



Celebrating 50 Years – 1973-2023

The Newstream

Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club

Region 4 Club 137

Having Fun in Our Airstreams Since 1973



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2023 Officers

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Airstream Links:

[SEMAC Website](#)

[Region 4 Website](#)

[Airstream Club International](#)

[WBAC Caravans](#)

[SEMAC Facebook Group](#)

[Region 4 Facebook Page](#)



President's Scoop

Here we are getting close to the end of Michigan's camping season and I'm not ready to quit!! Robert and I left home on August 17 for the weekend and returned three weeks later. We were close to home and had friends staying in our home, so it was not empty. We had no urgent desire to go back home. Who would think two people and their dog would be so content in 240 square feet?

This is my last President Scoop. It's bittersweet, but I am excited for our First Vice President Steve Rowley to take over the reins. He has a great upcoming year in the works. Be sure to read the articles on next year's plans and check the WBCCI website.

Robert and I are not sure what this retirement thing is supposed to look like yet. Life has been really crazy, so we have not settled in yet unless crazy is supposed to be our norm (LOL)! Perhaps our October 15th camping trip will give us better insight.

Here are some important SEMAC updates and considerations for each of our members:

- *Next year's Executive Board: We are still need a 2nd Vice President. If you're interested, please let me know ASAP!*
- *SEMAC Merchandise will soon be available online. We are working on the website. Thanks for your patience!*
- *Please do all you can to attend the installation luncheon October 28. See below for details.*
- *Please consider hosting a luncheon during our winter months. Look for my article below & tips on hosting!*

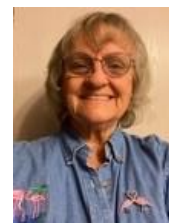


I still say my Airstream people are the best people ever!! I love you all so very much.

Be blessed my friends.

Linda Smith, SEMAC President

248-284-3627 or SEMACpresident@gmail.com



Club & Membership News

Bourbon & BBQ on the way to Sedalia

As most of you know, the **2024 International Rally** is in **Sedalia, Missouri (Oct. 5-10, 2024)**!

Members **Barb Derian & Ralph Volk** are looking to take around five (5) days to arrive to the Rally and were thinking about doing a **small SEMAC caravan** through Louisville (2 nights) to take in just a smidge of the bourbon trail and then onto St Louis (2 nights) for some exceptional BBQ.

If anyone is interested doing this with them, please email Barb at stella10826@gmail.com or call/text at 248-425-2417. There would be no fees for the Caravan, as all costs would be paid directly by the attendee and all camping reservations made directly as well. Following Sedalia, Barb & Ralph may also head over to Memphis and into the Hocking Hills area as well and, if so, would always welcome traveling buddies! We hope to see lots of SEMAC members in Sedalia 😊

SEMAC Luncheon & Annual Meeting

It's that time of year for our Annual Meeting. This is where we officially install our club officials for next year – 2024.

This year's meeting will take place on **Saturday, October 28th at 12pm** at the **Deadwood Grill** located at **18730 Northville Rd., Northville, MI 48167**.

Event contact: Steve Rowley, SEMAC Vice President, SEMACvicepresident@gmail.com

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Saturday, Oct 28th 2023

Welcome NEW Members!

Stacy & Nicholas Bee
#25519



William & Jennifer Giezie
#11150

Angus Stinson & Kelli Ray-Fry
#06436

Brian & Megan Butler
#26659



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OCTOBER

John Farmer
Jason Nardoni
April Ellsey
Jeanette Cornelison
Dawn Farmer
Tom Cobb
Craig Brecken
Laura Morrow
Nile Corneilson
Anna Richardson

NOVEMBER

Stacey Cassis
Don Diebel
Donna Cobb
Andrew Wolfe
Matt Richardson
Mark Cooper
Carly Strachan
Jackie Beutler
Joe Peplinski
Karen Beardsley
William Copenhagen

DECEMBER

Linda Smith
Cheryl Sands
Denise Hampton
Rick Beardsley
Lois Swartzell
Carol Burke
Marie Steele
Rafeal Guillen
Tom Smith
Gregory Hampton
Cindy Schwabel
Wendy Lokken

Happy ACI/WBCCI Anniversary!

Steve & Cheree Rowley #05342

Wendy Lokken #05599

Barb Derian & Ralph Volk #10826

Richard & Elizabeth Martin #06550

Robert & Cynthia Schwabel #04985

Holly Steinberger #05449

Thomas & Cindy Thoman #09727

Daniel & Linda Marquardt #06126

Joe Peplinski #06768

Lorrie Robertson #00702

Is it time to renew your SEMAC Membership?

The renewal process for January 2024 has started. Many of our members renew their membership in the Airstream Club International and SEMAC on January 1st! If you haven't already, you should have received an email this fall regarding renewal instructions. Renewal is easy – The primary member on the account will log into the members only section at www.airstreamclub.org/renew. From there the process is simple. Make sure you continue your membership in ***Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club!***



If you have any questions about the process or how to log on, please feel free to contact Club headquarters at 937-596-5211. As we approach January, you will receive an individual contact from the SEMAC Membership Chair to help you with your renewal. We look forward to seeing your renewal come through and seeing you at a future event.

Interested in Hosting a SEMAC gathering?



I have made the mistake of hosting all the events during my presidency and thereby depriving you all of the joy of hosting your own event. I apologize and plan to make it right. We are in need of 3 members to host a winter luncheon. You will be glad you did.

It's simple! All you have to do is **#1) Pick your favorite restaurant.** You should consider a place that will allow you to make reservations for 10-15 people. **#2) Pick a date and time.** Work with your restaurant choice on time. We've typically hosted between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Try to avoid when the restaurant is most busy. **#3) Email the SEMAC president to let them know you've picked your date, time and restaurant.** And finally, **#4) Arrive about 15 minutes early** to welcome and enjoy time your SEMAC friends.

See! It's pretty simple. Who will be the first to pick? We're looking for members to plan events for November, December and January! I'm always available to support in your planning efforts or to answer any questions you might have. I promise, I'm here to help and not take over the planning 😊 You can reach me at 248-284-3627 or ljsmith@gmail.com. Thank you, **Linda Smith, SEMAC President**

It's time to elect the next SEMAC Executive Board

Check your email! On **Tuesday, September 19th** you should have received an email from: **Barbara Derian, SEMAC Secretary** (SEMACSecretary@gmail.com) with detailed instructions and a link to elect the next SEMAC Executive Board.

All votes must be received by noon on October 20, 2023. You may also cast your vote in person at the Annual Business meeting on October 28, 2023.



Did you get your pins & stickers?

We will be mailing out our 50th Anniversary pins and stickers to anyone who hasn't received theirs yet.

Text Linda Smith if you still need yours: 248-284-3627



The Harbor Beach Lighthouse Rally was a memorable weekend! We had 25 adults, 5 children, 9 dogs and 2 cats join together for a wonderful Airstream family style rally. 3 adults were 'First Timers'!!

Friday night was the traditional hot dogs beans and chips plus an assortment of dishes provided by fellow Airstreamers.

Saturday was Harbor Beach tour day where 6 at a time were taken via pontoon boat to the Harbor Beach Lighthouse. We were greeted by Skip who is a well-known walking encyclopedia on all thing's lighthouse/ shipwrecks related. He's written books on the subject.



Those who didn't go to the lighthouse went bike riding or to Port Hope to the ABC (Antiques/ Bean Soup / Crafts) festival. Let's not forget the Chill Zone, best ice cream ever!! Grice House Museum and nature walks were also enjoyable events.

Saturday evening supper was bring your own meat to grill and a dish to pass. So much magnificent food! We had to set up another table.

Sunday morning was coffee pancakes, blueberries, and sausages. Thank you to Leslie for commandeering the grill and Maggie for the blueberries-a great addition !!

Best part as always is the conversations that take place around the after-meal campfire.

It was a great weekend - couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.



It is always sad to see everyone pack up and pull out, but we will see you all down the road.

Thanks again.

Linda Smith
SEMAC President

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!

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SEMAC Rally Plans for 2024

By Steve Rowley

Several plans for SEMAC Rallies in 2024 are coming together this fall! We appreciate all your feedback on what members wanted to enjoy and experience. Here's a taste of what's to come next year...

April 26-28 – Spring Fit-Out Rally with the new Woodland Airstream in Clarkston. We'll have boondocking on site with them. Enjoy educational demonstrations on how to winterize and de-winterize your Airstream, how to fix common issues on the road (e.g., sail switch cleaning) and fire prevention talk from the local fire department. A visit from Airstream food truck and Detroit City Distillery. And an Outdoor Movie Night (weather permitting)!

June 20-23 – South of the Border! (Ohio, that is) – Join us in Maumee Bay State Park (pictured right), along the shore of Lake Erie. They have a large nature preserve with lots to see. Since we are South of the border, expect some tacos and margaritas too!



Aug 2 - 11 - Between the Lakes Local Caravan in Northern Michigan. This is limited to 13 campers, with the option for more to join us for the final weekend at Mackinaw Mills. Stops include:

1. *Star Light Campground in Mancelona, MI (pool included)*
2. *Cellar 1914 Harvest Host in Central Lake, MI. (Boondocking)*
3. *Sun Outdoors Petoskey Bay Harbor (formerly Petoskey RV Park) (pool included) Optional activities include a visit to Gypsy Distillery, bike ride, visit to Petoskey Brewery and visit to Kilwin's Kitchen*
4. *Mackinaw Mill Creek. (pool included) Optional activities include a visit to Mackinac Island and Axe throwing at "Mackinaxe". Possible sunset cruise or group dinner at a restaurant.*

Sept 19 -22- Fall Into Mason County Campgrounds (between Pentwater and Ludington). Optional activities will include a brewery visit, optional charter fishing, disc golf, and an RC Plane demonstration from a local club.

**Final details for all Rallies to be announced in later in October at Annual Meeting
with reservation windows, etc.*



**Let's
Rally
Together**



Upcoming SEMAC, WBAC/ACI and other Airstream Events At-a-Glance

(We continue to monitor COVID guidance for gatherings. Adjustments to the calendar may be made)

Oct. 28 at 12pm	Lunch & Annual Membership Meeting Deadwood Grill 8730 Northville Rd., Northville, MI 48168	RSVP to Steve Rowley at: SEMACvicepresident@gmail.com
April 7-11, 2024	Experience the "Darke Side of the Moon" – Solar Eclipse Rally (National ACI Rally) Darke County Fairgrounds Greenville, Ohio	Registration & Details: https://airstreamclub.org/great-solar-eclipse-2024 <i>Come and be part of a community of over 300 Airstream enthusiasts who will witness the Great Solar Eclipse of 2024. The Path of Totality will traverse Greenville, Ohio. Full hookups offered, along with opportunities to visit the Mothership, Armstrong Air & Space Museum, and more!</i>
April 26-28, 2024	Spring Fit-Out Rally Woodland Airstream 9331 Dixie Highway, Clarkston MI	Registration & Details: Stay tuned!
June 20-23, 2024	South of the Border (Ohio, that is!) Maumee Bay State Park Oregon, OH	Registration & Details: Stay tuned!
Aug. 2-11, 2024	Between the Lakes Local Caravan Across Northern Michigan	Registration & Details: Stay tuned!
Sept. 3-8, 2024	2024 Alumapalooza® Rally at the Factory Jackson Center, OH	Registration & Details: Stay tuned!
Sept. 19-22	Fall Into Mason County Campgrounds Between Ludington & Pentwater, MI	Registration & Details: Stay tuned!
Oct. 5-10, 2024	67th Annual International Rally Missouri State Fairgrounds Sedalia, Missouri	Registration & Details: https://airstreamclub.org/2024-international-rally-0