



# Taking Charge

**Delivery:** On December 15th, the excitement was almost overwhelming as we drove to Airstream of Tampa to pick up our new rig. The fanfare, the balloons, our rig set up as the center of attention was all pretty heady. However, after being told to set aside six hours for learning all the systems, we were disappointed with a lightning-fast walkthrough. “Don’t video,” they said. It’s all online at Airstream Support. It isn’t, but thank goodness for YouTube. We do recommend the dealership for making the best deal, and Justin in the Service Department for being the amazing, empathetic person that he is.

**First Trip:** To avoid stops and turns which burn energy and human attention, we decided to travel on I-75. Our ProPride hitch made it feel like we were pulling a trailer of half the weight—full control, no sway, and 158 miles of range! In Ocala we stopped to use a fast charger with easy access. Unhitching and charging the truck was a breeze. Hitching back up was another story. After two hours and a call to the dealership who patched in Justin on his day off, we were back on the road.

**First Park:** In the dark, we arrived at the Clay County Fairgrounds, and surprisingly we were able to maneuver into the spot quickly. And while our ProPride is the safest way to travel, the hitching and unhitching are complicated and require practice. In the end, we got unhitched but it nearly cost Jenn a finger! If anyone is interested, the campground has water, electric, and sewer with level sites and clean restrooms and showers.

The next couple of weeks were all about organizing the Airstream and our storage. After selling most everything in the estate sale, we were amazed at the amount of stuff that needed our attention. For everyone with a house full of stuff, our advice is start working on it now—it’s called the ‘Swedish Death Clean’. Start with one drawer. Then that becomes two drawers, and before you know it, the entire dresser is done. And so on.

**Starting Our Adventure:** On Christmas Eve, we pulled out of the Fairgrounds and took a nice route down 17, 19, and 27 to get to the Clerbrook Golf & RV Resort in Clermont—straight shot with no charging. Our only problem was being assigned a sandy spot that was not anywhere near level. Luckily, a nice neighbor helped us get level.

**Christmas Eve** was spent with family, and we got to have the traditional opening of gifts on Christmas morning with Emma. Leftovers never tasted better, then we settled in and watched *The Gilded Age*. We love us some Julian Fellows!

**Traveling Companions:** We have two pets traveling with us. Lola is a 17-year-old Teacup Poodle all of four pounds. Ori is a two-year old Blue Russian who was a foster fail. Ori tries to become Lola’s bestie every day, and though Lola pretends she can’t be bothered, we think Ori is growing on her.

The most wonderful thing we have learned is that the folks in campgrounds are very friendly and willing to help. With 2023 almost in the books, we are still organizing, but getting closer every day to getting a routine. On New Year’s Day, we’ll move to Hanna Park in Atlantic Beach for the first two weeks of January, so you may see us around Magnolia Point.

*Happy New Year everyone!*

