



Airstream Club International

Region *X-tra*

 *Traveling the West*

Newsletter



Jan 2024

airstreamclub.org/region10

Winter Issue

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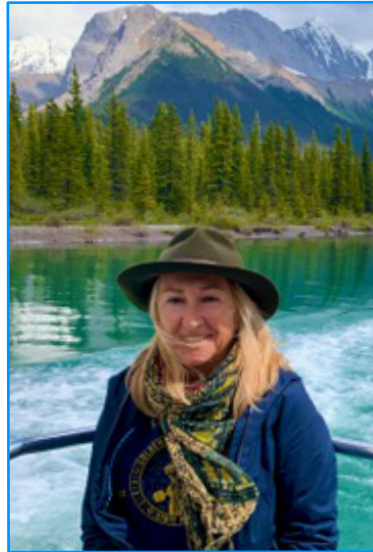
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President's Message



By the time you are reading this, the holidays will be in the rear view mirror and rally schedules for 2024 will be taking shape. As you are making your camping plans, remember to keep May 8-12 open for the Region 10 rally in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Registration will start January 8th at noon PST. Welcome to all the new Region 10 local club members and Members at Large (not part of a specific local club). Our region is growing! We currently have 1129 BRN's in what

is geographically the largest ACI region.

The International Board of Trustees (the governing body of the Airstream Club International) just had its quarterly meeting in November. I must say I am enjoying this part of the Region President experience. It takes a whole lot of volunteers to make this club of 9500 or so rigs function. Some highlights of our meeting include a new relationship with Harvest Hosts that will launch a private platform for ACI members next summer; a feasibility study to develop and build an RV park on ACI property adjacent to Airstream Inc (they build our trailers); a program to develop and deepen relationships between Airstream exclusive dealers and ACI.

I want to remind you that there are great benefits to your club membership. You can find the details on the website at <https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section>. These include discounts for Goodyear Tires, Michelin Tires, Harvest Host memberships, Griot's Garage, *(continued on page 2)*

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Solo Stove, Passport America, and others. One of the most underutilized benefits is the Courtesy Parking Program. ACI members offer other members a place to park at their home at no cost while you are on the road. Beats a rest stop or Walmart parking lot! It's also a great way to meet new friends and Airstream owners.

Almost all of the planning around your Region 10 rally is complete. We have chartered the Mish-An-Nock double decker boat for a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, arranged a tour of the Buck Knife factory, assembled a team to prepare a fabulous dinner for all 220 of us, hired a great cover band and caterer for our last night at Blackwell Island RV Resort, and have many seminars and tech talks interspersed (including a backup class with two trailers available, ladies!). The area is rich in bike trails, shopping, dining, museums, and scenic beauty. The Inland Northwest Airstream Club has really stepped up to the plate in helping plan and organize this superb event.

~Florence Tramoni President, Region 10



Region 10 Rally May 8-12, 2024

We are thrilled to announce our biennial Region 10 rally which will be at the beautiful Blackwell Island RV Resort (<https://www.idahorvypark.com/aerial.html>) in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. There will be 110 full hook up sites for our members and a great clubhouse where we will meet for meals, seminars, and happy hours.

This area has so much to offer our only problem will be fitting it all in.

We have chartered the Mish An Nock for a private cruise on the lake, and

we are putting together meals, food trucks, music, seminars, hand on classes, tours, and bike rides (check out the [Centennial Trail](#)).

The charming town of Coeur d'Alene has plenty of shops, restaurants, and galleries and there is some great golf to be played at the CDA Resort as well as nearby courses.

Please mark your calendars now and look for the JotForm registration in early January 2024.





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Region 10 Logo Wear and More - Great for Rallies!

All of our Region 10 products are sold and shipped by TeePublic, with a "Satisfaction Guarantee." TeePublic ships internationally so our Canadian clubs can shop as well.

For each sale, your Region 10 receives a commission. The income from sales of merchandise will be used to support officer travel to attend installation rallies for the seven clubs in Region 10.

When you visit the storefront [here](#), you will see several designs listed. Currently, the men's and women's classic Tee shirts have an option for a small logo on the front and larger logo on the back, indicated by the description under the design icon. This Region 10 version is available [here](#). Scroll down for other product options, such as magnets, stickers, tote bags and travel mugs.

As we receive the individual unit logos, we will feature the unit's logo on the front and Region 10 logo on the back. At this time, we have the Alberta-Saskatchewan Unit's logo in all the products, which you can view [here](#), the Oregon Airstream Club's logo [here](#) and Idaho's [here](#).

TeePublic has excellent "fitting review" information and great customer support. Check out all the design options. Please note that the women's sizes tend to run small.

We now have an official Region 10 flag. The 3' x 5' flag is two sided and is available through Amazon for about \$24 plus shipping. If you would like a custom Region 10 flag, please contact me at airstream355@gmail.com and I will send you the artwork, the Amazon link and instructions for uploading and ordering. I would love to have more pictures of our Region 10 flag flying at a rally.

Safe travels!



NK'MIP Osoyoos Joint BC and Oregon Rally May 3-6, 2024 ~Sharon Wieder



What do you get when you combine Airstreamers, campfires, wine, golf, hiking and biking, indigenous culture, a big lake and a wonderful RV resort? An amazing rally that ends with great memories and new friends.

Just north across the US border, come and feel the real warmth of the South Okanagan in British Columbia. Perfectly situated on the shores of Osoyoos Lake with lots of lakefront access



and tucked between lush working vineyards at the edge of the Sonora Desert you can explore new experiences until you run out of time. You don't have to say 'eh?!' to fit in or feel welcomed plus your dollar goes 30% farther!

In an effort to encourage more interaction between the clubs of Region 10 and especially the BC unit a joint rally between Oregon and BC has been planned at NK'MIP (say "ink-a-nee") RV resort in Osoyoos BC May 3-6, 2024.



The timing of this rally also gives you a jump start to the Region 10 Rally in Idaho May 8-12 with a couple of relaxed days to travel from BC to Idaho. Or just go directly to Idaho as the resort has early spaces set aside. Go to the [Oregon Airstream Club](#) event page to sign up.



Airstream Club International 2023 Review ~ Kathy Geese, Past Region 10 President and current Airstream Club International (ACI) Executive Council and Board of Trustees member



Hope that everyone in Region 10 had a holiday season filled with friends, family, and lovely holiday traditions. Now we begin the “cozy season” where we start thinking about getting our rigs ready and what improvements/repairs need to be made, check out the over 100 events in just our region on our local club and airstreamclub.org website, and plan for new adventures in 2024. I want to give a HUGE thank you to all of you who have volunteered on the local club, region, and national level as volunteers are the heart of this organization. None of the friendships and fun would happen without you! And just a reminder that as an ACI/WBCCI member, you are welcome to attend any events happening across the US and Canada. If a particular rally or caravan is full, get on the wait list. I was told five years ago I would be waiting years for an opening for the Albuquerque Balloon Festival rally. David and I got on the wait list and

three months later, I was officially registered!

I realize many of you reading this newsletter “just want to go camping” but you might be interested in what goes into the decisions that the board makes on behalf of our members. For example: Airstream Inc. (they build our rigs) invited the ACI board to Jackson Center, OH, last May for a private tour of the new factory and museum and offered the use of their conference rooms for strategic planning sessions. As your board, we review the past, short-term, and long-term finances of the club. We want to remain viable, have a proper/appropriate financial reserve approach for the club, deliver value to you as members, and look at how to manage rising costs that all of us see in our everyday lives. As a region president at that time, I was part of the group invited and we spent three days discussing our opportunities and challenges and planning our future as a club. While you may have heard of many of these through other WBCCI communications, five goals were identified, and here is the progress we are making on those goals:

1 & 2) Internal and External Communication and we are seeing progress on those goals with the online Fireside Chats with ACI president Eric McHenry and Executive Director Lori Plummer, improvement of the search tool with menus for members on the ACI website and easy-to-find resources (in development), a coming program for a free local club MailChimp account linking to the ACI database to assist local clubs in communications with members, Blue Beret Monthly bulletin, and ACI blog. We are working on a Q&A platform where board members can quickly answer questions from members.

3) Training. The demographics of our club have changed over the past ten years and many of our members work full-time or have other volunteer obligations in their community. Clubs have struggled to attract board members and several clubs across the country have folded due to lack of leadership. Curriculum available to the local, regional, and national levels is being developed and modules for boards to use in recruiting, training, and retaining board members will be posted on the ACI website as completed.

4) Infrastructure. For those of you who have been to our club offices in Jackson Center, with the growth in membership, our facility has been seriously outgrown. In addition, the offices have buckets set strategically as the ceiling leaks! The board discussed safety issues, the cost of repairs, and additional space needed and it was decided it would be more economically feasible to purchase an available commercial building next door. An exploratory committee has been formed (*continued on page 6*)

Airstream Club International 2023 Review *(continued from page 5)*

and feasibility studies will be conducted but among plans for the current offices and property may be a privately funded campground and clubhouse. Airstream Inc. has become a destination with members requesting to tour the new factory and visit the museum and they have expressed interest in partnering on the campground project but we are still very early in the discussions.

5) Welcome and Retain Members. Our membership chairs on every level are working to ensure that new members get up to speed quickly about how to participate in their local club events. We all know the excitement of seeing our old friends again at a rally but we also need to seek out those people that are looking lost, introduce them to others, make sure they feel welcome, and, encourage them to ask questions! We are fortunate as a club that retaining members is much easier than many other clubs. Our annual membership is less than a nice dinner out these days and we are getting so much for those dollars! Our entertainment is planned for us (thank you rally hosts), camping sites held or even reserved, invaluable technical advice and assistance offered by other members, lifelong friendships made, and the list goes on and on. Add to that product and membership discounts through the ACI website and coming this summer, a Harvest Host – ACI members-only website where you can overnight camp for FREE on the property of fellow members as you travel from one area to another! WBCCI courtesy parking has been available for several years but is an underutilized program, primarily due to the cost and complexity of improving our existing website. Upon the completion of the backend work, all current WBCCI members will receive a special log-in code at no charge and much like Harvest Host, be able to plug in starting and ending points for the trip and the length of the trailer and be able to see all locations along the route where Airstream members offer courtesy parking. Only current Airstream members will have access to the information and like Harvest Host, the program will generally be one-night boondocking with no hookups. For current Harvest Host members, your paid membership will allow you to access the winery, museum, farms, etc. businesses that offer camping with a purchase of product(s) or in some cases, a donation.

Some great suggestions that came from members this past year are being implemented and more about that will be coming. If you have any suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at kgeese@airstreamclub.org.

Editor's Desk ~ Carolyn White

Wanted: Your photos and write-ups about a rally you attended, such as your local club rally, any favorite "One Pot Wonders" recipes, your favorite modification, or ????. With many of you reminiscing about past adventures and anticipating future travels, your editor expects to receive reports of the roads traveled with accompanying pictures. The deadline for newsletter submission is March 15 for the Spring issue. Email airstream355@gmail.com with your newsletter contributions.

The new Region 10 2024 Rally logo is now available online through TeePublic. Click [here](#) to view the great selection of products and colors from adult and kids apparel to mugs, pillows, magnets, stickers, totes and more. Remember, women's sizes run small!



New Region 10 2024
Rally Logo

Conrail 31225 ~Florence Tramoni

There she was. Under a tree in the middle of a field near Horsefly, B. C. Just as she had been for 25 years. Tires flat yet a cheery demeanor. The 1973 31' Excella was listed for sale on Kijiji, a buying and selling platform like our Craig's List. Dave and Kathy Lockwood made the drive from their home in Calgary, Alberta just in case; they really wanted a 22', but you never know. Dave was a crash rescue firefighter at Calgary International Airport, and formally educated and trained as an aircraft maintenance engineer. Kathy had been a flight attendant for 19 years. One could say planes were closely tied to their DNA.



They bought the trailer on the spot. Kathy recalls how sad she had felt when she saw that Airstream alone and abandoned, and that it had been out there for so many years. A gas station not far from that field had just the tires they needed to get home. Dave had brought with him extra running lights, brakes, and miscellaneous parts he might need just to be highway safe. On the drive home, they talked about the "problem" of the length. Kathy could see the wheels turning in Dave's brain which was

already imagining in four dimensions what this transformation could look like. It would be four years before they would stand back and admire what once had just been a vision in a field.

They tell me they like projects, but to any observer this was more like a major undertaking. The trailer came with the original manual which contained the wiring diagram. As Dave stared at the shell, he knew that with the right math he could determine the required stability by analyzing weight distribution calculations. What if he were to cut the body off at each end? Three feet off the front was the number he started with because of the window placement. So then, why not three feet off the back he mused? They agreed that they would make the Excella into a 25'. Thus, the BRN folks (this is so brilliant): 31225 - - thirty-one to twenty-five. They quickly joined WBCCI even though it would be years before they would have a trailer on the road and applied for the BRN lest anyone else get it.

A long time Star Wars fan, Dave loves working with plastics and metal. He has a full sized R2D2 at home that he constructed. He says one of the biggest challenges of the trailer transformation was building the shower. He had to find a way to bend ABS plastic to fit the curvature of the trailer. Neither are designers so it was a free-for-all once the bow and stern were welded, and the floor and walls were rebuilt. They made cardboard cut outs of every piece before building it: the sofa, kitchen appliance layout, bedroom, and all cabinets. What were they going to use for closures on the cabinets? Well, the red closures from a Boeing 737 of course. And what about a pantry and trash compartment? Well, two service carts also from a 737. You know the ones the flight attendants roll up and down the aisle to serve food and beverages? They just built everything in the kitchen around the repurposed carts. The overhead bins in the bedroom, well, take a guess where those came from: yes, a 737. Ingenious. Even the lighting is diffused lighting like on a passenger jet.



There were no work logs kept so who knows how many hours went into the project? They worked in the summertime only because they did not have an enclosed space during the snowy winter months. All told, it was a four-year commitment. The project always stayed fun, and the small details just came together in the end. Would they do it again, I asked? Kathy and Dave looked lovingly at each other, and said "yeah, maybe, if the right one came along." Could they get two-foot-itis?

The Region 10 Tech Talk Times ~ Ray Putnam



Of all the required maintenance tasks in the RV, plumbing is generally considered the most unpopular, and therefore, results in the least attended. You should encourage yourself to visually check (with proper tool(s) in hand) each connector. Tighten hose clamps to a “tight hold” and be careful not to over tighten, which could cause a break or leak at that junction. The in-line water filter before the RV pump has two clamp connections or threaded connections, one at the inlet and one at the outlet. You should remove the in-line water filter bulb and clean it out annually. Water bearing hoses, whether

rubber or plastic, located near heater hoses, tend to require more frequent inspections due to the variants in temperature in close quarters. Plumbing that is not adequately supported will tend to loosen due to road vibration, requiring close inspection at shorter intervals. Carefully inspect the plumbing lines bends or curves in their routing and check those locations often. Remember that a wet spot due to a plumbing leak can be unobserved for long periods of time due to hidden locations, eventually resulting in potential flood conditions en route or parked, not to mention damage to structural wood. Our club has a leak test rally in the rain just to find any annoying roof leaks.

What follows are some considerations about water and water related systems, followed by information on the IRVWPC or Intelligent RV Water Pump Controller. Please send in your ideas for future articles. OR, I have 501 articles about all things Airstream in my computer. You send in the idea, and I can easily comply with the appropriate article(s). Best regards for the new year. See you SAFELY down the road. rayputnam@icloud.com

Airstream Plumbing and Water

It would be helpful for you to know your potable water system thoroughly. You will have potable water coming into your RV at two locations. One location is the incoming water from the park faucet directly to the RV input. The other incoming water is from the park faucet to the Airstream freshwater tank.

When you use park faucet water to supply your RV water, just inside your RV wall, a check valve is supposed to prevent water from going into the freshwater tank. Sometimes, when you add water to the freshwater input, you may find your freshwater tank filling up too. Sometimes the check valve doesn't work properly, and you may have to open and close the pressure at the park faucet to free up the check valve to make it function properly. You may have to repair or replace the check valve or get help to do the same. All RVs have this in-line check valve. You must be able to have pressurized water from the park faucet that will properly feed the RV's water system and not over-pressurize your system. You should have a water pressure adjustment device that will allow you to protect your RV water system from excessive pressure. Recommended water pressure to your RV is 40 to 55 psi. Keep in mind that water from the park faucet to the water system in your trailer requires filtration either at the supplied water faucet or at the entry point on the trailer. The more detailed the filtration the better and the longer your system will function properly.

The other method of getting water into the RV water system is by filling the freshwater tank and then using the RV's water pump to pressurize the system and operate the faucets in the kitchen, bathroom, shower, etc. This method does not require a valve restricting pressure to the water system. One needs to remember that adding fresh water to the freshwater tank always requires filtration before adding the water. If you allow small particles of debris into the freshwater tank, then the filter *(continued on page 9)*

The Region 10 Tech Talk Times *(continued from page 8)*

at the pump inside your RV is your last opportunity to have clean water. Debris in the tank can cause a pump to malfunction.

Whether you are filling the freshwater tank or if you are connected to the water from the park faucet you will need to filter the incoming water. We use an extensive water filter for filling our freshwater tank. When the water leaves the filters we use, it has been filtered three separate times. A 5-micron first-stage filter removes or reduces rust and sediment. The 0.5-micron second-stage coconut shell carbon block filter improves taste and smell and removes or reduces chlorine, volatile organic compounds, and other contaminants. The third stage filter provides protection with the capability to remove or reduce bacteria.

Some of your RV faucets may have in-line filters as part of the faucet assembly. If you have these kinds of filters, we recommend removing them before faucet installation as they are difficult to troubleshoot and repair once installed. It is better to rely on the proper filtration of water being introduced to the freshwater tank. Note: We don't use pressurized water to the check valve location. We only add water to our freshwater tank. We never need to use a water pressure adjustment valve for filling.

Some RVs may have a water counter device at the RV pump output. These devices, along with a remote digital readout of water usage, will monitor water usage and report water being used from the freshwater tank. The readout can be set for water used or water remaining. This is a common feature on marine applications but works very well on RVs also because both RVs and marine applications are 12VDC powered.

Some RVs have a black-water flushing system which consists of an external water entry point powering a rotary sprayer built-in to your black-water tank. If this system isn't used very often it can plug up and become unusable. The more you use the rotary sprayer the longer this device will perform properly. If the sprayer fails to work, you may have to get an external device (Valterra or comparable) which has a built-in back-flush hose connection. This fitting goes between the RV tank exit valve and the flexible hose. We recommend a clear connector to help facilitate visualizing this operation. This fitting can be straight or curved. Sometimes having a 90-degree bend in this clear connector can make draining easier. This external device is also usable on RVs that don't have the black-water built-in flush capability.

Flushing the black-water tank can cause potential problems when the tank isn't flushed properly (empty tank only when full). Always dump the black-water tank before dumping the gray water tank. After manual dumping the black or gray tank, you may still need to back-flush the black tank to achieve successful cleaning with the external back-flush fitting. And/or use two five-gallon buckets of water manually flushing by pouring into the toilet. This is a time-tested solution to cleaning the black-water tank. Another method of black tank cleaning is adding about 10# of crushed ice and some water to the black tank through the toilet and then driving over a bumpy road to scour the interior of the tank. This can help clean the tank and clean the water level sensors, if you have them in your tank. After the ice melts it is easy to dump the water.

Just a suggestion - don't put any paper products in your black tank. Have seal-able baggies near the toilet and use them. They go out with the trash. The most common valve issue for black water tanks is toilet paper plugging the valve seal (you can't see it and it is not easy to fix). Don't forget to lubricate the toilet flush valve with vegetable oil when winterizing. You may find products that can add lubricant to the black and gray water tanks that are advertised to facilitate smoother operation of the black and gray water tank valves.

As an alternative to the 4" flexible dumping hose, you might consider either a 12VDC macerator and 1" hose or a water powered macerator and 1" hose. Either of these allows you to dump *(continued on page 10)*

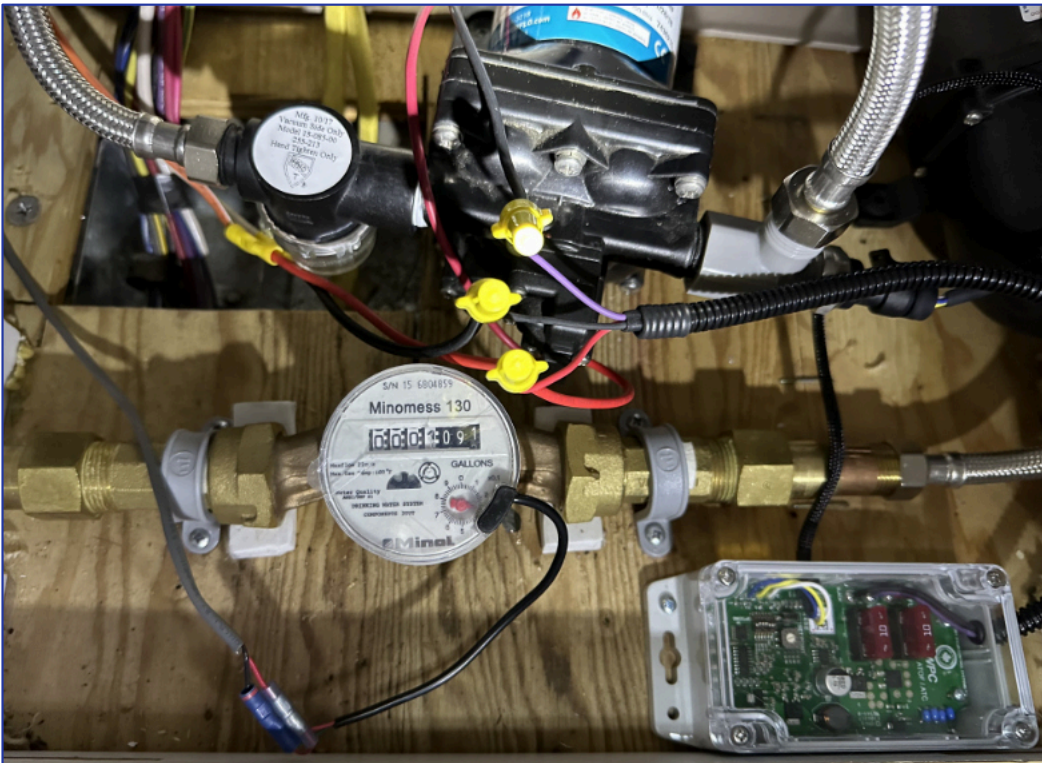
The Region 10 Tech Talk Times *(continued from page 9)*

in all conditions when the dump site is higher than the black tank or gray tank valves. Essentially you can pump uphill. Remember to flush the macerator hose properly so that it can be put away ready for the next time. Some these devices allow longer hoses, roughly 25' or so.

Some RVs have the Alde central heating system. This is a hydronic system. The heat source comprises an LPG or 120-volt immersion heater, which heats a liquid mixture consisting of water and glycol. If you have an Alde heating system, you may also have antifreeze added into the self-contained pre-heating tank. The heat is transferred to the water that flows to the respective heating devices in your RV. Read up on your Alde system and follow directions for proper maintenance.

Some RVs have a water heater that operates only when hot water is needed. A hot water faucet is opened to cause the water to flow, and the heater comes on to heat the water. This is hot water on demand. Sometimes this system works satisfactorily for the RV owner. However, if one is trying to save water and you must run water to get hot water, it is hard to economize. One needs to consider the operation of a hot-water-on-demand system as compared to a hot water heater. If you like to boondock, a hot-water-on-demand system may not be wise.

Earlier in this newsletter we reported to you about a device from Canada that, when added to the RV's in-house water system (using the water pump in the RV), provides much smoother water delivery to the faucets in your RV. The Intelligent RV Water Pump Controller (IRVWPC) is sourced from Canada. The installation and operating manual list two contact points: irvwpc@gmail.com and WWW.irvwpc.com. I have completed installation of the IRVWPC device. I like it. I think it is worth the price - \$229 plus shipping. I have printed an annotation of the Controller Installation from the manual, based upon my experience. (See the Winter January 2023 ACI Region 10 Newsletter for the annotation of the Controller Installation.) It may prove helpful for any of you who might like to tackle this project. Note: When installing an IRVWPC device utilizing a tank water heater, the unit had to be reprogrammed so that it would operate properly.



The intelligent RV Water Pump Controller installed in the lower right-hand corner of the picture.

How to Add Photos to the ACI Directory~ Kathy Geese

One of the benefits of serving ACI members by sitting on the Executive Council is that I get to see every club's newsletter across the US and Canada. There are some very knowledgeable members out there who write for their local club and region newsletters! As the saying goes, imitation is the highest form of flattery and this article was in one of the articles that came across my desk.

I have found that I have great recall of names and amazing recall of faces but putting the two together doesn't always happen. Along with the memory, the vision isn't exemplary and I find myself struggling to read the tiny type on our badges at rallies. Wouldn't it be nice if we could take the list of attendees coming to a rally and nudge our memories with faces to go with names? Did you know that the ACI Membership Directory has a place for you to put your photo? I would consider it a personal gift if you haven't done it already, to add yours!

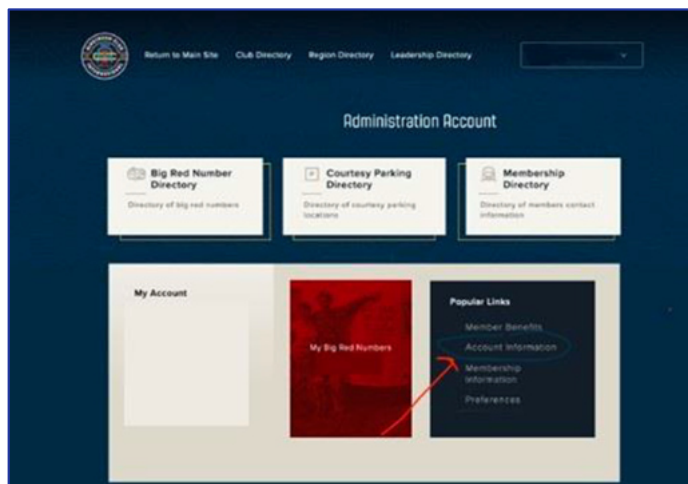
And if you are one of those knowledgeable people that have an idea for an article for our Region 10 newsletter, Carolyn White, our talented editor, would love to hear from you! airstream355@gmail.com

Before you start:

1. Select and save a photo(s) from your computer.
 - a. The image you select will not be very large on the Membership Dashboard so please select a closeup.
 - b. If both you and your partner have an Airstream Club International account, then select a photo for each of you.
2. Make sure you can find it in your computer files for later.

Now log into your Airstream Club International account.

1. Go to the Airstream Club International site at: <https://airstreamclub.org/>
2. On the top-right, click on Login.
3. Fill in your email and password. Click Log in
4. This will open your Administration Account web page.
5. Under Popular Links, click on Account Information. (See adjacent photo)
6. Click on Remove even if you have never uploaded a picture.
7. Click on Browse (Windows) / Choose (Apple) to open a window to the files on your computer.
8. Find your picture and select it.
9. Click on Open at the bottom right on Windows or Choose at the bottom right on Apple.
10. Then click on the Save Profile button so this photo file is added to your profile.
11. You will automatically return to see your Account Information.
12. All done! The photo should now display on the Membership Dashboard.



Grapes and Grains - A Sip of Oregon Rally ~ Kathy Geese



Grapes and Grains (the largest WBCCI intraclub) and Oregon members will be hosting Sip of Oregon, September 3-8, 2024, in McMinnville, OR. Grapes and Grains members enjoy sharing their passion for, interest in, and knowledge of beverages made with grapes and grains. The Rally Registration fee will include a Signature Welcome Cocktail

or glass of wine, special hors-d'oeuvres, and a souvenir glass. Optional winery, distillery, and brewery tours will be available as well as gourmet Wine Matching dinners and a tour of Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum (home of the Spruce Goose).

For those of you who are members, watch your email from Grapes and Grains in mid-January for information about the RV Park and rally reservations. We only have 25 sites which will go quickly so don't delay registration! For those of you who aren't members, here is more information [Join WBCCI Grapes and Grains group](#). Membership is only \$10 annually and check out their Facebook Page. [Facebook Grapes and Grains Group](#). Some fabulous cocktail recipes in that group!

Going to Sedalia, Missouri for the International Rally? Many of the Region 10 clubs will be offering caravans and a great way to start the adventure by signing up for this rally and then joining a caravan! Grapes and Grains will once again host a special event for Grapes and Grains members in Sedalia. If you miss Sip of Oregon registration and want on the wait list or have questions, contact kgeese@airstreamclub.org.

Streamin' to Sedalia - A Washington Airstream Club Caravan

The Washington Airstream Club is planning a caravan to Sedalia, MO for the 2024 Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia, MO. Details are still being finalized, but here are some of the highlights:

- Stops at campgrounds near Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks, Mt. Rushmore National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, and Custer State Park
- Tour at the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
- Kansas City

The caravan will be sixteen (16) days long and start on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 and end Friday, October 4, 2024 in Sedalia. Registration for the ACI Rally is available now so we can arrive as a group. [Register online](#) soon as the ACI Rally is filling quickly.

The kitty fee is \$1,400 for two (2) people. Contact the caravan leaders for a single person kitty fee. All fees are due by Sunday, May 19, 2024.

For caravan registration, contact caravan leaders, Kim & Tim Robitaille via email: kimberlyrobitaille@gmail.com.



Alberta/Saskatchewan Pop-Up Balloon Rally ~Jane Goudie



Alberta/Saskatchewan Pop Up Balloon Rally was held for the first time, taking advantage of the International Balloon Festival held in High River, Alberta from Sept.28 - Oct.1, 2023.

We were parked in a semi-circle at Group Site B at the George Lane Campground, within walking distance of the



balloon launch site and our downtown activities. Our group of 10 included 4 Airstream motorhomes and 6 trailers. We welcomed new members Carol and Doug Whiteside to their first Airstream rally and what a fun weekend we had.



We only had a couple of opportunities to view the hot air balloons due to the weather, but what we saw was fantastic! On the first flight, there were about 30 balloons (Hounds) that competed to catch the (Hare). We watched in anticipation as first the Hare went up by itself (Baby Yoda), and then the other balloons raced to inflate and follow. As they would inflate, we would be guessing what shapes they'd transpire into, and we were amazed at the variety and colors of the balloons and the skill of the operators. We thought it would be mayhem, but surprisingly there wasn't a lot of bumping of neighboring balloons, and they all got off safely with "most" following a similar path as Baby Yoda.

We were told there were many places to eat downtown, so Garry and I went to scout out a restaurant. We came upon a lovely diner and there was a man fixing the main door, and we asked if the restaurant was open or closed. The man replied that the diner was always closed!

We discovered that almost that whole entire street was used for movie sets and so I decided also not to visit the pharmacy next door.

A half block away we discovered wonderful places to eat, have coffee and treats. We had an enlightening walking tour of High River, courtesy of the museum of the Highwood. Our tour guide gave us a history tour including the buildings, the murals, and the train tracks. We had a delicious lunch in a dining car restaurant in the heart of High River. On our last evening we had a marguerite happy hour and some of us went to the Wales Theatre (1927) and enjoyed an Agatha Christie movie. We look forward to making this pop-up rally a regular event.



One Pot Wonders - Panera's Broccoli Cheddar Soup~ Carolyn White

Here's my variation on Panera's Broccoli Cheddar Soup. Get your six quart (or larger) dutch oven out. I've used both half & half and unsweetened coconut milk in this recipe and find that either produces a delicious soup. Use a 1-1 gluten-free (GF) baking flour, such as Bob's Red Mill brand, for a GF option. I use organic Better than Boullion low sodium vegetable soup base to make the broth. Chicken broth is another alternative - beef broth would be too strong!

Ingredients:

1/3 cup melted butter	4 cups chopped broccoli florettes
1 medium onion finely diced	1 cup carrots, julienned or finely chopped
1/3 cup flour (or gluten-free 1-1 flour)	½ tsp. Grated nutmeg
2-2/3 cups half & half (or unsweetened coconut milk)	10 oz (~ 3 C) sharp grated cheddar cheese
2-2/3 cups vegetable broth	Salt & pepper to taste

Instructions:

1. Melt the butter & sautee the onions in it until soft. Sprinkle the flour over the mixture. Cook and stir over medium heat for 1-2-minutes.
2. Whisk in half & half (or unsweetened coconut milk) and vegetable stock.
3. Add the broccoli & carrots. Cook over low heat for 20-25 minutes or until the broccoli & carrots are tender.
4. Add salt & pepper. You can leave the soup chunky or blend about a cup or all of it (my preference) with an immersion blender for a smoother soup. Return to low heat and add the cheese. If the heat is too high, the soup can get grainy. Stir in the nutmeg. Enjoy with your favorite crusty bread or rolls.



Region 10 Airstream Clubs

[Alberta/Saskatchewan Club #120](#)

[British Colombia Airstream Club #121](#)

[Idaho Airstream Club #035](#)

[Montana Airstream Club #061](#)

[NW Inland Airstream Club #179](#)

[Oregon Airstream Club # 090](#)

[Washington Airstream Club #112](#)

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Upcoming Region 10 Rallies

Region 10 Rally, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, May 8-12, 2024 (Registration opens January 8th)

If you made it this far, thank you for reading!