

# Louisiana Airstream Club



## PELICAN BRIEFS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER UNIT #50 2024

---

**President: Robert Perere**  
**VP: Curt Fontenot**  
**2nd VP: Dale Spillman**  
**Past President: Gerald Peltier**

**Corr. Sec./Editor: Rebecca Perere**  
**Treasurer: Charlotte Taylor**  
**Rec. Sec: Donna McBroom Theriot**

**Trustees: John Taylor**  
**Jeffery Theriot**  
**Mark Williams**

---

**Webmaster: Don Broussard**  
**Club Photographer: Dale Spillman**



## President's Message

Greetings everyone,

Let me begin by telling everyone how we got involved in Airstreaming. We had a 38 ft. fifth wheel camper, it was like a house on wheels. It was way too big for me to be comfortable pulling it. We traveled with it for 6 years.

We were at Lakes End campground in Morgan City one weekend and there were 40 Airstreams parked in the overflow lot having a rally. Rebecca and I went to find out what was going on with that many Airstreams. Rebecca wasn't impressed with the looks of them. We ended up talking to several of these Airstream owners. They said they were on a caravan from Canada. They were having what we now know as "happy hour." Not only did they ask us to join them but several invited us to tour their Airstreams. Needless to say I fell in love with the Airstreams but Rebecca said they looked like tin cans and wasn't impressed at all.

It took me two years to talk her into downsizing and agreeing to start looking for an Airstream. We went to the RV Shop and they didn't know anything about them. We decided on a 25' Flying Cloud and it was the first Airstream they ever sold, (that's another story). 6 weeks later we traded in the 25' for a 27' Flying Cloud.

We got ribbed a lot when we camped with our friends that had big 5th wheels. They loved to drag out their can openers claiming they'd cut us out if we got stuck.

So, that's how our adventure in Airstreaming got started. We've been to just about every state including Alaska and have traveled all over Canada. We could write a book about our travels and the wonderful people we have met.

Life is full of adventures, everyone of them are etched in our minds as precious memories.

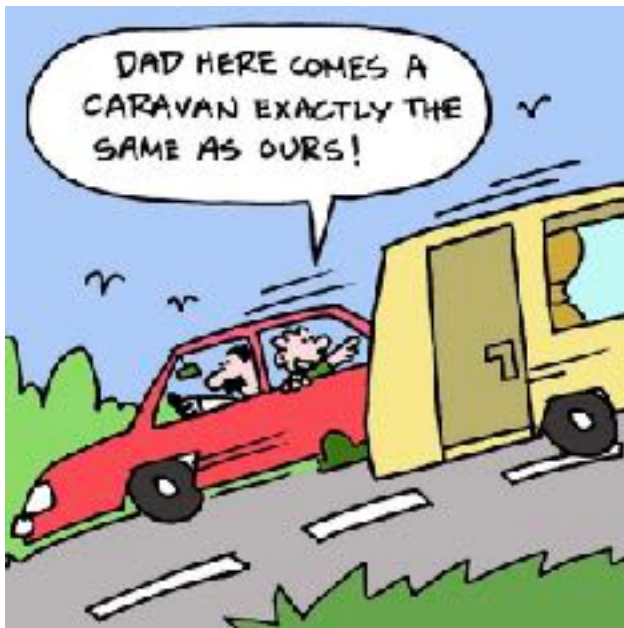
Be safe, be kind and look forward to your next adventure!

*Robert Perere*  
President



Welcome to all our new affiliates and members.

William & Holly Clancy - Baton Rouge  
Rodney & Lessly Temple - Ferriday  
Randy & Tracy Leblanc - Gonzales  
Paul Chlebo & Tracy Gifford - Pensacola, FL  
Joseph & Missy Morgan - Covington



### Rules to live by --

1. Be kinder than necessary.
2. Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.
3. Leave everything better than you found it.
4. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
5. Keep your promises.
6. Forget the Joneses.
7. Never deprive someone of hope, it might be all they have.
8. Be the first to say "Hello."
9. Compliment someone every day.
10. Never give up on anybody, miracles happen.

Let us do good to all people.  
~Galatians 6:10~



PICTURES FROM OUR CARAVAN FROM TENNESSEE TO KENTUCKY







**BLUE ANGELS RALLY**



**BLUE ANGEL'S RALLY**



**BLUE ANGEL'S RALLY**



**BLUE ANGEL'S RALLY**



# Finally!

## A trustworthy and complete book about Airstream maintenance



This book covers everything you need to know to keep your Airstream travel trailer in great running condition for decades, by yourself, with simple tools and no prior experience.

Maintenance of your Airstream is not nearly as difficult as most people think, and with just a few basic tools and this guide, you can do almost every routine task yourself. Learn how to inspect and maintain every major system of your Airstream.

Filled with fact-checked, reliable advice from experienced Airstreamers, product manufacturers, and factory personnel, no other book available contains so much *Airstream* specific maintenance advice. Also includes recommended tools, storage tips, practical suggestions, and dozens of illustrations.

Order online at [store.airstreamlife.com](http://store.airstreamlife.com)

for only **\$27<sup>95</sup>**

**AIRSTREAM**

**Do you know someone who wants an Airstream but just don't know which one to choose?**

**A brilliant idea is to rent first. Choose which one you want by traveling in them first.**

**[airstream2go.com](http://airstream2go.com) or call 800-780-9880**





## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT AIRSTREAM

In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson's daughter Lynda Bird Johnson toured the USA by Airstream in the "See America First" campaign. She wrote a diary about her travels called "I see America First: Diary of the President's Daughter" for National Geographic.



NASA and Airstream have had a long history together. Here President Nixon visits astronauts (from left) Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin in their mobile quarantine unit after Apollo 11 landed back on Earth. They were kept in the Airstream for fear they carried "moon germs" from their visit. Since then, Airstreams have brought astronauts to the launchpad as they prepare for their missions.

Judy Ruimerman represented our unit at International rally in Missouri. Thank you

Type to  
enter text

the recent  
Judy.



---

## A really good recipe for Thanksgiving and Christmas PUMPKIN PIE BALLS



### Ingredients

2 pumpkin pies, purchase them or make them homemade, I prefer homemade.

1 block of Chocolate Almond Bark

### Directions

Mash up the pumpkin pies crust and all. When I made them I left chunks of pie crust. Make balls with the crushed up pies and freeze over night. Melt Chocolate bark in the microwave, stick a toothpick in the balls and dip into the chocolate and place on wax paper to dry. Delicious.



## RALLY DAYS

- 12/5 - 12/8** Christmas Rally - Majestic Oaks. 1750 Pass Rd. Biloxi, MS. Call to make your reservations now. Hosted by: Robert & Rebecca Perere and co-hosted by: Curt Fontenot. Our Christmas rally is always our most popular rally and this year will prove no different. 228-436-4200. For more information call Robert Perere at: 225-315-3825 more to be announced.
- 12/30-1/2** New Year's Rally - Johnny's RV Resort. 15810 AL-59, Foley, AL 36535. Please call to make your reservations 251-970-3773 Hosted by: Robert & Rebecca Perere and co-hosted by: Curt Fontenot. We will visit Lambert's, Home of Throed Rolls, visit a nice festival and see some great fireworks, listen to a live band at our RV park and eat some traditional New Year's food.
- 2/26-3/4  
2025** Mardi Gras! Seven full days of fun. (if you can't make 7 days make as many as you can). Hosted by: Charlie Davis & Diana Hobbs. La Pay E Bas RV Park, Eunice, LA. This is always a fun rally. A schedule and more to be announced at a later date. Not taking reservations yet.
- 4/3-4/6  
2025** Spring Fling. Hosted by: Charlie Davis and Diana Hobbs. La Pay E Bas RV Park, Eunice, LA. Leaving on 4/6. Not taking reservations yet. More to be announced soon.
- 4/24-4/27  
2025** Grand Isle Bird Migration. 108 Admiral Craik Dr. Grand Isle, LA 833-609-0686. Hosted by: Robert & Rebecca Perere and Jeffery & Donna Theriot. For more information about this rally please call Rebecca Perere at: 225-955-8247
- 8/2025** International Rally in York, PA. Much more to come.
- 9/24-9/28  
2025** Region 6 Rally. Please save the date. The Ridge Outdoor Resort nestled in the heart of the Smoky Mountains in Sevierville, TN. Registration has begun. 865-505-3111
- 2025** Dale Spillman is working on a unit caravan that will be announced soon!

## Submitted by Marian Raphael: When To Sanitize RV Fresh Water Tank

Some manufacturers recommend sanitizing your fresh water tank “after each use,” but this is interpreted in two ways. Most RVers sanitize their fresh water system **each year, usually in the spring** when dewinterizing their RV to prep for spring camping.

Others perform this task every time their RV has sat unused for up to 2-4 weeks. Either way, this routine maintenance task guarantees safe water for drinking, showering, dishwashing, and laundry on the road. It doesn't require special tools; you can do it with bleach or a more environmentally friendly cleaning solution.

***Technician Tip:** If you're reading this before storing your RV for the season and want to know how to winterize it, read our tutorial on RV winterization.*

## Supplies for Sanitizing an RV Fresh Water Tank

You can always bring your RV into a Camping World Service Center to have your potable water tank sanitized, but the process doesn't require any special tools.

Here's what you'll need:

- Measuring cup
- Funnel
- 5-gallon bucket or water storage container
- Potable water hose
- Non-scented bleach or RV tank sanitizer (*never use colored or scented bleach*).
- Water tank filler (optional)
- 

***Technician Tip:** As long as it's mixed with the correct amount of water to obtain the right ratio, bleach is safe for all the components of your RV's water system, including the water pump.*

## Sanitizing an RV Fresh Water Tank with Bleach

Before draining your fresh water system, park your RV where water will percolate into the soil or run downhill safely. For example, don't do this in an RV park if the slope will create a pool of water in your neighbor's site. Because you'll eventually be draining flushing bleach or a cleaning solution out of your water system, your best choice is to park where you can access a sewer connection and a fresh water source.

Follow these step-by-step instructions to sanitize your RV's entire fresh water system:

### Step 1: Turn Off Your Water Heater and Water Pump

Draining your fresh water system with the water heater on can damage the tank. Turn off your water heater and run hot water for a minute or so to remove heated water before draining **it**. Running hot water for 1-2 minutes should be enough to remove hot water from the tank and allow it to cool before draining.

This is also the time to **ensure your water pump is turned off**. Opening all the faucets in your kitchen and bathroom will allow air to naturally assist in completely draining water from your fresh water system (similar to removing the cap on a car's oil inlet before draining the oil). Then, open the pressure relief valve and remove the plug or anode rod to drain the water heater tank. This is a good time to inspect your anode rod and replace it according to the manufacturer's recommendation.

**Make sure your gray water holding tank is empty before continuing.** If you're in a good location to do so, you can set up your sewer connection to easily empty your RV holding tanks when the time comes.

## **Step 2: Drain The Fresh Water**

*Skip to step 3 if your tank is already empty because you drained it when winterizing your RV.*

**Locate the fresh water tank drain and low-point drains for your RV's plumbing lines underneath your coach.** Most RVs have a drain directly underneath your fresh water tank. Some have multiple drains for the cold water system, depending on the locations of the low points in your coach's plumbing.

These drains are sometimes easy to identify by red (hot water) or blue (cold water) drains coming out of the bottom of your RV, but some manufacturers use white or opaque PEX. Consult your owner's manual if you're having trouble locating these drains on your RV. Once you've located them, open the low-point and tank drains to use gravity to drain water from your fresh water tank, plumbing lines, and hot water tank.

***Technician Tip:** Now is a great time to check your fresh water tank's hose clamp on the filler tube. This clamp must be tight before your fresh water tank is filled, and it can sometimes be left loose on new RVs. You'll find this clamp on the side of your fresh water tank closest to the fill inlet. On some travel trailers, the water tank will be in an underneath storage compartment, or it may be located under the bed of smaller trailers.*

## **Step 3: Measure and Add Bleach**

While your system is draining, calculate how much bleach to sanitize your RV water tank. You'll need about 1/4 cup of bleach for every 16 gallons of water your fresh water tank holds. Another helpful ratio is to use one ounce of bleach for every eight gallons of fresh water. Based on these ratios, measure the appropriate amount of bleach for your RV. For example, if you have a 20-gallon fresh water tank, you'd need roughly 2.5 ounces of bleach to sanitize your system.

With your bleach measured, go back and check on those low-point drains. Close them when water is no longer draining. **STOP! Don't add the bleach straight to your fresh water tank. Dilute it** in at least a gallon of water and use your funnel to pour your bleach mixture into the fresh water inlet on the side of your RV.

***Technician Tip:** If your RV has an overflow vent on the fresh water inlet, you may not be able to pour in bleach solution using a funnel. In this case, pour the solution into your hose and hook it up to a water source to get the bleach into your tank.*

#### **Step 4: Fill the Tank with Potable Water and Pump It Through The System**

The next step is to fill your tank with clean water. Connect your water hose to a fresh water connection and fill your tank completely so that the bleach dilution mixes throughout.

Once your tank is full, replace the cap on your fresh water inlet. Next, **circulate the bleach solution throughout the plumbing lines.** Go inside your RV and turn on your water pump. Then open all the faucets and showerheads and allow the bleached water to run through every part of your freshwater system for 2-3 minutes. It's okay to have a trace amount of bleached water in your gray tank for 12-24 hours, but no longer. Once the water has circulated for several minutes, you can close the faucets and shut off your water pump again.

***Technician Tip:** You may also consider using an RV water filter when filling your tank to use the cleanest water possible when sanitizing your tank.*

#### **Step 5: Let It Sit Before Draining**

Proper tank sanitization doesn't happen immediately. **Let your mixture of clean water and bleach sit in your tank and plumbing lines for 12-24 hours before draining it.** If you start this process in the afternoon, just let it sit overnight and come back in the morning.

***Technician Tip: WARNING!** Don't let the bleach mixture sit for more than 24 hours.*

After at least 12 hours (but no more than 24), **it's time to drain the system.** Your best bet is to have full hookups for this process. **If you're using bleach, it's recommended to avoid draining your tank into the soil,** as it can harm plant life and degrade soil health.

One solution is to place a five-gallon bucket or a portable RV holding tank under your low-point valves to collect your bleach mixture and dispose of it into an appropriate sewer inlet, such as those at RV dump stations. But the best option is to turn on your water pump, open all your

faucets (plus the shower), and let the water move through the system and into your gray water tank, provided you've already hooked it up to a sewer connection.

If you run your bleach mixture through your plumbing system and into your gray water tank, it's still best to open the low-point valve after you shut off your water pump. This allows your fresh water tank to drain completely and prevents a small amount of water and bleach from getting left behind. Another option is to drain them the same way you initially drained your tanks to prepare for sanitization. Open the low-point valve (or valves) and allow the water to drain completely. However, you should only do this if you are using an environmentally friendly cleaner (i.e., not bleach).

***Technician Tip:** Bleach and rubber aren't best friends, so don't let this solution sit in your gray holding tank. But running it through as you flush the system isn't likely to cause damage and can also partially sanitize your gray tank simultaneously.*

## **Step 6: Flush The System**

Your final step is to **refill your tank with fresh water and circulate it through the system with your water pump**. Open all the faucets and flush the system until you can no longer smell the bleach. At this point, you can leave the handle for your gray water tank open so the system remains open as you flush the remaining bleach solution.

**You may need to refill the tank and flush it several times** until the smell of bleach is long gone. This ensures you have eliminated all sanitizing chemicals from the system and are ready to use the water in that tank again.

After you've replaced those filters, you should be ready for another full year of camping. If you're not heading out for a trip immediately and overnight temperatures will stay above freezing, leave your tank empty until you actually need water inside your RV.

***Technician Tip:** If your RV is equipped with an onboard water filtration system, replacing your filters after sanitization is a good idea. Learn more about RV water filtration systems.*

## **How To Sanitize RV Fresh Water Tank Without Bleach**

If you don't want to use bleach, there is a more environmentally friendly way. You will follow the same basic steps used when sanitizing an RV fresh water tank with bleach, but substitute a biodegradable cleaner for the bleach mixture in step three. Make sure any RV fresh water tank sanitizer you choose is approved by your RV's manufacturer, and you follow the instructions carefully to use the correct quantity for the size of your fresh water tank.

## **What Is the Best RV Fresh Water Tank Sanitizer?**

astePure Spring Fresh is a cleaner but not a sanitizer. It helps with odors but may not kill parasites or bacteria. If you're looking for a complete fresh water tank sanitizing solution, we recommend checking out this all-in-one kit from Thetford. It's an easy two-part system that cleans and sanitizes your freshwater tank while removing harmful bacteria so you can enjoy safe water on all your upcoming RV adventures.

Make sure any RV fresh water tank sanitizer you choose is approved by your RV manufacturer. Follow the instructions carefully to use the correct quantity for the size of your freshwater tank.

Fresh water isn't something to take for granted when RVing. Luckily, this sanitization process is easy, and you only need to do it once a year to get back to enjoying the benefits of living in an RV.