

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Wally Byam?

Wally Byam is the creator of the Airstream trailer and founder of the Wally Byam Caravan Club (WBCCI)

What is WBCCI?

A non-profit primarily volunteer organization with headquarters in Jackson Center, Ohio. The organization, which includes Canada and Mexico is comprised of regional divisions. Each region is composed of between 25 to 500 local units.

How did the first Caravan occur and when?

Mr. Byam, in a discussion with a customer who had recently purchased an Airstream but wasn't getting as much out of trailering as he could, suggested they go on a trip together. That way Byam could help him learn about the "efficiency and pleasure" of trailer travel. The year was 1951.

What are the big red numbers all about?

The numbers indicate membership in WBCCI. They came about during the second trip (the first somewhat official caravan) to Mexico and were used to identify trailers so they could be checked in at each stop. They are included in the member directory so when you pass an Airstream on the road you can look them up and see who they are and where they are from.

What are the red stars you see on some Airstreams with the numbers?

The stars indicate tenure. Each star represents five years membership in WBCCI.

When was the first Airstream trailer built?

On January 17, 1936 Byam's Airstream Trailer Company introduced the **Clipper**. This trailer is still on display at the Airstream factory. Mr. Byam had been building trailers and improving techniques since the late 1920's. The Clipper though, is considered the first official Airstream.

What makes Airstream trailers unique?

Airstream trailers are recognized world-wide because of their aluminum semi-monocoque construction exterior that is much like that used in the aircraft industry. Their construction makes the Airstream lighter in weight than most other trailers and the rounded, aerodynamic shape with low center of gravity makes towing smoother and requires less horsepower.

Who can become a member of WBCCI?

Anyone who owns an Airstream RV product can become a member. Membership is paid to the international headquarters on an annual basis. For an additional minimal cost you can also become a member of your local unit.

What do members of WBCCI do?

The primary activities are caravans and rallies. Caravans are extended trips that cover a specific section of a country or visits to several countries. Rallies are held in a specific location and usually range from two or three days to a week or more. Both rallies and caravans can be sponsored and organized by the Airstream company, by WBCCI, by individual regions, or by local units. There are also special event rallies usually centered around a specific local event such as the Rose Parade in CA, or the Mardi Gra in LA. Since it's inception, WBCCI has also been involved in community service projects. In addition to promoting good will, WBCCI supports local programs both at the international and the local Unit level. A committee for the International rally is in charge of determining, organizing, and carrying out a local service project in conjunction with the rally. Many units adopt a specific non-profit or charity and provide support through various activities and contributions.

From the booklet developed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of WBCCI. This booklet was created by Diane Leipper WBCCI #772. For copies of the complete booklet email: hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org