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## THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING...

Join or become an affiliate of the Colorado Airstream Club.  
Come camp with us in **Colorful Colorado**.

[www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/cac-join-colorado](http://www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/cac-join-colorado)

## CAC Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 7

[www.airstreamclub.org/cac-holiday-luncheon](http://www.airstreamclub.org/cac-holiday-luncheon)

Ptarmigan Country Club

5416 Vardon Way, Fort Collins, CO, 80528

The Holiday Luncheon at Beautiful Ptarmigan Country club in Fort Collins is the final CAC event of 2024. We will unveil our 2025 rally schedule and introduce our 2025 board members.

We encourage all members to join us.

We will gather from 11:00-11:30am and there will be an open bar where drinks can be purchased. Lunch will be served at 12:00pm.

The presentation will consist of 2024 in review, the plans for 2025 rallies and the induction of new board members.

Price: \$49 per person

There will be three meal choices:

1. Grilled Beef Medallions with Roasted Shallots, Garlic Whipped Potatoes and Vegetable Medley
2. Roasted Salmon with Lemon-Capers and Seasonal Rice Medley
3. Pasta with Marinara sauce and veggies (Vegetarian Option)



**CARAVAN TO SALIDA**  
[www.airstreamclub.org/colorado-ac-caravan-sedalia](http://www.airstreamclub.org/colorado-ac-caravan-sedalia)  
Dave Rose, Coordinator

67th Annual Airstream Club  
International Rally in  
Sedalia, Missouri  
October 5-10, 2024.

To order a **Colorado Airstream Club Flag**, customize yours at:  
[www.youcustomizeit.com/des/Colorado-Airstream-Club/7321844](http://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/Colorado-Airstream-Club/7321844)

## Welcome New Members!

Brian & Stephanie Allen BRN 5952

Micheal Carter BRN 4421

Jennifer & Aaron Gonzales BRN 17539

Lauren & Bob Hammerberg BRN 5221

Dana Hendrix & Eric Hepker BRN 6597



**Winston & Stacey Schultz** BRN 2975

Stacey and Winston began their Airstream adventure by taking an 'adult gap year' and traveling from the West to East coast, setting foot in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, in their new to them 20' Bambi. Six months and 18,000

miles later they were hooked. While on their trip they joined the Oars, Shores, Water, and Lights Caravan in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They also visited over a dozen national parks and many friends and family. Winston grew up between Colorado and Michigan and Stacey grew up in Salt Lake skiing the amazing powder at Snowbird Ski Resort. Their paths collided at a bike shop in Denver. They are soon embarking on a new adventure to New Mexico, saying farewell to Colorado but not to the Colorado Airstream Club. They will be co-hosting the Wildflower Rally in July 2025 with mentor Jeff Cross and Rick and Janet Nummi, in what has been their home for nearly a decade, Crested Butte.



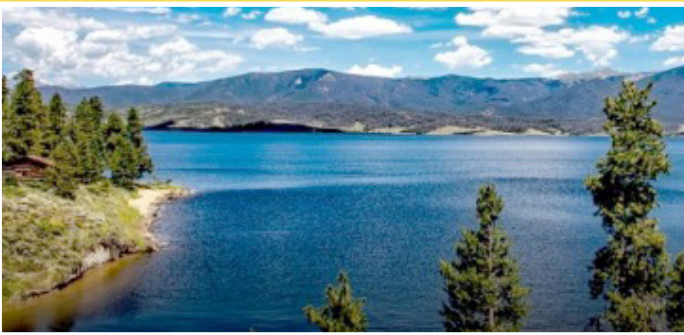
## Silver on the Seas Rally

[www.airstreamclub.org/silver-seas](http://www.airstreamclub.org/silver-seas)

Join us at this new National Event Rally of the ACI. sign up, visit the JotForm here:

<https://form.jotform.com/240837797148067>.

For any questions, please don't hesitate to email the host, Jason Grendahl, at [jasongrendahl@gmail.com](mailto:jasongrendahl@gmail.com).



LAKE GRANBY – WHERE THE REGION 11 RALLY WILL BE HELD



SUN OUTDOORS



SUN OUTDOORS



CLAYTON LAKE



DINOSAUR TRACKS AT CLAYTON STATE PARK



## President's Message

*By Rich Howarth*

I hope everyone has been enjoying another fantastic summer of camping, but it's far from over!

The Colorado Club still has exciting rallies planned in Meeker, Carter Lake, Ouray, and a caravan to the international rally in Sedalia.

As many of you know, the International Airstream Club is organized into regions. Colorado is part of Region 11, which also includes Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and Four Corners. Next summer, from July 23-27, there will be a Region 11 Rally in Granby, Colorado, held at the beautiful Sun Outdoors facility. With more than 100 Airstreams expected, it's sure to be a great event. Since the rally is in our home state, we are considered the hosts, and I encourage you to attend if it fits your schedule. Although it's almost a year away, the rally is filling up quickly.

We've also posted the registration link for the Holiday Luncheon on December 7th at [www.airstreamclub.org/cac-holiday-luncheon](http://www.airstreamclub.org/cac-holiday-luncheon).

We'll be gathering at Ptarmigan Country Club in Fort Collins, as we have in the past. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the year's adventures, share stories from interesting caravans, and welcome our new board members.

Given how crowded campgrounds have become, it's common to book all your sites in advance. However, some of our most enjoyable trips have been unplanned, where you stumble upon great places you might not have known about. A couple of years ago, Staci and I were traveling to a rally in Tucson and hadn't planned many of our stops. One of the gems we discovered was Clayton State Park in New Mexico. As we drove through the high desert, we expected a barren landscape with little to do. But after we crested the final hill, we were pleasantly surprised to find a beautiful lake surrounded by golden trees. We chose a secluded back-in site above the lake, which offered plenty of privacy. I look forward to our next unplanned trip.

Happy Camping!

Rich



## Elected Officers

Please contact the club president with questions about contributing to the Colorado Airstream Club.

**PRESIDENT:** Rich Howarth

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**1st VICE PRESIDENT:** Steve Libhart

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[2ndvicepresident@coloradoac.org](mailto:2ndvicepresident@coloradoac.org)

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Dave Rose

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Send articles and photos to the newsletter editors.

Articles submitted for publishing must be sent to the newsletter editor by the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Kindly use CAC NEWSLETTER in the email subject line.



## Black Hills Rally

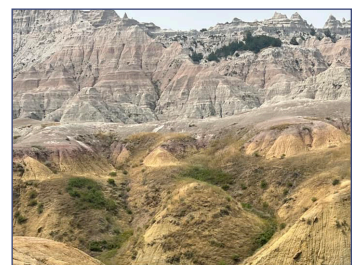
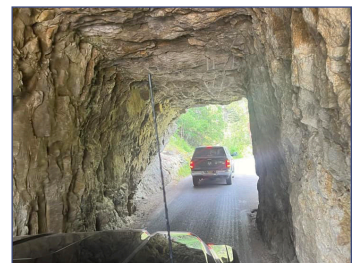
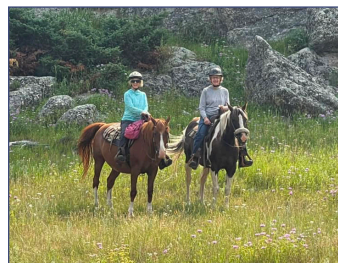
By Laurie Barr

314 curves, 14 switchbacks,  
3 pigtails, 3 tunnels, and 4 presidents

On July 22-26 twenty seven Airstreams arrived at Heartland RV Park to enjoy the beauty and history of the Black Hills of South Dakota. As a no frills rally all enjoyed their own adventure including pickle ball, book club (led by Terry Barr), horseback riding, visits to Deadwood and visiting the famous faces at night to enjoy the light show.

Many drove the famous 17 mile Iron Mountain road with its 314 curves, 14 switchbacks, 3 pigtails, 3 tunnels and 4 presidents.

Many thanks to Jeff and Karen Cross for organizing happy hour quesadillas and a huge breakfast buffet! Thanks to Scott Kunze for his excellent advice and mentoring.





## Palisade Peaches 'n' Streams Rally

By Ken Christensen

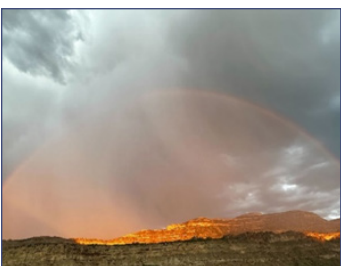
Ken & Michele Christensen  
John & Pam Webber, Co-Hosts

33 Airstreamers in 18 rigs gathered for an adventurous rally in beautiful Palisade, CO from August 21-25. Campers were welcomed with a Peach Pie and Ice Cream Social on the first evening which included a program from the Palisade Historical Society. The presenter provided some education on the region and how Palisade came to be known for the peaches we enjoyed.

Campers found a variety of activities in the area. A small group enjoyed fishing, others went mountain biking, several groups ventured off to do some wine tasting at some of the over 35 local wineries, and groups hiked in Grand Mesa and Colorado Monument. Many were surprised by the dramatic variety of terrain within a 30-mile radius of Palisade Basecamp RV Resort.

On Friday, we had a private, interactive tour of the Suncrest Orchards Alpaca and Fiber Works operation. In addition to growing peaches, they specialize in alpacas, fiber processing and finished products. Participants were paired with an alpaca for a walk through the orchards and made some great purchases in the farm's store.

The rally concluded on Saturday evening with a bottle-sharing event and shared appetizers. With so many wineries, breweries, cider and mead establishments everyone got to try a sample of the best finds. Joining us were affiliate members and Airstream Club members from New Mexico, Four Corners, and South Dakota! It was so fun to make new friends and there were many suggestions to repeat the rally next year.





## Camp Cooking

By Nancy Duke

### Sauteed Swiss Chard with White Beans



Sauteed Swiss chard and white beans, is an Italian inspired side-dish that comes together quickly with only four ingredients...Swiss chard, olive oil, garlic, and cannelli beans (prep time 5 minutes).

Remove chard stems and cut the leaves into strips. Heat oil in a pan over medium heat. Add garlic and chard leaves, sauté until translucent for about 5-7 minutes. Add chard stems and white beans then sauté until soft (about 5 minutes). Bonus points: crank up the heat and add beans caramelize a bit! Season to taste. Healthy happy hour side to share with friends!



If you're a foodie, join the Slack channel **#foodie-2024** led by @Lynn Eubank. To share a recipe use this form: <https://form.jotform.com/241948434437161> or email it directly to [lynneubank@yahoo.com](mailto:lynneubank@yahoo.com) in Word or Pages.

## Tow Vehicle Tips

By Harald & Rachel Gomez



When looking into purchasing a tow vehicle your individual needs, vehicle and towing wise, should be the the main factor. GVWR and GAWR and PAYLOAD are top priorities.

### Towing musts:

- Your towing vehicle easily should be able to tow your trailer. Especially here in Colorado, high mountain pass driving can be tricky if your vehicle slows down too much, and overheats you are going to have problems and unnecessary repair expenses. Having the horsepower or KW's to easily pull the trailer over mountain passes is a must. In short look for enough horsepower.
- Decide if a Diesel or Gasoline vehicle will do the trick. For below 25ft trailers, a gasoline tow vehicle is fine, when you get into 28ft and above a Diesel is the better option as you have more torque on the low end and diesel vehicles create more energy.
- Make sure your towing vehicle has a trailer breaking adjustment capability.
- Look for towing capacity, example: if your trailer is 7000pds, look for towing capacity above 9000. Again, easily being able to tow your trailer is the key point. And if you later decide to get a larger trailer, you don't have to trade in your towing vehicle when it is already equipped with the higher rating.
- When it comes to transmission, some people add transmission coolers and fast engagement clutch packs to be able to pull their trailer. Airstream trailers are not that heavy so do not really need those additions. The reason why most transmission go out is due to overloading the transmissions.

### Nice to have but not essential:

- Some trucks come with movable hitches for easy hitching.
- some have rear view cameras that make reverse parking easier.
- Ford has trucks that automatically guides your hitch to the trailer.
- Several manufacturers have inverter and extra power capabilities that can help with extra power for your trailer when needed. Boondocking for example.

### Driving comfort:

- Select the vehicle that gives you the best comfort while driving.
- All manufacturers have as many bells and whistles as you prefer. So it's a matter of your taste and wants.
- Consider off road capabilities if you like off roading, all wheel drive capability is definitely recommended in our driving environment.

**In conclusion:** Purchase a towing vehicle that has all load and pulling capacity that you need with enough horse power to get over our passes with the trailer that you have. The rest is about comfort and desired interior and exterior technologies, and of course, your budget.

We are towing a 25ft Airstream with a 1500 RAM Longhorn, 395HP, 13,000 pds towing capacity, Gasoline engine. We had a 2500 manual transmission Diesel Ram before we purchased the 1500. Both vehicles worked very well for us. No frills with the 2500, 1500 has many more features and comfort ride.

## Tow Vehicle Tips Continued

By CAC Slack general-and-q-and-a

### What make/model tow truck did you buy and why?

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We bought a 2019 (then new) GMC Sierra because of the "old man" tailgate. –Janie Arndt

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The other big factor which many people miss is max payload. When I purchased my F-150 I chose specific options to maximize payload. I didn't get the hybrid which reduces payload by 300 lbs. For example, a F-150 Lariat will have around 1800 lbs payload with the Ecoboost 3.5. If you get the Powerboost (Hybrid) your payload will be more like 1350 lbs. What this means is that if you have a trailer tongue weight of 800 lbs, the resulting payload is 1350-800 or 550 lbs. If you had 400 lbs for two people and a large dog, you only have 150 lbs of payload left. That isn't enough and if you take any extra stuff in your bed you will exceed your payload.

A final consideration is what else you will use the truck for when not towing. A 1500 truck is very easy and comfortable to drive without the trailer. A 2500/3500 truck is often longer and much less comfortable to drive.

In addition, issues of 6 speed tow vehicles will be the payload of the limited and the 6 speed transmission. The transmission might struggle to find the right gear in the mountains. It will probably work but might struggle in situations.

Also, V8s are also not very good in Colorado - they lose 30% or more of their horsepower at 10,000 feet. Turbos (like in the new Tundra or F-150) do much better at altitude since they can compress the air to make up for the lower atmospheric pressure.

In general there is no downside to a 2500 class for towing other than purchase cost. Most of the downsides are when using the vehicle outside of towing. –Rich Howarth

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Any diesel with exhaust brakes will practically drive itself down any mountain pass. We drive the F250 towing a 30' Airstream over the Million Dollar Highway (US550) often and it's a pleasant drive. –Carolyn Beardshear

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Two key numbers - GVWR and GAWR. Basically, don't exceed the engineered limits of the TV (and your airstream):nerd\_face: And remember that "maximum tow capacity" of any vehicle assumes perfect conditions (150lbs driver, no payload, flat terrain, etc). We have a 27' GT FBT with a 2500 RAM gas (HEMI) and 2500 lbs payload and have no issues. We just take it slow in the mountains. And down shift on the declines. –Ian Hasund

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Much of this discussion is about "payload." This is important so that the gross weight of the truck doesn't exceed the GVWR spec. However, the GAWR (as Ian mentioned) is another spec that can't be violated. Particularly the Rear Axle Weight Rating. When you drop a trailer tongue on the hitch ball, all of this tongue weight (and more) shows up on the rear axle. I say more because as the truck squats in the back, some of the weight from the front axle shifts to the rear axle. Anyway, my point is that if one is focused solely on "payload" it may be possible to inadvertently violate the Rear Axle Weight Rating, particularly if you are cutting it close. One needs to go to a CAT scale and weight everything to be sure no TV specs are violated (and you can check your trailer too). There are more specs than the ones discussed here that can't be violated! –Jack Meyer

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Buy the biggest truck that will fit in your garage. As other have said, the PAYLOAD is the limiting factor (NOT the maximum towing capacity). A buddy of mine had a 250/2500 and with a generator in the back of the truck and all his gear and the Propride hitch, he was at the load capacity of his 3/4 ton truck).

Michele and I ordered an F-350 at \$996 more than the same F-250. And it came with \$482 features that were options on the F-250. So really only about \$500 more. It has plenty of Payload capacity. But a rougher ride when not towing.

Hitch weight + all the gear in bed + full fuel tank + humans + dog + cooler in the back seat = Payload. That payload subtracted from the payload capacity of your vehicle (located on sticker inside the drivers door) gives you your margin. Should be a positive number. –Ken Christensen

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No one has mentioned it (although a point of lesser importance) that trucks towing Airstreams were stuck on fairly flat areas at one International Rally because the grass was wet. 4 wheel drive is often handy in muddy, wet, or just steep areas that you have to back up in like the top of Rockhound State Park in New Mexico. Of course 4 wheel drive trucks are usually heavier and you could get into the payload tradeoff others have talked about. Harry Vollmer has had four or five different 25 footers and says his 2007 Tundra works just fine even in mountains. I have a 2014 Tundra, pull a light 2 axle, 22 foot Airstream (2004 Safari) and I don't have a problem but wonder about a 25 foot... Richard Girard has a 25 foot pulled by a 2024 Tundra with a smaller turbo (since the 5.7 is no longer available but he says he likes it, and he lives in Colorado and is currently somewhere in Oregon. The OP asked about pulling a 25 foot Airstream with a 5.7 Tundra I think, and there are lots of happy Airstreamers out there doing it and it had a big affect on my decision to use a Tundra as well.

Sorry, Richard lives in Dewey, AZ. And since I had to post the correction I might add that my Tundra has a manual shift capability built in to the shift mechanism which is set in the center console. –Dan Rossbach

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Fuel doesn't count against payload, at least with a Ford. The Curb Weight is calculated/ measured with a full tank of fuel (source: [www.ford.com/support/how-tos/owner-resources/vehicle-specifications/what-is-the-curb-weight-of-my-vehicle/](http://www.ford.com/support/how-tos/owner-resources/vehicle-specifications/what-is-the-curb-weight-of-my-vehicle/)). –James Shisler



## Rolling Through Time: The Wacky History of Airstream Rallies

By Janet Nummi

In the world of quirky Americana, few spectacles rival the gleaming silver parade known as the Airstream rally. Since the first caravans rolled out, these gatherings have become a bizarre yet beloved tradition, a testament to the peculiar charm of life on the road. This is the story of how it all began and where it's gone since.

The year was 1951. America was in the throes of post-war optimism, and Wally Byam, the visionary behind the iconic Airstream trailers, had a gleam in his eye as bright as the aluminum skins of his creations. Byam envisioned more than just a mobile home; he saw a lifestyle, a way for restless souls to explore the vast expanses of the country. So, he organized the first Airstream rally, a convoy of shiny trailers snaking through the American landscape, bound together by a spirit of adventure and an inordinate love for communal camping.

The inaugural event, dubbed the "Cajun Caravan," set off from Texas, winding its way to the sultry swamps of Louisiana. It was a madcap adventure, with trailers getting stuck in the mud, locals gawking at the futuristic convoy, and participants forming lifelong bonds over campfires and crawfish boils. This was no ordinary camping trip; it was a rolling festival, part family reunion, part circus.

As the years rolled on, the rallies grew in size and legend. Each summer, Airstream enthusiasts – known as "Airstreamers" – would hitch up their homes on wheels and join the pilgrimage to new, often absurdly remote destinations. The rallies became known for their outlandish themes and eccentric activities.

One year it might be a pirate-themed extravaganza on the Florida coast, complete with cannon battles and treasure hunts. The next, a cowboy roundup in the dusty plains of Wyoming, where Airstreams lined up like a row of silver bullets.

The rallies weren't just about fun and games. They were a showcase of ingenuity and resilience. Airstreamers took pride in their self-sufficiency, mastering the art of trailer maintenance and roadside repairs. They swapped stories and tips, turning every breakdown into a communal challenge. In a world increasingly obsessed with convenience, they reveled in the beauty of the slow, sometimes arduous journey.

Perhaps the most infamous rally of all was the 1970 "Alaskan Adventure." Byam, ever the dreamer, envisioned a caravan from the Lower 48 up to the rugged wilderness of Alaska. What followed was an odyssey of epic proportions, with Airstreams braving treacherous mountain passes, unpredictable weather, and curious wildlife. The caravan faced countless setbacks, but in true Airstreamer fashion, they pressed on, earning a place in rally lore as the ultimate testament to their indomitable spirit.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and the Airstream rallies are still rolling strong. They've evolved with the times, embracing modern conveniences while holding onto their

vintage charm. Today's rallies are a blend of nostalgia and innovation, where retirees with a taste for adventure mingle with millennials seeking an escape from the digital grind. The trailers themselves have become symbols of hipster cool, their retro aesthetics perfectly Instagrammable.

Yet, for all the changes, the heart of the rallies remains the same. It's about community, about hitting the open road and finding joy in the journey. It's about the shared experience of waking up to the sunrise over a new horizon, of gathering around a campfire under the stars, of forging connections that transcend the confines of traditional living.

As the Airstreams continue to roll across the highways and byways of America, they carry with them a legacy of freedom and camaraderie, a reminder that sometimes the best way to find yourself is to get lost on the road. In a world that's constantly speeding up, the Airstream rallies offer a chance to slow down, to savor the simple pleasures, and to revel in the wild, wonderful ride that is life on the move.

So, if you ever find yourself on a lonely stretch of highway and see a convoy of gleaming silver trailers, give them a wave. You're witnessing a slice of American history, a rolling celebration of wanderlust and whimsy that shows no signs of stopping.



Photo credit: [www.life.com/lifestyle/before-there-was-vanlife-there-was-trailer-mania](http://www.life.com/lifestyle/before-there-was-vanlife-there-was-trailer-mania)





## Online Connections



Visit the **CAC EVENTS PAGE** [www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/colorado-airstream-club-information](http://www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/colorado-airstream-club-information) for registration dates and all the latest updates, including the tentative rally schedule and additions.

Contact our events team if you have an interest in helping out with CAC rallies. [events@coloradoac.org](mailto:events@coloradoac.org)

**Is the CAC rally you wanted full?** Check out the many surrounding events in Region 11. [www.airstreamclub.org/region-11/region-11-events](http://www.airstreamclub.org/region-11/region-11-events)

Do you need to **cancel a registration** for a rally? Fill out the cancellation form. <https://form.jotform.com/240578552131151>

**Where would you like to go? Suggest an event!**  
[www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/suggest-cac-event](http://www.airstreamclub.org/colorado/suggest-cac-event)

Request to Join CAC Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/colorado.wbcci](http://www.facebook.com/groups/colorado.wbcci)  
*An admin will admit you within 48 hours. Maybe more when the camping season is in full swing.*

Bookmark the CAC website at [www.airstreamclub.org/colorado](http://www.airstreamclub.org/colorado)

## For Sale @ Slack

If you have not used Slack before, start by downloading the app to your mobile phone. The channel is: <https://coloradoairstreamclub.slack.com/archives/C06QDTBGZSA>

Do you have something Airstream related for sale? Post it on the CAC Slack channel at <https://coloradoairstreamclub.slack.com/archives/C07DYEDPL83> a for sale channel

## 2024 Rally Schedule

### April 22-25

Wine and Hike at Palisade  
Robb State Park, Island Acres

### May 9-13

Great Sand Dunes Rally  
Oasis RV Park

### May 16-19

Maintenance and New Member Rally  
Jellystone RV Park, Larkspur

### May 30 - June 2

Boyd Lake Rally  
Boyd Lake State Park

### June 10-14

Ghost Ranch Rally  
Abiquiu, NM

### June 24-28

Steamboat Rally  
Steamboat Springs KOA

### July 11-15

July in Salida  
Salida RV Resort

### July 11-15

Westcliff Bluegrass Festival  
High Mountain Hay Fever  
Bluegrass Festival Campground

### July 18 - 21

Lomgmire Days Rally  
Buffalo, WY

### July 22-26

Black Hills Rally  
Heartland RV Park, Hermosa SD

### August 7-11

Estes Park Rally  
Manor RV Park

### August 21-26

Palisade Peach Rally  
Palisade Basecamp RV Park

### September 4-8

Meeker Sheep Dog Trials Rally  
River Camp RV Park, Meeker

### September 5-8

Carter Lake Rally  
Carter Lake

### September 16-20

Splendor in the San Juans (Ouray)  
Ouray KOA

### October 1-4

Caravan to Sedalia International Rally

### October 5-11

International Rally  
Sedalia, MO