



Trailhusker



The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit, WBCCI

April 2014

From The President's Desk By Bill Kallmer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HAMMOCK IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

In the last Trailhusker, I talked about our trip to Savannah and that we were headed back to Atlanta. That was not a good move as we were there during the first ice and snow storm that shut the city down for several days. We survived the cold temperatures that were in the range of 6 to 35 degrees. Our water lines and pump in the trailer froze up at least three times, and when the temps got above freezing, everything started working again. Does this show the quality of Airstreams with plastic water piping? For those of you staying in the Nebraska and Iowa areas during your winter, you will shed no tears for us. Right?

Now that we're in Florida, there's not much going on and this article may be quite boring. Let's see, there's Spanish Moss hanging on Live Oak trees, sandy beaches, bright blue water, boats of all sizes, and a lot of old people. They made us feel like youngsters. All things considered, Florida is the place! Ok, I can hear some of you disagreeing with me, so let me add California, southern Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Did you notice I didn't mention Georgia?

On February 13th, several Region 8 members in the vicinity of Punta Gorda, FL met at the Golden Corral Restaurant for lunch. Those attending were John and Betty Ann Sutton, Bob and Fran Olson, Cheryl Burrows, Jim and

Mary Wherrett, Bill and LaDon Kallmer, Gary and Linda Rush from the Missouri Greater Ozark Unit, and Chuck and Nancy Helle from the Iowa Unit. Our second luncheon was on February 25th at Miller's Ale House in Ft. Myers, FL. Attending that luncheon were Dan and Dale Ann Hoyt, Bob and Fran Olson, Bob and Sue Heist, and Bill and LaDon Kallmer. After the luncheon, Heist and Kallmers visited Paradise Park, where Bob and Fran Olson spend their winter. While there, we found out that the Region 8 Airstreamers at the park were having a potluck dinner at Lavonne Sandersfeld's park model. We were invited, and around 13 others attended. On our way home at night, I almost hit a big, black, wild pig as he was crossing the road. I missed, so no bacon or sausage for me.

Bob and Sue Heist had made a quick trip to the Florida area to attend the Big Bend Florida Rally and the Alumaflamingo Rally in Sarasota. They planned to be back in Lincoln by March 7th for some unknown reason, maybe for some cooler temperatures. It was good to see our Airstreamers that call Florida their winter home.

I would like to inform our members, who stayed in the Midwest, "Winter is almost over!" What, you don't think so? Well, April will soon be here and that means getting together at our first spring rally on April 24th in West Point, NE. A rally coupon is included in this Trailhusker. We have sites reserved and good accommodations, so I hope to see you there. Roscoe and Leona, "that's April 24th". Following the spring rally, join our caravan to

the Region 8 Rally in Kirksville, MO. See the rally list in the Trailhusker for additional rallies, including the International Rally on June 29th to July 5th in Gillette, WY. This year at the International Rally, WBCCI will be collecting donations for the Wounded Warrior Project. The Wounded Warrior Project is a veterans service program with a mission to "honor, empower, and provide unique programs and services in order to meet the needs of severely wounded service members of the United States Armed Forces". I hope all of us will donate to this worthwhile project.

We'll see you at the April luncheon at some unknown location. Once we figure it out, we'll let all of you know. The reason is, Old Country Buffet is closing its doors.

Bill Kallmer



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Nebraska Rallies for 2014

Spring Rally at West Point NE	Apr 24 - 27
Region 8 Rally at Kirksville MO	Apr 29 –May 4
International Rally at Gillette WY	Jun 29 – Jul 5
Buddy Rally at Beatrice NE	Sept 11 – 14
Swiss Festival at Sugarcreek OH	Sept 19 - 28
Installation Rally at Grand Island NE	Oct 9 – 12



**Bluegrass Festival
By Dwight Olson**

Music—if you love music the place to be in January is at the Bluegrass Festival in Blythe, California. That's where Bert and Donajean Sherwin and Dwight and Lana Olson were camped January 17-19, 2014. There were over 1,000 people in attendance camped at the Blythe County Fairgrounds. The Sherwins and Olsons dry camped among many large motorhomes and fifth wheels. They were the only ones staying in Airstream trailers.

The Blythe Chamber of Commerce presents the festival. They do a wonderful job of organizing it by providing two stages—one stage was on the racetrack and the second stage known as the Bommer stage was by the J.C. Building. On Friday, eight bands played rotating between the two stages. As a result, you could set up your chairs at one of the stages and eventually hear each band at that one stage. Each band played for 50-55 minutes. On Saturday and Sunday, some of the same bands that played on Friday played again, with some additional bands added to the list. Bands were from all parts of the U.S, including Missouri, Iowa, Georgia, California, Tennessee and others.

Each day started with two people parachuting from an airplane. The first person unfurled a large American flag and the second person unfurled a line of smaller flags representing each of the military services. The Canadian anthem and the American anthem were sung as the flags descended. It was a beautiful sight. The bands played from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Sunday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

What is Bluegrass music? According to Wikipedia, Bluegrass music is a form of American roots music, and a sub-genre of country music. Bluegrass was inspired by the music of Appalachia. It has mixed roots in Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and English traditional

music, and was also later influenced by the music of African-Americans through incorporation of jazz elements.

Guitars, banjos, mandolins, base fiddles, and an occasional fiddle were the instruments that were played. In one band, a member played the dobro. Each band had at least one vocalist. The expertise of the band members on their instruments was exceptional. The "Next Generation Bluegrass" band consisted of three young men and the father of one of them playing the base fiddle. They were 16 yrs. old, 17 yrs. old, and 20 yrs. old and they were exceptional instrumentalists.



The evenings were spent around a campfire with entertainment provided by roving musicians. It was a wonderful experience.



The Alumaflamingo Experience **By Sue Heist**

So the Heists went south this year. That was a first. It was a good year to go south as the weather at home in February and March was brutal. At first the weather in the south wasn't much better, wet and cold. We crossed the border into Florida and wondered where the warm, sunny weather was. It certainly wasn't in the Panhandle of Florida.

The main purpose of our trip was to attend AlumaFlamingo 2014 in Sarasota. But along the way we picked up our friends from Panama

City, the Andersons, and tagged along with them to the Big Bend unit's spring rally at Saint George Island State Park. After the rally the Andersons and we traveled south to Sarasota picking up our friends the Walters from Virginia, along the way.

We arrived at the Sarasota fairgrounds early Tuesday morning and after a short wait in the Bull Pen were parked in the 30-amp section right next to the vendors building. Griz and I made straight for the Yappy Hour and met some of the other dogs and their people. It was not a pet show but more a playtime in a nice, large, fenced area.

Seminars and activities started at 9:00 a.m. There were full schedules on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, especially if you wanted to take any of the tours. Some of the highlights were; State of Airstream; Big Tops, Tigers and Clowns; Fun on The Road for Less \$; Harvest Hosts; and Habitat for Humanity.

The Historic Walking Tour of downtown Sarasota was well worth the effort. We walked for 2 ½ hours so sunscreen, hats and good walking shoes were a must. We discovered that Main Street and the area around it in downtown Sarasota is filled with galleries, boutiques and restaurants. There wasn't time to fully explore the area this year but we put it on next year's schedule.



Sue at Art Center Sarasota

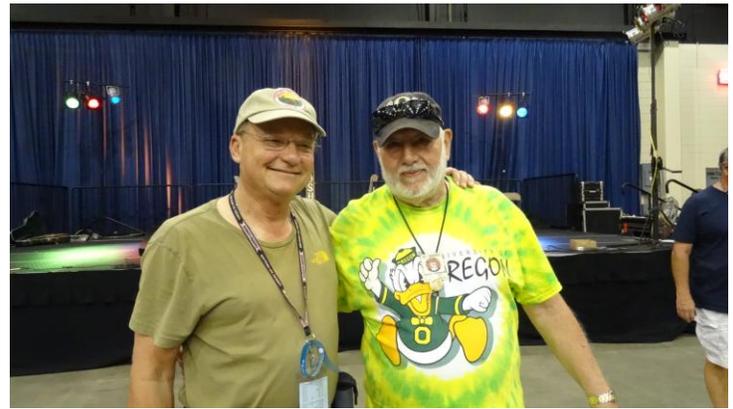
As normal there was an emphasis on food and eating (Is it just us or do all Airstreamers focus on food?). With our rally fee we got coffee & donuts one morning and cooked breakfasts

two mornings. In addition we ate at Yoder's Restaurant (Amish comfort food and lots of it), Columbia Restaurant at St. Armand's Circle (wonderful Cuban sandwiches), and Bob's Circus Train Restaurant. Bob's is a must, just don't be put off by the location.

Bob's is in circus-train cars parked in an almost empty warehouse lot next to the railroad. He saved the railcars from destruction and is slowly renovating them. Bob is a character and if he isn't busy can regale you with stories about the circus people he knows who spent winters in Sarasota. The day we were there for lunch his staff didn't show up so he was waiter, cook, busboy and dishwasher. We chipped in and took our own orders and bussed our own tables.

Each night before the open grill and evening performance there was Roving Happy Hour. Anyone could volunteer to host a happy hour by picking up a blinking blue light from the organizers, putting it outside their rig and offering hospitality to anyone who stopped by. It was a good way to meet new people.

The entertainment at the rally was varied so as to appeal to as many as possible. There was a Ukulele Band, Bluegrass group, a Jazz band, a balladeer (Jimmy Buffet style?), a folk/rock musician and sword swallows. If you like bluegrass there was a jam session in one of the smaller building every night after the main program. The Aluminum Gong Show got off to a slow start but ended up being lots of fun. We booed, clapped and jeered sometimes all at the same performer. The object was to raise as much money as possible for charity. To keep a terrible performer from being "gonged" you had to put money in the kitty. The more money the longer the performer could torment the audience. Bob was one of the biggest donors for a particularly bad performer. Some of us wanted to "gong" Bob.



Bob and Dale Schwamborn, Wally Byam's nephew

We had such a good time we've already signed up for next year.



Safety Tip

From Betty Ann Sutton

Spring is the time to conduct a thorough inspection of all systems and equipment on our Airstreams. Remember to include fire extinguishers and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your inspection.

The on-board fire extinguishers should be Dry Chemical (DC). And be rated for Class A, B, and C.

Dry Chemical extinguishers are loaded with Monoammonium Phosphate, an odorless, white or yellow powder. The DC extinguishers put a fire out by coating the fuel, such as cooking grease, with a thin layer of dust, separating the fuel from the oxygen in the air.

Most manufacturers recommend shaking DC extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling and caking in the bottom of the canister.

Manufacturers also recommend replacing an extinguisher if:

1. The gauge shows any loss of pressure.
2. The canister or handle has dents or damage.
3. You have discharged it, even if there is still some chemical left in it.



Luncheons

It seems our members have been spread across this great nation most of the winter. Luncheons were held helter skelter with whoever was available in attendance. Because of this, and the fact we have no official records, we are just including a couple of pictures of our members enjoying some good food and fellowship.



Here is a group of happy campers at the Golden Coral in Punta Gorda, Florida



Here we have a first. A selfie of Roscoe and Leona



Going South By Dan Hoyt

After several months of facing (and sometimes fearing) Dale Ann's cancer diagnosis, we got the green light from the doctors to head south. We hurried home from getting stitches out and were on the road by 11 a.m. after the last of the appliances and other gizmos were unplugged or shut down.

As darkness and St. Louis approached, we began to see lots of snow along the roadside. The good news, it was past rush hour in St. Louis, the bad news, our navigation system decided to have a seizure in the middle of this maze. Fortunately we have been through here enough that we made it to the other side with just a little extra sign watching.

When finally into Illinois and traffic had thinned, I started to see glittery "stuff" in the air. But now on I-64 eastbound I could not tell if the glitter on the road was ice or salt. It was time to shut down for the day. At the O'Fallon exit we pulled into Wal-Mart and we able to find a place to park between two giant snow piles. It was 20 degrees!!! It could have been 21 degrees in the trailer. We started up the heater, stayed in our travel clothes and piled on the blankets. We did manage some rest despite the rush of the day, the stress of St. Louis and the thoughts of the escape to warm climate.



It was a beautiful Florida day when the Heists, Kallmers, Bob Olsons, and the Hoyts met at Millers Ale House in Fort Myers, Florida.

