
UWAC Club News

Utah's Wasatch Airstream Club News

Volume 17 — APRIL 2022 — WBCCI's Utah Affiliate



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello UWAC members and affiliates as well as a warm welcome to spring!

Finally, after what seemed like more than a few months, Bonnie and I pulled the Airstream out of storage and headed south for 10 days. We joined a few UWAC members as well as many other Aistreamers for the Region 11 rally in Casa Grande, AZ. From there via route 60/77 we headed north to the Arizona high country. The section of the drive between Globe and Show Low was wonderful. Especially the canyon section along the Salt River. Bonnie found an awesome state campground called "Fools Hollow Lake" State Park. There are several fun Arizona mountain towns in this area including Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside. Great Mexican food and Margaritas at Los Corrales in Pinetop. We also visited Petrified National Park which is just over an hour away. This stop turned out to be quite the *gem*. I can't wait to go back! Finally, via AZ. Route 77 and U.S Route 191 across the Navajo reservation we headed to my favorite spot-MOAB! I would not drive that route again. The road conditions were horrid! When we arrived in Moab it looked like a bomb went off inside the trailer. Well that is probably too much about us.

We are excited to see our UWAC rallies coming together. The hosts and co-hosts have been working hard to get the registrations open and further scheduling details lined-up. As of March 26, we have 66 trailers registered for our six UWAC rallies, with registration for Flaming Gorge yet to open on April 1 - no fooling! Given our schedule and the attendance numbers it looks like the 2022 UWAC rally season is going to be awesome!

But what about next year? No, it is not too early to be thinking of rally locations for 2023. We have kicked around a couple of ideas including an urban rally in Ogden as well as a wine adventure in Palisade Colorado. Please send your rally location ideas to myself and our Events Director Kevin Buehler (kevinbbuehler@gmail.com). As if the charm of spending time with your fellow UWAC members at a location you'd love to share isn't enough incentive to host a rally, the Board and I have decided to **waive the rally fees** (not including meals, paid activities, etc), **for the hosts and co-hosts**. Please don't be shy with any questions regarding hosting a rally. We have a rally planning guide on our site

(<https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch/rally-planning-guide>) which was recently recognized in the Blue Beret as a great tool to help with hosting.

FYI, the revised UWAC Constitution and Bylaws, as voted on and approved at our business meeting in November, was finally approved by the WBCCI CBL Chair on March 16, 2022. I would encourage you to read and understand them. (<https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch/uwac-constitution-bylaws>)

Hopefully we will “See you down the road” soon!

John Ruskauff
Ruskauff@msn.com (801) 674-0381

Stories from the Road...

Fiesta in Arizona - Region 11 Rally

Pinal County Fairgrounds, Casa Grande, AZ - March 9 to 13, 2022

by Ron Jorgensen (#1218)

Several UWAC members and affiliates attended the Region 11 rally near Casa Grande, Arizona from March 9 to 13, 2022. A total of 110 trailers and motorhomes participated including a large contingent of always-cool vintage units. The theme of the rally was “Fiesta in Arizona” and it did not disappoint, complete with burritos for breakfast, tacos for dinner, oatmeal and ice cream for breakfast, and other prepared meals. The

format included two days of seminars covering everything from batteries and solar power, to brakes / axles / hitching / tire changing / propane safety, travel photography, and caravans past (Dale “Pee Wee” Schwamborn) and present.



There was plenty of free-time for sightseeing (see photo below of 700-year old Casa Grande ruins) and visiting with fellow club members from across the country. Everyone was super friendly, including a surprise visit from Nancy (Bay area) who entertained our little fire-pit group with several beautiful ukulele songs. What a great time we had!



Our Region 11 officers including Ken Johansen and John Holly (along with numerous other volunteers) were great hosts, and the hospitality included a welcoming Mariachi band, two live contemporary bands, and the one-and-only Arvil Bird, a Celting Indian who was an amazing singer, story teller, flute player, violinist, and recording artist. One day was dedicated to free-time or arranged activities including tours of the 'We Are Airstream' dealer in Chandler, Lucid Motors studio tour, and visits to the Casa Grande ruins and museum. We attended the Airstream dealership tour and were awed by the large showroom full of new units plus the vast service area in the back. Numerous VIPs from both the Airstream manufacturer (including Justin Humphreys, VP of Sales from Jackson Center, OH) and the Chandler dealership presented. They truly rolled-out the red carpet for the roughly 100 WBCCI visitors, complete with tours, continental breakfast, and a first-rate catered lunch. It was impressive, fun and very informative.

If you get a chance, be sure to attend a fun and informative Region 11 rally!!



Boondocking with the Buehlers

By Kevin Buehler (#12225)

A few weeks before Christmas Kevin and Elizabeth Buehler (BRN 12225) managed to sneak away again in their 2019 Basecamp, Gifford, this time to Big Sur California. They managed to avoid mudslides on Highway One, eat a lot of local seafood, visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and make it over Donner Pass all in one week.



The Buehlers stayed at Pfeiffer Big Sur Campground right in the heart of Big Sur. The campground was wonderful with hikes among redwood trees, exploring the Big Sur river and visiting coves along the Pacific Ocean. If you truly want to get away, it's a great spot because there is no cell service in the park and a very weak signal at the nearby historic roadside motel. The campground is very shaded with the southernmost stand of redwood trees in California. The shade

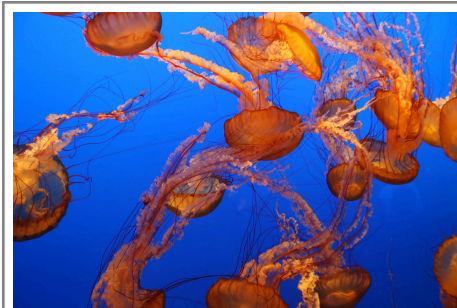
kept things cool and comfortable. Unfortunately that also meant solar charging was off the table so the generator had to be run almost everyday.

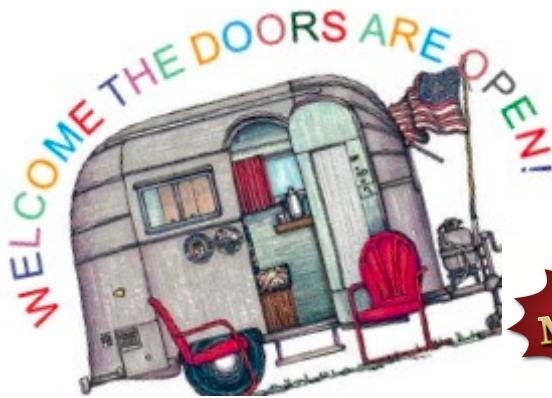


This section of the California coast is so unique with each cove unique and the views dramatic.



The drive to Monterey while short in distance was long in time because of the winding ocean side road. It was worth it though as the Monterey Bay Aquarium showcased the other half of the area, the Pacific Ocean.





The Welcome Trailer is ready to take the road with members new and not so new.

We're excited for the following members who have recently joined UWAC

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • RONALDO AND KELLI ARAUJO | ANDREW AND CHRISTINE BAYLESS |
| • MICHAEL AND PAMELA GRIMME | KEVIN AND ANDREA HAAS |
| • ROB HINCHEE | DAVID AND LISA IRVIN |
| • GILL AND ELAINE JARVIE | CRAIG AND JACOY KELLERSTRASS |
| • DAN KELSEY | LINDSAY AND VALERIE KITTELL |
| • KYLE AND DEVON KOBOLD | FRANCINE MARTINSON |
| • MIKE AND MARY MAYO | KAY ORGILL |
| • SHEILA PETHOUD | ROBERT AND PATRICIA PEDERSEN |
| • MICHAEL SAUNDERS | MARK AND KERYS SHARROCK |

UWAC 2022 Rally and Event Schedule

April 21 - 24 Rally in Jackpot, NV, Cactus Pete's RV Park

The Lunds are hosting a rally in Jackpot. We're planning a golf scramble and hope the weather co-operates. Yes, it's in the middle of nowhere but it's a short drive, approximately 160 miles, from Salt Lake. We will have coffee and juice in the mornings and would like everyone to bring an appetizer to share for happy hour Thursday evening. (Dinner on your own) Also, the RV park at Cactus Pete's **does not offer reservations**. Camping is on a first come, first served basis and it's the only campground in Jackpot. That being said, try to arrive late morning to early afternoon on Thursday. Please fill in the Jot form if you're joining in.

<https://form.jotform.com/220257214621142>

UWAC Armed Forces Day Rally at St. George Airport, May 19-22 Darrell/Linda Galloway and Kevin/Elizabeth Buehler are planning this rally near the Warbirds Air Museum at the St. George Airport. Each Armed Forces Day the Warbirds Organization and

Museum hosts a three-day event featuring vintage aircraft, the museum and a Saturday night 1940's swing band hangar dance (get tickets early). There are usually a number of featured attractions involving vintage aircraft, the opportunity to book a ride in vintage military aircraft, fly-bys, food vendors and military displays. The event is well attended and it is advised to book early. In addition, we are planning nightly happy hours and morning gatherings as well as a group hangar dinner catered by a local restaurant with a featured speaker from the Warbirds.

Campground: Dry camping at the St. George Regional Airport - 4550 S Airport Pkwy, St. George, UT 84790, <http://www.westernskywarbirds.org/>

Please register here. <https://form.jotform.com/220267484202147>

The themed Hangar Dance is now set for Saturday night, May 21 from 6 to 10. To reserve your tickets ahead of time, which we advise, please call 432-229-4985 now! These do sell out quickly every year.

Feel free to contact Darrell (301) 233-7306 or Kevin (432) 889-6804 with any rally questions or give the Warbirds a ring to discuss the event or dance.

June 2022 – Flaming Gorge Reservoir: Dates are June 16-19 Joni and Danny Simmons are hosting this rally in picturesque northeastern Utah only 15 minutes from the Flaming Gorge Dam. We have 17 full hookup (20/30/50 Amp service) sites and 3 dry camping sites reserved. \$65-\$70 per night depending on length and dry camping is just \$30 per night.

We'll have our "meet and greet" happy hour on Thursday evening at 5pm! Then, on Saturday morning we will be coordinating a group rafting trip (time TBA), and either pot luck or restaurant dining outdoors at the main lodge (Flaming Gorge Resort) that same evening, depending on availability. There are also plans for a Cornhole tournament on Friday, but otherwise Friday will be a "free day" to do as you choose, with many adventures available to everyone based on the interests below. Also, just outside our camp ground there are some very nice trails with access to an overlook of the entire area that should be great!

Dam Tour and Visitors Center – COVID-19 Pending..., viewing the lower dam
Green River Rafting Trip - <https://dinosaurriverexpeditions.com/> \$99 Adults, \$79 Youth, \$89 Senior, 62+

Hiking - Bear Canyon Lookout (Easy), Canyon Rim Trail (Easy), Dowd Mountain Overlook – Forest road access, high-clearance not needed, Jones Hole Trail to the Green River – 10 Miles round-trip, flat and easy

Water activities including fishing, kayaking, boating and paddle boats

Horseback riding

Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery – 1 Hour, 10 Minutes

Fort Bridger State Historic Site – 1 hour, 30 minutes

Red Canyon Lodge and Visitors Center

Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake (and Lodge) Scenic Backway and the Ute Fire Tower Interpretive Site - Forest road access, high-clearance not needed, 1 Hour, 15 Minutes all the way to Spirit Lake, 30 Minutes to Ute Tower.

Swett Ranch Historic Homestead - A replica of the ranch built in 1909. Summer tours are run by volunteers who entertain guests by reenacting the everyday life of the early 1900s. This farm, which is included in the National Register of Historical Places, has a building with five rooms, two sheds, a mill, a meat storage room, a cellar, a granary, a barn and a bathroom added later outside the house.

Please make your individual campground registrations here:

Pine Forest RV Park - Dutch John, UT 84023 – 435-889-3725 <https://www.flaminggorgeresort.com/> Contact Florie or Eldon Harper (Managers) to book - 435-889-3725

Please register here. <https://form.jotform.com/220265799624162>

Dan and Joni Simmons
(801) 205-5326

July 2022 – Wyoming Caravan July 13th - 24th: (11 nights) at various campgrounds across Wyoming (Lund/Jorgensen are coordinating this unit caravan; Two night stays are planned in Pinedale, Thermopolis, Buffalo, Sundance, and Cody. **REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED.**

August 2022 – Dinosaur National Monument Rally:

August 18 to 21, 2022. Contact Mary or Marcelo Paz for additional info on this event. Online registration tentatively closes 4-30-22.

Looking for an adventure 65 million years in the making? Then it's time to make your reservations for the Dinosaurland Rally. We are looking forward to this rally and hope you will join us in Vernal, Utah, August 18-21, 2022.

Please be sure to get your reservations made through the Dinosaurland KOA starting on April 1, 2022. Contact Info: Dinosaurland KOA – (435)789-2148 – they are giving us 10% off the price of approx. \$79.87/night (\$239.61 for three nights). The price varies slightly for certain sites and number of people coming. If you happen to have the KOA Rewards, you'll get an additional 10% off. Be sure to tell them you are with the Utah Wasatch Airstream Club

and they will be able to get you a site with our group. You can ask for Daniel, but anyone who answers should be able to help you.

They will be holding our spots through the month of April, but we recommend getting them made soon before they become extinct – just like the dinosaurs.

During our rally we will be going to the Dinosaur National Monument, taking a hike, relaxing in a beautiful campground with plenty of green grassy space, eating good food, visiting with a couple of paleontologists, plus plenty of other fun activities in the area. This is one rally you don't want to miss.

As soon as you have made your reservation, remember to fill out the Jot Form (link below) and pay your registration fee for this rally. Hope to see you there!

<https://form.jotform.com/220266613656153>

September 2022 – Crater Lake, OR : September 9-13 (4 nights) at Crater Lake RV Park in Prospect, OR (20 spots reserved); rally hosts are Vic and Chris Gabrenas: vcgabrenas@gmail.com

Cell: 801-694-5657 **REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED.**

October 2022 – Sun Valley Jazz Festival, Idaho: October 12-16, 2022. This may or may not be a rally organized by the unit, depending on whether or not Region 10 sponsors an Airstream rally as they have in the pre-COVID years. Several UWAC members are expected to attend the festival.

November 2022 – Club dinner (tentative): time, date and location TBD.

Additional UWAC Rallies in 2022 - TBD (club members are encouraged to bring forward additional ideas for any month during "camping season" including camping-only, aka "No Host" events at personal camping favorite; contact our Events Coordinator, kevinbbuehler@gmail.com, or any club officer with your suggestions)

TECH CORNER

Quick battery maintenance tips

Rich Luhr Feb 08, 2022, Airstream Life Store



Recently I got an email from a customer who was boondocking in Quartzsite, Arizona and wondering why her portable solar kit wasn't charging her batteries anymore.

After a little diagnostic work, we determined that the problem was most likely not the solar panels, but the batteries themselves. Despite being only six months old, the batteries were already reluctant to accept a charge.

Sadly, I hear versions of this story frequently. A friend once mentioned to me that he had to replace his batteries every spring, at a cost of about \$500 each time. He thought the problem was "cheap batteries," but the real issue turned out to be that he didn't understand the correct way to maintain them. I soon learned that the Quartzsite customer didn't,

either.

Before we get into proper maintenance, let's review the three types of batteries most commonly found in an Airstream.

"Wet cell" (Lead-Acid)

These are the most common type found in Airstreams. They're just like most car batteries. Inside each battery is a bunch of lead plates with sulphuric acid surrounding them.

Sometimes the battery will have plastic caps on the top, which can be carefully removed to add distilled water from time to time. Others are "maintenance free" and don't have removable caps.

In normal operation, wet cell batteries release a small amount of hydrogen gas. Because hydrogen is flammable and sulphuric acid is corrosive, these batteries are always kept in a separate battery box, isolated from the living quarters of the Airstream.

Absorbed Glass Matt (AGM)

These are also lead-acid batteries, but instead of liquid inside they have a paste that doesn't dry up, and they may have spiral plates instead of flat plates inside. But what you'll care about is the fact that AGM batteries don't emit hydrogen gas in normal operation, never need maintenance, and last longer.

The only downside of AGM batteries is that they cost about twice as much as wet cell batteries. But if you take care of them they'll end up being cheaper per year, because you can get more life out of them.

“Lithium” (Lithium Iron Phosphate, or LiPO)

LiPO batteries are all the rage right now, and for good reasons: they last a long time, have zero maintenance, are about half the weight of lead-acid, and they can be discharged deeply many times without shortening their life.

But they're expensive. *Really* expensive, like 2-3 times more than AGM. Also, LiPO batteries have quirks of their own that owners need to think about before they switch. (I'll write about that in more detail in a future blog.)

Basic maintenance for all batteries

Regardless of what you have, you should **periodically inspect your batteries** in their storage box. Look for tight, clean connections to each battery, with no obvious corrosion (like fuzzy whitish-green buildup). There should be no cracks or damage to the battery cases or cables, and the hold-down brackets should be tight so the batteries can't move.

Also, **keep your batteries charged**. Remember my customer in Quartzsite? Her AGM batteries were toast after only six months because she didn't know that you need to keep them charged at least 50% all the time. (The same is true of wet cell batteries.)

Discharging below 50% is like leaving the headlights on your car overnight. Do that a few times and you'll find your car doesn't start on the next cold morning. In this case, she had let the batteries run down to 11.2 volts for a few days while boondocking. That means the batteries were at about 10% of their capacity. They normally should be 12.7 - 13.0 volts when full, and never less than 12.3 volts.

You may well ask: *"But if the lights still go on, the fridge still runs on propane, and the furnace still works, how can my battery be dead?"*

Many appliances that run on "12 volts" will actually continue to work at much lower voltages, far below the minimum healthy level for a battery. You can't rely on those as a guideline. It's important to keep an eye on the voltmeter (which is standard equipment in every modern Airstream) and don't let wet cell batteries get below 12.2 volts or AGM batteries get below 12.3 volts (as measured when they are resting with no appliances running). So if there's one thing you take away from this, it's this: The most important maintenance you can do is simply to keep the batteries charged above 50% at all times.

This is particularly true during periods of storage. All types of lead-acid batteries will gradually "self discharge" over time, whether or not they're connected to anything.

Remember my friend who had to buy new batteries every spring? He didn't top up the batteries during the long New England winters, and so he always came back to find dead batteries that didn't want to charge again.

LiPO is a bit different. Those batteries can be discharged way below 50% and come back smiling. That's one of the big advantages of them—you essentially get more usable power because you can use the entire capacity of the battery. Their "self-discharge" rate is much lower too. Still, it's important to make sure they're charged before long periods of storage.

There's more to know about battery maintenance and use. It's one of the many topics covered in my book, "[The \(Nearly\) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance](#)," available in the Airstream Life Store or Amazon.com.

Rich Luhr Follow-up

February 14, 2022 at 11:34am

Kristin - Living in a climate where the trailer is parked over the winter, I pull the batteries in the fall and keep them on a battery tender (trickle charger) in my house over the winter. I will also say that it is difficult while boondocking depending on weather and location (shade is both good and bad...) to keep the batteries charged as recommended above. I use as little power as I can when boondocking for that reason but find the solar charging is slow and doesn't keep up even with that small degree of use. Using rechargeable lights and battery operated fans does help.

You may need to add solar capacity so that the panels can keep up with your normal daily use. If you boondock a lot, I'd suggest at least 160 watts of capacity and up to 400 if you are a heavy user of electricity (for laptops etc).

John - Good article. One question should one leave the camper always plugged into shore power when you are not using it so the on board charger keeps the batteries topped up?

If you have an Airstream from model year 2018 or later, you should have a "multi-stage converter" installed (it'll be called out on the original dealer sticker). In that case it's generally regarded as safe to leave the Airstream plugged in all the time. The converter will drop down to a "float" level of charging for maintaining the batteries, just like a smart battery charger would.

Earlier model years may have less sophisticated converters, and for those it's best to only plug in the trailer occasionally (like a couple of days each month) during long periods of storage, to top up the batteries

MEMBER DIRECTORY: For instructions on how to add your photo to the member directory, please see the following tutorial:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUICC-howkM>

UWAC Website - The legacy UWAC website will no longer be updated as the club has transitioned over to a shared website with the rest of WBCCL. Be sure to bookmark the new site:

<https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch>

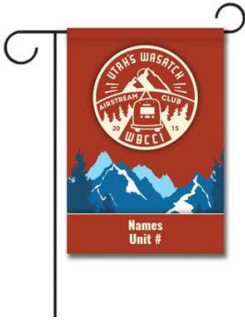
You can find the latest UWAC newsletter, rally schedule, registration instructions and other important information on the new website. In addition, as a member you can log-in and see the current directory of UWAC members.

CLASSIFIED.....



Do you have Airstream or camping items you can't use but don't want to send to the land fill? If there is a need, we can add a small classified section to the newsletter. UWAC member items previously looking for a new home via "word of mouth" were a flag holder, a bedspread and a solar charger. What is taking up room in your closet or garage?

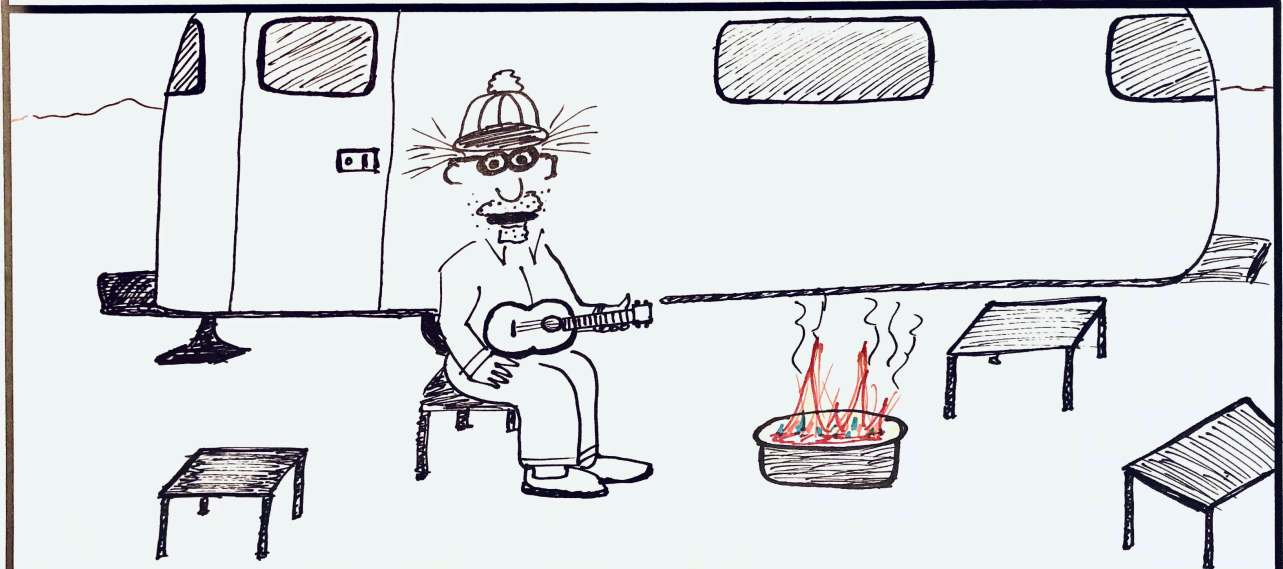
Our next newsletter will be in August. If you have items you would like to advertise, please email or text a description to: jeanneL333@gmail.com; 801-403-8398



CLUB FLAGS Just a reminder that anyone can order the club flags that you see around, from Flagology. They can be personalized with your names and WBCCI number. Just use this link to their website since it's a custom item. <https://www.flagology.com/product/personalized-utahs-wasatch-airstream-club-garden-flag-12-5-x-18/>

Festus A. Streamer

3-3-22
R.S. Jorgensen



Wow, nothing clears out the campfire crowd quite as fast as a Ukulele and some 60s folk songs...