



Cleveland Unit Newsletter

The Grapevine

Tom Standing - Editor

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First Rally Eagerly Anticipated

As spring slowly arrives on the North Coast, our first rally of the season is set for 8-11 May at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio. This weekend coincides with the start of the "Biggest Week in American Birding" as birders from across the U.S. and Canada gather to admire the crush of warblers, finches and water birds that pause in their migration to rest up before jumping across Lake Erie. There are 10 units signed up with representatives from Pennsylvania and Region 4 joining Cleveland Unit members for some ornithological adventures.

Theresa and Tom Standing are hosting the rally and Theresa has a great menu planned. We will unfurl the official unit tent to provide sturdy shelter and there will be an excursion to visit Toledo's wonderful Art Museum which has a visiting exhibition called "In Fine Feather" featuring birds in art and science.

The park offers wonderful opportunities to experience nature and to enjoy biking along paved trails as well as golf and a fine lodge with dining. I doubt the beach will be used though! It'll be great if we get some sun but with this Spring we'd better be prepared for anything!

Winter Activities Keep Members in Touch

While some of our members fled south to escape this brutal winter, others got together in warm shelters to talk about Airstreaming plans for the coming year. Tom and Theresa Standing were among several club members who attended the first "Alumaflamingo" rally in Sarasota FL put on by

"Airstream Life" team at the end of February. With nearly 300 units parked at the fairgrounds, it was a great chance to catch up on maintenance, lifestyle and WBCCI information. Tom Christopher hosted a get together for the Cleveland Unit folks at his Florida residence and the Johnjulios, Buchanans, Jenkins,

Maties, Kubalics and Standings enjoyed his hospitality. We were joined by Ed and Jeanne Stroetz from the Georgia Unit and Tom's delightful in-laws, the Bernardos. Meanwhile, back in the snow and cold, Carolyn and Dale Ferguson hosted a pizza party early in March at their home in Chagrin Falls. The Smiths, Brooks and

Special points of interest:

- Membership for 2014 is at 36
 - New WCBBI Facebook Page "Moving WBCCI Forward"
- LIKE today!

Fun and Adventure for 2014

May 8-10	Biggest Week in American Birding	Maumee Bay State Park, Tom Standing
May 19-25	Region 4 Rally	Lima, Ohio See "Blue Beret"
June 5-8	Ferry to the Island Rally	Kelley's Island State Pk. Tom Christopher
June 28 – July 4	WBCCI International	Gillette, WY See "Blue Beret"
July 16-20	Falls and Wine Rally	Four Mile Creek SP NY Tom Christopher
August 21-24	D-Day Re-enactment Rally	Maxwell Farm, Erie PA Joe Maxwell
Sept ??	Mount Union Tailgate Rally	Campus site, Alliance OH Tom Christopher
December ??	Christmas Party	TBD, Carolyn Ferguson

Alumapalooza is again scheduled for Jackson Center OH at the factory. It will run May 27-June 1.

alumapalooza.com

Winter Activities con't

joined Carolyn and Dale. "Experiences ran the gambit from 50+ years of Airstreaming for the Smiths to Debby's being a brand new owner of a vintage 1954, her first." reports Carolyn. Goodies included a chocolate cake with an Airstream on top!

Another opportunity to visit with folks was set up by Steve and Susan Stefanko who hosted a luncheon at "J.Alexanders" restaurant in Mayfield Heights. The Stefankos

were joined by the Smiths, Standings, Fergusons and Paula Christopher. Steve was a bit surprised to be presented with his own hard copy of the WBCCI "Blue Book" (also available on line at wbcci.net) and he promised to read it thoroughly.

Besides these informal events, there were spontaneous get-togethers in Florida as several members were there over the winter. As always, Bill and Sandy Johnjulo were

warm and generous hosts only more so now that they have a home in the "Village" at "Travelers' Rest" near DeLand FL. The Standings, the Maties and the Jenkins took advantage of the opportunity to stop by at various times.

Spring “Tune Up” for Your Airstream

From Tom Christopher

By now, many of us are eagerly awaiting that first spring trip in our beloved home on wheels, our Airstream. Big or small, young or old, she is our oasis which provides fun, fellowship, adventure, and memories which seem to last a lifetime.

For the record, I am no expert. I am merely a humble tinkerer who loves to collect tips and tools from those smart guys/gals who know so much more than me. I thought I would offer a list of what I have collected over the years which I affectionately refer to as my “Spring Tune Up” Check list. Fair warning, my wife will attest that I have graduated from being anal to a card carrying member of the O.C.D Club. So please, take all with a grain of salt. Hope this is helpful.

So here goes:

- 1.) Pull wheels and pack bearings
- 2.) Inspect and adjust brakes (while the wheels are off)
- 3.) Spray wheels wells with rubberized undercoating (with wheels off). Very common leak point and a little spray rubber can mean the difference between a dry or soggy floor.
- 4.) Tighten shock bolts (you will be surprised how they loosen with travel)
- 5.) Check tire wear and pressure. Run at stated Max inflation for max carrying capacity (Load Range D typically 65 PSI and Range E typically 80 PSI). Lots of great articles on this.
- 6.) Replace any tires after 5 years of use, no matter what. Why risk it?
- 7.) Check spare tire and bottle jack.
- 8.) Renew AAA Membership with Trailer Tow coverage (Belts and suspenders...)
- 9.) Fill batteries with distilled water to top of cell. Place on 3 stage, trickle charge. Battery Tender is a great brand and they have a 2 bank system perfect for off and in season storage charging.
- 10.) Replace batteries every 3 or 4 years with quality batteries. Strongly recommend

Interstate (Airstream provided brand) or Crown. A little bit more \$\$\$ but boy are they great! Don't be afraid to upgrade to a Group 27 or 30 Battery (from the standard Group 24) if it fits. Group size simply means the size of the battery box. Larger number bigger/longer lasting battery. Same volts just allot more Amp Hours so they provide more hours of use before having to be recharged.

- 11.) Wash and wax exterior of trailer.
- 12.) Check and caulk all rain gutters above windows, as needed.
- 13.) Replace caulk on roof every 5 years. Airstream attest the best way to beat the leaks as the caulks goes bad.
- 14.) Fill both propane tanks
- 15.) Replace batteries in CO2 and Smoke Detectors.
- 16.) Replace Smoke, CO2 and LP detectors every 5 Years. The sensors go bad and it is HIGHLY recommended by the Pro's to replace every 5 years.
- 17.) Have a tech clean, adjust, and inspect all gas omitted orphisis including refrigerator, furnace, and hot water tank.
- 18.) Have a tech check and adjust the LP pressure and MOST IMPORTANTLY water in your LP system. Little known, propane bought from unknown sources often times have moisture in the tanks and thus LP. Once in your system, it corrodes the pressure regulator which can lead to 3-7x times the normal regulated pressure. This results in BOOM! When I first heard of this I was skeptical. I had my 2 year old trailer checked and they discovered water in my system. Easy purge and all was good. Don't risk it.
- 19.) Walk the trailer from hitch to bumper and tighten every fastener.
- 20.) Rain X all windows.
- 21.) Check, adjust (with torque wrench), and grease the hitch.
- 22.) Pull safety brake cable, shoot silicon into the opening to ensure release.
- 23.) Silicon all locks.
- 24.) Lubricate front tongue jack shaft and leveling legs with graphite spray.
- 25.) Clean all water tank and fridge access areas
- 26.) Wipe down inside surfaces with Murphy's oil soap.

- 27.) Steam clean carpet and upholstery.
- 28.) Scotch guard carpet and upholstery
- 29.) Buy new water filter
- 30.) Sterilize water tank and system (per owners manual)
- 31.) Tighten all fasteners inside trailer (you will be amazed how many have loss end up)
- 32.) Clean air conditioner filter
- 33.) Replace clock batteries
- 34.) Check/replace 2 fire extinguishers (bedroom and family room)
- 35.) Check/replace bear mace in bedroom
- 36.) Check/update first aid kit
- 37.) Check/update emergency "cash stash" (typically \$500 +/- hidden somewhere in the rig)
- 38.) Check/update emergency call list (e.g., Names, Cell Numbers, Emails, and Credit Card Account Numbers with Bank Phone Numbers)
- 39.) Check/update Password list
- 40.) Check emergency hidden keys in outside access area
- 41.) Stock trailer with appropriate camping and cleaning supplies
- 42.) Have fun!!!

(Kelley's Island con't)

We have reserved a limited number of sites (8 total) at Kelley's Island State Park for June 5th -8th (Thursday-Monday) so RSVP early (tchristopher@tcgco.com) if you wish to attend.

Rally participants will take the Kelley's Island Ferry from Marblehead. Your ferry cost will vary depending on family size. This part of the rally is paid, "on your own." You will pay for your trailer and car (2 vehicles) and passengers. For more information, see:

<http://www.kelleysislandferry.com/rates.html>

The campsites are \$135 for the four nights with 30 AMP electric, shower houses, local water, and dump station. We are planning 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners and a couple of group events. The rally fee is expected to be around \$200 which will include your campsite fees and meals/events - details to follow.

If you are considering attending, please let me know ASAP so that I can

hold your site. I will have final instructions and all details in a follow-up e-mail. After the reserved sites are gone, others can join us by booking their reservation at the Ohio State Parks website. <<http://www.ohio.reserveworld.com/SearchAmenity.aspx?PropertyType=R>>

Please RSVP to tchristopher@tcgco.com by 6/1 with your intentions to attend. If you have questions, please call Tom Christopher at 440-897-4714

Next Up – 2nd Annual Island Fever Rally

We are to **very** excited to announce the 2nd Annual "Island Fever Rally" June 5th through the 9th (4 Nights) on beautiful Kelly's Island in Marblehead, Ohio. This is one of the most unique and fun Rally's out there. Imagine, taking the 6 mile ferry ride from the mainland to Kelly's Island with your whole rig and enjoying a beautiful weekend at the state park right on the shores of Lake Erie? Tons to do on the island with shops, wineries, art galleries, restaurants, and island tours. We will also take the Jet Express to nearby Put-in-Bay on Sunday for a day of touring and doing the wineries. Last year was simply incredible and all that attended raved about the experience.



Florida Gathering at Alumapalooza – Back Row: Pat Bernardo, Al/Grace Buchanan, Jim/Marge Kubalic, Patricia Bernardo, Kathy/Paul Matie, Carol/Lloyd Jenkins, Sandy/Bill Johnjulio, Tom Christopher, Ed Stroetz Front Row: Tom/Theresa Standing, Jeanne Stroetz



Marblehead Ferry to Kelley's Island, 2013

Kelley's Island Fun

