

INWAC INSIDER

we're so glad you're here!



Stephanie Shelley
INWAC President

It may only be February, but Spring is in the air!

Days are starting to get longer, and buds can be seen on the trees and lilacs. All are signs for dedicated Airstreamers to begin planning for their 2026 travels and thinking about prepping their rigs for what adventures might lie ahead.

2026 promises our best season yet with 3 ACI sanctioned local caravans and 12 hosted rallies that include the 2nd annual All INWAC rally, rolling rallies to and from the international rally in Minot, ND, 2 boondocking rallies, and our legacy Chainsaw Carving Competition rally in Troy, MT. Registration is now open for most rallies and if you find any that are waitlisted, please add your name! In most cases, the hosts are able to accommodate additional campers.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our rally and caravan committee chairs, Linda Hall and Andrea Lloyd, and members Becky Amend, Dave Johnson, Michael Lane, Linda Muir and Scott Taylor. They, along with the kind and generous rally hosts, continue to make our club shine.

I read somewhere that a campfire is one of the oldest forms of community. As we look forward to new journeys and adventures, it's worth remembering what truly brings us together on the road. No matter where we come from or the paths that brought us here, there's something magical about gathering around a campfire. The gentle crackle of the flames, the warmth on a cool evening, and the shared stories remind us that, at our core, we are more alike than different.

Our backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences may vary, but the campfire welcomes all—offering a circle where laughter, friendship, and understanding can flourish. In our club, we celebrate this unity. Whether we're swapping travel tales, learning from one another, or simply enjoying the quiet together, the campfire becomes a place where barriers fade and connections grow. It's a reminder that, together, we create a community stronger and richer for our diversity—one that shines as brightly as the firelight we gather around.

Lastly, please watch for details on our 2026 INWAC member survey coming in February–March. Your feedback will help shape our club's future.

See you down the road!

Stephanie Shelley



Most INWAC members are familiar with our well-organized rallies and caravans, which continue to grow in popularity and success. In addition to these planned events, our club also enjoys two more spontaneous, informal types of gatherings: Pop-Up Rallies and Rolling Rallies. To help everyone stay on the same page, here are the quick definitions

by Gary Varella

What's a Pop-Up Rally?

📌 What Is a Pop-Up Rally?

A Pop-Up Rally is a casual meet-up of Airstream enthusiasts—typically involving 2 to 5 trailers—organized with minimal planning. Anyone can initiate one! Whether it's a spur-of-the-moment trip with friends, or an open invitation to the broader INWAC community, the rally's structure (or lack thereof) is entirely up to the participants.

🇺🇸 How to Organize/Host One

Hosting a Pop-Up Rally can be as simple or creative as you like:

- Simple Invite: "We'll be camping at Luby Bay Campground on Priest Lake from June 10–14. Come join us!"
- Participants book their own sites.
- Themed Gathering: "We're planning a stargazing weekend Oct 2–4 at Sportsman Lodge RV Park in Melrose, Montana. Bring your telescopes! Bonnie, the venue owner, has five spots available."

Whether you plan every detail or just share your location and dates, the goal is to connect with fellow Airstreamers in a relaxed, low-pressure setting. Remember, Pop-Up rallies are not covered by club provided liability insurance.

🌞 Why Pop-Up Rallies?

INWAC hopes this concept encourages more spontaneous, flexible adventures for those who love the Airstream lifestyle but may want a gathering that is less structured than traditional rallies or caravans.



What's a Rolling Rally?

A Rolling Rally is a flexible, themed group travel experience for RV enthusiasts—especially Airstreamers—who want to journey together without the formality of a traditional rally. The Rolling Rally follows a route with shared stops and optional activities, allowing participants to join for the entire trip or just a portion. Unlike a Pop-Up Rally, it doesn't appear spontaneously and may require centralized coordination, at least related to the route, dates, destinations, and communication to those choosing to join.

Key Features

- Theme-based travel: Examples include “Three National Parks in 10 Days” or “Western Montana Fishing Rally.”
- Destination-focused: Some Rolling Rallies are built around major events, like the 2026 International Rally in Minot, ND.
- Shared itinerary: Hosts provide route details and campground reservations so others can follow along.
- Optional participation: Travelers can join at any point and stay for as long as they like.

How to Host a Rolling Rally—Important steps for organizing one:

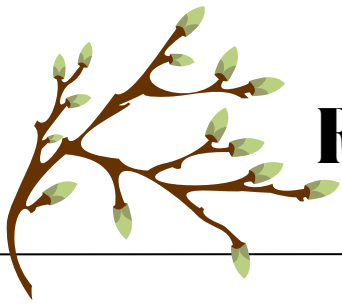
- Choose a theme or destination, e.g., scenic route, fishing trip, historical tour
- Map the route including RV camping sites and duration at each location
- Create an itinerary, sharing basic reservation details, contact info, and any planned events optional at the site
- Coordinate with the Rally Committee. While board approval isn't needed, collaboration is encouraged
- Promote to INWAC members and affiliates by sharing the rally plan with members and affiliates
- Plan or allow spontaneous events along the way, e.g., “Breakfast at Rusty's Hash House, Gunnison, CO, Tuesday at 8:00 AM”
- Maintain communications with other interested Airstreamers through email list for updates. Consider sharing a participant list among those planning to participate.

Why Choose a Rolling Rally?

- Simplicity: No formal registration or rigid structure
- Flexibility: Join when and where you want
- Community: Travel with fellow Airstreamers while keeping independence
- Adventure: Explore new places with a shared purpose and camaraderie

If you're thinking about hosting one or joining one, reach out to your board committee chairs who are pleased to help brainstorm themes, routes, or even draft an invitation. Rolling rallies are not covered by club provided liability insurance.





2025-2026 REFLECTIONS AND INSPIRATIONS

As president for the 2025-2026 term, I am proud to reflect on the significant progress of the Inland Northwest Airstream Club since its founding in 2019.

What began with ten dedicated Airstream owners with visions of fun, active and welcoming events, who overcame early challenges to establish our Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies with the International Airstream Club has grown into a vibrant organization comprising approximately 91 member trailers.

Despite the pandemic's impact, our club successfully launched five rallies in 2021, followed by six in 2022 that included a trip to the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.

In 2023, members organized four pop-up events and eight rallies, including a caravan to the ACI International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming.



During President Steve Tabacek's tenure, INWAC successfully hosted the 2024 Region 10 rally in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, organized ten additional rallies, and launched its first cross-border caravan to the Canadian Rockies.





2025-2026 **REFLECTIONS AND INSPIRATIONS** (cont)

In 2025, the club continued its momentum with an ACI-sanctioned caravan to the Oregon coast, two specialized fly-fishing rallies, and an All INWAC rally featuring technical seminars and guest speakers.



Looking ahead, 2026 will offer three ACI-sanctioned local caravans, another All INWAC rally, rolling rallies to and from the international rally in Minot, North Dakota, two boondocking rallies, and our signature Chainsaw Carving Competition in Troy, Montana.

Our continued growth and expanding offerings are made possible by the exceptional commitment of our members and rally and caravan hosts. I am inspired by their generous contributions of time, expertise, and enthusiasm that have consistently enhanced our newsletters, events, member outreach, financial management, and the overall quality of our rallies and caravans each year.

As we look ahead, I encourage all members to stay engaged. Volunteer, share your ideas, and participate in upcoming events. Your involvement is vital to sustaining our club's success and fostering a welcoming, dynamic community.

Stephanie



THIS IS TOM O'DONNELL, OUR NEW TREASURER!



Strengthening Our Club's Financial Foundation

(a.k.a. How We Keep the Lights On and the Rallies Rolling)

As your club treasurer, one of my main jobs is making sure our financial systems quietly do their thing in the background — so the rest of us can focus on what really matters: great events, good company, and hitting the road.

I'm grateful to step into this role after Yvonne Theodor, who did a terrific job as club treasurer for the past five years. She left some very big (and very well-organized) shoes to fill. Building on that solid foundation, I'll be spending the coming months making a few updates to help simplify payments, improve transparency, and strengthen how we plan our budget each year.

Making It Easier to Pay

(a.k.a No Checkbook Archaeology Required)

Let's be honest — most of us expect paying for things to be quick, easy, and not involve hunting for stamps. We've reviewed our banking relationship and moved to a financial institution that offers Zelle for certain club transactions. Zelle lets members send payments directly from their bank account, often instantly and without fees. That means paying for rallies or caravans can now be faster than leveling your Airstream on the first try. We're also looking at using a leading payment processor that would allow us to accept even more digital payment options, including:

- ACH bank transfers
- Credit and debit cards
- Mobile wallets like Apple Pay

More choices mean more flexibility for members — and fewer “Did my check arrive?” conversations.

Clearer Financial Reporting

(a.k.a No Decoder Ring Needed)

We've refreshed our monthly financial reports to make them clearer, cleaner, and easier to follow for the board and committee leaders. They see better summaries, simple budget-to-actual comparisons, and a clearer picture of how club funds are being used — all without needing a finance degree!

A More Collaborative Budget Process

(a.k.a. Less Guessing, More Planning)

Good treasury work isn't just about collecting money — it's also about planning ahead so we can keep doing the things we love.

This year, we're improving our budgeting process to make it more collaborative and more transparent. Board members and committee chairs will have earlier opportunities to share input on expenses, priorities, and program ideas before the budget is finalized.

The goal? A budget that reflects what matters most to our members — and fewer surprises along the way.

What This Means for Members

- More convenient ways to pay for rallies, caravans, and other event fees
- Faster, secure digital payment options
- Clearer insight into how club funds are used
- A budget that better reflects committee and member priorities
- Continued responsible management of club finances (yes, the important stuff still matters!)

Looking Ahead

These updates are all about making the club easier to do business with, financially resilient, and ready for the road ahead. As changes roll out, we'll keep everyone informed and provide clear guidance on what's new and how to use it.

Thanks for your continued support, trust, and patience as we fine-tune the behind-the-scenes details that keep our club running smoothly.