

NTU AIRSTREAM CLUB, INC

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

"to place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home."
Wally Byam Creed

Allana Patterson Editor



What a month February was! It really went by fast.

Neither of us have put gas in the cars all month, hardly leaving the house. Tom and I are still waiting to hear from Tarrant County or Denton County Health departments for vaccines. We lost electricity for two days, but thank goodness for our Airstream's propane generator and propane tanks! We managed quite well with all of our camping gear. All food, plumbing, and the Airstream survived. Our only damage was a frozen solid rain barrel, took a week to thaw and we discovered it cracked.

We still look forward to travelling. We are going to take a weekend for bluebonnets in April. My favorite movie of the month is Nomadland...on Netflix..check it out, it just won The best picture Golden Globe. Hope to see you on Mar. 13 at Spring Creek in McKinney.

If you see the rabbit:  It's an old fart joke!
 Allana (allanapat@msn.com)



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Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough."



Welcome New Members to NTU

Joined in February:

Windle and Sharon Hill from Dallas

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS:

From New Members Martha and Robert Henson:

We are Bob and Martha Henson. Bob is a CPA in Ft. Worth and Martha is a retired piano teacher. We have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren.

We bought our 25-foot Airstream Flying Cloud in early 2020 just as the pandemic hit and we are so glad we did! It has become a lifeboat during this crazy year.

Our maiden voyage was to Lake Whitney State Park. In late spring, we went to the Texas Coast and stayed at Blue Water RV Resort. Our biggest trip was a six week stay in New Mexico and Colorado last summer. Also, we enjoyed a family camping trip to Arkansas last fall. We had a January trip planned to Joshua Tree and Arizona but had to cancel because of the pandemic.

We look forward to meeting everyone!

Bob and Martha



Feature Story

By A. Patterson

On January 22, Dave Lieber “The Watchdog” ‘s column in the Dallas Morning News, highlighted a new company making N-95 masks in America, only to be outbid by China. As a subscriber, Tom Jensen read this article and ordered a box of masks. Lieber did a follow up the next week. It turns out that John Bielamowicz, one of the owners is a member of North Texas Airstream Unit. As newsletter editor, I got permission from Mr. Lieber to use some of his article in our newsletter. Here is a link to the Dallas Morning News, but I believe you have to be a subscriber to read the full story.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/watchdog/2021/01/29/in-three-days-life-in-a-new-fort-worth-mask-company-shifted-from-no-business-to-complete-sellout/#>

Anybody know someone who needs 200,000 N95 face masks? I know two guys who can hook you up, like tomorrow.

Anyone interested in helping these two guys who in less than a year built a mask factory in Fort Worth, determined to make America less dependent on China for all our protective gear?

Meet John K. Bielamowicz and David Baillargeon, owners of 9-month-old United States Mask Co. in northwest Fort Worth. They have a dream built on quaint notions of protecting Americans and strengthening our national security. So noble. So idealistic. So screwed. Their N95 mask earned its safety certification from the feds. They even named their mask after the most famous year in Texas history. Meet the 1836 mask. Remember the Alamo.

Off to a good start, but then John and David ran into a force so powerful it threatens to shut their business down before it gets off the ground: China.

January 22, 2021 Dallas Morning News/Dave Lieber



David Baillargeon and John Bielamowicz

(Cont'd)

January 29, 2021 Dallas Morning News/Dave Lieber

Last week, The Watchdog told you the story of United States Mask Co. of Fort Worth:

Here, I ask co-owners John Bielamowicz and David Baillargeon what their week was like.

Watchdog: *How has your life changed since The Watchdog shared your story?*

David: *We have been inundated with emails and phone calls from people and businesses wanting to offer help and support. We were not prepared for the onslaught of orders and have been working around the clock to get these orders packaged and shipped. **John actually brought his Airstream to the factory,** and I'm sleeping on the office sofa. I've gotten 15 hours of sleep in the last three days. We've moved our families into the factory to help. We're not leaving until all these orders are shipped out.*

John: *This struck a nerve. It's an underdog story.*

Watchdog: *How many did you sell?*

John: *We sold everything! More than a quarter-million. Two weeks ago, we were standing in line outside the UPS store. Now the midsize-business people at UPS told us we might have gotten too big for them.*

John: *It's just good to know that despite the countless reasons the past 12 months gave us to maybe doubt humanity, there's still so much goodness in this world.*

David: *I am just so grateful to be in a position to help and am proud of the fact that we are doing it here for Americans on American soil. I think that's the way it is supposed to be.*

John: *All the people who say, “Americans don't actually care about buying American” are wrong. Americans might not care about who makes the 25-cent toy or where bouncy balls come from. But Americans care where important things like N95 masks come from. America, we heard you. Be patient with us. This is a team thing. We're going to be there for you. We're doing this.*

One of our own, John Bielamowicz carries the same made in America spirit of Wally Byam. Thanks John, and we hope we see you down the road.



Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

MARCH MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE IN PERSON! We are meeting in McKinney (a chance for the East side to join us). Please consider attending!

Reservations have been made at Spring Creek BBQ in McKinney, Texas for March 13, 2021 at 11:30 am
Spring Creek BBQ is: 1993 North Central Expwy, McKinney, Tx. 75071.

Few members met on February 13 on zoom so little was discussed. However, it was decided that there will be no official Caravan to the International Rally. Several of the attendees have volunteer jobs, and already made their travel plans. If you want to caravan to the International, HOTC is hosting one. Here is the schedule:

July 11th - 16th, 2021

Caravan to International leaving from Martin Creek Lake.

- Sunday July 11- Monday July 12 Vicksburg, MS. Ameristar Casino Hotel RV Park.
- Tuesday, July 13th Tupelo, MS Campgrounds at Barnes Crossing
http://www.cgbarnescrossing.com/pages/reservations_online.shtml
- Wednesday July 14th and Thursday July 15th Huntsville, Alabama U.S. Space and Rocket Center RV campground.
RVinfo@spacecamp.com
- Friday July 16 Cornersville, TN (near Lynchburg) texastcampground@texastcampground.com
- July 17th - 24th, 2021 -64th International Rally, Lebanon, TN <https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon>

At this time - all rallies through May are cancelled. This includes the REGION 9 rally in MINEOLA, TX. Bill Miller and the Region 9 board made the decision to cancel and have reserved Mineola for the 2022 rally.

NOTICES



- The bluebonnets should be lovely in early April. The Brandon's and Jensen's are spending the weekend of April 9-11 at the Range in Ennis, Tx. It is an Airstream only RV park. Anyone is welcome to join in.
<https://therangevtr.com/>
- The International Airstream Rally for 2021 is scheduled for July 17-24 at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Tennessee. You can find registration information at <https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon>.
- The Facebook group is coming. Expect an email invite soon.
 - Anyone who has discovered new ideas, products, or anything you want to share, please send to allanapat@msn.com for our newsletter.
- The Region 9 rally in Mineola April 13-18 has been cancelled. All meetings will be held virtually.
- The NTU directory is in production right now. Expect your copy this spring.
- **Need work on your airstream at your location:**
Jerry Vanloon, is an Airstream Mobile technician. He makes HOUSE CALLS! He is great for on-site service for all components of your Airstream, from propane & electrical, to window replacement! Phone # 682-556-1141 Jerry is a former technician with Airstream, and now works for Prevost and himself.
- Relatively new members, Tom, and Jacqueline Carney have moved to the D.C. area (Bethesda, MD), as John was transferred by Lockheed-Martin. (He works with government contracts.) Their 30' Airstream went with them, of course, and they are now closer to their son in Vermont (if you remember their story from the August newsletter about taking him to college as their first trip). We wish them all the best!



Retirement to do list: Wake up. Nailed it!

From the President Gary Copeland

Wow, what a winter we had last week!



By the time you read this it will likely have been a couple of weeks ago. We were fortunate, but so many weren't so lucky. I have seen a few friends on Facebook, and through emails, who have remarked about damage to their homes and Airstreams.

The reason I am mentioning this, is for those among us who are new to RVing. You need to make sure that you test your water, waste, and dump systems to make sure that you don't have any problems well before any planned trips.

Once you refill your water line, leave the pressure at the normal operating level for a reasonable period of time, to make sure that you don't have any slow leaks. You should look around the interior of the trailer, inside and under cabinets, behind doors, and under seats. I also usually look around the exterior to see if I see anything dripping, other than the expected drainage from the air conditioner(s).

If you have any questions about how to perform any of the necessary checks, please reach out to any of your peers in the club. There is a wealth of knowledge in the membership of the North Texas Unit.

I hope that you can start planning some trips for this year. We are in the planning stages for some trips. I get to share my love of travel with someone new in my life, so we are looking for opportunities to explore.

I know that Helmut and Pauline Taschner are going to be hosting the March lunch for the club in McKinney, the weekend of the 13th. If you have had the COVID vaccine, and feel safe to attend, please show them your support. Unfortunately, I will be out of town again for family needs then, so I will be unable to attend.

Happy travels!
Gary

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Night and Day: the weather in Texas!



I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

RECIPE

Easy Crisp

1 cup sugar
¼ tsp salt
1 cup flour
1 egg
1 tsp baking powder
1 can pie filling, apple or cherry, but any flavor will work
½ cup butter

Place pie filling in an 8" x 8" pan. Mix sugar, flour, salt, baking powder, and egg in a bowl until crumbly. Pour evenly over pie filling. Melt butter and pour over crumbs. Bake at 350° for approximately 35 minutes or until golden.

Submitted by Lynne Mack and Barb Selking

You Never Know From David & Anna Brandon

Those of you who know us know that we are “newbies,” having bought our Airstream, “Drag-n-Fly”, just a few months before the pandemic shut most fun stuff down. Nevertheless, with all the great advice we got from two or three monthly NTU meetings, we quickly put more than 10,000 miles under our belt as we pressed the Airstream into more work than pleasure. Which is why we happened to be in Chickasha, Oklahoma last September.

There were only two parks there, and the Muscle Car Ranch sounded more interesting than the other, as did the colorful fellow who answered the phone when I called to see if they had a space available. When we pulled in, I saw why he laughed. Among the “installations” sprawled across the acres and acres Curtis Hart owns were just a few working full-timers, curious about who these city slickers were invading their peace. We were kind of obligated to stay once they saw us though. Curtis directed us to what he thought was the “perfect” spot (after entertaining us with about 20 minutes of conspiracy theories about the pandemic, connecting it somehow to his fall from grace with the Chickasha town hall)



So, that is how we happened to be parked under an old Conoco sign. As we set up, we decided to do minimal unpacking with the plan to tell him the next day that we changed our plan, and we were not going to need three nights after all.

Something happened after dinner when we took a meandering walk around the property with old “stuff” everywhere, not just old cars. There was the whole front of an old 50’s diner, a dilapidated Streamline, and an even older Airstream (open for nosy people nonplussed by spiders and rat nests). Right in front of us was Willie Nelson’s old tour bus up on a flatbed trailer. Alongside us was a creek lined with trees and dotted with ducks that ended up being perfect for sitting beside with an evening cigar and morning coffee. In another direction was a 60’s something tour bus that Curtis bragged belonged to the Beatles; someone paid to bring it over to the US but never seemed to put it into service.

Closer to the entrance to the Ranch is an outdoor stage of sorts (he called it an amphitheater, but I wouldn’t want to mislead you) from where old bands like the Loving Spoonful, Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show, and Jefferson Starship used to play. In the end, we stayed the whole week. You might just check it out: <http://www.musclecarranch.com>



Went to an antique show and people were bidding on me.