



Trailhusker

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit, WBCCI

July 2011

From the President's Desk Bert Sherwin

Hi again to all of you. Our last Trailhusker was in May when we returned from Amana. Now we have returned from International at DuQuoin, Illinois.

Sue and Bob Heist had a wonderful caravan for us and it was really enjoyable. With the last minute change of roads because of high water and places to stay, it was a wonderful trip. Thanks Sue and Bob!!! Our new members, Dan and Dale-Ann Hoyt, also decided the last minute to join us as there was not much for them to do around the farm. Their children watched over their house while they were gone. Thanks for joining us.

During the International Rally, Sue Heist and I attended the Delegates Seminar and Meetings. The area of most concern was the proposed motion to amend the Constitution of WBCCI. About 30 days before International started, they sent each unit President 54 pages of information to read and discuss with our units and be prepared to vote on it when we came to International. Because of the short time period to be ready for the vote, the IBT postponed voting until next year.

One item that was brought up was the possibility of Thor manufacturing a motor home that could wear the "Airstream" badge, and I think, that can hopefully be approved at IBT this winter. This item is long overdue if we want to retain our fellow members who drive motor homes.

Bert and Donajean

Dressed for the Hawaiian theme Presidents' Dinner at DuQuoin International Rally

At DuQuoin we found many excellent places to dine and some very interesting places to visit. DJ and I and the Hoyts



went to Paducah, Kentucky, to see the International Museum of Quilts. We spent about three and a half hours going through it and enjoyed lunch at the Whalers Catch. Two carloads of us went to Carbondale, Illinois to see a quaint historical town. Yes, we got rained on, but we did have fun.

Our unit did not lack for a good showing in competitions. Ribbons galore! Betty-Ann received three ribbons for photography. Our pets also did well. Grizzly Heist was well tuned up in both behavior and tricks and her caretaker Sue, knew just how to dress her, for three ribbons. And Lucy, Gary and Cheryl Burrows' dog, was well behaved and brought home a ribbon. Gary looked wonderful with his Stetson and western boots leading Lucy across the stage.

Our next events will be our Fiftieth Anniversary party with hosts Jim and Joyce Shanks and the Surprise Caravan led by Dwight and Lana Olson. The Surprise Caravan starts on August 12, with an encampment in the field beside Olson's in Gretna. The Anniversary party will be the afternoon of August 13th, at Wedgewood Townhomes in Omaha. Hope to see many of you at these two events.

54th International Rally DuQuoin, Illinois

Sue and Bob Heist led the caravan to DuQuoin. The caravan gathered at Louisville State Park with four units, with three more units joining us along the way.

One highlight of the caravan was an overnight at Pershing State Park near Leclde, Missouri. After departing the campground in the morning, we visited the John Pershing Museum at the site of his boyhood home.

The group also made overnight stops in Hannibal, Missouri, and Hillsboro, Illinois. Given the restaurant stops and evening potluck suppers, it would be safe to assume that none of the members suffered from weight loss on the journey.



Sue & Bob Heist, Betty Ann & John Sutton, Donajean & Bert Sherwin, Leona & Roscoe Shields at Pershing Museum

Approximately 550 units attended the Rally. Nebraska was well represented with nine units: Mimi and Roger Brandt, Cheryl and Gary Burrows, Roscoe Corell, Sue and Bob Heist, Dale Ann and Dan Hoyt, Fran and Bob Olson, Donajean and Bert Sherwin, Leona and Roscoe Shields, John and Betty Ann Sutton.

Our caravan fortunately arrived a few days *after* a tornado swept through the fairgrounds. Many trees were uprooted and several trailers were damaged. There were a couple times during the Rally that we could have used inflatable rafts in our parking area due to heavy rain storms and saturated ground.

Nebraska Unit dogs walked (or wagged) away with a collection of ribbons at the Pet Show. Grizzy Heist won first place for Tricks and second place, dressed as Wonder Woman, for Best Costume. Grizzy also won a blue ribbon for the People's Choice Award. Lucy Burrows won second place for Tricks, by dancing on her hind legs and demonstrating her obedience skills.



This year's photography competition included a section for 4 X 6 snap shot photos. Betty Ann Sutton won three ribbons. The picture of Airstreams and an Amish buggy, featured in our 2010 unit directory, won a blue ribbon.

The Region 8 Breakfast was well attended. Dottie Steurer and Leonard Sullivan entertained us with a series of "You Know You're an Airstreamer" one-liners.



"You know you're an Airstreamer when – someone tells you you've lost your marbles and you immediately think someone has tampered with your Joker set.

You know you're an Airstreamer when – you arrive on time for a meal to discover that you're ten minutes late.

Larry Huttler, Airstream CEO, spoke to the Rally attendees for the last time. After 32 years with Airstream, he is retiring from the company. He plans to spend the summer on a farewell tour, visiting dealerships and rallies. However, Larry doesn't plan to completely retire. He will be opening an Airstream dealership in the Phoenix, Arizona, area.

Larry reported that Airstream and Thor are financially solid. The last year has seen a 200% increase in the sale of B-Vans on the Mercedes chassis. In a survey of Airstream buyers, they found that 38% of the buyers were first-time RV owners. The buyers were attracted to Airstream because of the quality and the iconic brand.

The Installation of Officers was nearly rained out. The ceremony was moved from the outdoor grandstand and stage to the Southern Illinois Center. The volunteers at Wally Byam control did a great job of informing members of the last-moment change of venue.

Barry Heckenswiler was installed as 2011 – 2012 International President. Fred and Dottie Steurer were installed as Region 8 President and First Lady. June Ryan, last term's Region 8 President, was installed as International Treasurer.



Leona Shields, Region 8 First Lady Dottie Steurer, Region 8 President Fred Steurer, Roscoe Shields

May Luncheon Old Country Buffet

144th & West Center Rd., Omaha

Those attending the luncheon were: Mary Ann and Sam Boman, Ruby and Chuck Ciciulla, Sue Heist, Dan Hoyt, Bill and LaDon Kallmer, Murt Letcher, Gene Munch, Lana and Dwight Olson, Katie Peterson, Glen Sanders, Donajean and Bert Sherwin, Betty Ann and John Sutton.

June Luncheon Same Place, Same Time

Those members and friends attending were: Mary Ann and Sam Boman, Janet and John Calvin, Ruby and Chuck Ciciulla, Florene and Selwyn Heese, Sue Heist, Dale Ann and Dan Hoyt, LaDon Kallmer, Lori and Don Lorenz, Gene Munch, Fran and Bob Olson, Crystal Olson, Lana and Dwight Olson, Glen Sanders, Glenda and Ron Savicky, Joyce and Jim Shanks, Donajean and Bert Sherwin, Leona and Roscoe Shields, Betty Ann and John Sutton, Mary Wherrett.



Ruby and Chuck Ciciulla
Chuck celebrated his 91st birthday on June 13

Following the luncheon, President Bert Sherwin conducted a short business meeting. The members voted to approve a caravan to the DuQuoin, Illinois, International Rally, led by Sue and Bob Heist. We also voted and approved a Mystery Caravan, with Dwight and Lana Olson as leaders. The Mystery Caravan will rendezvous in Gretna on August 12 and end approximately two weeks later.

We voted to accept the 50th Anniversary Logo designed by Sue Heist and her son Robert. We also agreed to have the Unit pay for the embroidery "set-up" fee at ArtFix company in Omaha. Members will be able to order the logo on shirts and jackets in any styles and colors they choose. Contact Dwight and Lana Olson as soon as possible if you want to order a shirt or jacket.



Member News

Gene Munch is currently on a trip with his 1979 motor home. Gene's son Russ, and his wife Carol are bicycling from the Canadian border to New Orleans. Each day Gene follows with the motor home, providing support and a place for them to sleep. Russ, who is a Methodist minister in Texas, plans to visit and preach at churches along the route.

June Ryan reported that all units in Region 8 earned Merit Awards for this year. Many thanks to Bert Sherwin for completing the paperwork necessary for the Nebraska Unit to earn our Merit Award.

Bill and LaDon Kallmer are repairing the damage on their trailer that was inflicted by thieves that broke in while the trailer was in a storage facility.

Dan and Dale Ann Hoyt are still living in their Airstream while much of their Missouri Valley farm is under water. At last report, the flood waters were seeping into the crawl space under the house, but not in first floor.

Pat Shaw is recovering from recent surgery on her carotid arteries. We are sure she would appreciate cards and emails.

The North Iowa bulletin board won first place in the originality category at the International Rally. The board was designed and created by Affiliate Member Rosalie Macumber and Jeannette Peterson.

We hope that Ron and Glenda Savicky have been able to move back into their house. Frozen water pipes burst while they were in Texas for the winter, causing a great deal of damage.

News From the International Board of Trustees

The Board approved a name change for the Greater Wichita Kansas Unit. The unit will now be the Greater Kansas Unit.

Damon Beals, chairman of the Electronic Communications Committee, reported that the members of the committee have met with Cindy Reed at the WBCCI office. They are developing methods for working with membership data to create email lists. They are also working to combine the scattered online media and combine them into an integrated system. Members of the committee are available and willing to assist units in improving their websites.

Editor's note: Our Unit has a page on www.wbcc.org. You can find the current and past issues of the Trailhusker on the website.

**Mystery Caravan
Rendezvous – Friday, August 12
At
Dwight and Lana Olson’s
9007 225th Street
Gretna, NE 68028**

Dwight’s phone: 402-490-6431

Dwight and Lana have been keeping plans for the Mystery Caravan well under wraps. Dwight said, “The details of the route and itinerary will be revealed as we go, but it is safe to say that we will tour Nebraska. We will see some back roads and out-of-the-way places, cook over an open fire, and have a pot luck meal. There will also be a tour of restored cars.”

There will be some dry camping, but there will be limited generator power for those who must have it. Arrive with your fresh water tank full and your waste tanks empty.

The caravan is open to all WBCCI members and is limited to 20 units. This is a pay-as-you-go caravan, so there is no kitty fee.

A map to the Olsons’ house is included with this Trailhusker.

Please call Dwight if you are planning to go on the Mystery Caravan.

**50th Anniversary Reception
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
August 13**

**Wedgewood Townhomes Clubhouse
966 South 118th Plaza
Omaha, Nebraska**

**Hosts: Jim and Joyce Shanks
Phone: 402-391-4598**

We hope you are planning on attending the celebration of our unit’s fiftieth year of Airstreaming. Please bring any photos or memorabilia that you have. Bring your camera to snap pictures of old and new friends.

A map to Wedgewood and the clubhouse is included with this Trailhusker.

If you know a Nebraska Unit member or former member who did not receive an invitation, please contact Bert Sherwin (402-639-3337). We are looking forward to seeing you there.



The coupons for the September 15 – 18 Buddy Rally at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland and the October 13 – 16 Rally in Columbus will be mailed “later.”



New Nebraska Unit members Dan and Dale Ann Hoyt being welcomed as First Timers at DuQuoin International Rally



**Cheryl and Gary Burrows
Enjoying the air-conditioning in the Southern Illinois Center**



Nebraska Unit 50th Anniversary Logo

The next issue of the Trailhusker will be published in September. Please submit any articles or photos by August 31.

*Betty Ann Sutton, editor
John Sutton, technical advisor and webmaster*