



UWAC CLUB NEWS

Utah's Wasatch Airstream Club



Volume 22 — July 2023 — WACCI's Utah Affiliate

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy summer UWAC members and affiliates.

Welcome to the heart of Airstream season for those of us who let their babies hibernate for the winter.

So far this season we've held four UWAC rallies-Kanab, Lava Hot Springs, Etna, WY, plus the 66th International Rally in Rock Springs. I want to thank all of you who volunteered to host these UWAC rallies!



(a few pics of the amazing 6/29/23 sunset at the International rally)

We had about a dozen UWAC members in attendance at the International Rally. Nine of us met at Little America on Saturday morning to caravan into Rock Springs. Way to represent UWAC! The attendees included several new faces. It is always nice to see members attending their first rally.

As Kevin-UWAC's Events Director mentioned in his latest monthly report, the Greater Yellowstone Caravan will begin on July 19. This event is full, but there is still space available at the remaining three rallies in Flagstaff, Arizona, Grand Junction, Colorado and Richfield, Utah. Please see the club website for our rally schedule: <https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch/rally-event-schedule>.

Speaking of the club website rally schedule, if you have been paying close attention you may have noticed we already have most of an amazing rally/caravan schedule planned for 2024! Look for registration notices for these rallies and the caravan in the next few weeks/months. The 2024 schedule includes some first-time rally hosts. I want to thank Gil and Elaine Jarvie and Laurel Black and Peter Grogan for doing this for the club. We are still looking for locations and hosts for September and October 2024. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting one of those.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, as we look forward to 2024 we will need to nominate and elect a 2nd Vice President. This will be for a two-year term. Please let one of the board members know if you are interested in this or any other club position. Per ARTICLE IV, Sec. 1 of UWAC's Bylaws:

The Executive Board shall, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the Club's annual business meeting, shall entertain and solicit proposed nominations from the membership for the officer positions of the Club. Those individuals nominated shall be contacted by the Executive Board not less than thirty (30) days prior to the business meeting as to ascertain if they will accept such nomination. Those individuals who agree to be nominated will be presented to the membership via e-mail and a vote will be taken at an officially noticed business meeting of the Club. No seconds are required for any nomination. Please let one of the Board members know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

John Ruskauff

UWAC President

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John Ruskauff, UWAC President

Ruskauff@msn.com

Stories from the Road

Boondocking with the Buehlers

May 2023 - Logan Canyon

Kevin and Elizabeth Buehler



Memorial Day weekend Kevin and Elizabeth Buehler (BRN 12225) flirted with disaster and followed through on a planned camping trip to Logan Canyon. With a low snow line and rivers flooding, it was risky but no last minute substations seemed worth it. In the end, the reward was well worth the risk.

Leaving Logan into the canyon we saw the first of the river flooding. Logan River was running high and fast. Campgrounds and crossings were flooded. We told ourselves, if our usual spot was flooded, we'd keep driving US-89 past Bear Lake into Idaho.



Luckily, we did not need to! Franklin Basin Road was open to a point, no flooding and with spots available. We found a spot off a tributary creek and started a weekend of fun.

Saturday's activity was limited to getting the famous raspberry shakes in Garden City because Peter Sinks, Limber Pine and Tony Grove were all under feet of snow. That turned into a gift of extended camp time. While Kevin and Elizabeth caught up on past issues of Blue Beret and Airstream Life, Antonio and Denali played in the flatwater of the creek and retrieved balls and sticks for hours.



Sunday we found a wonderful hike along Temple Fork. Heavy morning rains kept most people away. The hike up the creek was gorgeous with new views at every turn. The highlight was the multiple beaver dams and a very large lodge.

If you can't get to the Unitas and want a quick getaway from the Wasatch Front,
Look north

*By Kevin Buehler
Events Director*

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

Organizers – Ron Jorgensen and John Ruskauff

UWAC had a great turn-out with 20 trailers and over 35 members in attendance at our 2023 kick-off rally in Kanab, Utah. The opening reception was a tad chilly but the weather overall was very good, each day of the 4 day event warming more.

John & Bonnie Ruskauff had made advanced reservations for a series of tours at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, which is always a popular attraction in Kanab. Several subgroups organized to conduct various hikes & bike rides & tours including visits to Buckskin Gulch, Orderville Canyon, Sand Caves, and Pipe Springs National Monument. Groups also organized some smaller dinner parties, one of the popular places being the Wild Thyme Cafe in Kanab.

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

Hosts – Keith and Jeanne Lund

UWAC had a really fun rally at the Portneuf Bend Campground in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. There were 7 trailers and 14 attendees who enjoyed a beautiful location on the Portneuf River about a 1/4 mile outside of the downtown area. One of the real benefits of this particular campground was all the wildlife — beavers, geese, ducks, songbirds and more. The campground hosts were very friendly and accommodating.



On Thursday (5/18), the group gathered alongside the Portneuf River for a meet/greet with appetizers. Afterwards, several club members headed over to the Hot Springs for a little soaking and relaxation. On Friday, the group traveled by carpool up to the historic LDS settlement town of Chesterfield, Idaho. The town is largely abandoned today but has many of its historic 19th century homes, schools and other structures still intact. It is located on the historic Oregon Trail and offers

a real glimpse into what life would have been like on the frontier.

On Friday night, the group held a chili cook-off competition. Congratulations to Joni Simmons for winning the Grand Prize for the best chili. (see Joni's recipe below) All of the entries were tasty (plus the delicious cornbread furnished by the Lunds) and the group really enjoyed hanging around the campground next to the river.

On Saturday, the group along with the dogs hiked the Idaho Centennial Trail up the hillside directly south of town — the views were stunning and the company was delightful! The



dogs had a blast too. Afterwards, the group gathered at the Rooftop Bar for some recovery time, liquid refreshments and shade. *Taken from the UWAC Club website written by Ron Jorgensen. Thanks Ron



Peter Grogan and Laurel Black captured the ambiance and camaraderie of the Lava Rally in this beautiful video. Click on the picture to of the cabin to watch. They put it to music so be sure to have your sound on. Thanks Peter and Laurel.

June 24-30 – International Rally, Rock Springs, Wyo. – [Sweetwater Events Complex](#) – The 66th International Airstream was held in Rock Springs Wyoming this year. As it was practically in our backyard, it was well attended by UWAC members and affiliates. Hopefully, next month’s Blue Beret, available online, will have a complete report for those of us not able to attend this great event.



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

Hosts – John and Bonnie Ruskauff



UWAC had a great turn-out with a dozen or more trailers / motorhomes at the nearly completed Grand Buffalo RV Resort in Star Valley, Wyoming. The rally was held as an Apres International get together for UWAC club members and affiliates. For more information and pictures see the UWAC website, <https://airstreamclub.org/utahs-wasatch>, hosted and written by Ron Jorgensen. Definitely worth a look.

WHATS NEXT IN 2023

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

- Leaders – Ron and Kelli Araujo, Co-hosts - John and Bonnie Ruskauff
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 – 5, 20 sites reserved
- 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 – 16, 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 – 14, 15 sites reserved
- Please sign up at our [Jotform](#) after booking a spot at Canyon View RV Resort,

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.

2024 UWAC Rally & Event Schedule (preliminary):

March 2024 - Moab (March 14-17th); details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once registration is opened.

April 2024 - UWAC Total Eclipse of the (Lone) Star Rally (confirmed): April 5 to 9, 2024 (4 nights) at Arch Ray RV Resort in Fredericksburg, Texas. Details and registration information was previously sent to UWAC members and affiliates, and the initial registration closed 4/17/22 (due to popularity and high demand for campsites.) **However...** Arch Ray RV Resort is currently expanding their campground and is taking "wait list" reservations (until fully subscribed) for the eclipse and the expanded camp area. Contact the campground for

additional information, and if you get placed on the "wait list" please inform **John Ruskauff or Kevin Buehler (co-hosts)** so they know you may be joining the UWAC rally. **May 2024 - Escalante** (May 9-12); details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once registration is opened.

June 2024 - Willamette Dammit Caravan (tentative); co-hosts are still working on arrangements for trip to Oregon, details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once finalized and registration is opened.

July 2024 - Pinedale Rendezvous (7/11-15/24); rally will be held in conjunction with the Green River Rendezvous celebration in Pinedale; details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once registration is opened.

August 2024 - Bryce Canyon (moved to Aug. 8 - 12); details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once registration is opened.

September 2024 - Steamboat Springs (tentative, no firm dates or location yet); details will be shared with UWAC members and affiliates via e-mail once finalized.

October 2024 - Open (looking for co-hosts, possibly for Zion area rally which is a popular location and well-suited for shoulder season.)

November 2024 - UWAC Annual Meeting and Dinner: Dates and location TBD.

RECIPE

Chili With Ground Chicken And Sour Cream Recipe - Joni's winning chili

Published: Oct, 2019. Updated: Mar, 2023 by [Iryna](#), Lavender and Macarons

This yummy White Chicken Chili is made with Ground Chicken, Sour Cream and ready to be served in just 40 minutes. This easy and hearty soup recipe will keep you full and satisfied for hours.

Ingredients: 1 ¼ lb ground chicken, you can also use ground turkey

- 2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion finely minced
- 1 medium carrot diced
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- 2 cans white beans Cannellini or

Great Northern Beans, drained and rinsed

- 8 oz (2 4-oz cans) Green Chiles mild
- 1 jalapeno diced
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- ¼ teaspoon Cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 2 tablespoon Chili powder
- 4-5 c chicken broth
- ½ c sour cream
- 2 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes



Instructions

- Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a large heavy bottom pot over medium heat. Add ground chicken and cook for 10 minutes or until it's brown on the sides making sure to break large chunks with a wooden spoon. Transfer ground chicken to a plate.
- Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil and stir in onion, carrot, garlic and jalapeno. Cook for 5 minutes or until onion is translucent. Stir in flour and cook for another 2 minutes.
- Add diced tomatoes, beans, chiles, cooked ground chicken, smoked paprika, chili powder, Cayenne pepper, cumin, salt and 4 cups of chicken broth.
- Bring soup to a boil, then reduce heat to a medium low and cook for 15 minutes.
- Meanwhile remove 1 tablespoon of broth from the pot with soup and mix it with sour cream. Add diluted sour cream in Chili, give everything a nice stir and cook for another 5 minutes. If Chili comes out too thick, you can add the remaining 1 cup of broth.

TECH CORNER

4 Airstream trailer maintenance myths

Rich Luhr Apr 24, 2023

We spend a lot of time writing about the things you need to maintain on your Airstream trailer. So let's take the opposite view and discuss what you *don't* need to worry about.

Airstreams have continued to improve over the years, as have many of the components that go into them. This means that some of the old rules of maintenance have become obsolete. Some others never really made sense at all, but they got repeated so much that they became folklore.

Let's bust a few common myths we still get asked about:



1. You need to check the torque on your wheels (or "re-torque" them) before every trip

This idea probably emerged from the fact that whenever you take a wheel off an Airstream you need to check the torque at least 3 times over a period of about a hundred miles. That is true. But once you've done that, the wheel should be settled into position, and it generally stays there.

If you like checking the torque on the lug nuts regularly, go right ahead. It won't do any harm as long as you use an accurate torque wrench set to the correct number. *But it's overkill as a maintenance item* if you've properly tightened them in the first place.



2. You should replace the sealant on the roof after a few years

I see this one pop up from time to time, when someone writes to me and asks why they got an estimate from a service center for \$2,000 to replace roof sealant on their late-model Airstream.

The short answer is: Unless there's a real problem with the sealant (gapping, cracking, known leak) or you've broken the sealant to replace something, there's no routine maintenance needed. *Any offer to replace all the sealant at once should be regarded with skepticism.*

I discuss this topic more extensively in "[The \(Nearly\) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance](#)" on pages 80-84, and [in this blog](#).



3. You need to re-pack the wheel bearings every xx miles

A good friend of mine, having heard this, took his Airstream to a local service center to have the wheel bearings re-packed. The service center told him, "You don't need this because you have Dexter *Nev-R-Lube* bearings on your trailer." (We had a laugh about this.)

This may not be a myth for *every* Airstream owner, because it's still true that *conventional* wheel bearings need periodic service. But most newer Airstreams have *Nev-R-Lube* bearings, which as the name implies, don't need service or re-packing.

The only maintenance need for *Nev-R-Lube* bearings is to inspect them every 12,000 miles (or once a year) to make sure they haven't been damaged. [The inspection procedure is in my Maintenance Guide, page 139.](#)

Nev-R-Lube bearings are installed on:

- Airstream Classic trailers with disc brakes, starting 2006
- All trailers 25 feet and longer, starting 2010
- All trailers except Sport, Basecamp and Nest starting 2017
- All trailers except Bambi, Basecamp and Nest starting 2020



4. You need to use special RV toilet paper to protect your Airstream's plumbing

Nah. Lots of people have debunked this one. Any toilet paper marked as "septic safe" and even some that aren't (like Scott's Single Ply) will be fine. Our friends at "A Little Bit Unhitched" did [a test and a short video about this](#).

The real key to maintaining your black tank is to only give it water, tank chemical, and things that you've previously eaten.

You've got enough to think about when preparing your Airstream. Take these 4 things off your list!

WORTH NOTING:

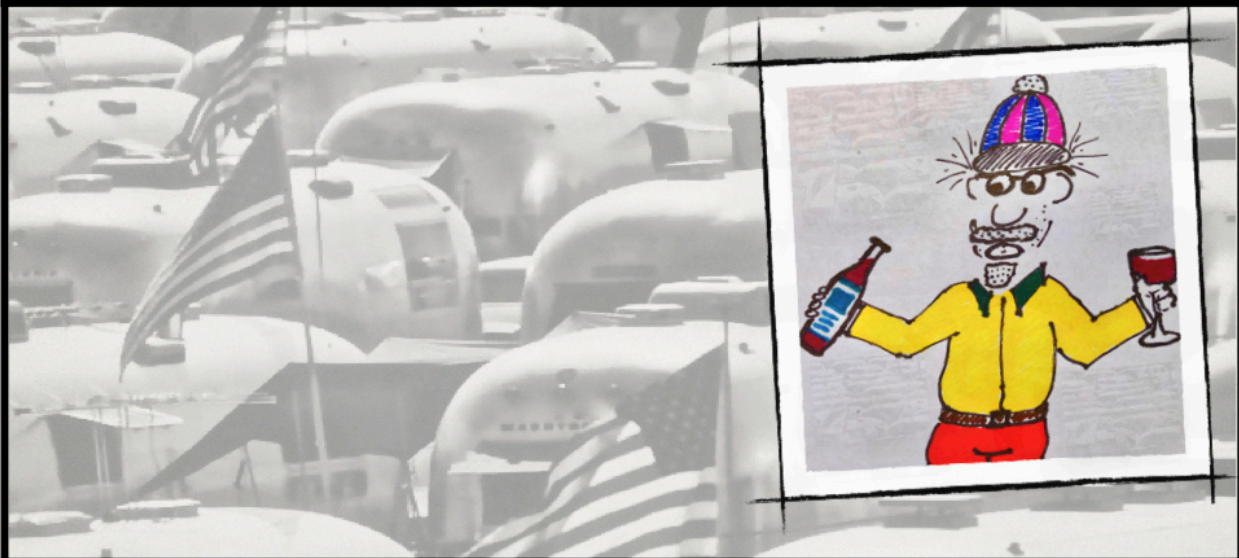
Be sure to bookmark the UWAC web site:

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

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

Festus A. Streamer

R.S. Jorgensen



Howdy. Went to the big Wally Club International this year — sort of a mix of Senior Center, Airstream lot, and a hint of tailgating. Next time need a few more Millenials and Gen-Xers.... can you say PAR-TAY!!