

First Timers 101

Welcome to your very first Airstream Club International Rally! You're in for an incredibly fun-filled week. With so many activities to choose from, it's easy to get overwhelmed and possibly miss something you really want to attend. We'd like you to arrive well informed on what to expect so you'll get the most out of your rally experience. The following topics give you an idea of what to expect at the rally.

What is a First Timer?

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

Registering for the International Rally:

You can register for the rally on-line by logging into the club website and then going to airstreamclub.org/Rally2023/acirally2023-registration. There's a button to click to print a paper registration form if you want to mail a check. Or you can also call HQ at (937) 596-5211 and register with a credit card. If you decide not to register for an arrival date earlier than June 24, but change your mind: no problem, just click this link <https://form.jotform.com/222233940034142> to add and process payment securely online, or call headquarters at 937-596-5211 and ask for a change.

Since you are choosing your arrival date, it's not important whether you register earlier or later. However, our international rallies are becoming more popular and there are a fixed number of campsites at the venue, so registering early guarantees you a site.

What to expect when you arrive:

When you arrive at the Check In area, the Rally Arrival Team will greet you. At Check In, we'll provide you with your Welcome Bag and rally programs. The Welcome Bag will contain your rally ribbons, First Timer ribbons, coupons, meal tickets and more. A Rally Arrival Team member will guide you to your parking site and help get you safely parked. Please take time to review the information in the Welcome Bag after you get parked.

If you arrive before your scheduled arrival date or need to change the number of people in your registration, there are corresponding cost changes that you will need to settle upon arrival. We'll have a Cashier available to expedite your transaction.

Once you're parked, make your way to the Welcome Area. (See hours of operation and map in the program.) At the Welcome Area, you have an opportunity to sign up for your region's meal and other fun activities. There also are information tables displaying the caravans and community service projects.

You need to wear your ribbons at all times on the rally grounds, as this is your official credential throughout the rally and allows you access into all events. We monitor all buildings so only registered attendees are allowed.

Getting Ready to Come to the International Rally:

GRUPIO Mobile Event App: If you have a smart phone or tablet, you may want to download the Grupio app before coming to the rally. This is the best way to stay informed and get last minute schedule or venue changes. The Grupio app includes the rally schedule, lists of exhibitors, speakers, maps and more. Download Grupio from your app store and search for “Airstream” to find this event.

Fresh Water Tanks: You may want to arrive with a full freshwater tank or fill it after arrival. In a rally situation, when hundreds of rigs are parked together, it is quite taxing on the complex’s water system. It’s possible the pressure could be diminished. In those cases, having your water tank filled and being able to use from your own tank is very helpful.

Water Hoses and Power Cords: Please bring two 25 ft. or longer drinking water hoses (usually white or blue). Bring your Airstream’s power cord and a 30-to-50 amp adapter if your cord is 30 amp. **All sites in Rock Springs are 50 amp.**

First Timer Ribbon:

In your envelope from Check In, there is a yellow “First Timer” ribbon. Please attach this to your badge (duct tape works really well!) along with your rally ribbon. This yellow ribbon distinguishes you as being there for your first time. Club members enjoy sharing information with other Airstreamers, and especially First Timers. Folks take notice and will be excited to welcome you!

Get involved – Volunteer!

Did you know that an incredible team of volunteers is responsible for most operations of the international rally? Near the Welcome Area tables, you’ll find the Volunteer table with available volunteer opportunities and sign-up sheets. Many jobs require just a few hours of your time. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, meet more fun people, and it’s fun too!

Stay updated on rally information:

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

We also have our rally Facebook group for those who are social media savvy. Attendees gather here in advance of the event to get to know each other, get to know our exhibitors and speakers, and share the excitement of the rally! Once the event kicks off, the group is also a great place to organize impromptu gatherings, ask last-minute questions, and share information about lost and found items. On Facebook, search for “acirally2023”.

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

First Timers GAM (Get Acquainted Meeting):

We'd like to officially invite you to the *First Timers GAM!* Some of our savvy attendees host this fun event. They are anxious to see you get off to a great start to your week. It takes place at 1:00 PM Sunday in the Exhibition Hall. This social helps bring all First Timers together, giving you the opportunity to socialize and get to know each other while learning a few nuances that can make your rally experience even better. It's a fun informal time we arranged just for you!

Presentations:

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

Region and Intra-Club Meals:

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

Socials:

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

Happy Hours:

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

Airstream of Wyoming:

This is our exclusive Airstream dealer for the rally. They have Airstreams on display for touring and for purchase. They also offer service on-site at the Sweetwater Event Complex. To schedule service before, during or after the rally, please call (307) 269-2205 . To schedule service online, go to their website: airstreamofwyoming.com and click on Service, Service Appointments.

Exhibitors:

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

What should I wear?

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

Rally2023 shirts and hats:

The Airstream Club teamed up exclusively with Lands End for all your Rock Springs and Airstream Club gear. For your convenience, visit their exclusive Airstream Club website to order your gear business.landsend.com/store/airstreamclub/. Just select the items you want and then click on Apply Logo(s) to customize your selection.

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

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

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

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

We're looking forward to seeing you at the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming!