



### Officers

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#### Save the Date

**June 24-30** 66th International Rally, Rock Springs, WY

**October 25-28** Region 12 Rally, Pismo Coast Village RV

### President's Letter

Happy New Years GLAACer's. This is my first President's Letter to all of our members. First off, let me give personal thanks to Pam Pall who has helped me tremendously in the inner workings of this job. Without her guidance I would be lost. I know that all of you, like Nancy and I, are anxious to get back on the road for some great adventures since Covid has hopefully taken a backseat in our lives.

On a somber note, it is with heartfelt sadness that I inform you of the passing of Julie Guefen, wife of Eric and mother to daughter, Gabe. You may have met them while they camped with us at the Sequoia rally. Eric and Gabe are planning to attend the Kenney Grove St. Patricks Day event so we can all give them a warm welcome and hugs from our GLAAC family.

The group just returned from the Death Valley rally and a good time was had by all. Weather threatened the event, but that never stops our club from having a great time. Our 2023 rallies are scheduled, so check our events page on the website for dates and locations. Some of the events still need hosts or co-hosts, so if you feel inclined wade right in and sign up. Don't be intimidated by what you may have seen in prior rallies, you are your own rally master. Simple is good. Give it a try!

Two rallies coming up that are big on the bucket list are the Bluegrass Rally at the V6 Ranch and the International



Rally. If you've attended the Cali Rally in the past you already know how beautiful the V6 Ranch is. We will camp in the meadow and bike or carpool into Parkfield for the music all day long. Sign up and purchase your music tickets separately from camping.

The International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming will bring together 1,200 Airstreams in one location, amazing! There is a wait list at this time but get on it. As the date draws nearer there are always people who cancel. More info to follow.

So polish up the silver, fill those propane tanks and get those Honey-Do's completed as we look ahead to a great year of new adventures and memory-making travels. I'll look for you at a rally and will be the one wearing a beret!

On a final note, congratulations to our leadership team. I look forward to working with you over the next two years. - Michael

**2024 Events Survey Response Requested!**submitted by **Linda Calderon**

As the newly appointed Events Chairperson, I look forward to working with our Events Team and the results we receive from the 2024 Events Survey to find great places to hold our rallies next year. Yes, we are always looking ahead!

On January 30 an email survey was sent asking for your input. We welcome new ideas, locations and adventures. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return by February 27. Your responses will be most helpful to our team and incorporated into our planning process where possible.

Our first rally of 2023 is complete. There were several cancellations due to the Southern



Linda Calderon, Events Chairperson

California rain we received (and need!) yet we had over 10 Airstreams and lots of fun. The drive to Furnace Creek was just beautiful with open and clear roads with no mud slides or flooding.

I hope to see you at an event this year!

**2024 Events Survey, click here:**

<http://form.jotform.com/223376213613147>

**To see where we're going in 2023, click here:**

<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-los-angeles/glaac-events>

**Death Valley in Review**

submitted by Ralph Perri

After a couple of weeks of heavy weather all over California, Helen and I saddled up Paulina Airstream and hauled her over the hills to the long-anticipated GLAAC Death Valley outing which kicked off the 2023 season.

Thanks to lots of great prep work by Linda Calderon with many emails, some cancellations, and a few last minute joiners, we had a great group of families. There were all kinds of Airstreams and wonderful company at parties in neighboring campsites.

Death Valley National Park has an excellent visitor center and Ranger programs, and we found Furnace Creek to be a very well-run campground.

With no moon we enjoyed high-definition views of the night sky with the advantages of Kay Hoevel's telescopic equipment, infectious enthusiasm and expertise. She shared telescopic viewing and fabulous photos of nebula. Bundled up, she knows how to dress for those long, winter all-nighters with her scopes.

Death Valley is a strange environment of crazy landscapes, terrain, and weather extremes. The drive east into Death Valley on Route 190 was breathtaking. A long, dirt road ride through the bottom of the North American continent on West Side Road was a highlight.



Ralph & Helen Perri

This place is both remote and strange! We walked out on the salt flats at Badwater, 282 feet below sea level; then later looked down 5,400 feet onto Badwater from Dante's Point, another great drive. We hiked the sand dunes and Mosaic Canyon with Charlie and Alicia Andrews and were then treated to heavy winds and a sand storm.



Helen, Alicia, Charles and Ralph

There was some good cycling. Folks were game to follow me out on some gnarly dirt roads. People had fun they didn't expect, and enjoyed the occasional climb, all the way up to "Sea Level." One ride ended up at the ice cream parlor. Shout out to Kevin Ford, John Baird, Cliff and Vanessa Uyeda, and Bryan McMann.

Every night, we stumbled back to our cozy home in Paulina.



## Membership Update

submitted by Carol Grisotti

As shared at our annual business meeting in December, I am pleased to report that our club continues to grow! We currently have 109 members and 31 affiliates which makes for a great time wherever we gather.

I can only surmise why we are growing and that is our members have a love of adventure wrapped in a spirit of kindness and respect. We look forward to reconnecting with long-time members who have become friends and welcoming our new members.

I personally would like to thank all of our hosts who make the magic happen so that each event is enjoyable for our members.

One of my favorite quotes is from Wally Byam, founder of Airstream, who once said, "Keep your eyes on the stars and the stars in your eyes." I think you'll find a lot of starry-eyed people in the Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club!

I look forward to seeing you down the road!



Membership Chairperson, Carol Grisotti

**Registration is Boondock or Wait List at this time for the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming**

<https://airstreamclub.org/Rally2023>



I survived!

A NOTE FROM THE ROAD...the 25th anniversary of the colorful Key West 1/2 Marathon/5k race began with a pre-dusk bike ride three miles to Key West's historic seaport. Along the way the gypsy roosters, one of the quirky things Key West is known for, were crowing and put a smile on my face on the (very) brisk ride into town. With a cold spell moving through Florida, and the temps sitting in the low-50s when we left the Airstream, I was thankful for the pair of gloves I packed away as we jumped on our bikes. We arrived shortly before the 1/2 marathon began and what a thrill it was to see these super fast runners fly from the gate!

Having been eons since I entered a race, and living in this upbeat, lively community of Key West for two months now, I was determined to have fun along the way and the race participants didn't disappoint. There was such camaraderie along the course! For the most part I ran/walked/crawled about middle of the pack and enjoyed the event, stopping for some fun photos along the route. The event's fun "Road Trippin'" shirts were apropos!

At the end of the 5k (3.2 miles) were a lot of happy runners, a medal for finishing and Jim, cheering me on. With 49 states and 17 countries represented, this was an amazing race and I've already signed up for next year! - Lynda



**Meet A Member**

submitted by Glenn Stevens

As a guy who had to be dragged almost literally into a trailer for a simple ride to the beach, then a desert trip, then a Sequoia trip, the 15' vintage Shasta wasn't cutting it in the "glamping" department, so when I said I might be happier in an Airstream, Andromeda located one within weeks and we were headfirst into the Airstream life.

We bought our Airstream, Hi Ho Silver, in 2018. Other brands were considered but quickly discarded based on the quality of what we saw. We loved the sleek design and craftsmanship of the Airstream. After taking delivery, Andromeda had to brush up on her driving and towing skills since she is the one with the camping background (no, Glenn does not tow!).



Glenn & Andromeda with Hi Ho Silver



Denny, Stuebe, Andromeda, Glenn, Zayne & Rizwan

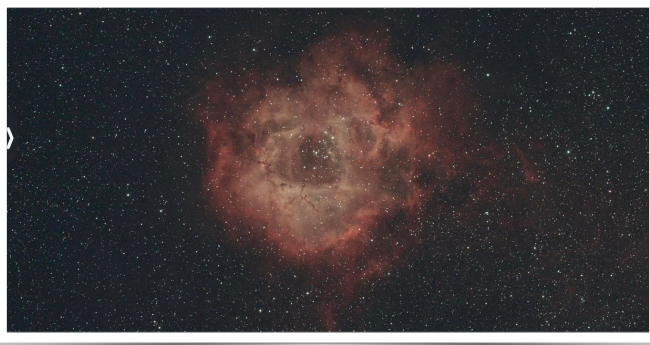
Our first GLAAC trip was Refugio. We ventured into that trip with our senses on high alert, as we didn't know anyone and didn't really know what we were doing. Nothing worse than looking like an amateur while being an amateur at the same time! First problem: The ground was wet from a series of rainstorms and the rig kept sinking. We just didn't have the right chocks. By the end of the long weekend, we learned quite a bit about care, maintenance and what we really need to keep on board in order to overcome the terrain and other obstacles of Airstream life. Oh, and we made new friends along the way!

Fast forward a few short years and I am honored to be the newly elected vice president of this club. When Andromeda and I started Airstreaming, we didn't even know there were clubs to join. Joining GLAAC opened up a world of adventures and amazing friends. We have both learned so much, how to take care of the rig, how to fix issues on the road, and always have a library of very valuable information in all of you who are always ready to help. You are all the most generous folks we've ever met.

Since the first trip, we have been throughout California and as far as the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. During COVID we took monthly, 3-4 day trips just to keep sane! We both work so Airstreaming full time is not an option – but regular trips are just what we need. Plus, we have seen places in California we didn't even know existed, and both of us have lived here all of our lives.

After 4+ years "on the road," we have not looked back! All of the loading, unloading, backing into crazy camp sites, buying all types of camping supplies, then re-buying and upgrading, and the regular maintenance, we love it more each time. More importantly, we look forward to seeing each one of you on our trips. What an amazing family and a community that just keeps opening up to us as we get more and more involved. We wouldn't be complete without our big aluminum baby, who is now a family member, as are all of you.

**Our GLA Members Are On The Go!**



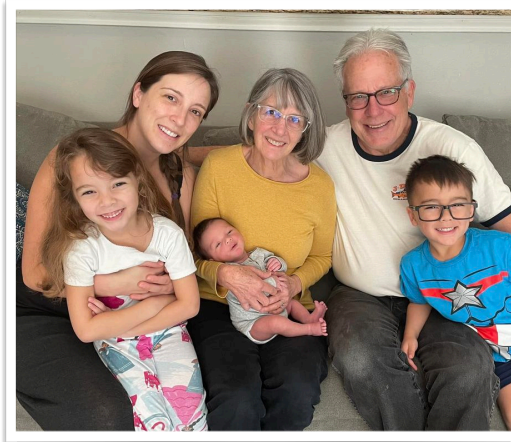
Kay's amazing Nebula photo, Death Valley



Dwayne & Laurie, Pismo Beach



Cliff, Vanessa, John, Ralph and Linda, Death Valley



Steve & Paula in Texas to welcome grandson, George



Ken & Kay take on Manhattan Beach and enjoy a visit with Don & Marion



Don & Marion drop in on Jim & Lynda Sugarloaf Key, FL





### Editor's Note

While our club newsletter is formatted, edited and delivered to your inbox by the editor, it is truly *your news* which makes it interesting. With this in mind, I am reaching out to all our members for participation.

- 1) With each issue we'll have an opportunity to *Meet a Club Member!* Members will be tapped to find out what you enjoy about Airstreaming; how it all began; any lessons learned on the road; what you did prior to club life. Maybe share something we don't know about you!
- 2) We have also incorporated *My Favorite Campground* where you simply write a few sentences about your favorite site and include a photo taken at the campground. With all the rolling we do, this will certainly inspire club members to try a new location!

Feel free to send one, or both of these items to me at anytime and they will be included in future issues of the Urban Update.

- Lynda

### Get Your GLA Swag Here!

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- Once established, order online using these codes:
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  - LIGHT COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1360294
  - DARK COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1389360
  - OK to change colors use logo code 1684885



- Call Lands End with questions. They are happy to work with you! 800.587.1541
- Lands End apparel will not be 'blocked' in red as shown in the logo
- Watch for the occasional discount and/or free logo

### Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club Member Photo Directory

Our club is in the process of assembling its first ever membership photo directory and we need your help! This directory, when completed, will be posted on our Members Only website and will be helpful in putting a face to a name. To date we have about 1/3 of our membership participating, but of course we would like to have a 100% response rate! Please send your photo (jpeg format works best) to Carolyn at [cbtomlinson@cox.net](mailto:cbtomlinson@cox.net).

Editor's Note: Thank you to our members who submitted photos for this edition and to those photographers whom I pulled photos from Facebook. And a special *Thank You* to those who provided an article, you make the Urban Update the outstanding club newsletter that it is!