



# The Akron Ohio Airstream Club Newsletter



**April 2024 Edition**

**Captain's Log, Stardate 04.01.2024:** Happy April Fools' Day! Check your shoelaces . . . they're untied! Gotcha! If you're reading the newsletter on April 1<sup>st</sup>, you'll be impressed that I'm actually towing the Airstream today, and yesterday . . . and tomorrow! Jennette and I spent "Spring Break" in Cortez, Florida just a stone's throw from the causeway to Anna Maria Island on the gulf coast. I left on the 19<sup>th</sup> and arrived the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>—staying two nights at Crackerbarrel Restaurants in Princeton, WV and Perry, GA before a 3<sup>rd</sup> night at a Harvest Host brewery in Palmetto, FL. That evening, I drove to the Punta Gorda Airport to pick up Jennette who flew down after school. I began to write this newsletter on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will "schedule send" on April 1<sup>st</sup> so I'd like to think we had a great time with warm, sunny weather, cold cocktails and excellent seafood! I'll update later if that wasn't the case! In any regard, the 2024 Airstream Rally season is hereby "launched" with the Region 4 "Eclipse Rally" just a few days away! We're hoping for a clear, sunny day—except for the 3-4 minutes of total darkness as the sun temporarily shuts down to reboot in preparation for the next billion years!

**Our March Luncheon at the Kiehl's, hosted by Fred & Kathy and Dennis & Karen on the 16<sup>th</sup> was a great time.**



Thanks to our hosts for providing the chili and cornbread and thanks to all 27 attendees for providing the side dishes and desserts! There's no doubt that Akron Ohio Airstream

Club members never go hungry! In addition to Fosnight's "mini horse," Winston, I'll share more pictures on the next page! I suppose we could schedule one more luncheon in April—that's "if" someone wants to plan the event. Let Tom Ozbolt or myself know and we'll get the word out.



Looking ahead, let's recognize those with birthdays in **April** and gift them half-empty cans of suntan spray and leftover seafood in doggie bags from someone's recent

~~Spring Break trip!~~ Please, if we've missed your information, simply zap me an update. **Happy 'April'**

**Birthdays to:**

- 4/09 Mike Schuster
- 4/22 Vern Ketchum
- 4/27 Alan Jackson



**And, Happy Anniversary to:**

- 04-17 Dennis & Karen Kiehl



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- "1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Breakfast" for April is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Waterloo Restaurant in Akron, 9am!
- **Region 4 "The Great Eclipse Rally of 2024" is scheduled for April 7-11<sup>th</sup> in Darke County.** Experience the "Darke Side of the Moon" in Darke County for the 2024 National Eclipse Rally at the Great Darke County Fairgrounds in beautiful Greenville, near Jackson Center!
- **Wake Up Downtown Rally in Logan, Ohio May 2-4, 2024.** The City of Logan will close the streets to all motorized traffic; Airstreams line the historic downtown forming a quiet/safe pedestrian mall. More info can be found [HERE](#).
- **Region 4 Community Service Rally, May 29 – June 2** in Flint Michigan. This year's Region 4 Community Service Rally assists the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, located in Flint. **Campground:** Groveland Oaks County Park, 14555 Dixie Highway, Holly, MI 48442. 30 Amp power. **To sign up/ask questions** please contact Jamie Kingseed, Community Service Chair, at [jkingsseed@gmail.com](mailto:jkingsseed@gmail.com) or click [HERE](#) or (937) 539-3139
- **AOAC June Rally at Sauder Village, Archbold, Ohio** (22611 State Rt 2, 43502) **June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday – Friday) hosted by the Wilch's. We have 15 sites reserved for the Akron Ohio Airstream Club, \$44/night. **Reservations can be made by calling this number directly: 800.590.9755.** On site, the Sauder Village experience will take us through time from 1803 through the roaring 20's. As of the release of this newsletter, **we have 10 sites already reserved** so please register sooner than later—and follow up with a RSVP via website "[Register Now](#)" link.

- **AOAC July Rally at The Wilderness Campground in Dundee, Michigan, July 17 – 21** hosted by Fred & Kathy Kiehl and Mike Pastva & Jill McCauslin. Unlike the June rally, you MUST reserve your site via our website by clicking [HERE](#)—(only 2 rigs registered on Club Express so far!) Sites are \$57 per night and include water + 30/50 amp electric. We'll tour the Henry Ford Museum as well as Greenfield Village—less than an hour's drive (\$51.50/person for a 3-day pass that covers both museums). Limited sites are available so **make your reservation by tax day—April 15<sup>th</sup>!**
- **AOAC August Rally...** could be the most epic ever recorded—if we only had one! August is “open” to anyone wishing to plan/host a rally!
- **NOVA Rally in the Valley II** September 5 –9, 2024 (Thu - Mon) 4439 & 4495 Black Road, Richfield. Click [HERE](#) for details. Special note: yours truly's favorite ice cream shop, “Country Maid,” is right around the corner! RSVP: Tom & Judi Moran, BRN#4405 330-606-4101, [topshelfsp@aol.com](mailto:topshelfsp@aol.com)
- **Region 4 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Swiss Festival National Rally**, September 21st – 29th at Winklepleck Grove (2800 Winklepleck Rd NW, Sugar creek, OH, 44681) Located deep in the heart of Amish country, this week-long rally includes visits to the annual Swiss Festival in nearby Sugar creek, Ohio, plus tours to various local sites and our favorite “Day in the Park.” Click [HERE](#) for more information at to register.
- **67th Airstream Club International Rally**, October 5-10, 2024. Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, Missouri. Register online [HERE](#).

Some of our Club members are considering upgrading their house batteries to Lithium . . . doing so has many advantages, primarily the doubling of the amperage capacity given that AGM batteries should not be drawn down to below 50%--whereas lithium batteries have no such limit. Lithium batteries are also about half the weight and can be mounted upright, on their sides, etc. When upgrading our rig, I did NOT opt for the ultra-expensive Battleborn brand and went with a pair **Weize LiFePO4's** that now cost less: \$280 each. They have the Built-in Smart BMS, Low Temp protection and a 4.5/5 star rating on Amazon. Because Lithium batteries require a higher charging voltage, I had to upgrade our unit's converter (newer Airstreams come with a switchable converter that increases the charging voltage.) I reached out to “Randy” at [Bestconverter.com](http://Bestconverter.com) for advice to replace my WFCO converter and he recommended the **WildKat PD4655L/MBA** as it's American made and has a 2-year warranty. The cost was about \$280 and it was an

easy plug-n-play installation. Next, I went with the **Victron Energy 500 amp SmartShunt** that has a Bluetooth connection to my phone and displays the batteries' state of charge and acts like a fuel gauge. Cost: about \$120 on Amazon. Last, since our coach does NOT have the solar package, I opted for two **Baldr 120W Portable Solar Panel** (suitcase style) with 20' of cabling so I can park in the shade yet set up my solar panels in the sun. They run about \$160 each (on Amazon) and you'll also need the **Victron SmartSolar MPPT solar charge controller** (w/ Bluetooth) . . . cost: \$90. This unit maximizes the energy harvest from your panels as your lithium batteries are charged. Add in the costs for connectors/cabling of about \$50 and your grand total to “convert” totals roughly \$1340.

batteries (2)	\$ 560.00
converter	\$ 280.00
SmartShunt	\$ 120.00
Solar panels (2)	\$ 240.00
Solar controller	\$ 90.00
cables, etc	\$ 50.00
Total	\$1,340.00

**Everyone's a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day!**



**Akron Airstream Club' Leadership:**

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Valerie Fosnight, Vice President [vjfosnight@aol.com](mailto:vjfosnight@aol.com)

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Tom Ozbolt, Secretary/Webmaster [tozbolt@icloud.com](mailto:tozbolt@icloud.com)

Legislative: TBA

Dennis Kiehl, Past President [as27050@akron.net](mailto:as27050@akron.net)

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