



OKLAHOMA AIRSTREAMERS

Oklahoma's WBCCI Unit 88 Newsletter

www.oklahoma.wbcci.net

WBCCI Region 9

Oklahoma Unit 88

2018 Officers

President:
Larry Walters
walcous@gmail.com

Secretary:
Kathy Walters
Kathy7252@aol.com

Treasurer:
Jackie Anderson
wandjok@gmail.com

Trustees:
Jerry Jack
jhjack@yahoo.com
Wes Anderson
wandjok@gmail.com

Rallies and Events

Officer Installation Meeting
Walter's House, OKC
Dec 9, 2018

Region 9 Rally
Skyline Ranch RV Park, Bandera
TX
May 6-11, 2019

Texas Country Air **Urban**
Rally
(Region 9 Special Event
Rally)
Brownwood TX
Oct, 24-27, 2019

Your Journey Awaits



2018 Albuquerque Ballon Fiesta

Photo by David Poarch

RENEW...RENEW...RENEW...TODAY!!!

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your WBCCI membership for 2019. Renewing on-line is easy. Just go to www.WBCCI.org and click on "Renew Online" and follow prompts.

Please, don't let your membership expire. Renew today!

Welcome New Members!

A big welcome to the following new members who joined our Unit since our last newsletter.

Jimmy & Patty Eaton, Antlers OK (1998 Excella 25'); Cliff & Elizabeth Nutt, Tulsa OK (1994 Excella 25'); Jim & Melba Dodson, Sallisaw OK (2018 Flying Cloud 25'); Richard & Vickie Brown, Tulsa, OK (1991 Excella 29'), and Mike & Teresa, Harris, Sapulpa OK (2017 25' Flying Cloud)

Cliff & Elizabeth Nutt and Mike & Teresa Harris have joined us at a couple of our rallies already and we are happy they've chosen to join our unit. We look forward to meeting the rest of our new members. Thank you for joining the Oklahoma Unit and we hope you will join us at one of our outings this coming year.

A Message from our President: by Larry Walters

Hello Streamers

Hope everyone had a great year of adventures in their Airstream. I know we certainly did. After we left Alumapalooza in June we toured the northeast United States and then went to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Ontario before returning. Part of our travels included going on the Nor by Nor'East Caravan. You can read more about that in Kathy's article later in the newsletter. There are caravans every year all over the United States and Canada and they are a lot of fun. A list of caravans is in the Blue Beret magazine. We were glad to get home after four months and to see everyone at the Fall Rally at Sequoyah State Park

While at Alumapalooza we heard Colin Hyde, an airstream fix it guru, from upper New York talk about front end separation on trailers with tool boxes in the front. I was pretty impressed with his expertise after listening to his talk and decided that since I was going to be in his area I would stop by his shop and have a pressurized water test done on the trailer. While he didn't find any leaks he did discover we had the front end separation. Signs of the separation were cracks in the aluminum skin on both corners of the tool box and the rivets were popping off around the tool box. After a couple of days in his shop he got us back on the road by installing extra steel around the front of the trailer to tie the aluminum to the steel frame. We also thought we might have a leak in the rear of the trailer after the fall rally and sure enough when I pulled back the flooring it was all wet with some rotten places. Kathy and I have been tearing out and replacing about 10 inches of the plywood floor along the rear and are getting ready to put new vinyl plank flooring over the entire trailer. Hopefully we can get this done in time to leave for Tucson in January for a couple of months. After getting the snow today I am wishing I was already there.

If you missed the fall rally at Ft. Gibson Lake you missed a great one. Despite the rain, we managed to have a wonderful time. More about that a little later in the newsletter.

9 Dec 2018 Officer Installation/Business Mtg: by Larry Walters

We will have a business/officer installation meeting on 9 December at our residence. We'll begin at 1:30 pm. The address is 4110 Coletta Drive, Oklahoma City. We are right behind Mercy Heart Hospital for those of you familiar with Oklahoma City. If everyone would bring an hors d'oeuvre or desert. Bring your beverage of choice, we will have coffee, tea, and eggnog! It is rumored that there might be a delicious pink flamingo cake! Hope everyone can make it!

Please RSVP to walcous@gmail.com if you are planning on attending. Thanks!

The officers for next year will be installed at that time. All of the officer nominees were elected unanimously! We will also talk about activities we want to have in the coming year so please be thinking of suggestions.

Officers for 2019 are:

Larry Walters – President

Bill Braunbeck – 1st Vice President

Secretary - Kathy Walters

Treasurer – Brad Buresh

Trustees – Jerry Jack and Wes Anderson (2018-2019), Ron Wilder (2019-2020)

Note: We are still seeking a volunteer to take over the unit newsletter and webmaster duties. Wes is continuing the duties in the interim but feels a new perspective would be beneficial. If you would be interested in taking over the newsletter, please let me know.

Your humble servant,
Larry Walters

We have a new name!...Almost: by Larry Walters

The proposal to change our Unit's official name from the "Oklahoma Unit" to "Oklahoma Airstream Club" was unanimously approved by our unit membership. Now, we are waiting for it to be approved by the Region 9 Board, the International Board of Trustees and Airstream's Corporate office. After final approval, appropriate changes will need to be made to our unit bylaws, constitution and club logo used on the flag. These changes will also require approval at the international level.

2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta: by David Poarch

As first time Balloon Fiesta visitors we thought we might share our experience for the benefit of those thinking about going in the future. If you haven't been – GO! Words cannot adequately describe what you will find. Touted as the “most photographed event in the world,” it has to be experienced! There is nothing like drinking hot coffee while walking among more than 500 hot air balloons in the chilled morning air as they slowly reveal themselves, feeling the heat of the hot air blasting from hissing, open-flame burners as they slowly but surely inflate giant carnival-like bags of colorful fabric emerging in every shape imaginable, coming to life, one-by-one, as they silently ascend to join a sunrise armada, each lifting their pilots in beautiful woven baskets. Photos don't do it justice.



If you go, there are some things we learned that might be helpful to know in advance. The Fiesta will take place October 5 thru October 13 in 2019. There are both morning and evening sessions, as well as car shows, wood carving, and other events throughout the day. You pay for each session you attend. Morning sessions are when the

balloons launch. Evening sessions are “glow” events when all of the balloons are inflated at once, but remain stationary, followed by fireworks and a laser light show. All are weather-dependent events and tickets are non-refundable.



Make reservations early and expect to pay more for your stay during the Fiesta dates. We booked our RV site at American RV Resort on old Route 66 (Central Ave.) in February. We arrived at our site on Thursday

before the Fiesta officially opened on Saturday. Our nightly rate doubled on Friday.

Among the RV park options available, there is a dedicated parking area on site at Balloon Fiesta Park where Airstream owners can rally to dry camp. However, space is limited, and you must sign up early (January). Previous participants and wait-list applicants are given priority consideration. We applied in February but ended up on the wait list. You can find more information on Facebook (Balloon Fiesta Rally).

Expect traffic. Balloons lift off about 7:00 a.m. If you plan to drive yourself to Balloon Fiesta Park get ready to sit in traffic that starts very early in the morning. Early being 4:30 a.m. or so! You can avoid the traffic by taking advantage of the Fiesta's Park & Ride program. You pay \$20 per adult/per session to park your car at one of 4 locations around Albuquerque and ride a bus to and from the event. This includes your \$10 admission fee to the event. The busses have their own dedicated routes into the Park, so traffic is no problem for them.

If you want a more upscale experience, there are a couple of options. Tickets go on sale in April. Gondola Club tickets include admission, dedicated parking that avoids the usual traffic, earmarked bathroom facilities, a catered buffet meal (breakfast or dinner) served under a big tent, an open bar, and dedicated outdoor seating next to the field, plus a commemorative gift to take home. The cost is \$110 per person/per session. The Chaser's Club (\$45 per person/per session) includes admission, dedicated seating on a private patio, access to hot food and beverages, and a cash bar. Either one adds to the experience, depending on your tolerance for losing money if the weather doesn't cooperate!

We met Airstreamers from as far away as Cape Cod, visitors from Canada, and folks from coast-to-coast, many who were first-timers. We plan to return in 2019!



Hope to see you there!

David & Teana Lewis Poarch

Nor by Nor'east Caravan Reflection: by Kathy Walters

Last summer Larry and I spent almost four months on the road exploring the northeast part of the US and Canada. Part of that time was traveling with 24 other airstreams on the WBCCI Nor by Nor'east Caravan which began in Ashaway, Rhode Island and ended in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. I have to admit the prospect of spending 42 days on

the road with folks I did not know, and adhering to a travel schedule, which we are not used to, sounded pretty challenging. Larry and I do not make really strict travel plans, we usually don't make reservations too far in advance... just in case we want to stay someplace longer than we planned or leave earlier than we might have thought we would stay. So a 42 day scheduled trip sounded kind of scary. My trepidations ended up being unwarranted. We were not locked in to adhering to a really strict schedule. Since we had already paid for



some events and tours, it really was up to us whether or not we did everything. When we were in a particular area, there were plenty of days that we were given information on things we could do and see, and then it was up to us to choose how to spend the day. I really enjoyed meeting and getting to know the rest of the travelers. The caravan was organized so that you were always parked near someone different, and there were different activities planned for small groups and whole groups, and in that way you did have the chance to meet everyone. My apprehensions about traveling with strangers, dissolved pretty quickly as the first official meeting involved a Scavenger Hunt. There were ice cream socials* and evening campfires, dinners out and impromptu potlucks. On one evening we had a wine and cheese gathering that included the musically

talented caravaners putting on a little show for us. Of course Larry was in the group and performed his version of "On the Cover of Airstream Life". In Maine, we stayed at a beautiful campground where they served us pancakes (blueberry, because they were in season) one morning and on another evening we were guests at a lobster and clam bake on the beach which of course ended with delicious brownies baked in cast iron pots served with ice cream topped off with an amazing rainbow appearing as if just for our enjoyment, over Penobscot Bay.

The caravan included stops in Boston, and Cape Cod, Newport, Campobello, Halifax, the Bay of Fundy, and Cape Breton and Charlottetown, to name just a few. I loved visiting the museums in Boston and Halifax. My personal favorite city would probably be Boston. It was thrilling to be



able to walk the Freedom trail and visit those spots I had read about in history. Larry's favorite city was Halifax. It offered art galleries and museums and a great waterside area for shopping and restaurants and lots of interesting coffee shops. There were plenty of natural wonders as well, like in the Bay of Fundy at Hopewell Rocks, where you can walk on the ocean floor at low tide and see enormous rock formations that are four stories tall, and then at high tide, which reaches from 40 to 70 ft high, enormous rocks are almost covered. From National Parks to Provincial Parks to County Fairgrounds to private campgrounds, we enjoyed the views, the congeniality, and the charm of every place we stayed. While we were awestruck by the Bay of Fundy we enjoyed touring the mansions of Newport and loved the Gingerbread Houses of Martha's Vineyard. I



I couldn't eat enough lobster, and then I actually did.... I searched for the best seafood chowder and found it in Halifax. I learned that the best scallops are in Digby, Nova Scotia. I found every local farmer's market in

every place we camped. My favorite was in Baddeck, Cape Breton, where you could walk outdoors and listen to the sound of the fiddles playing Scottish tunes and watch groups of little girls practicing their step dancing, while munching on just purchased homemade "Scottish Oatcakes". I loved experiencing the different cultures. On Cape Breton one portion is French and mostly you hear French being spoken, and another area was



settled by the Scottish, and often you will hear Gaelic being spoken. It was at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, we had lunch and got to enjoy what is called a Ceilidh (kay-lee) which is a group of people come together to play tunes on their fiddles, and step dancers

dancing away. It's hard to keep your feet still. We learned music is such an important part of this culture that people just show up together at a coffee shop or someone's kitchen or a church and begin to play fiddles and step dance.

When I agreed to write something about this Caravan, I kept thinking it was impossible to get 42 days of amazingness into an article, and it is. This was a wonderful trip full of adventure. I'm not the first or the last to say, when I look back on this trip, the places we visited and the sights we saw were wonderful, but the memories that make me smile are those of friends we made and the experiences with them we shared on this wonderful caravan.

* Larry and I headed up one of the ice cream socials and since we had FOUR different flavors of the HIGHEST quality ice cream, with SEVERAL toppings, Larry proclaimed it the ice cream social "that would go down into the annals of Nor by Nor'East Caravan lore." That mantra was repeated over and over throughout the rest of the caravan whenever anything of significance occurred. Laughter was incurred at every reiteration...

Oklahoma Fall Rally ReCap: by Wes

The Oklahoma Unit held its Fall Rally at Sequoyah State Park 11-14 October. We had a great turnout with 12 Airstreams in attendance. There was plenty of Fun, Food, and Fellowship. For those of you that missed it, we hope you will make a special effort to join us on our next outing.

Following are a few rally memories captured in pictures:







A big thanks to Ron and Barbara Wilder (shown above) for making and donating the bean bag boards and several items for a raffle held to support our Unit. Thanks to their generosity, \$119 dollars was raised for the club!

May 6-11, 2019 - WBCCI “Cowboy Up” Region 9 Rally

The 50th Annual Region 9 Rally is scheduled for 6-11 May 2019 and will be held at Skyline Ranch RV Park, Bandera TX. This years theme (Cowboy Up) focuses on western and pioneer history. The Region 9 Rally is always a great event and a great way to meet fellow Airstreamers. Rally activities will include breakfasts, dinners, entertainment, seminars and games; as well as other events. If you haven't attended a Region 9 rally, you're missing out.

I am providing the link to the region 9 rally brochure. I hope you will take a few minutes to look it over and sign up to attend.

<http://region9.wbcci.net/files/2018/07/Cowboy-Up-Region-9-Rally-2019.pdf>

Region 9 Texas Country Air Rally ReCap: by Wes

The Texas Country Air Rally, a WBCCI National/Special Event Rally sponsored by Region 9, was held 25-28 October in Brownwood TX, at the historic Santa Fe Railroad Depot and Event Center.

As expected, the event was a great success. With 86 trailers in attendance it's rumored to be the largest "urban" Airstream rally in the U.S. The location and support from the city of Brownwood was so positive the rally committee decided to hold next year's rally at the same location. So, if you didn't have a chance to attend this past year's rally, you've got a second chance! Next year's rally is scheduled for Oct 24-27, 2019.

The Santa Fe Depot, originally built in 1909, has been restored and includes a large ball room for the entertainment. Connected to the depot is a historic Harvey House. The upstairs includes a restored Harvey girl's bedroom with period decor. Across the street is the Martin and Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum. If you enjoy train history you'll really enjoy the museum. So mark your calendars and don't miss another great rally!



Brownwood Santa Fe Depot



Arrivals lining up to be parked



RV parking with water/electric



Urban parking along side street



Jody Nix and his West Texas Cowboys

Pictures?

Have you taken a trip recently? Do you have pictures you'd like to share with the Unit? If so, please send them to me for inclusion into the next newsletter. We'd love to see them!

Rally Suggestions?

What type rallies, campouts, events would you like to see the Unit schedule? Do you have any good camping areas you can share? We're interested in the type and location of rallies you'd like to see us schedule so please, tell us your thoughts! Is anyone interested in a December or January outing? We'd love to hear your comments and suggestions. Just send Larry an email with your comments.

Oklahoma Unit 88 Website and Facebook Page

Don't forget to check out our Unit's website at www.oklahoma.wbcci.net Past newsletters can be found on it as well as our Unit's Constitution and By-Laws, upcoming events and contact information.

You can also visit us on our **Facebook** page; **Oklahoma Airstream Club**

Do you know anyone with an Airstream that's not a WBCCI member? Tell them about our Unit and ask them to check out our website and Facebook page.

And as always, Safe Travels!