
UWAC Club News

Utah's Wasatch Airstream Club News

Volume 5 — March 2018 — WBCCI's Utah Affiliate



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello UWAC!

It seems spring is on its way and soon our camping season will be upon us. Finally! I am sure our famous unpredictable Utah weather will still have a few surprises for us.

There are some exciting things in the works. I have been working with a local company on UWAC merchandise. Soon, we will have the ability to order t-shirts, hats, hoodies etc. I have also had the request for a smaller garden flag. These flags can be personalized with your names and WBCCI number if you choose. I will have a sample for you to see at the breakfast.

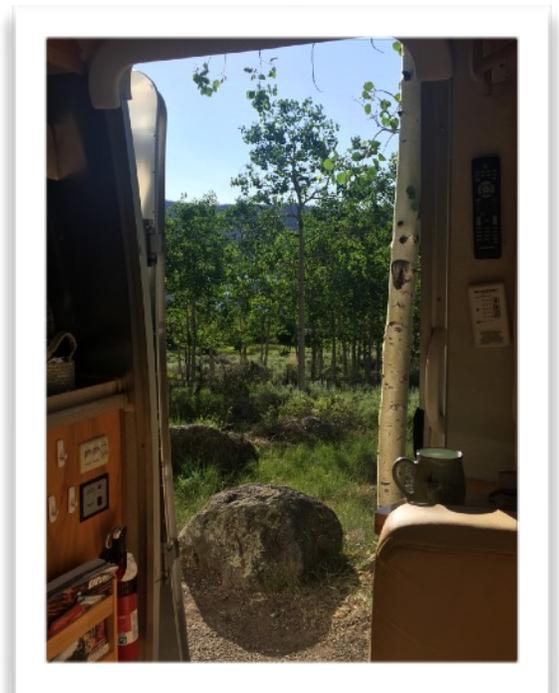
Speaking of the breakfast, I hope you have marked your calendar for Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. UWAC is co-hosting this event with Airstream of Utah. Come and enjoy breakfast and a presentation from their service techs. If you have questions about how your Airstream works, this is for you!

Lastly, I hope you take a minute to visit our website and checkout our upcoming events. This year is the fullest our calendar has been. Beginning with our spring rally in Moab, a caravan to Oregon, group camping at Fish Lake, to a joint rally with the Idaho unit, there really is a little something for everyone.

Thanks for your continued support. You all make UWAC great!

Julie Schofield

President, Utah's Wasatch Airstream Club



Fish Lake, Utah

Travels with a Big Dog... and an Airstream!

By Peter Van Hook #1173



Schultz the Magnificent at repose in the Airstream.

We have always liked big dogs.

Although our first companion animal was a miniature poodle—we were living in a series of apartments—by 1978 we had a *large* yellow Labrador retriever whom the kids named *Grover*...yes, after the Sesame Street character of the same name. The name was apt: the two characters ate everything in sight, and not just cookies. When we moved to Salt Lake City in 1981 we gave her to a friend who was a bird hunter who hoped to train her. Right. Never overestimate the intelligence of a Lab. By 1985 we had rescued a forlorn, starved and neglected six-month-old St. Bernard who had been named *Trouble*. We figured that the name would be at least partially descriptive, so we kept it. Fortunately the dog at some point realized it was indeed a rescue, and I do not know if there has been a more loyal and cooperative dog. Never underestimate the intelligence of a St. Bernard.

There was then a several year interlude of Basset hounds named *Willie* and *Wolly*. Bassets are small dogs with a big dog personality, and we thought that “downsizing” would ease the problems of volume occupied. However, they *are* **hounds**. They follow their noses. If either dog wandered off we just had to wait until they came back. Bassets also go to Stupid School: just before they are weaned their mothers take them aside and tell them they have the sad eyes and long ears and squatty body for a reason: humans think they are cute (or perhaps silly). For that reason, their mothers tell them, if they just act stupid the humans will always think they are dear dumb little animals and take care of them forever. Never underestimate the intelligence of a Basset hound.

We attempted several times to go camping with the kids and the current companion dog, usually returning home lamenting the decision to take the dog *and* the kids.

Several months after Willie died (old age) we acquired our first AKC registered dog. *Schultz the Magnificent* is an eleven-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. Yes, *is*, because he is sitting next to me as I write this. It may be, at least in part, that he has lived so long because we have never taken him camping. He also came into our lives at about the same time the last kid graduated from high school. Perhaps it is a coincidence, but that is also about the time we bought our first Airstream.

Suffice it to say that Schultz has traveled in style (see photo). He has been all over the American West, as well as southwest Canada. Along with the Airstream he has enabled us to meet lots of new people. "Oh! Is that an Airstream/What a handsome dog!" This is said in either order. It has not always been clear that these visitors have wanted to see *us*.

My conclusion is that, if you want to live long and prosper with your Airstream and your dog, get a Berner. He will demand that sort of pampering, but he will always show his appreciation for it.

Silver Dreams: Airstreaming & Retirement

By Ron Jorgensen #1218

Some of you may be at a similar stage of life - planning for and dreaming about retirement in the not-too-distant future. One of the reasons we bought our used 2007 Airstream Classic 27FB in 2014 was to re-engage with camping and begin to spend more time in the great outdoors. We certainly have done just that with many memorable trips and visits to the many exquisite places right here in Utah in our own back yard. In fact, we keep our trailer near the family ranch house (both pictured on next page) in Southern Utah, and rarely have to tow much more than a couple of hours to prime spots like Fish Lake, Bryce Canyon, Pine Lake, Boulder Mountain and other high elevation locations on Scenic Highway 12.

Unlike some retirees, we'll likely stay with the short trip model (nearby trips, less than 7-10 days) as opposed to grand cross-country adventures. Why? Three reasons: (1) we'd rather be camping than driving; (2) there's so many incredible places right here nearby; and (3) we'll still have one child living at home with us for a few years with school, sports and other activities to attend. We've driven to so many beautiful places throughout the Intermountain West that have simply wetted the appetite for extended stays in the Airstream in this area.

So what are the realities of retiring early? Well, for starters - it beats dying early. I believe the modern demands of the workplace can be over-taxing on individuals. Work-life balance? I'm told by an expert that's an outdated notion, and that instead we should be thinking work-life integration. Hmm... I'll let you form your own opinions on that topic.



Certainly my employer is signaling that they would like me to stay and work for a few more years. I dunno... sounds like a long time given the pressures involved. Is it really worth it?

One pre-requisite to retirement is financial readiness. We've hired a financial planner and prepared a plan to make sure we don't retire too early (before saving enough) and that we're likely to have enough to last us into old age. Fortunately, we've always lived below our means and saved since our mid-20's, and we're totally debt-free. With the availability of a traditional pension and plenty of years of credited service, we're in good shape to at least start thinking about early retirement. Now, we just need a good crystal ball that can predict the investment markets... well, that's pure wishful thinking.

The toughest part? That would have to be the abrupt change from a demanding career to virtual freedom. The biggest challenge seems to be what to do with all the newly-found free time. Part of the solution will be continuing our Airstream travels throughout Utah and the Intermountain West. We plan to continue attending UWAC rallies and caravans, as we've met many new friends and had a great time at all of the club events we've attended. Additionally, we'll continue to maintain our home on the Wasatch Front, the ranch house in

“The biggest challenge to me is the big transition from work — what to do with all the free time? Part of the solution will be continuing our Airstream travels throughout Utah and the Intermountain West.”



Southern Utah, and attend to family affairs. There will also be plenty of time for volunteering, travel, sporting events, skiing, and of course, camping with the family and our Airstream friends.

Got some good advice on the topic? I’m definitely interested — hopefully we can visit at an upcoming UWAC event. In the meantime, I’m resisting the temptation to upgrade our Airstream (the newer 30’ Classic is so very nice) and tow vehicle (the 2001 F250 is a gas-guzzling workhorse, but getting a bit tired) so I don’t have to work that extra few years....

Safe travels and best regards,

- Ron

CLUB TIDBITS

“Breakfast with the Service Techs” co-sponsored by Airstream of Utah... Our good friends at Airstream of Utah and UWAC are co-sponsoring this informational event on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Come join the local dealer and your fellow UWAC members for pancakes and a presentation by an Airstream certified service technician. If you have questions about maintenance or how your Airstream works, this event is for you! The dealer is located at 2651 South 600 West in Salt Lake City (phone: 801-890-4363.)

Arizona “Glamping” (Barb and Jim Powell, #2153)... Jim and I spent the first week in February in Mesa, AZ staying at Mesa Spirit RV Resort. This was our first time getting away in the winter for a week in one place. We were a bit nervous about traveling to and from Utah in the winter but with our mild season, we were fine. We had gorgeous 75-80°



weather and spectacular sunsets at happy hour. The resort has pickle ball, heated pools, bocce ball, socials and lots of other activities. Plus there is a nice 20-mile bike path along a canal accessible to the resort. Though Mesa Spirit isn't in the nicest part of Mesa, the price was reasonable and it's a gated resort with security. In thinking about next year we checked out Palm Creek Golf and RV resort in Casa Grande, AZ. The resort is known for its pickle ball facilities and a well-established community of pickle ball players. There is also an 18 hole, par three golf course. In general we thought the resort was as nice as the pictures on their website, and are planning to try to stay there for a week or two next February. On the return trip we also enjoyed a beautiful lunch spot at Lake Mead Recreation Area, enjoying free entrance with Jim's new senior National Park Pass! Age does have some benefits.

Getting down to Mesa we overnighted at the Oasis in Las Vegas – excellent facility that did not disappoint – and on the way home at the Casablanca Casino in Mesquite, NV. The Casablanca has a small RV park with full hookups, showers and laundry. Nothing special but “comfortable” and safe—and \$25/night. This is our second time overnighting at the Casablanca and like it because it puts us through Vegas and within a 5 to 6 hour final stretch home: typically getting us home with enough light to unpack, etc.

Happy Camping,
The Powell's

The current directory of **current UWAC members** can be found on the website.
<http://utahswasatchairstreamclub.wbccci.net/members-only/>

☑ **UWAC Club Officers for 2018...** Special thanks to our past club president, Ben Schofield. We all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Ben for his exemplary leadership over the past 2 years in getting the Utah AS chapter up and running. He and Julie have been steadfast leaders with tremendous growth in club membership and activities to show for their efforts. The good news - Julie was installed as the new UWAC president for 2018 at our end-of-season club party last November. To guard against Russian meddling in the election, high security auditory methods were used during in-person voting (i.e. 'aye' or 'nyet'). Congratulations to the slate of new officers and directors (terms began 1/1/18):

New Officers: Julie Schofield – President; Peter Van Hook 1st Vice-President; Jim Powell – 2nd Vice-President; Keith Lund – Treasurer; *Open – Secretary*

Directors (continuation): Bonnie Ruskauff – Membership Director; John Ruskauff – Social Media Chair; Ron Jorgensen – Webmaster; *Open – Event Chair*

Please contact Julie Schofield if you have interest in any of the open positions or have ideas for Club rallies and events.

☑ **Festus A. Streamer**

Ughh.... not again. See the UWAC web-site for other monthly Festus installments (if you have a strong stomach and can tolerate artistic & comedic abuse.)

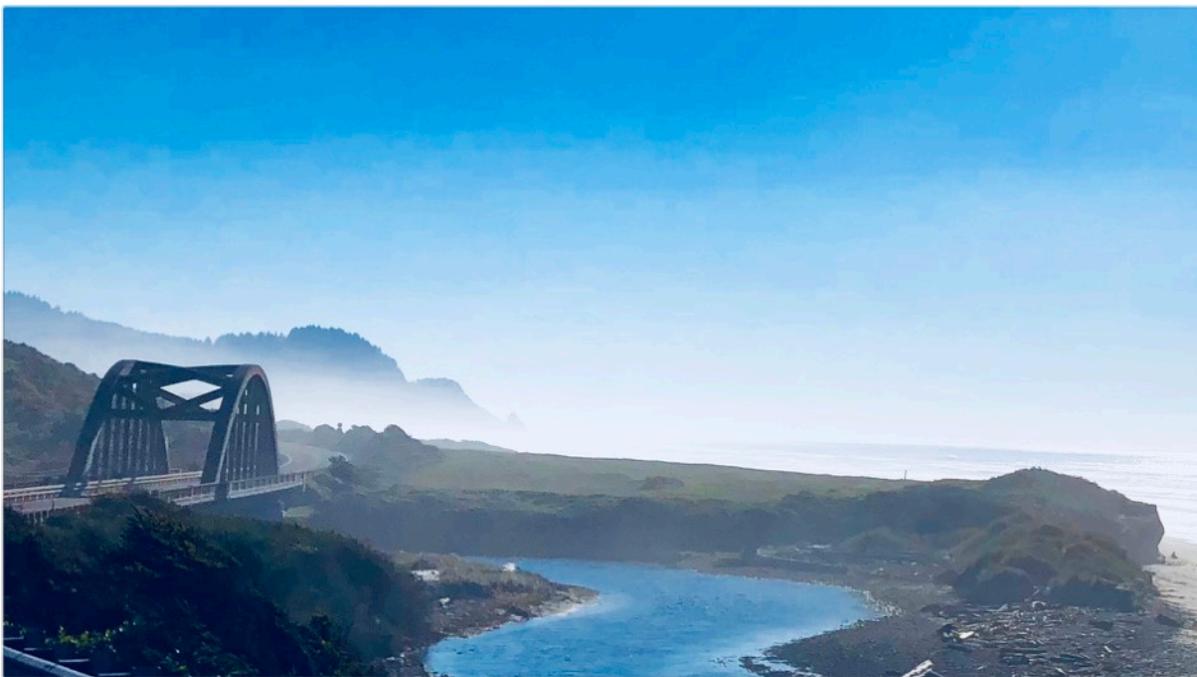


☑ Up Next... “Airstreams and Arches” UWAC Spring Rally in Moab, May 3-6, 2018...

Join us for our first rally of the season in beautiful Moab, Utah. Hopefully you have already made your reservation at the Moab Valley RV Resort by the February 15th deadline. Currently, 16 UWAC members or affiliates (16 trailers) are planning to attend. Co-hosts Bonnie and John Ruskauff have planned a really fun set of activities including potlucks, Grandstaff Canyon 4-mile hike, a visit to the Moab Film Museum at the Red Cliff Winery, ATV rides, and a Canyonlands by Night dutch oven dinner, river cruise, and light show! See the UWAC web-site for more info. and registration form. Fun, fun, fun....

☑ Our First Ever Caravan, “Salem Bound!”, June 19-22...

If you’re not already registered for International in Salem, Oregon (June 23-30), note there is a “Short Stay” option for members who want to stay 3 nights or less. See the UWAC web-site for information and registration links.

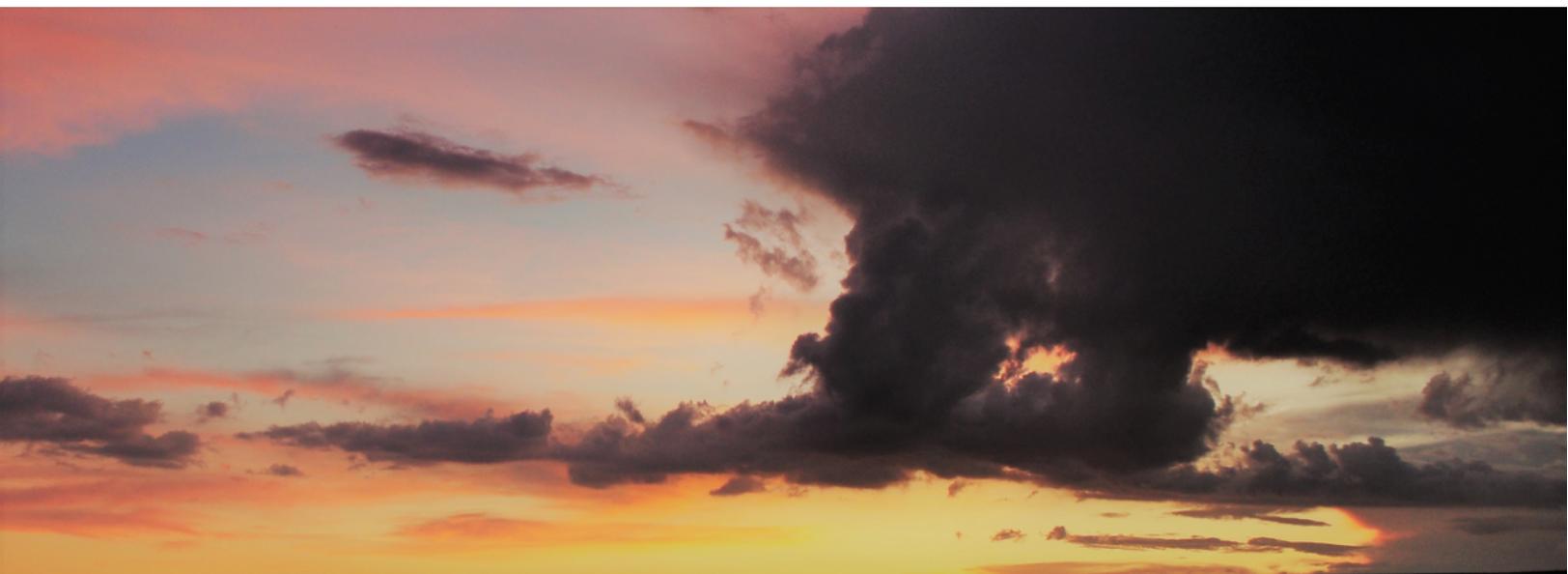


Central Oregon Coast (2017)

☑ One Final Thought... Time to Start Planning Your Camping & Glamping Season

“We do not want merely to see beauty... We want something else which can hardly be put into words — to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bath in it, to become part of it.”

– C. S. Lewis



”Camping season dawns soon...”
For latest planned 2018 UWAC events, see:
www.utahswasatchairstreamclub.wbcci.net
(photo courtesy of Peter J. Van Hook)