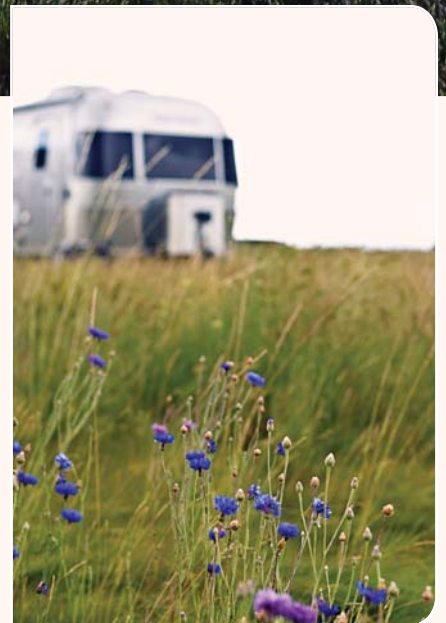


Mixing Moon Shine with Your Airstream

By Tom Bentley



Airstreams have long had an air of romance about them, with their sensuous shape, their promise of freedom on the road, and the light heartedness that comes from breaking away from everyday cares. But mix a beautiful bride, a beautiful Bambi and a dizzily lovely moonlit wedding night, and you have romance in overdrive! Those were the heady ingredients for Susan McIlroy and Jason Kreitler's recent wedding at Susan's parents' place just off the Teton River, in Teton, Idaho.

The two spent the wedding night in the Bambi, which proved to be a cozy hideaway after a wedding day's worth of dancing in their parents' barn. You can tell just how accommodating Susan's parents are: The Bambi is theirs as well. They bought the 19" Safari Limited Edition in 2008, and have traveled to San Carlos, Mexico three times, with the Bambi making a happy holiday hotel. They've also hitched up for other Idaho and Northern California trips. As Susan says, "We call them gypsies because we always feel like they're headed off somewhere in their Bambi!"

Susan and Jason are smart enough not to discourage their parents' wanderlust; in fact, they're smart wanderers themselves, with an emphasis on "smart." Susan recently

finished her doctorate at U.C. Berkeley, and Jason's Ph.D from U.C. Santa Barbara was completed this past summer.

The two ecologists are thrilled to return to their Rockies roots by their move to Boise to work for the U.S. Geological Survey. They don't own an Airstream yet, but Susan says, "We're excited to be back in the Rockies, as we love fishing, hiking, trail running, and adventures in our Westfalia van."

It's not only the parents' generation that figured into the wedding mix. The dishes that are on the Bambi's table in the photo are china given by Susan's grandparents for her mom and dad's wedding. Airstreams have been a bit of a family tradition. Susan's mom regularly visited a family friend's Airstream in Sarasota, Florida while she was growing up, becoming enamored with the design.

She and Susan's dad are spreading the Bambi wealth too. An old family friend that presided over the wedding ceremony stayed in the trailer with his wife for the week before the wedding. Now that Susan and Jason are moving back to Idaho, they hope to take some trips of their own in the Bambi.

Though they might not ever match the magic of their moonlit wedding night, Susan and Jason might add an Airstream to their already impressive retinue of vehicles.

The moon makes wedding-night magic for happy couples, but the Airstream makes the photography special. Inside or out, a Bambi parked on a flower-filled field makes for a congenial wedding setting. Photos by Katy Gray, www.katygray.com

"Jason and I are into different means of traveling for sure," says Susan. "We've a fleet right now, with our van, an old Jeep Cherokee, a diesel Passat, a motorcycle, and six bicycles for the two of us. When we get settled in Idaho we'll hopefully get a Vespa scooter too. So I see the Bambi as the pinnacle of traveling—adventures with style. I think of them as the quintessential marriage of fashion and function."

Let's hope their marriage is fashionably functional—and soaringly romantic—as well. ●●●