

BLUE BERET

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

JANUARY 2022



Region 12 Rally - Paso Robles

PG 18



President's Corner



Happy New Year Everyone!

I want to begin this President letter with a quote. Actress Peyton List said, "Loyalty is one of the qualities in a friend that I value most." This club is a big group of friends and family that are very loyal to Airstream Club International (WBCCI). We are all loyal to the Airstream brand, Caravans, Rallies, Intra-Clubs, our history, and traditions. This is what makes us a very special group from many walks of life. Have you ever wondered why 700+ rigs can gather for 14 days (roughly) and 90% of the time, we all leave better than when we arrived? We make new friends, new experiences, new excitement and new commitments along with new memories. This can be more rewarding by volunteering on all of our activities and functions. We never have enough volunteers! I can tell you from experience once you do volunteer, you have fun, make lifelong friends, do things you never thought you would. We all need to remember that this club runs on volunteers. No Rally, Caravan, Intra-Club or function could be pulled off if not by our many volunteers. I challenge all of you to do me a favor at your next club function: I want you to volunteer and find someone new to the club and have them volunteer with you. I promise you that you will have memories and hopefully a friendship for a lifetime (if not, you will have memories, good or bad - LOL).

With a new year comes New Year's resolutions, changing of the seasons, changes in life, changing trailers. Some of this can be fun and exciting and some of this can be scary and confusing. In the next few months/years, our club will be making changes.

You need to understand the course our club is moving and why we need to change. This is your club and our future. If you see something you don't understand, please reach out and ask questions. We need everyone to be comfortable with change. That does not mean we will all agree on everything, but by talking, being open-minded and listening to each other, we will be able to make changes better and easier for everyone. Make sure Headquarters has your correct email address on file for the spring elections. Every member gets a vote, one member one vote, but your correct email address is needed to make that happen. The election material will be in the April *Blue Beret*. Please take the time to read, understand and do your part in this process, and vote. ALL of your voices count. Help make our club move forward and don't count on others to do this. Most of the people that complain have either not read, understood or voted in the process. (Don't be a complainer if you are guilty of this). The changes can affect each and every one of us in some manner.

Let's see... OH YEAH! Winter is part way over, so we need to begin registering for Rallies, Caravans and Intra-Club functions. Many Airstreams In New England (spells Maine) - the 2022 International Rally in Fryeburg, ME, is coming up fast. If not registered yet, please do so. If you are registered, we are going to need volunteers. There will be International Board of Trustees (IBT) meetings, so come and join us. Let us all have a great NEW YEAR and a rocking 2022 camping season. Let's get it done.

Tye Mott

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on the cover...

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Cava Robles RV Resort, Paso Robles, CA

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Copy Deadline for the March issue is January 15

Membership

Terri Warren BRN 284, Chair



Have you ever wondered where the other Airstreamers in our club live? With the upgrade to the computer system that the club now has in place, we can show you where everyone lives. Well, not specifically in this photo, but generally. As you can see, the east coast, Florida, Texas, the Pacific NW and California are home to most of those who belong to the club. This is useful information in planning the location of rallies and take-off points for caravans as well. I've also attached the location of members "across the pond".



This is interesting, sure but would you like to know more precise information about the location of other Airstreamers? Perhaps you want to check on courtesy parking opportunities when you are traveling somewhere. Let's say, for example, that you are traveling to Dallas, TX. You would first go to airstreamclub.org. If you've established your online account, you will see your name in the upper right-hand corner. Click on your name and a pull-down menu will appear. Scroll down to "courtesy parking" and click on it. You'll see the same sort of map with big blue circles. Just keep clicking on the location of your interest. The map will zoom in until you can see, in this example, 18 members in the Dallas area. Just keep double clicking to get more specific locations of courtesy parking opportunities. The name, address, phone and email of the member and location you've chosen will show up on your screen and all you need to do is reach out to them. It is so easy! We often use things like Harvest Host for camping locations that are reasonable or even free but utilizing our own member's generosity for courtesy parking might be even better. You don't even have to buy a bottle of wine to stay (but it might be nice to bring one to your host).

Many of you are busy planning your rally schedule for 2022. Do you need some help with your planning? There are a few resources available to

you that might help. Our Oregon club has put together a rally planning guide that some of you might find useful. You can find it at <https://airstreamclub.org/oregon/plan-rally>. The Utah Wasatch club also has a rally planning guide at <https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch/rally-planning-guide>. If you don't have a rally planning guide of your own at your club, you could use bits and pieces of one of these as a starting point.

One of the keys to having a successful rally season, in my opinion, is to offer a variety of options for how to rally. You might host a rally with lots of planned events – speakers, joint dinners, trips to see special sites of interest. Another option would be a rally where there might be one event per day – a meal together or a trip to a special location like a museum or a winery or brewery. You might want a more adventurous rally – identify hiking or biking or boating routes, find someone who wants to lead that in your club. A rally might be focused mainly around children and family activities. Yet another might be a rally where everyone does their own thing during the day and simply gathers for happy hour later in the afternoon and random campfires pop up around the campground in the evening – pretty laid back but nonetheless an opportunity to gather together. This kind of rally allows plenty of opportunity for forming casual connections in the campground and establish new friendships with little structure.

There might be rallies at full service private or public campgrounds or remote forest service campgrounds with all boondocking sites. My point is, different styles and places and activities offered in the same year will provide contrasting interests for members in your clubs, rather than having all your rallies be of the same type.

The other thing that happens when you do this is cost: for example, a forest service boondocking campground rally with no food provided in 2022 in Oregon comes out to \$35 per trailer where a different rally on the Oregon Coast at a private campground with seafood three nights is going to be around \$210. Lots of members could afford \$35 for three nights – not as many can afford the \$210. But we find that both fill at about the same rate. Different strokes...

Next month, I'll tell you about how to use more of the features at airstreamclub.org. It's pretty cool!

Airstream Club International's Rally Hosts Make Happy Times for Everyone

Kristy Yonyon, Marketing Communications Manager

MARQUETTE, MI – When it comes to caravanning and rally planning, the wealth of travel experience and know-how that our club's more seasoned members can provide is invaluable. Take for instance, Jane Carmichael (BRN 219) of the Airstream Club International's (ACI's) Wisc-UP Airstream Club and Region 7 President.

Jane has been on six caravans: Ores, Shores, Water & Lights – East in 2016, Nor' By Nor'East in 2017, National Landmarks West in 2018, Springtime in Kentucky in 2019, Cajun Country Caravan in 2020 and Show Me the Ozarks in 2021. On top of all those miles caravanning through the country, Jane has also taken the lead on planning eight different rallies. She and her partner, Ed Klein, travel in their third Airstream, a 28' Flying Cloud.

Most recently, Jane volunteered as the rally host for the 45th Region 7 Rally at the Rippling River Resort Campground in Marquette, Michigan. The rally drew 58 Airstream campers, and even some members from outside the region, from states as far-reaching Arizona, Alabama and Florida. Also travelling from outside the region were ACI Third Vice President, Karen Fisher (Region 4), and ACI President, Tye Mott (Region 1).

Jane said when she is planning a rally, she looks to include entertainment like tours, seminars and historical speakers about the area. She also makes sure there's a lot of great food and campfire time.

By keeping a close watch on our events calendar, the Airstream owner or prospective Airstreamer can scope out upcoming local and region rallies. Since each rally is being planned by a different host and team of volunteers, each has its own flavor and different appeal. The club's year-round rallies avail the Airstreamer opportunities to use their Airstreams all seasons if their travel itineraries so allow it: it's always camping season somewhere in the network of Airstream Club International!

Jane said that a bonus to being a rally host is that you can plan something in your own back yard. Jane actually lives in Marquette, Michigan where she planned the Region 7 Rally. "I chose a favorite location," said Jane, "right along the Carp River. People could fish, and it's very scenic. They could hike to waterfalls, and there's a great system for off-road biking."

The Airstream Club abides by a creed that promises to promote goodwill in the communities in which they live and travel and thus, events almost always include some community service efforts. At the Region 7 Rally, a combined \$1000 was raised through a silent auction to benefit two local groups: the [Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter](#) and the [Marquette Beautification Committee](#).

"It's about making a happy time for everyone!" said Jane. If you, like Jane, can imagine yourself the creator of happy times through planning events and coordinating with other volunteers - and as a bonus - you know of a location that other Airstream Club members would enjoy, consider volunteering as a rally host!



Ed Klein and Jane Carmichael

"It's about making a happy time for everyone!" said Jane. If you, like Jane, can imagine yourself the creator of happy times through planning events and coordinating with other volunteers - and as a bonus - you know of a location that other Airstream Club members would enjoy, consider volunteering as a rally host!

Region 7 paid a small fee to a local drone operator to capture footage of their rally. Go to www.airstreamclub.org/news to see their awesome video!

Region 12 Rally - Paso Robles

Elisa Ungerman, BRN 3334

The star of the most recent Region 12 rally, held at Cava Robles RV Resort in Paso Robles, was the resort itself, along with its stunning countryside. Built in 2018, the resort is beautiful, with large, spacious sites situated on a rise, most with views of tan rolling hillsides dotted with black oaks. The resort buildings and pools, of which there are several, the outdoor furniture, communal fire pits, and the Mediterranean landscaping are all reminiscent of an upscale luxury resort in Napa or Sonoma. There is a nature trail that follows a dry creek meandering through the property, and several large dog parks. Since we were not there in the blast furnace of summer, it was a very enjoyable location despite the fierce wind that made its appearance several times during the rally.

120 Airstreams, all glinting in the sun, filled one-third of the park. The entire rally was held outside to be as COVID safe as possible, while still allowing for some social interaction. On Wednesday, a Welcome Dinner of loaded potatoes was served by a food truck and was tasty. While you could eat outside, Ed and I retreated to our trailer to get out of the wind. Also provided was shaved ice in various flavors that seemed to be popular. The following morning, breakfast burritos were delivered to each trailer by the San Diego Airstream Club. What an undertaking to serve 120 trailers! Various seminars were held in different locations that day and Ed played golf in the Regional Golf Tournament (his team came in second and



The Bibbys, Crutchfields & Ortizs are ready to ride to San Miguel Mission

missed receiving the prized Airstream golf balls, although they did win a bottle of local wine). NorCal E-bikers embarked on a 26-mile bike ride to Mission San Miguel and back, led by the intrepid Carmen Ortiz, and later that afternoon there was a bocce tournament on the resort's very nice bocce courts.

Friday began with a "back your butt up" seminar for ladies only looking to improve their skills in backing their trailers, followed by a private beer tasting at Firestone Brewery located nearby. That afternoon, everyone was treated to a shaved ice cocktail, during which the participants in the Pet Parade paraded by in the general gathering area. While this was billed as a "pet parade," in truth it was a parade of costumed people, most with a pet whose costume was the least of it. We were all rooting for Tom and Lora Broad as Raggedy Ann and Andy, and their dogs Kimber and Gabby but alas, they did not win. Judging for the Best Decorated Trailer Contest occurred that evening, during another bout of serious wind.

On Saturday, breakfast was again delivered to each trailer, after which the Region officers and Club presidents assembled on the veranda of the Resort's Welcome Center, while members brought their chairs to the adjacent bocce courts. NorCal's Pat Lazzereschi was installed as 2nd Vice President and Abe Hernandez of El Cajon, CA, as 1st Vice President in Region 12. During the ensuing Business Meeting, each Club president was allowed a few words about their Club, which John Bibby ably handled. It was announced that Region 12's Eric McHenry would be installed as the next Airstream Club President during the 2022 International Rally



Veronica & Abe Hernandez in the pet parade

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

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Wally Byam's Personal Airstreams (Part 1)

An error discovered too late to make the last article suggested this month's topic. Please see the sidebar below for more details about that correction.

I have been asked more than once what Airstreams Wally Byam personally used and if any of them are currently known to still exist. While a few photos exist of Wally and/or his friends camping in the 1930s using Airstream trailers, it is hard to identify those trailers in detail and they likely no longer exist as most were made of wood and Masonite. In contrast, more photos and other evidence tend to exist for Airstreams used by Wally Byam after WWII,

often allowing for a more detailed identification of year, model, and sometimes unique features. In some cases, records indicating trailer serial numbers even exist. As the proprietor of Airstream, chief "product tester", and consummate salesman, Wally generally wanted to be seen using the latest and most modern Airstream that was then currently available. This led him to change trailers frequently. Here are the known details about the dozen Airstreams used by Wally Byam on his famous caravans and other notable trips between 1948 and 1960, in the order of first confirmed usage:

Airstream #1 1948 22' Liner

Serial Number: TBD (California)
Trip: 1948 Tour of Europe
Current Location: Unknown

Wally Byam and his good friend Neil Vanderbilt pulled the Liner with a Jeep while touring several countries in Europe during the summer of 1948. As Wally and Neil traveled, they had the names of the cities they visited painted on the back and side of the trailer in an ever-lengthening list. After returning to the USA, this trailer was used for Airstream promotional purposes as the "World's Most Traveled Trailer". As noted in the sidebar, this trailer was then used during the 1951-52 Central America Caravan by Clive and Gareth Glassey driving the Dodge Power Wagon "tow truck", but it was eventually abandoned in Guatemala after its frame broke.

1951-52 Central America Caravan Correction

Evidence discovered too late to make the last article indicates that during the 1951-52 Central America Caravan, Wally Byam and Dale Schwamborn traveled in a 1951 21' Flying Cloud pulled by a 1950 Mercury coupe, not in the 1948 22' Liner that Wally and Neil Vanderbilt had used in Europe in 1948, as erroneously stated in that article. The Flying Cloud even had Wally's name painted on the front curbside corner. Teenagers Clive and Gareth Glassey drove the Dodge Power Wagon "tow truck" pulling the 1948 Liner, which they slept in. According to Dale Schwamborn, it was the 1948 Liner, not the Flying Cloud, that was abandoned along the road during the caravan after its pipe frame fell apart.

Airstream #1 - 1948 22' Liner



Neil Vanderbilt, Herman Baruch (U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands), Wally Byam, and Liner in The Hague



Wally, Liner, and Jeep



World's Most Traveled Trailer

Airstream #2 1951 22' Flying Cloud

Serial Number: TBD (California)
Trip: Caravan 1 — Central America
Winter 1951-52
Current Location: Unknown

Wally Byam and his eleven-year-old cousin, Dale "Pee Wee" Schwamborn, traveled in a brand-new Flying Cloud during the caravan, pulling it with a 1950 Mercury Coupe. The Flying Cloud