washington DC Unit, I thought it could be appropriate for us to send comfort products to our wounded to help them be a little more comfortable.

If anyone would like to bring items to be sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center or make a donation for postage and shipping, please contact me anytime at moorelinda2@prodigy.net or see me at any WDCU rally. I will have a place to put these items at the rallies that I will bring to the support group for shipment.

Here is a suggested list of items and the contact information in case anyone wants to check it out or wants to know where the items will be sent. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
Pastoral Services Dept. WWMC/Chaplain's Closet
Attn: Chaplain Erik Harp
CMR 402
APO, AE 09180

Below is a list of items we could use:

- 1) RAZORS (double and triple-bladed; no single blade please)
- 2) TOOTHBRUSHES (soft, individually wrapped for adults)
- 3) NAIL CLIPPERS
- 4) TOOTHPASTE (travel size is best)
- 5) SHAMPOO (travel size is best... Pert, dandruff, Pantene, etc.)
- 6) DEODORANT
- 7) MOUTHWASH (travel size is best)
- 8) PLASTIC TOOTHBRUSH AND SOAP HOLDERS
- 9) GOLD BOND-TYPE FOOT AND BODY POWDER (travel size)
- 10) WASH CLOTHS AND HAND TOWELS (dark colors)
- 11) WINTER GLOVES (black and dark colors are best)
- 12) MINT AND CINNAMON GUM
- 13) DVDs (positive themes, Holiday themes, etc.)

OTHER NOTES:

- Star Grover (Membership) wants to remind everyone if you haven't paid your dues, she will be available at the CBR to do so or you can contact her at sgrover@voicenet.com.
- If you have submissions for the next newsletter, please submit to me by the end of April. Send to moorelinda2@prodigy.net.
- News and Views by our Region 2 President, Barry Heckenswiler also available on our website.

Just campin'

Linda Moore

WBCCI WDCU #15116

See ya down the road!