



The NorCal News

Volume 60 Number 6

The Poppy

August 2023

President's Message

Wow, the year is passing by quickly, with just five months left. Hopefully all of you have been staying healthy, doing some traveling and having some fun. For those who were not able to attend the International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming, suffice it to say, the experience was memorable. Just as memorable was the two week "tag-along" caravan to get there, led by **Deanna & Tom Bain** with **Bob Vasser**. We want to recognize and say "Thank you" to **Deanna, Tom and Bob** for all their efforts in making the tag-along a big success. There is a Facebook Group full of pictures and comments by those who did attend the tag-along and rally. The Group name is "**NorCal...Airstream**". If you have difficulty finding it, please contact me and I will assist as much as possible. We also want to say "Thank you" to **Amy Webster** for creating this Facebook Group.

Many of us who attended the International took the opportunity to participate in various organized activities such as attending classes, dinners, line dance lessons, daily bike rides and other activities. A lot of time was spent meeting and making new friends, catching up with old friends, playing games, window shopping the 2023 Airstream Trailers on display, shopping numerous vendors attending, eating ice cream, donuts, drinking beer and enjoying happy hours at individual trailers. Sightseeing was popular. The Flaming Gorge was at the top of the destination list as well as finding wild horses in another nearby area. As always, "Keep on Traveling" and we will see you down the road.



Jim Christie & Deb

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From the Editor

Greetings to all and Happy August. We spent most of June and a bit of July on the Caravan that rolled to Rock Springs, Wyoming, and at the 66th Airstream International Rally. We had a terrific time and this issue of The Poppy includes articles on the caravan and the International Rally. Unfortunately, there is no article on the unhosted June Sparks rally since no report was submitted. It is my understanding few attended, and most that did stayed only a night or two before venturing elsewhere, such as to the International Rally.



This month, we feature another unhosted rally, this one in Bakersfield, starting on pg. 3. If you attend – please send me a report for this publication so we can hear how it went and what you and others did, even if there are scant attendees.

The tentative rally schedule for 2024 has been announced, and we print it on page 6, but keep in mind it is still a work in progress and changes can happen until a particular rally has been confirmed. That said, it is hoped that the rallies will go forward as listed. If you are interested in hosting any of these rallies (with the exception of the February Flash Rally that has no host), contact Juliet Scheuer, incoming rally chair, and let her know of your interest.

Speaking of rallies - there are two scheduled for next year that need your attention NOW. Costanoa and the Death Valley Flash Rally both require self-reservations to be made in/around August 6 or 7, 2023. **Please read the instructions for each of these rallies** on pages 7 and 8, and follow them closely, or you may find yourself out of luck should you wish to attend either. Please email Lori Bibby with your reservation information as soon as you confirm with the park so she can keep track of who is going.

Plus, it is not too soon to register for a rally that will provide viewing of the next total eclipse that will be seen in parts of the U.S. on April 8, 2024. Several Airstream Clubs are already taking registrations for their rallies, which should prove to be popular. Check out the information on page 9. I will be attending the one in Lampasas, Texas, if all goes according to plan.

Finally, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE submit your articles, stories or anecdotes to me for inclusion in this publication so we can read about what others are doing. If I do not respond to you – it means I did not get it, so let me know if you send something and I didn't respond. As always, thanks for reading!

Elisa Ungerman Poppy Editor

2023 Rally Schedule

- ~~March 1 - 5 Yanks RV Park, Greenfield
Hosts: The Scheuers, Team Paz~~

- ~~March 29 - April 2 Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley
Hosts: The Crutchfields and Williams~~

- ~~May 17-21 Lassen RV Park McArthur
UNHOSTED~~

- ~~June 14-18 Sparks Marina RV Park Sparks Nev.
UNHOSTED~~

- ~~June 24-July 1 International Rally Rock Springs, Wyo.
Hosts: Airstream Club International~~

- August 2 -6 Chris & Dean Davison's Fortuna**
Co-Hosts: The Scheuers, Team Paz, Team Nathan & Ryan
Boondocking

- Sept. 6-10 Santa Cruz RV Resort Felton**
Hosts: The Echols, Roblee/Valerio, Becks

- October 4-8 River Run RV Park Bakersfield**
Unhosted

- October 25-28 Region 12 Rally Pismo Beach**
Hosts: Region 12

- Nov. 8-12 Pismo Coast RV Park Pismo Beach**
Hosts: The Ungermans & Salingers

- Nov. 29-Dec 3 Black Oak Casino Tuolumne**
The Websters, Marsons, & Team Rappaport/Haymond

The Fine Print

New info shown in **green**. Dates are arrival and departure, although you can often request early arrival or Monday departure. Sign-ups are accomplished by submitting a completed Registration form and payment by the deadline to the Club Registrar. If a rally is full, there is a wait list. "Buddy" events allow you to invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts or the minimum number of campers may be cancelled. Rallies are subject to COVID restrictions and protocols and any refunds are covered by Club policies as shown on the rally coupon.



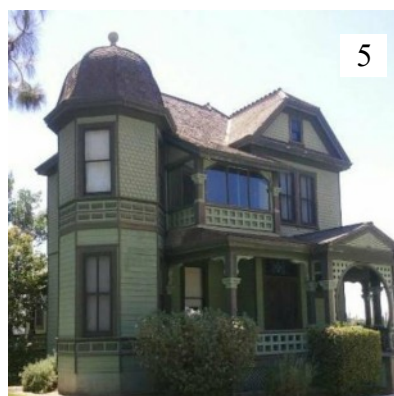
**Bakersfield Unhosted Rally October 4-8, 2023
Bakersfield River Run RV Park**

Rather than merely driving through on your way to somewhere else, take this opportunity to visit Bakersfield, County Seat of Kern County, the 9th most populous City in California, and the birthplace of the country music genre “The Bakersfield Sound.”

You will be camping at the lovely River Run RV park, with large shaded sites. As this is an unhosted rally, you will be on your own to plan your own adventure.

Bakersfield boasts many lovely parks with walking and biking paths throughout the area, a zoo, some noteworthy museums, including one dedicated to modern art, and another to the history of the area, and of course The Crystal Palace, founded by the legendary Buck Owens. Be sure to make reservations before you go. There are many “things to do in Bakersfield” lists on the internet. Here is one to get you started;

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g32037-Activities-Bakersfield_California.html .



1 Mural somewhere in Bakersfield; 2 Part of River Walk Park; 3 The Crystal Palace, 4 Bakersfield Museum of Art; 5 Kern County Museum - one of the historic houses there.

Bakersfield Rally

River Run RV Park, Bakersfield

October 4-8, 2023

Name: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

BRN # _____

Arrival Day _____

Departure Day _____

RV length _____

Rally Parking Fee _____ nights @ \$51 per night

Parking Fee \$ _____

TOTAL RALLY COST \$ _____

THIS RALLY'S REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

- On the first of the month, either directly register online using the jotform link: <https://form.jotform.com/231514027381145> or follow the 'Register for the Rally' link on the webpage (<https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california/rallies-and-events>), or send this form and payment to the registrar at norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com. **It is preferred you register online**, which makes it easier for the Registrar and Treasurer to keep track of rally registrations.
- **You can now choose to pay your rally fee online via Zelle (initiate through Zelle App or bank app if your bank participates) or send check directly to registrar Lori Bibby, 3029 Black Hawk Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.**
- If you pay by check, **make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal and mail to NorCal Registrar Lori Bibby**
- If you want to pay via Zelle but do not know how or if your bank participates, check out: <https://www.zellepay.com/>
- **Refund Policy:** Cancellations and/or changes to registration must be received no later than Wednesday of the week prior to the rally, in other words, a week before the start of the rally. Refunds will be available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Parking fees are refunded according to RV park cancellation policy. Meals, tours, rally fees, etc., are refunded if money has not been spent by the hosts.
- **Please contact the Rally Registrar if you have ANY changes to your registration**, or wish to register after the deadline. **973-270-4132. She will contact you as soon as she can.**
- **Under no circumstances are members to contact the RV Park with changes or cancellations.**
- NorCal abides by the federal, state and local COVID19 mandates to keep not only its members safe but also the employees of the RV Parks and the communities we visit safe, which in turn allows us to continue to rally during the pandemic. If you are unable or unwilling to do so, please do not sign up for this rally. If you are ill or not feeling well, please stay home and get better. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.
- Please inform the Registrar if you need a handicap accommodation, or if this is your first NorCal rally.
- Your registration is incomplete and not confirmed until we receive BOTH your registration and payment. Typically, Zelle payments will confirm your registration quicker than sending in a check. Do not wait until the last minute to pay or you may not have a site regardless of when you initially apply.

NorCal Club Contacts 2023

Jim Christie	President
Carmen Ortiz	1st Vice President
Tary Salinger	2nd Vice President
Amy Webster	Secretary
José Ortiz	Treasurer
Carole Echols	Senior Trustee
Mark Winchell	Senior Trustee
Tom Webster	Trustee
Bill Maffei	Trustee
Bob Verdegaal	Immediate Past President
Hedda Smithson	Parliamentarian
Hedda Smithson	Constitution & Bylaws
Marget Williams	Membership
Elisa Ungerman	Poppy Editor & BB Reporter
Tom Smithson	Directory & Audio/Visual
Carmen Ortiz	Webmaster
John Bibby	Assistant Webmaster
Pat Lazzereschi	Rally Chair
Lori Bibby	Registrar
Bob Vasser	Caravan Chair
Cathy Maffei	Sunshine

Welcome New Members

Welcome New Affiliate Members

Deborah Haase
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Angie & Nancy Dillon-Shore
Guerneville, CA 95446

Diane & Steve Gilcrest
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Jane Kiskaddon
Sonoma, CA 95476

Joseph & Linda Riggs
Brentwood, CA 94513

Gail Lawrence
Manteca, CA 95336

Timothy & Liza McNulty
Lakewood, CO 80227

Daniel Markey
Los Gatos, CA 95033

Adrien Torres
San Jose, CA 95126

NorCal Membership Numbers

193 Unit/Life Memberships
59 Affiliate Memberships
252 Total Memberships



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Larry Ackerman | 18 Brian Handshoe |
| 9 Darlene Winchell | 18 Kirk Reistroffer |
| 10 Elisa Ungerman | 24 Dann Boesch |
| 13 Betty Sica | 26 Mike Zimmermann |
| 15 Marcia Murray | 28 Tom Webster |
| 16 Martha Jones | 29 Ray Burmaster |
| 16 Donna Rich | 30 Jane Malone |
| 18 Steve Irey | 31 Scott Beck |



- 1 John/Elain White
- 2 Tom/Lora Broad
- 2 Mark/Darlene Winchell
- 6 Tony/Betty Sica
- 7 John/Mary Diamond
- 7 Ronald/Luann Hollis
- 11 Barry/Claudia Marson
- 13 Dave/Jill Wilson
- 22 Tom/Patti Reed
- 27 James/Sarah Curl
- 29 Steve/Leslie Irey

Tentative 2024 Rally Schedule Announced

The First VP and incoming Rally Chair have been working hard behind the scenes planning next year's rally schedule. This is the tentative roadmap they are working on, which may change before being finalized. If interested in hosting any of these rallies, contact Juliet Scheuer to let her know. See page 7 regarding Costanoa, next year's August rally.

1. February 7-11: Death Valley Flash Rally at Furnace Creek Campground++ See page 8
2. March 6-10: Flying Flags RV Resort (Buellton)
3. April 3-7: Napa Valley Expo RV Park (Napa)
4. May 8-12: Vinnies Airstream Resort (Wilton)*
5. June 12-16: Pioneer RV Park (Quincy)
6. July - open
7. August 7-11: Costanoa KOA (near Santa Cruz)+ See page 7
8. Sept. 4-8: Flying Flags Avila Beach (Avila Beach)**
9. Sept 11-15: Region 12 Rally at Bishop, Ca
10. Oct. 5-11: 67th International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri
11. Oct. 9-13: Pomo RV Park (Fort Bragg)
12. Nov. 6-10: Dumbarton Quarry Campground (Fremont)
13. Dec 4-9: 49er Village (Plymouth)

++self registration on <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232496> that opens August 7th 2023 at 7:30 am
 +Self registration opens August 6th - see page 8
 *Dry Camping Experience
 **Joint rally with Sacramento Valley Airstream Club

NorCal would like to recognize the birthdays and anniversaries of **all** our Members and Associates. To ensure you are included in the Poppy, please send Marget Williams (NorCal Membership Chair) an e-mail with your Name (First and Last) and your Birthday and Anniversary (Month and Day only). norcalmembership@comcast.net.

VISIT OUR WEBSITES



Airstream Club International on the Web
<https://airstreamclub.org/>
Region 12 on the Web
<https://airstreamclub.org/region12>
NorCal on the Web
<https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california>



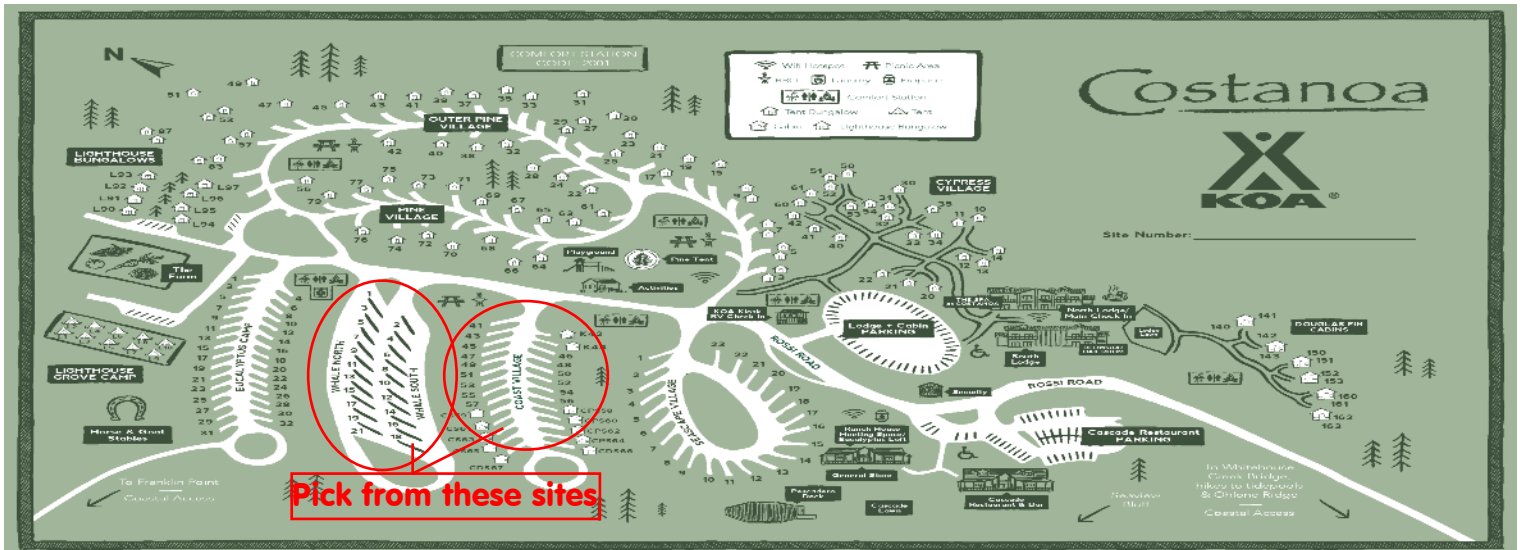
Registration Instructions for Costanoa Rally August 2024

Yes: 2024! For those unaware, Costanoa is a rustic “eco-resort” on the coast of California, located off Highway 1, half way between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay, in Pescadero. It is lovely area, and a lovely property. Part of the property is dedicated to RV Camping, operated by KOA. First VP Carmen Ortiz is excited to have an Airstream Rally there next year, and it is not without precedent as the Bay Area Airstream Club has rallied there, if not others.

But ... Costanoa has its own rules due to its popularity. Costanoa KOA requires group reservations one year in advance and has dictated the registration process. So here are your instructions:

1. 30 camp sites will be put on hold on August 5th 2023. They will remain available to the group for 30 days, from August 6th through September 5th, first come-first serve, after which any open spots will be released to the public.
2. Before you call, decide in advance:
 - a. how many nights you wish to stay during the time frame Tues Aug 6 – Sunday August 11, 2024; and
 - b. which site you prefer in the Coast Village, Whale North or Whale South areas. See map below. Some are better for smaller rigs, others accommodate larger ones. The reservation agent should be able to help you.

3. Then, to make your reservation, call **650-879-7302 no earlier than 1 year from the start of your reservation**, e.g., if you decide to stay Wednesday, August 7 to Sunday, August 11, 2024, you must NOT call before August 7th 2023, & not on August 6th. If you plan to stay starting Tuesday August 6th, then call on August 6th. Identify that you are part of the “NorCal Airstream” group when making your reservation. Have your credit card ready.
4. Since Costanoa charges for the privilege of a group reservation, there is a \$20 reservation fee, plus one night’s site fee as a deposit. The rest will be due when you arrive at the campground. Individual site prices vary, ranging from about \$120 and up per night. Sites can be very close together.
5. Then **email** Lori Bibby ASAP with your name, confirmation number, site #, and dates of attendance so we can keep track of who is attending.
NorCalRegistrar3854@gmail.com.
6. If there are no site openings when you call Costanoa, **email** Lori Bibby to be placed on the waiting list.
7. **Cancellation Policy: Cancel your reservation with the park by 48 hours (2 days) of your reservation date and your money will be refunded minus a \$10 cancellation fee. Email Lori Bibby asap of your cancellation so she can fill your spot from the wait list.**



Flash Rally - Death Valley's Furnace Creek Campground - February 7-11, 2024



First VP Carmen Ortiz and incoming Rally Chair Juliet Scheuer are kicking off 2024 with a flash rally in Death Valley National Park, specifically Furnace Creek Campground, February 7-11, 2024. Although highs in mid-summer are in the 120-130 degree range, highs in February average high 60s to low 70s.

136 campsites are available, each with a picnic table, but only 18 are full hook-up. Fifty more are tent-only, so that leaves roughly 68 boon-docking campsites for RVs of varying dimensions. Drinking water and a dump station are available. Cost for a full hook-up site is currently \$36/night while the cost for a “non-electric standard site” is \$22. Since these are the only reservable camping sites in the Park, they are reportedly very popular during the “peak season” that includes February.

All reservations must be made online through the National Park’s Reservation System, Recreation.gov. See <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232496?tab=info>. Sites can be reserved up to six months in advance from the initial date of your stay. If you click on “Campsite List,” in the top left hand corner of the web page listed above, all the campsites will be listed. You can choose to view them via a grid showing availability, or a list with photos of each site. Look at the map to the right, click on a tent icon, and you can see the details for each site. Make sure you observe the max RV size listed for that site as some are only big enough for a 22’ or 24’ RV, while others can handle 90’. Many sites have reviews.

If you have never used Recreation.gov, you will need to create an account before you can actually make a reservation. Follow the prompts on the site to do so.

7:30 am, August 7th, is the start of the reservation window for the Death Valley Rally. Go online, see what sites are available, click on the dates for whatever site you select and “add to cart.” From there, you log on. Then you will have 15 minutes to check out and confirm your reservation. Cancellation policies are explained on the site.

After you reserve a site, email registrar Lori Bibby asap with your name, confirmation number and site number, so we can keep track of who signed up for the rally. Then start looking forward to attending the Flash Rally in Death Valley!

Registration Opens August 7 On

Recreation.gov

Make a note Of it!



On April 8th, 2024, there will be a total eclipse of the sun that will be visible within the “path of totality” where the moon will totally block the sun for just over or just under 4 minutes, depending on where you are along the path. Unfortunately, the path of totality will not encompass any part of the West Coast of the U.S., but the total eclipse will be visible in Texas, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, upstate New York, Vermont, and small sections of various other states.

At least four Airstream Clubs are planning Eclipse Rallies, with most open for registration at the present time. Below are those that are currently posted on the Airstream Club International’s website:

1. Sat., April 6 – Tues., April 9: **The Four Corners Unit** is hosting a rally at the Texas Legato Winery in Lampasas, Texas, 40 miles northwest of Austin, Texas. There is room for 140 Airstreams. Cost is \$500 per Airstream and two people, additional people extra. This is a dry camping event. A tentative schedule of events/meals is posted on the website.
2. Friday April 5 – Wed., April 10: **The Greater LA Airstream Club** is hosting the “GLAAC Solar Eclipse Rally” at Lake Tawakoni State Park in Wills Point, Texas, south of Dallas. 20 sites are available. Cost is \$160 per rig.
3. Sat., April 6 – Tues., April 9: **The Razorback Airstream Club** is planning an eclipse rally at the “Stardust Trailer Park” in Morrilton, Arkansas. Details have not, as of this writing, been released
4. Fri., April 5 – Tues., April 9: **Region 5** is hosting a rally at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds in Columbus, Indiana. Cost is \$275 per Airstream/2 people, additional people are extra. Full hook-ups are provided.
5. Sun., April 7 - Thurs., April 11: **The “National Event” rally:** “The Darke Side of the Moon” event is at the Darke County Fairgrounds, Ohio. This is a \$190 per Airstream/2 people, additional people and pets extra. Full hook-ups provided. Various meals and events planned, including tours of the Airstream Factory as evidently the Mothership is not too far away from the fairgrounds.

For further information on and to register for the rallies, go to the ACI website, click on events and put in the dates April 5 and April 11 in the search boxes. If interested, it is not too soon to register!

Editor

Caravanning to the 66th International Rally June 11 - 24, 2023



Most people will probably agree: planning and packing for an extended Airstream trip is not fun. But once you are on the road ... it all becomes worth it. That was certainly true of NorCal's two week Caravan to the 66th International Airstream Rally in Rock Springs, Wy. It officially began June 11th at Memmaloose State Park, Oregon, in the heart of the Columbia Gorge. Ed and I took two days to get there, stopping first in Weed, CA (with wonderful views of Mount Shasta), then at the fairgrounds in Bend, Oregon.



Memaloose State Park

While at Memmaloose, we reconnoitred with Past President Kent and Mary Schroeder (now living in Bend), visited the surrounding area, including hiking to the top of Beacon Rock – a landmark in the area with catwalks that facilitate climbing the less-than-a-mile ascent, took in Mount Hood and the surrounding area, and made sure were ready for the next two weeks on the road.



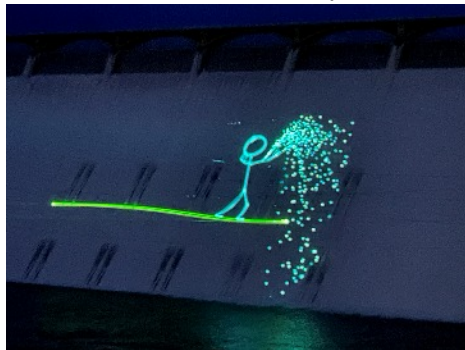
NorCalers ascend Beacon Rock

There were group happy hours where we all got reacquainted while Leaders Deanna Bains and Bob Vasser gave us information on what to expect. Since this was a tag-along, all were free to do their own thing, at their own pace, having previously self registered at various campgrounds along the way, curated by Deanna.



Drivers Meeting

We left Memmaloose, heading up the middle of Washington State, toward Grand Coulee Dam, where at night, we saw a laser light show projected onto the Dam's spillway as a steady sheet of water cascaded down the front of the dam. While the narrative was a bit cheesy, it was very impressive at the same time and worth the stop.



Before leaving for our next stop, the Schroeders joined us in a tour of the Dam – which is very grand indeed. The history of the Dam is interesting, as it began as a federal public works project to dam the Columbia River for central Washington farmers whose land we had driven through the previous day. At the time it was built (completed in 1941),

hydropower was a secondary consideration, until we joined World War II. Then the power created by the Dam came in very handy to make aluminium for Boeing airplanes. Two additional power houses were added, and the dam now has the capability, if necessary, of providing power to light the entire metropolitan areas of Portland and Seattle. The lake behind the Dam backs up almost to the Canadian Border (more like a large river in many areas), and water is pumped from the dam uphill into the adjacent Banks Lake for the local farmers. Both were quite full when we viewed them.



View from top of spillway looking down

Of course the Dam put a stop to the local Indian fishing industry and the federal government has yet to figure out how to make it work since fish ladders and trucking fish past the dam have not been successful. Across from the Dam, on tribal lands, is a museum depicting the Indian's story regarding the impacts of the Dam, but unfortunately it was closed when we were there so we could not visit.

From Grand Coulee, we travelled north through Spokane, Washington, and into Idaho where we stopped for two nights at Wolf Lodge near Lake Coeur d'Alene. I was impressed at how big/long Lake Coeur d'Alene is. Some of our group ate at the Wolf Lodge steakhouse and gave it good reviews. Some took advantage of the 90 minute boat tours on the Lake, others did bike rides around the area.

Continued next page

The City of Coeur d'Alene features a lovely large central park with many public art pieces, and a large marina. The downtown is very nice, with plenty of interesting shops, restaurants and craft breweries. Evidently there is a local children's book author whose characters (a mouse and a moose) have been memorialized in several bronze statues around the City based on his book. Can you spot the mouse?



Later, most of the group met at the Coeur d'Alene Elks Lodge to belatedly celebrate Flag Day and enjoy a group dinner.



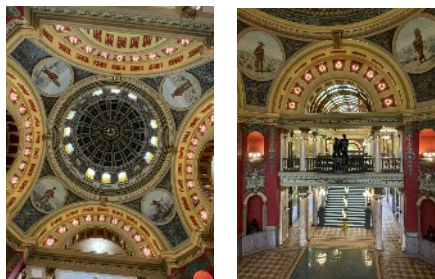
Our next stop was Missoula, Montana, where we stayed at "Jim & Mary's RV Resort," a crowd favorite campsite outside of town. The owners outdid themselves planting flowers in various beds and containers all over the property.



We ventured into town, which was celebrating Pride Day with a large street festival. There were kids surfing on

river rapids, and we found the biggest cookies I had ever seen – must be over a pound each. (Of course we bought some.)

The following day was Father's Day, celebrated by the caravaners in a small clubhouse with a breakfast of fruit, whipped cream and cake provided by Deanna. We left early so we had time to make a stop at the Montana State Capitol in Helena, which was open on a Sunday and is beautiful! You could really enjoy the incredible workmanship and art work in the Capitol without the day to day crowds blocking the views.



Our drive continued through Montana to Bozeman, a wonderful town (at least for a few months) in the mountains of Montana. We toured around the town and discovered the Montana Ale House that served the best beef filet I have ever eaten, along with a delicious Huckleberry Cream Ale, huckleberries being the "thing" in Montana. (Ask Greg Motta about his huckleberry shake.) We later tried bison potsitckers that were outstanding as well. Highly recommended – no question why it has been rated as Bozeman's best restaurant for several years in a row.



Humpty Dumpty in the Library Sculpture Garden

Behind the Bozeman Library is a fun sculpture garden with a path leading to a hiking trail up a hill that provides 360 degree view of the area, somewhat reminiscent of Switzerland, without the Alps of course. The recent rains kept the area quite green, and lots of wildflowers were in bloom.



It was a lovely walk to the top, although we later found out that Kent and Mary Schroeder hiked up the mountain where the town's "M" is located – an impressive feat. Turns out the white "M", that I thought was painted on the mountain, consists of large white rocks.

After two nights, we were on our way to Wyoming, by way of Yellowstone National Park. We entered via the North Entrance by the Roosevelt Gate, and drove on the old stagecoach road that was put into use after the flooding last year ruined the regular road. It is a twisty turning affair that eventually straightened out when we reached the nearest Visitors Center. We drove south a bit, then turned left toward Fishing Bridge and the north end of Yellowstone Lake, then eventually out the East Entrance.



Somewhere in Yellowstone NP

I was not prepared for the variety of landscape that I saw. Sagebrush meadows, then pine tree forests and gorges with rushing rivers and waterfalls, Yellowstone Lake which is very large, granite moonscapes, red rock, cliffs, the Yellowstone "Grand Canyon," sulphur hot pots...

As we drove, we were in winter, with snow covered mountains and snow flurries one minute, then we were in spring, with green grass and wildflowers. It was wild. And yes, we saw critters: a large antelope, bison, 2 black bears, and a grizzly mom with her two young cubs. (No selfies were taken.) A most memorable drive!



A bison near the car - yes that close

Eventually we made it to Cody Wyoming, which is the quintessential Western Town. The group had dinner at Irma's, a hotel and saloon initially built in 1902 by Buffalo Bill Cody and named after his youngest daughter. (There have been later additions in 1929 and in the 70s.)



Caravan group at The Irma

The hotel is the proverbial center of town, with western gun shows every evening at 6 p.m. While we were there, many of the caravaners took Trolley tours of the town, and some braved the nightly rodeo despite the very cold weather that evening. Some even visited the nearby Buffalo Bill Dam, which is built in a very narrow gorge, the opposite of the Grand Coulee.



Bob Vasser & son Jason with friends



Trolley riders

A highlight of the town is the Buffalo Bill Museum that I wanted to see but missed due to other commitments. Those that went raved about it. I also missed the "Dug Up Gun Museum" but apparently I was not the only one as no one I know visited.

Leaving Cody, we had a wonderful drive through Wyoming's beautiful landscape, along rivers and through gorges, past a large reservoir until we were out on sagebrush fields in beef country, with nothing for miles and acres around. Truly drove the scenic route for much of the drive as we enjoyed the lovely weather as well.



At a rest stop, Bob V provides snacks

But later in the afternoon, the clouds and wind appeared and the temps dropped.. We stopped off to check out the mini badlands of Wyoming known as "Hell's Half Acre," a canyon- type area about an hour north of Casper, in what is otherwise acres and acres of sagebrush high desert. There used to be a restaurant there, but it is long gone, and now it is a rest area for picnickers on days with nicer weather.



The night we reached Casper. we found ourselves riding in authentic Conestoga wagons on part of the Oregon Trail that is situated on a large ranch outside Casper. If it wasn't for the power poles, you could have been back in the mid 1800s.



Part of The Oregon Trail



One of the Conestoga Wagons

Our group was spread out between three wagons. During the ride, we learned that had we actually been migrating on the Oregon Trail back in the day, we would not be in the wagon, but walking alongside it – around 20 miles a day - since the wagon was only used for hauling and storing possessions. The wagon ride was bumpy but not as bumpy as I expected due to the way the wagon was constructed with some sort of shock absorber underneath the wagon that enabled it to be flexible over the rough terrain. The owner of the tour company built these wagons himself using the actual drawings/diagrams of such wagons from the Smithsonian.



Getting into the Wagons

The team drawing the wagon I was on was Tom the mule and Dawn the Percheron horse, who was a skittish, flighty, and just getting used to the job. But our driver, the owner's daughter who had been driving for over 30 years, since she was 14, but now retired except for bigger groups, kept her in line. Plus Tom did his job without complaint and put up with her. We were taught that mules were "gold" on the trail since they were so strong, steady, and could eat anything without distress.



Dawn and Tom



The Group

After an hour's wagon ride on the Trail, we were treated to a cast iron-cooked meal over an open flame, in a real mess tent that featured hot chocolate, pork chops, green beans and bacon, Yukon Gold potatoes, and a delicious strawberry cobbler for desert.



The next day, Ed and I took a side trip to Buffalo and Sheridan Wyoming, which for you Longmire fans, is "Durant" in "Absaroka County" Wyoming. (As a sidenote, the Montana Airstream Club had a rally in July in Buffalo during the

annual Longmire days celebration.) We had breakfast at the Busy Bee, toured the historic Occidental Hotel, enjoyed the murals and the many bronze statues in Buffalo, and saw the bigger city of Sheridan, in the shadow (sort of) of the Bighorn Mountains, which are actually quite far away.



Deciding on Breakfast - Longmire not in sight



One of many bronze statues in Buffalo

Driving back to Casper, we were the recipients of rather loud tornado warnings on our phones – telling us to get somewhere safe immediately. At the time, we were hours from anything anywhere, let alone anywhere safe. Fortunately, the tornados were moving northwest of us, but we did get hit with summer hail and thunder storms, requiring us to get off the freeway and seek shelter via an underpass if available - twice. Fortunately the hail was not the 2" variety as described on the warnings!

Eventually, we made it safely back to Casper, in time to join the group for an end of Caravan toast and dinner at the Casper Elks Lodge, arranged for us by



co-leader Bob Vasser who serenaded Tom Bain on his birthday.



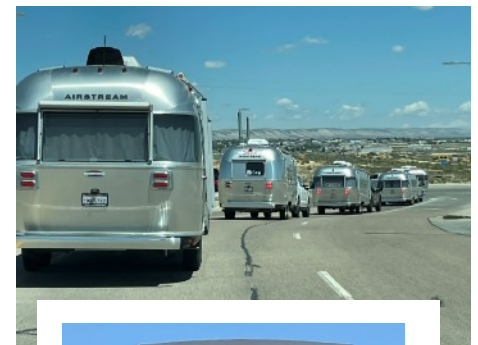
Saying goodbye to Kent & Mary Schroeder

We also bid farewell to the Schroeders who did not travel on to the International. The dinner was a nice end to a very memorable trip that went by oh-too-fast!

For more photos and other stories of caravan participants, check out the Facebook page "NorCal...Airstream" that features them and their photos, including their adventures during and after the International.

The following day, we caravanned from Casper into Rock Springs and the Event Center for the International Rally.

-Editor





Report On Rolling to (and from) Rock Springs, WY.

On Saturday June 24th, after a mostly tedious drive from Casper to Rock Springs (boy was it windy!) and after surviving a very annoying parking experience, we made it into the Sweetwater Events Center and our "corral" camp site, with full hook-ups being a plus. We found our way to the center of the Rally in time to see most of the parade of Vintage Airstreams driving by. Very cool! We picked up our Welcome Bags right before closing, and got our bearings, since the maps we were given were a bit inaccurate and unclear. By the end of the day, about 1200 Airstreams had been parked on the grounds, a really impressive sight at drone height.



Sunday was the first day to visit the vendor tent, which I think is one of the best parts of the International Rally. NorCaler Vinnie Lamica was there with his wife Cindy and partner Shawn, pedaling AirKrafter wares such as vent covers, onboard generators and quilt segment covers. By 10:30 am, he was slammed! Those quilt covers were flying out the door; you had to stand in line just to say hello.



Vinnie & Cindy during a quieter moment in the Vendor's tent.

We managed to pick up a few new items for our Airstream, including some Snappads, but resisted purchasing a new Airstream. We discovered the Ice Cream vendor though and boy was it good! Visited him several times.

Sunday night was the Welcoming Ceremonies, including the "March of the Flags" when our NorCal flag was proudly held aloft by President Jim Christie as he walked to the stage area and placed it in its holder for the duration of the Rally.



A few short speeches later and it was time for dinner, which came from of a choice of food trucks outside the buildings with "money" we got in our Welcome Bags.



Monday morning was the pet show, and while we did not enter Winter, there were close to 200 entrants in five classes, plus the people choice award, which was "The Queen and her Corgis." Very creative and too funny!



Monday afternoon, NorCalers had a happy hour for all in attendance at the rally in an empty campsite nearby where the caravaners were parked.



That night the Region 12 Mexican Dinner was held; Region 12 members filled an entire ballroom.



NorCalers filled up at least four tables, and afterwards, posed for a group photo in front of the Airstream Cutout.

Continued next page



NorCalers after the Region 12 Dinner

Airstream's COO and VP of Sales, Justin Humphries, gave a "State of Airstream" talk Tuesday Morning. After his talk he chose several names from a hopper to win Airstream Gift Certificates. Our own Terri and Steve Hollifield won a \$100 gift certificate.



Terri & Steve posing with their certificate

Wednesday was "Visit Rock Springs Day," where the "Wyoming Winds" and the "OK Chorale" chorus, all visiting Airstreamers, gave a concert in the local park in downtown Rock Springs.



Concert in the Park

Over 800 people, including locals, attended the concert that, by all accounts, was fabulous. The band and chorus had worked hard, practicing several hours a day for a week to prepare.

Thursday, NorCaler Hedda Smithson, ACI Publications Chair, held a showcase for all the Region and Club newsletters and directories. Of course The Poppy was featured, but in truth, there were a lot of nice publications there.



Hedda & her showcase

Thursday night, our campground participated in "Airstreams Aglow," where all the Airstreams turned on their running lights as the sun set over the hillside. Steve and Terri Hollifield hosted a NorCal get together at their campsite, which just happened to be next to ours. We congregated with appetizers and partook of the wine the Hollifields had made with their own grapes. It was a beautiful evening and sunset.



Eventually, what was supposed to be a parade of lighted vehicles, mostly golf carts and bicycles came by, with only one of each. Apparently the Western Dance happening elsewhere put a crimp in the parade, but it was fun anyway.

Friday was the International Flea Market, with people lining up to get in well before the 9 am opening. Once it opened, it was packed!. NorCaler Lori Bibby successfully hawked her potholders and other soft goods, while Kathy Warren sold some books she had

collected and Larry Warren tried to sell some odds and ends. I picked up some paint extenders to use as flag poles for \$10 a piece. Score!



Lori Bibby selling her potholders



The Warrens

In between all the above, there were the usual classes and seminars, social events, a few more scoops of ice cream, some charity donations, several glasses of beer, and more. Plus, many made time to visit the attractions in the area, such as Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Pilot Butte and wild horses, museums and restaurants in Rock Springs, etc. Unfortunately we had a truck issue that prevented us from doing much outside of the Event Center area, but it turned out we were smart to be careful. (Another story for another day!)



Hanging out at the campsite

Friday night was the Installation of Officers (both regional and national). As we entered the tent, the "Wyoming Winds" were playing the theme song to the Magnificent Seven, one of the best

Western themes of all time, a great choice to end this Wyoming Rally.



The Wyoming Winds (aka Airstream Band)

After the installation, there was a brief closing speech by outgoing President Eric McHenry (who is also the incoming President, having later been re-elected by the International Club's IBT), followed by the Rally's "Grand Finale," a Las Vegas-styled music act of Patrick and the LVB, sponsored by our own Vinnies Northbay Airstream. Truthfully, it was a bit loud for my taste, but others seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Ed and I went over to the Stella Trailer (an Airstream natch!) for a last beer in their cool looking glasses (that are

actually plastic but look like glass) and readied ourselves for the next day's dash for home.

One of the best parts of the Rally were the golf cart shuttle drivers, who zoomed around the area looking for weary walkers on hot gravel making their way between their campsites and the rally buildings. They always had a smile, and were so fun and cheery. I rarely had to wait long for one to come my way. Even Winter enjoyed a ride or two, giving her paws a rest from the rocks.



Winter (and us) get a ride back to camp

We made it home in four days via I-80, travelling through Utah and Nevada as did others, who reported encountering bands

of "Mormon crickets" swarming in Northern Nevada. This year is experiencing the largest Mormon Cricket hatch in recent memory. We were fortunate to miss the Nevada infestation, but we did see some in Wyoming when we were driving around while on the caravan. They are not for the faint of heart.



Mormon Crickets as seen at a Nevada Rest Area

For more photos of the International from rally goers, check out "Airstream Club International Rally2023 - Rolling to Rock Springs" on Facebook. Next year's International is in October at the state fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri.

Elisa Ungerman

Misc Additional Photos



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4



5



6

1 Wine tasting in Oregon; 2 Hikers at top of Beacon Rock; 3 Friends helping Hedda; 4 Queen Bain on the road; 5 Vinnie doing his thing; 6 Banks Lake at sunset





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 	4	5
Dean & Chris Schmooville Rally						
6 Costanoa 2024 Rally Registration Opens	7 Flash Rally Death Valley Registration Opens	8	9	10 	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17	18 	19 
20 	21	22	23	24	25 HAPPY NATIONAL Banana Split DAY 	26
27	28 	29	30 	31 		

You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from Flagology. Complete instructions are in the January Poppy issue. For any questions, the NorCal contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922. Click here to order, or copy and paste in your browser: <https://www.flagology.com/product/personalized-norcal-airstream-club-garden-flag-12-5-x-18/>



You can obtain your colorful NorCal Membership Badge whenever you attend a rally. Also available is the five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy. Contact Marget Williams to get yours for free, a perk of membership when you attend a rally.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AIRSTREAM CLUB