

RAZORBACK UNIT

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT 005 / WBCCI

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Airstreams travel into our American culture

BY MARK MAGIE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Airstreams aren't just for camping anymore. They are weaving their way into American culture through "cameo" appearances on television commercials, in music lyrics, in art and through business ventures. An investment in an Airstream trailer seems to be a good move for travelers and businessmen alike.

Those who have been around Airstreams for several years may remember watching the Apollo 11 astronauts in 1969 visit with President Richard Nixon through the back window of an Airstream, quarantined to keep any "lunar bugs" from infecting the earth following their historic first-man-on-the-moon space flight. Americans also saw the Airstream used for a purpose other than camping as NASA transported astronauts to and from the launch pads.

Closer to home both in distance and time, travelers to Fayetteville, Ark. may have noticed a handful of Airstreams arranged in a semi-circle along College Ave. Known by locals as the Yacht Club, the Airstreams are part of a business incubator program offering temporary housing with high visibility. Merchants have included a photographer, flower shop, sandwich shop and boutique, to name a few. Once the business becomes successful and profitable and outgrows the trailer, it moves into a permanent location in the area, leaving the Airstream for the next entrepreneur.

Across the nation, businesses are operating out of Airstreams. Some may have seen at outdoor events in the state, a silver and black Fayettechill Airstream housing a traveling outfitters store for example. Those wishing to stay in an Airstream can even plan a vacation to a destination with permanently fixed Airstreams.

Entertainers are also "on the wagon" so to speak. Preferring to travel in Airstreams are Sean Penn, Tom Hanks, Tim Burton, Andy Garcia, Francis Ford Coppola and Martha Stewart, among others.

Airstreams can be found at the San

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AIR TIGHT - Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins visit with President Richard Nixon through the glass of an Airstream trailer following their return from the moon in July 1969. The space crew was quarantined in the trailer for several days as a precaution against lunar diseases.



YACHT CLUB - Permanently installed Airstreams attract motorists on College Ave. in Fayetteville, Ark. The Airstreams are part of an entrepreneur incubator program where business start-ups can operate with low overhead costs until they become successful and outgrow their spaces and move to other locations.

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Francisco Museum of Modern Art, in the lobby of MTV studio, and sticking out of the ground at the Airstream Ranch outside Tampa, Fla. Reference to an Airstream can even be heard in a song by Miranda Lambert.

On television, viewers may have seen Airstreams in commercials for the medication Xarelto, Lexus and GMC Sierra vehicles, and Special K cereal. It is clear that companies want to align themselves with a respected, tried and true product such as the Airstream brand.

The good news keeps coming. A recent Associated Press article in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* notes that Airstream can't keep up with demand and has broken ground on a major factory expansion at their headquarters in Jackson Center, Ohio. Once complete, production capacity will increase by 50-percent. Currently, at a rate of 50 new trailers rolling out each week, the backlog is about three months.



AIRSTREAM RANCH - Seven and one-half upended 1957-1994 vintage Airstream travel trailers planted in a field on the south side of Interstate 4 east of Tampa, Florida make up Airstream Ranch. Frank Bates created the attraction in 2007, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Airstream (hence 7 1/2 trailers).



MOBILE STORE - Fayettechill's 33-foot Airstream mobile unit sits in front of the company's headquarters at the foot of Mount Kessler in Fayetteville. The company uses the trailer as a pop-up-shop in places like Memphis, Tulsa, Dallas and Kansas City to help market the Fayettechill brand of t-shirts and outdoor sports and camping gear.



WANDA THE WANDERER - Country singer Miranda Lambert travels in her 1954 Airstream trailer, Wanda The Wanderer, named after her grandmother, Wanda Coker. Wanda has her own Twitter account and a giant crown on top. "It's about blonde hair and beer and Airstreams and jewelry and just being over the top," Lambert says. She sings the "Airstream Song."

BUY-SELL-TRADE

Are you accumulating Airstream parts you no longer need? Are you looking for replacement parts? Are you selling your Airstream or looking for another one? If so, this is the place. List your items or needs here [free of charge](#) and give unit members the first shot at a great deal. Send your information to mark.magie@yahoo.com to be included in the newsletter.

-- FOR SALE: Electric power jack and new Sureflo water pump. Selling both for \$100 total. Herbert Carter, 870-739-3487.

Homemade solution to sewage line storage

BY JASON LANDRUM

RAZORBACK UNIT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

I have never liked keeping sewer hoses in the bumper trunk of our Airstream. It can be a little awkward picking up a recently used hose to place in the trunk. I also don't want to mix anything with the hoses (they aren't very clean obviously), so our trunk is under-utilized.

Of course, newer Airstreams come with a PVC storage tube mounted under the belly pan, but like most, I use the heavy duty sewer hoses that will not fit in the stock storage tubes. One of the issues with the large hoses is the 'ears' or 'tabs' on the hose connectors that stick out past the actual hose. After researching the issue on *Airforums*, I discovered a simple solution used by several Airforum members:

simply cut or grind off these ears.

However, I also like to use a clear 45-degree connector between the Airstream and the sewer hose, as well as a 90-degree elbow at the other end of the sewer hose. These connectors would have to be removed from the sewer hoses after each use. I was sure I could find a better solution.

Valterra does make a larger storage tube which would eliminate the need to remove the 'ears' or 'tabs', but it still wouldn't solve the issue of the connectors. I was preparing to design a custom aluminum storage tube when I discovered the solution: a black 48" long 5"x5" PVC fence post from Home Depot.

I can store two sewer hoses in the fence post with the 45-degree connector and the 90-degree elbow, but I do have to remove the reducer ring on the 90-degree elbow.

Installation was fairly easy: I purchased a 1/4" x 2" x 4-ft. aluminum bar at Home Depot. I cut this bar into two 2-ft. long sections and bolted each section to the fence post. I then used self-drilling screws to attach the bar into the belly of the Airstream.

The fence post is a bit heavier than the original tube, but I was able to spread the weight over more connections into the



FENCE POST STORAGE - A PVC fence post mounted on the belly pan of Jason Landrum's Airstream provides storage for his sewer connections, brooms and tools. The cap is held securely with a Bungee Cord.



SEWER LINE - Sewer hoses and connections such as the one above can be smelly and unsanitary. Landrum's storage solution is in a PVC fence post mounted on the belly pan of his Airstream.

Airstream belly pan.

As you can see in the photo, I used eye-bolts and a small Bungee Cord to secure the fence post cap. Now I have my trunk back and can store the broom, an outdoor mat and the Zip Dee awning tool with room to spare.

SAVE THE DATES -

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Razorback Unit website at www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net



++ FEBRUARY 5, 2015 - Unit luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Russo's Coal Fired Italian Kitchen, 2490 Sanders Rd., Conway, Ark.

++ APRIL 2, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)

++ APRIL 16-19, 2015 - Razorback Unit Spring rally, Petit Jean State Park

++ MAY (dates, location to be confirmed) - rally with Memphis unit

++ JUNE 4, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)

++ JUNE 26 - JULY 4, 2015 - WBCCI International rally, Farmington, NM

++ AUGUST 6, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)

++ SEPTEMBER - Razorback Unit Fall Election rally (dates, location to be determined)

++ OCTOBER 1, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)

++ OCTOBER 13-16, 2015, Region 6 rally, Picayune, MS

++ NOVEMBER 5-8, 2015, Razorback Unit rally, Buffalo Point National Park

++ DECEMBER 3, 2015 - Unit luncheon (dates, location to be determined)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LARRY MADDEN RAZORBACK UNIT

Greetings!

2014 is now in our rear view mirrors as we continue to pull our Airstreams down the roads of life. For both Terry and me, this past year has been full of joy and wonder! Our involvement with the members of the Razorback Unit has greatly enhanced our lives, with a common goal of fellowship and enjoyment.

We were delighted to meet Bob and Melissa Anthony at our Christmas luncheon. While Bob and Melissa have been members of our unit for a number of years, life has distracted them from being actively involved. Due in part to our Razorback newsletter, Bob and Melissa conceded they were missing out on a lot of wonderful times and now have plans to join us for the Spring Rally in April. It's great news and we're happy they are back.

Over the past couple of years, the Razorback Unit has experienced a positive growth in unit membership. There are a variety of reasons for our growth and each is as important as the other. As editor of our newsletter, Mark Magie has skillfully published an eye opening porthole to the exciting adventures of Airstreaming in Arkansas!

Jason Landrum, our membership chairman, is leaving nothing to chance as he searches the web for fellow Arkansans who, as potential members, may just need an invite or some friendly information about our unit's activities to come join in the fun.

Paul Moore's diligent work this past spring putting together a successful unit caravan was a great experience for unit members and once again highlighted the Razorback Unit.

These are just three "spokes" of the wheel which insure the Razorback Unit continues rolling down the road. There are many more, past and present that continue doing an outstanding job to insure our unit's adventures are possible and enjoyable for all.

Happy New Year!

Larry Madden

From the December luncheon at MarketPlace Grill in Conway

Editor's note: Lesson learned. Make sure the camera battery is charged and don't use a Smart Phone camera as a back up in low lighting!



From left, Rob and Melissa Anthony, Larry and Terry Madden, Herbert and V.J. Carter, Paul Moore, Annette Murray, and on the other side of the table, Neil Anderson and Jane Fudge.



From left, Jane and Jim Pankey, Herbert and V.J. Carter, and Paul Moore.



From left, Annette Murray, Carole and Bill Barton, Donna and B.J. McNair, and Jason Landrum.

NEWSMAKERS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/4 - Laura Wessinger
1/17 - Ian Artz
1/26 - Charles Duran

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/12 - Rick & Debbie Perryman
1/16 - Bill & Charlene Allen

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/8 - Melissa Anthony
2/11 - Mary Gulley
2/16 - Herbert Carter
2/17 - Martha Moore
2/23 - Charlene Allen
2/25 - B.J. McNair

**Razorback Unit
Website**

www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net