



The Pelican Briefs

September 2025

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FROM the Editor
Donna McBroom-Theriot

Happy September! Welcome to our new members. I hope you will enjoy The Pelican Briefs. As a club, we donate to the Ronald McDonald House. There is a wonderful write-up by Rebecca, which includes a list of donation items, one of which is volunteers. If you enjoy volunteering, you might want to contact RMH to find out more information. It blesses the heart to know that our club's support is helping a family that some of our members know.

We have two new rallies that have been added to the Rally Schedule. I will be posting the rally schedule to Facebook as changes are made. Please join our Facebook page to stay updated on events and news. Several members attended the International Rally, and we have a picture of Jim Ruimerman representing the Louisiana Airstream Club in the opening ceremonies.

Our next excursion will be the Region 6 Rally in Tennessee. There are quite a few members going, and the schedule is full of activities. I wish you all safe travels to Sevierville.

What's Inside:

From the Editor | President's Letter | Member Spotlight | Ronald McDonald House News | International Rally Member News | New Members | September Inspiration | Ronald McDonald List | 2025/26 Rally Schedule



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Perere

Greetings Louisiana Airstream Club members and affiliates

It's hard to believe September is already here. Schools are open, football is back, and we can sense the arrival of Fall. Time flies, so let's cherish every moment of life. Explore the country in your Airstream and create unforgettable memories.

I'm excited to announce the launching of a Members Spotlight in our Newsletter. Each month, I'll be reaching out to a member and inviting them to write an article about themselves and Airstreaming experiences. This will be a great opportunity for us to get to know each other. Dan and Linda Laporte are our first Members Spotlight contributors. They have written an interesting article about a modification they made to their Airstream.

We had a very nice visit in August to Ronald McDonald Charity House. It's an incredible place, and I was truly amazed and impressed by our experience. Rebecca is writing an article about it in this issue, so make sure you read it!

In February, we're planning a relaxed Rally at Fontainebleau State Park. The theme is "A Dutch Oven Evening In The Woods," and the park now has full hookups at all sites. Don't worry about the weather; we've reserved a meeting room with a kitchen and we'll have Dutch Oven masters cooking for us. **Please try to reserve early, as the park fills up quickly during this time. We'll share more details soon. Desired sites: 10-23 & 49-57.**

In March, the Mississippi Airstream Club will be joining us for a joint Seafood Rally at La Pay E Bas campground in Eunice. This is also the time for our annual Ronald McDonald auction, so start saving your garage sale items for the event. We'll share more details soon.

Everyone is eagerly preparing for the Region 6 Rally in Sevierville, TN. There's a lot planned, and it's going to be a fun-filled event. The ladies are particularly excited about the 50's night, and they're having a great time getting ready for it. Rebecca will even dress me up, I can't wait.

See you down the road!

Robert Perere



M E M B E R

S P O T L I G H T



Dan & Linda LaPorte

Fellow Airstreamers,

I was asked by our club president, Robert Perere of the Louisiana Airstream Club to provide a short write up regarding a recent modification to our Airstream.

First, a few details about us. We are Dan and Linda LaPorte from Mandeville LA. We are both retired and recently decided to buy an RV and do some traveling. We looked at various options and manufacturers before deciding on an Airstream. All the others smelled like plastic, particle board and glue. The Airstream just seemed to stand out above the rest. The first one we bought was a 19-foot Bambi, and it became obvious that it was too small for us. A few months later I traded it in for a 25-foot, forward bunk Flying Cloud. It soon became clear that this was the one for us.

We joined the International Airstream club soon after and received our BRN. We were also fortunate enough to join the Louisiana chapter. This group immediately made us feel at home, great folks, fine food, camaraderie and great music.

During the winter months we enjoyed learning about our new home on wheels and found it to be very comfortable, especially with the newfound extra room. The Dometic AC is also a heat pump, and I also enjoyed using the propane furnace. Then summer arrived. It soon became obvious that one AC was not the best option for southern Louisiana. The concern manifested itself during a trip to Grand Isle. There was absolutely no shade, the temperatures were in the high nineties with high humidity. As a result, it was very uncomfortable in the Airstream during midday, so much so that we started looking at solutions. I tried fans, but that didn't help much. I was also

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concerned that the AC ran all day long nonstop barely maintaining anything under eighty degrees inside. What was the solution? Were we going to buy yet another Airstream?

One of the great things about a rally is that you get to visit and chat with other owners. We visited other Airstreams and of course noted that the ones with two AC's were much more comfortable. On one such visit we spoke to Mr. Jack Jensen. He also has a single AC unit and was telling me that he was planning to install a second AC in the 14x14 inch vent opening. Great news! That idea began to take root and I stared down the trail of seeking a second AC for our unit.

At first, I thought I'd have to do the conversion myself. However, as luck would have it during a visit to Foley's Airstream in Gulfport I spoke to the service manager, John. John is a very informative man and very dedicated to the repair and servicing of Airstreams. His positive attitude is refreshing to say the least. As I outlined my plan for the second AC, John told me that they were familiar with the installation. He even suggested the RecPro AC as the best option. All I needed to do was order the AC, then bring it and the Airstream to Gulfport for installation.

I then contacted RecPro regarding what unit would be best for this application. They are very informative, and I decided on the 3800 model, 15K btu AC/Heat pump with a cold start. I bought the AC unit and called Foleys for a reservation.

The installation was accomplished by John and his team at Foley. I like the fact that the second AC is not connected to the main power of the RV. A separate power cable was installed along with a 20-amp breaker, hidden in a closet with the 30-amp plug outlet installed on the outside of the RV. It's all very clean and looks great.

First impressions: The RecPro is very quiet and seems to work very well. There is a remote control for the unit that can be used anywhere inside the RV. Ok, how to best hook it up at the campground? There are many options: Most camp grounds have a 50-amp and a 30-amp service. I use the 50-amp service with a 30-amp plug adapter for the main RV power. This leaves the 30-amp for the second AC. Note that if for some reason I'm having issues with the main power (and this has happened to me due to a bad breaker), I still have the second AC running. If by chance, there is only a 50-amp service I can use my 50-amp to 30-amp " dog bone" that has two 30-amp connections. Yes, I used surge protection on all power cables. If there is only one 30-amp service, I can use another 30-amp connector that has two 30-amp plugs. Or, if there is a 30-amp and one 110 volt plug I can connect the second AC to the 110 volt connection. Ok, so how much do I draw with both ACs, my refrigerator and water heater? I draw 12.5 amps with my main Dometic AC, fridge and water heater, the second AC takes 11.5 Amps. With the cold starts on both units, I don't notice any problems as the AC's go about operating. I have two Honda generators and could hook them up as well and run much the same set up if need be.

So, in the end, I didn't need to buy another Airstream with two AC units. The cost of the second AC was \$1650 for the AC unit shipped. To install was \$1350. So, for \$3000 I was able to save the cost of another Airstream, in so doing I saved over \$100,000! (at least this was my sales pitch to Linda.)

I would highly recommend this modification to anyone that feels a need for a second AC.

Travel safe, Dan and Linda LaPorte - Mandeville, LA





Ronald McDonald House of South Louisiana

In August, I received a phone call from Grace McIntosh, the Executive Director, of Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana. She expressed her gratitude for our consistent support, particularly our annual Christmas raffle and auction. She extended an invitation to our entire club to tour the new and much larger RMHC, which is now situated next to the Children's Hospital in New Orleans. We scheduled the tour for August 7.

On August 5, I received a phone call from my neighbor, Palmer's aunt. Palmer, a seven-month-old baby, was in her walker while her mother was cooking on July 28. Unfortunately, Palmer pulled the cord to the rice maker, causing it and the contents to fall on her. Palmer was immediately air lifted to a hospital in Lafayette, where she underwent several skin grafts. However, her condition worsened, and the skin grafts did not take well. The burns and grafted areas became infected, necessitating her transfer to the Children's Hospital in New Orleans.

This family was instantly left with only one income. Dad had to stay with their other two children, while Grandma stayed with her daughter to assist Palmer. They found themselves in New Orleans without a place to stay, facing challenges with food, bathing, washing clothes and other basic necessities.

The support our club has provided to RMHC is truly commendable. I felt compelled to offer our assistance. I phoned Grace and inquired about available rooms. RMHC had only 21 rooms, and many families are in need. Grace, displaying immense compassion, assured me that she would prioritize this placement and do everything she could to help. The following day, they managed to get Palmer's Mother and Grandmother in the house. They now had a place to sleep, shower, eat three meals, wash their clothes and much more, without the financial burden of more expense.

On August 7, we joined Grace, Frank and Marian Raphael along with their granddaughter Bailey, for the tour of RMHC. The tour was remarkable. This charity is a beacon of hope for countless families in need. Providing a safe haven where entire families can stay without any financial constraints.

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I asked Grace what their greatest needs were besides money. She mentioned that they needed donations of food, volunteers, toiletries, and toys. Grace then asked the granddaughter of the Raphaels, Bailey, to open a magic door. Inside, she found a closet full of new toys. Bailey was allowed to pick out any toy she wanted.

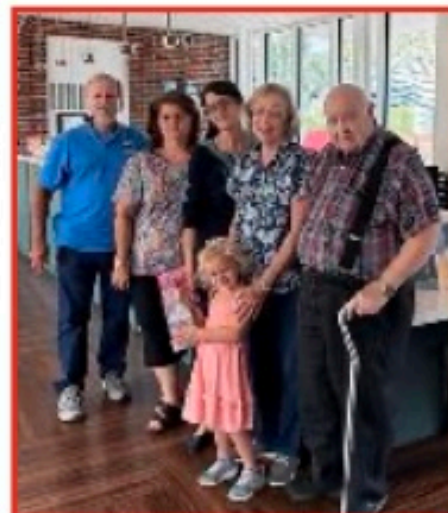
Grace explained that they provide a bag of toiletries to each family. However, most of the families that come are in a state of emergency and don't bring anything. To everyone attending our Christmas rally, we are asking if you can please donate a few of these items: Shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower caps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotions, etc. Trial sizes are welcome. We will have a box to deposit them, and we will also be taking them to RMHC soon after the rally is over. Anyone who wants to accompany us and take the tour is welcome.

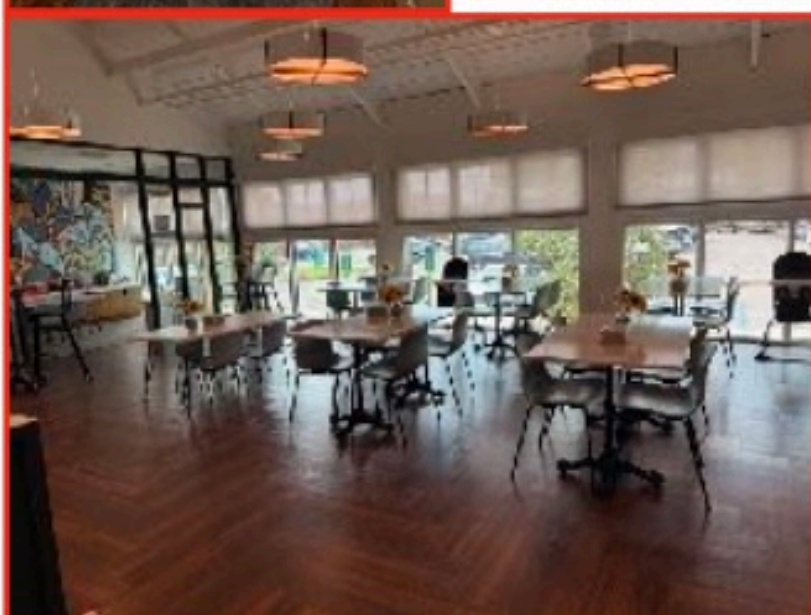
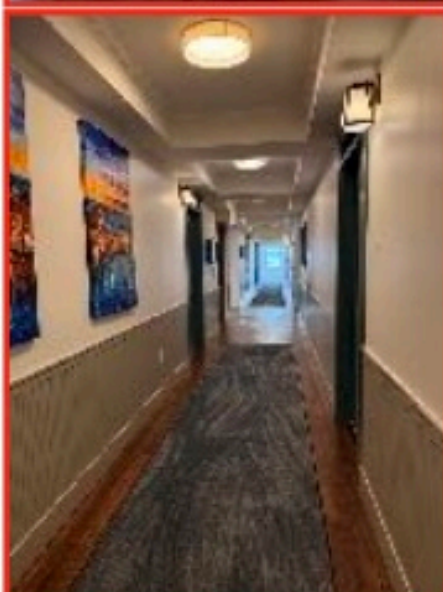
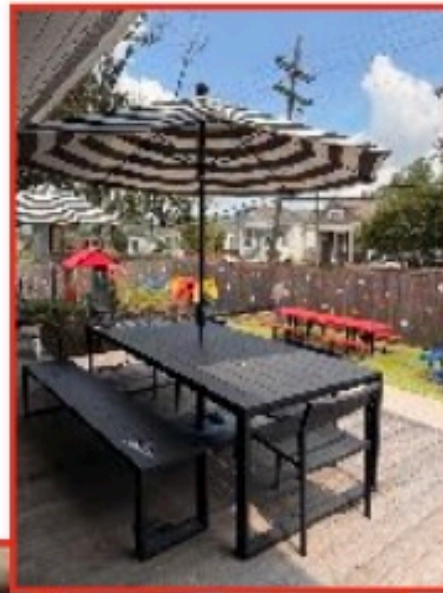
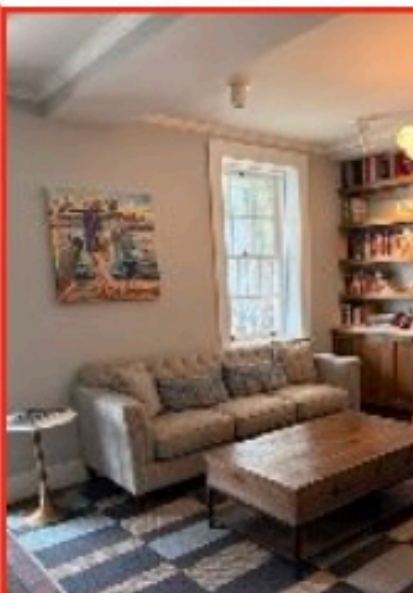
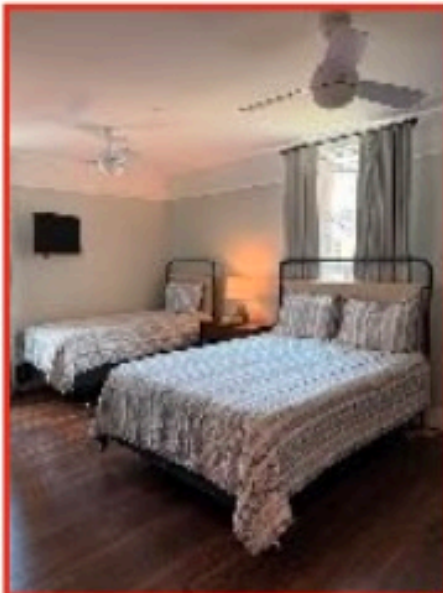
While we were on the tour, my husband asked Grace how much McDonald's donates to RMHC? Grace said sometimes when people check out of McDonald's they will round it to the next dollar, and some McDonalds have a collection box for leftover change. Other than that they only receive paper products like cups, napkins and straws.

Update on Palmer: She will be 9 months old in September. She was doing so much better, and then took a turn for the worse. Her skin grafts aren't taking well, and she has several infections, so she was put in ICU. This is to basically keep her away from germs. Palmer and her entire family are in need of your prayers. I have adopted Palmer in my heart, and hope all of you will as well.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone in the Louisiana Airstream Club who have contributed to this charity! Without our connection, this family would never have known about RMHC.

Thank you,
Rebecca Perre





2025 INTERNATIONAL RALLY

**Jim Ruimerman represented the Louisiana Airstream Club
in the Opening Ceremony at the 2025 International Rally
in York, Pennsylvania.**



WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

New Members:

**James Oliphant, Amite City, La.
Jason & Stacy Bradford, Geismar, La.**

AUGUST INSPIRATION

**“True friendship withstands time, distance,
and silence.”**

Isabel Allende

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE LIST

Shampoo | Conditioner | Soap | Shower caps | Toothpaste | Toothbrushes | Lotions | Toiletries

UPCOMING RALLY SCHEDULE



Sept. 24-28, 2025 Region 6 Rally. The rally is being held at The Ridge Outdoor Resort, nestled in the heart of the Smoky Mountains in Sevierville, TN. Reservations: 865-505-3111.

Oct. 25-Nov. 2, 2025 “Following the Natchez Trace to Nashville.” The caravan is full; standby only. Email Dale Spillman at laul5880@yahoo.com

Dec. 4-7, 2025 Christmas Rally. Hosted by Charlotte and John Taylor at the River View RV Park and Resort, 100 River View Pkwy., Vidalia, LA 71373; Phone: 318-336-1400. When you make your reservations, please let them know you are with the Louisiana Airstream Club. Additional information will be available at a later date.

Feb. 12-15, 2026 “A Dutch Oven Evening In The Woods” Rally. Hosted by: Mark & Janelle Williams and Robert & Rebecca Perere at Fontainebleau State Park. (62883 Hwy 1089, Mandeville, LA 70448). We have reserved a room in case of bad weather. Reserve your site ASAP as sites fill up fast during this time of year. Use code 62PLUS for a senior discount. Reservations can be made online at www.lastateparks.com or by calling 833-609-0686. Preferred sites: 10-23 & 49-57. Contact Robert Perere at 225-315-3825 for more information.

March 12-15, 2026 Joint Seafood Rally with the Mississippi Airstream Club at La Pay E Bas RV Park. (667 Arpent Road, Basile, LA 70515). Hosted by: Blake & Jeri Donald and Robert & Rebecca Perere. Annual Ronald McDonald Auction on Saturday. Email Rebecca Perere rebeccaperere@yahoo.com with trailer length and party size for reservations. Contact Robert Perere at 225-315-3825 for more information.

Do YOU enjoy Rallies? How about hosting one? Grab a buddy to co-host and call Robert! (225-315-3825) He has loads of ideas and help is always available!

Print me!