

Caravan Basics

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Welcome:

Welcome to the Nor By Nor'East National Caravan.

Remember, while we have not pre-driven most of this trip, please bear with us as we could experience road construction, detours, road closures, etc.; we will enjoy each day as an adventure. There are so many unknowns, but so many ways **to understand why a wrong turn isn't always a bad thing.** **Never give up your spirit of adventure, enjoy the scenery, your new friends, and concentrate on having a safe and memorable caravan.**

Airstream:

Your trailer or motor home should be in top A-1 condition prior to this trip. Check the brakes, wheel bearings, belts and ensure you have good tires and a spare tire that is fully inflated to the same pressure as those mounted. Ensure your radiator and hoses are in good condition. If you have ever considered an auxiliary transmission cooler, it may prove to be a good investment; consider the cost of a transmission and the lost time on the road while making repairs. Overheating can cause problems costing much more than a new radiator.

Alcohol:

Please exercise good judgment in the use of alcohol. When outside the rig, you might consider using a glass or mug. We are all adults, therefore we will use alcohol responsibly.

Arrival Time:

Arrival time at the next campground will be decided upon and will be talked about at the Driver's Meetings. You may leave the campsite whenever you wish, however we recommend you drive in good daylight only. You may pass the leader and parking crew, ***but you must not enter the campground before the designated parking time.*** This is very important as it disrupts the parking crew's preparations, the registration procedures, and generally will delay parking for others. ***Arriving before the parking crew is grounds for dismissal from the caravan.***

Banking:

Do not plan on using personal checks; out of state checks usually are not accepted everywhere especially in Canada. **U.S. Traveler's Checks are as acceptable as cash. Credit cards seem to work the best, but be aware of fees and charges relating to converting U.S. funds to Canadian funds.**

Border Crossings:

The Nor By Nor'East Caravan will cross the border into New Brunswick, Canada therefore, you must carefully follow all the rules that may apply to you. A passport is required by all U.S., Canadian and foreign citizens, just having a drivers license and birth certificate is no longer the norm. Since there are many more requirements regarding pets, food, liquor, smoking materials, motor vehicle insurance and the way they affect you as an individual, you should consult the Internet where there is extensive information. More information is here: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g153339-s602/Canada:Crossing.The.Border.html>

Bulletin Board/White Board:

The Caravan Leader will have a bulletin board for postings of reminders and activity times, information regarding planned meetings, fireside chats, and any changes in the schedule, etc. It will be hanging at the **Caravan Leader's trailer.** **It is the caravanner's responsibility to check the bulletin board every day for any schedule changes.**

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Caboose:

Not all caravans have a Caboose. The Caboose usually consists of one or two units and are the last to leave the old parking site on travel day. ***The Caboose travels the published caravan route.*** If the Caboose encounters a fellow caravanner who has had a mechanical breakdown, they will offer support in getting assistance as required. Support may include advice or moral support. The Caboose is to remain with the caravanner until he/she is back on the road or the problem is in professional hands to resolve. The Caboose will notify the Caravan Leader of any problems encountered, and the plan for resolution so that others will not worry about the missing caravanner. The Caboose is not expected to perform repair services. The Caboose will also be the De-Parkers for that day. **The N by N'E Caravan intends on assigning De-Parkers who will act as Caboosees.**

Caravanner Data Sheet:

This is your application which should be filled out completely. All the data is important to us as we make pre-registration plans at campgrounds, etc.

Caravan Leaders:

Your caravan leaders are leading this caravan because we enjoy doing it. We don't do it for profit. We would rather caravan than anything else; whether it is leading or just being part of a caravan, it is just something we love to do. While we have been leading caravans for several years now, we don't pretend to have all the answers, but we are there to help you in any way we can. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Caravan Leaders...Assistants:

Our Assistant Caravan Leaders are Trevor & Gale Lake; they have taken the Caravan Leaders course and have contributed endless hours of research and insight for all our overnight stops. Trevor & Gale will head up our Parkers and Welcomers and will travel as the caboose on the early parking team. They will be responsible for leadership of the caravan in the absence of the Caravan Leaders.

Caravan Versus Convoy:

By spacing our rigs with ample room for someone to pass, we ensure that non-campers can get by us safely. An army convoy travels bumper to bumper, but ***Airstreamers caravan so we can't read the numbers on the rig in front of us. If you can read the numbers of the rig in front of you then you are traveling too close.*** Whether we are traveling in small groups or alone, we must think of the vehicle traveling behind us. We should be very cognizant of blocking his ability to safely pass.

Caravan Jobs:

Many caravan jobs will be rotated. If you enjoy performing a job and would like to do it all the time, speak up. If you have a medical condition that precludes you from the performance of certain jobs, speak up. If you cannot be in the sun or on your feet for a couple of hours to help park, or arthritis prevents you from **performing certain activities, notify us in advance. There's plenty to do and there are plenty of hands to fulfill them. We have a separate document describing the duties of our "Caravan Jobs".**

Communications:

Although not mandatory, ***we strongly recommend having a CB in the tow vehicle and one in the trailer.*** We will not be using handles or CB names when communicating. We will use real names. The official Caravan CB channel will be **14** (unless officially changed by the leader). For personal communications, please use another channel (above channel 20) or use a Family Radio Service (FRS Radio) walkie-talkie which do not **interfere with CB signals. Having a CB in the trailer may help with announcements in camp and for Driver's Meetings during inclement weather.**

Many club members are ham operators. Having amateur radio equipment helps with some long distance communications. The Caravan Leader is a HAM operator and monitors 2 meters on 146.43 simplex.

Cell phones are the norm but, unfortunately they are limited to where cell towers are located. **The Drivers Manual will have all the attending caravanner's cell phone numbers published.**

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Clothing & Equipment:

Since you will be traveling during summer months, it probably will be quite mild. A saying about **weather in Canada goes like this: "Enjoy Canada in July and the remaining Winter months". Remember, you** will be uncomfortable with just summer-like clothing if we run into a chilly spell. Bring clothes you can layer **such as: sweaters, sweat shirts, jackets, etc., and don't forget your raincoat! Laundry is a task that puts a** temporary end to a vacation, so bring lots of clothes so you only do laundry every 2-weeks or so.

Losing or breaking a pair of eyeglasses can spoil a trip; make certain you have your eyeglass prescription and/or a spare pair of glasses with you.

If you are bringing a camera with you, make sure you have extra batteries and/or your charger. For **the digital camera buffs, don't forget to bring your card reader and extra memory cards. A note about photo** processing, Wal-Mart processes photos in one-hour from all kinds of media like CDs, DVDs, memory cards of all types and the cost is very reasonable. You might consider leaving your printer home.

Binoculars might be the only way you get to see that moose, bear, deer or elk in the distance, so don't forget them! We'll be traveling along some very picturesque roads, so don't leave those binoculars home!

Cookouts:

Usually two couples will work together to purchase all the food and put together a BBQ for all attendees. Kitty Fee money will be distributed to the two couples (by the Assistant Caravan Leader), so they can make necessary purchases. They are responsible for the total task including cleanup. Anyone interested will have an opportunity to help with the cookouts.

You will be required to bring your own dinnerware to the BBQs. The Caravan Leaders will have a small grill; if you would like to help out with your grill it will be most appreciated. With 40-50 people to serve, having 2 or 3 grills might be a good idea. Please let the Caravan Leaders know you have a grill we can use.

De-Parking:

Each day we travel, there will be assigned De-Parkers to assist with ensuring that the caravanners are pulling out with their antennas down, windows closed, steps up, lights working, hitching is complete, etc. **Having 2 couples checking the very basic traveling setup will give the caravanner confidence that you're all** set for the road. The De-Parkers will also fulfill the responsibilities of the Cabooses for that day.

Drivers Meetings:

The Caravan Leaders will conduct the Drivers Meetings which will generally be held late in the day so as not to interfere with more important activities like sightseeing, etc. Each Airstream RV should be represented at the Drivers Meetings. If for some reason, there are questions arising about our routing after the meeting but before we leave, we will make time to discuss and clarify our trip description.

Duty Roster:

The Duty Roster is put together by the Caravan Leader. Jobs are assigned randomly so that everyone gets a share of the workload. The Caravanner Data Sheet or the Caravan Application is used as a guide to **ensure jobs of difficulty are not given to those who can't physically handle them. If you have a problem with** a job assignment, please see the Caravan Leader.

Lots of hands make jobs go so much quicker and most times it becomes fun to work with one another.

Emergencies:

Any Airstreamer will assist with any emergencies/breakdowns. Whenever feasible, every caravanner is expected to assist in any possible way; ***Airstreamers parked on the side of the road with 4-WAY FLASHERS on are in need of repair.*** Using a right-hand signal denotes just sight-seeing, etc.

Emergency Medical Form:

As part of the application process an Emergency Medical Form is to be filled out by the caravanner and submitted to the Caravan Leader in a sealed envelope either before the rendezvous or at the first meeting. **The envelope will be held in the Leader's possession until the Farewell Banquet and returned sealed.** This will ensure the integrity of the personal information on such medical form.

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Equipment Recommendations:

Cooking & Dinnerware: Since we will be enjoying cookouts and taking part in Lobster Bakes, it might be a good idea to bring along a grille and lobster utensils. You probably will be assigned to one or more meals to put together with a committee of others.

Electrical: Extension Cords (Make sure they are capable of carrying 30 amps if you plan on running air conditioning and/or electric heat). At least one-10-3 cord 25 feet long. A 12-3 cord is less expensive, but only has 20 amp capacity. At least two flashlights; one in the car and the other for the trailer with spare batteries. Spare light bulbs for the trailer brake and running lights. Spare fuses for the 12-volt system including the water pump system.

Plumbing: At least one non-toxic (white) 5/8" diameter water hose 25 feet long. **One additional non-toxic (white) 5/8" diameter water hose 50 feet long, (or 2-25 footers).** Two free-flowing Y connections. One shut-off Y connection. **One gray (wash) water hose 8' long. A sewer hose 20 feet long with various connectors and couplings to ensure trouble-free connections in several camping areas and dump stations.**

Towing/Trailer Equipment: Wheel chocks, wheel blocks (miscellaneous boards), boards for under the jacks and stabilizers, a tow cable/chain or rope, at least one hydraulic cylinder jack heavy enough to lift your rig, and ball grease.

Miscellaneous: Duct tape, spare hose washers, small rope (1/4"), a small tarp, a small shovel, folding table, water jugs, and folding chairs. Some experienced caravanners even bring a spare fresh water pump. **Although these don't fail that often, they always fail whenever you are dry camping and can be very inconvenient.**

Tow Vehicle Equipment: Extra windshield washer fluid, oil, coolant fluid, spare windshield wiper blades, tire pressure gauge, highway triangle safety/warning devices, paper towels, HD work gloves.

Finances:

All WBCCI numbered caravans are self-supporting. No Club fees help with expenses. We have estimated most of the expenses and based the Kitty Fee on that estimate. The Kitty Fee money will be administered by the Caravan Leader and the Assistant Caravan Leader. An audit will be conducted after the **end of the N by N'E Caravan. Any remaining Kitty Fee monies will be distributed with a full accounting within 60 days of the end of the caravan.**

Firearms:

It is recommended that you NOT bring firearms on the caravan. If you do so, you are responsible for **knowing the laws of each state and country and be responsible if you violate them.** **Canada's firearms laws** are very different from those in the USA; most times only hunting firearms are permitted and then with a valid hunting license.

Flags:

The flag of the USA will be flown at the same height to the left of other flags when in the USA. When in Canada, the flag of the USA is never flown by itself.

Fuel:

Diesel and unleaded gasoline is available along the route. There will be ample time and opportunity to fill your rig with fuel prior to leaving for the next destination. Fueling the night before a travel day is a **good idea; that way you don't have to leave the caravan enroute to our next destination.** Daily drives are probably long enough where most can travel from point to point without running dangerously low on fuel, but you should probably refuel before putting up for the night. If traveling in a small group, combining a fuel stop with lunch is a good idea.

Generators:

If it is necessary to run a generator, it should be operated at hours and in locations where fumes and noise do not disturb other units or gatherings of attendees. The Caravan Leader will determine when it is appropriate to use generators. In case of emergency, the Caravan Leader will have a portable generator.

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Getting Acquainted Meetings:

GAMs, Happy Hours and Ice Cream Socials are excellent ways to get to know your fellow caravanner. Traveling together, seeing interesting sights, experiencing dinners, BBQs, morning coffee and picnics along **the way are all opportunities of fulfilling the "WBCCI Way"**. Consider ride-sharing when the rigs are parked; its more fun and its even more fun when you spread your friendship around.

Gray Water (Wash Water):

It is illegal to dump gray water on the ground in most campgrounds and states, so don't do it. Our stops will either have sewerage available at each site or will have a dump station. For those camping units without a holding tank or with a small capacity, it may be necessary to carry a Blue Boy Tank to capture any wash water discharge for proper disposal. (Tip: We lugged a Blue Boy on the Coast to Coast and Alyeska Caravans almost 19k miles and never used it.)

Hitch & Ball:

Check the hitch and ball regularly for tightness; look for cracks and broken welds and lubricate the ball and other areas the require lubrication regularly. The hitch platform on the tow vehicle often have loose nuts and bolts that even fall off. **Please remove your hitch ball after you park**; with many caravanners walking here **and there, we don't anyone getting injured by walking into your hitch.**

Hitching Up:

Socializing with a fellow camper during the hitch-up operation is a no-no. Forgetting to complete the hitch-up procedures can be a dangerous and costly event. Try to hitch-up the same way all the time; this way it is always a good job-done. Example: We watched someone chatting with a neighbor while unhitching; he was **side-tracked and didn't remove the hitch completely from the receiver**. **The next morning while heading** to our touring destination, it ended up on the exit ramp at 45mph.

Identification:

Please ensure your WBCCI numbers are clearly visible and attached to each trailer and motor home. Please wear your WBCCI badge at all times when outside your camping unit. Often, the badges will be your admission into an event, attraction or tour.

Insurance:

Request a Non-resident Inter-provincial Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Card from your auto **insurance company**. **If you don't have a card to prove your coverage, you should carry your insurance policy** with you to prove coverage. Make certain your trailer coverage is included.

Kitty Fee:

The Kitty Fee is designed to pay for all of those activities "most" of the caravanners will take part in. Remaining moneys will be distributed after the end of the caravan whenever the Caravan Leaders have completely paid for all expenses and an audit has been completed.

Laundry:

Performing laundry duties takes you away from enjoying typical caravan times; be sure to consider bringing along plenty of clothes. The Caravan Leaders take about 2-weeks worth of clothing and therefore, only do laundry every 12+ days or so.

Leaving the Caravan:

Overnight, **unauthorized absence** from the caravan results in **automatic dismissal** from the caravan. **However, anyone may temporarily leave the caravan with the leader's permission. Please put your request in writing in advance of your intended absence and deliver it to the Caravan Leader.** Be aware that no refunds will be made on missed caravan activities because of such absences.

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Liability:

Neither the Club, nor its officers, nor any WBCCI sanctioned leader of caravans shall be responsible for the loss or damage of property, or the injury to or death of any participant in any duly authorized WBCCI caravan. Protect yourself and your unit at all times. This also covers a licensed nurse or physician acting as a first responder within the caravan.

Mail:

Some caravans are of a longer duration and therefore a mailstop might be made available; mail stops are prearranged with campground owners/managers. check with the Caravan Leader on this. There will be a mail stop designated at a CG before we enter Canada.

Maps, Guides and GPS:

Each attending caravanning unit will receive a Drivers Manual with good directions for our travel days and will have the addresses of the campgrounds we intend on using. Wal-Mart sells a Rand McNally Road Atlas which has the locations of all their stores; it is excellent and will cover all the states and provinces our Caravan will travel.

Medical:

A Medical Reporting Form will be mailed to you with the Caravanner Data Sheet. Please fill out the medical form and seal it in an envelope with your name(s) on the outside. This form should be handed to me **at the rendezvous or before. We won't open it unless there's an emergency, that way your privacy is protected** and yet there is a level of security. We will return the Medical Reporting Form in the same sealed envelope at the end of the caravan or at a Farewell Banquet.

There may be a situation where you might want to bring along certain medical files, X Rays, etc. In the unlikely event of a medical situation, it could be beneficial to have some recent files about your medical condition. You are responsible for these and a note about them could be in the Medical Reporting Form.

Mirrors and Hitches:

Please remove the removable towing mirrors and/or retract the towing mirrors anytime the trailer is disconnected from the tow vehicle. In some states it is the law. **Always remove the hitch head from the receiver platform and store this safely away.** There have been many bruised shins and knees as well as greasy pants because a hitch head was left on the tow vehicle.

Motor Home Leveling:

When parking on asphalt, it will be necessary to place pads under the levelers of motor homes. No exceptions.

Parking:

Parking is often handled by the Caravan Leaders or their Assistant Caravan Leaders. On the N by N'E Caravan, the Assistant Caravan Leaders will supervise all parking arrangements. Often times the Parkers will leave much earlier so they precede the remainder of the caravan into the campground. Parkers are often assigned to help with parking, (they would become a part of the Parking Committee), so these helpers will be traveling in a small group to the next campground.

It is unacceptable to precede the Parking Committee into the campground. Do not arrive before the Parking Committee.

Your parking site may have been chosen for many reasons; it could be because you're next in line or it is advantageous to the Parker to have you park in a particular site; it is even possible that your rig fits better in a particular site. ***Under no circumstances is it acceptable to choose or change your site without permission of the parking committee.***

Motor homes might be requested to be disengage their towed vehicles prior to arrival at the campground. Due to some space constraints it might be necessary to ask some trailers and motor homes to be delayed somewhat. Larger rigs fit in larger sites which might not become available because other rigs are parking and might be in the way.

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Pets:

Pets are welcome but must be under control at all times and leashed when outside. Specific breeds of dogs are not allowed in some campgrounds; see the Caravan Leader if you are bringing a dog on the caravan. Note: **One of our stops requires that campers do not have more than 3 dogs in their RV.** Pets should be exercised outside the camp area, and owners are to clean up after them every time-rain or shine. **No pets are allowed at meetings or meals.** Current rabies certificates are required for Canada. Make appropriate arrangements for your pets well-being when away from the camping rig. It may become necessary for you to make special arrangements while away from your trailer for long periods of time.

Pot Luck Suppers:

Due to the nature of single night stopovers and lack of shopping facilities along the way, you may not have occasion to have any potluck suppers. If there is interest along the way for doing so, usually they can be planned without making a big deal of things. Some Caravan Leaders enjoy a potluck supper because of its unique attribute of getting folks together. **We expect to have at least one pot luck supper on the N by N'E Caravan.**

Problems:

Hopefully there won't be any problems, but if you have a problem, talk with the Caravan Leaders about it. Don't complain to your neighbor about something he can't control. Your problem might be such, that with a little understanding and conversation is "NO PROBLEM"!

Propane:

LP gas is plentiful along the way. Be certain you are beginning the trip with a full and tight system. A listing will be included within The Driver's Manual of those CGs with available propane.

Roads and Routes:

Although we have not pre-driven the entire route, we have no first hand knowledge of recent road repairs and we don't anticipate any major issues along the way. If we find out about some extensive roadwork on our route, we'll alter our route to avoid it. We plan on driving at speeds that do not exceed the speed limits. With the length of the daily drives generally being less than 230 miles, there is no need to speed. **We won't be on the road longer than 3-5 hours** anyway. With all the wonderful scenery we expect to pass, we should plan on enjoying our daily drives.

Security:

Most Airstreamers tend to be trustworthy and leave their cars, trailers and storage hatches unlocked while at rallies, etc., but since we will be camping where there will likely be strangers camping nearby, it is recommended we lock our vehicles and storage hatches at night and/or when we are away from our campsites.

Smoking:

No smoking at any group functions, meals or meetings. Please comply with posted restrictions.

Specific Skills:

If you have specific skills (such as electrician, plumber, mechanic, first aid, etc.), that you care to make available to the caravan, please let the leader know by indicating so on the Caravanner Data Sheet or by E-mail.

Trash:

Every stop will have trash disposal. Most travel stops will accept plastic trash bags; it is rare that open or loose trash is acceptable in dumpsters. Glad (brand) Large Kitchen Garbage Bags are a convenient size. **They are a 13 gallon capacity and measure, 2'X2'6".**

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Traveling Underway:

Traveling in groups is a safe way to travel; in case of a breakdown, etc., you have a support team to give you some guidance or assistance. A caravanner who stops to assist during a breakdown is there, not as a mechanic, but as support and to give his guidance so you can get your rig repaired, etc.

If you need help, use your CB, cell phone, raise the hood, and put out the safety triangles. A fellow caravanner should help you with communications, while you tend to your rig.

While traveling, there may be times when 4 or more cars are lined up behind you; it is good practice to avoid this by giving them some passing room. Sometimes it is impossible to do so without pulling over to the side of the road, but this must be done in a very safe manner and with extreme care. You must be careful of driving over rough terrain and debris on the shoulder and ensure you are completely off the roadway. Travel at a safe distance; you never know when a traffic condition will force you to stop with little or no opportunity for planning.

How do I know if a trailer is pulled over to sightsee or for an emergency? ***As a rule set forth, we say that if a rig is pulled to the side of the road with the 4-way flashers going, they are broke down.*** If a rig is pulled to the side of the road with a turn signal on or none at all, they are sightseeing or stopped for lunch, bathroom break, etc.

Volunteers:

Please remember we are all volunteers and that we are not doing this for a living. Respect the needs and rights of others as they attempt to make your day go well. Don't forget to say, "Thank you"!

Vehicle Maintenance:

This trip will encompass about 1,000 miles (one way), which probably does not exceed the recommended mileage for oil changes on most vehicles. You might plan on visiting a new car dealer for your lubrication and oil changes prior to the trip or on the way home. Wal-Mart Super Centers are a good place where you can get dependable service; we have found them to be very reasonable.

Just by popping the hood and looking around the engine compartment can save you from a breakdown. Look at the battery (s) to ensure they are clean, connections are tight, the battery is held in place securely, and full of liquid. Look closely at the serpentine belt, check for cracks and ensure it is snug. Make certain the idler pulleys are tight. Look for rubber debris in the engine compartment which could be the result of an idler being out of alignment. Be aware of any oily residue being blown or sprayed about the **engine compartment; it could mean you've discovered a leak in any number of systems that use fluids like coolant, hydraulic fluid and oil.**

Water:

It is recommended that you carry a full tank of water and use it along the way. It is best to be prepared and remember to use the water in your tank on a daily basis. It will stay fresh this way. Make certain your pump works, the filters are clean/new and you have no leaks in the water system. Fill your tank before you leave for the next campsite; you might need it at the next stop. Sterilizing hoses and filter housings is easy, just use a bleach and water mixture and pour it in and over the items to be sterilized. I have seen campers using plastic spray bottles containing bleach.

Water Hose Connections:

Replace washers at the beginning of the season and carry extras. It is a good idea to have a pressure reducing device on your hose; many campgrounds have wells and their pumps put out in excess of 80 PSI. Airstream RVs enjoy only 40 PSI water pressure. High pressure can also damage water filtering devices.

Occasionally you may be required to hook up in a "daisy chain". Using a full flowing Y at each trailer with a 5/8" hose will give every trailer ample volume and pressure. When one person uses a shutoff Y or a 1/2" hose, there will be a noticeable difference in volume and pressure. Always ensure the "daisy chain" hook up doesn't include filtering your neighbor's water.

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Worship Services:

Often, the caravan cannot provide for Worship Services. We regret that it is necessary to schedule **caravan activities on Sunday. If we didn't include Sunday as a caravan activities day, it would mean adding** days to the schedule. When we are not traveling on Sunday, you are, of course free to attend local churches; this could be a wonderful opportunity to worship in a different setting and meet local people who are often interested in our caravanning activities.

Note:

The Caravan Basics are *intended as a guideline and is not expected to have "all the answers"*. You may require more information than what appears here; if you do, just ask for it.