



“The Mich-i-gram”



1st Quarter [January, February, March] 2025

2024-25 Board Members

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President's Corner

A Note from the President



I am writing this from Tucson, Arizona.

Reflecting on the 2024 travel and Rally season. Sharon and I attended our MAC Rallies enjoying each one. This year, three new locations for MAC, with one being a “No Rally Fee” camp-out. All successful and enjoyed by all attending. Thank you to all the Rally Hosts! Sharon and I also traveled through the Upper Peninsula to Minnesota, spending a week at the Minnesota Airstream Park. Great stay with easy access to Minneapolis.

As I look ahead to 2025, my last year as MAC President, there are great rallies in the planning stages. Check the dates and locations in this Newsletter, and the MAC Web site for updates. Consider reaching out to co-host or host a rally.

Mac will have an opening in 2025 for a 2nd Vice President. Also, the position of Secretary. Please consider filling one of these positions. These are opportunities to shape the future of Michigan Airstream Club.

Wishing that each and everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Fred Bryant, BRN# 30962

MAC President

MACPresident052@gmail.com

Stay Connected:



[MAC Website](#)

[Region 4 Website](#)

[Airstream Club International](#)

[WBAC Caravans](#)

New Members

The Michigan Airstream Club wishes to welcome:

- ◆ Brian & Megan Butler [Affiliate]
- ◆ Cinde Elston
- ◆ Yvonne Mansfield [Affiliate]
- ◆ Carrie & Wally Pearson
- ◆ Susan & Ken Pomeisl
- ◆ Douglas & Roxie Raedy
- ◆ Anna Richter
- ◆ Paul & Mary Roobol
- ◆ John Velis & Amy Johnson-Velis
- ◆ Warren & Marcy White



New Members: Check out the Airstream International [Welcome Video!](#)

Message from Lee

Lee Klare, MAC 1st Vice President



“It’s Your Rally”

Hello fellow MAC and MAC affiliate members. I hope this MAC newsletter finds everyone enjoying the winter break and holiday season after a truly good 2024 rally season.

I would like to briefly speak about our upcoming 2025 rally season, which surprisingly, will be here faster than we all will realize. Our first gathering, which hasn’t been planned just yet, is what I’d specifically like to discuss. In May of 2024, we had a “camp out” at the Michigan state park, Hartwick Pines just north of Grayling. The camp out had a simple premise, no frills, just show up and enjoy each other’s company and reacquaint ourselves with the great outdoors. I’d like to do the same thing again in May of 2025. The camp out in May of 2024 was such a success for everyone involved and kicked our rally season off, truly, with a ‘bang’.

The basic idea is to keep the rally simple, no formal dinners or luncheons, tours or group adventures. Simple as it may sound, it actually is great. Everyone who was at the camp out was able to do what they wanted at their own pace, from coffee and donuts in the morning to our fire side chat and get together in the evenings. The attendees got together with friends and went on their own adventures, had breakfast, lunch or dinner together and then at the end of the day, shared a good fire side chat with everyone.

What do I need from you and what is the point of all this, simple, I need your ideas for a location that would be conducive for everyone to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. Oh wait! Wasn’t that the premise for 2024? I think it was. If you’ve a favorite campground that you would love to share with everyone, please text or e-mail me with your ideas and let’s see where it leads us. Looking forward to the 2025 rally season and seeing each of you.

My best to you all!

Lee Klare
Michigan Airstream Club 1st Vice President
MAC1stVPresident052@gmail.com



Membership & Club News

MAC Executive Board Mtgs

Did you know that the Executive Board meets every month on behalf of the club? And did you know that members are welcome to attend the meeting as a non-voting observer? In accordance with the Michigan Airstream Club ByLaws, the Executive Board must give the membership at least 10 days notice prior to a business meeting. So we are sharing the meeting dates for 2025 so you can mark your calendar and join us. The Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month from January - October @ 7 p.m. EST via Zoom. To join, click [here](#) unless otherwise noted.

2025 Meeting Dates

January 14	May 13	September 9
February 11	June 10	October 14
March 11	July 8	
April 8	August 12	

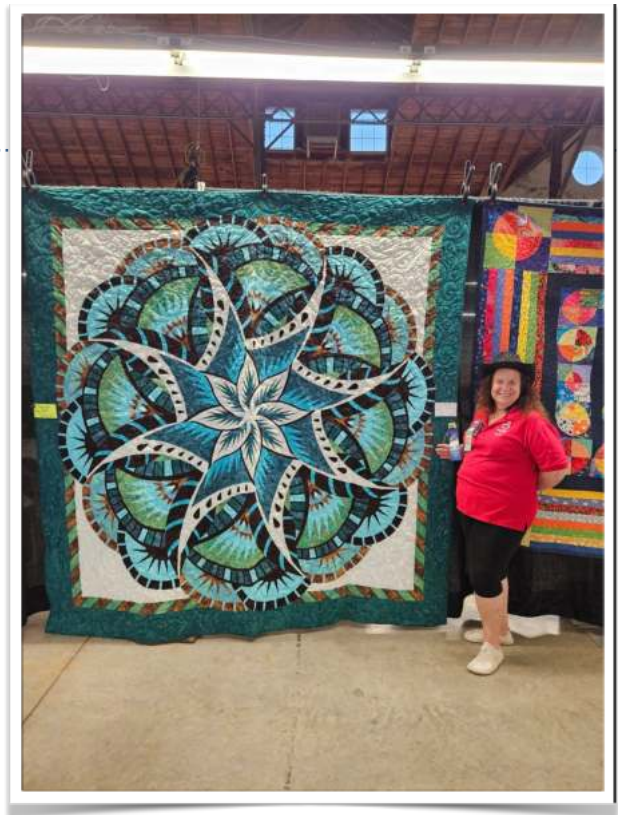


If a meeting date changes for any reason, the board will send out a change notice to the membership via email with at least a 10 days notice.

MAC Spotlight

MAC Member Wins at International

Our very own Karen Fisher won First Prize in the Machine Quilting category at the Airstream International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri last October. Congratulations Karen! Your quilt is incredible.



Quilt Name: Mint Chocolate Chip
Pattern by Judy Niemeyer

Membership & Club News

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

6: Harold Larson
 14: Sandra Lovlien
 15: Barb Angles
 15: Jane Carmichael
 19: Angus Stinson
 22: Lori DeLeeuw
 22: Wally Kimmel

February

7: Ron Angles
 9: Paul Inman
 11: Eddy Klein
 15: Linda Smith
 22: Norm Kiel
 27: Bernadette Frost
 27: Ken Hoekwater

March

5: Earl Landesman
 18: Jeriel Beard
 19: Fred Bryant
 26: Stephen Pinkman
 27: Bob Voyt

Phillip & Cynthia Atkinson: 2/14/69
 Ronald & Diana Anderson: 2/14/95
 Richard & Laurie Hodgson: 2/14/94
 Ken & Dorothy Hoekwater: 2/20/71
 Jane Carmichael & Eddy Klein: 3/17



Please Note: If you haven't seen your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, it's because we don't know it! In the old days that information was collected each year on your renewal slip. The ACI database doesn't collect that information, but we'd still like to include these celebrations in the newsletter. Please e-mail [Pegeen Smith, Newsletter Editor](#) and she will make certain to include your information in the upcoming issues.



Membership & Club News

Mark your calendars with these local upcoming events. Click [here](#) for the “at-a-glance” calendar.

Call for Articles

You will notice that this quarter’s edition is a little smaller than usual. That is why we asking that you consider sharing your knowledge, your adventures, your recipes, your tips & tricks, opinions, passions, etc. etc. Just type something and send it to the MAC Newsletter Editor @ macnewsletter052@gmail.com. It doesn’t have to be perfect prose, grammatically correct or laid out. We will take care of all of that.

MAC Share

What Do The Red Stars Mean? By Karen Fisher

We all know that the Big Red Numbers [BRNs] are our membership number in the Airstream Club International. When you join the club, you are also given a choice for which logo you want on the large club decal that goes above the numbers. But what about those red stars next to the decal [or the numbers] and why do some people have them, and some people don’t? And why are there a varying number of stars?



Each star represents 5 years of membership in the club. In 2020, the Policy on Membership Stars was revised to allow Canadian members to choose a Maple Leaf instead of a Star to represent their years of membership. Years of membership are calculated from the date you joined which may not be the same as your renewal date.

Stars or Maple Leaf decals are available by contacting the Club Office and are free of charge once your years of membership are verified. I recently contacted them to get my 15-year set of stars [3 stars, one each for the front and rear of the trailer] and it was a very simple process.

Additional information from the Policy on Membership Stars.

- Display of Stars or Maple Leaves shall be aside the International Club Decal on the front and rear of the recreational vehicle.
- Red Membership Stars or Red Maple Leaves, one for each five [5] years of membership, are ideally to be placed half on either side of the Club Decal, if space permits. In the case of an odd number of Stars or Maple Leaves, the extra Star or Maple Leaf should be to the left of the Club Decal. If space does not permit, the Stars or Maple Leaves can be placed above or below the Club Decal. The spacing of Membership Stars or Maple Leaves should be visually pleasing.

Congratulations to our 2025 MAC Star Recipients

Harold & Donna Larson, 30 years - 6 Stars

Norm Kiehl, 35 years - 7 Stars

Anita Briggs, 40 years - 8 Stars

Larry & Karen Kurkowski, 45 years - 9 stars

So, the next time you see another Airstream on the road, look for the stars or maple leaves in addition to the BRN. It will give you an indication of how many years of fun, fellowship, and adventure those members have enjoyed in the club.

We Rally Together

First Timer Experience in Sedalia, MO by Beth Brackenridge

Bill and I were excited to head for Sedalia, MO this fall to experience the 67th annual Airstream Club International Rally October 3 through October 11, 2024. It was the first one we had attended and can not be happier with the experience.

Before entering the rally, we stayed at a Harvest Host site called Arcadian Moon Winery. Upon arrival, we encountered several other Airstreams in the parking lot getting acquainted. Early the next morning we started the 30 mile journey to the Missouri State Fair Grounds arriving before the gates open with others already in line at 7:30 a.m. Soon we were parked and began meeting all the surrounding neighbors from all over the U.S.

Volunteering is a big part of being at an International Rally. We worked with Pinktober, a fundraiser focusing on breast cancer with proceeds going towards the Sedalia Bostwell Hospital Foundation Patient Room Remodel Project. This was a major rally fundraiser for the International Airstream Club. Tragically Hurricane Milton prevented many club members in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina from being able to attend the rally. The kindness of our ACI group decided to also raise money for people suffering in North Carolina. Over \$52,000 was raised for the two charities. The generosity makes you proud to be a part of such a giving group as ACI.

Our days were filled with educational Airstream seminars, fun cooking lessons, Limoncello making, crafting seminars, and presentations by Airstream YouTubers. Surprisingly, we recognized and met many of the YouTubers. Our own musically talented MAC members, Tom Smith [tuba] & Jeriel Beard [Baritone] arrived a week early, practiced twice daily and entertained members at three programs. They performed wonderfully!

For fun relief you could take pickle ball lessons. Courts were available many hours daily to practice what had been taught. The Katy Trail State Park, a 240 mile, beautiful bike trail was available right at the fairgrounds edge. Bill and I joined many of our friends using this trail to ride into downtown Sedalia. We visited a train station museum right on the trail and experienced a welcoming reception after riding the rest of the way into town.

In the evenings, there were dinners, dances, bands, and many gathered with their camping buddies in a circle each night getting to know our parked neighbors. Region #4 had a breakfast to gather us and MAC gathered us again for a Happy Hour as well.

Like so many people who attend the ACI International Rally, traveling to the rally or heading home allowed for visiting various attractions in surrounding states and Missouri. Other than flying in and out of St. Louis, MO we had never been anywhere else in the state. We found it to be sunny and hot and full of beautiful farms harvesting corn in fields as far as our eyes could see. We also took an opportunity to visit the President Truman's Presidential Museum in Independence, MO and on the way home stopped at the President Abraham Lincoln's Library and Museum in Springfield, IL.

We had a great experience and would do it again. What an opportunity to get out and visit areas you might not ever visit. Meeting up with other fellow Michigan Airstream Club members and others across the country and Canada was so rewarding.



We Play Music Together

Adult Band Camp: International Band Experience by Tom Smith

I really was not seeking another music group to join, but Jeriel Beard, fellow MAC member & euphonium player, invited me because the Airstream Band needed a tuba. I have played tuba with the Cadillac Area Symphony Orchestra and the Ancient and Honorable Clam Lake Dock & Dredge Marching & Chowder Society, Silver Cornett Band since the 1990s. I did not know what to expect and thought it would be a light commitment to play some basic music. Boy, was I wrong.

We arrived one week ahead of the International Rally in Sedalia, MO. There was twice daily practice for most days. Our Band Director, Mindy Downey-Phillips, a retired school band director, was serious. The other band members were also serious. I have not played this much ever. It was challenging and fun. The other musicians were nice and good musicians. We camped together in the closest row of Airstreams to the main venues of the Rally and got to know each other as camping neighbors and through pot luck parties and jamming sessions in the evening. The music was fun, including a medley of Danny Elfman music (Nightmare Before Christmas) and Michael Jackson's Thriller and a lot of march music. You know you enjoyed yourself when you want to do it again. So, I have signed up for the Airstream Band 2025 in York, PA. If you know how to play a band instrument, come join us!



We Rally Together

Attending a Great Rally with the 4Corners Unit, November 2024 by Sharon & Fred Bryant

Fred and I travel to Tucson Arizona to spend the winter with our daughter and 4-year-old granddaughter Frankie. Before heading west, I research opportunities to attend rallies that coincide with our travel timeline.



As it happens, [4Corners Unit](#) is always having rallies that fit our travel timeline perfectly, they are such a great, welcoming group, maybe I just make the timeline fit!

Our favorite State Park in Arizona is [Catalina State Park](#), 14 mile north of Tucson. 4Corners Unit has an annual rally "Tucson Unplugged" the weekend we arrive at the park. We have attended 3 rallies here with them and this year did not disappoint.

Each day started with coffee, quote "nothing says rally like morning coffee with friends". Breakfast Burritos, egg bites and pastries were plentiful and weather was gorgeous. Group bike ride on 137 miles of paved trail called [The Loop](#). Geocaching, hiking and just hanging out is the routine for this rally.

4CU member Sophia Rogers always has a charitable sewing project to join. Sophia brings 3 or 4 sewing machines and volunteers make pillowcases for kids in cancer units or shelters. Premie baby support cushions are also made and donated to NICU of New Mexico. Always rewarding to see how many items are sewn, pressed and packaged at the end of a great rally. Saturday is bring your food to grill, wrap-up until next year.



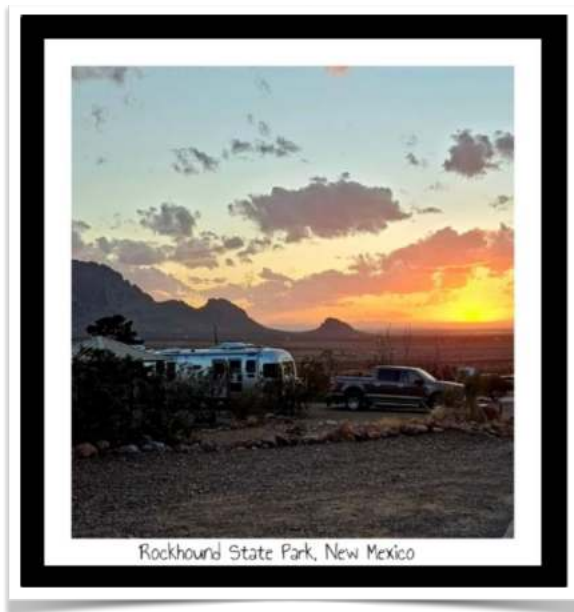
MAC Shares

Traveling to Tucson, Arizona 2024 by Sharon & Fred Bryant

This is 3rd year Fred and I will spend the winter in Tucson, Arizona. We have made this journey since 2017, but in past years we would head back home after 4 weeks in AZ. Our travels west are mostly predictably, staying at favorite State Parks or Harvest Hosts. I spend some time looking for rallies that are on the way, attending 4Corners Rally most years.



This year we did have a weather event, dust storm in New Mexico, 1st time. I-10 is lined with instruction of exactly what to do if caught in a dust storm. They can be deadly on the very busy I-10.



The storm only affected us for the 2 miles into the State Park. Tom and Donna Cobb, also traveling west and scheduled to meet us at Rockhound had to spend an extra day in Las Cruces, New Mexico visiting White Sands National Park and joined us the next day. The two photos show our site during and after the storm. The storm passed and we enjoyed 3 days camping at this great State Park.



MAC Share

We finally hit The Wall near the Bad Lands of South Dakota by Ari Adler

Can you go boondocking in an Airstream trailer? Of course! Can you boondock on a wall overlooking the Badlands of South Dakota after hauling a 30-foot Airstream down a dirt access road? Yes, you can!

We had wanted to camp in this spot for some time, especially since Badlands is a favorite park of my wife, Jessi. [I sometimes wonder if that's because it's so close to Wall Drug. We "have to visit because we're so close to it" every time we're within a hundred miles.]

Specifically, we camped at what Google Maps has listed as "**Badlands Boondock Campspot**." {<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Badlands+Boondock+Campspot/@43.9006064,-102.2437261,6274m/>}

If you search for that on Google Maps, you'll see it is just north of the Pinnacles Entrance Station to Badlands. So, you could always search for that entrance station, then look for the dirt road a bit north of it on Highway 240.

For another reference point, note that the camping area is in Buffalo Gap National Grassland. If you head into Wall, South Dakota, for more than just Wall Drug, you will find the Grassland visitor center. Interestingly, a ranger told us that it's the only national grassland with a visitor center despite there being numerous national grasslands across the country.

This section of wall camping is quite long and offers many spaces to camp. That's good because the area can get busy with RVers all trying to vie for the best view. We recommend the access road and the spot we listed from Google Maps as a much shorter route from the highway to the campsites. [And by campsites, I mean empty land on the edge of The Wall.]

The road in and along The Wall can be bumpy and dusty, with some good-sized holes to watch out for. There also can be a need to avoid the occasional odd-shaped rock. When we were there in early September, it was hot and dry. I don't know what it's like there when it rains. But I wouldn't want to be hauling my rig in or out when it does. A second entrance road is available to the north, but it's a longer trip to The Wall sites. And if you're coming from town, the route we recommend is easier to spot because there are TV/radio antenna towers nearby that you can see for miles.

We like to boondock and do it as often as we can. I've written about our setup for boondocking on [our website](http://www.trekers.org) { www.trekers.org }, but here are some basic stats on what we have:

- 52-gallon fresh water tank (plus 8 gallons in collapsible, portable water bags.)
- 41-gallon gray water tank
- 35-gallon black water tank
- Two 80-amp hour AGM batteries
- 380 watts of installed solar panels on the roof
- Three 100-watt portable solar panels (one of which can be used for the Airstream and the other two for our portable batteries)
- 2,850 watts of portable battery packs [Two 1,000-watt units, a 500-watt unit, and a 350-watt unit we collected over time.
- A 3,200-watt Firman generator (actually, it's 2,900 watts since it's dual fuel, and we've only ever run it on propane, which provides fewer watts.) Fun fact: we run the generator a lot more to exercise it than we do to recharge our batteries.



MAC Share

We finally hit The Wall near the Bad Lands of South Dakota by Ari Adler cont..



Since Jessi works full-time, we need a lot of power and backup power, especially now that we're running Starlink all day and most of the night. If Jessi weren't working full-time and I wasn't trying to produce videos and maintain a website, a fraction of our power devices, if any, would be needed.

Of course, you need to consider water and waste in addition to power. These are true boondocking sites—there are no amenities whatsoever. That means showing up with all the water you think you'll need, plus empty gray and black tanks. And don't forget you'll have to pack out whatever trash you create.

Potable water may be available in Wall and the national park. But it's generally for refilling containers and is not designed for RV hookups.

We have learned over time that the length of stay for boondocking rests much more on the size of our gray and black tanks than freshwater or power needs. We have also have picked up some tricks to conserve tank space, which helps.

If needed for dumping, there is an RV park in Wall that lets nonregistered campers use their dump station (and I'm assuming their potable water spigot) for a fee. We used a Pilot truck stop east of Wall with a dump station since it was on our route and not terribly far away.

As we learned from many reviews, The Wall is windy. I don't think it let up once during the four days we were camped there. The constant wind meant keeping an eye on your door when opening it. We also ensured anything lightweight outside was tied down somehow. I even used a couple of tent stakes for our Jackery solar panels for the first time ever after I found them both blown over by the wind.

The constant wind does help drown out the noise of generators if your neighbors need to run them. Our neighbor had plenty of solar power. But they apparently needed to run their air conditioners and, thus, have their generator on most of each day. It would have been nice if they had just opened their windows and taken advantage of that constant breeze.

It's quite a dark area, so the night sky is lovely. But it's not one of the darkest sites we've been, which surprised us. There is too much ambient light from "civilization" in the area. Still, on The Wall itself, it feels pretty dark outside at night. Unfortunately, that means too many RVers feel the need to light up the place with their rig lights.

Despite my seeming to complain about things above, it is a place I'd recommend staying at for at least a couple of nights. After all, you're only a stone's throw from Badlands National Park. That is a spectacular place to visit, particularly at sunrise and sunset.

If you're new to boondocking, it's also not as remote as it might seem. This is the place to try boondocking in what feels like the middle of nowhere. But if you have problems or find you aren't cut out for boondocking, there is an RV park just down the road in Wall. And, of course, there's always Wall Drug with its 5-cent cups of coffee and unlimited kitsch.



We Rally Together in 2025 & Beyond (at-a-glance)

Dates	Event - Location	Host/Organizer	Links/Contact
January 25 @11:30a	Winter Luncheon: Mi Mescal, Cadillac	MAC Host: Tom & Peg Smith	Mi Mezcal RSVP: Peg Smith 231-884-8107
February 22 @11:30	Winter Luncheon - Iron Horse Pub 104 N. Saginaw St, Durand, MI 48420	Host: Jeff & Karen Routson	RSVP: Karen Routson
March 15 @11:30a	Winter Luncheon: Harringtons by the Bay, Traverse City	Host: Lee & Jackie Klare	Harrington's by the Bay RSVP: Lee Klare 707-373-5562
April 19 @11:30a	Winter Luncheon - Snug Harbor, Grand Haven, MI	Host: Fred & Sharon Bryant	RSVP: Fred 616-240-3724
May 14-18	Region 4 Rally Lewisburg, West Virginia	Host: Region 4	2025 Region 4 Rally
June 6-9	Silver on Silver Holiday Park, Traverse City	Host: SEMAC/MAC	Silver on Silver
June 27 - 30	Soo Locks Engineers Day Rally Sault Ste Marie	MAC Host: NEED VOLUNTEERS	TBD
July 17-20	Airstreams Return to Cadillac Boondocking/ Service Project Rally Veterans Serving Veterans Park	MAC Host: Dale & Kat, Karen Fischer, Wally Kimmel, Tom & Peg	Veterans Serving Veterans
August TBD	MAC Rally - Ship Wrecks of Lake Huron	MAC Host: Fred Bryant/ John Williams	Information: 616-240-3724
August 23-28	WBCCI International Rally, 2025 York Expo Center, York, Pennsylvania	WBCCI	2025 Rally
September 11-14	Fall Rally Orchard, Beach, Manistee	Host: Fred & Sharon Bryant	Information: 616-240-3724
September 20-28	62nd Annual Swiss Festival Sugar Creek, OH	Host: Region 4	Swiss Festival
October 3-5	MAC Fall Pentwater Rally & Business Meeting, Pentwater, MI	MAC Host: Sarah & John Smith	Pentwater Fall Rally
2026			
August 22-27 SAVE THE DATE	WBCCI International Rally, 2026 Minot, ND	WBCCI	2026 Rally