

the Four Corners Unit Roundup

March 2012 Issue 25



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Louis Hall

Greetings all 4CU Members,

We are already two months into 2012 and we have had two very successful and well-attended rallies, with two more exciting events coming in March and April, and a couple more (including a new one!) in June. If you have not attended a 4CU Rally this year, there are some great opportunities on the horizon!

2012 marks some significant anniversaries. This year is the 50th anniversary of the passing of Wally Byam. I often wonder what it must have been like to attend a rally or caravan with such an adventurous, driven, and visionary man. I believe that our unit embodies the spirit and camaraderie that Wally started long ago, and we intend to keep growing and prospering in that same spirit.



Both Arizona and New Mexico are celebrating 100 years of statehood this year with year-long events and celebrations to mark this milestone. Happy 100th Birthday Arizona and New Mexico!! And one more not-so-remarkable occasion . . . our 28' 1962 Ambassador Airstream turns 50 this year too!

Okay, on to Unit items! As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are working towards having Unit T Shirts. We are still getting the details finalized, and I hope to have this project ready to launch by the end of April. We need to get a few things settled prior to making them available for purchase.

Our Webmaster, Leon Hauck, has volunteered to be the point person for the T Shirt project when we are ready to launch. He is currently working on an order form that may be downloaded, printed, or sent electronically from our Web site. We have a couple of bugs to work through and we will announce when this is ready.

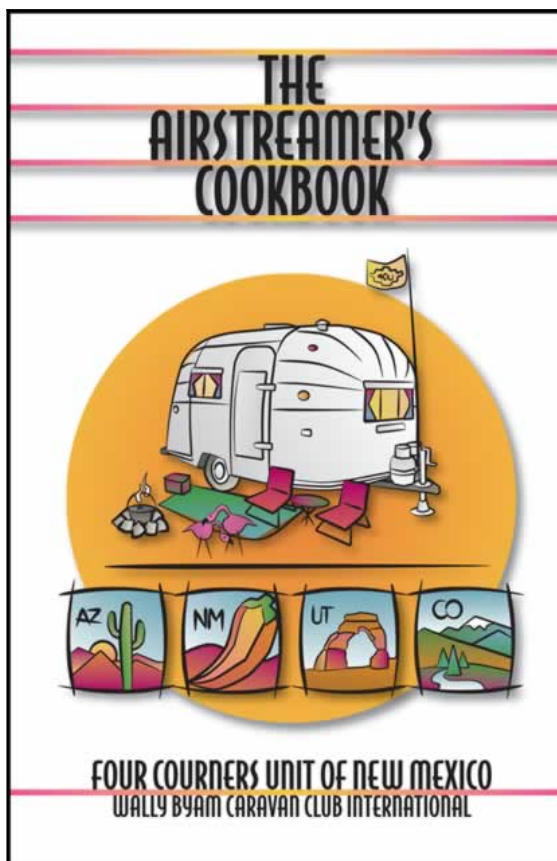
Our Treasurer, Howard Efner, is in the process of establishing a PayPal account for the Unit; our goal is to have another option for payment for items such as T Shirts, and for future 4CU items we may have to offer. This will also give those members who wish to renew their Unit Dues the ability to do so electronically and use a credit card. Of course we will still accept checks sent via mail! Terry Rich discusses the new Membership forms later on in this Newsletter.

As always we look forward to suggestions and comments from each and every one of you on how we may better serve our membership. Sergio and I wish everyone a Safe and Happy Spring, and we look forward to seeing you at an event in the very near future.

Many safe travels, - *Louis*

A Perfect Gift For An Airstreamer! 4CU Airstreamer's Cookbook!

Copies Are Still Available!



The Four Corners Unit Cookbook is a 100% volunteer effort with no cost to the Unit for design and production. The price is **\$15.00** per copy, with the proceeds going to the Four Corners Unit Treasury. We have sold a good number of copies at rallies throughout 2011 and this year, and we will have some copies for sale at the next upcoming gatherings!

If you would like to reserve a copy of the Cookbook to receive and pay for at an upcoming 4CU rally, contact Jan Girard at

4CUcookbook@gmail.com

It is also possible to order your Cookbook and have it sent to you - with an additional cost for shipping & handling. Contact Jan; she will take your order and answer any questions! - *Louis*

RALLY REPORT: 5TH ANNUAL 4CU NEW YEAR'S RALLY - PICACHO PEAK SP, AZ

by Linda Lawson



photo by Terry Rich

This year's rally at Picacho Peak SP was enjoyed under sunny skies, mild temperatures, and clear star-lit nights, thanks to co-host Louis, who ordered up the finest weather we've seen for the past five New Year's holidays. It was also the largest number of attendees this annual rally has had yet, and they were a grand group of celebrating Airstreamers!

The fun officially began on Friday, December 30, as silver trailers began arriving, folks began setting up, and then sitting back to relax and soak up a few rays of Arizona sunshine. A Happy Hour brought everyone together at the group ramadas; old friends were re-acquainted and new friends were introduced. At sunset a bonfire was started in the group fire pit and most everyone pulled up a chair to visit and stargaze into the wee hours.

Saturday was a beautiful day for taking a hike with fellow geocache hunters, visiting with friends, and checking out the local Ostrich Ranch and other roadside attractions. Soon the clock struck Happy Hour, and the New Year's Eve celebration was on its way! A Cook-Off contest with the theme "Favorite Childhood Recipes" brought some 16 delicious entries to the judging table. The judges (everyone present) sampled each of the tantalizing dishes and cast a vote for their favorite; entries included Red Velvet Cake, Vanilla Wafer Banana Cream Pie, Chocolate Fudge, Sister Loretta's Potatoes, Cherry Topped Yellow Cake,

Pork Ribs & Kraut, Stuffed Shells, Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Tuna Noodle Casserole, No Bake Cookies, Tater Tot Casserole, MORE (Ground Beef Goulash), Baked Ziti, and fresh-from-the-oven Pineapple Upside Down Cake - what a feast! It was a close call, but the winning entry was Carolyn Efner's Pork Ribs & Kraut dish! Thanks to all the chefs, and to the accounting firm of Chas Knotts & Co., who tallied the votes.

COOK OFF CONTEST - FAVORITE CHILDHOOD RECIPES



A Wii game and then the traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange followed the food; we saw some ingenious updates to re-gifted items from previous rallies, along with some brand new treasures and trash. The evening temperatures at Picacho do get a bit chilly in the winter, so all were eager to head over to the New Year's Eve Bonfire as the midnight hour approached. Champagne and sparkling cider were passed around, horns were tooted, there was shouting and laughter, some resolutions were made, and glasses were raised in toasts to absent friends, present company, and the 2012 New Year!



photo by Terry Rich



photo by Terry Rich

Sunday was New Year's Day, and Guest Chefs Girard & Girard started everyone off right with a delicious omelette & tortilla breakfast. (Regular hen's eggs were used this year, as the neighboring ostrich farm was unable to supply the traditional fresh ostrich egg for this feast!) Following breakfast there was a Park Ranger-led hike half way up the back side of the Peak that a few rally-goers participated in. Others relaxed, napped in the sun, visited with neighbors, or went sight-seeing in the area. A brief Happy Hour began at 4 PM, leading to a Potluck Dinner that offered enough food to keep the group nourished for another 3 days! There was something for everyone, and all was enjoyed and appreciated. Evening brought another opportunity to exchange news and stories into the wee hours around the group campfire.



photo by L Lawson



photo by Terry Rich

Monday was back to work, home, school, or Hit the Road Day; thanks to everyone who attended and best wishes for a great 2012! - Linda

RALLY REPORT: 6TH ANNUAL DEAD HORSE RALLY - DEAD HORSE RANCH SP, AZ by Richard Girard



photo by Dale Schwamborn

Polyester and lots of Bling came together for a weekend of fun at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, Arizona over President's Day weekend. A total of 28 Airstreams were parked in the group site with a couple more adjacent to the area. The days were sunny and warm and the evenings were perfect for sitting around the campfire. Saturday night's Disco Costume Contest brought back many memories and, in my case, a full head of hair. Everyone cast their votes for the best outfits; as hosts, Jan & I were not competing.

Best Disco Gal – Ronnie Ward



photo by L Lawson

Best Disco Guy – Sergio Quiros



photo by L Lawson

There were many others that dressed up for the event and the voting was very close. It was a great way to start an evening full of fun!

The White Elephant Gift Exchange that followed was a mixed bag of gifts, with several items being stolen several times. Some of the more "unique" gifts were recycled from previous gift exchanges and will most likely be seen again at future rallies.

Sunday night many of us enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Town Tavern in Old Town Cottonwood, and the few remaining folks on Tuesday spent the afternoon in the nearby old mining town of Jerome.

Jan and I would like to thank everyone who attended and pitched in to make this such a great event! Special thanks go out to Steve Kopp and Louis Hall for the rescue mission they performed (see article following). Steve and Louis really went above and beyond by giving up 6 hours of their time for their friends! - Richard

Best Disco Couple – Louis Hall and Sergio Quiros





photo by Ken Lawson



photo by Ken Lawson



photo by L Lawson

Many thanks to the following contributors; they made this issue possible!
Louis Hall, Richard Girard, Dale (PeeWee) Schwamborn, Tamara Rodriguez,
Anthony Rodriguez, Janis White, Julianne Campbell, Mike Smith, Terry Rich,
Greg Schmuker, Leon Hauck, Ken Lawson
& all those who contributed their 'early years' photos!

THE GREAT DEAD HORSE 6 RESCUE

by Anthony & Tamara Rodriguez (arodriguez60)



photo by T Rodriguez

A funny thing happened on the way to the 6th annual Dead Horse Rally in Cottonwood, Arizona - we had our tow vehicle break down. At the time it wasn't so funny, but like most unfortunate events in life, it happens. With any given non-tragic situation, most of us can find *something* to laugh about; often the irony of the event is enough to make me find the humor of the situation.

Let's start at the beginning of our journey - the very beginning. Back about 2003-ish, my husband and I had an S.O.B. RV. We had purchased a Winnebago, basically a bread box on wheels, to take the kids camping. Problem with old motor homes is, one - they sleep too many people, and two - once parked, you're pretty much stuck. We had many memorable adventures in this Winnebago, but ultimately it had to go. Anthony, my husband and rock, suggested that we look for one of those travel trailers that were made of aluminum, kind of like an old toaster on wheels. Me, I thought "Is he crazy"? Why would anyone want a trailer shaped like an old toaster?

OK, well the search commenced, and at every opportunity, Mr. R, as I fondly refer to my husband, kept looking at the classified ads for an Airstream trailer. Finally, I agreed to go look at one in our valley. Once inside, I agreed that they *were* unique, and looked kind of like an airplane inside. As luck would have it I knew the owner, due to having been a home health nurse - her foster children had been clients of mine in the past. The owner was

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asking 5000.00 for the 73 Safari. The trailer, only neglected, was in pretty decent shape. So, being that the owner knew me, she let us have her for 4000.00. We had our first Airstream!

In March 2005, we found and joined the Airstream Forums. In 2006, Anthony suggested that we go to an Airstream Rally in Arizona. He had found a group - the 4CU - who sounded like they were our kind of people. When we arrived at the rally in our 73 Safari, even though it was very late, there was Mike Bertch (scrapirony) to greet us and help us park. Wow, must be great folks to do that for us in the middle of the night! The next morning we were greeted by one and all and we proudly showed off our rig to anyone who wanted to look. Now our trailer wasn't new, or even renovated in grand style, but she was ours and we loved her. Yes, it was fair to say that we were addicted, even me. Today we own *four* Airstreams: three ready to roll, one waiting to be renovated.

After a few rallies with the 4CU group we were hooked on them as well. We had never met people who were so welcoming and fun loving. After joining the group, we have made every Dead Horse Rally since the first one. It was never an option to miss one Dead Horse Rally - in our opinion, the best rally ever!

So here we were, stranded in [Holbrook, Arizona](#), about 2 hours from our destination of Dead Horse Ranch State Park for DH6, the Disco Rally. Before we left from Alcalde, New Mexico, we had noticed that our 2006 F250 had a little white exhaust, probably due to getting diesel at a station known to have water in their fuel at times. About a mile outside Holbrook our turbo started acting funny and we were spewing white steam from the tail pipe, overheating, and losing power. We were able to make the off-ramp and pull into a gas station. Under the hood we noticed we didn't have any antifreeze in the reservoir. So we went and put some in, thinking that it had not been checked in quite awhile and we could just get back on the road. Well, think again, our problem wasn't solved by adding the antifreeze, and now the beast, as I fondly call our tow vehicle, was running badly. Thank goodness for smart phones, I was able to determine that a Ford dealer was right up the street from where we were located.

So here we go with our disabled truck and a 34 ft Limited, into the parking lot of the Ford dealer, not once wondering how we were going to get out of the parking lot. I fancied the idea that maybe they would let us unhitch our rig if necessary to fix our truck, and fast so we could be on our way, right? Ok, not realistic, but what the heck! They inform us that we have to drop our trailer before they can look at the truck; we should take it to the OK RV Park, a Good Sam park. Tate's Ford also informed us that they close at 5:30 PM, and it being 3 PM, we had better hurry or just come back in the morning.

After paying for one night, we dropped our rig and hobbled back to the Ford dealer to see what was wrong with the beast. I mean she's young, a great running truck - what could possibly be wrong with her? The young man at the service department informed us that it would either be an RGE valve or a blown head gasket - either way it was a 12 hour job and they didn't have the parts. After they diagnosed that the inter cooler and RGE valve were history, we were informed that it would be at least Monday morning. Crud, *we were going to miss DH6!*

Luckily, as part of my warranty, we were provided a rental car so we wouldn't be stuck at the trailer. It was during this time, I thought, "Hey! we could drive over to the rally, rent a cheap hotel and enjoy the festivities". I called our dear friends, Greg & Terry, who were already at the rally, to give them the bad news. We resigned ourselves to leaving our rig in the RV park. But I also secretly wished that the Airstream Trailer Fairy would pop up and rescue us from the dismal surroundings of Holbrook.

This trip, we were unveiling our 1983, 34 ft Limited for the first time. It was a gutted out disaster when we bought it, and now it was our pride and joy, as all of our Airstreams

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are. I ended up posting on the Forums my thoughts about being stranded in Holbrook, and about my secret desire for the Airstream Fairy. The next morning I left a message on Jan and Richard's cell phone about my wish for an Airstream Fairy, thinking that maybe, just maybe, someone would think of a way to get our trailer there.

As we were getting ready to pay for the additional nights at the RV park, we got a call from Richard. He let us know that Steve Kopp was getting ready to drive in his truck to Holbrook to pick up our rig and tow us to the rally! Not a small undertaking since the Limited is 34 ft of trailer and usually needs a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck to pull it. About 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours later we heard a diesel truck rumble by our trailer and our saviors had arrived: Steve Kopp and Louis Hall!



photo by Ken Lawson

So finally, to make a long story shorter, we hooked up and away we all went. Steve and Louis in the truck, and Anthony, my brother Cliff, and myself in the red Ford Focus rental car. When we all arrived at Dead Horse Ranch State Park safe and sound, we were greeted to the great crowd at the rally, as always making all welcome who attend. I personally am very grateful that we have friends like those in

the Four Corners Unit - not many folks would drive 2 hours each way to rescue a stranded member! The Four Corners Unit can be counted on for fun, adventure, and good times. And an occasional rescue mission! - *Tamara & Anthony*



photo by Terry Rich

2011 4CU Annual Financials – 01/01/11 to 12/31/11

by Howard Efner

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Starting Balance | 622.84 |
| Income | |
| Dues | 6,300.00 |
| NYE Rally Raffle | 198.00 |
| NYE Rally Donation | 50.00 |
| Cookbook Sales | 1,540.00 |
| DH 5 Rally Raffle | 94.00 |
| News Letter Ads | 40.00 |
| Affiliate Badges | 50.00 |
| General Fund Donation | 45.00 |
| Total | 8,317.00 |
| Expenditures | |
| International Dues | 6,110.00 |
| 4CU Banner | 90.00 |
| Postage - Treasurer | 21.00 |
| Postage - Membership | 36.36 |
| Total | 6,257.36 |
| Ending Balance | 2,682.48 |

MARCH 2012 4CU WEB SITE NEWS

by Leon Hauck

While we haven't gotten any updates from the WBCCI web hosting service that we use, we are making headway with a few projects on our own.

We are working on an online form and payment system for people to either sign up or renew their 4CU membership - hopefully that will be in place within the next month.

Additionally, we are working on an option for online rally registration and payment - where the payments would go direct to the rally hosts. It will be totally up to the individual rally hosts whether to use it or not.

Finally, I have put a short (8 questions) online survey up at the link below with some general questions to get some information about how you as a 4CU member would like to share photos with the group. Check it out at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NZRRJQ>

As always, please feel free to send any questions or comments about the Web site to

leon@boondocking.net - Leon

<http://fourcorners.wbcci.net>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JANIS WHITE, 4CU TRUSTEE (barbara4rb)

My partner, Barbara Johnston, and I bought our 1992 Airstream Sovereign in 2009 and our very first trip was to the Four Corners Unit Rally at Lake Heron, NM. We had such a fabulous time and felt so welcome by all of the 4CU folks there, that we joined the unit and have never looked back. That quality of bonhomie defines 4CU, I believe, and plays a big role in the continued growth of our unit. As a Trustee for 4CU, I will work to keep that openness and friendliness as our signature!

I am still looking forward to fully retiring someday. For now, I work as a software engineer on various small projects with other small, self-employed adventurers. Back when the economy was all a-go-go-go, I helped develop software for customers at NASA and the US Army. To a small-town girl from the high plains of Texas, it was quite exciting to be involved with real, live astronauts. The weather in Houston, Texas made fieldwork something to be feared. After a full August day outside testing equipment, I have never been so grateful for the air-conditioning at the hotel. An added bonus to being inside was relief from the mosquitoes. Like most everything in Texas, those bad boys were big and hungry and there were lots of them.

Barbara and I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She's really the one who got us into an Airstream and on the road to Lake Heron in 2009. I am glad she did because we've learned so much and made great new friends we wouldn't have met otherwise. To date, our longest trip has been from Albuquerque to Orange, California and back. We've spent a couple of New Year's weekends at the 4CU rally at Picacho Peak. So far, I think those rallies are my favorite because the venue is lovely and the folks there are ready to have a good time.

I wouldn't want to leave you with the impression that everything has gone smoothly. No, we have had our share of glitches, but we are getting better at dealing with them. For some reason, we experience plumbing problems of one sort or another on most of our trips. Our inaugural trip included no toilet since the drainpipe for the black water tank detached somewhere between our driveway and our campsite! Before we got the axles replaced to give us adequate ground-clearance, we had to have the drainpipe repaired a couple of times. We coped and learned that we really can get by for a while without the toilet (and with the help of our friends)!

Another feature of many of our trips so far is hauling the Airstream when the wind is blowing. During our first trip to Picacho, we had winds beyond breezy and quartering both out and back. The long trip to Orange included substantial winds across the Mohave and in the canyons coming in and out of the Los Angeles basin. Of course, with a little experience and since it is an Airstream, we hardly notice the winds now.

Currently, we travel with two dogs, Meg and Carly. Meg is a Tibetan Spaniel and is absolutely sure she rules the world. Carly is the youngster and will be three in May. She is a mixed-breed rescue that we call "New Mexico Brown Dog." They are both good travelers and love it when the Airstream appears in the driveway. In addition to the dogs, I have an ex-racing Thoroughbred horse. He would be a good traveler as well, but he's a bit too big to fit in the Airstream!

I wish all members of 4CU many fun trips and great rallies in 2012. Look forward to seeing you and your Airstreams! -Janis

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JULIANNE CAMPBELL (JulianneJ)

Q: Name? Residence City & State? Occupation?

A: *Julianne Jill Campbell, Surprise, AZ, Lady of Leisure*

Q: What made you choose an Airstream and what was your first camping trip in one?

A: *I spent a year of going to a lot of RV dealerships and RV shows in the Seattle area where I lived. I was so disappointed to see 'oak' cabinets and carpet in RV's - I didn't want 'my parents RV', I wanted something with style, something unique like me. One day I was sitting in my house staring out at the ocean when **bam!** the light bulb went off in my head - AIRSTREAM. I found a dealership in Fife, WA, and decided to make the trip out there to check out Airstreams. They had 3 models on the lot. The 25 foot was too big, the Bambi was too little, but the 22ft was just right! A week later I was driving off the lot with my current Airstream. I had not*

towed anything before and I just plunked down cash for an Airstream and was towing it across the Tacoma Narrows Bridge at the speed of about 25 miles an hour, a bundle of nerves - but right away I noticed people giving me the eye of approval and I knew this was going to be good. My first camping trip was to a little place called Rest-A-While on Hood Canal just north of Hoodspport, WA. I wasn't prepared to take all 3 of my beasts at that point, so it was just Rex & Me; I don't think I even unhitched and had to have assistance getting the awning out. Nine years later and I still believe buying an Airstream is the best decision I ever made!

Q: What has been your favorite trip in your Airstream so far?

A: *There is no way I can pick a favorite because each trip is its own adventure. Being a West Coast Girl, now residing in the desert, I love getting to the ocean whenever possible. Whether its the California Coast with my Silver Sisters, or Rocky Point with my Boyz, or simply going it alone, waking up to the ocean is my bliss.*

Q: Have you had any close calls when traveling in your Airstream?

A: *Of course! Its all a learning experience.*

Q: Have you ever hosted an Airstream Rally; if so, what is that experience like? Where have you camped that you think would be a great location to hold a rally?

A: *I have yet to host a rally but am looking into doing a Wine Rally in Southern AZ in the fall. The bar has been set pretty high as far as 4CU rallies go. If/when I do host one, it will be in the theme of "come camp and have fun" - Julianne doesn't decorate ramadas :)*

Q: If you travel in your Airstream full time, what has been the most difficult adjustment you've made compared to living in a house?

A: *I don't full time but I do take months at a time to travel in the traila. I find it much easier now that I am poochless. Learning to live with less has been my biggest discovery.*

Q: Do you travel with any pets or children; if so, where do they ride while on the road, and how do you manage them inside your rig?

A: *For many years I traveled with my pack of pooches. 300 pounds of pooch was a challenge at times, but I cherish the memories of places I traveled with my fur babies. The main thing was when we were in the traila, each dog had their spot and had to go to it; there simply wasn't enough room for mingling about.*

Q: If you could take your Airstream anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

A: *Loaded question - there are so many places I would love to go. In the near future I would like to travel across country to the East Coast (I've never been). I'm a huge history buff and seeing historical American places would be such a treat for me. Traveling through Europe would be a thrill, but I don't have the stones for that so I will happily make my way in the States and when Europe is on the agenda it will be by air!*

Q: As a member of the 4CU, do you have any suggestions for what would make the Club more fun or interesting to you? What future do you see for the WBCCI?

A: *Could our club get more fun or interesting? I am more than happy with my 4CU family.*

-Julianne

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\$5 for one Newsletter issue

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are Airstream-related is \$15 an issue)

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MEMBER NEWS

Kathy & Larry Young traveled to Ohio for the funeral of Kathy's father who passed away in late January. Please accept our condolences, Kathy & Larry. **Tracy Bertch's** father passed away in late January. She and **Mike** spent time in Austin, TX taking care of her father's affairs. We are so sorry for your loss, Mike & Tracy. 4CU members **Carrie & Kevin Bye** and their family moved from Lee's Summit, MO to Carrollton, GA so that Kevin could accept a new position there. We hope you are settling into your new digs and life in Georgia, and hope to see you in the Four Corners area again soon!. **Jim Dahmann & Shirley Levitz** have relocated from Tucson, AZ to Sarasota, FL and are enjoying the climate there while Jim is recuperating from recent health issues. Hope to see you again soon, Jim & Shirley!. **Pat Cahalan** is taking it easy at home in Maricopa, AZ with his wife **Babs** for a bit. Pat is in rehab from a stroke he suffered back in January, but once he is cleared to drive again, we hope to see them both at a 4CU Rally! We wish you a speedy recovery, Pat!

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

by **Terry Rich**

Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to WELCOME the following New Members to the 4CUnit:

Erick Asplund & Ramona Marsden, Phoenix, AZ (4CU)
Alan & Bonnie Bobman, Scottsdale, AZ (4CU)
Gary & Myrna Burnham, Rogers, MN (Affiliates, MN Unit)
John & Colleen Cosgrove, Irvine, CA (4CU)
Jerry & Kathryn Crowder, Albuquerque, NM (4CU)
Jim & Suzi Farrar, Poway, CA (Affiliates, San Diego Unit)
Larry & Jeanne Gifford, Davison, MI (4CU)
William Holland, Elephant Butte, NM (Affiliate, NM Unit)
Phil & Betty Lanasa, Zavalla, TX (Affiliates, TX Gulf Coast Unit)
John (Buddy) Lorio & Betsey Bretton, Albuquerque, NM (4CU)
Paul Mayeux & Ann Flanagan, Paradise, TX (Affiliates, Heart of TX Unit)
Keith & Gloria Peters, Minneapolis, MN (Affiliates, MN Unit)
Paul & Linda Ridgway, Lake Havasu, AZ (4CU)
Burt & Carol Rivierre, Surprise, AZ (4CU)
Dale Sandberg & Lou Rowley, Phoenix, AZ (4CU, Transfer from AZ Unit)
Jerry & Marilyn Thomas, Willis, TX (Affiliates, TX Costal Plains Unit)

Welcome to each of you! We are pleased to have you on board, and we look forward to seeing you all around the 4CUnit campfire as often as possible.

Our Numbers:

As of this writing the 4CUnit has 97 Full Members, 75 Affiliate Members (members of other WBCCI units who also want to be part of the 4CU, paying just the \$1 Unit portion of the dues)...and 1 Honorary Member for a grand total of 173 members. (This includes all members who renewed or joined after 1 July 2011 for the 2012 membership year.)

4CU Affiliate Membership Badges Now Available!

Some of our Affiliate Members have asked if it's possible to acquire 4CUnit Affiliate Member Badges. We can now provide Affiliates with 4CU Affiliate Name Badges and lanyards for

a \$5 contribution per badge (in addition to the \$1 Unit Dues). That's \$10 for a couple and \$5 for a single badge. Of course, this is optional. If new Affiliates would like to have a 4CU Affiliate Name Badge, they should check the box on the attached membership form ... and include the Affiliate Badge Fee with the Unit Dues. If you're already an Affiliate and want name badge(s) just send a note with your check to Howard and we'll take care of you.

You Can Help the 4CU Membership Grow!

When we camp there are often opportunities to relate our good times in the 4CU to other Airstreamers we meet along the way. Why not print out some 4CU applications and take them along with you when you go camping ... or keep a copy on your laptop to send to folks you meet while camping! You just never know when someone will want information about the 4CU!

There's a New Twist on the 4CU Membership Application Form:

A revised 2012 4CU Membership Application is available on the 4CU Web site. There are two versions: a PDF file and a .doc (Microsoft Word) file:

PDF File: http://4cu.boondocking.net/docs/4CU_2012_Member_Application.pdf

Word Document: http://4cu.boondocking.net/docs/4CU_2012_Member_Application.doc

There is little content change to the Membership Application, but we have added *fields* for each category of information. *You can type information directly into the PDF file.* Depending on what software you have available, you can fill out the form on your computer and either email it to Howard at

fcu-treas@cybermesa.com

followed by your check (in the regular mail), OR print it out and snail-mail it to Howard along with your dues check. Just click on each field and type in your information! (If you are unable to "save" the form, you should still be able to print it out in its completed form.) You can also print a blank form if you wish, and fill it in by hand.

Questions?

If you have any questions about membership please contact Terry Rich, Membership Chair, at Terry@TBRich.com. Happy trails - **Terry**



ARE YOU A MEMBER OF WWW.AIRFORUMS.COM?

Many 4CU members are also members of the largest online Airstream community available, www.Airforums.com. For those of you who are not familiar with the Airforums, consider joining it to take advantage of the wealth of information, the fun of being part of a large online Airstream community, and the potential friendships to be made.

It is not necessary to become a registered member of the Airforums in order to research and find available information, but one must be a registered member in order to post questions and fully participate in discussions and the exchange of ideas and information. Membership in the Airforums is easy . . . and it is free. You simply create a profile, sharing as much or as little information about yourself as you wish, and create a name that will appear with your posts. The name you create for yourself is how other members of the Airforums will know you.

Why is the Airforums Useful for 4CU Members?

One of the features of the Airforums is the ability to create private areas for groups and clubs. The 4CU has established a private area of the Airforums where members of the 4CU (Full Members, Honoraries and Affiliates) can communicate and post items of interest to fellow 4CUnit members, such as upcoming rallies, etc. Membership in the 4CU private area is available only to members of the 4CU. Discussion threads created within the 4CU section are visible only to those who have gained access to the 4CU private area. Interested parties must request access to the 4CU private area. Currently, we have fewer than half of 4CU members participating in the Airforums' 4CU private area.

Here's how you Gain Access to the Private 4CU Area:

1. First, you must be a registered member of the Airforums and a Full, Honorary, or Affiliate Member of the 4CUnit.
2. Click on "User CP" (User Control Panel) in the blue navigation banner at the top of each page of the Airforums.
3. You will be directed to your personal User Control Panel Page . . . this is where you determine settings for your account. On the left side of the page, find the "Networking" section and click on "Clubs & Groups".
4. You will be taken to a page that shows clubs that are available to join. "WBCCI #004 Four Corners Unit" will appear in the list of available clubs. (If you are already a member of the 4CU private area it is not shown in the list you see.)
5. Check the "Join Group" circle on the right . . .
6. Then click the "Join Group" button at the bottom of the section.
7. You will then see a dialogue box where you type your request for access to the private section. Be sure to include your real name in case we don't recognize your Airforums name.
8. Then click "Send Request."

We will receive a PM (Personal Message) showing your request via the Airforums. We'll give you access and notify you that you have been admitted. It's that simple!

You will automatically "see" threads created in the 4CU private area or new posts made to existing threads, just as you see new threads and posts in any of the public areas.

You may "unjoin" any group you have membership in at any time by returning to the "Groups & Clubs" page, selecting the group you want to leave at the bottom, and clicking "Leave Group".

Please let me know if you have any questions or need a clarification of anything; we hope to see you joining the Airforums 4CU private area. You may also contact an Airforums Moderator for help navigating the site.

- Terry

4CU Membership Chair

"TBRich" on the Airforums





THE APACHE TRAIL, ARIZONA

travelogue & photos by Mike Smith



If you're looking for an incredible scenic drive near Phoenix, Arizona that can be completed in a day or two that also offers excellent camping opportunities, then the Apache Trail (Arizona-88) is right for you. Indeed, President Theodore Roosevelt, who drove the 39-mile long route in 1911, called the Apache Trail "one of the most spectacular best-worth-seeing sights of the world."

Nestled in between the Four Peaks and Superstition Wilderness Areas in the Tonto National Forest, the Apache Trail serves as a gateway to breathtaking, virgin scenery. Varying in elevations between 1,715 ft to

3,050 ft, the trail will take you down through steep, bronze-colored canyons and desert saguaro forests, along mountain lakes and streams, and around rocky, jagged peaks.

Motorists should be warned that driving the Apache Trail does have its challenges. The 22-mile stretch between Tortilla Flat and the Roosevelt Dam is unpaved, so you'll be driving on rough, washboard surfaces in places. This portion of the route also includes a spectacular and dizzying 1000 ft drop down Fish Creek Hill (mile post 225.5) along a steep canyon wall at a 15-17% grade. You'll need to be on your toes as you drive down this hill as the road



twists and turns and narrows in places where only one vehicle at a time can pass (the road is so narrow here that we had to pull in our driving mirrors to provide sufficient clearance for vehicles driving in the opposite direction to pass). The trail also features numerous switchbacks and blind, hair-pin turns that will also require your undivided attention.

While most passenger cars can safely navigate the Apache Trail, I recommend a jeep, truck, or SUV. Most RVs are okay . . . I know several who have successfully towed short Airstream travel trailers down Fish Creek Hill but it was still a white-knuckle experience for them. Due to this hill and some of the hair-pin turns you'll encounter throughout the trail, I wouldn't recommend towing a boat, travel trailer or fifth wheel longer than 22ft . . . We found that the truck camper was an ideal RV for driving the Apache Trail. I'd also recommend anything similar like a Class B or small Class C motorhome. . . .

Read more at Mike's Travelogue Blog:

<http://mellomikeswolfcreekcamper.blogspot.com/2011/12/travelogue-apache-trail-az.html>



CITY OF ROCKS STATE PARK, NEW MEXICO

Travel Log & Photos by Terry Rich & Greg Schmuker



Heading East to New Mexico . . . and City of Rocks State Park, May 2008

Monday, 19 May, we took highway 180 south and east out of Silver City, NM . . . 30 miles down the road toward Deming was the turnoff to City of Rocks State Park, which is about 4 miles east off the road. This is a very open, desolate area of New Mexico . . . a big broad valley with rolling hills and lots of yucca plants, grass, a few prickly pear cacti here and here . . . surrounded by distant mountain ranges. . . .

As you drive toward the park you can see City of Rocks . . . an outcrop of rock pillars and boulders that seem to rise up out of the flatlands around them. It's a very interesting thing to come upon . . . the rock formations are other-worldly. The literature says that some of the pillars are 40 feet tall, and there are a lot of those "balanced rock" formations that you are sure are going to tumble at the slightest breeze. It's a photographer's paradise, too, with lots of perspectives and unusual scenes to enjoy. What's fun is that there are camp sites tucked away right in the rocks . . . very charming settings for a camp-out.

There is a very nice modern visitor's center . . . and there are 50 campsites, 10 of which are in a loop near the visitor's center and have electrical and water hookups. There are no sewer hookups and there is no dump station at this park, so come with empty holding tanks.

There are showers at the visitor's center, and vault toilets sprinkled about the grounds. The electrical/water sites are very nicely landscaped and each has a covered shelter on a cement slab with a fire ring and picnic table. The dry camping sites are the more interesting, in that they are literally hidden in the rock formations . . . some of them actually sit beneath balanced rocks and in narrow openings between rock pillars. . . .

The electrical loop is on the east side of the rocks so the sun sets behind the rocks from that location If you go to the west side of the formation at sunset you are treated to a great New Mexico sunset across the valley toward the mountains in the distance

Our account is continued . . . with more pictures on our travel log at

http://www.tbrich.com/azbambi/scitycor_cor_may08_intro.html



Voted Most Likely to Become An Airstreamer



Whirlwind



Safari



Airlite



Porterhouse



Discothèque

Can You
Tell Who
They
Are?

check the 4CU
Web site for
answers!

The Early Years of the 4CU

<http://fourcorners.wbcci.net/newsletters>

UPCOMING RALLIES:**St. Patrick's Day Rally 2012****Four Corners Unit of the WBCCI****Dates: March 15 – 20, 2012****Location: McDowell Mountain Regional Park, Fountain Hills, AZ**
www.maricopa.gov/parks/mcdowell**Hosts: Paul & Ronnie McWard - toocubed@yahoo.com phone 630-235-9644**
Mike & Betty Gardiner - bttygardiner@yahoo.com

This will be the first 4CU St. Patrick's Day Rally. The dates are Thursday March 15 – Tuesday March 20 (vernal equinox). Bring your AIRSTREAM to McDowell Mountain Regional Park which is just North of Fountains Hills and just South of Rio Verde. We have the group camp area, limit 30 rigs, reserved adjacent to the South Campground entrance. The campground has a ramada, flush toilets with showers, and a big campfire pit.

- **The camping fee is \$15 per day; you can pay at the park entrance or the visitor center.**
- **The rally fee is \$20.00 payable at the rally.**

This is dry camping so bring your generator or solar panels. There is water available for filling up your tanks and a dump station. The ramada does have limited electrical outlets. Bring firewood for the evening campfires and wood is available for sale at the park. The adjacent South campground has hookups if anyone needs them.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park is a jewel in the Maricopa County parks system. It covers over 21,000 acres of wonderful desert with spectacular views. There are over 40 miles of moderate hiking and biking trails. There is a competitive track for hard core mountain bikers. We will be close to Ft. McDowell Casino, Fountain Hills shopping, Saguaro Lake, and the Verde River.

The Rally schedule is coming together. We're planning a potluck for Friday night so please bring your favorite GREEN food and Irish libations. Saturday Irish stew will be provided and plan to bring a dish to pass to complete our Irish feast.

For questions contact your hosts Paul & Ronnie at toocubed@yahoo.com or Mike & Betty at bttygardiner@yahoo.com

St. Patrick's Rally Registration**Complete and send to Paul Ward, 300 Mission Rd. Sedona, AZ 86336****Name(s)_____ Number in party_____****Address_____****City, State, Zip_____****Email_____WBCCI#_____Trailer length_____ft.****Special food request_____**

UPCOMING RALLIES:**Second Annual Spring Break at the Lake Rally**

Lake Pleasant Regional Park
Friday April 20, 2012
to

Monday April 23, 2012
(check out by noon)
Racoon Campground
Group Site

Dry Camping - No Hookups
(electricity & water
available at ramada)
Modern & Clean
Restrooms & Showers
Dump Station nearby
Early Arrivals Welcome -
Check at Gate

Join Us For:

Kayaking, Geocaching, Hiking, Bicycle Trails
Movies, Stargazing, Nightly Bonfire, Bingo, and more!

"Stargazing at Lake Pleasant Come enjoy a fun presentation about the stars, looking out across the lake, sitting in our amphitheater. Learn about the night sky by the fun people from "Stargazing For Everyone." This program will have a slide presentation and then an interactive session with several large telescopes. Come spend the evening learning more about those little twinkles in the sky. Once in the park just follow the signs to the visitor center"

http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/lake_pleasant/

Rally Cost: \$15 per night per trailer

Send checks to:

Stephen C. Kopp
26629 S Papago Place
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

There is a sign up page to RSVP on Airforums at

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/calendar.php?do=getinfo&day=2012-4-20;&e=912&c=1>

UPCOMING RALLIES:

Four Corners Unit - WBCCI Rally
5th Annual Vintage Restoration Rally
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 June 7-11, 2012
 Host: Ken Johansen/Four Corners Unit



Schedule

Thursday, June 7

Arrive Enchanted Trails RV Resort

Friday, June 8

Classroom and hands-on instruction

Saturday, June 9

Breakfast provided

Classroom and hands-on instruction

Catered dinner provided

Sunday, June 10

Breakfast provided

Classroom and hands-on instruction

Monday, June 11

Depart for home

Information

Feeling vintage? Airstream vintage, that is! We're happy to announce the 5th Annual Vintage Restoration Rally at Enchanted Trails RV Park in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This is a serious, seminar-style rally taught by professionals for anyone interested in the restoration process. Whether you are considering a project, in the middle of one, or are curious to see how Airstreams are put together, this part-classroom/part-hands-on rally is for you!

Instruction includes: Rivet and skin skills taught by aircraft experts; Cabinet building skills; Electrical wiring; Axles; Brakes; Door and window rebuilding/repair; Solar, and more!

Enchanted Trails RV Park, an old Route 66 Trading Post, has been gracious to provide us full hook up sites at \$16/night. Please make your reservations directly with the park by calling: (505) 831 6317. www.EnchantedTrails.com

5th Annual Vintage Restoration Rally Coupon

Name _____

Email address (*used for all communications!*) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Cell _____

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Costs: | Single | \$ 50.00 | _____ |
| | Couple | \$ 85.00 | _____ |
| | Family | \$100.00 | _____ |
| | TOTAL ENCLOSED | \$ | ===== |

Please mail coupon and check for rally (payable to Four Corners Unit/WBCCI) by **MAY 15, 2012** to:
 Ken Johansen, P. O. Box 1554, Tijeras, NM 87059
 Questions? Contact Ken at: Johansen@frontier.net

Call Enchanted Trails RV Park directly to make your campsite reservations (505) 831 6317

UPCOMING RALLIES:**Summer Solstice on the Rocks**

Nearest Town: Silverton, CO

Campground Name: Eureka mine/town site

Starts: June 19, 2012

Ends: June 22, 2012

Rally Fee: TBD

**Hosts: Mike Bertch (scrapirony@frontier.net)
and**

Howard Efner (hfefer@cybermesa.com)

We are planning a celebration of the Summer Solstice on June 20th. The dates of the rally are June 19th through June 22nd. The rally will be dry camping about 10 miles North of Silverton,

Colorado at the Eureka mine/town site. Eureka is a public lands 14 day no charge camping area on the Animas River. Sites will be on a first-come arrangement, as reservations are not allowed, so there may be some gaps in continuity.

- June 18, 2012 - Early Arrivals
- June 19, 2012 - Rally Begins
- June 20, 2012 - Summer Solstice at 5:09 PM MDT
- June 21, 2012 - First full day of Summer
- June 22, 2012 - Rally Ends, Happy Trails

Rally activities will include a Happy Hour each evening, a Summer Solstice Pot Luck dinner, and evening campfires (weather and fire restrictions permitting). We may go into Silverton for dinner on the 21st. Other activities can include riding the train through Animas Canyon (\$\$\$), trash and trinket hunting in Silverton, tourist watching, Silverton Brewery, Montanya Rum Distillery, exploring the high country, fishing, visiting the Ouray Hot Springs Pool, and power napping.

Since this is a dry camping site, bring your generator, fire wood, etc. We will need to pack all of our trash out at the end of the rally. Since the only paved way into Silverton is US 550, and you will be going over one or two 10,000 ft.+ passes (Red Mountain or Coalbank & Molas Divide), have your water tanks empty. Your rally fee (TBD) will include the cost of a fresh water fill and holding tank dump in Silverton.

CAUTIONARY NOTES: The rally site is at an elevation of about 9,700 ft. Altitude acclimation and altitude sickness can be a problem. The elevation can also cause problems with high BP, respiratory problems, dehydration, and other health issues. The nearest definitive medical care is about 80 miles away. Cell phone coverage in the area is marginal to non-existent!

Since weather conditions can rapidly change in the mountains, be prepared for rapid temperature changes and precipitation. Warm layered clothing, good hiking shoes and rain gear are highly recommended. Daytime temperatures should be in the 60s to low 70s while overnight lows will be around freezing.

Sign-up deadline is June 1, 2012. No refunds after June 10, 2012.

Once all plans have been finalized, a sign-up sheet will be posted on Airforums.

2012 Upcoming 4CU Rally Schedule



| When | What | Where | Host(s) | Contact |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| March 15-20 2012 | St Patrick's Rally | <u>McDowell Mountain Regional Park</u> Fountain Hills, AZ | Paul & Ronnie McWard & Mike & Betty O'Gardiner | btttygardiner @yahoo.com and/or toocubed @yahoo.com |
| April 20-23 2012 | Spring Break at the Lake | <u>Lake Pleasant Regional Park</u> North Phoenix, AZ | Steve & Faith Kopp & Mike & Betty Gardiner | qrsk @aol.com and/or btttygardiner @yahoo.com |
| June 7-11 2012 | Restoration Rally | <u>Enchanted Trails RV Park & Trading Post</u> Albuquerque, New Mexico | Ken Johansen | <u>fourcornersunit</u> @hotmail.com |
| June 19-22 2012 | Summer Solstice On The Rocks | <u>Eureka, CO</u> Public Lands Site North of Silverton, CO | Mike Bertch & Howard Efner | scrapirony @frontier.net and/or hfefner @cybermesa.com |
| October 5-9 2012 | Balloon Fiesta Rally | <u>Balloon Fiesta Park</u> Albuquerque, New Mexico | Ken Johansen | <u>fourcornersunit</u> @hotmail.com |
| October 10-14 2012 | Region 11 Rally | <u>Montezuma County Fairgrounds</u> Cortez, Colorado | Richard & Jan Girard | rgirard5 @cox.net |

And more to come!