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UNIT #24 REGION 11

[AIRSTREAMCLUB.ORG/COLORADO-AIRSTREAM-CLUB-INFORMATION](http://AIRSTREAMCLUB.ORG/COLORADO-AIRSTREAM-CLUB-INFORMATION)

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## President's Message

Our Colorado Airstream Club was well represented, with more than 120 members taking part in the Airstream Club International Rally. We were in good company. Nearly 12 hundred Airstreams from all over the U.S., Canada, and Mexico were drawn to the sprawling Sweetwater County Events Complex in Rock Springs, Wyoming, for a full week of learning, sharing, camaraderie, food, fun, and entertainment.

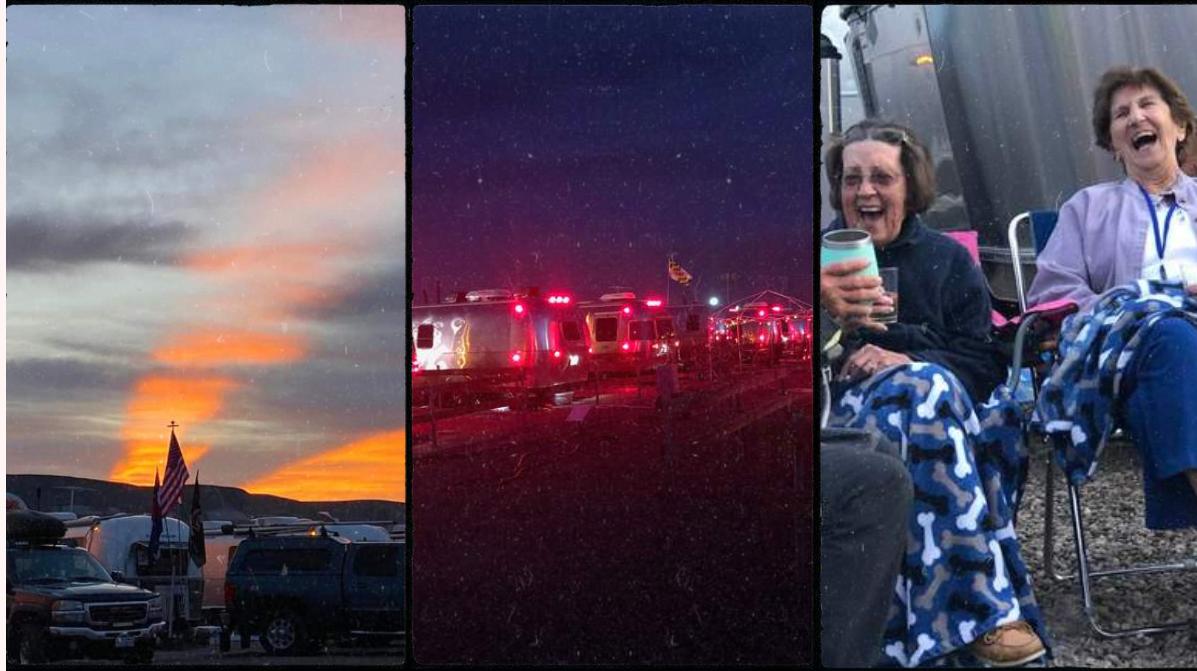
CAC Past President Rob Hughey had organized an informal caravan so that many of us could arrive at the same time and get parked as a group. We met Thursday night, June 22, at the KOA in Rawlins. Rob had been talking with the parking committee volunteers and led us out early Friday morning to ensure we could park together. I was assigned "caboose" to ensure everyone was together for the last hundred miles to the Sweetwater Events Complex. But then a funny thing happened. When a group of rigs from Texas began to pass through our group, four of us separated from the "front of our CAC wagon train." After a brief stop to regroup, we rolled into Rock Springs about ten minutes behind



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the front, so you would think we would be parked last. But when we were “staged” in two lines by the parking crew, those who arrived later were parked first. So, we were pretty much unhooked when the first rigs in our little caravan were backing into their spots. As Rob Hughey began to back into the spot next to mine, I couldn't resist. “Hey Rob,” I said, “if you were having trouble keeping up, you should have just given us a call. We would have been happy to slow down.”



This was the 66th International Rally for the Airstream Club. Rally sessions covered topics ranging from ‘How to Change a Tire’ to “Getting the Right Insurance Coverage for your Airstream.” With multiple concurrent sessions daily, we could choose from presentations, including club history, travel tips, high-tech hacks, cooking techniques, maintenance shortcuts, Airstream upgrades, what to expect from caravans and rallies, and more.

I was honored to carry our CAC flag during the opening ceremonies and proud to see our flag flying on Rob and Shari Davis' vintage rig for the big Vintage Parade. Many of our Colorado Airstream Club members were actively involved as presenters, entertainers, organizers, and volunteers, helping to make the 2023 Rally one to remember for all the right reasons. CAC Trustee Jim Stahl shared lessons learned in upgrading his Interstate to lithium-solar power. Jim Cooper shared his fly-fishing expertise, Trustee Mike Zimmerman led sessions on trailer backing and tire changing, and Carolyn Beardshear led a discussion on travel and camping apps that can help Airstreamers find fun camping experiences and save money. And, of course, we were all proud to be there as CAC member Marsha Howe was sworn in to serve on the International Club Executive Board.

Nightly entertainment options included the Airstreamers Band and Chorus concert in a downtown Rock Springs park, an 80's dance party at the VAC (Vintage Airstream Club) tent, jam sessions, storytelling, happy hours, and the big closing night live entertainment bash. Downtown Rock Springs businesses gave us discounts, and everybody at the Rally seemed to have a story about finding the best Mexican restaurant in town.

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There were too many highlights to recall in this newsletter, but one of my favorites came when Mary responded to a social media post. The Gauthiers, Airstreamers from Oregon, posted that they were at the Rally with their 9-week-old baby, Miss Lena. They thought she was likely the youngest Airstreamer at the Rally and were hoping to get a picture of her with one of the oldest Airstreamers in attendance, and they were looking for suggestions. Mary replied that CAC members CJ and Miriam Hahn were parked with our group, and the resulting pictures with baby Lena (9 weeks old) in the arms of Miriam Hahn (now 92) are precious memories for us.

We left Rock Springs looking forward to next year in Sedalia, MO. Many thanks are due to International President Eric McHenry, the ACI officers and HQ staff, the Sweetwater County Events Staff, and the many hard-working ACI volunteers who made the 66th International - a rally to remember. Wally and Helen would have been proud!

Dave Rose - CAC President  
Lifetime BRN 13495



## CAC Officers

### *President*

Dave Rose

### *1st Vice President*

Rich Howarth

### *2nd Vice President*

Steve Libhart

### *Treasurer*

Dayna Olivas

### *Recording Officer*

Valerie McVay

### *Corresponding Secretary*

Carolyn Beardshear

### *Past President*

Rob Hughey

### *Trustees*

Jim Stahl

Mike Zimmermann

Kirk McVay

Scott Kunze

## Coordinators

### *Membership*

Scott Kunze

### *Newsletter Editor*

Chris Freeman

### *Event Consultant*

Rob Hughey

### *Information Technology*

Von Campbell

### *Webmaster*

Carolyn Beardshear

## New Club Members



Welcome new members!

Dana Capozzella & Robert Utter - BRN 1831

Ryan Horst - BRN 3351

Debbie & Steven Korrell - BRN 4049

Nancy & Ralph Luttenbacher - BRN 3929

Julie & Thierry & Montoya - BRN 1633

Paul Munding - BRN 16562

Alan & Marsha Rose - BRN 4247

Stacey & Winston Schultz - BRN 2975

Amy, Beatrice, & Tucker Trautman - BRN 14968



**"Don't live in the past or future, make history." - Wally Byam**

## Carry Your E-Bikes With Confidence

by Jeff Groves BRN4349

Ever wonder if there are other options for carrying e-bikes? Well, I have, and the limited options from Airstream have always intrigued me. Airstream says, "Never put a hitch on the rear of your trailer."

Well, I am here to tell you about an option that has worked for us for years. Many of you know the name Luke Bernander—a fixture at the maintenance rally for years and king of fixing large and small Airstreams. Luke devised a way to put a 2" hitch on the rear of our 28ft Airstream International and supports for tie-downs.



Luke has done this to several trailers, and I don't know anyone with negative results. I was then able to use our ATOC bike carrier. ATOC makes this bike carrier, and we use it to carry our tandem and two single e-bikes (Trek) to Arizona each year. Total weight is a little bit over 100 lbs. Luke also sold us a device to help keep the bike rack from bouncing up and down so much.

I don't think Airstream's rack mounted on the rear of trailers gives enough flexibility to owners to choose an e-bike that fits their needs. One shouldn't have to choose an e-bike based on the ability to carry it. Instead, select an e-bike for your physical needs.

The options listed above are costly but give owners more options. Some current bike racks warn of carrying too much weight, and some warn of stress fractures caused by too much weight. We always carry our e-bikes without the batteries on them. Batteries can weigh anywhere from 4 to 5 lbs or more.

We have been transporting our bikes to Mesa, Arizona, for quite a few years with little problems. If you don't carry a tandem, ATOC bike racks can be configured to carry three bikes or just two. The rack also lowers to near the ground, so no lifting of the bikes is required. However, you must remove the bike's front wheel for it to be mounted on the bike rack. But the bike rack also has the option to carry the front wheels on it. Check it out if you're interested [ATOC.com](http://ATOC.com), and of course, Luke would always be interested in helping you.



## Facebook Group

You can find the group on Facebook and request access. This is a private group for CAC members only. The group is not a formal communication channel.

FB Group membership is not required. All CAC members receive formal email communications.

However, it is a great place to interact with fellow club members.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/colorado.wbccj>

Or search for "Colorado Airstream Club" on Facebook.



## Pop Quiz!

Airstream famously created the first self contained travel trailer. Travel became less rustic and the Best Gopher Hole Decoration award at the International Rally went the way of the Dodo bird.

What is a gopher hole?



Bookmark Your One Stop Resource for All CAC Events

<https://airstreamclub.org/colorado-airstream-club-information>





## Help CAC Make an Impact on Meeker

Willie Delgado has taken the lead in organizing the biggest community project for CAC in 2023. Our group will be bringing Airstreams to Meeker in September and Willie is working with the local food bank and our attendees to ensure we provide much needed supplies to help the community.

You can help CAC have an impact on the Meeker community, even if you are unable to attend the Rally. If you live north of Denver on the front range, contact [Chris Freeman](#) to arrange a donation pick-up. We are also working on a way to submit cash donations to the food bank. Look for an e-blast later in August with details.

On September 7th, our club will have a cocktail party at the rally. It will be at the Airstream of Steve Libhart and Willie Delgado. This will be where you can bring your donations to the food bank.

A representative from the food bank will be coming, and the editor of the Rio Blanco Herald Times will be there to do a story for the newspaper.

Here are items the food bank needs to serve the community:

boxed cereals  
 boxed mashed potatoes  
 canned yams/ canned sweet potatoes  
 cake mixes  
 canned frosting  
 dehydrated milk  
 cranberry sauce (for Thanksgiving baskets)  
 muffin, cookies, biscuits mixes  
 Spaghetti O's/Stew/Chow Mein ...easy meals  
 pasta (any kind)  
 tomato products (sauce, diced, etc)  
 soups, (cup of soups, any flavor)  
 canned meats (tuna, chicken, ham)  
 paper products (toilet paper, paper towels)  
 hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, body wash, lotion, hair brushes)  
 Any non-perishable items that are not out of date

And....there will be a prize (prizes) for best decorated box with food donations in it. So....get creative and see what you can come up with to win a prize.

This is our biggest opportunity to make a community impact as a club this year.

If you have any questions, please contact Willie at [cyclonedog3@gmail.com](mailto:cyclonedog3@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Election of CAC Officers and Trustees

There is another election coming this November. No, thankfully, it's not THAT election. It's the election of CAC officers and trustees to serve our club in 2024. In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, the club elects its leadership annually. It will likely be a somewhat low-key election with no political ads, dirty tricks, October surprise, or Watergate. It will be an "electronic election," so you will receive a link to the ballot and voting instructions.

In compliance with our bylaws, the Executive Board appointed a nominating committee in June to identify a slate of members to serve as officers and trustees to serve in the leadership of our club next year.



Our club generally anticipates continuity of leadership by custom and practice, with the First Vice President becoming President and the 2nd Vice President becoming First Vice President. Of course, circumstances change, and these expectations are not cast in concrete, so the club is always looking for members who want to assume leadership, ranging from rally and luncheon hosts to serving on the Executive Board.

Members of the Executive Board include the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, the Recording Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate Past President, and Trustees. Trustees attend all Board Meetings and are voting members of the Board. By custom and practice, they are among our hardest working members, hosting rallies, organizing activities, and sharing ideas that help to keep our club vibrant.

If you are interested in helping the club in any of the various leadership roles, please reach out to the members of our nominative committee. [Scott Kunze](#) is chair of the nominating committee along with Trustee [Jim Stahl](#) and second VP [Steve Libhart](#).

## Estes Park Rally Lights Up With Unexpected Fireworks

Heavy rain on July 4th forced Estes Park to postpone its big fireworks show to Saturday night, July 15th – or maybe they did it just for us! We put our lawn chairs on the golf course behind Jack and Karen Meyer's condominium for an ideal view of the spectacular pyrotechnic display.

And that was only part of the fun at the Estes Park Rally. Two nights earlier, Janell and Bob Prussman had invited us to their Estes Park home (usually reserved for VRBO clients this time of year) for Happy Hour. A summer shower was no problem, because there was plenty of room in their garage for all of us, and it was a fine venue for CAC member Tom Balchak to give us a personal history lesson on the Hidden Valley Ski Area. Hidden Valley was one of a handful of small "family-friendly" ski areas that had played a significant role in the early development of what is now Colorado's dominant position in the ski industry. Tom and his brother Jim were volunteer ski patrolmen working at Hidden Valley, together with a combined 57 years as ski patrolmen. His presentation on Hidden Valley was loaded with personal memories and insights.

Many thanks to Scott and Nina Kunze and Karen and Jack Meyer, who were our hosts for the Estes Park Rally. What a beautiful place, and what a fun rally!



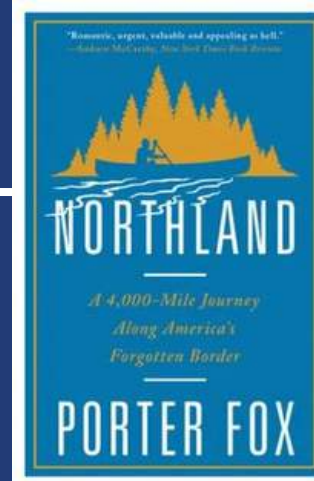


## A Book for Your Shelf

### Northland: A 4,000-Mile Journey Along America's Forgotten Border

by Porter Fox

In "Northland," writer Porter Fox embarks on a three-year exploration of the 4,000-mile border between Maine and Washington. His journey involves various modes of travel, including canoe, freighter, car, and foot. The book combines a well-researched account of the region's history with captivating tales of his own travels. Beginning at the easternmost point of the mainland U.S., Fox retraces the steps of explorer Samuel de Champlain in the Northeast, delves into the rise and decline of industries like timber, iron, and rail, crosses the Great Lakes via a freighter, and follows the forty-ninth parallel from Minnesota to the Pacific Ocean. Along the way, he interacts with locals, border guards, Indian activists, and militia leaders, offering an engaging and dynamic portrayal of the present-day Northland. The region faces challenges such as climate change, water disputes, oil booms, and border security issues. Fox's skillful storytelling provides readers with a deep understanding of the complexities and wonders of the Northland today.



## 2024 Rally Planning

The CAC board is already working on Rally plans for 2024.

Do you have an idea for a rally?

Hosting a rally is a great way to meet members in the club and share a favorite destination of yours with your fellow Airstream friends.

Hosting is rewarding and can be a simple or involved as you would like. The CAC team also has lots of people to help you along the way.

Reach out to [Dave Rose](#) or any other member of the board to get started.



## 2023 Rally Schedule

Date	Event	Description
August 27-31	<a href="#"><u>Biking the Roaring Fork Valley at Carbondale</u></a>	Gateway RV Park sits next to the Roaring Fork River and the Rio Grande Bike Trail, We will organize some bike rides on the paved 40 mile bike trail that leads all the way to Aspen. Bring your water toys and fishing poles, and enjoy the gorgeous scenery and all the Roaring Fork Valley has to offer.
September 7-11	<a href="#"><u>Meeker Classic Sheepdog Trials Rally</u></a>	Join us in the beautiful and peaceful valley in Meeker Colorado for the 2023 Meeker Classic Sheep Dog Trials. These trials are the culmination of several competitions and the winner takes the grand prize.
September 7-10	<a href="#"><u>Carter Lake Rally</u></a>	Join us at beautiful Carter Lake. Carter Lake is easily accessible from the Front Range, about 1 hour north of Denver. There are great hiking trails around the lake which also offers bathing, boating and fishing. Campsites are situated along the lake and pull-throughs are plentiful.
September 18 - 22	<a href="#"><u>Wagon Wheel Rally</u></a>	Hosts: Carolyn Beardshear, Mike Zimmermann, Michael and Becki Carmichael
October 2 - 6	<a href="#"><u>Ouray for Fall Colors</u></a>	Host: Carolyn Beardshear, Mike Zimmermann, Ian and Jeri Hasund

Always visit the [CAC Events Page](#) for registration dates and all the latest updates.

## Colorful News

Make this newsletter YOURS!

Send your articles to  
[chris.freeman+cacnews@gmail.com](mailto:chris.freeman+cacnews@gmail.com)  
 by the 15th of the month with the  
 subject line:  
**AIRSTREAM NEWSLETTER**

### Suggestions For Topics:

#### Trips and Adventures:

Include itinerary, photos, captions,  
 and websites of any important  
 destinations

#### Technology Tips:

Have a new Starlink setup? Lithium  
 and solar? Tell us about it!

#### Hacks and Upgrades:

Show us something you've done to  
 enhance your travel experience

#### Rally Recipes:

Let us know what's cooking in your  
 Airstream

#### Reading for the Road:

What are you reading that you  
 cannot put down?

#### Exterior Set-up:

Do you have an outside  
 arrangement that works well?

#### ...and more.

If it interests you, share it with the  
 club.

### Humphreys Keynote Address" Airstream HQ Returning to Normal in the Aftermath of COVID

Airstream VP Justin Humphreys' keynote address at the International Rally provided a detailed update from Airstream HQ. Justin reported that much of the "craziness" brought on by the pandemic was now in the rearview mirror. Dealer inventories, supply chain problems, and even factory workforce issues brought on by the pandemic are becoming more normalized.

Humphreys told rally attendees that Airstream had successfully avoided the need for massive workforce layoffs that many RV manufacturers were experiencing now that the demand bubble created by COVID was deflating. But he said demand for new Airstreams remains strong, and hiring and retaining highly skilled workers is still a big challenge throughout the RV industry.

Humphreys reminded attendees that RV manufacturing requires skills ranging from metal fabrication to plumbing, flooring, cabinet makers, engineers, designers, electricians, and mechanics. Those are all areas where good employers are challenged to find good workers. But, he told rally-goers that the massive new Airstream manufacturing plant in Jackson Center, coupled with recent structure changes within the company, is paying off with more standardization of rigs resulting in greater manufacturing efficiency and improved quality control.

Humphreys talked about new Airstream initiatives aiming to improve quality and reliability from suppliers and subcontractors. He noted that after-sales problems with a single appliance or electronics component can have a ripple effect, resulting in problems for the plant, dealers, and customers.

Humphreys also enthusiastically talked about ongoing Airstream initiatives to strengthen dealers by developing more exclusive locations. He noted the new Airstream exclusive stores in Utah and Wyoming participating in the rally, the new Airstream exclusive dealership in Chandler, Arizona, and soon-to-open new stores in Pennsylvania and Colorado, expected to open this fall. He said establishing a new top-rated dedicated supplier program would help reduce waiting time for parts from vendors and suppliers. That will reduce the time our rigs spend waiting for dealer service and repairs.

## Pop Quiz! Answer

You can find this and many other discoveries at the Airstream Heritage Center in Jackson Center, Ohio.

Award for Best Gopher Hole Decoration given to Mamie Fortney in 1963. Prior to the advent of the gray and black tanks, Airstreamers had to dig holes, nicknamed "Gopher Holes," for their waste. The Club would hand out awards for the best or most creatively decorated Gopher Hole.

Courtesy of the Fortney family.

## Editorial Review

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Articles submitted for publishing must be sent to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Kindly use **AIRSTREAM NEWSLETTER** in the email subject line.

