



Trailhusker

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit, WBCCI

February 2010

From the Desk of Unit President Selwyn Heese

From a snow bank somewhere northwest of Omaha: Congratulations to all of you who escaped Nebraska before December.

We're still in Columbus although that wasn't the original plan.

The original plan was simple. Christmas would be at our son's home in Kansas City. He relocated there from Gainesville, Florida last summer and really messed up our winter travel options. We would drive to Kansas City and spend Christmas there and then on to Bentonville, Arkansas for the remainder of the holidays with our other son who lives there. After that we would return to Columbus and start packing the Airstream for a trip farther south.

Well, a foot and a half of snow in mid December and another foot and a half while we were in Kansas City combined with several lesser snowstorms and changed everything. There's no way I can get the Airstream backed into the driveway with all the snow piled up along the street. Packing the trailer out at the storage lot is also a problem. Although it is stored under a roof, the wind put snow banks in front and around it so we've decided to stay here another month or so.

Several years ago I stumbled onto a scientific theory, which explains what's going on. The theory posits that the earth's magnetic poles shift every 5,000 to 50,000 years (more or less). In other words the magnetic North Pole repositions itself near the true South Pole in the Antarctic while the magnetic South Pole relocates to somewhere near the true North Pole in the Arctic. It's like the solar pole shift that occurs on an eleven-year cycle and has some relationship to sunspot activity (and earth's climate). Some scientists believe that the earth's polar shift is currently underway and note that the declination of the magnetic poles from the true poles has become increasingly erratic in recent years.

I say this explains everything because it is obvious that the North Pole is currently located somewhere in Nebraska and appears to be moving south. My major concern with this is that if the shift actually occurs we will have to hold our maps upside down and that's going to make them very hard to read, especially while driving. In addition it will be really weird to have the sun rise in the west and set in the east not to mention the effect it will have on migratory birds and animals.

On a more serious note, several issues regarding the future of WBCCI will have been addressed at the midwinter IBT meeting by the time this issue of the Trailhusker is

published. You should be able to view the transcript of the meeting on the WBCCI web site.

Among the issues to be discussed are:

- Transfer of \$103,000 to cover losses from the Madison Rally
- Reduction of travel expenses for International and Region officers
- Dues increase of \$20
- Elimination of proportional voting by the unit delegates
- Club reorganization including combining Regions (for example combining Regions 7 and 8) and combining the International Rally with a (rotating) Region Rally

Check it out. WBCCI is experiencing some serious problems and we'll undoubtedly want to discuss all this at the spring rally in Fremont.

Department of the Interior

Nylon net scrubbers, like the ones Donajejan Sherwin makes, are the best for cleaning: black sneaker marks on the floor, soap scum on faucets, tar and bugs on the exterior. If you don't already have a collection of scrubbers, email Donajejan.

Craft pipe cleaners get into all those little places. I even used a couple twisted together to pull a hair clog from the shower drain. Use them to wrap computer and phone charging cords.

Use rubber tipped, expansion curtain rods for drying damp clothes and towels. Mount the rods in the hall area; be sure it's where the walls are supported. The heat exchanger will quickly dry things on hangers.

Dwight Olson found an article telling how one seasoned RV'er keeps his tanks clean. <http://cbruni.googlepages.com/home>

Kallmers found that the swimming noodles with a section cut out length-wise and cut to the length of the rod can be put over hangers and clothing while going down the road.

Winter Luncheons

A small group attended the December luncheon at Old Country Buffet in Omaha: Jim and Mary Wherret, Dwight Olson, Crystal Olson.

Bert Sherwin reported that the January Region 8 luncheon at Golden Corral in Mesa Arizona was well attended.

Region 8 President and First Mate June and Paul Ryan are in the foreground



LaDon and Bill Kallmer headed south on November 18. They stopped in Austin, TX to visit their son, Mustang Island to visit the Suttons, and Atlanta, GA to visit their adorable grandson. What's a trip without a major malfunction? ... This time it was the trailer water pump. Bill did his research and found he could replace the original Aquajet with a Flojet, instead of the Airstream-recommended Shurflo. Email Bill if you'd like more details about his research.

November luncheon attendees donated \$92.00 to the Omaha Quilters' Guild Children's Emergency Fund. Thank you, Joyce Shanks, for sponsoring this charity again this year.

John and Betty Ann Sutton are volunteering at Mustang Island State Park, TX for the winter. On their days off they walk and ride bikes on the five-mile beach and visit local tourist attractions.



John, riding on the beach at low tide

News from Members



Scott and Kathy Allen have acquired another Airstream, a 1955 Flying Cloud. Check their blog, which records the restoration progress: <http://byams55flyingcloud.blogspot.com/>

Bert and Donajean Sherwin have organized a caravan that will travel from Quartzite, AZ to Death Valley, back through Joshua Tree National Park and then to Blythe, CA for the HoBo Rally and back to Apache Junction.

Donajean celebrated a milestone birthday in December. Bert and several couples from Region 8 surprised her with a dinner party, followed by cake and ice cream, and of course, a couple games of Joker.

Fran and Bob Olson are wintering at Paradise Park in Punta Gorda, FL, with plans to attend the Florida State Rally in February.

Jo and Ivan Curtis decided to tough-it-out and stay in Mystic, IA for the winter, rather than heading for south Texas. Hope they still have their longjohns in the closet.



Murt Letcher is very encouraged by the latest reports from her doctors. The radiation treatments appear to be keeping the metastatic cancer confined to the thoracic spinal column. She is getting around well with crutches and plans to attend spring rallies. She mentioned that she truly appreciated all the cards and prayers for her recovery.

Murt at Int'l Rally

Sue Heist will finish her contract with the pharmaceutical company in Toronto by mid-February. Bob, Sue and Grizzly are planning to attend the April Cajun Caravan followed by a trip to Florida and around the southeast to visit several friends.

Glenda Rickert and Ron Savicky are staying in Oleander RV Park in Mission, Texas. Glenda reported that she is doing well in spite of still needing to use oxygen. She enjoys receiving emails from members; send her a note about your winter activities.

Gary Burrows' New Hat

Members who attended the Cowboy Poetry Rally in Valentine in 2008 probably remember the vendor who made custom hats. Gary talked with the craftsman to learn how the hats were made and proper care of them to make them last a lifetime.

Several months passed and Cheryl encouraged Gary to order his hat. "Why not?" Cheryl said. "You can't take it with you. The money, not the hat."



It took several phone calls and faxes to work out the style details: even the tiniest of details, such as the curl of the brim. Gary received his hat just before Christmas. Cheryl said, "He's proud of the hat and very protective, too!" Price? "Let's just say that his boots were less than the hat."

Gary will gladly share information and recommendations about the craftsman for anyone that is interested in getting a hat.

Lana Olson Retires

Lana has retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. She was with the Corps for 21 years: conducting legal research; processing Freedom of Information Act requests; and acting as labor advisor for the Omaha District to assure that wage and contract decisions were in accordance with the federal Davis-Bacon Act.

She and Dwight plan on traveling with their Airstream. Their first trip will be to Orange, TX, to work with Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Ike. From there they will visit family and friends in Texas and Arizona.



Lana Olson

Betty Reighley Judge

Mary Ann Boman's sister, Betty Reighley Judge, passed away at her home in Neodesha, Kansas, on January 17. Her funeral was conducted at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Neodesha, where she was an active member. Mary Ann and Sam had just arrived in Apache Junction, AZ, when they were notified of Betty's death. Condolences may be sent to them at their Apache Junction address. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



Airstream pets are always welcome at the rallies.

LaDon Kallmer with Marijane Bamberry's new puppy

Camping World RV

Camping World in Council Bluffs is now an authorized Airstream dealer. They will be selling and servicing Airstreams. They also have parts and accessories for Airstreams. For more information email John Lewis: jlewis@cwrvs.com. Camping World phone number is 712-352-1624 or you can call John Lewis at 712-242-5592.

Prepping for International

Pat Shaw has offered to organize a skit to present at the talent show. It involves moving and singing to "Oh, You Beautiful Doll." The only talent needed is the ability to kneel and/or lie on the floor. Partners will also need two sheets. Curious about what Pat has in mind? Call or email Pat for detailed directions. She hopes everyone who's going to Gillette will participate.

Remember – our parade entry won second place last year, under Pat's direction!

Bumper Sticker seen on a surfer's jeep in Rockport, Texas:
Snow birds – The new white meat

Best quote from a northerner:

"You know it's been a hard winter when you have more mileage on your snowblower than you do on the pick-up."

Spring Rally, Fremont, Nebraska Christiansen Field April 22 – 25

The committee members have met and started making plans for the rally, not an easy task when the temperature hovers around zero and snow is *this* deep.

Roscoe Shields and Dwight Olson have made arrangements for Unit Rally participants to stay at Christiansen Field from the close of our rally through the beginning of the Region 8 Rally (Sunday, April 25 – Wednesday, April 28).

The committee is still working on details, so expect to see the rally coupon in a few weeks, delivered by email or snail mail.

**Region 8 Rally, Fremont, Nebraska
Christiansen Field April 28 – May 2**

June Ryan and her committee have some excellent programs and activities planned:

- Seminars on health and money
- Antique Car Club show
- Airstream open house
- Camping World – sales, service, new Airstreams
- Craft and Flea Market
- Church Service – “Potter’s Clay”
- Tour of Toy and Car Museum

**IBT Winter Meeting, January 20 – 21, 2010
Rayne, Louisiana**

International President Tom Collier reported that 620 members have signed up for the International Rally in Gillette, WY.

There was a loss of \$103,280 at last year’s International in Madison, WI. This amount was charged to the International Rally Fund.

The IBT voted to approve a 25% reduction in the budget for international officers’ travel allowance. There will also be a 10% reduction in the travel allowance fund for regional officers.

They also approved a ten dollar international dues increase, effective July 1, 2010. The original proposal had called for a \$20 increase.

The IBT considered a proposal to reduce the number of regions from twelve to seven. The trustees referred this proposal to the 2020 Long-Term Planning Committee that will report its recommendation to IBT at the 2011 mid-winter meeting.

The full report of the IBT meeting will be available on the WBCCI website: wbcci.org.

Nebraska Unit 50th Anniversary

Next year the Unit celebrates its 50th anniversary. Do you have photos, directories, Trailhuskers, or other memorabilia to share? We’d love to use copies of your items in future issues of the Trailhusker and next year’s directory.

Some members have been testing new tow vehicles



Marlene Lee’s grandson provided his VW



Bill Kallmer thought a Smart Car might get better gas mileage than his truck

Editor’s Note

If you have an email address listed in the directory, you will receive your Trailhusker and rally coupons via email. If you want a printed copy mailed to you, let me know. BAS

**2010 NEBRASKA UNIT OFFICERS
& EXECUTIVE BOARD**

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
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| 2 nd Vice President | Sue Heist |
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| Trustee (2011) | John Sutton |

Trailhusker

Editor – Betty Ann Sutton
Technical Advisor – John Sutton

The deadline for items for the next issue of the TRAILHUSKER is April 30, 2010. Send items and pictures to Betty Ann Sutton, 17500 NW 48th St., Raymond, NE 68428.

Best to email: jdbasutton@gmail.com

