

BOONDOCKER GAZETTE



MARCH 2024

BOONDOCKERS AIRSTREAM CLUB

ISSUE No. ONE

President's Message

Hello fellow Boondocking Airstreamers. I'm thrilled to be writing this column for the first-ever Boondockers Airstream Club (BAC) newsletter...the Boondocker Gazette.

The BAC was started about two years ago as an Intra-club of the ACI by a group of folks who spent a lot of time boondocking and enjoying it. They set the stage and now there is a new group of leadership in the club to build on the stage that the Founders built and ramp the BAC into a great resource for all ACI members who are also into boondocking or otherwise camping without hookups. Anyone from BLM land vacationers to the overnighter at a roadside stop.

Many of you have noticed an increase in communication from the BAC. We have an email distribution list of all members which is constantly updated when new members join. As President, I've sent a couple of update emails in the past months and shared a survey to better understand what the membership wants. I promise you that we read through all feedback and will be acting on it as soon as we can.

More than anything, I hope that you're getting out and boondocking as long as you're not frozen in at this time of year. If you're boondocking-curious, I hope that what the BAC is working on and delivering to you in the coming months helps you to start boondocking.

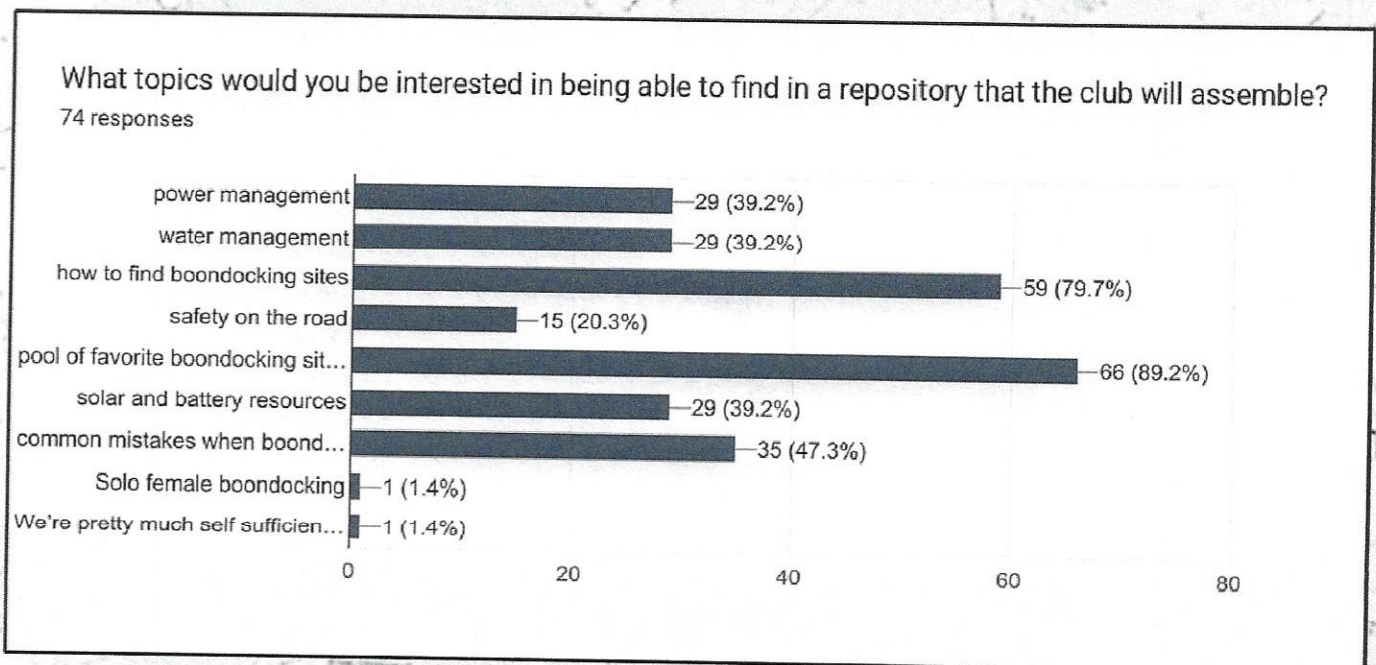
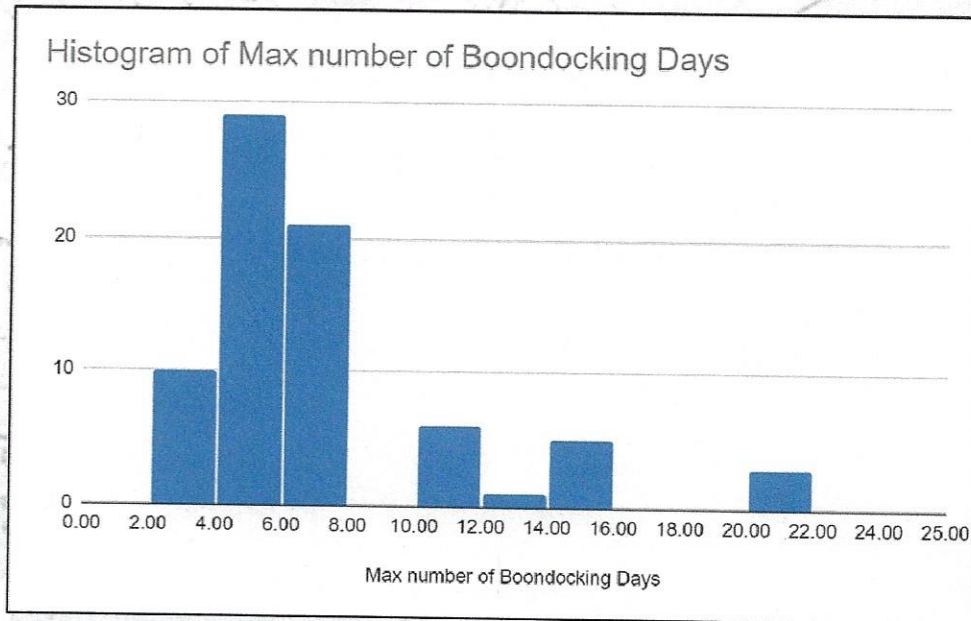
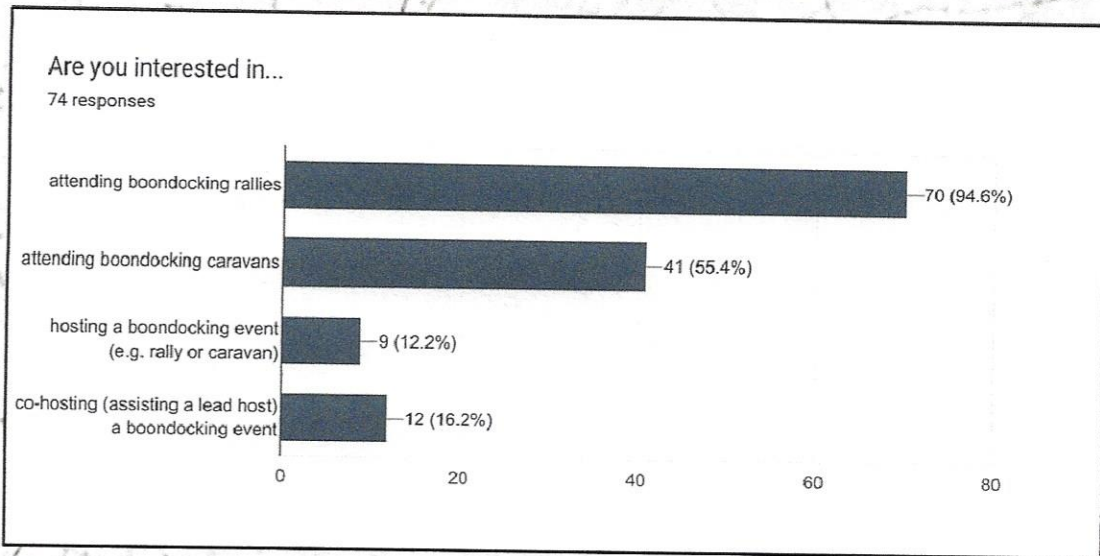
I welcome your feedback anytime. Just send me an email at jasongrendahl@gmail.com and let me know what the BAC can do for you.

-Jason Grendahl, President of BAC, BRN 3064

Thanks everyone who responded to the member survey. The Board of BAC is working to reach out to everyone who gave input, asked questions, or volunteered to help. If you missed the email invite, the survey is still open at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtnskniSQ5WnuHBnp-GIZRDTilaRWReA6QFCRwGcmSVJcRULw/viewform?usp=sharing>.

Here are some highlights from the responses so far:

- 76 people responded so far. That's about a 15% return rate for members. If we consider that only one member of usually two per BRN gives their input, then it's around at 27% return rate. Better than most elections!
- Nearly all of you want to go to a rally or caravan:
- Everyone feels confident for a weekend of boondocking, some a week, and some many weeks!
- And you really want to know how to find more boondocking sites and where other people like to boondock!



Meet Kristy Halvorsen



I'm in my 7th year of traveling full time solo. I live in my 2002 28' Classic and prefer boondocking far out in nature over anything else although I'm not much of a pack animal so I've only been to a few rallies in my 6 years with the WBCCI. My last blog might be of interest to the group.

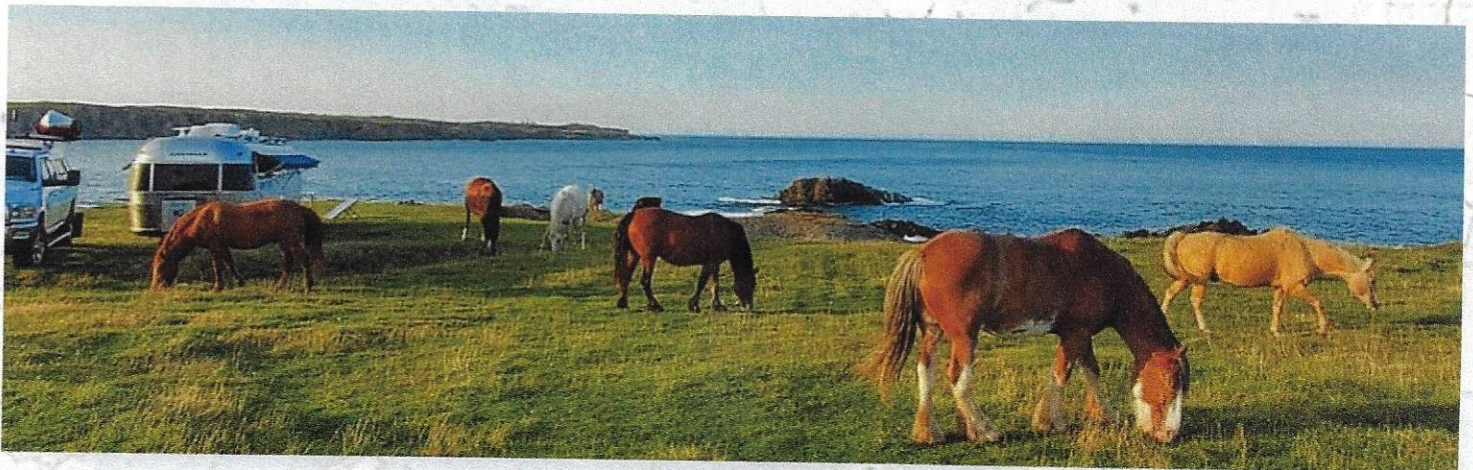
<https://kristyhalvorsen.com/2023-review/>

It's my "year in review" blog for 2023. I

traveled from Florida to where the roads end on the east coast of Canada- boondocked the entire way, except for one 5 day stretch in an RV park (because I was quite under the weather).

2023 Facts and Stats:

- Visited 17 states in the US and 6 provinces in Canada
 - Visited 17 of Canada's National Parks and National Historic Sites
 - Total steps taken: 3,064,987
 - I rode my bicycle just over 2000 miles
 - Drank 10,000 year old water off of two different icebergs in the Labrador Sea
 - Total spent on campground fees: \$587 (not bad for rent for the year!)
 - Total spent on fuel: \$4,197
 - Total Miles Traveled: 21,931 (This includes driving, a cross country flight, biking and hiking)
 - Drove 195 miles of dirt and gravel roads while towing my Airstream.
 - I traveled more than 80 total hours on at least seven separate ferry crossings
 - Spent countless nights cloaked in nature
 - Made many new friends
 - Had lots of wonderful visits with old friends.
- My total spent on campground fees for the year was \$587).



From Our Members

After 3 nights at the Twentynine Palms RV resort with hookups, we decided to do 3 nights of boondocking inside of Joshua Tree NP, at Jumbo Rocks campground.

There's plenty to do in this NP, on 4 wheels, 2 wheels or on foot.

We found the granite surroundings of this campsite enjoyably unique. Plenty of clean pit toilets. Several sites that would accommodate trailers and tow vehicles longer than our Basecamp 16x. Reservations and site sizes are found on recreation.gov.

In January the weather can be a bit cool and breezy. But the night stars are fabulous.

We had a pretty good time.

Jeff and Gloria Brain,
Slaves to Ohle and Mabel

We always camp in the Smokey Mountains National Park – 10 days each spring at Cades Cove and 10 days each fall at Elkmont. We camp in a 2018 25' International; at "birth" it was not equipped with solar, and we have not added a folding solar panel. We do have some-what upgraded batteries – Optima Blue Top Glassmat. We monitor them and do not let them fall below that 10.5 voltage reading. We prefer to use a Honda 300I Handi generator to charge batteries as it will also run the air conditioner as needed.

At Elkmont this fall we started with a full tank of fresh water – 39 gallons, 1 gallon of Happy Camper treatment in the 39 gallon black tank and an empty 39 gallon grey tank. During the next 9 days we took 4 showers, cooked, washed dishes and hands, and flushed the toilet (I use the Airstream toilet exclusively, while Tom only used it occasionally.) The only effort to economize consisted of using a jug of water a couple of times to flush the toilet.

After 10 days we had 2% of our fresh water left, our black tank registered at 40% full, and our grey tank registered 38% full. I am not sure the see-level tank sensors are especially accurate, as the final percentages don't add up to account for 100% of our fresh water we started with. We certainly had more room for black and grey water, and I am assuming we might have had more fresh water than what registered.

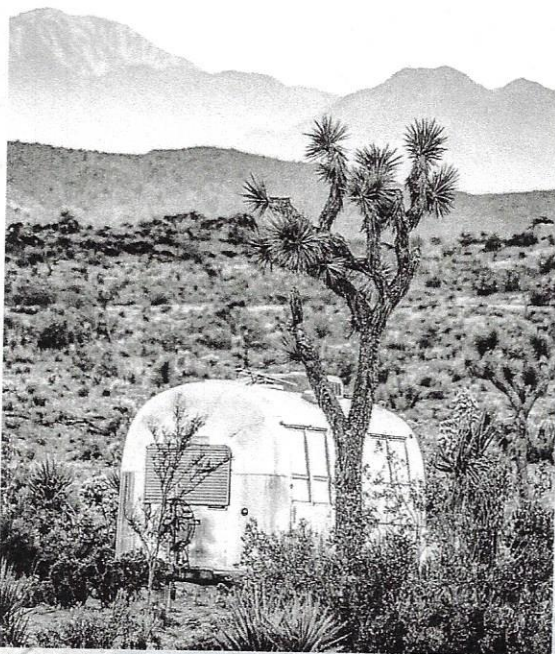
We ran the Honda 3000I generator once a day for 1-2 hours to charge the battery, make coffee, and run the small electric ceramic heater and the electric water heater – to save a little on propane. On only four occasions we ran the generator to have use of the microwave. We used 4 gallons of gas in the generator over the 10 days.

The temperature was below freezing (23-31 degrees) four nights, and in the 40's and 50's the other six nights. We used the propane to run the furnace setting the temperature at 50 degrees and bumping it up to 60 for an hour in the morning. We did not need to heat the inside of the trailer during the day as the temperature warmed up. We cooked two meals a day on our Blackstone Griddle which is plugged into our propane tanks. We also used the propane to heat up food, boil water on the stove top for coffee and run the hot water heater when not using the generator. We have two 30lb tanks and only used one tank.

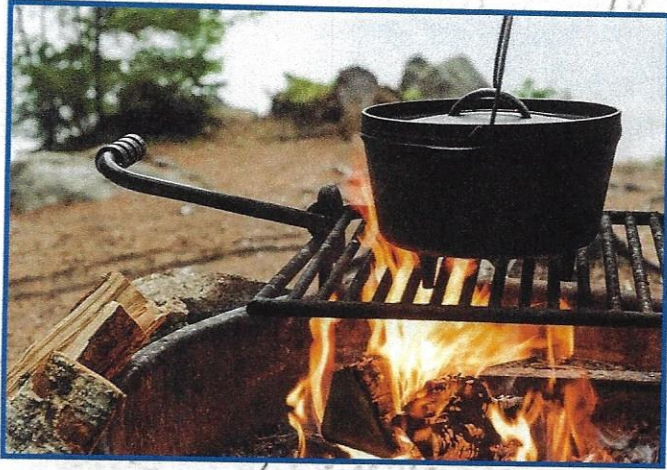
With everything (propane, fresh water, and battery) we did not go to great lengths to conserve, but did everything we wanted to do. We had a back-up plan to hook up and drive to dump the tanks and refill fresh water but did not need to do that.

Again, I am not sure if this information will help anyone, but I wanted to document it for myself for future long-term boondocking experiences.

Tom & Ella Brown



Airstream in Desert Wall Art Photograph
by Cooper Collective

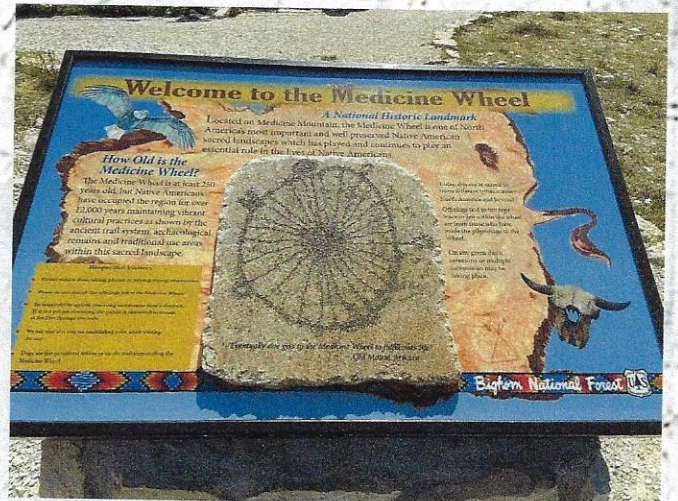


Campfire Cooking

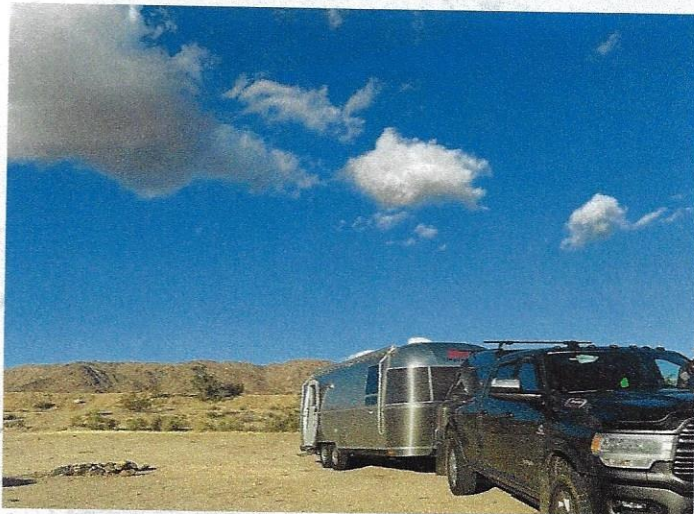
Boondocking provides the perfect opportunity in many cases to cook over an open fire. Always check for rules and regulations pertaining to open fires wherever you are camping. Other considerations are sources of firewood which are regulated to local wood only. Reasonably priced firewood can be found locally from near by farms and self help firewood stands on local road stands. There can be a lot more to campfire cooking than a hot dog on a stick.

Something as simple as a metal grill over a fire for a nice steak or salmon on a plank or going with heavy metal, a Dutch oven for that one pot meal. Solo and other manufacturers of smokeless fire pits now offer cooking accessories for their units.

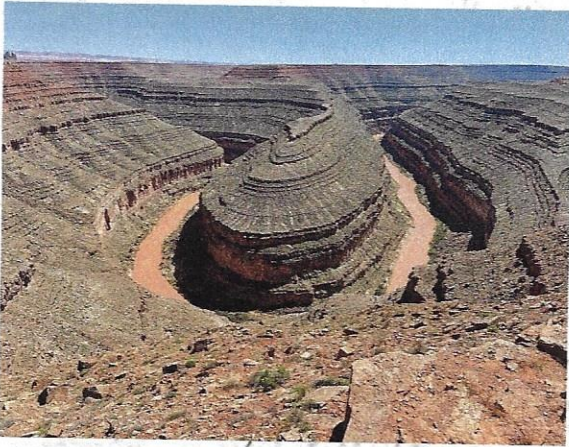
from Our Members



From: Mary Silvernell in the Bighorn Mountains, Wyoming 2023!!

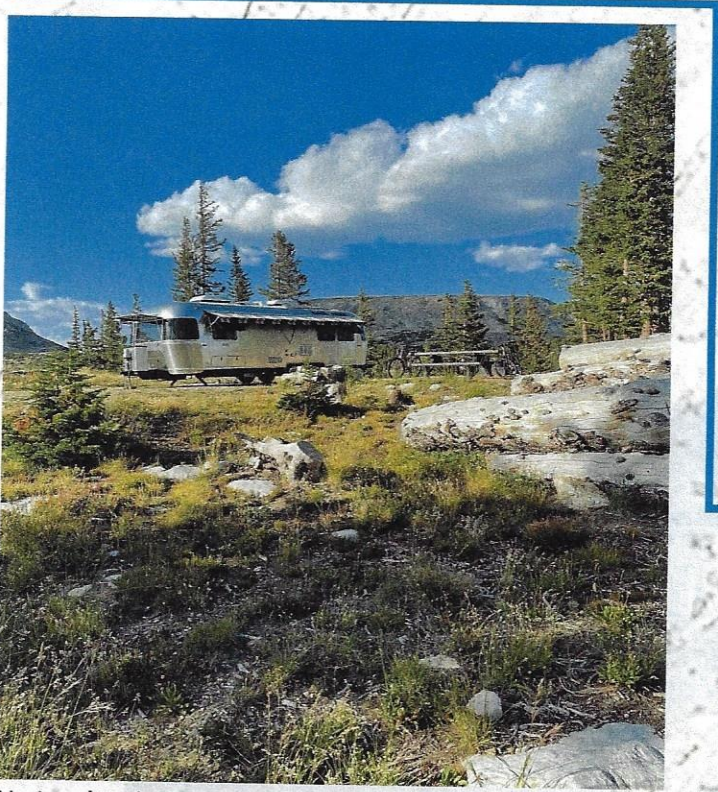


From: Sharon Wieder
BLM south of Joshua Tree NP
Very clean and lots of space and amazing stars!

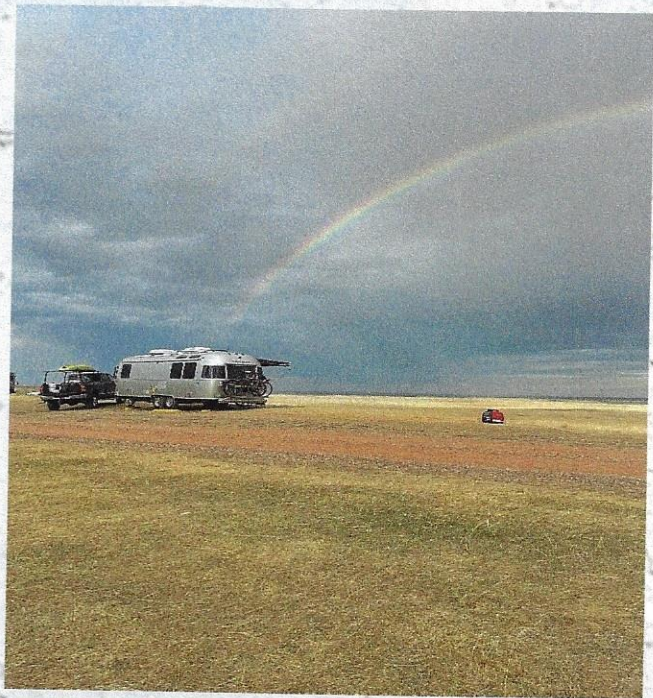


Goosenecks State Park, UT. There's not a bad spot in the park and you can back up a whole lot of rigs along the rim. I use the term "Park" loosely: not much there but the beauty, but they only charge \$5 a night. just pick anywhere along the rim and park. A great place for a rally if folks can get over the fact that they don't take reservations. These were taken last April 26 and all the rivers were flowing hard so the water looked pretty muddy. There were very few others at the park.

Steve Smith, BRN 10877



National Park near Centennial Wyoming with spots to set up but no other infrastructure at 10,800 feet elevation.



BLM near the Badland in South Dakota. Picture is nicknamed "pot of aluminum"

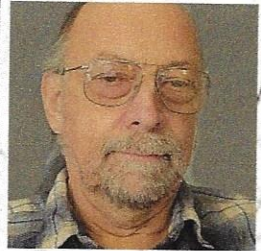


Beautiful small campground in Shenandoah National Park (Virginia) – no connections or other facilities but a few hungry black bears

Ken Luken



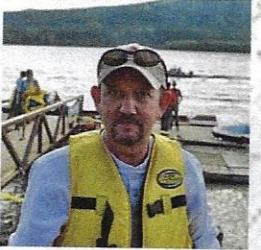
Jason Grendahl
President
BRN: 03064



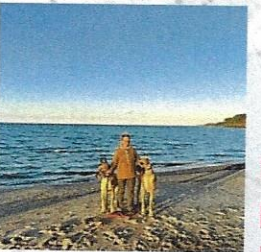
J. Rick Cipot
Vice President
BRN: 03411



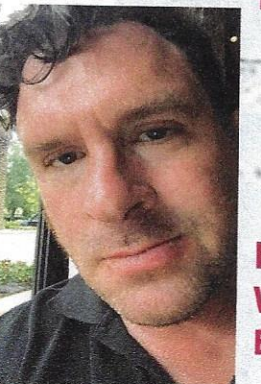
Barbara Derian
Recording Secretary
BRN: 10826



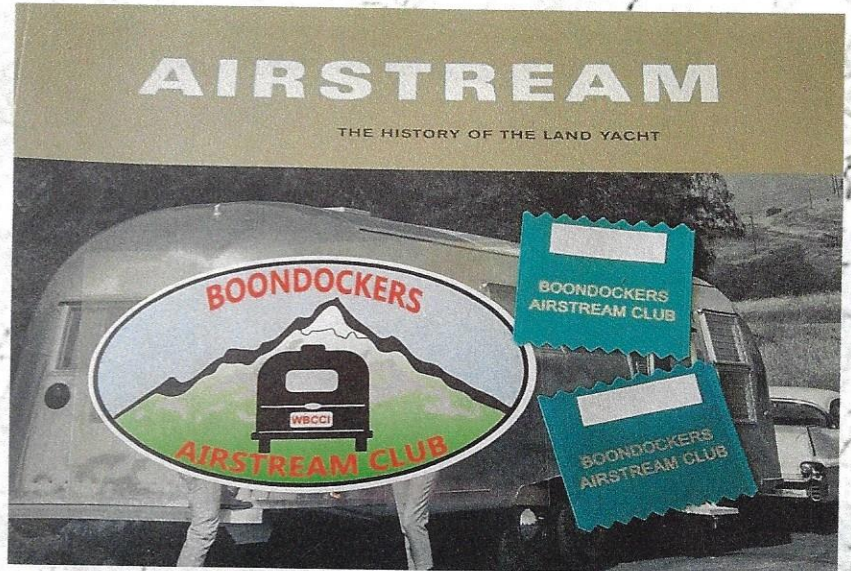
J. Nelson Thornton
Treasurer
BRN: 05314



Lilli Hamnvist
Membership Chair
BRN: 05287



Ian Poulin
Webmaster
BRN: 08118



Old Tech in a Modern World!

Mail a self addressed stamped #10 envelope with \$2.00 and receive your Decal and two Name Badge Ribbons proclaiming your membership to the Boondockers Airstream Club. Additional decals are \$2.00 each. Please mail you payment and envelope to: J. Rick Cipot - 44 Walnut Hill Road - Bethel, CT 06801, email: mrjrick@aim.com.

Make some News - - - -

This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. Have a story to tell, a favorite camping spot you want to share? Boondocking tips, campfire recipe? Share it with your fellow Boondockers. The more "articles" or shares we get the more often we will be able to publish our newsletter.

Email to: Jason at jasongrendahl@gmail.com
or Rick at mrjrick@aim.com

Thank you!