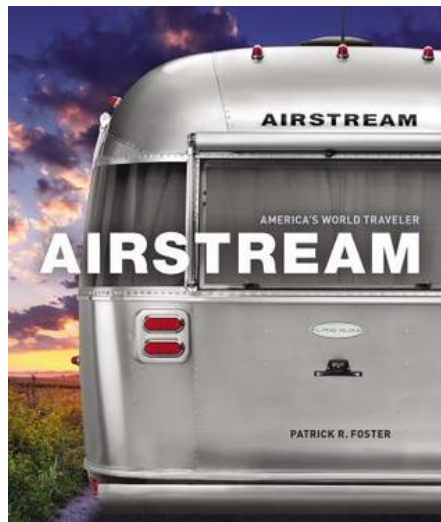




# Airstream: America's World Traveler

*Patrick Foster*

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**Airstream: America's World Traveler** Patrick Foster

**2017 Gold Medal and Division Winner of the International Automotive Media Competition!**

Iconic, aluminum-bodied Airstream trailers have been around for 85 years--get the full story in this photo-rich book.

Airstream is America's best and oldest manufacturer of travel trailers, and those retro silver coaches are iconic on America's highways. Representative of the age-old desire to explore, these trailers are unmistakable in design with distinctive aerodynamic rounded lines and an aluminum outer skin. *Airstream: America's World Traveler* celebrates the eight decades since the first Airstream graced America's highways.

*Airstream* chronicles the fascinating history of Airstream trailers through a detailed history, stories, and beautiful photography. Although its roots stretch back to 1926, the first Airstream-brand trailers were introduced in 1936, just as America was emerging from the dark days of the Great Depression. Of the 400 travel-trailer manufacturers of that era, only Airstream survived. Dubbed the "Airstream Clipper" after the first trans-Atlantic seaplane, the 1936 Airstream featured a unique lightweight aluminum body that cut down on wind resistance, improved fuel efficiency, and made for easier towing. It slept four, carried its own water supply, was fitted with electric lights, and cost \$1,200. The Airstream provided travelers with a way to see the world at their leisure and in solid comfort. It was the perfect vehicle for a country emerging from a long struggle.

In the eight decades since that first Airstream, the company has produced some of the finest trailers in the world and gained a worldwide reputation as the Rolls-Royce of travel trailers. The Airstream story is one of travel, adventure, and memories that last a lifetime.

## Airstream: America's World Traveler Details

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## From Reader Review Airstream: America's World Traveler for online ebook

### Gail says

What a great birthday present!

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### Adrianne says

Your private luxury vacation on wheels? My parents sure thought so. And, apparently so do my neighbors 50 years later. Yep. There's an Airstream in their driveway. I wish I had one too — a classy, classic aluminum Airstream travel trailer is pretty darn special and very desirable. It reminds me of an airplane with its graceful, aerodynamic design sans wings.

Did you know Airstream has been around for 85 years? Don't believe me? Just flip through the pages of this great new book, *Airstream: America's World Traveler* by Patrick R. Foster. "Travel trailers were all the rage during the 1930's, with scores of new companies producing them for a travel-hungry public. Magazines offered plans for building your own, one of which influenced Wally to enter the business with his design." (p.15). Wally who? Wally Byam, the man responsible for this iconic travel trailer and leader of world-wide travel in Airstreams!

Wally and his wife, Stella went all over the world in their Airstream and lead caravans "promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact." This phrase is taken from "The Wally Byam Creed" (p. 41) which perfectly presents his 'set of beliefs or aims that guide someone's actions' and could easily be adopted by every person who loves to travel, especially those who love road-trips. You will enjoy the nostalgic photos and travel stories. As I read more about Wally, his company and vision, I was reminded of another dream-maker, Walt Disney. "He was well liked by many of his employees. Many saw him as inspirational, driving them to accomplish more than they thought they could." (p. 49)

Airstreams have been used as mobile hospitals, minibuses, even funeral coaches, plus their motorhome model was modified by NASA as a transfer unit for carrying astronauts to the space shuttle and one was made for quarantining astronauts after returning from the moon! (p. 45) Today, preowned Airstreams are being repurposed as food-trucks and tiny-homes. The idea of parking your 'Land Yacht' home-away-from-home, then separately using your vehicle to explore each new destination still carries great appeal.

There's no doubt, a vintage Airstream is intriguing - check Pinterest for a taste of their charm and versatility. Better yet, own this superb book — there's nothing like hands-on turning pages to learn the story of how this American company has survived and thrived under the guidance of visionary leaders who today bring us "a combination of work space and living area... aimed at people whose jobs allow them to live and work anywhere..." (p. 181).

This is the perfect book for all of us who turn our heads every time an Airstream passes by. It is a thoughtful gift for grandparents and a must-have for anyone who owns, or has owned a 'Silver Bullet'. Those who travel the world today will enjoy the history and pictures while imagining their own travels differently — as it might have been on an Airstream Caravan.

## Amy says

After visiting the Airstream Manufacturing Plant in Ohio, this book gave even further information than we learned on the tour. If you are an Airstream fan, enjoy the story on how these iconic travel trailers came to be.

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## Stephanie says

I got this book from good reads first reads. The whole thing really felt like a glorified commercial or company sponsored documentary due to the extensive use of company archival photos (which are epic even if they are probably staged) and the overall peppy/positive tone even when bad things come up in the company's history. All of the downturns are spun in such a way that they were either handled very quickly or made out to be a good thing. It is bizarre. The author even used the same photo twice because it was such an "outstanding aerial." The lack of sources/bibliography outside of the airstream archives is a bit disconcerting as there is some blatant misinformation about Eisenhower and the US road system. All of that being said I have not stopped talking about this book since I got it - this bumped it from the three it should've gotten from me to a barely four.

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## Sandra says

The perfect coffee table book for the traveler and non traveler alike.  
The history of this iconic vehicle was so fascinating and in depth.  
I never understood the allure of this silver shaped bullet as opposed to the other fancy looking travel trailers until I read the history of this superior crafted vehicle.  
I can't afford to buy one but I would rent one of these traveling wonders in a heartbeat.  
I won this book in a give-a-away from Goodreads, but I highly recommend anyone who does or wants to travel in this mode to buy this book for it's educational value alone.

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## Milton Hill says

I am fascinated with history, automotive subjects, and manufacturing. Pat's book covers all three beautifully. This was so much more enjoyable reading than I ever thought it would be. The errors and mistakes are just as noteworthy as the successes. All are covered well.

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