

The Ticker

Newsletter of the Central Indiana Airstream Club

April 2021



Our first weekender for 2021 will be at
Brown County State Park

Buffalo Ridge Campground
Target Sites: 25-32, 36-42, 43-52
Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2

Reservations are now open.

<https://indianastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>

A couple of campsites at the Buffalo Ridge Campground are still available.

If you have reserved a site, please contact Susan Bishop via our CIAC Facebook Group or by email at henry2398@yahoo.com so that we have a count on the number of attendees.



THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

April, 2021

How quickly Winter turns into Spring. And with that, it's time to go camping again. The CIAC has a wonderful summer of activities for everyone – from weekender events to a Rally near the Ohio River and our own "Rally Before the Rally" event before the WBAC International in July. And, we're planning a Club Cookout in Indianapolis in August.

Great news coming: At our March "virtual" (Zoom) club meeting, we met John Gustafson, the General Manager of Woodland Airstream in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Gustafson had a great announcement to make: Woodland Airstream will open an Airstream dealership in Lebanon, Indiana this summer. The dealership will be a sales and service center. Restorations will continue to be handled in their Grand Rapids facility. This is great news for all of us. A new building, near Exit 138 on the east side of I-65 will be built. Right now, the lot is dirt as underground utilities are being installed and it appears that building corners are being staked out.

Volunteers needed! This month's Ticker will provide lots of information on our upcoming club events. If you would like to help make these events even more successful, please let Susan Bishop or me know. We'll put you in touch with the right people.

Full disclosure: Mary Ellen and I will not be at the Season Opener. Our youngest Grandson will receive his First Communion on the same weekend and

we will be with him and his family in Missouri.

In closing, I'd like to share a couple of thoughts with you:

The Central Indiana Airstream Club (CIAC) will be 60 years old next year. If you have any thoughts on how we can (or should) celebrate this anniversary in style, please let Susan Bishop know.

We currently have a Second Vice President position open. That position will become the First Vice President in October 2021 and the CIAC President in October 2022. The job is not tough – or significantly demanding of time – but it is essential to the ongoing success of your CIAC and it can be fun!

The truth is, without a President in October 2022, there will no longer be a CIAC. The CIAC is one of many successful Airstream clubs in the WBAC. We have over 50 trailer-members and we continue to gain new members almost every month. The successful clubs have the same common thread – volunteers. Please consider volunteering for this position. There are many people in the CIAC who will work with you to help make your job a success. You don't have to be a long-time member of the CIAC or a deeply experienced Airstream owner or RV'er to become a CIAC officer. All you have to do is be willing to lead the organization, always be on the lookout for future leaders, and work to grow on the success of 60 years. We need your help!

John Deegan
President, Central Indiana Airstream Club

Club Picnic – A New Tradition

It's time to start a new tradition for the club – a summer picnic!

Aside from monthly lunches during the winter, our summer activities are all built around camping. Why not also have a one-day event that does not involve camping? A summer picnic is the perfect answer.

This will give us a chance to gather and visit. It's also a good opportunity for our members who are no longer camping to join in a summer activity with the club.

Hold the date, August 21st. We will hold this event at Fort Harrison State Park and we have reserved the Sycamore Shelter. More details will be forthcoming. See you there.



Central Indiana Airstream Club
"Rally by the River"
June 9 – June 13, 2021
Clifty Falls State Park Madison, Indiana

Note: The electric area of the Clifty Falls Campground is sold out at this time. There are campsites available in the non-electric area.

For more information, or if you would like to join in, please contact Joe Ashland ASAP at 317-430-1395 or email jjashland522@gmail.com. We are finalizing plans for some group activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



Wally Byam Airstream Club
64th Annual International Rally
July 17 – 24, 2021
Wilson County Expo Center
Lebanon, Tennessee

Registration Info:

<https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon-2021-international-rally/lebanon-2021-registration>

Its not too late to register



Turkey Run State Park, Suspension Bridge

Central Indiana Airstream Club
July Weekender
“Dog Days of Summer”
Turkey Run State Park
July 30 – August 1, 2021



SAVE THE DATE

Central Indiana Airstream Club

SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, August 21

Fort Harrison State Park

More Info to Follow!

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

Our Season Close Weekender and Annual
Business Meeting will be October 22-24

Versailles State Park

Reservations for this weekend open at 12
noon on Thursday, April 22

<https://indianastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>

Reserve Early. Versailles is popular in the
fall and it's likely the campground will
sell out.

See You in September!

September could be a remarkably busy month for Central Indiana Airstreamers.

Not 1, not 2, but **3** events will be taking place!

Let's run down the options.



Alumapalooza 11
September 7-12
Jackson Center, Ohio

<http://alumapalooza.com/>

2021 Region 5 Rally
September 15-20, 2021
Airstreams and Flamingos on the Lakes
Kosciusko County Fairgrounds
Warsaw, IN

<https://region5.airstreamclub.net/2021-region-5-rally/>



58 th Annual SWISS FESTIVAL NATIONAL RALLY "In the Heart of Amish Country"
September 25 – October 3, 2021
Sugarcreek, OH



<https://airstreamclub.org/swiss-festival-national-rally>

Editor's Note

I came across the following article on a website, Huckberry.com.

Huckberry.com is "an online shop and journal that inspires more active, adventurous, and stylish lives through members-only sales, original storytelling, and unique experiences".

Most of us know that Airstream trailers have become quite popular with younger adults, I'll use the term "millennials" here. This article simply captures, as it is titled, the joy of owning an Airstream. I believe that this joy exists regardless of one's chronological age.

Enjoy!

The Joy of Owning: Airstream Flying Cloud

An Airstream trailer is a big, shiny, silver can of joy

Arlo Crawford

September 18, 2020

Source:

<https://huckleberry.com/journal/posts/joy-of-owning-an-airstream>

No one ever said on their deathbed: “I wish I hadn’t bought that Airstream.” Like a cold beer or a Bob Ross marathon, Airstreams exist for a single reason: they make people happy.

When Jonathan Matthews bought his 25 foot, 2018 Flying Cloud, a model he describes as “nothing fancy, just your workhorse Airstream,” he was no stranger to roughing it; he’d been camping and fishing with his family for years, and he knew how to sleep on the ground. But he and his wife had just had a baby, his parents were getting older, and everyone was looking for a little more comfort.

His very first trip, he knew he’d hit the sweet spot. He, along with his wife and two-month-old daughter, were set up in a tiny, remote campsite next to a pristine lake in the Sierras. After months of being cooped up, they could paddleboard on the empty lake, open a bottle of wine, and snuggle up under a thick comforter. The howling wilderness was right outside if they wanted it, but if they didn’t? All they needed to do was close the door.

When we heard about Jonathan’s Airstream, we knew that it had to be part of our series, the Joy of Owning. We’d covered Yashica cameras, Land Cruisers, and Boston Whalers, but the Airstream was unique: a big, shiny, silver can of joy.

You can fit the whole damn family.

Jonathan and his wife actually share their Airstream with his parents, and they all take trips separately at times, but they also take it out on extended trips together. Jonathan is in Marin and his parents are in Tahoe, so the trips are epic. “My dad and I go fishing for a week. Then my wife drives out to Nevada and swaps out with my dad for three weeks and we go to Montana, Wyoming, Montana, and then Oregon, where my dad swaps in again and we go fishing for another week,” he says. It also works for people at all stages of life. Jonathan and his wife have a baby and his parents are in their seventies. “It’s harder on my dad’s body to sleep on the ground now, and it’s hard to convince my mom that she’s got to go out and spend two weeks checking out National parks,” says Jonathan. With the Airstream, that’s no problem. “What really surprised me is just how much my mom loves it,” Jonathan says. With a kitchen, bath, and a soft bed, you’re bringing along all the comforts of home.

Privacy is one concern. “It’s definitely small living. My dad wakes up in the morning to make his coffee before we’re ready to wake up, and he turns the generator,” Jonathan says. “There’s noise in the middle of the night when everyone’s getting up to do their thing.” Close quarters are fine but there are some stresses. “It wasn’t bad for me,” says Jonathan, “and it was certainly generous of my wife.”

You can bring EVERYTHING.

One of the pleasures of road tripping can be the preparation; fitting everything you need for your adventure in the trunk of a car is a little like planning a military campaign. But not with an Airstream. “You can take it all,” says Jonathan. For his family that means fishing gear, hiking equipment, even the stand-up paddle board. Because you also have a truck to tow the Airstream, storage is basically unlimited.

Over time, Jonathan and his family have dialed in the mix; they bring all the adventure gear mentioned above, but also things like sand mats for sitting outside and a propane fire ring for cozy nights. Other details matter too. After a few trips, they realized there was one essential missing: “Oh, we need another tray of ice for cocktails.”

It’s a total work of art.

Of course you know what an Airstream looks like. It’s one of America’s most iconic pieces of industrial design, a silver bullet with gentle, aerodynamic curves that embodies our national love of the open road.

“The shape is just incredibly appealing. There are certain boats out there that are timeless, that have these amazing curves, and I think it really gives it a classic feel,” says Jonathan. The shine, the polish, you just want to tow around this beautiful Jetson-esque spaceship.”

If you’re a people person, this is the trailer for you. “Every campsite you pull into, people want to see it and talk to you about it,” says Jonathan. It’s a responsibility; there’s also a community of other owners who appreciate Airstreams as much as they do, and you don’t want to let them down. “There’s a bit of pride. The day we were about to leave on a trip, my wife and I went out during the kid’s nap and washed it and made sure it was sparkling.”

You're gonna make some memories.

As much fun as Jonathan has had with his whole family, he genuinely treasures the time he’s spent fishing with his dad. “I grew up fishing with my dad, my grandmother was an amazing fly fisherwoman, so that was in the family. My dad had to hit pause on fishing for a lot of years when we were kids, but we’ve really connected and stayed really close because we take two or three week long trips a year to go fishing together. It’s something that I feel insanely lucky about.”

It’s hard to imagine reading about Jonathan’s experience and not immediately looking up dealers (brb, going to buy an Airstream) but there are a few things to consider.

Storage: This is a big vehicle and you’ll probably want to keep it under cover. A side yard and a tarp are fine, but ideally you rent a garage space nearby where you can park it between trips.

Size: A 25 footer like Jonathan’s isn’t one of the larger models, but once you go bigger you can run into some problems. For example, some National Parks have restrictions on vehicle size, and there’s also the basic question of actually towing the thing. It’s big, heavy, and if you have a mishap, your trip is ruined. Practice makes perfect.

Vacation time: Airstreams aren’t cheap, and it would be a shame to buy one and then leave it sitting for months and months. If you can share it with family members like Jonathan does, that’s ideal, but he’d also recommend going in on one with a few friends. The more time an Airstream is on the road, the more joy you’ll be squeezing out of it.

Anything that brings family together, offers plenty of opportunities to get outside (while still being within close reach of a cocktail), and makes you look damn good while doing so, is a winner in our book. Have an Airstream of your own? Let us know in the comments — we’d love to hear about why you love yours. In the meantime, we’ll be kicking back and admiring another golden sunset reflecting off the curves of an American classic.

Interested in learning more about the Airstream lifestyle? We pulled together a few links for further reading:

Sure, you can read [Airstream Life](#), the magazine for Airstream enthusiasts, on a mobile device but this is one time when a good old print version makes sense. Slow down, flip through

the pages, and try not to get jealous of how much fun these people are having.

Check out the official [Airstream Instagram account](#) and prepare to be inspired; these things come in plenty of shapes and sizes, and all of them are pretty damn cool.

[Tin Can Homestead](#) is the book to read if you're looking to get the most from your Airstream, with plenty of practical tips and a focus on the esthetics that make these trailers so distinctive.