



Region 4 WBAC



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airstreamclub.org/region4

Winter Issue

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President's Corner



Season's Greetings, Region 4 Members!

I am writing to you from Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee. This giant poinsettia tree is in the Magnolia Lobby next to the grand staircase. The tags around our necks are a dead giveaway that we are on a package tour.

One of the many pieces of trivia provided on the tour is that the person in charge of just the poinsettias at Opryland has an \$80,000 budget! I am not sure I should say that it is a lot of "green" or a lot of red; nonetheless, that is a large budget. Another bit of trivia: The Magnolia Lobby has a huge brass chandelier that weighs 3,000 pounds. Gaylord Opryland at Christmas time is beautiful.

Jane and I have been here a few times for conferences, but we either did not have time to enjoy the many activities and sights, or they were sold out. When we have gone through Nashville with the Airstream, we have stayed at one of several RV parks down the street from Opryland and come over to walk around the enormous eight-story glassed-in conservatories and eat at one of the many restaurants.

The best thing about traveling is that it broadens my perspectives and helps me be more tolerant of people who do and see things differently. Being in Nashville, the country music capital of the world, I have gained a new perspective. I am not a country music lover, but I appreciate the immense talent of the performers we have seen on this trip. However, there is one thing I need help wrapping my head around. Today we took a luncheon trip on the General Jackson River Showboat, which cruises the Cumberland River. After lunch, there was a country music Christmas show. One of the songs was a country/bluegrass version of *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*, complete with an electrified fiddle. I hope I do not get an "[earworm](#)" with this version of the song playing in my head.

On the other hand, being immersed in the country music scene for four days, I did hear two Christmas songs that tickled my funny bone. One is about a disastrous Christmas where mom burns the turkey and dad torches the Christmas tree, called *Waffle House Christmas*. The other is about buying Christmas gifts at the local Army Navy Store called, *Heat Seeking Mistletoe*. There may be hope for me yet because I found myself tapping my toe as a member of the audience at the WSN radio broadcast of the Grand Ole Opry. Jane says I have started talking with a twang, too! Enough about our trip.

In this edition of the Region 4 Newsletter, I want to draw your attention to a few things.

2023 Region 4 Rally: Registration is now open. Go to the Region 4 section to read about things you can do in Kalamazoo County and some of the things we are planning for the Rally. During our Opryland visit, we heard a group called the Ten Year Town Band. They played during our included breakfast buffet. These three guys had very tight harmonies, which were beautiful. One of the groups we will listen to during the Region 4 Rally is the Mall City Harmonizers. The Mall City Harmonizers is a male a cappella barbershop chorus and quartets, and this group is celebrating its 82nd Anniversary in 2023. By the way, one of Kalamazoo's nicknames is Mall City. It is called Mall City because they were the first city in the U.S. to permanently close off a downtown street to make a pedestrian walkway. The walkway opened in 1959, and the pedestrian mall became the first of several hundred built in the United States. The bold effort was to make a downtown street car-free to spur urban vitality and defend against suburbanization.

Community Service: Jamie Kingseed is planning a service project that will move to different locations in the Region each year. Please read more about it in his article and plan to participate.

Swiss Festival National Rally: As you know, this year was the first time Region 4 sponsored this national rally. I want to tell you something about the strategy Fred and I have envisioned regarding running the Rally in the future, hoping it lives on for another sixty years. We want to grow a cadre of people who know and understand the different functions of the Rally. This way, if a person cannot work the rally for one year for whatever reason, there are people who can provide backup to fill in the vacancy. If you might be interested in becoming a part of the group, please get in touch with Fred or me for more details.

International: Read a synopsis of the November International Board of Trustees (IBT) Meeting. If you have yet to hear about the International Quarterly Membership Campfire Chat, read about the details in the International section.

I am sad to report that Region 4 lost two Local Clubs this year. Mid-Eastern Michigan Unit and Mohican Valley Ohio Airstream Club. Both dissolved this fall. Each cited that they needed more volunteers to field the required offices stated in their constitution and bylaws.



Volunteering is the lifeblood of WBCCI, and volunteering has fallen off over the past several years. As you read the articles from your Region Vice Presidents in this edition of the *Region 4 Newsletter*, you will find that independently, each has written about volunteering.

What can you do? Run for office at all levels of the Club. Do your best to volunteer to support and help those in office. Volunteer to run a rally or cohost with another person/couple. It is fun! Contribute articles and topic suggestions for newsletters or the *Blue Beret* at all levels of the Club.

As the members who wish to remain active from the Mid-Eastern Michigan Unit or Mohican Valley Ohio Airstream Club look for a new WBCCI home, please make them feel welcome if they contact you or come to one of your rallies or dinners.

When I became Region 4 President, I created the slogan "Region 4 – The place where new best friends meet!" There were various reasons for this slogan—one knowing that it would be hard to park friends together at the on-street rally in Wooster. However, Dennis Kiehl and his parking crew did an excellent job of doing this.

Another reason for this slogan is that it is easy to "hang" with your friends and not reach out to other WBCCI members at a gathering. Data from a special task force looking at onboarding members into WBCCI has Region 4 as a very close second with the highest average membership longevity. Region 8 has 8.1 average years in the Club, and Region 4 has 8.0 average years in the Club. Region 4 is in the bottom 25% regarding the total number of memberships. You can equate memberships with Big Red Numbers (BRNs), and members refer to individuals. On average, the International Club is growing at the rate of around 50 members per week.

I keep reminding everyone in the IBT meeting that WBCCI is a Member Lead, HQ Supported, and Executive Council/Committee Measured Club.

However you celebrate this holiday season, I wish you and yours joy and blessings, and I look forward to seeing you down the road,

Brad

Brad Briggs #215
President, Region 4

region 4



The place where...
new best friends meet!

From the First Vice President

We rally together! — This does not happen by accident.

Hello Everyone,

Kathy and I have traveled a lot this year. We've been to Maine, California, Florida, and many places in between. We have met a lot of the members of Region 4 this year and expect to meet a lot more in the next few years. Camping season in our neck of the woods has come to an end. It's time to settle in for the Holidays, reflect on the past season and look to the next season. As I was looking for inspiration to write this article, I looked back at previous newsletters. Instead of rewording, I thought I would publish a couple of excerpts that I found inspirational.



The first one is from Don Hetzler, R4 President 2017-2019:

"You are probably wondering at this point why I listed all traveling and rallying. I wasn't showing off my memory skills. We all know how those are. I intended to remind you that if you are feeling a little overwhelmed about scheduling events for next season, please, take a look at the diverse activities of other units. They are doing it. Join in, reach out, use the calendar as a source for new destinations, switch things up by adding new venues, add in a rally at a nice state park or someone's back 40. Big is great, but not always better. If attendance has dwindled, pick a place that takes the load off the hosts but provides an enjoyable, interesting weekend for those who attend (like a state park). If you want to go big or have run out of ideas, join in with the more active units. If you run out of rallies on your unit calendar and want to join another, give them a call or email them to let them know you would like to attend. See what they are doing and what works. I did. It was great fun and educational."

The second one is from Karen Fisher, R4 President 2019-2021:

"But whatever your local club plans are, it is time to look at the past year and say a big "Thank you!" to the leaders of our local clubs. They have taken their time and effort to do their best for your club during this difficult and challenging year. And we also recognize those leaders who will be installed during the coming weeks to lead your local club into the next year. We thank them as well for volunteering to be a leader. I ask each of you to reach out to your leaders to see if you can do some small job to make their lives easier. Maybe you can host a rally, plan a luncheon, be a committee chair, or volunteer to fill that open leadership position in your club. The job is not so overwhelming if everyone does a little bit. Someone once told me that the more you put into the club, the more you will get out of it. I genuinely believe that to be true, as without the volunteer work I am doing, I may not have met many of you. So, recognize your leaders, both past and present, say or send a "Thank You," and volunteer wherever and whenever you can. The blessings are well worth the effort."

Let me end by thanking everyone in the Club that has attended an event, volunteered at an event, hosted an event, or volunteered to be an officer at any level in the Club. We look forward to traveling, seeing our friends, and meeting new friends in 2023.

Happy Holidays,

Fred Kiehl, #2544
Region 4, 1st VP

From the Second Vice President

I am looking forward to next year's parties! — and meeting more new friends.

Greetings,

And this year's party is over. What an exciting year of travel and adventure! Six states (I lost count), many miles, and so many epic journeys and experiences. I can't wait for 2023.

Our Airstream is tucked away for the winter, and we're just dreaming about new trips in the coming year. Jill and I have already started discussing what we want to do in Kalamazoo at the Region 4 Rally.

As I finish my first year and a half as the Second Vice President of Region 4, I have learned a few things from my observations. I've realized that this club only exists because of volunteers. Those who volunteer do many things to keep this club going, and they help in their local clubs, regional events, and international events.



One of the things that I think people often overlook is that some advantages come with volunteering. For example, you may qualify for early arrival at rallies if you volunteer.

People who volunteer meet more people and make new friends. It's wonderful to watch people from different parts of the region greet each other at a regional event, and it's often like seeing long-lost friends. Volunteers seem to enjoy themselves and have lots of fun.

Being the outside chair for the Region 4 rally in Wooster earlier this year was great, and I met lots of people who are now my friends.

Meeting people from different local clubs helps us learn about other rallies and events and helps expand our options for deciding on trips we might enjoy. When Jill and I traveled to different areas, it was pleasant to know people there already.

Volunteering helps the region, whether you're volunteering for your local club or helping out at regional or international rallies.

I highly recommend finding ways to help out in whatever way you like, which makes the Airstream life much more rewarding.

I hope 2022 was a good year for you and that 2023 is even better. I look forward to seeing all my Airstream friends in the coming year – especially the ones I have not met yet!

Hope to see you soon,

Mike Pastva #6931
Region 4 2nd VP

REGION 4

Time to Register for the 2023 Region 4 Rally

The 2023 Region 4 Rally will be held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, starting Tuesday, May 16, through Sunday, May 21, 2023. Parking on the drive-in day, Tuesday, May 16, begins at 10 a.m.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Rendezvous in Kalamazoo!
2023 Region 4 Rally
May 16-21, 2023

Go to <https://airstreamclub.org/region-4-rally-2> for online registration or to print out a paper registration form.

Get Your Scavenger Hunt Team Organized and Let's Rendezvous

By: Barb Derian, #10826, Rally Scavenger Hunt Coordinator



How many of us have memories of scavenger hunts, using clues to find a hidden item or location? Region 4 has a Scavenger Hunt planned for the Rendezvous in Kalamazoo Rally. On this fun-filled Kalamazoo scavenger hunt, we walk a 1.5-mile loop downtown searching for storied buildings and great green spaces. Which U.S. presidents have left their mark on Bronson Park? How did the Haymarket District go from selling farming wares to New Wave coffee?

Find out answers to these and other questions on this scavenger hunt of Kalamazoo! Your team will embark on this epic scavenger hunt over two full days while learning about Kalamazoo's art, culture, and history. Walking from landmark to landmark, you will learn interesting facts, complete challenges, and have some laughs along the way. Team members will take many photos you can download, and we'll share them throughout the Rally. And for those of us with a competitive spirit, teams will have a chance to earn points and top the leaderboard!

What better way to explore the city of Kalamazoo? Sign up for the Rally today and stay tuned for more information on registering for the K'Zoo Scavenger Hunt.



Will this Rally have Local Club (Unit) Baskets?

Yes, like last year, each Local Club donates a "basket" of items (usually worth ~\$75) to raise money for the Rally's Local Charity. The items in the "basket" can either play on the Rally Theme or not. To win a basket, an attendee will buy one or more tickets to place in a container associated with the basket(s) that they would like to win. A winning ticket will be drawn from the container of each basket. The Local Club raising the most money for the Rally's Local Charity will receive recognition and have the all-important **BRAGGING RIGHTS!** Who will beat NOVA for bragging rights this year?

Pet Policy for the Region 4 Rally

By: Brad Briggs, #215, Region 4 President

The Kalamazoo Expo Center does not allow pets in their buildings. The following policy was modified from the suggested WBCCI Pet Policy. See the Tips and Tricks section for more information about this topic.

"All pets must be on 6-foot, non-retractable leashes when outside the Airstream. Please always check collars and leashes to ensure they fit correctly and are working properly. Owners may use a size-appropriate pet containment system at the campsite. Except for working service animals, pets are not permitted in the buildings or during a meal in outside dining/food preparation areas. Well-mannered dogs are welcome to play and exercise in designated dog parks. Always clean up after your pet. And make sure your pet has an ID tag."

We need to be aware that not all WBCCI members regard pets as members with free rein.



WBAC Region 4 Needs You

Calling all Region 4 Members attending the Region 4 Rally in Kalamazoo.

Region 4 First Vice President, Mike Pastva, seeks members willing to give a session at the Rally. He is open to all suggestions. To get your creative juices going, here are some ideas:

- Traveling with pets
- Health and Nutrition/Healthy eating while on the road
- Content Creators.....You
Tube channels, Podcast and Blogs, Photography, and Instagram channels about Airstreaming
- Exercise while traveling
- Traveling with Children
- Routine Airstream or tow vehicle Maintenance
- Quilting and Knitting Bee
- Other Hobbies/Crafts
- Using apps for traveling and navigation, etc.
- Using Grupio
- Holding a "Newbie" Rally.

Series on Kalamazoo and the Surrounding Area

By: Jane Briggs, #215, Newsletter Editor

Part II: What to See and Do in Kalamazoo County, Michigan

"The Trails, The Parks, and So Much More!"

The Trails

According to the website, AllTrails, there are 16 trails in Kalamazoo County designed for hiking, biking, trail running, or just exploring the area. All are very scenic in all seasons, and many are pet-friendly. A few of the more popular trails include the Asylum Lake Trail, the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail Loop, the Kal-Haven Trail, and the Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail.



One of the easiest trails in the county's southwest corner is the Asylum Lake Trail. This 2.9-loop trail is rated as "easy" and can be completed in approximately an hour. Birding, fishing, and hiking are popular on and around this trail. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed. (<https://wmich.edu/asylumlake>)

Another popular trail is the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail Loop, a 4.5-mile loop trail near Nazareth, Michigan. Overall, this is an easy route, taking an average of 1.5 hours to complete. Many people walk and hike this trail, but there is still a great deal of quiet solitude, with no dogs permitted on the trail. Another advantage of this location is the Kalamazoo Nature Center nearby. (<https://www.kalcounty.com/parks/krvt/>)

For those who love to bike, there are two great options. First is the Kal-Haven Trail, an easy 34.3-mile bikeway (one way) connecting Kalamazoo with South Haven (Oshtemo) on Lake Michigan. On average, it takes over 10 hours to complete, yet it is a very popular trail for biking, including mountain bikes. Dogs are welcome as long as they are on a leash. (<https://www.michigan.org/property/kal-haven-trail-state-park>)

A second option is the 7.3-mile Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail which takes over 2 hours to complete. Again, this is considered an easy route for hiking and road biking. You will probably encounter others on this route as it is popular for birding. Dogs are welcome and may be off-leash in some areas. (<https://portagemi.gov/facilities/facility/details/Portage-Creek-Bicentennial-Park-19>)

The County Parks

The Kalamazoo County Government's website details the five county parks and their facilities: <https://www.kalcounty.com/parks/krvt/>. Starting just a few days prior to our Rally, the Kalamazoo (Area) Bike Week runs from the Saturday before Mother's Day through the next Saturday. Its purpose is to celebrate the many benefits and joys of bicycling in the Kalamazoo and surrounding area. Plus, May is National Bike Month! The 12th annual "KBW" will be May 13-20, 2023. This event is open to everyone and is hosted by Friends of Kalamazoo Valley River Trail and Friends of Kal-Haven Trail. The mission of these groups is to provide for the expansion and maintenance of the trails and continue programming, thereby attracting more people to take advantage of the regional resources. More info about this special biking event can be found here: <https://kalamazoobikeweek.org/>.

Another popular Kalamazoo county park with RV camping is Markin Glen County Park. Since we camped the first time here as part of an Airstream Joint Rally, we have returned several times, all with positive experiences. Although located in what looks like a residential area, you will be pleasantly surprised with the 38 sites, full hookups, and a small sand beach beside a lake with walking trails. Consider stopping here before or after the rally to take advantage of this beautiful camping location.



Markin Glen County Park was originally the estate of Morris Markin, the founder of Checker Motors Corporation of Kalamazoo. The Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County was responsible for leading the fundraising drive that allowed the west side of Markin Glen to open as a county park in 1994 after the County acquired the property from the City of Kalamazoo.

Markin Glen features unique and beautiful natural features. From the top of one of the highest points in Kalamazoo, hikers can experience a scenic view of downtown. The park is also home to a wide variety of spring flowers and has a mature beech maple forest. The state-of-the-art campground was opened in 2004.

The Kalamazoo Nature Center is just up the road from Markin Glen County Park. The Kalamazoo Nature Center is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to create relationships & experiences that welcome and inspire people to discover, enjoy, value, and care for nature. Over 14 miles of hiking trails wind through some of the most remarkable habitats in Michigan, so make sure to check out their list of activities and trails at <https://naturecenter.org/visit/>

The Museums

One of the most popular museums in the area, the Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum, 6151 Portage Road, Portage, Michigan, is a true gem! The Air Zoo was initially founded as the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum. Still, today it is an aviation museum and indoor amusement park next to the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport in Portage, Michigan. The Air Zoo holds many historical and rare aircraft, including the world's fastest air-breathing aircraft, the SR-71B Blackbird.



Visitors can take advantage of various experiences at the Air Zoo, including flight simulators, indoor amusement park rides, the Missions Theater, and biplane rides. In addition, the Air Zoo boasts dozens of historical exhibits, including more about the history of Guadalcanal and space exploration.

More information about Air Zoo can be found here: <https://www.airzoo.org/>

Another great museum, The Kalamazoo Valley Museum, is located at 230 N Rose Street, Kalamazoo, and bills itself as a "hands-on" museum. Although aimed mainly at families, all ages will enjoy the exhibits focused on science, technology, and history. Kalamazoo Valley Community College operates the museum, and admission to the facility is free. Inside the museum is a planetarium along with changing and permanent exhibits. For more information, including hours of operation and directions, visit. <https://kalamazoomuseum.org/exhibits>.

For Birders

If peace and quiet are what you are looking for, less than 15 miles from the Kalamazoo Expo Center is Michigan State's W.K. Kellogg Biological Station or Kellogg Bird Sanctuary for short--yes, the cereal people--with its three miles of trails and numerous habitats surrounding Wintergreen Lake, the heart of the Sanctuary grounds. Visitors will see a variety of birds that call the Sanctuary home, including our resident waterfowl, gamebirds, and raptors. The Sanctuary is excellent for birding, nature photography, or simply enjoying a walk outside. No dogs permitted. The Sanctuary offers many different types of programming, and their calendar of events can be found here: <https://birdsantuary.kbs.msu.edu/events-programs/> Admission is as follows: Adults (\$5), Senior Citizens (\$4) and Children, Ages 2-17, (\$3), and Children under Age 2 (Free).



Area Breweries

Many people may know Kalamazoo and the surrounding area as home to several excellent breweries. As described on the Discover Kalamazoo website, here are some of the suggested best Kalamazoo breweries you may want to try during our Rally:

[Bell's Brewing](#) is the oldest and most popular of Kalamazoo breweries, which has been serving up delicious beer since the 1980s.



[One Well Brewing](#) brings plenty of creativity and passion for quality brews to their business, which is reflected in their incredible range of beer and cider.

[Final Gravity Brewing Co.](#) is located on the Pedestrian portion of the Kalamazoo Mall and is a great place to sample their range of beer.

[Brite Eyes Brewing Company](#), located in the Southtown neighborhood, features a great menu and huge windows that offer tons of natural light and great views.

Don't miss a chance to visit the [Kalamazoo Beer Exchange](#). It's undoubtedly one of the most interesting Kalamazoo breweries and offers beer lovers an unforgettable experience, including food and games.

Community Service

WBCCI Foundation 23N23 program

The WBCCI Foundation is asking Airstream Owners to donate \$23 in 2023 to the Foundation. They are calling this giving program 23N23. The 22N22 was a very successful last year — let's do it again this year!

Use the Donate button on the [Foundation web page](#) to donate or send a check to WBCCI Foundation, PO Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0612. Donors receive a ribbon for their name badge and a window decal.

Region 4 Community Service Update

By Jamie Kingseed, Community Service Chair, #3824

I am in the beginning stages of arranging a volunteer event at a food bank associated with Feeding America. I thought this event would be held in the late summer or early fall of 2023. I have just reached out to a potential location and hope to hear back from them soon with how our services would be most beneficial. This location was picked based on the apparent opportunities and proximity to a campground.

I sent out an email to the current Region and Local Club Presidents and Vice Presidents asking for a list of planned events with dates that are taking place in our Region's Local Clubs in 2023. I hope to schedule this community service event around the other already-planned events.

This will be the first event of this type that I have put together. Once a location is picked, I plan on making a visit to scout out the area and make sure that this is a good fit for the Region members. I do not intend for the location picked out for this event to be the location picked out for future Region events. The intent of this "service" is to help out in different locations within our Region. Each year we will find a new place in Region 4 land.

If anyone has an idea for an event or needs assistance with an event that they are currently working on, as always, I would be more than happy to help out in any way that I can.

Also, if you have an event planned or that took place in the past that you would like posted in the Community Service portion of an upcoming newsletter, feel free to send me the information so I can add this to this update. Please send the information to jkingseed@gmail.com or (937) 539-3139.

Membership Renewal

By John Schnettler, #6594

(John is Vintage Airstream Club's Membership Chair, and this message is a paraphrase of his letter to VAC-Vintage Airstream Club members.)

It's VAC membership renewal time! If you still need to do so, time is running out.

If your WBCCI renewal date is January 1, the "Renewal Window" is now open, and it's time to renew your membership.

The WBCCI Headquarters now collects the dues for your Local Club, Intra Clubs, and Affiliate Clubs. To renew all your memberships in one easy form (one-stop shopping) go to <https://airstreamclub.org> to renew online or contact WBCCI HQ at (937) 596-5211.

Thank you for your continued support of WBCCI at all levels.



Swiss Festival National Rally

By Fred Kiehl, Chairperson, BRN #2544



60th Swiss Festival National Rally

September 23 to October 1, 2023, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Join us for a week of FUN and FELLOWSHIP in the heart of Ohio Amish Country.

To register, go to: <https://airstreamclub.org/swiss-festival-national-rally>.



For additional information about the Swiss Festival National Rally, go to <https://airstreamclub.org/swiss-festival-national-rally> or contact Fred Kiehl at Fred@KiehlBuilding.com.

INTERNATIONAL

2023 - 66th International Rally in Rock Springs, WY

The Rally is full! Sign up for the Wait List or Boondock Parking

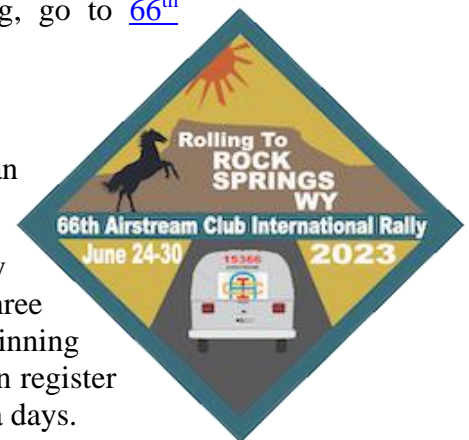


To sign up for the Wait List or Boondock Parking, go to [66th International Rally](#).

If you are registered, here is some food for thought.

What's the rally schedule? A preliminary program can be found [here](#).

When should I get there? Saturday, June 24, is the general parking day included with the base RV registration cost. You may choose to arrive up to three days before this general parking date for an additional \$50 per day beginning Wednesday, June 21. If you aren't sure when you want to arrive yet, you can register for the base rate and then fill out [this form](#) later if you decide to add any extra days.



When should I leave? The rally will go through Friday evening, June 30. Depark day is Saturday, July 1. However, the Sweetwater Events Complex (SEC) has arranged a [Stay and Play package](#) to allow you to stay parked (or move to a different spot at the SEC) for a reduced rate through July 16.

Caravan to the Rally? Groups with five or more rigs must register as a caravan to be parked together. To establish your group as a caravan, register your group by emailing rally@airstreamclub.org.

Save the Date for the 67th International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri

Saturday, October 5, through Friday, October 11, 2024. The 67th International Rally will be the first fall international rally, and a Fall timeframe intends to take advantage of cool temperatures.

International Board of Trustees (IBT) Meeting

By: Brad Briggs, #215, Region 4 President

Starting this fiscal year, the International Board of Trustees (IBT) will meet quarterly via Zoom. The voting members of the IBT are the International Executive Council and Region Presidents. Members are invited to attend. The next IBT meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2023. [How to Participate in International Board of Trustees Meetings](#). [IBT Meeting Calendar](#).



Highlights of the November 17 meeting:

A report of the Leadership Recruitment Special committee report chaired by Mona Heath detailed the process. Any club member who feels they can contribute to the newly formed Executive Council will be able to submit a universal Statement of Candidacy. The Leadership Recruitment Special committee will then put forward the slate of names for a vote by the entire WBCCI membership. The statement of candidacy will be available on the Club website and should be submitted no later than April 1 of the election year.

After April 1st, watch for posts in the Members-only section of the Club website, email blasts, various social media platforms, and the May issue of the Blue Beret magazine. Voting will run from June 1-June 15, and the Club Website will host frequently asked questions on this subject. **BE LOOKING AND TALKING TO MEMBERS NOW ABOUT RUNNING FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

The Board heard an excellent report from Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) President Lynn Talsma. VAC continues to grow and be a special, fun driving force in our Airstream club. Visit <https://vintageairstreamclub.com/events>.

Joe Peplinski, WBCCI Historical Committee, gave an informative and enthusiastic report. Physical space for archives continues to be an issue. He stressed the importance of archiving and submitting possible Airstream memorabilia-especially digital pictures of events. Be sure to identify individuals and places. Please, save your photos to a thumb drive before you hit delete! Especially welcome is memorabilia from the 70s, 80s, and 90s eras. Submit your pictures to: history@airstreamclub.net.

The Pride Streamers Intra-Club received a provisional charter.

For the full minutes and video recording of the meeting, go to: <https://airstreamclub.org/international-board-trustees/20222023-international-board-trustees-q2-november-17-2022-business>

International Quarterly Membership Campfire Chat

Join ACI's President, Eric McHenry, and Corporate Manager, Lori Plumer, at the Quarterly Membership Campfire Chat. All chats are on Wednesday at 7 p.m. ET. The next two discussions will be on March 8 and May 24, 2023.

During the chats, learn what's new, hear what's coming, get event updates, and ask questions. Watch your email for the login information. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting things happening in our club!



Region 4 Member Tips & Tricks

Airstream Inc's 10 Favorite National Parks

<https://www.airstream.com/community/airstreams-favorite-top-10-national-parks/>

Airstream's 10 Favorite National Parks Guide gives you background info on their top national park picks, including wildlife, hiking, and weather information to help you plan a visit. Go to the link above and download the guide for more details.

Park	Main Attractions
Glacier National Park	Wildlife: Grizzly bears, moose, mountain goats, mountain lions, and more. Panoramic views: Calm glacier lakes and sprawling mountain ranges Hikes: A range of right-off-the-road views and high-elevation hikes
Redwood National Park	Trees: The tallest trees in the world live here Beaches: Rocky coastlines and Pacific Sea life Scenic drives: Roads with many twists, turns, and vantage points
Olympic National Park	Geographic diversity: Mountains, rainforest, and beach in one park Camping: Pitch a tent in the forest or right on the sand at the beach Tide pooling: Explore all the sea life near and on the shore in low tide
Grand Canyon National Park	Panoramic views: Sunrise to sunset, the canyon stuns with its sweeping views Hikes: Do a day hike or go rim to rim over the course of a few days History: The Canyon is rich with history, from Native American tribes to early explorers to today
Arches National Park	Photography: The arches, pinnacles, towers, and balanced rocks are awe-inspiring Hiking: Hit several accessible trails to see formations you can't see from the road History: See petroglyphs drawn by ancient Pueblo tribes who lived here hundreds of years ago
Yosemite National Park	Stunning views: The Sierra Nevada's numerous waterfalls and coniferous forests Rock climbing: El Capitan is where modern rock climbing got its start Wildlife: Black bears, mule deer, red foxes, bobcats, bighorn sheep, and more
Mammoth Cave National Park	Easy tours: Accessible views of stalactites, stalagmites, bats, and ceiling paintings More wild tours: Squeeze into the cave's smaller spaces and get a little dirty River activities: Above ground, you can boat, kayak, canoe, fish, and camp along two rivers
Acadia National Park	Lighthouse: The Bass Harbor Head Light is one of the most iconic in the world Calm lakes: Peaceful, clear water and views for days Mountain sunrises: Cadillac Mountain offers the first sunrise views in the U.S. every morning
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Wildlife: Black bears, elk, birds, river otters, and owls Appalachian Trail: 71 miles of the Appalachian Trail goes through the park Mountain views: Views of the Great Smoky Mountains everywhere you go
Everglades National Park	Boardwalk trails: Walk above the water in the Indian Hardwood Forest On the water: Take a boat tour or paddle out to the backcountry and camp on Everglades islands Reptiles: The only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles co-exist

Pet Policies

By: Brad Briggs, #215, Region 4 President

This topic could have gone in the International section, but I chose to put it in the Tips and Tricks. There has been much discussion around pet policies with the IBT lately, and the following includes content provided by other IBT members in our conversation about this topic.

Here is the link for those planning a rally or a meal event and would like a boilerplate of the suggested WBCCI Pet Policy that can be easily modified: <https://airstreamclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Pet%20Policy.pdf>.

Jane and I are pet people and understand how pets are a part of the family. However, some people do not. We pet people need to be respectful of this perspective. The reality is that people have a range of emotions towards pets, from annoyance to fear. Even the most well-behaved pet is unpredictable when placed in a crowded space with strangers and other pets. We have attended various events where pets were permitted to roam around the area, both inside and outside event spaces.



In case a member is asked to remove their service animal from meals or activities, they can affirm that it is a trained service animal and it performs a vital service related to a disability. There is no governmental agency that certifies a service animal. Still, a quick Google search shows many companies willing to provide "registration" for a fee but not requiring any testing to determine if the animal is trained to provide a service. "Emotional support pets" or "comfort animals" are not currently recognized by the ADA because it has been determined that "providing comfort" is something an animal does "inherently." Check out this link to the ADA website regarding service dogs: <https://www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/>

One region president was confronted with a situation where a member with a dog was wearing an "official" service animal jacket they purchased from Goodwill. There is no governmental agency that regulates or provides this attire. In the above link, two obvious questions can be asked: 1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and 2) What task has the dog been trained to perform? It is not worthwhile to ask for documentation that the animal is registered, licensed, or certified as a service animal since an agency does not regulate it. And it is not appropriate to ask the owner to have the dog demonstrate its task or ask about the nature of the owner's disability.

In the near future, Region 6 President, Larry Madden, will have an article in the *Blue Beret* about Pet Etiquette. I look forward to what he has to say. He is a big pet lover and recently lost his beloved pet.



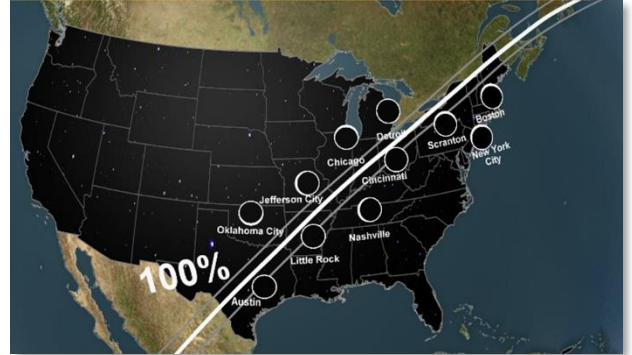
SPOTLIGHT: WHERE WE ARE GOING

2024 Region 4 Rally Save the Date

By: Fred Kiehl, #2544, Region 4 First Vice President

Save the dates! April 7–11, 2024

I received positive feedback about moving the 2024 Region Rally to April to coincide with the total Solar Eclipse. The idea of having the Region Rally in conjunction with the 2024 Solar Eclipse is now in the works. The Eclipse will be on April 8 and viewable from West Central Ohio to Northeastern Ohio. I have found a venue located in an area close to "The Mothership" where we can tour the factory and Heritage Center and also close enough to the museum at Wright-Patterson AFB and other attractions. Want to know the Rally Location? Come to Kalamazoo for the big reveal at the 2023 Region 4 Rally!



In a nutshell, we would be moving the Region Rally from the 2nd or 3rd week of May to Monday, April 7, through Thursday, April 11, 2024 to take advantage of this incredible experience!

Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club (SEMAC)

By: Linda Smith, #4552, President

Save the dates! June 8–12, 2023!

SEMAC will celebrate its 50th Anniversary at Holiday Park in Traverse City, Michigan!

You are invited. More details to come as they become available.



Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream (NOVA)

By: Randy Shiplett, #3516, President

Many NOVA members have stored their Airstreams for the winter, and several are wintering in the Southwest or the Southeast. We wish everyone Happy Holidays and for the snowbirds safe travels.

NOVA held its annual meeting via zoom on November 20. The membership approved officers for 2023, rally ideas for 2023 were discussed, and it was reported that NOVA's membership has grown to 94 regular members and 49 affiliate members.



Events planned for NOVA include

- Annual Holiday Party at 1487 Brewery in Plain City, OH, where we will collect donations for The Open Shelter, Inc.
- Spring Clean Out Rally at Alum Creek State Park from April 27-30, 2023. The rally will consist of water system sanitization, wheel lug nut torque checks, tire pressure checks, propane system checks, hot water tank cleaning, and more.
- Plans for a casual campout at Lake Jasper RV Village in Hardeeville, SC, from October 22-29, 2023.
- Our service project at Santa's Hide Away Hollow will continue with a work rally planned for late summer or early fall.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and Safe Travels! Randy

SPOTLIGHT: WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream (NOVA)

By: Judi Moran #04405, Trustee

Rally in the Valley, September 15–19, 2022
Tom and Judy Moran's Property

After the warm welcome Tom and I had from Region 4, Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream (NOVA), in 2019, we discovered that many of our new club member friends have never been to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). This is probably due to the lack of R.V. camping within or close to our nearest National Park. Tom and I are blessed with 3.5 secluded acres surrounded by the park where we could fit at least 20 Airstreams, so we decided to remedy that situation.

Rally in the Valley was our way to let fellow Airstreamers experience the CVNP. Although we couldn't provide full hookups, we ran power cords and water hoses to those who needed to "top off" and had a dump station on site.

We lucked out with great weather, and the sunshine helped everyone with solar panels! There was a great response, with 18 rigs total. Thirteen from Ohio, two from Michigan, two from Pennsylvania, and one from Montana!

A highlight of the Rally was an excursion on the Silver Bronco, a dome car on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR). The Silver Bronco was one of the six dome/sleeper/observation cars explicitly built for the famed California Zephyr, which operated as a passenger train between San Francisco and Chicago for 20



years. Its unique aluminum exterior made it an extra special attraction for Airstreamers, and we had the bonus of also using the Silver Solarium, a combination dome/observation car from the California Zephyr. We were joined by several WBCCI members and a couple of our friends who didn't attend the rally but helped fill up the train car, which held 66 passengers. The food on board was enhanced by serving a smoked black lager called Rail Dog and a limited edition CVSR 50th anniversary IPA! The only complaint we heard was that everyone was having such a fun time mixing and mingling with each other that they didn't get to enjoy the beautiful scenery from the train!



After the 3½ hour train ride, continuing with the silver train theme, everyone enjoyed a "hobo meal" (meat and veggie versions, with potatoes, onions, carrots, and special sauce wrapped in SILVER foil and cooked on an open fire) accompanied by various side dishes and desserts.

Other attractions and activities enjoyed by rally attendees included Bird Watching at Beaver Marsh led by Buster Brandish, hiking and biking some of the numerous park trails, including Brandywine Falls, Blue Hen Falls, Everett Covered Bridge, and Lock 29. A fantastic sunset dazzled us from the Ledges at Virginia Kendall. With over 100 waterfalls, a beaver marsh, and wildlife siting opportunities along 125 miles of hilly, wetland, and woodland hiking trails and 87 miles of "Towpath Trail" for hiking and biking, there were plenty of opportunities for exploration on foot, bike, or water. There was even a free Rhythm on the River concert with Carlos Jones and the P.L.U.S. Band at Howe Meadow!

A few rally attendees also decided to explore outside the park. They visited the iconic West Side Market, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Cleveland's USS Cod Submarine Memorial.

A campfire was lit for the entire duration, and Happy Hours around the campfire was a popular draw. Later in the evenings, thanks to Uwe Eickert, the guitar and fiddle came out, and music around the campfire was a bonus.

What a great group of people--old and new friends. We thank everyone who came and made this a successful and fun rally. Based on the feedback that almost everyone agreed they would like to do this again every other year, we are looking forward to hosting Rally in the Valley II in 2024!

Miami Valley Ohio Airstream Club

By: John Sellers #01587, Miami Valley Ohio Airstream Club Newsletter Editor

Fall Turkey Rally, October 6–9, 2022
Franklin County Indiana 4-H Fairgrounds

The annual fall Turkey Rally held jointly with the Cincinnati Ohio Airstream Club was the usual success, with good weather and, of course, good food! Thanks to Mark Kennedy, Cincinnati Unit President, rally host, Executive chefs Mark Kennedy and Velina Durbin, and all the member sous chefs who contributed!



Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream (NOVA)

By: Randy Shiple, President #3516

What an exciting camping season it has been for NOVA members. Chris and I spent over 100 nights in our trailer this season which is a new record for us. We thoroughly enjoyed all the Club, Region, and International events we could attend this year. We had many great experiences and enjoyed meeting new people along our travels.



Calling All Region 4 Members for Tips & Tricks

**TIPS
AND
TRICKS**

As a Region 4 member, you have undoubtedly worked around many issues, challenges, and storage problems while traveling in your Airstream. This section of the Newsletter is dedicated to sharing travel tips and sharing tips and tricks for making our Airstreams work better for us! Please send any tips and tricks (no matter how trivial you think they are) to Jane Briggs (jebriggs80@yahoo.com) for use in future newsletter editions.

RECIPES FOR THE ROAD

Healthy Recipes – Snacks for the Trail

Collected by: Jane Briggs #215

The Region 4 Rally in Kalamazoo presents an opportunity for all of us to get out on our bikes, take a hike, paddle a kayak or canoe, and enjoy nature. When spending time in the outdoors, packing food that stays fresh, doesn't spoil, yet is nutritious and tastes good can be challenging. Remember that dairy recipes typically can safely sit out for just up to 2 hours. Taking along a small cooler with cooling packs makes for a better-tasting snack or lunch.

Try one of these recipes from EatingWell's Best Recipes of 2022 when you come to Kalamazoo or on your next outing in nature! Enjoy!

Source: <https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/7949991/cucumber-sandwich/>

Cucumber Sandwich

Ingredients

- ☐ 2 ounces cream cheese at room temperature
- ☐ 1 tablespoon low-fat plain Greek yogurt
- ☐ 1 tablespoon sliced fresh chives
- ☐ 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- ☐ ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- ☐ 2 slices whole-wheat sandwich bread
- ☐ ⅓ cup thinly sliced English cucumber



Directions

Stir cream cheese, yogurt, chives, dill, and pepper in a small bowl until well blended. Spread the mixture evenly on one side of each bread slice. Top one slice of bread with cucumber slices, then top with the other bread slice, cream cheese-side down. Cut the crusts from the sandwich and cut it in half diagonally.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 sandwich

Per Serving: 358 calories; protein 12g; carbohydrates 29g; dietary fiber 4g; sugars 6g; fat 22g; saturated fat 12g; mono fat 6g; poly fat 2g; trans fatty acid 1g; cholesterol 59mg; vitamin a iu 889IU; vitamin b3 niacin 3mg; vitamin c 3mg; vitamin e iu 3IU; folate 37mg; vitamin k 19mg; sodium 439mg; calcium 174mg; chromium 2mcg; iron 2mg; magnesium 56mg; phosphorus 210mg; potassium 309mg; zinc 2mg; omega 6 fatty acid 2g; niacin equivalents 3mg.

Peanut Butter Energy Balls

These Peanut Butter Energy Balls are no-bake, and you can swap in different nut butters.

Source: <https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/275207/peanut-butter-energy-balls/>

Ingredients

- ☐ 2 cups rolled oats (see Tip)
- ☐ 1 cup natural peanut butter or other nut butter
- ☐ ½ cup honey
- ☐ ¼ cup mini chocolate chips
- ☐ ¼ cup unsweetened shredded coconut



Directions

Combine oats, peanut butter (or other nut butter), honey, chocolate chips, and coconut in a medium bowl; stir well. Using a 1-tablespoon measure, roll the mixture into balls.

Tip: People with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity should use oats labeled "gluten-free," as oats are often cross-contaminated with wheat and barley.

To make ahead: Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days in the refrigerator or up to 3 months in the freezer.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 2 balls

Per Serving: 174 calories; protein 4.4g; carbohydrates 18.2g; dietary fiber 2.1g; sugars 9.7g; fat 9.2g; saturated fat 2.3g; vitamin c 0.1mg; folate 4.9mcg; calcium 6.1mg; iron 0.6mg; magnesium 12.8mg; potassium 53mg; sodium 47.7mg; added sugar 9g.

Exchanges: 2 fat, 1/2 other carbohydrate, 1/2 starch



Simple Cabbage Salad

Cabbage maintains a nice crunch when tossed with an easy dressing in this simple cabbage salad recipe. This easy salad is perfect for fall when cabbage is at its sweetest.

Source: <https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/7935110/simple-cabbage-salad/>

Ingredients

- ☐ 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ☐ 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ☐ 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ☐ 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ☐ 1 tablespoon honey
- ☐ 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ☐ ½ teaspoon salt
- ☐ ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ☐ 8 cups shredded green cabbage (from 1 small head)



Directions

Whisk lemon juice, oil, parsley, mustard, honey, garlic powder, salt, and pepper together in a large bowl. Add cabbage and toss to coat; let stand for 10 minutes. Toss again; serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 1 hour before serving.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 1/4 cups

Per Serving: 124 calories; fat 7g; sodium 408mg; carbohydrates 14g; dietary fiber 4g; protein 2g; sugars 9g; niacin equivalents 1mg; saturated fat 1g; vitamin a iu 299IU; potassium 268mg.



If you have a favorite recipe or several that make a delicious meal, submit it to Jane Briggs, Region 4 Newsletter Editor

Please help make this Newsletter interesting for all
by submitting ideas and articles.

Newsletter Deadlines and Publication Dates

Issue	Article Deadline	Publication Date
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1</i>	<i>March 15</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1</i>	<i>June 15</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>September 1</i>	<i>September 15</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1</i>	<i>December 15</i>



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This newsletter is for YOU, the Region 4 Member!

Feel free to submit information of interest to our members!

Newsletter issues typically include the following:

Spotlight: Where We Have Been (Unit Rally or Caravan
already taken)

Spotlight: Where We are Going (upcoming Unit Rally or
Caravan)

Healthy Airstream Cooking Recipes

Region 4 Member Tips & Tricks

Officer Articles

Announcements

Jane Briggs, Region 4 Newsletter Editor
(jebriggs80@yahoo.com)





**47th Airstream Club International
Region 4 Rally
May 16-21, 2023
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
Kalamazoo, MI**



REGISTRATION

RALLY FEES

- \$115 for each Airstream, Includes 5 Nights, Electric, Water, and One Pump-out
- \$110 for each Adult (18+); \$25 for each Youth 13-17; Free for Children (12 & Under)

PET POLICY – All pets must be on a 6-foot, non-retractable leashes when outside the Airstream. Please always check collars and leashes to ensure they fit correctly and are working properly. Owners may use a size-appropriate pet containment system can be used at the campsite. Except for working service animals, pets are not permitted in the buildings or during a meal in outside dining/food preparation areas. Well-mannered dogs are welcome to play and exercise in designated dog parks. Always clean up after your pet. And make sure your pet has an ID tag.

STAGING AREA – Rally parking starts at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

CANCELLATION POLICY – Refund requests sent to the Region 4 Rally Registrar in writing (email or U.S. mail) and postmarked by March 31, 2022, will receive a refund less a \$50 administrative fee. Refund requests postmarked on or after April 1, 2022, will receive a 50% refund. No refunds after May 1, 2022.

HOW TO REGISTER – Fill out the registration coupon below, make a check payable to WBCCI Region 4 (U.S. Funds Only), and mail it to R4 Rally Registrar, c/o Brad Briggs, 1659 East Glenhurst Dr. NW, Lancaster, OH 43130. Or register online: <https://airstreamclub.org/region4/region-4-rally>

QUESTIONS – Send general questions to r04president@wbcci.net or registration questions to r04registrar@gmail.com

✂

47th Airstream Club International, Region 4 Rally, May 16-21, 2023, Kalamazoo, MI

First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____ Vegetarian: Y N

Address: _____ Phone (c): _____

City: _____ State/Province: ____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Second Adult:

First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____ Vegetarian: Y N

Phone (c): _____

**** Use the reverse side of this coupon to list additional names. State: Name, Age (Adult or if under 18 their age), Vegetarian (Y/N)**

BRN: _____ Type: TT MH Length: _____ Slide: Y N

☐ This is the first Region 4 Rally I have attended

☐ I need accessible parking

☐ I am bringing a pet(s) to the rally (If yes, see the Pet Policy above)

Rally Attendee(s)	Quantity Info	Quantity	Rate	Amount
RV On Site	Yes = 1 No = 0		\$ 115	
Adult (18 & Over) (Each)	Enter number		\$ 110	
Youth (13 - 17) (Each)	Enter number		\$ 25	
Child (12 & Under)	Enter number		FREE	
GRAND TOTAL				