

The Road Awaits

Club Officers 2021-2022

- President - Bob Sachs
- 1st Vice President - Ken Tarrant
- 2nd Vice President - Joe Baum
- Secretary - Lisa Sachs
- Treasurer - Janie Tarrant
- Membership - Greg Heuer
-
- Directors - Mike Burke, Connie Miller, Janeene Rider, Dick Rochelle
-
- Web Master - Jack D'Atre
- News Editor - Greg Heuer



This issue

- Done and Dusted **P.1**
- President's Corner **P.2**
- Future Planning **P.3**
- Scouting Report **P.4**
- Happy Images Page **Pg.5**
- Sanitizing Water Tanks **P.6-8**

Commonwealth, Alumilina, Hatteras, Lunch, Laughs

We've had quite an eventful year as the Fun Club.

The camping year of 2022 is winding down. Some of us will head "south" in one form or another. Some of us will "winter camp" here and there. Some of us will winterize and park the Unit in a cozy spot to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. It's all Good.

Please make a point to join us for some end-of-the-year laughter at the holiday lunch. **Click below to reserve** even if you've already done so. [I've lost the original link.]

Mrs. Rowes Family Restaurant
74 Rowe Rd
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 886-1833

December 10, 2022 at 12:30 pm
PLEASE use this link so we can plan.

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE](#)

[Click to Unsubscribe - https://form.jotform.com/213327668234054](https://form.jotform.com/213327668234054)

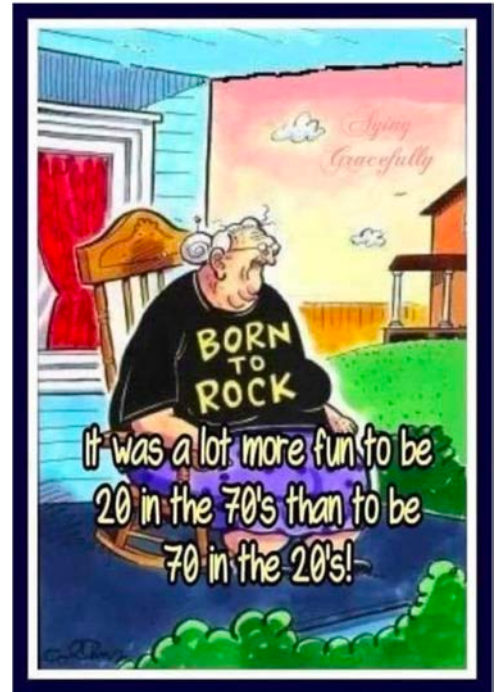


President's Corner

Spirit of Virginia Airstream Club - The Fun Group

President's Message

Lisa and I hope that all of you had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the holidays coming next month. With so many new members, getting to know you and develop new friendships will make 2023 a memorable year for the Spirit of Virginia Club. We have put together a very full calendar of activities and encourage you to participate in as many as you can. Some are repeats based on requests of our members and a number are new so we'll all get to experience them together.



The Christmas Luncheon at Mrs. Rowes in Staunton on Saturday, December 10th will be here before you know it. Please reply to the jotform invitation elsewhere in the newsletter as soon as you can so we can provide a 'count' to the restaurant of how many will be attending.

Please be safe in your travels over the Holiday season. We look forward to spending quality time with you whether it's sitting around a campfire at a campground, enjoying a meal and liquid refreshments at one of our non-camping events or just through emails and phone calls.

Take care,

- *President Bob Sachs*

Future Planning

An Overview of Fun, Fellowship, and Learning

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](#)

January 28

NORVA National Marine Corps Museum
Rally - 10:30 AM - Quantico, VA

February 12

Super Bowl Party – Jeffersonton VA –
Janeene and Jim Rider hosting

March 18

St. Patrick's Day Lunch – O'Briens Irish
Pub - Warrenton VA 1:00 PM



March 29-April 2

Region 3 Rally - Ocean
Lakes - Myrtle Beach, SC

April 21-23

Breakout Maintenance Rally - Meadow
Event Park, Doswell VA

May 4-7

Cinco De Mayo Rally - Fort Valley Ranch

May 15-18

Virginia Club Silver in the Streets Rally -
Abingdon, VA

June 24-30

International Rally - Rock Springs, WY

August 6-13

Galax Fiddlers Rally - Cool Breeze CG

September 21-24

Commonwealth State Rally - Endless
Caverns - New Market, VA

ScoutingReport

SCOUTING REPORT- Medoc Mountain State Park 586 Medoc State Park Road, Hollister, North Carolina

We stumbled on this obscure little State Park while fleeing north from Hurricane Ian. Coming from Myrtle Beach, we could have gone all the way home to Ashland VA. But decided to do a little more camping.

Medoc Mountain State Park is located between I-85 and I-95 south of the Virginia state line (pretty much directly south of Roanoke Rapids). It is only a ten-mile detour off of I-95.

Medoc Mountain takes its name from a large vineyard developed there in the 19th century. After several phases of use, it is now wooded with a few open areas maintained by the park staff. The park has many hiking and mountain biking trails of various lengths. A separate section of the park is reserved for bridal paths (for horses not brides). Fishing Creek runs on the one side of the “mountain” and is known for its unusually pristine water. We saw an interesting native tree (Devil’s Walking Stick) there that we had not observed before.



But, honestly, there is not much to do there or thereabouts. It is quiet, pretty and peaceful. That is enough for me! The well-maintained campground is a single loop with 23 sites. 13 are RV sites. The RV sites are electric-only. But there are water stanchions scattered around the loop within hose range of your fresh water tank. We stayed in site #3 and it is very nicely laid out and convenient to the bath house. With the senior discount, we stayed two nights for \$40.

If you start your travel day in the New River side of Virginia or the Northern section of the Shenandoah Valley and are headed east to OBX or Wilmington/Myrtle Beach, Medoc Mountain could make a nice stopover and refreshing alternative to a commercial campground or someone’s parking lot.

Joe Baum

[Click Here for our Lands End Store - Logo applied items for Airstreamers](#)



HappyImages

Positive proof of global warming



Airstream Sanitizing

Published by Rich Luhr:

Sanitizing the water system is a task that intimidates a lot of Airstreamers. Especially newbies. The truth is, it's pretty easy to do and it doesn't require any special equipment.

Why sanitize the fresh water tank? If you don't keep the tank clean, bacteria can grow and that's never a good thing.

Here's the procedure in a nutshell: Dilute some bleach with water, fill your tank with it, let the bleach/water solution sit for a few hours to kill bacteria, drain it out, and flush the tank and system with clean water.

Once you do this procedure a few times, you'll feel like a pro. Honestly, the only (sort of) complicated part of the procedure is calculating the amount of bleach and working with a diluted bleach solution.

But first...is the tank water safe to drink?

I get this question a lot and the answer is, yes. Unless you are extremely particular about your drinking water, the water is safe to drink as long as you regularly sanitize the system.

It is true, however, that not all Airstreamers agree with me on this one. I know some who have elaborate filtration systems to maintain the purity of their drinking water. If you are one of them, read your specific filtration system's Owner's Manual BEFORE following the sanitation steps below. You may have to bypass or remove the filters before you can run bleach through the plumbing.

Even if you're not a purist, you probably won't often pour yourself a big glass of water from the tank. Many Airstreamers, ourselves included, take jugs of purified water for drinking when boondocking, as well as for making coffee or tea. But at some point, you're going to use the tank water for cooking, brushing teeth, washing, or perhaps the dog's water bowl. That's why sanitizing is important.

Preparing for the job

Dump the gray water tank as you normally would. You'll need the gray water tank for flushing water through the system.

Get these items together. Sanitizing the tank requires no special tools. You probably have all these things in your house or shed already.

- Your Airstream Owner's Manual
- Some household bleach (like Clorox)
- 1 gallon jug of water, about 80% full
- A flexible funnel (you can find these at Amazon by searching for "flexible funnel")
- Measuring cup (metal or glass preferably)
- Rubber gloves (optional but recommended)
- Calculator

1. Add the capacity of your fresh water tank, in gallons, to the capacity of the water heater tank.

This equation (fresh water tank capacity + water heater capacity) will tell you the right amount of bleach to use. If you have a water heater with a tank, it usually holds 6 gallons. If your Airstream has a tankless water heater (generally 2021 model year and later) you can count it as zero gallons. You'll find the fresh water tank capacity in your Owner's Manual.

For example, the fresh water tank in our Globetrotter 23FB holds 30 gallons and the water heater holds 6. That makes our total water system tank capacity 36 gallons.

2. Multiply the total tank capacity by 0.13 to determine the amount of bleach you'll need to use, in ounces.

Using my example above, here's the math: 36 gallons x 0.13 = 4.68 ounces.

So, I need 4.68 ounces of bleach to sanitize our system.

3. Measure the bleach and pour it into the gallon jug of water that's 80% full.

This dilutes the bleach, making it easier to pour. Here's where the rubber gloves come in, if you want to keep possible splashes of bleach off your hands.

4. Pour the jug of water containing the diluted bleach into your fresh water fill.

Use the funnel so you don't drip or splatter bleach water on your clothes or your skin. If some bleach gets on the Airstream it won't hurt it immediately, but you should rinse with plain water just to be sure.

5. After you've dumped the contents of the jug into the system, fill the remainder of the fresh water tank with water.

6. Disconnect the city water hose (if connected), turn off the water heater, turn on the water pump, and then run each of the faucets and other water outlets.

6

It's easiest if you do this one faucet at a time. Run it full hot and keep the water flowing *until you can smell the bleach*, then switch to cold and again wait until you smell bleach. Then close the faucet and move onto the next one. Don't forget the toilet, shower, and outside shower if you have one.

7. Let the diluted bleach solution sit in the system.

Let it sit for at least 4 hours to sanitize the system. (Leaving it longer will not hurt anything, so don't worry if you don't get to it until the next day.) If next time you want the sanitizing process to go faster, double the bleach ratio and you will only need to let the water sit in the system for 1 hour.

8. After the sitting period, drain all the water from the fresh water tank.

You can get the bleach-water mix out of the fresh water tank and plumbing by opening the kitchen and bathroom sink faucets fully (midway between hot and cold) and letting the water pump run at full blast. This will take a while, perhaps 6-10 minutes depending on the size of the water tank. Turn off the faucets when the water starts to sputter (indicating that the tank is nearly empty).

This process moves the remaining bleach-water mix from the fresh water tank to the gray water tank. Although there are drain petcocks in the fresh water tank that will dump the water on the ground fairly quickly without requiring the use of the water pump, the runoff on the ground might kill plants nearby so we don't recommend that method.

9. Refill the tank with freshwater, and drain it.

Now refill the tank with fresh water. Then open all faucets, shower and shower head, outdoor shower, etc. as you did before, until the bleach smell subsides. There will probably be a slight lingering odor of bleach for a while, but the water will be safe to use.

10. Dump the gray tank as you would normally.

Tips and tricks

If you're bothered by a chlorine smell after flushing the system, rinse the system with a solution of 1 quart of vinegar to 5 gallons of water. While you are refilling the tank in step 9, dump it in. Then flush the water out again until there is nothing left in the tank. Refill the tank with fresh water.

An option for making the water taste less bleach-y: Vitamin C tablets. A lot of people swear by these, but I have never tried them. There are also commercial products to make the water taste better, which you can find in RV stores and camping stores.

