

BLUE BERET

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

OCTOBER 2021



COLLABORATIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

INCLUDING THE ALL NEW
POTTERY BARN SPECIAL EDITION
TRAVEL TRAILER

—PG 16



President's Corner



Good day from Jackson Center, OH where I am attending my first Alumapalooza event. I want to thank everyone for the good text messages, emails and snail mail letters. Being President, I am finding them all informative and very interesting of how the core of our club is interested in where we are headed. This really gives me the pulse of the club and how you all are feeling and thinking. The team and I are looking at, sharing, discussing, and researching what we receive. We need to have your understanding and patience to let us do what is best for the club as a whole. I am sure some of you want change yesterday with yours being the only response you are worried about. Everything that is sent to me is read and discussed so we can form and lead a plan that is best for everyone. I am so glad that so many of you are taking the time to contact me. Just as a side note, I receive 3 to 15 messages every day and read and try to respond to everyone. This does not mean the answer will always be what you want to hear, but the best for our club, so be patient.

I am out traveling and talking with many of you about what your clubs want. I was at the Region 7 rally in Marquette, MI. What a Rally! I am sending a big "YOU BETCHA" to Jane Carmichael and her team to pull off a safe and fun rally. This shows me that as a team, people are creative and problem solvers to make a rally safe and fun. I made many new friends and I learned a lot how people interpret information. There was discussion about a trail over a murder and how people can stretch facts. This made me think about getting the right information out to all of us with no wrong interpretation.

We all need to understand that the EC and IBT are trying to make sure the information we are putting out is understood correctly. So many members need to take the time to read, reread and understand the many things we send out to you. This is, and always will be, the

toughest part of communicating with our club. Over the years, I have seen the rumors fly on emails, Facebook and all the other forms of communication we share. Let us stop the rumors and focus on correcting the damage they cause. We are able as a club to be more positive and work as the great team we are to solve (with being respectful of others' opinions) the speed bumps of our club's highway. We do need to learn that you own what you say. So I am asking all of you, if you put something out there and it is wrong, correct it. I and others will have more respect for the people that do this as well and stopping bad information. One of the things that come to mind are: A) Save Wally (is he in trouble?) No! We have to listen to our members and are giving you options as you ask. You can have Wally on badges for your trailer, badges, and flags. We have not done away with his birthday; we just have not been doing International Rallies over the July 4 date. So instead of complaining about doing away with Wally, let's volunteer and come up with new ideas and ways of sharing his legacy with the world. I see so much time wasted over people rallying to save him than do something constructive to celebrate what he gave us with our club. B) Saying that people are not doing anything about your concerns is wrong. We take into consideration ALL of our members feelings and concerns as we discuss and figure out the plan.

I am asking all of you to read and help each other to stop the rumors and begin taking responsibilities for your own actions. We need to be respectful, listen to each other while being open-minded to change and other opinions. Have a great month and be safe!

Tye Mott

BLUE BERET is the official publication of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. (WBCCI), Airstream Club International. BLUE BERET welcomes contributions of articles, photographs, news items and advertising. However, their publication in the BLUE BERET does not constitute endorsement. The opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of either the BLUE BERET or WBCCI. The products and claims of advertisers are their own and, too, do not necessarily represent endorsement by either BLUE BERET or WBCCI.

BLUE BERET (USPS 669-270; ISSN 0744-5601) is published monthly except December and July. Periodical mail postage paid at Jackson Center, OH and additional mailing offices. Canada Publications Mail Agreement #41295545. Canada Post Returns: 7289 Torbram Road, Mississauga, ON L4T 1G8. Notification of address change is the responsibility of the member or recipient and should be received at least two months in advance to avoid delays in forwarding. Re-mailing of back issues is at recipient expense.

Address corrections, suggestions, stories, art, photos, advertising and paid mail subscriptions (\$45/year, included in members' dues) may be mailed to: BLUE BERET/WBCCI, P.O. Box 612, 803 E. Pike Street, Jackson Center, OH 45334, Phone 937-596-5211, Fax 937-596-5542, email: blueberet@airstreamclub.org
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: BLUE BERET/WBCCI, P.O. Box 612, 803 E. Pike Street, Jackson Center, OH 45334.

Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

803 E. Pike Street, PO Box 612
Jackson Center, OH 45334-0612
Phone 937-596-5211
FAX 937-596-5542
airstreamclub.org

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President..... Tye Mott
1st Vice President..... Eric McHenry
2nd Vice President..... Per Hamnqvist
3rd Vice President..... Karen Fisher
Recording Secretary..... Linda Shelton
Treasurer..... Trevor Lake
Past President..... Andrew Selking

REGION PRESIDENTS

Region 1..... Doug Hart
Region 2..... RJ Marquette
Region 3..... Bill Wild
Region 4..... Brad Briggs
Region 5..... Christopher Seplak
Region 6..... Larry Madden
Region 7..... Jane Carmichael
Region 8..... Greg Vadner
Region 9..... Bill Miller
Region 10..... Kathy Geese
Region 11..... Ken Johansen
Region 12..... LaVerne McHenry
Parliamentarian..... Joanne Miller

COMMITTEES

Budget..... Eric McHenry
Caravan..... John Becker
Constitution & Bylaws..... Tom Smithson
Ethics & Grievance..... Bob Caldwell
Family & Youth..... TBD
Historical..... Joe Peplinski
Information Technology..... Marc Nijdam
International Rally Site..... Rick Cipot
International Relations..... Per Hamnqvist
Lifetime Membership..... Karen Fisher
Long Range Planning..... Per Hamnqvist
Marketing..... TBD
Membership..... Terri Warren
National Rallies..... Kathi Mitchell
Publications..... Hedda Smithson
Technical..... Dick Martin

HQ TEAM

Lori Plummer..... Corporate Manager and
Blue Beret Managing Editor
Deb Sailor..... Blue Beret Editor
Barb Langston..... Rally/Caravan Coordinator
Amanda Hughes..... Membership Coordinator
Kristy Yonyon..... Marketing Communications Manager

CONTACT BY EMAIL

Blue Beret..... blueberet@airstreamclub.org
Caravan..... caravan@airstreamclub.org
General..... info@airstreamclub.org
Marketing..... comments@airstreamclub.org
Membership..... membership@airstreamclub.org
Rally..... rally@airstreamclub.org
Corporate Manager..... lplummer@airstreamclub.org

What's Inside...



Vol. 57

October 2021

Issue No. 9

President's Corner	3
Club News	6
Welcome New Members.....	6
The Art of Airstream Cooking	10
Membership	12
We Rally Together - Joining any Airstream Club Rally.....	20
A New Life with Airstream	24
Is It Just Me?.....	26
The Caravan That Wasn't.....	28
Historically Speaking	30
Airstream Tech Help Group	35
In Memoriam	39
International Rally	41
Caravans	43
Rollin' to the Big Easy.....	43
Intra Clubs	44
Vintage Airstream Club	44
Region News	45
Airstream • 937-596-6111	51
From the Vice President.....	51
MARCHing On.....	52
Event Schedule.....	56
Classifieds/Coupons.....	62



www.facebook.com/AirstreamClub



www.twitter.com/AirstreamClub



www.instagram.com/airstreamclub

on the cover...

Collaborations Through the Years -
Meeting of the Minds - page 16

"AIRSTREAM" is a registered trademark used under license.

Copy Deadline for the January issue is November 15

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Joe Peplinski BRN 702, WBCCI Historian
history@airsteamclub.net

The 1971 European Caravan

Though we will continue our review of Airstream in the 1930s soon, we take a break this month to review a caravan for its 50th anniversary namely Caravan 80 – 1971 Old World Europe, or more simply, the 1971 European Caravan.

Airstream first offered a European Caravan in 1956, then repeated it in 1960. The Around the World Caravan toured Europe in 1964. Though Airstream considered offering European Caravans every other year at one point, the next European Caravan did not occur until 1971 and was different in several ways.

First off was the size, from the time it was first announced, the 1971 Caravan was planned to be 150 rigs! This was about the same amount as the three prior European tours combined: 36 in 1956, 57 in 1960 peaking at 79 after some African Caravan rigs joined, and only about 30-something still with the Around the World Caravan when it reached Europe. The final 1971 totals were 148 rigs and 308 caravanners! These caravanners came from 37 of the 50 states and one Canadian province. The caravan leaders were Bob and Helen Smith, supported by four staff couples covering tasks from advance scouts to mechanics to recreation.

Second, they used a “roll on / roll off” ship for the rigs so that they did not need to be hoisted aboard by crane as had been required in 1956, 1960, and 1963-64. The Atlantic Container Line (ACL) ship *Atlantic Song* carried their Airstreams and tow cars to Europe.

Third, their rigs arrived in and departed from Europe at the port city of Antwerp, Belgium, not at Rotterdam, Holland as in 1956 and 1960.

Fourth, for the first time on an overseas caravan, all the caravanners traveled to Europe by plane rather than ship. They crossed the Atlantic on one of TWA's first Boeing 747 “Jumbo Jets”!

Fifth, while their rigs were in transit, the caravanners stopped in England for a week-long tour, the first time an Airstream European Caravan officially toured that nation, though without their Airstreams in tow.

Finally, this was the first official European Caravan to go behind the Iron Curtain (though the Around the World Caravan had done so in 1964). A tour of Russia was originally on the 1971 European Caravan itinerary, but the promise of entry visas for the caravanners was eventually revoked. It still did go behind the Iron Curtain to Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Arrival in Europe



Caravanners await luggage next to their 747 in London



Unloading an Airstream at Antwerp



Welcoming Ceremony in Antwerp



Caravan enters a European City