




iNDie STREAMERS Independent

Spring 2024

Newsletter of the
ACI Independent Airstreamers Intra-Club

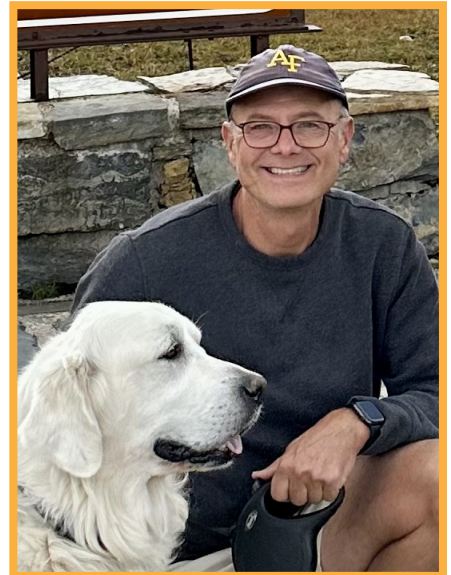
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Presidents' Corner	1
How Indie Streamer Began – With a Vision	2
What Does the Indie Streamers Logo Mean?	3
My Experience Planning a Rally and Lessons Learned	3
Where we are going — rallies, gatherings, and events	4
Indie Streamers have gathered!	6
Communicating with other Indie Streamers is easily accomplished with Slack	8
Indie Streamers Logo Merchandise Now Available	8
Indie Streamers Particulars	9

President's Corner Rob Rottschafer #06341

Greetings, Indie Streamers, and welcome to the inaugural edition of the Indie Streamers "Independent" newsletter! We hope you will find this newsletter fun and informative.

Many of you have been members of Indie Streamers for a while, but we have had quite a few new members join over the past year. While Carolyn Beardshear (Indie Streamers Co-Founder), Kathleen Gonzalez Landis (Vice President), and I have written about our vision for the future of the Intra-Club, it seems this is a good opportunity to put it out to the group once again.



Those who have traveled alone have no doubt experienced the unique planning, logistical, interpersonal, mental, and physical differences associated with going solo. Carolyn writes about the history of the Intra-Club below. By way of context, she and Corinne Bogert started Indie Streamers with the intent of creating a space where solo 'streamers could find a community of like-minded travelers with similar experiences.

After our election to office, the current board discussed Carolyn's vision and determined it to be at least as relevant and necessary (if not more so) than when the group started. We agreed that, while we wanted to include even more Indies into the group, we needed to focus more on developing community than growth.

To this end, we decided community and relationships are best developed face to face, often in context of some activity or common purpose. In the past, we had used other groups' rallies as an opportunity to bring Indies together, which seemed to work well in the early days of the Intra-Club. However, based on the success of last year's pre-International Indie rally at Flaming Gorge, UT, we identified a need to also have rallies hosted by and specific to our Intra-Club. We set a goal of having five Indie rallies over the course of the Fall 2023- Fall 2024 with the purpose of bringing Indies together and encouraging community growth. As of now, we have had one rally (thanks, Trish!), and have two more in the works. I'm hopeful a fourth and fifth (or more) will materialize before too long!

President's Corner continued from page 1.

So, where are we going from here? During our last few meetings, the board has been discussing how we can capitalize on social and electronic media to grow community. We have added several new members to our Facebook page and are starting to see more and more content posted by users like you. This is great and we hope to see this continue! Additionally, we have sent out several emails with updates, announcements, and content that has hopefully been helpful.

During our last meeting, we also decided a periodic newsletter might be helpful as long as it has timely and relevant content. While we cast no shade on other groups' newsletters, we have all seen examples where the contributors clearly ran out of content and the newsletter was not helpful or even germane to the group. Nobody has time for this, so we are committed to making the Indie Independent something you find helpful, fun, and interesting.

Finally, we would like to encourage you all to contribute in some way to the Indies. Perhaps write an article for the newsletter, or post something on our Facebook group page. Perhaps consider hosting a rally. This can be a big, formal event with a schedule of planned activities, or an informal gathering of Indies just hanging out together, or something in-between. Perhaps you can think of other ways to help Indies get to know each other. However,, no matter how big or small, your contributions will help us "move the ball down the field."

As I've mentioned before, we would love to get constructive feedback and input from you on what seems to be going right, not so right, and what you'd like to see more or less of. Vector checks from you help us make sure we're heading in the right direction and focusing on what you all would like to see (sorry, Air Force analogies are hard to give up!).

Until we meet down the road,

Rob Rottschafer

BRN 6341

How Indie Streamers Began – With a Vision

Carolyn Beardshear, Co-Founder and Past President



The idea for Indie Streamers started with a tire issue at a pull-off in Oregon in 2019. Corinne Bogert and I had just picked up a 'new to her' 2016 23' Airstream in Grants Pass, OR, and were headed back to Colorado. Since the tires were brand new we stopped to torque them in the very remote Oregon "Outback." A trucker pulled in and, seeing two women working on a tire, offered to help. It's Oregon. People are very helpful. We declined his help politely, but once back on the road started thinking about how his offer of help might have seemed very different had there only been one of us there and not two.

The discussion went from Airstreaming in general to the unique challenges of traveling alone i.e., staying safe, changing a tire, backing into a campsite, hitching up, integrating socially in a largely couples-centered rally, finding travel partners. I remembered then-ACI president Mona Heath encouraging the formation of Intra-Clubs to bring members with common interests together. Covid got in the way of realizing that dream while she was president, but the vision didn't fade.

Corinne and I figured, "Why not start an Intra-Club for Airstreamers who travel single, be they men, women, or even couples who go on their own at times?" Eric McHenry, current ACI president, not only encouraged us to develop a constitution and by-laws, but also spent several days with us in Colorado, simplifying the process and laying the groundwork for future Intra-Clubs.

Clearly the idea took hold, a charter was approved, and before a month was out, Indie Streamers had over 100 members. Currently we are close to 300 and growing. The goal is now, and has always been, to connect Indie Streamers at "gatherings" around the country, by sharing adventures and advice online, or traveling new roads together. To accomplish our goal, we now need individuals or "teams" of members to envision an Indie Streamers Gathering at a favorite place, find a campground, then invite the "Indies" to join you. Behind this link is all you need to start the wheels rolling...to YOUR Gathering. <https://airstreamclub.org/indie-streamers>



Welcome to Indie Streamers, where you might meet your next best friend!

What Does the Indie Streamers Logo Mean?

The logo, designed by Michele Gregoire at Sierra Designs Studios speaks volumes about who we are: The solitary tree, standing alone against the elements, maybe bending but not breaking, the mountains that we all have to climb, and the rising sun that signals a hopeful, new day. The quirky font because, well, we all have our own special style.



My Experience Planning a Rally and Lessons Learned

Kathleen Gonzalez Landis, Vice-President

Allow me to set the stage. I am relatively new to the Airstream world; I have attended several rallies over the past three years; and, I am new to the Vice President position with the Indie Streamers.

After conversation with my partner in crime, your President Rob Rottschafer, we decided we would each plan a rally. I chose a rally in Michigan to be held in May.

If there is a manual for setting up a rally, I didn't have it. Logically, the first step was to identify an area to hold the rally in and select a campground. Second, I needed to identify activities and opportunities for the time span chosen. This step requires research of the surrounding area.

I am of the mindset that you, my audience, are "independent" and will choose what you want to do over the course of a few days. Many of you travel full time and do your own planning. And me, I am almost full time and make plans so I can change them. My job as rally host is to provide you with a quick (not comprehensive) selection of places of interest so you can make a plan.

I did determine that as a host I wanted to make it a smooth, easy, fun experience. In order to provide that "good time," in my opinion, you have to provide some opportunity for food and drink. This is where it gets a little tricky. In order to provide this ease of opportunity to gather and socialize, you need to have cash. Often, there is a rally fee. We're learning. I was not aware of when or how you put in a request to fund.

Well...herein lies the lesson for you all willing to host a rally. The "jotform" is an easy way to gather information about attendee interests. Our rally team will create a Jotform for you and teach you how to use it for rally record keeping. Once you have drawn some conclusions re activities, you next need to consider what planning you want to move forward with, to offer attendees "ease of opportunity to gather and socialize." The jotform provides an opportunity to request a fee to assist toward such planning. The Jotform, as it turns out, is critical to forward movement in your rally planning.

What I didn't know, that I want you to understand, is that yes, find the place and campground, have a clue of what activity choices you can offer. But, know what you want to provide for your audience, and what the cost for the experience you want them to have might be. Then, before you send out the jotform with registration info. I just didn't get that it had to be determined in advance.

The Michigan Rally will go on and it will be a memorable few days with like-minded people. And, now, each of you can move forward with a slight edge on planning our next Indie Streamer Rally in your favorite place!!



Where We are Going — Rallies and Events

Below is a list of upcoming Indie Streamers rallies. Find more rally information on the website <https://airstreamclub.org/indie-streamers>. Just scroll down past the pictures to find Indie Streamers events. Some events are still in the planning stage, so details have not yet been released. Don't delay in registering for a rally as spots fill quickly once a rally is open for registration.

Thursday, May 16 - Sunday, May 20, 2024 **SOLD OUT—Join the Waitlist**

Indie Streamers Mackinaw City, Michigan

Host: Kathleen Gonzalez Landis

Friday, September 27 - Thursday, October 3, 2024 Registration is open

Indie Streamers Pre-International Rally 2024 at Table Rock Lake State Park, Missouri.

Host: Rob Rottschafer

Date: Saturday, October 5—Thursday, October 10

Airstream Club International Rally Sedalia, MO

Mackinaw City, MI Rally

Thursday, May 16 - Sunday, May 20, 2024

Spring is in the air and The Mackinac Island Rally (with camping in Mackinaw City) will soon be in full swing. All sites are currently booked. If there are cancellations and you are on the waitlist, you will be contacted.

Information regarding the Rally details will be sent within a couple of weeks to registrants. Currently, plans are being made to offer a considerably discounted group ferry crossing rate (with minimal restrictions) which will require a Jotform to be completed. In addition, a meal is being catered which will also require an accurate count of attendance.



For those of you wondering, I am not lost in Mexico. Soon to be on US soil and back in full airstream mode. I cannot wait to catch up and meet you all in the beautiful state of Michigan (if not before). Safe travels.

Pre-International 2024 Rally at Table Rock Lake

Friday, September 27 - Thursday, October 3, 2024

The Pre-International 2024 Rally will be held at Table Rock Lake State Park, Missouri. The campground has a beautiful setting on the shore of Table Rock Lake about ½ hour from Branson, MO, and 3 hours south of Sedalia, MO where the 2024 ACI International Rally will be held.

As of March 9, 2024, we have 25 BRN's and 28 people signed up for the rally. Campground 1, Sites 150-185, the loop where we will be, is pretty full but there are some sites in the adjacent loop (100-140). Please try target sites 100-105 as they are closest to our loop, if possible. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.



Table Rock Lake State Park and environs host lots of outdoor activities, including miles of hiking trails, boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding. Branson, famous for its music halls and theaters, is just a short distance away. Should you care to bend an elbow, the area boasts several distilleries and wineries.

In the meantime, I'm researching other activities and fun things in the area. Schedule is forthcoming but there is no shortage of things to keep us occupied.

If you're interested in attending, please reserve your campsite soon at <https://icampmo.com/> then complete the Jotform at <https://form.jotform.com/240076932161149>. Please contact me at rbr0912@yahoo.com if you have questions. We're looking forward to seeing you there!



Indie Streamers Have Gathered!



Flaming Gorge, UT



Rock Springs, WY





Courtesy Parking
with Carolyn
Beardshear and
Mike Zimmermann



Ft. McDowell, AZ

Indie Streamers Rally



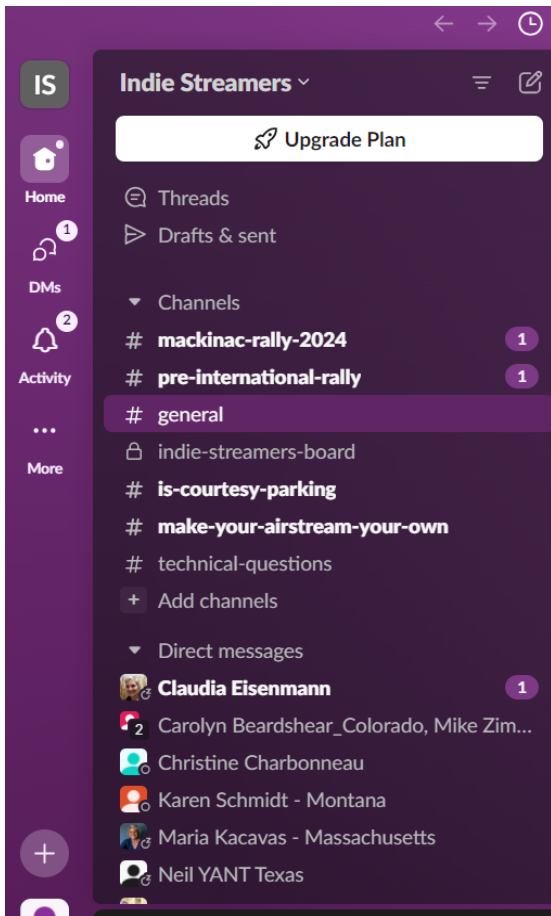
Alumalina Buddy Rally



Communicating with other Indie Streamers is easily accomplished with Slack

Looking for an easy method to communicate with other Indie Streamers members?

In addition to communication via Facebook and email, Indie Streamers also utilizes an app called Slack. The Indie Streamers Slack site is used only by Indie Streamers members and is periodically audited to ensure all members of the Slack community are Indie Streamers.



Slack allows our Indie Streamers to communicate at 3 levels: among all Indie Streamers Slack users, among a subset of Indie Streamers Slack users, and one-to-one communication between two Indie Streamers Slack users (or up to nine Indie Streamers Slack users).

Channels—Slack organizes conversations into dedicated spaces called Channels. Channels can be created for any topic or group. There are two types of Channels – Public and Private. Our Indie Streamers Public Channels are open to all Indie Streamers who wish to participate in Slack communications.

For a private channel, you must be added to it by a member of that channel.

Slack channels are a great method we utilize for communicating with those planning to attend an Indie Streamers rally or gathering.

Direct Messages— Indie Streamers Slack users are able to communicate one-to-one or with up to nine Indie Streamers Slack users by utilizing the direct messaging capability of Slack.

Methods of Accessing Slack—Slack can be utilized via a Slack app on your smartphone or via a laptop, desktop, or tablet.

If you would like to join the Indie Streamers Slack communications, please send an email to Barbara Zenor, our Indie Streamers Intra-Club Membership Chair/Secretary, at bazenor@gmail.com with a subject line of SLACK Invitation Request. She will send you an invitation to the email you have on file with Airstream International Club.

We hope many of our Indie Streamers will choose to communicate via the easy to use and very effective method of Slack!

Indie Streamers Logo Merchandise Now Available

Indie Streamers Vice President, Kathleen Gonzalez Landis, has been working to make Intra-Club logo merchandise available to Indie Streamers and you can acquire yours!

Kathleen has been working with Narmin Parpia, a proud Airstream owner and ACI member. Narmin is the CEO / Co-Founder of YouCustomizeIt, a small business located in Texas and who takes pride in her business and running a customer service-oriented organization.

Use the URL below to check out all the Indie Streamers logo merchandise available for purchase. The site will allow you to put the Indie Streamer logo on a wide variety of merchandise, including apparel, drinkware, household (perhaps camperhold – is that a word?), pet items, and many, many more offerings.

Would you like to add your BRN, your name, your home state, a picture of your pet? YouCustomizeIt allows you to customize the merchandise by adding your personal touches or you can just go with the merchandise as displayed on the website.

Here is the YouCustomizeIt URL to view Indie logo merchandise that can be viewed, customized, and purchased for shipment to wherever you and your wonderful Airstream happen to be.

<https://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/Airstream-Indie-Club-Logo/7151451>

Indie Streamers Particulars

Indie Streamers Officers

President
Rob Rottschafer

Vice President
Kathleen Gonzalez Landis

Treasurer
Kandi Smith

Secretary and
Membership Chair
Barbara Zenor

Co Founder and
Past President
Carolyn Beardshear



Where You Can Find Us

Indie Streamers Website — <https://airstreamclub.org/indie-streamers>

Facebook — <https://www.facebook.com/groups/467005080963487>

Intra-Club email — indiestreamers@airstreamclub.org

Indie Streamers Logo Merchandise

<https://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/Airstream-Indie-Club-Logo/7151451>

Membership Update

Number of Unique BRNs	250
Primary Members	245
Partner Members	91

Welcoming Our Newest Members

Laurel Benson #23740 Elizabeth, CO
David Blackmon #11144 Maryville, TN
Claudia Eisenmann #20231 Stephenville, TX
Kendall Felder and Melanie Wheeler #30906 Oviedo, FL
Donna Heroux-Everson and Skip Everson #20210 Providence, RI
Ronald and Kay Knight #09686 Bedford, IN
Felicia Lyon #03887 Roberts, MT
Patrick Martin and Meagan Butler #01679 Peoria, AZ
Angela Ristuccia #12191 Sarasota, FL
Kurtis Sjogren and Theresa Wells-Sjogren #23632 Wichita, KS
Jennifer Van Artsdalen #06399 Dayton, OH



CALLING ALL CONTRIBUTORS!

Indie Streamers Independent is published quarterly by the Indie Streamers Intra-Club.

We love contributions. Send articles and content to the intra-club email

indiestreamers@airstreamclub.org

Please ensure the subject line of the email contains **Indie Streamers Newsletter**.

Contributions must be received 15 days before the close of the calendar quarter.

By

March 15, June 15,

September 15, December 15

Thank you in advance for your contribution!