



Montana 'Streaming

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Montana Unit Newsletter (061) January 2017

Welcome to the New Year,

I hope each and every one of you have had as pleasant and enjoyable holiday season as we did. We spent Christmas Day with friends at their house and then the next day traveled to Austin to spend the rest of the week with our son and his family. We had a very good time and enjoyed watching movies with our grand-daughters while Ryan and Jill got a taste of Austin's renowned night liife.

This newsletter was delayed a bit until after our January luncheon. Our thanks go out to Sharon and Paul for selecting the the location of the Jade Garden and hosting the event. All the attndees were duly impressed by their host's exceptional graciousness which was capped with a tasty holiday gift for all.

The 8 members who attended were enthralled by Dal Smilies tale of his latest adventure. It seems he had recently returned from California where he was able to purchase a 16' 1946 Curtis Wright Model #1 which I understand is an extremely rare example of one of Wally's early business ventures in the evolution of the Airstream brand. He has graciously provided a picture and brief bio of the unit (see below). We wish him the best of luck in this his latest restoration project. On a personal level I hope to see and hear about his project when it is finished.

Our planning for the Spring Rallies is progressing. The permit for our use of Itch-Kep-Pe Park in Columbus, MT from April 27 to 30 has been approved. I have been in touch with a local silversmith who makes custom jewelry and trying to arrange a visit to his shop. If he can find time for us to visit during the rally it should be interesting. A weather dependent decision will be made in mid-April and all members will be advised.

From June 1-4 (note the date change) we will be gathering in Ennis, MT at a full hook-up RV park for our official opening of Montana's RV season. I envision a chuck wagon dinner on the banks of the Madison River for one evening. I am also considering a day in Virginia City exploring that historic city ending with an evening show at the Brewery Follies, which I am told is a must see event.

The Billings luncheon is set for 11:30 AM Feb 18 at Bruno's located on 1911 King Ave. W in Billings (406) 652-4416 and you can find them on the web. Call Avis 406 671-1643 if you think you will be attending so she can make appropriate arrangements. They are back in Montana having recently returned from a trip to Africa. I'll bet they have some interesting stories to tell.

Believe it or Not



1946 Curtis Wright



1946 Curtis Wright

For Sale:
Nothing Now

For membership
information please
contact:

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New Members

No new members this month

News

Please visit <http://www.montanaairstreamclub.com> for pictures from our outings or "Like Us" at <https://www.facebook.com/MontanaAirstreamClub>.

To the left you will find some pictures of Dal's new pet project and a brief outline of its story.

I call the Curtis Wright, Argosy, Byam Holiday, Silverstreak Clipper and maybe the Bowlus "Airstream Cousins" Wally Byam worked with Curtis Wright postwar before he restarted Airstream. He had a hand in designing and building Curtis Wrights till he and Curtis broke up over money in 1947 and Wally restarted Airstream that year.

The Curtis Wright trailers are eligible for membership in WBCCI and VAC since Wally had a hand in them. Here is the earliest known Airstream cousin, the 1946 Model 1 Curtis Wright with its new family. Prior to being parked in 1961 after they jackknifed and rolled their Ford Galaxie on its side after hitting a bull south of St George, UT on US 91 (now I-15) These are from "Camp 15 at Yosemite"

The Ken Hunter's family of Manhattan Beach CA bought this Model 1 Curtis Wright new and camped in it extensively. We bought it from daughter Barb, the youngest child pictured.

She remembers her father rigging 10 gallons of water that could be pumped into the radiator with a bicycle pump to cool the flathead Ford as it towed up the Grapevine, Tehachapi Pass and other grades of the day. The kids were drafted to pump the cool water as they towed.

Winter Luncheons

Feb. 18th, 2017- 11:30 AM Bruno's, 1911 King Ave. W. Billings, MT. (406) 652-4416

2017 Rallies, Caravans & Camp-Outs

Early Spring Rally

**April 27-30, 2017- Itch-Kep-Pe Park
Columbus, Mt. Park Entrance on Rt.78 near it's crossing
of the Yellowstone River**

Soak Your Troubles Away Rally

**June 1st-4th, 2017- Ennis RV Park
15 Geyser St., Ennis, MT.**

That's all for now. See you next month