

Issue #2, September 2022

AIRSTREAM



Dear weather, stop showing off... We know you're HOT!!! ~ Anonymous

Quick News

- Thanks for all the input to this edition of the Tattler! I have about 75% for another edition, so look for another one before the year ends.
- We canceled a rally due to heat (Angels Camp). The good news is that it's just rescheduled to May 2023.
- The 2023 rally schedule is published in this edition of the Tattler, check it out on page 3.
- Look for 2023 officer voting instructions soon by email. The November rally is our annual business meeting and installation of 2023 officers.

Upcoming Rallies (page 3) October 14-16 Lake Lopez

- Arroyo Grande
- Make your own reservation
- Submit the coupon afterward November 3-6 Wine Country RV
- Paso Robles
- Coupon link on page 3
- Business meeting

December 9-11 Carmel by the Sea

- 🗝 Carmel
- Look for a coupon soon from CCC in your email.

You'll notice a lot of duplication in rally host names, we'd love to have other members come forward to host rallies. See page 4 for details.

About Us

The Central Coast California Airstream Club (CCCAC) encompasses the scenic California coastal counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura; but our members come from all around the area! We are an active, social group that participates in local, regional, and international rallies. We are dedicated to the Creed created long ago by the Airstream founder, Wally Byam. Though Wally has passed, the words and wisdom of his Creed live on in the many Airstream Clubs that remain active to this day. Established on April 10, 1965, we continue to enjoy "Fun, Friendship & Camping."





2022	Officers:

- President: Bob Minder
 VP: Diane Ellis
 Secretary: Pam Lindsay
 Treasurer: Dave Temple
- Past. Pres: Teresa Tighe
- Tust. Tres.

Directors:

One Year

Ann Smith Mark Griffin

• Two Year

Marsi Peterson Jim Ellis

Chairpersons:

- Membership: Gary Mellinger
- Webmaster: Walt Bremer
- Tattler: Jason Grendahl
- Facebook: Gary Mellinger Jeanne Mitchell

To contact anyone on this list, please consult the CCCAC or International membership directory

President's Message

This is an exciting time as the Central Coast California Airstream Club prepares to close out 2022 and look forward to 2023. Our upcoming Business Meeting at the November Rally will announce the Club Officers and Directors elected for 2023. We have an upcoming October Rally at Lake Lopez and our final rally for 2022 will be at Carmel by the River RV Park in December. The October rally is reserve-your-own-site and then submit the coupon. Both rallies have coupons available at the <u>Club's website events</u> page.

Your Club is working on get together at a restaurant for our January 2023 event. Details will be announced once a suitable location is determined. We have had Club luncheon get togethers in the past which were quite successful.

I will be submitting to the Executive Board some potential amendments to our Bylaws. If approved by two thirds of the Board (Officers, Directors, Membership Chairman, Immediate Past President), they will be submitted to the membership for their consideration.

First is the creation of a new officer position, 2nd Vice President and changing the title of the current Vice-President to 1st Vice President. That new officer, if approved, would have three primary tasks. One, to plan small 7 to 10 day caravans that would commence right after a rally or just before a rally and ending at a rally. Two, to plan for annual luncheon events. Three, to coordinate with other Region 12 Clubs to try and have joint rallies. In May 2022, the Sacramento Valley Airstream Club joined us at a rally at Jackson Rancheria. In May 2023 CCCAC will have a joint rally at Angels Camp with the Greater Bay Area Airstream Club.

Second will be an amendment to alter wording of the installation date for Officers/Directors. Currently, installations are held at the December rally. Not to eliminate December but adding in that installation can also be conducted as part of the November rally, whichever is more feasible.

Third is to create a newbie rally exclusively for new members. This would be a second rally of that month so other members would continue to have a rally. As part of that amendment would be the consideration of a \$5 increase of Club dues to \$20 from the current \$15 to eliminate rally fees for the newbie rally without otherwise taking it from the treasury.

I look forward, if given the opportunity, to serve a second year as Club President, perhaps leading a caravan to the 2023 International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming in June 2023. I wish everyone safe journeys wherever your Airstream takes you.

Bob Minder





Rally Page

Gray-shaded entries are not CCC events but are of interest to CCC members. Updates since the last Tattler are shown in **GREEN**

Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
September 30 -October 4	Balloon Festival, Albuquerque, NM	National Rally / Region 11	Registration closed Sept 1, but <u>check here</u> for info and possible waitlist / cancelation spaces
October 14-16	Lake Lopez Campground, Arroyo Grande	Brad & Linda Bailey and Barry & Liz Marks	Make your own reservations. Quail Loop, sites 25-43. Submit <u>the coupon</u> after registering.
November 3-6	Wine Country RV Resort; Paso Robles	Diane & Jim Ellis and Pam Lindsay	The rally is full. Contact Jim Ellis (805-509- 9499) to be put on the waitlist.
December 9-11	Carmel by the River RV Park; Carmel-by-the-Sea	Yvonne Savage and Joel & Cynthia Mattsson	Coupon emailed Sept 19. <u>Get it here, too</u> .
January	TBD		Info forthcoming on a January rally.
February 9-13	Pismo State Beach, North Beach Campground; Pismo Beach	Jim & Diane Ellis and Rick & Cheryl Cline	Make your own reservations. Type "Pismo SB", click it in the list. Select your dates on the next page. Try to be near site 81.
March 16-20	Refugio State Beach; Goleta	Yvonne Savage and Jim & Diane Ellis	Group site. Do not book your own site. More info to come.
April 13-17	Smithwoods RV Park; Felton (near Santa Cruz)	Bruce & Ann Smith and Scott & Tracy Adams	Coupon not yet available. Watch your email inboxes!
May 11-15	Angels Camp RV Park; Angels Camp (gold country)	Jason & Andrea Grendahl	Joint rally with Greater Bay Area Airstream Club
June ? – 24	Informal caravan to International	Gary Mellinger	Possibly multiple CA Clubs rendezvousing in northern CA or Reno to move on to WY. Contact Gary if interested.
June 24-30	International rally; Rock Springs, WY	International Rally	Registration is online at this website
September 18ish	Informal caravan on Hwy 395 (east Sierras) to June Lake / Silver Lake.	Gary Mellinger	Exact dates TBD. 7-10 days duration. Contact Gary if interested.
October 12-16 OR 19-23; TBD	Lake Cachuma; Santa Ynez	Hosts Needed	
November 16-20	Flying Flags; Buellton	Jim & Diane Ellis	Business meeting
December TBD	San Simeon State Beach; Cambria	Hosts Needed	Cambria Christmas market. Exact dates and more info to come in 2023.





Have you ever considered hosting a rally? Unsure of what it's all about? It's hard to pin down exactly what a host will need to do, so it takes someone who likes to organize and communicate. Here's an overview of what's involved:



Make a coupon for the rally. This is perhaps the most fun part of hosting. You get to make the plan and tell everyone about it. Don't worry if you're not a graphic artist or computer savvy. But ask for help! Every coupon that you see was made by someone and they are happy to share their work or help you to make your coupon.

Each campground's conditions are different, so you need to work with the campground to ensure it has the required info, deposits, and

payments. And ensure that their cancellation policy is respected.

- For a reserve-your-own-site rally, the host needs to follow up many times with the members to find out who has signed up.
- Advertise, advertise, advertise. Put the rally on the Facebook page. Make sure it's on the event page of CCCAC's website. Email out the coupon.



Maybe even put the coupon as a full page in the Tattler!

Plan the agenda. It's all up to you as the host. Want to keep it simple? OK! Want to



- cook or cater meals? OK! Beer and wine tasting? Great! Visit a local mine. Go see sea life. Group hike. Sit around a campfire. Bring your ideas or just copy what you've seen at other events. We're camping in our Airstreams so it can't be wrong!
- ➡ Check out the CCCAC's <u>rally planning guide</u>.
- Ready to host? Contact the CCC's Rally Chairperson, Diane Ellis





Member Trip: Avenue of the Redwoods

Ann and Bruce headed north this summer for the coast, and of course, the redwoods.





Member Trip: Cross Country!

The members of CCC are a wide-spread group of people. Proof of that is that one of our affiliates lives in Virginia which is almost as far as you caget on the opposite side of the USA from the Central Coast of California. David Broad made a cross country trip this year to visit his son in Berkeley even though visiting with CCC and other Clubs didn't pan out. Reprinted with permission from: http://www.db26.net/airstream/pdflib/20220501-u109-sea-to-sea.pdf



From Sea to Shining Sea

by David Broad

This journey should be called the 5-10-20-30 trip. Our winter-spring trip started mid-December 2021, expecting to be home late May, 5 months later, traveling some 10 thousand miles through 20+ states and 30+ campgrounds. Aside from our traditional annual month of January relaxation in the Florida Keys, our starting point on the Atlantic Ocean, our focus this journey was on revisiting the desert southwest and coastal California. Once there, we look forward to spending time with our son Benjamin in Berkeley while based in the Napa and Sonoma valleys.

In keeping with our goal to try to confine our travels within the 60° to 80° temperature isotherms, our journey begins as far south as possible in mid-winter moving swiftly to the west coast. Then north through the mid months until late spring in the Rockies. We barely used air conditioning the entire trip however we did have to resort to overnight propane and electric heat for at least two weeks in February as we swiftly transited from Florida to Arizona. We had to adjust timing and alter our route to a more southerly course in Texas and New Mexico to avoid significantly freezing weather that potentially could damage our Flying Cloud.

This narrative focuses on four locations that remain close to our wanderlust hearts after previous memorable trips west.



Sunsets in Arizona are photogenic especially if you get a Saguaro cactus reflection in an Airstream window.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Park in southern Arizona lies five miles from the Mexican border in the inhospitable Sonoran desert. Twin Peaks campground has over 200 sites with no hookups. Managing our resources and power is key to a successful camping experience! During our week-long stay we needed no generator and kept our electrical system adequately topped up from our 400-watt solar panels. We easily managed our gray and black water tanks (30 gallons each), however we had to replenish our fresh water with a 5-gallon Jerry can for refills, with a total consumption of about 40 gallons for the week.



Camping in the Florida Keys amongst the mangroves is the Atlantic Ocean eastern starting point for our coast to coast adventure. January in the Keys has a reliable climate hardly requiring any air conditioning.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Park has a dense population of its namesake cacti and also scattered throughout are the equally iconic Saguaro



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Sunrises and sunsets define the beauty of this location emphasized by a campground densely landscaped with its namesake organ pipe cactus and the iconic saguaro cacti. The stark beauty of this remote wilderness makes for a lasting memory. Leading out from the campsite multiple hiking trails take you into the backcountry including abandoned mines. We have taken several environmental and historical ranger tours including one at the border fence. Here the border has a single steel rail to prevent vehicles crossing over with little else to stop a walk-in migrant. However, the most



Organ Pipe Cactus Park's Arizona border with Mexico is only designed to prevent vehicles driving through!

daunting and forbidding aspect is 60 miles of merciless desert until one reaches civilization! The single highway is patrolled by the customs and border protection enforcement with mandatory inspection stops and vehicle searches on all routes in the area.

The campsite has adequate 5G cellular coverage and when coupled with our Weboost directional antenna could handle excellent broadband delivery for Netflix streaming and allowed us to continue working a few hours a day and staying abreast of life in the big world... right in the middle of the desert wilderness!



Borrego Springs is famous for the original Californian palm trees identified by their grass fan skirt.

Since Covid, reservations are now de facto for Organ Pipe campground, a maximum of one year ahead on recreation.gov. Using your Golden Age pass the daily rate is \$8. What a deal! Sites 35 through 112 tend to be more spacious and 113 to 208 are no-generator sites.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is a huge 1,000 square mile wilderness in Southern California famous for its Bighorn Borrego sheep. It provides varying recreational venues, hiking and cycling trails, slot canyon exploration, dispersed camping, thousands of acres of ATV or OHV playgrounds, palm oases, driving trails and more. One of the claims to fame events is the annual desert flower bloom which some years, depending on winter rainfall, becomes a wildflower super bloom that attracts huge weekend crowds from the cities. Watching the barren mountainsides turn yellow overnight is quite a scene. Since this is our third visit, we have been lucky to witness this unique wildflower bloom!

Borrego Springs is a small but thriving community six winter months a year. Among the many quirky aspects, the town hosts a local metalwork artist "Sky Art Sculptures" and the desert around town contains a hundred or more larger than life size steel sculptures. Our favorite is the 350 ft dragon sea serpent in Galeta



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A steel sea serpent 350 ft long undulates impressively from one side of the desert highway to the other.

Meadows that has a head and one hump on one side of the highway and the tail with four smaller humps stretching out into the desert on the opposite side of the highway.

Having launched and run a local farmers' market in our hometown in Virginia, we are fond of visiting the weekly Friday market in Borrego situated in the beautiful Christmas Circle in the center of town. Local produce and crafts are side by side with a French bakery and a Greek deli, along with jewelry artists and the astronomical dark sky coalition promoting.



Setting up in Texas Springs campground - first come first served reservations - however there is always plenty of solar power to be captured!

the International Dark Sky Park! We max out the two weeks in the state park campground in the foothills of the San Ysidro Mountain range then skip across town to the RV Resort and get pampered in the hot tubs and heated swimming pools for a few days. A good balance of lifestyles!

Reservations on reservecalifornia.com may be made up to six months ahead. We make our reservation as soon as the window opens since this is a very popular location. We recommend sites 31 through 47 (odd numbers only) with the best views and extra space.

Death Valley National Park has a limited window of comfort with additional climatic challenges such as brutal high winds and heat extremes. Our preferred dry camping site is in the no generator Texas Springs campground at approx 20 ft below sea level. The solid salt rock floor of the valley at Badwater drops down to 282 ft below sea level.

As in Organ Pipe our solar panels collected enough energy to power our kitchen appliances, computers, and entertainment center virtually forever. The big issue was the lack of cellular coverage with access limited to an antiquated AT&T 3G network barely capable of supporting voice let alone data. Our only hope of any data was 4 am sessions when we were among the few night owls on the network! Death Valley is similarly at the end of the fuel supply chain as we discovered at the service station with the highest diesel fuel prices at



Sand dunes as far as the eye can see at the Stovepipe Wells Death Valley Mesquite Flats Sand Dunes area. Hiking across sand dunes makes you realize how difficult and tiring it is to physically trek across deserts.



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Prior to becoming a national park, Death Valley was a hive of mining activities. Borax was mined and transported out with a 16-mule wagon train. Many locations show evidence of mining tailings as prospectors searched for gold, silver, and lead. We visited two ghost towns, Rhyolite in Nevada that had a 5-year short but productive silver mining operation and Leadfield, a 19th century mining investment scam, with a lifespan of less than a year. Going off highway was a real adventure as we took the Titus Canyon one way dirt road, crossed the NV-CA state line, over Red Pass, through magnificent deep canyons with mineral rich green, vellow, and red rock strata, through the lead mining ghost town and drove the last five miles through a deep twisting water scoured slot canyon only just wide enough for our RAM truck.

Mesquite Flats sand dunes on the western highway into Death Valley feature a large area of impressive sand dunes that resemble a scene from the Saharan desert. Three kinds of dunes, star, crescent, and linear sit on an octagon cracked clay lakebed with occasional mesquite trees for effect! We visited at sunset so that we could shoot photos with elongated shadows.

Texas Springs is not reservable and is first come first served. We reserve one night in the standard NPS campground at Furnace Creek and the next morning around 9 am we drive our truck up to Texas Springs and check out the sites of folks leaving, maybe even wait for them to leave! Basic procedure is to locate a vacated site and deposit your chairs and any equipment on the site staking your claim, then go down to the automated kiosk and pay for a ticket for your stay - max 2 weeks. Post the ticket on your site then go back to Furnace Creek campground and hitch up the Airstream and bring it back up



The Pacific Ocean is our western end point for our transcontinental journey some 3,000 miles from the Keys



Montana de Oro hills are covered in gold poppies provide its distinctive namesake for the Mountain of Gold.

the hill to your new \$8 a night camp site.

Montana de Oro State Park we reconnoitered briefly on a previous trip, but this year we reserved a week in this Californian coastal campground about mid way between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo and near Paso Robles wine country. As the name indicates, mountain of gold refers to mass of blooming wildflowers that Spanish explorers observed across the mountain. Finally we've reached the Pacific Ocean!

The park is well known for its rugged shoreline, several picturesque sandy beaches, canyons, hills, and streams. Ocean cliff walks are our favorite daily foray with trailheads at different locations accessible by dirt road. Buchon Point and Spooners Cove offer dramatic scenery.

Nearby San Luis Obispo has one of the best farmers' markets we have ever seen! Unbelievable variety, selection, and quality of products from small family farms abound. The street food is first class. This tightly run market starts off at 6 pm precisely with the ringing of a bell to indicate vendors may start trading.



The Tattler





Showtime at the San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market as meat lovers queue for an hour before opening time to pick up barbecue orders.

Reservations at Montana de Oro follow the same process as Borrego Springs. Make sure you select senior citizen rate if it applies! The Islay Creek campground is dry camping and coastal temperatures are significantly below those inland so be prepared for chilly weather in your planning. Our solar powers kitchen and electronics, but we rely on LPG Propane for heating and refrigeration, and the occasional festive fire pit bonfire.

Our travel philosophy has been to dine at restaurants with outside dining, source our groceries by curbside pickup and have minimal contact with crowds. One shopping habit we have fine tuned is quick visits to Costco stores to pick up high quality fresh meats, seafood, and vegetables. This is the backbone to our cooking repertoire and allows us to maintain a healthy and quality dining lifestyle on the road sometimes posted to our Gourmet Camping Facebook group which we created for fun at the start of Covid lockdown a couple of years ago.

Affiliating with other Airstream clubs is a great way to expand your travel experience. Although we did not make all the connections we had hoped to, we were able to join up with NORCAL for a rally in the California gold country. A rally with CCCAC in Pismo Beach was canceled and a proposed Valentine's weekend rally with 4-CU (Four Corners) was fully subscribed months ahead.

Throughout our five-month expedition we made time to connect with family and friends especially past Airstream caravan travel companions. We did some mooch docking at friend's houses in Florida and our extended families houses in Utah, invited local Airstream friends to our campsites, had several visits from our son in California at various locations, connected with friends from Margaret's school world, met up with caravan friends at restaurants along the way and joined up with past travelers, our current circle and new Airstreamers.

Arriving at Montana de Oro is the culmination of our coast to coast journey. Next we spend a week in Paso Robles wine country then two weeks in Napa and two weeks in Sonoma, both are within easy reach of Berkeley where our son Ben lives. After Napa we head east to Salt Lake City to visit life long friends, then make haste across Colorado and Kansas till we reach southern Illinois and visit Margaret's brother. Virginia is then a relatively short ride home where we will be back for a month fixing all those things that inevitably need attention after 5 months away.



Margaret & David Broad (WBAC #2381) from Tappahannock, Virginia, traveling 8 months of the year since 2016 (but not 2020/21!) in their 2015 Flying Cloud 25 RB Nuage Volant. Our home unit is the Virginia Airstream Club #109 and we are affiliated with the Canadian Quebec Airstream Club, NORCAL & CCCAC on the West Coast and 4-Corners in Arizona. You can email questions or comments to airstream@db26.net David also publishes an Airstream improvement page at www.facebook.com/airstreamtweaks and for fun created a Gourmet Camping group at https://www. facebook.com/groups/gourmetcamping





A Rare Airstream Restoration

Many of us know of the Neel family and their collection of vintage trailers, most of which are Airstreams. A few years ago, the family acquired a rare 1948 WeeWind. As David put it: "It was dated with years of handyman repairs, so we decided to gut it, fix the problems with the floor and put it back as original except with a polished and shiny walls/ceiling (original had blue factory paint). We look forward to debuting it at the Buellton Vintage Trailer Show on September 24, 2022."





Member Trip: Yellowstone

Jeanne and George Mitchell were able to score a spontaneous site at Yellowstone this summer (after the floods, even!) so they headed out for a trip.





Member Trips: Summer Vacation

From Tracy and Scott Adams - The first three pics are from Laguna Campground at the Cleveland National Forest outside of San Diego. There was NO ONE at Cleveland National Forest in our RV loop in July, mid-week. 5500ft, but still HOT and no hook ups, but the price was right. The next three are at Rivernook Campground in Kernville last June. Both were a lot of fun.





Member Trip: Cross Country

From Cynthia and Joel Mattsson - We decided, before we got any older (86 now) and to celebrate our 3rd wedding anniversary, to take a two-month trip in our 25' Flying Cloud across the U.S. We covered 21 states and traveled over 8,000 miles. We visited friends and relatives as well as staying in historic hotels such as The Greenbriar (WVA), Pinehurst (NC), The Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, MI, and The Broadmoor (CO). We checked first to see if they could accommodate our trailer in their parking lots. We traveled through Texas Hill Country. We stayed in a great Harvest Host plantation in Mississippi. We took a swamp tour, toured plantations, visited a Civil War battlefield in Vicksburg, stayed along the Mississippi, drove the Natchez Trace Parkway, went to Colonial Williamsburg, our furthest point east, saw Holland, MI at tulip time. It seemed we drove miles through Midwest corn and wheatfields. Santa Fe was one of our stops, as well as Sedona, which has a fabulous, shady RV park along the creek. We had only one mechanical problem the whole trip. A brake caliper on the trailer had to be replaced. It set us back a day, because, of course, the problem happened on Mother's Day.









Birthdays

Don't see your birthday here but it should be? Let the CCC know by emailing the <u>Membership</u> <u>Chair or the Treasurer</u>.

June

Terese Wrightson	1 st
Parker Grendahl	5 th
Beverly Wainwright	17 th
Andrea Grendahl	30 th

July

Chuck Alberti	3 rd
Joseph Deering	22 nd
Bob Minder	31 st

August

Jason Grendahl	5 th
William Neel	9 th
Myung Deering	12 th
Marty Willey	14^{th}
Jim Wade	16 th
Karen Almas	25^{th}

September

Karen Jones	3 rd
Walt Bremer	4 th
Tom Tighe	4 th
Steven Wrightson	6 th
Max Neel	13 th
Jeanne Wade	16 th
Yvonne Savage	19 th
Hedda Smithson	20 th
Bill Kerfoot	22 nd
Teresa Tighe	29 th

Club Resources and Links

- Many member resources are now found online at the WBCCI International website. Login to your WBCCI account here: <u>https://airstreamclub.org/members/login?destination=/members/ dashboard</u>
 - \circ Membership roster (search, filter, and sort)
 - $\,\circ\,$ Renew your membership, international or affiliate
- Read past issues of *The Tattler* newsletters
- Access rally coupons online <u>CCCAC event page</u> or <u>CCCAC</u> <u>Facebook</u>



New Members

Welcome these new members and affiliates since		
the last Tattler!		
Tim Maccurdy and Tricia Hahn		
Richard and Linda Hunt		
Paul and Lucille Berry		
Charlene Huston		
Doug and Linda Dynes	#17878	
Christina Skow and Rex Gardner	#6182	
Bill and Antoinette Craver	#20616	
Michele Ruiz		
Dave and Donna Gray	#6545	
David and Janette Pendelton	#8551	
Mary Green		
🔜 Bryan and Lisa Whitesides	#6653	
Shawn and Mike Blom		
Don and Angie Brown		
Carl Channing and Diane Fast	#3753	
🔜 Sid and Mar Tobiason	#23715	
🔜 Mark and Gail Kibby	#6904	

Stay Connected!

Facebook Pages

- <u>CCCAC</u>
- <u>Region 12</u>
- International (WBCCI/WBAC/ACI)
- <u>Airstream Inc.</u>

Websites

- <u>CCCAC</u>
- <u>Region 12</u>
- International (WBCCI/WBAC/ACI)
 - Airstream, Inc.
- <u>Airstream service and owner's manuals</u>

Twitter:

- <u>Airstream Club Int'l / WBCCI</u>
- <u>Airstream, Inc.</u>