

Issue 5
NOVEMBER 2022

INLAND NW INSIDER

Newsletter of the Inland NW Airstream Club

airstreamclub.org/inland-nw

Friends. Airstreams. Adventure. Repeat



Editor: Becky Soth
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From the President's Desk

Greetings INWAC members and friends,

I am looking forward to the multitude of camping trips that are actively being planned for next year... but first, it is important to note that without strong participation by all our membership, the INWAC Board, and committee members, there would likely be less joyous times to share and this very newsletter would not have been published. In that regard, all members are welcome to join our scheduled board meetings by ZOOM and should feel free to ask questions and to share favorite campsites that might lead to future rallies.

Robin (my spouse) and I have been members of INWAC for two full camping seasons and many of the folks that we have come to know are now dear friends and people we look forward to getting together with. We will try to attend as many rallies as possible and hope to meet all of you – especially if you are new to the club.

On a final note, volunteer to help out on any rally and the host(s) will be most grateful. Happy camping, and see y'all in 2023!!

Bests...

Russ Lea
President



INWAC Board 2022-2023

President: Russ Lea
russlea1119@gmail.com

1 st Vice-President: Steve Tabacek

2nd Vice-President: Gwen Combs

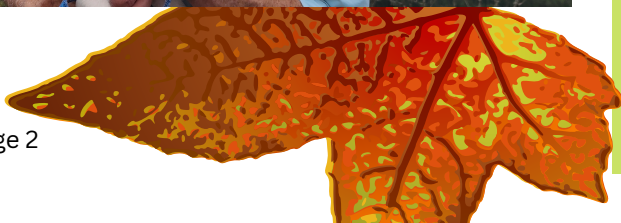
Secretary: Stephanie Shelley

Treasurer: Yvonne Theodor

Trustee: Ken Safranek

Trustee: Diane Taylor

Immediate Past President:
Brian Soth



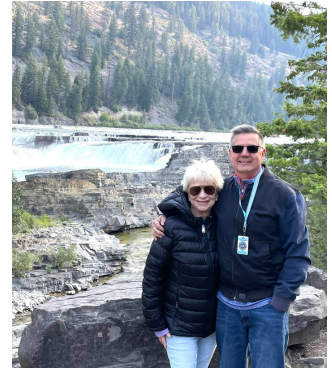
RALLY REPORT



“Carve Montana”, Kootenai River Rally - Troy, MT

Hosted by Dave and Linda Johnson

What can we say? ***Carve Montana*** was a hit!



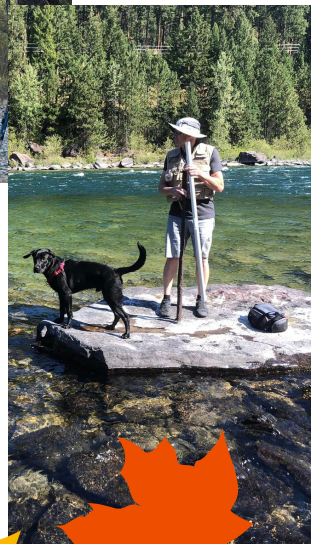
Seventeen trailers joined together in Troy, Montana to enjoy good company, beautiful country, delicious food and an amazing carving event.

Kootenai Falls, Ross Creek Cedars and Yaak Falls provided scenic wonders to wander through. Foodies enjoyed the rustic John Wayne Room at the Silver Spur to the gorgeous Kootenai River Overlook at the Double J. Fellow nomads found a hidden gem at the Hungry Hunter in Yaak. (Their burgers were to die for). The art enthusiasts among us found the International Chainsaw Carving Championship provided many opportunities to make us “cash poor”. Kudos to our campground hosts, Chris & Marcy, for once again going beyond the call of duty in making our stay very special.

We are already to return and are planning for next year’s event with various eateries and activities. Oh wait...did I mention Fly Fishing???

Till next year,

Dave & Linda





Balloon Adventure!

Theo and Yvonne Theodor's bucket list included the balloon fiesta in Albuquerque. They asked their fellow INWAC members if they would like to join in the fun. Thus, the 50th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 2022 Rally was from the INWAC was 'launched'. The real adventure began on January 5th with 2 computers, coffee and breakneck typing to try to reserve spots for six Airstreams. (They were aware that there is a ACI National Airstream Balloon Fiesta Rally but knew the chances were slim that all who wanted to get in would be able to.) Yvonne and Theo were lucky to be able to reserve six spots for the opening weekend, September 30 to October 3, 2022. As they watched online that morning, within 90 minutes 20,000 campsites were reserved and another 5,000 trailers were waitlisted.

The Theodors planned a route and sights to see; Great Basin, Zion, Bryce, North Rim Grand Canyon, and Mesa Verde National Parks that others could follow, if they chose, finally meeting up at Enchanted Trails RV Park and Trading Post in Albuquerque. Each trailer received a goodie bag containing a hot air balloon spinner and a pair of wine cups. The next morning they caravanned into Balloon Fiesta Park with hot air balloons already floating above them in the air.

The schedule included getting up early for Dawn Patrol to see the morning glow, mass ascension and just being in complete awe of the magnificent balloons from all over the world including special shapes which included a sloth, a pink elephant, and Yoda, as well as more traditional hot air balloons. The evenings were just as spectacular with aerial drone light shows, fireworks, and skydivers.

Several members took a tram to the highest peak, Sandia Peak. This peak is the 10,378-foot crest of the Sandia Mountains. Sandia is Spanish for watermelon. When the sun sets the mountains have a pinkish hue reminiscent of a watermelon. Later that evening everyone met at a restaurant, La Reforma, for drinks and a delicious Mexican meal.

Shopping was had by all! Souvenirs at the fiesta included; t-shirts, wood carvings from the chainsaw carving show and a visit to the Pandora booth for the special 50th anniversary charm. Some ventured into town for one of the best arts and crafts shows in the country; Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival. Trips were also made to downtown Albuquerque and surrounding areas. We even tried a local delicacy, green Chile bread made by a gentleman for years at Golden Crown Panaderia.

Don Reynolds surprised his wife, Liz, with a special treat, a ride in a hot air balloon. Liz describes it as a trip of a lifetime!

Before they each streamed north toward home or to continue their travel adventures, President Russ and First Lady Robin Lea gifted each trailer a fiery Chile pepper ristra. It was our first out of state long distance rally and it was amazing.

A brief history about AIBF

"The events now known as balloon glows were invented in Albuquerque in 1979 when local pilots inflated balloons on Christmas Eve night as a thank you to local residents. The sight of balloons lit from within at night like giant holiday ornaments is breathtaking and glow events are now held all over the world. Balloon Fiesta launched its Balloon Glow, the world's biggest, in 1987." <https://balloonfiesta.com/Balloon-Glows>

"Balloon Fiesta Park's launch field alone is comparable to the size of 54 football fields. This 60-plus acre area is necessary to accommodate the more than 500 balloons that launch during the event (including 19 brand new "special shapes," such as an alien, a screwdriver and a flying bus). The total expanse of the Park is a whopping 365 acres, custom designed to facilitate the largest ballooning event on earth."

" <https://corralescomment.com/2022/10/03/unofficial-international-balloon-fiesta-guide-2022/>"





RALLY COORDINATORS



I am so excited to report that we just completed a full rally season without interruption or cancellations due to pandemics or wildfires. That in itself is reason to celebrate but that we had such beautiful weather that extended far into fall made it an especially memorable year to be out in our Airstreams, don't you think?

Brian and I missed the last rally of the year in Troy, MT, because we had a trip planned to Europe. Part of that trip was spent cruising down the Rhine River. As we passed amazing castles we couldn't help but notice the RV campgrounds beneath them. Of course, we looked at each one an Airstream. We never saw one but we both thought what amazing places these are to camp and how fun it would be to share them with you all.

That's kind of what we do. We find amazing places and share them. This coming year we have more members who are willing to step up as hosts and we are going to share some new venues as well as repeating some that we especially enjoyed the last couple years. We currently have eight rallies booked from May to October of 2023. We will be sending you the schedule in December for registration to begin in January. Please watch your email for communication from us. We will also have some pop-up/no host rallies throughout the season.



For those of you who might not have heard, we have two small caravans currently planning to travel together to the 2023 International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in June 2023. If you would like more information or to hook up with one of these caravans, shoot me an email and I'll get you connected.

Thank you to all the members and affiliate members who traveled together this summer, to all that helped put together the rallies, meals, gifts, and adventures together. What great travel companions you all are. If you haven't had the opportunity to join us on a rally, we hope you will next season. We're a fun bunch!

There are lots of new things coming and lots of work going on behind the scenes to improve our website, our registration process, and our rally experiences. We hope you'll come along for the ride!

Becky Soth

beccasoth@gmail.com





From the Membership Chair



Current Membership

36 Members

24 Affiliates

Happy Fall to everyone!

My name is Debbie Tabacek and I am helping out with membership. Steve and I have been involved with the club for the past three years and love going on adventures in our Airstream with our pup, Kona, and meeting so many new people. It is great to be a part of a club that enjoys camping in so many beautiful places in the Inland NW and surrounding areas.

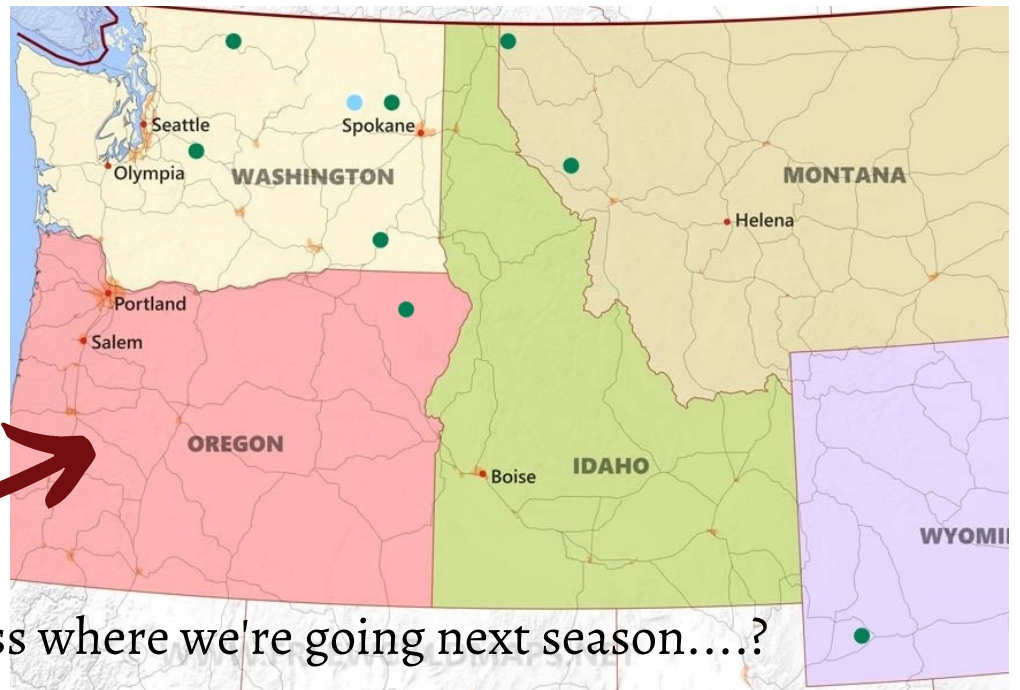
Don't forget that renewal season is upon us for many of you and get your dues paid. We have many exciting rallies planned for the upcoming 2023 season that you will not want to miss out on! We are glad so many of you could join us in November for the pizza lunch.

Come and celebrate the holidays with our first annual Pop up Christmas Rally with no Airstreams! We would like to invite our members to come and join us the weekend of December 10-11 in Spokane. We will celebrate with a happy hour, dinner, gift exchange (10 dollars and Airstream related), and dessert. The Tabaceks and the Soths live approximately 2 miles apart and would be happy to host any members who would have to travel over and stay the night. We will offer a first come first serve on rooms in our homes (5-6 rooms). There is a check in time of 2pm and check out by 12pm, just like our rallies! We realize that the holiday season gets very busy, but we are continuing to look at ways that our members can stay connected during the winter months. We hope that you can join us!

Debbie



*Good things
are
coming*



Can you guess where we're going next season....?



Members,

Watch your email the last week of
December for the
2023 Rally Guide
and registration information!

Know someone who would like to join us?

Email Debbie at dtabacek@yahoo.com

OR

we can be found at

www.airstreamclub.org/inland-nw