



Prairie Rose

Wally Byam Caravan Club International
The Airstream RV Owners' Club



April 2009

www.nodak.wbcci.net

Volume 6 Issue 1



Enjoying an ice cream were Carolyn Coonrod, Sandi and John DeYoung, and Ron and Rose Larson, with Bruce Coonrod behind the camera in Harlingen, TX

Texas Vintage Rally ♦ Mardi Gras Rally ♦ Cajun Caravan ♦ Pelican State Rally

On the Road again... with the Coonrods

Jan. 12th

We left a week ago Friday, whatever day that was. We didn't get on the road until 11:30 a.m. We made it to Concordia, KS, and the temperature warmed from the 8 degrees at departure to the lower 40s. Made it to Dallas at sunset Saturday. The temperature was 85, but it changed overnight and then rained.

We visited the Fort Worth facility where paper U.S. currency is printed and also saw the King Tut display at the Dallas museum. Drove by George Bush's new home and took a photo. They soon will be installing a security gate to keep us lookers out.

Today we drove from Dallas to Port Aransas, getting here at sunset. The weather will be good the next two days, so will go fishing. Then it's suppose to get crappy. Will do other things then.

I'm sitting outside at a picnic table using WiFi from a hotel a couple blocks away. The vintage rally begins Feb. 4, I think.

Jan 15th

It was a little chilly this morning at 52 degrees, but went fishing anyway. How's your minus 44? The photo is of fish we caught yesterday.

Jan 24th

We're headed to Harlingen Monday. Larson says the campground they are in has vacancies, so will try there first.

We were inter-



viewed and photographed a couple days ago for an article in the Port Aransas weekly paper, *The South Jetty* - their website:

www.portasouthjetty.com

The reporter was doing a piece on various RVs—expensive motorhomes, homemade jobs, the traditional trailer (us) and one other I don't remember. I flew our U.S. and South Dakota flags and the wind was just right.

The article will be out next week, but it won't include everything. That will show up later in the archive editions.



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President's Corner.....

by Rose Larson



We are starting to move northward and looking forward to finalizing this summers rallies and seeing all our airstream friends once again. Although from the sounds of things glad we are not up there yet.

We have had a great winter that went fast. Kept busy with square dancing and country music jam sessions. Also attended the Airstream luncheon on Valentines Day. (More details to follow)

If anyone is going and interested to taking the bulletin board, etc. to the International Rally in Madison, please let me know and I will bring it to the rally in Dickinson, as Ron and I are unable to go.

Take care, Ron & Rose

By Don McKelvey

Well, the first **Airstreamers in the Valley** is over and I trust each of you enjoyed the great food - I even saw some who had 'at least' second

helpings of ICE CREAM!!, but who should be surprised at that! This was a wonderful opportunity to meet many of our old friends as well as develop new ones. Thank you to all those who donated to the local food bank - Anne Barrett reported the donations totaled \$81.

Many of you, and even a few who could not make it this year, have indicated they would really like to have a similar Luncheon next year. I am open to suggestions and so far am thinking of Peter Piper Pizza or the Golden Corral again in Weslaco - please let me know your opinions/recommendations.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to protect our members from having their personal information being made available ONLINE when this newsletter is posted to our website, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are omitted here. Please consult your unit membership directory

2009 Calendar of Events

May 27-30, 2009	SD Unit Spring Rally - Lake Park Campground, Rapid City
June 4-7, 2009	Spring Rally - North Park Campground - Dickinson, ND
June 28 - July 4, 2009	52nd International Rally - Madison, Wisconsin
June 29, 2009	Region 7 Luncheon - Madison, Wisconsin
July 2, 2009	Unit Luncheon - To be announced
August 1-3, 2009	Picnic Rally - To be announced
August 4-9, 2009	Region 7 Folklorama Rally - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
August 6, 2009	Unit Luncheon - To be announced
Aug. 27-30, 2009	SD Unit Installation Rally - Ryken's 8th Street RV & Market Campground, Yankton, SD
Sept. 17-20, 2009	Installation Rally - Downstream Campground, Riverdale



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Feb 1st

On Friday, we followed DeYongs over to South Padre Island, which has changed considerably from when we first tented there in 1971.

Yesterday we met the DeYongs for burgers and onion rings at a place in Wesleco. Today we picked up DeYongs and went back to Padre for a kite-flying festival of some sort. Tomorrow we're going to Progresso, Mexico, then have supper at Wild Willie's, the home of the big spuds. We ate there two years ago, or it's more like stuffed ourselves.

Feb. 2nd

We went into Mexico today and were able to make a buy. Brought it through customs wrapped in newsprint and carried in a nonconspicuous plastic bag. It's the good stuff...will make your cookies pop. *[Mexican vanilla, of course! - what did you think he was talking about?]*

We had a cold front come in last night with lots of wind, but it was still in the mid-50s this morning. We went to a pick-your-own grapefruit orchard this morning. Picked two 5-gallon buckets for the price of \$2 a bucket. Going to make the dogs eat grapefruit for breakfast for the next month.

I absolutely do not miss snow and cold weather.

Feb 5th

We've completed our first day at the Texas Vintage Rally with a potluck and a talk by Pee Wee Schwamborn. There are 102 units here, nearly 40 of them vintage. Can you imagine how much food was at the potluck with 102 or more dishes? Hathaway and Collier are attending.

This morning we had a seminar on the restoration of a 1954 Flying Cloud. This afternoon was a seminar on replacing axels, and, yes, I did learn something even though I did it last summer.

This Flying Cloud was picked up in western Texas, but another fella I met picked up one last year in a small



town in North Dakota 30 miles from the Canada border.

Doug and Terry Rowbottom of Ontario are here. They have three vintage units, and Doug answers all my stupid questions. We brought our '87 from them when we were in Florida a few years ago. They delivered it to Pierre. I remember Doug telling me how he installed a gray

water system on his 1967 Safari. He made a grid using 4-inch PVC that is suspended under the trailer with brackets. Holds about 20 gallons. Hangs below the belly pan and is barely visible.

Carolyn was admiring Rowbottom's polished aluminum tanks. Ours are steel on the 1968. A dealer is here with a few units and parts. He had used aluminum tanks for \$60 a piece, so I bought two. It must have been a good deal because Doug said it he had seem them he would have bought them.



Feb 7th

Polished aluminum, pink flamingoes, and powerful margaritas—it was open house at the **4th Annual Texas Vintage Rally** in San Antonio.

As is traditional at vintage rallies, owners turn on the music, put out the flamingoes and open their pet projects to visitors. At this rally were several Flying Clouds from the 1950s, two fiberglass Squarestreams, and Airstream trailers from the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s.

Feb 25th Mardi Gras Rally

It seems we've been in New Orleans for weeks, but it's only been one week. Mardi Gras ended at midnight last night, but I was down long

before that.

Most rallies are good, but this rally has been exceptional. Busy, busy, busy. Among other activities, we saw 10 parades, the last three Tuesday—Zulu and Rex. We had reserved grandstand seats across the street from the MC—the mayor himself, Nagin.

What seemed normal yesterday—silly costumes,

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masks, crazy hats, beads—now would be considered wierd. We have bags and bags of throws, most of them beads.

We're headed north to a casino campground, then back south to a state park where some sort of party will be going on March 6-7. Then it's on to the Cajun caravan, which everyone says is great.

Today we stayed here at the campsite at the University of New Orleans but need to be out tomorrow for a Robin Williams event. We drove over to the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish to see the flood damage. St. Bernard Parish has lots of nice homes, many still abandoned.

We also visited the site of Jackson's victory over the British in the War of 1812. The Battle of New Orleans was actually Jan. 8, 1815, and for 40 years was celebrated as much as the Fourth of July.

Feb 28th

You wouldn't believe what they do at 2:30 in the afternoon on Bourbon Street! You've heard of face painters. Well, there was an upper body painter around somewhere because paint was all some of the women were wearing.

We are at the Paragon Casino at Markville. Two other Airstream units are here. Both were at the **Mardi Gras Rally** and are resting up for the **Cajun Caravan**.

Mar. 1st

For our Mardi Gras party I should have brought my clown outfit from last Halloween. Carolyn decorated our trailer a little at New Orleans. I bought the pink pimp hat and wore it at one of the night parades.

We'll be meeting two other WBCCI members at the state park, one couple belong to the Greater New Orleans unit but live near Gulf Port, Miss. They have lots of masks and outfits for various events. This shingding actually has a name, but it's French and starts with a B and ends with lay. That the most I could understand. Cajuns who work on oil platforms are putting it on. They will be cooking something like a dozen hogs, and I think alcohol might be involved. But from what I can



get, these people involve spirits in about everything, and anything is a reason for a party or a parade. I think the festival will be a Boucherie, or butchering. I'm only guessing because it deals with hogs.

Mar. 15th

Last weekend we attended the Bousherie (boo-shuh-ree). They didn't actually slaughter any hogs, but we cooked and ate the parts: boudin (boo-dan), Cajun egg rolls, pork chops, cracklins, deep fried sweet potatoes, sausage. Three bands played. We sat in our circles and ate, and even though it was a family gathering, there were lots of adult beverages. I got lots of chigger bites.

Charlie Davis had a small aluminum boat. Around noon he took me out on the water where we saw lots of alligators. They are just coming out of hibernation.

On Wednesday we packed up and left to join the caravan rendezvous just 25 north of Fausse Point State Park. Carolyn was looking at the literature and we were right on time, but a day late. It started on Tuesday. We missed the first day of touring Baton Rouge by bus. There are three other units here from the **Baja Caravan** so we had a reunion of sorts.

Yesterday we went out on a swamp boat into the Atachafalaya Basin at Morgan City. Beautiful. I really like this country...in winter. Cajun county is really different, and they do still speak a version of French.

The **Pelican State Rally** is just a couple days after this one ends. We may stay for it as long as we're in the country. One of the photos is me with one of the seven guys who put on the boucherie. The other is of making boudin.



Mar. 16th

Visited the Tabasco factory on Avery Island today. Avery Island is a salt dome where salt is also mined. Had to buy some Tabasco products that are normally not found in stores.

Tonight we're grilling steaks in a larger shelter. The rain has stopped, but it's muddy and there are lots of

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deep puddles. Tomorrow night is Mulate's for supper in Beau Bridge. There will be a Cajun band and Cajun 2-step dancing. We had lessons at our first stop.

Mar. 23rd

I see a storm is brewing to the north. That's why we're going back south tomorrow to Pattenon, LA, for the Pelican State Rally, which starts Wednesday. The caravan ends this evening with a dinner.

This has been a busy caravan. It's hard to remember what we did today. We've been doing lots of dancing. These Cajuns really like to party. I think I mentioned that on this caravan are three from the Baja Caravan, and they were the ones that liked to party. We've had a good reunion. Their toast is, No Bad Days.

Today we went to a small candy factory, Nannie's, here in Lafayette. Saturday we were in Eunice at an accordion maker (Savoy's Music Store) for a music jam, and in the evening attended a Public Television and Radio Cajun Music show at the Liberty Theater (more dancing).

Earlier we drove up to Mamou to Fred's which broadcasts live Cajun music on Saturday mornings. They asked the audience where they from from. I told them I was from that Great Cajun land to the north, Mamou, South Dakota! The bad playing was Don Flontenot et Les amis de La Louisiane. Bought two of their CDs. Now we can dance in the trailer.

Last week we were also out in a crawfish boat harvesting crawfish from a rice field, toured Abbeville, La, and ate at several restaurants, including Mulate's.

There are at least four units from the caravan going to the **Pelican State Rally**. One is Bill and Sandy Johnjulio. Bill, or JJ, is president of Region 5. They are in their 1987, 24-footer, similar to ours. Sandy gave to a tour of their rig last night. They pull it with a Hummer. They also have a 1977 25-footer and belong to Vintage. We also will be seeing friends from the Mardi Gras Rally and Bouschrie at the Pelican State Rally.

Mar. 24th



We moved from Lafayette back down to Patterson for the Pelican State Rally. One of the reasons we wanted to attend this rally is to get together with Vince and Lonnie, who put on the Mardi Gras. Vince was going to do some cooking.

But this morning before we left we learned that Vince died of a heart attack last night. Our other friends are here as well as three other units from the Cajun Caravan.

Mar. 29th

The Pelican State Rally ended last night and we drove north to our son's place in Dallas today. He's not here. He's in Las Vegas until Tuesday night. Really loved that Cajun county and Cajun music. Look forward to going back into that country another time.

When it rains in Louisiana, it rains. The gauge by the entrance to the park showed nearly five inches. When that storm hit, I must not have latched the door, because with the first blast of wind, it blew open and slammed against the side of the trailer. I'm also going to have to do a little adjusting.

We ended up doing a couple of the same things we did on the Cajun caravan. We revisited Mr. Charlie, the first off-shore oil platform drilling rig and took another boat swamp tour with Cajun Jack.

Rather than Ole, Lena and Sven jokes, it's Boudreaux and Thibodaux. Will try to remember

some. After much practice I can now say Atchafalaya (E-CHAF-a-lie-a).

We've just have done so much that's it's hard to remember what we did do. I bought three CDs of Cajun music, two by Don Fongtenot et Les amis de la Louisiane. Favorite song is Ride the Donkey. It might be on YouTube.

It's been an incredible winter with all the activities. It's going to be hard to return to a normal life that includes exercising.

No Bad Days.
Bruce



Safe Journey Home