



OREGON AIRSTREAM CLUB

MEMBER HANDBOOK



Contents

Welcome to the Oregon Airstream Club!	2
Airstream Club International.....	2
International Rally	2
National Event Rallies	2
National Caravans.....	2
Headquarters	2
Intra-Clubs	2
Membership Directory	2
Blue Beret	3
Other Member Benefits	3
Region 10	3
Oregon Airstream Club	3
Governance	3
Rallies	3
Caravans.....	4
Other opportunities and ways to get involved.....	4
Let's Go Camping	5
Choosing a place to camp.....	5
Before You Go	5
On the road:	7
At your destination:	7
A little history/light reading	8
The Wally Byam story	8
WBCCI formation and early years	8
Region History	9
Oregon Unit history	9
Other Resources.....	9

Oregon Airstream Club
Member Handbook
Region 10, Local Club 90

Welcome to the Oregon Airstream Club!

We are a group of enthusiastic folks that love to camp and/or travel independently, enjoy camaraderie, and share our passion for Airstreams.

The Oregon Airstream club is part of Region 10, which includes British Columbia CA, Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Our parent organization is the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI), and is also referred to as the Airstream Club International (ACI) .

Airstream Club International

International Rally

Each year ACI holds its International Rally (IR) between June 20 and July 30 at a site chosen by the current International President. The International Board of Trustees (IBT) meets twice during the rally to conduct the business of the Club.

National Event Rallies

- National Event Rallies occur during unique festivals or other events. Popular ones include the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Pendleton Roundup, Sun Valley Jazz Festival, and the Rose Parade.

National Caravans

- National Caravans are a very economical way to travel and see the country. This also provides a great opportunity to meet Airstreamers from all over the country, often resulting in long-lasting friendships. Well known caravans include: Cajun Country, Southwest Adventure, Viking Trail and North to Alaska. Details of these and other caravans can be found on the website: <https://airstreamclub.org>

Headquarters

- The International Club maintains its headquarters at 803 E Pike St, Jackson Center, OH. Our employees process new and renewing members, produce the Membership Directory and Blue Beret magazine, maintain the Club's website, and coordinate National Caravans and Rallies.

Intra-Clubs

- Currently there are four formalized Intra Clubs: Amateur Radio, Classic Airstream, Independent Airstreamers, and Vintage Airstream. In addition to the formal Clubs, many members with specific interests have grouped together: Silver Sisters, Lady Streamers, Wine Streamers, to name a few.

Membership Directory

- Most members now join and renew on line. Members who join or renew by December 31 may choose to have their information listed in the Membership Directory, published in February.
 - Also listed in the directory are the Region and Local Club Officers along with a map showing the geographical location of each Region and club.
 - Airstream authorized sales, service and parts dealerships are listed.
 - A listing of members that offer 'courtesy parking' for other members

Blue Beret

- The Blue Beret, the official publication of ACI, is produced monthly except for December and July. An electronic version is distributed via e-mail the first of each month. If requested, a “hard copy” usually arrives within a week.

Other Member Benefits

- Member benefits include: discounts with Harvest Hosts, Passport America, Michelin Advantage Program and Griot’s Garage. Check <https://airstreamclub.org> for details.

Region 10

Region 10 is an active, inclusive, and truly international region. An eBlast, in lieu of a newsletter, is sent out to all members within the region as needed, to update activities and changes. Region rallies have offered meals, tours and entertainment in locations that change annually. The Region also sponsors the Sun Valley Jazz Festival Rally, a National Rally usually in October.

Oregon Airstream Club

The Oregon Airstream Club (**OAC**) promotes, plans and encourages all members to attend rallies, go on caravans, and/or travel independently with our Airstreams.

Governance

- The OAC is governed by a group of officers made up of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Past President, Directors (4), Secretary and Treasurer.
- Standing committees include: Rally/Caravan Coordinator, Constitution/Bylaws, Membership, Newsletter, Webmaster, Social Media and Nominating.
- An annual meeting is held in either September or October, to coincide with the Year-End Rally. Nominations are put forward for new officers, with a vote taken to select the new officers.
- Additional business meetings can be called as needed, with membership notified when and where each meeting will be held.

Rallies

The OAC offers many rallies each year, planned by the Rally Coordinator, and hosted by members that have stepped forward to host a rally. In 2021, for the first time, a handbook was developed by the Rally Coordinator, listing the 27 rallies, the host contact information, and specifics of the rally location.

- Rally Coordinator responsibilities include planning, organizing and obtaining hosts/leaders for rallies. They attend all business meetings, and support hosts in handling camp reservations, setting rally fees, cancelling rallies and provide guidance and support as needed.
- Registration for rallies is done on-line, at the OAC website: <https://airstreamclub.org/oregon> Payment for each rally is made at registration, either through Paypal, credit card, or check mailed directly to the host. Fees for a rally are calculated on the cost of the sites, meals/food provided, any planned activities and any PayPal fees if that payment was used.
- Sample Rally schedule:
 - Rallies typically have a ‘host’- a volunteer that brings the rally together and attends the rally.
 - Prior to the rally the host may have emailed a general schedule of meals/happy hours and activities to registrants. Pot luck or other meal arrangements is shared and assigned. Site assignments are listed, along with any specific directions to or about the campground if needed.
 - Arrival day of Rally: Meet and greet new arrivals – please be courteous and allow folks to set up camp without interruption – lots of time to visit after we are all settled.

- Happy hour gathering: specific time and place usually announced the first evening by the host.
- Meals: shared meals are typical, except for 2020 and 2021 rallies. Pot luck, host provided meals, or on your own, are all common meal options – your choice is honored.
- Shared activities (like meals/games/happy hours) and ideas on what to do in each rally location is shared – many folks partner up to explore an area.

- **Cancellation Policy:**

- *Basically, if the club is going to lose money if you cancel, then you will be out that money rather than the club. For example, if the policy of the campground is that you have to cancel 2 weeks in advance to get a full refund, and you cancel 2 weeks in advance, you'll get most of your money back. If you cancel 10 days in advance, you will lose whatever the club will lose on that reservation – maybe one night, maybe the full reservation, it varies greatly depending on the campground. Any Paypal fees will be deducted from the refund.*

Each host will be aware of the specific cancellation policies for their rally and they can help you sort this out, should it become necessary. If you need to cancel, please do so as soon as you know about a conflict so someone on the waiting list can take your spot.

If you need to cancel, please don't give your spot to someone else, on your own, as there may be people who have been on the waiting list ahead of whomever you might know to fill your spot. But let the host know that you have someone to fill your spot if you need to cancel, just in case there is no one on the wait list for that rally.

Also, if the rally you want is full, please don't make an independent reservation at that campground without checking with the host first. The host may have planned activities and meals based on the number of folks that have registered.

- **Support for hosting a rally**

- The club has a list of items that can be borrowed for hosting a rally, including: Electric roasters, large serving bowls and utensils, Oregon unit banners, directional signs, a toaster, large pop up tents with sides, 3 burner camp chef cook stove, a couple of games (bingo and bean bag baseball)
- Previous hosts can provide guidance about food preparation and food safety and we encourage our hosts to obtain a food handler's license online – it's inexpensive and quick and insures that food served is healthy
- A sample food budget
- Below is the link on the Oregon club's website – great information on hosting and enjoying a rally: <https://airstreamclub.org/oregon/plan-rally>

Caravans

- In the last few years caravans have been organized around the theme of 'Four Corners of Oregon' and focusing on local history, culture and geology.
- The leader organizes the stops, any shared meals, happy hours and any activities and/or speakers at each stop.
- Bring ideas on other caravans to the Rally Coordinator

Other opportunities and ways to get involved

- Portland area members gather monthly (2nd Saturday of the month) for an 'Airstream Breakfast' at a local restaurant. This event has been temporarily paused.
- Corvallis/Albany/mid-valley members gather monthly for a coffee at the Corvallis Market of Choice, upstairs food court. This event has been temporarily paused.
- Holiday gathering in the Portland area (this has been paused to accommodate pandemic guidelines)
- Bi-monthly newsletter is emailed to all members. Features book reviews, places of interest, interviews with members, lots of photos of favorite camping spots with reviews.

- Sign up for rallies/caravans and share your experiences at happy hours or informally. We all love to talk about our Airstreams, and there is a wealth of information at each gathering. Your experiences and questions will add to the conversation and welcomed.
- Ways to get involved:
 - Submit something to the newsletter
 - Offer to help any of the club officers
 - Host or co-host a rally to a favorite spot – offer suggestions to the Rally Coordinator

Let's Go Camping

Choosing a place to camp

- **Determine what is important to you**
 - Full Hookup campgrounds – provides water, sewer, electricity, often cable TV and WiFi service
 - Partial hookups – usually water and electricity at a minimum
 - 'Boondocking' or 'off the grid'.
 - Privacy, views, outdoor activities, cultural opportunities
- **Resources to find campgrounds**
 - Refer to the rally schedule from this year and past years
 - Ask other members for first hand reviews of campgrounds
 - Other Websites or Apps: Campendium, All Stays, Harvest Hosts, PassPorts, Good Sam Club, to name a few, can provide directions, reviews and add variety to your camping sites.
 - Oregon is fortunate to have many State, County and even some City parks that have excellent camping opportunities. Forest Service campgrounds, as well as those maintained by the Bureau of Land Management are also good options.

Before You Go

- **Potable Water**
 - Include two 25-foot lengths of 5/8-inch high-pressure hose with fittings, certified for drinking/potable water.
 - Other useful items include a "water bandit", water pressure regulator, Y-splitter, and water filtering system. It's construction allows you to attach it to many different types of taps and get your water out without making a mess. Also, be sure to carry disinfecting wipes for disinfecting the park potable water faucet before attaching potable water hose.
- **Sanitation**
 - Equipment for the well-prepared Airstream camper consists of at least 15' of sewer hose, associated fittings and 25' of 5/8" hose (different color from the potable water hoses) for the sewer hose and black tank wash down.
 - Store these hoses and all sanitation items separately from your potable water equipment. Use dedicated or disposable gloves to handle hoses and disinfect areas of your Airstream and potable water faucet touched after handling sewer equipment. Wash your hands afterwards.
- **Grey Water (Gray Tank/Dish Water & Shower) and Sewer (Black Tank) Water Disposal**
 - Dispose of this water according to the rules of the park. This usually consists of sewer hookup at your site or a RV dump station located somewhere within the park.
 - Dish water can also be disposed of via a bucket or other suitable container at a park provided gray water disposal site near your camp site.

- **Electrical Equipment**
 - Should consist of a power cord and adapters (Dog-bones) appropriate for your Airstream.
 - Suggestions also include a surge protector, heavy duty extension cord, A three-prong outlet tester for verifying proper shore power voltage and grounding. A voltmeter is useful for troubleshooting other electrical issues. Spare electrical fuses, bulbs, and connectors.
 - Some people have solar panels on/for the Airstream. Portable solar panels are easy to hook up and can make your camping easier. Some recommend at least a 130-watt portable ‘suitcase’ solar panel. A simple two-prong trailer plug with 12GA wire from the batteries is all that is needed for the solar connection.
- **Leveling**
 - Commercial stacking leveling blocks or wood boards can be used to level the Airstream. There is also a curved heavy-duty plastic ramp that allows easy adjustment for levelling the Airstream.
- **Wheel Chocks/Wedges**
 - Used to secure the wheels **before** unhitching the Airstream.
- **Tire Pressure Gauge**
 - Used for checking tire pressures and airing tires if needed.
 - Some Airstream owners use TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System) which monitor tire pressures. A monitor located in the tow vehicle cab alarms if tire pressures fall below or rise above a set point.
- **Torque Wrench**
 - Used to adjust wheel lug nut torque and hitch bolt torque. Both your tow vehicle and Airstream manufactures have torque ratings and how often to adjust it. Airstream recommends a 200-mile tire lug nut check with a torque wrench set at 110 foot-pounds.
- **Electric Heater**
 - A size appropriate for your Airstream will keep your rig warm enough in winter and save a lot of furnace noise, propane, and money. Look for one that turns off if the heater tips over. Set the furnace thermostat at the lowest temperature desired. It will come on only if the electric heater cannot provide adequate heat.
- **Catalytic Heater**
 - Appropriately sized will allow you to dry camp in cold weather for longer periods. Only use with adequate ventilation as specified by manufacturer. **WARNING: Carbon monoxide produced by these units is highly dangerous and can cause death if not adequately ventilated to the outside.**
- **Equipment and Tools**
 - Tools are a subjective choice but as a minimum carry a good set of hand tools and sockets.
 - Make sure you have all the right tire changing equipment.
 - For emergencies it is a good idea to carry a shovel, crowbar, axe, fire extinguisher, and a set of road reflectors. Include a good flashlight or lantern, hydraulic jack, spare tires for tow vehicle and trailer, tire chains (during winter travel) and tow chain, strap or nylon rope recommended for towing.
- **Optional Odds and Ends**
 - Carrying a generator is optional. Use during daylight hours to charge batteries or brew coffee, etc. when dry camping. Recommended size is 2200 watts. If you have an “easy-start” device installed on your air conditioner you will be able to run your air conditioner with the generator.

- o Spare propane, and fuel
- o Periodically check trailer propane fittings for leaks by applying soapy water to all connections; bubbles indicate leaks. Or use an electronic gas leak detector. **WARNING: Propane is highly explosive and any work on your propane systems should be done by a qualified licensed technician.**
- o A CB radio may keep members from getting lost. Many use Channel 14. Cell phones have mostly replaced CB radio. If you plan to use a two-way radio device (Cell phone, CB Radio, HAM radio etc.), check the distracted driving laws for the states you're traveling in.
- **Secure the trailer interior**
 - o Close vents/secure windows.
 - o Secure all cabinets and refrigerator.
 - o Tension rods in the refrigerator and cabinets can hold items in place.
 - o Remove any pictures/hanging items that may drop during transit.
 - o Secure any items in the shower to prevent them from falling.
- **Walk Around Before Leaving:**
 - o Check tire pressures, wheel lug nut torque, windows, doors, storage compartment doors, vents, awnings, TV antenna, doorstep (stowed properly and locked), turn signal and headlights function, water pump off, and trailer hook up is totally completed and secure.
 - o Don't forget safety chains (crossed) and the emergency brake connection.
 - o Check the nuts that hold hitch ball for tightness. Make sure that the pin that holds the hitch shank is securely locked.

On the road:

- GPS technology help travelers choose routes. A road atlas is a handy way to check on the GPS for accuracy.
- **Apps** on a smart phone that are popular include AllStays, Gas Buddy, WAZE and AccuWeather.
- **Travel** on the highway in small groups (3 or fewer Airstreams) and maintain about 300 feet between. A good rule to remember is, "If you can read the Big Red Number on the Airstream ahead, you are too close." Know and comply with state motor vehicle highway traffic laws and regulations.
- When traveling on a two-lane highway keep an eye to the rear to see if traffic is piling up behind. Some state laws require pulling off the roadway in a safe manner if there are five or more vehicles behind.
- On a multi-lane highway, drive in the right-hand lane except when passing, preparing to make a turn, entering, or leaving the highway, or when changing lanes. Some states permit the use of either of the two right-hand lanes when there are three or more lanes in the same direction.
- Check your state laws to see if it is legal to use a CB radio and/or a hands-free cellphone while traveling.

At your destination:

- Take your time to set up; make sure the Airstream is as level as possible before disconnecting. Prevent Airstream movement with a **wheel** clamp or chocks. Connect to power, water and sewer as needed. Pull out your camp chairs and relax.
- Allow recent arrivals to set up before greeting them.

- Pet owners must assume responsibility for always keeping their pets under control. Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash when outside. All dogs and cats must be exercised in the designated area of the campsite, and the owners are responsible for cleaning up after them.
- Campsite (the area around and under the Airstream) is to be always kept neat and clean. Do not hang clothing, bedding, etc. outside the Airstream. Leave your campsite in as good or better condition than you found it. One of the reasons OAC is always welcome to return to a previous rally site is that our sites always look neat in use and are clean when we leave. Let us keep it that way!
- Ensure adequate ventilation (ceiling vents open and/or running, windows cracked) when using unvented gas heaters, gas lights and/or propane stoves in the Airstream. **WARNING: Carbon monoxide produced by these units is highly dangerous and can cause death if not adequately ventilated to the outside.**
- **In case of an accident or a fire in or around the Airstream, if possible, shut off propane gas bottles, main park panel electrical breaker, water supply. Move to a secure location and summon help.**

A little history/light reading

The Wally Byam story

Born on July 4, 1896, in Baker City, OR, Wallace Merle "Wally" Byam led an interesting life. Time spent in a sheepherder's wagon led him to the invention of the Airstream trailer. Under the name of Wallace Davis, he graduated from Stanford University with a BA in History. He was a born salesman and promoted his Airstreams by leading caravans all over the country and eventually all over the world. For more information about him, feel free to do an internet search, or check out the Baker City Museum for a special exhibit devoted to him.

WBCCI formation and early years

The Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. was named in honor of its founder,

Wally Byam, who was the originator and developer of the Airstream travel trailer. He devoted his life to developing a comfortable way for people to travel. He was a forerunner in caravanning, and led a number of factory sponsored caravans before the Club was formed. It was during a caravan to Eastern Canada in 1955 that the Wally Byam Caravan Club was organized on July 24th in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with 55 charter members. In 1962, with the formation of Canadian units, the Club became International and the name was legally changed to the present Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. (WBCCI) In the early days there was only the national club and a Western unit. Later more units were formed - the Northwest and Southwest, Midwest, Northeast and Southeast. State units soon were organized and, in 1959, the state units were authorized to charter local groups to be known as chapters. In 1964 the club structure underwent a major reorganization into its present form, elevating all chapters to full unit status. The units were grouped into Regions, originally seven in number and now twelve. While closely affiliated with the International Club and their Region, each unit is reasonably independent, with its own constitution, bylaws, officers and programs. Originally the WBCCI headquarters was in Cerritos, California and is now located in Jackson Center, Ohio, home of the Airstream factory.

Fewer than 300 Airstreams attended the first International Rally in 1958 at Bull Shoals, Arkansas. In contrast, the 20th anniversary of the club, celebrated at the 1975 International Rally at Brandon, Manitoba, attracted 4209 trailers. The growth of our club truly was fantastic into the seventies. With more than 25,300 trailers (60,000 members) in 157 units, the club had become, in those 20 years, the largest trailer organization in the world and engaged in more activities than all others combined. Its members represented every state in the Union, about every province in Canada and several states in Mexico as well as some other foreign countries.

Region History

The first units of the WBCCI were regional as opposed to state-based, beginning with the Western Unit, chartered in 1955. By mid-1957 there were four regional units and efforts had begun to form a fifth, the Northwestern unit that would include Washington, Oregon and probably Idaho. In 1958 it was chartered and had begun having its own activities. All the officers were from Washington and it offered a rally or two in Oregon.

By 1958 state-based units began to be chartered. Regional and state-based units coexisted for several years before regional units changed to state-based (the Western unit became California) or disbanded.

In 1963 the WBCCI began creating regions more nationally and these were named by geographic areas. In 1967 they became recognized by their numbers. Most of the regions have changed little since then.

Oregon Unit history

The Oregon Chapter of the Wally Byum International Airstream Club began life at Paulina Lake, Oregon in October 23, 1959, with 24 trailers. The club hosted the international rally in 1972 in Salem. The club also divided in that year, with the Eastern Club calling themselves the "Jackrabbits."

Coverage of exotic Caravans around the world, the post-World War II baby boom, the Interstate Highway system and cheap gas prices, all contributed to this popularity. But by the late 1970s, membership began drifting away with the oil embargo and increasing gas prices. By 2000, the two Oregon clubs recombined and by 2007, the club very nearly collapsed, with only 29 remaining members.

Nevertheless, in August 2007, at Keylock Park, Parkdale, a young teacher and family man named Mike Rogers Jr. joined the club attending the club's board meeting. It was our good fortune that he volunteered to be president, at his very first rally.

This was the turning point for the club. We were back on track again for increasing membership. Today the club has a vibrant membership of around 300. His basic motto from the beginning was "Let's go camping and have fun."

It has been this commitment to camaraderie, and memorable experiences, that continues to this day. We have enjoyed many creative leaders and members that have contributed to our growth. New members join with long-term members to step forward offering support and hard work to ensure this tradition continues.

Another contribution to our club's success has been the support of Ted Davis and his successful, exclusive Airstream dealership in Portland, the 1st one in the USA. Airstream is the longest continuously produced RV in the US, and remains an iconic classic, never out of style.

Other Resources

- First, network with your club members and other Airstreamers in your travels. They will, in most cases, be your best source for practical and technical information.
- Blue Beret articles in the magazine or at airstreamclub.org can be helpful information. Contact the Blue Beret Tech Help Group on the website with specific technical questions.
- *Newbies Guide to Airstreaming* and *The (Nearly) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance* are good resources.
- *A Beginners Guide to Airstream* from Airstream.com

- *My Airstream Mentor: How to “Airstream” for Beginners and the Well Traveled*, by Jack Hunnicutt
- AirForums is a free website for exchange of ideas
- Facebook has several Airstream groups including: Airstream Addicts, Airstream Interior Ideas, Gourmet camping (to name a few)
- Airstream offers videos at: <https://www.airstream.com/owners/how-to-videos/> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/airstream>