



Good Life News

August 2026

Florida Airstream Club, Region 3, Unit 27

President's Corner



Dear Florida Airstream Club Members,

We're hitchin' up and kicking off an unforgettable summer of Airstream adventures! I am super excited to be joining the North to Alaska Caravan this year, making new friends and many great memories along the way. Wherever the road takes you, be sure to post your travel pics on our club's Facebook page!

While our local Florida rally schedule traditionally shifts into high gear from October through April, our summer is completely packed with incredible nation-wide travel by all our adventure-driven members!

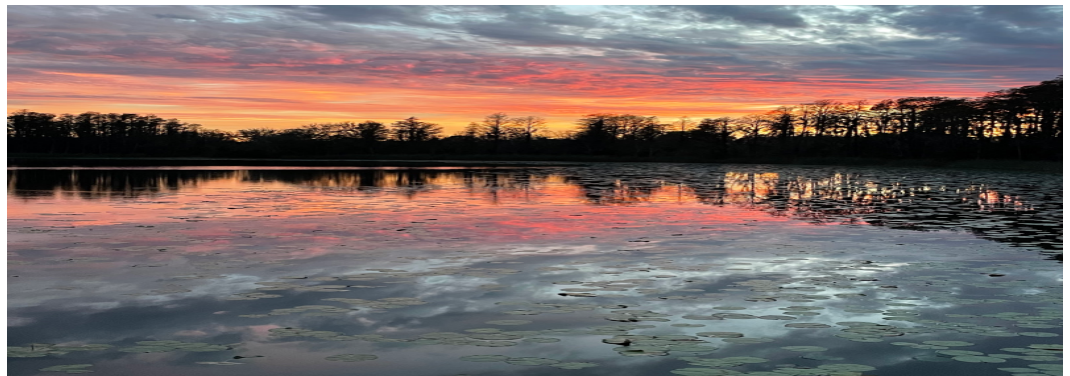
The countdown is officially on for the 69th Airstream Club International Rally in Minot, North Dakota, from August 22nd–27th, 2026. Experiencing the magic of seeing hundreds of shining Airstreams gathered at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds is something you will never forget. Many thanks to Dan Forney for carrying our flag at opening ceremonies this year!

For those participating in our nation-wide travels and rolling rallies heading up to Minot, please keep these critical safety and logistics reminders top of mind:

- **Pre-Trip Inspections:** Check your wheel bearings, tires, brakes, and hitch connections before hitting the highway. If possible, schedule a full safety check of your Airstream and towing vehicle. Long-haul highway travel demands peak vehicle and trailer health!
- **Leave No Trace:** Practice sustainable camping by managing your tanks wisely and leaving every campsite cleaner than you found it.
- **Campsite Etiquette:** Please be mindful of generator hours, keep your pets leashed, and respect quiet hours in the evening.

Here's to new adventures, safe travels, and the lifelong friends we make along the way!

Gina Fafard, President
Florida Airstream Club



Lake Louisa State Park, Clermont, FL

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Facebook

Connect with members on our club's Facebook page "[Florida Airstream Club 027](#)" Look for the page with our logo.

Editor's Note

- Good Life News is published 4 times per year (Feb. May, Aug. Nov.)
- Due date for articles is the 20th of the month before publication.
- By listing your email address with ACI as a Florida Airstream Club member, you will receive this newsletter. You may opt out at any time. We do not share email addresses.

Arctic Ocean – Airstream Style

Hey fellow Airstreamers! This article is a short taste of a long trip. Being Florida residents, we always feel the need to get away from the heat in the summer. What better way to do that than to go take a dip in the Arctic Ocean? Flying up would be a fairly quick trip but what would we do with the rest of the summer? Oh Yeah, we'll be leading the Airstream North to Alaska caravan so we'll be in the neighborhood so I guess we might as well pull the camper up there. You are going to take your precious Airstream to the Arctic Ocean (you might ask)? Why yes, why not (I might answer). Well, it's a long way, the roads are sketchy, fuel is expensive, things break, etc. (you might reply). Perfect! (I would answer). Let's GO!

So off we went. To Tuktoyaktuk (Tuk), Northwest Territories (NT), Canada. Which happens to be about 4800 miles from home if we went straight there. But we didn't go straight there. We made lots of stops and had many adventures on the way, some of which would be another whole article or perhaps a book. In fact, we had about 6100 miles behind us before we got to the beginning of the Dempster Highway.

The [Dempster Highway](#), if you can call a gravel road that stretches 550 miles from Dawson City, Yukon Territory to Tuktoyaktuk NT a highway. This is no ordinary road. It is built on permafrost. Building anything on permafrost is a problem because it collects heat which melts the permafrost which destroys whatever you built on it. The technique chosen to combat this problem is to build the road out of gravel that is deep.... really deep! On some sections of the road the gravel is built up 30ft or more. Their method was to find a hill made of rock, dig it up, grind it up, pile it up, then use a road grader to make it look like a road. Perfect! What could go wrong? Potholes, wash outs, washboards, frost heaves, etc. That's what could go wrong. If you were driving an off-road vehicle or a giant dump truck this would all sound like a cake walk. If you are pulling a trailer that you need to live in for the next 5 months, then this might make you think twice. When you are 5 miles into this 1100 miles of gravel and you find your refrigerator trying to remove itself from your camper you might think it's time to turn around. Maybe "normal" people would give up. We have never been accused of that so with the help of a bottle jack and some wood screws we were back in business.



The scenery was constantly changing from mountains to boreal forest then tundra. You would look ahead at this little gravel road going up into the hills and mountains and wonder where that one went. Then you realize that you are looking at the Dempster. The little strip of gravel that takes you past a whopping 3 towns before you get to Tuk. One of them has a population of 9, another is 647, the next is 3300, then the end of the road, Tuktoyaktuk with about 1026 residents. The end of the road is where the Arctic Ocean sign is. Remember the polar plunge? Well about that, the darndest thing, the Arctic Ocean was still frozen so we had to settle for sticking our hands in the water as best we could.

It was a great trip up! A couple ferry crossings which were interesting since they were constantly building the approach to the ferry with a bulldozer. And oh, by the way, one of the ferries closed when we were in Tuk basically stranding us there until they got it reopened. There is so, so much more to tell but

that will have to wait. Perhaps there could be a part 2 to tell the rest (or at least more) of the story. Mike & Gina McGinn - BRN 7226

Did You Know



Speaking of Canada, if you are interested in losing weight, the Hudson Bay region has less gravity than other parts of the world. Don't get too excited, you would only weigh a fraction of an ounce less. It all has to do with mass. During the last ice age, the weight of a sheet of ice up to 2 miles thick overlayed the area compressing the earth below it, causing a dent, resulting in less relative mass than any other surface area on earth. The area is slowly raising back up at an inch per year. Probably better to go for the scenery and cool summertime weather.

Yellowstone Cool



Due to the limited camp sites in the park, we chose a private campground in Gardiner, MT, which is near the iconic north entrance to Yellowstone. Gardiner is a cool small town in itself; it also hosts the annual "Hell's a Roarin' Horse Drive" on Memorial Day weekend. The drive goes right through town. What an experience to see.

Nightly we watched 30 to 50 elk coming right through the campground while being totally uninterested in people stepping outside their RV to take pictures. The bulls stayed on the periphery but were only a hundred feet away. A few of the bulls were massive.

Yellowstone truly is a remarkable and amazingly cool destination. Its vast landscapes and geothermal wonders like Old Faithful and the Great Prismatic Spring create a surreal, almost otherworldly atmosphere. The combination of stunning mountain views and diverse wildlife living freely makes it one of the most unique national parks in the world. Due to the lack of city lights the night sky is so clear and dark you can see the wonders of the universe like few other places in the country. Not to mention that when you are in the park you are standing in the caldera of an active super-volcano. If you haven't been there yet, add it to your bucket list, it's definitely worth the trip! Jim Abernathy, BRN 31510



Tick Tock

If you are out and about during the summer months like most Airstreamers you have more than likely found a tick or two after a hike or even just sitting around the campsite. The trick is to find them early and to remove them properly to minimize the possibility of a tick-borne disease. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends some dos and don'ts to remove ticks safely:

- Don't: try to suffocate them with petroleum jelly or nail polish, burn them with a match or squeeze their body; you may burn yourself or cause the tick to vomit fluids into the wound which could cause infection.
- Do remove the tick as soon as it is detected. The longer it stays attached, the greater the risk of infection. Grasp the tick with your fingers or tweezers as close to the tick's mouth as possible and pull straight up. Check the area for any remaining mouth parts and if needed remove them as well. Wash the bite area with soap and water and/or rubbing alcohol.

Remember to stay alert to any possible symptoms of tick-borne diseases in the following weeks such as a circular rash around the bite site or flu like symptoms. You can find additional information on tick-borne diseases and their symptoms on the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) website.

Florida Airstream Club Rally Schedule

Dates	Rally Name	Campground & Reservation	Host	Notes
August 22 - 28	ACI International	North Dakota State Fairground 2005 E Burdick Expressway, East Minot, ND ACI Reservations	ACI	Information and registration at: 2026 ACI International Rally
September 17 - 20	Fall Into the Springs	Rainbow Springs State Park 19158 SW 81st Pl Rd Dunnellon, FL 34432 FL State Parks Reservations	Bob & Lyn Masters blmasters@icloud.com	Rally fee: \$10/adult Park is full. Register with Wanderinglabs.com to be notified of park openings.
October 15 - 18	Hanna Park Hangout & 2026 Annual Meeting	Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park 500 Wonderwood Dr Jacksonville, FL 904) 255-6767 Hanna Park Reservations	David & Susan Poole susyqmeetup14@gmail.com	Rally fee: \$10/adult
November 10/29 - 11/2	Florida Sand Music Ranch	Florida Sand Music Ranch 85 Myers Road Brooksville, FL Register with club only.	Jeff & Mary Krabel k62gt@gmail.com Judy Barrett	Rally fee: \$10/adult FAC sites held by the park, \$35/night pay at check-in. Water/30 amp. Dump \$15.
December 4 - 6	Cracker Christmas Festival Service Rally & Installation Dinner	Ft Christmas Historical Park 1300 N Fort Christmas Road Christmas, FL 32709 Register with club only	Steve Kane SteveKaneProductions@gmail.com	No Rally fee Host has arranged campsites, Water/10 amp. Dump fee \$15, 7/min away at nearby campground
2027 Rallies				
January 15 - 18	Airstreams at the Fort	Fort Clinch State Park 2601 Atlantic Avenue Fernandina Beach, FL FL State Parks Reservations	Dan & Debbie Forney dfor83@gmail.com Gina & Bruce Fafard	Rally fee: \$10/adult
February 12 - 15	Love Streamin'	Jonathan Dickinson State Park 16450 SE Federal Hwy Hobe Sound, FL FL State Parks Reservations	Patrica Dovi patricadovi@gmail.com	Rally fee: \$10/adult
February 26 - 28	Hollow Point Farm Music Rally	Hollow Point Farm 8625 W County Road 476 Bushnell FL, 33513 reservations at (813) 375-2517 (Ask for Bruce Watson)	Maryanne & Mike Swegles / Jamie & Paul Littman	Rally fee: \$10/adult
March 4 - 7	Spirit of the Suwannee	Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park, 3076 95 th Drive, Live Oak, FL 32060 Spirit of the Suwannee	Mike & Gina McGinn / Judy Barrett	Rally fee: \$10/adult Park reservations at (800) 224-5656
March 15 - 19	Feelin' Lucky	Skidaway Island State Park, 52 Diamond Causeway, Savannah, GA 31411 Skidaway Island	Patrica Dovi patricadovi@gmail.com	Rally fee: \$10/adult
April 15 - 19	Chillin' on Island Time	Margaritaville Orange Lake, 18365 NW 45 th Ave Road, Citra, FL 32113 Camp Margaritaville	TBD	Rally fee: \$10/adult

2027 Rallies - Continued				
Dates	Rally Name	Campground & Reservation	Host	Notes
May 27 - 31	Floating into Summer	Rainbow Springs State Park 19158 SW 81st PI Rd Dunnellon, FL 34432 FL State Parks Reservations	TBD	Rally fee: \$10/adult
June 4 - 7	Official Summer BLAST OFF	KARS Park, Audubon Road, Merritt Island, FL 32953 Reservations (321) 867-7967 (Ask for Eddie, Reference Patrica Dovi)	TBD	Rally fee: \$10/adult
Jun / Jul 26 - 1	ACI International	Sweetwater Events Complex, Rock Springs, WY	ACI	Information and registration 2027 ACI International Rally
September 2 - 6	Last Float for Fall	Moonshine Acres, 10089 US Hwy 27, Fort White, FL 32028 Reservations (833) 744-6378 Ask for Tina or Ryan)	Patricia Dovi	Rally fee: \$10/adult
October 14 - 18	Summer Crush Winery / Annual Meeting	Summer Crush Winery, 4200 Johnston Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34951 Winery (774) 460-0500	TBD	Rally fee: \$10/adult Reservations: Book thru Harvest Host, RV Overnight or Hip Camp
November 11 - 15	Friendsgiving	Mary's Fish Camp, 8092 Mary's Fish Camp Road, Weeki Wachee, FL 34607 Reservations (352) 597-3474 (Ask for Grant)	TBD	Rally fee: \$10/adult
December 2 - 5	Cracker Christmas Festival Service Rally & Installation Dinner	Ft Christmas Historical Park 1300 N Fort Christmas Road Christmas, FL 32709 Register with club only	Steve Kane SteveKaneProductions@gmail.com	No Rally fee Host has arranged campsites, Water/10 amp. Dump fee \$15, 7/mins away at nearby campground
Dec / Jan 30 - 2	New Year, Same Friends	Anastasia State Park, 300 Anastasia Park Road, St Augustine, FL 32080 FL State Parks Reservations	Brenna & Joe Loretta / Patricia Dovi	Rally fee: \$10/adult

Important: More rally information can be found on the club website and Facebook page. Remember to RESERVE and REGISTER. Make your own RV reservations with the campground (unless otherwise instructed above) and then register for the rally and pay your rally fee at <https://airstreamclub.org/florida/rallies-and-events>. It really helps the Hosts to know who is coming so they can plan and send updates. If you need to cancel or make changes, please email the Hosts. ACI members and their families are all welcome to attend.

Did You Know



According to a recent study, most Americans prefer state park campgrounds to private ones. The survey found that state parks typically offer more appealing features, including better scenic locations and facilities, not to mention lower prices. The first state park in the United States was Niagara Falls State Park, which was established in 1885. Florida residents can make reservations in Florida state parks eleven months prior to their camping date. That is one month earlier than non-residents. Bit of a snowbird leg up when making those winter month reservations.

Recent Rallies

Additional rally information and photos can be found on the Club's Facebook page: [Florida Airstream Club 027](#)

May – Cirque du Airstream – Donna and Tom Wahlig, Gina & Bruce Fafard



Our Oscar Scherer State Park Rally combined great food, outdoor adventure, and lots of fun. Members enjoyed the Legacy Trail, visited Selby Gardens at Historic Spanish Point, and explored local beaches and restaurants. On Saturday, an excursion to the Ringling Museum gave members the opportunity to experience Sarasota's rich art and circus history. The evenings featured circus-themed games, a juggling demonstration, and plenty of laughter. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a memorable weekend of fun, friendship, and adventure.

June – Happy 70th Birthday FAC –



During an extended weekend there was silver at Fort Wilderness for the club's 70th anniversary. Disney Orlando is always an amazing place to visit and to camp. The campground is positioned between Epcot and the Magic Kingdom and near the Animal Kingdom. All the Disney parks are within a short boat or monorail ride. Campers enjoyed all that Disney offers while making new friends, hanging out in the parks, riding the rides, seeing the shows and laughing at the Disney characters. Disney was a fun way to celebrate the club's birthday.



Sunshine Committee

This column is the place where we congratulate members' having major life accomplishments or share best wishes for those experiencing difficult times. Please call in or send notifications for Sunshine Committee publication to: Deb Oppel 763-670-8772, sunshine@floridaairstreamclub.org.



For the past six years, Susan Poole has faithfully served as editor of the Florida Airstream Club's newsletter, producing six outstanding issues each year. Her dedication, creativity, and attention to detail have kept members informed and connected, and her work has become an important part of our club. We are deeply grateful for the countless hours she has devoted to making each issue something we all look forward to reading.

While Susan is passing the editor's baton, her service to the Florida Airstream community certainly doesn't end here. Along with her husband, Dave, she continues to be actively involved in the Florida Airstream Club, and she will remain the Region 3 newsletter editor. Thank you, Susan, for your exceptional commitment and years of outstanding service. We wish Bob and Lyn Masters as the new newsletter editors every success as they continue the tradition you have so thoughtfully established.

New Members and Affiliates



Hope to see you at a rally soon!

Members

William & Rosemary Baird
12316 St. Augustine, FL

Edward & Margaret Eicher
3672 Punta Gorda, FL

John Galman
4210 Boca Raton, FL

Tara & Howdy Jones
4122 Lakeland, FL

Kimberly & Scott McLemore
3894 Crestview, FL

Michael & Melanie Oswalt
3325 Sanibel, FL

Tom & Brittany West
26124 Dunnellon, FL

Dennis & MJ Weston
23714 Lakeland, FL

Affiliate Members

Janet & Steven Artise
4151 The Villages, FL

Mike & Kerri Bussel
2895 Sarasota, FL

Lisa Belcher & Eric Olson
4289 The Villages, FL

Club Merchandise

Club Clothing



T-shirts, hoodies, hats, bandanas, tote bags, etc. with the Florida Airstream logo (in a variety of materials, sizes and colors) are now available for ordering online. Now is the time to get ready for future rallies with your very own Florida Airstream Club logo apparel.

Check it out at:
florida-airstream-club.myspreadshop.com



Florida Airstream Flags

Flag



Garden Banner



Pricing

2' x 3' Florida Airstream Flag
(200 Denier Nylon / Tape Heading & Grommets)

\$60.00 Each

3' x 5' Florida Airstream Flag
(200 Denier Nylon / Tape Heading & Grommets)

\$90.00 Each

12' x 18' Florida Airstream Banner
(200 Denier Nylon / 1" Pole Pocket on Top)

\$38.00 Each

Contact The Flag Loft to Order Today. Shipping Estimate 1-2 Weeks

800-995-FLAG (3524)

If you would like your garden banner personalized with your names, BRN, and/or home city and state, contact Susan Poole who will embroider up to 17 characters per line, up to 3 lines (no charge).
susyqmeetup14@gmail.com.

Florida Airstream Club, Region 3, Unit 27



Airstream Club International. (ACI) Inspired by the international caravans of Wally Byam, creator and founder of Airstream, the Wally Byam Caravan Club (WBCC) was initially chartered in 1955. Since then, the name has been amended to Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. (WBCCI), and Wally Byam Airstream Club (WBAC), and now Airstream Club International (ACI).



The Florida Airstream Club was originally chartered as the South-Eastern Unit in 1956 making us and the Ohio unit the first and oldest units. We conduct rallies all over the state. Staying true to Airstream tradition we include lots of great food, activities, and opportunities to get to know one another in relaxed atmospheres. Visit us on the [Florida Airstream Club](http://FloridaAirstreamClub.com) website.

New member applicants may apply online at the ACI website. Contact the club Membership Chair listed below if you have questions.

Want to be an Affiliate? If you are a member of another ACI club and want to become an affiliate of the Florida Airstream Club, do it online anytime during the year. Just log into the ACI website and pull down the menu under your name in the upper right corner, select "Manage My Membership" and click on the box to add an affiliate club. You can pay the \$10 annual club fee on-line.

Email Address Changes: Remember to keep your email address up to date so that you can receive this newsletter and the club can contact you as needed. Email addresses are only maintained in the ACI data base and not by the Florida Airstream Club. If your email address changes, please contact ACI membership to revise your address. You can notify ACI of your email address or other changes at membership@airstreamclub.org or call them at (937) 596-5211.

2026 Club Leadership

Executive Board

President:	Gina Fafard	president@floridaairstreamclub.org
1 st Vice President:	Open	first_vp@floridaairstreamclub.org
2 nd Vice Present:	Patricia Dovi	second_vp@floridaairstreamclub.org
Treasurer:	Bruce Fafard	treasurer@floridaairstreamclub.org
Secretary:	Gina McGinn	secretary@floridaairstreamclub.org
Trustee:	Judy Barrett	trustee_1@floridaairstreamclub.org
Trustee:	Brenda Marr	trustee_2@floridaairstreamclub.org
Past President:	Mike McGinn	pastpresident@floridaairstreamclub.org

Appointed Positions

Badge Committee Chair:	Gina McGinn	badge_committee@floridaairstreamclub.org
Charitable Project Chair:	Open	charity@floridaairstreamclub.org
Communications Editor:	Randy Godfrey	communications_editor@floridaairstreamclub.org
Historian:	Jeff Krabel	historian@floridaairstreamclub.org
Membership Chair:	Brenda Marr	membership@floridaairstreamclub.org
Newsletter Editor:	Lyn Masters	newsletter@floridaairstreamclub.org
Social Media Editor:	Judy Barrett	social_media@floridaairstreamclub.org
Sunshine Committee Chair:	Deb Oppel	sunshine@floridaairstreamclub.org
Webmaster:	Steve Oppel	webmaster@floridaairstreamclub.org