



Region 4 WBAC



December 2023 airstreamclub.org/region4 Winter Issue

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President's Corner



Hello everyone,

As most of you know, Kathy had open heart surgery in September during the Swiss Festival National Rally. We want to say thank you to all those that helped at the rally this year and especially Brad & Jane Briggs, our co-hosts, for picking up the slack during our absence.

Kathy is doing as well as expected and has several more weeks of recovery ahead of her. Thanks for all the Wishes, Prayers and Cards from everyone. Our photo this year was taken on a cruise ship where we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and renewed our vows.

It's the end of the season and I would like to thank all the Local Club Leadership for all they put into the club. I would also like to welcome the new leadership on board. Our job at the Region is to support the Local Clubs, so please reach out for anything we can do to help.

I would also like to acknowledge our Region 4 members that have volunteered at the International level:

Jenny Schnettler	Council Member
Brad Briggs	Constitution & By-laws Chairperson
Barb Derian	Membership Chairperson
Joe Peplinski	Historian

Next Year:

While we will not have a Region Rally in 2024, plan on Lewisburg, WV for May 2025.

The Region is sponsoring two National Rallies in 2024, The Great Eclipse National Rally in Greenville, Ohio (Darke County) and the 61st Swiss Festival National Rally in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Join us, they will be a lot of fun.

Last year Past President, Brad Briggs appointed Jamie Kingseed as Community Service Chair. Jamie coordinated two rallies at the West Virginia State Foodbank with help from the West Virginia Airstream Club. The first one in April was a dry run and then we returned in October. We packed 1530 of the 5000 boxes the Foodbank does each month. We were all tired by the end but it was a lot of fun and gratifying to help. Thanks everyone for your support.

Since the Region won't have a rally in May this year, I would like to suggest that all the Local Clubs do some kind of Community Service event in May. If not an event on your own, join the Region at one of their sponsored events. Jamie will provide info on them.

Be safe and have fun during the Holidays,
Fred Kiehl
President, Region 4
#203

Vice President

The year is almost over and so many events for 2023 were huge hits. It has been an honor to serve as the Region 4 VP. We have wonderful members and I'm proud to be part of this club.

I would like to say thank you for all of the support and volunteers. I am grateful for this club.

I have enjoyed seeing old friends and making some new ones throughout our travels.

I'm looking forward to 2024. We will be kicking off the Airstream at the Eclipse Rally in April. Jill and I are looking forward to spending time in Greenville. It's a lovely small town with lots of amenities. We hope to see you there.

With the Internation Rally happening in October in Sedalia Missouri, it will be an unusually long Airstreaming year for us. Jill and I are looking forward to exploring a new area of the country and to seeing lots of friends.

In between these national rallies, we're hoping to participate some of the local rallies in our region. We are having so much fun exploring the region and discovering lots of fun new places.

*The magic of Christmas never ends
And its greatest of gifts are family and friends.*

Wishing all of you joyous holidays and a happy healthy prosperous new year!

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and fellowship throughout the region.

Mike Pastva #6931
Region 4, 1st Vice President



REGION 4

REGION 4 COMMUNITY SERVICE QUARTER 4 2023

October 2023 Event Recap



The Region 4 Community Service Event, that took place at the Mountaineer Food Bank from October 18-22, 2023, was a great success! We had 16 people in attendance and with making a few modifications from our trial run in April were able to meet and exceed our goal of 1500 boxes. The total count, over the two days of volunteering, was 1530 boxes. I'd like to thank all those that participated and those that gave input and ideas, from the April event, to make this such a success.



2024 Plans/Thoughts

As has been stated in the past, this event is intended to be moving from state to state, in our Region, each year. I have made initial contact with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, located in Flint, MI, for next year's event. I plan on making a visit to their facility shortly after the first of the year to make sure it would be a good fit for both parties involved.

A few notes from the research I have done to date:

- I have not been able to find what I feel would be a suitable campground in the nearby area for us to call "home base". With this, and in looking at the Food Bank from a satellite image, it looks that we could boondock at the facility during our time in the area. During my on-site visit I will ask about this possible option and verify that we would be in a "secure" area.

- If boondocking is an option then I feel we would show up later in the day on “Day 1”, work Days 2 and 3, and depart on Day 4. Most likely arrive on a Thursday afternoon, work Friday and Saturday, and depart on Sunday morning.
- Currently I’m considering holding this event in mid to late May.
- Please let me know if you have any interest in this event and I can keep you posted as more information becomes available. I intend to have final plans made and posted in the 2024 Quarter 1 Newsletter.
- **If anyone has any thoughts on this event, or knows of a Region 4, Region or Club/Unit event already planned in Mid-Late May, please let me know.**

If anyone has an idea for a Community Service Event or needs assistance with an event that they are currently working on, as always, I would be more than happy to help in any way that I can.

Also, if you have a Community Service Event planned, or that took place in the past, that you would like posted in the Community Service portion of an upcoming Newsletter, feel free to send me the information so I can add this to this update.

Thanks,

Jamie Kingseed

Community Service Chair, Region 4

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or

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Region 4 Notes

Call for Volunteers!

We are looking for energetic leadership candidates to fulfill the VP Role that will be vacated in August 2025. If you have a passion for WBCCI and a desire to help keep Region 4 the best region in the club, we would love to hear from you.

Social Media Stars

At the Michigan rally in Pentwater held early in October this year, a number of new people attended. One couple who attended happen to host a YouTube channel. Here's the video they made about attending their first Airstream rally. There are lots of Airstreams in this video!

[Our First Airstream Rally](#)



Big Sable Lighthouse, Lake Michigan, Lighthouse image. Free for use.

SPOTLIGHT: WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

International Rally, Rock Springs WY

By Brad Briggs. Region 4 Immediate Past President

Note: This article was intended for the fall newsletter but due to editorial confusion, I'm publishing it now. Thank you, Brad and Jane, for a great recap of the rally. JM

Jill McCauslin, the new Newsletter Editor for Region 4, asked Jane and me to write an article about the International Rally held in Rock Springs, WY. We were thrilled to take on the task.

Before delving into the details of our journey and the international rally, I want to acknowledge the amazing people in Region 4. Though the responsibilities of Region Officers at the International Rally have diminished, there are still tasks that must be completed on behalf of the region. When I reached out via email seeking coverage at the Region 4 welcome table, we were grateful for the enthusiastic response. The schedule filled up quickly. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with other Region 4 members as well as ACI members from around the Club.



We embarked on our journey to Rock Springs right after attending the Region 4 Rally in Kalamazoo. We planned to take four weeks to travel across the country at a leisurely pace. During our trip, we visited many places, including Indiana Dunes National Park, Hannibal, MO (the hometown of Mark Twain), Hamilton, MO (the birthplace of J.C. Penney and home of the Missouri Star Quilt Company), Missouri Watkins Woolen Mill State Park, Missouri Weston Bend State Park (where we visited with friends from Kansas City, Kansas), Colter Bay RV Park in Grand Teton National Park, Fishing Bridge RV Park at Yellowstone National Park, Cody Wyoming, Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Amana Colonies in Iowa, and finally back to Ohio. Our journey was truly amazing. Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

The 2023 International Rally of the Airstream Club International Club took place at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Springs, Wyoming. According to their website, this event center is known for its impressive facilities, spanning over 400 acres, which include multiple multi-

purpose buildings, tradeshow pavilions, an indoor arena, 1,235 fully-equipped RV spots, a grandstand arena, a motocross track, BMX track, Sweetwater Speedway, and much more.

Check out the drone footage of the complex captured by Loving Life Hitched Up during the International Rally. You can find the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pt7GpJzdDgc>.

Although we often make light of the changing weather by saying, "If you don't like it, wait five minutes," the weather at Rock Springs was a departure from what we're used to in Region 4. The elevation there is roughly 6,400 feet above sea level, and many people experienced the effects of the high altitude, such as headaches, fatigue, loss of appetite, and nausea. The wind would pick up suddenly, and the storms were intense. The air was thin and dry, with nighttime temperatures dropping to the high 40s or low 50s and daytime temperatures sometimes exceeding 80 degrees. The most difficult aspect for us was the sudden onset of 40-50 mph winds on an otherwise beautiful day. Due to the dry air, there was a lot of dust, and we also experienced a few heavy downpours. We learned a new weather term called "haboob," an intense dust storm carried on an atmospheric gravity current or weather front. Haboobs are a regular occurrence in dryland areas around the world. In general, though, the weather in Rock Springs was quite pleasant most of the time, usually reaching the 70s during the day.



Jane and I were parked at the Boar's Tusk Campground, one of three campgrounds on the complex, with around 600 other Airstreamers, including the International Officers. I didn't measure it, but I was told the distance from the campground to the event center on the winding road was almost a mile! The other two campgrounds are called Pilot Butte Campground and White Mountain Campground. All are named after natural formations in Wyoming.



This rally was a major event for the Rock Springs Events Complex and was three years in the making. They added additional sites, an outdoor pavilion, and an excellent dog park, which was so nice that some of the "dog people" started coordinating happy hours there.

The 66th WBCCI International Rally was packed with fun and educational activities, including tours, seminars, community service projects, and opportunities to meet new people. It felt like a conference with informative sessions on topics such as national forests, smart travel apps, Airstream maintenance, Boondocking, solar energy for camping, and a beautiful worship service. There were also evening music jams, plenty of food trucks, gatherings for caravans and reunions, a hobby and craft show, many vendors, and some entertainment. It was a great way to socialize with old and new friends alike. New this year was an indoor Pickle Ball court in the sheep barn!

During the opening ceremony, Randy Shiplett, the Immediate Past President of NOVA, kindly agreed to carry the president's flag for Region 4 in front of Jane and me.

The Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) did not disappoint this year either. Included in their fun activities were two dances, one with a cowboy theme and the other with an 80s theme.



One of the several service projects involved the collection of baby diapers to fill a customized eight-bunk Airstream. The Airstreamers donated a whopping 33,000 diapers to the United Way of Sweetwater County. Additionally, they contributed 126 pints of blood to the local blood bank, 150 pounds of aluminum tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, over \$12,000 in cash to the United Way, 501 Pillows for Premies sewn by Airstreamers, and seven large boxes of non-perishable food items for residents in need. The Airstreamers significantly impacted the community during their one-week visit, and we are proud to be part of this generous community.

The WBCCI Foundation, chaired by our own Karen Fisher, gave out grants totaling over \$28,000 at the Band and Choral Concert Wednesday evening. Recipients included our Global Impact Partners (National Parks Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and Tread Lightly!) and two local charities (Wyoming Outdoor Council and Wyoming Conservation Corp). In addition, through the Common Cents for Kids program, grants were given to the Cowboys Against Cancer and the JD Foundation of Sweetwater County for Juvenile Diabetes.

The WBCCI members who were part of the Band "Wyoming Winds" and Choral group "OK Chorale" performed in a public concert at a bandstand in a downtown Rock Springs park. About 800 locals and many Airstreamers attended the show. Having a performance in this park is a weekly event during the summer season. The Airstreamers delivered an impressive performance, not letting down the audience. Jane enjoyed her time in the WBCCI choir even though the practices were held in a downtown venue each day.





There were two different night glow events during the rally. One at Boar's Tusk Campground because it was out on its own. And the other included the Pilot Butte and White Mountain Campgrounds because they were adjacent.

Jane took this picture at the Boar's Tusk Campground night glow.

A very popular tour was Flaming Gorge scenic byway. Jane and I were not able to take this tour. Here is a description from our friend Sharon Zile.



This Flaming Gorge was discovered and photographed by John Wesley Powell in 1869 and continues to be a magnificent site. This is just one of the beautiful overlooks surrounded by Ponderosa pines. We also saw some beautiful, secluded campgrounds in the Ashley National Forest. The Flaming Gorge Dam was constructed in the early



1960s and dedicated by Lady Bird Johnson in 1964. The dam is on the Green River and is the largest in the northern Colorado River Basin. Certainly, it has changed the topography and created a large reservoir with lots of boating and fishing.



This photo is a view of the White Mountains behind the Pilot Butte and the White Mountain Campgrounds. Locals told us that the White Mountains were usually green for this time of year because of the recent rains.

SPOTLIGHT: WHERE WE ARE GOING

NOVA

2024 NOVA Spring Can Opener Rally
April 26 - 28, 2024
Location: Indian Lake State Park - Loop D
Lakeview, OH 43331

West Virginia Airstream Club

SAVE THE DATES (Look for more details in the Spring Newsletter.)

June 19 -23, 2024 RALLY IN THE VALLEY 2024” at the State Fairgrounds,
Lewisburg WV.

August 8-11, 2024 “RALLY ON THE MOUNTAIN 2024” at Grand Vue Park,
Moundsville, WV.

RECIPES FOR THE ROAD

I have not found a volunteer to provide recipes for the newsletter. My son told me to use ChatGPT for the newsletter so I asked it to give me a recipe for a holiday mocktail with an Airstream theme. Here's what it came up with. I haven't tried to make this but it sounds fun.

Airstream Holiday Mocktail - "Sparkling Silver Bells"

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cranberry juice
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons simple syrup (adjust to taste)
- Sparkling water or soda
- Ice cubes
- Cranberries and rosemary sprigs for garnish
- Optional: Edible silver or gold glitter for a touch of Airstream sparkle

Instructions:

- 1. Prepare the Base:**
 - In a shaker or a mixing glass, combine cranberry juice, pineapple juice, lime juice, and simple syrup. Shake well to blend.
- 2. Assemble the Drink:**
 - Fill glasses with ice cubes.
 - Pour the mixed juice blend into each glass, filling them halfway.
 - Top up the glasses with sparkling water or soda for a fizzy touch. Stir gently to combine.
- 3. Garnish:**
 - Add a few cranberries to each glass for a pop of color.
 - Place a small sprig of rosemary for a festive aroma and appearance.
 - For an Airstream-inspired touch, consider rimming the glasses with edible silver or gold glitter for a shimmering effect.
- 4. Serve:**
 - Offer the mocktails with a cheerful "Cheers!" and enjoy the holiday spirit in every sip.

Feel free to adjust the ingredients according to your taste preferences. If you're looking to add a specific Airstream theme, you might consider serving these mocktails in retro-style glassware or even aluminum cups for that vintage camping vibe!

Now a Holiday Cocktail

I then asked ChatGPT to add alcohol. Here's the response.

Sure thing! To make this mocktail into a cocktail, you can add a splash of your preferred spirit. Vodka, gin, or rum can complement the flavors of this mocktail nicely without overpowering the festive taste.

It then repeated the recipe but added 1 1/2 oz vodka, gin, or rum per serving to the ingredients.



Newsletter Deadlines and Publication Dates

Issue	Article Deadline	Publication Date
<i>Spring</i>	<i>March 1</i>	<i>March 15</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>June 1</i>	<i>June 15</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>September 1</i>	<i>September 15</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>December 1</i>	<i>December 15</i>



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This newsletter is for YOU, the Region 4 Member!

Feel free to submit information of interest to our members!

Newsletter issues typically include the following:

Spotlight: Where We Have Been (Unit Rally or Caravan already taken)

Spotlight: Where We are Going (upcoming Unit Rally or Caravan)

Healthy Airstream Cooking Recipe: Feel free to send me a recipe.

Region 4 Member Tips & Tricks

Officer Articles

Announcements