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President's Message

Dear Hill Country Unit:

Well, we are over the summer, as short as it was. Now heading into the cooler temperatures of the Texas fall and winter, we are excited about what the future holds for our unit. We hope you have been in good health and that you continue to take care of yourself first and then others in that order. For if you do not have your health, you cannot help others.

We would like to welcome our new members to the THCU. We are so happy to have several new members join our unit this summer from all over Texas. Our membership is east-west and in the middle of Texas, which is excellent as it gives us a greater reach for being aware of great

campgrounds where we can have our future rallies. Joining our unit in Aug and Sept are Kathy and Douglas Hoyt of Spring, Julie and Terry Hagin of Abilene, and David and Diane Calvo of Austin.

We have some fun rallies planned for the fall, kicking off with an October "Halloween" Rally in Schulenburg. Then we will have our officer's installation rally in November at NTAC in Hillsboro. See the information listed in the newsletter. We remind our new members who have not gone on their first rally with the THCU, your first rally fees are on us! Just pay your hookup, and the club will pay your rally fee. Just to get you started.

If anyone has any rally ideas, pass them to me or any other officers, and we will put them into action.

As you may know, we got elected 2nd VP of Region 9 and are planning a "national rally" here in Texas in February. This rally will be a "once in a lifetime" type rally, and I am proposing that our unit hosts it, with other clubs from Texas and Oklahoma to participate in the rally. More info to come...I wanted to notify everyone that [Region 9 Policies and Practices](#) Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy have been updated and posted to the airstream club's website. The link is attached.

Happy trails—Philip & Luci Vasquez

Message from Vicki and Tom Ketchum the GHAC wagonmasters extraordinaire for the Labor Day Rally in Fredericksburg, TX



Labor Day is traditionally a time when we think of back to school, but for Airstreamers in Texas, it often means "Back to Camping". And that's just what we did over the Labor Day weekend in Fredericksburg, from September 2 - 6 in Fredericksburg. We invited the Texas Hill Country Unit to join us at the Vineyards of Fredericksburg RV Park. Word spread about the event, and we had participants from Heart of Texas Unit, and a couple of prospective members checking us out as well.

The Vineyards of Fredericksburg was a wonderful site for the rally. Their rally room is quite spacious, and very well equipped. While the outdoor pavilion was being renovated and not available to us, we look forward to being able to use it during a future visit. The staff could not have been more attentive to our concerns.

Members attending the rally were:

Alan, Bernardine and Ashley Billard, Tom and Caren Bundy, Rick Cassani and LeAnn Hill, Ally & Tim Ebbers, Rick & Tracy Elkins, Paul Evens and Natalie Garrett, James & Lisa Feine, Alexa Fischer and Austin Lucas, Bob & Jan Grimes, Bob & Lisa Hansen, Samantha & Robert Hogue, Charlie & Cheryl Jacobs, Tom and Vicki Ketchum, Bruce Lee, Gerald & Irene Lyddon, Dan & Zephyr Marek, Jose & Val Melgares, Edward & Yvonne Michek, George & Jamie Nixon, Louise & David Parry, Tom and Susan Raia, John & Susan Sheridan, Phil and Luce Vasquez, Rick & Laurie Vice, Charlie Williams and Carol Wallace, Doug & Sheryl Wylie.

We started Thursday with a Happy Hour hosted by Phil and Luci Vasquez of the Texas Hill Country Unit. Individual Charcuterie cups and a variety of wine and spirits, were accompanied by an amazing variety of foods contributed by rally attendees. It was a great opportunity to mingle and meet members from respective units. Get to Know You Bingo cards had us scurrying around the rally hall trying to find out details about each other.

Friday was Fredericksburg History Exploration day. We were encouraged to check out the local museums and historic sites. The Pioneer Museum tells the story of the German immigrants who settled Fredericksburg in the early days. The National Museum of the Pacific War provides a comprehensive account of the World War II in the Pacific; the museum was originally named for Admiral Chester Nimitz, who was born in Fredericksburg and spent his early years here.

Friday night's dinner was a pasta and salad bar, where we mixed up lots of combinations of pasta and sauces, greens and veggies! Following dinner, we enjoyed a dance party with song requests, and karaoke. We may have discovered some new talent among our members!!

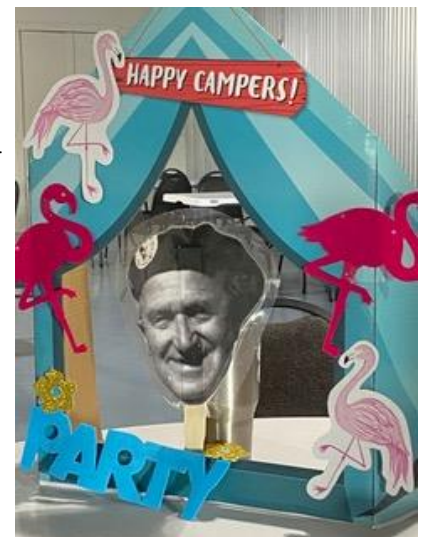
Saturday was Fredericksburg shopping day. The variety of shops in Fredericksburg guarantees there is something for everyone: antiques, retro five-and-dimes, kitchen wares, wineries, breweries, distilleries, and foodie shops (with lots of samples!). Everyone was encouraged to bring something back from town to "show and share" at happy hour. What a variety, from sweet jams, to jalapeño peanut butter, cheeses and salamis, wines and beers, we all go to try something new! Following a dinner of pork ribs and chicken, we had a laid back game night, and campfire with S'mores.

Plans were to have some outdoor games on Sunday, but the heat mostly kept us indoors. We set up the balloon volleyball - we convinced some new players that it really isn't that easy to keep your butts in the chair (without falling out of it!).

Tom and his crew of grillers had the entire campground smelling yummy as they grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner, which was accompanied by potato salad, Cole slaw and watermelon.

There was a double feature at the movies Sunday night, complete with popcorn and ice cream at intermission. First up was the always hilarious "Long, Long Trailer," the classic with Luci and Desi as newbie RVers, followed by "We're the Millers" about a small time drug dealer who gets forced into smuggling a large shipment of drugs across the Mexico/US border in a motorhome, along with his fictitious "family" made up of a broke stripper, a loser nerd neighbor boy and a homeless runaway girl.

Everyone agreed that having a joint rally with another unit was a tremendously good idea. We all left with terrific memories, and new friends. We are looking forward to doing it again!!



Labor Day Rally in Pictures - Dinner



Labor Day Rally in Pictures (continued) - Pictures showing places some of us visited in Fredericksburg and visiting around the campfire



Labor Day Rally in Pictures (continued)



Photo above: Sunrise at the park

2nd level photos: Left is crafting on Sunday; Right is Tom making dinner.



Bottom four photos are from karaoke night



Interesting problem...



When we were leaving the Labor Day Rally, THCU members Austin Lucas and Elexa Fischer (pictured on the left) had an issue with dumping their black tank. They somehow had a clog and while dumping only a trickle will come out and it still registered more than 50% on the monitor screen. While at the park, several solutions were tried but did not quite work at the time. I had recently saw a video on YouTube which talked about how to unclog a black tank which I shared with them. We had to exit the park before solving the trickle issue, so Austin and Elexa had to dump at a later time. This is a super interesting issue to me and I reached out to them to see how they solved the issue since this could happen to anyone at anytime.

Elexa wrote up nice detailed steps on how they solved their issue that I wanted to share—

We did the whole backflush from the grey/blackwater hose move. Not fun, but effective. It was suggested on a podcast. Basically a backwash/siphon. It's a two person job. While hooked up to the sewer, one person opens the grey water for a moment to drain it into the hose. The other person lifts the hose while the first person closes the grey water and opens the black, letting the grey water rush into the black water tank. Then you drop the hose before it drains all the way from the hose into the tank. It makes a suction and woosh. Ew. Repeat until it drains normally.

She referenced this YouTube video: <https://rvmiles.podbean.com/e/200-our-new-rv-the-solo-stove-and-unclogging-a-black-tank/>

The tip is at the video 50:45 marker.

I hope this will assist you in the future—just in case.

Elexa also had an interesting idea for our Unit which is to put together some sort of photo directory so that we can associate a face to the name in one central spot. Tim will check to see if we can add photos to our names in the Airstream Club website for a one-stop-shop. If he is unable to do this, Elexa has volunteered to put something together. Is this something that would interest you? Please let me know so that we can either move forward with this time intensive endeavor or not... To start I've included our (Tim and Ally Ebbers) picture as well as Austin and Elexa's photo above. We were definitely happy campers at the Labor Day Rally in Fredericksburg, TX





OCTOBER

- 01 Cheryl Fernandez
- 03 Linda Esper
- 06 Joe Long
- 08 Bob Grimes
- 16 Dan Marek
- 22 Gayle Ketchum
- 22 Louise Mann
- 27 Michael Stanley
- 28 Gary Shelton
- 30 Carol Wallace
- 30 Allison Ebbers

NOVEMBER

- 02 Rose Garr
- 08 Sheryl Wylie
- 11 Raisin Schwerdfeger
- 20 Jim Schwerdfeger
- 29 Myrtle Bell

welcome

New members:

*C. Terry and Julie Hagin
David and Dianne Calvo
Douglas and Cathy Hoyt*



- ⇒ If there is any news or pictures you would like to post, please do so on our Facebook page. The page name is Texas Hill Country Unit.
- ⇒ If you are not a Facebook user or a seldom Facebook user (like me) BUT would like to provide news or pictures in this newsletter, please send it to me at ally.ebbers@gmail.com and I will post on the next newsletter.



- Oct 04 Ronnie & Judy Opphile
- Oct 11 Austin Lucas & Elexa Fischer
- Oct 15 Carlos & Cheryl Fernandez
- Oct 19 Brian & Nancy Powers
- Nov 24 Don & Myrtle Bell



Website: <https://airstreamclub.org/TexasHillCountry>
THCU President: pdvasquez@gmail.com
Facebook Page: Texas Hill Country Unit



TEXAS HILL COUNTRY UNIT OCTOBER RALLY
SCHULENBURG RV PARK
65 NORTH KESSLER AVENUE, SCHULENBURG, TEXAS 78956
979-743-4388

Hosts: Doug and Sheryl Wylie. If going, please let Doug know ASAP at 210.602.5700. He is making the reservations, we just show up at the RV park and get our site. **There is only one spot left.** We will pay Zephyr the site fee at the business meeting. The site fee is \$35/night; cash/check only.

Thursday 10/14 - Arrival day

- ◇ 4:30 pm Open Rally
- ◇ 5:00 pm Potluck (Every rig please bring food to share). Bring set ups
- ◇ 6:30 pm Visit and/or play games of choice

Friday 10/15

- ◇ Breakfast on your own
- ◇ 12 noon We will go and eat lunch together
- ◇ After lunch free for sightseeing
- ◇ 5:00 pm Happy hour—bring hors d'oeuvres to share, if you wish
 - ◆ Visit and/or play games of choice

Saturday 10/16

- ◇ Breakfast on your own
- ◇ 10:00 am Business Meeting and Elections
- ◇ Lunch on your own and sightseeing
- ◇ 5:00 Happy hour—bring hors d'oeuvres to share, if you wish. This night includes a costume party
 - ◆ Yes, that means to dress up as something that you are not; no judging just have FUN!
 - ◆ Visit and/or play games of choice

Sunday 10/17

- ◇ Breakfast on your own
- ◇ 9:00 am Church Service. Make sure recreation hall is clean after service
- ◇ ALL HAVE SAFE TRAVELS HOME

Sightseeing ideas:

- ⇒ The Painted Churches—Self tours are available for free. Please review the FAQs from this website for hours/days and additional information: <https://www.schulenburgchamber.org/painted-churches-tour/>
- ⇒ Stanzel Museum—This is a pretty cool museum. Please review the website for hours/days, fees and other information: <http://www.stanzelmuseum.org/>
- ⇒ Potter Country Store—If you like pecans, this seems like the place to go. May be nice to go for some snacks to share. Additional information from this website: <https://www.pottercountrystore.com/>
- ⇒ Moravia Store—Dubbed to be one of the oldest country stores in Texas (from 1889)—Food, music, and pool.
- ⇒ Majek Vineyard and Winery—Super cute (looking) boutique winery. Additional information: <https://www.majekvineyard.com/>

THCU Rally Schedule 2021

Below is the 2021 Rally schedule for THCU. Items in **green** are Region 9 or International events. Please consider volunteering to be a wagonmaster.

Date	Location	WagonMaster(s)
January 18-22	IBT Sarasota, FL	International Officers
February	None planned	
March	None planned	
April 13-18 Region 9	Mineola, TX Roaring 20s Theme	CANCELLED
April 29 - May 2	Oakdale RV Resort & Motor Court Glenrose, TX	WagonMasters: Philip Vasquez and Luci DiGiorgio
May 13-16	Brazos Valley RV Park Caldwell, TX	WagonMasters: Doug and Sheryl Wylie and Joan Ermis
June 17-20	By the River RV Park and CG Buddy Rally Kerrville TX	WagonMasters: Dan and Zephyr Marek
July 17-24 International	Lebanon, TN	International Officers
September	Business Luncheon; location TBD	
September 2-6	Invitation to join the Greater Houston Airstream Club Labor Day Rally	Information in newsletter or contact Vicki Ketchum at email: vicketchum@gmail.com or cell: 812-322-6075
October 14-17	Schulenburg RV Park 65 N Kessler Ave, Schulenburg, TX 78956 979-743-4388	Doug and Sheryl Wylie
November 18-21 Installation Rally	North Texas Airstream Club (NTAC) Hillsboro, TX	Contact Doug Wylie if you plan to attend
December	Holiday Luncheon; date and location TBD	Possibly Marble Falls, TX



THCU Tentative Rally Schedule 2022

Below is the tentative 2022 Rally schedule for THCU. Please consider volunteering to be a wagonmaster to these events.

Date	Location	Comments
January 13-16	Oakwood RV Park 78 FM 2093, Fredericksburg, TX 830-997-9817	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$47 per night if we get 10 rigs, otherwise \$57 per night
February 10-13	Top of the Hill RV Resort & Cabins 12 Cedar Rd, Boerne, TX 830-537-3666	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$45 per night
March 10-13	Bay View RV Resort 5451 Hwy 35 North, Rockport, TX 78382 (361) 400-6000	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$45 per night—no credit cards (cash/check only)
April (TBD) Region 9	Region 9 Rally Mineola, TX	Region 9 officers
May 12-15	Skyline RV Park 2231 Hwy 16 N, Bandera, TX 830-796-4985	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$43 per night if we get 10 rigs, otherwise \$43 per night
June 09-12	Big Chief RV Park 1420 FM 690, Burnet, TX 512-793-4746	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$40 Thurs night and \$45 Fri & Sat night
July 23-29 International	Fryeburg, ME	International Officers
September 15-18	Brazos Valley RV Park 2190 TX-21, Caldwell, TX 979-200-3007	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$35 per night
October 13-16	Braunig Lake RV Resort 13550 Donop Rd., Elmendorf, TX 210-633-3170	Need wagonmasters Call to reserve your spot, \$35 per night
November 17-20 Installation rally	Schulenburg RV Park 65 N Kessler Ave, Schulenburg, TX 78956 979-743-4388	Unit officers Call Charlie/Carol to reserve your spot, \$35 per night
December	Holiday Luncheon; location TBD	

