



Trailhusker

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Unit, WBCCI

September 2012

From The President's Desk



Bob, Sue and Grizzly on the Springtime in Kentucky caravan

The year is almost over and this will be my last letter in the Trailhusker. In October I will relinquish the title of President to Lana Olson along with all the work that comes with it. I've enjoyed my time as the Unit President but will also be glad when I can relax.

Let's recap what we've accomplished the past ten months. We started the year with the following goals:

- Develop a unit brochure as a recruiting tool
- Work with the new Electronic Communications Committee to improve unit website
- Explore building a Facebook page for the unit
- Increase membership by at least one over the official number as of November 1, 2011 (at International our membership count was 29)

We don't have a unit brochure yet but we learned at International a calling card might be a better way to introduce ourselves to prospective new members than a brochure. It is easier to carry around in a wallet or purse and we can direct them to both our website and our FaceBook page where all the information we would put in a brochure can be found. I plan to have a calling card designed in time for the October Rally.

John Sutton, our webmaster, worked with the ECC and my son Robert to update our website. John has done an excellent job of keeping it current. If you haven't visited the website recently please do. I think you'll be pleased.

John and Robert also worked with Betty Ann Sutton, Bob, and me to set up a FaceBook page for our Unit. For those of you who have FB accounts please find the Unit's page and, if you haven't already, "Like" it. I'm hoping that many of you will want to put photos of our activities on the FB page. Anyone with a FB account can post pictures. It is an excellent way to get our name out to the public and to share information among ourselves. Several other units have FB pages also and it is fun to see what they are doing at their rallies.

Membership was the number one topic at International in Sedalia. Even the new constitution didn't get more air-time. Bob Heist, our membership chair, has worked very hard to get new members for the unit. As of last week he has at least three new members signing up and maybe a fourth. It will always be difficult to find new members in Nebraska without a dealer nearby who is selling Airstreams to people who live in and around Nebraska. We're not a big market for Airstream. In any case, Bob has found new members for the unit but the other side of the coin is retention. You will receive your renewal notice very soon and I hope you all make the choice to renew. If we are not meeting your needs as a camping/caravanning club please let us know how we can improve.



Sue and in-coming president Lana Olson

Thank you for allowing me to be your President for 2012. I hope you have enjoyed your year as much as I have. See you down the road.

Sue Heist

**Luncheon – August 13
Garden Café and Bakery**

Those attending were: Janet and John Calvin; Sue Heist; Dale Ann and Dan Hoyt; LaDon and Bill Kallmer; Lori and Don Lorenz; Glen Sanders; Joyce and Jim Shanks; Donajean and Bert Sherwin; Leona and Roscoe Shields; Betty Ann and John Sutton; Mary and Jim Wherrett.



Dan Hoyt, Don Lorenz, Bill Kallmer



Mary Wherrett, Janet Calvin, LaDon Kallmer

In an attempt to locate the ideal venue, we will hold our next luncheon at:

**A+ Chinese Buffet
14426 West Center Road
Omaha, NE
402-334-4889
www. aplusbuffetomaha.com**

Date: September 10, at 12 noon



Election of Unit Officers

Sue Heist sent paper ballots to all regular members. If you did not receive your ballot please contact her right away (402-304-1843.) If you haven't returned your ballot, please send it to her right away. The results of the election will be announced at the September rally.

September Caravan and Rally

Have you signed up for the caravan and rally yet? If not, contact Dwight Olson as soon as possible. Dwight and Lana will be leading the caravan from the Omaha – Lincoln area on September 11.

2013 Unit Directory

John Sutton has started working on the 2013 Directory. Betty Ann has taken photos of many members and others have emailed photos to John. But, there are still a few camera shy members out there. If we don't have a recent photo of you, please email (or snail mail) one as soon as possible.

2013 Rally and Caravan Schedule

First Vice President Lana Olson has spent countless hours developing next year's schedule. Please call or email her to volunteer to help on one or more committees.

April 18 – 21: Spring Rally, Auburn, NE

April 21 – 23: Caravan to Region 8 Rally, Hutchinson, Kansas, via Red Cloud, NE

April 24 – 28: Region 8 Rally, Hutchinson, KS

June 22 – 23: Caravan to International Rally, Huron, South Dakota

June 26 – July 4: International Rally, Huron, SD

June 5 – 6: Caravan from International back to NE

Sept. 12 – 15: Buddy Rally, Neligh, NE

Oct. 3 – 6: Installation Rally, Ord, NE



Nebraska Unit 50th Anniversary Logo

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HIGHLIGHTS ON TRAILER AND MOTORHOME MAINTENANCE

By Bill Kallmer

At the WBCCI International Rally in Sedalia, MO, Howard Lefkowitz conducted a seminar on trailer and motorhome maintenance. Howard co-authors articles in the Blue Beret on solving technical problems in RV's. Here are some highlights from that seminar.

1. All Airstream owners should read the article on Refrigerator Fire in the June issue of the Blue Beret. Write down the VIN number of your trailer and the model number of the refrigerator. Next, call Norcold recall at 1-800-767-9101 or Dometic recall at 1-888-446-5157 to see if your refrigerator has any outstanding recalls.

2. During extremely hot weather, like we had in Sedalia, you should make your AC unit run on constant fan. There is a good reason, but I just can't quite remember. It's easier on the AC unit. How about that for a good reason?

3. You should use a white lithium grease or anti-seize compound at various points on your Dexter electric brake assemblies. Apply a light film to the brake anchor pin, the actuation arm bushing and pin, the areas on the backing plate that are in contact with the brake shoes and magnet lever arm, on the threads of the star wheel, and finally on the actuation block mounted on the actuating arm. Clear as mud. I had to mark up a picture diagram just so I can remember.

4. After seven years of use, replace your smoke, propane, and carbon monoxide detectors. The sensors in the units can be compromised from dust and other contaminants and not function properly.

5. Replace trailer tires after five years from the tire's manufacture date and not the date you bought them.

6. Repack trailer bearings every year or two. If you do a lot of traveling, repack them every year.

7. When corrosion occurs on stainless steel exterior parts, or where stainless hardware is in contact with aluminum, use a Scotch-Brite pad (fine to super fine grade) and gently remove the corrosion. After removing it, cover the area with clear nail polish. This will give the area some protection.

8. To check if your electric brakes are working properly, jack up one side of the trailer by using a bottle jack at the lift point identified by Airstream. Look under the trailer to find the exact location. Do not pull the trailer up on wood blocks as that can damage the axle. When the trailer's tires are off the ground, pull the emergency stop cord, then check all tires to see if they are locked tight. Repeat this procedure on the opposite side. Any wheel that still rotates may have a loose or broken wire or some other problem. If that occurs, have it checked out.

9. When changing a flat tire or repacking bearings, do not run one tire up on blocks. Dexter indicated that this can cause damage to the semi-hollow axle. Never let a tire shop lift the trailer up by placing a jack under the axle.

10. Use silicone lubricant spray on awning parts. Silicone will not attract dust and dirt.