



# Greater Bay Area Airstream Club Newsletter May 2026



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President's Message  
Jill Impink

Spring has been great for camping, and summer is right around the corner. Who remembers the crazy rain we had in the first part of April? Luckily, it hasn't interfered with any of our rallies, and my allergies appreciated the rain washing away the pollen!

Just like the seasons, things can change for us, too. A couple of weeks ago, I learned that my friend and our 2nd GBAAC VP, Erica Evans, and her husband, Mark, are moving east to be closer to family. It's a great opportunity for them, and I'd do the same! We wish them all the best and thank Rebecca Schapp, who is moving up from 3rd VP to 2nd VP to fill the vacancy. We also welcome Darrin Lopez as 3rd VP. If you haven't met Darrin, he and Serena, our treasurer, have been part of our GBA family for 6 years. We're glad to have his experience and enthusiasm on the board.

A quick reminder of how mid-year board transitions work: when a board member is unable to complete their term, the next-in-line officer typically steps up to fill the open position. This ensures continuity for the executive board. This kind of transition happens from time to time, and it actually happened to me when I was moved up from 3rd VP to 2nd VP in 2024. We are grateful for the flexibility of our board members and appreciate that "life happens".

Here's an update on my mini caravan to Minot: we'll have a small but enthusiastic group heading north, and some members will join us along the way. Our last stop before Minot is Medora, ND, on August 18th. Medora is right by Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and we'll spend a couple of days exploring before the international rally in Minot on August 21st. This will be my first time at the park, and I've heard it's amazing!

*Continued next page*

### **President's Message continued**

I've also heard there are many other clubs traveling on our route, so there will be casual meet-ups and happy hours to unwind after travel days. I remember before the International rally in Rock Springs, WY, we stayed at a beautiful park in Vernal, UT, and had a great time meeting others headed to the rally. It's always exciting, and we share that instant silver connection! If you're going to Minot and want to park with GBAAC, let me know for details, dates, and stops.

Fundraiser alert: If you're collecting soda or beer can tabs for the "Future Streamers - Ronald McDonald House fundraiser" at the IR, keep it up and give them to someone going to International. This happens every year, and many people collect tabs throughout the year. I've heard they raise hundreds of dollars for the Ronald McDonald House! Go, future streamers!

We have lots more rallies this year, which means more opportunities to make meaningful connections around the campfire. I hope to see you at a rally! And as always, please reach out to me or any board member if you have any questions or concerns.

See you down the road,

**Jill Impink**

**President GBAAC**

## **2026 Rallies**

Check out the Rallies below. Remember if you volunteer to host / co-host, you will be given the ability to sign up for the rally in advance of the event being released to the general membership. Hosting lets you go to a location you want and no waitlist!

<b>2026 GBAAC Rally Schedule</b>					
<b>Club</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Campground &amp; Location</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Co-Host</b>	<b>Notes</b>
GBAAC	May 21 - 26	Calistoga Fairgrounds	Mike Blom - GBAAC	Jason Grendahl - Grapes & Grains	Joint GBAAC/Grapes & Grains - Released, full
GBAAC	June 4 - 7	Six Sigma Ranch, Lower Lake	Mike Blom	Tony Eichers	Off-grid, wagon wheel! Released, still open
GBAAC	June 18- 22	Village Camp Truckee (formerly Coachland)	Shelley Denyer	Simon Yen	Released
GBAAC	July 9 -13	Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort	Ken Lalanne & Linda Weissman	TBD	Released, spots available
ACI National	July 15 - 22	Silver on the River - Cruise	Jason Grendahl	Melisa Richardson	Released, spots open - sign up via ACI
ACI	Aug 22 - 27	International Rally - Minot, ND			Released - sign up via ACI
GBAAC	Sept 24 - 27	Grass Valley	Jill Impink	Anita Cushing	Released - full, sign up for waitlist
GBAAC	Oct 15 - 19	Newbie Rally - Napa Valley Expo RV Park	Eric & LaVerne McHenry	Rebecca & Tom Schapp	29 sites reserved
Region 12	Oct 28 - 1	Oasis Las Vegas RV Park	Region 12		May release
GBAAC	Nov 12 - 16	Bodega Bay RV Park, Bodega Bay	Shelley Denyer	Shirley Shakespeare	Installation Rally - Released 8/29, full
GBAAC	Dec 10 - 14	Jackson Rancheria RV Park, Jackson, CA	Jonathan & Yolanda Daly	TBD	White Elephant Rally - Release August

## Airstream Dreaming

What was the reason you bought your Airstream in the first place? Somewhere along the way you dreamed of the places you would travel and things you would see. Maybe traveling with friends and family were your motivation. The more you utilize your Airstream, the better you get at learning the facets of your trailer. Your familiarity with each system allows you to deal with unexpected issues or at least allows you to ask focused questions that can get you on your way.

As a club, we have added a few off-grid (boondocking) rallies. Region 12 hosts Cali Rally every other year and the National Events Rose Parade Rally are all off-grid. You can use a generator at most of these rallies, but we sit around campfires talking about lithium batteries, roof top and auxiliary solar panels and now external portable batteries to provide the power we need.

But batteries are just the start. Do you read the Blue Beret? That publication has a wonderful article on *Making Every Drop Count – Managing Your Fresh, Gray and Black Water Tanks*. Although this article is geared towards the upcoming International Rally, the principles discussed are valid wherever you off-grid. As discussed in previous versions of this newsletter, camping without hookups opens huge possibilities. Check out the article here: [May 2026 Blue Beret](#) and go to page 42.

Last but not least, have various options to help you get level, side-to-side, and front to back. Off-grid can also mean uneven terrain. We bring this up because we are a month away from the **Six Sigma Ranch Rally**. Since this rally is being held at Six Sigma Ranch for the first time, we want to make sure you

understand you should be prepared for uneven ground.

The site where we will have our Wagon Wheel configuration is a natural meadow. It will be mowed and other groups do camp there but be prepared to have all the equipment you will need to adjust your level in a way that you will be comfortable with.



## Stories

Part of Airstream Dreaming are the stories we will tell for years to come. It is not just the sites you will see, but also the people you will meet. We love to share the stories that make our travels come to life. Our community gets stronger every campfire or happy hour.

Cali Rally recently wrapped up. A cowboy theme on a cattle and horse ranch, V6 Ranch is owned and operated by the Varian family. Their 20,000+ acres provide a diverse environment with a multitude of possible experiences. Ever ride horseback? You can, even if a newbie, and the Varian family will tell you about the history of the ranch that started in 1961.

Cowboy coffee? There is an art to tipping the coffee kettle slowly and consistently to minimize the grounds that were boiled over campfire to give you a robust cup. It is cowboy lore that the coffee isn't ready until you can stand a horseshoe straight up and it does not tip over. That is stout!



Cali Rally only occurs every other year. Yet when campers see each other after a two-year absence, the stories of what happened to each other in between begin to flow. Going to a rally just satisfies our need to connect and share.

What stories do you tell when you are out camping? Look at the rally calendar included in this newsletter. It is a guide to creating more stories for your travels. Join the informal caravan heading to Minot, ND or create one of your own trips and get others to join. The more variety the more enjoyment.

## Heads Up or Down

We have a wealth of knowledge in our club. Our own John Roney, Park Manager at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, was interviewed by a Mendocino publication regarding rattlesnakes. On the first day of our recent rally at Sugarloaf, John found an adolescent rattlesnake and captured it. He put the juvenile in an Igloo drinking cooler. One of our campers exclaimed that she'll never look at those yellow coolers the same!

As all of us explore, be mindful of your surroundings, especially if you are unfamiliar with the territory. We are rapidly shifting into summer with warmer days ahead and with the shift comes creatures to watch out for.

Familiarize yourself with your location and the potential hazards before heading out. If you have pets, we are in prime tick and foxtail season. Do you have the necessary ingredients to help knock down a skunk spray? From experience, bringing a dog who has been recently skunked into your trailer will have that aroma embed in your Airstream curtains. No fun! A little preparation can minimize your risk.

## Affiliations

As Jill, our President, talked about in her first newsletter address, think about expanding your club horizons through affiliations. Being an affiliate member of another club will put you on the club's email list and you will get notifications of their upcoming rallies. Yes, you can see a club's rallies on the ACI website, but you won't get a timely notification as rallies are released. Variety is the spice of life and club affiliations expand your view of great places to camp with new friendly faces.

**Happy Mother's Day!**

**Photos From Rallies & More – Come Join The Fun!**



BYOP – Bring your own protein Cali Rally



Sugarloaf Ridge – Robert Ferguson Observatory



GBAAC well represented at Cali Rally



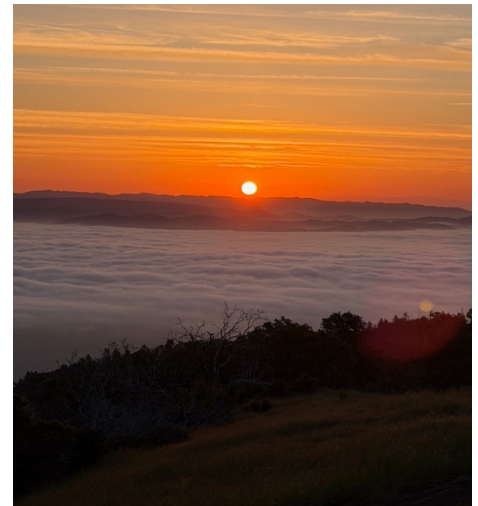
Star learning – Robert Ferguson Observatory



S'mores!



Parkfield 4H Fundraiser



Sunrise from Bald Mountain

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