

Issue 6
MARCH 2023

INLAND NW INSIDER

Newsletter of the Inland NW Airstream Club

airstreamclub.org/inland-nw

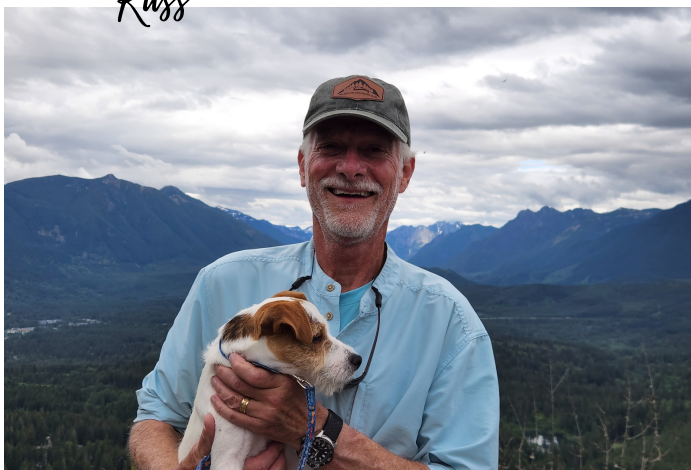
Dear INWACers,

As we find ourselves wishing for warmer weather in order to break our “silver bullets” out of storage, we realize just how fortunate we are to have the means to own an Airstream. There is hardly a camping trip when Robin and I don’t step into our Airstream and declare how lucky we are that we own “Ollie Luminum,” our 25 ft Flying Cloud. It is equally likely that you have also given your Airstream a funny original name. Maybe at one of our largest rallies we can put all of the names of our trailers in a hat and try to match the names with the owners.

This will be the year that Robin and I will be experiencing-- for the first time-- an international rally, a rodeo, the Washington unit's Potlatch Rally, and camping at other equally terrific locations. Our very young club has rapidly expanded the number of rallies in our catalog and has also added get-togethers and pop-up rallies. With the planned activities for this camping season, we can’t wait to renew acquaintances and meet new campers-- whether members, affiliates or from other clubs. I thank all of the rally hosts for putting in the time to make our rallies fun and educational. Also, this very newsletter is an example of how our members are committed to grow a healthy airstream club and communicate outward

May this camping season bring you joy, fellowship, and wonderment. We are certainly blessed to have the time and resources to crisscross this fantastic country with all it has to offer. Be safe and happy trails!

Russ



INWAC Board 2022-2023

President: Russ Lea
russlea1119@gmail.com

1st 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



HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HUMAN AND AIRSTREAM PLUMBING WHILE ON THE ROAD

by Steve Tabacek, First VP

In 2020 we purchased our first Airstream, a Flying Cloud 25 FBT and like many, equipped it with a simple hose connected one-stage \$25 filter. We changed the filter twice a year. We also used chlorine at the appropriate ratio to sterilize the freshwater tank initially and annually. Following our second year we had clogged sink screen filters and I wondered how effective the one-stage filter was and how safe the water was to use. I've never experienced it, but also read of people experiencing water pump issues, clogged shower heads and such. Over the years I've also heard and experienced very poor water quality at less-than-optimal RV parks.

We generally consumed drinking water from our onboard supply of store-bought drinking water bottles. With our new Airstream I figured it was time to do a bit of research and understand why it's important to filter our water while on the road. Look at the following graphic that I found online. I would hope to never see a human hair, fine beach sand, or grain of salt in my water, but looking at the list I don't really care to consume the smaller particulate either!



Since I'm not a doctor or hydrologist, please don't expect another paragraph explaining H₂O water quality and safety data and standards. Instead, I'll provide some insight on water filtration choices and costs, and finally show you the combination we selected.

Our objectives for water filtration:

- Carry no plastic water bottles
- Safe, clean, and good tasting water to drink
- Sediment-free plumbing within the Airstream



Types of water filtration/sanitation products considered:

If you would like a technical explanation of each of these filter types, there's plenty of information available online. Otherwise, below is my sometimes-sarcastic description of each type.

- Single-Stage Sediment Filters:
 - Convenient and inexpensive, \$20-\$40 per filter, and will filter a human hair, grain of sand, organic matter to 20 microns. Otherwise, look at the chart above and get to love the smaller particulate!
- Multi-stage Filters:
 - Generally, these are two or three stage filters, \$40-\$500, and quality generally follows cost. I found that most \$150 2-stage filtration systems filter sediment and particulate down to 2.5 microns. The \$300 triple-stage filtration systems generally filter out heavy metals, chlorine, cysts, giardia, and particulate down to .5 microns. Again, look at the chart. The \$400-\$500 systems claim to filter down to .2 microns. Some claim to filter bacteria, however, I couldn't find any independent testing proving such.
- Carbon Filters:
 - I didn't evaluate these because some of the multi-stage filters included a carbon element. Additionally, carbon filters will not remove bacteria.
- Ceramic Filters:
 - Ceramic filters out 99% of all bacteria and protozoa. The most common ceramic filter is a Berkey Water Filter and it has kind of a cult following. Pour water in the top and expect safe filtered water in the drinking chamber. I personally don't care to carry or make counter-space for this "appliance."
- Ultraviolet Purification:
 - There may be other brands, but we did all our research on the brand now sponsored by Airstream. Acuva. Ultraviolet purification will kill all bacteria, however, it has no filtration for heavy metals, chemicals, or sediment.
- Reverse Osmosis Filters – Not considered due to cost & installation space requirements.

Our Choice:

1. **PREFILTER:** Prefilter all water prior to it entering the Airstream. This includes filling the fresh water tanks at home or connecting the RV to campground faucets. The two finalists were the Clearsource Ultra RV (\$499) Water Filter system, or the Blu Tech R3 Water Filter System (\$429 on sale). The Clearsource filters provide more volume than the internal faucet flowrate, and the full-size filters would last longer, however the unit weighs 40 pounds, and even heavier once you run water through it. Also, the packaging begs for you to purchase the case for \$140 to protect it. We chose the Blu Tech R3. It's a three-stage filtration system, down to .2 microns, is less than 20 pounds, and is packaged small enough to fit into your external Airstream storage bin.

2. **SAFE DRINKING WATER:** We chose to have Airstream install the Acuva 2.0 Ultraviolet Purification System. The cost of the unit through Airstream was ~\$450 and install for us was another \$450. The total installed price may run more depending on how close power is to the kitchen sink.

For the sake of your human and Airstream plumbing, here's my minimum recommendation:

A multi-stage filter system, double or triple which filters down to 2 microns.

If you want safe drinking water, either a Berkey or ultraviolet water sanitation system like the Acuva.





From the Membership Chair



Current Membership

32 Members

28 Affiliates

Hello Fellow Airstreamers,

I am excited for Spring to arrive and get our Airstreams out and ready to travel!

I hope that some of you will be able to attend our lunch gathering on March 18 (11:30 am) in the Spokane Valley. The restaurant will be determined once I have the final head count. As a club, it is nice to find ways that we can connect with one another even during the off season. If you have not already sent me an RSVP then please do so at dtabacek@yahoo.com.

A great big welcome goes out to our new members and affiliates who have recently joined our club. We are glad that you are a part of our fun and adventurous group. I look forward to meeting you at some of our rallies this year (I will be the one with the black lab, Kona)! Don't forget to stay up to date on all things club related on our Facebook page.

Debbie Tabacek
INWAC membership

Debbie



Join us for a lunch gathering!

March 18th at 11:30am!

Casa del Oro

1611 N Mullan Road (right off I 90), Spokane Valley

Haven't met us yet?
Come get to know your
Airstream Club!

RSVP to dtabacek@yahoo.com



Everything Old is New Again...

Some people think just because we are a new club, we must all own new Airstreams...not so. We have quite a variety of years and models in our club. Two of our club members have given new life to vintage Airstreams. Take a look!

Don and Liz Reynolds'

1959 Airstream Overlander renovation.

Liz writes;

We actually did not plan on having an Airstream at all. However, due to Don's height, the curve of the roof on Vintage Airstreams was the only trailer he could comfortably stand in. I have included a gutted photo of the Airstream from where we began. The project took 10 months. I designed the interior and our friend at Relic Custom Trailers helped us complete it.

All the Aluminum on the outside is original. We decided to do a Nautical theme since the Airstream had it's original Land Yacht badge. What is normally a cabinet, we made a lighted box containing glass floats and drift wood.

We named our Airstream "Gryphon" because a gryphon is mythological creature comprised of multiple animals and since we were combining old with new Don named it.

When they pulled apart the door we found an inscription on the inside from a man named Johnny Alonzo, the workman that made the door. He has left his signatures on many of this era.

(Liz is an artist and potter. You can see her gifted eye in the design touches.)



"Gryphon"



Everything Old is New Again...

**Brent and Karyn Strecker
1957 Flying Cloud Restoration**

From the outside polish, to the original appliances, to replicating the paint pattern on the interior, the Streckers meticulously restored and brought life back to this sweet 1957 Airstream.

(They also worked on a 1972 Safari at the same time!) Brent shared his journey with us in 2021 at Blackwell Island.

If you would like to see more photos of all their work, here is the link. "Lynn" is beautiful!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cgNitHDRUbficyFZ7>



||
"Lynn" ||



'STREAMING WITH ARNOLD

by Yvonne & Theo Theodor



This winter we escaped Spokane, WA for the south. All the way to Key West, FL. However, during our trip the back tire began losing air. It was losing about 20 psi over a couple of days. (We travel with a Dewalt compressor to top off the tires.) After not finding a nail or screw in the tire, we figured it might be the valve stem of the tire. The following tutorial is what has worked for us more than a couple of times. Hope it helps you as well.



This is a valve core remover (some refer to it as a valve stem wrench). It can be used to tighten the valve stem. Place the wrench opening vertically on top of the stem and turn. If it doesn't tighten then the stem valve is not the problem. If it does turn, then hopefully, the tire will not lose any more air. For us it was tight. So the stem itself was not the problem. The valve as whole needed to be replaced.

So now it's time to change a tire.

We used the following tools;

1. Breaker bar with a socket and socket extension
2. Torque wrench
3. Drill with socket adapter and the appropriate size socket or a tire iron.
4. Something to raise the tire up and support the trailer.
 - Andersen leveling chocks, jack (placed between the 2 tires), or Camco Trailer-Aid Plus.



We will be showing a tire change with Andersen leveling chocks (below picture)

4



1. Take the spare tire off from under the trailer, or wherever yours is stored. It's much easier when the trailer is up as high as possible to remove it from the storage rack and placing it back in. Sometimes pushing it with your feet is better than using your hands.



2. Next hitch the trailer to the truck. The trailer is then positioned on one of the Andersen levels. Engage the truck's parking brake. For added support, the smaller red chock is placed under the thinner edge of the red chock the tire rested on as well as a black chock in front, to keep the tire from rolling forward. Loosen the lug nuts prior to lifting the tire off the ground.



3. Attach a lug nut key to the drill. This is used to remove the security lug nut. Not all trailers have a security lug nut. Its purpose is to deter theft of a wheel/tire. The key is to find the correct lug nut, it's a bit bigger than the others. Once the security lug nut is off, take the lug nut key off and put the socket on. If not using a lug nut key or security lug nut, continue to take off the regular lug nuts with a tire iron or drill with the appropriate size socket. Ours is 19 mm.

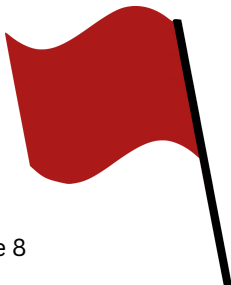


4. Once the lug nuts and tire are removed, remove the hubcap. It would not be a happy experience if that hub cap isn't on your tire when you get it back from the tire shop.



5. Put the spare tire on for an extra level of safety, while the trailer sits waiting for the fixed/new tire. Tighten the lug nuts. Next, unhitch and drive the trailer off the chocks. This way there aren't any surprises to come back to.

6. When returning to the trailer, re-hitch the trailer to the truck, put it back up on the chock's. Secured the same way. Take the lug nuts and spare tire off.



7. On the fixed tire put the hubcap back on and place the tire back on the wheel. Using the drill and socket or tire iron put the lug nuts back on. Next the breaker bar with a 2" extension is used to tighten the lug nuts. The 2" extension is used so there is room between the breaker bar and trailer; less chance of scratching the trailer.

Breaker bar with a 2" extension



Breaker bar with 2" extension and socket



8. Move the trailer off the chocks so that the tires are back on the ground. Tighten with the breaker bar and finish with a torque wrench to secure the lug nuts. We have aluminum wheels so the torque wrench is set to 110 foot pounds. For a steel wheel the torque wrench should be set to 100 foot pounds. (Airstream Owner's Manual)



The end of the torque wrench is the "dial" that is used to set the foot pounds.

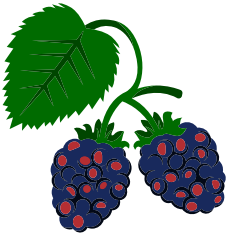


The torque wrench in action.

9. Once the tire is secure. Hitch the trailer back up to the truck.

10. Level the trailer and enjoy the rest of your trip!!





Amazing Blackberry Rhubarb Pie

Ingredients

- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup arrowroot
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3 ½ cups diced fresh or frozen rhubarb
- 3 ½ cups fresh or frozen blackberries
- 9" double pastry crust



1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F
2. Stir all ingredients into a large bowl. Make sure all rhubarb and blackberries are well coated
3. Divide pie dough and place in bottom of pie plate. Pile in the mixture
4. Leave ½ boarder around top pie crust and tuck edges under the bottom crust... crimp together. Place pie on a rimmed baking sheet
5. Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F and continue baking until the crust is golden brown and the filling in bubbling. Cool for 2 hours.

Submitted by Russ Lea, President



AIRSTREAM
ADVENTURES

There for you...
every mile,
every Memory,
& every Adventure!

Portland • Seattle • Boise
Bay Area • South Bay • Spokane
airstreamadventures.com

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter, please send your unformatted article/photos to beccasoth@gmail.com.

Still room for one more....

There are still sites available in our rally season.
Have you reserved a spot... or two...or three?

Go to our website and check them out.
Members and Affiliates have received emails detailing
not only the rally season
but additional opportunities for pop up rallies.



I'd be happy to answer any questions or help you get signed up!

So many wonderful friendships have begun on our rallies.

Think about coming along, won't you?

*Becky
Soth*

beccasoth@gmail.com

You will find all our rally details on the website <https://airstreamclub.org/inland-nw> .
Just scroll down on our webpage and click the gold **EVENTS** button.

We have **FOUR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES** for you. We have four '**POP UP Rallies**'. Pop-ups have no host and no agenda, just friends inviting friends to join them. You make your own reservation and your own fun with those that attend. Reservations for the pop up rallies below that are at state parks can be made at <https://www.parks.wa.gov/223/Reservations> .

APRIL 17-21- Leni and Jeanne Selvaggio invite you to join them for their annual spring shakedown trip. This year they are going to Steamboat Rock State Park from Monday April 17 (day after Easter) to Friday the 21st. Senior Pass makes it only \$10 a night. They are staying in Site #1 in the Sage Loop. The whole loop is open. If anyone wants/can join us, it'll be a Pop-up Rally. Hope for warm days in the Columbia Basin. This will be their first voyage with their newest border collie puppy, Roxy so dogs will be involved. Please email Leni at leni_selvaggio@msn.com for more information.

MAY 16-18 - Steve and Debbie Tabaceck will be in Baker City, Oregon and invite you to join them at Mountain View RV Park. <http://www.mtviewrv.com/> prior to going to the Walla Walla Rally. Please email Steve and Debbie at dtabacek@yahoo.com for more information.

MAY 30 - JUNE 2 - Russ and Robin Lea are proposing a pop-up rally at Lake Easton State Park -- arriving May 30 and leaving June 2nd. These dates are right after the Memorial Day weekend. They have found that there are a good many sites available for these dates. They are booked for site #15 in a pull thru. Lake Easton is great for kayaking, the John Wayne bike trail goes right next to the park, there is fishing in the Yakima and Cle Elum Rivers, and in the lake itself. Nothing is planned for this pop-up other than good fellowship and getting out early with our trailers. New-comers are encouraged to attend! Please email Russ at russlea1119@gmail.com for more information.

OCTOBER 5-8 - Liz and Don Reynolds are throwing out an invite to join them for a fall weekend at Steamboat Rock State Park. They will be in Dune Loop #114. Fall in the Grand Coulee area is beautiful. The State Park is right on Banks Lake. They hope you'll join them. Please email Liz at derzil@mytangledweb.com for more information.