



Celebrating 52 Years – 1973-2025

The Newstream

Southeastern Michigan Airstream Club
Region 4 Club 137
Having Fun in Our Airstreams Since 1973



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Airstream Links:

[SEMAC Website](#)

[Region 4 Website](#)

[Airstream Club International](#)

[SEMAC Facebook Group](#)

[Region 4 Facebook Page](#)

[SEMAC Instagram Page](#)

2025 Member Survey



Your SEMAC Board is interested in getting your feedback and input as we start to plan our rallies for 2026 and 2027. We did a survey like this in 2023, and used your feedback to shape our rally plans for 2024 and 2025, and we thought it worked so well that we're doing it again! Please take this

opportunity to give us your input. Many of our members are couples, so it's ok if you both submit a response. We kindly request all survey feedback be in by April 30. Results will be published in the 3rd Quarter Newsletter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JHKJ3RT>

Last Call for 2025 SEMAC Rally Registrations

SEMAC has an exciting slate of Rallies planned for 2025. Our Silver-on Silver rally in Traverse City is already full and registration will be closing for these in the coming weeks so that the hosts can make final plans and the campgrounds can return any held sites to their inventory. So, this is the last call for registrations! We'd love to have you join us, but you need to act quickly!

June 21-22 Thunder Over SEMAC @ Ypsilanti KOA

Join us to see the Blue Angels perform and many other aircraft demonstrations @ Willow Run Airport. Rally fee will include Airshow tickets to the "Bomber Club" at the Thunder over Michigan Airshow.

Jul 31-Aug 4 Cowboy Up with SEMAC @ Double JJ resort in Rothbury, MI

Join us for a weekend of camping at Double JJ "Back Forty"! Opportunities abound for horseback riding, golf, waterparks, and much more. The Future Streamers intraclub will also be joining us!

Sept 18-21 Head For the Hills Campout @ Campbell Cove Campground in Logan, OH

Head for the Hocking Hills and enjoy a casual campout during the early Fall.

Oct 17-19 SEMAC Fall Winterization and Boondocking Rally @ Woodland Clarkston

Join us for a weekend of boondocking, fellowship, educational demonstrations, and a chili cook-off! This will also include our annual meeting and officer installation.

Head here for more details and to get yourself registered -

<https://airstreamclub.org/southeastern-michigan/semac-rallies-and-events>

President's Scoop

Where do you get your camping inspiration from?

Everyone is different. Some of us like to camp in mostly the same spots every year. Others prefer to tour the country and fill in a map of all the states they have visited. Some prefer private parks with full hook-ups and amenities. Others prefer State or National Parks, and some of us like to really get out in the wild and boon-dock (drycamp). So what about you? As you look towards camping season in 2025 and beyond, where do you get your ideas for places to go?



Cheree and I draw a lot of our inspiration from travel and camping related YouTube Channels we watch. Here are some of our favorites that have provided us with inspiration:



Keep Your Day Dream (@KeepYourDaydream) – Marc and Trish started this channel when their kids were teens, and have progressed through a number of campers before settling into Airstream life. Over the years they have visited most of the National Parks and many other cool destinations.

Cody and Kellie (@CodyandKellie) – They started off as fulltime tent campers, then moved into truck camping. They tend to favor boon-docking and often reveal some great spots in Arkansas, the Southwest, and even spent some time in Michigan.

Ryan Twomey (@Ryantwomeyy) – He's single and lives in a custom Van that he built, but he finds some great boondocking locations, often on the West side of the U.S.

Kara and Nate (@KaraandNate) – Primarily they are a travel channel and they go all over the world, but they also own a camper van, and when they visit foreign locations sometimes they rent an RV to travel the desert, etc. They also do an annual video featuring Earthroamer RV's – those things are amazing! Earthroamers are off the charts off-road capable RV's (in case you hit the lotto!).

Those are just a few of the YouTube channels we regularly watch and draw inspiration from.

Another great place for camping inspiration is ACI club rallies. Not only does SEMAC have some great offerings, but all the clubs around our great country have fun opportunities for you to camp with other "shiny-hineys". If you have the time, Caravans are also available based on all sorts of themes and routes. Check out what's on tap here: <https://airstreamclub.org/events>



Membership News



Patrick and Patricia Bergin
Red and Joy Berenson
Mark Fox and Sheri Copanic
John and Deborah Chipman



April

Nicholas Bee
Cindy Thoman
Richard Lieblein
Liz Johnson
Rebecca Smith
Carol Jane Beard
Jim Conant
Jackie Clare
Margaret Coburn
Dee Henn
Mark Stephenson
Kathleen Taylor
Gary Miller
Marc Cram

Happy ACI/WCBCCI Anniversary!

April

Eric and Tanya Graettinger
Gracie and Rafael Guillen
David Smith and Rebecca Smith
Daniel and Geralyn Cogan
Sheri Copanic and Mark Fox



May

Lynn and Rocky Adornato
Matt and Anna Richardson
William Biland

May

Ann Tonkin
Ralph Steinberger
Sharon Bryant
Linda Marquardt
Amy Lieblein
Brian Butler
Ardene Jones
Lee Klare
Steven White
Martina Bode
Jim Chellman

June

LaVerne McHenry
Lorrie Robertson
Ralph Volk
Karen Fisher
Elyse White
Brian Burke

June

Nick and Ann Tonkin
Christopher and Valerie Davey
Michelle and Mark Kaloustian
Leanne and Mark Romanowski

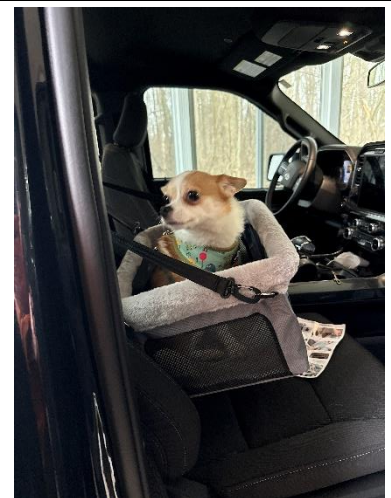
Region 4 Rally!

Anna Richardson BRN 4681

Bill Biland and I are gearing up and getting our rigs ready for the Region 4 Rally in Lewisburg, West Virginia! We are planning to caravan our way there, should be a fun adventure for us! Paco, the wonder dog, has his SEMAC ID and is ready to sit shotgun for the trip!

I have been busy getting our Michigan Made basket together....no worries for me, I have a PhD in shopping!! I have gathered some fun and yummy treats & gifts along the way to make this a sure thing for high bids including a Better Made tin for our "basket"!

We look forward to making new friends and connecting with old friends along the way. We will take lots of pics to share and plenty of notes for future rallies! Making memories is the task for the week and we are up for the challenge, thanks for trusting us to represent SEMAC.... we will not disappoint!



SEMAC Off-Season Meetups are Popular!

Steve Rowley

Our members sure do enjoy each other's company and jump at a chance to get together, even during the cold winter months in Michigan. These meet-ups are a great time to get introduced to other club members who are going the same rallies that you are in the coming season and get some tips and pointers for de-winterization or that next upgrade/project you are considering.



On Saturday January 25, approximately 16 members met up at the Bearded Lamb in Plymouth's "Old Village" to sample some locally brewed beer and fellowship. Host Matt Richardson provided a generous spread of popcorn and chips and salsa with a flamingo theme.



On Saturday March 29, over 35 members traveled to Freighters in Port Huron for a wonderful luncheon. It was great to see a mixture of long-time and newer

members mingling while we patiently awaited the passing of a freighter! Our patience paid-off and we eventually got an up-close view of a Southbound freighter. A big thanks goes out to Past President Linda Smith for suggesting this location and organizing our day! This meet-up was also a good opportunity for those going to the Region 4 rally in West Virginia to connect.



SEMAC APPAREL



Get Your Swag On....

Are you aware of the SEMAC swag offerings? Check it out at www.seriousgraphicsandsigns.com there is a "Online Stores" tab, click on it, then click the SMEAC store. The quality is really good, the pricing is very fair. The offerings are t-shirts, sweaters, hoodies (youth and adult sizing), hats, and flags. Turn around time is about three weeks. There is no profit for SEMAC, and Serious Graphics is a local business, so it is great to support them.



This past winter, I've noticed that some of our members are either new to snowbirding or thinking about what the life is like. Ralph and I have been wintering in Florida for the past eight years and we wanted to share some of the "good" and the "challenging" aspects of wintering south (or even west if that is your interest). Even now I remember the nervous feeling of leaving home knowing we wouldn't return for 4 months, now were old pros at heading south for the winter.

When asked how I plan, I talk about 5 categories of consideration: Why, When, Where, How Long and Safety/Emergency. And for getting ready, there are 2 primary points of planning: Home Prep and Home Watch which I'll talk about in a future article. I don't mention cost, as the costs

can range based on the "where and how long" decisions.

Why: Our primary motivation is our distain for winter and cold weather. We just wanted to get out of winter. We also discussed what living in <200 square feet would mean to our relationship and life style. It's a huge change and one where the positives of leaving frigid winter far outweigh the negatives of small space living.

When: This is a big one and we've learned over the years. Our first winter, we left mid December in a snow storm. To pack our Airstream, we needed a hairdryer and 200' long extension cord to defrost the door frozen in ice. The next year, we left in early December, watching the weather window through the ice belt. Those first two years of snowbirding, we had to winterize our rig – which did impact our stays as we headed south. And the dewinterization process always was an interesting one (one involved a muddy mess under the rig). Now we leave in November, don't winterize and if we want to come home for holidays, we'll fly home (which we've actually never done). Those considering heading west, have the tornado alley and Texas storm season to watch for. Our advice is to pick your departure date based on safe driving windows and whether you want to deal with the winterization processes.



Where: We knew we wanted to go south to Florida. We had no interest in the SW for winter – we wanted a guarantee of hot weather. We have friends who winter in Arizona and even SW Texas and they love that area. We roamed around Florida the first two winters, trying to find that perfect "75 degree" spot. And we found that for us the sweet spot is SW Florida. We love SW Florida, but the traffic can be a source of irritation!! Be flexible on where you want to winter but make a decision early in the year because making the advanced reservations for what is called "the season" is an absolute Must. We know some people who "wing it" but in SW Florida and the Keys, you cannot "wing it" successfully.



How Long: This is really a two-pronged question. First is the total length of time you will be gone – when do you want to return home. For us, it is the same consideration as when we leave – don't come home until winter is over and we do not have to winterize. But, get out of Florida before it becomes too hot and humid and the spring storm season begins. For us, we leave Florida in early April and we either come home directly – leaving our rig at a previously scheduled service appointment in Jackson Center (made almost a year in advance) or we take the slow route home through the Carolina and Tennessee mountains. We are almost always home by end of April.

The second part of How Long is how much you want to be moving during the winter – are you interested in a few weeks here and there or do you want a more permanent respite? In popular SW Florida and



keys, season is defined as January – March and many prioritize renters by length of stay – giving priority to longer term stays. Doing shorter stays will test your patience as you try to navigate the state parks, county parks and private park rules. And in Florida, residents have a one month advantage to make reservations – so it's even harder to get reservations for out of state residents. We didn't know where exactly we wanted to go and for two years, we roamed around Florida trying to find that perfect weather "home". After two years of competitive reservations processes, disappointing failures at getting the "perfect" reservation and understanding the Florida winter weather patterns, we decided to stay in one place for the winter – choosing to travel to another place in a more targeted way. We did end up buying an RV lot near Naples, but many of our fellow resort residents are seasonal renters – choosing to take targeted trips to Orlando or the keys, always knowing they have their seasonal rental open when they want to come back.

Safety/Emergency: There is a lot to pack into this category:

Where are we: We always make a travel itinerary and leave with family/friends. If we make a change to the itinerary we notify them. We have a specific check-in process, particularly when we are on the move. We allow our family to "follow us" on google maps and Apple Find me.

Travel Documents: We carry physical copies of our Living Wills/Power of Attorney with us (this isn't just about winter travel – we have it in the Airstream). We carry our passports and extra cash in our safe. On our phones, we have ICE indicators on our emergency contacts (ICE means In Case of Emergency) and we use the Apple Health emergency contact capabilities – most police and medical ERs are familiar with these tools. We usually have a 3x5 card in our truck for when we are traveling away from our campsite with the information about where to find the rig and who to call in an emergency – you never know where an accident will happen.

Medical: We have all our medical contacts in our phones as well as on our computer. We have our medicine lists in phone apps that can easily be accessed by emergency personnel. We are blessed to not have to camp around medical centers, but we try to know where the nearest ER or UC is to our campground. Our PCPs both do virtual visits so that give us some peace of mind. And we have a medical travel evacuation policy.

Intuition: This is about the feeling that a place may not be safe. If you don't feel safe, then don't stay. This has happened to us maybe 2-3 times in our 8 years of travel. Trust your intuition.

We love our Snowbirding life and are happy to have finally found our winter home where we have made friends that make the winter more fun. While we do miss family and friends, they can always connect with us on facetime or even come for a visit. We do NOT miss Michigan winters...



Annual board meetings

We have set the board meeting schedule for 2025. The dates are May 2/3 (Sun Outdoors Kensington Valley at the Board Rally), Wed, July 9, Wed, Sept 10, and Oct 17-19 (at Woodland Airstream - Fall rally). Unless indicated otherwise, the meetings are held virtually at 6 p.m. All members are welcome to join. If you have a topic for the agenda please email the SEMAC Secretary at SEMACsecretary@gmail.com at least 10 days prior to the meeting. At times we must change the dates or start times, so if you want to attend, please email Steve Rowley at SEMACpresident@gmail.com around the time of the scheduled meeting for current meeting information.



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

(SEMAC events/rallies highlighted in yellow)

May 14-18	Region 4 Rally @ State Fair of West Virginia, Lewisburg, WV https://airstreamclub.org/region4/region-4-rally-2025	Lewisburg was featured in Fodor's Travel as one of "America's 25 Cutest Main Streets in Small(er) Towns" and was also listed in Southern Living's "Best Small Towns to Retire." Visit The Greenbrier resort and the "Bunker," a concrete-encased fallout shelter buried 720 feet underground. It was intended to withstand an indirect nuclear attack and house all the members of Congress as well as a support staff of hundreds.
June 6-8	Silver on Silver @ Holiday RV Park & Campground, Traverse City, Michigan https://airstreamclub.org/silver-silver-lake-rally	This is our annual joint Rally with our sister club, MAC. Come enjoy camping, wine tasting, and bike rides, and fellowship with us and MAC!

June 21-22	Thunder Over SEMAC @ Ypsilanti KOA https://airstreamclub.org/thunder-over-semac	Join us to see the Blue Angels perform and many other aircraft demonstrations @ Willow Run Airport. Rally fee will include Airshow tickets to the "Bomber Club" at the Thunder over Michigan Airshow. Optional activities available include touring the Michigan Flight Museum and Willow Run Bomber Plant, as well as other regional museums
Jul 31-Aug 4	Cowboy Up with SEMAC @ Double JJ resort in Rothbury, MI https://airstreamclub.org/cowboy-semac	Join us for a weekend of camping at Double JJ's "Back Forty"! Opportunities abound for horseback riding, golf, waterparks, and much more. The Future Streamers intra club will also be promoting this!
Aug 23-28	International Rally, York, PA https://airstreamclub.org/rally2025	Just you and a 1,000 other Airstreams coming together for a week of camping, fun, and education. If you haven't been to an international rally, what are you waiting for?!
Sept 18-21	Head For the Hills Campout with SEMAC https://airstreamclub.org/head-hills-campout	Campbell Cove Campground, 30712 Lake Hogan Rd, Logan, OH, 43138 Head for the Hocking Hills and enjoy a casual campout during the early Fall.
Oct 2-5	Urban Air® #10, Eaton Rapids, MI https://wakeupdowntown.com/	Not an ACI or SEMAC event, but it is Airstream exclusive and a fun chance to camp on city streets
Oct 17-19	SEMAC Fall Winterization and Boondocking Rally @ Woodland Clarkston https://airstreamclub.org/semac-fall-maintenance-rally	Join us for a weekend of boondocking, fellowship, educational demonstrations, and a chili cook-off! This will also include our annual meeting and officer installation.
Registration is open for all SEMAC events at https://airstreamclub.org/southeastern-michigan/semac-rallies-and-events		

