

The Road Awaits

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Back Home in VA!



3 Months - 10,000 Miles - 20 States - 0 Disasters!

From July 11 to October 7 - The Miles Flew By!

The summer was a BLAST for your Editor/Membership Chief. Linda and I saw the sights, the weather was fine, the fires somewhere far from us, and the PEOPLE, the people. We had the Most. Fun. Bunch. on the trail with us this year.

The fun started, of course, at the Intenational in Maine. I've been honored to conduct the Airstream Club International Concert Band for the past few years. Please register for Wyoming 2023.

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President's Corner

Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club Fall Rally

We held our fall rally, Piedmont Virginia Rally, at Paradise Lake Family Campground in Spout Spring VA the weekend of October 7. We could not have asked for better weather.

A great crowd was in attendance, including new friends from around Virginia and North Carolina. 13 Airstreams ranging in size from a Basecamp up to the Tarant AS Motorhome and everything in between. The solo stove provided by the Janeen and Jim Rider was the gathering spot for the circle of friends. Lots of time was spent getting to know each other and finding out that a number of us live within about 15 miles of each other. It truly is a small world.

We had several grand children who joined the festivities and showed us that you don't have to be an 'adult' to enjoy



Airstreaming. Ken T. and grand daughter caught some fish in the lake but decided they should 'live another day' so it was catch and release.



The dinner on Saturday evening at the historic Babcock House in downtown Appomattox was a treat. Good food, good service, nice atmosphere and time to relax.

We had a representative from SkyMed give a presentation on the service and a number of us signed up for it. She shared information that was new to some who are already subscribers.

- *President Bob Sachs*

FuturePlanning

An Overview of Fun, Fellowship, and Learning

October 26-30

Alumalina, Marion, NC - John Leake

November 11-13

9th Annual Grand Finale Rally - Camp Hatteras - Rodanthe, NC

We had blocked out 16 sites on the sound side (per usual practice) last November. We now have 14 rigs signed up.

Per our agreement with Camp Hatteras (CH), they are now free to sell the other two spots to any customer who calls.

If any of our procrastinators decide they want to come join the rally, they still can. CH will still offer them the negotiated lower rate for our rally. They will be placed at the closest sites adjacent to our original block.

BUT, DO NOT book on-line. Call Jen directly at 252-987-2777 Ext. 105, to make sure that this happens properly.

Also, be aware that her "weekend" is Wednesday and Thursday. She will answer any calls on those days when she returns on Friday.



December 10

Christmas/Holiday Lunch at Mrs. Rowes, Staunton VA -> December 10, 2022 at 12:30 pm

PLEASE use this link so we can plan.

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE](#)

2023 plans:

We have 36 member rigs, and 9 affiliate member rigs as we move into 2023. Most impressive is that well over half of the members come to our events on a regular basis. We Are The Fun Club for sure.

We are working on our schedule for 2023, including Rallies, regional and International events. They will be coming out to you shortly so you can get them on your calendars.



MeatLoafManiaAgenda

Thursday, November 10 th :

Majority of the attendees of this final rally will be arriving on Thursday. We have arranged dinner reservations for those wanting to attend “The Froggy Dog Restaurant and Pub” in Avon, N.C. at 6 p.m. This restaurant serves American and seafood entrees. Located at 40050 Hwy 12, Avon, N.C. Directions to the “Froggy Dog” from the campground is head south on North Carolina Hwy 12. Approximately 15 miles, 20 minutes. Restaurant on the right.

Friday, November 11 th :

- Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Simple breakfast of casseroles and coffee at the Campground Club House. Bring your own serving set-ups, coffee mugs, and an appetite.
- Suggestions for the remainder of morning/afternoon, tour Cape Hatteras or walk the beach. Tour the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island Festival Park, or the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.
- Dinner Reservations at 6 p.m. at the Blue Water Grill and Raw Bar located on Roanoke Island. Approximately 28 miles, 35 minutes north of the campground. Address: 2000 Sailfish Drive, Manteo, N.C. (Directions: Take Hwy 12 north for approximately 24 miles, then make a left onto S. Virginia Dare Trail to U.S. Hwy 64 to Roanoke Island/ Manteo. On Roanoke Island, make a right turn onto Pirates Way to Sailfish Drive)

Saturday, November 12 th :

- Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Group breakfast is being planned and served at the Club House. Bring your own set-ups and coffee cups.
- 2:30 p.m.???? – Wine Tasting. The Harpers, Julia and Russ will be serving wine for tasting at the Campground Club House. Donations appreciated to cover the cost of the wine.
- 6 p.m. – “Meatloaf Mania” and potluck at the Campground Club House. Please bring serving setups, your drink, your favorite meatloaf, and a side dish to share.
- After the 6 p.m. dinner, slide shows of recent Airstream caravans will be shown.

Sunday, November 13 th :

- Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Simple breakfast of pastries, fruit, and coffee. Bring serving setups and your coffee mugs.

HeuerCaravanImages





Airstream Winterizing

Published by Rich Luhr:

Winterizing is the topic we all love to hate. It seems mysterious, complicated, and full of potential risk—and every fall the online forums and social media channels fill up with the question: "*How do I winterize my Airstream?*"

This happens despite the fact that there's already a ton of information on the Internet about winterizing.

I would argue the confusion is actually *because* there's too much information on the Internet, and much of it doesn't agree. Plus, most of it is not specific to models or model years. Even Airstream's own instructions (in Owner's Manuals, tech support articles, and webinars) sometimes diverge in confusing ways.

Winterizing doesn't have to be complicated. But the problem is that there's more than one way to do it, and generic checklists just won't get you there. The specifics of how to winterize vary according to which Airstream you have.

For example:

- Do you want to blow out the lines with compressed air, or use RV Anti-freeze?
- Does your Airstream have a low point drain?
- Are the tank water drains inside or outside of the Airstream, and what do they look like?
- Does your water heater have a tank?
 - If yes, does it have a water heater bypass?
 - If no water tank, which water heater do you have: Girard, Truma, Alde, or Timberline?
- Does your Airstream have a winterizing kit installed?

You get the point.

With all these variables, there isn't just one set of steps to winterizing, *there are at least 250 different possible versions!* (Yes, I actually did the math.)

So, I've made things simpler.

For the simplest way to winterize your Airstream, I've made two key assumptions:

- 1 *You have a late model Airstream, which means it's equipped with a winterizing kit.* And if you don't have a winterizing kit, I strongly recommend purchasing one—it makes things a lot easier and it costs less than \$20.
- 2 *You're going to use the RV Anti-Freeze method,* which I recommend instead of the air compressor method.

In addition, in order follow these simple winterization steps, you need to have your [Owner's Manual](#) handy, and be willing to refer to it to figure out where things are in your Airstream.

With these assumptions and your Owner's Manual, you're ready to winterize the easier way.

Tools and things you need to do the job

- Two gallons of RV Anti-Freeze (the pink stuff, **never automotive anti-freeze**)
- A wrench and Teflon tape, if your water heater has a tank (2021 and older)

How to do it in 9 easy steps

By following these 9 steps, winterizing will go from daunting to doable.

I have a much longer discussion of this in my book, *Airstream Life's (Nearly) Complete Guide to Airstream Maintenance*, but this is the condensed version.

IMPORTANT: You'll find the location and appearance of everything referenced below in *italics* in the Owner's Manual. So if you need help finding something on your own Airstream (like the *tank drain valve*), check the Owner's Manual.

Step 1. Dump the gray and black tanks.

Step 2. Level the trailer.

Step 3. Empty the fresh water tank. This requires opening the *tank drain valves* and letting all the water run out.

Step 4. If your Airstream has a water filter installed (some 2016 and earlier models) remove the filter or bypass it. Then open the *low-point drain* and all the faucets and showers. This lets all the water in the lines out through the low-point drain.

Step 5a. If your Airstream has a water heater with a tank, make sure it is off and the water is cool. On a trailer with a Dometic or Atwood water heater, remove the *drain plug* (water will pour out), open the *P/T valve*, and turn the *water heater bypass valves* to the bypassed position. The drain plug is best removed with a socket wrench and 15/16" socket (not an adjustable wrench). On a motorhome with a Suburban water heater, there's a red knob that acts as the drain plug.

Step 5b. If your Airstream has a tankless water heater by Alde, Truma or Girard, you need to open the *pop-off valve* to let water drain out of the heater. Make sure the heater is off and the water is cool first.

Step 6. When water stops draining, close all the things you opened:

- pop-off valve or P/T valve
- tank drain valves
- low-point drain
- if you removed a drain plug, put it back in place with Teflon tape on the threads
- shut off all faucets and shower fixtures

Step 7. Turn the *winterizing valve* to the "winterizing" position so it is pointing to the *clear plastic tube* and remove the plug at the end of the tube.

Step 8. This is the fun part. Stick the open end of clear plastic tube into a gallon of RV Anti-Freeze, and turn on the water pump. It will suck the pink anti-freeze from the jug and pump it to all parts of the plumbing.

Open each faucet and shower fixture (including outside shower, if equipped) **one at a time**. Leave each fixture open until pink stuff starts coming out on both the hot and cold settings. Then close and move on to the next fixture. Flush the toilet until you see pink in the bowl, and also use the toilet sprayer (if equipped).

While you're doing this, keep an eye on the Anti-Freeze. If it's getting low, shut off the pump and switch to the next gallon jug before continuing.

When you're done with every fixture, turn off the pump, put away the Anti-Freeze, and put the winterizing valve and plug back the way you found them. If your water heater has a tank, leave the bypass valves in the bypassed position until you de-winterize in spring.

Step 9. Take care of the non-plumbing part:

- Remove all food and items that might be interesting to rodents or insects
- Remove anything that might be damaged by freezing
- Disconnect the negative battery cable ([the Battery Disconnect Switch is not sufficient](#)) and/or remove the batteries to keep them charged at home
- Make sure the refrigerator and freezer are empty and completely dry, and leave the door open
- Add air to tires if needed
- Put dielectric grease on the brass tabs of [the 7-way plug](#).

That's it!

