



# “The Mich-i-gram”



2nd Quarter [Apr. May, June] 2023

## 2023 Board Members

### President

Jackie Klare

[MACPresident052@gmail.com](mailto:MACPresident052@gmail.com)

### 1st Vice President

Fred Bryant

[MAC1stVPresident052@gmail.com](mailto:MAC1stVPresident052@gmail.com)

### 2nd Vice President

Lee Klare

[MAC2ndVPresident052@gmail.com](mailto:MAC2ndVPresident052@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Tom Cobb

[MACTreasurer052@gmail.com](mailto:MACTreasurer052@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Sharon Bryant

[MACSecretary052@gmail.com](mailto:MACSecretary052@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President & Parliamentarian

Jim Conant

[conantfarm@gmail.com](mailto:conantfarm@gmail.com)

## 2023 Committee Chairs

### Membership

Sandy Lovlien & Andrew Lovlien

[MACMembership052@gmail.com](mailto:MACMembership052@gmail.com)

### Newsletter

Pegeen Smith

[MACNewsletter052@gmail.com](mailto:MACNewsletter052@gmail.com)

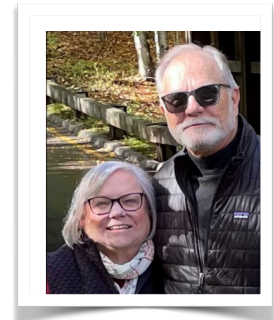
### Webmaster

Sarah Smith

[MACWebmaster052@gmail.com](mailto:MACWebmaster052@gmail.com)

## From ‘Madame’ President...

March went out like a lion in parts of Michigan. Cloudy wintery days are still with us in Traverse City & the water levels are low. Two years ago, we were scrambling to add rocks to fortify the shoreline, now I think we could walk halfway to Elk Rapids. The Airstream snowbirds report that they have had bizarre weather in different parts of the southern states. Several of our MAC members were inconvenienced for several days due to power outages. I think I can say we are all looking forward to Spring.



Lee & I are looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make it to the Region 4 rally in Kalamazoo. Region committee has been working hard to make it another great region rally. Ask Alexa or dust off your Glenn Miller album & brush up on the lyrics to 'I've got a gal in Kalamazoo' because it promises to be a toe tapping time.

Have you registered for the third annual 'Silver on Silver Lake' joint rally with SEMAC? There is going to be a party, a birthday party! SEMAC is going to be 50! Go to our [website](#) to find a link to this rally as well as others we have planned through October.

Lee and I have been busy trip planning making reservations for our trip to the WBCCI International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming & beyond. We will be joined by 14 other MAC members. If you're on the waiting list, you still may have an opportunity to attend. There are usually cancellations as we get closer to the rally date.

There is still room in our schedule for a July rally if anyone would like to organize one. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting a rally. [Macpresident052@gmail.com](mailto:Macpresident052@gmail.com) or 707-337-4404.

Be safe out there...

Jackie Klare

'Madame' President

There is always an adventure around the corner!

### Stay Connected:



[MAC Website](#)

[Region 4 Website](#)

[Airstream Club International](#)

[WBAC Caravans](#)



## Note from Your MAC Secretary

In the March MAC Board meeting, one of the topics on the agenda was Rallies. This season there are several opportunities for MAC members to camp together as you will learn in this newsletter.

The discussion was centered around the need to consider places to have rallies that will accommodate 15 to 20 plus rigs. As camping has gotten more popular in general, finding places to host 15 to 20 plus rigs can be a challenge. In the board discussion it came up that getting reservations at Michigan State Parks in the summer can be difficult for a large group. The discussion turned to the need to consider the possibilities of hosting rallies at Fairgrounds, private RV parks, county parks that will hold a number of sites so that all members who want to participate have that opportunity. I am sure there are many hidden gems that offer great sightseeing, restaurants, breweries, historical sights and the space to rally together.

So, if there is a place you would like to suggest, please pass that on to any board member listed [here](#) as we try to formulate a list of campgrounds suggestions to include in a revised Rally Guide.

Sharon Bryant

**Attention:** We added a new section called "Where Have You Been?" Send the newsletter [editor](#) pictures with suggestions for captions so the rest of us can live vicariously through your cool adventures. It could be our next rally location! See what Sarah & John Smith have been up to this winter [here](#).





### New Members

#### The Michigan Airstream Club wishes to welcome:

- ◆ Ari Adler & Jessi Wortley Adler
- ◆ Olga & Ramiro Briseno
- ◆ Carl & Patti Chase
- ◆ Cindy & Mike Kalota
- ◆ John & Opal McDonald
- ◆ Amanda & Matthew Stork
- ◆ Mark & Julie Vermeer



Check out the NEW Airstream International [Welcome Video!](#)

## Logo-Wear Clothing? Really!!

### Fred Bryant, MAC 1st Vice President



I have never been much of a fan of logo-wear clothing. But wearing my Airstream logo hat has changed my mind. Wearing my Airstream hat regularly makes it easier to start great conversations with others wherever I travel or whatever event

I am attending. I have met some great people and it has added a lot of fun to my adventures in my Airstream.

We walk by so many people every day while at events, traveling, camping without saying anything but the occasional "Hi!" All that is needed to strike up a conversation is a common point of interest and a hat can be that point of interest. Without the hat, I would have missed so many opportunities to meet some great people, share travel adventures and my Airstream experiences.

It's so great to share with a stranger the simplicity of a recent repair you have figured out. Help remove the mystery of that repair could be information welcomed by our new acquaintance. Your new acquaintance can become a life-long friend. And all of this began simply because they saw you wearing an Airstream hat and a conversation ensued.

Don't wait to buy a hat to start a conversation. But having the hat can open the door to the opportunity to enjoying another part of Airstream adventuring and meeting new friends.

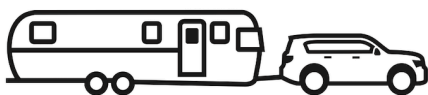
I like my Airstream hat! I wear it often.

Safe travels!

Fred Bryant  
MAC 1st Vice President

### SOON VERY SOON:

A MAC Merch store will be available online for "2 weeks only." Show your MAC pride with hats, club garden flags, t-shirts, sweatshirts & hoodies. Details will arrive via email.



# Membership & Club News

From Airstream Club International



## Just in case you missed the news!

### Airstream Club International Rally 2023 in Rock Springs, WY

The 66th Annual International Rally is SOLD OUT! But you are invited to Boondock!

- To register to Boondock: click [here](#).
- If you are already registered, go [here](#) to see what you have to look forward to!

### Airstream Intra-Clubs

Did you know that there are now have NINE intra-clubs available for any club member to join? "Grapes & Grains" intra-club??? Sign me up! For more information, click [here](#).

### Airstream Club YouTube Channel

Did you know that Airstream has its own YouTube Channel? Did you miss a Campfire Chat or are interested in what happens at an International Board of Trustee's meeting, Airstream Club International has you covered. The "Welcome to the Airstream Club" video is a nice for new owners or prospective Airstream club members! Click [here](#) and click "Subscribe". It is free to subscribe.

## Where Have You Been?

### Member Adventures: Sarah & John Smith



Rifle River State Recreation Area  
Rose City, MI [Dec/Jan]



Platte River Campground/  
National Lakeshore, Empire, MI  
[Feb]



Lake Enid, Army Corp of  
Engineers Campground,  
Mississippi [Mar]



New Orleans RV Resort & Marina,  
New Orleans, LA [Mar]

## Membership & Club News

Mark your calendars with these local upcoming events. Click [here](#) for the “at-a-glance” calendar.

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**Region 4 Rally Registration:** The Region 4 rally is May 16-21 in beautiful Kalamazoo Michigan. We want our Club to have a good attendance and to represent our great State to other members of the Region. Here is the [link](#) to register.

**Silver on Silver Lake Rally:** We are excited to announce that the Silver on Silver Lake Rally will be held June 8-12, 2023 at Holiday Park Campground in Traverse City. This will be a joint rally with the Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club [SEMAC] and is their kick-off rally for SEMAC's 50th anniversary celebrations. The Rally fee is \$15 per rig to help defray the cost of the dinner meals. You can submit your registration request online when you click [here](#). RSVPs are coming in now and it promises to be a full Rally. Be sure to register so you have a spot! You also will need to contact Holiday Park directly to reserve your campsite and can do so at the link above (you will need to scroll down on the webpage to find the campground link).

### Sand and Signals Rally

Join us for August 10-14, 2023 for our Sand and Signals Rally at Tawas Point State Park near Tawas City, Michigan on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron. Enjoy sandy beaches, clear blue water, campfires, fellowship, lighthouse tours, shopping and dinner in Tawas City, and a boat tour of Tawas Bay and Charity Island. Make camping reservations directly at the state park campground by calling [1-800-447-2757](tel:1-800-447-2757) or by clicking [here](#). There is also overflow possibility at the Tawas KOA.

The Saturday morning boat tour has room for 30 people. There is a \$20/per person fee in addition to a rally fee of \$60/per person. Boat tickets will be on a first come first serve basis and should be paid with your rally fees. Rally registration deadline is July 27. Please fill out the rally registration form by clicking [here](#).

### Harbor Beach Lighthouse Rally

Join SEMAC on a tour of the Historic Harbor Beach lighthouse. The rally is at North Park campground to be close to Lake Huron! Make your reservations by calling the campground directly at [989-479-9554](tel:989-479-9554) and let them know you are reserving for the Airstream rally under the name Linda Smith. The registration deadline is July 1, 2023.

### Whispering Surf Rally

Join us on Friday, October 6th, through Monday, October 9th, for our 2nd annual fall rally in the quaint little town of Pentwater, Michigan. Make your own camping reservations by contacting Whispering Surf Campground by clicking [here](#). A tentative schedule and the rally registration can be found at: [Pentwater - MAC Fall Rally!](#) [[jotform.com](#)] There is a rally fee of \$20/person and registration deadline is September 30, 2023.

Like last year, we'll also have a fun chili cook-off and group potluck in the campground's lodge. Contact your Rally Host Sarah Smith at [sarahsmith1835@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsmith1835@gmail.com) for more information!

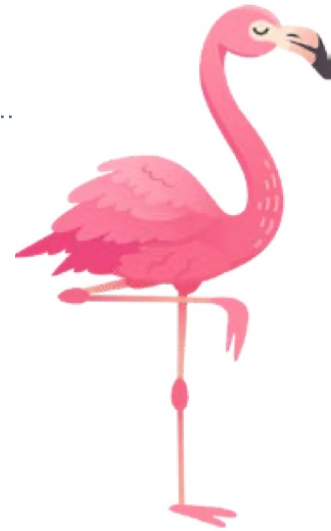


# Membership & Club News

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### April

- 2: Laurie Hodgson
- 10: Carol Jean Beard
- 10: Jim Conant
- 11: Jackie Klare
- 14: Kathy Ann Blunck
- 14: Ronald Weinrick
- 17: Dave Koomler
- 23: Kathy Berish
- Ronald & Bonnie Weinrick: April 8, 2015



### May

- 13: David Norton
- 17: Lee Klare
- 21: Marjorie Inman
- 24: Jim Berish
- 28: Beth Brackenridge
- 31: James Chellman
- Nancy & Bob Vogt: May 5, 1956

### June

- 3: Diana Anderson
- 5: Phillip Addison
- 6: Jeffrey Routson
- 10: Karen Fisher
- 19: Christin Bliss
- Douglas & Ellen Jozwiak: June 6, 1982
- Fred & Sharon Bryant: June 12, 1971
- Jeffrey & Karen Routson: June 13, 1969
- Bill & Beth Brackenridge: June 16, 1973
- Harold & Donna Larson: June 20, 1965
- David & Mary Ann Borton: June 26, 1971
- Tom & Peg Smith: June 26, 1981
- Jim & Kathy Berish: June 28, 1992

**Please Note:** If you haven't seen your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, it's because we don't know it! In the old days that information was collected each year on your renewal slip. The ACI database doesn't collect that information, but we'd still like to include these celebrations in the newsletter. Please e-mail [Pegeen Smith, Newsletter Editor](#) and she will make certain to include your information in the upcoming issues.



## Membership & Club News

### In Memoriam

Jackie Pixley, age 87, passed away January 18, 2023. Jackie & Lloyd were very active members of the Michigan Airstream club back in the day. Lloyd passed in 2012, they were blessed with a marriage that lasted 66 years. Jackie was caring and just fun to be around, she was always willing to pitch in wherever she was needed. At one time Jackie served as Editor of the Mich-i-gram. Jackie's heart was in the Michigan Airstream club and she will always be remembered.

## Sky Med: Is it for you?

### Jackie Klare, MAC President

Several members of MAC have already signed up for Sky Med. It's the kind of service you need but hope you never have to use it. Lee & I have always discussed what we'd do if we got stuck on the road. We decided to sign up. When you do sign up, check around the membership, the referring member gets a couple months added on to their membership. Below is Brad Briggs's business card. Needless to say he'll be at the rally in Kalamazoo.



**SkyMed**  
TAKES YOU HOME

**SkyMedTRAVEL**  
Best Price Guarantee

**Brad and Jane Briggs**  
SkyMed Representative # 1512816

www.skymed.com/BradBriggs  
www.skymedtravel.com  
Brad.Briggs@SkyMed.com

Phone: 614-207-1241  
or 614-679-6936  
Office: 800-679-2020

## A Home That Rides on Wheels by Jennie Ehrhardt

You just don't know how good it feels,  
To have a home that rides on wheels.

To watch the sun as it meets the sea,  
To know there's no place you have to be.

To listen to the wintertime rain,  
To use the pool, you don't have to maintain.

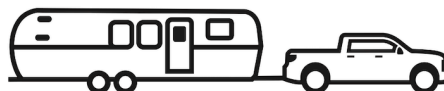
To know you never have to mow the summer  
Grass, -just look and watch it grow.

And if the washing machine breaks down,  
Just use another, -there's one around.

And If the neighbor complains all day,  
Just hook up the rig and pull away.

You know that just around the bend,  
You'll meet another longtime friend.

You just don't know how good it feels,  
To have a home that rides on wheels.





## MAC Share

### Is Starlink for RVs Right for You?

**Here's our Story.** by Laurie McLean, MAC Member

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We began looking into internet possibilities as soon as we placed our Airstream order in June of 2021. We knew we wanted internet service for our laptops and we wanted access to TV. During 2020 and 2021 we were heavily dependent on high quality internet service at home for work and keeping in touch with family, friends and volunteer activities. We also joined the streaming TV crowd using Amazon Fire TV that gave us access to Netflix, Hulu, and a myriad of other streaming services. I guess we got used to being in touch remotely, with the aid of extremely high-speed internet, through Xfinity. It set the bar high.



Our dreams of retirement traveling included taking advantage of our love of both wilderness camping and sightseeing in more urban areas. And, we wanted to be on the road most of the time, often in areas with patchy cellular service. For most of the next year we kept our eyes on the portable internet services with Dish® and Direct TV connections. After investigating how they worked and where they worked best, we began to feel we were going to need subscriptions to both services. Then, we would use whichever one gave us the best connection depending on where we were.

Then, along came Starlink for RVs. It promised high-speed internet, capable of streaming especially in more remote locations. So, having made no other commitments, we jumped on the band wagon.

Considering that we don't have any actual experience with the other services, here's what we like about Starlink so far:

- We have strong internet connections for both streaming TV and video conferencing with groups of friends, family members, and organizations.
- We have been able to find a connection just about everywhere. The notable exception to this was the middle of a national forest area, where we received a message that our signal was blocked by the DNR.
- We have been pleasantly surprised by the fact that by using our internet connection, we can keep in touch by phone with anyone, even where there is no cell service.
- Although the monthly fees are expensive, you can pause them if you are not traveling and then reactivate them when you are back on the road.

Some people who enjoy Starlink, use 12 – 15' flagpoles to mount the dish to their trailers. We've considered this, but so far, we don't feel it's necessary. We have a portable storage case with wheels that provides a steady base and can be moved anywhere within 100' of the trailer. Starlink requires less open sky space than other services. We find we can often access a strong connection at the front of our site, by the open campground road, even if our trailer is pulled in under trees.

So, is Starlink right for you? Yes, if the ability to stream in remote areas where there is no cell service is important to you. If not, it might be more than you need.



# MAC Share

## Twin Bed Troubles. by Pegeen Smith, MAC Member

Whoops...I fell out of bed.

Something I have not done since I was a kid. Thankfully, my pillow had landed first and I didn't hurt myself but I was surprised to find myself between our twin beds in our 2020, 25 ft Globetrotter. FB. Tom & I bought our first Airstream within days of his retirement in August 2020. We bought one of the last trailers on the lot. Nature & Me was getting ready for their 2021 models. Fortunately, it was just what we were looking for and equipped with Tuft & Needle mattresses that are so comfy.

The problem we discovered was that our comfy mattresses overlapped the existing bed platforms by more than 3 inches. The mattress edge did not have support to sit on and bed linens were constantly in the way of the storage cupboards underneath. The mattress moved around on the existing platform which made it really easy to make the bed but made for a disruptive sleep. To prevent myself from falling out of bed again, I had to lay close to the wall and the twin bed became a mini-twin. We

needed to get this fixed.

I am not a big fan of Facebook for a variety of reasons but one thing I appreciate are the Airstream groups. Mostly I read the posts and learned but once, in a desperate state with our batteries, I posted a question and immediately received technical information that helped immensely to understand and solve our problem. I am now a fan of Facebook Airstream groups. One time I saw someone's post about their similar problem with their mattresses and a platform solution made by Matthew Hughes, BRN 2736, of [Nomad Custom Crafts](#). I knew this was the fix I needed so I immediately reached out to Matt, placed an order and made plans to go down to Jacksonville/St. Augustine area to have them installed.

Which is where we are now with our newly installed platforms and I have to say, they have exceeded our expectations. The mattresses fit perfectly in their platforms, they match our cabinetry beautifully, they provide easy access to the cupboards below, and they open up the space on either side of the nightstand. The

best thing is that we can sleep on the entire width of the bed and no more falling out of bed!!

And now on to converting the cabinets below the beds into drawers with a carpenter recommended by fellow Airstreamers..



# We Rally

## Too Many RV Shows

By Mark Stephenson - MAC Affiliate Member (SEMACE)

We bought our first Airstream following a RV show in Virginia. We had a RoadTrek Class B and went to look at a larger Class C. There was a single Airstream at the show and it was a Bambi which quickly became our Bambi. It was 2005 and it was Airstream number 1. Airstream number 2 was an 2003 International 22 CCD. We bought it in 2012 because we felt we needed more room as we were finally able to take longer trips due to my pending retirement. We were half right. We did need more room but the International 22 was not the answer. We made the mistake of going to Alumapalossa in 2014.



Peggy, Mackenzie [granddaughter] & Mark

Not actually a RV show but pretty close. We saw a new International 25 and soon ordered Airstream number 3. It was great. Just the right size. During the 7 years we owned her, we travelled over 50,000 miles and visited most of the western National Parks and 8 Canada Providences. Fast forward to 2022. We loved the 25 but knew that as we got older we would probably find it too much to handle. We went to the fall RV show in Detroit and 2 weeks later ordered Airstream number 4. An Airstream Atlas.



The Atlas is Airstream's B+ motor coach. During the 2 week period between the RV show we did a lot of research on the Atlas to make sure it was a good choice for us. What clinched the deal were two new options. The first is the E1 power system. It is made by Volta in Holland, MI and it replaces the generator, house batteries, and the propane system. It is essentially a lithium battery pack based on automotive electric vehicle technology. It has the same battery capacity as 12 100aH lithium batteries! It can run the AC for 8 hours and recharges in just 2 hours using the 54v alternator on the engine. The gas stovetop is replaced with an induction cooktop. The weight savings allows for the second option which is self leveling jacks so no more messing around trying to level everything on an uneven campsite. I can see myself pulling into a campsite, getting a cold one, going to the picnic table and setting everything up using my iPhone! It's easier to maneuver than our International 25 and F-150. It fits into smaller campsites, it's a lot less hassle to get going in the morning or to set up at night, and now both of us can drive. Are there negatives? Sure. It only sleeps 2. Maybe that's not a negative and if it doesn't work, there's always Airstream number 5.

## MAC Share

### Airstream Repairs on the Fly by Fred Bryant, MAC 1st Vice President

The one thing you can count on while traveling with your Airstream is that something unexpected is going to happen and all your tools are at home. The hard part is you never know when but it will happen. This happened to me recently. Our drain backed up and needed attention now! While I approached it with quite a bit of trepidation, I found it to be a very simple repair so no need to worry. I will walk tell you how I fixed it.

The first thing I thought of was that the drain stopper was slowing the water flow down the drain. This proved to be more of a challenge disassembling it than I expected. It was not like other drain stoppers I have seen that are disassembled from below the sink cabinet by disengaging the linkage to allow the stopper to be removed. What I finally realized is that the stopper is threaded into a nut that gets captured when the stopper is pushed down in the drain of the sink to close the drain opening. The stopper must be pushed down into the drain opening to allow the stopper to be unthreaded from the housing. Otherwise, the nut spins with the stopper. The stopper and drain were clean. It was not the cause of the slow drain.

The second thing I thought of was the P-trap. I have disassembled P-traps in my home and it was pretty easy. I was surprised to see no P-trap when I looked under our 2016 Flying Cloud, 26U cabinet sink. Instead, I found a cylindrical unit that was a complete mystery to me. After some internet research, I learned it is called a [HepvO Waterless Valve](#). It is basically a tube with a very flexible inner tube that collapses closed to keep drain odors and water from backing up into the sink. This device turned out to be as simple as the P-Trap to service. Just remove, rinse clean and reassemble.

I unthreaded the HepvO valve from the connecting pipe and took it outside to rinse it clean. After I reassembled and tested it, now the water flows down the drain quickly. A major inconvenience averted, we were able to enjoy the rest of our travel adventures with full use of the sink.

So, fear not! Grab those pliers and take it apart!

And here is a [video library](#) on the manufacture's resource page that can save you lot of worry and time, too.

Fred Bryant



HepvO Valve





# We Gather Together in 2023

Luncheon Update By Jackie Klare



The March MAC luncheon was another success! We met at Noco Provisions, 4609 Cascade Rd. SE Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids. We were all chatting about our 2023 trip planning & adventures. Sarah & John were imparting their knowledge & experience camping in winter. We all can't wait to get back on the road. The food was good, going back for sure. Always fun connecting with fellow Airstreamers. You won't want to miss our next & final luncheon which will be April 22 at The Charlotte Brewing Co., 214 Cochran Ave., Charlotte, MI. Please RSVP to me if you will be joining us so the restaurant can staff appropriately.

[Macpresident052@gmail.com](mailto:Macpresident052@gmail.com) or text [707-337-4404](tel:707-337-4404).

April 22	<u>Charlotte Brewing Co.</u> 214 Cochran Ave Charlotte, MI 48813
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## We Rally Together in 2023 (at-a-glance)

Dates	Event - Location	Host/Organizer	Links/Contact
<b>May 16-21</b>	47th Region 4 Rally: - Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan	ACI Region 4	<a href="#">Region 4 Rally Website</a>
<b>May 21-June 7</b>	Informal Tour Between Rallies May 21-25: Maumee Bay State Park, OH May 25-28: Lighthouse County Park, MI	Tom Cobb	Contact Tom <a href="mailto:tjcobb1950@gmail.com">tjcobb1950@gmail.com</a> or text/call <a href="tel:616-295-4742">616-295-4742</a> if you would like to join in on all or part of this short tour of Michigan.
<b>June 8-12</b>	Silver on Silver Lake Rally - Holiday Park Campground, Traverse City, MI	SEMAC & MAC	<a href="#">Silver on Silver Lake Rally Website</a>
<b>June 24-30</b>	WBCCI International Rally Rock Springs, WY	WBCCI	<a href="#">International Rally Website</a>
<b>August 10-14</b>	Sand & Signals Rally Tawas Point State Park East Tawas, Michigan	MAC Laurie McLean & Fred Bryant	<a href="#">Sand and Signals Rally</a>
<b>August 18-20</b>	Harbor Beach Lighthouse Rally Harbor Beach, MI	SEMAC	<a href="#">Harbor Beach Lighthouse Rally</a>
<b>September 24-30</b>	60th Annual Swiss Festival National Rally Sugarcreek, Ohio	ACI National Rally	<a href="#">Swiss Festival Website</a>
<b>October 6-9</b>	Whispering Surf Fall Rally Whispering Surf Campground Pentwater, MI	MAC Sarah & John Smith	<a href="#">Whispering Surf Rally Website</a>
<b>October 2024</b>	WBCCI International Rally 2024 Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO	WBCCI	<a href="#">Rally 2024 Announcement</a>

