



Officers

President	Michael Jackson
1st Vice President	Glenn Stevens
2nd Vice President	Barbara Howard-Jones
Treasurer	Ken Hoevel
Secretary	Kay Hoevel
Membership	Carol Grisotti
Events	Linda Calderon
Webmaster	Craig Schlecht
Social Media	Lauretta Smith
Newsletter Editor	Lynda Polk

In This Issue

- National Parks Bucket List Updated!
- Meet a Member
- 43 Ranch and Guajome Holiday/ Annual Meeting Gathering in Review

Save the Date

April 18-21 Cali Rally, V6 Ranch, Parkfield, CA (Wait List)

President’s Letter

Ho, ho ho GLAACers! I hope this President’s letter finds everyone healthy and enjoying the holidays with family and friends. Let me first say how impressed I was with the outstanding effort of all involved in the amazing end of year holiday party. Special thanks to Paula & Steve Hammer and Phil & Carol Grisotti, our hosts. They hit it out of the park when over 30 Airstreams gathered at Guajome Regional Park in Oceanside.

The Region 12 Rally held at Pismo Coast Village RV Resort in Pismo Beach was a huge success. There were plenty of fun activities and all of the clubs were so well represented. Our club’s gift basket, along with all of the other club baskets, raised \$5,130 for the local charity, Restorative Partners of San Luis Obispo. A special thanks to Pam Pall, Jo Salzer and Liz Marks for their stellar work in front of and behind the scenes to help organize the rally.

At this time I would like to note a special thanks to my team of officers for the outstanding job and all their hard work this past year. My 1st VP, Glenn Stevens, who is recovering nicely from his recent Evel Knievel impersonation, has done a great job. Barbara Howard-Jones continues as 2nd VP and Membership Chairperson, Carol Grisotti, is very busy with the great growth we are experiencing in our club. Treasurer Ken Hovel is tasked with keeping our finances in order while club Secretary Kay Hoevel perfectly records our annual meeting. Our Event Chairperson, Linda Calderon, and her team, are the heartbeat of our club and work continuously to keep our rallies exciting. Webmaster Craig Schlecht maintains our website and keeps us informed of computer issues and new innovations. Lauretta Smith, Social Media Chairperson, maintains our member-only Facebook page and shares how amazing our club is through photos. Last but not least, editor Lynda Polk brings the Urban Update to our club with the stories and photos that you submit all while



she and Jim travel full-time in their Airstream.

All of you as volunteers are invaluable to the huge success of our club. I humbly thank each and every one of you for your expertise in your duties and look forward to another year of great adventures.

Our event at the 43 Ranch in San Ardo was a great success with all attendees getting a lesson in the production of olive oil. Live music, a great barbecue and tour of the pressing facility was enjoyed by all. Thanks to hosts Charlie & Alicia Andrews for stepping in for Don & Marion Kuhns. I am happy to say that boondocking is alive and well in GLAAC.

The holiday party was a wonderful close to an exciting year. Great food, a visit to Inland Empire Airstream, another outstanding Steal-a-Gift (ask my wife), and our GLAAC donation of \$1,000 to the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation with a matching donation from Christopher Cooper was very special. This is a glimpse of what our club is all about - giving back. In closing, thank you all for a wonderful year of all things GLAAC. I look forward to another year of leadership with all your help. Happy holidays to all and remember, keep flashing those headlights.

- Michael

On The Road Again to Capture the Newest National Parks

submitted by Jo Salzer

The problem about announcing to the world that you have done every national park is that it sets you up for a never-ending journey.

Our original article, which first appeared in the Urban Update in 2019 and reprinted in October, was after we completed the 60 national parks. We had saved the remote, not easily accessible Alaskan parks as the pinnacle of our quest, all done! Well, not quite.

The good news/bad news for we 'collectors' is that Congress keeps adding more. The good news is that there are now 425 entities that are part of the National Park system. Of these, 362 are national rivers, memorials, monuments, historic battlefields, reserves, preserves, seashores, or lakeshores. The national park designation is the highest honor in the system and brings much needed funds to preserve and protect these gems.

The bad news is that we "mature collectors" had to drive the 2,500+ miles to claim the newest national park in West Virginia. Ah, but bucket lists are a wonderful way to keep us motivated.

It took a few more years but we are current again. Covid delayed our travels some. Added in 2019 was national park #61 – Indiana Dunes. Ironically, and true of all the added parks is that we were right there back in our boating days. We came off an extensive exploration of gorgeous Lake Michigan on Wandering Star, our trawler, back in 2000 and moored near this beautiful National Lakeshore. But we did not go into the park or visitor center. Close does not count.

We have a few Indiana natives in our club that were familiar with this beautiful area. Don Kuhns worked there in the late 60's and has great stories. Ask him about Mohammed Ali. Jim Cahill lived nearby, and I can imagine him playing in a band on their shores. Linda Rendleman also hails from Indiana. We were encouraged to go back. So, off we went in 2021 to see what it was all about.



Ade & Jo

Lake Michigan is our favorite Great Lake. It is massive, has interesting ports along its shore and at the south end it runs along the northwestern border of Indiana. This is where Indiana Dunes State and National Park are located. You can see Chicago in the distance. The dunes dominate the landscape, some are white and high, others covered with dune grass, some pine forested. The wildlife is abundant with over 350 bird species in the park making it one of the top five national parks for birding.

A developer bought lakefront property and moved Art Deco/futuristic homes featured at the Chicago 1933 World's Fair to the Indiana shore. He hoped to create an upmarket lakeside resort to attract wealthy Chicagoans. 'Beverly Shores' failed. The houses have been restored by private investors, and while they are only open to visitors once a year, you can walk the streets and enjoy the exterior and grounds anytime.

Also added in 2019 was national park #62 – White Sands National Park. In 1933, President Herbert Hoover designated it a National Monument. The white sands are Gypsum – the largest gypsum dune field in the world. We had never stopped but had driven by it several times as it is near I-10 and I-25 and the town of Alamogordo, New Mexico. It is also known as the White Sands Missile Base which has a rich history of its own.

Our visit was mid-winter 2021 and the snow on the ground mixed with the white-white gypsum sand. The dunes are high, not dissimilar to the dunes we found at other sandy national parks such as Great Sand Dunes NP in Colorado; Kobuk Valley NP Alaska; the Indiana Dunes NP; and our nearby Death Valley NP, all have cool areas of sand dunes. At White Sands they encourage you to hike the trails and climb up the dunes with a sled or disc and ride down. It's a blast. A 16-mile drive through the park gives you a good overview. You can stop anywhere and play along the way.

On The Road Again to Capture the Newest National Parks

submitted by Jo Salzer

The newest national park, New River Gorge National Park in West Virginia was the last jewel in our crown on this go-around. It had been designated as a national river in 1978. It's beautiful and worthy of a long visit to take advantage of the many recreational activities. Our near-miss story for this park was in 2016. We'd driven across the country to attend our first ever Airstream International Rally in Lewisburg, West Virginia. It was exciting for us Airstream newbies, not only the cool events going on at the rally, but the fact that the area was experiencing the epic flood of 2016. We were prevented from sightseeing in the area, and one place that we'd wanted to see was then known as New River Gorge National River.

It is not a new river, in fact it is the oldest river on the North American continent, estimated to be the second oldest river on earth, between 10-360 million years old. Known for decades to West Virginians for its stunning natural beauty and recreational opportunities, including river rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping.

We stay inside National Parks when it's practical and available, but often find that state parks which abut the national parks are more RV accessible. So, we stayed at Little Beaver State Park, which is just a few miles from one of the visitor centers. The park does not offer a simple circle drive, but rather four entrances with four visitor centers that each highlight different points of interest in that section of the park.

Do not miss Canyon Rim Visitors Center for spectacular views of the Gorge and Bridge. Boardwalks and trails make it easy to explore along with its particularly good visitor's center. Grandview is in the south near our campsite and has magnificent views. Thurmond Depot Visitor Center highlights the more recent history of the railroad, coal mining and life in the Appalachian Mountains.

So, when you are out and about in this beautiful country, be sure to stop at some of the smaller, lesser known places. There is something of interest in ALL of them - and who knows, someday they may grow up to be a true NATIONAL PARK!



ALUMINATION is here! This just-released film by director Eric Bricker shares the history of our iconic Airstreams with a spotlight on Wally Byam, creator of Airstreams in the 1930s, right here in Los Angeles; and Helen Byam Schwamborn who spearheaded the club we continue to enjoy today. You'll watch in awe at the genesis of our aluminum adventure pods right up through the 21st century! Narrated by Kate Pierson of the B-52s, grab the popcorn and enjoy!



<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/alumination>

Meet a Member!

submitted by Christopher & Miriela Cooper

Meet the Coopers, dynamic members of the GLAAC community who brings a wealth of experiences to the table. Christopher is a former Marine and retired firefighter, embodying a spirit of service that extends into his personal and recreational pursuits while Miriela enjoys a career as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in a major school district. The Cooper duo are proud owners of a Flying Cloud Airstream, seamlessly towed by their reliable Ford F-150. Their Airstream isn't just a mode of travel, it's a symbol of adventure and connection.

The Coopers' involvement in the Airstream world goes beyond being enthusiasts; Chris is the proud owner of AirboardShop.com, an Airstream trailer accessory firm. AirboardShop is not just a business for Christopher; it's a passion project that allows him to contribute innovative and practical solutions to the Airstream community. At GLAAC rallies, you'll often find the Coopers showcasing their latest products, and they are scheduled to exhibit at the October 2024 International Rally in Missouri. Make sure to drop by their booth, say hello, and inquire about the exciting new product they launch each year.

Beyond the Airstream world, the Coopers are dedicated philanthropists. AirboardShop proudly supports the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, a global organization headquartered in Ventura County, California. Christopher and Miriela understand the importance of giving back, and their commitment to this cause reflects their values of community and compassion. Their travels with Mocha, their Labrador Retriever, from their home base in Camarillo, California, have become not just a personal journey but a way to connect with and support communities in need.



Miriela & Christopher

Christopher and Miriela open their hearts and home to the GLAAC community, offering space for overnight camping at their residence in Camarillo. This hospitality reflects their desire to build lasting connections within the Airstream family. While Miriela is an avid cyclist, Christopher finds his exercise on the Pickleball Court, showcasing their active and vibrant lifestyle. The Coopers truly embody the spirit of the GLAAC community, bringing a perfect blend of adventure, innovation, and philanthropy to the Airstream family. As they gear up for the next International Rally, be sure to seek them out, learn about the latest from AirboardShop, and share in the camaraderie that makes the GLAAC community so special.

THE APRIL 2024 CALI RALLY HAS FILLED. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE PLACE YOUR NAME ON THE WAIT LIST.

<https://form.jotform.com/232105672872052>



November's event at 43 Ranch, San Ardo, CA

Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club members lined up their silver wagons and enjoyed a dry camp experience at 43 Ranch which included a tour of the olive oil process, BBQ, music, wine tasting and more!



December's event at Guajome Regional Park, Oceanside, CA







Editor's Note

While our club newsletter is formatted, edited and delivered to your inbox by the editor, it is truly *your news* which makes it interesting. With this in mind, I am reaching out to all our members for participation.

1) With each issue we'll have an opportunity to *Meet a Club Member!* Members will be tapped to find out what you enjoy about Airstreaming; how it all began; any lessons learned on the road; what you did prior to club life. Maybe share something we don't know about you!

2) We have also incorporated *My Favorite Campground* where you simply write a few sentences about your favorite site and include a photo taken at the campground. With all the rolling we do, this will certainly inspire club members to try a new location!

Feel free to send one, or both of these items to me at anytime and they will be included in future issues of the Urban Update.

- Lynda

Get Your GLAAC Swag Here!

To order:

- Go to business.landsend.com and set up an account
- Once established, order online using these codes:
 - CUSTOMER NUMBER: 6427863
 - LIGHT COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1360294
 - DARK COLOR APPAREL (colors may not be changed) Logo code 1389360
 - OK to change colors use logo code 1684885



- Call Lands End with questions. They are happy to work with you! 800.587.1541
- Lands End apparel will not be 'blocked' in red as shown in the logo
- Watch for the occasional discount and/or free logo

Order your GLAAC Garden Flag Here!

Available to order with your name(s) and Big Red Numbers here:

<https://www.flagology.com/product/personalized-greater-la-airstream-club-garden-flag-12-5-x-18/>

Or call 1-855-347-4922 (8:30-4:30 EST, Monday-Friday)



Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club Member Photo Directory

Our membership photo directory is now available online. For help accessing the directory, please reach out to Carolyn Keep via email at: KeepRLN@icloud.com

Editor's Note: Thank you to our members who submitted photos for this edition and to those photographers whom I pulled photos from Facebook. And a special *Thank You* to those who provided an article, you make the Urban Update the outstanding club newsletter that it is!