

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: Matt Pinzio, President

Welcome to a New Year!

As you may know the leadership of the club has changed for the next year. Tim McDow has moved on to be our Past President, I'm Matt Ponzio your new President, Suzy Caldwell is the 1st VP, Pam McDow is our 2nd VP, Judi Fogel will continue as our Secretary and Linda Laviano will continue as our Treasurer, David Robshaw will be the Communications Secretary position (This position will replace the corresponding Secretary). For 2026 the trustees are -Jeff and Valerie Boyd, George Caldwell, Vickie and Chuck Wasson and Tom Henderson (also our Newsletter editor) and our new grievance chair is Jill McCullers she's the one to see if you have any issues.

We have a busy year already planned for 2026 including Fort Wilderness, the Florida Keys, the Region 3 Rally will be in our home state and the International Rally in Minot, ND.

Our executive board will be meeting in late January to begin planning our 2027 Season, if you haven't completed the Survey that was emailed out please do so, we will use that information for future planning, if you didn't receive it let me know and I will get it out to you.

My wife Kim, Sea Jay and myself look forward to meeting you at a future Rally! Until then we will see you down the road.

Matt Ponzio
South Florida Unit 30 President

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Board of Directors

Matthew Ponzio,
President

Susan Caldwell,
1st Vice President

Pam McDow
2nd Vice President

Linda Laviano,
Treasurer

David Robshaw
Communications Secretary

Judi Fogel,
Recording Secretary

Lewis Fogel,
Parliamentarian

Tim McDow,
Immediate Past President

Trustees

2yr George Cardwell

2yr Chuck Wasson

2yr Viki Wasson

1yr Tom Henderson

1yr Valerie Boyd

1yr Jeff Boyd

Committee Chairs

David Robshaw, Membership

Jill McCullers, Ethics &
Grievances

Tom Henderson, Newsletter
Editor

Judi Fogel, Sunshine
Committee

Maria Linares, Audit

Tim McDow, Webmaster

David Robshaw, Public
Relations & Social Media

*Please WELCOME Our New
Unit 30 Members & Affiliates*

New Members & Affiliates

Eric and Tracy Montagnino, BRN 12022, Regular

Erica and Mandy Smith, BRN 6974, Regular

Gail Maready, BRN 6270, Regular

Jim Zabcik/Anne Hoyt, BRN 3255, Affiliate

Richard and Michelle Lee, BRN 1104, Affiliate

Brad and Beth Kaufman, BRN 13375, Affiliate

Christopher and Julie Gifford, BRN 11770, Affiliate

Aleece and Stephen King, BRN 4800, Affiliate

Philip and Elissa Miller, BRN 23232, Affiliate

Jayne and John Dicus, BRN 7560, Affiliate

Joel and April Weber, BRN 18700, Affiliate

Rune and Robin Moeller, BRN 21090, Affiliate

Jay Lane and Kathryn Campbell, BRN 4088, Affiliate

Leon Lupien and Michelle Plunkett, BRN 7032, Affiliate

Charles "Bill" Pickeral and Cory Barger, BRN 11485, Affiliate

Rip Rippe and Cindy Woods, BRN 6250, Affiliate

Jamie and Erica Jolles, BRN 7819, Affiliate

Lucretia and Anthony Brannon, BRN 20572, Affiliate

We currently have 193 member rigs, 105 Regular and 88 Affiliate rigs.

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.

Stories should be submitted in MS WORD or Apple PAGES format.

Photos should be submitted in .jpg or .jpeg format.

Email them to:

thomashenderson@usa.net

*Thank you to those of you who have contributed
stories and photos to this edition.*

SFAC Unit 30 Treasurer's Report, December 2025

Submitted By: Linda Laviano, Treasurer

2025 YTD Financial Report January 1, 2025 - October 24, 2025

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Dues	\$1,740.00	Refunds Joint Holiday Rally	\$364.50
2024 Joint Holiday Rally	\$795.68	Rodeo Rally	\$1,885.10
Rodeo Rally	\$2,115.00	Ball Park Rally	\$1,137.22
Ball Park Rally	\$1,190.00	Top of Georgia Rally	\$4,493.44
Top of Georgia Rally	\$4,507.08	Spring Rally/ABM	\$4,278.60
Spring Miami Rally/ABM	\$4,452.00	Keys Rally	\$1,582.76
Keys Rally	\$1,800.00	Pumpkin Fest Installation Rally	\$1,823.36
Pumpkin Fest Installation Rally	\$2,488.00	Rolling the Coast Rally	\$141.48
Rollingthe Coast Rally	\$255.00	2025 Holiday Rally Activity	\$904.76
2025 Holiday Rally Activity	\$904.76	2026 Disney Rally Activity	\$ -
2026 Disney Rally Activity	\$6,864.00	Charity Donations Rally Sites	\$1,745.00
		ACI Heritage Donation	\$5,000.00
		ACI Fundraiser Bricks	\$500.00
		Member Appreciation	\$161.45
		Office Supplies/Badges	\$226.48
		Sunshine Supplies	\$16.68
		Exec. Board Retreat	\$152.83
Total Income	\$27,111.52	Total Expense	\$24,413.66
Checking Account Balance	\$2,848.23		
Savings Account Balance	\$12,333.80		
Total Account Balance	\$15,182.03		

Our Income has exceeded our Expenditures through the first 10 months of the year by \$\$2,697.86.

Holiday Social Popups

The South Florida Airstream Club again hosted several **“Holiday Social” pop-up events** this year, at different locations across the state to allow our broadly dispersed membership to attend at least one, not too far from home.

While these social events are a great way to connect and share the warmth of the season with your fellow Airstream Club members, they are also a primary way in which Unit 30 raises money for donations to a local community charity. Each charity is chosen by the host of the event. We suggest that each person or rig donates ~\$20 to the host’s organization. Of course, you may donate even if you don’t attend a Holiday Social pop-up event.

Another wonderful benefit is that these events draw many “new” faces – folks who may have recently joined the club or our Facebook group but are shy about camping or rallying with us or joining Unit 30. They enjoy the opportunity to come and get to know us for a few hours before committing a weekend or more to camping with a group of people they’re unfamiliar with.



Unit 30 will provide appetizers – coordinated, ordered, and provided by the event host - at each pop-up. All other food/drink orders are self-pay.

The following is information about each of the December 2025 events:

MIAMI/FT. LAUDERDALE

DATE: 11 December 2025, Thursday

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Rendezvous Bar and Grill

ADDRESS: 2525 Marina Bay Dr W, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.

HOSTS: Suzy and George Caldwell

CHARITY: Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center

CLERMONT, FL (CLOSE TO ORLANDO)

DATE: 7 DECEMBER 2025, SUNDAY

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Buffalo Wild Wings

ADDRESS: 2465 S. Highway 27, Clermont, FL 34711

HOSTS: Tom Henderson

CHARITY: Matthew's Hope Ministries

CHARITY DONATION LINK: https://matthewshopeministries.harnessgiving.org/donate/?selected-method=monthly&amount=25&campaign_id=0

This event was purposely scheduled to coincide with our Holiday Buddy Rally at Lake Louisa State Park. You are welcome to attend this event even if you're not attending the rally! Please join us! RSVP via text to your host Tom Henderson at (561) 317-0703.



BABCOCK RANCH, FL (CLOSE TO PUNTA GORDA, CAPE CORAL, FORT MYERS)

DATE: 13 DECEMBER 2025, SATURDAY

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: M'Xuma Mexican Grill

ADDRESS: 42091 Cypress Parkway, Suite 9, Babcock Ranch, FL 33982

HOSTS: "Doug" Douglas

CHARITY: Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge

CHARITY DONATION LINK: <https://www.floridapanther.org/donate>

Please RSVP via text to your host Doug Douglas at (305) 796-7111.

JUPITER, FL (CLOSE TO PALM BEACH, STUART, LOXAHATCHEE)

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2025, SUNDAY

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Lindburger's - Jupiter

ADDRESS: 1695 W. Indiantown Road, Suite 2-5, Jupiter, FL 33458

HOSTS: Tim McDow/Kate Hillman

CHARITY: St. Peter's Catholic Church – Food for Families

CHARITY DONATION LINK: <https://www.stpeterjupiter.com/food-for-families-1>

Please RSVP by text to your host Chuck Wasson (561) 373-3900.

SARASOTA, FL (CLOSE TO BRADENTON, PALMETTO, NOKOMIS, VENICE)

DATE: 17 DECEMBER 2025, WEDNESDAY

TIME: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Bavaro' - Sarasota

ADDRESS: 27 Fletcher Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237

HOSTS: Ken and Debbie Perdue

CHARITY: Resurrection House – Day Center for the Homeless of Sarasota

CHARITY DONATION LINK: <https://rhrs.org/donations/>

Please RSVP by text to your host Ken Perdue at (270) 726-0022.

Quick tip from Lewis Fogal

Control Trailer Swerve

The most unusual aspects of trailer towing involve swerve control. When a swerve starts, the natural instinct is to apply the tow vehicle brakes, but that is the **WORST** thing to do. Slowing down will help, but not by using tow vehicle brakes! Apply the trailer brakes independently until the swerve is controlled before starting to brake the tow vehicle. Unless the swerve is severe, the trailer brakes will correct it without any other action. *From Trailers & Fifth Wheels Made Easy*

South Florida Airstream Rallies

Airstream International, York PA

By Tim McDow

Thursday August 21

Linda's Birthday

Unit 30 helps Linda Laviano celebrate her birthday at International with a social celebration of Champaign and two cakes, Chocolate and Velvet.



Friday August 22

Gettysburg NP

Fire Social at McDow's

John & Lori Turner brought their Solo stove over to the McDow's trailer to help host an evening of social meet up with Unit 30 members and affiliates that arrived at International early.



Saturday August 23

Fogal's Group Arrived

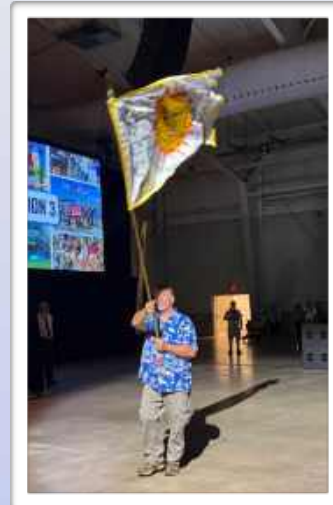
Skiddle Scatter Game

David setup an afternoon of Skiddle Scatter (Viking Bowling). We had two games of 6 players. A great time was had by both participants and spectators.



Opening Ceromony Ponzio carries Unit 30 Flag

Linda heads up the the community collection For International collecting for Friends and Neighbors of Pennsylvania. Unit 30 made a strong presence volunteering at International this year.



Flip Flop Keys Rally

By Susan Caldwell

Grab your flip-flops and your sense of adventure—the South Florida Airstream Club just wrapped up a rally from September 17th to 22nd that was pure Florida Keys magic. Hosted by Dave Robshaw & Linda Laviano and George & Suzy Caldwell, the rally overflowed with sunsets, laughter and island vibes. Here's the breezy recap.

Wednesday: “It’s 5:00 Somewhere”- Jimmy Buffet Kick-Off

The week began the only way the Keys know how: cocktail shakers in motion and flip flops! Guests checked in, set up, and headed to the Ocean View Lounge for the “It’s 5:00 Somewhere” welcome gathering. Signature Planter’s Punch cocktails and mocktails set the tone while everyone swapped road-trip stories and introduced themselves. Creative spirits joined the Beachy Sanddollar Sip & Paint, turning tiny sea treasures into keepsakes. Dave did a great job of introducing each participant.

New this year: ribbons on nametags for “First Unit 30 Rally,” “My First Ever Rally,” and “Rally Host.” This was a hit and everyone had a great time and learned a little about each other. We had Megan & Erik Hand as First Ever Rally folks- they’ve been in their Airstream only two weeks. We also had Candy & Jim Holthaus- also First Ever Rally and they’ve had their Airstream for 18 years! And finally Donna Dini & Tracy Strange (of the

Razorbacks Airstream Club) as First Ever Rally ribbon winners. There were a significant number of First Unit 30 Rally goers as well- too many to list here! As per usual, it was “bring an appetizer evening” and there were some delicious treats. I personally enjoyed the asparagus and dipping sauce brought by Anne Hoyt and Jim Zabcik (Unit 30 first timers!). We had some great door prizes and Tom Reed donated an amazing handmade Airstream nightlight.



Thursday: “Everywhere you go, you always take the weather with you”- Jimmy Buffet

Morning storms did not slow the fun. While some folks braved going to Founder’s Park, others enjoyed a pop-up coffee and donuts lounge filled with chatting, knitting and laughter. Patti Reed refreshed her crochet skills and by afternoon most of the crowd migrated to Florida Keys Brewing Company, where cold craft brews and a Mexican food truck kept the island vibes and spirits strong. Sandee & Mike Howell dropped by and it was wonderful to see them. We had a groovy tour of the Florida Keys Brewing Company, and headed back to the campground. Some folks did their own thing- Patricia Bauman & Doug Dolan (first Unit 30 rally, aka “Wandering Westies”) checked out the giant lobster sculpture and April & David Smith and Jo & Tim Love ventured down to Key West.. That evening we were treated to a delicious Luau by Mike & Debbie Bianchi (first time Unit 30 rally!)- words cannot describe the amazing food and hospitality. This was wrapped up by a hysterical game of the Not Quite Newlyweds hosted by the Sun Outdoors Entertainment Director- George Rushing. The participants were great sports- Jim & Candy Holthaus (celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary!), Christy & Michael Krukliniski, Brittney & Montana Pritchard, and Jo & Tim Love (from the North Texas Airstream Club, First Unit 30 rally; Tim helped many folks out with Airstream repairs). Turns out that Christy and Michael knew everything about each other and were the winners. We had a little evening dip in the pool until rain scared us all out.

Friday: “Mother, mother ocean, I have heard you call...” - Jimmy Buffet

Water was the theme of today. The weather totally cooperated and poolside lounging kicked things off before a tasty MASA-sponsored lunch of Publix subs and chips. We were back in the pool for the afternoon enjoying our fully stocked cabanas with snacks and drinks. Frankie & Donna Montagnino went back to one of their favorite restaurants, Marker 88 for the second time this trip! The evening finale? A picture-perfect Islamorada Sunset Cruise, complete with a champagne toast and that famous Keys pink sky. Many of our rallymates were on this cruise. Lea and Rob Stanton had some big smiles on their faces as well as Vinnie Valle and Janine Rickner. John and Joyce Sundman were also onboard- before leaving us for the day on Saturday for the



UM vs. UF game. You have to see the photos to believe the beauty of that sky. Our final rallymates, Lisa Brady and David Bradford joined us that evening.

Saturday: “Fins up, Parrot heads!”- Jimmy Buffet

Saturday mornings were made for pools and pie. Again we had phenomenal cooperation by the weather. Attendees mastered a no-bake Key Lime Pie recipe (presented by Linda), later served at the evening’s Island-Flair Catered Dinner. There was a surprise pop-up margarita bar served poolside by the hosts Dave and George as



well as a tattoo parlor manned by artist Brittney Pritchard. Ken Purdue tried his hand at fishing- you can ask him about his luck. For dinner, everyone showed up in their tropical prints, Parrothead shirts, and brought plenty of laughter. Julie & Jim Nicholas pitched in with the serving duties and George Rushing returned with a wildly entertaining twist on Bingo. Did you know that Linda Laviano and Debbie Perdue both love the song Aquarius and have some incredible dance moves? We all tottered off to our trailers and slept very well that night.

Sunday: “There’s a thin line between Saturday night and Sunday morning” - Jimmy Buffett

We awoke to another day of gorgeous Islamorada weather. Some folks had to leave today and we were sad to see them go. The adventure for some continued at Theatre of the Sea, where dolphins, sea lions, and parrots stole the show. Others hung out at the pool and the more adventurous headed out to explore the keys. We had a fantastic pop-up of Pizza courtesy of April & Dave Smith (from North Texas Airstream Club, and with help from Jo & Tim Love) and Mike & Debbie Bianchi supplemented with more food treats and cocktails from the Bartsian (google it!). The group capped the day with a relaxed dinner at Islamorada Fish Company and then we lit up the rally lights for a spectacular drone photo by Dave



& April Smith.

Monday: “Changes in attitudes, changes in latitudes, nothing remains quite the same” - Jimmy Buffet

A breathtaking sunrise closed out the rally. With hearts full and coolers empty, our rallymates packed up at their own pace, already dreaming of the wonderful memories, friends made and spectacular water. Until we meet again, keep those flip-flops handy and your Airstream adventure-ready. The Keys will be waiting.

PUMPKIN FEST INSTALLATION RALLY

By Linda Laviano

Rallying at Myakka River State Park has become a Unit 30 tradition. For the third year in a row, we met for the Pumpkin Fest Installation Rally at this gem of a state park. Also, for the third year, Liana Mezza and Sandra Gonzalez hosted the rally with help from a team of eager volunteers, including their spouses, Ron Mezza and Harry Gonzalez.

The fun started Thursday evening October 23rd with a welcome gathering at the rustic log pavilion featuring lots of appetizing food, and some tossing of the beach ball to get to know our rally mates. Among the first timers were new members, Kate Hillman, and Clive and Sarajane Towndrow. We also welcomed new affiliates, Robin and Rune Moeller, and Sabrina Taraboletti. Bruce Haase, and Mark and Val Starnes rounded out the newcomers.

The next morning after breakfast, many of the group headed out to the Myakka Elephant Ranch Conservation Center where we learned about the work being done to care for the “retired” elephants residing at the ranch. The highlight of the presentation was getting to pet the very large, but gentle residents and to take pictures as well.

Heading back to the park, we gathered for a bike ride through the park and some wildlife viewing led by Val and Jeff Boyd, and Mark Pyles. The bike riders returned in time to join in on the fun in progress at Mike and



Debbie Bianchi's spooky pop-up, complete with drinks and food provided by our generous hosts.

Saturday started off with a talk from Ranger Natalie. She gave us an overview of the variety of birds and animals inhabiting the park as well as the best spots to find them, and tips for what to do if you encounter one of the many alligators in the park – don't run in a ziz-zag!

The highlight of the rally was the installation luncheon attended by most of the 55 rally attendees as well as 13 other members who came to see our newly elected executive board be sworn in and to enjoy a catered meal from Tijuana Flats, dessert and some fun door prizes.

Parliamentarian Lewis Fogel swore in the new officers with the assistance of former region president, Patti Reed. The 2025 – 2026 officers are: President: Matt Ponzio, First Vice President: Suzy Caldwell, Second Vice President: Pam McDow, Recording Secretary: Judi Fogel, Treasurer: Linda Laviano, Trustees (one year) Jeff Boyd, Valarie Boyd, and Tom Henderson, Trustees (two year) Chuck and Vicki Wasson, and George Caldwell.



Following the installation ceremony, the first meeting of the newly installed board was conducted.

Sunday was a day for crafting, HAM radio instruction, and smash burger making. Barbara Burgner showed her patience and skills by leading a popular session on pine needle weaving. Bill Burger presented a session on Ham Radio

Communications which was well attended and informative. Some hardy folks hiked out to Deep Hole to visit with nature and the gators.

A pop-up session of popular Viking Bowling led by Abrom (Doug) Douglas and Tim McDow, kept everyone busy until it was time to start the smashburger production line. It is said that many hands make light work, and it is never truer than when making smashburger for 50 plus hungry Airstreamers. Special thanks to the grill masters, Bill Burgner, John Zimmerman, George Caldwell, Dave Robshaw, Ken Perdue, Tim McDow, and the rest of the crew.

We ended the evening with more door prize drawings, some dancing and lots of laughs as we wrapped up another great rally at Myakka River State Park. In what has become another Unit 30 tradition, a portion of the rally fees was donated to Friends of Myakka River State Park, a 501(c)3 volunteer organization dedicated to the support and protection of Myakka's magic.

Rolling The Coast Rally

Stop 1 - Fort Clinch State Park

By Valerie Boyd

The kickoff to our "Rolling the Coast" rally was at the beautiful Fort Clinch State Park. Our hosts were Jeff and Valerie Boyd for this portion of our rally. Some of the highlights were a pizza night on the first night at delicious V Pizza and a fun icebreaker led by Jeff. Many of us stayed for the trivia after pizza. The next day was busy!



Our first event was an informative geocaching seminar led by Barbara Colson. We were given a glimpse into this very cool hobby and a great way to meet people and explore different areas!

Next, we had a very interesting tour of Fort Clinch led by our tour guide, John. It was an informative and entertaining tour with much interest in this historical gem.

Many of the group explored the adorable town of Fernandina Beach, wandering through shops and restaurants. We then took a sunset cruise, which was a beautiful night for all! We saw wild horses on Cumberland Island and many dolphins! Some folks ventured into the Palace Saloon, Florida's oldest bar!

The Boyd's hosted a fire following all the activities to end our day, and there were a variety of desserts!

The next morning, our event ended with a group bike ride around the beautiful park through the canopy trees and down to the beach.

This park is a special place, and it was a lot of our members' first trip to that area.

Rolling The Coast Rally

Stop 2 - Anastasia State Park

By Linda Laviano

Twenty-five gleaming rigs rolled into Anastasia State Park on a sunny Friday afternoon. Everyone had time to explore the area of Anastasia Island and historic St. Augustine before gathering at our host's site for a campfire. At the campfire hosted by Linda Laviano and David Robshaw we welcome 2 more couples to our rolling group. Judy Harrison and Elwyn Exum, and Tom Progar and Eileen Schuff joined us for the two nights at Anastasia. We stayed warm around the fire drinking hot cider, mulled wine, and sharing travel tips for the next day.

Saturday was a free day and started out with some of the group participating in a 5K walk. Linda



Laviano, Sabrina Taraboletti, and Lori Turner were joined by Unit 30 rally first-timers Bill and Adrienne Shubin and Mary Colao for a beautiful walk along the beach at Anastasia SP. The weekly Farmers Market next to the park attracted most everyone in our group for shopping, eating, and listening to live Bluegrass music. The very popular Nights of Lights began that evening and the crowds on the island and in town were impressive!

Unit 30 rally first-timers Red and TJ Breen were among the folks who biked, walked, and shuttled into town to see what National Geographic Magazine has deemed one of the top 10 holiday light displays in the world. Val and Jeff Boyd welcomed daughter Ainsley to town and Tim and Pam McDow made it a full family affair with their daughter, son, and future daughter-in-law driving in for the event.

Sabrina hosted a pop-up campfire that night for those who stayed behind, and Darla Furst got everyone talking about their favorite camping locations. Lots of great ideas for future travels were shared. First-time Unit 30 rally attendees Kevin and Nina Craven were unable to attend the campfire but performed a stealthy flocking mission in the wee hours of Sunday morning. They will be joining us for another rally soon.

Sunday morning, Sherri Jones led thirteen of us on a nature walk to look for the Gopher Tortoise that make their homes in the park. We saw some burrows, but the tortoise must like to sleep in. Sherri really studied up on the topic and made the walk fun and informative.



We said good-bye to Jim McCormack and Alfonso Gonzalez, Bob and Carolyn Barnes, and Val and Jeff Boyd who were departing from the rally and got ourselves and our rigs ready to roll on to our final destination only 30 miles down A1A, Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area.

Rolling The Coast Rally

Stop 3 - Gamble Rogers

By Vinnie and Janine Rickner

We arrived at Gamble Rogers Memorial State Park the afternoon of November 16th. We all arrived at various times through the afternoon and once settled in and having eaten dinner we all gathered at Vinnie and Janine's campsite for s'mores and casual conversation.



Our first full day at Gamble Rogers began with Sunny skies and cool temps. We had an open morning to visit the town and have a look around. For lunch many of us met at a wonderful restaurant, The Golden Lion. Great food and great views being just across the street from the Atlantic. After lunch Viking bowling was a hit at Linda's and David's site followed later by a fire and conversation.



Another beautiful day welcomed all on November 18th as some of us got on our bikes and road off into town. Starting on the bike path along A1A we road for a short distance then cut down to Flagler Ave which ran along the river. a nice, quiet road with a beautiful canopy along most of the stretch we rode.



We finished the day with a wonderful cookout where everyone brought their proteins and side dish over to our campsite. We had several bbq grills setup and ready for cooking. We finished the evening with great conversation, food, and some more S'mores!



Holiday Buddy Rally

By Tom Henderson

The Unit 30 Holiday/Buddy Rally at Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont had something for everyone. Especially for those who like all kinds of weather and off site adventures. Thursday night, December 4th, the Rally got off to a great start with a Heavy Hors d'oeuvres gathering at Co-Hosts Barbara and Bill Burgner's. Friday many of the attendees went to the Gaylord Palms ICE Sculpture.



We were all bundled up to stay warm in the Seven Degree temperature needed to keep the ice sculptures holding their shape. The ICE Sculptures included many holiday season scenes from the first Christmas in Bethlehem to beloved children stories including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.



Our President and First Lady and Family

After visiting ICE the group reassembled at the Town Tavern at Celebration for an early dinner and to watch the snow fall on Main Street.



Saturday Morning young and old meet at the Popup Tents for the building of Gingerbread Houses lead by Co-Hosts Pam and Tim McDow. It was lots of fun for all but the results of the project varied widely.

In the afternoon we visited the Lake Ridge Winery north of Clermont and enjoyed music under the live oak trees and a tour and tasting at the the Winery before rain ahead of a cold front cut the visit short. Rain continued through the evening but did not dampen the holiday fun. Judges toured the campground and agreed on a winner of the trailer decoration contest... Affiliate Members from the Treasure Coast Unit Sharon and Joe Moura. The abundant deserts, hot chocolate, mulled wine and campfire for warmth and s'mores made the evening bright.



Sunday was a free day but activities were limited by rain. In the evening the last scheduled activity saw two dozen of us drive to the first of several Unit Holiday Regional Popups. It was a enjoyable evening at the local Buffalo Wild Wings with old and new friends and we raised almost \$500 for the local food bank.

Classic Hawaiian Macaroni Salad

This macaroni salad that was served at two recent rallies by Debbie Bianchi received lots of praise and requests for the recipe. Debbie shared this from the online source:

https://foodfolksandfun.net/wprm_print/classic-hawaiian-macaroni-salad

FOR THE DRESSING:

2 cups half-and-half
2 cups mayonnaise (Dukes is recommended)
1 ½ Tablespoons grated yellow onion
1 Tablespoon dark brown sugar
2 teaspoons pepper
1 teaspoon salt

FOR THE MACARONI:

1 pound elbow macaroni
¼ cup apple cider vinegar
5 green onions white and green parts sliced thin
2 large celery ribs chopped into 1/4-inch pieces
1 cup grated carrots

MAKE DRESSING:

In a medium bowl whisk together the half-and-half, mayonnaise, grated onion, dark brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of salt, and 2 teaspoons of pepper until smooth. Refrigerate until needed.

COOK MACARONI:

Cook the macaroni as per the package instructions, except add 5 minutes to the cooking time on the package instructions (you want the macaroni to be very soft and plump so it absorbs the dressing better). Drain the macaroni into a colander and then dump it back into the pot. Add in the apple cider vinegar and stir until the pasta absorbs the vinegar. Cover the pot with a lid and cool for 20 minutes at room temperature.

TO FINISH:

Add half of the dressing and stir to combine. Then, cover the lid and cool for another 20 minutes. Add in the remaining dressing, green onions, celery, and carrots to the pot and stir to combine, and season with salt and pepper if needed.

Cool completely to room temperature, about 30 more minutes.

Transfer the macaroni salad to a bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours before serving.

McDow's Trip After International

By Tim McDow

Mills Norrie State Park

Park had limited sites with 30A electric only. They do have a nice dump station. They have limited water stations and no water at the sites. The sites were not very level. Though it was a great location if you want to visit FDR Library, I wouldn't stay here for more than 1 to 2 nights max. If you do elect to stay there, try to get sites 37, 39 or 41.



Travelers Woods

Bernardston, MA

This location was picked to visit Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library. The library is closed on Sunday's. This is also close to Yankee Candle World, the home of Yankee Candle.

Cedar Haven Campground

Freeport, ME

The campground is pretty pricy for one night, \$79. It does have a lot mod amenities available with a large interactive playground for kids and has FHU. The campground is very close to L.L. Bean flagship store, where you can spend the day walking the wonderful town; if you have any money left.



Acadia Schoodic NP

Schoodic, ME

This side of Acadia is much quieter than Bar Harbor side. Sites are very spacious with 50A and water, there is a dump station available in each loop. We stayed in site B29, a pull-thru site.

Bar Harbor, ME

Spent the day driving the loop road and stopping at the scenic sights. The coast road around Sandy Beach and Cadillac Mountain provided some exceptional scenery. We learned that you now need reservations to go the Cadillac Summit now, so make your reservations! The port of Bar Harbor had a cruise ship in town and was very busy and too touristy for me.



Parrsboro, Nova Scotia **September 7-12**

Arrived at Glooscap Campground on the Bay of Fundy, site 68. The site is right on the cliff of the bay. This area has some of the oldest Dinosaur fossils in the Funday Geological Museum. While here we did daily excursions.



September 8

Drove to the Fossil Cliffs to look for fossils on the shore line. There we found fossils of plants, fish and animals. We then found our way to the Bubbling Shores. This is a

100 yards of shore that bubble air from the deep shore line of rocks trapped during the low tides, then being expelled during the new incoming tide. Was told this is the only place in North America with this unique bubbling shore. We then traveled to the Cape of Or to see the Light House and the Dory Rips. After driving there we found the lighthouse to be closed. The cliffs were pretty and we were able to see some of the rips off shore.



ARCTIC ADVENTURES

By Tom Henderson & Carol Rubiera

After spending much of the early summer visiting family in Tennessee, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania, we parked our Airstream and took off in search of some cooler weather. Last year Tom spent part of January in Antarctica. He had such a good time he booked a trip to the Arctic before leaving the ship. We flew out of Orlando to Oslo, Norway. After several days seeing the city's sights and resetting our body clocks, we flew on further north to Tromsø where we boarded the Atlas Ocean Voyages' World Traveler. Atlas, based in Fort Lauderdale, has several expedition yachts, no more than 200 passengers, built for polar expeditions and summer European trips.

We sailed north for two days from the Norwegian mainland to the Svalbard Archipelago. The closest island is almost 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This group of islands is home to the most northern inhabited settlements of Earth. The main attractions are beautiful Arctic landscapes, glaciers and abundant wildlife.



Most days included a Zodiac boat ride to explore a remote rocky landing site, a fjord with glaciers down to the waterline or cliffs which are the summer home to thousands of nesting sea birds.



The arctic wildlife was certainly the highlight of the trip. We were able to observe closeup polar bears, arctic foxes, walrus, seals and reindeer along with puffins and many other sea bird species.



We were awakened one morning at 6:35 AM with announcement that a Polar Bear was off of the ship bow. We watched from several hundred yards away as the bear enjoy breakfast of a seal she had caught. The bear, apparently as curious about us as we were about her, after breakfast jumped from iceberg to iceberg until she was only a few yards from the ship.



Several times we just road near the ice pack accompanied by pods of seals and flocks of sea birds. We could only wonder of how these animals could thrive in such a barren seascape hundreds of miles from land. On one such ride we were about 435 mile from the North Pole. We went out to explore the nearby ice field several miles from the ship.

While we were enjoying the icebergs and animals, the ice flow surrounded the World Traveler and we had to wait to approach until it backed out into open water.



SFAC Unit 30 - 2026 Rally Schedule								
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Site fee</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Reservation window opens</u>	<u>ShowRunner/CoRunner</u>
Jan 8-11	Canopener	Topsail Hill Preserve SP	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Emerald Coast AS Club	~42/night	Pre-Canopener begins 12/28/25	NOW	N/A
Jan 23-25	U30 EB Workshop	Paradise Park	Punta Gorda, FL	U30	~50/night	Everyone's invited! Let Matt know you're coming - he'll handle reservation.	NOW	McDow/ Ponzio
Feb 19-23	Disney Rally	Fort Wilderness	Lake Buena Vista, FL	U30	~220/night	Standby list	NOW	Robshaw/ ???
Mar 4-8	Region 3 Rally	Sun n Fun Aerospace Expo Campground	Lakeland, FL	REG 3	~325/rally	Standby list	NOW	Region 3
Apr 16-20	Pirates in Paradise Keys Rally and ABM	Sun Outdoors	Islamorada, FL	U30	~107/night	Standby list	NOW	Bianchi/ Perdue
May 15-17	Newbie Rally	Bermuda Lakes	Fort Myers, FL	U30	~90/night	In cooperation with North Trail RV	TBA	TBA/TBA
Jun 12-14	Buddy Rally	Margaritaville	Auburndale, FL	U30	~90/night	Cabins available for "buddies."	TBA	TBA/TBA
Aug 22-27	69th International Rally	Minot ND	Minot, ND	ACI	TBA	airstreamclub.org to register	Open now	ACI
Sep 25-27	Springs Rally	Strawberry Fields	Chiefland, FL	U30	TBA		TBA	TBA/TBA
Oct 22-25	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA/TBA
Nov 5-9	Pumpkin Fest	Myakka River SP	Sarasota, FL	U30	~33/night		Dec 5, 2025	TBA/TBA
Dec 3-6	Unit 129 Holiday Rally	Sarasota Fairgrounds	Sarasota, FL	Suncoast AS Club	~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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