

Fun Times Newsletter

South Florida Airstream Club
Wally Byam Caravan Club



Our Mission Statement
South Florida Airstream Club is a welcoming family of Airstream owners who invite and mentor others to experience the adventure and fun of Airstream travel.

President's Message

Submitted By: Tim McDow, President

Greeting Fellow Airstreamers!

We hope that you had a great summer and your travels have been safe and fun. Pam and I took some time away from Airstreaming and did a vacation abroad on a Viking River Cruise from Paris to Prague. This has been on our bucket list for some time and it did live up to our expectations. The Viking cruise was everything we were told. With only 170 passengers the service was exceptional. We visited a lot of towns, saw many old castles and grape vineyards for miles.

We returned and have had some down time to prepare for the new camping season to start. We have quite a trip planned and will be out for a couple months. We will start at international, then on to Acadia, Nova Scotia and on to Chicago to visit family. Will also stop to check off some Presidential libraries in Pam's book.

We look forward to seeing all the regular and affiliate members at international and listen to your summer vacations. The unit will have quite a few regular and affiliates attending. This will be our 2nd International rally and we are looking forward to seeing what new items are now available. Last year we learned about a new Lithium battery that fit into the existing battery box and that got us to upgrade our trailer to lithium. We also purchased the Easy Touch RV thermostat.

Pumpkin fest at Myakka SP is just around the corner. The year for me is coming to an end. Matt will be taking over and will continue to lead the unit to another great year. I look forward to Matt's planned camping season and his leadership in the upcoming year.

Tim McDow
South Florida Unit 30 President

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& Social Media

*Please WELCOME Our New
Unit 30 Members & Affiliates*

New Members & Affiliates

#07301, Drew & Tanya Potts, Watsontown, PA, Affiliate
#23844, Charene Sreenan, Port St. Lucie, FL, Affiliate
#01838, Reinaldo & Carol Gandarillas, Miami, FL, Regular
#09599, Sabrina Taraboletti, Cape Canaveral, FL, Affiliate
#10675, Melanie French, Clermont, FL, Affiliate
#08526, Luc & Tara Gray, Hobe Sound, FL, Affiliate
#09856, Andrew & Carolyn Fitzgerald, Vero Beach, FL, Affiliate
#21723, Jeffrey Alpert & Christina Krosche, Princeton, NJ, Affiliate
#03465, Kathleen Hillman, Jupiter, FL, Regular
#03654, Tracy Strange & Donna Dini, Punta Gorda, FL, Affiliate
#12424, Maria Cardenas & Fernando Perez, Miami, FL, Regular
#14909, Alex & Maureen Douglas, Maitland, FL, Affiliate
#06670, Michael & Christine Dinizio, Marietta, GA, Affiliate
#20700, Howard Cheney & Lynn Rancourt, Dunedin, FL, Regular
#23140, Kimberly Smith & Bryan White, Jacksonville, FL, Affiliate
#31025, Dennis & Daphne Lindemann, Catawissa, MO, Affiliate
#08548, Barry Ennis, Sebastian, FL, Affiliate
#08925, Pamela Roe & Reginald Johnson, Highlands, NC, Affiliate
#14472, June & Jerome "Nolan" Sapp, Naples, FL, Regular
#22529, John & Brittney Pritchard, West Palm Beach, FL, Regular
#09902, Keenan & LaMae Klos, West Palm Beach, FL, Affiliate
#08461, Valerie & Mark Starnes, Fort Myers, FL, Affiliate

Travel Adventures and Photos Wanted

*We are looking for your travel adventure stories and
photos.*

*Do you have a great trip you want to write about for the newsletter?
Tell us about your travels and experiences on the road.*

*Thank you to those of you who have sent us
stories and photos.*

Send them to:

Mcdow.tim@gmail.com

*"The views, opinions and advice, are solely of the author, and do not
necessarily reflect those of the South Florida Airstream Club, it's
Board, or Editor of the Fun Times"*

*"The Editor reserves the sole right to edit and publish your articles/
pictures along with your name in one of the upcoming Fun Times"*

SFAC Unit 30 Treasurer's Report, August 2025

Submitted By: Linda Laviano, Treasurer

2025 YTD Financial Report January 1, 2025 - August 15, 2025

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Dues	1190		
2024 Joint Holiday Rally	795.68	Refunds Joint Holiday Rally	364.5
Rodeo Rally	2115	Rodeo Rally	1885.1
Ball Park Rally	1190	Ball Park Rally	1137.22
Top of Georgia Rally	4507.08	Top of Georgia Rally	4493.44
Spring Miami Rally/ABM	4452	Spring Rally/ABM	4278.6
Keys Rally	0	Keys Rally	200.58
2025 Holiday Rally	425.52	2025 Holiday Rally	0
		Charity Donations Rally Sites	1003.03
		ACI Heritage Donation	5000
		ACI Fundraiser Bricks	500
		Member Appreciation	50
		Office Supplies/Badges	209.57
		Sunshine Supplies	16.68
		Exec. Board Retreat	152.83
Total Income	14675.28	Total Expense	19291.55
Checking Account Balance	685.72		
Savings Account Balance	7332.88		
Total Account Balance	8018.6		

South Florida Airstream Rallies

Take Me Out To The Rodeo

By Suzy and George Caldwell

**Howdy Partners! A Look Back at the Rodeo Rally
February 20–24, 2025 | River Ranch, FL**

The boots have been dusted off, the camp chairs packed away, and the Rodeo Rally at River Ranch is officially one for the books! From February 20–24, 2025, we gathered at West Gate River Ranch for five days of cowboy hats, good food, and even better company. Here's a look back at all the fun we had together.



The rally kicked off with warm hellos as folks rolled into River Ranch and set up camp. By evening, the Mustang Room was buzzing with chatter, laughter, and plenty of good eats. Everyone brought heavy appetizers to share, along with their favorite beverages, and the atmosphere felt like an instant family reunion. The Mustang Room was

decorated in Western theme- complete with the opportunity to pose as outlaws in a Wanted poster.



Friday morning started bright and early with breakfast back in the Mustang Room, complete with plenty of BYO coffee. The day was a choose-your-own-adventure: some folks hopped on airboat rides, others wandered through the lush grounds of Bok Tower

Gardens, while a few stayed close to camp for activities right at the resort. That evening, the group gathered for a SkyMed-hosted dinner of pizza and salad.



Saturday brought a little bit of everything — outdoor adventure, good food, and plenty of cowboy spirit. After breakfast, folks split off for hiking, biking, skeet shooting, and more.

By afternoon, the smell of Smashburgers filled the air as volunteers manned the grills. Burgers, games, and laughter went hand in hand, with spirited rounds of Viking Bowling. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who pitched in with grills,

patties, and game sets—you made it a true team effort! The evening highlight, of course, was the **Rodeo Experience**. The group gathered for pre-rodeo mingling (including tattoos) before heading over for the main event. From bucking broncos to barrel racing, the rodeo delivered thrills for all.

Sunday gave everyone one last chance to explore the area. Some folks headed to Lake Kissimmee State Park for a taste of “real Florida,” while others visited the historic Bok Tower or tested the quirky uphill trick at Spook Hill. Others had to hit the road early and left for home. That evening, we gathered once more for the **Farewell Feast** at the BBQ restaurant. Stories from the weekend were shared over barbecue.

On Monday morning, it was time to pack up, say our goodbyes, and head down the trail. Though the rally came to an end, the memories and friendships made will keep us smiling until we meet again. From Smashburgers to rodeo thrills, the Rodeo Rally was a rootin’-tootin’ success. Thanks to everyone who joined in, pitched in, and made it such a special gathering. Until next time, partners—happy trails!

We had a grand time hosting the rally with Bill and Darla Furst-



Take Me Out To The Ballpark

By Valerie Boyd

On March 5-10th we had a spectacular rally at Jonathan Dickinson state park. It was a great opportunity for baseball fans to attend various Spring Training games.

The Clawsons and the Boyds were rally hosts and provided a great flavor of the local area. We kicked off our first night at a local favorite, U-Tiki restaurant for a meet and greet.



The next morning we had a very well attended lighthouse tour. Everyone in our crew braved the climb up to the top! It was perfect weather and we ended the day with an Airstream Crawl at the Boyd's and the Clawson's rigs.

On day 3 we started our morning with a very clever scavenger hunt developed by the Clawsons! We formed teams, & each team had a list of 20 baseball related items to try and find in the campground,

your own rig. It was great fun with Doug & Soon Ja and Judy & Lewis taking 1st and 2nd respectively. Hogsnappers was our local lunch spot at noon. Valerie Boyd did the interior design. Mets vs Nationals was the evening game for those who signed up!

Saturday, day 4 was started with a history tour of our park led by Jeff Boyd. We had a delicious catered lunch by CR Chicks, a Palm Beach County favorite! The game that night was the

Mets vs. the Marlins.



Our final full rally day was started with a wonderful pancake breakfast hosted by Rick and Debbie Clawson. We had our final baseball game that afternoon, the Cardinals vs. the Yankees. We completed our last night with a Pizza dinner in the pavilion, along with games and a gorgeous sunset and fire!

Unit 30 Caravan To Top Of Georgia

By Lucy Comprosky

Summer'25 being kicked off, Unit 30 held a Caravan/rally at Top of Georgia (TOG) near Helen, GA. The caravan was led by Kim & Matt Ponzio and Mary Beth & Mark Pyles, which began on April 23rd for a few attendees with 2 nights of boondocking in Florida at the Sarasota Fairgrounds and a Harvest Host near McAlpin, Fl. The 3rd and final night of boondocking was spent at Lane Southern Orchards near Fort Valley, GA. Along the way caravaners learned or sharpened their boondocking skills.



All 43 rally attendees arrived at TOG throughout the day on Saturday, April 26th and were greeted by the rally hosts Kim, Lucy and Missy with special goody bags. The rally agenda was packed with wonderful meals, fun group outings, as well entertainment by the local group "Gypsy Mountain Duo". We also practiced Yoga a couple of times and were led by one of our own Unit 30 members Jean Martin. Two separate 1hr seminars were offered for Electrical and Organizational info/tips for our Airstreams. The Electrical seminar was led by Tim McDow and the organizational seminar was led by Linda Laviano. Both seminars were

very well attended and were extremely informative. Our delicious meals included a catered BBQ dinner from Happy Hawg BBQ restaurant in Hiawassee, GA, a Pasta night with a variety of sauce options to sample which were prepared by our rally attendees.



The attendees volunteered to either prepare a sauce, cook pasta, or bring a dessert. We also had a Happy hour evening with heavy appetizers prepared by our rally attendees, a pancake and sausage breakfast prepared by volunteers, a pizza night, a 70th bday celebration and we ended with a breakfast "to go" bag for our departure morning.

We had FUN playing miniature golf, or a popup game of Mölkky, which was followed by a

smores

evening by

the fire. A full day was spent with an outing on the Blue Ridge Railway which took us to a little town called McCaysville, GA and within a few feet of walking you could also be in Copperhill, TN. More fun activities included a group hike at Anna Ruby Falls and a delicious wine tasting at Creekstone Winery in Sautee Nacoochee, GA. Rally hosts are always needed for a successful rally



BUT a FUN rally is not possible unless we have the support of our volunteers. This was a busy 10-day rally and all volunteers that stepped up were very much appreciated. A special shout out to TOG as this is a great venue to accommodate all of our activities and meals that were planned. As a final note, Unit 30 made a donation to "Friends of Georgia State Parks".



Larry And Penny Thompson CP

By Michelle Lacayo

It was April of 2024 and Mo and I were in Concan, Tx at the Eclipse rally, when we volunteered to host *our* first rally. The already scheduled event was taking place in Miami, where we live and so it made sense that we should form the team to host it. But if I'm being honest, I was nervous ...



It was now official! Mo and I were hosting our very first rally and we would bring along Frank and Frances as our cohosts! While they didn't have an official title, Mary and Patty were also part of our

team. Afterall, Miami is our stomping ground and we wanted nothing more but to say, "Welcome to Miami" to all our rally mates!



A brainstorming session over an evening of cocktails and pizza, led us in the direction of National Parks and Cuban Food! We hit the ground running and began creating our rally schedule. Over the course of the year, the logistics and planning of it all would finally be complete!

It was now May 15th and the rally weekend was here! We had our hang out spot ready for all scheduled events as well as anything that could casually pop-up (and did!) Rigs began arriving and I couldn't help but to think to myself, "how do we ensure that everyone leaves here, happy that they came?" I was still feeling nervous! But ready or not ... It was go time!

From taking a bus to Biscayne National Park for a boat ride to having a Tropical Miami Nights themed party and later in the weekend, beer & line dancing at the local brewery; It was all a great time! What was I ever nervous about?



And while the planned events were great, the truth is that the special moments happened spontaneously. Some learned how to make pine needle baskets with Barbara while others of us watched. We had Cafecito time with Frank and lots of dancing – even a solo routine by Linda! Thank goodness for our tree providing a gathering spot for conversation! It provided a shaded area by day and an enchanted backdrop of fireflies (or are they lightening bugs?) by night. We couldn't have asked for anything more.

All this to say, if there is a city or event that you love, share it with us! Sign up to host a rally! If you're nervous, like I was, don't be. I learned that you don't have to plan every second of the day, it doesn't need to be difficult, because the best memories occur on their own when things are unplanned.

Mo, Frank, Frances, Patty, Mary and I would like to thank everyone who joined us! We appreciate you for making your way down & trusting us to properly,

“Welcome you to Miami!”



McDow's Summer Vacation

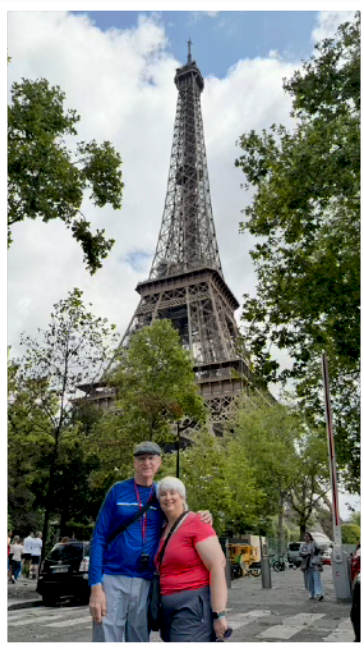
By Tim & Pam

Paris

Our first couple days were spent in Paris before our cruise. We visited Notre Dame Cathedral to view the incredible restoration. The inside is so bright and vivid and looks like it was built yesterday. They continue to work on the exterior restoration. We visited other famous spots like the Louve and Eiffel Tower

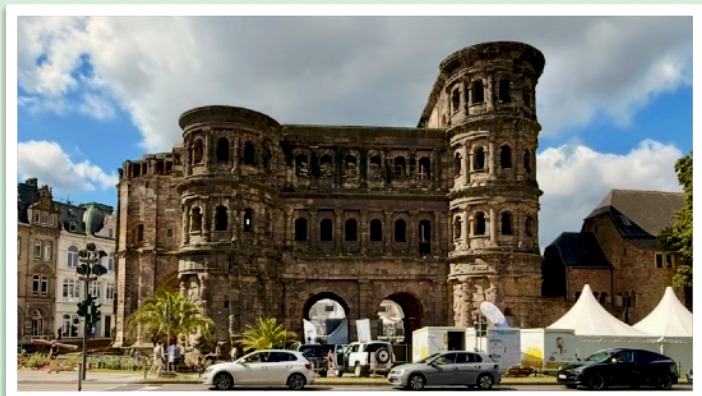


Trier



Our first stop was Trier, the oldest city in Germany. Trier was founded in 16 BC as a Roman colony by Emperor Augustus. This was a major outpost of the Roman Empire and once rivaled Rome. You can see this by the massive Roman gate to the city still standing. After Emperor Constantine the Great had a vision of Christ, he and his mother Helena built great churches and cathedrals there. They gave great strength to bishops who ruled Trier. They owned the grape fields and made and sold the wine. The first cranes were built in Trier to load wine barrels onto ships. Also, the first bridge ever made in Germany was constructed there, to cross the Moselle River. The ancient Roman baths, and Colosseum still stand today, though now the

colosseum is used as an amphitheater. Karl Marx was born in Trier in 1818 and went to school there. Perhaps the most famous relic of Trier is the Holy Tunic, said to be worn by Jesus when he died.



Bernkastel

This town sits between the rolling hill vineyards and the Moselle River. It has medieval squares with charming timbered houses on narrow lanes and alleys. Bernkastel produces some of Germany's finest vintages of wine due to the rich fertile valley soil.

Cochem

Surrounded by the steep vineyards and half-timbered houses that line the winding streets, Cochem, is known to be one of the prettiest towns along the Moselle River. The city was first settled by the Celts and then later by the Romans. From the 13th to 18th centuries, it suffered a plague epidemic and was later conquered by French King Louis XIV. The Imperial Castle built in the 11th century, overlooks the town and was used to guard the city from ships approaching on the Moselle River. The hills are filled with young green grapes for a young wine.



Marksburg Castle

Hiedelberg

Germany's oldest university town was founded in 1386, but is most famous for the Heidelberg Castle that



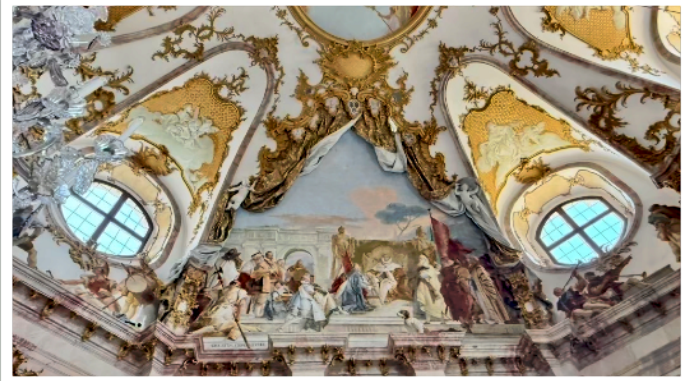
is perched 330 feet above the river. It was home to the Palatinate princes until partially destroyed by fire in the 17th century. Heidelberg is home to the world's largest wine barrel, a 250 year old vat shaped barrel from 130 oak trees that can hold up to 50,000 gallons of wine, though the barrel is empty these days.

Winningen

This city along the Moselle River hosts the oldest wine festival in Germany. The city's wine taverns showcase the valley's famed Riesling, Muller-Thurgau and Elbling grapes draping the steep terraces with vineyards. This area is most well known for its Riesling wines.

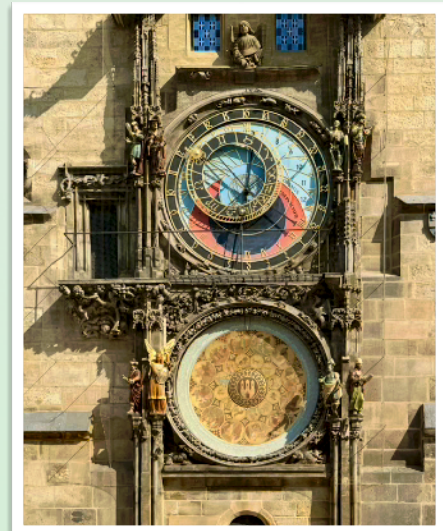
Wurzburg

Surrounded by Franconian vineyards, Wurzburg was heavily damaged during World War II, but has been completely restored. It's most pristine example of pomp and glory is the great Bishop's Residence Palace, built in 1744 for the prince bishop. It has sweeping staircases and magnificent ceiling frescoes by Tiepolo. The city is a major wine making center with Germany's oldest and largest vineyard.



Prague

After departing the ship, we traveled to Prague with a brief stop at the American Cemetery in Luxembourg. We spent 2 days in the capital of the Czech Republic admiring the rich history and architecture. Activities included visiting the Prague Castle, walking across the Charles Bridge and lunch with a private concert at the Lobkowitz Palace. The Astronomical Clock in Old Town Square is a



mechanical marvel and is the oldest still-operating astronomical clock in the world. I think by far the highlight of the trip for both of us however was meeting up with our daughter Kim for the 2 nights in Prague.

South Florida Airstream Rally 2025-2026 Schedule

2025 Rally Schedule								
Dates	Description	Venue	Location	Owner	Site fee	Notes	Reservation window opens	ShowRunner/CoRunner
Jan-9-12	Canopener	Topsail Hill Preserve-SP	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Units 12 and 153	≈\$42-per-night	PreCanopener-begins 12/29/24	Jan-29, 2024	N/A
Jan-24-26	U30 EB Workshop	Jonathan Dickinson-SP	Hobe Sound, FL	Unit-30	≈\$26-per-night	Executive Board-Planning Meeting	Feb-24, 2024	McDow/-Robshaw
Feb-20-24	Take-Me-Out-To-The-Rodeo	River Ranch-Resort	River Ranch, FL	Unit-30	≈120-per-night	Rodeo-and-Outdoor-Fun	Open	Caldwell/-Furst
Mar-5-10	Take-Me-Out-To-The-Ballpark	Jonathan Dickinson-SP	Hobe Sound, FL	Unit-30	≈26-per-night	Baseball-Spring-Training-Tour	Open	Clawson/-Boyd
Apr-9-13	Region-3 Rally	Coastal Carolina-Fairgrounds	Ladson, SC	Reg-3	See website		Open	N/A
Apr-23-May-4	Unit Caravan-to-Top-of-Georgia-(w/boondocking)	Top-of-Georgia-AS Park	Helen, GA	Unit-30	≈20-per-night	3-nites HH BD, & nites TOG	Open	Clutter/-Comprosky/-K.Ponzio
May-15-19	Spring Rally & ABM	Larry and Penny Thompson-CP	Miami, FL	Unit-30	≈45-per-night	ABM = Annual-Business-Meeting	Open	LaCayo/Diaz
Aug 23-28	68th International	York Expo Center	York, PA	ACI	See website	Standby only	Waitlisted	N/A
Sep 17-22	FL Keys Resort	Sun Outdoors Islamorada	FL Keys	Unit 30	~107 per night	Florida Keys Fun	Open	Robshaw/???
Oct 23-27	Pumpkin Fest	Myakka River SP	Sarasota, FL	Unit 30	~44 per night	Installation Rally	Open	L.Mezza/ S.Gonzalez/ Laviano
Nov 12-19	Rolling the Coast	Fort Clinch, Anastasia, and Gamble Rogers SPs	Fernandina Beach, St. Augustine, and Flagler Beach, FL	Unit 30	~35 per night	Three SP Rolling Rally	Open	Boyd/ Robshaw/ ??
Dec 4-8	U30 Holiday Buddy Rally	Lake Louisa SP	Clermont, FL	Unit	≈24 per night	Non-Airstream units	Open	TBA

2026 Rally Schedule								
Dates	Description	Venue	Location	Owner	Site fee	Notes	Reservation window opens	ShowRunner/CoRunner
Jan 8-11	Canopener	Topsail Hill Preserve SP	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Big Bend AS Club	~42/night	Pre-Canopener begins 12/28/25	OPEN NOW	N/A
Jan 24-26	U30 EB Workshop	TBA	TBA	U30	TBA		TBA	McDow/ Ponzio
Feb 19-23	Disney Rally	Fort Wilderness	Lake Buena Vista, FL	U30	~170/night		Soon!	Robshaw/ ???
Mar 4-8	Region 3 Rally	Sun n Fun Campground	Lakeland, FL	REG 3	TBA		TBA	Region 3
Apr 16-20	Keys Rally and ABM	Sun Outdoors	Islamorada, FL	U30	~107/night		TBA	Robshaw/ ???
May 15-17	Newbie Rally	North Trail	Fort Myers, FL	U30	TBA		TBA	TBA
Jun 12-14	Buddy Rally	Margaritaville	Auburndale, FL	U30	TBA		TBA	TBA
Aug 22-27	Intl Rally	Minot ND	Minot, ND	ACI	TBA	airstreamclub.org to register	TBA	ACI
Sep 25-27	Springs Rally	Strawberry Fields	Chiefland, FL	U30	TBA		TBA	TBA
Oct 22-25	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Nov 5-9	Pumpkin Fest	Myakka River SP	Sarasota, FL		~33/night		Dec 5, 2025	
Dec 3-6	Unit 129 Holiday Rally	Sarasota Fairgrounds	Sarasota, FL		~35/night	TBA	Registration begins in the spring	Unit 129

Lt Green = Unit 30 Executive Board event
 Green = Unit 30 hosted or co-hosted
 Yellow = ACI, Region, or Special Event

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SFAC Unit 30 Standing & Special Committees

Constitution & Bylaws:
Lewis Fogal

Ethics & Grievances:
*Pam McDow

Membership:
*David Robshaw

Webmaster
*Tim McDow

Newsletter Editor:
(Vacant)

Sunshine Committee:
*Judi Fogel

Public Relations & Social Media:
*David Robshaw

Audit
*Maria Linares

We encourage you to volunteer and participate in any of the committees listed.

Volunteering is a great way to meet and establish friendships and, at the same time, enhance our club and services to the next level of excellence.

When submitting articles for the newsletter, please send in a **Word File Format**, **not PDF**
Send photos by **email**, **not text**

To: mcdow.tim@gmail.com

It will make the files easier to work with. Thanks, Tim

SOUTH FLORIDA AIRSTREAM CLUB Unit 30 Officers & Trustees Editor's Note

Tim McDow.....	President
Matthew Ponzio.....	1st Vice President
Susan Caldwell.....	2nd Vice President
Linda Laviano	Treasurer
Greg Blue.....	Corresponding Sec.
Judi Fogel.....	Recording Secretary
David Robshaw.....	Past President
Lewis Fogel.....	Parliamentarian
Sandra Gonzalez.....	Trustee
Ron Mezza.....	Trustee
Valerie Boyd.....	Trustee
Jeff Boyd.....	Trustee

FUN TIMES Newsletter

Tim McDow, Editor

Email: mcdow.tim@gmail.com

South Florida Airstream Club Websites:

Tim McDow, Webmaster
Airstream & Facebook
Email: mcdow.tim@gmail.com

<https://airstreamclub.org/south-florida>

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Unit 30