

THE OREGON STREAMER



The Oregon Airstream Club Newsletter

Focus on Volunteer Board Of Directors



Chris Wagner

As the number of Washington residents that are members of the Oregon Airstream Club has grown and rallies have expanded in to Washington, the board was seeking a volunteer Director representative of those members. Chris Wagner accepted and is now a valued volunteer member of the team. Chris is a native of Colorado, raised in Anchorage, attended college in Wyoming, and also lived in California so a true Westerner. He entered the Air Force where he became a pilot and then was a pilot for Delta for 25 years before finishing his aviation career flying cargo for a private company. Chris is the father of two adult sons that live locally, one of whom has attended Airstream rallies with him.

Chris and his partner and fellow OAC member, Susannah Lints, live in Vancouver, WA and are jointly the owners of a 2005 Interstate, a 1965 17' Caravel, and the new baby of the family, a 2017 Flying Cloud 26' U. Chris was intro-

duced to Airstream life and Susannah's Interstate after they began dating. A chance OAC breakfast meeting that included the Starbirds resulted in the purchase of their 1965 17' Caravel in 2017. After attending the WBAC Four Corners Caravan, they decided to purchase the gently used 2017 26U FC. The U is rarely seen in the wild as was only produced by Airstream for a couple of years.

When I asked Chris why he was attracted to Airstreams, his response was after his first rally, the 2017 April Fool's Rally that he attended with Susannah, he was hooked. He also said his career was spent in aluminum planes so seemed like a logical transition.

Best Upgrade? 4 stage converters that have been added to all three trailers.

Next Upgrade(s)? New cushion foam, lithium batteries, and a better dinette table top for the FC. Not a fan of the split table.

Boondocker or Hookups? Quick response - glamper!

Favorite Campground? Belknap Hot Springs located on the McKenzie River in Central Oregon

Favorite Camping Activity? Hiking, kayaking, and considering the purchase of E-bikes

Favorite Season to Camp? Chris and Susannah are fair weather campers so will be getting their Airstreams ready to go in the next few months

Best Safety Tip? Checklists and checklists for the checklists. As a pilot, Chris understands how quickly things can go wrong if something is overlooked.

Advice for newbies? Take advantage of the knowledge and experience of other members of the club. Attend rallies and ask questions - Airstreamers love to share what they have learned. Subscribe to the Airstream Forums and follow the OAC Facebook group.

Camping plans for 2021? Chris and Susannah, like most of the newsletter readers, are exercising caution until the COVID-19 vaccinations are available. They are hosting the Friend's Rally in Montesano, Washington this coming July and will attend the TBD Region 10 Vintage Rally as well as the OAC Year End Rally in Redmond, OR. Chris said they also will camp throughout the season with friends in smaller groups.

What do you enjoy most about being a member of the OAC? Chris didn't hesitate to reply "interesting, friendly people with a common interest!"

Chris's Hot Tip - for owners of the Fiamma Bike Rack, Pro Pride hitch company manufactures and sells upgraded replacements for the Fiamma aluminum brackets. Airstream Forum and the Facebook group, Airstream Addicts, have documented many owners that experienced metal fatigue and breakage of the brackets. Chris highly recommends the Pro Pride brackets!

As interviewed by Kathy Geese

Rally News



**Terri Warren,
Rally Coordinator OAC**

The rally signups have begun! Thanks so much to almost all of our members who held off registering until our volunteer hosts had an opportunity to sign up for rallies themselves. We definitely had some midnight signups on the 15th, which is such fun, I think. The hosts work very hard to keep everything organized and running smoothly, even when not dealing with meals this year. They do registrations and deal with wait lists and cancellations and receive checks and do site assignments and answer questions from guests and sites and they will be on-site to welcome you and handle any issues that arise at the rallies. It's a big job and our volunteers do it ever so well.

Several rallies are full and more may be by the time you get this newsletter: Elkamp, Maryhill, Sea and Sand, The Narrows, Bird Migration, Sisters, and Wine Country are all full. I've added sites to some rallies to clear the wait lists but for some, there are no more sites available to be booked at the campgrounds. There is still a little room at the St. Patrick's Day Rally that is next up! So pull out your booklet and review your options.

The good news is I was able to grab several state park sites at 6 am on the 14th when state parks re-opened for reservations.

They are as follows:

- Bullards Beach SP: Arriving Thursday, April 22, Departing Sunday, April 25, 7 sites \$98
- Tumalo SP: Arriving Monday, May 10, Departing Thursday, May 13, 10 sites \$107
- LaPine SP: Arriving Thursday, May 27, Departing Monday, May 31, 13 sites \$132
- Cape Lookout SP: Arriving Tuesday, June 8, Departing Friday, June 11, 10 sites \$119
- Silver Falls SP: Arriving Friday, June 11, Departing Monday, June 14, 9 sites, \$101
- Champoeg SP: Arriving Friday, July 2, Departing Monday, July 5, 14 sites, \$101
- Nehalem Bay SP: Arriving Wed., July 14, Departing Sunday, July 18, 11 sites, \$148

So there are 74 more opportunities to camp! These will be simple gatherings of people who love being out and about in their Airstreams. There will be no on-site hosts but one of our club members will be handling reservations, cancellations and site assignments online. Again, we are being very COVID cautious so no shared meals, close gatherings or trailer visits unless they are friends or family in your pods already, please. You'll notice that we got Champoeg for the 4th of July! All of these reservations are for earlier in the year because I was only able to reserve 6 months in advance. Besides, we have lots of fall rallies already. I may try to get some August reservations lined up later in the spring. So call up a friend or two and get signed up for the state park gatherings. .

Membership Message by Membership Chair Mel Simrell



Mel & Mike Simrell

Mel Simrell Membership Chair

I want to thank Susan Taylor for all her years of being our Oregon Unit Membership Chair! I look forward to our time together and will continue, along with all of you, to recognize and provide a warm welcome to our new members.

The Oregon Unit has a reputation of being an active and eclectic group, so please give a “tip of the hat” to these folks just added in the past couple of months:

Jack & Debi Lynch
Brooke/Kathleen Woodruff/O'Reilly
Pat & Debbie Wray
Todd & DeeDee Wynne-Parry/Taft
Greg & Cindy Kenyon
Paul & Charli Westerfield
Laura & Melissa Aurisy/Jones

Jake & Stephanie Adams
George & Christine Tucker
Tom & Deanna Bain
David & Suel Brown



TRAVEL APPS FOR AIRSTREAMERS by Kathy Geese



Kathy Geese

TruckMap:



Although many Airstreamers have reliable GPS systems built in to their tow vehicles, most do not take in to account that there is a trailer following behind. Having squeezed through a tight neighborhood on multiple occasions due to my navigator (clear throat here) missing a critical turn or worse, our WAZE app saving us two minutes and misguiding us over a narrow curving road with no shoulders and cliff drop offs, I turned to GPS navigation recommendations of my fellow

travelers. TruckMap is a free app designed for professional truck drivers. We are over 50' hauling our Airstream so rival the length of a semi. TruckMap provides route guidance while avoiding low bridges, narrow roads, toll roads, and roads restricted in length or weight. In addition, app filters allow searches for rest stops, where to find diesel, Walmart, propane, WIFI, grocery stores, truck stops, RV dump stations, and weigh stations. In Oregon, we have found several unmanned weigh stations where we can check our weight distribution. Like any app, I recommend having a paper map and a general idea of where you are heading in case the app makes a squirrely suggestion but on more than one occasion, it has been invaluable.



Bonus suggestion - full credit to my navigator and his label maker for sticking a label with our height clearance on the driver's side rear view mirror.

Have an app you can't live without? Email me at kathygeese@gmail.com and I will check it out!

ROAD TRIP WITH Florence Tramoni



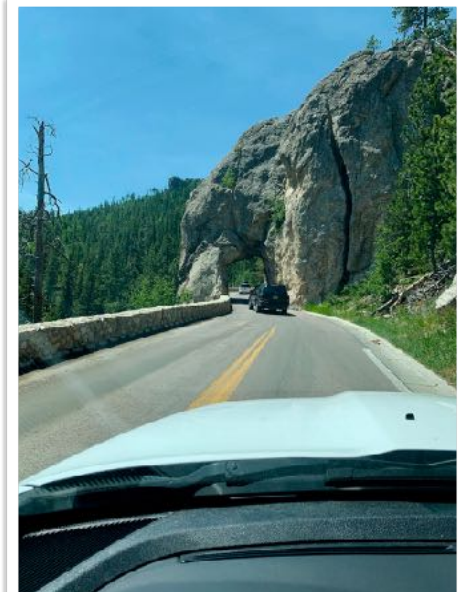
I've been traveling solo with my 9 pound Jack Russell Luna for four years now, averaging maybe 10,000 miles a year and 50-60 nights. My Covid -19 big summer boondoggle was no different: three National Parks, three National Monuments, two National Historic sites, one National Grassland, five rounds of golf, 4000 miles... all in all a success other than a run in between aluminum and mother nature.

After golfing with the marmots in Custer SD, we settled into a most lovely spot at the Roost Resort. At 9 o'clock that night, the thunder started rolling. Like a lot. I put the "thunder vest" on Luna. The thunder became relentless. Luna was panting so hard she could have propelled a small sailing vessel. About 20 minutes in, the hail started and I started worrying. Not any kind of hail I've ever experienced. It was deafening for half an hour as we sat at the galley table staring at each other. The entire roof and solar panels ended up being replaced this fall

(thank goodness for comprehensive insurance).

We made the short drive to Mt Rushmore. It is truly spectacular. It took 14 years to build--seems fast to me. Each face is 60 feet tall. Ninety percent of the sculpting was done with dynamite. I looked at the map to see how to get to Wind Cave National Park. It's so exciting when the road has little dots along it because that means it is a scenic byway. Come to find out it is a well known route in South Dakota

called the Needles Highway. Absolutely stunning. The Needles Tunnel is 8'4" wide by 12' tall. Thank goodness I did not have the trailer with me.



Next morning was super foggy and I was headed for Devil's Tower National Monument. My GPS on the truck said 1 hour 15 minutes and my phone GPS offered a back road that was 40 minutes. DUH!! So off I go and within a mile the road turns to dirt (sans trailer) with signs of "open range". The fog made it spooky and I did wonder for a moment if I would find my way. But then I reached the highway and there it was through the fog! I'll spare ya'll the geologic history of its

ROAD TRIP...cont'd

formation but I will mention it the largest example of columnar jointing in the world. My kids grew up with an earful on columnar basalts as we tent camped around eastern WA and the Columbia River Basin. The Native American name for the tower was Bear Lodge and some egocentric geologist from an expedition in 1875 renamed it Devil's Tower. Unfortunate. The surrounding fields are littered with prairie dogs. I thought that was the name of a band. I stumbled upon the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. I had heard about Custer's Last Stand against Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. I got pretty emotional reading the history at each spot and looking out over the hills and imagining the battle. There are grave-stones as far as the eye can see. I also came upon Pictograph Cave State Park in MT. The Blackfeet and Crow tribes used this cave for ceremonial purposes and some artifacts dated from 9000 years ago have been found. Saw very cool cave paintings from 2500 years ago.

On the way to Yellowstone I stopped in Big Sky (yes the ski resort) to golf. I golf at least once in every state in travel through, and most of the time they allow my canine caddy. What a beautiful course! The course elevation is 7500 feet. Tell you what, I've never played at that elevation on hard fairways. My golfing friends know what I'm talking about.



And ah yes, Yellowstone, the "super" volcano. If it were to erupt again (the last major eruption was some 450,000 years ago), the volcano is capable of burying Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Colorado in three feet of harmful volcanic ash, splintered rock and glass, and would also blanket the Midwest. But let's not let that stop us from experiencing what it looks like in times of peaceful bliss. And besides the geology, we come for the wildlife. I saw wolves, pronghorn, black bear, bison (hundreds), crazy colorful tiny birds, and elk. No sign of Yogi and Booboo. Or

any grizzly. That's like hitting the jackpot. I'm so glad my kids got to see one when we were there 15 years ago. No hiking with dogs allowed, so I was relegated to short excursions at each "site" with Luna in her beloved backpack.



If I am within 50 miles of any caverns on my trips, I am there. I visited Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park in Cardwell Montana This time my hopes were dashed by Covid-19. Of the 13 rooms in this cave system, visits were allowed in only 2 rooms to allow for social distancing and the 10 people at a time in any gathering. Still worth it. The steps carved out of the travertine would look great leading into my bathtub. Black Hills Caverns in SD were also interesting.. The cave system was impressive in size but not

ROAD TRIP...cont'd

necessarily in fancy cave formations. It was Luna's first cave. The guide told how when National Treasure was being filmed in the area, Nicholas Cage came for a tour and offered the owner 700K to buy the property. She said no. Love those movies.

When I planned out this trip, Badlands National Park was what piqued my interest the most.



I had seen pictures but I wasn't ready for the emotional reaction I experienced. Badlands is stark, austere, unforgiving, exposed, rugged, harsh, either very hot or very cold, and inspiring all at once. The Lakota people called it "land bad". A landscape unlike any other I've seen.

The first town when you leave the park is Wall. Have you seen those bumper stickers that just say Wall Drug? Started in 1931 during the Depression and the drugstore owner attracted folks from the highway by offering folks free ice water. And they still do! Servicemen from the Second World War had pictures of themselves taken everywhere in the world with a big Wall Drug signs. It's a soda fountain, mall, restaurant and they started just selling pharmacy stuff, ice cream, belts and cowboy boots.

FUN FACTS WITH FLORENCE...Florence Tramoni

While many of us winterize and put the Airstream away for the winter, I go out even more often it seems. I love the storms on the beach, the pounding rain on the roof, and especially, the lack of crowds. One thing often overlooked is the amount of moisture created in the trailer when it is warm inside and cold outside. I travel solo with a dog and routinely pull close to one gallon of water out of the air every 24 hours.

That moisture-laden air is not just on your windows. It is in the insulation, in and under the mattress, in your seat cushions... well you get the drift. Get acquainted with your Fantastic Fans. You'll soon figure out how much of a draft you can create or negate given different environmental conditions (like if it's windy outside or if there a window cracked). Use your range hood fan every time you are cooking and the shower fan. And get a dehumidifier.

I use a desiccant dehumidifier (as opposed to a compressor dehumidifier) and I love it. Got mine you know where <https://www.amazon.com/EcoSeb-DD122EA-SIMPLE-Desiccant-Dehumidifier-15-Pint/dp/B00KHJIC04>. There are a few to choose from but the size to effectiveness ratio makes this one a great choice. It is small (11x18x7), lightweight (13 pounds), it is quiet (it runs all night), and it is a workhorse. It collects 4 pints before having to be emptied (and then shuts off), or you can put it in the shower if you are dumping grey water frequently. I have a Velcro strap that keeps it tucked under the galley table when underway.

OREGON AIRSTREAM CLUB ARTISTS...Rhonda Coleman



Rhonda Coleman

I paint and draw and create travel journals—but it's my silly cookies that people like most.

And I'm not really a baker! I'm just compelled to decorate sugar cookies and have fun making them for holidays—Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, Christmas—or to commemorate something special, like an Aluma-event.

The Christmas cookies seem to get more and more elaborate every year. In 2018 it was dinosaurs; 2019 was an island theme. This year: dogs in holiday sweaters. With all the Covid cancellations, I had plenty of time to camp out in the kitchen! It took about four days to bake and frost several dozen German shepherds, Scottish terriers, two mutts, and of course, dachshunds, like my

little Airstream copilots, Ripley and Raven.

I use a combination of vintage and new cookie cutters, and ordinary canned and tube frostings. I quadruple the tried-and-true sugar cookie recipe from a 45 year old Betty Crocker cookbook that I got as a wedding present in the 80s:

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 7-8 minutes.

They're delicious! I have no trouble biting the heads off :)

Rhonda Coleman
Bend, Oregon





GADGETS AND GIZMOS WITH Kathy Geese



Gadgets and Gizmos

For those of us that want to maximize storage space but have trouble reaching in to the back of a cabinet, an Airstream Storage Ideas Group FaceBook post caught my eye about an organizer that can be used on those high shelves where everything disappears in the back. Instead of having to haul in the step stool from the truck, I can now easily access stored items that previously became out of sight, out of mind. A number of companies sell these but the Lynk Professional Pull Out Shelf I purchased on amazon.com is under \$40, installed easily, and glides in and out easily.

The 11" wide by 18" deep shelf fit my opening but also comes in 11", 14", 17" and 20" widths with depths of 18" or 21" so will fit many Airstream models. Make sure to measure from the side of the inner hinge to determine your opening space so the shelf can slide out without hitting the hinge and don't forget the trailer curvature at the back of the cabinet as the unit is 4" tall so won't be able to slide all the way to the back of the cabinet. I can now easily access my juicer, strainer, and immersion blender and bonus was I have enough room on the side behind the hinge for small cutting boards. Comes in chrome which looks great with the trailer! Have a gadget or gizmo you love and willing to share in future newsletters or have a question about measuring or installation? Contact me at kathygeese@gmail.com.

ORGANIZING YOUR AIRSTREAM with Mel Simrell

Welcome fellow campers!
Pull up a stool by our virtual campfire.....

With of all the topics I want to share with you, the one I chose to start with is “Where Can You Put All Your Stuff?”

We Airstreamers love to learn the best way to travel!
I thought I would have to drastically limit what I take, but actually I feel there is plenty of space when stuff is organized creatively.

Whether you love or fear the word “organization” or don’t even know where to place yourself on the “organization continuum”, I guarantee you that here are are 3 items that can make you life easier....

Command Strips: These little darlin’s are the backbone of organization! I can’t imagine anyone who has not heard of these gems, but if you haven’t, these strips will adhere to a wide range of surfaces and can easily be removed cleanly whenever you want to change your mind. Just make sure you purchase the correct strip for the weight of your project! Pictures, strings of lights, Holiday decorations, spring clips, the list goes on.

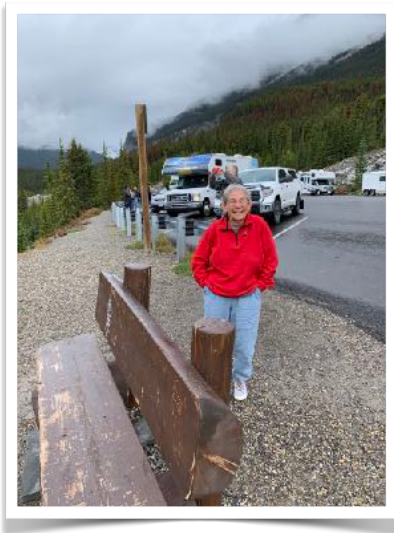
Hooks are your friends! When thinking about your Airstream storage, think “up”. There’s a lot of valuable space to capture on the walls. Hooks for bath towels and robes seem like a natural but also think about pot holders and dish towels, hanging kitchen utensils that don’t fit in a drawer, inside of a closet doors for hats and misc. Adhesive small clips are also a great way to hold notes and photos that can be tucked into lots if unique spaces. Command has a great informational website.

Baskets: there are plenty to choose from with the bargains at IKEA and the Dollar Stores, but my favorite kind of baskets are the SOFT ones made of fabric or cord. You can find these at places like Target and The Container Store. The soft sides let you be able to stuff them in any overhead locker and they will be form fitting. No measuring~easy peasy!They come in many sizes and I personally travel with 4 (so far).....

Tension rods: these spring-loaded wonders are what I use as dividers for the upper lockers . Place them by the sides of food storage containers, dishes and appliances so they fit securely and stay put while taveling.
With bathroom cupboards, place them in front of items so you don’t get a surprise of tumbled stuff when you open the door.

Ok there are my top three items and so please use this list as a springboard.
I have only skimmed to topic of organization with you, but we will visit it again at a later date. In the meantime, there is a bunch to look at on Pinterest, YouTube and Airstream Facebook pages if you need more inspiration.....
Thanks for spending time with me and remember~
Enjoy Your Shiny Life!

REGION 10 NEWS



Rhonda Levine
1-ST Vice President

Happy New Year from the Board members of Region 10! In 2021 we are doing several things to keep us all connected and are working toward a healthy and productive year. Your Region 10 Board members meet monthly to share ideas and concerns and stay in touch. It helps when we cannot travel to see one another.

One of the first things coming up in January will be the 2021 International Board of Trustees Mid-Winter Meeting in Sarasota, Florida. Many of us feel that travel to this event is not a good idea as Covid has not been controlled and the vaccine has not yet been offered to most. There is also a Zoom option for those not attending in person and our Region will be able to attend that way.

At our last meeting we introduced the Board to our new 2nd Vice President...Kathy Geese from Olympia, Washington. She is going to make a wonderful addition to the group. Kathy is a seasoned traveler and with hubby David they have been to many locations throughout the Region. They have hosted assorted rallies and caravans and have plans for more.

We have sadly lost our fantastic Region 10 newsletter editor Cara Goedeking recently as she wants to spend more time with her family. So we're hoping one of you will consider taking her place. If you have questions about what an editor does, feel free to contact our own terrific Oregon newsletter editor Norma Massier at nmassier@comcast.net. We feel pretty strongly about the virtues of keeping us connected and informed.

And of course we're always looking for good articles about travels within our States and Regions so please feel free to contribute. We all have stories to tell and adventures to share. Take care and be safe out there! And have fun.

OREGON AIRSTREAM CLUB

A big thank you to all of the VOLUNTEERS who continue to give freely of their time to make the Oregon Airstream Club one of the most active in the nation. The elected and appointed members of the board meet quarterly, via Zoom these days, always working to strengthen and support projects to make your membership even more valuable. The newsletter committee doubled in size this year with new reporters who will continue to connect and support our Airstream community with topics based on feedback from our readers. The Rally Handbook, new this year, was well received and required hours of effort by the Warren/Hendrix household. A new committee has just been formed to produce a Membership Handbook, spearheaded by our 1st V.P, Carol Dion. I challenge you to find any other Airstream Club which has planned for the number of rallies that we have planned thanks to our Rally Coordinator and all of the volunteer hosts which stepped forward to help. We are a strong club due to a robust group of **VOLUNTEERS**.

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OAC on FACEBOOK: The Oregon Airstream Club

REGION 10 on FACEBOOK: facebook.com/groups/1473216976235744/

REGION 10 WEBSITE: region10.airstreamclub.net

INSTAGRAM: oregon airstream club

TWITTER: oregonairstreamclub

See above for new website information: