



Prairie Rose



Official Newsletter of the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit

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Volume 8 Issue 1

What to do this Winter on the Road....?

By Bruce Coonrod

What do winter Texans, winter Floridians, or winter Arizonians do for fun other than eating, shopping and comparing home-town winter temperatures with other winter visitors (my temperature is colder than your temperature)?

Many, like Zinks, go golfing. Some, like DeYoungs, go to jam sessions. Others, like Larsons, hit the square-dancing circuit. Still others, like Thomsons, volunteer to clean up and repair homes damaged by hurricanes. Two activities I'm been doing this winter are birding and geocaching.

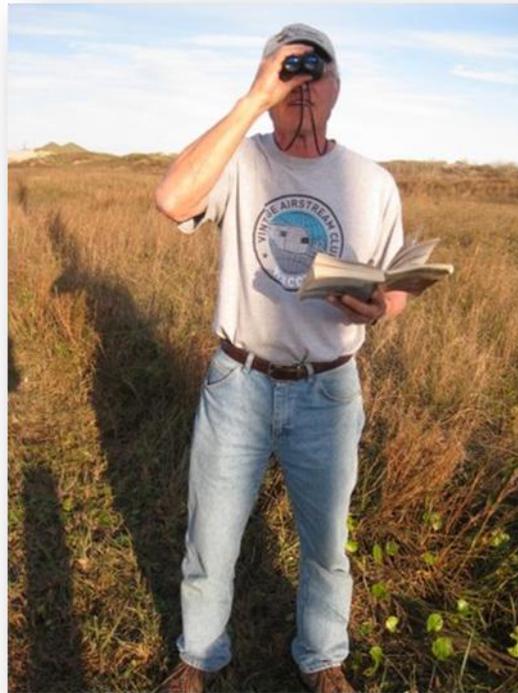
Birding

Back in the 1980s I was a serious birder. During spring migration I was out adding to my life list. Pierre, in the Missouri River trench, was a migration route for many eastern and western species. I was active in the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and local Audubon chapter. But then my birding interest waned as other activities took its place.

But this winter I brought my binoculars and bird book and have rediscovered the joys of birding and the beauty of birds.

We spent part of January at Port Aransas, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico north of Corpus Christi. This area is full of wintering birds. Nearly 150 species were found on the local Christmas bird count in December. We usually found 60 to 70 species during the same count in Pierre.

One day, Carolyn, Dave and Paula Hamm, from Denver, Colorado, and I spent the day birding the nearby tidal



Bruce Coonrod, Birding in Texas.

flats and marshes. Dave and Paula had lived in Pierre for many years. I worked with Dave at the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, and Carolyn worked with Paula at the State Health Lab. We also had sons who wrestled for the Pierre Governors and shared many hours in gyms at wrestling meets. Dave and I were also scout leaders and spent many weekends on scout campouts.

In addition, my son's Eagle Scout project that he and his troop constructed at Farm Island State Park near Pierre was a wildlife viewing blind that overlooked a small wetland. He collaborated the project with the Missouri Breaks Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

We started the day



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at the Leona Belle Turnbull Birding Center where volunteers led a birding tour on a boardwalk that extends into a marsh. In bushes on land before the boardwalk were wintering yellow-rumped warblers and ruby crowned kinglets. On the boardwalk we found several duck species, including northern pintail, northern shoveler, and blue-winged and cinnamon teal.

Then we visited an area called Charlie's Pasture, where a mile-long boardwalk extends just above a tidal flat. We found several wading birds, including the green heron and reddish egret. And, of course, there was one bird none of us could identify.

A few days later Carolyn and I

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President's Corner . . .

. . . by Vern Zink

*If you don't know
where you are going
you will probably end up
somewhere else.
—Yogi Berra—*

Let me advise that you should plan to attend the May 14, 2011 "Get re-acquainted noon luncheon". Go to the Kelly Inn In Bismarck. The Kelly Inn is located about three fourths of a mile south of Interstate I-94 on US 83 (State Street) at the State Street and Divide Avenue Intersection. We have reserved a private room (Embassy A) for a sit down luncheon. Order off the menu. Time: 12:30 PM. After the long winter and many experiences, we will want to hear all about them. We can visit, look at pictures, and whatever else you wish at that time.

For those of you who may wish to spend more time in Bismarck, just several blocks down the same street you may wish to stop in to see the plans for the \$50 million dollar expansion plans for the North Dakota Heritage Center: or, you can continue to the 105 stores in the Kirkwood Mall. We will also try to have current information on local productions at the Dakota Stage, the Belle Mehus or the Civic Center at that time.

Also planning and scheduling are going on for our June 9-12 Rally in West Fargo. As time gets closer we will be adding more details for your information and planning. We trust that you are reading the Blue Beret and checking the Web sites for information about the International Rally and for the Region 7 Rally. The International Rally will be held in DuQuoin, Illinois June 28 - July 4, 2011. The



Region 7 Rally will be held at De Pere, Wisconsin - July 24 - 29, 2011. If possible for you we encourage you to attend these events. If not both try one or the other you will have a great experience. Each has a different atmosphere and both have great programs scheduled. Again check the Blue Beret for the details.

Our Best 'Mid-winter' Wishes to each of you!
VZ

UNIT OFFICERS

Unit President
Vern Zink #4114

1st Vice President
Bev Zink #4114

2nd Vice President
Don Thomson #4304

Treasurer
Lillian Thomson #4304

Recording Secretary
Arlene Bailey #235

Corresponding Secretary
Bev Zink #3682

Membership Chair
Larry Ruebel #10081

2011 Calendar of Events

February 11, 2011	Airstreamers in the Valley Luncheon 11:30 AM, Ann's Restaurant, San Juan, TX
May 14, 2011	Get Reacquainted Luncheon - Bismarck, ND - Kelly Inn, North State Street (Hwy 83)
June 9 - 12, 2011	Spring Rally - Red River Valley Fairgrounds, West Fargo, ND
June 28 - July 4, 2011	WBCCI International Rally, DuQuoin, Illinois
July 14 - 17, 2011	International Peace Garden Rally, Dunseith, ND
July 24 - 29, 2011	Region 7 Rally, Apple Creek Campground, DePere, Wisconsin
Sept. 9 - 11, 2011	Fall Installation Rally - Carrington, ND

Greetings from some of your fellow Airstreamers



Roxanne & Allan Towles...*This IS what happens when you don't head south for the winter - There's no escaping now. The first picture was taken 12/11/10 at the beginning of winter, as a storm was passing through - note the Airstream. The second photo was taken today, 1/23/11.*

We started lambing two weeks ago. It is so hard to do in all of this cold weather, but the barn is warm for the lambs, just not my favorite job!! I'd rather be in the Airstream somewhere warm - but then so would Allan. Ah, maybe someday! This is for all of those snowbirds who are enjoying the sun, while we are forced to weather the cold and snow and only dream of joining all of the rest of the Airstreamers who are hopefully enjoying their winter!!

Joyce & John Krabseth...*A newsman said "Shovel snow with your family and bond". Well, we have been doing lots of bonding. We are taking a class on hospitality, which involves reading several books. Spent four days in Fargo where we attended the NDSU symposium on Crop Insurance. I opted to go the sessions rather than shop, I needed some brain exercise and now have credit hours in ethics and insurance. John goes for breakfast with the guys each morning, then opens up the office and waits for the clerk to come in. I keep busy with luncheons, teas and coordinating the pray-knitting group at our church. Tonight we are going through travel brochures, just threw out one to England, (too long at sea) and seriously looking at one from San Diego to Vancouver BC.*



Judy Koester *shares warm memories from last August's Region 7 Rally, out on the porch at the Chateau de Mores in Medora.*

Lillian & Don Thomson...*Hi, just checking in to let you know we are still in existence. We are in Moss Point, MS working at Pascagoula for this month. Weather has been cold with low of 17° one night. Take care and stay warm!*

Cathy & Larry Ruebel...*Shoveling snow often here in Bismarck, too. Larry's office is preparing for big flooding again this spring. Devils Lake will be getting bigger again, or it will head out to visit our good friends to the north.*

Gail & Bruce Harrower...*January 18th...We're off to Texas - had enough of this crazy weather. Leaving in the morning for Robstown and the IBT meeting.*

On the Road Again...

(Continued from page 1)
went north to find the rare whooping cranes that winter in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. We didn't have to go that far. Just north of Rockport is Goose Island State Park. We drove into the park to visit the 1000-plus-year-old live oak. While in the parking area for the tree, a Minnesotan advised us that whooping cranes were just down the road.

Sure enough, a family of three cranes—two adults and a juvenile—were in a pasture just 200 yards from the road. I could see another four cranes along the shoreline of the bay to the north and saw another two flying across the bay. Nine cranes in just a few minutes.

And just a little ways down the road were a dozen roseate spoonbills and a little blue heron feeding in the shallow water.

In February we will be in the Rio Grande Valley. I plan on birding at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and the Bensen-Rio Grande State Park, both known for large number of bird species, many of them at the northern portion of their range.

Geocaching

Geocaching is another pastime to occupy one's time. And I've found it's a good way to visit some out-of-the-way spots that I might not normally visit.



A Port Aransas geocache find. It was a small rock in which a hole had been drilled. The hole contained a small waterproof container, just large enough for a rolled up log.

Geocachers use hand-held GPS units that indicate a precise position on earth using information from several satellites. Geocaches vary in type and size, but a typical cache is a waterproof container hidden at a site and the latitude and longitude recorded. That information is placed on the geocaching internet site:

www.geocaching.com

It's given a name, a number-letter designation and other information about the cache, including who placed it, difficulty to find, terrain, size, date hidden, as well as a map and other information.

Then other geocachers try to find it and log their success, both on log in the geocache and on the geocache's internet site.

In Port Aransas is another couple from Pierre, Gary and Jeanne Hartman. Both are retired state employees. I met the Hartmans when we both used the Family History

Center at the Pierre LDS church to work on our family histories. Jeanne has a Coonrod in here line, so we consider ourselves cousins.

One day about noon I was jogging on the beach when a familiar pickup passed me. It was Gary. I tried to wave him down, but he didn't look in his mirror. But he did turn off the beach toward our campground. When I jogged up to our site, Gary was talking to Carolyn. He had stopped to invite me to go geocaching.

Earlier Gary had given me the coordinates to a dozen sites, and then I had added another 10 that were near our campground. We started with one of the close ones first, and found it. Another nearby geocache was atop one of the sand dunes where one of two 8-inch gun emplacements used to protect Port Aransas pass during WWII from attack was located. German U2s roamed the Gulf of Mexico. That was a cache Gary had previously found, but was now missing.

We criss-crossed Port Aransas that afternoon, locating eight geocaches and seeing many parts of the old fishing town that I wouldn't have otherwise visited. Later that evening I went to the geocaching web site and recorded my finds.

And, as you can see, not only are birding and geocaching good winter activities but they are good activities to do with friends.



Dear WBCCI Member,
Linda and I successfully escaped from NE Iowa earlier this month between winter storms. Due to single digit temperatures, the trailer and truck loading process was not as orderly as I had planned, but all the "must go" things made it, I think. About Kansas City the Ford engine started to run roughly. I continued south. With the aid of a cell phone we located a repair shop in Derby, Kansas, just south of Wichita. We spent two nights dry camping in a Church parking lot while the Ford was being repaired. Thank goodness for two new Interstate batteries. About the time the Ford was ready, both propane tanks were empty. Currently we are at NTAC in Hillsboro, Texas, recuperating and preparing for a much shorter trip to Robstown in about a week.

For the first item of business this month, I am able to tell you that the WBCCI Mail Trailer has been sold for \$13,500. It's a bit sad to see it go, for the Mail Trailer was always a welcome sight at the International Convention/Rally in years past. However, the last time it was used was at Perry, Georgia in 2007. It became very expensive to transport to and from rally sites, and really unnecessary when the host facility normally has space for our Mail Service Committee. The buyer's check has cleared, and the trailer will be prepared for shipment to Japan. Myron Fischer, Past International Treasurer, is to be congratulated for assisting the Club with this sale. Job well done.

Speaking of trailers, First Lady Linda spotted an article in the Feb - Mar

2011 issue of Country Woman magazine, titled "Ants on the Pants". Sarah Calhoun started her own company to provide "durable work pants that fit women's curves". She had grown tired of trying to modify men's work jeans to fit, when working on her parents' llama farm as a girl. She has a regular store front in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, but also markets her pants (with an ant logo), at pants parties across the U.S. and into Ontario. What does Sarah use for travel? A 1964 Air-stream!

Here's an item from Richard Jirus, the WBCCI Legislative Standing Committee Chairman. The U.S. National Park Service has announced that there will be seventeen "free" days at all National parks and monuments in 2011. The first is in conjunction with Martin Luther King Day on January 15 through January 17. The second period is to commemorate National Park Week from April 16 through April 24. The first day of summer will also be free, June 21. The next period is National Public Lands Day, and will be observed on September 24. The last free period will be the week ending that also marks Veteran's Day, November 11 through November 13. All entry fees are waived on these days. In addition, the Park Service intends to have special programs on those free days to also emphasize these special days.

At last count, 101 members have registered for the Mid-Winter IBT Meeting at Robstown, Texas. It is a brand new camping facility - we may be the first to use it. If you can

make it, please contact Jerry Larson to register. We have room for more! Registrations continue to steadily increase for the 54th International Convention/Rally in Du Quoin, Illinois, scheduled for June 28 - July 4, 2011. We now have 457 members who are registered to come to the Land of Lincoln. The Du Quoin State Fairgrounds will be beautiful in June, flowers will be blooming, race horses pulling sulkies will be training, and we will be providing our own additional Fun, Fellowship and Adventure.

Last, some of you may be aware of an AirForum posting which expressed concern with processing of a proposed Constitutional amendment initiated by the Denver Colorado Unit. In addition, two associated motions have been initiated by Region 11 - one revises the other. It is a complicated issue. Interpretations of the Constitution, Article XVI, Sections 1, 2 and 3 have been made by the Club Parliamentarian and the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committee, but both have been rejected by the Denver Colorado Unit President and others. I am preparing a detailed paper which is intended to move this issue forward to its conclusion. I will attempt to summarize the misunderstandings and problems which have arisen as a result. It will be ready before the end of the week. I do want to be very clear on one initial point. The oath of office administered to me, to the members of the Executive Committee and to the new Region Presidents requires us to enforce the WBCCI Constitution. We are honor bound so to do. Furthermore, there is no provision known to me that allows me, the members of the Executive Committee or the full International Board of Trustees, which includes all Region Presidents, to waive, change or ignore Constitutional requirements. Safe Travels,

— Norm Beu,
President WBCCI



Message from

Region 7 President Joan Lahr

Presidents' Message

Our Region 7 leadership team still needs a member to volunteer for the Second Vice President position. Since our region is more casual and less structured than others, the responsibilities for this position are quite brief: Attend all region business meetings and executive committee meetings, assist the President and First Vice President with region affairs, and assume the duties of the First Vice President in the absence of said officer, and assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President and First Vice President. With the President and First Vice President, coordinate annual visits with all units in Region 7. Attending IBT meetings is not mandatory, however, attendance is encouraged to become familiar with the governance of the club.

In her article on page one [of the Dec. 2010 Region 7 newsletter], Linda described her responsibilities and shared her enthusiasm as a region officer. There are many talented, enthusiastic members in all of our units that have a lot to offer our club. Our members are very supportive of officers and will help them in any way they can. I was very impressed and pleased with the support I received for the Medora rally. Please consider how you can contrib-

ute to our members, units, and region, and contact me or Linda soon if you are interested. We would be very happy to give you more details and would enjoy having you as a member of our team.

Long over due in Region 7, a mentoring program will be implemented in 2011. Sharon Ramler, Past President of the Minnesota Unit, has graciously volunteered to implement and chair this worthwhile program and will present it to members at the region rally. As mentoring new members involves everyone, all members from the units are encouraged to attend this session. The mentoring program will be posted on the region website soon.

Plans are near completion for the Wings, Rails, and End Zones Region 7 rally which takes place on July 24-29 in De Pere, Wisconsin. A rally flyer with a registration form is posted on the region website. Information also will be published in some issues of the Blue Beret. A number of members have already reserved their camp sites with Apple Creek Campground, the rally location. A \$25 deposit is required to confirm a reservation and is refundable (minus an \$8 fee) up to 10 days before the rally. Be sure to make your reservation early (as in now), due to a limited amount of sites available, as you won't want to miss this fun rally!

Bill Thomas Camper Sales will be on site as the Airstream travel trailer dealership for the DuQuoin Convention/Rally. Another dealership will display the Airstream Interstate and the new Avenue travel coaches. The dealers will bring a great display of trailers, an Airstream parts store, and technicians for repairs. The last time rally attendees had full Airstream support like this was three years ago at Bozeman, Montana.

Mid-Winter IBT rallies are smaller and more intimate than international rallies,

and always a lot of fun. The 2011 rally on January 24-28, 2011, takes place in Robstown, Texas. Robstown is a short drive to Corpus Christi, a very interesting city with many sites and attractions to visit. Consider attending if you're in the area; you will enjoy it. While in Texas, you may want to camp at two nice Airstream parks, the North Texas Airstream Community, located in Hillsboro, or the Texas Airstream Harbor, Inc., located in Zavalla. The parks and surrounding areas are quite different from each other, but both have good campsites and offer unique experiences.

For all of our Region 7 Winter Texans, we hope to see you at the "Airstreamers in the Valley" luncheon at 11:30 a.m., on February 11, at Ann's Restaurant in San Juan, Texas.

Please email (lahr@wbcci.net) or call me (262-327-4336) any time with questions or suggestions you may have regarding our units, region, or International. I would be glad to hear from you.

Join us!
Airstreamers
In the Valley
Luncheon
February 11, 2011
11:30 am
Ann's Restaurant
San Juan, Texas