



UWAC Club News



Utah's Wasatch Airstream Club

Volume 21 — APRIL 2023 — WBCCI's Utah Affiliate



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Howdy UWAC members and affiliates,

WOW, what an awesome winter we've had/are having! The skier in me couldn't be happier, plus we all know the extra snowpack will provide some relief to our drought situation. However, I'm certainly ready to get Ellie (our Airstream) out of storage and hit the road with Bonnie (my wife)!

Our UWAC board met on February 27th. We heard an update from our Membership Director Bonnie Ruskauff. We currently have almost 60 regular members and 40 affiliates. Keith Lund, our Treasurer gave us an update on the club's year-end finances, which are in great shape. We discussed our exciting 2023 rally schedule, ideas for 2024 rallies, as well as ideas on how to encourage and help members host and co-host rallies. The Board voted to discontinue refunding club rally fees if you cancel. We also discussed leadership succession planning for 2024 forward.

The discussion regarding the existing rally schedule and ideas to encourage folks to host rallies resulted in several great ideas. You should have already received your first monthly rally summary e-mail. Kevin Buehler, our Events Director, came up with the idea to send a monthly rally schedule summary which will include the number of registrants and remaining spots, if any. In the summary you should have noticed the link to a rally survey which was our 1st VP Ron Jorgensen's idea. We've received several responses with great rally location ideas, as well as people interested in hosting or co-hosting rallies. If you haven't yet completed the rally survey please do so via this link:

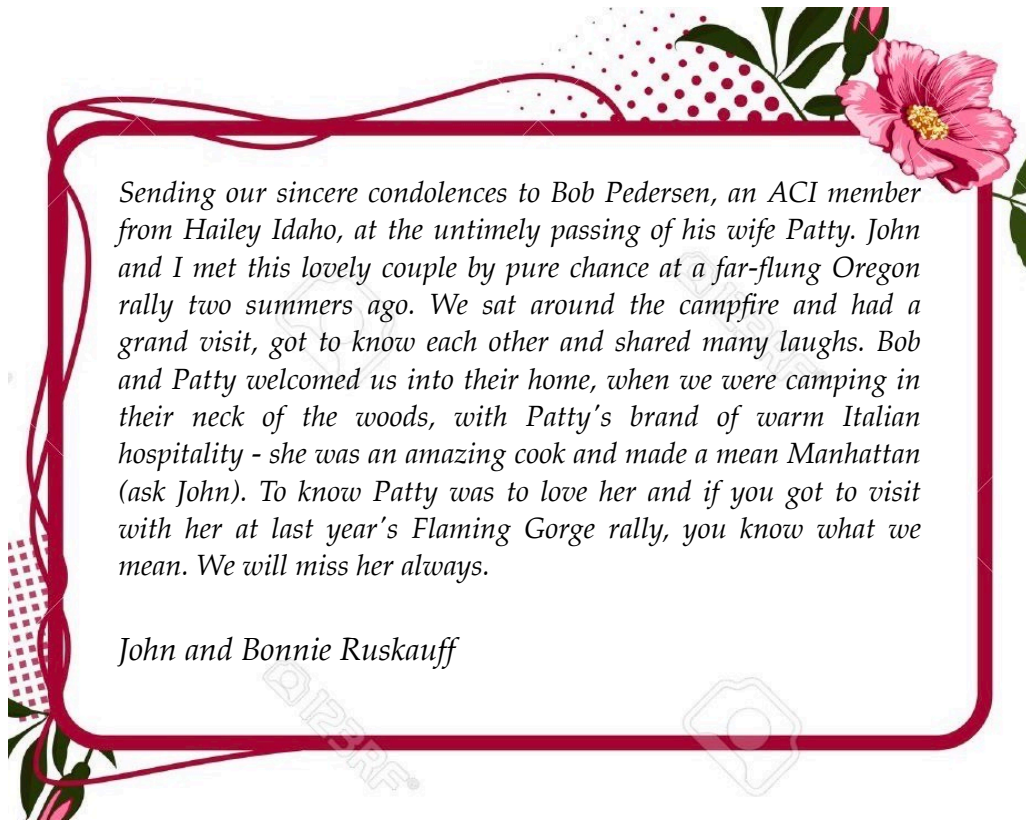
<https://form.jotform.com/230584796331058>

As far as succession planning goes, we are in pretty good shape for 2024-25. We will have a vacant spot for 2nd VP – the rest of our leadership team is willing to remain in their current roles, though our webmaster is open to relinquishing his job, if someone is willing to take it up. If you are interested in learning more about the 2nd VP, or any other position, please

reach out to us. Trust me, if I can do this anyone can! This club is full of great people who could do a wonderful job in any of these roles.

Okay, enough of the snow and housekeeping stuff! Let's get this rally season started. I can't wait to see you at one of our rallies. The first one at the Kanab RV Coral is only a few weeks away!

Sincerely,
John Ruskauff, UWAC President
Ruskauff@msn.com



We're excited to welcome the following members who have recently joined UWAC

- Dominic & Jesse Spence r*
- Jon and Kim Kolon*
- Charles & Laura Fritz*
- Jenny O'Toole & Melissa Wallentine*
- Mark & Jana Clinton*
- LaVon & David Esswein*
- Rick & Mary Ferguson*

Stories from the Road

Boondocking with the Buehlers

The University of Utah football team won the PAC-12 and with it an invitation to the Rose Bowl. The Buehlers (BRN 12225) decided to return to Pasadena, California below the majestic San Gabriel Mountains, to cheer on the Utes!



The game may have gone in Penn State's favor but it was a great three-day camping tailgate. As part of the Rose Parade and Bowl festivities, the City of Pasadena hosts RV camping in Brookside Park. It is not just close to the stadium but also an easy walk to the start of the parade.

Urban camping offers a different experience than camping in the woods. While we did boondock because there were no services at the park, we had easy access to fuel, dinner at a variety of Los Angeles restaurants and easy food and beverage shopping. Antonio enjoyed the park's playground. An added bonus was full cell service so we could watch other football games over the long weekend.



If you can't get a space in the always popular Tournament of Roses rally, consider this alternative. We hope to someday attend the rally ourselves.

*By Kevin Buehler
Events Director*

WHATS HAPPENING 2023??

April 20-24 - Kanab Utah "No Host" Rally -- [Kanab RV Corral](#) - 435-644-5330

- Organizers – Ron Jorgensen and John Ruskauff
- Current Airstreams registered – 22
- Please sign up at our [Jotform](#) after booking a spot at Kanab RV Corral,
Registration closes April 1.

May 18-21 – Lava Hot Springs Rally, Idaho - [Portneuf Bend Campground](#) – 208-530-1595

- Hosts – Keith and Jeanne Lund
- Current Airstreams registered – 8 (16 spots have been reserved) Please note this is an electricity only camp. No sewer or water at campsites.
- Please sign up at our [Jotform](#) after booking a spot at Portneuf Bend Campground, Additional rally information will be emailed to those who have registered.
Registration closes April 15.

**June 24-30 – International Rally, Rock Springs, Wyo. – [Sweetwater Events Complex](#) –
CURRENTLY SOLD OUT**

- Current Airstreams registered – 1,200+
- John and Bonnie Ruskauff will be organizing a caravan from Little America, Wyo. to the Sweetwater Events Complex. For everyone already registered you will receive details soon.
Please reply to John and Bonnie(ruskauff@msn.com) if you have registered for the International including the date you are planning on arriving*

July 1-5 - Buffalo Après Rally, Etna, Wyo. - [Grand Buffalo RV Resort](#) – 307-205-7307

- Hosts – John and Bonnie Ruskauff
- Current Airstreams registered – 20
- Please sign up at our [Jotform](#) after booking a spot at Grand Buffalo RV Resort (Promo Code UtahClub2023 in order to receive a discount for your reservation) As **Registration closed March 31**, please contact Bonnie or John if you are still interested.

July 19-31 - Greater Yellowstone Caravan -CURRENTLY SOLD OUT AND FINALIZED****

- Leaders – Ron and Kelli Araujo, Co-hosts - John and Bonnie Ruskauff
- Current Airstreams registered – 13
- The Araujos will be taking everyone to various locations across beautiful Wyoming and Montana. Updates and additional information will be sent to registrants.

August 9-13 - Ariz. Rally – [Woody Mountain Campground](#) – 928-774-7727

- Hosts – Elizabeth and Kevin Buehler
- Current Airstreams registered – 0, 20 sites reserved
- Reservations will start once the campground reopens in April. They currently have a couple feet of snow!
- We have many activities planned, including: viewing the cosmos during a personalized astronomy tour, pedaling the city in search of history and cool liquid goodness on a limited-availability outing, ascending to the top of Arizona, dining on New Orleans style BBQ, and so much more.

Sept. 21-25 - Valley Rally, Grand Junction, Colo. – [Canyon View RV Resort](#) – 970-730-2600

- Hosts – Ron and Holly Jorgensen, Co-hosts – Hilding and Lynn Spradlin
- Current Airstreams registered – 6, 15 sites reserved
- Please sign up at our Jotform after booking a spot at Canyon View RV Resort, Registration closes July 31.

Oct. 12-15 - of Fire Rally, Richfield, Utah – [Venture RV Park](#) – 435-896-3886

- Hosts – John and Bonnie Ruskauff, Co-hosts – Elizabeth and Kevin Buehler
- Current Airstreams registered – 10, 15 sites reserved
- Please sign up at our [Jotform](#) after booking a spot at Canyon View RV Resort, **Registration closes April 30.**

Nov. 15-19 -Formula 1 Race, Las Vegas, Nevada – [Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort](#) – 800-566-4707

We have decided to forgo the F1 race in Las Vegas as our second go round did not yield any reasonably priced tickets. However, we still have ten sites reserved at the Oasis RV Park. Some may just head down to Vegas for the weekend of the race.

Hosts – Elizabeth and Kevin Buehler, Co-hosts – John and Bonnie Ruskauff

November - UWAC Annual Meeting and dinner TBD.

April 5-9-24 - Total Eclipse of the Sun (Lone) Star Rally, Fredericksburg, Texas –

[Arch Ray Resort](#) – 830-304-2903

- Hosts – Elizabeth and Kevin Buehler, Co-hosts – John and Bonnie Ruskauff
- Current Airstreams registered – **15, 7 on the waitlist**
- The resort should have additional spots open up later this year and we will communicate after folks on the waitlist have booked their sites. If you are interested in getting on the list, please let us know.



- Put a spoonful of dressing on each of 4 to 6 plates and spread in a circle with the back of the spoon. Arrange 4 to 6 pieces Little Gem on each plate. Drizzle with more dressing, then sprinkle on capers, charred onion and thinly shaved Parm all over those babies. Sprinkle your warm cheesy crumbs over the top to finish.

TECH CORNER

BOONDOCKING

VINYL #29

Don't be Afraid of Boondocking with your Airstream
Blue Beret April 2022 by Dick Martin 2753

When many Airstreamers hear the word “Boondocking”, they shudder with fear and head for the first full hookup campground. Boondocking or DryCamping is defined as camping without any hookups, no electric, no water, no sewer and no cable connections or bathrooms, picnic tables, and fire pits. You are completely “off grid” and that opens a whole new world of possible camping locations. Originally, the term applied only to camping in the “boonies” away from everything and everyone. Let’s break Boondocking down into three areas:

The WHY, the HOW and the WHERE.

WHY do you want to boondock?

Boondocking allows RVers to enjoy the scenery and serenity beyond the campground. It’s a great way to get into nature away from cities, crowds, traffic, and awning-to-awning campgrounds and RV parks. Your Airstream is perfect to explore hidden camping sites off the beaten path, or park on the edge of a beautiful river, lake or ocean beach. Boondocking is a great way to save money on campground fees. There are numerous places across America where you can park for free or for highly reduced fees if we are willing and able to forgo the luxury of hook-ups. A dispersed camper on BLM or Federal land can stay in one spot for up to 14 days. When the 14 days are up, they just need to move to a different spot for 14 days. This alternative spot that they migrate to must be outside of a 25-mile radius of the previous location.

Boondocking spots are typically found deep in the backcountry. These spots don’t have nearly as many people as the campgrounds do and you’ll often find yourself camping alone. This means you won’t have to worry about noisy neighbors, drunks, or barking dogs interfering with your good time. It also means you get more privacy. This can make for a



more romantic camping trip. Cellphone reception can be hard to come by in the backcountry. The same holds true for Internet connections as well. This can be a good thing as it forces you to do a digital detox. According to WebMD, a digital detox can increase your self-image, increase your self-esteem, decrease levels of depression and anxiety, and help improve your sleep. It can even improve your vision and reduce neck and back strain. If these were the only benefits you ever got from boondocking, they'd probably be well worth it.

Looking at the **HOW**:

Here are some areas to explore:

Water Management: Fresh, Gray, and Black Water.

Water management is one of the keys to extended boondocking. Your Airstream has fixed sized fresh, gray, and black water tanks. Learning how to manage your fresh and gray water takes practice, patience, and flexibility. Some tips include using a dish pan for washing dishes and taking the used water outside, cooking single pot meals, using paper plates, grilling the whole meal outside, taking navy showers, and generally conserving on the use of fresh water.

- **Power Management: DC and AC conservation**

With no shore power, you are limited to the capacity of your batteries to serve your DC loads like lights, ventilation fans, furnace controls and fan, controls for your fridge and water heater, and your CO/Propane detectors. So, using these devices as prudently as possible will extend your stay. There are some upgrades that will significantly extend your ability to boondock. Adding or expanding your solar system will add energy to your batteries. In the summer, you will get up to 5 or 6 hours of useful sun. If your solar system can generate 25 amps, that will add 125 to 150 amp hours of energy to your batteries. The other major upgrade that will extend your boondocking is to move to Lithium Iron Oxide (LiFePO₄) batteries. Some advantages to lithium batteries include: much faster charging, roughly half the weight, ability to use all the batteries rated amp hours, very long life (2000 to 13,000 charge cycles based on various depths of discharge), very low self-discharge in storage, and the ability to locate the batteries inside the Airstream living space. There are no free lunches in batteries, as in life, and the initial cost of the LiFePO₄ batteries are higher than the AGM lead acid batteries. But the prices of the lithium batteries are continually coming down to the point where they are only 2-4x of the AGM batteries. The cost per charge cycle for lead acid AGM batteries is about 50 cents/cycle. The cost per charge cycle for LiFePO₄ batteries down to 6.9 cents/cycle. See footnote (1) below for details.

Looking at the **WHERE** of Boondocking:

Wild Camping - Dispersed Camping Locations:

The National Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Department of Fish and Wildlife are great examples of public land management agencies that allow dispersed camping on some of the lands that they manage. In some states, Water Management Areas, and some State Parks have designated dry camping areas. **Mooch Docking:** Camping for free on someone else's private land - usually a friend or friend of a friend.

Courtesy Parking at ACI members' homes. Parking in a friend or family's driveway.

Lot Docking:

After-hour parking in Business Parking Lots (with permission) such as Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Walmart, Sam's Club, Cracker Barrel, Lowe's, Home Depot, Pilot, and Flying J.

When Lot Docking, some basic etiquette is encouraged when camping is allowed as a convenience by a private business.

1. Get permission, even if you're pretty sure it's okay.
2. One night only.
3. Arrive late, leave early.
4. No awnings, lawn chairs, grills, mats, tripod satellite dishes, etc. (Slideouts and rooftop satellite dishes okay).
5. Park where the manager tells you or as far out of the way of customers as possible.
6. Keep generator use to a minimum.
7. Patronize the business! Spend some money in return for the privilege so the business has incentive to allow others to park in the future.

Harvest Hosts and Boondockers Welcome members:

These membership programs allow campers to spend from one night (Harvest Hosts) to up to 5 nights (Boondockers Welcome) locations with no or very small fee. The expectation is that if you are staying at a business, you patronize the business, and purchase some of their produce, wine, beer, or other product. Boondockers Welcome is a membership program that lets members arrange overnight stays with each other while traveling through an area. It's a great way to meet locals and fellow RVers. Being completely self-contained, allows you to take advantage of these programs and make new friends all across our wonderful country.

In summary, Boondocking is growing among RVers, especially for those who have added solar and higher capacity batteries to their RVs. It gives you a lot of flexibility to get off the beaten path and explore more remote locations, along rivers, lakes and beaches. Many clubs are holding weekend and urban rallies that give you a chance to practice your dry camping skills. Boondocking is not hard, you just need to be aware of your energy and water use, and learn new ways to enjoy the great remote areas of our great country.

If you have technical questions, please send them to techhelp@wbcci.org.

Happy Camping!

(1) Footnote: Comparison of cost per charge cycle of AGM deep cycle to LiFePO4 batteries.

A typical 100 Ahr AGM deep cycle battery has a rating of 500 cycles at 50% discharge. If the price of average 100 Ahr battery is \$250, then the cost per charge cycle is $\$250/500=\$0.50/\text{cycle}$. One high quality 100 Ahr LiFePO4 battery has a rating of 13,000 cycles at 50% discharge. If the price of this battery is \$899, then the cost per charge cycle is $\$899/13,000=\$0.069/\text{cycle}$. That is over 7 times less per charge cycle and 26 times the number of charge cycles

WORTH NOTING:

Welcome to Airstream Club International

Please click the link for the new "Welcome to Airstream Club International" video which will go to all new members along with a welcome letter. It is very well done. This should help get us all ready for an exciting 2023 rally season!



- ◆ As a side note to this newsletter's article on boon-docking, a great website that specializes in dry camping and boon-docking is Compendium.com. They have great reviews on State Parks, BLM land, National Forest sites and dispersed camping areas. They have a great app as well. The basic sign up is free as is the app. They send periodic emails listing dry camping sites throughout the West. Lots of good information and a fun way to make a wish list of camping destinations. They list campsites you would otherwise never know about. Check it out! Keith Lund

Be sure to bookmark the UWAC web site:

<https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch>

You can find the latest UWAC newsletter, rally schedule, registration instructions and other important information on the new website.

