



Roundup

December 2021



ON DECK

Enjoy a nice meal at a classy restaurant whose style will take you back to the 1960's. Region 11 First VP Steven Parr will install new officers. Kathy Brandes will award Red Stars for our members celebrating five year anniversaries. and Rick Carmichael, Mike McBurney and Sam Brandes reminisce with us about the outstanding rallies of 2021 as we set our sights on 2022 and beyond. We Are Airstream talks about the new facility, awarding door prizes and showing us a cool new 28' coach on our way to our Heard Museum tours.

PRESIDENT

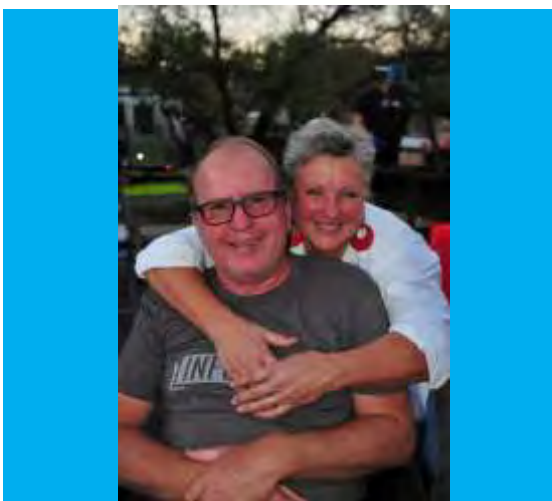
It has been my honor and privilege to help lead and grow our club as membership chair for a couple of years, as 1st VP, and finally as president.

A famous director once noted; "Showing up is 90% of success, if you truly know what you want". First, you were clear in what you wanted. (Farewell pg 10).



RALLY NOTES

Twenty seven rigs came to our rally at Patagonia. On Thursday, at happy hour we remembered our veterans and what our lives might be without them. Heidi's Events and Catering provided burgers, dogs and chicken, with camper's side dishes based on a potluck signup sheet that suggested compatible side dishes, salads and desserts; yummy! (Patagonia pg 5).



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AAC IS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



We are Arizona's Active WBCCI Club





Include us in your plans!

January 13th – 15th - Pilot Knob - Purchase your site permit (good for up to 14 days) from the campground host when you arrive at the campground. Register for the rally on our AAC web site (so we know who's coming). The BLM El Centro Field Office (760) 337-4400 can provide additional assistance.

Feb 17th – 19th - Cave Creek Regional Park, Cave Creek Arizona. Registration will be available soon on our AAC web site.

Mar 24th – 28th Coachella Valley, Shadow Hills RV Resort's Spring Break for Grownups III hosted by Kathy Landis and hosts to be determined. Registration will be available soon on our AAC web site.





Patagonia!

Friday was a day filled with adventure. Early risers trekked around the lake on ranger-Mary's bird watching tour viewing the amazing wildlife using binoculars. How does Patagonia support so many birds, egrets, herons and ducks in one lake? Birds were everywhere, offset against the colorful hues of the changing fall foliage.

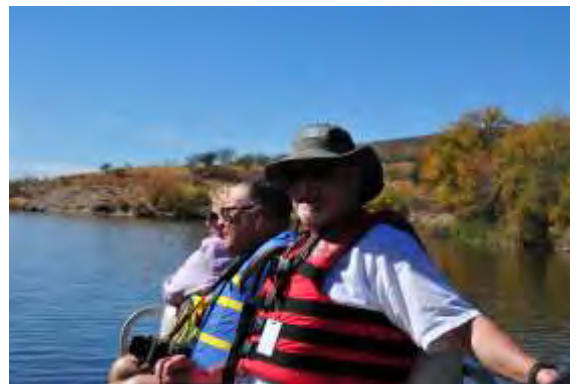
At 11, three busses pulled up to whisk us away to tastings at numerous local wineries, and for lunch. Each of us switched vehicles and tasting groups at every stop. This was such an enjoyable social event. Southern Arizona's wines are not yet at Napa Valley levels, they need a few more years for the vines to mature. They have only been growing a couple of years. But the region's wines are promising; one was even featured at a formal white house meal a couple of years ago. After the tours, Trish Bigler and Sherri Ewing provided a special meal (hand carved steaks, risotto and salads) for solo travelers, along with more paired wines.

On Saturday we boarded the pontoon boats for ranger led tours. It was a perfect sunny day on the lake. The water was gentle, and sometimes geese needed to "trot" away from the boat's path over the smooth water. We returned to socialize before enjoying a catered steak dinner featuring premium steaks from the Vera Earl ranch. Next the talented Grasslands Band played a mixture of Western Swing, Bluegrass, Traditional Country and Cowboy songs. Blazing synchronized guitar licks, a mandolin, and sometimes pedal steel were complemented by smooth vocals. Some songs reminded me of "Asleep at the Wheel". Some of the musicians recorded with top Arizona bands. Campers pooled wood and we enjoyed hanging out around the campfire. We even met unexpected new members who happened to be in the park.

But wait, there's more! On Sunday we enjoyed biscuits and gravy, eggs fresh fruit, Pastries, muffins, coffee and juice before loading up for home. I remember as a child feeling sad when returning home on the last day of vacation. That's what it was like to leave the magnificent Rally hosted by Heidi, Troy, Mike and Gail. [Rick Carmichael](#)













President's Farewell (from page 1)

Then, Arizona Airstream Club and our affiliates showed up big time for our rallies in 2021. We expanded our camping season. We grew to 335 members; I believe because it is rewarding and fun to camp with Arizona Airstream Club. Our officers and board worked to schedule 4-5 rally days per "Big Red Number", translating into 247 campsite reservations and 45 luncheon reservations. I wish to recognize all officers and board members for 2021 who supported this.

President; Rick Carmichael

Vice President; Mike McBurney

Secretary; Kristin Smith

Treasurer, Webmaster; Jerry Nelson

Past President, Jim Moser

Trustee; Wayne Madewell

Trustee; Rich Baldwin

Trustee; Dick Hauptmann

Temporary Newsletter Editor; Rick Carmichael

Membership Chairs: Kathy Brandes, Bob Doster

Membership committee: Kimberley Hash and Trish Bigler

Budgetary Reviews; Nancy Fisher

Our officers were generous and flexible. Having grown our rally war chest to levels I couldn't have imagined four years ago, the board offered to "backstop" cost overruns due to proposed redundant, COVID closure contingency reservations. We exercised contingencies for Lost Dutchman (Picacho Peak), we reserved contingencies for Sunset Crater, and we reserved a backup plan for Coachella. Experimental rally offerings were encouraged even when there was a risk to our club of incurring unbilled expenses. The result was that we didn't miss a beat in 2021, with one rally per month and we had some amazing ones. We tried some unique Covid-safe ideas such as "Morning Airstream Room Service", "Socially Distanced BBQ", "Grab and Go Breakfast" and "Food Truck Happy Hour". It was an amazing year in spite of Covid.

Special Recognition:

First, Rallies and registrations of this magnitude are only possible with our new registration process. The registration system eases the responsibilities of being host allowing hosts to focus on fun, social or educational opportunities. I wish to thank Jerry for being Treasurer, web master and purveyor of registration capabilities I believe are second to none in WBCCI.

Second, I wish to acknowledge that Kristin Smith excelled at covering (what were formerly) two positions: Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. She kept us organized, updated our COVID policies (helping us camp in seven counties of three states, each having different rules), captured our meeting minutes for posterity and created stylish masks when needed by AAC (and Children's Hospital).

Third, we are thankful for our corporate sponsors; We Are Airstream of Chandler and Sky Med who added or funded delightful additions and merchandise for several of our rallies.

Finally, advice by Dick Hauptmann and Jim Moser was indispensable during challenging times. I hope to be able to somehow pay it forward and give useful advice to our future presidents as Dick and Jim gave me. I doubt I can match their contributions, but I will try.

Hosts:

Our club is truly blessed with creative hosts that planned unique and worthwhile experiences for our education and enjoyment and executed them to perfection.

I wish to recognize those that made our club enjoyable; our rally hosts. We enjoyed the hosting talents and contributions of both our Arizona Club full members and our 4CU and Colorado affiliates (in parenthesis). Cross pollination with some pretty amazing members from other clubs helped improve our rallies.

Month 2020, Rally Location, Who Hosted

January	Yuma	Bob & Valerie Edwards, Jim Moser & Shelley Randall
February	Wickenburg	Tom & Deb MacWilliams, Peter & Judy Vergalla
March	Lake Havasu	Rick Carmichael, Tony & Betty Sica, David Van Gelder & Leslie Ritter, David & Karen Corbett, (Laura Pagdin, Ernie & Vicki Ottoson)
September	Flagstaff	Rick Carmichael, Bob Doster
November	Catalina	Jerry & Candace Nelson

Month 2021 Rally Location, Who Hosted

January	Cave Creek	Rick Carmichael, (Norm & Sharon White)
February	Picacho Peak	Rick Carmichael. Jim Moser & Shelley Randall set up Lost Dutchman
March	Coachella	(John Holly), Nancy Fisher, Rick Carmichael
April	Kartchner	Bob Doster
May	Point of Rocks	Happy hour hosts Joe & Anne Thomas
June	Dolores River	Trish Bigler, (Kandi Smith), Rick & Cheryl Carmichael, Sherri Ewing,
July	Flagstaff 4th	Virtual host Kristin and Steven Smith
August	Williams	Heidi & Troy Vail, Rick Carmichael
September	Sunset Crater	Joe & Anne Thomas
October	Distant Drums	Rick Carmichael
November	Patagonia	Heidi & Troy Vail, Mike McBurney
December	University Club	Rick & Cheryl Carmichael, Lisa & Steven Parr, Mike McBurney

We appreciate our wonderful hosts! Future hosting opportunities are available. Contact Mike McBurney. We have so many rallies that our need for hosts looks scary, just like last year; but our AAC members and our affiliates always come through. Why not sign up earlier rather than later with Mike McBurney today?

Final Thoughts

I learned a lot while serving. I used to equate success with having more rallies, having amazing activities, having fair and accessible registration, and attracting new members.

My metric of success changed over the course of my tenure as I communicated with our senior members and lifetime members like June and Dar Brugger (our first lady and president of 2002). They are tracking our progress from Friendship Village in Tempe, cheering us on, enjoying our newsletters and rally antics, even as they don't camp anymore. We are a timeless family of travelers and explorers bound together by our fascination with and love for our iconic Airstreams. Our club is perpetual. We look forward to our 61st year.

My new metric for success is the quality, inspiration, and talents of those who will follow us. How effective is our succession plan? I believe we did quite well when measured by my original metrics but knocked it out of the park with our new leaders and officers, many whom will be installed after lunch. (I won't steal Steven's thunder by elaborating names and roles). Our club has a bright future, and we are in good hands.

My favorite saying is "A ship in a port (or harbor) is safe, but that's not what it was built for". It was popularized by Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, pioneer computer scientist, the first to use "links" and the one who developed the precursor to COBOL. Grace followed the saying with "If you've got a good idea, and you know it's going to work, go ahead and do it." I believe it is a proper motto for our club. Also, for those of you sitting on the fence about hosting, take your idea and host a rally exactly as you see fit. It's going to work, and you will gain satisfaction. It will be marvelous for our club. (The saying above was originally stated by John A. Shed and used by Albert Einstein much later).

Thank You for being Arizona Airstream Club and provided memories Cheryl and I will cherish. I hope you all enjoy our luncheon and Heard Museum tours, our final events of 2021. ["Signing off" as your club president and "temporary" newsletter editor of 2021.](#)

Cheers,
Rick Carmichael
(President)





Rallies

Start Date	Location	Sites	Reg. Status	Hosts
2021				
Dec 4th	Luncheon, Phoenix (University Club Restaurant, 11 AM) Registration starts soon. These tours are not offered to the public	70	registered 45	Rick Carmichael Mike McBurney Lisa Parr, Menu Planner
Dec 4th	Tour, Phoenix (Heard Museum) (2 PM)	40	registered 27	Cheryl Carmichael
2022				
Jan 13th	Yuma (Pilot Knob) Thu - Mon, or however long you can stay, up to two weeks	32	registered 17	"Just Camping"
Feb 17th	Cave Creek Regional Park Redo Wild at Heart Raptor Rescue, Harold's Coral, Kenny-G	14	not started	NEED HOST
Mar 9th	Region 11 Rally Pinal Fairgrounds, Casa Grande		non-AAC tracking	Ken Johansen
Mar 25th	Coachella Valley CA (Shadow Hills) Finish what we started; Spring Break for Grownups III	31	not started	NEED HOST Kathy Landis
Apr 21st	Tombstone (Wells Fargo RV)	25	registered 14	"Just Camping"
May 5th	Cinco de Mayo at Roper Lake State Park (with #069 New Mexico Unit)	22	registered 22	Heidi and Troy Vail NEED CO-HOST
Jun 2nd	Dolores Colorado River Festival Dos (with Vintage Airstream Club)	60	not started	NEED HOST NEED CO-HOST
Sep 8th	Williams (Railside RV Ranch)	24	not started	NEED HOST NEED CO-HOST
Sep 16th	Pickin' in the Pines, Woody Mountain, Flagstaff	16	not started	"Just Camping"
Oct 13th	Ajo (Shadow Creek RV Resort) Annual Business Meeting	28	not started	Wayne and Kay Madewell Harley and Elaine Murray
Nov 4th	Catalina State Park, Tucson	25	not started	Trish Bigler Sherri Ewing

Breaking News

We Are Airstream will be hosting our regional rally campers for a day of training and fun following a bus ride from Casa Grande to show off their new home!

Bill Budris and Sandy Dana are selling their immaculate 2018 19' Flying Cloud and promise to include many useful items for AAC members. Contact Bill (budris1@msn.com) for more info if anyone wants a nice Bambi.