

# First Timers 101

There's nothing quite like you're very first Airstream Club International Rally! You're in for an incredibly fun-filled week. With so many activities to choose from, it's easy to get overwhelmed and possibly miss something you really want to attend. We'd like you to arrive well informed on what to expect so you'll get the most out of your rally experience. The following topics give you an idea of what to expect at the rally.

## What is a First Timer?

A First Timer is someone who is attending the International Rally for the first time. First Timers may be totally new to the club or have been in the club for many years but never attended the international rally. Either way, we're happy you're here!

## What to expect when you arrive:

When you arrive at the Check In area, the Rally Arrival Team will greet you. They will ask for your Big Red Number (BRN) if it is not displayed on your Airstream. The greeters place a sticker on the front and back of your RV that identifies you with your BRN. This sticker is a surface-safe, non-residue label that does not harm the finish of your rig. Please leave it on for the duration of the rally. We need this to record your location and to track pump outs.

At Check In, we'll provide you an envelope and your rally program. The envelope contains your rally ribbons, First Timer ribbons, meal tickets, rally welcome bag ticket, welcome letter and map. Please take time to review the information in the welcome letter after you get parked.

If you arrive before your scheduled arrival date or need to change the number of people in your registration, there are corresponding cost changes you need to settle up upon arrival. We'll provide you a form to take to the Cashier at the Welcome Area. A Parking Team member will guide you to your parking site and help get you safely parked.

Once you're parked, make your way to the Welcome Area. (See times and map in the program.) You'll exchange your red ticket for a Welcome Bag. At Welcome, you have an opportunity to sign up for your region's meal and other fun activities. There also are tables displaying the caravans, community service projects and much more to help get you acquainted with all there is to do at the rally and with the club year-round.

You need to wear your badge and ribbons at all times on the rally grounds, as these are your official credentials throughout the rally and allow you access into all events. We monitor all buildings, so only registered attendees with a rally ribbon are allowed access.

## Getting Ready to Come to the International Rally:

**GRUPIO Mobile Event App:** If you have a smart phone or tablet, you may want to download the Grupio app before coming to the rally. You can also access the app via desktop at [www.bit.ly/acirally2022](http://www.bit.ly/acirally2022). This is the best way to stay informed and get last minute schedule or venue changes. The Grupio app includes the rally schedule, lists of exhibitors, speakers, maps and more. Download Grupio from your app store and search for "Airstream" to find this event.

**Fresh Water Tanks:** Plan to arrive with empty holding tanks and a full freshwater tank. In a rally situation, when hundreds of rigs are parked together, it is quite taxing on the fairground's water systems. It's possible the pressure could be diminished. In those cases, having your water tank filled and being able to use water from your own tank is very helpful.

***Holding Tanks:*** Arrive with your holding tanks empty for the same reason. Pump outs are scheduled for every four days; however, staff and equipment issues can interfere. It's better to be prepared to go an extra day if needed. Restrooms and showers are available on site to help you get more days from your fresh, gray and black water tanks. Use this guide for more helpful hints on [How to Make Your Water Tanks Last Longer](#).

***Water Hoses and Power Cords:*** Please bring two 25 ft. or longer drinking water hoses (usually white or blue) with a free flow Y-adapter so water hoses can be daisy-chained if necessary. Bring your Airstream's power cord and a 50-to-30 amp adapter if your cord is 50 amp. Please switch your water heater and refrigerator to gas and run only one air conditioner. This reduces the demand of a large number of RVs on the fairground's electrical system.

### **First Timer Ribbon:**

In your envelope from Check In, there is a yellow "First Timer" ribbon. Please attach this to your badge along with your rally ribbon. This yellow ribbon distinguishes you as being there for your first time. Club members enjoy sharing information with other Airstreamers, and especially First Timers. Folks take notice and are excited to welcome you.

### **Get involved – Volunteer!**

Did you know that an incredible team of volunteers is responsible for most operations of the international rally? Near the Welcome tables, you'll find the Volunteer table with available volunteer opportunities and sign-up sheets. Many jobs require just three hours of your time. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, meet more fun people and it's fun too! If you enjoy volunteering and like what you see, you'll have a chance to sign up when you register for your next international rally.

### **Stay updated on rally information:**

The rally team arranged the mobile **event app Grupio** exclusively for attendees. The app contains the most up-to-date schedule of presentations and other rally events, as well as important alerts, reminders, and more. Information on downloading the app is in your Welcome letter.

We also have our rally **Facebook group** at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/acirally2022>. This public group is a platform to converse, make connections and share a digital scrapbook with anyone interested in the 65th Annual Airstream Club International Rally in Fryeburg, Maine. Post your questions, plans, maps, experiences, helpful hints, photos and videos leading up to, during and after the rally here using #acirally2022.

Once the event kicks off, the group is a great place to organize impromptu gatherings, ask last-minute questions, and share information about lost and found items

Use the hashtag symbol (#) next to any keyword to easily search for a topic you may be interested in (eg: #propane).

For official news posted from headquarters, visit the main rally Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/acirally](http://www.facebook.com/acirally).

And, for those who prefer paper maps and program guides, we have you covered, too! Upon your arrival at the rally, we provide you a **program book** with all the important information about the rally, including a facility map, daily activities, the presentation schedule and detailed descriptions of each.

## **First Timers GAM (Get Acquainted Meeting):**

You are officially invited to join us on **Saturday, July 23 from 1-3:30 p.m.** in the Expo Center for a *First Timers GAM*. We'll have some of our savviest Airstream Club rally attendees there to answer your questions and help you get your week off to a great start! This fun event helps bring all First Timers together, giving you the opportunity to socialize and get to know each other while learning a few nuances that can make your rally experience even better. It's a fun informal time we've arranged just for you!

## **Presentations:**

With numerous presentations taking place at the same time throughout the rally you'll have a lot of information to absorb. Presentation rooms are climate controlled. It's important to wear comfortable clothing and consider bringing a bottle of water along. Some presenters provide hand-outs and some post their handouts on the rally website and on Grupio. It's a good idea to have a pen and pad or tablet along for taking notes. Since it'll be impossible to attend every presentation, friends and partners sometimes choose to "get more bang for their buck" by attending different ones and then sharing what they learned later.

## **Region and Intra-Club Meals:**

Each Region and some Intra-Clubs organize meals at the rally. Signups or ticket sales are available at the Welcome Area. Look for your Region's or special interest's tables.

## **Socials:**

Various groups host organized socials; check the schedule for times and places. Published socials are open to all attendees. Look for these on the mobile event app under Schedule/Events -> Meals/Gatherings. You're welcome to attend whatever social you have an interest in. These socials are a fun way to unwind from your long day, meet new friends and have some fun. They're also informal, so come as you are.

## **Happy Hours:**

Many times, informal happy hours spring up with small groups of neighbors in the various parking areas. Don't be surprised if you're invited to participate. You'll enjoy it.

## **Airstream of Lebanon:**

This is our exclusive Airstream dealer for the rally. They have Airstreams on display for touring and for purchase. They also offer service on-site at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds. To schedule service before, during or after the rally, please call (207) 339-0032. To schedule service online, go to their website: [airstreamoflebanonme.com](http://airstreamoflebanonme.com) and click on Service Department -> Service Appointments.

## **Exhibitors:**

A favorite attraction each year, the International Rally Exhibit Hall offers a little bit of something for everyone! Visit the Exhibit Hall each day of the rally to learn about the latest and greatest products available to Airstreamers. You'll be able to test products first-hand, talk to industry experts and even shop goodies from local artisans. The exhibitor booths are open from Saturday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by daily, as there are new pop-up vendors each day! You're sure to find something you need or want to add to your "wish-list".

## What should I wear?

The international rally is a casual event. Plan to wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for walking longer distances.

## Fryeburg shirts and hats:

The Airstream Club teamed up exclusively with Liberty Print Co. for all your Fryeburg gear. Liberty Print. is women-owned and shares with the Airstream Club the core value of diversity. Liberty Print also believes in quality and customer service. For your convenience, visit their exclusive Fryeburg website to order your gear: [libertyprintco.com/wbac-gear](http://libertyprintco.com/wbac-gear).

## Here's what you can expect at your first International Rally

*A busy week:* Our international rally has something to keep you busy from morning until night. You may want to arrive stocked with food for preparing some quick meals. Concessions are available but queues can sometimes be long in between presentations. There may be times you find it faster to have something on-hand in your rig that you can grab and go.

*Camaraderie:* Airstreamers are generally very inclusive. We love to welcome new attendees. You can expect to meet many friendly, like-minded folks attending this rally. A lot of friendships are formed at international, many last lifetimes.

*Enjoy yourself!* Come prepared to experience all the wonderful opportunities available, share time with your peers and learn everything you can about the Airstream lifestyle. Most importantly, come prepared to have fun! When the rally ends, we hope you'll say, "Wow, what a week!" and leave with an overload of information, many new friends, and the understanding that you're not alone on your journey.

**We're looking forward to seeing you at the International Rally in Fryeburg, Maine!**