

Trailhusker

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit, WBCCI

March 2012

From the President's Mobile Desk Sue Heist



Sue and Bob Heist at Fort Sumter

Spring is just around the corner. It has been a pretty mild winter in Nebraska, for the most part, so we can't complain. Our rally season will be starting soon and we're looking forward to it. Don't forget to sign up for the Spring Rally.

Bob, Grizzy and I are on our way to join the Civil War Part II caravan near Charleston SC. In my opinion WBCCI's main reason for existing is to sponsor caravans for its members. We are taking the opportunity to enjoy some of those caravans this year. Caravanning is what sets WBCCI apart from other RV clubs.

When we left Lincoln we headed almost directly south before turning east and have seen some new places and interesting things along the way.

The Vicksburg National Military Park, site of the battle for Vicksburg during the Civil War, was

so interesting and large that it deserves at least a full day, which we didn't have. They have what remains of one of the ironclad gunboats, the Cairo, that was raised from the river bottom in the 1960s. Did you know the siege of Vicksburg lasted 47 days and ended on the same day that General Robert E. Lee retreated south after the battle at Gettysburg?

We drove between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama along the same road, US 80, that Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights activists marched in 1965.

We toured Franklin D. Roosevelt's home in Warm Springs, Georgia where he died in 1945. It is called the Little White House. I was shocked to realize he was only 63 when he died.

We visited Callaway Gardens and arrived just in time to see their display of free-flying raptors. We saw a red-tailed hawk, a horned owl, a Harris hawk and a black vulture. The handlers had them fly right over our heads. In fact, the red-tailed hawk grazed the top of my head. It was a wonderful introduction to these fascinating creatures! It was too early for many flowers so we have to come back.

You just can't have these kinds of experiences flying over the country from one city to another. This is why all of us love traveling in our Airstreams.

I hope we will see you at the Spring Rally.

Dennis C. Salmen
October 22, 1934 – February 13, 2012

Our dear friend and longtime Nebraska Unit member, Dennis Salmen passed away on February 13. Denny and Mary travelled on several caravans and were active in Unit rallies and luncheons. Many of us last enjoyed their company at the Unit's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Omaha. Several members told us about their fond memories.

This picture was taken winter of 2004 at Mesa Regal Resort in Mesa, AZ. Denny & Mary were across the street; Burt & DJ were next door; Jim & Joyce were down the street and Don and I were in Magwire's park model. We had a whole lot of joker and many laughs. It is very hard to pick just one picture and story as we had so much fun with Denny and Mary. *Lori Lorenz*



Lori Lorenz's photo reminded us of our first Unit Rally in 2005 at Ponca State Park. Dennis performed the official installation "properly" attired in his over-alls, and a t-shirt with a necktie. We knew then that the Nebraska Unit was the right place for us. *John and Betty Ann Sutton*

Dennis was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. After his horrific accident, he fought back and I feel literally clawed his way back to being physically able to Airstream again. He never gave up; he just kept going and Mary was by his side helping lift him up. I feel that lots of prayers and love also helped. He will always be remembered for what he accomplished. We always enjoyed both Dennis and Mary. *Fran Olson*

Denny was the first person to pull me into a Joker game and had the patience to try to teach me and help me. I just have so many unforgettable memories of Denny making us have some really big laughs and fun times together. He will be greatly missed! *LaDon Kallmer*

Denny and Mary were always such gracious hosts for Airstreamers who stayed in their courtesy parking spot. We called one afternoon and asked to stay that evening. They welcomed us and we played Joker all evening. *Lana and Dwight Olson*

Dennis once saved us an expensive engine repair. We were caravanning to the Kentucky Derby Rally when he noticed a puff of smoke coming from under our truck's hood. An engine gasket had blown. Dennis and Mary followed the tow truck and stayed with us until the repairs were completed, and we rejoined the caravan. *Roscoe and Leona Shields*



Goodbye, Old Friend

New Unit Member

Sam Harkness from the United Kingdom has joined the Nebraska Unit. He purchased the 1956 30-foot Sovereign formerly owned by Barney and Della Hemple and then by Alfred and Doris Jorgensen. This trailer is historically interesting because it is where the organization meeting for the Nebraska Unit was held in 1961. Sam was even able to get the same membership number (#1234) that was originally used on the trailer.

Sam owns an Airstream restoration and sales company in the Cotswolds, England. Check out his website: www.vintageairstreams.co.uk

Please add his membership information to your Unit directory.

send one to him by email or postal service. A close-up "head-shot" works best. (If you didn't like the photo he used in this year's directory and want to replace it, feel free to send a new one.)



Spring Rally – April 19 – 22 Lancaster Event Center, Lincoln, NE

Roscoe and Leona Shields have done a superb job of organizing this rally. Please note that you should return your rally coupon to Roscoe and Leona, not our Unit treasurer. Also be sure to note whether or not you will be caravanning with the group to the Region 8 Rally in Springfield, MO.

Attention Former Members

You are invited to attend the Spring Rally supper on Saturday, April 21, at the Lone Star Restaurant in Lincoln. The Lone Star is located on 70th Street, just north of O Street. We'll gather at the restaurant at 5:00 PM sharp. Contact Roscoe and Leona Shields for reservations. Please do come. We love to stay in touch with all our Airstream friends.



Vintage Directories

Unit President Sue Heist is attempting to collect a complete set of Unit Directories for our archives. She is missing copies of the following directories:

1965, 1970, 1975, 1977, 1984

If you have a directory from any of these years, please consider donating it, so she can complete the collection. You may call or email Sue at her numbers listed in the current directory.



2013 Directory

John Sutton has volunteered to publish next year's Unit Directory. He would like to include every member's photograph. If your photo wasn't included in this year's directory, please

Region 8 Rally

Springfield, Missouri – April 25 – 29

If you haven't already sent in your coupon for the rally, please send it in as soon as possible.

Ed Knernshield is leading a caravan from Springfield to Branson, MO directly after the Region 8 Rally. If you want to participate in this caravan, contact Ed: 573-480-5441, email: ehk9559@aol.com.

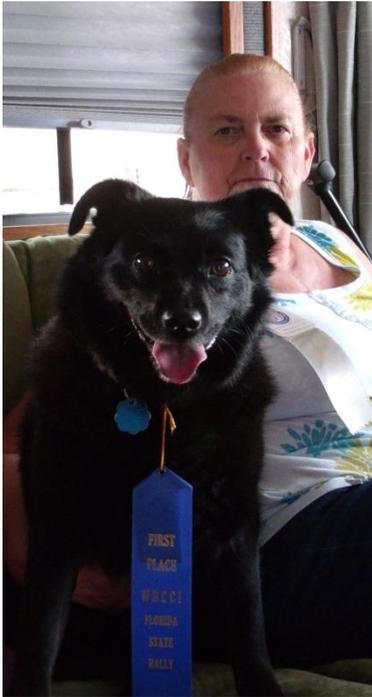


Member News

Fran and Bob Olson love ocean cruises. This winter they went to Hawaii. Fran wrote, "We visited Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park which is home to three volcanoes. Mauna Kea is the highest peak in the Pacific basin; Mauna Loa the largest mountain in the world; and Kilauea

the most active volcano in the world. We had a lovely day there with a picnic for lunch in the park, then walked through a lava tunnel from an extinct volcano."

Gary and Cheryl Burrows and Bob and Fran Olson attended the Florida State Rally in Sarasota again this year.



They attended the spaghetti supper at the local Boys' and Girls' Club.

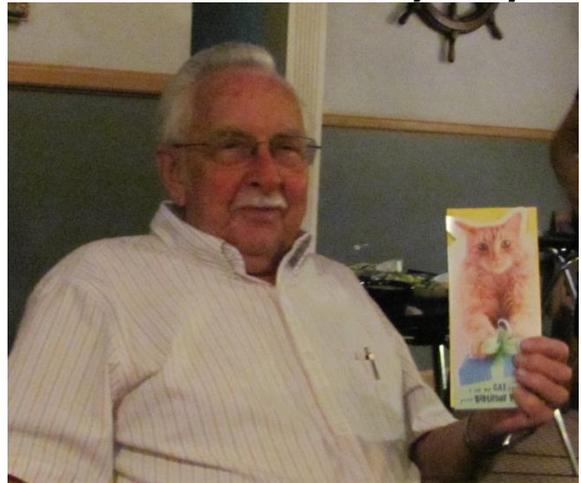
Gary and Cheryl's dog Lucy earned a first place in the pet show.

Mimi and Roger Brandt spent much of their winter in St. Cloud, Florida and are slowly moseying their way back to their ranch.

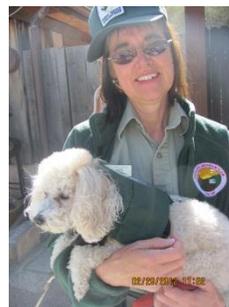
The winter Airstream luncheons in Mesa, AZ have been well attended this year. Thirty people came to the March 1, gathering, which was hosted by Doris Jean and Chuck Cabalka of the Iowa Unit. Those members from the Nebraska Unit were: Mary Ann and Sam Boman; Lana and Dwight Olson; June and Paul

Ryan; Glen Sanders; Joyce and Jim Shanks; Donajean and Bert Sherwin; Betty Ann and John Sutton.

Glen Sanders' Birthday Party



Former member Len Maguire hosted a 20th birthday party for Glen. That's correct. Glen was born on February 29, Leap Year Day. So this was only the 20th time his birthday has been on the calendar. His actual age is a secret! Many Airstream friends gathered at the Pier d'Orleans restaurant in Mesa, AZ for dinner. We then moved to Len's nearby home for lemon meringue pie and Joker.



Riley Olson and his favorite humans, Lana and Dwight Olson have spent the winter volunteering at Tonto National Forest in Arizona. Riley greets visitors who come to Tortilla Flat information table.



Nebraska Unit 50th Anniversary Logo

The next issue of the Trailhusker will be published in May. Please submit any news and photos by May 1.

Betty Ann Sutton, editor

*John Sutton, technical advisor and webmaster
jdbasutton@gmail.com*