Good Life News

November 2026

Florida Airstream Club, Region 3, Unit 27

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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.

President's Corner



Hit the Road - and Bring Your Stories Along!

As summer winds down and the Florida heat begins to almost loosen its grip, I find myself thinking about what makes being part of the Florida Airstream Club so special. Yes, it's the shiny silver trailers, the beautiful campsites, and the excuse to explore places we might never visit otherwise. But more than anything, it's the adventures we share and the people we meet along the way.

This summer, some of our FAC members took that spirit of adventure to an entirely different level!

My epic summer adventure took us north as we traveled with our first caravan, The North to Alaska Caravan, led by our very own club members – Mike and Gina McGinn. We took in breathtaking scenery, new experiences, and plenty of miles of adventure. Others made their way to Minot, North Dakota, for the Airstream International Rally, joining thousands of fellow Airstreamers from across the country. What an incredible reminder that our little silver trailers can take us just about anywhere!

But you don't have to travel thousands of miles to find adventure. Some of the best memories happen much closer to home—around a campfire, exploring a new trail, sharing a meal, or simply getting to know fellow Airstreamers.

As we head into Florida's prime camping season, I hope you'll take a look at the upcoming FAC rallies and pick an adventure—or two! If you're a regular rally-goer, invite someone new. If you've never joined us, this is your invitation. And if you've thought about organizing a rally or caravan, we'd love to have you jump in. You don't need to be an expert. You just need to be willing to say, "Let's go!"

So, hitch up, grab your camp chair, and let's see where the road takes us next. Your next great FAC adventure may be just around the bend!

Happy travels,

Gina Fafard, President
Florida Airstream Club



Rainbow Springs State Park, Donnellon, FL

Arctic Ocean – Airstream Style Part 2

Hello again! This article is a continuation of our article in the last newsletter. If you didn't read that one, I suggest that go do that now…I'll wait…. Done? good!

In the first article on our way north to Tuktoyaktuk (Tuk), Canada on the Arctic Ocean, I mentioned that we passed by a few towns. The term town is a pretty strong term for most of these places. Eagle Plains was the first with a whopping 9 people living there. We stopped long enough to fill our freshwater tank and to get attacked by a gazillion mosquitoes. The fuel stations in the towns were typically a pair of pumps. One for gasoline, the other for diesel. I don't even think they listed the $$/gallon. If you need it, you are going to buy it. Period.

Dust was crazy! If you didn't pull over when a truck went by you would likely drive off the road. Speaking of crazy, we were camped about 22 miles north of Eagle Plains at the Arctic Circle sign when we heard a plane fly overhead. Right overhead! It disappeared, then it drove (taxied) past us in the pullout and parked in front of the Arctic Circle sign for a picture. That was quite a sight!! He was heading to Tuk. A much faster trip for him.



Then came Fort McPherson, population 647 nestled between the two ferry crossings. For its position on the planet, it was a pretty complete little town. Kirkland brands (Costco) were prevalent in all the stores. Produce and meat were available but cha-ching expensive!!

The next town on the road is Inuvik Northwest Territories (3300 population). In Northwest Territory terms Inuvik is huge! We found a campground within walking distance of the town center. We didn't really have a plan on what to do in Inuvik, so we just wandered. We walked through the Northern Mart which is basically a very remote very tiny Walmart type store. You could buy anything from snow machines to groceries there.

After that we walked to the visitor center and were told that the curling & hockey rink was just around the corner. We went there hoping to watch or do some curling. That didn't happen because there was an Arctic Development Expo being held there. The Expo was free and open to the public so in we went. We spent a couple hours talking to the people working the booths, drinking free coffee, and eating cookies. We had a great time telling our story and hearing about what people do in and around Inuvik. We were informed that we were going on a tour of the town to discuss food security in the area. We visited a greenhouse that used to be a hockey rink, and several different food banks that service the area. The most interesting of the food banks was run by the indigenous group that helps provide for the locals in the area. They ran a herd of 6000+ caribou. They controlled hunting and processing of the herd and had giant freezers of meat to prove it. I am not talking about packages of steaks. There were shelves filled with all the different parts of caribou frozen solid. Without getting too gross, it was like something from a Steven King novel.



We eventually realized that the tour was being led by the mayor of Inuvik. We had a great chat with Mayor Peter. It turns out that he is also an Airstreamer. We tried to get him to join the club but he claimed he was too busy doing mayor stuff. (not to mention that he was miles and miles and miles from the nearest local club in Canada).

The next day was our final push to Tuk. The end of the road! On the way there the view was flat tundra as far as you could see. Except for the Pingos, which stick up here and there. What is a Pingo? I thought you would never ask! It's a hill popped up out of the (otherwise flat) tundra. They can be 300 ft tall. You could (should) GTS (Google That Stuff) and read all about the hydrostatic pressure caused by the permafrost. Just

imagine a giant frozen pimple poking up out of the ground. We rolled into Tuk, got a campsite then drove up to the Arctic Ocean sign for the obligatory picture with our Airstream. It was an awesome view! Ice as far as you could see. Darn the bad luck! Can't do a polar plunge.

The town of Tuk is very small and very weather worn. We walked around and saw the sights. Had our view of the Arctic Ocean out our camper window. It was cool to see all the other crazy adventurers that made it up there. They all pretty much did it because, because they could, or because someone said they shouldn't. Same kind of minimal services in Tuk. Fuel and food were available. If you needed something you just had to pay the price.



The drive up and back for that matter was a real slog. You looked at the miles going by ever so slowly. We were lucky to drive 20mph for hours on end, 1100 miles at 20mph takes a while. The traffic was mostly other adventurers and gravel trucks. We managed to get back to Dawson City without buying any fuel along the way. Our truck has a 109-gallon capacity. I really wanted to see if I could make it to Tuk and back on the one tank. I did a lot of mental math as we passed the last fuel stop on the way back. (It made my brain hurt). We had about 15 gallons to spare!

The truck and camper were filthy. Mud and dust everywhere. It took a LOT of loonies (Canadian $1 coins) to get them washed. Hours and hours of dusting and tightening screws to get everything ready to roll again. Now to prepare to lead the North To Alaska Caravan, except that we needed to drive another 1200 miles south to start the caravan! Mike & Gina McGinn - BRN 7226

Hitch-up - Pitch in - Make a Difference

Great clubs don't run on aluminum - they run on people! The Florida Airstream Club is looking for a few enthusiastic members to hitch up, pitch in, and help make our club even more fun, connected, and welcoming.

OPEN POSITIONS - PICK YOUR ADVENTURE!
⛺ Rally Hosts: Love discovering great places and bringing people together? Help plan and host a rally—or team up with others to create a memorable camping adventure.
❤️ Charitable Project Chair: Help the Florida Airstream Club make a difference beyond the campground by coordinating our charitable giving and community service efforts.

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. JUST A WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED! You don't have to know everything. You don't have to do it alone. We'll provide support, guidance, and plenty of fellow Airstreamers to help along the way. For more information on how you can volunteer for a position and help shape the future of the Florida Airstream Club, reach out to Gina Fafard, president@floridaairstreamclub.org.



Happy 70th Birthday Florida Airstream Club



Fort Christmas – Club Service Project

There are plenty of ways to celebrate the Christmas season, but few are quite like gathering a group of Airstreams beneath the Florida sky, sharing a meal with friends, sitting around a campfire, and spending a few days helping preserve a little piece of Florida history. That is exactly what makes the annual Florida Airstream Club Cracker Christmas service rally at the Fort Christmas Historical Park's craft fair such a special event. Last year there were over 25,000 estimated visitors to the weekend event!



Fort Christmas Historical Park preserves a collection of historic Florida "cracker" homes and buildings, along with a reproduction of the 1830s Second Seminole War fort that once stood nearby. For several days, club members become part of the event itself by helping the Fort Christmas Historical Society with a variety of tasks. Volunteers assist in preparing the historic buildings, with parking and as docents to provide information to park visitors, along with other tasks all providing a vital service in making a large community event run smoothly. Airstreaming has always been about more than where the trailer is parked. It is about the people you meet along the way and the communities you become a part of.

The days at Fort Christmas offer a nice balance between service and free time. Volunteer assignments are divided among the members, allowing everyone to contribute while still leaving time to enjoy the surrounding area. Between assignments, members can explore the park, the craft fair booths, nearby attractions or simply relax beneath the Florida sunshine. For those who enjoy Florida's natural side, the area provides plenty to explore, including wetlands, trails, wildlife, and remarkably dark night-time skies to include an occasional rocket launch from the nearby Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, the club holds its annual officer installation dinner during the rally to recognize the club's incoming leadership while enjoying an evening together.



This year will mark the Florida Airstream Club's 28th year of participation in the Cracker Christmas celebration. It is one of the ways the club has shown itself to be more than just a camping club. Steve Kane – BRN 3987

Did You Know



Airstream is literally the oldest continually existing travel trailer business in the United States and perhaps the world. Founded by Wally Byam, the Airstream Company's humble roots stem from Wally's attempt in the 1920's to build an easier way to camp for his wife, who didn't like sleeping on the ground. His first effort of converting his Model T into a tent-on-wheels garnered attention and made him realize that he could build and sell a fully enclosed quality camp trailer.

Although today most campers are made from fiberglass, that technology was not commercialized until 1936. By that time, Wally had established his Culver City, California factory using aluminum panels like aircraft and was having some success initially building and selling "Airstream Torpedo" camper kits that he advertised in Popular Science and fully assembled trailers selling for $1,200. The oldest existing Airstream, shown right, was built from a kit in 1935. Of the more than 400 travel trailer builders operating in 1936, Airstream was the sole survivor of the Depression.



Florida Airstream Club Rally Schedule

Dates	Rally Name	Campground & Reservation	Host	Notes
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 dforn83@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 95th 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 Skidway Island	Patrica Dovi patricadovi@gmail.com	Rally fee: $10/adult
April 15 - 19	Chillin' on Island Time	Margaritaville Orange Lake, 18365 NW 45th Ave Road, Citra, FL 32113 Camp Margaritaville	TBD	Rally fee: $10/adult
May 27- 31	Floating into Summer	Rainbow Springs State Park 19158 SW 81st Pl 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

2027 Rallies - Continued				
Dates	**Rally Name**	**Campground & Reservation**	**Host**	**Notes**
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.

Recent Rallies

Additional rally information and photos can be found on the Club's Facebook page: Florida Airstream Club 027

September – Fall Into the Spring – Bob & Lyn Masters



Airstreamers headed to Rainbow Springs State Park near Dunnellon for an extended weekend get together. Activities included sharing meals, swapping Airstream stories at happy hours, river tours, kayaking, tubing and of course, s'mores. Rainbow Springs State Park is a beautiful park, from the crystal clear (and delightfully cool) water of the Rainbow River to the man-made waterfalls, picturesque gardens and hiking/bike trails in the park. The campground, with full hook-ups is always in high demand for good reason. It is definitely a state park to visit and enjoy.

October – Hanna Park Hangout – David & Susan Poole



Hanna Park is a huge park, offering bike trails, hiking trails, a lake for canoeing and fishing and a beautiful white sandy beach. We had 12 rigs with 22 people and 8 dogs who joined us for the rally plus 4 others came to the clubs annual meeting. We also built sandcastles and some dogs dressed up in costumes or performed tricks. Sabrina and Peter Heise, under the supervision of their dog Biscuit, won first place in Molded Sandcastles while Dianne Mahan and her son Shawn won first place for Free Form sand creations with their flamingo. On the last night David Poole brewed up some yummy chicken stew.



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.



Randy and Pat Godfrey joined the Florida Airstream Club in 2007. Randy was elected that same year to serve on the Club's 2008 Board as the 2nd Vice President. He later served as 1st Vice President, and then in 2010 as President of the club. With Pat's help, they hosted and supported many Club rallies. In 2016, Randy was elected Region 3 2nd Vice President, served in that role for two years, and then as 1st Vice President for one year.

Since being club President, Randy has continued to contribute in various roles. He served as the Newsletter Editor, he coordinates and transmits the club's email election ballots, bulletins and the newsletters to the membership. He chairs the Communications Committee consisting of the Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Social Media Editor assuring that information is consistently shared across the club. Not to mention, Randy has been the Master of Ceremonies for the past 10 years hosting the Officer Installation Ceremony to recognize existing club leadership and install the next years club leaders.

Randy continues to be an exceptional representative and dedicated member of the Florida Airstream Club and we are truly delighted to have the Godfrey team in our FAC family.

Florida Airstream Club Annual Meeting Report

The club's 70th annual meeting was held October 17th at Hanna Park. Club President Gina Fafard welcomed members, shared a State of the Club update, celebrated 2026 rallies, and thanked the many volunteers who keep our club rolling. Treasurer Bruce Fafard reported that the club is in excellent financial standing, and that we will be conducting an annual financial audit per club guidelines in the next few weeks. Inspired by a rousing message from Past President Mike McGinn, several members stepped up to volunteer for key roles, including Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, Assistant Treasurer, and Audit Committee.

The election of the club officers was held with attending members and when combined with the membership electronic ballots received previously the following officers were elected to serve in 2027:

- President - Gina Fafard – Our current club President will serve an additional year to provide continuity as we prepare for the anticipated leadership transition in 2028.
- First Vice President - Patricia Dovi – Patricia moves up from this year's Second Vice President. We thank her for arranging the exciting rally schedule for 2027.
- Second Vice President - Dan Forney – Dan has been an active member of our club. He and his wife Deb have held volunteer positions at the Region 3 and during International rallies.
- Treasurer - Bruce Fafard – We appreciate Bruce's continued service in this key role for another year.
- Secretary - Gina McGinn – Gina is continuing as our secretary and we are grateful for keeping our meeting minutes organized, assisting with our annual election, and mailing out our club badges.
- Trustee - Judy Barrett – We additionally thank Judy for her continued support as the club's Facebook Administrator.

We also want to thank our new volunteers filling appointed positions, Brenda McCullers (Membership Chair), Maureen Woods (Newsletter Editor), Peter Heise (Assistant Treasurer), and Ray McCullers (Auditor).

The meeting was a great opportunity to celebrate the club's 70th birthday and recognize the people who make it all happen. We look forward to another year of friendship, fun, and Airstream adventures. Here's to more miles and memories ahead!

New Members and Affiliates



Hope to see you at a rally soon!

Members

Thomas Andrews & Lisa Marshall
BRN 11353, Wellington, FL

Jack & Carrie Buchanan
BRN 12301, Palm Coast, FL

Allan Brewer Cappellin & Andreina White
BRN 25723, Pompano Beach, FL

Marcio Cemin & Carolina Uribe
BRN 6860, Miami. FL

Michael Dark & Carolyn McKune
BRN 13892, Gainesville, FL

Andy & Brenda Emanuele
BRN 10508, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada

Eric & Kelly Huff
BRN 5973, Fort Myers, FL

Robert Mukadam
BRN 27370, Carrabelle, FL

Gregg & Erica Sayers
BRN 4136, Atlantic Beach, FL

Markus Teras
BRN 6846, Ocala, FL

Carlos & Olga Vara
BRN 9475, Pinecrest, FL

Vittorio & Karen Zanchetta
BRN 20989, Ocala, FL

Affiliate Members

Fred & Victoria Basnett
BRN 8275, Dunnellon, FL

Steve & Tamara Benefiel
BRN 9310, Lewisville, NC

Bob & Mary Ann Fish
BRN 6542, Crestview, FL

Larry & Jennifer Habel
BRN 2823, Penacook, NH

David Hare & Alba Lucia Perez
BRN 2651, Hollywood, FL

Gary & Jackie Jensen
BRN 6799, Fort Pierce, FL

Brad & Beth Kaufman
BRN 13375, Citra, F

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 & Garden Banners





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
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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 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
1st Vice President:	Open	first_vp@floridaairstreamclub.org
2nd 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