



# Trailhusker



## A Note from our new President

Take time to enjoy the beautiful fall we are experiencing. Above average temperatures, a little rain now and then along lots of sunshine! Could it get any better? Cheryl and I just returned from an excellent Unit Rally in Wilber, NE, the Czech Capital of the USA. We learned a lot about the town and its annual Czech celebration. Several of us even learned how to make Kolaches and all members tasted the pastry treats.

Of course the rally was the Installation Rally and there are many new faces in the officer ranks. My sincere thanks and a job well done to the out-going officers. To the new officers, welcome aboard. The unit had three unforgettable rallies, the Fix It Rally at Branched Oak State Park near Raymond, NE; the Buddy Rally at Haworth Park, Bellevue, NE and the Installation Rally in Wilber. The rally committees also deserve our thanks.

The unit had several new members join this past year and new Airstream owners stopped at a rally site and attended a luncheon. We also said goodbye to other members and know they will all be missed. We just received word of new members that joined the unit this October. In the past we discussed a Mentor Program to work with new members and to keep them

active in unit activities. I am pleased to announce this program has begun. If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor, please contact me.

As your new Nebraska Unit President, I look forward to another year of wonderful rallies and luncheons. The rallies look to have some new and different activities that I think you will find fun. Hopefully, we can continue to grow and I see the Mentoring Program as a key.

Mike



## 2017 RALLY SCHEDULE

April 20-23	Spring Is In The Air Fix It Rally Branched Oak State Park
July 22-29	WBCCI International Rally Escanaba, MI
Sept 14-17	Bring Your Budd-y To The Rall-y in Kearne-y Kearney, NE
Oct 5-8	Trick or Treat Installation Nebraska City, NE



**2016-2017 Nebraska Unit Officers**

President	Mike Sisk
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Larry Link
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ryan Knowles
Corresponding Secretary	LaDon Kallmer
Recording Secretary	Lana Olson
Treasurer	Marcia Link
Trustee (1 yr)	Ron Vanneman
Trustee (2 yr)	Cheryl Sisk

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### **CARAVAN TO NORSK HOSTFEST**

On the appointed day, September 24<sup>th</sup>, three couples arrived at the truck stop west of Missouri Valley, IA. Our destination was Minot, ND. The weather was pleasant, sunny, with a mild south wind. We had scheduled four days of driving, pulling our Airstreams. Our caravan leaders, Dwight and Lana Olson, had planned our route and tours as we traveled north. The last to arrive at the truck stop, were Bill and LaDon Kallmer. Actually we were on time, but not on Airstream time. Bert and Donajean Sherwin and the Olsons were there waiting for us. Two weeks before, Bill had replaced all four

brake assemblies, but found one wheel was running hot at our Hayworth rally. It was replaced again just days before leaving on this caravan. At the truck stop, there was some concern that it was still too hot, however, Bert assured me that 138 degrees was not too bad. He said, "If the temperature reached 145 degrees, the rubber would just disintegrate". "Oh, that's comforting", said the writer of this fable. Just kidding. Relying on Bert's expertise, we pulled out and continued on to our first stop, the Pipestone National Monument in Pipestone, MN.

For centuries, the American Indians have considered the pipestone area a spiritual site and have used the soft, red stone to shape pipes and other items often with decorations. The carved items have been used for many purposes: to show intention for war or peace, seal agreements and treaties, for trade, and for religious ceremonies. The stone is quarried using only primitive tools such as sledgehammers, pry bars, chisels, and metal wedges, but first they

need to remove many feet of overburden and other hard quartzite rock. The Pipestone National Monument was created by an act of Congress in 1937.



Today, only native American Indians can remove the pipestone after applying for an annual permit and being approved. After leaving the Monument, we drove another 20 miles to our first camp site, the Norwegian Creek Park at Lake Benton, MN.

At the camp site, Bill decided to work on the hot wheel. The trailer was jacked up, and the wheel was loosened one notch on the hub and the shoes were readjusted. After that the rest of the trip went fine. That first day on the road, we had a good tail wind and we were happy with our fuel consumption. For the rest of the trip, that was not the case. No matter what direction we drove, there was always a head wind in the range of 25 to 30 miles per hour.

We left in the morning and headed to the Terry Redlin Museum in Watertown, SD. Mr. Redlin was an American popular artist for painting outdoor themes and wildlife. We arrived around 10:00 Sunday morning, but the museum didn't open until noon, so we continued north on I-29 to the Bagg Bonanza Farm in Mooreton, ND. At the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, the railroads sold excess land to investors from the east. The size of the Bagg's farm land grew to over 7,000 acres and it was run like a factory operation, using full time and seasonal workers, using labor division, management, and cost techniques similar to industrial business. The land produced wheat, corn and clover. With the completion of the railroads, the harvest could be taken to market. In 2005, the Bagg Bonanza Farm was declared a National Historic Landmark. Today the landmark site of 11.6 acres, contains a large number of buildings: the past owner's residence, housing for farm laborers, outbuildings for farm animals and equipment, feed, blacksmith shop, and a slaughter building. Before leaving, we all had a piece of pie with ice cream. Members of the museum had baked cherry, apple, and pecan pies. Dwight and Bill thought the pecan pie was the best we ever had. We left the Bagg Farm and headed to Lindenwood Park in Fargo, ND.

Lindenwood Park is located on the east side of Fargo right on the banks of the Red River. Red River is the dividing line between North Dakota and Minnesota. During heavy rains, the campground will flood. We left in the morning, September 26<sup>th</sup>, and traveled 260 miles west on I-94 and SH 83 to Lake Sakakawea State Park near Pick City, ND. We decided to eat out, so we went to Pick City and ate at Little's Bar and Grill. Lana and Dwight had grilled walleye and it was huge. While driving in the campground to and from the restaurant, we saw numerous white tailed deer. The State Park is located near the dam of Lake Sakakawea, a large reservoir 178 miles long and 14 miles wide, and it's part of the Missouri River basin. Dwight

informed us that when he was a young whipper snapper, he worked as a Park Ranger and Natural Resource Manager on this reservoir and lived in Riverdale. It was like homecoming for him. The next morning, September 27<sup>th</sup>, we drove to a near-by coal mine, the Falkirk Mine.

Our tour was scheduled for 10:00 and it was to be two hours long. We arrived on time and the tour guide greeted us. After a short chat in their office, we boarded a van and headed out to the surface mine. The Falkirk coal is lignite, a soft coal and was laid down during the Paleocene time, about 55 million years ago just after the age of the dinosaurs. First, the 13 million pound dragline removes 25 to 150 feet of overburden in order to get to the coal seam that is 10 to 13 feet thick. All the coal is transported by Kress trucks having 1,200



horsepower and weighing 120,000 pounds empty. They carry 160 tons of coal to a location where it is crushed to a smaller size. After crushing, it travels 3.9 miles by an overhead conveyor belt at 1800 tons per hour, to a power plant approximately three miles away as the crow

flies. Since it's a soft lignite coal, it cannot be transported to other distant locations. The power plant, owned by a 28 member cooperative, uses all the coal Falkirk produces and supplies electricity to 2/3 of rural Minnesota plus the massive amount needed to run the mine. When the overburden is removed by the dragline, the material is stockpiled and used again to restore the land to its original contour and vegetation. The company is staffed with engineers, land surveyors, and environmentalist, as well as other trades to keep machinery in operation. Our tour did not end after two hours, rather it ended at 1:30. Falkirk is a very impressive company. We learned that climate change has been happening for millions of years, but of course, we all knew that as coal is formed by massive amounts of vegetation, pressure, and age.

After leaving the mine, we headed back to our trailers and had lunch. Our next stop was the fairgrounds in Minot. We arrived around 4:00 and parked around a pole with electrical boxes. The next morning, we registered for the Norsk Hostfest.



The Norsk Hostfest is a hard one to describe, so with a little help from Google (like I haven't done that already), I'll let the Big "G" say a few words.

Norsk Hostfest, (pronounced Hooostfest by this writer), is held annually in the fall in the ND State Fair Center on the North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Minot, ND. The festival was founded in 1978 by the late Chester Reiten and a group of friends who shared his interest in celebrating their Nordic heritage. For 39 years, the festival has grown into North America's largest Scandinavian festival with tens of thousands of people attending from all over the world. Norsk Hostfest raises funds to preserve, improve, and share Scandinavian culture, heritage and educational programs. Norsk Hostfest celebrates Scandinavian culture and heritage of the five Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Each nation is represented in one of the halls in which the festival takes place, and each named after their country's capital city. The individual styles of each country's entertainment, food, clothes, art, and jewelry can be found throughout Norsk Hostfest and also in Minot's Scandinavian Heritage Park, the only park in the world representing all five Nordic countries. The festival features world-class entertainment, authentic Scandinavian cuisine, Scandinavian culture on display, handcrafted Norsk merchandise, plus a fine dining establishment lead by guest chefs.

Dwight, with his mother and aunt, attended Norsk Hostfest in 2004 and with Lana in 2011, but for Sherwins and Kallmers, this was our first time. We were very impressed. It's something that you should do sometime. Well, I've run out the clock and someone is turning out the lights, so I'll say "Se deg nedover veien i din Airstream". Hint, hint. I know two languages, English and Google.

Bill Kallmer, the half Swede/German writer

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## September Buddy Rally "Big Times In The Big 0"

The annual Buddy Rally was held September 15-18 at Haworth Park in Bellevue, NE. The hosts were Sam & Mary Ann Boman, Ron & Jan Frisbie, Bill & LaDon Kallmer and Mike & Cheryl Sisk. Others attending were Roger Brandt & Jan Land, John & Janet Calvin, Roscoe Corell, Dan & Dale Ann Hoyt, Larry & Marcia Link, Dwight & Lana Olson, Bert & Donajean Sherwin, Ron & Bobbie Vanneman and Jim & Mary Wherrett.



Our Rally kicked off Thursday with happy hour at our trailers, followed by dinner at The Special Restaurant in Bellevue. Our barbeque was cancelled due to rain.

Friday we traveled to the Mormon Winter Quarters Museum north of Omaha. After a video and tour through the museum, we ate lunch at Tussey's Casual Grill close to the

museum. Our afternoon was spent at the Sarpy County Museum, after which we had an extended happy hour at our trailers. Our meal was Cream Can Dinner (also known as Polish Luau) and attendees were encouraged to dress in Hawaiian apparel. We had visitors to our camp area that evening – Norm & Gretchen Riemersma with daughter Rachel, then Roger & Margo Young.



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Saturday found us at Moonstruck Meadery's production unit in Bellevue for an interesting tour, after which we ate at Moonstruck Pizza close by. We enjoyed sampling mead and pizza for lunch. The majority of our group then watched the Nebraska football game outside or in their trailers. That evening we ate dinner at Famous Dave's and participated in a general meeting.

Sunday morning, Sam Boman led all in worship at the campground before we said our goodbyes and headed home.

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### October Rally "Czech Us Out"



The final rally of the year, "Czech us Out" was held Oct 13-16. We literally ate our way through the weekend. It began on Thursday night with a pot-luck cook-out and an evening of Joker and card playing.

Friday morning we caravanned to Beatrice to the Beatrice Baking Company, the home of Grandma's Fruitcake. We learned about the production of the famous cake and were given the opportunity to purchase this delicious concoction. Then it was off to lunch at the Black Crow Restaurant also in Beatrice. In the afternoon we visited the Wilber Cultural Center and Museum where we met Doris Oreckey and were entertained by Les Vilda, a candidate for U.S. President on the B.E.E.R. ticket. Friday evening we dined at Legends Restaurant in Clatonia.

Saturday we met in town for kolaches and coffee followed by the opportunity to make the for ourselves (maybe we sampled more). Next we had a walking tour of Wilber that included the Library, Drug Store, and Craft Store. The afternoon was free time to enjoy some Nebraska football and prepare for the evening installation of officers. Region 8



President, Gary Rush and First Lady, Linda were on hand to install our new officers. We also enjoyed an authentic Czech meal of pulled pork with dumplings and sauerkraut. followed by cake and ice cream.

We ate too much, laughed a lot, learned about the Czech Capital of the United States and now we are looking forward to our next great year!

Those attending this rally were Sam and Mary Ann Boman, Jim and Mary Wherrett, Bill and LaDon Kallmer, Ryan, Amy and Avery Knowles, Gary and Linda Rush, Mike and Cheryl Sisk, Dwight and Lana Olson, Dan and Dale Ann Hoyt, Ron and Bobbie Vanneman, Larry and Marcia Link. Roscoe and Leona Shields.

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### Happy Birthday, Roscoe



Several members of the club were able to attend Roscoe Shield's 90th birthday celebration in Lincoln, NE on Sunday October 9, 2016.

What a blessing to be able to reach this milestone and how sweet to give the credit to

Leona. Thanks for the

invitation, the cake and the fellowship.



### Recipe Corner

#### RV Dumplings and Kraut for Two

- 1 jar or can of sauerkraut
- 2 Polish sausage links or hot dogs
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 Cup milk
- 1 Cup flour
- 1/4 tsp baking powder

In a skillet over medium high heat, brown the two sausages. Empty the contents of the sauerkraut container including the juice over the sausage. Cover and cook until the pan is bubbling. Meantime in a bowl mix the egg, milk, flour and baking powder until no dry flour remains. Immediately place spoonfuls of the dumpling mixture over the kraut and put the lid back on the pan. Don't peek for 15 minutes. At that time lift the lid and you have your camper dinner.

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#### 2016-17 Luncheons

Parkers Smokehouse, Ashland, NE

At 12 Noon

Monday, November 14	Monday, December 12
Saturday, January 14	Monday, February 13
Monday, March 13	Saturday, April 8
Monday, May 8	Monday, June 12

If you have news for the next issue, please email:

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