



Officers

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| Newsletter Editor | Lynda Polk |

In This Issue

Help Wanted!

Alaska and Cali Rally Review

Airstream’s Heritage Museum Opens

Our Favorite Campground

GLA Summer Adventures

Save the Date

July 23-29 International Rally
Fryeburg, ME

Sept 15-19 Region 12 Rally, San Diego

President’s Letter

Happy Summer GLAAC!

In my last letter, I challenged you to act like a pioneer, go camping and experience new adventures. Never one to ignore a challenge, my husband Dennis and I decided to revisit an adventure that we took in 2016.



Six years ago, we took off in our rig with six other Airstreams (14 people and 10 dogs) to Alaska. What an amazing trip that was! So much so that ever since returning home, we have been itching to go back.

Although delayed by several years by circumstances beyond our control, we are now reliving the excitement and beauty that a journey through Canada and Alaska provides. The greenery, lakes, rivers, creeks, mountains, glaciers and wildlife are incomparable. We truly feel like the explorers of old as we see untouched beauty that has persisted for centuries. Though we are not yet half way through this journey, we are enjoying every moment and look forward to the many adventures ahead.

However, there is a “rub” with trying to relive an experience that was so epic in 2016. We cannot go back in time and recapture the newness, and the sequence of events that occurred. We can however appreciate the experience more fully by exploring new locales in order to keep the uniqueness and newness of the trip alive.

So as the dog days of summer progress, (and recent weather reports for California indicate, these are DOG days) I encourage you to either experience old favorites more fully or to find some new favorites by exploring new sites, states, or countries.

Most people who own an Airstream love to camp and are always looking for the next exciting adventure. What’s on your bucket list?

Help Wanted...still looking!

submitted by the GLA Nominating Committee

Your club needs you! While this position may appear daunting, know that you are not alone but working with a great, seasoned team!

Friends, as you know virtually all volunteer organizations like the Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club (GLAAC) thrive and survive because so many unselfishly pitch-in. This is true of nearly every event and rally; someone steps up to host or co-host even though they may never have done so before. Although work is involved in planning and carrying out such events, most are happy to have had the experience, feeling they have contributed to our club's success. We thank all of you who have hosted in the past and those planning to do so in the future.

Like you that host/co-host rallies, to an even greater extent we greatly value the efforts of those who have served over the years in elected and appointed positions within your club. Those officers, past and present since the club's founding in 2014, have shaped the GLAAC and given it direction. We sincerely thank you for your tireless efforts and guidance.

You'll find that travel clubs like ours don't survive on the size of its membership but rather on the efforts of its volunteers like those referenced above.

We now put out a call for a volunteer to fill one incredibly vital appointed position.

Paula Hammer will be completing her tenure as Events Chair at the end of 2022. Although this is a position appointed by the board, few positions are as important as Events Chair. Paula has done an other-worldly job in her position with the assistance of her committee over the past two years. Paula and her team are currently planning the 2023 events so the person volunteering to step-up has plenty of time for mentoring.

Please reach out to me with your questions! - Pam Pall

Events Chair Job Description

- Survey members and affiliates in-person and/or via electronic survey for camping preferences and location suggestions.
- Based on survey results, identifies sites for events for the upcoming year (state, county, federal and private campgrounds or boondocking locations) and attempts to alternate between southern, central and/or northern California.
- Determines event dates so they do not conflict with Region Rallies, International and special events.
- Obtains copy of contract and cancellation information and shares with president prior to committing club funds and reserving specific number of sites. Creates and distributes annual event listing pages via e-mail, on website, and via Urban Update (club newsletter).
- Assists 1st Vice President with compiling event listing for submission to Blue Beret.
- Solicits hosts for the various events.
- Assists hosts with preparing event schedule and flyer as needed; posts to website or provides to webmaster for posting; sends information to Urban Update editor for inclusion in newsletter.
 - Creates and posts the sign up information on the website (including cancellation date) or provides this information to the webmaster for posting so that participants can register electronically and pay for the various events either electronically or via USPS.
- Provides event accounting form to hosts and requests that all receipts for expenses be submitted to the treasurer within seven days of the event end date.
- Requests a brief write-up of event's activities along with photos to be submitted to Urban Update editor.
- Prepares a brief end of year summary for presentation at annual meeting to assist with future event planning.

Adventure in the 49th State

submitted by Paula Hammer



Steve, Finn & Paula

Steve and I are on an adventure this summer! We left home on May 13th headed to Alaska. We have been on the road for a month and have yet to set foot in Alaska as Canada is so vast and beautiful! We retraced part of the route of a trip that Steve took with his parents and grandparents when he was 16. Drivers license in hand, he was the primary driver of his grandfather's motor home. He loved it! We stopped in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada and Little Fort to try and find the family homestead. Of course it's been many years and things have certainly changed. A little more advance research might have helped but his mother's and uncle's memories are getting a bit foggy.

Next big stop was Jasper! Wow, was it beautiful and since we are early in the season, it wasn't crowded. The Ice Fields were amazing. Maligne Lake, alas, was still covered with ice but the beautiful blue color was peaking through. Steve and Finn had a close run-in with a momma elk. She didn't appreciate our little pup that looks somewhat like a fox. Four days barely made a dent, so hopefully we'll be back.

From there we wandered north, counting the bears we saw along the road. Six was the most we saw in a single day. We really enjoyed Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park where the soak in the hot springs warms you to the core. The damp sulfur smelling bathing suits, however, are another story. Onto Watson Lake where we found the 2016 Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club sign in the Sign Post Forest (photo above). Mind you there are over 70,000 signs from around the world here! The GLAAC sign has survived but I think it's spent a few winters covered with snow. Next stop, Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon Territory. Here we stocked up, took in a few touristy sites and then headed to Dawson City. We had our first experience with frost heaves and pot holes where driving 355 miles in one day resulted in a very long and dirty day. The hinge on the cabinet under the sink separated and another cabinet opened freeing its contents. So far I have only found two popped rivets! We still have mud in every nook and cranny and I suspect it will be there for awhile.

Dawson Creek is where the Gold Rush started. Both Steve and I watched the Gold Rush series and found it fascinating to see the tailing piles, active mine sites and of course Dredge #4 which was abandoned by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company in the early 1960s. It's enormous and was staffed by a crew of four! The Canadian Parks tour guide claimed ignorance on where exactly Tony Beets is mining and our measly cell phone data plan thwarted our research efforts. Steve is very frustrated at how quickly we exceed our data and goes in to limp mode.

The walking tour of Dawson was equally as interesting. None of the buildings have foundations that extend into the ground and the older buildings that haven't been restored are cattywampus. New construction is built on skids and the structures are re-leveled about every five years - jacked up and shimmed where needed. Permafrost is something! I finally found out why some of the trees look like they are from a Dr Seuss book. Tall, skinny and kind of tipped over this is called "Drunken forest" which is caused by shallow roots and permafrost. The final highlight from Dawson City was a 2-1/2 hour wait for the ferry that would shuttle us to the other side of the Yukon River. They had eight feet of snow this past winter which is very unusual and as the snow melts, the river is rising to historic levels. There are tractors and dump trucks working on both sides of the river to raise the ferry ramps. We figured we better cross versus having to retrace our 350-mile trek to Whitehorse. We got bumped by several dump trucks and tractors and although there were only six RVs in front of us, it took hours. Steve was fascinated by the operations and enjoyed the wait! Our patience was rewarded with a front row seat on the ferry. (continued next page)



The campgrounds seem to be pretty full so the plan to “wing it” might prove a challenge. We have already made several changes to our route. We were able to get a ferry reservation from Haines to Skagway where the one-hour ferry trip cost \$264 vs driving 350+ miles. The ferry is a bargain. Diesel prices, liters to gallons, then Canadian dollars to USA dollars. Ballpark \$6.25+/gallon. As soon as we start ticking off the miles, we fill up when we see the opportunity.

The sun is setting at 12:44 a.m. and rising at 3:51a.m. and are glad that we have blackout curtains. I only wish that I had off loaded two lanterns that are taking up precious space, what was I thinking? We’ve been posting pictures on the club’s Facebook page. If you aren’t a member of the group, sign up! We aren’t the only ones on an Alaskan adventure. We have met up with the Pall’s several times along the way and the Calderon’s drove up the Cassier Highway and are working their way north! - Paula

Cali Rally Review!

submitted by Catherine Landaker

The Cali Rally was held at the V6 Ranch in Parkfield, California, also known as Earthquake Capital of California. While we had heard quite a bit about this event, we were first timers and weren’t prepared for the outstanding ranch location in the middle of nowhere. Just before we got to the ranch we saw the sign that said San Andreas fault. OK, we’re still good. Once we got there we were welcomed by members of the Parking Committee who were so organized that all we had to do was follow instructions from our volunteer sheriffs.



Catherine & Gregg

The V6 Ranch is a working ranch with stalls for horses, bunkhouses and new this year, glamping tents. We backed our Airstream in amongst the trees in one of the most beautiful sites we have ever been in. It sprinkled occasionally over the event but not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the 140 or so lucky attendees. One of my most favorite things is rain on my aluminum roof! The community camp, our gathering place, was a covered pavilion with several large oak trees where we met for meals, seminars, music, line dancing and a swap meet. The tables were decorated beautifully for a cowboy gathering and the evening campfires were superb!

We were well taken care of with the Saturday evening barbecue which was so filling and rib sticking, no one went home hungry.

Best of all, having the opportunity to share all this with our Region 12 Airstream clubs was beyond our expectations. My favorite memory was Eric McHenry’s seminar on electric bikes. Before we knew it, everyone was sharing their electric bikes and like a moment in the film, ‘Cocoon’, there was nothing more joyful than watching all our ‘senior’ friends riding the campground on bicycles, hooting and hollering!

If you were so inclined, a two-hour trail ride was available. As far as food, it was simply off the chart!

Thank you to the volunteers and our Region officers for providing us with an amazing memory!



Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club members

Airstream's Heritage Museum is Open!

submitted by Lynda Polk

Well worth the wait! After a couple years of stops and starts, the Airstream Heritage Museum opened its doors to the world, and what an amazing sight it was to see and experience! The museum's collection of mixed media incorporates vintage trailers that have traveled around the world; floor-to-ceiling murals depicting Airstream's history and founder, Wally Byam; memorabilia collected on amazing journeys; along with film and audio from the very early days. Museum curator, Samantha Martin, did a superb job in bringing it all together and that is no small feat considering Airstream has 91 years of history!

On hand to open the museum was Airstream's CEO, Bob Wheeler. Bob took the helm of Airstream about the same time Jim and I became passionate about the brand in 2005. Since that time major improvements have taken place in the interior appointments of our aluminum adventure pods making them as beautiful on the inside as the sleek exterior design depicts.



Bob Wheeler and Jim

Adjacent to the museum is the brand new 750,000 square foot Airstream factory where 100 pre-sold Airstreams a week are sent out to Airstream dealerships across the country. This state-of-the-art facility will increase production as supplies become more readily available.



Airstream Heritage Museum and Factory

Our time spent with Dale 'Pee Wee' Schwamborn, Wally's cousin once removed, was enjoyed, as always. As a youngster Pee Wee had the opportunity to travel with Wally and today shares his stories with Airstream enthusiasts. We also caught another viewing of, 'Alumination', the extensive film by director, Eric Bricker, which weaves together film and photos from just about every decade of Airstream's history. We are especially fond of this film as its opening scene shares our 1954 Flying Cloud, Pearl, with the community!

Overall we found the informative seminars, nightly entertainment, food and camaraderie was simply over-the-top! We were filled (and thrilled!) with gratitude to be included in the grand opening of this one-of-a-kind museum in Jackson Center, Ohio.

As the Memorial Day weekend celebration came to a close we hitched up our own little bit of Airstream history, our 2017 Classic, and waved good bye to friends, 'See you down the road!'



Our Favorite Campground

On a 2016 trip we were fortunate to dry camp by a huge lake on our way to Alaska. Kluane Lake resides within the Kluane National Park and Preserve in the Yukon Territory and is breathtaking. The sheer wilderness of it is hard to put into words.

Each campground site is surrounded by pines and feels private and quiet except for the sound of wind in the trees. The Preserve consists of 24.2 million acres of wilderness and is located an hour north of Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon Territory.



Miss Elle contemplates the lake's vastness



Lebanon, Tennessee's Aluminum City 2021

Want to join the fun -and 960 Airstreams- at an International Rally? Registration remains open for the 2022 Fryeburg, Maine event.

Click the link to register today!

www.airstreamclub.org/fryeburg

Summer adventures, we get around!



Kuhns/Smith/Bogros w friends, Murphy Vintage Show, Oxnard



Marc & Wendy in Bend/Sisters, Oregon



LaVerne and Lynda, MN Airstream Park



The Club takes a dip at Sequoia National Park



Don & Gail, Lake Agnes, Alberta, Canada



Denise at inaugural Bourbon Rally, Kentucky



Rudy & Linda with the Worthington Glacier heading to Valdez, AK



Alan & Jean, Santa Cruz



Catherine and Nancy, Sequoia NP



Craig & Liana
Sequoia NP



Liz & Barry, Pismo Vintage Trailer Show



Paige, Airstream Heritage
Museum, Ohio



Dennis & Pam, Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada and Cascade Mountain crossing



Editor's Note

While our club newsletter is formatted, edited and delivered to your inbox by the editor, it is truly *your news* which makes it interesting. With this in mind, I am reaching out to all our members for participation.

- 1) With each issue we'll have an opportunity to *Meet a Club Member!* Members will be tapped to find out what you enjoy about Airstreaming; how it all began; any lessons learned on the road; what you did prior to club life. Maybe share something we don't know about you!
- 2) We have also incorporated *My Favorite Campground* where you simply write a few sentences about your favorite site and include a photo taken at the campground. With all the rolling we do, this will certainly inspire club members to try a new location!

Feel free to send one, or both of these items to me at anytime and they will be included in future issues of the Urban Update.

- Lynda

Get Your GLA Swag Here!



To order:

- Go to business.landsend.com and set up an account
- Once established, order online using these codes:
 - LIGHT COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1360294
 - DARK COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1389360
 - OK to change colors use logo code 1684885
- Call Lands End with questions. They are happy to work with you! 800.587.1541
- Lands End apparel will not be 'blocked' in red as shown in the logo
- Watch for the occasional discount and/or free logo

Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club Member Photo Directory

Our club is in the process of assembling its first ever membership photo directory and we need your help! This directory, when completed, will be posted on our Members Only website and will be helpful in putting a face to a name. To date we have about 1/3 of our membership participating, but of course we would like to have a 100% response rate! Please send your photo (jpeg format works best) to Carolyn at cbtomlinson@cox.net.

Editor's Note: Thank you to our members who submitted photos for this edition and to those photographers whom I pulled photos from Facebook. And a special *Thank You* to those who provided an article, you make the Urban Update the outstanding club newsletter that it is!