

WBCCI



**RV ASSOCIATION
OF AIRSTREAM OWNERS**

**Wally Byam Caravan Club International
Region 12 Rally, Hanford, CA**

**Caravan Seminar
Wednesday October 14, 1998, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**

Agenda

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|----|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Welcome and handouts | 7 min | Milan Wight, #10268 |
| | Seminar objectives | 3 min | |
| | "Caravan Basics" | 15 min | |
| | "Scouting caravan" | 10 min | |
| 2. | "Promotion" | 10 min | David Putnam, #19144 |
| | "Driver's Manual" | 10 Min | |
| 3. | "Kitty Fee" | 15 Min | Milan Wight |
| | "Financial Report" | 5 Min | |
| 4. | "Program of Activities" | 10 Min. | Eloise Wight, #10268 |
| 5. | "C B Radio" | 5 Min | Robert Marshall, #25182 |
| | "Amateur Radio" | 10 Min. | |
| 6. | "Journal" | 10 Min | Don Conner, #27197 |
| | "Bulletin Board" | 5 Min. | |
| 7. | "Caravan Evaluation" | 5 Min. | Milan Wight |

It is not the intent of this seminar to compete with the caravan training provided at the annual WBCCI International Rally, but to reach Region 12 members who have not had that opportunity, and who might be encouraged to lead or participate in a Unit, Region or National caravan.

10/1/98, Milan Wight, Region 12, Caravan Committee Chairman

cc: Robert & Leah Newport #4381, Region 12 Rally Chairpersons
David Hunter, President, Region 12, WBCCI

CARAVAN BASICS

Caravans are planned to the best of a Leader's ability whether planned as a unit, region, or national caravan. In spite of all the contacts, telephone calls, and letter writing, things can go awry. When that happens, try to take it in stride, the next day will probably be better. Remember, this is a caravan club, not just a rally or RV club. So, please - - - - -

Enter the caravan with a spirit of adventure, because it really is.
Enjoy yourselves, the scenery, the people, and local events.
Keep well and cheerful, be cooperative and courteous.
Drive CAREFULLY, SAFELY, and INTELLIGENTLY.
Assume your share of responsibilities.
Help your fellow caravanners.
Become a family.

SMILE - and remember, we are making FRIENDS FOR LIFE

ALCOHOL: Please exercise restraint in the use of alcohol. We recommend that you not take beer, wine, or liquor containers outside your RV. Pour drinks into mugs or glasses. We need to watch the reputation of WBCCI.

CARAVAN JOBS. Caravan leaders may send out a questionnaire requesting personal data and any preferences you may have for caravan jobs. If you have a medical problem which precludes the performance of certain jobs, inform the leader. There are plenty of jobs, and none is more important than any other. Some examples of caravan jobs are: welcome committee, parking, water and electric, food service, journal, sanitation, caboose, postmaster, first aid, entertainment, worship service, propane, de-parkers, mechanical advisor, and tours and special events tickets.

CAR CARAVANS: In order to get better acquainted and to minimize the number of vehicles used on local tours drivers and riders may be assigned on a rotating basis. The tour guide or caravan leader will give tour detail instructions over the CB (Citizen's Band radio). Drivers must have a good operating CB. The general policy is to share vehicle expenses. One method is to multiply the estimated mileage by a standard amount, such as .20 or .25 cents per mile and then divide by the number of persons in the vehicle, including the driver. This will insure that everyone on the car caravan pays on the same basis.

CB: A CB (Citizen's Band radio) is not mandatory, but is STRONGLY recommended for communications during transit, and in camp. In addition to a CB in your tow vehicle it is also advisable to have a CB in your trailer -- keep it on for special announcements. If you have a Ham Radio let the caravan leader know. When trying to contact other caravanners on the CB, please use your name, not your CB "handle". The official CB caravan channel will be Channel 14, unless local conditions dictate use of another channel. If you desire to hold private conversations, make contact on channel 14, then agree to go to another channel. Return to channel 14 when nearing the caravan destination and have the driver side window open for parking instructions.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: Bring comfortable walking shoes, warm and cool weather clothing, and rain gear. Layering is always effective for warmth and takes a small amount of closet and drawer space. Be certain to bring a camera, video recorder, binoculars, musical instrument and craft or hobby materials. Special caravan equipment is appreciated like BBQ grills, PA systems, portable tables, keyboard, VCR and TV, projectors, extra water hoses or electric extension cords, and red flags.

FOOD SERVICE: Caravans have several types of food service activities. Happy hour or Get Acquainted Meetings (GAM) snacks is one type. A meal function at a local restaurant is another. A cook-out planned by a special committee is another. The committee plans the meal, purchases food from caravan funds, prepares and serves the meal, and cleans up. A pot luck meal at times serves a real delight to show off ethnic and culinary skills.

DRIVERS MEETINGS. A driver meeting is usually scheduled in the late afternoon the day before the caravan is scheduled to move to the next location on the itinerary. Both driver and spouse are encouraged to attend. The purpose is to discuss driving conditions, route, and things to see and do on the way, Bring driving materials to the meeting. The caravan leader may designate certain units to leave early, such as parkers, so that the campsite parking plan is ready when caravanners arrive.

EMERGENCIES: The unit designated as Caboose will follow the designated caravan route and will assist in any way possible in an emergency. The Caboose is not expected to repair your rig or leave the prescribed route to locate you. Be prepared to help yourself. Your caravan materials will provide campsite telephone numbers so you, or the Caboose, can contact the caravan leader. If you have a problem in camp turn on your headlights and raise your hood. Its amazing how many people will show up to look under your hood. Hopefully one will be able to assist you.

EQUIPMENT: The following minimum equipment is recommended: (1) fuses for battery system and pump. (2) fire extinguisher in tow vehicle and trailer. (3) One 5/8" dia. 25 ft. and one 5/8" dia. 50 ft. non-toxic (white) water hose. (4) Two free flowing Y's with caps. (5) One shut off Y. (6) sewer hose 10' minimum. (7) One 5/8" dia. 8 ft. and one 5/8" dia. 25 ft min. sanitary drain hose (non-white). (8) A two gallon waste water container or bucket. (9) Wheel chocks. (10) Leveling blocking. (11) Tow cable. (12) Highway hazard safety triangles. (13) Fresh water jug. (14) Small shovel. (15) 50 ft. electrical extension cord, 10 Or 12 gauge if possible. (16) A water pressure regulator. Note: mark any loose equipment with a permanent marker using your membership number.

FINANCES: All WBCCI caravans are self-supporting. The caravan leader will have prepared a caravan budget of income and expenses to determine the kitty fee. A financial report will be prepared at the end of the caravan and a copy provided for each participating unit.

CARAVAN BASICS

Page 3

FIREARMS: It is recommended that you not bring firearms on the caravan.

FLAGS: If you choose to fly your flags, international protocol requires flying the flag of the host country (Canada, when in Canada) in the position of honor: facing the flags, the host flag is on the left, if two flags are flown; flags are to be the same height.

FUEL: Diesel, and unleaded gasoline is available on caravan itinerary routes. There will be ample access to propane. Fill your rig with fuel prior to departure day. This limits the need to stop with your trailer or tow car attached, and reduces congestion at service stations.

GENERATORS: If necessary, operate at hours and in locations that do not disturb other units or gatherings of caravanners.

GETTING ACQUAINTED. Making new friends is as much a part of caravanning as the things we see and do, but you must work at it, and ultimately, it is your responsibility. There will be meal functions and other activities at almost every stop, which will offer get acquainted opportunities. Use them. Plan time to be with persons you may know, but plan to get acquainted with all caravanners sometime on the caravan.

HITCH UP: Please do not attempt to socialize with your neighbors while they are hitching up ; it could, and often does , cause them or you to forget something (perhaps a critical safety step).

IDENTIFICATION: WBCCI membership numbers must be on all trailers and motorhomes. Wear your membership badge at all times while outside your Airstream -- this includes tours unless otherwise directed. Membership badges are often used as passes for entry into special events.

JOURNAL: A caravan journal includes a narration of activities experienced daily throughout the caravan. A great memento of a special event in your life. The journal must be created by all caravanners and someone selected to edit and duplicate the final copies. Can you rhyme, or draw, or write an interesting dialog of events and activities? Photographers contribute film. Someone with a computer or legible handwriting produces copy. The journal is usually presented to each unit at the final banquet.

LEAVING CARAVAN: Overnight, unauthorized absence from the caravan results in automatic dismissal. However, any unit may leave the caravan and return with the caravan leaders permission in advance. No refunds are made for missed caravan activities due to absence.

CARAVAN BASICS

Page 4

LIABILITY: Neither the club, nor its officers, nor any WBCCI sanctioned Leader of caravans shall be responsible for the loss of or damage to property, or the injury to or death of any participant in any duly authorized WBCCI caravan. Protect yourself and your Airstream at all times.

MAIL: If a caravan is long enough, there will be scheduled mail stops. A caravan member will be authorized to pick up all caravan member mail. The local Postmaster is usually provided with a list of caravan members well in advance of arrival.

MAPS: Each caravanning unit will be provided with maps or a road log of the caravan route. It may be helpful to stop at State and local visitor centers for additional maps and brochures. A Rand McNally Road Atlas is a handy reference.

MIRRORS: Please remove removable mirrors and turn in affixed mirrors any time the trailer is disconnected from the tow vehicle. Not only is it dangerous to have extended mirrors, in many states it is illegal.

PARKING: There will be Parkers at every stop to guide and assist you in parking. A few miles before you reach the destination campsite have your CB tuned to Channel 14 for communications. Have your driver side window open in order to receive instructions from the parkers. If you would prefer to have your spouse direct your parking, let the parker know. There are a multitude of patterns for parking depending on the campground, length of vehicle, and assigned spaces for caravan leaders, handicapped, and utility connections. Do not arrive at a scheduled campsite before the caravan leader. The leader must assure that contractual agreements are in order.

PETS: Pets are welcome but must be under control at all times and leashed when outside. Pets are to be exercised outside the camp area, and owners are to clean up after them every time - - rain or shine. Please do not bring pets to meetings. Current rabies certificates are required. Make appropriate arrangements for pet well being when long tours are scheduled away from the campground.

ROADS AND CARAVAN ROUTE: The caravan route will be reviewed at a drivers' meeting before each move. As a general rule the caravan leader will select roads with good surface and traffic conditions. Secondary roads can be narrow but can be traveled safely at appropriate speeds.

SMOKING: Please refrain from smoking at any group function. Comply with smoking restrictions posted elsewhere.

SPECIAL SKILLS: If you have special skills or interests that you would like to make available to the caravan, please let the caravan leader know at the beginning of the caravan. Skills that may assist caravanners are: electrician, mechanic, Ham radio operator, first aid, computer operator, song leader, photographer, etc.

CARAVAN BASICS

Page 5

TOW VEHICLE AND TRAILER OR MOTORHOME: Both should be in A - 1 condition. Check the brakes, wheel bearings, belts and hoses, have good tires and a spare (be sure to check the air pressure in the spare regularly). Radiator: always check to see that your radiator is in good condition; if the fin tubes are 25% restricted by chemical build-up, do something about it. An auxiliary transmission cooler is a good investment. Overheating can cause problems costing much more than a new radiator. Remember, it is much cheaper to prevent problems at home than to have failures on the road.

Check the hitch ball regularly for tightness, cracks, and broken welds. Lubricate the hitch according to specifications. Check hitch platform bolts. (Factory suburban platform bolts often come loose and drop out), wheel lugs; battery condition; pump, water heater; refrigerator operation on both gas and electric; Propane bottle regulators refill certification, and gas leaks (O rings).

TRASH: Every campsite will provide for trash disposal. Most disposal sites request that we use plastic bags. Many campsites will provide disposal bags. Be prepared, GLAD has a 30--pack box of "Large Kitchen Garbage Bags" size 2 ft x 2 ft 6 in. 13 gal. capacity that is very convenient. Please do not dispose of loose trash or paper wrapped trash unless advised to do so.

TRAVELING: The caravan will not convoy close together. Travel in groups of 2 to 4 for safety. Maintain at least 500 feet intervals on highways. Remember, if you can read the membership numbers on the Airstream ahead of you, you are too close. Allow passing room for other traffic. If you prefer to travel alone let others know about it, especially the caboose. You may prefer to smell the roses, take photographs, visit an attraction or take a coffee break or nap. NEVER attempt to pass on a downgrade or upgrade on a secondary road. If 4 or 5 vehicles pile up behind you, pull off the road at the first SAFE spot to let them pass. Be sure your rig is completely off the road, but watch for rough berms and debris. If you need help, raise the hood and set out safety triangles. Have someone on the CB communicate with other caravanners.

WATER: Although caravan leaders try not to have scheduled stops without water, it is always possible to be surprised. Therefore, it is best to be prepared -- ALWAYS CARRY A FULL TANK OF WATER, and use it to keep it fresh. Be sure your tank is clean, the pump works, and there are no leaks. Fill your tank before you leave for the next campsite. If you are hooked to water caravan style, it is best to fill your tank in the middle of the day when usage is low. Water hoses can be sterilized by pouring a mixture of water and Clorox through the hose.

WATER HOSE CONNECTIONS:

Replace washers in hoses at the beginning of the season to prevent leaks which waste water. If you connect to a water line that has high pressure, a pressure reducer may be advisable between the Y and your Airstream in some locations. High pressure can damage plumbing. Water filter systems should be only on your supply line, not including your neighbor's line.

CARAVAN BASICS

Page 6

WORSHIP SERVICES: Often there will not be scheduled caravan Worship Services due to moving to the next campsite or some other activity. When in a fixed location on a Sunday, a caravan Worship Service may be organized by caravan personnel. A Worship Service Committee may post local church service information on the caravan bulletin board. This latter enables caravanners to meet local people and share interests and the Worship experience.

LIVING WITH 12 VOLTS: Although caravan leaders try to get electricity as often as possible, you may experience some stops without it. Here are some tips for living without electric hookups. You will be driving often so your batteries will be charged. The following are some suggestions:

1. Start with a good battery.
2. Use only those lights that are necessary.
3. Turn lights off when not needed.
4. Do not leave lights on while away from your Airstream.
5. Keep trailer plugged into your tow vehicle. Wrap your seat belt around your steering wheel as a reminder that you are hooked up.
6. If the trailer battery is low (lights will become dim yellow) disconnect the pigtail from the tow vehicle, check the charging line fuse on firewall of tow vehicle, start engine, then plug in pig tail. This will help avoid blowing the charging line fuse. Check fuse periodically.
7. Catalytic Heater: The furnace blower motor uses a lot of power. A catalytic heater uses no power, and is quiet and efficient. If you have one installed and use a flexible connection line be sure it is a material to be used with propane. If you plan to use a catalytic heater at night, be certain to leave a vent or window open.
8. Electric shaver: Many small inverters are available to convert 12 volt to 110 volts. Rechargeable shavers are available on the market. 12 volt shavers are available if you have a lighter receptacle in your Airstream.
9. If you plan to go on long caravans to remote locations, you might want to consider installing a solar charging system. The general rule of thumb - - one battery and one solar panel per person works well for most users.