



## REGION 8 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –

Greetings to one and all! We have hit the turning point of the season! When the calendar hits March 1<sup>st</sup>, I know that two big things have happened – hubby gets a year older and the Airstream will come out of the barn within the next 4 weeks. Our first trip will be to the site of the 2019 Region Rally and our youngest grandson will be joining us for our journey. He is a lover of all things weird and wonderful, and he is excited that he can now read the displays at the museums and other venues where we take him. At the end of our rally in Branson, we will be telling you a bit about our next region rally. It will be a completely different experience than this year.

Now, let's talk a bit about the "Bit of Branson" rally coming up. The group coordinator at America's Best Campground has worked so hard for us this year. Michelle has added sites and meals and tickets and bus transportation to continually keep up with my requests for more room. **We are now at almost full capacity, with only 4 sites still available.** If you planned on coming in early, please be sure that you have **talked to Michelle** personally to make your reservations.

Also, I have attached a preliminary schedule of the three days and nights for your review. I thought this might be helpful for you to plan other activities throughout the weekend. As usual, there may be a change or two, but I know that all Airstreamers are adaptable. It will be very important, especially on Friday that we all work together in a timely fashion due to the bus schedule.

As for playing games and visiting throughout the weekend, we do not have access to the pavilion every day (see the schedule), but there is a game room attached to the large restroom/laundry building. I'll bring a couple puzzles. Personally, I think many of us will be sitting around outside enjoying the Ozark breezes and trying to stay awake after a full day of activities.

### Now a note about my health –

Many of you know that I spent about seven weeks in and out of Shawnee Mission Hospital for what was originally thought to be widespread bone cancer. But after a myriad of tests and two biopsies, it was

determined that I have a rare incurable disease called sarcoidosis. The doctors learn a bit more about it every time they come across a new case. I was the new case at Shawnee Mission for December and January and my tests were discussed every week at a special doctors meeting. I understand that it is not normally found in “old white women”, so they had a new test case. Supposedly, it is normally found in black men, ages 20-40! Leave it to me to get something abnormal. It evidently lies dormant in the system and then something sets it off, but they are not sure of the trigger. Like I said, it is incurable, but if I recognize the symptoms early then I can get treatment started. The main concern is that it forms lesions in the lungs which cause scar tissue and then keep the lungs from functioning at full capacity.

I have been on a massive dosage of steroids since January 23<sup>rd</sup> and just this week I will begin to taper off. These nasty drugs have caused several side effects which haven't been much fun. Hopefully by the time you see me, I will not look like a fully loaded tick, and my emotional state will be somewhat balanced. David has been so patient over these many weeks, but he needs a break too, so we are really looking forward to getting Moby out of the barn – if for no other reason David can sit outside in it and away from me for an hour or two!

I want to thank Mike Sisk for stepping up to the plate in January and attending IBT in Sarasota for me, when Dwight couldn't go at the last minute. I know that this was a trial by fire for him, but he did a great job, and I heard from the Region 7 president that he did just fine and he enjoyed getting to know Mike. I have great vice presidents – and their wives are special too!

We look forward to seeing all of you in Branson and will see some of you also at the first Region 8 Vintage Rally in May. We hope to visit all the units sometime throughout the year. Be safe on the roads.

Beth and David

## FIRST VP MESSAGE –

Winter notes from the 1<sup>st</sup> VP –

We left Nebraska on December 15<sup>th</sup> and headed south, first to visit our Grandson in Gardner, KS. Then on to the North Texas Airstream Park at Hillsboro, TX for a night. After a few days near Austin (visiting cousin) we headed to Apache Junction AZ. A good campground near Austin, TX is at Georgetown Lake. If you are there sometime, bring your Golden Age Pass as it is a Corps of Engineers park. There were plenty of empty spaces when we were there, and it was nice and quiet.

It was near record warmth when we arrived and that lasted until February. Now we are near record cold. Light frost this morning and likely tomorrow too. We are not complaining though as we have no ice and no flooding.

We attended the Arizona Unit's February rally at Lake Havasu City, AZ. They run their rallies from September to May and take the summer off. This is due to summer heat, but also because many of the members are snowbirds.

The main attraction was attending the Western States Pyrotechnic Association's "Winter Blast" event at the fairgrounds. This included training sessions for their members. We were attracted to the night fireworks displays. These last two to three hours and give members a chance to share their creations. Six airstreams from our park here attended included Sherwin's, Cabalkas, and Olsons. About 55 Airstreamers attended lunch at the Red Robin on Friday.

Lake Havasu City has a very interesting history and is a thriving community. It was developed by Robert McCollough (chain saws) who bought England's London Bridge and relocated it to Lake Havasu City.

The first Thursday of the month is our Region 8 monthly brunch at Golden Corral in Mesa.

Our park, Superstition Resort, is a former all-airstream park. When the economy slowed and there were too few Airstream buyers, it was decided that any RV owner could buy here (RV ownership is a requirement). The park is fully occupied and people are waiting to buy in. Compared to other parks in the area we are very small – 53 lots as compared to some as large as 1700 down the road. We have great group of friends here from the US and Canada, including June and Paul Ryan. Wendell and Shirley Sisk were here when we joined. We miss them and the "Five Crowns" parties at their house.

We look forward to the Branson Rally and seeing everyone.

Dwight and Lana

## 2nd VP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –

After downsizing and selling our home of 28 years, we purchased a smaller villa and moved in on October 31. Relocating is such a hard thing to do: downsizing, packing, hiring movers for the "heavy things" (at this age everything is heavy), saying good-bye to the neighbors, changing our address on magazines, bank and credit card accounts, insurance policies and so on and so on. But the move was well worth the effort and we are happy with our villa. We have officially retired from mowing the lawn and scooping the snow!

Cheryl and I opted to stay in Nebraska over the winter as we had a lot of work to do setting up our new residence. I did attend the Mid-Winter IBT Meeting in Sarasota, Florida which gave me the opportunity to represent our region. It was quite a learning experience.

Warmer weather is just around the corner and soon units will hold their Spring Rallies. There are some great unit rallies scheduled for 2018 and we anticipate being able to attend some. We hope to see you at the Region Rally in Branson and again in Salem at the International Rally.

Best Wishes and Safe Travel  
Mike and Cheryl

## **REGION 8 CARAVAN TO SALEM**

Pat and Dave Shaw report that they have fourteen rigs signed up to go to Salem with them. After viewing the list of participants, they are going to have a fun time. There is someone from every unit in the region and all of them a bit "crazy" shall we say.

David and I had hoped to join, but alas, our oldest grandson is graduating from high school in Minnesota on June 8 so we will be there. The next day we will meet the Region 7 President and his first lady, Pete and Kathy Yanke, and will do a mini caravan with them and a couple others. He plans on stopping at a couple off the beaten path places that should be fun. We like those "off the beaten path" places.

Hopefully all of you, who are traveling to Salem, have found someone to tag along with. It's so much more fun that way. Remember, caravanning is the reason this club was founded. Call a friend and say "let's go together".

## **KANSAS CITY UNIT OFFERS TAG ALONG TO BRANSON**

The Kansas City Unit is meeting at Higginsville, Mo. prior to the Branson Rally and will be caravanning to Branson together. If there is anyone north or west of Higginsville, Mo. who would like to join them, please come to the Higginsville Fairgrounds Sunday or Monday evening and join in. The cost is only \$10 per night at the fairgrounds. For further information please call Mike Bedinger at 816-729-5422.

## **UNIT NAME CHANGES**

For those of you who are not aware, three of our six units had their unit names changed at the IBT in Sarasota in January. Nebraska, St Louis and North Iowa are now known as Nebraska Airstream Club, Greater St. Louis Airstream Club, and North Iowa Airstream Club. The Nebraska Airstream Club also submitted a design for a new flag which was approved.

If your unit wants to have their name changed at the June International Rally, then you need to have that voted on in April (you will need to notify your members of that issue 30 days ahead of your April meeting). The motion will need to be in print form and submitted to the home office by May 1<sup>st</sup> to be put on the agenda in June. I will be the one to submit that motion, so I will just need a copy of your minutes for that meeting wherein you voted to change the name.

So Kansas City, Iowa and Missouri Greater Ozarks, think about this quickly. By the way, the state name no longer needs to be in the name, such as you can say Greater Kansas City Airstream Club, or just Greater Ozarks Airstream Club.

## **LAST THOUGHTS**

In the planning of the Branson Rally, and the unusual scheduling of activities and entertainment, the presidency decided to not do drawing gifts this year. There will be a couple of goodies in your bags, but the logistics of hauling multiple boxes of plastic gloves, toilet treatment, shirts, books and other stuff did not appeal to us. There was never going to be a good time to disperse all of these things, so we are foregoing them this year. I'm sure many of you have enough mugs, key chains, and signs to last a lifetime, and hopefully all the first timers will come next year when we will once again, "dig into the boxes".

**“A BIT OF BRANSON”  
REGION 8 RALLY  
April 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Arrival and Registration in pavilion –**

If you have made reservations for a couple extra days prior to the rally, you will just check in at the office on whatever day that is, and begin your stay. You will receive a bag of welcome items from the campground, but will not receive your final schedule or other rally items until you register on Thursday with June Ryan or other members of the presidency.

Please bring all the community service donations to the pavilion when you check in. Glenn Waters will be on hand to collect them. He may need help in sorting. If you are bringing all the items for your unit, please have them counted to make this a bit easier. Items to be collected – blankets, hats, stuffed animals, tabs, women’s toiletries, kids’ books. These will be donated to the local charities in Branson.

6:00 p.m.

**Great American Cookout at the Pavilion –**

This will be an amazing BBQ beef supper prepared by the owners of the campground, and cooked on a converted 500 gallon propane tank next to the pavilion. In fact, you will be forced to breathe in the smells of this meal as you register. All table service is provided. Ice tea and water provided.

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Opening Ceremony in Pavilion –**

We will officially open this rally with a short ceremony and then hear from the mayor of Branson, Mayor Best! She confirmed this opportunity to speak to us immediately upon being asked. After a few announcements, members will be able to use the room for visiting or playing games.

**Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 a.m.

**Tour of the College of the Ozarks -**

Load buses in front of office. There will be three buses that will take us on a tour of the College of the Ozarks. Each bus will have a member of the presidency on it, and when we arrive at the college, each bus will have a tour guide. Including the travel to and from the college, this will be about a two hour tour.

About 12:30 p.m.

**Lunch at McFarlins**

We will be arriving at McFarlin’s restaurant which is part of the complex where our matinee show will be. You will be able to order one of three entrees from the group menu, that includes grilled chicken, roast beef, or other sandwich, and/or soup or salad and the gratuity is included.

2:00 p.m.

**Matinee Show**

Our matinee show starts – “Sons of Britches” is a hilariously good time with some guys that will tickle your funny bone and other places. Music and jokes continue for about two hours, with a bit of a break half way. Don’t be surprised if they ask you to participate. They also ask for song requests, so put on your thinking caps. We will leave there about 4:00 and be back at our campground about 4:30.

**Note:** The McFarlin's complex also houses a movie theatre and some retail shops that are fairly interesting. It will be difficult for you to schedule any shopping that afternoon but you may want to check out these stores at some other time.

**Extra Note:** Please make sure that you continue to ride on the same bus, with the same member of the presidency. We sure don't want to leave anyone behind!

#### **Extra Time Together**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – We have reserved the pavilion for visiting and games.

#### **Friday, April 28**

#### **Breakfast and Meeting**

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Pavilion – Biscuits and Gravy, Fruit cup and Coffee & Juice.  
Table service provided.

9:00 a.m. Region 8 Business Meeting – There will be minimal items, but important ones, to discuss at this Meeting so it should take less than 30 minutes.

**THE REST OF THIS DAY IS FREE FOR YOU TO EXPLORE BRANSON!** Please make use of all the information that the campground has provided to help plan your day.

#### **BIG NIGHT OUT TO SEE THE HAYGOODS**

6:30 p.m. Begin to gather to carpool to our evening entertainment. The show starts at 7:30 ! This is an extremely popular show so the manager has reserved the entire Balcony for us. Since we will all be arriving separately, the ticketing situation will be explained at one of our earlier meetings in the week.

Somewhere between 10:00 and dark thirty you will drop into bed.

#### **Sunday, April 29**

#### **Continental Breakfast and Church**

9:00 a.m. Rolls, coffee and juice in the Pavilion  
Bring your rolls and coffee to the tables and church will be begin as soon as all are seated. Pat Shaw has arranged a wonderful service to end our time together

11:00 a.m. Farewell and departure

Please be aware that another rally is coming in right after us, so there will be much traffic throughout the campground.