The Gold and Silver

ACI Region 12 Newsletter

November 2024

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707-225-7940

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President's Letter

Hello, Region 12!

I am writing this letter while I am in Sedalia, MO, for the 67th International Airstream Rally. This rally is right on the heels of Region 12's Rally Rally. I am definitely on an Airstream high right now!

Let me first talk about our Region Rally. What a rally!!! We were blessed with great weather, a beautiful South Lake Tahoe site, and four days of incredible activities, seminars, and meetings! I know I said it once before, but our two rally co-hosts, Pamela Pall and Margaret Handshoe, and our region rally planning committee did a phenomenal job organizing and planning this event! Vintage Airstream Club's fun ice cream social was a great way to kick off the event. Thank you to our sponsors: Ultimate Airstreams, Vinnie's North Bay Airstream Repair, and Airboardshop.com. Vinnie's two-day hands-on seminar and demonstration were incredible! Please thank our sponsors when you interact with them throughout the year.

And a huge thank you to all of you! You generously opened your wallets and donated to a great cause, the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Center (LTWC). I am proud to inform you that we raised $7,388 for this charity. Our kindness and support blew away LTWC. And, I would be remiss if I did not thank our incredible Club Presidents. All attended and presented an excellent Club recap at our annual business meeting. Hearing about the fantastic rallies, membership ideas, and plans is exciting! We were also fortunate to have our ACI President in attendance. Eric McHenry brought us up to speed on current ACI topics and events. And lastly, we voted on three updated Region Policies (2, 3, and 4). Here is the link on our website for your reference: https://airstreamclub.org/region12/region-12-documents-and-policies.

Please join us in planning next year's rally. Many hands make light work, and we have fun discussing and planning the rally. You will not be disappointed if you raise your hand! The 2025 region rally will be in San Dimas, CA, at beautiful Bonelli Bluffs. Airstream Los Angeles is one of our sponsors for the 2025 rally—more to say on this as we plan this event.

On the theme of many hands making light work, let me talk about the International Rally. This rally experience was incredible! I am still trying to figure out where to begin, but it was great! I know it is a challenge for all of us to travel so far, but seeing our fellow Airstreamers all in one place is an incredible experience. I have attended two International Rallies, which remind me of how rewarding volunteering can be. It is a great way to meet people and to feel involved. Consider it yourself. I guarantee you will enjoy making new friends! There are many positions (check out the banner to the left of my letter). All of us work together to keep Region 12 moving forward. Get involved!

Are you going to Jackson Center? Did you know we will have camping opportunities at our ACI headquarters? Please call or email me for more information or to sign up. As always, I welcome your comments, questions, and feedback. Please email or call. My contact information is below.

Region 12 rocks!

Shawn Blom, Region 12 President
707-225-7940
Shawn@gracecounter.com

Politics and Rally Neutrality

Although the recent election is behind us, conversations, flags, and clothing around politics remain.

Just a reminder, please find our WBCCI Code of Ethics:

WBCCI Code of Ethics: "To be ever mindful of what we say or print with respect to its effect on other of our diverse membership so as to avoid disharmony and ill feelings among club members of differing ethnicities, religious beliefs or orientation and to dedicate ourselves to the work of cementing together the members of WBCCI in bonds of good fellowship and mutual understanding."

The Airstream goal is straightforward: to create "neutral ground" where we can all have fun and enjoy camping together, free from division.

Shawn Blom, Region 12 President
707-225-7940
Shawn@gracecounter.com

Airstream Club Blue Book Constitution, Policies, and Bylaws

Region 12 Member Spotlight: James Goldstene

From the RVServiceNet Facebook page, posted By Jim Aspinwall:

A shout out to Carol, KP4MD, for getting this into the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Club News this month. James Goldstene did all the work for these two events.

Club Outreach to RV Community
On September 12, Airstream Club International Region 12 members participated in the Introduction to Ham Radio workshop presented by James Aspinwall, NC1PIC, as well as Sacramento Valley President and ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Affiliated Club Coordinator James Goldstene, AE6JG, at their rally in South Lake Tahoe, Calif⁻nia. James, AE6JG, gave a live demonstration of HF communications on 40-meter SSB QSOs with Jim Zheng, W6JIZ, at Ham Radio Outlet in Sacramento, Sacramento ARES EC Jay Ballinger, N6SIX, ARRL Sac Valley SM, Carol Maiuzo, KP4MD, in Citrus Heights, and others. Participants really enjoyed the workshop and commented on how well-organized and informative the presentation was.

On September 5, James Goldstene, AE6JG, presented An Introduction to Amateur Radio to about 15 members of three Airstream Clubs at their joint rally at the McCloud RV Park near Mt. Shasta, California. "We used a dipole antenna to get an EFHW Chameleon Antenna up in the air and [reached] Mexico and Hawaii." By Carol Maiuzo, KP4MD

Is there a wonderful Region 12 member we should acknowledge and spotlight? Please let us know by sending the president or editor a recommendation memo.

REMINDER: Beware of Email Scammers!

Scammers continue to send phishing/spam emails to Region 12 members, and it looks like they are coming from a Region Officer. For example, the latest scam email looks like it is coming from our Region President, Shawn Blom. The initial email asks the recipient to perform an essential task for the President. If the recipient responds to that email, the sender will request that they purchase gift cards and send them to the scammer, who will never reimburse the recipient. To avoid getting caught by these scammers, always click on the email sender's name and verify that it is a valid Region Officer's email address. You can find current email contacts on the Region 12 website at https://airstreamclub.org/region12/region-12-officers. If in doubt, please forward the email to the Region Officer listed in the phishing email for review.

Thanks,
Teresa
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Region 12 Treasurer
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Airstream Club Membership:

Welcome, Support, and Grow Your Club's Members
By Eleanor McFarlin, GBAAC President/Membership Chair

We all know how it feels to join a club; there's excitement, a sense of anticipated belonging, and expectations of shared adventures ahead. As we all look that leap and rolled away from the purchase process with our new silver Airstreams following behind, we contemplated joining a local club to learn how to best care for our new homes-on-wheels, share travel experiences, and find community. And that is exactly what we found: a community of happy fellow 'Streamers' ready to join in conversation, camping, and creative solutions to any hurdles encountered along the road. Remembering this original excitement is key to welcoming new members to our clubs.

There are a few main areas we can look at as we aim to enhance the membership experience:

New Member Welcome
Communication is everything. Respond quickly to any notification of new members so they feel their membership matters and know your club is glad to have them onboard. It's recommended to send a welcoming, informative email message that includes links to the club's website, social media sites, and the ACI website and to specific Q&As regarding your club. It's helpful to include commonly used terminology—decipher all those acronyms so new members can understand references in shared future communications. Please keep the tone welcoming and aim to represent how your club functions and its general approach to the camping experience.

In addition to this information-packed email, it's good to give new members a phone call to answer any questions they may have and introduce yourself and the club. Another good practice is to mail the new members some club swag, such as a club sticker, lanyard, business card, or small gift. A tangible reminder of club membership is impactful.

Getting New Members to Rallies
As we all know, rallies fill up quickly. A common complaint from new members is not knowing how to get involved. Guidance on how to best take advantage of rally offerings is needed.

Here are a few tips:

- Register as soon as the rally signup opens on the same day, so don't delay.
- Get your name on the waitlist; there's plenty of attrition, and the spaces often open up.
- Join 'pop-up' rallies that offer a chance to camp together with more spontaneity.
- Offer to host or co-host. Getting involved is rewarding and offers inclusion in site assignments.
- You can check the ACI website for non-home club rallies, and you should consider options for caravans, region rallies, and international rallies.
- Register for Boondocking rallies – often, there's more availability, and the locations are creative.

Mentoring New Members
Some clubs assign a mentor to each new member; pairing a seasoned member/couple to 'host' the new member/couple as they segue into club activities. Being introduced to others, being included in gatherings, and having questions answered are all great ways for new members to feel more comfortable and welcomed. Often, strong friendships form from these initial experiences. Having an arrival greeting committee, friendly dinner buddies, and someone to check in on you during a rally will likely lead to happy and committed members.

Greater Bay Area Airstream Club (GBAAC) hosts an annual 'Newbie Rally,' specifically inviting all recently joined members along with a team of seasoned members, providing a shared positive experience. These popular rallies support new members by offering sessions on Airstream maintenance techniques, cooking, community-building, etc., along with many fun meals and activities. They also often have tech support directly from the dealership attending, along with hospitality sponsored by the dealership.

Membership Growth
Word of mouth is the most powerful tool for club growth—happy members tell the story! Members invite others, and there's natural growth. Another organic way to grow your club is to notice other Airstreamers at your rally campgrounds and invite them to participate in activities during the rally. Often, they readily join the club after spending some time with a rally-weekend group.

Having a solid presence on social media is also helpful in growing clubs. Many Airstreamers check social media for tips and tricks of ownership, and your club's information, if readily available, will stand out to online searchers.

It's also possible to share your club's information via a QR-coded flier at your local Airstream dealership so that brand-new Airstreamers can access that link to your club at the onset of their experience. Strong working relationships are often developed between dealership staff members and clubs, resulting in rally visits by staff and ongoing good connections.

Get comfortable with the ACI website. Explore what other clubs are doing to gain members, and consider reaching out to Members At Large (MALs) in your geographical area to gauge their interest in possible club membership.

In summary, when reflecting on what is most effective for supporting membership, a ready smile and welcoming spirit are truly our best tools! Enjoy your club, and your new members will, too!

Check Out Upcoming Region 12 Rallies

67th WBCCI International Rally, Sedalia, MO

By Don and Gail Williams, Sierra Nevada Unit

The Wally Byam Caravan Club, also known as the Airstream Club, held its 67th International Rally at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO, 1685 miles from Sierra Nevada Unit country. With only one couple attending, the "solo" caravan originated a little south in Riverside, CA, and traveled a mere 2065 miles to the rally with side visits in Sabine, AZ, Dateli Wells & Raton, NM, Cherry Creek State Park in Denver, CO, the St. Francis Motorcycle Museum, Marysville, KS City Park and Lathrop, MO. The caravan kept to the 3-2-1 rule except the first day: no more than 300 miles, take a break every three hours, and stop by 3 PM. Denver and Lathrop were extended stops visiting family. A visit to the *World War I museum* in Kansas City, MO, was a highlight of the caravan.

Sedalia was a mixed bag for Gail & me; we caught some respiratory bug from a grand-niece that sidelined Gail for most of the rally and left me with only enough energy to assume her role as Flea Market Chairperson. The flea market went off without a hitch with help from Jack and Linda Grimes from near Columbia, SC. We managed over 100 table assignments, five drop-ins that failed to reserve in advance, and relocated three sellers to larger spaces just prior to the start. No one pulled all us or swore at us, a big success. Least you think our efforts were special, approximately 600 people volunteered at the rally, plus another 65 in the band and choir. Quite a contribution from 2300 people and just over 1200 rigs!

Also, know that your Airstream Club Executive Committee members didn't sit on their laurels, many staffed or chaired Rally Committees, and our International President and First Lady Eric and LaVerne McHenry managed and worked tirelessly at one of the most challenging jobs, the RAT or Rally Arrival Team, greeting and parking almost 1200 rigs throughout the Fairgrounds in FOUR DAYS! And the campsites: full hookups with 30A and 50A power at each one!

There was lots to do. Attend one of the many educational, special interest, and technical Seasons: morning bicycle rides, amateur radio communications nets, training, and FCC licensing; quilting and fiber Arts; boondocking, making Limoncello, solar systems, fitness, photography, youth campers, RV safe driving, Dexter axle and brake maintenance, and more.

There was morning coffee and donuts (200 disappeared every morning in 20 minutes), line dancing, pickleball, a trip through History with Pee Wee and the Airstream Heritage Center, a Pet show and parade, a Vintage Airstream Club parade, a Blood drive, an art show, painting, and, of course, the flea market. Airstream swag, equipment, and accessories were available; the Airstream Supply Company for hard parts and clothing, Bill Thomas for Airstream Camper Sales, Dometic, small vendors, and exhibitors piled their wares in the Agriculture and Varied Industries Buildings.

Hungry? Fairground vendors and food trucks/trailers were on hand to fill you up and quench your thirst.

Did I miss something? You bet. The only way to possibly know and enjoy all the rally activities is to be there or peruse the official Rally photo albums at https://www.flickr.com/photos/196549128@N03/albums/. Plan to attend 2025 in York, PA.

Don & Gail

Read More about the 67th Annual Rally and Much More in the November Blue Beret

Register for the 2025 International Rally

Introducing Wine Quest 2025!

A new National Event Rally, celebrating California's amazing Wineries!

Link to ACI Wine Quest 2025 web page

Have you heard about Silver on the Seas, the newest National Event Rally?

From the editor: Fall is upon us, and with the winter, many ACI members around the country are winterizing their rigs and bidding adieu until the Spring thaw. For those of us living in more temperate climates, the adventures continue.

Maureen and I immensely enjoyed our first International Rally in Sedalia, MO. The trip, the camping opportunities along the way, the venue, and the 1200+ members made for an outstanding experience. While at the Rally, I passed my first Amateur Radio test hosted by the Amateur Radio Club of the W6CCI. We registered for the 69th Annual Airstream Club International Rally in York, PA, August 23-28, 2026.

Maureen and I look forward to continuing our adventures along the Airstream Club highways and byways and now on the air with the RV Service Net!

John Golden - KO6GGG, BRN 24784, Region 12 Newsletter Editor

RV Safety and Preparedness:

The recent crazy and sometimes unpredictable weather inspired current and recent discussions regarding experiencing RV travel with safety in mind. Several members started trips this year that were interrupted or challenged by storms, hurricane-level incidents, unexpected severe weather, equipment malfunctions, and road or campground maintenance that impacted travel.

While some challenges can arise unexpectedly, advanced preparation and good travel habits include ensuring we have empty, or near empty, grey and black water tanks and plenty of fresh water. A public utilities public safety power shutoff lasted longer than initially scheduled due to the Santa Ana winds in Southern California. The campground server system uses electrical power for lift pumps and macerators, so the sewer was out along with the power.

Take your time and add travel buffers to trip segments so that you arrive safely. Some essentials are fuel, water, extra medicine to last days beyond your trip, knowledge of evacuation routes, both out of your trailer and the location you are staying, extra batteries for portable lights or equipment, tools, and physical maps as a backup to electronic GPS and clothing for all weather. Have an emergency plan that includes telling others where and when you expect to arrive and camp during your adventure. Consider Ham radio or Satellite communications when you're out of cellular coverage.

It is an excellent idea to subscribe to a service like RV Life Trip Wizard or RV Weather and ensure access to local weather reports via radio or cell phone. RV-specific blogs and websites offer additional ideas and lists to make this easier:

- The Camping Nerd
- Your RV Lifestyle
- Air Forums
- Airstream
- ACI/WBCCI Safety tips in the Resource Center

John Golden - KO6GGG, BRN 24784, Region 12 Newsletter Editor

Are you enjoying your Airstream Club International adventures?

Do you wonder what "tomorrow" holds for yourself, the ACI, or others? Your input is invaluable. If you have opinions on a better way to run things, a more convenient method to present club news or a suggestion for content, we'd love to hear from you. Your ideas can shape the future of our club.

One critical aspect of membership is sharing diverse perspectives and engaging personally. We must unite and support each other to serve our Region and member clubs effectively. Your active involvement in your Region can make a significant difference.

Are you interested in running for a Region 12 Officer position? If so, please contact our nominating committee members (Cecelia Stansbury, cecelianaury@yahoo.com, LaVerne McHenry, laverne.airstreamclub@gmail.com, or Cheryl Musser, musserfly@cox.net). Elections will take place in early spring 2025 for a position beginning in August 2025.

Please contact Region 12 President Shawn Blom or Vice-presidents Robert Minder or Jason Grendahl for more information and to volunteer.

Got something to share in the next R12 newsletter? Click here to send us an email!

NorCal News - September The Poppy

Silver in Cascadia*
September 4 - 8, 2024, McCloud RV Park

Three Airstream Clubs gathered for the "Silver in Cascadia Rally" at the McCloud RV Park in September, totaling sixty-six trailers and more than one hundred twenty people. Yes, there was a lot of "Silver in Cascadia." For the arrival, check this YouTube video out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BFb_-_cpcc0&ab_channel=McCloudRVPark
Although there were a couple of very warm days, overall, the weather was most pleasant with cool evenings.

The rally began with happy hour and welcome messages from the three club presidents: Carmen Ortiz (NorCal), James Goldstene (SacValley), and Eleanor McFarlin (GBAAC). President Ortiz reminded everyone of the activities for the days ahead.

Soon, local caterer Raymond Zanny arrived with a satisfying dinner, after which members mingled and got to know each other. Some just chatted, and others played games. Our Campfire Chief, Brian Schauer, set up a great campfire for all to enjoy the cool evening.

On Thursday morning, members had an opportunity to participate in the Ham Radio Operator workshop presented by SacValley President James Goldstene. Participants really enjoyed the workshop and commented on how well-organized and informative the presentation was. James is a teacher after all! Thank you James, and all that participated!

A photo scavenger hunt contest got underway organized by Doug Fitzgerald. Members were asked find a series of spots in the area and take photos with at least one member in the picture. Participation was outstanding and competitive. NorCal members Debbie Ames and Doug Fritz won the contest.

Last year, I invited the Sacramento Valley Airstream Club (SacValley) to join our club in a joint rally. As the planning got underway early this year, the Greater Bay Area Airstream Club (GBAAC) was also invited to become part of the rally. It was a historic rally, as NorCal had not done a joint rally in a long time.

Thanks to some of the hosts and several of our Club members, the Pavilion and the welcome bags were ready by the time rally attendees started arriving Wednesday afternoon.

During Thursday's happy hour, we feasted on the many delicious appetizers by attendees. The raffle was a hit, with Alice Austin (SacValley) and Amy Webster (NorCal) calling BINGo and handing great raffle items to the winners. Alice's dance moves made the raffle fun! Thank you, Alice and Amy! The evening ended with members again sharing adventures, stories, and a sizzling campfire.

On Friday morning, many attendees participated in the fly fishing workshop presented by NorCal members Dan Crutchfield and Dave Williams. Dave gave participants a rundown of all the equipment, and Dan showed them how to use it. Everyone had a chance to try their hand at it.

In the afternoon, members went about their way exploring all that the McCloud area has to offer. A whiteboard served as the place to post activities and messages. Ken Bechtold (SacValley) set up the sound system.

Happy hour was very special with NorCal members Charlie Havill and Michael Kraft, owners of Bella Grace Vineyards, pouring their own special wines for a tasting, operation and supplied premium commercial lumber products for custom home builders and do-it-yourselfers through the nation. The tour of the mill was orchestrated by our affiliate member Gary Mellinger. Thanks Gary. Members really enjoyed the tour.
During the afternoon, SacValley member and NorCal affiliate, Judy Bechtold, taught a line dancing class, and many were showing their abilities. They even broke a sweat and worked up an appetite for dinner!

Thank you, Michael and Charlie, for your generosity. Again, appetizers were very tasty and substantial. All that fun was followed by another batch of raffle prizes awarded to lucky participants by Alice and Amy. Brian, again set up a roaring campfire and members roasted marshmallows for sweet s'mores.

On Saturday morning, the presidents of the three clubs and the Region 12 President, Shawn Blom, hosted members on a "Meet and Greet the Leadership" session where members had an opportunity to hear our leaders talk about their respective experiences and to ask questions. One question that came up was whether there is a limit on the number of members clubs can have. In other words, when is a club too big? Apparently, there's a minimum number of members a club needs to have to stay viable, but not a limit on the maximum number it can have. By the way, NorCal is the largest club in Region 12! Way to go! While some were at the "Meet and Greet," others went on a golf outing to the McCloud Golf Club with Doug Fitzgerald (NorCal). Others headed to the McCloud Mill, which closed operations in 2003. The mill was a state-of the art, fully computerized.

On Saturday evening, dinner was served by a local caterer, Raymond's Italian. Everyone had an opportunity to say their goodbyes and enjoy a last campfire. It takes the efforts of many people to get a rally of this size to happen. Thank you to all the members who made this rally memorable. From NorCal: Joad Ortiz and Carmen Ortiz, Amy and Tom Webster, Doug Fitzgerald and Jessie Doornik, Brian and Juliet Schauer, John and Lori Bibby, Lynn and Harold Hurley, Michael Kraft and Charlie Havill, and Dan Crutchfield and Dave Williams; from SacValley: James and Jami Goldstene, Alice Austin and Jim Swanson, Ken, and Judy Bechtold; from GBAAC: Eleanor and John McFarlin. And the many members of the three clubs who helped to cleanup each day.

On Sunday morning, everyone headed in different directions. Many started their journey by driving Southeast to their next stop: The Region 12 Rally in South Lake Tahoe.

Carmen Ortiz

*** Curious about Cascadia? Check Wikipedia**
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_(blur epison))

Photos: Thanks to Carmen and Marget Williams: photos at:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/5246.3754243510/4

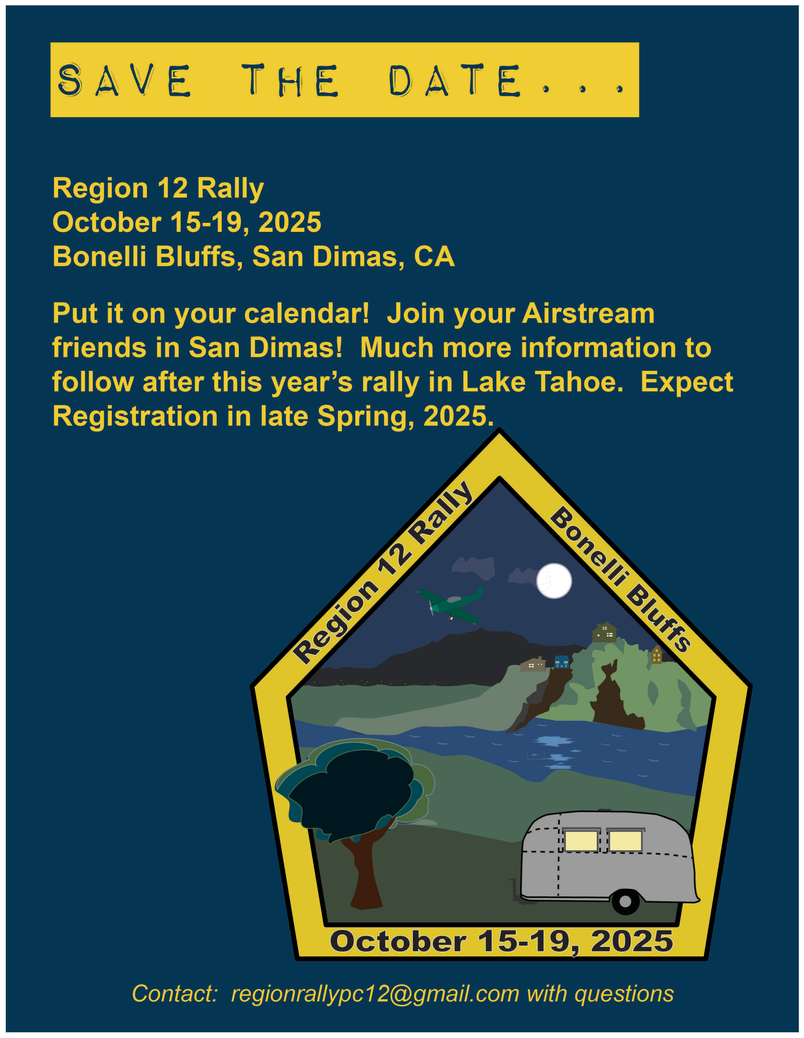
Campfire Hot Dog Skewers

https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-

Ingredients
For sauce:
1/4 c. barbecue sauce
1 1/2 Tbsp. ketchup
1 Tbsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. rice wine vinegar
1/2 tsp. chili powder

For skewers:
8 hot dogs, quartered
3 c. pineapple, cut into 1" pieces
1 red bell pepper, cut into 1" pieces
1 green bell pepper, cut into 1" pieces
1 small red onion, cut into 1" pieces

Directions
Step 1
In a medium bowl, whisk to combine all sauce ingredients.
Step 2
Preheat grill or grill pan on medium heat.
Step 3
Build skewers by alternating hot dogs, pineapple, peppers, and red onion. Brush all over with sauce and place on preheated grill.
Step 4
Grill on medium heat, flipping every couple minutes and basting with remaining sauce, until skewers are charred, about 8 to 10 minutes.



Please save the date! Region 12 Rally 2025 will be located at Bonelli Bluffs RV Park, located in San Dimas, CA. The rally will be October 15-19, 2025. We know your are busy planning your summer travel, but wanted to share this! More information will follow this year's Region Rally in Lake Tahoe.

Questions about the 2025 Region Rally?

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