

Southeastern Michigan
Airstream Club



Region 4 Club 137



Member Handbook

In this Handbook, we tell you who we are, our Club history, what we do, how we function, and how you can get involved.

Who We Are



The Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club (SEMAC) roots date back to 1957 when the Michigan Unit of WBCCI was formed. In 1973, SEMAC split off from the Michigan Unit and became known as the Metropolitan Detroit Michigan Unit # 137, or Metro-Detroit. Over time, the Metro-Detroit unit became a mix of working and retired members. Our slogan is "***Having fun in our Airstreams since 1973.***"

In 2019, the Club changed its name to Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club to represent the broader geographic mix of our members. The SEMAC is a member of Region 4, which also includes the lower Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. Region 4 is a fun group of Clubs where you can make new best friends.

Region 4 along with eleven other Regions in the US and Canada make up Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI). While "Wally Byam Caravan Club International" is the official corporate name of the Club, we are also known as Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC), and Airstream Club International (ACI.)

Our website can be found at <https://airstreamclub.org/southeastern-michigan>. SEMAC embraces the "It's not where you are, but who you are there with" theme. We find shared passions and fun in traveling, exploring and being part of the Airstream experience. We are and will continue to be a Club that welcomes all who have the experience of owning an Airstream – any make, model, or year - vintage or new.

Whether you are single, married, partners, families - full timers, part timers, weekend warriors, and renovators, our Club ensures you are surrounded by friendship, fun, adventure, support and knowledge. No matter where you live, SEMAC can be your home!



What We Offer

With our Airstreams, we attend camping rallies and go on caravans. We offer frequent opportunities to get together throughout the year. Rallies and other activities are great ways to make new friends and learn more about your Airstream.

Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club typically offers three-five local Rallies each year. Descriptions of the rally/activity along with instructions for registration are included in our bi-monthly newsletter, made available through the SEMAC website and/or email blasts. Rallies can have registration fees in addition to the cost of camping. Most of the time, members will make their own reservations with and payments to the campground. Additional camping fees may be used to offset the costs of food and entertainment. If there are additional fees for the rally, they must be paid up front either by electronic funds transfer or check, depending on the desire of the rally host.



So that a majority of our members can attend a rally, most begin on Friday and end on Sunday, although the Host has the choice to extend the rally beyond the weekend.. The rally hosts plan the activities of the rally that may include social hours each evening where new members are welcomed and announcements are given. Some rallies offer workshops, craft activities, and tours of local tourist attractions. Rallies may also include Executive Board meetings, general membership meetings and the Officer Installation Ceremony.

We encourage our members to sign up to be a host or co-hosts for a rally. We have a Rally Planning Guide that makes hosting a rally easy and not time consuming.



During the “noncamping” months, we try to get together for luncheons to keep in touch and dream together of camping season! We hope that our members volunteer to host an event/activity. Luncheons can be at local restaurants or in your home if you desire. We’re all about flexibility!

How We Communicate

Our primary method of communication is email. Your email address, which we receive from Airstream Club International, is automatically subscribed to our mailing system, Mailchimp. It is important that you do not “unsubscribe” from these emails, as you will no longer receive our communications and will not know the passwords for our online documents. If you choose to unsubscribe, you will need to check our website frequently for activity updates.

We publish an electronic Newsletter, *The Newstream*, six times each year and send out periodic business or activity-related emails. Be sure to check your junk mail folders for emails from us. If you are not receiving our communications, please contact SEMACPresident@gmail.com or SEMACNewsletter@gmail.com for help.

We want to protect our member’s privacy. Newsletters will not contain member addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses without prior approval. Officers, Committee Chairs, Committee Members, and luncheon and rally hosts may have contact information listed.

The references below may appear in our Newstream:

- Birthdays and WBAC anniversaries (month only)
- Personal or group photo which may identify individuals by name
- Pictures of our airstreams which may include our big red numbers and license plates

The items listed in the bulleted list below may appear in a locally maintained membership list.

- Name
- Address (summer and/or winter)
- Email address
- Phone number(s)



How We Are Organized

SEMAC is governed by an Executive Board (EB) made up of the SEMAC President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, two Trustees and the Immediate Past President. We have a Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies & Practices which govern our Club actions. The Constitution & By-Laws are published on our website. The Executive Board conducts at least four meetings each year which are typically held virtually. Members may join an Executive Board meeting by requesting attendance with the President at SEMACPresident@gmail.com. Approved minutes of the EB meetings are available upon request to the Secretary at SEMACSecretary@gmail.com

Our annual dues support minimal officer and standing committee expenses as well as rallies. Our Treasurer, along with the Executive Board, is responsible for ensuring that our finances are managed properly. Once each year, the accounting is audited by a volunteer member of our Club who is not on the Executive Board. Copies of the most recent financial report are available to members by request to the Treasurer at SEMACTreasurer@gmail.com.

In June of each year, the SEMAC President forms a Nominating Committee which is responsible for nominating the next slate of Club officers: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustee(s). An annual election is held in September where each member may vote for the officers, who are installed at the October rally or activity.

Once a year, typically in October, SEMAC holds a general membership meeting where the outgoing President gives a report of the prior year. This meeting may be part of a rally, luncheon or other activity. The President may call other Business Meetings when member input is needed on SEMAC, Region 4 or International issues. All members are encouraged to become involved in Club activities and governance.



How You Benefit

You became a member of the Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club as part of your Airstream Club International membership. We are referred to as “your local Club”. Our Club has two classes of members: Regular and Affiliate. Regular members have the right to become a Club officer and cast votes. Affiliate members have chosen a different primary club, but also have chosen to be part of SEMAC to participate in our activities. They are not able to be a SEMAC officer or vote on club issues.

There are a number of **Intra-Clubs** that might be of interest that provide gatherings of like-minded Airstream owners. <https://airstreamclub.org/explore/intra-clubs>.

As a member of Airstream Club International, you can access **special member benefit programs**. These can be found on the main website, www.airstreamclub.org, after logging into the portal. These special benefits include access to hundreds of courtesy parking locations where you can overnight on your travels.

You also have access to a number of **caravans** and **Regional/International rallies**. Caravans are conducted year round throughout the US and into Canada and Mexico. Many caravans have waiting lists so we recommend reviewing the options and getting on their lists for consideration. The Regional & International rallies are typically attended by hundreds of Airstreamers and afford opportunities to expand your circle of travel friends and learn more about Airstream ownership.



Airstream Club International publishes a periodic newsletter, *the Blue Beret*, which contains a wealth of information about Airstream ownership and traveling. Members can contribute articles and travel photos to info@blueberet.com for consideration in a future publication.

Airstream Club International handles all membership renewals electronically. When it is time to renew your membership, you will be contacted by both the International office as well as SEMAC.

How To Get Involved

As a member of the Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club, you have many opportunities for participation and contribution of talents. You can attend activities or rallies. You can host an event or rally. You can write an article for the **Newstream**. You can submit travel pictures for the **Newstream** or website. You can volunteer for a special committee. You can become a member of the Executive Board.

Rally or Event Participation: This is the best way to meet fellow Airstream owners. Most of the time, it is as simple as RSVPing and perhaps making a camping reservation.

Rally or Event Hosting: This can be as simple as picking a location, date and notifying the SEMAC President. Or, it can be more involved by sponsoring a “themed” rally that has multiple options for participant activity. The best part about hosting is that the level of involvement is up to you!

Share Your Travels: We love seeing travel pictures in our newsletter. We love learning about new equipment or camping gear. You can send pictures or smaller articles to SEMACNewsletter@gmail.com. The newsletter chair can also help edit any article.

Volunteer: On occasion we have a need for a special committee to research or recommend updates to our policies and practices. We have special committees for special celebrations. We have an annual Nominating Committee that searches for our next slate of officers. Being a part of a special committee gives you a unique look into the running of your Club.

Become an Officer: It is not as daunting as it sounds – after all we are a social camping Club. Being an officer affords you an opportunity to get involved at a more detailed level. We’ve had members who have no experience on governing boards do an exemplary job in their officer role. We’ve had members serve in multiple roles over the years, once they find out just how much fun the Club is. Any current or past officer can share more about each role and the level of work involved.

There are many options for involvement.

SEMAC is successful because of our volunteers and their contributions!