

INWAC INSIDER



Celebrating year 5 of traveling together!

I feel like a bit of an historian as I look back five years on the fall of 2019 and the gathering together of a handful of Airstreamers tasked to start a unit in the Inland Northwest. Five years ago we were scraping for 10 Airstreams to get our charter. At the time of this writing we just hit 50 Member Airstreams and 39 Affiliate Member Airstreams. I used to know everyone by name, where they lived, how they found us...but not any more. Our membership is so diverse. The myriad of hobbies, travel experiences, occupations, interests, makes an evening around the campfire fascinating.

This season 'life' kept me from attending many rallies so I put out more than one call for content for the fall newsletter. I got some wonderful responses. Those responses have come together to make a collection of travel experiences from both new Airstreamers and experienced Airstreamers and a variety of adventures. I hope you will be inspired and challenged to do more and see more and to join your fellow Airstreamers for a rally, maybe two, this year. I would love to share your travel adventures here, past and present, so feel free to send them our way. And watch your email for INWAC opportunities as our rally coordinators begin rolling out early opportunities and launching our 2025 season.

We have much to celebrate!

Becky

Becky Soth
Editor - beccasoth@gmail.com



A huckleberry toast in St Regis.

The President's Cast

It's all about you, the members, and providing you experiences that lead to fantastic memories, fellowship, learning, and support. You own an Airstream and we want you to get out there and enjoy it with friends! For those that have been traveling for at least a season, when planning your 2025 travel season, please consider making some of your destinations an INWAC Rally. We are growing so there is always room for another rally, creating more adventures, more volunteers to host and more friendships to be made. Feel free to email Suzanne, our Rally Coordinator, and her team can guide you through the simple process of registering a new rally.

In 2024 the leadership team matured the club's governance, grew the budget, and improved operations to better support the INWAC mission. Over the next month, keep an eye out for the 2025 rally schedule.

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday party, an early Spring get together (TBD), or at rallies in 2025. Again, thanks to the all volunteer management team for their unselfish dedication to our club.

stabacek@gmail.com

Steve

INWAC OFFICERS 2024-2025

President: Steve Tabacek

1st Vice-President: Stephanie Shelley

2nd Vice-President: Gary Varella

Secretary: Becky Amend

Treasurer: Yvonne Theodor

Trustee: David Johnson

Trustee: Lee Owen



Steve and Debbie traveling in Italy this fall



Car . a . van ;

an Airstream caravan is a group of Airstream owners traveling together on an organized trip. The trips are led by a volunteer who plans the itinerary and activities. Caravans are a great way to: See new places, Try new activities, Meet new people, and Make lifelong friends.

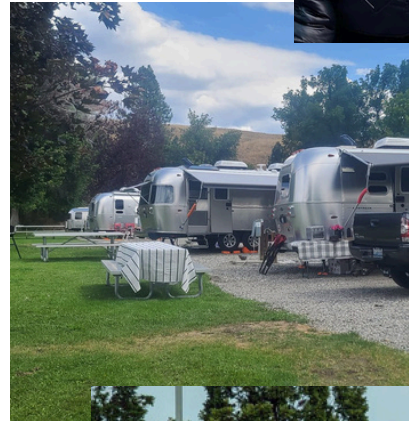
Traveling to the Airstream International Rally in 2023 several of our members got a taste of traveling in a caravan and really enjoyed it. This season we created a caravan 'sampler' of sorts through Canada. **Stephanie Shelley** gives us a brief chronology of what this summer's Canadian caravan adventure was like.



First Stop: Curlew Lake State Park, Republic WA
Round-up for the 6 trailers heading to Canada! We enjoyed custom made cookies and treats provided by wagon masters, Steve and Debbie Tabacek at our initial happy hour. Fun activities included a fossil dig (mostly unsuccessful), kayaking on Curlew Lake and dinner out in the tiny town of Republic.



Second Stop: Wright's Beach RV Park, Penticton BC
Excitement on the first day of travel to cross the Oroville WA – Osoyoos BC border. Despite a few questions, we all made it through (pets included) without an issue. Easy driving on beautiful highways with amazing views brought us to the town of Penticton, BC. It is a resort town for Canadians and is home to two lakes: Lake Okanogan and Lake Skaha. Our campground, Wright's Beach RV Park was on the shores of Lake Skaha. Our initial shock and disappointment at small and narrow uneven sites on dirt with little to no shade eventually gave way to enjoyment as we were all together and most of us had beautiful views overlooking Lake Skaha. We enjoyed the town of Penticton where we cheered on our wagon master, Steve Tabacek, as he completed an Iron Man competition. Other activities included wine tasting in the hills above Penticton and a tour of S.S. Sicamous which was launched in 1914 and remains the largest surviving stern wheeler in BC.



Third Stop: Revelstoke RV Resort, Revelstoke BC
We say good-bye to Mike, Linda and their pup, Clayton, who will meet up with us again in Marion MT and we head out to Revelstoke. We stop at Davison Orchards where we have lunch, ice cream and stock up on fresh produce, jams and jellies. We arrive to Revelstoke RV Resort late in the day and must set up in the pouring rain. It's a beautiful campground covered in tall cedar trees with large level sites. We are joined on the caravan by the Amends. The town of Revelstoke is a picturesque town on the Columbia River with great shopping, coffee shops and restaurants and a train museum that some of the group toured. We all agreed that Revelstoke was worth more than a stay of only 2 nights.



Fourth Stop: Whispering Spruce Campground, Golden BC
Chosen for its proximity to Banff and Lake Louise, Whispering Spruce Campground left much to be desired. Situated right on the highway, sites were small and crowded. The first day we carpooled to Banff and enjoyed a lovely day visiting the famous Fairmont Hotel, following an "art walk" trail along the river to the falls. The next day, the group visited Lake Louise and Lake Moraine which were on the bucket list for some of our campers. Thanks to the internet skills of our fellow camper, Penny, we were able to secure parking and tickets to the lakes which have parking restrictions during the summer months.



Fifth Stop: Cranbrook/St. Eugene KOA, Cranbrook BC
An amazing large campground on Indigenous land that was once the site of an Indian Residential School. The local tribes made the decision to keep and restore the school into a casino but with pictures and remnants of what the school did to try and erase their culture. We were fortunate to participate in an educational tour led by a tribal elder who had once lived at the school and to learn about the tragedy and resilience of the Indigenous People. In addition, the Tabaceks won \$\$\$ at the casino while the rest of us relaxed and enjoyed good food and company. We say goodbye to the Johnsons who will meet up with us again at the Troy rally.



Sixth Stop: Whitefish RV Park, Whitefish MT

After an uneventful return through the border back to the US, we arrived at Whitefish RV Park in Whitefish, MT. The campground is right off the main highway but set back enough that you cannot hear the road. Sites are level and average size with grass and plenty of shade. Bonus is the excellent and inexpensive Chinese food restaurant within walking distance. Whitefish MT is a resort town with fun shops, pubs and restaurants. There is even an Airstream themed food truck court in the center of town! It was Debbie Tabacek's birthday so the group surprises her with a special pink Airstream cake and ice cream.



Seventh Stop: McGregor Lakes RV park, Marion MT
We say goodbye in Whitefish to Will and Penny who have become good friends, and we hope will join us at the Troy rally. Marion, MT is a very small town, and we were disappointed to find that our campground was not on the lakeshore as we had anticipated. Sites were level and there were lots of grassy areas and trails but many long-term campers. Mike and Linda re-joined the caravan. We enjoyed playing games, having happy hour and potlucks. The group did venture across the highway to a local pub where we enjoyed rounds of appetizers and a lot of good laughs.



Final Stop: Kootenai River Campground, Troy MT
We arrive at Kootenai River Campground where we are re-joined by Will and Penny and Dave and Linda. Fun is had by all despite missing out of the re-scheduled chainsaw competition. The 2025 officers are inducted by Region 10 president, Florence at a wonderful dinner.



CARE TO CARAVAN...IN 2025??

Andrea Lloyd, Rally Committee

The INWAC Caravan Committee is thrilled to announce our very first ACI Approved Local Club Caravan - the INWAC 2025 Caravan to the Oregon Coast! Our Caravan has been assigned the number LC-2025-A.

This Caravan is based on the “kitty fee”, which is a long-standing Airstream tradition when it comes to traveling in groups around the country. The kitty fee essentially pools the money of each participating Airstream and pays for all “group” expenses prior to the departure date of the caravan. Group expenses include all camping fees, a specified number of meals and scheduled events. At the end of the caravan, any monies that remain in the “kitty” are divided up and returned equally to the participating Airstreams.

Our INWAC 2025 Caravan to the Oregon Coast will cost a total of \$1,162.00 per Airstream with two people in the rig. The Caravan will last 16 total days with a cost per day of just under \$73. The itinerary is below, with seven stops in Lewiston, Pollock, McCall, & Parma Idaho, and John Day, Diamond Lake & Bandon by the Sea, Oregon (a total of 842 miles).

Keep an eye on your email in December for registration information coming in the next few weeks!!!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 -

Meet up at the Rally point in Lewiston, Idaho where our group will be hosted by Lindsay Creek Vineyards. We will boondock in the spacious parking area of the Vineyards and enjoy the sweeping views of the Palouse's rolling hills. A welcome reception will be hosted by Lindsay Creek with food and refreshments.

DAY 2-3

Pollock, Idaho is just a short drive south from Lewiston (108 miles). We will camp at the Canyon Pines RV Resort and the Little Salmon River will be at our doorstep. Take your pick of adventures with a half or full day white water rafting trip, or a drive up high above Hells Canyon to the spectacular Heaven's Gate Fire Lookout.

DAY 4-5

McCall, Idaho is irresistible as a stop on our journey and only a one-hour drive from Pollock. This beautiful town will provide caravanners with the opportunity to explore the shops and eateries, fish, take a boat ride, or soak your troubles away in one of the five local hot springs (Burgdorf, Gold Fork, Mundo, Trail Creek, Council Mountain).

DAY 6

Who can say no to an old-school drive-in movie? How about the once in a lifetime opportunity to boondock at the drive-in? That's what we will do in Parma, Idaho (about a 2.5-hour drive from McCall). Grab your popcorn!

DAY 7-8

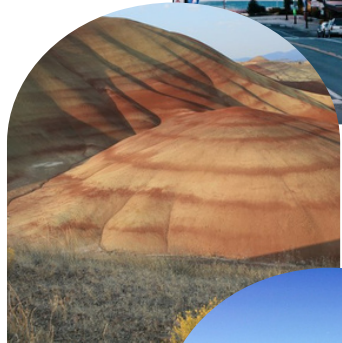
John Day, Oregon (another 2.5-hour drive) is the next stop where we will stay at the Grant County Fairground, adjacent to the John Day River. Activities at this stop include biking, fishing, bird watching, exploring the Fossil Beds National Monument or visiting Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site.

DAY 9-11

We will travel south along the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway for a three-night stay at Diamond Lake RV Resort, the ultimate hub for adventure seekers. From Diamond Lake there are numerous opportunities to explore the beauty or Central Oregon! We will make one 22-mile group trek (in cars!) to Crater Lake and enjoy Crater Lake Lodge at sunrise (or sunset, depending on weather conditions).

DAY 12-16

Our final stop will be the Oregon Coast and a 5-night stay at Bandon by the Sea RV Park. Take your time and head out on several adventures during your stay in Bandon. We will fly some kites, get our feet wet, explore the beach, gather some seashells and gather together for a farewell dinner.



Newbie ; ✨

a person who has recently started a particular activity : beginner, novice, newcomer



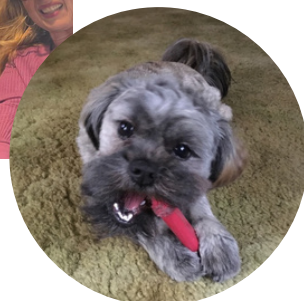
We bought a 2024 International 30RBQ and named her “Transparent Aluminum” (Star Trek IV fans will understand! IYKYK!). Chad had always loved the sleek style and vintage look from his childhood. Cindy was not so certain at first when the discussion ventured to the possibility of going Riveted! Ow, we both couldn’t be happier in our tin can of adventure.

We love the fact that it is perfect as is, but at the same time so easy to accessorize and outfit with nearly anything you could imagine. We got the 3” lift to our beast, as well as upgrading our lithium batteries to the Battleborn Gamechangers, added more solar panels, installed a super functional and efficient Victron system, and a few other little tweaks and lovelies to make our future travel practical and easy...especially on those occasions when we plan to do a little boondocking or can’t find a spot to park the rig for the night. These are just a few of the changes we’ve made, with a few more in the works! But...No worries for now! Bring it!

We’ve mainly visited WA State parks for this first year, hitting Steamboat Rock SP for the maiden voyage, then we went to the Region 10 Rally at Blackwell Island, then Potholes SP, Onto Yakima Sportsmen’s SP (we went to the Ellensburg Rodeo on that trip), and then back to Steamboat Rock for the season’s close out.

We went to our first rally in May of this past year, as a part of the Region 10 rally in Coeur d’Alene, ID. WHAT A BLAST! We met so many terrific people and enjoyed seeing how folks set up their respective areas. We really enjoyed the various seminars and talks, the fellowship at meals, and overall “come as you are” feel to the whole thing.

We’ve longed to find new friends to meet up with on the road, and it looks like we joined the right group!



Chad and Cindy Anderson



and Chewie!





REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF 'FIRSTS'

by Linda and Michael Hall

While Michael's parents loved their retirement years traveling with their Airstream and the many friends they made over the years, neither Michael nor I had any experience with camping or trailers. We had no idea if we would love or hate the lifestyle, but we did know we wanted to join the Airstream community. So, we brought home our first trailer April 2024 (25 Foot Flying Cloud RBT).

Our shakedown trip to Wallace, Idaho, made me question so many things – including whether I could ever sleep well snuggled up to an aluminum wall or learn how to sit and do nothing for a little while. Thankfully, before I could throw in the proverbial towel, we had already committed to attending our first Rally and signed on to travel part ways with the Canadian Caravan (our first longish trip). These experiences have helped us understand the magic of being part of an Airstream community and that getting a good night's sleep was possible.

Learning from others over the summer gave us the confidence we needed to venture farther afield. Since we have family in Arkansas and Texas, we decided to sign up for the Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri, which would get us somewhat close and push us to spend more time on the road seeing new parts of our country. That decision took us on an amazing *37-day, 6500 mile epic adventure across 14 states*.

As first-timers at an International Rally, we arrived knowing no one and left having met some wonderful people from across this country. We arrived wondering if we would be overwhelmed by it all and left realizing that while opportunities exist to participate in activities from dawn to late night, each person can engage in the ways that works best for them. We learned about many things - including lithium batteries, solar, tire pressure, interior design, cooking outdoors, eating well, emergency preparedness and my two personal favorites - pickleball and bourbons from around the country with the Grapes and Grains Mega Tasting! While not something we are eager to do every year, we hope to attend one of the future international rallies closer to home with other INWAC members.

We outran the early November snowstorms on our way back from our epic adventure and reluctantly unpacked the trailer. We ended this year of firsts with much excitement about next year's rallies and opportunities. The warm welcome from club members combined with beautiful scenery and fun experiences left us wanting to do more and already planning for "where to next?".





FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Happy Holidays to all of our INWAC members and affiliates. As we head into winter and the holidays I am especially thankful for everyone in our club who gives of their time to keep us up and running all year long (newsletters, social media, web site, rallies, budget, etc.). I truly believe it takes a whole Airstream village to keep us growing. Our club continues to add new members and affiliates and we welcome all of you! 2025 will bring a robust rally schedule and I hope to meet you around the campfire!

We had a great time on the 4 week Canadian Caravan in August and were joined by a lovely couple from South Carolina (Penny and Will). They were warmly embraced by all of our group and before the caravan ended they became affiliates and then joined our club for the big rally in Troy, MT. I feel this is a testament to our INWAC group and how we try to make everyone feel welcome when they join us. Please consider trying to stay connected with the club during the winter months by joining the events like the holiday party luncheon in December, fireside chat with our President, and other events that will take place in the Spring.

We also have an active Facebook page for just our members and its a great way to stay in touch with others in the club and see where people have traveled. It was great to follow along when our only two members, Linda and Michael, headed off to the International Rally in Sedalia with the INWAC flag. Thanks for representing us so well!

Don't forget that it might be time for your renewal so please check the ACI website to see about paying your dues to ACI and the club. Please contact me if you have any questions in regards to membership. Also, a big "thank you" to Amy Noyes-Bracken who is joining with me as a co-chair for membership. She has been helping with planning the holiday party and reaching out to new members as well. I look forward to us working together to continue to find ways to grow our membership.

I hope to see you at the holiday party or in the 2025 rally season. Have a great holiday and best wishes for the new year! I am already anticipating some exciting rallies and being able to hang out with everyone and of course, our dog, Kona!

Debbie

dtabacek@yahoo.com





Hello Fellow Campers,

For those of you whom I've not had the chance to meet yet, I'm Amy Noyes Bracken new co-chair of the INWAC membership committee.

My husband Brian & I were lucky enough to join the INWAC group at the Troy rally in 2023. Had it not been for the kindness and tremendously welcoming nature of Dave & Linda Johnson (rally hosts & former club president) we may not have joined. Luckily there was one last spot that Troy rally & Dave honored Wally Byam's rule that a person not in ACI may attend one rally prior to joining.

We were so excited to join but had trepidation since it was difficult to find information online as to what the rallies were like. Brian and I tend to camp in National and State parks when not boon-docking as we prefer the quiet and natural settings.

Joining this group has allowed us to meet new people we wouldn't have ordinarily met, share stories, learn from their experiences and share our silver obsession.

The best part about owning an Airstream is being part of a community and doing fun things like group meals, tech talks, and interesting excursions. These have made lasting memories.

Owning an airstream is more than just owning a travel trailer. It's becoming part of a welcoming family. The friendships, camaraderie, advice, resources, and shared experiences that come with being a member have enhanced our Airstream life. It's more fulfilling than we could have imagined.

We look forward to meeting more of our members and affiliates sharing laughs around the campfire (s'mores optional), hearing about favorite places to camp and tasting your best recipe at a potluck.

Happy Trails, Amy and Brian Bracken



Boon . dock . ing ;

camping, in an RV, without any hookups.



Yvonne Theodor

INWAC's last rally was a special one...It was our last rally of the year, but it was our first boondocking rally. What is boondocking you ask? It is glamping without any hookups, no sewer, no water, no electricity.

Since it was INWAC's first boondocking rally, hosts Theo and Yvonne Theodor wanted it to be far enough away from our creature comforts, but close enough to a town with all the necessities if needed.

Tsillan Cellars turned out to be the perfect destination for us. Last year, Yvonne called Tsillan Cellars and asked if they have room for boondocking for recreational vehicles (RVs). The manager Bob Hargadon stated while they have the room Tsillan Cellars has never had RV's camp there before. This was a new concept for Tsillan Cellars and decided to give it a go. Boy we were happy they did.

Our trailers had a beautiful view of Lake Chelan and Tsillan Cellars winery and vineyard.

Friday night we feasted on delicious charcuterie cones filled with various cured meats, crackers, cheeses and nuts along with fresh fruit. Members shared their favorite appetizers as well. On the side of the Theodor's trailer a slideshow on boondocking was presented. This was a great tech talk as each person had something to share; different websites, apps, places to stay, or items they take when boondocking.

Saturday began with a scrumptious buffet of homemade sourdough cinnamon rolls, bagels and schmears, as well as fresh fruit and leftover charcuterie cones. During this time our gracious host and owner of Tsillan Cellars, Dr. Bob Jankelson (Dr. Bob), visited us. After we ate and drank our coffees and teas it was time to get ready for the day. Some chose to ride their bikes into Chelan to check out the scenic town. Some went on the Winemakers Production Tour.

The Winemakers Tour was led by Dr. Bob himself. The tour began with a wine tasting along with Dr. Bob telling us of his desire to create a beautiful and relaxing winery inspired by travels and winery experiences in Italy. Built in 2000, Tsillan Cellars is Chelan's first winery. Dr. Bob led us to the production room where he introduced Tsillan Cellars' Head Winemaker, Garrett Grubbs and his assistant and Vineyard Manager, Nick Stevens.

These gentlemen are both local men that have grown up in Chelan. In fact Garrett and his father used to farm the exact land the winery sits on when it was a Red Delicious apple orchard.

Garrett continued the tour by explaining how the wines are mashed by hand with long poles. They are then placed in huge vats before being filled into special oak casks made in France and the U.S. Under Garrett and Nick's hands Tsillan Cellars has won gold medals at the 2024 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition and 2024 Seattle Wine Competition.

Saturday evening everyone met for a wine tasting of four wines ranging from white, rose then to reds. We then enjoyed dinner at the winery's restaurant, Sorrento's.

In all I will say our first boondocking rally was a success. Dr. Bob also enjoyed having our beautiful shiny trailer boondocking there as well and has invited us back.

Just a side note...Another Airstream club was having their rally at the RV park in Chelan. They saw our trailers at Tsillan Cellars and inquired about boondocking there as well.

HOSTING A RALLY

Do you have a great RV park or event where you wished more Airstreamers could experience and join in the fun?? If so, please consider hosting a Rally for the Club.

Here's what would be needed:

1) You as the host call the RV Park and see how many sites can be reserved. Sometimes a Rally consists off 4-5 sites and sometimes it is more - it all depends on what the RV Park will let you have. Then, consider whether you want to have a no plans/no agenda Rally (Express Rally Form) or more hosted, formally planned Rally (INWAC Rally Guide).

2) Once the RV Park has been contacted, the host gets in touch with the INWAC Rally Coordinator and lets them know what is available and what is required of folks to reserve. The host then completes one of the forms below for either an Express Rally or a Formal Rally and emails it to the Rally Coordinator. The INWAC Board needs to approve all Rallies which is done via email or at a Board meeting. The information is given to the INWAC webmaster to put it in a JotForm registration form so it can be ready for online registration.

Setting up a no plans / no formal agenda rally:
[Express Rally Form](#)

Setting up a hosted, formally planned rally event:
[INWAC Rally Guide \(pdf\)](#)
[INWAC Rally Worksheet \(pdf\)](#)
[INWAC Rally Cost Worksheet \(pdf\)](#)

3) Folks go to the internet and fill out a JotForm which is then sent to the host to keep track of who has registered.

4) Go to the Rally and have fun.

What do you say??? Are you willing??
 If so, please respond and let me know.



Thanks for considering.

Suzanne

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