



COYOTE TALES



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Debbie Pfunder, Editor – dpfunder7@gmail.com

April 2020

All Greater Houston
Airstream Club
Activities and Rallies have
been Canceled Until Further
Notice

Loveland 2020
International Rally
has been Canceled.

Region 9 Rally has
been Canceled.

I hope everyone is healthy and maintaining while quarantined at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. I feel blessed that Debbie and I are well and not dependent on a job to receive a monthly check. It does feel a little like Ground Hog Day around here though.

In the near future, state parks should be opening, and possibly some private campgrounds. Hopefully, by Labor Day, we will be able to hold our rally in Rockport. At that time, we will have our business meeting and annual election. If you are interested in running for office, or know someone that you want to nominate, let me know. We still need hosts and co-hosts for that and future rallies. Let me know if you are interested.



I received an email from Kerry Miller at the Range Vintage trailer resort near Ennis. This is an Airstream and Vintage RV Park. The opening was scheduled for April 24. The website is therangevtr.com. If you go that way, don't forget the Russell Stover candy factory in Ennis (if they are open).

Happy 50th anniversary to Jim and Barbara Mercer. They celebrated on April 17 by going fishing (I wonder who had that idea).

Bruce Lee sent out the results of his rally. I believe he emailed it to everyone. It was interesting to see what we wanted in planning rallies. This should generate further discussion.

We were just notified by Tom Harris that affiliate members, Marilyn and Jerry Thomas were both tested positive for the virus in early April.

Marilyn has recovered and Jerry was hospitalized for 11 days. He is now at home. Jerry is not over his medical issues as of yet.

This will be the last newsletter we send out until we can begin having rallies again. Hopefully, that will be the Labor Day Rally at Blue Lagoons in Rockport. If anything of importance comes up, I will notify everyone by email. Until then, everybody stay safe and healthy.

Clark



Happy Birthday!!

5/1	Matthew Shepard
5/2	Christina Jordan
5/9	Yvonne Hannigan
5/13	Jonette Schmidt
5/15	Tom Harris
5/18	Loretta Higgins
5/18	George Nixon
5/23	Dave Rightmyer
5/25	Bill Hamilton
5/25	Jack Isbell
5/26	Eileen Burch
5/27	Jody Bashor
5/28	Danny Brown
5/28	Peter Gilmore
5/29	Edward Ferrin
5/31	Daniel Schwarz

Happy Anniversary!!

5/22/71	Ron & Janice Lange
5/13/72	Tom & Virginia Taroni
5/18/74	John & Susan Sheridan
5/6/77	John & Terry Fuselier
5/21/77	Wayne & Belinda Hale
5/5/78	Edward & Sharlene Ferrin
5/4/80	Jerry & Carol Goodwin
5/9/97	Chuck Pracht & Cheryl Verlander
5/4/02	Fred & Searcy Kracke
5/25/05	Thomas & Vicki Ketchum
5/6/08	Clark Gardner & Debbie Pfunder
5/29/10	Rick & Laurie Vice
5/21/12	Kent & Lia Laney
5/15/15	Chris & Renee Carantza

Thank you to those that submitted pictures that Clark and I requested earlier this month on what you have been doing before and during this unprecedented time. I really enjoyed seeing all the smiling faces and I'm sure you will too.

I would like to thank Sally Mercer for sharing a picture of her son Kaden learning his math fractions by making ice cream in a bag. What a smart lady! She also shared a picture of her Mother and Father In-Law, Barbara and Jim Mercer during a visit to swap puzzles.



I'd like to thank Jan Rightmyer for sharing pictures of the Georgia Plantations and More Caravan. Jan included a summary of the trip and after reading and viewing the pictures, Clark and I are definitely adding this caravan to our bucket list. See Jan's comments below.

4 couples, Millers, Kindles, McAnultys and Rightmyers, departed Houston for the Georgia Plantations and More Caravan on March 4. We took 3 days to travel as we had our favorite stops along the way. One of them being the KOA at Scott, LA so we could go to Fezzos for dinner and Billy's for Cracklins. We stopped outside of Auburn, AL. at Bar W campground and I must say "you had to have been there". We first saw it from the top of a hill and the driveway had just been filled in an hour before

because it had washed out. We all thought about dueling banjos as we headed down the hill. There were calves running around, a long horn steer, donkeys and LOTS of dogs. It turned out to be a great experience and the owner is one very trusting man. We owed \$35 a night but as we became "charter" members of his club it turned in \$20 cash. We all agreed we would go back if ever in the area again.

We started the caravan at Hard Labor Creek State Park near Rutledge, GA. 3 of us had to go to the overflow camping area the first night as we were a day early and the reserved sites for us weren't available until the next day. We didn't mind as we had huge sites and ours came with greeters....2 Rhode Island Red chickens! We had a fantastic meal at the Blue Willow Inn Buffet the first night. It gave us a taste of Southern food in a Southern mansion. The second day included a tour of the Uncle Remus Museum in Eatonton, GA. We thought there was only one Uncle Remus book and found out that it was a series of 9 books.



Next stop was Indian Springs State Park which is close to High Falls State Park that has a beautiful river with a waterfall and rapids. Beautiful area to visit and the campground has huge sites.

We had lunch at Buckner's Restaurant in Jackson, GA that is served family style to all sitting at the same table. Wonderful all you can eat food! Big round tables with a turn table in the center that they set your food on so you can serve yourself.



Later in the day we toured Juliette, GA home of the Whistle Stop restaurant and Main street (the ONLY street in town) made famous when they filmed "Fried Green Tomatoes" there. Dan McNulty found the local police station and tried to get to "chat"....

The discussion that evening was the corona virus and what to do, 2 couples had already left. The group decided to stay together as long as we could but tours and meals were being canceled on us. Americus, GA. was a challenge. We could get in the KOA but everything was starting to shut down. But we were still allowed into the glass blowing business where you could blow your own glass ball. The owner showed us how to do it and one at a time we made our own



beautiful ball.

While in Americus we traveled a short distance to Andersonville Civil War memorial. It's the site of the Civil War prison which held at one time 52,000 prisoners during its 14 months as a prison. 13,000 prisoners died in that time frame and are buried in the cemetery. It was a very moving place.

They have a data base there with the names of the prisoners so I put in my grandfather's last name and was surprised to find 7 relatives, 2 died and are buried there. I looked them up on our family tree and found they are distant cousins.



We traveled mostly back roads and the next stop turned into our last one. We stayed in a beautifully mowed field under Live Oak trees with Spanish moss hanging down. Across the country road was Bradley's Country Store. Jan, the owner, told us that the store had been in the family since 1927 but her Grandmother had started making sausage in 1910. She is the 3rd generation to operate the store and her daughter will take over some day. They smoke their own sausage right there behind the store. We were glad we were not there on Mondays, that's another story. Jan said that the Georgia Plantations Caravan is the only RVs allowed to camp across the street.



The corona virus was spreading and we were not sure about what we would find trying to get back from Bradley's in Tallahassee. All but 4-5 rigs decided it was time to head home and forego the last stop. We were also down to 3 from the original 4 as Dorma Kindle was ill and they had left the second day of the caravan to head back to Houston. The biggest thing we noticed traveling I-10 all the way was the lack of traffic. It was nice to not have the bumper to bumper traffic but really sad knowing why.

We got home about 10 days before we expected. We felt the caravan was a complete success, seven tho it was cut short. Carol and Winston Montague are SUPER caravan leaders, (this was to be their last one) and they didn't show any signs of stress considering how much was canceled. We were impressed that not one person in the group complained, we all took it as it came and made due with what we had been handed.... Typical Airstreamers

Thank you, Barbara and Jim Mercer, former First Lady and President of GHAC for sharing pictures of and chronicling your 50th Anniversary. We wish you continued happiness and here's to 50 more.

Friday, April 17, was our 50th Wedding Anniversary. How do you celebrate those special occasions family or friends to share your special day, no restaurants open for fine dining??? When I asked Jim what he wanted to do to celebrate our day, his answer was, "Go Fishing!" (What a surprise!)

So, we packed up some gear and a picnic lunch and



headed to the retention pond at our local park. I took along my camera to document our day. We didn't catch any fish, but we did have fun. That evening we enjoyed a delicious steak dinner perfectly complemented by a bottle of Mercer wine which we bought on our Alaska caravan. It was definitely an Anniversary to remember!



Thank you, Bruce Lee for sending a little quarantine humor.



Stinker reading to her "Dad"



A little crafting



We thank Bill Kindle for sending copies of past Coyote Tails with some fantastic pictures of members at past rallies. Unfortunately, we are unable to add them to this month's newsletter. We hope to add them to a future newsletter.

Vernon Goodwin submitted a story about his and Jo's 1950 Globetrotter published in a past issue of The Blue Beret. It is really interesting and worth the read. I hope everyone enjoyed the pictures and stories that our members submitted to the newsletter as I had putting it together. Stay safe.

Sunshine Corner

By Carol Goodwin

A lot has happened since our St. Patrick's Day Rally at the Lake Conroe KOA in Montgomery, Texas. We are now experiencing the worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic and learning how to "flatten the curve" to minimize exposure. We hope everyone is staying safe and practicing recommended precautions. It's hard to keep Airstreamers from traveling when rallies and caravans have been cancelled.

We pray that everyone stays well during this time whether it's this virus or some other illness. Please take a few minutes to pray for those who are sick and the medical staff (including the custodial staff) who attend to these patients. Please pray for those who support our communities such as first responders, grocery store employees, truckers, and many more. Additionally, please support local restaurants to help keep their staff employed.

Because we are having to stay at home during this crisis, I notice a few GHAC members on Facebook making good use of their time. I saw that Tracey Calvert was working on upholstering a couch for one of her dollhouses. It looks like she has two dollhouses- one built by her grandfather and one made from a kit. It looks like she is having a lot of fun fixing them up. What a wonderful hobby!! I saw that Carrie Iversen was having a social distancing picnic in her driveway with a couple of her grand kids. And, finally Jerry and Vernon Goodwin found out that they could maintain social distancing while building a fence for a family member in just one day!!

Let me know what you're doing. That's it for now. Stay safe, everyone!!

2020 Rally Schedule

RALLY	DATE	LOCATION
New years	12/29-1/1	Coushatte
Annual Luncheon	18-Jan	Carrabba's on Kirby
Mid-winter	Feb 12-16	Summer Breeze Cut n Shoot
March Rally	Mar 12-15	Conroe KOA
Region 9 Rally	Canceled	Mineola
April Rally	Canceled	Jamaica Beach
Memorial Day	Canceled	Johnson Creek Ingram
International Rally	Canceled	Loveland CO
Labor Day	Sept 3-7	Blue Lagoons RV, Rockport
October Rally	Oct 1-4	Brazos Bend
November Rally	Nov 5-8	Summer Breeze Katy
Christmas and Installation Rally	Dec 3-6	Conroe KOA
New Year	Dec 31-Jan 3	Coushatte

HERITAGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: We recently received the letter printed below from Robert Steinberger, of Long Beach, California. We hope it provides some perspective of the early beginnings of the Airstream trailer's manufacture and the Airstream Way of Life.

Dear Mr. (Dave) Reed:

I enjoyed your new HERITAGE section and I hope you can make it a regular section. I am 88 years old and in pretty good shape. I received a four-year driver's license my last birthday, no glasses — lucky me!

I have a 1983 Airstream motorhome and a 1950 Airstream trailer and I love them both. I lost my wife a year ago, but I have been on the go ever since.

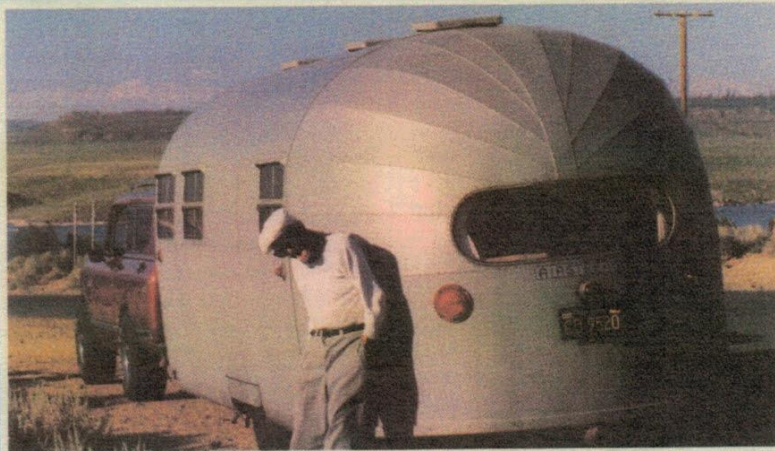
I bought the trailer from Wally Byam personally. At that time, he had no dealers or agents. He had two trailers on a lot next door and one of the 'boys' was testing somewhere on the East Coast.

Well, I didn't like the set-up in the trailers he had there and he had Kaiser aluminum on them. I asked if he had any Reynolds aluminum and he said, "Yes," but it would take two or three weeks to put one together. I told him to go ahead and I would buy it cash.

I was in construction work and doing a remodeling job on a brewery across the street. I carried my lunch and every day I watched Wally and Art Costello build my sweet little old trailer. It has been just wonderful with no trouble ever. It needs new weather stripping around the door now.

Well, I watched my trailer grow up and I enjoy it so much. The amount of insulation and the care with screws and rivets — it is no wonder I have had no trouble. I would sure love to be able to tell those men what I think of their workmanship.

At the end of the first week, Mr. Byam said he was running out of money. I didn't believe him, but I said, "How much?" and he said, "\$700." I said, "Okay."



ABOVE: Robert Steinberger poses with his Airstream, bought from Wally Byam, personally. BELOW: A copy of an invoice for services rendered.

WALLY BYAM, President

Air Stream Trailers, Inc.

— WORLD'S FINEST, LIGHTEST TRAILER BRAND —

1755 NORTH MAIN STREET
LOS ANGELES 21, CALIFORNIA
PHONE 4 - CAPITAL 4100 • CAPITAL 4100

Feb 14, 1950

AIRSTREAM TRAILER ORDER AND CHECK SHEET

R. S. Steinberger
438 Longden Avenue
Arcadia, Calif
Phone Douglas 72801

Serial 1466
Standard Globetrotter model
Double cross bed
Formica topped galley
Large ice refrigerator (non electric)
Three plate dinette front

Right and left signal lights

Price for trailer	\$1890.00
Extra for signal lights	7.00
	1897.00
Sales tax	54.81
License	30.00
	1911.81
Deposit	700.00
Balance	1211.81

Deposit not paid at signing of contract. To be paid Feb 16

Signed *R. S. Steinberger*
Accepted *Wally Byam*

I took the trailer home in a week or so and in a few days, I got a call from Mr. Byam and he wanted me to bring the trailer back to the shop.

The 'boys' had some trouble in their testing and he wanted to make a couple changes on my trailer. They broke the tongue between the gas tank bracket and the coupling, but they welded

a sleeve over that spot and said, "Goodbye," and, "No charge."

That was the last I saw of those men, but they were good mechanics.

I lived in that trailer the next two years in Albuquerque, New Mexico, building a hospital at Sandia Base. I use it as a guest house now.

A Message from Bob Jones RV

Hello to all our Greater Houston Airstream Club members from the gang at BOB JONES RV!

We would like to express our excitement about an advanced service we are providing. BOB JONES RV has invested in a SEAL TECH machine that will pressurize the interior cabin of any coach, allowing us to detect leaks by soaping the complete exterior. It will identify efficiently any breaches in the exterior seal that will cause water leaks ultimately causing damage.

Our service team will pinpoint problem areas on a chart and consult with the customer a plan for corrective action. This is a true cost saving & preventive measure to protect your RV investment. The cost is \$230 - \$345 depending on your coach configuration. So, give us a call to discuss how we can protect your RV, we think you'll be glad you did!

Bob Jones

**RV REPAIRS
& SERVICE**

**GOT A PROBLEM?
WE CAN FIX IT**

We also install Blue Ox tow-bars

**Call Bob or Chris at
713-910-2949**



**Get out there and enjoy your
Airstream adventures!**