

# The Oregon Streamer

Annie Terry English, editor

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Bearstream

Candidate: Mona Heath

## Breakfast Meeting

Join the group every month.

When: first Sat each month,  
9:00 AM

Where: The Mark

9900 SW Canyon Road

Beaverton, OR

RSVP 503-889-1145

or [www.themarkpdx.com](http://www.themarkpdx.com),  
with the word Airstream in  
subject. State how many in  
your group.

Contact persons:

Bill & Brenda Leppo



## President's Greeting

The camping season has begun! People are easing their trailers out of storage, cleaning out the dust, and gearing up for a great season to come. Our unit has a busy year ahead with 21 rallies scheduled! The first will be the April Fools Rally, when Brad and Susan Taylor will welcome pranksters from all over the state. See our website for details on how to get on the waiting list for this full rally.

Hal and I visited the NW Airstream dealer in Gladstone recently to drool over new trailers and strengthen the bond between our Unit and our local dealer. No new trailer for us but it was great to meet with folks at the

dealership to talk about what we can do to help each other succeed.

On the national scene, Art and Tookie Hall will be casting the Oregon votes at the international rally in West Virginia and Teresa Taylor will carry our unit flag at the opening ceremony. Our own Mona Heath is the candidate for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, which puts her in directly in line for the presidency. We are so proud! I'm retiring May 1, and Hal and I are headed to Morocco for a few weeks before getting more serious about camping this summer. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at rallies and welcoming new members to this amazing group.

On a sadder note: On March 1st, Vicki Billdt, wife of John Billdt and Oregon Airstream Unit members, passed away suddenly. She will be profoundly missed by all of those who knew and loved her. Our deepest condolences are extended to John and the family.

Best  
Terri Warren and Hal Hendrix



## 2016 Rally Summary

from Terri Warren

Your response to our 2016 rally schedule has been nothing short of amazing! Quite a few rallies are full and have waiting lists while others are still eagerly awaiting your registration. Remember that this year, the club preregistered for several campsites and will incur a partial cost of the campsites, even if we don't fill them.

The rallies in particular need of your attention are Champoeg State Park and Metzler County Park in Clackamas, which is a big surprise because both campgrounds are such wonderful places to camp!

Our [Champoeg rally](#) is a buddy rally this year, which means your friends without Airstreams can register with you (and we promise not to ask them why they have something else instead of an Airstream!)





**Metzger Park** sites are deep in the shade for warm August camping, with a river just behind, rippling through the campground.

Another rally we just added, **Armitage Park** near Eugene, will not be a financial issue for the club if it doesn't fill but still has several openings and your registration will be rewarded with a terrific Italian dinner and great company besides.



Your board is so pleased with your response to our new all potluck rallies - just goes to show it's not about the fancy food at hosted rallies but rather the good friends we make at spectacular campgrounds.

One more time we really want to thank Bob Crummett for all of his work on our website. There were a few issues earlier this month due to a computer glitch having nothing to do with Bob, but he had it all fixed and back to normal within just a few days.

**Bob Crummett ROCKS!**

**Below is the status of all our rallies for 2016 as of March 20<sup>th</sup>**

April Fools	full
<b>Boardman Marina</b>	<b>5 available</b>
<b>Ashland Theater</b>	<b>2 available</b>
Cove Palisades	full
<b>Armitage Park</b>	<b>11 available</b>
<b>Bully Creek</b>	<b>1 available</b>
Riverside Relaxin'	full
<b>Williamson River</b>	<b>5 spots</b>
Boondocking	full
<b>Some Like it Hot</b>	<b>5 available</b>
Haystack Rally	full
<b>Harbor Vista</b>	<b>6 available</b>
<b>Clackamas Metzger</b>	<b>16 available</b>
<b>Champoeg</b>	<b>14 available</b>
<b>Nehalem</b>	<b>1 available</b>
<b>Bastendorff</b>	<b>7 available</b>
<b>Pendleton</b>	<b>sites available</b>
<b>Oktoberfest</b>	<b>2 available</b>
Crane Prairie	full
<b>Stub Stewart Annual</b>	<b>40 available</b>

## **LEAK TEST RALLY 2016**

January 22-24, 2016  
Cape Lookout State Park



The Third Annual Leak Test Rally began with somewhat stormy weather and heavy seas. Those who arrived early had a great opportunity to check for leaks and reported no new ones found. A few old ones recurred, though.



The 15 trailers and 32 people were welcomed by Henry and Aidan Ball ,who delivered brownies for the humans (in hand-decorated Airstream bags) and treats for the dogs. After a soup dinner, we enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting a few new ones.

On Saturday we had a hearty brunch and the weather cleared enough to enjoy the outdoors. We hiked, walked the dogs, and visited Tillamook.

Saturday was also movie night. I recently obtained some home movies filmed at International and the several Oregon Unit trips from 1964 and 1965. Huge groups of Airstreams featured in some recognizable places, even though the camera was never quite pointed where it was supposed to be. It was a hoot. Brad Taylor - you should have been there. The double feature ended with a DVD of Caravans from the 50's and the Airstream factory in the 60's. Old trailers rule!



Sunday morning we replaced the grab-and-go with a hot and cold cereal bar to have one last chance to visit. A few of us got an impromptu ranger talk on the animals of the park, complete with skulls and even a whale vertebra. Although Cape Lookout has served us well for January camping, we are looking at other coastal parks for next year to add some variety. Stay tuned.

Rob and Diane Nicol





## HOW OUR AIRSTREAM BECAME A BEARSTREAM

By Rob Nicol

Diane and I were camping in our 2005 25' CCD at Sugar Pine Point on Lake Tahoe in August of 2015. My brother had rented a lakefront house nearby and we were spending time with the family. As we returned "home" to the campground about 10PM, we noticed a light on in our trailer. This was no-hookup camping and we are pretty careful about turning things off so it immediately struck us as strange. Stranger still was the fact that the refrigerator and pantry were open - it was the refrigerator light we saw.

I suspected a break-in, but the species of the perpetrator was a surprise. As I inspected the outside perimeter, a neighboring camper approached and told us "There were bears in your trailer." This was confirmed by a note on the door from a park ranger asking us to call in the morning about the "bear incident" Evidently, a mother and cub and climbed in through an open side window, opened the refrigerator, and ate all the meat and other protein they could find. The fruit was left untouched, other than to smash bits of it into the floor, cushions, and pillows. Although the interior was a mess, nothing was broken other than the screen they destroyed getting in. After some late night cleaning we were able to sleep in the trailer as planned. The next morning the Park Ranger paid us a visit. We weren't sure if leaving a window open (even just a little) had been a mistake. It turns out that break-ins like this are very rare and although Sugar Pine Point has daily bear incidents, it's been several years since a trailer was the target. We followed the rules. These bears were bad actors.

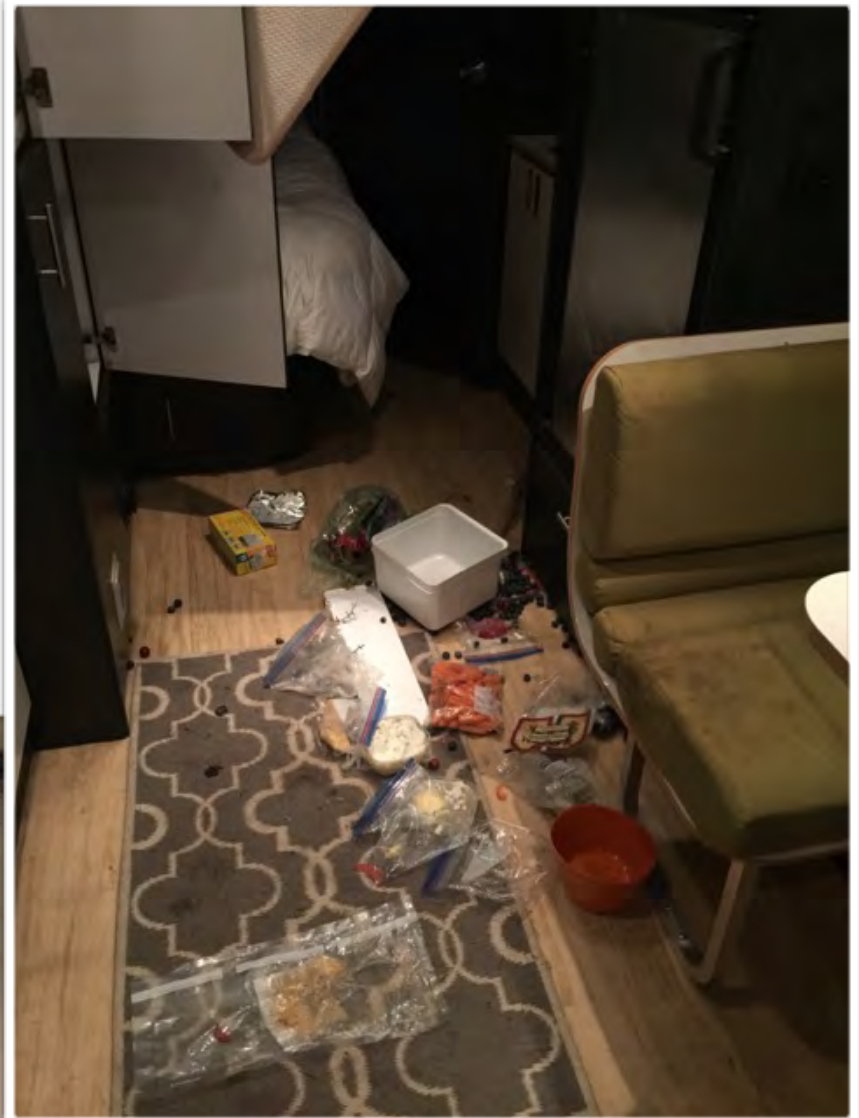
What we learned:

- 1) The window screen did little to slow down an hungry bear



2) Bears are not neat eaters

3) The dinette is sturdy enough to hold a bear (possibly two).



and 4) the fabric used for cushions is resilient and cleans up well.



After a friend asked how the "Bearstream" had faired, that name stuck - especially handy for us since we own two Airstreams.

We were lucky that the bears managed to unlatch and open the fridge without tearing the door off. Lucky that they stayed mostly off the bed and lucky that they went out the same way they came in. Not lucky that of all the trailers and all the days, they chose us, but we think that a little adventure still has a place in our camping lives and are happy that a well built trailer can stand up to one of nature's unexpected challenges.

**Mona Heath- Candidate for International****3rd Vice President****ABOUT MONA J HEATH, #3339**

I am an almost ten-year member of the WBCCI, and have held several leadership positions within my Region. With the support of my husband and my employer, who have a thorough understanding of the obligations and time commitment of the role of International Officer, I'm honored to be a nominee for International 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:

- Live in Hillsboro OR, Member of Oregon Unit #090, Region 10
- Serial Airstream owner: 1957 Flying Cloud, 1958 Bubble, 1969 Tradewind and 2011 Bambi International Signature
- Founding member of Moving WBCCI Forward <https://www.facebook.com/movingWBCCIforward/>

**RESPECTS AND SUPPORTS THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERISM:**

- Current 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Region Membership Chair, Region 10
- Past 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Public Relations Chair and Contributing Editor to the Blue Beret Chair, Region 10
- Past President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Charter Social Media Chair - Oregon Unit
- Membership Standing Committee Member
- International Membership Workshop Committee Chair - Farmington NM 2015 and Gillette WY 2014
- International Membership Presentations - Farmington NM 2015, Gillette WY 2014, Huron SD 2013 and Sedalia MO 2012

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:**

- General Manager Airstream 2 Go
- Over 20 years of wholesale and retail sales management with NIKE, Inc. and Nordstrom
- Collaborative business partner skilled at developing mutually-respectful partnerships with key stakeholders
- Highly-effective team leader aligning 30 direct and cross-functional reports with common goals
- Developed marketplace distribution strategies while exceeding revenue and profitability targets against corresponding business plans
- Managed businesses with annual wholesale revenue in excess of \$400M

**PRIORITIES FOCUS ON A MEMBER-FOCUSED BUSINESS PLAN:**

- Leader who inspires and represents members' interests.
- Create an inclusive environment, at all levels, where club practices and policies serve to unite members, where all members are treated with respect, all views valued and all voices heard.
- Develop long-term strategy with focus on members and membership growth, encouraging investment in *their* club through leadership and volunteerism.
- Reduce structured formality and exclusive practices while promoting membership-focused ideas as best practices
- Promote the development of a club Vision and, in turn, improve Membership recruiting
- Actively seek qualified members to serve as officers and committee members

**VISION / MISSION STATEMENT – MONA HEATH**

**VISION:** Work collaboratively with leadership to ensure the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) is relevant, vibrant, adaptive and growing for current and future generations of Airstream owners.

There have been substantial recent improvements beginning with the hiring of Lori Plummer as Corporate Manager in Jackson Center, OH. The Electronic Communication Committee (ECC) brought the implementation and distribution of a digital directory and this year, 2016, will be the largest International Rally in several years.

**MISSION:** The WBCCI, the Airstream Club International, is an underutilized brand with growth potential similar to that of Airstream, Inc. However, only 1:10 of new Airstream owners join the Club. Together, we should focus our efforts on solutions to:

- o Blend our heritage with the demographics of the new Airstream owner;
- o Change the perception of 60% of new owners that the WBCCI is dated and not accepting of owners who are younger, still working and with families\*;
- o Reinvent a multi-platform social media presence under the direction of a dedicated member of the Membership Standing Committee, without compromising traditional methods of communication;
- o Tap into the skill sets of all members and encourage participation;
- o Recognize that the majority of new Airstream owners work\*, but can also contribute to the future of the Club;
- o Develop and communicate ways to engage youth of all ages;
- o Encourage new unit formation in key metro centers;

*\*Data from Airstream, Inc. 2014 & 2015 New Owner Survey responses.*

Through our actions, we can demonstrate the relevance and value of membership in the Airstream Club International to new and existing Airstream owners – ensuring its longevity for the next 60+ years of Fun, Friendship and Adventure.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve.

*Mona Heath, #3339*

Region 10 First Vice President

Oregon Unit Past President

Nominee for International Third Vice President