

TIMES RECORD

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Airstream Trailer Club Gathers in Valley City



Heidi Harris/Times-Record

Members of the North Dakota Peace Garden Group of the Wally Byam Airstream Club parked their Airstream trailers and motorhomes in the parking lot of the Valley City Eagles Club over the weekend for a gathering filled with local tours and fellowship. Several of the members sat with the Times-Record for an interview. In the front row are Gordon Picken, Falcon Lake, Manitoba, Canada and host couple Arlene Bailey and Jack Bailey of Wyndmare, N.D. In the back row are Roland Wall and Wanda Wall, Harwood, N.D., Pete Yanke and Kathy Yanke, Wate Park, Minn., Allan Towels and Roxanne Towels, Hazel, S.D., Art Idso, Absaraka, N.D., and Kathleen Schultz, Lidgerwood, N.D.

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A group of Airstream trailer owners gathered in Valley City over the weekend as one of a few

gatherings they have each year.

The North Dakota Peace Garden Group of the Wally Byam Airstream Club parked their trailers and motorhomes in the parking lot of the Valley City

Eagles Club beginning Thursday, June 7 and took in many activities the area had to offer.

Jack Bailey, who lived in Valley City in the

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1970s when he was a rural mail carrier, said they decided to gather in Valley City through Sunday, June 10 so they could tour the city's historic bridges and visit Medicine Wheel Park and the Valley City National Fish Hatchery. The group is planning to visit Forman in July and Bismarck in August.

Jack and his wife Arlene served as the host couple

of the gathering. Jack is a past region seven president. At least 14 people were among the group.

To be part of the Airstream Club, members must own an Airstream trailer. When asked what sets apart Airstreams from other types of recreational vehicles, members agreed Airstreams are more stable, hold their value and are iconic.

Airstream trailers have

been in production since the late 1930s. Jack explained that they started out on the basis of airplane construction — they were lightweight trailers designed for aerodynamics.

"They pull well in the wind," Jack said.

There have been many design changes since then and for a few years Airstream made motor homes.

Members say there are Airstreams from the 1950s

and earlier that are still on the road today. Many owners have an interest in restoring the vintage models.

Members of the Wally Byam Airstream Club have numbers on their trailers that identify who they are and where they're from.

Pete Yanke, region seven president, was in attendance at the Valley City gathering. Region seven consists of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota,

Wisconsin, Manitoba and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Wally Byam Airstream Club is an international club with regions and local units. Most states have a club and the southern states have many units.

"Part of the club is caravanning — going as a group from Point A to Point B," explained Kathy Yanke.

Kathy said the club's national rally is like a family

reunion.

"You may start out not knowing anyone but by the end of the weekend you'll have made friends for life," Pete said.

The local unit, the North Dakota Peace Garden Group, consists of members from North Dakota, South Dakota and Manitoba, Canada. Their club was instrumental in getting the new A Promise of Peace sculpture installed in the International Peace Garden fountain in 2016.