

# the Four Corners Unit Roundup

December 2011 Issue 24



## 2012 UNIT OFFICERS

### Louis Hall

President #2731

[lhall15690@aol.com](mailto:lhall15690@aol.com)

### Mike Smith

1st Vice President #5661

[mellomike62@gmail.com](mailto:mellomike62@gmail.com)

### Steve Kopp

2nd Vice President #4121

[QRSK@aol.com](mailto:QRSK@aol.com)

### Tamara Rodriguez

Secretary #2419

[arodriguez60@yahoo.com](mailto:arodriguez60@yahoo.com)

### Howard Efner

Treasurer #5279

[hfefner@cybermesa.com](mailto:hfefner@cybermesa.com)

### Michael Bertch

Trustee #30362

[scrapirony@frontier.net](mailto:scrapirony@frontier.net)

### Ken Johansen

Trustee #5358

[fourcornersunit@hotmail.com](mailto:fourcornersunit@hotmail.com)

### Janis White

Trustee #4305

[drjaniswhite@comcast.net](mailto:drjaniswhite@comcast.net)

### Richard Girard

IPPresident # 7513

[rgirard5@cox.net](mailto:rgirard5@cox.net)

### Terry Rich

Membership Chair #3954

[terry@tbrich.com](mailto:terry@tbrich.com)

### Linda Lawson

Newsletter Editor #5125

[lawson@xwinds.com](mailto:lawson@xwinds.com)

### Leon Hauck

Webmaster #1787

[leon@boondocking.net](mailto:leon@boondocking.net)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Louis Hall

Season's Greetings 4CU Members,

I hope everyone had a great [Thanksgiving](#) Holiday. I would like to start by saying Thank You! to all 4CU members for your participation in our recent unit election, and thanks to the other Board members for stepping up and volunteering to serve for another year! I am flattered by our members' confidence in me and our existing Board. I would also like to thank **Milo Brown** for his 2-year service as one of our Trustees, and to welcome **Janis White** to our Board as a new Trustee.



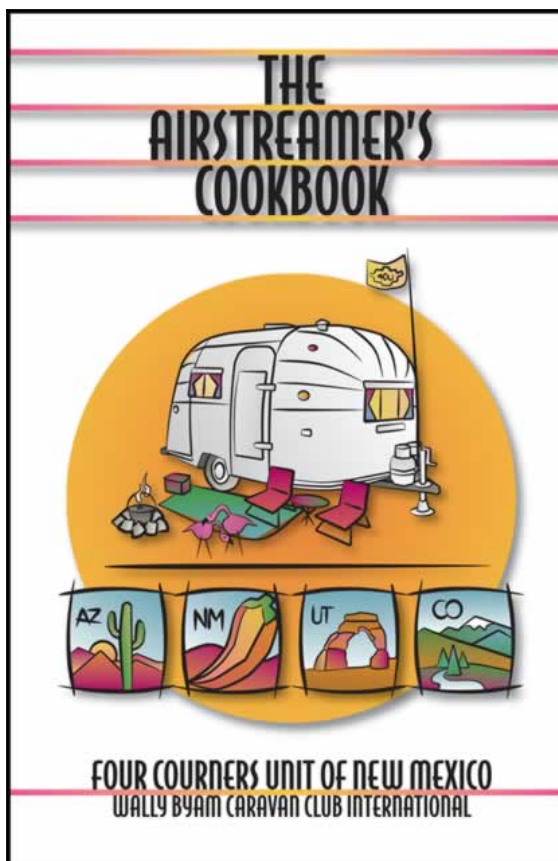
As we are nearing the end of 2011, I have been reflecting on how amazingly fast this year has gone by, and thinking about all of the fun we've had! **Sergio** and I were not able to travel as much as we would've liked, but we did make it to most of the Unit's scheduled events. It is always refreshing to meet new members and to catch up with our existing members. I always go home with a sense of fellowship and am very impressed with the diversity, eagerness to participate, and the passion our members have for the Four Corners Unit. It is very exciting to be part of such a wonderful group of people!

It looks like 2012 is going to have a busy calendar with many events scheduled. We have rallies planned for January, February, March, April, June, and October. I am working to fill in the summer months with at least one rally in the AZ high country, and we have a member in Colorado looking into a summer rally somewhere in that state. As always, I ask that if you have an idea for a Unit event, please let one of our Board members know so that we can get it on the 4CU calendar.

This year we were able to publish a Unit Cookbook, and we are nearly sold out of copies! The proceeds from the cookbook sales have added some cushion to our unit bank account, and now we are beginning to explore adding some T-shirts, embroidered patches, and unit flags to offer for sale. Stay tuned as we will be announcing when those items are available to order.

**Sergio and I** wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season, and we look forward to seeing you at an event in the very near future!

Many safe travels, - *Louis*



### **A Perfect Gift For An Airstreamer! 4CU Airstreamer's Cookbook! Copies Are Still Available!**

The Four Corners Unit Cookbook is a 100% volunteer effort with no cost to the Unit for design and production. The price is **\$15.00** per copy, with the proceeds going to the Four Corners Unit Treasury. We have sold a good number of copies at rallies this year, and we will have some copies for sale at the next upcoming gatherings!

If you would like to reserve a copy of the Cookbook to receive and pay for at an upcoming 4CU rally, contact Jan Girard at

**[4CUcookbook@gmail.com](mailto:4CUcookbook@gmail.com)**

It is also possible to order your Cookbook and have it sent to you - with an additional cost for shipping & handling. Contact Jan; she will take your order and answer any questions! - *Louis*



## RALLY REPORT: 5TH ANNUAL 4CU BALLOON FIESTA RALLY - ALBUQUERQUE NM

by Steve Kopp



This year's event, from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, was once again hosted by **Ken Johansen** and his committee of volunteers. This was the fifth time this rally has been held and it was by far the largest rally ever sponsored by the 4CU. There were 103 attendees from 21 states, including 20 members from our 4CU. It was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the [Balloon Fiesta](#) itself, and this year they set a world record for launching 356 balloons in one hour!

This year's rally committee consisted of **Ken Johansen**, **Suzanne Duke**, **Linda Polk**, and **Lew Farber**. They did a great job of keeping 103 attendees informed of all the activities. If you have not attended one of these rallies, you are truly missing a world class event, as well as a fun rally!

The rally began with all units meeting at Camping World (on the outskirts of Albuquerque). We then caravanned in groups of ten to the Balloon Fiesta parking area. The 4CU group sits as close to the launch field as one can get. Imagine a huge parking lot filled with shiny Airstreams! No campground etiquette here requiring you to walk around someone's campsite; you simply walk right through to the launch field.

This year the 4CU held its second annual "Tour de Balloon Fiesta" bike ride. Those that brought their bikes had a fun-filled ride. We also had a GIANT potluck dinner on Saturday night, and many spontaneous Happy Hours. As usual there was enough finger food available to feed over two hundred Airstreamers!





When the balloons nap, it's time for bean bag toss!

Dale "Pee Wee" Schwamborn discussing travel days with Wally

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta is often quoted as 'the most photographed event in the world'. If you have a chance, visit the 4CU portion of the Airstream Forums and check out the Rally thread - there are hundreds of pictures from this year's Balloon Fiesta:

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/f289/2011-albuquerque-balloon-fiesta-74047-39.html>



The Fiesta Rally is unique since there is constant entertainment in one form or another. The [Balloon Museum and Lighter Than Air Fair](#) had daily activities, including simulators that allowed anyone to fill their own balloon, launch it, and fly around before trying to land in a small field. It looks a lot easier than it is when you are the pilot!

Other activities included Asian Kite Flying, car shows, live entertainment, nightly fireworks, and, of course, the launching of hundreds of balloons and their various competitions. This is not a "been there, done that rally" - if you have attended once, you will want to come back every year! - *Steve*





Happy 'Streamers

**Many thanks to the following contributors; they made this issue possible!**  
**Brad Norgaard (Immediate Past 4CU Newsletter Editor),**  
**Louis Hall, Richard Girard, Terry Rich & Greg Schmuker, Steve & Faith Kopp,**  
**Mike Smith, Eric & Renée Olson, Stan & Val Bembenek, Leon Hauck**  
**& all those who contributed their 'early years' photos!**

## **ELECTION RESULTS - 2012 FOUR CORNERS UNIT OFFICERS**

**by Terry Rich**

The 2012 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the results of the October election of officers to lead the 4CUnit in 2012. We had a record-breaking number of ballots cast by voting members. Thanks to each of you for your interest and participation.

**The result of the ballot is the unanimous election of the 2012 Slate of Officers as presented by the Nominating Committee:**

President: Louis Hall

1st Vice President: Mike Smith

2nd Vice President: Steve Kopp

Treasurer: Howard Efner

Corresponding/Recording Secretary: Tamara Rodriguez

Immediate Past President: Richard Girard (non-elected voting position)

Trustee: Mike Bertch

Trustee: Ken Johansen

Trustee: Janis White

**Appointed, non-voting positions:**

Newsletter Editor: Linda Lawson

Membership Chair: Terry Rich

Webmaster: Leon Hauck

**Congratulations!** Officers officially take office on 15 Dec 2011, and we look forward to yet another great year in the 4CUnit!

**A special thanks goes to Milo Brown** who has completed his two-year term as a Trustee

... we appreciate your service to the 4CUnit! - *Terry*

The 2012 Nominating Committee was:

Linda Lawson ([lawson@xwinds.com](mailto:lawson@xwinds.com))

Terry Rich ([Terry@TBRich.com](mailto:Terry@TBRich.com))

Louis Hall, ex officio ([lhall15690@aol.com](mailto:lhall15690@aol.com))

## **4CU WEB SITE NEWS**

**by Leon Hauck**

We are in the process of getting the 2012 Rally information updated on the Web site, which should be flushed out by the end of December. The [WBCCL.NET](http://wbccl.net) web hosting service (which hosts the 4CU Web site) moved to a new hosting provider in November, so hopefully the new system will have some more bells and whistles available.

Also, we have added information about ordering the 4CU Cookbook, so you can check that out and buy a couple of copies (it makes for a good holiday gift).

As always, you can email [leon@boondocking.net](mailto:leon@boondocking.net) with any suggestions for what you would like to see on the site! - *Leon*

<http://fourcorners.wbccl.net>

---

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: STAN & VAL BEMBENEK (AHAB)**

Hi Folks!

We are Stan & Val Bembenek, living in [Oracle, AZ](#), on the Northeast slope of the Catalina Mountain Range at about the 4600' elevation. I'm a retired multi-faceted engineer (1997) who volunteers with [Arizona State Parks](#) and several wildlife organizations.

We have always enjoyed tent camping with our two girls, then pop-ups when we got tired of setting up in the rain. Val, my wife, worked in public relations and publications editing - which gave us a chance to try out new motor homes in return for interesting news articles. Boondocking was in our blood, and we soon learned the motor home couldn't go where we wanted to, so our travels went back to a highly modified pop-up and 4WD.

With age comes a desire for a bit more comfort, so in 2007 we started looking for a travel trailer. We are minimalists and thought a 17' Bambi might fill the bill. We had two standard poodles, and Val has a handmade paper-making business, so it became apparent we might need a little more room. In August of 2007 Airstream came out with the 2008 Safari Sport models. We went to see them and fell in love with the 22'. A perfect match for our Honda Ridgeline!

Our favorite trip so far was up to [Yellowstone](#) and all the Parks between here and there. While I don't have a picture of Val and me with our Airstream, I do have one of us in [China](#)!

- Stan & Val



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ERIC & RENÉE OLSON (ELOLSON)**

**Q:** Name(s) and Residence City & State??

**A:** Eric & Renée, Olson, and our sons, Arthur & Henry, and our daughter, Kelly, of [Tucson, AZ](#) since late 90's (accompanied in photo above by homegrown watermelon)

**Q:** What do you do for a living?

**A:** I am an engineer and Renée is an elementary school teacher.

**Q:** What made you choose an Airstream and what was your first camping trip in one?

**A:** I was on a TDY in the [USAFR](#) to SoCal and had some time on my hands. I started looking at travel trailers and pretty soon realized that the SOBs were just terrible in construction, and fairly expensive new. I got into researching Airstreams, and we pretty quickly realized that is what we wanted to end up with after looking at a couple of models.

Our first camping trip was a lesson in pre-trip planning. We thought we would head down to [Patagonia Lake](#) over Labor Day weekend; what a surprise when we got there to find out they were totally full on a Wednesday night, with people camping over in the convenience store parking lot waiting for a spot! We kept driving and ended up spending our first night back at home in our own beds much later that night. The next day we composed ourselves and piled into the still-hitched up TT and went to [Roper Lake State Park](#) in Safford and spent a lovely 3 days there!



~~~~~

**Q:** What model(s) Airstream do you currently have, and how did you come to acquire it?

**A:** Our TT is a 2000 34' Excella. We found it searching the Internet, for sale at what was Beaudry RV in Tucson, and bought it from them.

**Q:** What has been your favorite trip in your Airstream so far?

**A:** They keep getting better and better as we get more used to the lifestyle! There are tricks we have learned ourselves and mostly from others about how to make TT camping fun and easy. Wally did not build a pup tent or a pop-up - the idea was to find a better way to get out and explore, and not *just* to get out and explore. Traversing the countryside with a bamboo pipe and a burlap shirt is some people's idea of a good time - it is not mine. I like a home-cooked meal, a slice of apple pie with a scoop of ice cream, climate control, and maybe a good movie. Partaking of those activities out in the woods is even better, and our Airstream lets us do just that!

**Q:** Have you had any close calls when traveling in your Airstream?

**A:** I have pulled every newbie boner in the book. I have jackknifed it backing up, scraped off an AC down in Mexico going under a stupid border sign, got the side ripped off coming through a too narrow gate, bottomed out going down a too narrow ditch, and lowered the rig down on top of a lantern and punched a hole in the underbelly while trying to hitch up! I started off with a 1/2 ton short bed truck and tried to tow with that for about a mile on the highway before realizing what a mistake that was. Got a 3/4 ton long bed shortly after that little adventure. Mostly though, I/we have learned from our mistakes; that is, I did not learn much, but Renée *did*, and now she refreshes my memory when required!

**Q:** Where have you camped that you think would be a great location to hold a rally?

**A:** I tried to get a few folks to go camping with me down at [Camp Rucker](#) in the Chiricahuas. A fellow 4CU couple took us up on the offer and joined us on the trip. After 23 miles of dirt road we got there and had an absolutely fantastic time! Our club has some truly interesting members that have life experiences and otherwise that we have found enrich our own lives with each new friendship formed.

**Q:** If you travel in your Airstream full time, what has been the most difficult adjustment you've made compared to living in a house?

**A:** We do not full time. We get out as often as we can, but that is not much some years, and others we do pretty good. Airstreams are better than most, but they are still drafty, and camping in the direct sun in summer is just not that much fun.

**Q:** Do you travel with any pets or children; if so, where do they ride while on the road, and how do you manage them inside your rig?

**A:** We travel with three kids. We put 2 on the pull-out couch and 1 in a Pack N Play. We used to have weeks worth of clothing in the rig, but now just keep the bare minimum on hand, and with a 34' trailer that means that we have plenty of space for our stuff and for the kids.

**Q:** If you could take your Airstream anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

**A:** We would travel full time around the US. Our country is a great place with wonderful people. They all speak English, roads are good, and I don't have to worry much about the local authorities. From sea to shining sea is a land filled with spectacular mountains, vast prairies, quaint towns, and exciting cities. I am not even running for office and I love this place!

~~~~~

**Q:** As members of the 4CU, do you have any suggestions for what would make the Club more fun or interesting to you? What future do you see for the WBCCI?

**A:** Our club is what we make of it. We attend the rallies that we can, and have tried to participate with other members as much as possible. I hope the WBCCI continues its traditions and figures out a way to appeal to Airstream owners so that we may all share our common interest within the structure of this social organization.

There are a lot of angry people out there; it seems they have no idea how hard it is to bring together people having radically disparate points of view on any subject you can think of! The only thing we all have in common is a bunch of sheet aluminum riveted together in our driveways! Participation with others is always going to require some amount of compromise; the idea being that the mutual participation will result in a greater overall experience, despite the compromise, than either would have had individually.

I recall a note from a recent International Past President who mused about the interesting accusations of elitism coming from some members, when every officer in the club was elected by the membership. I'd speculate that some of the issues the WBCCI is having are reflective of our society's inability as a whole to engage in a civil constructive discourse, but that might be a stretch. Regardless, I am sure the club will always be present in some size. I mean which of us is going to go to a Samboree? We all love

Airstreams, that is why we are in THIS club! - *Eric & Renée*

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES (16Aug11 - 21Nov11)

by **Terry Rich**

### Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to **WELCOME** the following **New Members to the 4CUnit:**

**David & Cathie Anderson**, Rio Rancho, NM (4CU)

**David & Judy Cahall**, Maricopa, AZ (Affiliates, Watchung NJ Unit)

**Bill & Jan Cawthorne**, Mesa, AZ (4CU)

**Tim & Melanie Clifford**, Lakeville, MN (Affiliates, MN Unit)

**Don & Carol Foth**, Cortez, CO (4CU, Transfer from AZ Unit)

**Robert & Stephanie Haggart**, Clarkdale, AZ (4CU, Transfer from Member at Large)

**Dave & Candy Jones**, Cedar Falls, IA (Affiliates, IA Unit)

**Steve & Dee Karr**, Black Forest, CO (Affiliates, DenCO Unit)

**Ken & Sue Levan**, Albuquerque, NM (Affiliates, NM Unit)

**Bob & Heidi Manak**, Waukesha, WI (Affiliates, WI Unit)

**Gary & Gail McDaniel**, Greenwood Village, CO (Affiliates, DenCO Unit)

**Roger Moseley & Marty Brodzik**, Palmer Lake, CO (4CU)

**Edward & Eileen Pauley**, Jesup, IA (Affiliates, IA Unit)

**Carroll & Paula Shores**, Livingston, TX (4CU, Transferring from TXHighLakes Unit)

**Brad & Jennifer Slater**, Plymouth, MN (4CU, Transferring from MN Unit)

**Warren & Carol Sterns**, Monument Beach, MA (Affiliates, NEUnit)

Welcome to each of you! We are pleased to have you on board, and we look forward to seeing you all around the 4CUnit campfire as soon as possible.

### Our Numbers:

As of this writing the **4CUnit has 101 Full Members, 74 Affiliates** (members of other WBCCI units who also want to be part of the 4CU)...**and 1 Honorary for a total of 176 members.** (This includes all 2011 members and new members who joined after 1 July 2011 for the 2012 membership year.)



## New 2012 Memberships:

Because the 2011 membership roster has been closed, any new membership applications are being processed and submitted to International for the 2012 membership year. **This is the absolute BEST time of year for new members to join because they will receive membership benefits for the remainder of the calendar year of 2011 and all of 2012, with "official" start-dates of 2012.** Good news if you have friends on the fence about joining us! A 2012 4CUnit Membership Application is included as the last page of the Newsletter.

## 2012 Renewals:

**We're doing very well with renewals ... about 75% of all 2011 members have already renewed for 2012.** Thanks to all of you have already submitted your renewals.

**If you haven't renewed your membership for 2012 ... IT'S TIME!** The 2012 dues remain the same as 2011 — \$65 for WBCCI + \$1 for the 4CUnit — for a total of \$66. Affiliate membership is just \$1. Unfortunately, full members who have not renewed for 2012 at this point, will not have their names listed in the **2012 International Member Directory**, scheduled to come out in January 2012. (2012 Member information was due 1 Nov 11.)

**The good news is that you can still renew for 2012, but please do so by 31 Dec 2011 so that your membership is uninterrupted.** Why not print out the 2012 4CUnit Application at the end of the newsletter, complete it and send it with your dues to our Treasurer, Howard Efner, today! Then you won't have to worry about it later!

## There Is Something NEW Available to 4CU Affiliates!

Recently, some Affiliate Members have asked if it's possible to acquire a **4CUnit Affiliate Member Badge**. In the past we have not issued Name Badges to Affiliate Members, but we have recently instituted a new program whereby we will provide Affiliates with 4CU Name Badges and lanyards for a **\$5 contribution per badge (in addition to the \$1 Unit Dues)**. That's \$10 for a couple and \$5 for a single badge. Of course, this is optional. **If you'd like have an official 4CU Affiliate Name Badge, there is a box to check on the attached membership form. Just include the Affiliate Badge Fee with your dues and we'll get 4CU name badges out to you.** (If you've already renewed your Affiliate Membership and wish to receive name badges, just send a note with your check to Howard.)

## You Can Help the 4CU Membership Grow!

When we camp there are often opportunities to relate your good experiences in the 4CU with other Airstreamers you meet along the way. Why not print out some 4CU applications and take them along with you when you go camping! You just never know when someone will want information about the 4CUnit!

## Questions?

If you have any questions about membership please contact Terry Rich, Membership Chair, at [Terry@TBRich.com](mailto:Terry@TBRich.com).

Happy trails!

- Terry

## MEMBER NEWS

A speedy recovery goes out to **Guiseppe Margiotta** who had major shoulder surgery at the end of September. Get well fast, Guiseppe! . . . . . **Kerry Nelson's** father passed away on 4 Nov 11. Our thoughts are with you, Kerry & Dave . . . . . Affiliate member **Mary Hickman** has stepped into her new role as President of the [New England Unit](#). Congratulations, Mary! . . . . . Congratulations to **Eric & Renée Olson**, and our newest and youngest Airstreamer, **Kelly Olson**; she was born 23 July 2011 (see photo in article [above](#)!) . . . . . Congratulations to **Richard Girard** on his recent retirement. Now the fun begins! (see article [below](#)) . . . . . **Mike & Janice Hilley** lost their trailer in a towing accident! Jan was uninjured but Mike suffered a broken vertebrae and spent 30 days in the hospital. Thankfully he's on the mend. Here's a link to a thread they started about it on the Airforums: <http://www.airforums.com/forums/f42/my-beautiful-airstream-is-gone-gone-gone-85237.html#post1077578> . . . . . And Congratulations to **Jim Carnevale & Rod Daniel**, who share the news of their recent marriage:



“After 31 years together, Jim Carnevale and Rod Daniel were legally married. A small lakeside ceremony took place in the village of [Skaneateles, New York](#) on October 19, 2011. The Finger Lakes Region of New York is very special to both Jim and Rod as it is where Jim was raised, and where they frequently vacationed together while they lived in [Washington DC](#). New York is also one of the states that recognizes, and has recently legalized, marriage equality.

Longtime friends Mark and Cheryl Matt of Fayetteville NY, were Jim & Rod's attendants. After the ceremony, both couples enjoyed dinner at the historic Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles. Later that week, a

small reception was held by friends in Washington DC, and on their return to New Mexico a larger reception was held in their honor in [Placitas](#).”

## WHAT IS GEO CACHING?

Several past and future 4CU Rallies have already, or will feature, Geocaching activities. Geocaching is related to orienteering events where people find their way using a compass, except that Geocaching takes advantage of personal, handheld Global Positioning Systems, commonly referred to as GPS, to seek out a specific location. It is like a scavenger hunt using technological tools.

National, State, and Regional Parks encourage responsible Geocaching practices in all natural settings. This includes no graffiti, digging, trash, illegal offroad vehicle use, vandalism, or caches near archeological sites or commercial use. You can learn more at:

<http://www.geocaching.com/>



## GIRARD RETIREMENT GATHERING



In early November 2011, Immediate Past President and 4CU Charter Member Richard Girard celebrated his retirement as a Computer Support Specialist for the [Central Arizona Project](#) with a grand gathering of Airstream (and non-Airstream) friends at the [Distant Drums RV Resort](#) in [Camp Verde, AZ](#). His loving wife Jan (with invaluable help from some good 4CU friends) arranged the event, which included a beautifully decorated indoor dining area where Happy Hour, breakfasts, a potluck dinner, and the retirement champagne toast and celebration were held. Close to 50 folks attended, many stories and best wishes were exchanged, and Richard and Jan are now embarked on their next career together as dedicated Airstream travelers! At this writing, they are visiting [Hawaii](#) by way of cruise ship! Congratulations and Happy Trails!







## Four Corners Unit Member Advertisers

**Monte Verde RV Park & Campground**  
 WBCCI 50% discount in  
 Angel Fire, New Mexico



Maria and Lynn #21043  
[www.MonteVerdeRV.com](http://www.MonteVerdeRV.com)  
[MonteVerdeRV@yahoo.com](mailto:MonteVerdeRV@yahoo.com)  
 (575) 377-3404

### Advertise in the 4CU Newsletter!

Here is an opportunity  
 to help support the club  
 while also supporting one another!

**\$5 for one Newsletter issue**

**+ 4CU Web site for 3 months**

**All proceeds go to the 4CU Treasury**  
 (Cost to non-member businesses that  
 are Airstream-related is \$15 an issue)

Newsletter is published quarterly  
 March, June, September, & December  
 Distributed to 150+ Airstream owners!



3941 E. Chandler Blvd.  
 Suite 106-302  
 Phoenix, AZ 85048

P (866) 286-8904  
 C (480) 748-8955  
 F (866) 286-8960

**Louis Hall**  
 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE  
[louis.hall@creativedocumentsystems.com](mailto:louis.hall@creativedocumentsystems.com)

[www.creativedocumentsystems.com](http://www.creativedocumentsystems.com)

Your business card will be scanned  
 (one side only) & the digital image used  
 for the Newsletter & the Web site

Send your business card, along with  
 your check payable to  
 The Four Corners Unit to:

**Linda Lawson/4CU Newsletter**  
**#70D16 4025 E Chandler Blvd**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85048**





## VALLEY OF THE GODS, UTAH

by Mike Smith



Located near [Mexican Hat, Utah](#), about 25 minutes north of [Monument Valley](#) on US163, the Valley of the Gods is an attraction you don't want to miss. What makes this scenic limestone valley so attractive is that it sits on undeveloped [BLM](#) land that is far less crowded than Monument Valley. When we toured the Valley of the Gods last April, we passed only two vehicles including a small Class C motorhome. This is a far cry from the crowds we experienced earlier that same day when we drove the Monument Valley loop.



The Valley of the Gods is toured by driving the 17-mile long FR242, an unpaved road that cuts and winds its way through the valley. The road is suitable for most trucks and SUVs, and even some cars, with a decent ground clearance. These vehicles can navigate the road with ease except for those periods during and immediately after heavy rains; a 4x4 vehicle would be advisable during these periods. Without any lengthy stops, it took us about two hours to complete the drive. The elevation of the road varies between 4,500 and 5,100 ft.

- Mike

Read more at Mike's Travelogue Blog:

<http://mellomikesairstreams.blogspot.com/2011/11/travelogue-valley-of-gods-utah.html>





## ROPER LAKE S P, ARIZONA

by Terry Rich & Greg Schmuker

**Author's Note:** If you haven't camped at Roper Lake State Park you've missed an AZ gem. It's a pleasant park built on a small man-made lake that used to be a fish hatchery. Below is an excerpt from our travelogue recounting one of our many trips there.

### A Roper Lake Weekend for Halloween

We spent Halloween 2008 at Roper Lake State Park near [Safford, AZ](#), about 120 miles from Tucson ... Safford is 35 miles north of I-10 on Highway 191. It's a nice time of year there ... cool enough during the days to not need AC with crisp evenings, and a great place to enjoy southern Arizona's fall weather. So we decided to head there again this year. Are we beginning a tradition? This was our first opportunity to go to Roper for the fall season so we were excited to get there. We left Tucson mid-morning on Friday and were there by 1 PM. It's an easy drive and one we've made so many times the truck could do it on auto pilot.

The first thing we saw at our site was a roadrunner; we consider this to be a sign of good luck. Roadrunners are creatures of habit and they are very fast on the ground ... they rarely fly. In fact, we are not even sure they can fly, come to think of it. They are also quite forward and territorial. They lay claim to an area and they don't seem to care who's there. They are carnivorous, too ... like raptors and buzzards. They can be comical to watch, but not very friendly birds. But hey, neither are raptors or buzzards! Then we saw a family of quail scurrying through the campsite. They are plentiful in the park, as are rabbits. We see lots of quail and lots of rabbits every time we go to Roper. It's the perfect habitat for both ... lots of low brush for protection and open spaces for foraging for food. - Terry & Greg



This story is continued online at our travelogue at:

[http://www.tbrich.com/azbambi/halloween\\_Oct09\\_intro.html](http://www.tbrich.com/azbambi/halloween_Oct09_intro.html)



## Voted Most Likely to Become An Airstreamer



Caravel



Bambi



Sovereign



Wanderer



Cruiser

Can You  
Tell Who  
They  
Are?

check the 4CU  
Web site for  
answers!

## The Early Years of the 4CU

<http://fourcorners.wbcci.net/newsletters>

**UPCOMING RALLIES:****FIFTH ANNUAL 4CU NEW YEAR'S RALLY****AN AIRSTREAM RALLY**

Friday, December 30, 2011 to

Monday, January 2, 2012

(check out by 12 noon)!

Quail Group Site

Dry Camping - No Hookups

(electricity in ramada only; potable water available;

modern restrooms & showers nearby;

dump station on way out)

Early arrivals welcome starting

Thursday, December 29,

in the Quail Group site

(earlier than that can camp in regular sites)

**PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK**

is in Arizona, right off I-10, about half way  
between Phoenix and Tucson (Exit 219)

<http://www.pr.state.az.us/parks/PIPE>

**JOIN US**

around the group fire-ring for our New Year's  
Eve Bonfire, & toast the New Year with  
champagne (courtesy of your hosts!)

Also Planned (all activities are optional!):

- Group Hike up the Peak
- Cook-Off Contest - this year's theme is  
'Favorite Childhood Recipes'
- Geocaching Team(s) Treasure Hunt (learn  
at <http://www.geocaching.com>)

- White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Games
- Evening Happy Hours
- Potluck Dinner
- Ostrich Egg Omelette Breakfast by  
Chefs Girard & Girard
- RELAXING in (what we hope will be) the  
mild Arizona winter weather!

**RALLY COST**

**\$15** a night per trailer,  
payable to Park Ranger at check in

Tell them you are with the Airstream Rally  
in the Quail Group Site.

**PLEASE BRING**

- Yourself, Your Airstream, Firewood, Warm  
Clothes, including Hats & Gloves
- Optional, for activities:
- Food & drinks for Happy Hours, Potluck, &  
Cook-off

- A GPS device, or a GPS App on your  
Smartphone for Geocache Hunt
- Cash (dollars) for games & raffle tickets
- A Wrapped White Elephant Gift
- Sturdy Shoes & Work Gloves if planning  
to hike the Peak!

**SIGN UP**

on the Airforums Web site at (login required)

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/calendar.php?do=getinfo&day=2011-12-30;&e=891&c=1>

OR email the hosts at: Ken Lawson [silverback@xwinds.com](mailto:silverback@xwinds.com) and Louis Hall [lhall15690@aol.com](mailto:lhall15690@aol.com)



**UPCOMING RALLIES:****DH6 – Dead Horse Disco**

This year's theme is Disco, so find that polyester and put on your gold chains as [Dead Horse Ranch State Park](#) turns into Disco Central for President's Weekend 2012.

The rally begins on February 17<sup>th</sup> and runs until the 20<sup>th</sup>. The rally fee is \$35 and it covers the first two nights of dry camping in the group site. If you want to stay an additional night you must pay an additional \$15 to the park rangers.

Between the pot luck dinner and white elephant gift exchange on Saturday we will have the judging for the Disco contest. Prizes will be awarded to the best disco guy, gal and couple.

Coffee will be provided every morning at the ramada. This is dry camping and quiet generators are allowed during the day. The loop has bathrooms with showers and the dump station is just around the corner from the loop. Pets are welcome and must be on a leash and picked up after.



Don't forget to bring:

- Warm clothing
- Chairs
- Firewood
- White elephant gift
- Pot luck and happy hour items



You will need to fill out the registration form which is located here:

<http://4cu.boondocking.net/docs/DH6Reg.pdf>

Send it to Richard Girard (address is on form) with your check for \$35.

You can see who else is coming to the rally here:

<http://www.airforums.com/forums/calendar.php?do=getinfo&day=2012-2-17;&e=905&c=1>

For more information  
contact Richard at  
[rgirard5@cox.net](mailto:rgirard5@cox.net)



There will be no refunds after  
the 1st of February!

**UPCOMING RALLIES:****St Patrick's Day Rally at McDowell Mountain Regional Park, AZ****Save the date!****4CU St. Patrick's Day Rally is coming!****The dates are Thursday March 15 – Tuesday March 20 2012  
(vernal equinox).**

**You know you have to come and show your IRISH party animal. Tow your AIRSTREAMS to McDowell Mountain Regional Park, which is just North of Fountains Hills and just South of Rio Verde. We will dry camp in the group camp area adjacent to the South Campground. There is a nice ramada, flush bathroom with showers, and a big campfire pit.**

**Camping fee is \$15 per day - you pay at the entrance or the visitor center; we may have a modest rally fee also. Your hosts are Paul and Ronnie McWard and co-hosts Mike and Betty O'Gardiner. More details will be coming!**

**McDowell Mountain Regional Park is a jewel in the Maricopa County parks system. It covers over 21,000 acres of wonderful desert with spectacular views. There are over 40 miles of moderate hiking and biking trails. There is a competitive track for hard core mountain bikers. We are close to Ft. McDowell Casino, Fountain Hills shopping, Saguaro Lake, and the Verde River.**

**All you Irish Airstreamers and wanna-be Irish need to join in a grand celebration of St Pat's Day. We are planning some fun activities and of course great food, friends, drink, and campfire.**

**For more details contact your hosts Paul & Ronnie at [toocubed@yahoo.com](mailto:toocubed@yahoo.com) or Mike & Betty at [bttygardiner@yahoo.com](mailto:bttygardiner@yahoo.com).**



**UPCOMING RALLIES:****Second Annual Spring Break at the Lake Rally**

Lake Pleasant Regional Park  
Friday April 20, 2012  
to

Sunday April 23, 2012  
(check out by noon)  
Raccoon Campground  
Group Site

Dry Camping - No Hookups  
( electricity & water  
available at ramada )  
Modern & Clean  
Restrooms & Showers  
Dump Station nearby  
Early Arrivals Welcome -  
Check at Gate

Join Us For:

Kayaking, Geocaching, Hiking, Bicycle Trails  
Movies, Stargazing, Nightly Bonfire, Bingo, and more!

**"Stargazing at Lake Pleasant"** Come enjoy a fun presentation about the stars, looking out across the lake, sitting in our amphitheater. Learn about the night sky by the fun people from "Stargazing For Everyone." This program will have a slide presentation and then an interactive session with several large telescopes. Come spend the evening learning more about those little twinkles in the sky. Once in the park just follow the signs to the visitor center"

[http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/lake\\_pleasant/](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/lake_pleasant/)

Rally Cost:

\$15 per night per trailer

Send checks to:

**Stephen C. Kopp**  
**26629 S Papago Place**  
**Sun Lakes, AZ 85248**

## 2012 Upcoming 4CU Rally Schedule



When	What	Where	Host(s)	Contact
Dec 30 2011- Jan 2 2012	New Year's Rally	<u>Picacho Peak SP,</u> near Eloy, AZ	Ken & Linda Lawson & Louis Hall & Sergio Quiros	lawson @xwinds.com and/or lhall15690 @aol.com
Feb 17-20 2012	Dead Horse 6	<u>Dead Horse Ranch SP,</u> Cottonwood, AZ	Richard & Jan Girard	rgirard5 @cox.net
March 15-20 2012	St Patrick's Rally	<u>McDowell Mountain Regional Park</u> Fountain Hills, AZ	Paul & Ronnie McWard & Mike & Betty O'Gardiner	btttygardiner @yahoo.com and/or toocubed @yahoo.com
April 20-23 2012	Spring Break at the Lake	<u>Lake Pleasant Regional Park</u> North Phoenix, AZ	Steve & Faith Kopp & Mike & Betty Gardiner	qrsk @aol.com and/or btttygardiner @yahoo.com
June 6-11 2012	Restoration Rally	<u>Enchanted Trails RV Park &amp; Trading Post</u> Albuquerque, New Mexico	Ken Johansen	fourcornersunit @hotmail.com
October 5-9 2012	Balloon Fiesta Rally	<u>Balloon Fiesta Park</u> Albuquerque, New Mexico	Ken Johansen	fourcornersunit @hotmail.com
October 10-14 2012	Region 11 Rally	<u>Montezuma County Fairgrounds</u> Cortez, Colorado	Richard & Jan Girard	rgirard5 @cox.net

And more to come!





# FOUR CORNERS UNIT OF NEW MEXICO WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL REGION 11 · UNIT 004 · FOURCORNERS.WBCCI.NET

## 2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME ON THE [AIRFORUMS.COM](http://AIRFORUMS.COM) (IF YOU ARE A MEMBER) \_\_\_\_\_DO YOU OFFER COURTESY PARKING? ☐ YES ☐ NO

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

☐ **NEW 4CU MEMBER** · \$66 ANNUAL DUES (\$65 WBCCI DUES + \$1 4CU DUES)☐ **RENEWING 4CU MEMBER** · \$66 ANNUAL DUES (\$65 WBCCI DUES + \$1 4CU DUES) · WBCCI NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_☐ **TRANSFERRING MEMBER** · \$66 ANNUAL DUES · FROM (UNIT NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

REGION \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **AFFILIATE MEMBER** · \$1 ANNUAL DUES · HOME UNIT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_REGION \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I/WE WOULD LIKE 4CU AFFILIATE BADGE(S) (OPTIONAL) · \$5 PER BADGE

### AIRSTREAM INFORMATION

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

MODEL \_\_\_\_\_

LENGTH IN FEET (BUMPER TO BALL) \_\_\_\_\_

SERIAL NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL APPLICATION

SEND YOUR **COMPLETED APPLICATION** ALONG WITH **YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO FOUR CORNERS UNIT TO:**

**HOWARD EFNER, TREASURER**  
30 CAMINO CABALLOS SPUR  
LAMY, NEW MEXICO 87540

☐ **RECEIPT Requested**  
I have enclosed a SASE.

#### QUESTIONS?

CONTACT TERRY RICH, 4CU MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
PHONE 520.748.0696 · EMAIL [TERRY@TBRICH.COM](mailto:TERRY@TBRICH.COM)



FOUR CORNERS UNIT USE ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECORDED \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_