



Greater Bay Area Airstream Club

March-April 2022

President's Message

Hello GBAAC members and affiliates

Two months in and it's already been exciting as President!

January's rally was hosted by our sister club, Sacramento Valley, at Betabel RV Resort in San Juan Bautista, CA. There were a few fire pits and Gazelles around at night. Both Friday and Saturday weather was wonderful for sitting outside and enjoying socialization and happy hours. We even had a surprise visit from the International VP and the Region 12 President...the McHenrys. They were on their way back from another trip around the USA and decided to stop in for one night with us. It was good to see them again at a local rally.

The February rally at Coyote Lake County Park in Gilroy was hosted by the McHenrys. This is a favorite location of GBAAC and offers seclusion from the rest of the world, including cellular service! Although I did note that my external cellular antenna on my Airstream was able to catch enough signal to make it such that in the early morning and late evening, I could at least read the news and Facebook. This is an improvement from past years. Maybe next year there will be a tower that reaches the park! The group had a great gathering on Saturday night for dinner where there was an awesome array of chili, drinks, and creative smores over the fire. It was yet another example of how great GBAAC rallies are.

Our newbie rally in October is now set for the Gilroy Garlic USA RV Park in Gilroy. We have over 30 sites reserved, and the planning has begun in order to welcome our new members over the last years' time as VIPs and to showcase the camaraderie of Airstreaming, GBAAC, ACI, and the local Airstream dealer network. This time, we plan to visit South Bay Airstream in Morgan Hill.

I hope that the leadership team of GBAAC can welcome you at many rallies this year. The Yanks rally will have just wrapped up by the time you read this. The April rally in Napa is full or nearly so. The May rally will be at Jackson Rancheria and hosted by Sac. Valley. You should have received the notice of registration being open about 3 weeks ago. It might be full already! Be sure to check the events page

at our website often (<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-bay-area/gbaac-events>) for the latest and keep an eye out for our club's Google Groups email blasts letting members know when registration opens.

As always, the team of GBAAC leadership is here for your needs and questions. You can find our contact info here: <https://airstreamclub.org/greater-bay-area/greater-bay-area-airstream-club-officers>. Reach out to any or all of us at any time.

-Jason Grendahl, President GBAAC

jasongrendahl@gmail.com

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Serina Lopez as our new Treasurer.

Meet the Board of Directors

			
Jason Grendahl	Chris Martindill	Eleanor McFarlin	Johnni Hansen
President	First VP	Second VP	Third VP

		
Simon Yen	Serina Lopez	Dennis Shakespeare
Secretary	Treasurer	Immediate Past President

Camping Opportunities

2022 Rally Schedule

1. Get complete event listing from WBCCI webpage-
<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-bay-area/gbaac-events>
2. Some events are combined with Sacramento Valley Club
3. Watch emails for registration deadlines, fees and arrangements

Date	Location	Special Notes
April 7-11	Skyline Wilderness in Napa	Buddy Rally
April 21-24	Region 12 Cali Rally-V6 Ranch	Region 12 Cali Rally
May 12-16	Jackson Rancheria	With Sacramento Valley
June 9-13	Pomo RV in Fort Bragg	
July 20-30	65 th International Rally in Fryeburg, ME	WBCCI Event
Aug 18-22	Costanoa KOA Rally	
Sept 15-19	Region 12 Annual Rally - San Diego BayFair	Region 12 rally
October 13-16	Gilroy Garlic USA RV Park	Newbie Rally
Nov 17-21	Bodega Bay (Installation of officers)	With Sacramento Valley
Dec 15-18	Jackson Rancheria Christmas lights	
April 13-1, 2023	Casini Ranch	See specific instructions from Chris Martindill

Be sure to check the events page at our website often (<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-bay-area/gbaac-events>) for the latest and keep an eye out for our club's Google Groups email blasts letting members know when registration opens. If you want to be waitlisted, be sure the host is aware. We often get cancellations for filled up rallies. Updated 3/20/2022.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a rally and what should I expect at a rally?

A rally is a short way of saying the club is camping together as a group. What happens at a rally is very much dependent on the location, campground layout, and the hosts. There is no cookie-cutter plan for a rally. Formally planned rallies typically have one or two hosts who will plan activities and meals for the group. As well, the hosts are usually familiar with the campground and/or the area and will advise on things to do. Typically, there is a social hour just prior to a group gathering for dinner at the campground. A plan is usually given at the time of registration, so you know what you're getting and perhaps paying a rally fee for.

2. What is a "buddy rally"?

A rally designated as "buddy" is where club members can invite non-Airstream RVs to join our rally. **Guests who do not own an Airstream product can ONLY attend buddy rallies.** Please do not invite

your friends to join just any rally with the WBCCI or GBAAC. The purpose of a buddy rally is to expose these people to the WBCCI and Airstream experience, of course in hopes that they will purchase an Airstream product and join us in the future. Club bylaws allow for two buddy rallies per calendar year. This is an effort to maintain that our members get to enjoy the purpose of the club that they joined, which is to camp and enjoy time with other Airstream owners.

3. What happens in the case of an accident at an event (insurance-wise)?

The WBCCI carries a liability insurance policy that covers all WBCCI events. This covers pretty much anyone involved in a WBCCI event, even if they happen to stop by and compliment someone on their shiny camper and trip and fall walking across your campsite. Note that this is not carte blanche to be reckless. Good planning should be completed, and safety measures should always be taken at an event to the best of one's abilities.

4. What is a “flash” or “just camping” rally?

This is a short notice rally (thus “flash”) that was not planned by the rally committee as part of the rally calendar. The name “just camping” is because these short notice rallies are often a result of one of the members going camping on their own and inviting the club members to join them. Such a rally is usually very informal and may not have any planned group meals or events at the rally site. This often brings about spontaneous things and great memories.

5. How do I register for a rally?

It varies! Every campground has different rules and processes, and the rally host(s) are responsible to plan with those. The key is GBAAC's website for events (<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-bay-area/gbaac-events>). Check the instructions for the specific event that you are interested in. If you have any questions, contact the listed host(s).

6. What is a “coupon” rally

For most rallies, the club reserves a block of sites as a group with the campground. The sites are held with a deposit from the club's treasury. Club members register for the rally with the host of the rally and not directly with the campground. This is sometimes called a coupon rally because when things used to be all on paper, the rally host would send out a “coupon” in which registrants filled out their information and returned it with a check. Very often today though, an online form is used to collect the needed data, and any money needed is collected via PayPal.

7. I see that a rally I want to attend is full and a waitlist is started. What should I do?

First, add yourself to the waitlist! Plans change and people need to cancel, so having your name on the waitlist is the best way to let the host(s) know that you want to attend. It is also advisable to email the host(s) shown on the event's webpage if you have any questions or want to know how many people there are on the waitlist ahead of you so that you can gauge the likelihood of getting into the rally.

8. The GBAAC is having a rally that I want to attend but it's already full. How do I make sure that I know as soon as registration is open, so this doesn't happen again?

Make sure to join the GBAAC! Notice of rally registration opening goes out via email to all members and affiliates before the registration info is added to the webpage for the rally. This way, members and affiliates get a chance to register before the general membership of WBCCI.

9. The GBAAC has a lot of popular and full rallies. Why don't you reserve more sites or plan more rallies?

Basically, it's manageable size and host availability. 20 rigs at a rally is a comfortable size for the host(s) and also for most campgrounds. Hosts are hard to come by. More volunteers to host mean more rallies.

10. What does a rally host do?

They plan all aspects of a rally. The rally calendar and campgrounds for a given year are planned by the rally committee, but the execution of the rally at that site is done by the host, who is often referred to as "the wagonmaster". The host plans all events for the rally. This may include decorating the meeting room (if available), setting the schedule, asking for specific assistance where needed, and determining if meals will be catered, potluck, etc. There is a help sheet available and a veteran co-host will always be on hand to work with any new volunteers for hosting.

11. Cancellation policy at rallies

A rally's cancellation policy is mostly determined by the policy of the individual campground and is sometimes different for groups versus an individual. The registration form for a rally will give the cancellation policy for that rally. If the cancellation policy is not suitable, then contact the rally host(s) for clarification before registering.

12. What is an affiliate?

Each member of WBCCI must have a "home club" and there can only be one of those. An affiliate is someone who already has a home club but wants to be directly included in the activities and communication of another club. This way, they receive timely communications about many clubs' activities.

Photos from Coyote Lake Rally

- This rally included, games, food, hikes- both daytime and evening.
- It is a favorite spot of many members. Next year is already in the planning stages.









Cooking Ideas



Shepherd's Pie

What a great idea to make while camping. It makes use of all your left-over vegies and can easily be baked in your oven.

- *Sauté all left of bits of vegies (onions, celery, garlic, ginger, cauliflower- you name it)*
- *Sauté a package of meat (turkey shown here)*
- *Add a tablespoon of tomato paste, cup of broth, simmer for 10 minutes*
- *Remove the brown bits from the bottom of the pan*
- *Add any frozen vegies like corn, carrots, peas that you have around*
- *Add salt, pepper, garlic, onion powder- whatever you like, set aside*
- *For the topping use a can of sweet potatoes or yams. Mash up with ½ c cream or any left-over milk product, 2 tablespoons butter, and add a dash of dry thyme, or other seasonings you have on hand*
- *Top the casserole with the potatoes, add 2 tablespoons of breadcrumbs for crunch*
- *Bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes or until you see the edges brown*

Welcome New GBAAC Members

The following list of members have joined GBAAC since December 2021. Welcome to each one of you. Hope to see you at a rally very soon.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Big Red Numbers</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Partner Member</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>join date</i>
member	11404	Kyle	Jennings	Adrienne	Publicover	2/22/22
member	2865	Rebecca	Schapp	Thomas	Schapp	2/21/22
member	1932	Michael	Koeppel			1/27/22
member	7912	Armin	Staprans			12/26/2021
member	8278	Kevin	Hong	Kristen	Hong	12/20/21
affiliate	24129	Glenford (Chris)	Harvey	Melanie	Harvey	2/25/22
affiliate	3024	Marina	Marcoux	Bill	Marcoux	1/16/22
affiliate	6190	Rolf	Jourgensen	Maria	Butler	1/6/22

3/19/22

If I missed someone, please reach out to me. We want to be sure to introduce all new members and affiliates.

Safety Matters

Thank you to the 30 respondents who gave their answers to our survey. Here are the results.

1. Do you check your tire pressure each day before you begin your driving with the tires cold? Y= 17, N=2
2. Do you set your tire pressure to the maximum recommended amount per the manufacturer's directions and Airstream's advice? Y=14, N=16
3. If not, do you lower the tire pressure amount to adjust for heating up during drive? Y=12, N=13
4. Have you NEVER experienced any "chaos" from a bumpy ride and figured it might have something to do with tire pressure? Y=2, N=13
5. Do you lower the tire pressure amount to improve the ride and lessen the chaos in the trailer? Y=9, N=18
6. Do you have a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) and use it regularly? Y=20, N=10
7. Do you keep a tire pressure-reading gauge in your tow vehicle? Y=29, N=1
8. Do you keep an air compressor in your tow vehicle to assist you at the campsite or on the road if your pressure goes too low? Y=21, N=9
9. If you have an air compressor, what brand, battery powered, or USB charged?
 - Black and Decker, Avid, ARB, Snap On, Viliar and Kensun for makes
 - USB (3), 12 V (3) and Car or Trailer Battery (3)
10. Is there anything else you would like members to know about tire safety?
 - We change out our tires every five years, or if they need them sooner based on wear.
 - Regular visual inspection on tires is important. Check normal wear and tear.

Rich Luhr from the [Airstream Life Store](#) recently published a blog on **Tire Pressure**. I thought it was timely, so I am reposting it here in case you did not get a chance to review it.

What's the right tire pressure?

March 7, 2022

In the RV world there's always a lot of chatter about tires. It might seem strange that tires are such a big topic, since most of us barely think about the tires on our car or truck unless they need to be replaced.

For travel trailers in particular, tires are a big deal for several reasons:

1. *You can't feel anything if a tire goes flat while you're towing (which is precisely why [a TPMS is essential](#)).*
2. *Trailer tires take a lot of stress in turns, and from things like hitting curbs.*
3. *Trailer tires tend not to get used as much as car tires, so they often "age out" just while sitting in storage.*
4. *A tire failure on an Airstream trailer can cause an incredible amount of collateral damage to the aluminum body, which is very expensive to repair.*

One of the biggest questions is simply, What's the right tire pressure?

If you have an Atlas or Interstate motorhome, the recommended pressure is easy to determine. Look the "Tire and Loading Information" placard located (typically) on the driver's door jamb, or check the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Owners Manual that came with your motorhome or details. Keep in mind that there might be different pressure recommendations for front and rear wheels.

For a travel trailer, it can also be very simple—or not. The [Federal Certification Label](#) attached to the outside left of your Airstream tells you everything: the size of tires the trailer requires, the maximum load the trailer can carry, and the recommended tire pressure.

For a late model trailer, it's going to probably say 80 psi for the tire pressure, which is the maximum pressure the tires should have when "cold" (meaning before you start driving).

There's absolutely nothing wrong with using 80 psi for the Goodyear Endurance tires. I do, and so do the majority of our customers. But sometimes people look at Goodyear's "Load/Inflation Information" table, [which is published online](#), and see that they could run lower pressure based on the weight of their trailer. Then, somebody online claims that lower pressure is "better for the Airstream," or that it gives a "softer ride"—and suddenly the choice of air pressure gets a lot more complicated.

First off, let me dispel the myth that lower air pressure is better for the Airstream. Your Airstream is extremely tough and doesn't need "soft tires" to survive.

Sometimes people point at a broken pop rivet on the interior as evidence that the tire pressure should be lower, but that's just a supposition. Pop rivets sometimes break and it doesn't necessarily mean anything (and you can easily replace them yourself with a simple tool, as we've [demonstrated in this video](#)). If your Airstream is losing a lot of rivets, or the bucked rivets on the outside are breaking you may have a structural problem that needs investigation, but the root cause isn't the tire pressure.

If you want to go the route of choosing a lower air pressure, you'll have to do some homework. The first step is to know how much the trailer weighs including all the stuff you've packed.

I talk about the process of weighing a trailer briefly in [The Newbies Guide to Airstreaming](#), and in much more detail in [The \(Nearly\) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance](#). If you don't have a truck scale nearby, you can estimate the typical loaded weight of the trailer by adding:

1. "Factory Manufactured Weight" from the [Federal Certification Label](#)
2. *Estimated weight of your belongings (clothes, gear, food, tools, etc)*
3. *Weight of water in the Airstream (the number of gallons in the holding tanks and the water heater @ 8.3 lbs/gallon)*
4. *Net weight of two full propane tanks (typically about 60 pounds)*

Compare that total weight to the Goodyear Endurance Load/Inflation table and see what pressure you could run if you wanted. (Keep in mind this example applies only to Goodyear Endurance tires. If you have another brand, don't use this table.)

For example, let's say your full load was about 6,300 pounds on a trailer with four wheels, and your tires are the Endurance ST225/75R15 model. That's 1,575 pounds of weight per tire.

According to Goodyear's table, you could set your tire pressure as low as 30 psi. But should you? Unless you're experiencing some significant issue, like the tires are wearing in the center, you don't have to lower the pressure. You can continue to use a higher pressure.

I generally recommend customers stay with the maximum tire pressure for one key reason: if you ever have a leak from a nail or screw, you'll have a lot of buffer before the tire goes critical and starts to shred itself. That gives time for you or your [Tire Pressure Monitoring System](#) to detect the problem, which could save you from an expensive repair.

The complete link is : https://store.airstreamlife.com/blogs/airstream-life-store-blog/whats-the-right-tire-pressure?mc_cid=4dd316b3be&mc_eid=3ee94d484c

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Editor's Note: The Airstream Life Store has a number of very helpful videos and blogs. I highly suggest you review them as well as You Tubes to further your safety education.

Member's Corner



Dendy Jarrett BRN 22342 and Karen Fisher BRN 155

WBCCI Foundation – info@wbccifoundation.org

Wally Byam was a catalyst for giving. His creed stated, “To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.”

The WBCCI Foundation wants to ensure you can continue to do just that—by providing a means to protect the places you want to explore, to leave the places we go better than we found them, and to leave a great reputation in the places where we have our International Rallies.

The WBCCI Foundation Board is working to laser-focus our mission so that we can acknowledge the giving spirit of Airstream, Airstream Employees, Airstream Dealers, and Airstream Owners! We want the world to know that we are a giving group with a fantastic philanthropic spirit. We accomplish this mission by providing grant money through your donations that will be funneled to other non-profits who help us fulfill this mission.

We are asking you, the airstream owners to donate \$22 in 2022 to the WBCCI Foundation. If we can get 100% of our 7797 (as of 3/4/2022) to donate \$22, we will raise over \$170,000. Think for a moment of all the good we could accomplish with this measure of philanthropy. We are calling this giving program **22N22**. Our logo was developed to give a nod to the spirit of “the Big Red Numbers.”

What does a donation of \$22 in '22 look like? Well, that's less than one week of coffee from your favorite barista, or one trip to your favorite fast-food stop. It's less than a night of camping! And it's tax deductible!

If you donate to **22N22**, you'll receive a ribbon for your name badge and a window decal so you can proudly show you participated in the WBCCI Foundation **22N22** program! Together,

we can accomplish so much more as there is so much power in numbers. Please consider giving as 100% of your donation will be used to give back!

There are two ways you can contribute to the Foundation:

- Use the Donate button on the Foundation page of the ACI website (<https://airstreamclub.org/about/wbcci-foundation>) to use PayPal to make your donation using your PayPal account **OR** a credit or debit card.
- Send a check to: WBCCI Foundation, PO Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0612

We thank you in advance for your support.

REGION 12 NEWS



Our Region 12 President reports we have 89 members already registered to travel to Fryeburg, Maine for the 2022 International Rally. Over 44 of them are from California. For those members attending, Johnni Hansen is coordinating a “CALIFORNIA” parking area. Reach out to her if you would like to be included. Arrival date is slated for July 20th. Region 12 will be hosting a social gathering. Additionally, the clubs in the Northern California area will be hosting a celebration in honor of the newly installed President, Eric McHenry. If you have not already registered to attend, there is room. See the forms in the Blue Beret, page 41. More details about what is going on in Region 12 can also be found in your Blue Beret.

Greater Bay Area Airstream Club Newsletter

MARCH-APRIL 2022