

# MAY/JUNE 2022

In this issue: Info on the upcoming votes, results of the OAC reader survey, rally write-ups, interview with Terri Warren, travelogues, travel app review, and more

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The camping season is in full swing – and it has been wet! But, true to Oregon Airstream Club form, we are still getting out there and camping with the rain, wind and cooler than normal temperatures. All part of camping in

the great Pacific NW! This year we will have the rare opportunity to vote on two constitutional amendments. A transition team has been proposing, developing and vetting the details over many months. Our own Region 10 President, Kathy Geese, has been serving on this team. The first amendment will allow us all to directly vote for leadership of the club, removing the delegate process. The second amendment creates an Executive Council structure, widening the field of informed candidates and changing the terms of service to two years. Please see the information that has been coming to you from international for a full description of each amendment.

You may remember this year both the primary and secondary member of a household have a vote. It is necessary that you each have a separate email

| CURRENT INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES |                                   |  |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
|   | CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE       |  |  |  |
| REGION 1 PRESIDENT                      | PRESIDENT                         |  |  |  |
| REGION 2 PRESIDENT                      | 1 VP                              |  |  |  |
| REGION 3 PRESIDENT                      | 2 VP                              |  |  |  |
| REGION 4 PRESIDENT                      | 3 VP                              |  |  |  |
| REGION 5 PRESIDENT                      | SECRETARY                         |  |  |  |
| REGION 6 PRESIDENT                      | TREASURER                         |  |  |  |
| REGION 7 PRESIDENT                      | PAST PRESIDENT                    |  |  |  |
| REGION 8 PRESIDENT                      | CORPORATE MANAGER<br>(NON-VOTING) |  |  |  |
| REGION 9 PRESIDENT                      |                                   |  |  |  |
| REGION 10 PRESIDENT                     |                                   |  |  |  |
| REGION 11 PRESIDENT                     |                                   |  |  |  |
| REGION 12 PRESIDENT                     |                                   |  |  |  |
| AIRSTREAM TRUSTEE                       |                                   |  |  |  |

| PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES |                                   |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|  | PROPOSED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL        |  |  |
| REGION 1 PRESIDENT                       | PRESIDENT                         |  |  |
| REGION 2 PRESIDENT                       | VP                                |  |  |
| REGION 3 PRESIDENT                       | SECRETARY                         |  |  |
| REGION 4 PRESIDENT                       | TREASURER                         |  |  |
| REGION 5 PRESIDENT                       | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL                 |  |  |
| REGION 6 PRESIDENT                       | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL                 |  |  |
| REGION 7 PRESIDENT                       | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL                 |  |  |
| REGION 8 PRESIDENT                       | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL                 |  |  |
| REGION 9 PRESIDENT                       | EXECUTIVE COUNCIL                 |  |  |
| REGION 10 PRESIDENT                      | PAST PRESIDENT                    |  |  |
| REGION 11 PRESIDENT                      | CORPORATE MANAGER<br>(NON-VOTING) |  |  |
| REGION 12 PRESIDENT                      |                                   |  |  |
| AIRSTREAM TRUSTEE<br>(NON-VOTING)        |                                   |  |  |

address, please check your membership information online to ensure your email addresses are correct, so they are both counted when you vote.

I urge you all to submit your vote on these amendments. I believe we are long overdue for both of these changes, and that with these changes we will be a stronger, more agile and more representative of our membership. I will be voting "yes" on both amendments.

Please vote when the ballot arrives in your email box.

See you down the road!

Carol

# MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Notes from OAC Membership Chair

By John Roll

I am your new volunteer OAC Membership Chair. As of the last Zoom OAC Board meeting we had the following membership numbers:

Total members (Regular plus Affiliate): 580

Regular members: 485 Current member location:

Affiliate members: 95 OR: 194 TX: 4
Total trailer membership: 309 WA: 69 CO: 3

CA: 18 AZ, BC: 2 each

ID: 9 AK, IA, IL, KS, NV, UT,

Japan: 1 each

The OAC and Airstream International Club are missing 60 partner emails. This is important, since voting is by email, and instead of 1 vote per trailer, it is now 1 vote per member. Please send me your partner's email (we will email members who are missing partner's emails), so that the club will be able to tally all the votes for the proposed changes with the Airstream Club International. You can send it to me here: <a href="mail.john.37@gmail.com">air.john.37@gmail.com</a>. Note: If you add it to the International database yourself, the information will *not* be passed back to the local club in time. But by providing me with the partner email, I will be able to add the emails for voting, and I can forward your email addresses to International for you. If there is no vote recorded from a member or partner member, it will count as an abstention, and that will not count toward the supermajority vote needed to pass the proposed changes. In other words, a lack of a vote will essentially count as a "NO" vote. So please provide missing emails, and please, everyone VOTE when the time comes!

Your new OAC Membership Chair,

John Roll

| City, State       | <b>Big Red Number</b>  |
|-------------------|--|
| Rollins, MT       | 9425   |
| Beaverton, OR     | 8684   |
| Grants Pass, OR   | 3771   |
| Portland, OR      | 4302   |
| La Grande, OR     | 11055  |
| Portland, OR      | 4069   |
| Coeur d'Alene, ID | 10650  |
| Brookings, OR     | 10834  |
| Portland, OR      | 14270  |
| Chiloquin, OR     | 8352   |
| Ashland, OR       | 7447   |
| Roseburg, OR      | 17182  |
| Terrebonne, OR    | 4558   |
| Salem, OR         | 30325  |
| Grants Pass, OR   | 3656   |
|                   | Rollins, MT Beaverton, OR Grants Pass, OR Portland, OR La Grande, OR Portland, OR Coeur d'Alene, ID Brookings, OR Portland, OR Chiloquin, OR Ashland, OR Roseburg, OR Terrebonne, OR Salem, OR |



Jim & Dawn Stahl Lauren & Matt Trank Centennial, CO Tigard, OR 16666 3874

# IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT VOTING

#### By Rhonda Levine

We've noticed that in our elections that people are tending to vote by Airstream trailer rather than by Airstreamer. If you have registered with the club as a couple, you are *both* entitled to a vote, rather than just one vote per trailer. For instance, Judy and I should *both* be voting in each election. Please check online (www.airstreamclub.org) to make sure that emails <u>for both of you</u> are listed if you are members as a couple. You can update the emails by writing <u>membership@airstreamclub.org</u> and please also cc <u>air.john.37@gmail.com</u> in the email so that our Oregon membership lists are also updated.

#### RALLY COORDINATOR MESSAGE

Notes from OAC Rally Coordinator

By Mike Burnett

This is my first opportunity to provide input to the OAC Newsletter as your new Rally Coordinator. I am honored to serve in this role and will do everything I can to assure we continue to have a great 2022 rally season largely based on the work done by my predecessor, Terri Warren. Since accepting my role as OAC Rally Coordinator, I have already begun working to assure we have an equally great 2023 rally season. Please consider committing to host a rally in 2023. It's a way to give back a small portion of the enjoyment we all share.



If you have a favorite place to camp which you feel would be suitable for a rally and able to accommodate an average of 15 airstreams, please let me know. Better yet, if you are also willing to host (or co-host) a rally at that location, I will work with you to secure the necessary reservations and also to assure that you have all the support and encouragement you might need to be a successful OAC Rally Host. We're already securing reservations for 2023 rallies including Cannon Beach, Sea Perch, Bay Point Landing, Timberlake, Henry Estates Winery and Olde Stone Village. Others are in the works. We aim is to secure around 35 rallies with a broad variety of locations. Something for everyone!

Thanks for your active support!

# READER SURVEY RESULTS

We sent out a survey to all the readers of the newsletter, and here's what you answered. It's always great to hear what people enjoy, and we'll do our best to include that in future newsletters!

| "How long have you been an OAC |           | "Are photos what you enjoy?" |       | Membership news       | 51 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|----|
| member?"                       |           | Equal with text              | 72%   | Organizing your       | 50 |
| Less than 1 year               | 15%       | Indifferent                  | 14%   | Airstream             |    |
| 2-3 years                      | 12%       | Most                         | 14%   | Travel apps           | 37 |
| 3+ years                       | 73%       |                              |       | On the road with      | 32 |
|                                |           | "What do you enjoy among our |       | Recipes from the road | 32 |
| "Do you attend OAC             | rallies?" | usual features?"             | _     | A bit of history      | 30 |
| No                             | 13%       | (Multiple responses possi    | ible) | Focus on the Board    | 26 |
| 1-2 per year                   | 37%       | Rally news                   | 98    | Airstream artists     | 24 |
| 3-5 per year                   | 31%       | Fun facts with Florence      | 74    | Airstream dreaming    | 23 |
| Over 5 per year                | 19%       | Calendar of events           | 70    | For sale              | 19 |
|                                |           | Gadgets and gizmos           | 67    | Vintage news          | 16 |
|                                |           | President's message          | 61    | -                     |    |

#### RALLY WRITE-UPS

The OAC is renowned for being really active with rallies throughout the year. Here are some write ups for recent rallies, and hopefully you'll be inspired to check them out the next time around. Buzz Blick has put together some maps to go along with the rally write ups, and you can find them at the end of this newsletter.



*Umpqua Wine Boondocking Rally* 

These reports are one of the favorite sections of the newsletter, and it should be as fun to write them as it is to go on the

rallies! (Or *almost* as fun...) With this in mind, we will be emailing tips and guidelines to each of you who are hosting a rally to help you with a rally write up after your event is over.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY RALLY

March 17-20, 2022 By Buzz Blick

We were nineteen intrepid club members, braving the forecast of heavy rain to attend our annual St. Patrick's Day Rally at Timberlake RV Park and Campground, in the forest above Stevenson, WA.

The rain paused during most of the days, but (according to Hal Hendrix's rain gauge) we got 0.5 in of steady showers the first night. Despite the ongoing threat of rain, there was plenty of time



Campfire at the Wine Country Rally

to enjoy outdoor activities, as well as explore Stevenson, Hood River and the fascinating Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center.

Had it had been a bit warmer and dryer, we might have taken a ride on the Zipline or challenged the Aerial Park course at nearby Skamania Lodge. I'll save those for a summer visit.

The fireplace in the meeting room was kept stoked during morning coffee/pastries time and whenever folks gathered for meals or conversation. Bob Hazleton provided morning muffins, doughnuts and bagels with cream cheese. An optional scrumptious St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef, cabbage, vegetables and soda bread was prepared and served by Hal Hendrix, Terri Warren and Florence Tremoni on Friday night. Saturday night featured excellent pizza from the nearby Backwoods Brewery in Carson, with rally members providing side dishes. Both nights we were fortunate to have Valerie Blessley play her beautiful harp – which was carved, shaped and fashioned from spruce wood by Valerie and her husband Mark. Sunday morning was rain-free for the drive home.

#### APRIL FOOL'S RALLY

March 31 – April 3, 2022 by Ruby Troncin



Spring has arrived and with it the 2022 April Fools Rally at Casey's Riverside RV Park near Eugene. Despite Covid 19 fears, a couple email hiccups, and some nervousness about the two potlucks, all 17 couples had an absolutely wonderful time. Some highlights: A Pet



Parade around the park (which got loads of waves from all campers); a White Elephant gift exchange and a What's My Line game. Also included: an impromptu Happy Hour

and lots of prizes.

For the Pet Parade, Steve and Tina Holmes took home a prize for "Best Pair" of matching pups. Atlas, owned by Brad and Carole Hedstrom, won "Most Creative" with a blow-up globe on his shoulders. David and Linda Doughty won "Overall" with their rescued Greyhound, Bella. Susan Taylor was our gracious Judge. Brad and Carole Hedstrom loved the paint by numbers Flamingo they received for correctly guessing What's My Line: "Honey Pot Cleaner" portrayed by Heather Cook.

Some of the kookiest gifts for the White Elephants was a key chain engraved "Crapper's Full," and an address book partially completed. Some of best were bottles of booze



(always appreciated) a stuffed Flamingo and believe it or not books... Other Airstreamers tried their hand at fishing, riding bikes and rock



hunting. Ralond and Ruby hosted the rally for the second year, while Tim and Susan McFee co-hosted. To put it mildly, it was a hoot!!! Hope to see you all next year, woohoo...

#### UMPQUA WINE BOONDOCKING RALLY

April 7-10, 2022 By Michelle Stewart



Under a sunny sky on a warm Thursday afternoon in April, thirteen trailers gathered in a grassy field tucked between the Umpqua River, a picturesque old barn, and the bucolic Henry Estate Winery tasting room in rural Umpqua, OR. Hosts Judy Mitchell, Rhonda Levine, and Judy and Brian Smith welcomed each arriving trailer with a bottle of estate wine. Our home for the weekend claims to be the second oldest winery in the breathtaking Umpqua Valley, and the original vintner, Scott Henry, visited with the group several times. Meeting this former engineer, who at one time worked on the Moon Project and later patented a

unique trellis system for growing grapes, was particularly interesting!

Though we were boondocking, the meadow in which we camped provided attendees the ability to have a separate area all to ourselves, making the gathering very dog friendly. With miles of farm road to walk along, a river to play in, and a big open field in which to romp, our canine companion voted this location the best to date. We don't think Dory was alone in her opinion!



High points of the rally included the first night meet-n-greet, under shady trees near the winery tasting room and the private wine tasting included with our attendance fee. Terry Warren and a small army of assistants prepared a tasty ziti dish for those wishing to participate in Saturday evening's meal. Some attendees ventured out to sample other wines along the Winegrower's Tour (featuring 27 local wineries) while others opted to taste the local beer at Two Shy brewery in Roseburg. If you are ok with boondocking, we highly recommend this rally in the future!



#### PAINTED HILLS RALLY

April 19-22, 2022

By Angela & Michael Shock

Home base of the Painted Hills Rally was the quaint and tiny town of Dayville, OR, located 30 miles west of John Day and with a population of about 150. Dayville is at the eastern gate of the John Day Fossil Beds. There are three units of the Fossil Beds National Monument. The closest was the Sheep Rock unit along with the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center which are located just nine miles from Dayville. The Painted Hills unit sits just north of Mitchell, OR, about 40 miles further west of Dayville and the third is the Clarno unit, a few



miles west of Fossil, OR, about an hour's drive from Dayville. At this rally our base was Fish House Inn and RV Park. Attendees included local folks as well as those from Idaho and Utah.

The Fish House owners are David & Lyndee, along with their adorable daughters, Skylar and Oakley and their dog, Boon.

Taking over from Lyndee's dad, the budding Dayville entrepreneurs have built a pristine oasis in this tiny part of Oregon. Lyndee actually grew up on the property they now own. They were looking forward to seeing their park filled with Airstreams as they have recently become Airstream owners themselves – a 16' Bambi – and they certainly got their wish!





On Wednesday, based on a recommendation from Lyndee, most participants went to the Paleontology Center and then 2 miles further north to the Blue Basin (actually more greenish-blue) where most took the "Island in Time" hike into the basin. Michael & Angela (along with their Lab, Breezy) chose the longer "Blue Basin Overlook" hike that circled the rim of the Basin. The rock formations resemble those of the Bryce Canyon

amphitheater, but much smaller, a lot bluer, and the trails not nearly as busy (not in April). Also on Wednesday, the Lawrences (Bill & Sharon) with their grandsons drove up to visit Kimberly, OR, only to find that Kimberly is a "blink and you miss it" town, even smaller than Dayville! Wednesday's happy hour included BBQ'd spicy chicken wings, courtesy of John and Bonnie Ruskauff, cooked on their Airstream-mounted Traeger grill.

On Thursday, the destination was the Painted Hills, north of Mitchell. Trails took you to the best photo spots and the hills did not disappoint! Simply stunning. After some good hikes through the area, several folks stopped for a tasty lunch and excellent beer at Tiger Town Brewing in Mitchell, OR. Happy hour back at camp was especially sweet with the addition

of cherry and peach pie from the Dayville Café, provided by hosts Angela and Michael.

As always, the camaraderie was wonderful, a great vibe for an early year rally. And the residents of Dayville were friendly and welcoming. On the first morning, Angela and Michael had breakfast next door to the park at Twisted Treasures & Gnarly Goods, an eatery, gift shop and growler station. As local customers came in, they said "looks like an Airstream convention next door". Mike laughed and said, "Yes, we're part of the group. Ours is the silver one"!



#### **MARYHILL RALLY**

April 28 – May 1, 2022 By Florence Tramoni



Maryhill State Park is in the Columbia River Gorge on the Washington side, about 100 miles east of Portland. The delights



begin with the drive there which, after leaving Portland, is entirely along the mighty Columbia. The group camp at the State Park is on the river and, as a backdrop, the majestic basalt cliffs that characterize the Gorge glow in the sunrise. Such a beautiful setting that also boasts a large covered shelter with tables, grills, a sink... all we needed to host happy hours and meals. We feasted on Brats Tri-Tip and scalloped potatoes and lasagna. We got up early Saturday morning to make

bagels with Terri Warren. It was a huge success!

There was certainly a lot to do in the area. First off, the campground is lovely and quite large, so if staying close to home is in order, it is a lovely walk.



On Friday night, about twelve of us went to the Goldendale Observatory for an astronomy lecture, which is usually followed by an opening of the dome and telescope viewing. This is

one of the very few big telescopes in the U.S. that the public can look through. Unfortunately, it was raining so we will have to go back next year to see the night sky!

Many of us visited the Maryhill Museum which is a small fine art museum with an eclectic mix of exhibits including many Rodin sculptures (remember "The

Thinker"? Yes, that Rodin). Golf was 45 minutes away at Indian Creek Golf Course. We also visited the Maryhill winery which sits atop the bluff overlooking the river. There delicious lunches were accompanied by their yummy wine. Just 10 minutes downstream is the Deschutes River State Recreation Area. The trail there goes 13 miles, but Luna and I did not. The weekend flew by, new friends made (welcome new OAC members Craig and Deb Brown from Shelton WA!), and I look forward to the rally again next year.



#### WINE COUNTRY RALLY

April 28 – May 1, 2022 By Buzz Blick



About 30 Airstreams from the Washington and Oregon clubs made their way to Prosser, WA on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for either two or three days of wine tasting and hanging out together. Thursday and Friday boasted clear skies and great springtime weather, while



Saturday was full of wet weather – ranging from light mist to torrential downpour. Sunday, the weather cleared for the return home.

Lori and Bryon Grassi, from the Washington Unit, took the lead in providing both a tent-covered area for inter-club get-togethers and a magnificent array of refreshments. Coffee and pastries in the morning, Happy Hour treats in the afternoon and a gathering place around their firepit in the evening. On Saturday, despite the rain, many members took advantage of the 30 wineries in the area for touring and sampling. Others were more into reading and relaxing. A few hardy souls risked getting soaked with walks or bike rides on local rural roads.

Inter-club get-togethers like this provide a great opportunity to meet fellow Airstreamers, have fun together and perhaps build enduring friendships. There are several upcoming rallies (Ramblin' Redwoods, Elk Meadows, Region 10 rally: Windmills and Whales) which will provide fresh opportunities to connect. Hope to see many of you at one or more of these events!

# MEET A CLUB VOLUNTEER INTERVIEW WITH TERRI WARREN



Ladies and gents, allow me to introduce Terri Warren to any of you who have not actually met her. Trust me... you will. She is what I like to call a force of nature. That would be a person who can balance her life while juggling 17 projects with grace and ease. She does this by rising most days at 6, checking her online calendar, making daily lists and tending to patients who are part of her Herpes infections clinic (35 years) via Telehealth. Then there's a good breakfast prepared by husband Hal. Then on to matters concerning Airstream and the rest of her day. Hal, by the way, uses a CPAP, and has found a wonderful battery that allows him several nights of sleep with no electric. It might work for some of you wanting to boondock. It's a MAXOAK battery, \$300 on Amazon.

Terri and Hal Hendrix have been together for 22 years. They have 3 daughters, two of whom live nearby, and grandchildren. And 2 Labs... one of whom is a puppy. They bought their first Airstream in 2009. Terri's folks were Airstreamers so she knew about

them. And Hal was an easy sell. In 2015 they bought their current 27' trailer which they love. They have done trips to Minnesota, Maine (2), Alaska (they love the Valdez area) and Mardi Gras to name a few. This Fall they'll be in Albuquerque for the Balloon Festival. They love camping at Maryhill and Pelton where they host rallies. Terri suggests looking for Corps of Engineers campgrounds which offer 50 amp, large sites, low prices and are on the water.

From her first rally Terri has liked the Airstream life. The Club felt good and right. She began by being a part of the Oregon Club and doing the steps to become President. She was also the rally coordinator where the course of rallies offered in Oregon were completely changed by her determination to give everyone a chance to experience this event. No other Club in the US comes even close to offering so many rallies to the membership. She was also the Region 10 President. Her new job will be as International Secretary where she will work with International President Eric McHenry on the Executive Council. Her job will be to keep track of meeting content and work with the Council on communications and membership.



This is Terri's way of giving back and she loves volunteering. Speaking of giving... she and the Grows will be spending a week soon in Mexico

helping with organization Sight is a Right where eyeglasses and surgeries are offered to people unable to pay for them to restore and improve sight.

There are many of us in the Club who know Terri... who have been mentored by her, who have been recruited for various positions in the Oregon Club and with Region 10, who have enjoyed camping with Terri and Hal, have hosted rallies together and who have benefitted in so many ways from her wonderful energy and focus. Thank you, Terri, for everything you've done and will do to make this Club awesome!

#### TRAVEL APPS

#### by Kathy Geese



Save Routes in iCloud – Your saved routes will now automatically appear on all your devices thanks to iCloud sync. Applies to newly save more

For those of you that follow Airstream Addicts on Facebook, full credit for this recommendation goes to David Titley, who keeps the members of that group updated on weather for RVers. Our recent 11,000 plus mile trip saw a blizzard, hailstorm, sandstorm, torrential rains, and tornado along our route. I am using the free version of this app and very intuitive to use. You simply download and open the app on your mobile device (Android and Apple versions available). Your current destination will show and then type in your destination. A map opens showing the weather along the way based on the time you departed and when you will go through an area. You can change the view to "Timeline", save the route to view later, and share with others. It is an interesting combination of navigation and weather conditions. With the \$25 annual Pro version, you can add stops and see the forecast out for several days, view alternative routes, see live radar, and some other nifty features. For now, the free version serves my purposes, but I will purchase on the monthly or yearly plan for our next cross-country trip.

#### 31 DAYS EXPLORING WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

By Kathy Geese Chapter 3

... Despite a last-minute report from another camper that there was snow forecast in the mountain passes, we did our research, decided by mid-afternoon the roads would be okay, and pushed on to Pearrygin Lake State Park outside of Winthrop, WA, where we would join friends. We pulled out of Bayview State Park on October 11th, headed for a stop in Lynden, WA, site of the 2022 Region 10 Rally, and our appointment to tour the facility with the Northwest Washington Fair event coordinator. What a lovely fairground! Green grass instead of gravel parking and clean as a whistle. 20-amp hookups, lots of water spigots, an on-site dump station, and the Expo Building we have leased that has enough room for the group to spread out for all of the planned activities.



The Fairground is within walking distance to downtown Lynden with

its boutique shops, great restaurants, and emigrant history. Settled by the Dutch in 1874 near the site of the Nooksack Indian village Squahalish, the area is rich in agriculture with dairies, berry farms, and greenhouses dotting the landscape. After our one-hour tour, we headed to the North Cascades Highway and an afternoon of beauty at every turn. A dusting of snow up in the mountains was a reminder that we were sneaking in at the end of the season and the highway would be closed until spring in just a matter of weeks. The mileage from Lynden to Pearrygin State Park was deceiving and under 200 miles, but 4.5 hours later, we pulled into our site in Pearrygin across from our old Issaquah neighbors, longtime friends, and OAC members, the Burnetts.

Just 2.5 miles out of the western-themed town of Winthrop, Pearrygin is on a beautiful mountain lake surrounded by the Cascades. The trees were beginning to turn colors and nights got down into the 20s but afternoons were sunny and crisp and sweater weather. Deer wandered through the campground every day and with hunting season-opening the coming weekend, the campground started filling with hunters on Friday. We spent our days walking, bike riding, and wandering



through Winthrop where it was the definition of off-season. Winthrop is sleepy during the week and our only option for lunch out one day was a gas station Polish sausage which was surprisingly good. Winthrop turns into a tourist attraction on the weekend and even this time of year, parking spaces were filled on the weekend.

One of my first stops was to check out the Winthrop Library as their website advertised "drive-up internet 24/7," and I had two Zoom meetings scheduled. Internet worked great and is an invaluable service in a small mountain town where many people don't have service in their homes due to their remote locations. One of our favorite stops in the area is usually the base camp for firefighters outside of Winthrop but it is temporarily closed to the public due to Covid. On other visits, we've had the opportunity to talk with the forest firefighters and they are true heroes in the efforts they make to save homes and businesses during wildfire season.



One afternoon, we decided to drive up to Sun Mountain Lodge for lunch where we previously stayed before becoming Airstream owners. The road was blocked on the drive up and a notice was posted that the lodge was closed until Saturday. Disappointed and hungry, we ventured into the little town of Twisp just about 20 minutes up the road and big changes since our last visit there several years ago. Multiple art galleries to wander through and lots of new construction in the two-block downtown. The health food grocery store with a lunch counter is a marvel in how much product can be squeezed into a small space. Downstairs, they have an excellent wine cellar with a live-edge tasting table and bulk olive oils that can also be sampled. Next door is Cinnamon Twisp, an excellent bakery where we enjoyed a great lunch and some treats from the bakery case. The local brewpub that burned down a few years ago has reopened and is usually filled with outdoor sports visitors to the Methow Valley. In the winter, the valley turns into a winter wonderland and is a destination for cross country skiers. We left impressed with the offerings in a town that has a population of less than a thousand people and seems to have come out better after Covid closures than many small towns we have visited.

The Burnett's headed back home on Saturday morning and we decided to go back up to Sun Mountain Lodge as the first day to re-open. As we drove up, we

saw evidence of the many forest fires from last summer. The hotel is as beautiful as we remembered and the views of the valley and mountains from the restaurant are spectacular. I questioned our lunch server about the closure, and she replied they had to renovate after the forest fires this past summer filled the lodge with smoke. All bedding, carpeting, and upholstery had to be replaced and walls and floors washed with a chemical that removes the odor of smoke. She said that employees were kept working which she appreciated and instead of serving hotel guests, she and the rest of the wait staff served three meals a day to the crews repairing the smoke damage. I forgot to ask our server but during our last stay, the lodge was still owned by a German family that owns the pharmaceutical company that sells, among other things, Bayer Aspirin. David and I discussed that aspirin should have come in handy with the headaches of renovating a property of that size.

Sunday morning, we packed up and headed about 100 miles to warmer weather and our next stop – Steamboat Rock State Park. We stayed at Steamboat last year on our way to Glacier National Park and said we wanted to come back and explore the area. Steamboat Rock is named for the huge formation that looks like a steamboat that looms over the campground. Since our visit last year, the state has expanded the park



with a new section including full hookups and brand-new bathroom facilities. A bicycle trail winds through the campground and there are numerous hiking trails including to the top of Steamboat Rock. The campground has placed the sites well and most sites have a nice view of Banks Lake. A fisherman's paradise, there are boat ramps and several docks easily accessed from the campground. Sites are huge and I would give it a five-star except for the BUGS and FLIES. We knew that mosquitoes are an issue in the summer but found ourselves wishing for a hard freeze as even walking, our

clothes would be covered with tiny bugs we had to shake off. Maybe it was just a temporary hatch, but we wore our masks walking to keep the bugs out of our mouths and noses. The views and sunrises were beautiful but oh, those flies. Deer wander through the campsite and we counted 24 wild turkeys one evening strolling between trailers. The campground was only about 15% inhabited but the weather was mild until a windstorm came through and the trailer rocked us to sleep that night.

The closest town is Grand Coulee outside of Grand Coulee Dam. In season, the dam has evening laser light shows but those ended several weeks ago. We stopped at the city park as an interesting exhibit caught our eyes. In 2016, the Gehrke Windmill Garden was listed in the Washington Historic Register and featured in a 1975 National Geographic magazine. The Gehrke's moved to the Grand Coulee area in 1958 and Emil worked for local lumber and box factories. The couple said in an interview that they drove over 62,000 miles picking up thrown-away materials to create over 500 windmills, whirligigs, and merry-go-rounds. After their death, some of their folk art was sold and 120 pieces were moved to the "Garden of the Wind" in the North Dam Park in Grand Coulee. 27 pieces were acquired and are on exhibit at one of the Seattle City Light Substations.

We continued south to the Dry Falls Visitor's Center and arrived about 20 minutes before closing. The Park Ranger seemed very happy to see visitors during mid-week and off-season. He gave us a personal tour of the center and said that despite its stark appearance, the park has an abundance of wildlife. Formed by the great ice age floods, the 400foot-deep canyon was actually 300 feet underwater as the flood depth was over 700 feet and flow velocities were estimated to have been close to 70 mph when the ice dams broke in Montana and the Idaho panhandle, flooding the region. The floods rushed across Idaho, eastern and central Washington, and into Oregon's Willamette Valley before emptying into the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River. The ranger shared time-lapse pictures he had taken of the sunrise, and we thanked him for his time and left one minute before closing.



We also explored Sunbanks Lake Resort just over the bridge from Steamboat Rock. Banks Lake Golf and Country Club is close by for golfers. Sunbanks has a large number of RV sites with views of Banks Lake, the marina, and boats and cabins for rent in season. We were spoiled by the size of the sites and the natural beauty of Steamboat Rock State Park (and the \$10 FHU site) but for families that require more action, looks like a good option. Rain all day on Friday but was a good chance to go to town and do laundry and pick up the internet at the small library. One librarian was the only person working there and when she closed for lunch, we had to pack up and continue working from the truck. Small town life. We arrived back at the campground to see wild turkeys strolling across our site.

The next stop was TBD as state park sites where we wanted to head next, Wenatchee and Leavenworth (Oktoberfest!), were first come-first served after October 15th.

To be continued...

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Brenda Leppo brendaleppo@gmail.com
Steve Holmes tholmesrn1@charter.net
Bryan & Michelle Stewart bryan.stewart48@icloud.com
mjstewart15@icloud.com

**Standing committees** 

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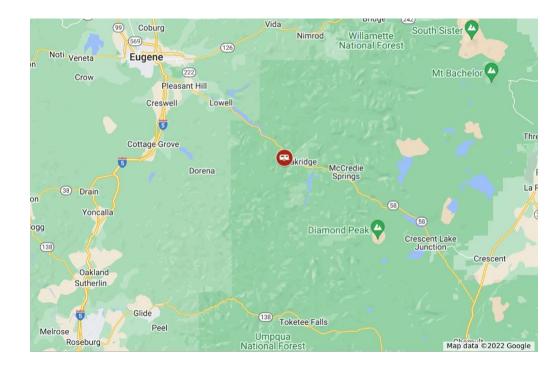
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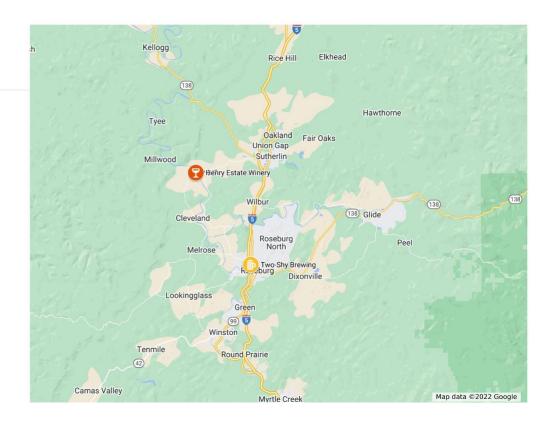
# MAPS FOR RALLY WRITEUPS APRIL FOOL'S RALLY

Casey's RV Park



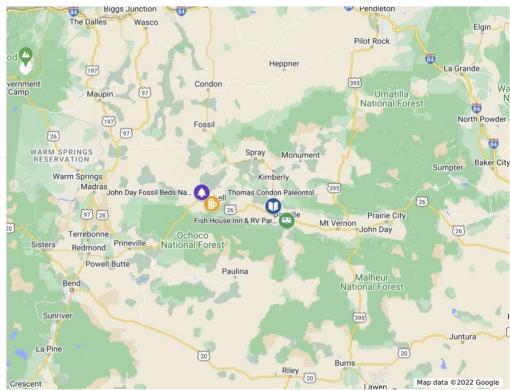
# **UMPQUA WINE RALLY**





#### PAINTED HILLS RALLY

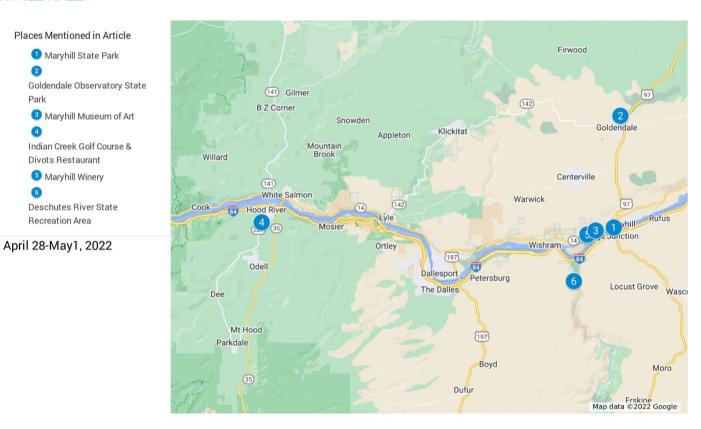




# WINE COUNTRY RALLY



# **MARYHILL RALLY**



# 31 DAYS EXPLORING WASHINGTON STATE

Directions from Grayland Beach S.P. to Maryhill S.P.

- A Grayland Beach S.P.
- Bay View S.P.
- Pearrygin Lake S.P.
- Steamboat Rock S.P.
- E Lincoln Rock State Park
- F Maryhill S.P.

