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Save the Date

October 25-28 Region 12 Rally, Pismo Coast Village RV (Sold out)

President's Letter

Hello GLAACER'S,

By the time you have received this issue of the Urban Update, 1,300 Airstreams have descended on the town of Rock Springs, Wyoming for the 66th International Rally. Watch the August issue for more on this action packed get-together.

I would like to give a big shout out to our very own Eric McHenry of Region 12 on his recent election to the 2023-25 Executive Council. Way to go, Eric! To our members who voted in this important election, thank you for your interest in the International club by voting.

Our club's May rally to Kenney Grove was jam packed with fun from start to finish. I would like to give an extra thanks to Helen & Ralph Perri and Kay & Ken Hovel for hosting this event. A thank you goes out to Christopher Cooper for organizing the NDSO tour and Ken & Lori Rees who led a tour of their hangar on Santa Paula Airport Day. I know you'll enjoy the event's review in this newsletter.



The Parkfield Bluegrass Festival Rally was held just one week later at the Varian's V6 Ranch. It was a relaxing event under the stars and oaks, unless we were riding our bikes to Parkfield for fabulous music and entertainment. Food at the Parkfield Cafe was the best, as usual. Thank you to Pam & Dennis Pall for organizing this unique event.

I want to end with a personal thank you to Linda Calderon, the Events Committee and our officers for putting together a great schedule for 2024. Stay connected with your club and be sure to sign up for the events that strike your fancy. They always fill up fast! Until next time, safe travels and don't forget to flash those lights at your fellow Airstreamers.

Your prez, Michael Jackson

Fillmore's Kenney Grove in Review

submitted by Helen Perri

A small group of Airstreamers enjoyed St. Patrick's Day in May, while marking Cinco de Mayo. Why May? Because the torrents of rain in January, February and March flooded our rivers and creeks and sank our original St. Paddy's Day plans, and our campground, into the mud.

We rescheduled for Cinco de Mayo weekend in May. What to do with 12 tbs of corned beef? Corned Birria Beef tacos, of course. The hot cheesy tacos prepared on Blackstones were well-received and the fun got off to a great start. The Irish coffees may have helped.

The group of GLA veterans, newbies, and affiliates was an avid biking crew, so there was plenty of biking and sparkling weather to enjoy, with the scent of citrus blossoms adding a sweet perfume to our rides.

We visited the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation in Santa Paula, met the dogs and observed the training on various types of disaster sites, which were realistic in their rubble and ruin of highways, train derailments, and towns. Christopher Cooper arranged the visit to the large, impressive facility. Christopher has worked closely with the group during his days as a fire-fighter, and the campers loved the visit and learning about the ingenious training of these special dogs.



The 1928 St. Francis Dam disaster was marked on its 95th anniversary by a trip to the Fillmore Historical Museum where Sue Zeider and Martha Gentry presented the story in gruesome and



Happy Airstreamers! - photo: Laurretta

fascinating detail. This tragedy, engineered by William Mulholland and suffered by the Santa Clara Valley, where we sat, ended Mulholland's storied career. Over 500 souls were lost in the worst man-made disaster in the US. Santa Clarita, Piru, workers in the Valley, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Oxnard, and more all suffered losses.

On another riveting note, Lori and Ken Rees invited campers to visit their hangar at the Santa Paula Airport Museum and we had a blast! There was the usual open hangars to enjoy, the museum with endless artifacts to explore, and the Rees's hangar, where we watched landings, up close, of the beautiful antique flying machines that live at the airport. Ken Rees is currently building an aircraft for their use and it was a pleasure to see his expert riveting work, which came in handy when rebuilding his own Airstream. Let him and Lori give you a tour of their work when you camp with them!

Innovative Spaces opened up their shop and these folks are always up for an intimate show & tell to GLA members. We took in the stunning silver that enters their design premises, in awe of their capabilities transforming Airstreams into show-stopping camp-mobiles, pop-up shops and other inventive and luxurious structures. We showed our appreciation to Nate Stover and Fred David of Innovative Spaces in Ventura. See them to realize your wildest Airstream dreams, you will not be disappointed.

We packed a lot of fun in one long weekend.

V6 Ranch Bluegrass Festival in Review

submitted by Jim Cahill

The V6 Bluegrass Festival was another great GLAAC outing in Parkfield, California. Once again we had 23 Airstreams scattered around Blue Oak Campground at the V6 and enjoyed our first evening cocktail hour to meet and greet fellow attendees.



Jim and Annie with Fannie

Friday evening was special where we enjoyed a fantastic potluck dinner followed by a special performance by Annie Staninec and John Kael. These talented musicians delighted everyone with their eclectic selection of songs they chose to play just for us. What a special treat!



Annie Staninec and John Kael

Congratulations to our newly elected Region 12 Officers for 2023-25

- Abe Hernandez, President**
- Shawn Blom, 1st Vice President**
- Robert Minder, 2nd Vice President**
- Theresa Tighe, Treasurer**
- Margaret Handshoe, Recording Secretary**
- Victor Kingsland, Parliamentarian**



Meet a Member!

submitted by Jean Amundsen

I have camped since childhood and Alan has camped since college. As teachers with summers off, we camped extensively with our three daughters - first in tents, later in a 20-foot cab-over Class C motorhome and finally in a pop-up tent trailer. We spent many happy hours at Cedar Grove and Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. 'Easter Vacation' found us at various places in Arizona from Tombstone to Kayenta. After I retired in 2005 and Alan in 2006, we began to travel in the United States and abroad with Elderhostel, now known as Road Scholar. We went on photography trips to the Grand Canyon, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and further afield to Costa Rica, a safari in Africa and South America to Machu Picchu and Easter Island. With family, we traveled to the United Kingdom and France.



Alan & Jean



Wanting to get back to our first love, camping, but not wanting to sleep on the ground or venture out on night time potty runs, we bought our first Airstream, a 19' Flying Cloud, the Tin Twinkie, in 2013. We had wonderful trips to Olympic and Rocky Mountain National Parks with our kids, as well as short trips in California. After a year, however, I needed a "few more feet" and we traded up to a 23' Flying Cloud, the Tin Twinkie II. We also joined the WBCCI with the soon-to-be-defunct San Fernando Valley Unit and affiliated with the Central Coast California Unit. We went to our first Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta on a CCCU caravan in 2014.

Then, serendipity happened when I saw an announcement that members of the newly formed Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club were meeting at the Gene Autry Museum in Griffith Park to tour a Route 66 exhibit. Being only 10 minutes from home and an exhibit of great interest, we said, "Why not?" We arrived and found a couple of happy campers when Lynda and Jim Polk introduced themselves to us, our first club friends. Soon, Ralph and Helen Perri joined us and we enjoyed the exhibit, lunch and began friendships that are most dear to us.

We immediately switched our primary membership to GLAAC and, inducted in November 2014 at Plaskett Creek in beautiful Big Sur, we have been amazed by our club's growth and its dynamic membership. We count our fellow GLAACers as our best friends and you all have been a wonderful addition to our lives. Alan is proud to have served the club as president and I enjoyed many years as editor of the Urban Update along the way.

In 2016, I once again needed "a couple feet more" and our current 25' Flying Cloud, you guessed it, the Tin Twinkie III, has become our little home away from home. It has taken us on many outings with the club over the years. Our most memorable trips include visits to Death Valley National Park, San Diego, the 2017 Blackout Rally in Oregon and the 2018 Salem International along with several Cali Rallies. We are looking forward to rolling with GLAAC on many more enjoyable adventures!

Our Favorite Campground

submitted by Nancy Murphy

We have discovered so, so many wonderful places to camp over our nearly ten years of Airstreaming, and before that, tent camping, that it would be difficult to pick just one favorite. Many years ago, when we lived in Fresno, we would check the weather, look up at the mountains, and decide it would be a great weekend for a night or two at Yosemite and we always found a camping spot.



We enjoy many of the national parks but the Grand Tetons and Glacier remain two of our favorites. We love the Tetons for their mighty, majestic mountains.

Apgar Campground in Glacier National Park has easy access to Lake McDonald for kayaking and affords a short bike ride on paved paths to both the visitors' center and the small village for ice cream or a hamburger. There are also kayaks to rent there.

A little known spot in the Bay Area is Sanborn Skyline, a Santa Clara County Regional Park just outside of Old Saratoga. There are approximately 14 back-in sites with water and power overlooking vast green lawns and just next to a walk through the redwoods. Tent campers can



Tim & Nancy (left) with their family at Sanborn Skyline

wheel their gear up the paved path where there are numerous, spacious spots nestled in the redwoods with some overlooking a running creek. We have stayed here many times when visiting our grands.

Finally, we really couldn't get away without mentioning Whidbey Island, Washington, There are a couple of state parks on the island but if you are really fortunate, a friend might invite you to stay at the military base which is situated right on Puget Sound (thank you Pam & Dennis). The camp host is an avid gardener and there are varied and colorful flowers everywhere.



So, a favorite? It seems impossible to choose just one. As we travel this beautiful country, we discover more and more places that call us back. The Army Corps of Engineers campgrounds in Tennessee and the surrounding states are amazing. The sites are large and well maintained and most often afford water and power. There are many more of these campgrounds we'd like to check out. So many places.....



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

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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.

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!