AIRBOAT ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

January 2026 NEWSLETTER

SFWMD

As most of you have heard, the South Florida Water Management District wants to raise the water level more behind the club.
So how does this project pertain to the Airboat Association of Florida? If you have come to the Airboat Club in the last 4 years, you have seen the construction on US 41. They are currently raising the road to allow water to flow south to Florida Bay. There will be a new dam structure put across the street from the Airboat Club. They will also be removing 1.7 miles of L-67A canal, degrading 8 miles of L-67C, degrading 4.3 miles of L-29 levee. There will also be an airboat crossing on the Blue Santy for Public Access. Our Board of Directors have been meeting with South Florida Water Management (SFWM) regarding raising the club's property. What was talked about was that if they do raise the club, the club will be under construction for a year. What will be done is as follows: raising the club grounds to 9.7 elevation, the kitchen and caretaker house will be demolished and rebuilt and we will have a 20-foot-wide road with a 25 to 1 slope to the bank of the water.
All of this construction will require everyone who has property stored on club grounds to remove it until the construction has been completed. This includes campers, airboats, trailers etc.
Because of permitting issues with the county, we currently do not have specific dates yet.
If you have any questions or concerns, you can attend the general meeting, which is held on the last Thursday of each month starting at 8PM in the club house.

Power Outage

Because of work being done on power transition lines across the street, there will be no power at the club February 4th, 5th, or 6th.

OFFICERS

Our officers and directors for 2026 are as follows:

President: Bill Miner
Vice President: Richard Washington
Secretary: Charlie Erwin
Treasurer: Mark Kendall

2 Year Directors:
Paul Bailey, Carter Burrus, John Crouch, Mary Erwin, Bobby McEwen, Robbie Taylor

1 Year Directors:
Roy Applegate, Karina Balman, Jason Ivey, Getty King, Karla Larkins, Joel Marco, Dylan Washington

A big welcome to the new directors.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Poker Run

Members and guests, it is that time of the year again. That's right it's time for our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage poker run. It will be March 14th, 2026 at the Airboat Association of Florida club grounds, 7 miles west of Krome Avenue on US41. The last Corned Beef and Cabbage event was an unbelievable success. This year's should prove to be even bigger and better. Dylan Washington and his gang have again volunteered to work their magic as they always do. They do a fantastic job. The band Rough Shot, a dynamic four-piece, high-energy variety band will be playing all day for your music pleasure.
You will probably have someone walking up to you during the day asking for money for the 50/50 raffle. Dig deep, 50% of the money collected goes to the club, 50% of the money goes to the lucky winner. It might be you.

As always, we seem to be having trouble finding volunteers to help out with these events.
Please offer to help out. We need kitchen help, clean-up help, tee shirt help, 50/50 help, parking help, etc.
Be careful on the road, there could be lane closures because of the repaving of US41 in both directions.

Workday

We will be having a workday Saturday March 7th to get ready for the outing. It will be a general cleanup. Bring your rakes, weedeaters, etc.
As always lunch will be served when the work is done.

Homestead Rodeo

The 77th annual Homestead Championship Rodeo will be held At the Doc' DeMilly Rodeo Arena at Harris Field, at the corner of US1 and 312th street in Homestead, Florida
Friday January 30th, 2026 at 8:00 P.M.
Saturday January 31th, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.
Sunday February 1 202 at 2:00 P.M.
Our club's participation in this year's rodeo will be limited because of a lack of people volunteering to help out. It is too much work for just a handful of people to do.

RAFFLE

The club will be raffling off a 36" Blackstone Griddle with utensil kit.
We will be only be selling 500 tickets.
They will be $10.00 each or 3 for $25.00.
The griddle will be raffled off at the October 29, 2026 general meeting.
The winner need not be present to win.

Obituaries

It with great sorrow we announce the passing of two of our members. One was longtime lifetime member Sonny Tillman founder of Sonnys BBQ. He loved fishing, hunting, and frog gigging in his airboat and golfing. He also enjoyed making you laugh with witty stories of his life that may or may not have been true.

The other was longtime member Delbert Alan Mason. Alan was a beloved and cherished individual who was known for being adventurous, compassionate, and devoted. He was a faithful and hard-working person, who was always willing to drive the ride boats carrying guests at our outings.

Both will be missed by all of their family and friends.

Thank you,

Charlie Erwin

Secretary

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