

The VINTAGE

a d v a n t a g e

The official newsletter of the Vintage Airstream Club



Cape Town to Cairo

41 Airstreams

14,307 Miles

221 Days

Where Are They Now?



Concours Winners Our First Int'l Vintage is New Vintage Reading Fridge Fix Texas Tundra!...?

Spring 2010

vintageairstreamclub.com

The VINTAGE AIRSTREAM CLUB is an Intra-club of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI)

Throwing in the towel:

SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO LET A PRO HANDLE IT.

Have you ever heard this one before? Wife is into vintage, husband is into new. Wife buys a vintage Airstream on eBay and the trips are planned. Well, *this is the case for Paula and Ed Poll, but with a twist...* After acquiring a 1969, 27-foot Overlander, their Airstream trailer odyssey is only beginning...

The previous owner had taken good care of the trailer and most of it was in original condition. But, the Polls were faced with the usual vintage repairs—a dump valve, a new set of axles, new Cherry wood flooring, etc. Around this same discovery time, they started going to rallies. Although they knew nothing about Airstreaming they jumped in with both feet. But, nothing could prepare them for what happened next.

On a trip to Death Valley they were sideswiped by an Econoline van. The damage didn't appear great—a little torn skin and a back bunk pushed in. No problem, push the bunk back in place and continue on the trip...right?

After arriving home and with a closer look, the damage was found to be greater than originally thought. The trailer had a broken ribs, it was totaled.

Now, with insurance claim funds in hand, the Polls were in the market for a new trailer, but this time they had a little help from a friend, Uwe Salwender of Area 63 Productions. With Uwe's help, they picked out a 1968, 28-foot Ambassador that was in excellent shape on the outside, but trashed on the inside. It had the floor plan they wanted and was lighter so it was perfect for towing. The Polls were not ready to take on a restoration project so they hired Uwe to tackle the job.

18 months later the Polls had their new, fully-renovated trailer. It had everything they could have wanted, including remote-operated stabilizer jacks and an entirely new subfloor. No expense was spared. With the project complete, the Polls now have a trailer that satisfies the Vintage that Paula wanted, yet is new enough inside to keep Ed happy. As Paula says, "It's a new trailer in an old skin."

Paula says that a renovation like this is not for the faint of heart. "Uwe's work is very good, he is a master craftsman," Paula says. "It has been a life adventure."

You can look for the Polls trailer in an upcoming issue of LA magazine. ✦✦✦



Journey, cont. from page 8.

we wanted an Argosy trailer. At home we started looking at Craig's List and sure enough found just what we wanted—a 1978, 27' Argosy travel trailer.


From there we joined the WBCCI [#3868], the Washington Unit and the Vintage Airstream Club. The members at the WA Land Yacht Harbor and Washington Unit have been more than helpful. We store the trailer there because our Home Owners Assn. does not allow us to keep it on the property for more than 48 hours at a time. The advantage has been we are visiting the WA Land Yacht Harbor and meeting WBCCI members on a regular basis.

48 Years Later (2010)

Gillette, Wyoming was a given from the moment we joined WBCCI. We were among the first 100 to sign up. Life is fun. 30 years from the time we took our other trailer to Minnesota we will be driving on a similar path. We plan to stop in Bozeman, Montana at the Hot Springs, skip Yellowstone Park and head for Gillette and the WBCCI International Rally. While in the area we plan to revisit Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

30 years from the first time we took our "other brand" trailer...we will be driving a similar path...

At this point we are still updating the Argosy. Jesse, my husband is sanding and prepping for the painting. I am making curtains. The trailer came into our lives at just the right time. Jesse retired this year and we are beginning a new phase of life at 44 years of marriage. The goal is to enjoy this trailer during the summer locally with the club, our children and grandchild. Then in the winter wander south to follow the sunshine.

We will be in the "Vintage" section of the rally. This is meeting one of our new "bucket lists items"! I would have never thought we would have the fun of being WBCCI members. This time I will not be at the rally for a few hours but for days! See you in Gillette! 

(Judy and Jesse will have vintage and theme based fabrics and project kits for sale at the Swap Meet. They are proud owners of a 1978 27' Argosy.)



CURBSIDE KITCHEN...
SHINY!



THE LARGE DOOR ABOVE THE
REFRIGERATOR HIDES AUDIO
EQUIPMENT.



STORAGE ABOVE AND
BELOW THE BEDS.



CURBSIDE BATH.