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Editors: TnA Ebbers



Message from our President

Hello everybody,

Our February rally at Pecan Park RV Park in San Marcos began on a cold and drizzly day. The weather was cool to cold for the next few days but did not deter anyone or cause any plans to be changed. Our Airstream family truly rocked the rally.

Our group experienced a diverse variety of tours. The LBJ Museum was informative. At the Wimberly Glass Works we were awed by the glass on display and enthralled by the glass blowing demonstration. The Central Wing of the Commemorative Air Force was inspiring. The planes on display are maintained by dedicated volunteers who maintain and fly these planes at air shows. Thank you to Becky and John Blackhall for the excellent article.

Our gatherings at the rally room found us dining on delicious food prepared by our fantastic chefs. The unique variety of dishes is always amazing. We also welcomed new members into our unit. We socialized, played Bean Bag Baseball and Balloon Volleyball. The men totally dominated the Bean Bag Baseball competition. The women dominated in Balloon Volleyball. Rematches are scheduled for our next rally in Johnson City.

Attending the rally were Carol Wallace and Charlie Williams, Tim and Allison Ebbers, Mark and Peggy Knox, John and Becky Blackhall, Louis Muir and Dick Fletcher, Zephyr and Dan Marek, Dave Toy, Judy and Bill Cody, Billy and Christina Nabors and Joan Ermis.

A sincere thank you to these wonderful people who made our rally a huge success. Our March rally will be in Johnson City. Looking forward to seeing you there.

New Member Article - John and Becky Blackhall

John and Becky Blackhall
Newly Initiated Members 2020

Last weekend we had the pleasure of attending our 1st Texas Hill Country Unit rally at the Pecan RV Park in San Marcos. Even though we had attended a couple of Unit lunches, we were looking forward to spending time and getting to know more about our new Airstream friends. God blessed Texas with beautiful weather

John is a former military pilot (Marine Naval Aviator) and WWII "Buff" and we make every effort to seek out flight and warbird museums during our travels. So, of course, this was a perfect venue to start our rally weekend!! Although we have been to several nationally renowned and significantly larger museums, our visit to the Commemorative Air Force Museum in San Marcos did not disappoint. It only has a handful of static displays.... D-Day veteran C-47 "That's All, Brother", a very-rare flying P-39Q Bell Airacobra "Big D", the B-25 Mitchell "Yellow Rose", an AT-6 Texan "Red Tail", the C-45 Expeditor "Lone Star Lady", and a U-3A Administrator "Blue Canoe". Hangar displays also include an A-4 Skyhawk cockpit and a C-47 cockpit.

Most impressive is *That's All, Brother!* Not just any C-47! On June 6, 1944, *That's All, Brother* led the main airborne invasion of Normandy. Piloted by Lt. Col John Donalson, the plane led over 800 C-47s that dropped over 13,000 paratroopers into a battle. We were allowed to climb aboard to see and feel for ourselves what those young men must have felt when rising from their tin-pan seats must have felt before taking that last "leap of faith".



The Paris Airshow of 2019. In the summer of 2019, it made an epic journey back over the Atlantic. Retacing the classic ferry path from the United States to Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, and England to join up with over 30 C-47/DC-3 airplanes in Duxford, England. On June 5, 2019, *That's All, Brother* flew with 18 re-enactor paratroops who boarded the plane in England.

Most museums have several dummy cockpits to climb into to "get the feel" of the space and "coziness". But this was my "first" to actually sit in the cockpit of a B-25 Mitchell. Getting into the "Yellow Rose" is an experience in itself. But the kind volunteers were there to help with every move....and I managed to heave-haul all my parts up into the sky-high cockpit!! Whoop Hoo!



New Member Article - John and Becky Blackhall

(Continued...)



Well since I was already there...I asked if I could get into the nose gunner compartment. Little did I know I would need to climb on "all fours" through a short metal tunnel to get to the nose. Even though the compartment was much roomier than the cockpit.....it gave me great pause as to the bravery it must have taken those young men to sit there and face the enemy and their internal fears! God Bless everyone of them.

With all this excitement in the hangar, DON'T miss the Central Texas Wing Museum right off the hangar floor. It is comprised of several different rooms dedicated to both the Pacific and European Theater. The museum is first quality and holds many personal effects of Veterans, displays of weapons, memorabilia, exhibits of the WASP's, Tuskegee Airmen, Doolittle Raid, and much more. We were very fortunate to have knowledgeable and caring volunteers walk us through some interesting history....even John didn't know!!! When John was asked if he knew which Bomber was first to complete 25 missions....he answered "*Memphis Belle*" Wrong! Interestingly enough, it was *Hot Stuff*, a B24,

that had a fatal crash on its way back to the States (for a Bond Tour) after completing its 25 missions. The first B-17, *Hell's Angels* completed its 25 missions 2 days before *Memphis Belle*. So, there's a little history for you to learn at this small but important museum. The hangar itself is part of the museum exhibit as an original WWII hangar and the only building from the war still on the field.

We want to thank the volunteers and staff of the Central Texas Wing for their very friendly and knowledgeable tour. They made it so special. We also want to thank Joane Ermis, President, and all our new AS friends for making our "FIRST" the "BEST".





Dinner at Gils Broiler and Manske Rolls was great after the drive to the park and setting up for the week. After dinner, we met at the clubhouse to catch up and chit-chat.

Top left: Bill Cody and Joan Ermis.

Middle left: (left to right) Allison, Zephyr, Dan, Dave, Carol, Charlie, and Mark

Bottom left: (left to right) Judy, Bill, Joane, Dave (back of his head), Carol, Charlie, Dan, Tim, and Zephyr





Breakfast with Manske rolls, coffee and juice. After breakfast, we explored downtown San Marcos and LBJ Museum

Top left: Joan Ermis. Top middle: Lois Muir and Dick Fletcher. Top right: Peggy and Mark Knox, Judy and Bill Cody
 Middle left: Joan, Zephyr, and Tim

Middle right (at one of the San Marcos mermaids): (left to right) Lois, Dick, Allison, Tim, Bill, Judy, Dave, Zephyr, Dan
 Bottom left: (left to right) Joan, Carol, Charlie, Zephyr, Dan, Dick





Lunch at Grins Restaurant was super delicious! After we explored the Wimberly Glass Works and received a demo on how they make glass





Top: Potluck dinner was delicious all around. We were joined by a few more rigs thus making the second evening lively!

Middle: new member initiation. New members were (left to right) Becky and John Blackhall, Christina and Billy Nabors, and Dave Toy. Joan was providing the new member pledge.

Bottom left: Friendly competition of Bean Bag baseball with the women against the men...Game resulted in a skunk out! Men = 16 and Women = 0.

Bottom right: Team who handily won... (top left to right) Dave, Dick, Billy, Bill, Charlie, John, Dan (bottom left to right) Tim and Mark.





Hidden gem in San Marcos. The Central Wing of the Commemorative Air Force with Museum. Don't forget to visit if you are in this area. Museum hosts were very knowledgeable and friendly.



Fun times with balloon volleyball! This time, it was the “Mostly Men” team against “Mostly Women” team. The team who mostly won was the “Mostly Women” team made up of the folks to the left: (left to right top) Tim Ebbers, Bill Cody, (left to right bottom) Carol Wallace (score keeper and Mostly Women’s number one fan), Peggy Knox, Christina Nabors, Allison Ebbers, and Judy Cody.

P.S. Mark Knox successfully and without opposition gave up his title as the “Fall Out of the Chair” guy to Dave Toy.



ROADRUNNER RV PARK
501 US HWY 281 SOUTH
JOHNSON CITY, TX 830-868-7449

March 19-22, 2020

Thursday, March 19*****Arrival Day*****

*****LUNCH ON YOUR OWN*****

- 4:30 p.m. Club House opens for socializing
- 6:00 p.m. Fat Boy Burgers (104 N. US Hwy 281 830-868-0264)
- 7:30 p.m. Socializing at the club house

Friday, March 20

- 7:30 a.m. Coffee in the club house
- 8:30 a.m. Leave for LBJ National Historical Park and Johnson Settlement
100 E. Lady Bird Lane, Johnson City 830-868-7128 (Tours on the hour---LBJ's Boyhood Home)
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch at Hye Market 10261 W. US Hwy. 290
- 1:45 p.m. LBJ Ranch* in Stonewall 2 miles east of Stonewall on U.S. 290 830-868-7128
OR Afternoon free to explore the area or shop
- 5:30 p.m. Club House open for socializing
- 6:30 p.m. Heavy hors d' oeuvres (Bring dinnerware/setup)(Instant Pot Demonstration)
- 7:30 p.m. Bean Bag Baseball

Saturday, March 21

- 7:30 a.m. Coffee in the club house
- 10:00 a.m. Hill Country Science Mill (101 S. Ladybird Lane 844-263-6405)
- Noon Pecan Street Brewing (106 E. Pecan Drive)
- 2:30 p.m. Exotic Resort Zoo (Tram ride through the Park; Seniors-\$15.95, Other \$16.95; 235 Zoo Trail 830-868-4357)
OR Afternoon free to explore the area or shop
- 6:00 p.m. Heavy hors d' oeuvres (Bring dinnerware/setup)
- 7:30 p.m. Balloon Volleyball followed by games (Types played at Region)

Sunday, March 22

- 7:30 a.m. Coffee in the club house
- 8:30 a.m. Devotional

*****SEE YOU AT REGION 9 RALLY*****

*The Texas Whitehouse and adjacent Pool House are closed. All other park facilities are open. This includes the driving tour and the LBJ Ranch Hanger Visitor Center. The Hanger Visitor Center features exhibits, a 14 minute film, and a Western National Parks Association sales outlet.

*****DINING*****

- Black Spur Coffee Shop---100 W. Main 209-418-5641
- Bryans on 290---300 E. Main 830-868-2424
- El Charo's---502 S. US Hwy 281 830-868-7040
- Fat Boy's Burgers---104 N. US Hwy. 281 830-868-0264
- Lady Bird Lane Café---101 S. Lady Bird Lane 830-832-7884
- Pecan Street Brewing---106 E. Pecan Drive
- Ronnie's BBQ (Lunch only)---211 S. US Hwy 281

*****SHOPPING*****

- Echo---100 N. Nugent Avenue 830-321-0080
- Texcetera---207 N. Nugent Avenue 830-868-2419
- Vintage 205---205 E. Main Street 830-868-7676

*****WINERIES*****

- Arc de TEXAS 787 Mountain Top Road (11 AM-7 PM) 512-587-9656
- Hahne Estates Winery 104 E. Pecan Avenue 281-702-2850
- Texas Hill Country Wineries FM 1323 872-216-9463
- 290 Vinery 300 W. Main Street, Ste. 115 (Noon to 6 PM) 830-321-4321
- 290 Wine Castle 101 Durango (Noon to 5 PM) 512-790-2654

Arrival Days

- Tuesday - Arrival Day
- Wednesday - Unit Day
- Thursday - 20s Dress Day
- Friday - Free Day
- Saturday - Board Meeting
- Sunday - Departure Day



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Region 9 Activities

- Breakfasts
- Dinners
- Door Prizes
- Entertainment
- Flea Market
- Ice Cream
- Seminars
- Games

**Region 9
Texas - Oklahoma**



**51st ANNUAL
REGION 9 RALLY
April 14-19, 2020
"THE ROARING 20S"**



Mineola Civic Center
1150 N Newsom Street
Mineola, Texas 75773

**Join us for the 51st
Region 9 Rally
Mineola, Texas**

It's unclear exactly how the town of Mineola got its name. While some claim a railway official named it after his daughter, Ola, and her BFF, Minnie, others say the name was created by a surveyor who combined his daughter's name with her friend, Minna.

The Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River encompasses 2,911 acres located in Wood County, and is home to East Texas species of critters that can fly, walk, crawl, and slither, and home to more than 193 species of birds, numerous wildlife, buffalo, long-horn cattle, and a pristine wetlands environment.

The Waldo Way is a Grade A Raw Milk Dairy Farm. Our beautiful Guernsey Gold cows are raised on grass all year round and they are our partners in this business. The store features Guernsey rich, velvety golden milk, yogurt, butter and Kefir.

Mineola Historical Museum is staffed by enthusiastic historians, this free museum is located just one block from Mineola's main street.

Lake Country Playhouse is one of the longest running movie theaters in Texas, having been in operation since 1920. Despite its old-school looks and retro neon sign, this cinema plays first-run movies as well as community theater productions.

There is a small farmers market at the train depot in downtown Mineola every Saturday starting in May and continuing for as long as the weather holds out.

**Region 9
Registration Coupon
"The Roaring 20s"
51st Anniversary Rally
April 14 - April 19, 2020**

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

WBCCI # _____ Region _____

Unit _____

Handicap Parking: Yes No

Parking Fee will be \$30 / Night

Tuesday - Saturday	\$ 150
Wednesday - Saturday	\$ 120
Thursday - Saturday	\$ 90
Friday - Saturday	\$ 60
Saturday	\$ 30

Rally Fees

Tuesday - Saturday	\$ 100
Wednesday - Saturday	\$ 80
Thursday - Saturday	\$ 60
Friday - Saturday	\$ 40
Saturday Arrival	\$ 20
Teen age 13-16	\$ 40
Youth age 12 & Under	Free

Parking Fee:.....\$ _____

Rally Fee:
\$ ____ / Adult x _____ \$ _____

\$40 Teen x _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed.....\$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:

**WBCCI Region 9
Mail To: David Thompson
2200 4th Avenue #305
Canyon, Texas 79015**

Region 9 Rally is getting close. It is only a few months away. I wanted to let everyone know that the Airstream Caravan training will be presented this year. If you are interested in learning more about developing and leading a unit, region or national caravan this is a good opportunity. The training is about three and one half hours long depending on discussions. If you think you might be interested, please email Lyle Snow, our region caravan chairman, with a copy to me. Lyle's email address is lyles51@comcast.net.

This will let us know how many handouts that we need to print. I will be sending more information on the rally in a few days. See you there. Bill Kindle (Region 9 President)



March Birthdays

14 Mark Knox

18 Joan Ermis

23 Myron Fisher

Happy Anniversary to...

22 Gilbert and Suzanne DePaul

31 Jim and Raisin Schwerdfeger



Directory Additions & Corrections

New members!!

Perry Phipps

The number of cupids from the February newsletter was 9. Shannon guessed the right number. This month, guess the number of (individual) shamrocks you can see. Send me the number and I'll announce the number in the next newsletter. (ally.ebbers@gmail.com)

For the March rally—if you have fun pictures to share and show in the next newsletter, please forward them to me.



texashillcountry.airstreamclub.net

joanermis@hotmail.com

Facebook Page:

Texas Hill Country Unit



Region9.airstreamclub.net

THCU Rally Schedule 2020

A mostly tentative 2020 Rally Schedule is presented for your review. Your comments as club members are requested. There are seven rallies on the list and we hope to see you at as many rallies as you can attend. We would like to have two (2) rigs sign up as Wagon Masters for each rally. Having two (2) Wagon Masters makes everything flow smoothly should one have to cancel close to the rally date. One wonderful fact is that our members all pitch in thus ensuring the rally is a huge success.

The Wagon Masters decide on the activities and choose a theme, if they so desire.

Thank you for taking time to review the schedule. Please text Joan Ermis at 830-263-8378 to reserve your choice city for hosting a rally. Don't delay---schedule today.

2020 RALLY SCHEDULE

REVISED

Dates	Location	Hosts
Jan. 20-24	IBT Las Vegas	-----
Feb. 20-23	San Marcos Pecan Park RV Park 50 Squirrel Run 512-396-0070	<u>Joan Ermis</u>
March 19-22	Roadrunner RV Park 501 US Hwy 281 South Johnson City, TX 830-868-7449	Joan Ermis
April 14-19	Mineola Region 9 Rally	Region Officers Host
May 14-17	Mason (Buddy Rally) Ft. Mason City RV Park 325-347-2064 (Limited avail.)	<u>Doug & Sheryl Wylie</u>
June 20-27	International Rally---Loveland, CO	-----
August	Luncheon	To be determined
Sept. 10-13	Fredricksburg, TX RV Park to be determined (Business meeting)	Carol Wallace and Charlie Williams
Oct. 1-4	Gonzales	<u>Tim & Allison Ebbers</u>
Nov. 12-15	New Braunfels or Galveston	-----

