Greater Bay Area Airstream Club Newsletter November 2026

2026 GBAAC Officers

Jill Impink
President
Club018@AirstreamClub.org
650-867-5234

Linda Weissman
1st Vice President
Lindajweissman@hotmail.com

Rebecca Schapp
2nd Vice President
rebecca.schapp@gmail.com

Darrin Lopez
3rd Vice President
uncled323@sbcglobal.net

Serena Lopez
Treasurer
SerenalopezGBAAC@gmail.com

Jason Grendahl
Secretary
JasonGrendahl@gmail.com

Andrea Grendahl
Webmaster
AndreaGrendahl@gmail.com

Eleanor McFarlin
Membership Chairperson
Eleanormcf28@gmail.com

Mike Blom
Past President
Mike@grapecounter.com



President's Message
Jill Impink

September took Wayne and me through three National Parks on our way home from Minot! We visited Glacier, Crater Lake, and Lassen Volcanic National Parks, each unique and beautiful in its own way. We also visited Burney Falls State Park, which Theodore Roosevelt called the "eighth wonder of the world." He wasn't wrong—it was incredible!

People often ask us what our favorite part of a trip was, and I can never pick just one thing. But when I look back on the places we've been and the experiences we've had, it's usually the people we've met who stand out most in my memory. I think human connection is more important now than ever, and that's exactly what our club has given us more than anything else: connection.

I love spending time at rallies and campgrounds, seeing old friends and making new ones, hearing about your travels and life updates, and working alongside our vibrant and active GBAAC board. These are the things that make our club so special!

Our last two rallies, Grass Valley and the Napa "Newbie" Rally, each drew nearly 60 people. How amazing is that? And with two more rallies on the calendar this year—Bodega Bay, November 12–16, and Jackson Rancheria, December 10–14—we have even more opportunities to connect, share adventures, and make lasting memories. I hope to see you at one!

A big thank-you to our nominating committee: John McFarlin, Jonathon Daly, and Michele Eichers. You did a fabulous job, and we appreciate the time you put into the process! The results are in, and the ballots have been ratified. I'm happy to share that I'll be continuing as your president for another year.

Jill's message continued

Our 2027 Executive Board will include Rebecca Schaap as 1st VP, Yolanda "Yoli" Daly as 2nd VP, Kristen Price as 3rd VP, Jason Grendahl as Secretary, and Serena Lopez as Treasurer. We're also fortunate to have Eleanor McFarlin continuing as Membership Chair and Jason Grendahl continuing as Finance Chair. I look forward to working with this team as we build on the great things happening in GBAAC and plan for another wonderful year!

I also want to thank Darrin Lopez, our current 3rd VP, and Linda Weissman, our current 1st VP, for choosing to remain active on the rally committee while stepping away from the Executive Board. Your continued involvement means so much, and it's a great reminder that there are many ways to contribute to our club. We appreciate you both and all that you bring to GBAAC!

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out. We love hearing from you, and we look forward to seeing you down the road, around the campfire, or at our next rally!

Happy travels,

Jill Impink
GBAAC President
BRN #6494



Lassen Volcanic National Park



Grass Valley Rally

2026 – 2027 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!

2026 GBAAC Rally Schedule					
Club	**Dates**	**Campground & Location**	**Host**	**Co-Host**	**Notes**
GBAAC	Nov 12 - 16	Bodega Bay RV Park, Bodega Bay	Jill Impink	Kristen Price	Installation Rally - Released 8/29, full
GBAAC	Dec 10 - 14	Jackson Rancheria RV Park, Jackson, CA	Jonathan & Yolanda Daly	Nancy Kenny	White Elephant Rally - Release August
2027					
GBAAC	Feb 4 - 8	SF North/Petaluma KOA	Linda Weissman & Ken Lalanne	TBD	25 Sites - Release May 2026
GBAAC	March 25 - 28	Sugarloaf Ridge State Park	Mike Blom	Eric McHenry	12 Sites, off-grid, released
GBAAC	April 15 - 19	Lake Camanche	Shelley & Peter Denyer	Carl Blake & Gary Tomovick	Released - openings
GBAAC	May 6 - 10	Grass Valley	TBD	TBD	Release - 2027
GBAAC	May 27 - 31	Six Sigma Ranch & Winery	Tony Eichers	Eric McHenry	Wagon wheel rally - release January, 2027
GBAAC	June 10 - 25	Rock Springs Caravan	Eric McHenry	Jill Impink	Caravan to Rock Springs Rally - Released 10/20/26
ACI	June 26 - July 1	International Rally - Rock Springs, WY			Released - sign up va ACI
GBAAC	August	Sun Outdoors - Paso Robles	TBD	TBD	Release - 2027
GBAAC	Sept 17 - 20	Harbor Village Park - Half Moon Bay	Jason & Andrea Grendahl	TBD	Release - 2027, joint rally with CCCAC
Region 12	Oct 6 - 10	Napa Valley Exposition, Napa, CA	Region 12		Release - Spring 2027
GBAAC	Oct 21 - 25	Coyote Lake	Shelley & Peter Denyer	Carl Blake & Gary Tomovick	Individual reservations - 6 mos in advance 5/21/27
GBAAC	Nov 11 - 14	Bodega Bay RV Park, Bodega Bay	Eleanor McFarlin	Chris Martindill	Release - 2027
GBAAC	Dec 2 - 6	Holiday Rally - location TBD	TBD	TBD	Release - 2027

Gathering not a Rally

When is a gathering of Airstreams not a rally? When it is Camp Airstream. Camp Airstream is put on by Airstream, Inc., not Airstream Club International.

Airstream Inc. started in 2025 hosting gatherings. These camps are for anyone that owns an Airstream, not just ACI members.

In 2025 the inaugural event was at a campground near the western Yellowstone National Park entrance. Each camp had curated agendas whereby the attendees would be taken on a hike, or a wildlife tour to see bison, elk and other park animals. Of course, no visit to Yellowstone would be complete without a visit to Old Faithful.



Denali, the llama, brought lunch up the mountain at Camp Airstream – Santa Fe so we could see the aspens turning color.

In 2026 Camp Airstream expanded and added Santa Fe and Nashville as additional camp locations. Each location features an Airstream Hub. The hub is where there are a couple trailers used as a lounge or area to print itineraries or just grab some fruit and a coffee. Around the hub are lounge chairs and tables where attendees can gather and share stories and a drink.

Each camp has a host couple and 15 or less trailers. This allows a high-touch event where each attendee gets personal care to help interact with the agenda and the other campers.

There are too many details to list here, so check out the Camp Airstream website and see if there is an adventure that looks inviting to you.

Silver Sailing

The next installment of the Silver cruise series will be Silver Down Under and, you guessed it, we're going to Australia and New Zealand! This time, we're celebrating Christmas and New Year's on the other side of the world, where December means summer, sunshine, and holiday festivities with an Aussie and Kiwi twist. What a way to ring in 2028!

Here's what's in store:

- Twelve nights aboard Oceania Vista, sailing from Sydney to Auckland, 12/23/26-1/4/27
- Christmas Day in Hobart, Tasmania.
- Scenic sailing through spectacular Milford Sound.
- New Year's Eve Day in Wellington, then ringing in 2028 as we sail toward Napier.

- Along the way, Dunedin, Christchurch, Gisborne, Rotorua and some wonderfully lazy days at sea.

One of the things we're especially excited about is **Oceania Vista herself.** Oceania is known for its relaxed, country-club-at-sea atmosphere and outstanding food. Specialty restaurants are included in the cruise fare, and Vista even has her own Culinary Center for getting hands on cooking classes.

Every stateroom in our group block also has a **private veranda**, starting with the spacious 291-square-foot Veranda Stateroom. Imagine enjoying your morning coffee outside as the New Zealand coastline comes into view! And there's something to be said for exploring 2 countries without packing and unpacking every few days.

Our Airstream group also enjoys a **complimentary upgrade to Prestige Select Beverage Package** plus a private welcome party to start our adventure together.

Come celebrate the holidays Down Under with us!

Explore Silver Down Under and reserve your stateroom: Silver Down Under

SF Giants Gathering

GBAAC hosted a non-camper gathering this past September. We rented out the Legends Suite at Oracle Park and 52 club members and affiliates with friends and family gathered to watch the St Louis Cardinals play against the SF Giants. This was a fun way for us to gather as a group and add in our extended circle to experience a relaxed way to take in a game.

It helped that all non-alcoholic beverages and food were part of the program. Run out of hot dogs, more showed up. Need more peanuts, sliders, popcorn, wings, mac and cheese, you name it, and it just kept appearing. The bonus was the Giants won!

Feedback from the group was very positive and a few asked if we could expand the concept to other sports teams like the Warriors or 49ers. Stay tuned for more fun ways to gather.



Newbie Rally

The Newbie Rally was held at Napa Valley Expo RV Park in Napa, October 15-19, 2026. The co-hosts were Rebecca & Thomas Schapp and LaVerne & Eric McHenry.

We had 28 sites reserved and 13 were Newbies, with the remaining experienced travelers or rally presenters. Newbies were people who were new to Airstreaming within the last two years.

We had fabulous weather all five days and were able to do indoor and outdoor activities over the course of our stay.

We are grateful to the presenters who shared their expertise and knowledge. Peter Denyer showed us how to change a flat tire and discussed tow weights, in addition to answering questions. Tami, Dave, and Alex (mechanic) from Airstream Adventures Fairfield joined us. Alex had 15-minute appointments at peoples rigs to address individual questions and problems. Eric McHenry talked about connectivity (cellular,

campground Wi-Fi, and StarLink) and off-grid camping (solar, batteries, dry camping, and inverter). Karl Heim from Heim Built discussed the problem of front-end separation and tank straps. We are grateful to all our presenters for sharing their invaluable knowledge with us.

Before the rally LaVerne asked people if they would be willing to open their Airstreams for people to tour. This way people could see how others set-up their trailers and handle storage situations. We had approximately 10 trailers participate in this Open House viewing, and people were taking away many good ideas.



Airstream technician Alex giving tips

On the strictly FUN agenda, we always enjoyed each other's company at Happy Hours and Campfire chats. We conducted a 10 mile easy bicycle ride in the Napa area, had lunch at Gott's Roadside for those who were interested, and one morning Joann and Marc Godoy hosted a Bagel and Fruit Buffet Breakfast with mimosas. We also hosted a catered dinner from Red Rock Cafe which was delicious.

During and after the rally we received many comments about how much people learned and how much they appreciated our efforts to share information.

Ana Barretto shared her testimonial with us: "The Newbie Rally is certainly a good start for those who just bought their Airstream! Even those of us who have had our Airstreams for a couple of years, we learned so much from Airstream Adventures Fairfield staff, Karl Heim, and others with decades of experience on the road! Great rally and we are very thankful to the organizers and enjoyed meeting everyone."

SmartPlug

A benefit of going to International Rallies are interacting with the many vendors that exhibit there. You might find a better way to brace your trailer steps or be able to talk about trouble you are having with a part in/on your trailer.



The picture above is of one end of a SmartPlug power cord. This one came from a 2023 Airstream. The SmartPlug vendor in Minot let us know that that their company would cover replacing this power cord with a new cord.

The new cord design gives you a 90º trailer connection along with an improved handle to plug into pedestals. After filling out the warranty claim on the SmartPlug website, (we recommend sending a picture of your power cord sheath separated from the plug) you should get a response email a couple of days later. The catch is that Smart Plug asks that you send your old cord back to them in Washington. They do not ask you to send your old cord until after you receive the

replacement, so you won't lose any camping time. Note, our old 30ft SmartPlug weighed 23lbs so shipping it back to WA cost us about $50 via UPS. In our opinion, the upgrade was worth the cost.



National Event Rallies

You may have seen photos on the GBAAC Facebook page of the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. This is a National Event Rally that happens every year. This is a very popular rally that has a waitlist of multiple years. Patience is worthwhile to this bucket list event.

The activities start early. You start on the field at 5:30AM. 500 drones working in tight formation provide an amazing light show. Dawn Patrol at 6AM sends pilot balloons up to test the wind direction and speed. If all okay there is a mass ascension at 7AM with 500+ balloons launching!

150 Airstreams gather and share this experience. You will learn that New Mexico is the only state that has an official state question. Can you guess the question? (see below).



Many activities are organized and they even give you time for a nap! This rally, along with the Rose Parade and many other National Event Rallies make being part of the club meaningful and fun.

Region 12 New State Member

Did you know that Hawaii is the only state in the union that does not belong to an Airstream Region? Well no longer. This past month your International Board of Trustees voted to add Hawaii to Region 12. We say "aloha" to our members in Hawaii.

GBAAC has tried non-trailer events at the Cobra Experience showcasing Carol Shelby cars and we have gathered in the Legends Suite at Oracle Park to watch the SF Giants play this past year. It will take creative minds to see what we can organize to meet on the islands. Have an idea, pass it along!

As Wally Byam said "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."

New Mexico Question – "green or red?". Famous for their Hatch chilies which they put on everything

Photos From Rallies & More – Come Join The Fun!



Fun at Grass Valley Rally



Balloons of every shape and size



The Hub – Camp Airstream Santa Fe



Go Giants!



North Texas Airstream Club hosted IBT dinner



Newbie Clips – Great idea!

Hope to see you in Bodega Bay for Installation Rally

Next Newsletter in January – Happy Holidays!

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