

GREATER BAY AREA



Greater Bay Area Airstream Club Newsletter March 2025



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President's Message
Mike Blom

70 years! August 3rd will mark the 70th anniversary of the very first Airstream caravan. This inaugural trip kicked off the formation of the Wally Byam Caravan Club. If you don't know, Wally Byam was the creator of Airstream travel trailers. Over the years this small caravan club grew to become the Airstream Club International, ACI, with over 19,000 members. Your GBAAC is working to weave a celebration or two into future rallies. GBAAC originally started out as the Santa Clara Chapter of the California Unit back in 1962. The formation rally was held May 5 and 6 at the Nyland Racetrack in San Juan Bautista. Along the way the Santa Clara Chapter became the Santa Clara Unit in 1964. It wasn't until 2016 that our club name became the Greater Bay Area Airstream Club to better reflect the members of the club and set us on a path for growth. From that small beginning 63 years ago, GBAAC now has more than 185 members and affiliates.

VOTE! You received an email on March 1st from Region 12. Elections are currently being held for Region board members. If you do not remember seeing the email please check your spam folder. It is worthwhile to participate in the voting and it is easy. Just click on the voting link in the email.

April is a busy month. We kick off the month with a rally at the Grass Valley RV Resort. This is a brand new campground and kudos go to Erica and Mark Evans for leading the exploration and rally organizing. Later in April we head down to one of our favorite campgrounds, Coyote Lake east of Gilroy. Darrin Lopez is working organizing trap shooting and Chris Martindill will lend her artistic flair to the festivities. I hope to see you soon!

Safe travels,

Mike Blom
President GBAAC

2025 Rallies

Check out the 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. Hosting lets you go to a location you want and no waitlist!

2025 GBAAC & SVAC Rally Schedule					
Club	Dates	Campground & Location	Host	Co-Host	Notes
GBAAC	March 13 - 17	Harbor Village RV Park Half Moon Bay	Jill & Wayne Impink	Find new co- host	Released, still a spot or two available
GBAAC	April 3 - 7	Grass Valley RV Resort Grass Valley	Erica & Mark Evans	Mike & Shawn Blom	Released
GBAAC	April 24 - 28	Coyote Lake Campground Gilroy	Joann & Marc Godoy	Chris & Mark Martindill	Please let the hosts know you are going!
SVAC	May 8 - 12	Olema Campground - Olema, CA	TBD	TBD	Released
GBAAC	June 12 - 15	Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort - Felton, CA	Sally MacDonald & Scott Gerken	Mike & Shawn Blom	Released
GBAAC	July 7 - 11	Silver On the Seas - Cruise Ship Rally	Jason & Andrea Grendahl	Margaret & Brian Handshoe	Launches from Seattle, ~60 attendees
SVAC	July 17 - 20	Clio's River's Edge - near Graeagle	Shelley & Peter Denyer	Brian & Elena Tucker	Released - book directly w/ campground
GBAAC	Aug 14 - 17	Costanoa KOA - Pescadero, CA	Ken Lalanne & Linda Weissman	TBD	Releasing mid-April
ACI	Aug 23 - 28	International Rally - York, PA			Airstream Club's 70th Anniversary Rally
GBAAC	Sept 11 - 15	Bodega Bay RV Park	Eleanor & John McFarlin	Chris & Mark Martindill	Annual Business Meeting
SVAC	Oct 9 - 13	Gold Country RV Resort - Pine Grove	TBD	TBD	Carol working on JotForm
Region 12	Oct 15 - 19	Bonelli Bluffs RV Resort - San Dimas	Region 12		Annual Region Rally
GBAAC	Oct 22 - 27	Napa Valley Expo RV Park	Mike & Shawn Blom	TBD	Newbie Rally
GBAAC	Nov 14 - 17	Black Oak Casino - Tuolumne, CA	TBD	TBD	Business meeting & Installation Rally
GBAAC	Dec 11 - 15	Jackson Rancheria RV Park, Jackson, CA	Andrea & Jason Grendahl	TBD	White Elephant Rally

2026 looks to be an exciting year too. Reservations to hold campgrounds for our members is already under way. We not only need you to host a rally, but have other volunteer opportunities as well. Have any graphics talent? We could use some help crafting design elements for our communications. Come join a rewarding team experience!

In Memoriam

A couple of weeks ago we lost one of our



GBAAC members, Mark Leonard. Mark was an avid camper and had camped with a motorhome for many years before he and his wife, Sharon Karp-Lewis,

bought their first Airstream in 2020. In 2023 Mark and Sharon upgraded to a Pottery Barn model with many future rallies planned. Mark joined the GBAAC Executive Board as 3rd Vice President in 2024 and was an active member of our Rally Committee. Mark's comments were always very thoughtful with a focus on what was best for our members. We will miss Mark as a rally companion, considerate volunteer and mostly as a friend.

Hosting

Of the many volunteer opportunities at GBAAC, one constant need is for people to host or co-host rallies. Co-hosting is a great way for you to get your feet wet and learn the ins and outs of organizing a rally.

Your rally committee makes plans for where and when the rally will take place. The club VP's will contact the campground and determine how many sites to reserve. Once a host has raised their hand, then planning the rally announcement and organizing the sign-up form for attendees happens.

You do not need elaborate plans to make a rally successful. A little organization coupled with communication to the rally goers will get people on the same page. The hardest part of hosting is managing the cancellations and waitlist.

Depending on the campground's policies, some rallies need to be announced a year in advance. It is hard for many of us to commit to a rally a full year in advance. As people's

plans change, then communicating cancellations and on-boarding people from the waitlist becomes the focus.

Deciding what happens at the rally is whatever you make it. If you are new to hosting, make the rally plan simple. Happy Hour and a potluck can be all you plan. If there are wineries or other must-see locations near the rally site, just inform the attendees what their opportunities are. You do not need to plan every morning, afternoon and night.

Remember, if you volunteer to host/co-host before the rally sign-up is released, you get to *register for the rally before the membership!* Hosting puts you in direct contact with your fellow club members and strengthens bonds within your group. When you attend your next rally, go and chat with the hosts. If there is something you would like to see happen at a rally, volunteer and make it happen.

International Rally

Anyone planning on going the International Rally in Your, PA? We are trying to connect individuals together so they can caravan either on the way out or on the way back. The rally is August 23 – 28 and travelling with others makes the journey more interesting. There are not only great campgrounds along the way but Courtesy Parking and Harvest Hosts experiences can expand your camping experience and makes the trip even more memorable. Reach out to a board member if you are planning on going and we will connect people together.



Photos From Rallies & More – Come Join The Fun!



Upgrade your cabinets?



Petaluma KOA Rally



Thoughtful Welcome Gift



Lunch at Lagunitas Brewery



“Testing” a new campground on the Delta



Campfires are a rally staple



Anchor Bay is a great place to camp

Sponsorship Provided By



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