



New Member Handbook

ONTARIO CANADA AIRSTREAM CLUB (OCAC)

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Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) History:

Airstream was created by Wally Byam who began building Masonite trailers in Los Angeles during the late 1920s. In 1936, Byam introduced the "Airstream Clipper". Inspired by the International Caravans run by Wally Byam, creator and founder of Airstream, the club was chartered in 1955 in Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada during the Wally Byam Eastern Canadian Caravan. In 2019 the International Executive refreshed the website and added the new name Airstream Club International (ACI). As a member of WBCCI you are welcome to register and attend any Airstream event in Canada or the USA. These events are listed on a map located in the ACI website.

Some celebrity owners include: Tom Hanks, Johnny Depp, Adrien Brody, Steve Carell, Colin Farrell, Matthew McConaughey, Sean Penn, Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, Sandra Bullock, Kate Pierson, Tim Burton, Lenny Kravitz, Mark Wahlberg and many more.

Airstream Club International (Head Office):

Once you become a member of ACI, go to airstreamclub.org and complete your registration by setting up your profile. You can then change or update any of your information, and you can also search for a myriad of things including upcoming caravans and events throughout North America. The link to ACI is <https://airstreamclub.org>

Ontario Canada Airstream Club (OCAC) brief history:

In 1962 a small but enthusiastic group of Airstream owners began to put plans together to form the Ontario Unit which received its Charter on 24 January 1964. A second Charter was issued 24 January 1965 and the name was changed to the Ontario Canada Unit so as not to be confused with 12 cities in the US called Ontario. In 2023 the name was changed once again to the Ontario Canada Airstream Club removing the word UNIT replacing it with CLUB. Today we are called the Ontario Canada Airstream Club (OCAC).

Our club has a dedicated website located within the ACI website; simply search Ontario Club. We recommend you look at our website regularly and familiarize yourself especially with our By-laws under the Governance tab. The number 124 which you will see appearing on some documents is the Club number assigned by ACI and identifies our local club.

Region 2:

There are 13 regions across North America. We are in Region 2 which is made up of more than a dozen local clubs covering Ontario, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Washington D.C. Each year the Region 2 President holds a Rally, and all members of Region 2 are encouraged to attend.

Membership Fees:

The current annual membership fee per trailer is \$99. USD for ACI plus \$20. dues for our Ontario Club. ACI collects club dues on our behalf and then sends them back to our club. Membership dues are subject to change pending membership vote. The funds from each membership are used for club operating expenses. We are proud that our club is 100% run by volunteers.

Big Red Numbers:

When joining the club you were sent some Big Red Numbers (BRN). This is your unique identifier and is most important at an event especially in an emergency, like your house numbers. Your BRN's must be clearly visible on the trailer at all Airstream formal events, either attached to the Airstream itself on the front and back or visible in a window

International Rally:

In 1958 the first WBCCI International Rally was held in Bull Shoals, Arkansas with 300 Airstreams in attendance. It was modelled after the International Trailer Rallies that Wally Byam had attended in Europe. This quickly became WBCCI's biggest annual event with the number of Airstreams attending surpassing 1,000 in 1962, over 3,000 in 1970, and more than 4,000 in 1975 when the International Rally took place in Manitoba Canada. Today, the International Rally remains WBCCI's largest annual gathering. Attendance varies according to the number of campsites available at the venue, but attendance is generally between 1000 to 1300 rigs. Many National and Special Event Rallies are also offered each year. In addition, hundreds of Club and Region Rallies and dozens of National, Regional, and Unit Caravans are offered, providing club members with many opportunities to travel with their Airstreams.

Here is a brief synopsis of OCAC Executive and Committees duties. Detailed "Job" descriptions are available on the club website.

POSITION	ROLE	TERM
President Elected	Day to day operations of the club, chairs regular Executive meetings.	1 year
Vice President Elected	Fills in for president when president is not available. Selects Rally sites and hosts for the coming year. Sends a welcomes email and handbook to new members.	1 year
2nd Vice President Elected	Fills in for VP when VP is unavailable.	1 year
Past President	Sits on the Executive as an advisor.	1 year
Treasurer Elected	Responsible for keeping track of our finances and is the Club banker.	ongoing
Secretary Elected	Records minutes of meetings.	1 year
Trustees (Directors) 6 Elected	Represent and support our members, ensuring accountability and continuity within the Ontario Club. They serve a 2 year term with 3 elected yearly.	2 years

Committees

Caravan Appointed	Each club has a trained Caravan Chairperson who organizes club caravans or an international caravan which is registered with ACI.	Ongoing
By-law, Policy & Procedures Appointed	Reviews our Governance on an ongoing basis and makes recommendations to the Executive for changes (need to keep on top of ACI yearly changes).	Ongoing
Ethics & Grievances Appointed	Mediates grievances and reports to president.	Ongoing
Historical Appointed	Keeps track of Club history and maintains archives.	Ongoing
Membership Appointed	Keeps track of new and returning members and personally welcomes all new members.	Ongoing
Publications (Editor)Appointed	Publishes the Club Trillium newsletter.	Ongoing
Quartermaster Appointed	Responsible for club equipment inventory and swag. The quartermaster also has a variety of items for sale at events.	Ongoing
Sunshine Appointed	Sends out congratulations, get well or greeting cards to members.	Ongoing
Webmaster	Social media and posting information on our Club website regarding rally resources, activities, newsletters and governance. The webmaster also posts items on the protected web page which is accessed through the Trillium newsletter link.	Ongoing
Community Service Appointed	Pull tabs are collected by members then turned in at events. Tabs are used to support and purchase wheelchairs. Linus Project collects new homemade crocheted, knitted or quilted blankets which are gathered at the spring and fall Rallies and donated to any organization in need.	Ongoing
Financial Review	Reviews our financial books at fiscal year end.	Ongoing
Registrars (2)	Keep track of registrations for events.	Ongoing
Directory Appointed	Keeps Club directory up to date.	Ongoing

Communication:

Blue Beret	Published by ACI in the same months as our Newsletter.	
Trillium Newsletter	Published December, February, April, June, August and October. The “go to” place for the latest Club events, important dates, articles and other information. Anyone can submit an article for the Trillium.	Sent by e-mail to all current members.
Directory	Our club directory is now online and lists our club members and contact information.	Available through a link provided in the Trillium.
Documents & Governance	Club documents, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures and minutes	Accessible through a link provided in the Trillium.
Facebook	Titled Ontcanunit; open to current members only	Request permission to join.

Events Glossary:

Shakedown: informal event, held early May and is a good time for members to dust the snow off their rigs and get together. After sitting all winter it's time to check that everything is ship shape for road travel in the coming camping season.

Rendezvous: an informal gathering where Hosts establish some activities or light meals. There is no formal business included in a Rendezvous.

Winedezvous :is very similar to a Rendezvous but takes place in a wine region with tours and tastings at wineries, distilleries or breweries.

Rally: Formal event with business meetings. Rallies are held twice yearly and are a more formally organized affair which may include a catered meal and entertainment.

The Spring Rally includes a membership meeting and may involve voting on any necessary items.

The Fall Rally includes the Annual General Meeting where the membership votes on the slate of officers for the following year.

Any event may include but are not limited to: education seminars, workshops, training, tips and tricks, games, movie night, pot luck, some sort of competition such as a chilli cookoff, local excursions, sightseeing, exploring and much more. The event program is established by the Hosts.

Job Jars:

Events are always in need of help so when you arrive you will find a “Job Jar” listing tasks where volunteers are needed. More hands means less work. Getting involved is key to the success of an event and results in satisfaction both for the event organizers and yourself. Pitch in, get involved, it's your club and a great way to meet people.

Bring your own dishes or BYOD:

Most event programs will indicate BYOD. Have a carry bag for your own dishes, cutlery, and drink containers, don't forget napkins.

Happy Hour vs Hassle Tassel:

Happy Hour: members gather in one location, bring their lawn chairs, their own beverage and a snack to share with everyone.

Hassle Tassel: like Happy Hour except members are divided into several smaller groups and go to a predetermined host trailer with their chairs, their own beverage and a snack to share with everyone. These smaller gatherings allow members to get to know one another a little better.

Hosts and Co-hosts: A team of volunteers who step forward to establish and set the plans, programme and budget for an event. The 1st VP arranges for hosts for the events to be held the next year. There are rally resources on our Club website that set out guidance for hosting an event.

Costs to attend Events:

The hosts and their team establish the program for each event with the intent of breaking even on the costs. The hosts publish the fee structure as part of the event registration form. We are a not-for-profit organization so any surplus funds from an event are returned to the Treasurer. In the case of a loss, the Treasurer covers the deficit.

Registering for Events:

Registration information for our Club events is published in the Trillium newsletter or you can go to the ACI website events map and click on any event across North America to get information and to sign up.

Anyone owning an Airstream, but not a member of our Club, and after paying the posted Rally fees, can attend **ONE** Rally to decide if they'd like to join our Club. The non-member must be sponsored by a Club member.

Your First Event – What to Expect:

The event will be hosted by a few members (2 or 3 couples) who have volunteered to do the job. Their names will be on the registration form and they are responsible for running the event. Asking the hosts is the best way to get additional information before the event. The Registrar, the person you send the money to, is only responsible for collecting the event funds and keeping track of who is attending, and he/she does not necessarily know the details of the event. However, if the host's contact information is not available, the Registrar would be happy to pass along questions.

The event registration form will indicate what sort of electrical and water facilities are available. If the form says, "Rally Electricity", it means that several units will share a standard 15 amp circuit. This means that there will be enough power available to charge your batteries and run a TV, but that is it. Expect to run your fridge, furnace and hot water on propane. There is not enough power for toasters, microwaves, electric heaters and hair dryers. A few standard (15 amp) extension cords are useful to bring along. Usually, your power comes from the adjacent trailer, but sometimes the first trailer in line will be 100 feet from the outlet. "Rally Water" means that hoses are daisy chained from one trailer to the next. You should have a white potable water hose to reach the adjacent trailer (25 foot) plus a "Y" connector to provide a connection to your trailer and a connection for the next unit down the line.

As you arrive, you will probably be greeted by the parking crew. They will have already laid out the parking arrangements by putting red dots or flags on the ground. The idea here is to put the front jack post of the trailer close to the red dot. The dots are far enough away that each trailer can open awnings and slide outs. The crew will direct you to a spot and help get things aligned. The crew will also pass out a "goodie bag" with local information and the weekend schedule.

Please wear your name badge. The most important thing is the red dot, indicating you are a recent member. People will make an effort to introduce themselves and include you in things. If the weather is good, informal "Happy Hours" will break out in front of various trailers around 4 pm. Don't be shy about grabbing a chair and wandering over. Remember that anti-social grumpy people usually don't join trailer clubs!

There will be an event labeled "Registration" at a couple of times on Friday and Saturday. This involves dropping by the registration table and confirming that everything is in order. It is an opportunity to arrange to stay an extra day, or leave early. Also, this is where the tickets for catered events are passed out. Even if there are no changes to your registration, please stop by to get "checked off".

Also, near the registration table there will be a “Job List”. This is where attendees volunteer for one of the jobs the hosts need help with. Most often there are fewer jobs than attendees, so don’t feel you have to sign up for multiple tasks. The “Serving Breakfast” job is a great one for meeting all the attendees, if you don’t mind the early hour.

There will be an opening get together Friday evening, usually with coffee and cookies. Bring your own mug. The morning continental breakfasts require that you bring your own dishes and cups, we provide the rest.

A word of caution – while raising the hood of your vehicle at the side of the road usually means you have engine trouble, at a WBCCI event it means you are lonely. Like it or not, a committee will immediately be formed to assist you.

Booking Sites: Fairgrounds vs Campgrounds:

Large group campgrounds are accommodating and easier to book for early spring or late fall. Campgrounds are hesitant to hold a large number of spots during the peak season of July to September. Since COVID, many campgrounds have reduced the number of transient sites available and now offer only seasonal rentals. For a group like ours we reserve at least 50 sites for a Rally which makes acquiring campground space a challenge. On the other hand, fairgrounds are available during the peak camping season and can accommodate us.

Flamingos:

What’s with the pink bird? The flamingo is our unofficial mascot and retro symbol representing fun and adventure in the Airstream community.

Tips – tricks & ideas:

Do you want to learn some tips on trailer maintenance or repair, or travel ideas? Attend an event where there is a wealth of knowledge surrounding you, just ask.

Planning a trip:

There are many tools at your fingertips just ask at an event who uses what then use what works best for you.

Travel cards:

Have some travel cards made up and hand them out at events, Like a business card, it’s a quick, convenient and easy way of exchanging BRN numbers and information with other members and anyone you meet when travelling.

Caravans:

There are two types of caravans, 1. International and 2. Intra-Club and both have trained volunteer caravan leaders. The caravan leaders prebook all campgrounds, some meals, activities and excursions. The cost is calculated and shared equally by all the registrants. Caravan leader training is offered at the International Rally or occasionally online.

There may also be some club members who want to travel together, this is not an official caravan but a group of friends travelling.

Courtesy parking:

ACI has partnered with Harvest Host to book courtesy parking. Courtesy parking is offered by ACI members, you do not need to make a purchase.

Road Courtesy:

As well as obeying the rules of the road it's important to practice road courtesy. If you can see the BRN's of the rig in front of you then you are following too closely. If there is a lineup of traffic behind you, pull over when it is safe and convenient to do so and let them pass. When on the road our shiny silver glamping rigs stand out; you are only one but representing many.

Bucket List:

What is on your bucket list? If you don't have a bucket list, start one, then begin crossing off each item as you travel.

Travel with Friends:

As an alternative to going on a Caravan, a group of club members get together to travel.

Off season:

During the off season some members arrange lunches, and breakfasts throughout the province. Please refer to the Trillium and Facebook for information on these events.

Volunteering, we need you:

We all have hidden talents or expertise and we can use yours. What is your work background or special talent? How about a hobby or passion you'd like to share with us at an event? Programme and variety at an event is important, I'm sure we can fit you in.

What now:

Get involved, get on the road, have fun and make memories with every mile you travel.

Wally Byam's Creed

"In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream. To those of you who find in the promise of these words your promise, I bequeath this creed... my dream belongs to you."

To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.

To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.

To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.

To open a whole world of new experiences.. a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.

To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.

To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.

To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.

To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.

To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

- *Wally Byam*