

# CALIFORNIA 'STREAMING

South Coast California Airstream Club

<https://airstreamclub.org/south-coast-california>

DECEMBER 2024

## Breaking News: *Adventure Awaits*

In this issue, we review some of the Club's recent rallies and activities, but the real news is what is in store of 2025. Nine rallies have been booked and the first one in January is already full. So check your email regularly for announcements on upcoming rallies so you don't miss out.

With the new year coming we congratulate and thank the officers and directors of 2024 for jobs well done, and welcome our new leadership for 2025.



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### Spam Note

From the President

Are you missing out on rally invitations and news from your president? Please be sure to check your spam folders for emails from

Oscar Abad:  
[ora1956@gmail.com](mailto:ora1956@gmail.com)

### Call for Articles

Do you have something to say? Please submit all articles of interest to our editor for publication. Ideas include news, travel, RV tips, for sale, campsite reviews, pet stories, recipes, photos, etc..

Email the editor at:  
[sccac.paul@gmail.com](mailto:sccac.paul@gmail.com)

## Presidents' Corner

By Sharon Ticer and Oscar Abad

### President Sharon Ticer ('24)

As I step down from this position, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve you. Chula Vista and The Springs at Borrego were spectacular rallies. The beauty of both locations, the parks and the friendship were wonderful.

As Oscar Abad takes over, I don't have anything to add, because he was very involved in assisting me. He was always available, has the best listening ear and great suggestions. We are very fortunate to have him and his wife Kookie. I am co-hosting the January rally with Linda and Tanye Koblick in Palm Desert, so I look forward to seeing everyone at that time.

I especially want to thank co-hosts Bob and Cathy Adams, and Susan and Dale Cram of the annual Installation luncheon in San Clemente. A beautiful location and a nice time was had by all. And yes, there was even a Squatty Potty in the Christmas gift exchange.

Stay safe, have a wonderful and memorable holiday.

God Bless, Sharon and Lowell

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### President Oscar Abad ('25)

As your incoming President, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment to our club. The accomplishments we've achieved this past year are a testament to the hard work and passion of our members.

I am truly honored to take the reins from Sharon Ticer, who has provided outstanding leadership and vision. I look forward to building upon the strong foundation you've laid and working alongside you to continue making a positive impact in our club.

Kookie and I are excited about all of the scheduled rallies this coming year! We look forward to experiencing new adventures and building new friendships.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Oscar Abad (and supporting first lady Kookie)



## From the Editor

By Paul Tetreault

Back in April of this year, I authored an article about the future of gas-powered vehicles and generators in California. But different legislation that takes effect on January 1, 2025, has been called a “ban” on the sale of RVs.

The legislation is complicated (of course) but it really is not a ban. The purpose of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) regulation is to reduce emissions from medium and heavy-duty trucks running on large chassis like those produced by Freightliner. But the ACT’s net catches large RVs, too.

Airstream’s line of trailers, of course, are not directly impacted by these regulations, but its new motorcoaches (Atlas, Interstate, Rangeline) that exceed 8500 pounds GVWR may be affected. The ACT may also impact heavy-duty tow vehicles, such as the Ford F250, Ram 2500, and Silverado 2500HD.

The goal is a reduction in green house gases that contribute to climate change and other concerns, not to kill the RV industry in California and several other states that follow the same regulations.

Ultimately, by year 2035, all light duty cars and trucks in California are to be certified zero emissions, as are medium

and heavy-duty trucks by 2036. Industry is actively negotiating with lawmakers on how to accomplish their goals without crippling the manufacturers.

While technologies are being developed, manufacturers of vehicles that do not currently produce non-polluting vehicles can purchase credits from others that do. They can also “borrow” pollution credits to be paid back later once they convert a part of their fleet.

In other words, there are work-arounds. Plus, have you driven by an RV dealership lately? It looks like there is plenty of stand-by inventory on hand that is not affected by the ACT.

So, there is no ban. Even the RV industry acknowledges that such predictions are false. Another reason why travel trailers make sense for a lot of people.

In this edition of the newsletter, I interviewed Bud Robel and Svetlana Milchenko about their all-electric Ford Lightning tow vehicle. It ties right in with this story about government mandates that favor electric vehicles.



## 2025 Officers and Committee Chairs

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# Mark Your Calendars

## Upcoming Rallys and Events



### Our 2025 Rally Calendar by Oscar Abad and Connie Brunn

| Resort   | Nights | Sites | In/Out     |
|--|--------|-------|------------|
| <b>Emerald Desert, Palm Desert</b><br>Host: Tans & Linda Koblick<br>Co-Host: Lowell & Sharon Ticer                       | 3      | 25    | Jan. 9-12  |
| <b>Wine Country RV Resort, Paso Robles</b><br>Host: Jay & Beth Huckabone<br>Co-Host: Matt & Julie Eklund                 | 4      | 25    | Feb. 6-10  |
| <b>Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, Bonita</b><br>Host: Gerry & Sandra Bangert<br>Co-Host: Robert Michler & Bruce Nalder | 3      | 22    | Mar. 13-16 |
| <b>Guajome Park, Oceanside</b><br>Host: Gary & Jo Fogarty<br>Co-Host: Greg & LJ Oelkers                                  | 4      | 22    | Apr. 3-7   |
| <b>Newport Dunes</b><br>Host: Mike & Marla Biagi<br>Co-Host: Gabriel & Leann De La Cruz                                  | 3      | 25    | May 9-11   |
| <b>Flying Flags, Buellton</b><br>Host: Tim & Diane Sommerville<br>Co-Host: Bud Nobel & Svetlana Milchenko                | 4      | 23    | Jun. 5-9   |
| <b>Mission Bay RV Resort</b><br>Host: Larry & Carry Suggett<br>CO-Host: Greg & LJ Oelkers                                | 4      | 25    | Sep. 4-8   |
| <b>Sun Outdoors, San Diego</b><br>Host: Oscar & Cookie Abad<br>Co-Host: Bill & Joanne Fallon                             | 3      | 25    | Oct. 9-12  |
| <b>The Springs at Borrego</b><br>Host: Mark & Connie Miller<br>Co-Host: Brad Berry & Melanie                             | 4      | 25    | Nov. 13-17 |



## Membership

By Jay Huckabone, Membership Chair



**Please welcome the following newest members of SCCAC.**

**Jim & Connie Viola**  
1316 Westlake Dr  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
Jim and Connie (661) 754-0788

**WBCCI Big Red # 30603**  
2018 Globetrotter 27 foot

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**Christy and Nelson Diaz**  
13614 Woodlands St.  
Eastvale, CA 92880  
Christy (951) 316-4723  
Nelson (951) 768-6130

**WBCCI Big Red # 13614**  
2018 Classic 30 foot

**New affiliate members!**

**Donald Gunn and Stephanie Akens-Gunn**  
552 Filbert St.  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Donald (818) 631-7226  
Stephanie (818) 317-7400

**WBCCI Big Red # 7458**  
2018 Sport 22 Foot

**Come join us at an upcoming rally.**  
**We love meeting new people!**



## Missouri International Rally, Oct. 5 - 10

Story and Photographs by Alice Houseworth

### Surviving the 2024 International Rally at Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO.

Who would have thought that Airstream International would plan a rally a mere 30 miles from our family. The statistical odds are astronomical so it felt like kismet that we had to attend.

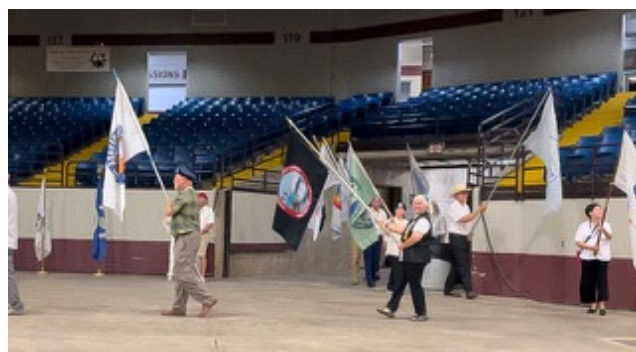
We have never been to an International Rally (along with 40% of 2024 attendees) and I was hoping to be involved to get fully immersed in the experience. So, about one year after I registered, I read the email from our president, Sharon Ticer, asking for volunteers to carry our club flag. Thinking there would be a mad rush to fill this honored roll, I did not hesitate.

It turns out, Missouri does not have a big draw for SoCal Airstreamers. At three weeks, this was the longest trip we've taken in the two years of ownership, and we were excited and extremely nervous - - Will we find camping along the way; what did we forget;



what if we have an accident; what's for dinner; will the cats be traumatized when we get back after so long; and will two people-averse boondocker introverts survive the crowds?

There were 1,300 rigs and 2,478 attendees at the rally. Saturday night was opening ceremonies and my anxious excitement was almost unbearable. The 102 club flags and bearers arranged in alphabetical order gathered in the small ready room waiting to parade



our club flags across the front of the packed auditorium. The SCCAC is in Region 12 (last region) Club #19 (last club) right before the eight intra-clubs, so there was lots of waiting. What a proud moment for me; it was well worth the wait.

The Whova app was a great help for this newby; it allowed me to review the list of activities and plan my days; review maps for navigating the huge fairgrounds; read about logistics, facts, and rules; along with messaging neighbors and other attendees.



There were about 45 different events each day. Some choices were easy, like the Boondockers Meet &



Greet or the Region 12 Dinner instead of HAM Radio, Youth Camp, charm bracelets, or Starlink sessions. But others were a tough call, like new Board and Card Games or RV Fire Safety or DIY Maintenance. Or, do I take a ride in the hot air balloon? During the few time slots that offered nothing of interest, we would walk around & talk to other 'streamers.

One time we got invited inside a 1955 Cruiser to have a chat. Between seminars & brain overload, we rented bikes and rode the Katy Trail 20 miles from Windsor to Calhoun and back. At 239 miles it's America's longest "rails-to-trail" project through beautiful tree lined farm county.

We tried to go to the "Organization of your Airstream" session but it was held in the smallest space possible and had three times as many people as chairs, so we left. Another day we waited three hours for the Dometic guys to come look at our AC. But disappointments were far and few on this adventure.

Part of my immersion was to volunteer at some of the many positions. After I got over my



trepidation and fear of operating a golf cart for the first time, shuttle duty was my favorite activity. Buzzing around over bumpy dirt roads, grass fields & asphalt was exhilarating. While talking to Air-streamers from all over the United States and Canada, I finally felt part of the club. Working in the mail room was not as stimulating, but I was amazed at how many people have packages mailed to the rally.

Region 12 has registered 999 rigs (including affiliates) and 87 were at the rally; SCCAC has 109 rigs and 2 were at the rally. We had a mini SCCAC meeting at the Region 12 dinner with super nice members, Kim & Craig Stevens.

On Thursday night, while most attendees were packing up to leave or at the Rally Wrap Up, a stunning display of the Northern Lights/Aurora Borealis lit up the skies over the fairgrounds with shades of purple, pink, red and green.

I learned so much while there, but was most impressed with the ACI guiding principle to leaving a positive impact on every place traveled. WBCCI Foundation raised a significant sum of money to support several local causes and Hurricane Helene victims, along with blood donations and aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Check out articles about the rally and donations by RV PRO and Modern Campground on the ACI Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACIRally/>) and the Fall 2024 edition of the Blue Beret.

Not only did we survive the crowds, but are looking forward to future rallies in Minot, ND in 2026 and Rock Springs, WY in 2027 (however, 2025 York, PA is too far for these old bones).





## Borrego Springs Rally, Nov. 15-17

Story and Photographs by Paul Tetreault

The club returned to Borrego Springs last month. We are very lucky to be able to attend local rallies year 'round. We have beaches and mountains in the summer and the desert in the winter. And as you can see from some of the photographs taken at Borrego Springs, some fantastic sunsets.



Photo by Mark Miller

The weather could not have been nice. Sure, it got chilly at night but the sky was clear and with the dark skies, Bill Fallon and Paul Tetreault brought telescopes to scan the heavens. Bill brought his maksutov-cassegrain optical scope and Paul brought his "smart" scope that displayed stacked images on an iPad. Members caught views of the moon, Jupiter, Saturn, star clusters, the Andromeda galaxy, and nebulae.



During the day, there was sight seeing in the desert, bike riding, hiking, shopping, dining and hanging out in the RV resort. We also had a great pot-luck dinner indoors, away from the cold evening.



## Sun Outdoors RV Park Rally, Chula Vista Oct. 17 - 20

No Story, Just Photographs by Oscar Abad





## Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers Dinner, Dec. 8

On December 8, 2024, the SCCAC held its Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers dinner at the Cypress Shore community clubhouse, hosted by Dale and Susan Cram, and Bob and Cathy Adams.

Club business was attended to, thanking the outgoing officers and chairs, and formally voting in 2025's leadership. Sharon Ticer presided over the proceedings, welcoming Oscar Abad as next year's president and his supporting staff of officers and committee chairs.

Besides the great food and wine, the members amused themselves with the annual white elephant gift exchange. There was an amazing mix of whimsical, humorous, and downright nice gifts, from Airstream-themed Christmas ornaments, pink flamingo thingies, a table-top fire pit, and a squatty potty (ask Sharon what that is). Several gifts were "stolen" the maximum three times. It was intense.

The sunset over the ocean was fantastic and everyone had a good time. It helped to get the folks into the holiday spirit.



## Member Interview - - Bud Robel

### The Future of RV'ing

By Paul Tetreault  
Oct. 20, 2024

Bud Robel and Svetlana Milchenko, SCCAC members since 2022, own a 25' Flying Cloud. But it's not the Airstream that sets them apart. It's their tow vehicle.

Perhaps you wouldn't notice anything unusual as they drove up to a Club rally. After all, Ford F-150s are pretty common. Upon closer inspection, however, you would spot a distinct front grill and badging that announces that theirs is the Lightning model - - a fully electric truck.



Your intrepid reporter met with Bud and Svetlana to learn more about this unique combination of a classic Airstream trailer and

a cutting edge tow vehicle. After all, the future is coming and we best pay attention.

The Robels already owned a Tesla Model X when they decided to buy their Airstream. Bud is a programmer and Svetlana has a degree in engineering. So it was natural to consider an electric tow vehicle for their trailer. They put in orders for a Rivian R1T, an F-150 Hybrid, and the F-150 Lightning. The Lightning was the first one that could be delivered so that was how the decision was made.

But they soon found that they made the right choice once they started pulling their Flying Cloud into campsites. Bud told me that although The Rivian and the Lightning both had 110 volt inverters with service in the truck beds, the Rivian's system, however, is rated to only a little more than 13 amps. Whereas the Lightning's bed outlets can handle much higher loads - - enough to run the Airstream's A/C unit.

That's right, Bud's tow vehicle can fully power their Flying Cloud. I asked Bud about the power drain on the Lightning's battery pack from a day plugged into the



Airstream. He said it reduced his truck's energy capacity by about seven percent. That really extends the range of the Airstream's dry camping without the need for generators, large solar arrays or on-board battery banks.

Bud and Svetlana love the power and torque of electric trucks. Their Lightning produces 565 hp and over 780 Lb-ft of torque, which makes climbing hills a breeze. Speaking of hills, as an electric vehicle, there is no loss of power at high elevations.

Another fun advantage is that when they go to RV parks with full 50 amp hookups, they can recharge their Lightning in camp. The truck is usually fully recharged overnight at no extra cost. But there are differences between an electric truck and one that runs on gasoline or diesel fuel. One, of course, is range.

The Lightning can go nearly 200 miles on a charge while towing their Airstream. Then they have to stop and recharge. Charging times vary greatly, depending upon the station you use and the state of discharge in your rig. It certainly takes much longer than it does to fill a fuel tank with a petroleum product. But they simply plan ahead if they are going on an extended road trip. They build in stops along the way for meals or sight seeing. It becomes part of the experience.

I asked Bud who he thought might not be a good candidate for an electric tow vehicle like the Lightning. He said that drivers who liked to tow at speeds above 60 mph would find it more challenging because

at those higher speeds, the range drops significantly, requiring more frequent stops.

Electric may not be the best option if you like to make big miles in a day. Also, if you like to travel in a caravan with other RVs, you would need to stop more frequently than the non-electric rigs. That could be annoying to the others in your group.

But Bud and Svetlana have found that an electric tow vehicle works very well for them and their style of travel. The future, however, always seems to get in the way of complacency and Bud is looking to take the next step. Something that they think has all the benefits of their electric Lightning without the drawbacks. The new 2025 Ramcharger.

This new vehicle is an electric propulsion pickup truck with a 3.6 liter V-6 gasoline engine that operates a generator to recharge the truck's batteries. The batteries have enough energy to go about 100 miles on their own. Beyond that, the gas engine recharges the batteries on the fly (that is all the engine does), extending the truck's range to over 600 miles. Plus, it has the 110 volt inverter with service in the bed that can run your Airstream as if you were in an RV park.

A little glimpse into the future of trucks and tow vehicles. Look for Bud and Svetlana at a Club rally. Bud loves to talk about his e-rig. And I got the same feeling while interviewing him that I had when I talked to the first person I knew who had something called a "cellphone." We all know how that turned out.

## South Coast Past Presidents

|                   |            |                    |            |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Clarence Mason    | 1968       | Mary Gough         | 1993       |
| Hank Sanford      | 1969       | Jack Engle         | 1994       |
| Dick James        | 1970       | Howard Cram        | 1995       |
| Mac McPeak        | 1971       | Les Chillcott      | 1996       |
| David Hayes       | 1972       | Ralph Irwin        | 1997       |
| Roy Slate         | 1973       | Dale Cram          | 1999, 2000 |
| John Riley        | 1974       | Robert Kirksey     | 2002, 2004 |
| Wesley Gough      | 1975       | Susan Cram         | 2003, 2012 |
| Bill Williams     | 1976       | Steve Carmichael   | 2005, 2008 |
| Jack Scott        | 1977       | Philip Terhorst    | 2006       |
| Doug Gist         | 1978       | Marshall McFie     | 2007       |
| Walter Brooks     | 1979       | Robert Michler     | 2009       |
| John Ashe Everest | 1980       | Lynda Terhorst     | 2010       |
| Bud Davis         | 1981       | Robert Smith       | 2011       |
| Harold Buck       | 1982       | Scott Weddle       | 2013       |
| David Fletcher    | 1983       | Louise Weddle      | 2014       |
| Jack Ortberg      | 1984, 2001 | Bill Ball          | 2015, 2016 |
| Mac McCue         | 1985       | Robert Kirkpatrick | 2017       |
| Don Conner        | 1986, 1998 | Bruce Barefoot     | 2018       |
| Lois Klopier      | 1987       | Mark Miller        | 2019       |
| Bob Barlow        | 1988       | Marya Barefoot     | 2020       |
| Clara Buck        | 1989       | Diane Sommerville  | 2021       |
| Roberta Williams  | 1990       | Mike Biagi         | 2022       |
| Wayne Sorenson    | 1991       | Mike Griswold      | 2023       |
| Dolores Irwin     | 1992, 2002 | Sharon Ticer       | 2024       |

## Useful Websites

Airstream Club International: <https://airstreamclub.org/>

Region 12 Website: <https://airstreamclub.org/region12>

South Coast California Airstream Club website: <https://airstreamclub.org/south-coast-california>

South Coast California Airstream Club Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147077952451972/>

Airstream Hunter (buy and sell): <https://www.airstreamhunter.com/>

Campendium's Campsite Reviews: [www.campendium.com](http://www.campendium.com)

Airstream Life Magazine: <https://www.airstreamlife.com>

Campspot for campsites and reservations: [www.campspot.com](http://www.campspot.com)

