



Region 10 Airstream Club International Newsletter



Oct. 2022

airstreamclub.org/region10

Fall Issue

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President's Message



Greetings and a quick update on what is happening on the Airstream International level. As most of you may know by now, both amendments were approved at the International Rally in Maine and passed with over 70% of voting members approving the restructuring of the Executive Committee which is now an Executive Council. The Council's

focus is a team-like collaborative approach with two-year terms, facilitating better follow through on goals and planning.

Region 10 had one of the highest percentage of members voting of all the regions and I want to personally thank each of the seven local club presidents and their boards who reached out to their members to explain the amendments and encourage them to vote. While the extended terms and restructure primarily affect the Executive Council, additional projects are in the works to benefit us as club members with exciting plans to be announced in the coming months.

As your Region 10 President and member of the Board of Trustees, I participate in several informational meetings and discussions about improvements in communication with members. If you frequent the ACI website, airstreamclub.org - daydreaming and researching Airstream caravans, events, and rallies - you will see that several great changes have been made. You can now log in and join a club as an affiliate, update information on both the primary and secondary member, and coming soon, there will be an AutoRenew option for those of us that may let the notice of our club membership renewal slip by unnoticed. *(continued on page 2)*

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

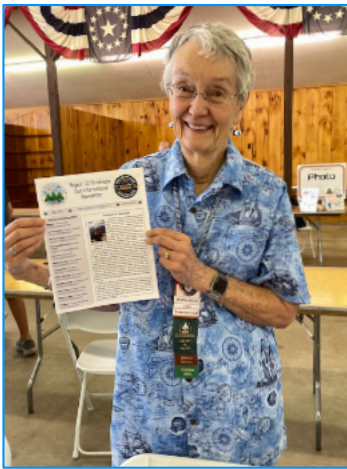
A new intra-club, Stella's Sisters, was approved by the board and will support and encourage women who want to learn to tow. As many of you know, my spouse, David, broke his leg on a caravan several years ago (fishing!) and I was very happy I was experienced at towing.

For those of you that live in parts of our region that have hard winters and put away your rigs for the winter, it's not too soon to start planning your travels for next year; for those of you that head south for the winter, safe travels and enjoy that lovely weather. And for those of us that are able to camp year-round (albeit in the rain), hope to see you on the road!

~ Kathy Geese, President, Region 10



Editor's Desk ~ Carolyn White



Region 10 newsletter at
International Rally, Hedda
Smithson, Blue Beret
Publications Chair

Thank you all for the positive feedback on the inaugural Region 10 newsletter! Our president, Kathy Geese printed a hard copy of the newsletter and displayed it at the International Rally in July.

If you weren't able to travel to this year's International Rally, we have Gary Betts and Kim Blackburn's road trip diary, *Traveling from the West Coast to Maine* on page 5. Our Region 10 president, Kathy Geese, provides us with an up close and personal review of her time - and first International Rally - on page 14.

Kathy related that our Region 10 newsletter was one of the best ones at the International. But, one ingredient was missing - a catchy and relevant title for our region's newsletter. To that end, the **Region 10 Officers and Committee chairs are running a contest to name our Region 10 Newsletter.**

The title for our newsletter needs to be appropriate and succinct to our Region 10 members. Think punchy and pithy. Who are we and what is our message and modus operandi. This is your opportunity to contribute to "Name the Newsletter."

Please send your entries to airstream355@gmail.com by **December 1, 2022** with the subject line **"Region 10 newsletter name."** The Region 10 officers and chairs will vote on all entries. The winner will be announced in the winter issue of the Region 10 newsletter to be published first week of January.

Do you need an incentive to get your creative juices flowing? The "Name the Newsletter" winner will receive their choice of either a Region 10 logo T-shirt or a tote bag. If you local unit has provided us with their logo, you can also select a T-shirt design with your unit logo on the front and the Region 10 logo on the back of the T-shirt.

While you are perusing this month's articles about favorite spots to visit, our member's creative endeavors, or maintaining your Airstream, think of a title for our Region 10 newsletter. As always, article submissions and photos are always welcome! **Deadline for January articles is December 15, 2022.**

Introducing Region 10 Logo Wear and More!



Your requests have been answered! Your Region 10 officers and committee chairs have made available the new logo on a variety of wearables and products:

- Men's Classic Tee shirts and Tank Tops
- Women's sized & styled Tee shirts and Tank Tops
- Kid's sized classic Tees, hoodies, long-sleeved Tees and Onesies
- Unisex Hoodies, Crew neck shirt, Long Sleeve & Baseball shirts
- Tote Bags
- Ceramic and travel mugs
- Magnets, Pins and Stickers
- Notebooks
- Phone case
- Laptop case
- Wall Art
- Tapestry/throws

All products are sold and shipped by TeePublic, with a "Satisfaction Guarantee." TeePublic ships internationally so our Canadian clubs can shop as well.

For each sale, your Region 10 receives a commission. The income from sales of merchandise will be used to support officer travel to attend installation rallies for the seven clubs in Region 10. Plus, you will be promoting the awesome units and members in Region 10.

When you visit the storefront [here](#), you will see several designs listed. Currently, the men's and women's classic Tee shirts have an option for a small logo on the front and larger logo on the back, indicated by the description under the design icon. This Region 10 version is available [here](#). Scroll down for other product options.

As we receive the individual unit logos, we will feature the unit's logo on the front and Region 10 logo on the back. At this time, we have the Alberta-Saskatchewan Unit's logo in all the products, which you can view [here](#) as well as the Oregon Airstream Club's logo [here](#).



TeePublic has excellent "fitting review" information and great customer support. Check out all the design options. Order early for the holiday season for great Region 10 swag!

If your unit wants to display their logo on the Tee shirt front and have it on other items, please contact airstream355@gmail.com for information.

Creative Corner

In this quarter's issue, we feature Cheryl Miller, BRN 12307. The Region 10 rally was the Miller's first rally in their Airstream trailer. To commemorate how much they enjoyed their very first rally, Cheryl made this pillow, pictured here.

According to Cheryl, who "loves to sew" everything, "When we received our new Airstream back in December, it came with 8 pillows! My husband thought it was funny that I made one more."



Here's a picture of the quilts I made especially for our twin beds. I had collected these fabric license plates at quilt shops starting in 2014 from our travels of the US. I was waiting until we downsized from our 31' fifth wheel to make into a quilt for our next trailer. RC's A Rollin'."

Thanks Cheryl for sharing your creativity and talents with us! If you have a creative enhancement for your Airstream, please email your pictures and a description of your project to airstream355@gmail.com.



Product Review - Koonie Rechargeable 8" Fan ~ Kathy Geese

As we experiment more with boondocking, we find certain creature comforts that we miss. One of those would be fans for sleeping on those warm evenings. While I was going down the rabbit hole of one of the Facebook Airstream related groups I have joined, I came across a recommendation for the [KOONIE 10000mAh Rechargeable Portable, 8-Inch Battery-Operated Clip-on Fan](#). Compact but powerful, this fan has three speeds and can either clamp on to our overhead flip-up bunker doors or sit nicely on our nightstands. Yes, I bought two.

The fans plug in to the USB chargers in our trailer with a charging brick (not included). They also can be charged in a regular outlet when the trailer is plugged in to electricity or the inverter is turned on. With a full charge, they run for many hours and again, charge off the trailer batteries when plugged in to the USB chargers.

I have watched our trailer battery level monitor and they use minimal battery to recharge fully. Because they are portable, we can move them out to the picnic table when temperatures are uncomfortable; I also use in the kitchen when cooking while boondocking. One of the features I really enjoy is that they are rechargeable, and we don't have to carry more batteries.

Have you found an Airstream-related product you have purchased and would like to see it featured in a future newsletter?

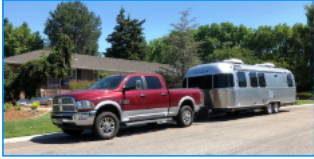
Email me at kathygeese@gmail.com.



Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine

~ Gary Betts and Kim Blackburn BRN 4637

This is our 2018, 30 ft Classic. Our tow vehicle is a 2015 Ram Diesel and this will be our third trip across the US.



Last summer, we went to Lebanon, TN for the 2021 International Rally and then on to Savanna, GA before returning home. In July 2018, we towed our 2016, 28 ft Flying Cloud to Portland, ME for a family wedding.

A little bit about us . . . We have no issues with traveling 600 miles or more in a day. Before leaving for the 2021 Rally, we were at a wedding in Astoria, OR and started our 2500 mile trek to



Lebanon with only 5 days to get there.

Our scheduled arrival date for the Rally is July 21st, which gives us 11 days to make this trip. Also, we prefer to boondock when we're only going to stop for the night and head out again in the morning as we prefer not to pay for hookups in these situations. With 300 watts of solar panels on the roof, we have had no power issues when boondocking for extended periods.

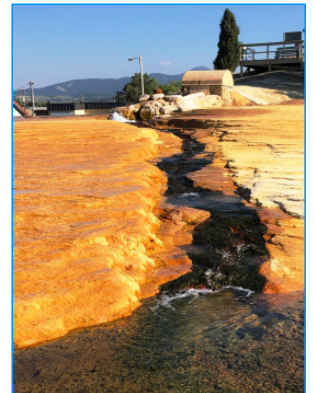
Kim relishes in the challenge of locating free camping sites. By early afternoon, we usually have a general idea of where we'll end up for the night and she'll pull out a travel map and start checking for sites on her phone app (www.freecampsites.net). Kim has developed a knack for reading between the lines on site reviews to weed out the less desirable sites. We've had a few nervous adventures but have never been skunked.

DAY 1 - Sunday, July 10th We drove 6 hours today and covered 300 miles. Only have 2450 more to go! We camped for free at a small boat launch area, two miles west of Soda Springs, ID.

It is a lightly used gravel, dispersed camping area with room for several RVs without getting in the way of boaters. There is a vault toilet and a grass area with a small playground and some picnic tables. There's no water, electric or sewer hookups, the highway is not far away, and the train tracks see regular traffic, but this is still a very nice free campsite.

We appreciated the strong tail wind that pushed us toward Pocatello today. Maybe it'll be blowing the other direction when we return? And we forgot how many RV parks and campgrounds there are packed into the Lava Hot Springs area. Amazing!

Soda Springs got its name from the famous soda water that was made there and shipped all over the world in the late 1800's. The geyser in the middle of town was part of the process. Its controlled eruptions are set to go off on the hour during daytime hours. We missed it when we were there but saw it from the highway shooting above the buildings when we left town the next day.



DAY 2 - Monday, July 11th We drove 9-1/2 hours today and covered 425 miles. We camped at Tie City campground, a National Forest campground located near the Lincoln Monument on I-80 between Laramie and Cheyenne. It marks the highest point on I-80 at 8,640 ft and has a very nice information center.



The campground costs \$10 (\$5 with your National Park pass). It has 17 sites with no hookups and no access to water or electric. There are vault toilets, picnic tables and fire rings. Only a few sites can handle a travel trailer as most are not very level and intended for tents. Adjacent to the campground is trail head that leads to a variety of hiking and biking trails.

There was a lot of construction on I-80 with miles and miles of single lane, 65 mph traffic. It wasn't much of a problem for us since we prefer to drive 60-65 mph anyway.

Tomorrow, we plan on a short drive to Cheyenne and staying there at a RV park. We'll visit the Wyoming Capitol building and the Cheyenne area. *(continued on page 6)*

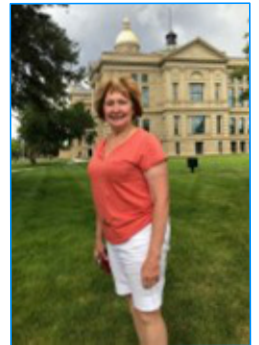
Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine *(continued from page 5)*

DAY 3 - Tuesday, July 12th We drove just 30 miles today along Happy Jack Rd, which is a nice, paved back road from the summit to Cheyenne, and arrived at our RV park and got set up. Since we knew we were going to spend the day in Cheyenne, we made a reservation. Restway Travel Park is a run-of-the-mill place to stay. It has over 100 sites, nice showers, and a small swimming pool. We had water and 30-amp hookups for a \$50 Good Sam rate. A site with sewer hookup was available for \$5 more, but we didn't need it. There was also RV dump available on-site.

Here's an FYI for the guys - We had an issue with our electrical hookup. Our trailer has a hard-wired 50-amp Southwire Surge Guard surge protector that automatically checks the shore power to make sure everything is OK before connecting it to the trailer. One thing it measures is the voltage between the neutral connection and ground (measured between the white and green wires). This voltage should be zero. But when it gets up to a few volts, the Surge Guard senses a "Faulty Ground" or "Open Ground" and prevents the connection to shore power.

Usually, this is just a problem with how the RV park has their electric system grounded and can be solved with a simple workaround, which is what we did. However, this situation can also happen when connecting to certain portable generators, such as a Honda 2000i or Firman 2200i, where the "i" indicates that it has an "isolated" ground that may be necessary to run two of them in parallel to operate an AC unit. Let me know if you have run across this yourself, or if you'd like a more detailed explanation.

Anyway, we spent our day touring the Wyoming Capitol and exploring downtown Cheyenne. One of our highlights was being able to buy diesel for a mere \$5.19 per gallon.



DAY 4 - Wednesday, July 13th We covered 365 miles today in about 8 hours, some of which was into a head wind. Nebraska also has its share of single lane road construction. Traffic backed up just east of Kearney, so we turned off and headed into Grand Island on Hwy 30. We went through several small towns, each with a population of 2000 to 3000 and spaced about 6 miles apart..

With temperatures in the upper 90's, we decided to look for an electrical hookup for tonight. Kim worked her magic and really outdid herself this time. She found a county park in Grand Island that was on a first come basis - no reservations. And you can stay up to 7 days. Good job, Kim! But what should I expect from someone who doesn't drive the truck and only has to knit, then nap, read, then nap, play games, then nap, surf on her phone, then nap some more.



We pulled in and got the last available site, which is a benefit of traveling solo when traveling without reservations. It can be more difficult to find two sites. The George H. Clayton Hall County Park is a beautiful park with lots of trees, luscious green grass, playground equipment, paved roads, walking paths with exercise stations, a tent camping area, and an RV park with 15 spacious sites. The trees even have bark-filled tree rings. Someone takes great care of this place!



Sites have concrete pads and 50/30/20 amp hookups. There's no water or sewer hookups, but there is an on-site dump station. There's also a bathroom with a shower. What a find!! And only \$20. Several of the campers were from Grand Island, so it seems that this is where the locals go RVing. Kim wants to spend another night here, but we've got more places to discover. BTW, we had that "Faulty Ground" issue here, too. *(continued on page 7)*

Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine *(continued from page 6)*

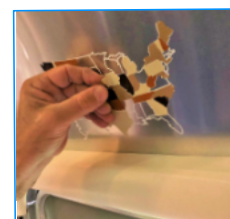
DAY5 - Thursday, July 14th Today we covered 240 miles in 6 hours. We spent some time touring the Nebraska Capitol in Lincoln. We took an elevator up to the 14th floor in the center spire, which is the 4th highest point in Nebraska, to look out over the city and to the horizon. Interesting to us was that the Nebraska legislature consists of one single body, or Unicameral, instead of two - a House and a Senate - that are found in every other state and at the US Capitol. It was created in 1935 and seems to be very effective for them. It reduces the cost to run the state government since there are only 43 non-partisan legislators. They also have an 8 year term limit.



We spent the night at a small city park facility in Menlo, IA, which is just north of I-80 along Hwy 30. Menlo Park has 7 generously spaced sites that were recently renovated with new water and 50/30/20-amp hookups, and gravel site pads and road. Our site was the only one without a sewer connection and cost \$18, which was good because we didn't need to dump. The other sites were \$25. We didn't connect to the water, but we're sure it had plenty of pressure since we camped under the city water tower.



We had our first slight mishap of the trip occurred today when we stopped for a snack and forgot to check that the freezer door was latched completely closed. Of course, it came open while underway. Thankfully, it was packed so tightly with frozen meals, that only the package of brats that was loose on top fell to the floor and thawed with no other damage. We just ate the brats for dinner instead of our planned meal.



We have enjoyed our more leisurely pace on this trip to Maine. Last time, we blew through Iowa going from Omaha to central Illinois in a single day. Spending a night in Iowa, which was our first, means we get to place the Iowa sticker on our US map.

DAY 6 - Friday, July 15th We spent 6 hours today going 260 miles. On the way, we toured the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. It was one of the largest and most beautiful Capitol buildings that we have seen with its grand, Greek decor. They were in the process of renovating the southern dome, which is the first maintenance it has seen since it was built in 1886.



We had a driving error today when we missed our turn coming out of Davenport where we needed to exit the merged I-80/I-74 to continue east on I-80 toward Chicago. We ended up going south on I-74 for 10 miles before we got to the next exit. Instead of going back the way we came, we decided to head east on a surface road that would eventually get us back to I-80. After driving east for a while, the road turned south. Instead of going south, we followed two cars that had turned east on a road that appeared to be a cut off road. But, we got fooled!! The road narrowed and eventually became a one lane "road". And thus another lesson was learned: the line on the GPS indicating a road doesn't show how wide the road is. Fortunately for us, there was no oncoming traffic and in a few miles we came to a regular- sized road that would take us north to I-80.

Well, sometimes a mistake can lead to success. On the way to I-80, we came across the Johnson-Sauk Trail State Recreation Area, a 1200 acre area that, among other things, contains 72 RV camp sites with 30/20 amp hookups, fire rings and tables. No water or sewer hookups, but there was an on-site dump station. It a beautiful location with lots of trees, a park area with a playground, and bathrooms with showers. All for \$20. What a great find! *(continued on page 8)*



Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine *(continued from page 7)*



DAY 7 - Saturday, July 16th This morning, we toured the Round Barn that is within the Johnson-Sauk Trail SRA. It was built in 1910 to house Dr. Johnson's herd of 50 head of prize Black Angus cows that he raised for breeding. The barn served as the feeding and calving area and as their housing during the winter months.

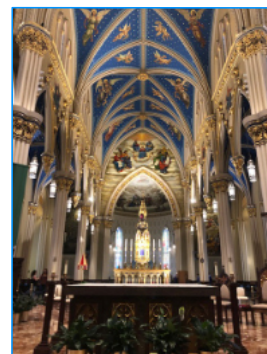
Dr. Johnson also studied architecture and he included many structural and operational features that were years ahead of their time. It is truly an amazing building! The basement housed the cattle, the middle floor served as a work and equipment storage area, hay was stored on the upper floor, and a silo in the center stored silage.

We decided to go to South Bend, IN to see the University of Notre Dame. South of Chicago, we made a navigation error by turning off I-80 too soon to get onto Hwy 30 to avoid toll roads. It looked like an OK move on the GPS, but the GPS didn't show that all the towns had grown together, and Hwy 30 was full of stop lights for the remaining 35 miles to the Indiana border. We traveled 230 miles only to find that our destination State Park had no availability. Tension between the driver and navigator escalated when our spotty cell coverage made our boondocking procedures inoperable. And daylight was running out. We felt fortunate to get a site at Mini Mountain Campground just west of South Bend for \$53. It was a full service resort with 200 sites. However, it's not a preferred location for us because it needed some upkeep.

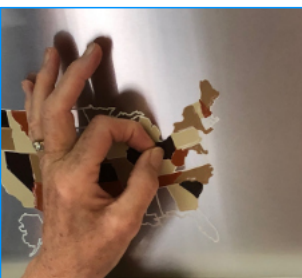


Here's another thought for those of you who prefer not to use the 50A power cable that came with our Airstream because it is very heavy, stiff and hard to put away, particularly when it is cold. So I bought a 30A power cable to use because many of the places we go don't even have 50 amp hookups. It is a smaller 3-wire, #10 Cu cable that is much lighter, way more flexible, and much easier to handle and stow than the big 50A cable. For a 50-amp hookup, I use a 50A/30A adapter at the both the shore power panel and at the trailer and then connect them together with the 30A power cable. This lets one of the two 50A breakers power the trailer. Since a 30A breaker will operate the entire trailer, except for the second AC unit, adding an additional 20 amps of breaker capacity is enough to run both AC units. And the 30A power cable, laying on the ground in open air, will handle the load.

DAY 8 - Sunday July 17th It rained during the night and then off and on during the morning. We drove into South Bend to tour parts of the University of Notre Dame. The on-campus roads are narrow for towing a trailer, so we found a place to park and walked around the football stadium and other nearby areas. We could get into many of the buildings, but not the football stadium as they're replacing the turf. Many of the buildings and additions were built in the last 10-20 years, making the campus a beautiful mix of old and new construction. When we get home, we're going to watch the movie "Rudy" again to see if we recognize anything. *(Admin Bldg. On left and Inside the Bastilla, right)*



It started to rain, so we packed up and headed east. It rained all the way to Harrison Lake State Park, but otherwise it was a short, uneventful 140-mile drive. The State Park has 125 sites with 50/30/20 amp electrical, but no water or sewer hookups. It has nice showers and laundry facilities. The sites are widely spaced, but the pads are narrow. Since this is our first stay in Ohio, we earned another sticker on our map. *(continued on page 9)*



Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine *(continued from page 8)*

DAY 9 - Monday, July 18th We drove an uneventful 255 miles today and stayed at Folly's End Campground, a rustic RV park near Fairview, PA, which is just west of Erie. The cost for 30/20 amp electrical and water hookups was \$28. We had a little trouble finding our site because the office was closed and the park was built in three separate loops. The sites were well spaced and there was plenty of grass. Well, we had another electrical issue, and our Surge Guard protector probably saved us from electrical damage. We were glad we have it!



The leg of the circuit we were on had 134 volts, which is well above the nominal 120 volts it is supposed to be. When we plugged in, the Surge Guard did its job by preventing the power from connecting to the trailer. Another RV had the same issue with their surge protector, except they had already hooked up and were running a TV when it turned off the power, presumably when the voltage rose above the limit. The park manager/electrician was called, and he had a 100 ft, #10 cu extension cord with 20A ends. This was a heavy-duty cord that would handle a 30-amp load. We were able to use 20A/30A adapters to connect it to the electrical box in the adjacent site. We were set for the night.

This campground is near the southern shore of Lake Erie with a river flowing by it. Fishermen fish the lake for Walleye, German Brown and Lake Trout and the river for Steelhead, when they are running. These Steelhead are a landlocked trout variety that were born (or released by the hatchery) in the river. They migrate to the lake to grow up and then return to the river years later to spawn.

DAY 10 - Tuesday July 19th Another uneventful drive today. We covered 250 miles and ended up staying at Gardner Hill Campground in Elmira, NY. We tried to stay at the Newtown Battlfield State Park, but found out that in NY state parks, you must make a same day reservation before 3:00 pm and you can't do a walk-up registration after that. It was frustrating to see all those empty sites and then check online to find out they were not reserved, and no one could use them. But, oh well, it's not worth getting in trouble for trespassing so far from home.



We went on to Gardner Hill Campground, a rustic place on a grassy hillside with lots of 30/20 amp with water and sewer hookups for \$38. There were showers, but they were too scary for us to use. Instead, we used our outside shower on the trailer. And it felt great! The manager stopped by that evening and showed us a white homing pigeon. He has about 60 of them and trains them himself to return home when released. He uses them in his business where he'll release two or three for a flyaway at weddings, funerals, and other events. He can release the birds several hundred miles away and they'll fly straight home. The only thing is that he

needs to release them early enough in the day so that they can make it home before dark. Flying at night makes them easy prey for hawks and owls and such.

In the morning, the RV park had a water issue. They had a leak somewhere in the system that made the well run dry. I was able to fill the freshwater tank about 3/4 full before the water in our line ran out.

DAY 11 - Wednesday, July 20th Today was a longer drive at 325 miles. We went through Albany, NY to see the State Capitol building. Like Boise, New York moved all their state offices to a new campus several miles away but kept the old Capitol building operational.

The streets around the Capitol are very narrow. The four-lane roads usually allow parking along the curb, but the cars take up about a quarter of the outside lane, making it too narrow to use. We ended up driving down the middle of both lanes whenever we needed to make a right turn. One time, as we were preparing to turn left from a narrow street onto an even smaller street (that was more like an alley), a car across from us insisted on coming through the intersection. *(continued on page 10)*



Traveling from the West Coast to the 2022 International Rally in Maine *(continued from page 9)*

But there was nowhere for it to go as a UPS truck had stopped to make a delivery next to us in the car's lane. It had nowhere to go and blocked us from making our turn. We couldn't move and both of us just sat there for a while. Eventually, someone came from sidewalk and showed the driver where to move the car to give us some room. As we continued our turn, the car was able to move a little, which allowed us to move some more. This continued until the car got free. From the expression of the pedestrians, it must have been comical. Also, there is no place to park with a trailer, so I dropped Kim off and drove around as little as possible until she was done. What a pressure cooker place to drive! We left Albany and drove on two-lane highways through Vermont to New Hampshire. A 20-mile stretch that was completely torn up getting ready for new paving. What a rough, dusty, one-lane nightmare that was!

We eventually made our way to Oxbow Campground in Hillsboro, NH. When we called for availability, they wanted \$70 for 30/20-amp full hookups, but changed it to \$50 when we hesitated a bit. It turned out that the power company was doubling his rate starting next month. He didn't know what the impact would be, but felt he needed to start raising his rates. He's owned and operated this campground for 22 years and is worried the new rates may put him out of business.



Tomorrow, we'll arrive in Fryeburg. Yeah!!

Day 12 - Thursday July 21st

We drove the final 115 miles to the Rally today. For the trip from Boise, it was 3,014 miles and 63 hours driving time. We're very glad we get to spend 9 days at the Rally before we hit the road again!



On the way, we stopped in Concord, NH to see the Capitol building. Sorry New Hampshire, but the inside of your Capitol was less grand-looking than others we have seen so far. We arrived at the Rally and got in line to wait for a golf cart to lead us to our site and get parked. As we drove around



the fairgrounds, it looked like there were 500-600 Airstreams already here and man, is that a lot of silver! And they're expecting 1000 Airstreams before the Rally is over.

In the evening, we had a series of thunderstorms roll through. They'd been on the news, so were aware of them even though we knew there was nothing we could do. Our previous Airstream was totaled in a 2018 hailstorm in Colorado, so these storms have our attention and respect! This one packed 60 mph winds and 1 inch hail. Fortunately, the biggest storms passed a few miles to the south of us of on their way to Portland. All we got was 30 minutes of heavy rain and moderately high winds. Whew!! The local news showed downed trees and other damage in other parts of Maine. We feel so fortunate!



Trip from Boise, Idaho to Fryeburg, Maine

Points along the way to Fryeburg, Maine

A Boise

B Soda Springs, ID, USA

C

Tie City Campground, Forest Road 723, Laramie, WY, USA

D Grand Island, NE, USA

E

Johnson Sauk Trail State Recreation Area, Illinois, USA

F

Mini Mountain Campground, Indiana 2, New Carlisle, IN, USA

G

Harrison Lake State Park, Harrison Lake Road, Fayette, OH, USA

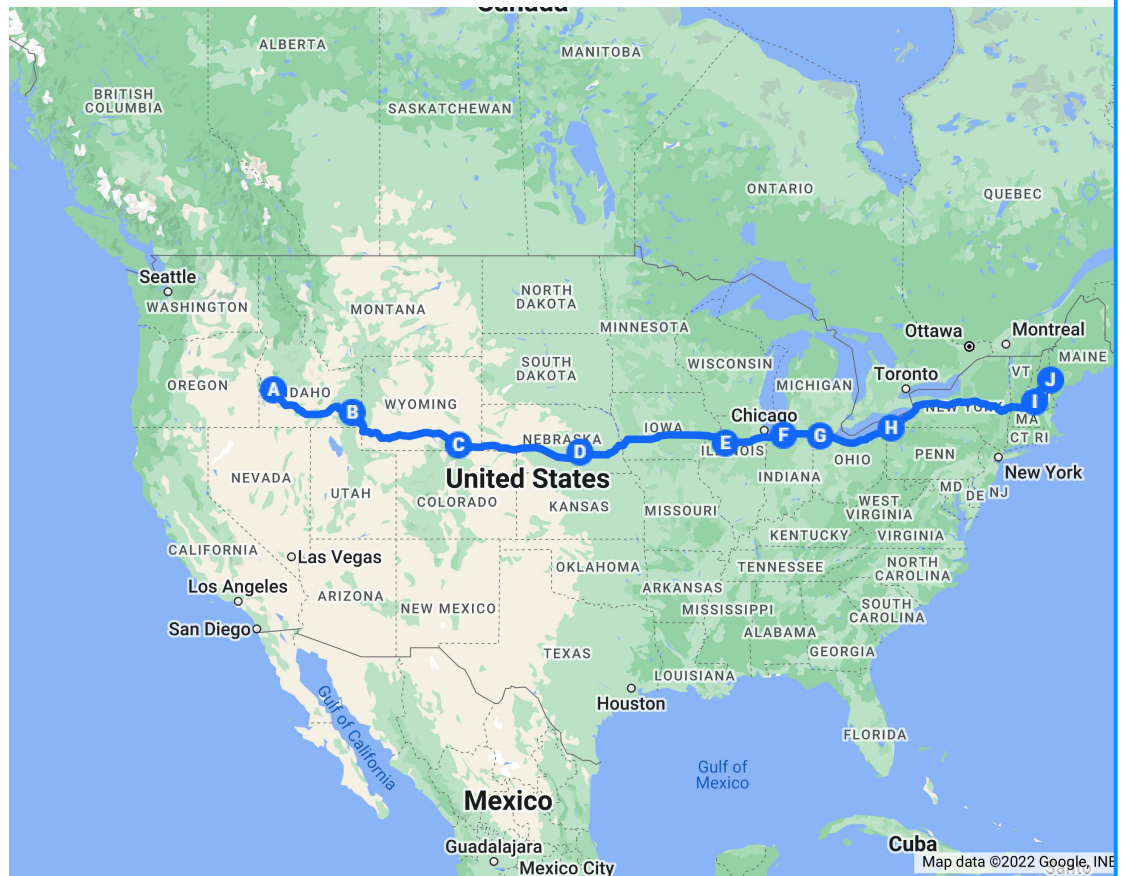
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Folly's End Campground, Pennsylvania 98, Girard, PA, USA

I

Oxbow Campground, Oxbow Rd, Deering, NH, USA

J Fryeburg, ME, USA



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Kim's Meal Prep Plans ~ *Kim Blackburn BRN 4637*

Let's talk about food for our cross-country journey!

To do this type of "boondocking" and "no reservations" travel, premade meals can be very helpful because you probably won't be near a restaurant or grocery store. Prior to this trip, I started creating my freezer meals by doing double-batch dinners. We ate our meal and then packaged what was left into two-person portions and put them in the freezer.



For this 5-6 week cross-country trip, I made 14 meals or roughly two week's worth of ready-to-heat dinner meals, which ended up being too many for our freezer. Some had to go in the refrigerator for use early in the trip. Meals cooked in their storage pans makes cleanup quick and easy! We usually eat very little for breakfast and then snacks or a quick sandwich for a mid-day meal.

I made two each of Shepherd's Pie, Chicken Pot Pie, Mac & Cheese, Stuffed Peppers, Manicotti, Fried Rice, Tuna Casserole, and Vegetable Medley. We also prepared some Breakfast Burritos and Twice-baked Potatoes.

You can get a variety of sizes of aluminum trays at the Dollar Store. I stored the Fried Rice in plastic bags and will reheat it in a pan and serve with store-bought Egg Rolls and a packaged Asian Salad. I always have the fixings for Spaghetti, Grilled Sandwiches, and Soup for an impromptu dinner and lunches. I like using the smaller, ready-to-bake loaves of French Bread that you store in the refrigerator. I can cut off what we want to bake and put the rest back in the fridge.

Sometimes we choose which meals to thaw and cook the next day. Other times, we cook whatever flew out of the freezer and thawed when the freezer door came open during travel. Either way, it's all great!

I also like the little cake mixes you can get at Walmart for when we feel like we need (or deserve?) a little something sweet. They come with their own baking pan and the smaller size also helps with portion control.



Even though we premade a lot of our meals, we came across a small country market in Bennington, VT that produced much of their own meats, cheeses, and prepared meals. We couldn't resist picking up a Goulash dish, some smoked bacon, and a couple of bone in pork chops.

On another cooking note, when we went to purchase our 2018 Classic trailer, it had a Cuisinart microwave/convection oven instead of a gas oven.

The dealer tried to talk me into the fact that this is how trailers like this one are being ordered based on customer preferences and that the electric oven would meet all of our baking needs. Of course, being electric, it would not suit our dry camping or "hop scotching" travel on long trips since it is inconvenient to have to pull out the generator to run appliances.

We checked around and found that we could order a new 2019 Classic with a gas oven instead of the microwave for the same price as this one, but it would not arrive until January 2019. Since it was August and we wanted to take a two week road trip to Oregon in October, we negotiated a \$2000 price to remove two drawers under the stove and install a gas oven. Now we use the microwave for storage.

The Region 10 Tech Talk Times ~ Ray Putnam

Hello out there. We are currently on a National Caravan (Nuts 4 Ruts, The Oregon Trail). Except for the temperatures we have endured, it is all good. This is coming to you from Fort Bridger in Wyoming!

Our newsletter editor suggested a comment or two about “grounding” related to our Airstreams (motorhomes or trailers). Grounding is an elusive item which can be time consuming to trouble-shoot. Please see some grounding notes below.

We plan to have a quarterly Tech Talk Times article for you all, along with the newsletter. We will continue to update the list of items to consider relative to your trailer or motorhome. Your suggestions for topics you are interested in are welcomed. You may reply directly to me at rayputnam@icloud.com.

Grounding and Batteries

Be sure to check all your batteries every two weeks when on a trip. Keep your battery terminals clean and coated with a thin layer of silicon dielectric. Buy a special wire brush terminal cleaner and use it at least once per year. This will ensure that you retighten the connections.

If you develop corrosion, a mixture of baking soda and water will clean it right off, but do not get any in the battery through the filler caps. Be sure and wash everything off after you are done and then clean the terminals and apply the silicon dielectric. Also, check the tightness of all the major cable connections, in particular the ground lead from the battery to the chassis. Finally, spray the entire connection with one of the special battery terminal coatings to prevent corrosion. Check the battery ground connection.

Remove the wires, clean everything, grease everything with silicon dielectric and retighten the bolts. Check the grounds first. You must check each of the motorhome batteries, which means disconnecting one of the leads, so they are not in parallel. Very often, one of them is bad and this will not show up if they are all connected. Always remove the ground terminal from the batteries when you are going to perform any tests.

If you remove both cables hook up the ground cable last. Some motorhomes have three batteries mounted behind the front hood. They are mounted all the way to one side so that it is not possible to check the one farthest to the left without removing two of the three batteries. You can easily remount the batteries in the center with storage on each side. That way it will be easy to do a complete battery check.

For older trailers, if your RV charger cannot put at least 10 to 15 amps into a discharged battery then you might need an auxiliary automobile-type battery charger. This will allow you to bring back your motorhome or engine batteries when attached to shore power.

A pair of motorhome batteries that provide about 180 amp-hours will take about 18 hours to fully charge when using a 10-amp charger. You can use this type of charger for your engine battery just to get the motorhome started; however, you really need to put about 400 amps into it for a full charge. Starter battery chargers put out about 50 to 100 amps and are about 3 feet high on a roll around cart. However, once your motorhome is started, your engine alternator will take care of the final charging after a few hours of driving, preferably during the day.

During the winter months, you cannot leave uncharged batteries outside in the cold weather. They can freeze and crack the case. Some campers store them inside the house when the weather turns cold. You can leave them outside as long as they are kept in a charged state.

(Continued on page 13)

The Region 10 Tech Talk Times ~ Ray Putnam (continued from page 12)

A computer-controlled charge system will keep a trickle charge on the batteries and start a full charge cycle as needed. You can also use a solar panel system with built-in charger to keep the batteries from freezing. This works fine for the motorhome batteries but does nothing for the motorhome starter batteries that are not usually connected to the solar panels or charge circuits.

You might use a computerized boat charger that has multiple charge circuits (two or three) for several battery banks (one charger for the motorhome batteries and one for the engine starter batteries). Do not forget to check the water levels several times during the winter months if you use flooded batteries.

You can ground the circuit anywhere in a chain. If you cannot find the loose wire, select a convenient spot, and attach a new chassis ground. This will essentially bypass the loose ground wire. This technique works very well with trailers and motorhomes since sometimes the bad connection is inside a body panel and not easily accessible. You can spend hours trying to find a loose ground when simply adding a new ground will solve the problem.

Grounds, grounds, grounds: look at the ground connections. Most wiring failures are due to poor ground connections. Rusted, corroded or just loose grounds are always a problem. This is particularly true for the RV appliances that are mounted with the electronics exposed to the outside elements. Always check your 12-volt ground lead to any appliance or light first. If the terminal is corroded, put on a new one. Clean and scrape the area, including any paint, to ensure a good ground and add a toothed washer. Use a wire brush and a scotch pad to clean the area.

For larger areas with heavy rust a small file may be needed. If the self-taping screw, you removed from the terminal cannot be tightened then throw it away. Put in the next larger self-taping screw and add a little dab of Silicon Dielectric before you tighten it. If this does not work, drill a new hole for the ground and clean the paint away. Just be careful you do not drill into anything important. If it is a screw and nut combination, be sure there is a lock washer. The proper procedure is a toothed washer between the connector and the ground on the screw head side and a lock washer under the nut. If the connector is under the nut, then add a toothed washer in contact with the ground area followed by the connector, then a regular washer, lock washer and the nut. A connection without the proper washers is a future problem.



Hi from Jack and Pam Kniseley BRN 1610- Whidbey Island. We have owned our Bambi for 10 years and have at least 30,000+ miles of travel on her wheels! We have crisscrossed America, visited Denali in Alaska, and have made many visits to Vancouver WA to visit family, plus yearly Family Camp trips, joining our 4 children, their mates and our 11 grandchildren.

We had lived on Whidbey Island for 40 years and been on this ferry from Coupeville to Port Townsend many times...and could see this small campground which is part of [Ft. Casey State Park](#).

Finally, last year we decided to camp there in March. From the campground you can walk along the beach, walk up to the State Park grounds that include Admiralty Head Lighthouse and the early 1900's gun batteries. We have been back three times. Reservations are hard to come by so plan many months in advance to get one of the few spots available.

My First International Rally-Fryeburg, Maine ~ Kathy Geese



International President Eric McHenry with Region 10 President Kathy Geese. Check out Kathy's tote bag with the new Region 10 logo.

I attended the Maine Airstream International Rally held in Fryeburg, Maine this past June; this was my first International Rally and what an experience! "First-timers" get a special ribbon for their name badge, and I had so many people stop to welcome me and ask if I had any questions. As seems to have become the custom at recent International Rallies, the weather was a scorcher, and the Misery Index was close to 100 degrees for the first few days. Everyone was grateful for full hook-ups.

With 945 trailers in attendance, the running joke was that the Space Station had asked NASA for help in identifying that shiny spot in Western Maine by the New Hampshire border. This was the largest attendance in many years. The temps did not discourage attendees and there were day trips to the LL Bean store in Freeport, Maine, a whale and puffin watching boat trip, and drives up to the beautiful Mt. Washington area and the historical Mt. Washington hotel where delegates from around the world created the International Monetary Fund in 1944. The old photos from the early 1900s were fun to see and reminded me of the beautiful Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC. Evenings at the fairground were party filled with some of our intra-clubs like Grapes and Grains, Indie Streamers, Vintage Airstreams, etc. in full-on party mode with jam sessions spread around the fairground.

As President of Region 10, I hosted a small get together before the "official" rally opening and I enjoyed meeting several of our region members in attendance. I had the opportunity to help with a dinner for the over 1800 Airstream members

present and discovered that volunteering to drive the golf cart shuttle was the best way to meet people from all over the US/Canada plus figure out my way around the campground. I also assisted the past Region 10 President and current International Treasurer, Terri Warren, who organized a luncheon for 1st-time International Rally attendees. We had over 300 members join us for lunch. Speakers gave the luncheon guests a warm welcome and invited them to attend seminars, volunteer, and explore the beautiful White Mountains! While there were not a lot of rally attendees from Region 10 due to the distance and fuel costs to get there, those present worked hard as volunteers setting up tables and chairs, driving shuttles, leading seminars, and serving as delegates and flag bearers, etc.

While at the Maine rally, I attended the presentation by the manager of the Sweetwater Event Center where our 2023 International Rally will be held in Rock Springs, Wyoming, next June 24th-30th. What a facility! There are full hookups for 1200 Airstream rigs and the entire town is looking forward to hosting us there. Registration has opened at <https://airstreamclub.org/Rally2023> and David and I are registered and ready to rally with you there. Check out exploreWY.com for the variety of activities available in the area.

Many of your local clubs will be organizing caravans to Wyoming and I will coordinate with the caravan leaders to arrive at the fairground and be parked as a region. There will be parties to attend, seminars to educate, and lots of opportunity to explore Flaming Gorge and the surrounding area. Many of us will plan our trips back through Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. I have a note in my calendar to pack bikes, kayaks, hiking shoes, and fishing poles along with my cowgirl boots and hat. For those that want to avoid travel during the holiday weekend following the rally, the Sweetwater Event Center, where we will be staying, is offering a special rate of \$20 a night from July 1-16. I encourage everyone to attend as this will be our first "out west" International Rally in several years and the 2024 International Rally will be in the Midwest. If you are interested in "Rolling to Rock Springs" with a caravan, contact your local club President to see if one is planned. And if one isn't planned, volunteer as the wagon-master! Hope to see you there!

Introducing Region 10's New 1st Vice-President - Florence Tramoni



Florence Tramoni, Solo Streamer, with Luna, Jack Russell Terrier

I am originally from France but have been in the US since I was a wee lass. I grew up in southern California and went to UC Santa Barbara in the mid 70s and earned a degree in Physical Geography. I went on to the University of Colorado Boulder and earned a Masters in Geology. I met my then husband to be while I was a ski bum in Lake Tahoe and chased him to Seattle. He was just starting a career as a commercial fisherman in the Bering Sea. I figured I would go back to school for a doctorate in Geology at the University of Washington and I was fortunate to get on as a research assistant with a group that was doing climate change research in Antarctica, so off I went. We took the long-distance thing to a new level, he at latitude 57N and me at latitude 77S, so I quit school and we built a successful crabbing business together over 30 years.

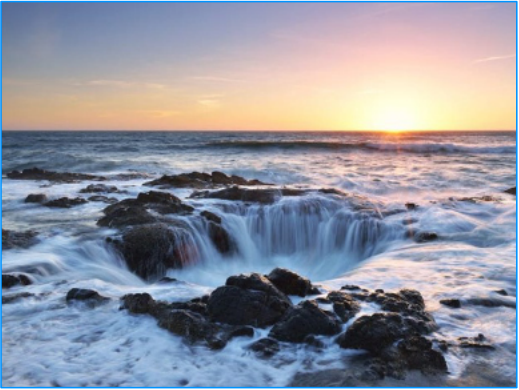
Unfortunately, I was divorced in 2014 but it led to my second life.

I bought my first Airstream in 2016 and vivaciously took to the road. I had never had an RV but had been an avid tent camper my whole life. However, in my sixth decade, a shower, a bed and a furnace were essential. My Flying Cloud 23FB has now become a 2019 International 25FB. I moved to McMinnville, Oregon in 2021. I took part in my first caravan this year in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and there will many more to come. I travel 10 to 15,000 miles a year and attend about a half a dozen Oregon unit rallies a year. If I'm not towing somewhere I am golfing, cooking, or hiking. I volunteer at my church by teaching Alpha (a ministry focused on seekers and nonbelievers) and am on the Board of the Union Gospel Mission. Retirement has not been difficult to adjust to. I have 2 kids, 24 and 26, one in Dallas, TX and one in The Hague, Netherlands. This opportunity to give back to ACI is the chance of a lifetime. The Airstream community has contributed so much to my personal growth and joy that I look forward to paying it forward and contributing where I can.



Canadian Rocky Mountain Caravan July 2022. Left: Athabasca Glacier on Canada Day. Above: Caravan on Columbia Icefields Parkway to Jasper National Park. Courtesy Neil Mertz.

Exploring the Oregon Coast ~ Susan McPhee



**Thor's Well in Oregon. Lijuan Guo/
Shutterstock**

high tide when the seawater sinks into a rocky hole to produce awesome sights and sounds as the water explodes violently. It is one of those places you must see it in person to appreciate



A few years ago, I saw an article with an attractive photo - 30 of the most beautiful places by Insider. I read the article and discovered that the lead photo of Thor's Well was taken on the Oregon coast near Yachats. I was astounded that I had not seen or even heard of Thor's Well. Thor's Well is best seen at high tide when the seawater sinks into a rocky hole to produce awesome sights and sounds as the water explodes violently. We now count the Yachats region as one of our favorite places in Oregon.

Thor's Well is located within Cape Perpetua State Park. If you get a chance to visit, Thor's Well is best seen at high tide when the seawater sinks into a rocky hole to produce awesome sights and sounds as the water explodes violently. It is one of those places you must see it in person to appreciate views and to hear the power of Mother Nature.

A great place to stay, and a 5-minute drive from Thor's Well, is Sea Perch RV Resort. It is within steps to the beautiful Searose Beach and is one of the best RV parks that we have been to so far. If you are lucky enough to get one of the oceanfront premium sites (1-10) you are in for a treat with unimpeded ocean views, Adirondack chairs and a gas firepit. They have less than 30 spaces in total, so be prepared to wait for a vacancy.



**Thor's Well (above and left); Sea Perch RV
Resort (below) - Susan McPhee**



Exploring the Oregon Coast *(continued)* ~ Susan McPhee

Also at this park is Devil's Churn and Cooks' Chasm, a visitor's center, and 26 miles of gorgeous trails. The whole park is spectacular.



Also, don't miss Heceta Head Lighthouse,



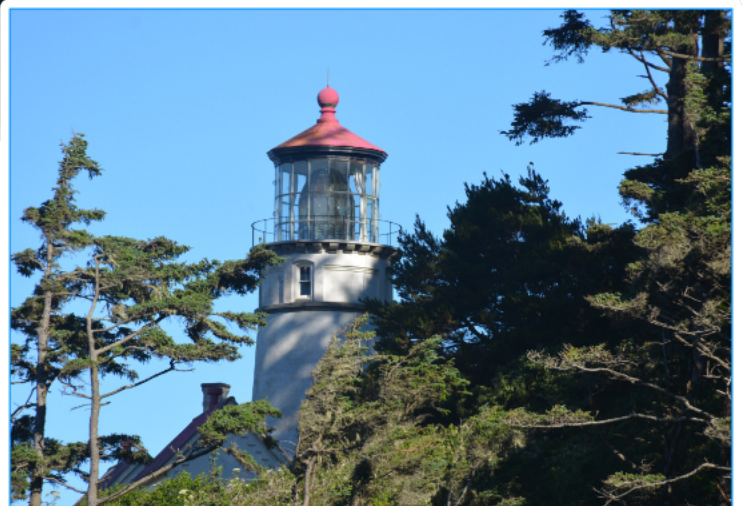
which is an 11-minute drive south of Sea Perch. Beautiful!

I know that we have only scratched the surface of this amazing area and we look forward to exploring more.



Check out the map on the following page for the location of all these great places detailed in this article.

Many thanks to the McPhee's for the awesome pictures and Buzz Blick, BRN 0373, for the Oregon Coast Highlights map and the Boise to Fryeburg map on page 11.

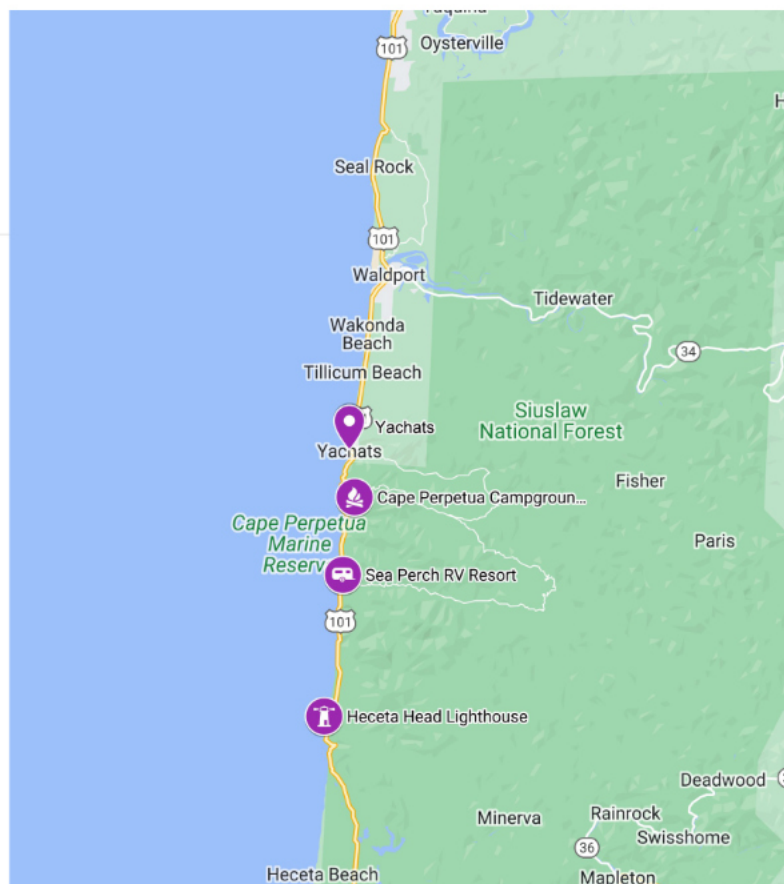




Oregon Coast Highlights

Central Coast

-  Cape Perpetua Campground
-  Sea Perch RV Resort
-  Yachats
-  Heceta Head Lighthouse



Caravan Committee Chair

Region 10 is looking for a volunteer to chair the Caravan Committee. This position entails coordinating 1-2 caravans per year that are conducted in Region 10.

The officers and committee chairs have a once a month (except for August) Zoom meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6 PM Pacific time.

If you are interested in being part of the Region 10 team, please contact [Kathy Geese](#).



In Appreciation

Thank you Darlene Caldwell for serving as Region 10's 1st Vice President. Darlene continues to serve as our Region's contributing editor for the *Blue Beret*.

Thank you Tom Akam from the BC unit for serving as Region 10's Caravan Chair. Tom will be selling his trailer and will continue as a BC member and host of their breakfast meetings. Our volunteers help to make our Region great!



Introducing Region 10's New Nominating Committee Chair - Carol Ortiz

Born in Seattle, WA, I am a Northwesterner through and through. I am a retired Classroom Music Teacher and am still involved in music in my church and at rallies.

I'm a Past WA Unit President and a Past Region 10 President; attended 13 International rallies in a row meeting wonderful people from all over the USA and Canada and even Switzerland; was piano accompanist 2 years and choir director for 3 years at International.

I have served on the International Constitution & Bylaws Committee and currently am Parliamentarian for the WA Airstream Club.

An Aunt and Uncle were Airstreamers and our extended family heard about their adventures. In the back of my mind, I thought it would be great to be an Airstreamer when I retired.

Well, my sister and husband retired first and moved to the WA Land Yacht Harbor. Then, my parents moved there. I retired from teaching in Alaska, bought a B-van and moved to the WLYH in 2002.

I taught another 6 years before retiring from WA schools. I have also owned 2 Land Yacht motor homes. I have a son and daughter-in-law in Bellevue, WA and a daughter in Kirkland, WA and 2 grandchildren in Vancouver, WA. I haven't convinced them to become Airstreamers, yet. It is a great Club and I live in a wonderful community. Life is great!



Airstream Tips on Getting Ready for Winter

Annie Coleman, Social Media Specialist at [Airstream Adventures](#)

It is easy to forget Winter is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to the change in season! If you are one of the many travelers who wants to try Airstreaming during the colder season, here are a few tips we created to ensure that your adventures are safe: important things when preparing for a trip, which is why we have created a few recommendations for our Airstream Guests to check off their list before heading out on the road for an adventure that will ensure safe travel:



1. Pack on The Padding

• Check Window and Door Seals

Be sure to check that your window and door seals are in good condition to keep in all the heat. Additionally, close your curtains or shades to add insulation from the cold.

• Warm Up Your Airstream Floor

This can be done with a few throw rugs that are washable to help keep your feet warm while traveling.

2. Turn Up the Heat Space Heaters

Space heaters provide the perfect amount of warmth for you Airstream, though you will want to be careful and not leave them unattended as they can be a fire hazard. There are a few ways to power your space heaters such as plugging your Airstream in at a campsite or using a generator or substantial battery bank with an appropriately rated inverter and solar.

Make sure your propane tanks are topped off before heading out on your winter adventure and frequently monitor propane levels, so you are sure you don't run out while traveling.

3. Preserve the Pipes and Holding Tanks

Winter camping often means fighting against freezing water, which could lead to a lot of issues. One solution is to set your propane heater to at least 50 degrees to keep your pipes and holding tanks from freezing. Another option is to winterize your Airstream and utilize campground bathrooms and showers. However, if you are taking a lot of winter camping trips, it is a good idea to invest in a heated freshwater hose.

4. Pack Winter Supplies

Be sure to pack a snow shovel, ice scrapers, tire chains, and a headlamp just in case you get into a bind or get stuck in the snow. It is also a good idea to pack extra water, food, and blankets.

5. Other Precautions

Airstream black, grey, and freshwater tanks can also turn to ice. One solution around this is using the dry winterization method, which includes emptying the tanks and all water lines. Another option is to use wet winterization solution by filling all lines with RV anti-freeze.

It is also important to have your dealer check the health of your Airstream's batteries before you leave. Cold weather is especially hard on batteries in poor condition. You can also hang dehumidifier bags to collect excess moisture. Once you get back, be sure to pressure wash underneath your Airstream to remove road salts and de-icing chemicals from roads before they cause any damage.

When you have all the items on your checklist crossed off and you are ready to hit the road, check the weather. This will allow you to decide which routes to take and how to handle the roads. There are plenty of things to consider if winter Airstreaming is in the books for you and your family. Making time to plan for a winter adventure will avoid some major misadventures and ultimately make it a fun and exciting experience.

Contributions Wanted!

Here are several suggestions for you, the reader, to contribute to our Region 10's newsletter:

- 1. Top Tips for My Town** - Let fellow Airstream travelers know of great places to visit around your area. Do you have a local attraction? Do you have a favorite eatery? (See page 10 for an example)
- 2. Potluck/Social Hour Recipes** - Do you have a favorite recipe for a large group? Do you have a picture of your creation and/or the group that enjoyed eating what you made?
- 3. Intra-Club Activities** - Are there rallies or gatherings planned for the Intra-Clubs in Region 10, i.e. Vintage, Classic Airstream, Amateur Radio Club, Indie Streamers, Grapes & Grains, or Future Streamers?
- 4. Rally Reports** - Tell us what a great time you had at a unit rally and share pictures.
- 5. Caravans** - Recount your adventures on a caravan in Region 10. Did you have a favorite stop or campground?
- 6. Best upgrade to your Airstream** - Have you made any additions to your Airstream that improved the quality of your travels?
- 7. Newsletter Naming Contest** - See Page 2 in this newsletter for more information.



These are a few suggestions and I welcome all input from our Region's members. Email me at airstream355@gmail.com with your contributions or if you have questions about submitting articles or pictures.

Deadline for the Winter issue is December 15, 2022. Safe journeys!

Click on the "f" icon to find WBCCI Region 10 on Facebook!

Region 10 Airstream Clubs

[Alberta/Saskatchewan Club #120](#)

[British Columbia Airstream Club #121](#)

[Idaho Airstream Club #035](#)

[Montana Airstream Club #061](#)

[NW Inland Airstream Club #179](#)

[Oregon Airstream Club # 090](#)

[Washington Airstream Club #112](#)

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Diane Carpenter dianecarpenter541@yahoo.com

Upcoming Region 10 National Rallies

Sun Valley Jazz and Music Festival Rally 2022, October 11-16, 2022 ([Registration](#) Information)

If you made it this far, thank you for reading!