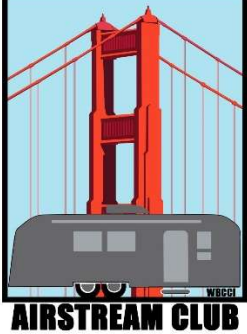


GREATER BAY AREA



Greater Bay Area Airstream Club Newsletter January 2025



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President's Message
Mike Blom

Happy New Year! 2024 was a great year for GBAAC. We had 8 fantastic rallies. From Marina Dunes and visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium to trap shooting at Lake Camanche. Boondocking at Coyote Lake in the rain and in the warmth at Brannan Island let us learn more about how to camp off-grid. Jackson Rancheria and Costanoa each provided unique experiences. The Newbie Rally was a successful introduction for some new Airstreamers and our annual White Elephant rally always provides a lot of entertaining holiday cheer.

In 2025 we have 9 rallies planned! Two new rally sites to highlight are Harbor Bay RV Park and Grass Valley RV Resort. Located in Half Moon Bay and Grass Valley these new rally sites are less than a year open and have lots of amenities. Check out the rest of the list later in this newsletter. One way to make sure you will attend a rally is to volunteer as a host/co-host for a rally before it is opened for registration.

None of the above could happen without our amazing volunteers. I want to thank all the Executive Board members, the Rally Committee members and the many members that always raise their hands when a task presents itself. We have number of positions we still could use help with and if you feel you have something to contribute to the club, please do not hesitate to reach out, club018@airstreamclub.org.

Airstream was founded in 1931 by Wally Byam. His basic design evolved into the trailers we know today. Some of Wally's words that guide us are "to encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions." Our club, #18, has been around since 1962 and as of today has 187 members affiliates. I hope to showcase more of our club's history in upcoming newsletters but more importantly, I hope to get to know more of you as we add more rally opportunities to our calendar.

Safe travels,

Mike Blom
President GBAAC

2025 Rallies

Check out the Greater Bay Area Airstream Club 2025 Rallies below. We need hosts or co-hosts for a few of the rallies. Remember if you volunteer to host / co-host, you will be given the ability to sign up for the rally in advance of the event being released to the general membership.

Dates	Campground & Location	Host	Co-Host	Notes
March 13 - 17	Harbor Village RV Park Half Moon Bay	Jill & Wayne Impink	TBD	Full w/ waitlist
April 3 - 7	Grass Valley RV Resort Grass Valley	TBD	Erica & Mark Evans	Full w/ waitlist
April 24 - 28	Coyote Lake Campground Gilroy	Joann & Marc Godoy	Chris Martindill cmartindill16@gmail.com	Please let Chris know if you are going!
June 12 - 15	Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort - Felton, CA	Sally MacDonald & Scott Gerken	Mike & Shawn Blom	Full w/ waitlist
July 7 - 11	Silver On the Seas - Cruise Ship Rally	Jason & Andrea Grendahl	Margaret & Brian Handshoe	Launches from Seattle
August 14 - 17	Costanoa KOA - Pescadero, CA	Ken Lalanne & Linda Weissman	TBD	Not released yet
September 11 - 15	Bodega Bay RV Park	Eleanor & John McFarlin	Chris & Mark Martindill	Annual Business Mtg - full w/ waitlist
October 22 - 27	Napa Valley Expo RV Park	Mike & Shawn Blom	TBD	Newbie Rally - not released yet
November 14 - 17	Black Oak Casino - Tuolumne, CA	TBD	TBD	Installation Rally - not released yet
December 11 - 15	Jackson Rancheria RV Park, Jackson, CA	Andrea & Jason Grendahl	TBD	White Elephant Rally - not released yet

Remember, these are not your only rally opportunities! ACI International Rally in York, PA in August, Region 12 rally at Bonelli Bluffs in October, and many more are available. Try other club's rallies and meet new people. Don't be afraid to get on a waitlist, participant cancellations happen all the time.

Believe it or not, the Rally Committee is already hard at work planning the 2026 Rally Calendar! We have a wide variety of campgrounds that we can choose from given we can camp almost 12 months every year. Do you have a favorite camping site that you think could accommodate 10 – 30 trailers? Let us know! We love it when members participate and give us new ideas.

To provide even more rally opportunities, ACI is exploring hosting Flash Rallies at Harvest Host locations. GBAAC is looking to participate in this program to give you rallies with a shorter lead time. Signing up for a rally 9 – 12 months in advance can require a crystal ball guess as to what your time commitments will be far in advance. We are still working out the details but will communicate with you more about these rally opportunities as we learn more. These rallies will more than likely be boondocking but given the nature of Harvest Hosts, the products and environment may be a worthwhile endeavor.

Volunteering

Do you enjoy going to rallies? We do and it takes a team of people to create and organize these fun events. It is not just the planning, but items such as creating this newsletter, graphic design, hosting and several other tasks make your Airstream club vibrant. Do you have an interest in volunteering your time to our club? There are several ways to do this but the first and easiest way is to just raise your hand 🙋 . We all have various backgrounds and skill sets that lend themselves to helping the overall rally experience. Maybe you have expertise that you would like to showcase at a rally? Rick Watts did when he brought his Peregrin falcon to Lake Comanche and taught us about his passionate hobby. John McFarlin and Darrin Lopez put together a general maintenance seminar at Casini Ranch. Maybe you have graphic design skills that we could use for some of our projects. We welcome all and look forward to your participation to make our club fun and engaging. Reach out to any of our board members and discuss how your skills can help our community.

Survey

In the next month you will see a survey hit your mailbox. The Executive Board and the Rally Committee reach out to the members every few years to get your feedback on where we are rallying and what we can do to improve engagement with you. Please take the time to answer the multiple choice questions. Not only will there be questions about frequency, distance and new items such as flash rallies. The feedback from the survey allows us to plan better gatherings.

What's Up – WhatsApp

Staying on a communication theme, once a rally is organized it can be difficult to broadcast last minute changes or new information. These changes can be due to weather changes or new information that could be useful to the rally participants. At last October Newbie Rally one of our participants brought up that the local Farmers Market had over 50+ stalls with fresh fruit, vegetables, honey and many other local products. A last-minute walking field trip was organized for many of the rally goers to check out the market. An email was sent out, but email is not checked by many frequently. For many phone-based messaging systems such as Android or iPhone, the number of people included in a group text can be much less than the number of rally participants. Another type of messaging service is needed to broadly reach all of the rally participants. A commonly used messaging app is called WhatsApp. This app has been used successfully at other rallies and is a great way to inform the rally participants about last minute updates. We will have a question on the upcoming survey getting your feedback on using this app for last-minute communication.

Custom Gear

Have you noticed that some members have a flag outside of their trailer that shows the GBAAC logo and is customized with their names and where they are from? On the ACI website there is a link to GBAAC logoed t-shirts, name badges and customizable flags for you to show your GBAAC pride. You can use this link [GBAAC members: products on Zazzle](#) to shop.

Photos From Recent Rallies – Come Join The Fun!



Bodega Bay Marine Lab Field Trip



Black Oak White Elephant Rally



Sparkling Wine Tasting – Black Oak Rally



It was cold at Black Oak!



Newbie Rally Halloween Decoration Contest



Early morning fog Newbie Rally

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