Prairie Rose

Official Newsletter of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit
www.nodak.wbcci.net

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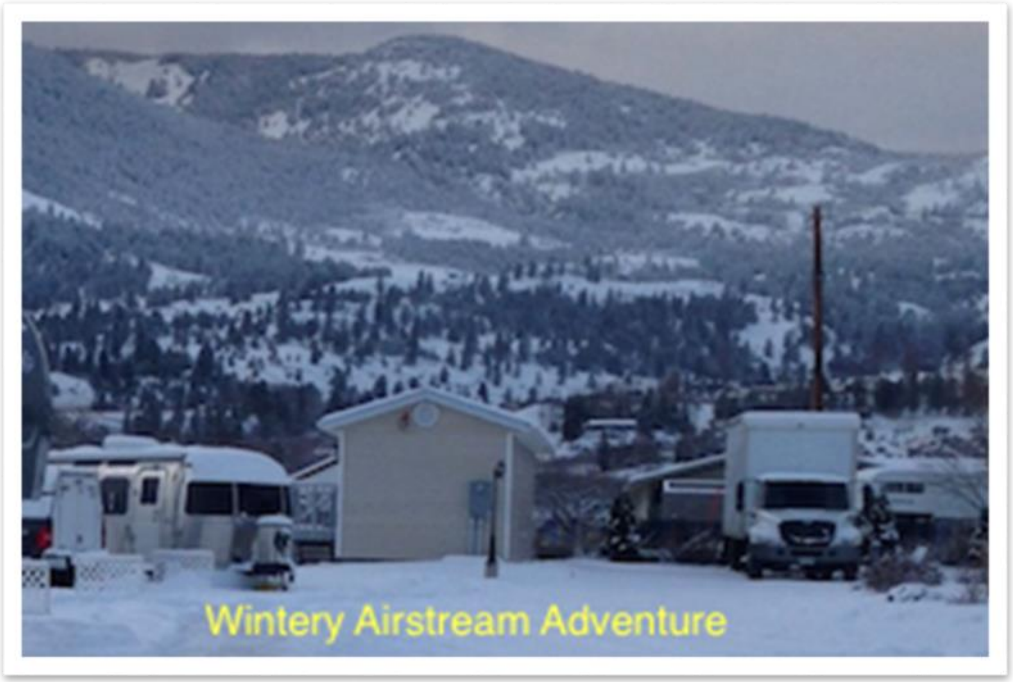
- May 5-8 Absaraka Spring Campout
- May 7 Spring Luncheon Casselton



Airstreamin' in January in Oliver, British Columbia. Photo by Len & Marg Kroeker

Full-Timing in British Columbia in January!

Volunteering To Feed the World's Hungry

By Marj & Len Kroeker

We are composing this while living in Oliver, B. C.

An area of service opened for us at the Okanagan Gleaners in mid-summer 2015; we had been looking into it for a few years, so this year we decided it was best to stay home in Canada. We had toured this location, and several others on our way back from the 2014 Region 10 Rally in Astoria. There are approximately nine food processors of this type in North America, all in search of volunteers. Some people travel between sites, helping a little in various places

We have been volunteering at Oliver since October 27th. We choose to work mornings Monday to Wednesday, Friday to Saturday.

The Okanagan Gleaners organization takes farmer and commercial processor donated surplus food and makes nutritious mixed veggie soup mix in 1 kg bags, purely for export outside North America – as per marketing rules for food. Each 1 kg bag will make 29 litres (7.6 gal) of soup.

These soup mix packages are then shipped by organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, Mennonite Central Committee, World Vision, etc., to be distributed to hungry people around the world. Apples are also processed as treats for the children (it is a very tempting treat, even for an old codger). Many third world orphanages are recipients of this food.

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North Dakota Peace Garden Unit Officers

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President's Note

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and your New Year is off to great start. So far in Bismarck, the weather has been very pleasant for winter-I hope yours has been also.

The Monument of Peace Dedication at the International Peace Garden is scheduled for July 21st through July 25th. This is a Region 7 Special Events Rally with our unit as a co-sponsor. This is big event and will need a lot of our help during the event. Please help out in any way that you can. As the details emerge you will be contacted to see what you can contribute.

Keep warm and think happy Airstream thoughts, and before you know it, Spring will arrive.

Larry

2016 Calendar of Events

Jan 10-15, 2016	International Board of Trustees Meeting, Rayne, LA
Feb 18, 2016	Airstreamers in the Valley Luncheon, 11 AM, China Sea Buffet, McAllen, Texas
May 5-8, 2016	Spring Campout, Art's Place, Absaraka, ND
May 7, 2016	Spring Luncheon & Business Meeting, Pizza Ranch, Casselton, ND
June 9 -12, 2016	Summer Buddy Rally, Wolford, ND
June 28 - July 4, 2016	59th International Convention/Rally, Lewisburg, West Virginia
July 18-20, 2016	Region 7 Work Rally, International Peace Gardens, Dunseith, ND
July 21-25, 2016	Monument of Peace Dedication Rally, International Peace Gardens, Dunseith, ND
Aug 15 - 21, 2016	Region 7 Tall Ships Rally, Duluth, MN
Sept 15-18, 2016	Street Fair Installation Rally, Mandan, ND
July 22-29, 2017	60th International Rally, Escanaba, Michigan

Volunteering in Wintry BC....cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

The number of volunteers here varies day to day from 8 to 30, mostly retired people. So what do we do every day…? Fresh and frozen produce which has been donated is washed, cut, diced and/or chopped up; it is placed on trays (large cookie-sheet size) and put on tall trolleys holding 23 of these trays. The trolleys are rolled into dryers that each hold 6 trolleys. The food is then dehydrated.

After it is dried, it is placed into plastic-lined barrels. We have worked with potatoes, beets, Brussel sprouts, green beans, green peas, carrots, and of course, those fantastic BC apples. Lentils, pinto or navy beans are also added from generous Alberta and Saskatchewan farmers. At designated points during the year, all these are used in a bag-filling-bee, hundreds of soup bags are filled. Distribution organizations pick them up in large trucks, then shipped on to the hungry of the world at no charge.

Len loading dryer trays at Gleaners site

It has been quite the adventure living in our 28ft International full time. Two people living for extended periods in a confined space is a challenge, although we spend four hours outside. Len has worked hard to close-in the trailer in order to help keep us cozy and warm, using white plastic Coroplast for skirting. Cold north winds do occasionally blow even in southern BC. He has also used a foil covered bubble wrap - Reflectix on windows, the door, skylights and vent domes. A heated RV water hose insulated with a foam rubber sheath and heat traced water stanchion keep the water liquid. A 150 watt heater behind the skirting close to the drain valves has been sufficient to prevent freezing in the tanks, are the final touches.

Fresh snow Jan 1 2016

The winter proofing has met with moderate success but because of condensation on door and window edges on very cold days, we might have to use a dehumidifier. The trusty furnace, plus several electric space heaters has kept us cozy even in -10ºC (14ºF) windy conditions. Maximum propane usage at those temps has cost about $30CDN/7 day period.

We are told that this year is an unusually wet Fall for Oliver, so we have not seen the sun that much; often it has been warmer in home town Moose Jaw than in Oliver. So much for El Niño in BC! It has been an eye-opening experience. We have met many new and wonderful people dedicated to this important task. If you want to know about the Gleaners, go to: **www.okanagangleaners.ca** Also there are some interesting video clips you can watch on YouTube.

Len and Marj Kroeker, WBCCI # 3237 are Associates Members and currently serve as President and First Lady of the Alberta Saskatchewan Unit.

Catching up with Friends

Allan has been working on building a port for our Airstream trailer in his spare time - when the wind and weather cooperate. We've been thankful for a mild winter that allows him to work on the building. Allan thought the port should reduce the cost of Airstream insurance, but our Farm Bureau agent didn't quite see it that way. We also had new carpet installed in the trailer, and are awaiting the return of the newly upholstered couch and dinette. We're excited to take it out this spring. **Allan & Roxanne**

My baby dropped both right rear wheels, and had to go to ALL Campers at St Cloud for repair, but is now resting comfortably in my Morton building. Now have a functional 50 amp RV outlet at my place and am working on a 30 amp. Welcome any Airstreamers, can provide water and suggest a place to dump and is free. Call for directions to our place. We are seriously considering a trip to Alaska in March, we have been over the Alcan in excess of 20 times and so are familiar with the road, and with many of the things to see and do in Alaska. We will probably go north in a mini van with our dog and cat but would consider company etc. **Jim & Jan**

Happy New Year to everybody! My trailer is almost packed—will hook on tomorrow and leaving for Arizona Monday morning. If things go as plan I'll be back mid March. **Joe S.**

Just an update that Don had a monitor implanted and doing good. Hope you have a great 2016. We leave for IBT 1/6. Take care! **Lillian & Don**

Greetings from the Great White North!!! Things have been very busy with Bev and I both having to put up with the nasty four letter word… WORK!!! We have some snow here and the Airstream is put away in the shed for the winter. I seems that most of our airstream friends are in the warm south now, but our plans for a trip to Yuma AZ are still on hold. Checked today and the exchange is now $1.45 to get $1US. I think we should call our $ the "northern peso" instead of the looney! Wishing everyone the best in the New Year, and looking forward to spring. Hopefully the weather will co-operate for us to get the trailer out for the first get together in the spring. Y'all take care, **Chris and Bev**.

The Zinks with daughter and grandkids survived a cruise to Princes Cays , Bahamas, Grand Cayman (no off shore accounts), Roatan, Honduras, and Mahaul, Mexico - Mayan ruins and return to Fort Lauderdale and Bismarck. All in ten days. Nothing more planned until February in Las Vegas and Sun City, Arizona. Our other winter days will be devoted to working with monument committee for the July dedication and taxes. **Bev & Vern**

November 15th, we arrived at Shangri La RV Park in Yuma, Arizona. We went to the November Washington State Airstream breakfast with Judy and Duayne Canada, who are from Idaho. We went to a Christmas concert at one of the high schools. The Choir was made up of 500 high school kids – the director did an unbelievable job directing them! Later in the month of December, we and the Canadas went to a living Christmas tree, with 22,000 lights, and surrounded by a hundred carolers. It was so much fun to be able to sit outside and listen to Christmas music and the story of Christ's birth! Our park put on a Christmas party for us and they asked for some live entertainment. Four of us gals signed up and sang "All I want for Christmas is a Hippopotamus". We got a lot of laughs. On Christmas Day, the Park roasted ham and the rest of us brought a dish to pass – it was great! For New Year's Eve, we were invited to supper with some friends from Milnor, ND who have a home here. We left and returned to the park for the New Year's Eve – great fun! We danced the night away – wore Art out! On New Year's Day, twenty-four of us got together for a Hobo Soup Party. We all brought a can of soup and dumped them into one big pot, which turned out very tasty – we used the empty can for our bowls. Every Tuesday morning, we attend the ND breakfast at the Cold Miners Café. We are having Fun! **Kathleen & Art**

By Ryan Jilek

It all starts with a dream, a notion, or a glancing sparkle of aluminum. For all of us who have gone down the path to become Airstream owners, we embrace the spirit of what embodies our silver trailers.

As the holidays have been celebrated and we have rung in the new year, we all start dreaming of where our next adventure lies and what just might be over that next hill. Some of you may have retreated south for the winter, and others have settled in for the winter months. We should utilize the break from camping and exploring to catch up on the little projects and to-do lists created over the past season of use.

Here are my top ten winter project tips and tricks we all can do to make our trailers more comfortable, more efficient, and ready for another exciting and memorable camping season.

10. Leak test propane lines and regulator. Visually inspect, as well as check connections for leaks with soapy water. Do not forget connections inside your trailer at the furnace, refrigerator, stove, oven, water heater and gas lights.
9. Check seals around windows and doors and condition with glycerin or silicone if they are dry and stiff.
8. Inspect and re-seal roof vents. Do not forget the vents for the waste water drains. These seals can deteriorate rapidly and cause leaks.
7. Test your DC power converter. If you have an older Univolt, it is likely long overdue for replacement and could be destroying your trailer's battery. Consider a modern multi-stage DC power converter.
6. If your battery is tired and not performing like you'd like, consider upgrading to an absorbed glass mat (AGM) battery. It could be the last battery you'll ever buy!
5. Replace your water filter cartridge if you trailer has one, and if it doesn't, consider adding one to your fresh water system.
4. Consider adding a surge protector. Surge protectors can either be permanently mounted in the trailer or plugged between the power pedestal and your trailer. Either way, RV parks are notorious for wildly fluctuating power, and a good surge protector will keep your trailer safe from power highs and lows.
3. Check your trailer ground and make sure you have a good electrical ground between your frame, aluminum skin and AC/DC power systems.
2. Reorganize and purge all of that left over 'stuff' that you keep adding to your trailer. If you haven't used something in the last few years of camping, it might be time to lighten the load.
1. Convert to LED interior lights. These conversions used to be very costly to consider but prices are going down (way down). The power draw of LEDs are impressively low! You can run all the lights in your trailer and draw less power than one overhead fixture with four incandescent bulbs.

The main lesson is to not take your Airstream for granted. Most of the time, things work as expected: the lights come one, windows open and close, and water flows; but often times, there are little things that have been nagging at you. There are also the hidden and often overlooked systems that you rely on. For your safety and peace of mind while you travel enjoying the open spaces with your trailer, spend a little time now to make sure your adventures in the year to come are all favorable ones!

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I'd be glad to offer any advice I can. My phone is 701.290.3036. My email is jilek@customdata.com.

Region 7
WBCCI

Hope you had a very Merry Christmas, and I wish you all the best in 2016.

The plans for the Monument of Peace Presentation & Celebration are well under way. This is a very historic event for the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit, Region 7 and the WBCCI. The International Peace Garden management & staff are very helpful and supportive of this celebration.

In order for this event to be a success, volunteers will be needed for committees such as:

- ◊ Parking Committee, chair & workers
- ◊ Registration Committee, chair & workers
- ◊ Welcoming Committee, chair & workers
- ◊ Water Committee, chair & workers
- ◊ Goodie Bags, chair & workers
- ◊ Program Hand Out - workers
- ◊ Anthems & Music
- ◊ Decorating

On Sunday, July 24th, there will be a reception for all the attendees after the presentation of the monument to the Int. Peace Garden. We would like the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit to be the hosts for this reception. All the food, etc., will be provided, it would probably involve the setting up the food, serving coffee and punch and checking on the supplies as time progresses.
Thanks !!

Gail Harrower, President

R7 Rally Update

Join us for the 'Festival of the Tall Ships Duluth'. Region 7 will again be going aboard with a Special Event/ Region 7 Rally on August 17-22, 2016.

This event will take you back to the days of old and the beautiful sailing ships of the 1800's. We will again be on the waters of Lake Superior to watch the Parade of the Tall Ships. The bustling Duluth Waterfront will also have a full complement of vendors, artisans, music, reenactments, and entertainment. Shuttle buses will take you from the campground to the Duluth waterfront.

A day trip on the Scenic Railroad to Two Harbors has been added. We will be camping at the Buffalo House Campground. The campground has electric and water hookups. Pump outs will be available at a small fee.

Plan on joining us! For more information contact:

Linda Agre at 320-295-1117
Email: agre5628@aol.com

I'm going to be cleaning downstairs storage room and have some chemicals I used when I painted the top of the '87 white. They are in gallon jugs and still mostly full. One is Alumiprep 33 (used to etch the aluminum) and the other is Alodine 1201 (for paint adhesion). I can take them to one of next year's rallies if anyone wants them. Contact **Bruce Coonrod** at dogpack@pie.midco.net