



# Region 4 WBCCI



December 2016

<http://Region4.wbcci.net>

Volume 2 Issue 2

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## President's Corner

Hello to Region 4 members.

We have had a very good 2016 travel season starting in the spring with our successful Region 4 Rally and culminating this fall with the Swiss Festival National Rally and Unit Installations. I want to say THANK YOU for your support throughout the year. Region 4 is proud of all our members and their willingness to volunteer not only as officers and committee members, but as workers in every facet of Airstreaming from caravanning to hosting rallies and meals.

2017 will see a few changes in Region 4. First, I am pleased to announce Brad Briggs (NOVA) has been nominated to join the Region 4 Team as 2nd Vice President. If confirmed by the members, he will be installed at our Region Rally. Second, we are sad to accept the resignation of Nancy Brett as our Blue Beret Contributing Editor, a job which she held for 6 ½ years and

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always came through with wonderful, positive articles about our Region and Unit activities. Every cloud has a silver lining and Susan Stigleman from the Metro-Detroit Unit is our silver lining by accepting the position of Blue Beret Contributing Editor. Look for her first article in 2017.

Another change is the Swiss Festival National Rally sponsorship. After 54 years of successfully sponsoring the rally, the Land-o-Lakes Unit can no longer continue. Again, we have a silver lining as the Appalachian Unit has agreed to sponsor the Swiss Festival National Rally with Karin and Larry Kurkowski as chairmen.

In closing, we will be working on our 41st Region 4 Rally “Sunny Days and Silver Nights” to be held at the Canfield Fairgrounds in Canfield, OH May 18-22 with de-parking on the 23rd. Don't forget the first 40 to register will be in a drawing for a free 42nd rally coupon.

Stay safe, stay warm, and stay in touch with all of your Region 4 friends.

Gary Olinger  
Region 4 President



The 2017 Region 4 Rally will be at the Mahoning County Fairgrounds in Canfield, Ohio.



The WBCCI Website reports all Electric/Water/Pumpout sites have been reserved for 2017. They are maintaining a standby list and also have openings in the Solar and Generator areas. Solar and Generator sites have water and pumpout.

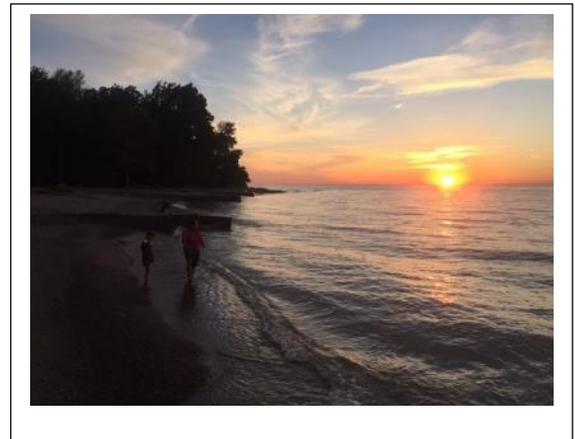
## From the First Vice President

You probably didn't see Marian and I at our last rally of the year. We were with the Appalachian Unit Fall Rally and Installation at Lewisburg, WV State Fairgrounds. If you had been there you would have noticed that we were relaxed and not particularly anxious to go home. You might ask why? When you consider the job we have as Region officers you might think it is all work and no play. Not true. Thanks to our Airstream friends (new and old) at Unit level activities, like the AU rally, we had time for relaxed conversations, joining in and working if we wanted to, visiting places we had never imagined and sharing our days and evenings in good company.



This past season, which we finished two weeks ago at the end of October, as usual had a few very busy times before and during the Region 4 Rally and the International but, it was filled with diverse locations and plenty of interaction with our members. Among others, we had opportunities to take our '34 out on Lake Erie in a ferry boat, to drive U.S. 60 in the blazing Fall colors, to kick rocks into Lake Erie while watching a wonderful sunset, to reliving D-Day and the '40s near Conneaut and to sit around the campfire, which had been burning for 4 or 5 days, with 30+ Airstreamers at the annual Swiss Festival

National Rally. We met tons of new folks. Many of the new faces came from our region, a bunch were from Region 5 (Region 5 Rally in Madison IN -yes we do check to see how they do it in the Land of Lincoln. They were a fun group too.) and, we tried to catch our Michigan folks while at the Region 4 Rally in COLDwater (if you know what I mean, COLD – we had a few moments of snow flurries during the rally) Michigan. It was heavy on Ohio events this year but we are looking forward to more “face” time with our northern Airstream kin this upcoming season.



We actually knocked off a couple bucket list items. These were all WBCCI events: We went to Put-in-Bay, saw the largest glacial groove at Kelly's Island, danced at a Pow-Wow gathering at the Wolf Creek Center, watched dirt drag races until midnight in Indiana, ate Amish food, watched tractor pulls, gazed at the blue moon on a starlit night, did lots of outdoor cooking and great eating, read my books and smoked a couple of cigars with Airstream buddies.



Do you think it could get any better? Ya, you betcha it can. The Region and International rallies are great for lots of contact and lots of activities. Don't stop there. Take a look at the rallies your units and other units in Region 4 have put together for next year. Give them a call and sign up. You'll find interesting locations and welcoming Airstreamers with the familiar grin (like the cat that swallowed the canary) as they approach. Knowing that each of you are travelling in a fine machine of your choice: YOUR Airstream. In conclusion: Go and see what you haven't yet seen or.....if you feel like it, just vegetate for a while, your choice, among friends.

It was a great year for us and a great year for new members. Marian and I enjoyed your company immensely. When the snow gets deep in early January we will be heading to the Mid-Winter IBT near Phoenix at Casa Grande. It's always a fun event. If you are in that area the month of January, think about joining us. Watch the club evolve, have some good eats and enjoy the entertainment. 'Til then, See You Down the Road.

**Don Hetzler**  
**First Vice President**

## From the Second Vice President

### Season Greetings to Region 4!

As our camping season for this area of the country winds to a close, it is with a sense of sadness that we winterize our trailers/motorhomes and park them out of the way for the winter. For those of you lucky enough to spend the winter in warmer climes, maybe the winterizing isn't done at all or is only temporary until you can get your unit into place for the winter.

Wally and I hope you had a fantastic summer and created many great memories as you traveled to unit, region and international rallies, caravans or other special events.

Hopefully, you could participate in your local unit's installation event and show your support to your incoming officers. Without these local unit officers to make plans and insure everything gets done, we could not enjoy all the great events we have available to us. Our thanks and congratulations to all unit officers elected for the upcoming year.

And now it's time to start looking ahead to 2017. Wally and I hope to be able to get to see many of you at your unit rallies where we can get to know each of you a little bit better. We'll be traveling to Casa Grande, Arizona, for the Mid-Winter IBT and hope that if you are in that area during January, you will consider joining in on the fun. Registration is due by December 31 so don't delay.

From Casa Grande, we will travel to Houston to visit family and then on to Frostproof, Florida, where we spend the winter. We'll be back in Michigan for Easter and then are looking forward to start our camping season with some of your early rallies before meeting up with everyone in Canfield, Ohio, for the Region 4 Rally.

Gary, Don and I will be working hard after the first of the year to finalize everything for another great Region 4 Rally. Remember though that we can't do it by ourselves so if you are interested in helping with a particular area please let one of us know or if we contact you for help, please consider carefully and then say "Yes!". Remember, many hands make light work and it's a great chance to work with and get to know others in the region. Enjoy this holiday season as we first start with remembering all we are thankful for – our family, friends, the opportunities to travel and see and do through our Airstream club, and don't forget to be thankful for our Airstream "family". Then on to Christmas and more time with family. This truly is a special time of year.

Blessing to each one of you!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Karen Fisher and Wally Kimmel  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Mate



## And Now Something a Little Lighter

So we run around with anywhere from ten to a hundred fifty thousand dollars hooked to the back of our vehicles. And let's not even talk about the cost of a motorhome. Then it comes time to find a campground and if we can't get full hookups for \$15 a night it's a crime! Yeah, me too.



LED lighting is all the rage now, but if you're like me and pulling an ~~older~~, oops meant vintage, unit, your rig is probably full of 1141 bulbs. They have been around forever, but you can heat the rig by leaving these beauties on, you know they have to be pulling a lot of current. So maybe it's time to upgrade to LED's. A stroll through Camping World reveals you can replace your fixtures with new Euro Style LED lamps. Great, but they're about thirty bucks a pop, and that's two nights camping. With ten or more fixtures in the rig, that's twenty nights camping. And they aren't the same size/shape as the original fixture, so there are going to be holes showing from the old one. That might be ok for the lamps under cabinets and such, but not for the overhead and lav units.



Then you stop by another camping store and lo and behold, they have replacement LED bulbs for your existing fixtures. Now we're cooking with gas. But they want 12 bucks a bulb, and each fixture needs two bulbs, so we're back to two nights camping for the cost to replace bubs in each fixture.

Hmmm, wonder if Ebay can help. Holy smokes they have the bulbs for under \$2.00 each, and they look just like the two purchased at the camping store for \$12.00 each. They must be junk. But still, what could it hurt to try them at that price? So this is the long way of saying that about twenty bulbs later, here's the lowdown.



There seems to be about three styles of these bulbs. Two of the styles are made up of small led modules soldered to small circuit boards arranged in a round shape. They differ mostly in the number of LED modules, the size of the modules, and the shape of the LEDs. Most have square LED modules but some have round LEDs. They also are available in either warm white or bright white versions.



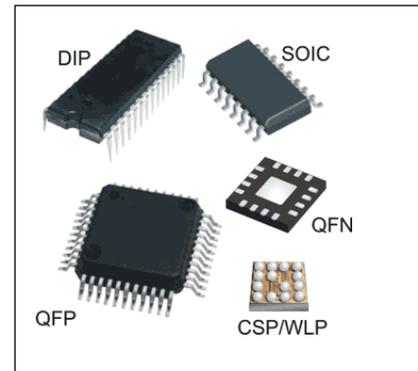
The third style is what they call COB. COB stands for Chip on Board and comes from the Integrated circuit industry. Integrated Circuits are commonly referred to as chips and most are packaged in various forms of plastic body.

At some point the manufactures figured out if they were going to be making thousands/millions of the same circuit board, they could save a lot of money and time by doing



Chip on Board construction where the integrated circuit is created right on the circuit board.

Usually the chip is covered with some black goop to protect it. You will find a lot of this style construction in talking greeting cards or flashing name badges, where they need to get the cost down to pennies.

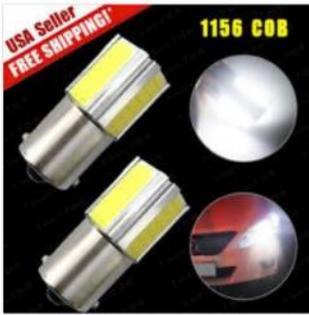


OK, that's interesting, but I thought we were talking about LEDs? Yep. Going back to the first two styles of LED lamps made up of many small LED modules soldered to small circuit boards. In electronics, every connection point is a potential failure point. Connections fail far more often than the actual components. And this was borne out in trying out the LED lamps this summer. About 30% of the lamps of this style failed. The failures were usually one or more of the LED modules quitting or going intermittent and starting to blink.

Enter COB. The third style of LED lamp is a COB Style. These lamps have the LEDs created right on the circuit board. Instead of covering the chip with black goop they cover it with translucent yellow goop that lets the light through. The only connection is from the circuit board to the lamp body. Guess what, no failures of this style over the summer and the price is not much more than the first two styles.



OK, here's the cop out. There was nothing scientific about these results, just one person's experience. Your results may vary.



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## The Big Apple

Just a reminder the New England Unit is again doing the NYC Rally at Liberty Harbor on June 8 – 11, 2017. Rick Richardson is acting as the contact point for Region 4 members interested in the rally and can be reached at e-mail [rickelainehq@gmail.com](mailto:rickelainehq@gmail.com) or phone 440-812-6490

You can join fellow WBCCI members from New England, Connecticut, New York and Ontario for a long weekend of fun in New York City. Rick has done the rally several times and will be glad to fill you in on the event. This rally fills up each time it is offered, so sooner rather than later is the best move.



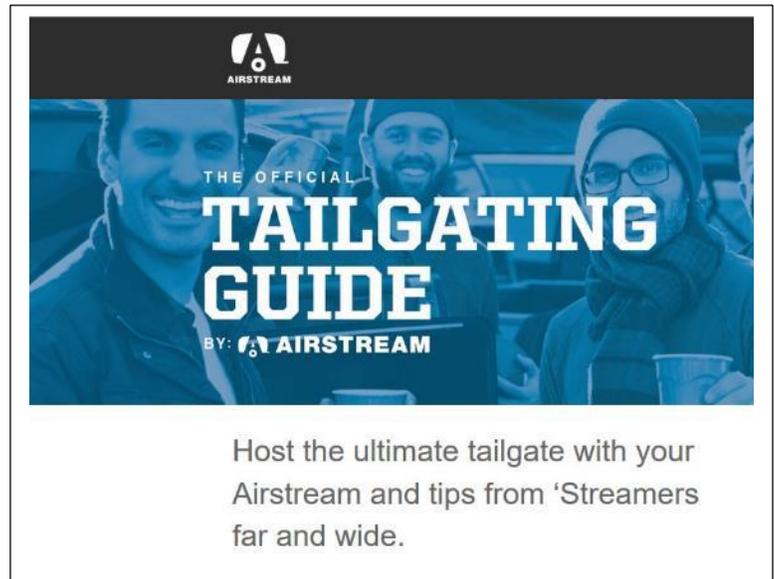
## And What Do You Want for Christmas?

A stop by the Airstream website reveals the first of a new series of Santa videos. This one interviews Santa on what brings people joy.



## AirGating

Also on the Airstream website is a downloadable guide to tailgating with your Airstream. Aimed at the younger folks, the guide makes suggestions for food, games, and what to bring to the game.



## It's Back



Last issue saw Airstream announcing the purchase of the Nest Caravan company and moving production to Jackson Center. Shortly after, the Basecamp started to show up in ads and articles. Checking the website for the Dave Arbogast dealership in Troy, Ohio reveals the Basecamp prominently displayed in their new inventory listings.

Arbogast also has pictures of the unit set up with tents and floorplans. Buried in the details are a couple interesting features:

- Pre-wired for Solar Panels and set up with USB charging ports.
- “Fluorocarbon Treated UV Protected Aluminum Exterior” (Is this another name for clearcoat?)
- “3M® Film Front Stone Guard Protection” (This sounds really interesting; could this be applied to existing rigs?)



## What Were They Thinking?

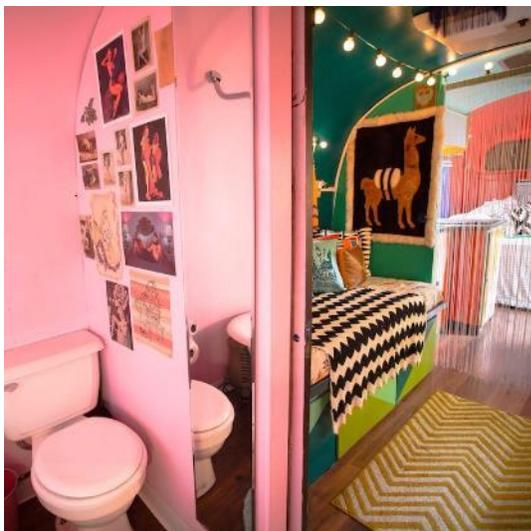
Variety is the spice of life, but sometimes you have to wonder.



Is it just me or does this remind you of a Platypus?



Remember that tune about sunglasses at night ?



OK, I kind of get the Alpaca, but pink?

## Italy's First Airstream Park, Camping Ca'Savio

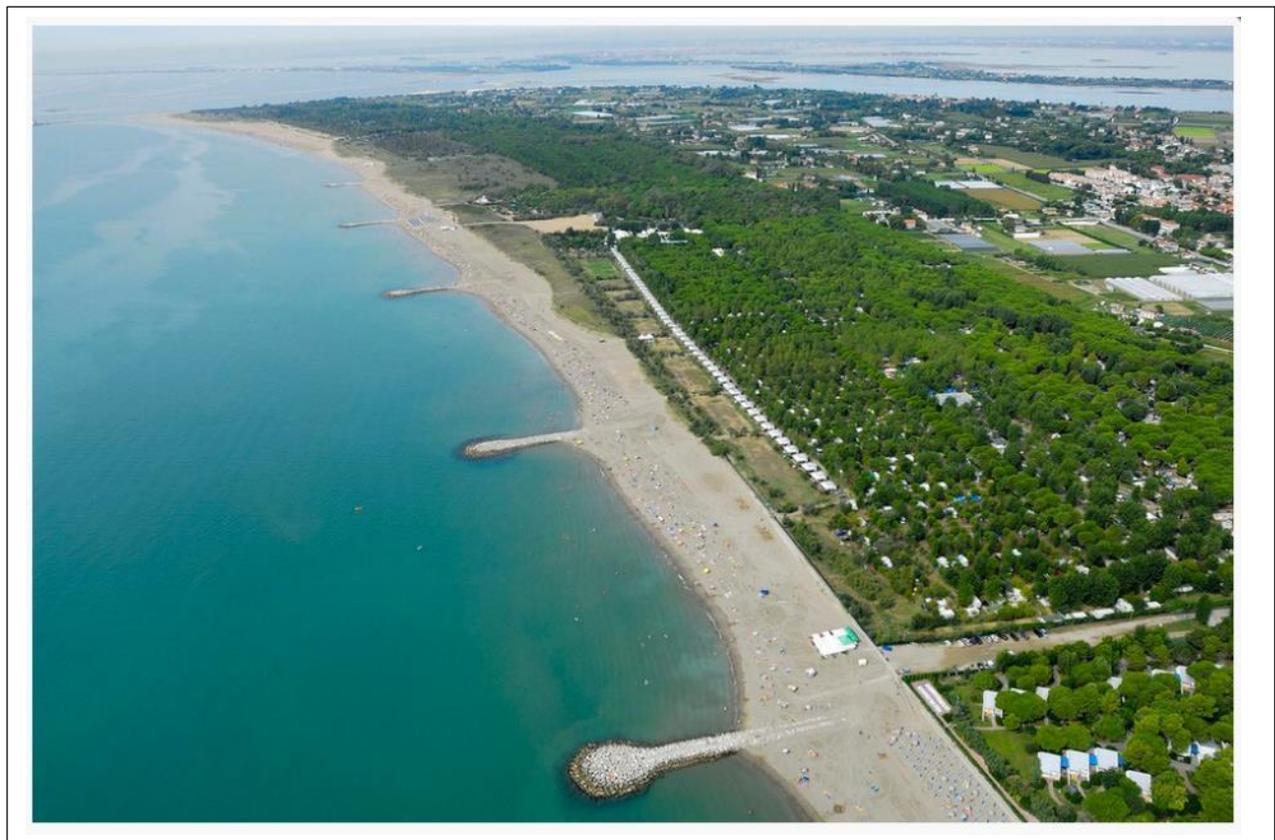
Have a hankering to visit Italy, but you'll miss your Airstream? Problem Solved! Located 30 Minutes from Venice, Camping Ca'Savio has set up ten Airstream trailers for rental while visiting the Venice area.

There is a three-night minimum stay and rates range from €125 to €185 per night.

Checking the exchange rate, as of this writing 1 Euro is 1.06 dollars. So for the low end unit that's about \$133.00 a night.

And there is an additional €45 cleaning fee

after your stay. OK that's pretty pricey, well maybe not. KOA started a similar program at select KOA's a few years back. The KOA at Key West is one of the parks offering rental Airstreams on site. A 25' is going for 154.00/night. So that's starting to look like a bargain in Italy. But even better, check out the location of the campground below. Yeah, that's the Adriatic Sea. Maybe they should be raising their prices! Oh, and did we mention the 30 minutes to Venice is a boat ride from the campground.





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