

QUARTER 2

ARIZONA AIRSTREAM CLUB

REGION 11 RALLY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

There's still time to register!

The Region 11 Rally in Granby, Colorado is quickly approaching, and a lot of fun activities have been planned. Along with a lineup of great seminars and activities, there are also the wonderful amenities at Sun Outdoors Rocky Mountain RV Resort, such as a pool and spas, a recreational lake where you can kayak and paddle board, a delicious restaurant and tavern, a bowling alley, and

sports courts (pickleball, volleyball, and more). It's a big park, so if you need an easy way to get around, call the park to reserve a golf cart or bike rental. And of course, between regional activities, you can hike or explore the beautiful town of Granby. You should not be bored! And for those of us getting out of the desert, cooler weather at over 7900 ft elevation is also on the agenda!



The planned seminars should be practical and informative. Vinney Lamica will talk about all things Airstream related and will be available to examine your Airstream for maintenance issues, such as front-end separation. Luke Bernander will present on how to keep your Airstream in peak condition while on the road, and what you need to do to get your trailer ready for travel. Ian Hasund will talk about solar, electric, batteries, and Starlink. He will help you be a successful boondocker! These seminars will be outside.

Region 11 Rally continued on page 2

Your Officers:

President

Jim Rumbo
jrumbo1@cox.net

1st Vice President

Trish Bigler
agranch47@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Heidi Vail
heidivail@ymail.com

Treasurer

Jeff Gilbert
aactreasurer003@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Gabi Gilbert
gabig97@me.com

Corresponding Secretary/ Newsletter Editor

Kimberley Hash
tg4jc@mac.com

Webmaster

Gabi Gilbert
gabig97@me.com

Assistant Webmaster

Kimberley Hash
tg4jc@mac.com

Membership Chair

Jeff King
jeff@maverickleadership.com

Jotform Editor

Trish Bigler
aacRally@gmail.com

And now [drumroll, please 🥁] for what you've all been waiting for, here is the Region 11 Rally *tentative* schedule of events!

Region 11 Rally *Tentative* Schedule July 23 - 27, 2025

Wednesday, July 23

| | |
|-----|---|
| 4pm | Meet & Greet and group happy hour. Cornhole tournament between clubs/ units, led by Tom Silver. |
|-----|---|

Thursday, July 24

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 10 am - 12 pm | Seminars |
| 2 pm - 4pm | Seminars |
| 5 pm | Individual happy hours |

Friday, July 25

Morning open for discussions (Airstream, Inc, and/or Seminar team.

| | |
|------|---|
| 1 pm | Taco Buffet Luncheon |
| 7 pm | Kick up your heels with the <i>Diamond Empire Band</i> |

Saturday, July 26

Free day to visit, explore Granby or the surrounding area, or enjoy the park's amenities.

Sunday, July 27

Depart

A few things to know:

- There will be three vendors attending the rally:
 - John Chiang of Bobee Tech Corp who specializes in cameras and monitors
 - Bill and Fran Sutton who specialize in flag poles and holders for Airstreams
 - Jay Campbell of Kleentank who can be booked to clean your tanks.
- There will be a silent auction of Club Gift Baskets to benefit the Granby Food Bank.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

by AAC President Jim Rumbo

Arizona Airstream Dry Camping: *Adventure, Freedom, and a Whole Lot of Fun!*

Dry camping—also called boondocking—is the purest way to experience the freedom that an Airstream offers. In Arizona, where wide-open skies meet dramatic landscapes, dry camping brings a deeper connection to nature and your fellow travelers. Whether you're camping beneath the ponderosa pines near the Grand Canyon or among the saguaros outside Phoenix, there's nothing quite like it.

Why Dry Camp?

Freedom and Flexibility

Dry camping gives you the ability to camp anywhere you're legally allowed, without



needing hookups. This opens up beautiful remote locations, national forest lands, organized campgrounds, Harvest Host locations, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites. You're not confined to campgrounds with full hookups.

The Advantages of Dry camping in Arizona:

- **Scenery:** Camp beside red rock cliffs, among desert blooms, or in mountain forests. Arizona's public lands are rich in variety.
- **Weather:** With low humidity and plenty of sunshine, dry camping is comfortable much of the year—especially in spring and fall.
- **Cost:** Dry camping is often free or very low-cost. National forest campgrounds like Ten-X or White Tank are lower cost than full hookups.
- **Skill-building:** Learn to monitor your water, power, and waste systems. There's satisfaction in being self-reliant.
- **Stargazing:** Arizona's low light pollution and dry air mean unmatched views of the Milky Way from your Airstream door.

Community and Camaraderie

Many Airstream rallies embrace dry camping as part of the adventure. Events like the Birds and Barrels wine-country rally or the Ten-X Campground rally near Grand Canyon National Park are built around simple setups with a focus on friendship, food, and fun.

How to Prepare for Dry Camping

Water

Fill fresh tanks before you arrive. Conserve water with navy showers, dishpans, and spray bottles for cleanup.

Power

Solar panels and lithium batteries are dry camping game-changers. Use LED lights and limit inverter use to save power. Include a generator if your Airstream does not have battery and solar upgrades.

Waste

Empty your black and gray tanks before arrival and plan your stay accordingly. Know where the nearest dump station is.

Food and Cooking

Bring pre-prepped meals, use propane for cooking, and enjoy outdoor grilling to reduce indoor mess.



Heat & Cool

Arizona can get cold at night, even in the desert. A propane heater is ideal. In warmer months, shade and ventilation are key.

Communication & Safety

Download offline maps. Bring radios or Starlink if needed. Let someone know your location if camping remotely.

Final Thoughts

Several of our upcoming dry camping rallies still have openings. I hope you will consider signing up. Your fellow AAC members are always willing to help with any questions you may have.

So, fill your tanks, charge your batteries, pack your sense of adventure, and go find out why so many Airstreamers love dry camping in our beautiful state.



Upcoming Dry-Camping Rallies:

- **Ten-X Campground (Grand Canyon South Rim)**

A peaceful, shaded forest site just minutes from Grand Canyon National Park south rim. There are water spigots and vault toilets around our rally loop.

- **White Tank Mountain Regional Park (West of Phoenix)**

Gorgeous desert views, fantastic hiking trails, and a peaceful place to rally or relax. There is a nice bathroom with showers at our group site.

- **Birds and Barrels Rally (Wilcox wine region)**

Hosted by the Arizona Airstream Club, this unique rally pairs boondocking with vineyard visits and tastings. Lots of fun at this favored site.

UPCOMING 2025 AAC RALLIES

| Date | Rally | Location | Hosts |
|--------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| 2025 | | | |
| Sept 18 - 21 | Grand Canyon Tusayan Montane - Dry Camping | Grand Canyon, AZ | No-Host |
| Oct 16 - 19 | Dead Horse Ranch State Park | Cottonwood, AZ | Heidi and Troy Vail |
| Oct 23 - 26 | New Mexico Unit/ 4CU/Arizona Club. Joint Annual Halloween Rally | Caballo Lake State Park, Caballo Lake, NM | Heidi Vail co-hosting for AZ |
| Nov 13 - 16 | White Tank Mountain - Dry Camping | Waddell, AZ | Bill & Mary Voorhaar |
| Dec 5 - 7 | End of Year Holiday Rally at Birds & Barrel Vineyard - Dry Camping | Wilcox, AZ | Jim & Diane Rumbo |

2026 RALLIES ARE SHAPING UP

by AAC 1st Vice President Trish Bigler

We have been working hard to bring you a line up of great rallies for 2026.

In January, we are attempting our first back-to-back rallies at Lost Dutchman State Park. The club has reserved 20 dry camping sites for January 13 -16, and January 16-19. The catch—you must choose only one of the dates, but not both. We are trying to give more members opportunity to book these rallies.



Antelope Point Rally (April 9-12): You must book your sites directly with the park. Call them at 928-645-5900, Wednesday through Saturday, from 8pm to 5pm and ask for Janet. Let her know you are with the Arizona Airstream Club. The back-in sites are \$298.26 plus processing fees; and the pull-through sites are \$340.12 plus processing fees. Make your reservations now. The rally registration will be sent at a later day. The rally fee is still undecided.

I am tentatively planning the 3rd Annual Ladies Rally and the 2nd annual Just Guys Rally for late February/early March. So stay tuned for that!

There will be no rallies booked in July or August to allow for travel to the International Airstream Rally in August.

Looking forward to next year's rallies and seeing you all there!

| 2026 | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Date | Rally | Location | Host(s) |
| Jan 13 - 16 | Lost Dutchman State Park | Mesa, AZ | Heidi & Troy Vail |
| Jan 16 - 19 | Lost Dutchman State Park | Mesa, AZ | Suzanne Duke and Ken Johansen |
| Feb 13 - 16 | Patagonia Lake State Park | Patagonia, AZ | Victor Martinez & Tyler Garney/Kimberley & Ed Hash |
| Feb or Mar | 3rd Annual Ladies Rally | TBD | TBD |
| Feb or Mar | Just Guys Rally | TBD | TBD |
| Mar 26 - 29 | Catalina State Park | Tucson, AZ | Theresa & Ian Dawson/ Maureen & Bill Ball |
| Apr 9 - 12 | Antelope Point RV Park | Paige, AZ | Host TBD |
| May | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| June 11 - 14 | Apache Trout | Greer, AZ | TBA |

A Look Back at AAC Rallies

March 2025 through May 2025

Kartchner Caverns State Park

March 13 - 16, 2025

Benson, AZ



Karen King worked her magic and made adorable little crocheted bats for the rally bags

The Kartchner Caverns Rally was incredibly interesting and fun despite the rain, hurricane-force winds, and below freezing temperatures. And Dara and DJ Lealos, along with their son, Jack, did a marvelous job hosting, despite the difficult conditions. It just goes to show that no matter the weather, you can have fun camping when you're camping with good friends!

Thursday, despite the rain and cold, Dara and DJ put out a delicious Sloppy Joe spread, and we celebrated our March birthdays with shortcake by Sherry and Trish. The rain and winds ended the night a little early, sadly.

Friday's get together started with a great salsa contest. We all got to taste and vote for our favorites.



And the winners were: Trish Bigler 1st place with a delicious guacamole/pomegranate salsa; 2nd place to Gabi Gilbert with a super yummy fruity pineapple mango salsa served in an Airstream bowl; and Nate Ogilve with an insanely yummy tomatillo-chile-style salsa took third. Dinner that night was chicken and veggie fajitas, all prepared and served by Dara, DJ, and Jack Lealos.



Jim and Michelle Fisher



Leo and Peggy Drumm



Karla and Marion Greenlee



Anthony and Pamela Salvatore

Welcome first-times, Jim & Michelle Fisher, Leo & Peggy Drumm, Karla & Marion Greenlee, and Anthony & Pamela Salvatore.

Karchner continued from page 6

Saturday was kicked off with great grab-n-go breakfast burritos, which goes to show that you can make delicious food in your Airstream kitchen, *and* many hands make the job easier! Thank you to Trish, Sherry, Maureen, and Channon for putting this on!



Maureen Ball, Channon Balkan, and Sherry Ewing prepare breakfast burritos.

Then we had a little free time to explore the area, hike, or just chill (literally) in our trailers. Later, we were off to Sunset Ride Vineyard where we enjoyed MORE food, wonderful wine, and great music by musician Dave Cowan.



Afterward, we were given an interesting night sky presentation at the Visitor's Center by a

member of the International Night Sky Network, where we learned how light pollution adversely impacts animals, birds, and humans. Kartchner Caverns State Park is one of several "night-sky" communities in Arizona committed to limiting light pollution. Then, after sunset, when the stars came out, we were treated to a wonderful star-gazing party. We were able to see galaxies and nebulas through the lens of a telescope projected onto an iPad. We viewed the Horsehead Nebula, which is a small dark nebula in the constellation Orion. The nebula is located just to the south of the easternmost star of Orion's Belt and is 1500 light years away from the Earth!

It was truly a great rally, put on by wonderful hosts, at a great state park, despite the difficult weather!



Salsa contest winners, L/R: Nate Olgilve, Trish Bigler, and Gabi Gilbert.

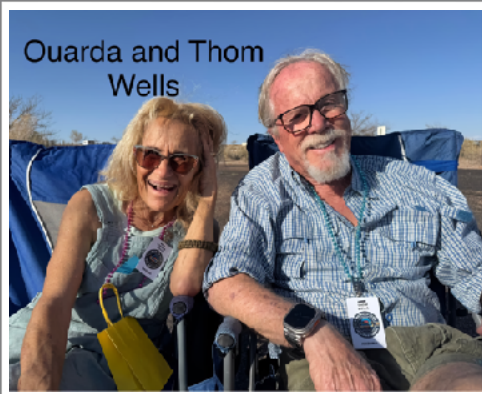


L: Horsehead Nebula in Orion's Belt. R: Dark Sky Presentation at the Visitor's Center.

Homolovi State Park

April 10 - 13, 2025

Winslow, AZ



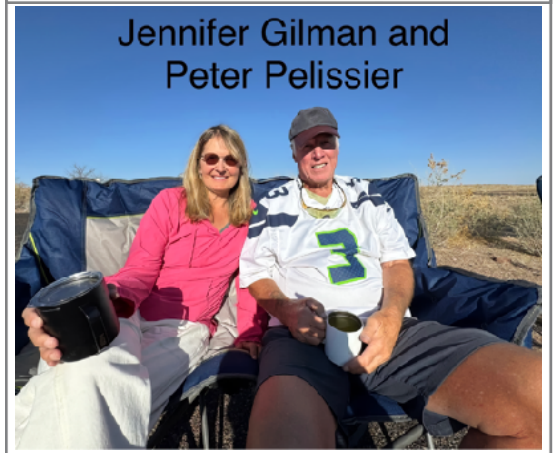
Ouarda and Thom Wells

What could possibly be worth seeing in the dusty town of Winslow, Arizona you ask, besides the famous tourist attraction, Standing on the Corner Park? Well, only one of the coolest state parks! Homolovi (pronounced, "home-ala-vee,"), is one mile north of Winslow. This is an inspiring state park with an incredible Hopi Indian connection and

spirit. In fact, Homolovi is actually owned by the Hopi Reservation in an archeological conservancy to protect the ruins from being ransacked by collectors and guests, and it preserves over 300 ancestral archeological sites. Homolovi, in Hopi, means "place of the little hills."



Sue and Dan Schleeter



Jennifer Gilman and Peter Pelissier

This rally was also a tribute to Jerry Nelson, our beloved longtime club treasurer, member, and friend who passed away earlier this year. He and his wife, Candace, had wanted to host this rally, so we made it a tribute to him. And our hosts, Sam and Kathy Brandes did a tremendous job packing a lot of fun into it!

Thursday started off with a great social hour where we all raised our glasses to Jerry. We also welcomed three new couples and AAC rally first-timers, Sue and Dan Schleeter; Jennifer Gilman and Peter Pelissier; and Ouarda and Thom Wells.



We all raised our glasses in memory to our dear friend, Jerry Nelson.

Then we shared in a traditional Indian fry-bread taco dinner that was outstanding! We also celebrated our April birthdays with a yummy cake. Happy birthday, Ouarda and Thom Wells!



A yummy breakfast spread of bagel, lox, capers, yogurt and fruit, and pastries.

Friday morning started off with a delicious breakfast of bagels with cream cheese, lox, and capers. And there was also Kathy's *Bowl of Love* (yogurt with fruit) and pastries.

And then we headed off to a remarkable Hopi Pottery Presentation by local Hopi artist, Gwen Setalla. Gwen mines all her clay from local clay pits, soaks the clay in water, strains it through pillow cases, and stores the softened clay in sealed buckets or plastic

bags. She later adds a temper source which makes



the pottery waterproof. Gwen uses natural plant sources, such as mustard greens, bee weed, and wild spinach, as well as various local minerals to create colors for her pottery painting using a brush made from Yucca needles. When Gwen takes a collection of clay and plants for her pottery, she always leaves a food-source blessing in their place.



She fires her pottery in an outdoor kiln at about 2,300 degrees, fueled by sheep dung. All of Gwen's techniques were passed down to her from her mom.

After the presentation, we took a drive up to the ruins where we saw kivas in various states of ruin that were carefully and painstakingly preserved. We got a real taste for how the Hopi people lived. Homolovi was discovered around 1330 BC.

Saturday was kicked off by a tour of the historical La Posada Hotel in Winslow, which has hosted famous people over the years and is a bonafide Harvey House. The Harvey Houses, founded in 1876 by the Fred Harvey Company were a chain of restaurants, hotels, and other hospitality businesses built alongside railroads in the Western United States and were known for their standardized quality service and set the standard for hospitality. The Harvey Houses were known for their waitresses, called Harvey Girls, who were young women, between 18 and 30 years old, of "good character and manners," with at least an eighth grade education.



Harvey Girls made a name for themselves with their impeccable manners and character.

Janet, one of our tour guides, was a Harvey Girl at the Grand Canyon Bright Angel Lodge in 1956. She was paid \$.65 an hour plus room and board. She worked through the summer of 1957, when she met her husband who worked on the railroad.

When Fred Harvey died in 1901, his family inherited 45 restaurants and 20 dining cars in 12 states. During World War II, the Harvey Houses reopened to serve soldiers as they traveled in troop trains across the US.

After our tour, we enjoyed a fabulous dinner at the La Posada's famous Turquoise Room.

All in all, it was a great rally, with wonderful social hours, fabulous food, and interesting educational tours. Great job, Sam and Kathy!!



We were given a tour of the historical grounds of the La Posada Hotel.



The La Posada is known for the many incredible paintings throughout the hotel.

2nd Annual Ladies' Rally

April 24 - 27, 2025

Rio Verde RV Park, Cottonwood, AZ

The 2nd Annual Ladies' Rally saw a slightly smaller attendance this year due, in part, to the later date (some of our lady members got the heck out of the AZ heat). But we still had a great time! We had 15 women and one man (poor Jay)

Our theme this year? Disco Flamingo. Why you ask? Because it's girly and fun! The rally bags were a small disco cosmetic bag with a disco straw (so girly), and we had lots of eating, shopping, and wine tasting planned, as usual.



Thursday kicked off the rally with arrival and parking. Let me say, backing into those spaces is not easy! We had a few ladies brave the solo travel for the first time, which is one of the goals of the ladies rally - attempt at traveling solo. Everyone did a great job helping each other park and set up. The ones who drove solo this year were Kristin Smith, Suzanne Duke, Suzy Shawl, Kristine Dutton, Laura Wilburn, Lucy Armstrong, Kimberley Hash, and Jay Gort (our only guy). A few had hubbies drive and set them up, which is totally fine because we are all about camping together and having fun!



Next we met for dinner at Bocce, an Italian restaurant in Cottonwood. We all enjoyed different things on their delicious menu!

Friday started out on our own to sleep in, explore, and relax. The only thing on our agenda was a trip to the Alacantara Winery for good wine and food. Most drove to the winery, but three ladies (Kristin Smith, Kathy Brandes, and Kimberley Hash) kayaked down the Rio Verde River to the Winery—two hours of beautiful scenery, a few



rapid chutes, and a lot of wonderful sunshine. Everyone met up at the winery in their beautiful backyard for excellent wine and yummy food. After the winery, dinner was on our own, but most of us were way too full, so we met up

around the fire pit for more visiting



and light snacks.

Saturday was *again* about eating as we met up in the morning for a Disco-Flamingo potluck brunch (see pics on page 12). The mimosas were flowing, there was an abundance of delicious foods (as usual), and everyone dressed up in some kind of disco-flamingo outfits.



Sunday we said our tearful goodbyes (hey, we're women after all) until our next rally.



Fool Hollow Lake Rally

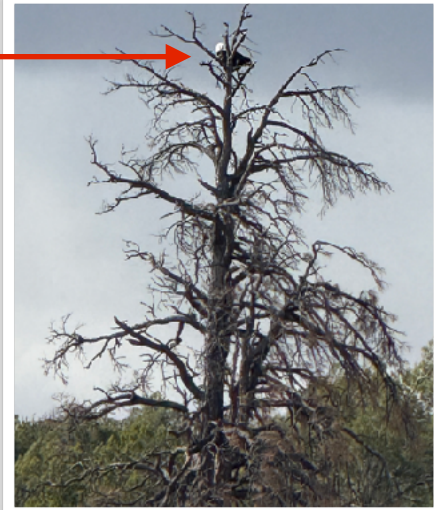
May 8 - 11, 2025

Fool Hollow Lake, Show Low, AZ

Fool Hollow Lake was another wonderful rally. If you've never camped there, you need to put it on your bucket list because that campground does not disappoint! The lake is beautiful and home to bald eagles. In fact, the weekend we were there, a nest of eaglets was perched in one of the high fir trees, and the parents could be seen soaring over the lake.

We welcomed **FIVE** new AAC ralliers, Steve and Barb Kennedy; Judy Radin and Jamie Diamond; Steven Inmus and John Hamlin; Paul and Jeannette Arling; And Kari and John Skaggs! We also had 4CU affiliates Jan and Richard Girard joining us as well.

Bald Eagle



Steve and Barb Kennedy



Kari and John Skaggs



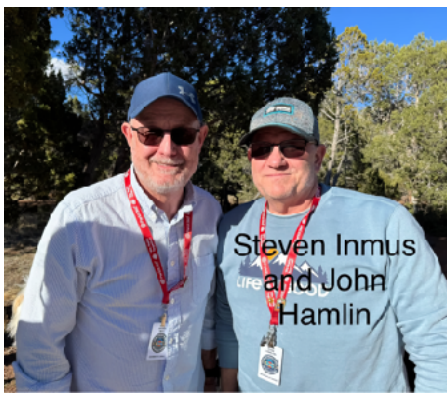
Paul and Jeannette Arling



Judy Radin and Jamie Diamond



Steven Inmus
and John
Hamlin



Our hosts, Gabi and Jeff Gilbert and Trish and Don Bigler, did a great job of putting together a wonderful, fully catered rally. And the rally give-a-way was a cute flamingo pot filled with an herb plant, a deck of cards, a commemorative Deuce of Clubs card with the history of how Show Low was named, and a Show Low pin.

Thursday kicked it off with a great social hour and dinner of various yummy sandwiches and salads. The dinner was catered



by local restaurant, Persnikkity's Cafe and Bakery. We also celebrated our May birthdays: Ian Dawson and Tom Wieser. After dinner, a rousing game of Left, Right Center ensured until we were kicked out of the host site for being too rowdy!



Happy May birthday to Ian Dawson and Tom Wieser!

Friday was a day to explore and enjoy all the park or Show Low had to offer. Then at 4pm we were off to The House, a local favorite restaurant sporting a great



backyard area with delicious food and local live music! And it just so happened while at The House, Tails of Love Rescue was there too with a bunch of puppies that needed a forever home. Victor Martinez fell in love with the cutest little puppy that he and Tyler decided to adopt and name Addie Rae. Later that evening, more people gathered for another rousing game of Left Right Center back at the park.



Saturday began with a delicious catered brunch of breakfast burritos, again by Persnikkity's Cafe. Heidi Vail contributed a yummy brunch punch. Candice Nelson joined us for the brunch and shared a little bit with the group.

After brunch, many gathered for a nature-inspired, ranger-led art project of feather painting.

A special thank you to Gabi and Jeff Gilbert and Trish and Don Bigler for putting on such a great rally!



Above right: Heidi Vail passes out punch. Middle left: DJ Lealos looks as rangers lead the art project. Middle: Candace Nelson addresses the group at the brunch. Middle right: a delicious brunch spread! Bottom left: one of the painted feathers.

Sunday we said our goodbyes and most headed home while a few stayed on to continue enjoying the park.



What Does it Mean to Host a Rally?

Have you noticed that each rally is different? That's because every rally is hosted by different people. The host gets to plan activities and meals. It's easy to do, and a lot of fun. It's like putting on a big party! You can plan as much or as little as you want. And there are many hands to help you as well. If you're interested in hosting a rally, contact our club president or vice president, and they will set you up. We have lots of rallies that need someone *just like you!* 😊