

# THE OREGON STREAMER



The Oregon Airstream Club Newsletter

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Carol Dion

As I write this the sun is streaming in the window, the crocus and daffodils are blooming around the neighborhood and trees are beginning to bloom...Spring! Camping, kayaking, hiking, and bike riding are not far behind.

Lots has been going on with the Club in the last few months:

~ the newsletter team has published a survey asking for input on what you would like to see in the newsletter. Please respond with your ideas and feedback, so far the participation and responses have been great!

~ Mike and Nancy Burnett are stepping into the rally coordinator role – a great team that will maintain our commitment to offer many rallies at a wide range of locations. Their excitement is contagious!

~ Watch for a survey on rallies – Terri W. has compiled a list of questions to gather your ideas on where, how and when you like to rally. This will provide a great roadmap to Mike and Nancy as they continue to add rallies this year and build the rally calendar for 2023.

~ Membership continues to grow – the word has gotten around about this wonderful group of people and the fun we have together. (See the 'numbers' in the Membership column below)

~ The Region 10 Rally continues to add and refine activities – this promises to be a great rally, with representatives from British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, and Montana...and with Oregon well represented.

~ Your Board of Directors had our first meeting of the year in January over Zoom. We plan to meet quarterly, with our next meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of April 19, at 4:00. If you would like to join us, please contact myself or Norma Massier. We will provide you with the agenda, and sign in instructions.

~ We are planning now for the startup of our monthly Airstream breakfasts and/or coffee gatherings. Watch for messages from the organizers as to location, date and time of these fun, informal and informative events. So far, the Corvallis and Portland locations have committed to starting in April.

I look forward to camping with many of you in the coming months! - Carol

## **MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE**



John Dion  
Membership Chair

### **Notes from OAC Membership Chair**

The weather is getting warmer, camping season is upon us. We have some new members and affiliates to share food, drink, and stories. Please welcome all our new

Working with the membership database shows an interesting overview of OAC. We have 297 members and affiliates. A closer look at some details shows:

- We have 6 Lifetime members. Lifetime Members have their annual International renewal fees waived, but Lifetime Members are still required to hold an active Local Club or Member-at-Large membership and pay the associated annual dues.
- We have 51 Affiliate Members. An Affiliate Member is someone that pays dues to International, to a primary local club, and are affiliated with one or more other unit or club. They can vote in their primary club but not in an affiliate club.
- The Oregon Airstream Club is an international club. We have members from three countries, USA, Canada, and Japan. Here is

a list showing which states, provinces, and countries our members call home.

We hope you had fun seeing the diversity of our club and we look forward to seeing all of you at rallies this year. Stay Healthy and Drive Safely.

John Dion  
Membership Chair

**MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE COND'T**

<b>New Member or Affiliate</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Big Red Number</b>	<b>State/Province/ Country</b>	<b>Count</b>
Geoff & Jeanette Snook	Scappoose, OR	1157	Oregon	187
Jenn & JD Young	Olympia, WA	1992		
David & Linda Craig	Springfield, OR	2281	Washington	66
Julian Garcia	Baker City, OR	20202	California	19
Rob & Rochelle Bunnett	Bellingham, WA	2689		
Craig & Jin Hammond	Seattle, WA	11896	Idaho	8
Debra Enneking	Gig Harbor, WA	12731		
John & Suzi Shoemaker	Camas, WA	1759	Texas	4
Maura Sullivan & Corky Rey	Chico, CA	21058	Arizona	2
Craig Bowcock & Bonnie Shaefer	Sunriver, OR	1664	British Columbia	2
Regina Fiacco & Elijah Molnar	Eugene, OR	2528	Colorado	2
Scott & Cathy McComb	Chugiak, AK	7130	Alaska	1
Sally & Scott Worthge	Oregon City, OR	2558	Illinois	1
William Meyer	Elsah, IL	1453		
Marilyn Reppe & Dwayne Norris	Ariel, WA	1594	Iowa	1
David M Byrnes	Portland, OR	2015	Japan	1
Stephanie & David Roberts	Vancouver, WA	8717	Kansas	1
Christine & George Tucker	Bainbridge Island, WA	4757	Nevada	1
David & Linda Doughty	Ridgefield, WA	17412	Utah	1
Larry & Sherry Ratcliff	Peoria, AZ	18509		
Howard Wells	Trinidad, CA	1492	<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>

## **RALLY COORDINATOR NEWS**



**Terri Warren**  
**OAC Rally Coordinator**

### **From your rally coordinator, Terri Warren**

Our rallies are busy this year, but we still have openings in a few. If you are interested, please go to [airstreamclub.org/Oregon](http://airstreamclub.org/Oregon) to check them out.

**Newbie Rally**, May 12-15<sup>th</sup>, Casey's RV Park, near Oakridge, OR. Full hook-ups, 7 sites remain. Rally will also be open to non-Newbies, starting March 20. \$155. RIGHT on the river – gorgeous! You can sit right on the river's edge and just read a book if you wish. There will be workshops for newbies, and those who have camped for a while can certainly help those new to their Airstreams. Hosted by Carol and John Dion and Steve and Tina Holmes.

**Magone Lake**, June 9-13<sup>th</sup>, Magone Lake Campground, Prairie City, OR, near John Day in the Strawberry Mountain Range. Boondocking. 7 sites remain. Deep in the pines and firs. \$28 per trailer in the group area. Host to be determined, or it might be a loosey-goosey unhosted event.

**The Millsite Rally**, also June 9-12<sup>th</sup>. Full hook-ups (11) and water and electric only (2). Myrtle Creek, OR, just off 1-5, about 3 hours south of Portland, an hour south of Eugene. Last year's campers LOVED it! Price is lower than in the book - \$80 for full hook-ups and \$73 for water and electric sites. 5 sites remain. Hosted by Mike and Nancy Burnett, our new rally coordinators!

**Ashland Rally**, Jun 13-20<sup>th</sup> with an option to stay 2, 4, or 7 nights. Prices from \$80 to \$260, depending on the duration of stay. Emigrant Lake Park. Full hook-ups, right on the lake. Visit historic Jacksonville or the Rogue Creamery or one of many great wineries in the area. AND the theater is BACK, BABY! FIVE plays will be showing during this week. Hosted by Wendy Ware and Dan Gleason. 5 sites remain. Now, that's unheard of, folks.

**South Beach Family Fun Campout**, June 23-26, \$115. Water and electric hook-ups. Join others at the South Beach State Park for a family rally. Bring your flip flops, beach chairs, bicycles, sand castle making tools and plenty of creativity to this family friendly Airstream event in beautiful Newport, Oregon. Lots of tourist activities in the area: Oregon Coast Aquarium, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Bayfront shopping and NYE Beach to name a few. Hosted by Julie and Shamus Gamache.

**Beach Boondocking Rally**, August 11-14<sup>th</sup>. Sutton US Forest Service Campground, Florence, OR. The campground is 1.5 miles from the beach and 2 miles from Sutton Lake. \$48. Boondocking, but the park has flush toilets and drinking water. \$48, hosted by Steve and Shannon Planchon, 5 sites remain.

## **RALLY COORDINATOR NEWS CONT'D**

**Tillamook Elks Club Rally**, August 25-28<sup>th</sup>. Just south of Tillamook, well off highway 101. Boondocking in a beautiful grassy, spread-out-able area. There is water there, lots of trees. Visit the newly remodeled cheese factory, some new breweries in town, and great lunch places. We're working with the restaurant in the Air Museum to cater a lunch for us (separate charge) also working with a local dairy for a tour of all the newest dairy technology. Dinner at our home in Oceanside (separate cost) too. Hal will BBQ. Hal Hendrix and Terri Warren hosting. \$35 per trailer, 16 sites remain.

**Pelton PGE Park Rally**, Sept 8-11<sup>th</sup> (Tues-Fri). Near Madras, right on the beautiful lake, all sites are water-side sites with views. Electric sites with water about every other site and easy to get. This area is high desert, and you can smell the junipers and pines the minute you drive up. Lots of trees. The great marina rents boats and serves food. Visit Bend or Redmond if you wish. \$99 per person, hosted by Hal Hendrix and Terri Warren. 4 sites remain. Knowing us, there will be some food as an option, to be determined later.

**Year-End Rally**, September 22-25<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the Cove Palisade State Park as we did last year. People seemed to love the laid-back high desert atmosphere there, so we're doing it again. Carol and John Dion are hosting, and Janet Schober will repeat her performance as Auction Host Extraordinaire. There will be yummy food, a business meeting, and plenty of time to explore the surroundings. 35 openings remain – we know people sign up for this one later in the year but don't wait too long – it's half full already! \$112 with water and electric and a dump station on site.

Mike and Nancy Burnett will be taking over my position as Rally Coordinator before June of this year. I'm moving into the position of ACI/WBCCI International Secretary with incoming president Eric McHenry at the International Rally in Maine, July, 2022. It has truly been my pleasure to be your rally coordinator for several years now, and last year working with Amy was such fun. Stacy, our treasurer, is indeed a treasure and such a joy for me to work with in this role. From what I've seen so far, Mike and Nancy will serve you very well, you are in excellent hands!

See you down the road, my friends.

## **MEET AN OAC VOLUNTEER**



John Dion  
Membership Chair

### **Interview By: Rhonda Levine**

I recently spoke with John who is the OAC's new Membership chair. He is also the spouse of our President Carol Dion. He told me they had been introduced to Airstream some 40 years ago because Carol's parents owned one. Since they are from eastern Montana it was great to go south for the Winters which they did. John and Carol began their own camping with young children in a tent trailer. They gradually worked into a Class C motor home after they both retired. Eventually they ended up at Airstream and began with a 23'. This was in 2015. After a year they jumped to 25' and are now happy with 27 feet.

Most of their travels were done with the 25' trailer. They have spent time in Tucson, AZ. Been to Sedona where they discovered it's pretty chilly in parts of the state during Winter. They have been on 2 International rallies. The first was Southwest Adventure which took them through Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. It lasted 2 months and they had a fantastic time. The second caravan was Landmarks West which began just above San Francisco and went north through Oregon and Washington and ended in North Dakota.

They were only able to do a portion of that adventure but enjoyed it a lot.

Some of their favorite places to camp include the Bend/Sisters area and most of the Oregon Coast. They really liked Pelton Park where it was a great place to kayak. They were also able to rent a pontoon boat for the day. Emigrant Lake in Ashland is another destination.-

John is learning about doing the Membership Chair position. He keeps 2 data bases to get the job done. He and Carol will be co-hosting the Newbie rally which seems very appropriate for the Membership guy to be doing. They are hosting other rallies as well. John is really happy to have a chance to meet and get to know folks at these events. The sharing of knowledge and experiences is even better.

Moving forward John would like to see more of the un-hosted caravans happening. The idea of linking informal rallies together is most appealing. Someone with an idea of where to camp contacts others and off they go. It's happening more now and hopefully will continue.

Thanks, John, for keeping track of us all and making the OAC a better place!

## MEET AN OAC VOLUNTEER



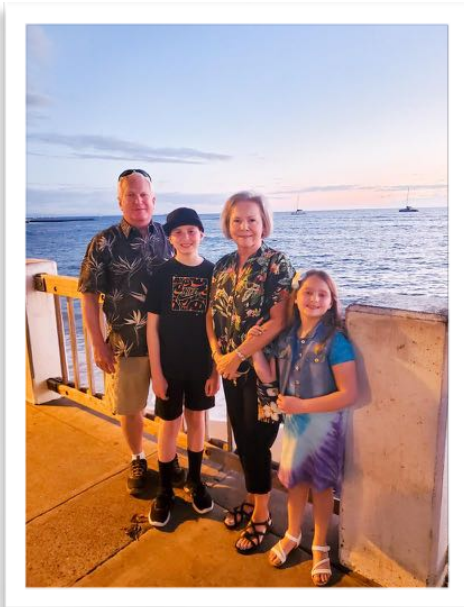
Geoff Cox, newly installed Newsletter Publisher/ Editor, is an affiliate member from Seattle with a bunch of editing experience and background. He and his wife Kim are relatively new members and have a 16' Bambi.

Geoff has a PhD in German. Attended UW for grad school. He has been doing editorial work for a living for many years. He will have a lot to offer us. Geoff and Kim have made about 30 Airstream trips along the west coast. They like coastal state parks and are already attending rallies for 2022. They plan to be at the Wine Country rally, Board of Directors rally and Region 10 rally. When Geoff is not doing his day job he is in a band called Fotoform which does hard rock. He plays guitar. He also likes literature and film.

So please join me in thanking Norma and Bill and then welcoming Geoff to the fold. And remember... we want your ideas, suggestions and articles. Our aim is to inform and connect us all. Thank you!



## MEET AN OAC VOLUNTEER



Introducing Mike & Nancy Burnett, the Oregon Airstream Club's new Rally Coordinators!

Mike & Nancy have been retired since 2017. Mike had a long career (44 years) with Siemens and BWXT, both companies that supplied systems and services for the electric power generation industry. Nancy worked in the library system for Lynchburg College in Virginia. She has been the woman in charge of 'keeping the home fires burning' throughout the family's many moves around the country. They moved to the Pacific NW in 1990 from Georgia, falling in love with the climate and the natural beauty of the Cascade foothills.

They have two grown children, and two precocious grandchildren. They were avid boaters, boat camping around the Puget Sound and San Juan Islands. Long-time neighbors, Kathy and David Geese, owned an Airstream, so when it came time for Mike to retire, they

sold the boat and bought their first and current Airstream, a 2017, 25 ft Flying Cloud. Love at first sight, and they have not looked back!

Mike & Nancy volunteered for this role as a way to contribute to the Club – they have enjoyed many excursions and rallies, and believe that it is time to give back. They look forward to contributing to the growth and success of the Club, and hope to learn and develop best practices for building the rally calendar, while continuing the strong tradition of 'rallying together'.



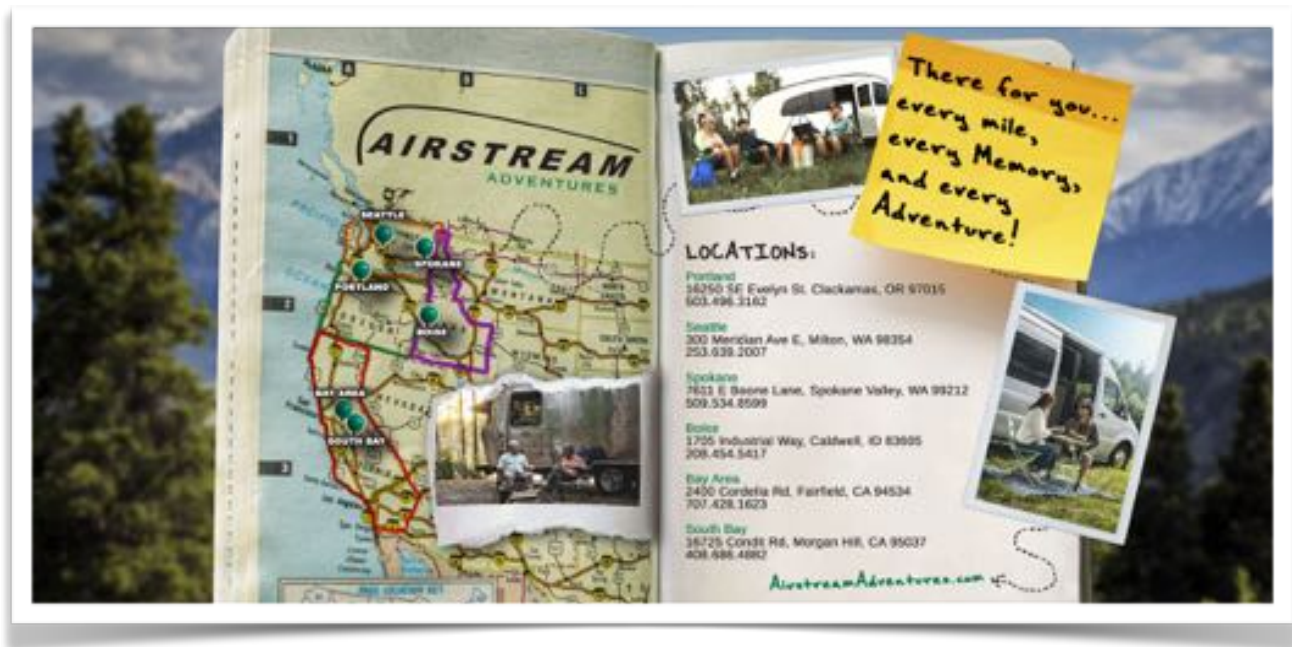
## **REGION 10 RALLY NEWS**

What's the best way to kickoff summer and the camping season? An Airstream Rally? Better yet, how about the **Region 10 Biannual Airstream International Club Rally!** We are looking forward to four days of fun, friendship, and all things Airstream that are planned for the **Region 10 Biannual Airstream Club International Rally June 1 – 5, 2022.** We will rally at the **NW Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden, WA.** Lynden is located north of Bellingham, just south of the US / Canada border. Airstream Region 10 includes over **1,000 Airstream owners in the western US and Canada.** There are over 175 members from clubs in British Columbia, Alberta/Saskatchewan, Idaho, Inland NW, Montana, Oregon and Washington who have registered for the rally - **that's 85 shiny Airstream campers** all lined up in a row. The event is hosted by the Washington and Idaho clubs and generously sponsored by Airstream Adventures Northwest and Ultimate Airstream.

Our days and evenings will be filled with friends old and new connecting over events, seminars, social gatherings, tours, food, and entertainment - including a full day whale watching cruise, Ultimate Airstreams Tour of Homes, live entertainment with The Atlantics and a silent auction to benefit the Whatcom Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program. Many of you donated items to our silent auction at the Year-End Rally last September where we raised over \$3,000 to support Region 10 Officer travel expenses to represent us at International Rallies this year. If you have an item you are willing to donate to the Region 10 Rally contact Janet Schober at [janetschober@comcast.net](mailto:janetschober@comcast.net).

The event is sold out, but you can join the waitlist online at <https://airstreamclub.org/region-10-rally-windmills-and-whales>.

**The Oregon Airstream Club would like to thank Airstream Adventures for the generous support for this year's Region 10 Rally.**



## INTERNATIONAL RALLY NEWS



Terri Warren  
Derby Tea Hostess

Are you going to International in Maine? I am one of the hostesses of the Derby Tea—happening in Fryeburg. We need a few things and we need your help.

- 1) **Table hostesses** - someone to welcome people to the table and help with the things going on there - I think there will be some sort of prizes offered, for example.
- 2) **Servers** - we need people to bring hot water around to the tables to fill the tea pots - the organizers were thinking men?
- 3) **Tea Pots** - if you are driving out, and have a teapot, may we use it at a table? Or could you find some used pots and bring them?
- 4) **Carriers of tea pots** - Hal and I are flying out this time or we would be Goodwilling it like crazy but if someone would be willing to carry one or two out, that would be great, I could get you pots.
- 5) **Stylists** - we are going to have a style show of people willing to wear and model the clothes of a

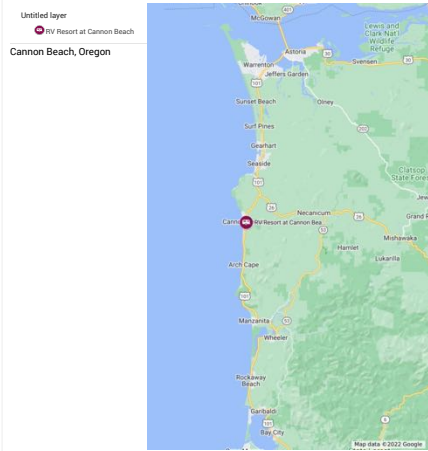
decade in the life of Airstream. I think they have the 1920's and 1940's covered already but we need the others, too.

Please give me a call at 503-701-2798 or email me at [twestover@mac.com](mailto:twestover@mac.com) if any of these requests fit for you. This will be limited to 300 participants with goodies to eat as well as tea. Thanks so much in advance.



## RALLY NEWS

### Leak Test Rally



### Leak Test Rally by Jim Ableman:

What fun the second Leak Test rally for 2022 turned out to be. As with any successful rally, the hosts set the tone. Our hosts, John and Carol Dion, set a special tone for the social atmosphere and environment we were to encounter. Upon arrival, we received a "Leak Test Kit" that included a bucket, cloth towel, paper towels, an incredible flashlight, duct tape and a package of bubble gum - all the

essentials  
for dealing with a leak in your Airstream.

All leaks revealed at the rally were carefully monitored and documented. The report follows:

1) Susan and Tim McPhee experienced a



leak in their new 2021 Airstream somewhere adjacent to their bed. The leak resulted in some very wet bedding. Although they have enjoyed their trailer on a half dozen trips prior to the Leak Test rally, it was not until the trailer had been exposed to the rigors of our rally that the culprit revealed itself; once again demonstrating the importance of this annual rally.

## RALLY NEWS CONT'D



2) The second leak occurred right after Jay and Judy Conroy hooked up to the park water system. After winterizing his trailer, Jay had forgotten to replace the plug in the water heater and had also forgotten to turn the outdoor shower back to the off position. According to several observers, the majestic water feature created by the ensuing leak rivaled the Bellagio Fountain in Las Vegas.

Lee Chess provided a final insight into leaks when he informed me that although he had not experienced a leak in his trailer, he had proudly taken a leak each and every day of the rally. 😊

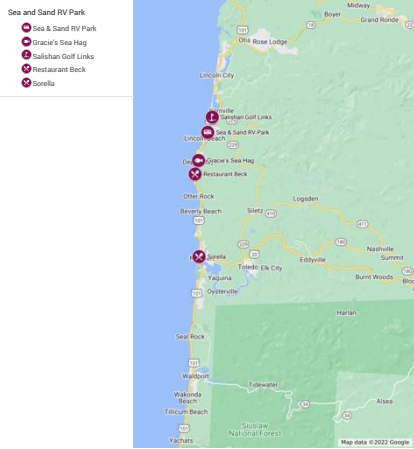


As we were leaving on the final day of the rally, people dropped by to say good bye and comment on the events of the prior three days. They talked about the spirited conversations at the GAMs (Get Acquainted Meetings), how the ice cream served at one of the GAMs seemed to warm us up on a chilly night and how the wonderful group of people assembled for this rally made for such an enjoyable experience. It was a reminder that without the people, an Airstream is just a trailer.



## RALLY NEWS CONT'D

### Sea and Sand Rally - Depot Bay, OR

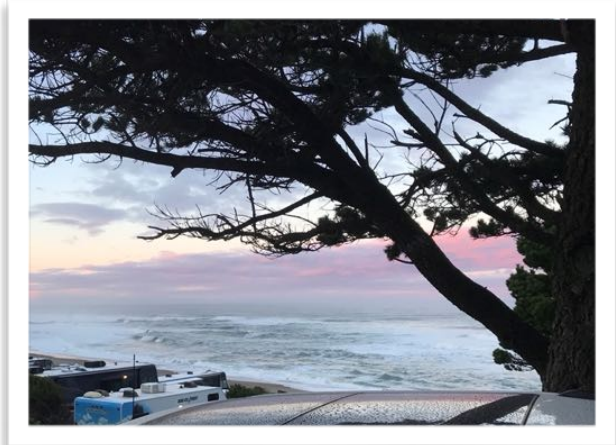


### Sea and Sand Rally, Story By: Ray Putnam

Twenty souls ventured out in sub freezing temperatures for fun and fellowship. The park is four miles south of Lincoln City. We had a get acquainted meeting (GAM for short) each day at 5:00 PM.

Those who forgot to put their water lines away in the evening found them frozen (including the filters) the next morning.

The hero of the GAMs had to be the 80,000 BTU propane heater at the



Chess campsite, along with a nice overhead cover! Each morning we had hot coffee or cocoa or tea with an assortment of doughnuts at the Chess campsite. We rotated the GAM hosts each day, so attendees were well entertained.



There was another Airstream at the park, and we invited that couple to join us at the GAMs. We may get a new member there!

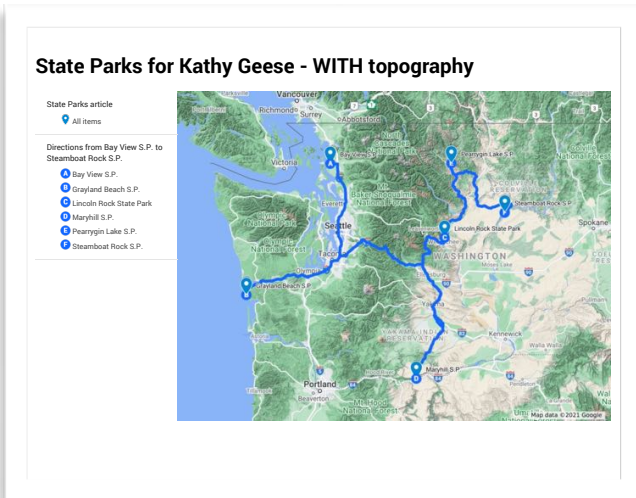
During the day many campers ventured forth for shopping, sightseeing, hiking, and biking, and dining out. At the GAMs we all learned the names of local dining establishments and the delicious food. Bob Pease and Pat Brooks filled us in about good food and key lime pie! Some campers had new modifications or additions in their Airstreams and were glad to share with anyone who wanted to

see some new options.

We had campers with us from a Canadian club, several from the Washington club as well as the Oregon club. We almost had a camper from the Northern California club but he had electric over hydraulic brake issues and had to cancel for safety reasons.

Despite the cold, we had a great time!

## OAC TRAVEL JOURNALS



### 31 Days Exploring Washington State Parks Fall 2021: Story by Kathy Geese Trip Map Courtesy of Buzz Blick

#### Chapter 2

Next stop, Bayview State Park on Padilla Bay outside of Anacortes for a three-night stay. We had originally planned a scenic drive going up Hood Canal, taking the ferry across to Whidbey Island, and driving up the island and off in to the Skagit Valley. It dawned on us it was a Friday and we made the decision to do the slog up I-5, so back to Olympia we went and got on I-5 there. The travel gods were with us and the

traffic going southbound was stop and go the whole way but northbound, we sailed through Seattle with the only slog through Everett.

We try to not drive more than 5 hours a day and pulled in to our campsite at 4.5 hours from when we left Grayland Beach. Full disclosure – Bay View applies to only a couple of select sites that are overlooking the bay. The majority of the sites are in a large circle with no views but with water and electricity (50 amp!). We have been here in the summer when the center of the circle was filled with children and dogs romping but this time of year, much quieter even though every hookup site was filled. There is a pay dump station available but with only a three-night stay, we will wait until we get to our next stop. Sites are wide and not deep but we were able to easily navigate our 27'

in to the site and then park our truck across the front sideways. As with our last stop, the campground was well groomed, hosts friendly, and bathrooms clean. Two bars of T-Mobile is enough to Hotspot to my laptop. The road that runs in front of the campground is lightly trafficked and quiet. Bonus is the walkway that goes from the campground down to the bay and under the road to a lovely picnic area with shelter and expansive views of the bay.



## OAC TRAVEL JOURNALS COND'T



Friday night, we slept to rain all night and work to grey skies and drizzle. Perfect day to do some early Christmas shopping in La Connor. Best known for its location in the middle of the Skagit Valley tulip fields, La Connor also is filled with great restaurants and locally owned boutiques. After a stop at Handmade in La Connor for some bath and body Christmas gifts for family as well as a few things for ourselves, we stopped in to Calico Cupboard for lunch as is our tradition when we are in the area. Although they have other locations in the Skagit Valley, La Connor is our favorite. Calico Cupboard sells fresh bread and offers a bakery case filled with lovely and delicious temptations and we took dessert to go as our lunch was generous and filling. La Connor has at least six art galleries and is also the home of the author Tom Robbins and thank you, Rhonda Levine, for that nugget

of knowledge! La Connor has apparently attracted talented artists and bohemians since the late 1800s. With their lovely location along the river, it is a “must see” when in the area. Tulip Festival is in April and takes some planning due to the crowds that attend annually but if you can find a camp site in the area, there is a bicycle route that will have you passing the backed up traffic and takes you to the tulip farms and fields for a sight you will never forget. When you are on the boardwalk behind the



restaurants and boutiques in La Connor, look across the Skagit river to the unique Swinomish Tribal park with points of interest covered by large scale, versions of the traditional tribal hats that were made from cedar.



Our next stop was a drive north to the village of Edison, established in 1869 and now on the Skagit Farm to Pint Ale Trail. Located just off Chuckanut Drive at the Bow Junction, we have watched it become a thriving arts community with both art

## OAC TRAVEL JOURNALS COND'T



galleries and a handmade wood furniture business with custom woodworking. Well worth a diversion off I-5 heading up to Bellingham and Chuckanut Drive is the old highway that existed before I-5 and hugs the coast with spectacular views of the islands and several excellent restaurants serving fresh seafood. Warning – Larabee State Park is along Chuckanut Drive and offers camping but do not enter from the south end and drive north as Chuckanut Drive is narrow, windy, overhanging rocks, and prone to landslides and road closures on the south end off Hwy 20. A much better route is to enter from Fairhaven, an arts community just south of

Bellingham and Chuckanut Drive is a much better road going south down to Larrabee. Beautiful pullouts along the way with expansive views of the islands.

Sunday defied the weather forecast and was a perfect day to explore Anacortes across



Padilla Bay. Dominated by the huge container ships waiting to fill from the local refinery, Anacortes is mainly known by visitors driving through to the ferry to the San Juan Islands who don't stop to enjoy the town's charms. We were glad we took an afternoon to discover as so much history and beautiful old Victorian homes that have been well maintained. A drive up to the viewpoint at Cap Sante took us past lovely

neighborhoods and in to a beautiful city park with views looking north and west through the San Juans and east to the Cascades. Anacortes was an important epicenter of the logging trade with saw mills, shingle mills, lumbermills, pulp, plywood, and veneer mills, and its large shipping port. The last mill on Fidalgo Bay succumbed to fire in 1992, ending an era in Anacortes.

A perfect day of exploring ended with a campfire and an early night as on the road to Lynden, WA tomorrow to tour the site of the 2022 Region Rally.





## **GADGETS AND GIZMOS**



**Rhonda Levine**

### **Story By: Rhonda Levine**

My partner, Judy Mitchell, is one of those people who love to seek out new gizmos, gadgets and devices which make life in our trailer easier, more high tech and more fun. For her at least. She recently located online and ordered such a device and we are now in the experimental stage of trying it out. It is a PAJ GPS tracker and was purchased so that if our trailer is ever stolen it could be tracked.

Here is what we know about it...

It can only work when there is GPS connectivity. Which is most places.

There is an app to use on your Smart Phone.

It can be purchased online. Not sure if it's available through the company. The cost is about \$50.

There is an activation fee per year of \$100. I think there's also a monthly fee but not sure of that cost. It can be cancelled anytime.

There are no distance limits about where it can be used.

There is live tracking in over 100 countries.

There are loads of other ways this thing can be useful.

Track pets, track people with dementia, track children going to and coming from school. And track vehicles.

Interested?? Try going to [paj-gps.us](http://paj-gps.us) for lots more info. Or email Judy. We're still testing it so not fully sure of its capabilities. Stay tuned. Trying to be as safe and secure as we can.



## **FUN FACTS WITH FLORENCE**



**Florence Tramoni**

### **Traveling safety: understanding and controlling sway**

Our Airstreams all come with a built-in flaw no one is immune to. The way they are hitched to our tow vehicles (TV), several feet behind the rear axle, give them the leverage they need to move the TV's rear end side to side. When this amplifies, we call it fishtailing. This can be controlled with a knowledge our TV gross vehicle weight rating (probably in the driver's door jamb) and our travel trailer (TT) gross vehicle weight (GVW) and weight rating (a sticker outside on the forward street side). With these numbers, we can get to the tongue weight, the holy grail of a safe and road worthy setup. As I like to do, I will share more words of wisdom from my safety guru. If you ever start to sway, do not touch the brakes. Release the accelerator and let your equipment do the rest. We all have felt the effects of strong crosswinds or the wave from being overtaken from the rear by a fifty-thousand-pound 18-wheeler. A good set up will require little correction and will quickly stabilize. Even though we get that sinking feeling in our gut.

You can find many articles on selecting the appropriate TV for a given TT. Dig a little deeper than just looking up that vehicle's towing capacity. Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), also referred to as towing capacity, is based on GVW which includes passengers, cargo, pets, fluids etc. Just because a TV is rated to tow 10,000 lbs doesn't mean you should. I haven't found a hard number of how much more towing capacity we should have than what we "need". But I have found story after story of shortened transmission life, shortened tire life, increased drive train wear... all of which can lead to failures on the road. There are also countless stories (some may be yours) of how having a bit more than you need increases stability in sudden braking situations, better gears for shifting on long downgrades, or that something extra to respond with quick acceleration to avoid another driver's foolishness.

So, we are towing this heavy thing that wants to wiggle around. If we can move some of the TT's weight forward of its axles, it will handle better. I'm going to assume you all have a weight distribution hitch. Let's keep the discussion of going with Hensley, Blue Ox, ProPride or another, for around the campfire. The idea is that these are designed to distribute weight to the front axle of TV, and to the trailer axle(s). The goal is a more even weight distribution through the equipment and built-in sway control.

Finding the tongue weight (actual weight bearing down on the hitch ball) of our set up is easy. Industry standard is that the weight on your hitch should be about 10-15% of gross trailer weight. While you can measure tongue weight with a specialized scale, these are expensive (\$250+). Bathroom scales also work, but to me anyways, this is an inconvenient method involving pipes and 2x4's. For about \$10 you can go to commercial scales and get accurate gross weights of the TV and

## **FUN FACTS WITH FLORENCE COND'T**

TT (<https://catscale.com/cat-scale-locator/>). I admit I was extremely intimidated my first time, reading my notes over, and being surrounded by those big semi's waiting their turn.

Go to the scales fully laden: fuel tank full, cargo full, firewood you may carry (cab side of the truck bed), passengers, pets, propane full (4.5lbs/gal), refrigerator full, and whatever water configuration you typically travel with (8.3 lbs/gal) in either fresh, grey or black water tanks.

I have found it useful to start by going inside and describing to the person printing the tickets what it is I am doing. Commercial scales are usually busy, so they want you to take your first weight, drive off the scale, go drop your trailer, then come back for the second weight. Look at the scales beforehand so you can premeditate your plan. Most have 3 pads, some 2. Tell them you only want the weight on the front scale when you go through with the trailer.

The math is easy:  $A =$  gross weight of TV

$B =$  weight of TV without tongue weight

$A - B =$  tongue weight for weight distribution system

- 1) Roll onto the scale with only the 4 tires of the TV on the pad, with weight distribution hitch engaged. This is A.
- 2) If you can, unhook the TT while on the scale, if not, drive off and drop the TT. Take second weight. This is B.

While you're there, you might as well get the gross weight of your fully laden Airstream (GTW). Most of us only know the curb weight and the GVWR (max weight rating). Then you'll be sure your setup is within the rated capacity of your tow vehicle and that it is not itself overloaded.

- 1) Roll onto the scale so that TV and TT are on one pad. This is GCVW (gross combined vehicle weight).
- 2) You already have the the TV weight (A) above.
- 3)  $GTW = GCVW - GVW$

Remember anytime you make a significant change to your setup, take another trip to the scales. This could be adding a bike rack and a couple of bikes to the TT, adding a generator to the bed of the TV, adding an array of solar panels and batteries, or adding that gourmet cabinet remodel from Ultimate Airstreams. Safe traveling!

## **NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS**



**Rhonda Levine**

### **Story by Rhonda Levine, Newsletter Committee Chair**

I'm writing to thank all of you who responded to the questionnaire we sent out about the newsletter. We were very pleased that so many of you took the time to let us know what you like and what you'd like to see in future editions. Now what we need to do is some planning...who will write what and when? We need to make sure you all have a chance to write about what interests you. So stay tuned as we develop a plan.

There were 12 of you who indicated an interest in writing but left no name, email or phone. Would you please reach out to me with that info so we can include you as reporters?

One thing we want to do with each of you who are hosting rallies is to make you reporters for that rally. We will be asking each of you to write up a short(3 paragraphs and 2-3 photos)article after the rally telling us about the campground, the people, the activities, local points of interest, etc. for the upcoming newsletter. And we will need a photo of you to add to the article.

I'd like to let you know about a few upcoming changes to the Newsletter Committee. But first we need to thank Norma and Bill Massier for almost 3 years of editing and publishing our awesome Oregon newsletter. It's been a lot of work and a lot of fun. Joining the committee as Publisher/Editor is Geoff Cox. Norma is staying on as a cub reporter.

Mar/Apr 2022

## **OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**President:** Carol Dion:  
[jh.cd.dion@gmail.com](mailto:jh.cd.dion@gmail.com)

**Past President:** Mike Able:  
[klmab11@comcast.net](mailto:klmab11@comcast.net)

**First V.P.:** Chris Wagner:  
[cactusw@msn.com](mailto:cactusw@msn.com)

**Second V. P.:** Janet Schober:  
[janetschober@comcast.net](mailto:janetschober@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Norma Massier:  
[nmassier@comcast.net](mailto:nmassier@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Stacey Rovinelli:  
[icuffm@att.net](mailto:icuffm@att.net)

**Membership:** John Dion:  
[jh.cd.dion@gmail.com](mailto:jh.cd.dion@gmail.com)

**Media:** Amy D'Abbraccio:  
[amyd74@att.net](mailto:amyd74@att.net)

### **Directors:**

Buzz & Lynn Blick: [buzzblick@gmail.com](mailto:buzzblick@gmail.com)

Brenda Leppo: [brendaleppo@gmail.com](mailto:brendaleppo@gmail.com)

Steve Holmes: [tholmesrn1@charter.net](mailto:tholmesrn1@charter.net)

Bryan & Michelle Stewart:

[bryan.stewart48@icloud.com](mailto:bryan.stewart48@icloud.com)

[mjstewart15@icloud.com](mailto:mjstewart15@icloud.com)

**Rally Coordinator:** Terri Warren:  
[twestover@mac.com](mailto:twestover@mac.com)

**Web Master:** Bob Crummett: [bobbyc@advgra.com](mailto:bobbyc@advgra.com)

### **Newsletter:**

Norma Massier: [nmassier@comcast.net](mailto:nmassier@comcast.net)

Rhonda Levine: [rhondaxo@comcast.net](mailto:rhondaxo@comcast.net)

Kathy Geese: [kathygeese@gmail.com](mailto:kathygeese@gmail.com)

Florence Tramoni: [florenceftramoni@gmail.com](mailto:florenceftramoni@gmail.com)

Geoff Cox: [geoffrey.cox@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.cox@gmail.com)

Janet Schober: [janetschober@comcast.net](mailto:janetschober@comcast.net)

## **OAC CONTACTS**

CLUB WEBSITE: [airstreamclub.org/oregon](http://airstreamclub.org/oregon)

OAC on FACEBOOK: The Oregon Airstream Club

REGION 10 on FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/groups/1473216976235744/](https://facebook.com/groups/1473216976235744/)

REGION 10 WEBSITE: [region10.airstreamclub.net](http://region10.airstreamclub.net)

INSTAGRAM: oregon airstream club

TWITTER: oregonairstreamclub

See above for new website information: