

FOUR CORNERS UNIT ROUNDUP

VOL. 11 NO. 1 - MARCH 2017



BECOME A RALLY HOST

AIRSTREAMING IN NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR THE WEBSITE

NEW YEAR'S & LO LO MAI RALLY REVIEWS

2017 OFFICERS

President

Steve Bittner - #1778
herkypig@hotmail.com

1st Vice President

Terry Rich - #3954
Terry@TBRich.com

2nd Vice President

Sergio Quiros - #2731
sergio.quiros@asu.edu

Secretary

Bonnie Bobman - #1387
BAAMbi7as@gmail.com

Treasurer

Howard Efner - #5279
fcu-treas@cybermesa.com

Trustee

Britt Quisenberry - #2338
bqinabq@gmail.com

Trustee

Kathryn Crowder - #1472
silver.villa@aol.com

Trustee

Guiseppe Margiotta - #1141
gnmostream@yahoo.com

IP President

Janis White - #4305
drjaniswhite@gmail.com

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Chair

Terry Rich - #3954
Terry@TBRich.com

Newsletter Editor

Ilene Porter - #1507
ilene@bellhopadventures.com

Webmaster

Leon Hauck - #1787
leon@boondocking.net

Webmaster

Stephen Porter - #1507
stephen@bellhopadventures.com

ON THE COVER



This issue we see three Airstreams at the 4CU New Year's Rally. Photo by Stephen Porter

THE FOUR CORNERS UNIT IS A CHARTERED UNIT OF THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB, INT'L. ALL ORIGINAL CONTENT COPYRIGHT © FOUR CORNERS UNIT OF NEW MEXICO, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



EDITOR'S LETTER

By Ilene Porter

Welcome to the first edition of the Four Corners Unit newsletter for 2017! What a privilege it is for me to be the Editor of this award-winning newsletter. A special thank you to Linda Lawson for all her efforts in being the former editor for so many years! I hope you find the newsletter creative and exciting.

As you noticed, the cover of the newsletter features a picture from the 2016 New Year's Rally. Each edition of the newsletter will now showcase a different cover photo. Our thought is that you as members will submit one of your best Airstream trailer photos in hopes of making the cover! We will let you know more about cover photo submission in next quarter's newsletter.

The newsletter will still feature all your favorite topics including rally reviews, upcoming events, financials, welcome new members, and feature travel articles. However, the rally sign up forms and member sign up/annual renewal forms are now located on the website. This will ensure the most current version of the forms are being utilized by all members. It will also help our rally hosts in getting accurate and current information as they organize and plan for our fun times together!



2016 LO LO MAI RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER

LETTER FROM THE 4CU PRESIDENT

✧ By Steve Bittner ✧

As of this writing, Reg and I are preparing for our fifth annual Lo Lo Mai rally as hosts with Anthony and Tamara Rodriguez. Seems like yesterday since we started this event, formerly, Jammer Jam. Time flies when you are having fun and we certainly have been with our group.

With Spring around the corner, this is a spectacular time for camping in the great Southwest. So, come and join us for one of the upcoming events.

Also, with a new camping season soon upon us,

don't forget some annual maintenance on your rig. A few simple things done annually can help make for happy and safe trips. Get your wheel-bearings lubed and brakes checked for wear. Most importantly, keep track of the age of your tires. Trailer tires are designed to last a lifespan of four to five years, regardless of tread wear, so watch this one. Blowouts are no fun but extremely dangerous!

At any rate, have fun and be safe and hope to see you down the road soon!



2016 4TH OF JULY RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER



2017 NEW YEARS RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER

4CU MEMBER NEWS

✧ By Terry Rich ✧

Howard & Carolyn Efner (Lamy, NM) have had a rough fall. Howard finally had his knee replacement after the surgery being postponed. He is pleased to report the recovery is going well. He is still using a cane, however, he is almost done with it. Some of you heard at the New Year's Rally that the other shoe dropped when Carolyn was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She underwent her initial surgery the first week of January, after which the surgeons were

optimistic that the tumor was isolated. He diagnosis was downgraded from stage 3 to stage 1 ... wonderful news! The downgrade was confirmed by pathology reports from the surgery. She is still undergoing chemotherapy, which will run from February to early June. In the meantime, she is doing well and almost recovered from the surgery itself. We are all thinking of you both and sending our best healing vibes your way!

In the December Newsletter we reported that **Lynn Eubank & Maria Beck** (formerly of Angel Fire, NM) had sold the Monte Verde RV Park to new owner Joe Costa. They are now full-timing in their Airstream and have landed temporarily in Los Lunas, NM. They are taking care of some medical needs before they continue on their quest to find an area to settle into. They will most likely settle somewhere in the southwest. Good luck on all fronts, you two!

Duncan & Christine Orr (Flagstaff, AZ) report that Duncan's recovery from lymphoma is going well. As we reported last time, Duncan completed chemotherapy last fall and was declared cancer free last November. This is the kind of news we like to hear! Congrats, Duncan!

Airstream Families! Did you know that we have members who are related? Yup. The most recent additions are **Jerry & Sandy Gipson**, who attended the New Year's Rally as guests and joined the 4CU there. **Larry & Ray Gipson**, Jerry's brother and his wife, who visited Jerry & Sandy at the New Year's Rally then joined the 4CU shortly thereafter. **Steve & Reg Bittner** are related to **Barb & Jack Kilroy** ... Reg and Barb are sisters. And **Erick Asplund & Ramona Marsden** and **Stephen & Ilene Porter** are related a well. Ramona and Ilene are sisters.

Steve & Tess Hulme (Alpine, UT) created another video about the 4CU! This one is from their attendance at the 4CU New Year's Rally at Picaasco Peak State Park. If you haven't seen it, here's a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-nLibDe6TY> It's been featured on the home page of WBCCI's website as well. Well done, you two! And thanks!

We are saddened to report that long time former 4CU member and Unit Trustee **Ray Mazza** passed away on December 13, 2016 at the age of 82. He had been in the hospital being treated for heart issues when he took a turn for the worse. He passed away later the next day. Ray's passing was peaceful and he was surrounded by his family. He will be missed by all who knew him. Ray will be remembered for his good cheer, soft manner, kindness and sense of humor. Ray made the world a better place. Please send condolences to:

RoseMary Mazza & Family
426 E Horseshoe Ave
Gilbert, AZ 85296

We are also saddened to report the loss of another 4CU Member **Robert (Rob) Allen** (Kooskia, ID). He passed away at his home in Kooskia, ID, on April 19, 2016, apparently of heart failure. He was a month short of his 75th birthday. We learned this sad news when following up after several failed attempts to communicate with him. One of our inquiries was intercepted by a friend who then contacted us with the sad news. Rob was a retired professor at Washington State University. His dedication to his community is reflected by the fact that he left his estate to Washington State University to provide a legacy of financial assistance to future students. Rest in peace, Rob.



2016 DEANZA RALLY - PHOTO BY DIANE & DENNIS MOORE

4CU MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Terry Rich

We are pleased to **WELCOME** the following **19 New Members** who have joined the 4CU since the December 2016 Newsletter.

John & Susan Barrett	Los Osos, CA	Affiliates, GreaterLAAC
Robert & Sharon Curtis	McKinney, TX	4CU xfer from HeartOfTX Unit
Earl & Rita Farrell	Mesa, AZ	4CU
Jerry & Sandy Gipson	Marana, AZ	4CU
Larry & Ray Gipson	Marana, AZ	4CU
Frank & Maja Gray	Colorado Springs, CO	4CU
William & Betty Guyre	Albuquerque, NM	4CU
Ben & Erica Howley	Gilbert, AZ	4CU
Bob & Julie Jackson	Scottsdale, AZ	4CU
Chuck & Yvonne Kenney	Renton, WA	4CU
Tom & Christine Kirk	Phoenix, AZ	4CU
William & Priscilla Munro	Santa Fe, NM	4CU
Jerry & Suzanne Rainey	Phoenix, AZ	4CU
Sally Metcalf & Eric Bergland	Blue River, OR	4CU
Jenny Rettig	Livingston, TX	Affiliate, NoIL Unit
Kirk & Ginger Swope	Dolores, CO	4CU
Maikel & Susan Wise	Longmont, CO	4CU
James & Jeanine Wright	Lincoln, NE	Affiliates, NE Unit
Don & Mary Tucker	Santa Fe, NM	4CU

A big 4CU WELCOME to each of you! We are pleased to have you join our merry band of happy campers and encourage you to get involved ASAP! Those who have not yet attended a rally, why not sign up for one soon and jump in ... you won't regret it! We all look forward to seeing you around the 4CU campfire as soon and as often as possible.

Will You Help Welcome New 4CU Members?

We have a small group of members who have volunteered to send welcome email notes to new members as they join. You can be part of welcoming our new members in and letting them know that we look forward to seeing them at a rally soon. If you'd like to help in that effort, drop Terry Rich a note at Terry@TBRich.com. You will then be CC'd on each new member welcome letter that goes out ... and you can follow up with a personal welcome note of your own at your leisure. This is an easy but

important way to help with membership. Reaching out to our new members makes a world of difference to them! The best thing you, as members, can do to make sure that the 4CU stays strong and viable is to encourage new members to become involved ... and help them get acquainted with other members however you can. We all know how hard it is to join a new group not knowing anyone ... this is a chance to ease someone's way to being a new friend right at the get-go!

Our Membership Numbers Stepping into 2017

We have officially entered the 2017 Membership Year! This means that we have removed those who did not renew for 2017 from our rolls and directories. Looking at the numbers for the beginning and ending of 2016, compared to the beginning of 2017, we are just 8 members less than we started with in 2016. After removing those who did not renew for 2017 we have already added 14 new full members since January 1st. **As of this writing we currently have 177 Full Members + 78 Affiliates for a total of 255 Members.**

	Full Members	Affiliates Members	Total
Beginning 2016	166	81	247
Ending 2016	199	95	294
Beginning 2017	163	76	239
Currently	177	78	255

It is important to understand why some didn't renew for 2017. The biggest reason was the selling of their Airstreams. Some of those intend to re-join when they have a new rig. The next highest factor was moving out of our general geographic area. The third factor was inability to attend rallies or mesh schedules. This means the membership we lost was because of normal attrition and lifestyle changes. We're off to a great start this year and we will no doubt continue to maintain our membership and growth. Remember that the best way to ensure that our membership trends continue to go up is to help get new members involved.

Help the 4CU Continue to Grow!

There's a new **2017/18 Membership Form** available on the 4CU Website at:

<http://fourcornersunit.com/membership.html>

and an online version is available at:

<http://4cu.boondocking.net/application.php>

When we camp there are often opportunities to share our good times in the 4CU with other Airstreamers we meet along the way. All members are part of the membership effort ... why not print some 4CU

2017/18 Member Applications and keep a supply in your rig ... or keep a copy on your laptop to email to folks you meet while camping! You just never know when someone will want information about the 4CU! Word of mouth is our greatest membership development tool. If you have any questions about 4CU or WBCCI membership, your current membership status please do not hesitate to contact Terry Rich, Membership Chair, at Terry@TBRich.com.

A big thank you to all of the following contributors who made this issue of the 4CU newsletter possible!

Steve Bittner, Howard Efner, Terry Rich, Greg Schmuker, Reg Bittner, Louis Hall, Bonnie Bobman, Stephen Porter, Leon Hauck, Dennis & Diane Moore, and the 4CU Board Members

4CU T-Shirts!

We have a limited inventory available of short sleeve T-shirts for sale. Shirts can either be shipped or delivered at an upcoming rally.

We current have just 10 Short Sleeve Shirts in Large as of February 15th.



Because the inventory is so limited, to avoid receiving orders we can't fill, please contact Terry Rich at Terry@TBRich.com if you'd like to purchase a shirt. Terry will confirm that we have the shirts to fill your order and send you an order form to complete and send in with your payment. Your shirts will be reserved pending receipt of payment. Please do this even if you are planning pick them up at a rally.

Unreserved inventory will be available at upcoming rallies until we are solid out.



4CU BIRTHDAY CLUB

by Bonnie Bobman

Wish you knew a 4CU member's birthday so you could send best wishes? Join the 4CU Birthday Club and we can all celebrate together! In each newsletter we will publish a list of our upcoming birthdays! If you see one of your 4CU pals has a birthday drawing near, you'll know to send them a greeting!

The 4CU would like to wish a very happy birthday to the following people:

Tamara Brody March 1
Terry Rich April 28
Alan Bobman May 25
Louis Hall March 4
Sergio Quiros March 30



To join the club, simply email your name and birth date

The Month and Date or MM/DD - Year is NOT necessary to Bonnie at BAAMbi7as@gmail.com

OTHER CLUB NEWS

The 4CU Cookbook - There doesn't seem to be the interest at this time to go forward with this project. Thank you for the couple of recipes that were submitted. We will just put this on the back burner for now. Thanks for letting me run with the idea and Sergio for being my IT support putting all the background together for a later time. *Reg*



2016 PAGOSA RALLY - PHOTO BY DENNIS & DIANE MOORE

4TH QUARTER FINANCIAL - 10/01/16 TO 12/31/16

By Howard Efner

Starting Balance Income

7,542.02

Dues - Cash	1,057.00
Dues - PayPal*	1,795.59
T-Shirt Sales	389.25
Affil. Badges	5.00
Pancho Villa Rally Registration	15.00
Pancho Villa Rally	137.04
Thanksgiving Rally	81.80
Total	<u>3,480.68</u>

Expenditures

International Dues	2,778.00
First Rally Rebates	40.00
T-Shirt Printing	710.29
T-Shirt Shipping (TBR)	256.95
Membership Expenses (TBR)	102.59
Treasurer Expenses (HFE)	17.15
Total	<u>3,904.98</u>

Ending Balance

7,117.72

* Less PayPal Fees

2016 Books closed as of 12/24/16.



2016 4TH OF JULY RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER

BECOME A RALLY HOST

By Terry Rich

Rallies are the heartbeat of the 4CU. There's no doubt about that. It's where we come together to enjoy each other and our Airstreams. It's where we cultivate old friendships and make new ones. It's where we exchange Airstream knowledge and experience. It's where we gain new insights and tips for fully enjoying the RV lifestyle. It's where we learn of new places to explore. And it's where we circle the campfire to share our yarns of travel and solve the problems of the world.

But those rallies don't just happen. We need members to step up with new rally ideas and venues and have the willingness to explore and implement them. We can't leave all the planning to someone else ... we need to do our part to keep the club active and viable. Some rallies become "institutions" that

we look forward to each year. We can't even imagine a year when we don't have those "regulars" to look forward to, right?

But there is also plenty of opportunity for new rallies to be developed. Some will be one-time events and others will become annual affairs. We need both kinds so that we are always introducing new ideas and finding new places to gather.

There are a limited number of rallies this year.

The Santa Fe Rally had to be canceled due to circumstances beyond our control. The 4th of July is not happening this year. And after three years running, the Pagosa Springs Rally crew is taking a break. So the rallies on the agenda at this point are the Monumental Moab, UT Rally in May (which is full), a new rally in August called Gourmet Camping

On The Rim, the Pancho Villa Rally in Columbus, NM in October, the Thanksgiving Rally at Elephant Butte Lake State Park in NM and, the New Year's Rally at Picacho Peak.

We need more rallies on the calendar...

March, April, June, July, and September are wide open. Please consider planning and hosting a 4CU rally this year or in 2018. Those who have hosted rallies in the past are willing to coach you and the Board is available for additional support.

The Board has recently reviewed and updated the 4CU Rally Guidelines. They are shown below and are now posted on the 4CU website at:

<http://fourcornersunit.com/rally-planning-guidelines.html>

Hosting a rally is not rocket science. In fact, it's mostly common sense. But the Guidelines are helpful in helping you cover the bases.

Please put your thinking caps on to see if you can come up with a new rally for your fellow 4CUers to enjoy together ... it could be in a state park campground or group area, a national forest campground, an RV park, a city or county park or even a boon docking location.

If you have questions or need clarification of any point in the Guidelines ... or just want to discuss a rally possibility, please contact one of the Board Members.

Four Corners Unit - Rally Planning Guidelines

Rallies are the main activity of our organization. That's what we're all about. The unit sponsors several rallies a year and always welcomes more. If you have never planned a rally, this guideline will give you some idea of what is involved. It's a good idea to attend at least one 4CU rally and recommended that new hosts serve as co-hosts prior to hosting a rally. This will give new hosts first-hand experience of what is expected at a rally and how a variety of details are managed.

Board Approval - Please feel free to discuss your rally ideas with one or more Board member for their input. When you have enough details to put together a general rally proposal (dates, venue, venue amenities, rough agenda, costs, etc.) please submit your rally proposal to the Board for review and approval.

Hosts & Co-Hosts - It's highly recommended to enlist a co-host for rallies in order to share the burden of planning and hosting, and as back-up in case a situation develops that precludes your attendance.

Select A Date - Rallies can occur throughout the year. Keep in mind the dates of other events which may impact the attendance of the rally. Allow enough time to handle all of the logistical things to be taken care of.

Select A Place - People enjoy variety. It's always nice to visit someplace new as well as returning to old favorites. Potential rally sites should be convenient and offer useful services within a reasonable distance. Dry camping is fine but consider hook-ups, particularly electricity for air-conditioning in warmer seasons. When you have selected a location it is a good idea to have one individual point of contact to work with at the location.

Select A Theme - Although a theme isn't necessary for a successful rally, it often adds to the fun both in the planning stage as well as the during the event.

Set A Rally Price - the rally fee should be based on the activities included and any park use or related costs. Base the price on the number of anticipated participants and the events included. At a minimum, most public facilities will charge a use or permit fee for the use of group areas. While it is not feasible in all cases, it is encouraged that individuals pay their own campsite fees. See the section Collection of fees below for more detailed information the financial aspects of a rally.

Promoting The Rally - there are several ways to promote the rally. A well promoted rally will ensure a successful event that will be well attended. Contact the Unit Secretary to have the rally listed on the WBCCI calendar and in the Blue Beret. The Unit Webmaster will add it to the 4CU website. Submit the details to the Unit Newsletter Editor.

Scope Out The Site - So there will be no surprises when the event date rolls around it is a good idea to know a little about the territory. Survey the campsites so you can assist placing anyone with special needs and hold a specific site for them. You don't need to be an expert on the region around the rally site but it is a good idea to know the location of the nearest medical facility, drug store, grocer and other services.

Gather Local Information - While it is not necessary it's nice to prepare a rally bag for the attendees. This could include some brochures, maps and information for activities if an attendee chooses to do something on their own. In most cases, with a phone call or visit to a local chamber of commerce or visitors bureau you will be supplied with a variety of information at no cost.

Collection Of Fees - As the rally date draws near you will begin to collect fees (if there are any).

The method of handling the financial end of a rally is at the discretion of the Unit Treasurer. In most cases, for the sake of ease in bookkeeping, fees can be collected from attendees with checks made payable to the rally host. The host can then reimburse themselves and others for expenses incurred. At the close of the rally, the host is required to provide the Unit Treasurer with a full accounting of all funds received and all funds dispersed in the planning and execution of the rally.

The financial report can be a simple spread sheet or even a simple statement listing the funds collected and the expenditures made. Please keep all receipts for items purchased and venue fees paid for the rally and submit with your financial report. Any amounts remaining from the funds collected after reimbursements are made, please submit to the Unit.

In the event your rally involves substantial fees, the Unit Treasurer may require that all funds collected be deposited directly to the Unit's bank account, with disbursements made from the Unit's account. If that is the case, the Unit Treasurer will guide you through that process.

Insurance - Legal liability is a big issue for organized gatherings like this. Since this is actually an official WBCCI sanctioned event, the WBCCI specifically carries liability insurance for this. If the rally site requires a copy of the insurance certificate, contact the WBCCI and they will arrange to have one provided to the park.

During The Event - Hosting a rally can involve a lot of activity (read this as meaning that it involves some work.) Don't be afraid to solicit volunteers - people love to help. Greet the attendees as they arrive. Be available to offer assistance and answer questions that people may have. Make sure the rally area is left cleaner than when we arrived. Most importantly have fun. That's what rallies are all about.



2017 NEW YEARS RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER



CITY OF ROCKS, NM - PHOTO BY TERRY RICH & GREG SCHMUKER

AIRSTREAMING IN NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS

🌀 By Terry Rich 🌀

In the December Newsletter we offered a rundown of winter camping options in Arizona. New Mexico is the neighboring state that we know next best in terms of camping. The State Park system in New Mexico is very well developed with good variety. We haven't been to every New Mexico State Park but we hope to camp in them all eventually.

For general information go to the New Mexico State Parks at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/>.

The NM State Park Locator (<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/FindaPark.html>) on the site is a handy reference to bookmark for future use. You can jump to any park from it. The Fees, Permit and Rentals Page spells out the fee structure. Generally, primitive campsites are \$8/night; campsites with water &

electricity in New Mexico State Parks are \$14/night, and if sewer hookups are available those go for \$18/night. Compared to AZ State Park fees which range from \$15 - \$35/night ... these are great prices! For New Mexico state residents there is a yearly camping pass available for \$180, or \$100 for 62+ seniors. The passes reduce the costs to a handsome \$4/night for W&E and \$8/night with W&E&S. Can't beat that! Unfortunately, the annual pass for non-NM-residents is \$225/year ... so if you camp more than 16 nights (based on \$14/night), it's worth the fee. Sadly, there is no senior pass for out-of-staters.

Heading into New Mexico from SoAZ on I-10 you have three great camping options right away ... all of which are relatively short distances from I-10. The first is City of Rocks State Park between Deming and Silver City.

To get to City of Rocks, take US 180 31 miles north to the Route 61 turn-off. City of Rocks is geologically interesting (amazing, actually) and the skies are dark so it's great for stargazing. In fact, the Park has a small telescope and promotes star gazing events. We highly recommend this park for a 2-3 night stay. There are a limited number of water/electric sites you can reserve, but the dry camping sites in the rock formations are a great camping experience. A dump station and showers are available.

The next State Park in the general area is Rockhound State Park about 15 miles SE

of Deming. The Park is set on the side of a hill and provides a sweeping view of the Deming lights and the valley to the west. It's a great little campground for those interested in geology and rock hunting. It is one of the few public lands where visitors are actually allowed to remove rocks. Be sure to go to the visitor center ... the docent will point you in the right directions for the best rock-hunting.

Heading south from Deming on Route 11 for 31 miles, you come to Columbus, NM and Pancho Villa State Park. Pancho Villa a quiet park with a very relaxing atmosphere. This is the site of the historic raid of Fort Furlong by Mexico's infamous Pancho Villa. The sites

have water and electricity, and there are bathroom/showers, a dump station and a playground. The park includes a museum celebrating the battle and the history of the area. Be sure to have lunch at Irma's Mexican Food just outside the park...and don't forget to head south to the border to park free on the US side and walk over the border to Palomas, MX

for an afternoon of shopping and lunching at The Pink Store. You won't regret it. (Don't forget your passports!) The 4CU holds an annual rally at Pancho Villa... this year it is 19-23 October 2017 ... pencil it in now!



THE PINK STORE, PALOMAS, MX - PHOTO BY TERRY RICH & GREG SCHMUKER

You can find info on the Pink Store at:

<http://www.thepinkstoremexico.com>

We should point out that if you go south from I-10 on Route 80 (or west from Columbus on Route 9 to pick up 80) you would find yourself on the eastern slopes of the Chiricahua Mountains of AZ (where Chiricahua National Monument is accessible from the western slopes). You can get to Douglas and Bisbee, AZ via this route. The roads are good but remember that this is very remote area, so be prepared with fuel. We have not made this particular jaunt yet as we are usually heading out or heading home from a New Mexico adventure.

Also, Silver City (<http://www.townofsilvercity.org>) is only 58 miles north of Deming and a fun town. There's a great historic section of town with galleries, shops and eateries to satisfy that side of life. We usually stay at the Rose Valley RV Ranch (<http://rosevalleyrv.com>) when we got to Silver City...it's in the east end of town but off the beaten path...you'd never know you were that close to the main drag of town. Silver City is also the gateway to the Gila National Forest and the attractions and camping options it has to offer.

Continuing east from Deming you have two options... stay on I-10 and you will hit Las Cruces, NM, which can be considered the gateway to the southern part of NM that lies east of I-25, and of course, West TX via I-10. If you go that route consider visiting the White Sands National Monument just south of Alamogordo, NM and Holloman Air Force Base. Sadly no RV camping facilities are available. Even so, it is very much worth a visit and is an astounding otherworldly place to experience. We have had the pleasure of camping among the dunes by special use permits several times as part of the New Mexico Unit's White Sands Rally. That's a rally we highly recommend!

If you head south from Alamogordo on US 54 you will find Oliver Lee State Park. It is a relatively small park situated on the side of a mountain and has wonderful panoramic views of the valley to the southwest. We have not stayed in this park but have driven through to check it out. This is a great place for a nice quiet retreat.

Heading northeast out of Alamogordo on Route 82 you'll climb the mountains to Cloudcroft, NM. There are a number of Lincoln National Forest

campgrounds in the area just outside Cloudcroft, as well as camping and commercial RV parks in the Ruidoso, NM area. We have camped near Cloudcroft ... it's a nice summer retreat from the desert below. Most of the campgrounds close for the winter, so be sure to check.

If you head on over the mountains east from Cloudcroft on Route 82 you will connect to the US 285 north-south corridor at Artesia, NM. Go south from Artesia you will head to Carlsbad, NM. Just north of Carlsbad is Brantley Lake State Park. It's a quiet park on the banks of Brantley Lake, which is a reservoir. There's good fishing, birding, beautiful sunsets and night skies.

South of Carlsbad on US 62 is the town's namesake, Carlsbad Caverns National Park ... a "must see" if you are anywhere near it. It's pretty amazing and something you'll never forget. Don't miss it! There is a commercial campground just outside the park in Whites City.

If you head further south on 62 you will cross the state line into TX and immediately find yourself at the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. There is great hiking as well as tent and RV (parking lot) camping. There are no facilities or dump station. Water is available but not as a hookup. Heading west from Guadalupe Mountains across the north edge of Texas is El Paso, TX.

Head north out of Carlsbad you will be heading to Roswell, NM, home of the UFO Alien Festival! (<http://www.ufofestivalroswell.com>) We have not camped in the area but are tempted to go to the annual Alien Festival in late June/early July just to say we have.

Now...back in Deming. If you want to head up the I-25 corridor toward Albuquerque, we suggest that you head north out of Deming on US 180 toward Silver City, then head east on Route 26 a few miles out of Deming. This is a well-traveled route that avoids Las Cruces and takes you to Hatch, NM, the Chile Capital of the World and home of the Hatch Valley Chile Festival

(<http://www.hatchchilefest.com>) in September. Be sure to stop at Sparky's for one of their famous chile cheeseburgers. You and your tummy will be happy you did!

Heading south on I-25 from Hatch (or north from La Cruces) is Leesburg Dam State Park. It's a pleasant park on the back of the Rio Grande. If you head north from Hatch on I-25 there is a string of state parks along the Rio Grande starting with Percha Dam and Caballo Lake. Percha Dam campground is a few miles from Caballo Lake below the dam and Caballo Lake campground is above the dam. Both are pleasant parks. Caballo overlooks the lake and Percha Dam is on the river lines with cottonwoods.

By the way, if you have the time, you can head west on Route 152 from I-25 (in the Caballo area) over Emory Pass (8,225') in the Gila National Forest, and end up near Silver City. It's a great drive but it takes time. It is also a mountain pass, so make sure the roads are clear and the weather is good. We have done that twice. The first time we were totally surprised by how

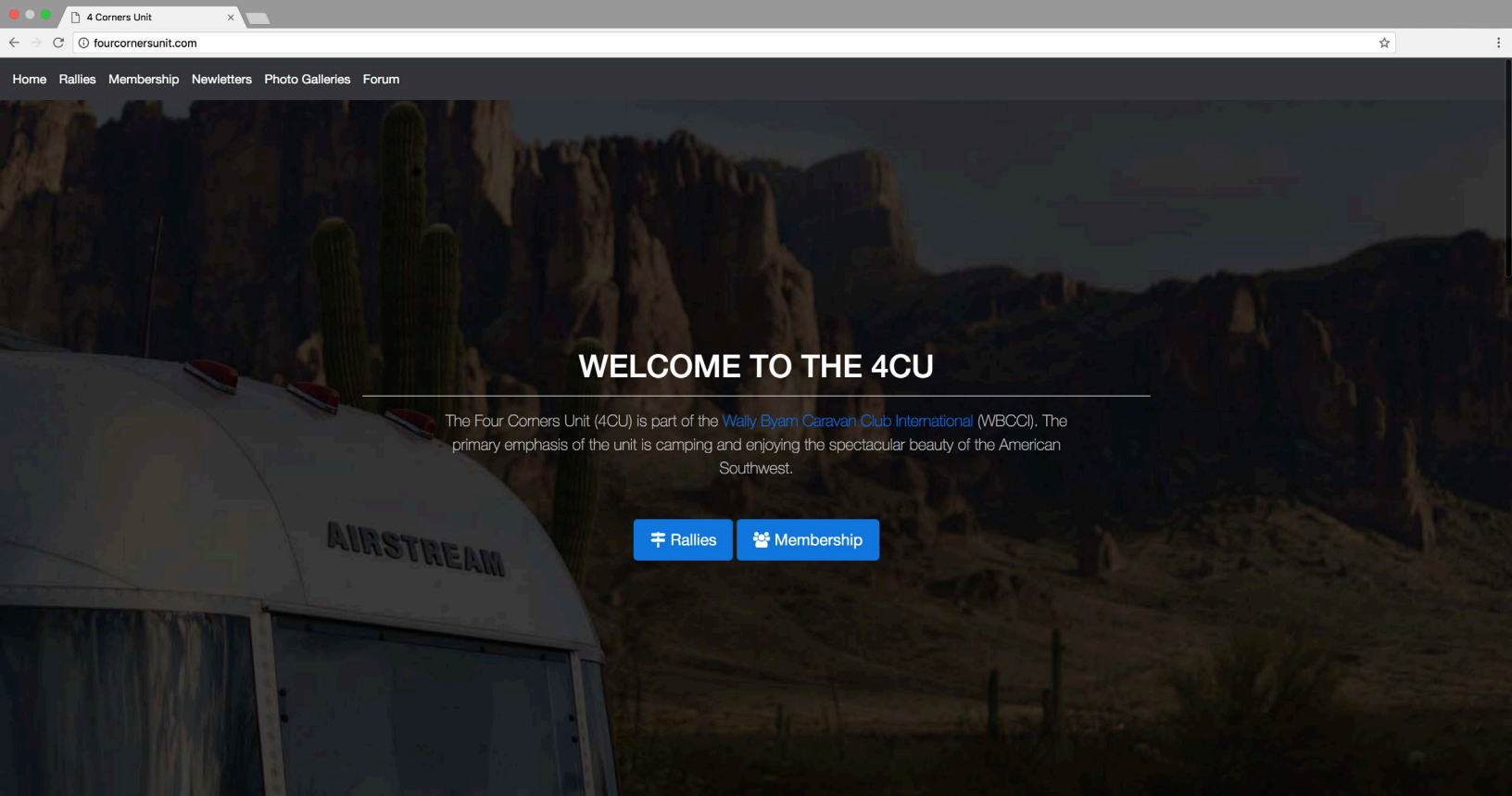


ELEPHANT BUTTE STATE PARK - PHOTO BY TERRY RICH & GREG SCHMUKER

high we climbed, but had no issues.

We used to use Caballo Lake State Park as a stopover on our way to the Albuquerque area because it's so convenient to the Interstate. However, we have since discovered Elephant Butte Lake State Park near Truth Or Consequences, NM. Now that is our new favorite place to overnight. But it's also now a destination. It's a great park with great facilities, and close to town and local hot springs. We held the 4CU Thanksgiving Rally at Elephant Butte in 2015 and are planning the 2017 Thanksgiving Rally there too! So mark your calendars now!

Next time we will try to cover another part of New Mexico...just in time for summer travels north. Be sure to check out our AZBambi Travel Log (<http://www.tbrich.com/azbambi/trips.html>) for our trips to these areas ... for pictures and more detailed information.



WELCOME TO THE 4CU

The Four Corners Unit (4CU) is part of the [Wally Byam Caravan Club International \(WBCCI\)](#). The primary emphasis of the unit is camping and enjoying the spectacular beauty of the American Southwest.

[Rallies](#)[Membership](#)





4CU WEBSITE NEWS

by Stephen Porter

All of the current rally info is posted to the website and the photo albums have been updated with the images from the Lo Lo Mai Rally (see link on the rally review page).

Check back often to the website to see new photo albums, rally information updates, and links:

<http://fourcornersunit.com/>

The website has been designed to work on all platforms; Mobile , desktop , laptop  and tablets . This way you can take the 4CU website with you when you travel!

If you would like submit your photos to be added to the website, this is very simple process. There are two (2) ways to provide your photos. First send

copy of them to Terry or myself and we will combine them with others for that rally. If you have a lot of photos, then I also have a Dropbox/oneDrive folder that you can use. (if you have any questions on this, I can walk you through the process)

One thing that we ask for when submitting photos is that the longest edge of the photo be at least 1024px. It is very hard to upscale photos, but easy to down scale them so the larger the better! Many of these photos might make the newsletter with the higher resolution images.

We are always looking for feedback on things that you would like to see, so please visit the 4CU forums and submit a suggestion. You can find the forums at: <https://forums.fourcornersunit.com/>



2017 NEW YEARS RALLY - PHOTO BY STEPHEN PORTER

2017 NEW YEAR'S RALLY REVIEW

✧ by Louis Hall ✧

Sergio and I would like to thank everyone who made the New Year's Eve Rally another success. Our final count was 38 rigs in the Quail Loop with a few more in the main campground.

We had great weather for the first day, and most of the second. As we rang in the New Year, the rain began, and it rained all night and into the next day. But everyone made the best of it. We managed to squeeze in some Viking Bowling, another fun White Elephant, and potlucks with happy hours. There were also the great evening bonfires.

Thanks to all who helped with making quilts, and a special thank you to Bonnie Bobman for organizing another successful event. I believe the group produced 7 quilt tops for the children.

It was great seeing everyone and we have reserved and set the dates for next year!

We wish everyone a very prosperous, healthy, and safe 2017!

Photo Gallery at: <http://fourcornersunit.com/photoalbums/2017-new-years-rally.html>



2017 Lo Lo Mai - PHOTO BY TERRY RICH & GREG SCHMUKER

2017 MARDI GRAS RALLY REVIEW

✧ by Reg Bittner ✧

Lovely Lo Lo Mai. We thought from the past that folks would be showing up Friday, but the majority came in on Thursday. A good sign?!

The appetizer feed on Friday night looked like something from the food network, wonderful food and wonderful presentations. I wish I had taken pictures but I was too busy eating.

Saturday afternoon we had a new treat by a very talented lady. This person is a most crafty person and taught us the art of card making. She has a huge array of tools to make this happen and a huge talent for teaching and sharing. Thank you so much for letting us leave with two pieces of wonderful art.

Saturday night was the real party with real, full-out costumes or just beads. Ran the gamut, just fun, fun,

fun! Rob and Kelly Watson made us perfect, authentic gumbo and our president made Jambalaya. It was all pretty much cleaned out.

First time with Anthony and Tamara Rodriguez, our co-hosts for five years, and us to deal with rain. We've had perfect February Arizona sunshine up until this. Well, it had to happen...

Sunday breakfast was Steve's famous smoked ham done on the Big Green Egg and blueberry pancakes. Major yum, and gone! We are known for eating in the 4CU so Sunday evening we had a leftover potluck. And still there were leftovers!

Photo Gallery at: <http://fourcornersunit.com/photoalbums/2017-lo-lo-mai-rally.html>



2016 PAGOSA RALLY - PHOTO BY TERRY RICH & GREG SCHMUKER

UPCOMING 4CU RALLIES

2017 Monumental Moab Rally

When.....May 8-12, 2017

WhereACT RV Park, Moab, UT

HostTerry Rich & Greg Schmuker

Info<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies/2017-05-08-4cu-monumental-moab-rally.html>

2017 Gourmet Camping On The Rim

When.....August 3-7, 2017

WhereCrook Campground, Coconino County, AZ

HostSusie Johnson and Art Flynn & Diane Crouse

Info<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies/2017-08-03-gourmet-camping-on-the-rim.html>

2017 Pancho Villa Rally

When.....October 19-23, 2017

WherePancho Villa State Park, Columbus, NM

HostCarolyn & Howard Efner and Terry Rich & Greg Schmuker

Info<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies/2017-10-19-pancho-villa-rally.html>

2017 Thanksgiving Rally

When.....November 23-26, 2017

WhereElephant Butte State Park, near Truth of Consequences, NM

HostJohn & Sylvia Blan and Terry Rich & Greg Schmuker

Info<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies/2017-11-23-Thanksgiving-rally.html>

2017 - 2018 New Years Rally

When.....December 29, 2017 - January 2, 2018

WherePicacho Peak State Park, Picacho, AZ

HostLouis Hall & Sergio Quiros

Info<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies/2017-12-26-new-years-rally.html>

For the most up to date rally info, please go to

<http://fourcornersunit.com/rallies.html>

Thinking about how awesome it would be to host a 4CU Rally?

View the 4CU Rally Planning Guidelines at:

<http://fourcornersunit.com/rally-planning-guidelines.html>

OTHER WBCCI RALLIES

60th International WBCCI Rally

When.....July 22-29, 2017

WhereEscanaba, MI

Info<http://wbcci.org/activities/international-rally/2017-escanaba-mi/rally>

There is a write-up about the 60th International WBCCI Rally in Escanaba, MI on page 37 of the August Blue Beret and the Registration form is on page 38. The link to the Blue Beret is:

<http://wbcci.org/airstream-trailers/wbcci-publications/blue-beret>

There is additional information in the President's Corner on page 3. If you are able to attend the Escanaba Rally, be sure to register early! It may sound too early to get your space reserved, but it really isn't as the **electric/water/pumpout sites are SOLD OUT**. There was a very healthy pre-registration at the previous year's rally in Lewisburg gathering.