

Where Two or More are Gathered

by John Leake (BRN 00268)

Let there be a Rally!!

Let's talk about Rallies:



Just what are they, how do they work, why are they important, and how can you help?

First, the back story. Rallies are not unique to the Airstream Club, but they just may have originated here. The Airstream Club International (ACI) was founded in 1955 as a Caravan Club by friends of Wally Byam, founder of the Airstream we all know today. Wally led Caravans of Airstreams all over the globe, most lasting weeks, with many lasting months. Lifelong friendships were formed by the participants

and they became a second family to each other.

As the Airstream Club grew, members soon realized there was a need for another method of gathering on a regular basis, but for shorter periods of time, and at different locations so more people could participate. The "Rally" concept was born.



So now..... just what is a rally?

A rally is more like a family reunion, not so different from a "Smith or Jones" family reunion. Typically held on a monthly or even an annual basis, they provide the opportunity to gather with this extended family to catch up, to share stories, ideas, memories, trouble shoot technical issues, but most of all, to enjoy the fellowship of like-minded people. Rallies range in size from just a few rigs to hundreds of rigs. They often offer the opportunity for travel across a state, a region, or across the country.



So.... How does a rally work?

Bon Appetit

While there are no guidelines or set procedures, most rallies have a host, or hosts, that make and coordinate a plan. The plan may include provided meals or potlucks, seminars, crafts, games, contests, and of course...group therapy (happy hours). Or.... they may be a "No host Rally" where the plan develops as things unfold, spontaneous: Having fun is the #1 priority. With many folks still working, the "official" start of a monthly rally usually begins on Friday, although many drift in on Thursday. The rally typically ends on Sunday. The rally might be held in a State Park, private RV park, Fair Grounds, a city street, or someone's back yard. Remember..... it is not WHERE you park, but WHO you park with.



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OK.... Why are Rallies so important?

For the very same reason family reunions are so important: They provide that opportunity to gather, support each other, and stay connected. Just like your family at home, rallies are critical to the health and well-being of our Club and the members in the club. Airstreamers are naturally a very social group. We enjoy getting together at campgrounds, restaurants, or at someone's home. Did you know that the Airstream Club International is officially chartered in the State of Ohio as a Social Club? Yep.... Emphasis on "Social."



Well then.....Who can host a rally?

ANYONE can host! There is no seniority or pecking order, and no experience is necessary, although you are probably already an experienced Rally host, but just didn't know it. Have you ever hosted a bridal shower or birthday party? How about a Christmas party or a Thanksgiving dinner? A luncheon, your book club, or a graduation party; a retirement party, project completion party, or a dinner party? How about a study group?

No doubt, everyone has hosted some type of "rally" many times. You took a head count, developed a plan, likely enlisted the help of a friend or two, made a few arrangements, and pulled it off like a pro.



We need you.....

Please consider hosting a rally sometime, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Keep things simple. Meals of soups and stews, "Manwich," hotdogs, loaded baked potatoes, tacos, or a pancake supper are just a few examples of quick and easy. Potlucks share the love. Or, if there are restaurants nearby, folks can simply go out to eat. Coffee, juice, and pastries at breakfast are always good, with lunch on your own.



So.....

Come join us at the next rally. We will be thrilled to see you, and you will be glad you came. And when the time is right, grab a partner and host your own party!!!

See ya there.

John and Susan Leake

Proud members of the Palmetto State Airstream Club.



Please note! There have been so many wonderful hosts for our Rallies, I could have filled up this whole newsletter with pictures of all the helpful hands.

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