

From: **Susan Kelly**

Date: Fri, Nov 13, 2015 at 9:54 PM

Subject: We have good news John and Susan Kelly are OK and so are Sherman and Delilah

To: All

Hi Airstreamers, These are the only emails I have - our Ontario directory was not to be found in the wreck! So feel free to pass this email around to other members. We were amazed how intact the airstream really was. The tow guy said that other trailers break apart completely and would be all over the road! Drive safely and enjoy your winter trips if you're going south. Take care and see you at the May 24 rally! (You can use story/pics in the newsletter if you want.) Susan

On Wed Nov 11, John and I were in a major accident with Sparky and Breezy and we're fine - not a bruise or scratch, same with the dogs. Just want to reassure you of that I have to admit it was pretty terrifying! But we are all right - truly! Here's what happened

The weather was bad - we were driving through New Mexico and there was a major wind storm/tornado warning. Winds were gusting to 100 km but we were driving slowly - everyone was on the road! We were doing OK until we hit Albuquerque New Mexico. I was driving in the outside lane (3 lanes highway) and I thought we were safe since the winds were drastically reduced. All weather reports showed winds stopped at Albuquerque. Well the weather report was wrong.



We came over a big hill in Albuquerque. We were in the outside lane and there was a truck beside us and it created this weird wind vacuum. Then there was this really strong gust and the trailer started fish tailing - 3 times actually. Luckily the truck beside us got out of the way and the people behind us did too. We didn't hit anyone so that was a blessing. Then the trailer took the truck forward and we were being pushed - then the trailer was along side the truck! We were travelling side ways down the interstate and then the trailer went on it's side and twisted the back of the truck. It pushed the truck into the medium and thank God there was a concrete barrier which stopped the truck from rolling and going into oncoming traffic. The truck hit the barrier with a big bang and we just stopped.



Just before we crashed I yelled at John that I loved him I really did think that was the end. But when I looked around afterwards we were all Ok including the dogs - we were stunned to say the least. People came running over (traffic was stopped for at least 2 hrs.) and couldn't believe that we were alive. Police, ambulance, etc. were terrific. The top of the back cab of our truck popped off and all the stuff in our tote boxes was all over the road - and on the other side of the barrier. Shoes, pots/pans, etc. Everyone helped in picking up the stuff ...



In no time A-Albuquerque Towing had the truck/trailer upped and towed to their towing company who were absolutely wonderful to us. They took us under their wing and gave us terrific support - physically and with advice. One of the guys noticed we were Canadian and said he was from New Brunswick and John and he became instant 'cousins' so he made sure we got Fab care! That same afternoon and along with another tow guy 'Steven' we salvaged Breezy and all our things.

The inside was chaos - the cupboards closets/doors had all come loose and were strewn all over the interior. And I had just bought several fresh salads and they were EVERYWHERE! Believe it or not, we got most of our important stuff - computers, Pearly Lou (my dulcimer - not a scratch on her!), pool cues, a lot of kitchen/bathroom things, all our clothes, etc. I think I lost one shoe and it's probably still out there on Interstate #40! Our bikes were totaled.



The first 24 hrs we were pretty stunned to say the least! It was a shocker and John and I realize how lucky we are and that we have each other and Sherman and Delilah! Everything else is extraneous! John went into extreme problem solving mode and had contacted his insurance agency before the police had driven us off the highway to our hotel! He's been amazing my rock.

Today we learned that the truck is a write off (at first the insurance co. was going to try and fix it) and the Airstream is written off too. John already has a line on a new 30 foot Airstream just like Breezy. Andy Thompson (owner of CanAm RV in London where we have bought and stored our Airstream) has been absolutely amazing. Andy's going to arrange for our new truck (Ford Expedition we think) to be shipped from Guelph to CanAm and get everything put together for us. Then he's going to get our whole new unit shipped down to Mesa. I tell you if you want an RV ONLY go to CanAm - Andy is amazing and the service is consistently superlative.

Fri: So we're on the move today and we'll arrive at Mesa Regal in our rented minivan which is cramped with some of our stuff. (On Thurs we finished the salvage, packed everything into 30 tote boxes!) The towing owner



arranged for these containers to be shipped to Mesa by a freighter. I tell you John has been so incredible in arranging all of this. Imagine being in a major accident on Wed. morning and driving to Phoenix 2 days later!



We'll rent a Florida-style unit at [Mesa Regal](#) for about a month until our new truck and trailer arrive. That way we can get right into our adventure and start stain glass, wood carving, dulcimer, billiards, bocce, biking (hoping to get new bikes!), etc. Sherman and Delilah are certainly looking forward to settling down and getting roots too. They're looking forward to that dog park!

So there we go. We are so blessed that we have each other and our puppies God really was looking after us and we're still around! So thinking of all of you tonight and we both are so grateful for our lives, family and friends - we have such a rich life.

This is my first accident and it was a doosey! Take care and please drive safely everyone! We're so grateful to have ourselves and all of you in our lives.



Affectionately, Susan and John (1142)