

# North Texas Airstream Club NTxAC

## Newsletter – MAY 2022



*“To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.” - Wally Byam Creed*

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### FROM THE EDITOR



April was a whirlwind month, and without a newsletter for a while, there is much to report. We had a grand time at the Brandon’s house in Grapevine, buying t-shirts, Eating fabulous spread for brunch, drinking Mimosas and Bloody Mary’s, and of course a meeting. Pictures and the meeting minutes are in this issue. I started working a Sub job on April 4, which led me to identify with all you members out there that work...it is tough to get any time away for a rally with fellow members. Since last year, the leadership of your club has worked hard to make our social gatherings available and friendly to those that work full time. We really hope that you will give us your input and participate. WBCCI/Airstream International Club is a social club, devoted to RV travel and adventure-together! We cannot be successful without an active membership! With that, hope to see you at Eisenhower State Park in May, or Pilot Knoll in June- or International in Fryeburg, Maine.

Allana Patterson BRN **12194**  
allanapat@msn.com



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



### Joined in March and April:

*Todd and Marie Baker from Celina, TX*

*Jill and Greg Fearing from Lantana, TX*

*Paul Seigler and Erin Potter-Seigler from Fort Worth, TX*

*Tamara and Vense Everett from Mesquite, TX*

*Arthur Braud from Hillsboro, TX (affiliate)*

*George and DeDe Overly from Plano, TX*

*Matt and Krista Vinten from Flower Mound, TX*

*Vicki DeAnda from Frisco, TX*

*Kimberly Hoffman and Doug Malcuit from Guthrie, OK*

*Michael De La mora and Amy Pogue from Houston, TX (affiliate)*

*Nicole and Patrick Scott from Fort Worth, TX*

2022 Globetrotter 30'

2021 International 25'

2019 International Serenity 25'

2019 Tommy Bahama 27'

2019 International Serenity 27'

2015 Interstate Lounge EXT 24'

2013 Bambi 16'

1977 Trade Wind 25'

2019 Flying Cloud 30'

2022 Globetrotter 25'

2018 Classic 30''

## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

### Jill and Greg Fearing



My husband and I had an Airstream for a couple of years about 10 years ago thinking that I would take it out by myself some and us together some but that was before cameras on the backs of Airstreams and I ended up not being comfortable taking it camping when I was alone. Because we weren't using it enough, we sold it. About 6 years ago my husband bought me a teardrop trailer and I camped in that on girl's trips for about 5 years and then when Covid hit and my husband was working from home and ended up traveling with me a bunch we decided we needed something bigger. Because I had towed so much by myself and because there were now cameras on the back of Airstreams, we decided that I would do OK with an Airstream. We've had our Airstream for just over a year. Our most recent adventure was taking it to New Orleans to watch the Jayhawks win the NCAA tournament.

We both grew up in Kansas City, KS. and have been married for 45 years. We've been in the Dallas area since 1980. We have 3 grown sons and 5 grandkids.

### Kimberly Hoffman and Doug Malcuit



This our second Airstream, our first, Gladys, was a 2006 Safari 25 foot and we just upgraded to George, a 2019 Flying Cloud 30 foot. We are about to embark on full time Airstreaming in June. We have a toy and a miniature Australian shepherd that are our travel buddies.

We look forward to meeting fellow Airstreamers and having great adventures.

Doug and Kimberly

## **SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS (cont'd)**

### **Nicole & Patrick Scott**



Hello! We are excited to become airstream owners and to be a part of the club to meet fellow Airstreamers!

We reside in west Fort Worth with our two white German Shepherds, where we work full time. Our RVing goal this year is to be out in our camper somewhere/anywhere at least twice a month.

We have been Rving since 2018 when we purchased our first fifth wheel. We just recently made the move to our "new to us" 2018 Classic 30RB. We look forward to our weekend adventures around Texas and branching out of the state on our two big trips planned for later this year. Our first trip will be a section of Route 66 in May and visiting the National Parks of Utah in October. If you see us around the campground, be sure to stop and say hello!

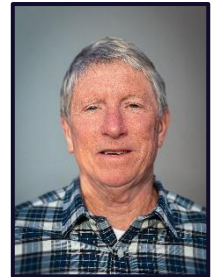
#### **BRN 22419**

(The day we became official streamers)

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### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I hope all of you are doing well and making plans to have fun this summer, although we've managed to have fun even when the weather wasn't so good! Our March rally in Mineral Wells had a slow start with bad weather on Friday, but we made up for it quickly over the beautiful weekend. We also had a great time at our April brunch meeting. Between the cinnamon rolls from Judy Pie's in Grapevine and the great conversation, it was almost as fun as camping. Then some of us were off to the "Let's Get Together" Region 9 Rally in Mineola. Our club accounted for 13 of the 56 rigs attending, so we were well represented! I know it is difficult between careers, families and obligations of life to carve out weekends with the club, but I hope you will all find the time to join us at some point in the future. Our May rally will be at Eisenhower State Park and our hosts, Christine and Scott Wayles, have a fun schedule planned. Next month we are at Pilot Knoll in Highland Village- be sure to check out our webpage for all the details on our campouts for the year. Hope to see you down the road!



**David Brandon**

[dbtextilesoffice@icloud.com](mailto:dbtextilesoffice@icloud.com) **BRN 5157**

## FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT

### Jennifer Dice

Jennifer and Dan are traveling, returning to Texas to pick up Neptune (trailer). We will hear from her next newsletter. Looks like Dan took California life to heart with his new Tatoo. We miss you Jennifer...hope to see you soon!

[jendice@gmail.com](mailto:jendice@gmail.com)

BRN **30301**



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### + T-SHIRTS AND HATS:

+ We have sold a lot of t-shirts and hats, but still have a lot more!! These will be sold at a reasonable price to club members at rallies or meetings. NEW members from November 2021 and after will be given a free t-shirt- *when they attend a rally/meeting*. If you would like David Brandon to save a shirt for you [send your order to Anna Brandon](#) and she will put them aside for you. In the meantime, for those that want extra special clothing with our club logo embroidered- it can be ordered from Land's End.

+ Flags came in and they looked great by our trailers at the Region 9 Rally. If enough people still want them, there can be another order, contact [airstream099leadership@gmail.com](mailto:airstream099leadership@gmail.com)

+ 2022 [Grapevine Holiday Rally](#): There are 11 spots left for the "Silver Bells" Holiday rally! If you make reservations ASAP, we can increase the number, if needed, until Oct. 1. A reservation can always be cancelled. The Holiday Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre is \$60 per person. We must have commitments to reserve for Saturday, Dec 3; 5:30 show- by June 30. [We will send out a form for reservations on the dinner theatre in June.](#) [Grapevine Vineyards 817-329-8993](tel:817-329-8993) or [vineyardscampground.com](http://vineyardscampground.com).

+ An email has gone out requesting birthdays and anniversaries but there has been a small percentage respond. PLEASE, check you emails from [airstream099leadership@gmail.com](mailto:airstream099leadership@gmail.com) and respond. We want you active in our club!

### + Birthdays and Anniversaries (May)



+ **Norm Collier (May 2),**

+ **Channing Fell (May 30)**

+ **Rita Green (May 18)**

+ **Kim Majkowski (May 25)**

**Happy Anniversary to:**

+ **John & Rita Green (56 years! May 26)**

+ **Steve & Ronda Hortsman (May 25)**



## **ENGAGEMENT**

**Former NTU President, Gary Copeland, has found his soul mate! He and Gretchen Miraglia will marry in Hillsboro at NTAC on May 24. She is growing fond of Airstreaming. Congratulations, Gary and Gretchen!**



- If you had a special date, we didn't know about it! Just email [airstream099leadership@gmail.com](mailto:airstream099leadership@gmail.com) with your dates for our news you can use.
- You are probably getting a lot of emails from ACI regarding changes in the leadership structure. It is confusing, but each member will have a vote. Your club will ask you to vote, then take that vote to International. To vote- you must set up your unique account with ACI. If you do not have a unique email address- you will not receive a ballot. Read the communication from ACI on why they are proposing changes.**

## **PICTURE OF THE MONTH**



*Airstream Hidden in the Woods  
From Jennifer Hicks*

## **FEATURE ARTICLE**

I have traveled in my Airstream for two to four months in the summer, every year without fail since 2009. I also lived full-time in my Airstream for three years before that.

That's 15 years of Airstream travel—covering over 200,000 miles of towing, and over 2,000 nights spent in the Airstream. I've been to every continental US state in my Airstream, many times over.

After all of that, I figured I had learned just about everything a person could know about long Airstream trips.

This summer I took Tothie for her first "Big Trip" and introduced her to extended Airstream travel. Although she was experienced from our monthly trips over the previous year, going "full time" for three months was an eye-opener for her—and I was surprised to find that I learned quite a few things too.

Planning and executing a long trip (say, more than a month) is very different, and in some ways much more challenging than typical getaways. Here are 9 tips to help you, if you decide to go for the Big Trip:



### ***WHEN PACKING, ORGANIZATION IS EVERYTHING***

You'll travel more heavily loaded on a long trip, of course. All that extra gear can force you to re-think how you store things in the Airstream and the truck. Since everybody's situation is a little different, my top recommendation here is to start early. We spent about two months working out all the details and still ended up adjusting after we got on the road.

Failure to organize well isn't fatal, but you'll spare yourself a lot of frustration if you think things through beforehand. There was a day when I found myself forced to pull everything out of the truck bed—in the rain—in order to get to the one thing, I really needed at that moment. You can bet that on the first sunny day that I went through that truck bed and re-arranged so that wouldn't happen again.

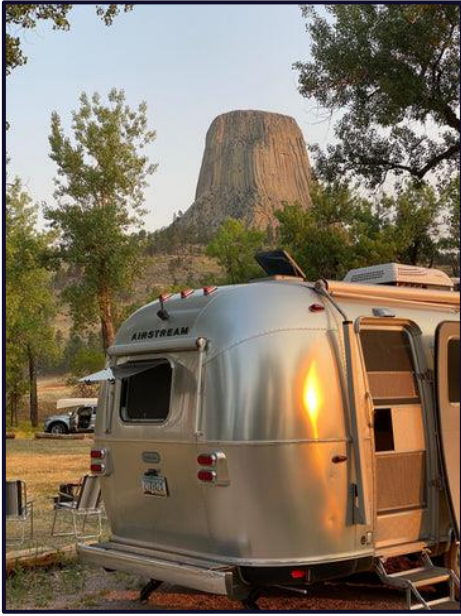
Related to this, don't pack things in the Airstream that you'll have to get out of the way to use the Airstream—like bicycles, grill, and other large objects. If you can't fit, it in a permanent storage spot (like the truck bed) you should consider leaving it behind. The process of having to clear stuff from the hallways and beds of the Airstream every single time will get old, quickly.

### ***DON'T OVERPLAN***

Whether you're the type that wants to know where you'll be spending every night, the type that likes to "wing it", or somewhere in-between, it's still important to leave some room for flexibility.

You'll undoubtedly encounter interesting places or people that you want to spend more time getting to know. The less appealing possibility is that you might have to stay some place longer than you intended because you need a repair. Either way, keeping a little looseness in the schedule will pay off, I guarantee.

My technique is to plan the major stops and figure out the minor ones as I go. If I plan to hit a destination that requires reservations far in advance (like Key West or Glacier National Park) I'll book those and have fun working out how to connect the dots later. During those periods of the trip, Tothie and I enjoyed taking turns conflating Google maps, campground websites, paper maps, [Campendum](#), and our daily moods and goals to pick the best campground on our route.



## ***EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED***

A multi-month trip is a long time to be away from home base. On a trip of that scale, unexpected stuff *will* happen.

Sure, you'll plan for mail forwarding, prescription pickup, and maybe even arrange a dog grooming appointment somewhere along the way. But if dear old Uncle Fester in New Jersey drops dead during your trip, you'll have to deal with it somehow. Will you park the Airstream and fly home immediately? Send a sympathy card and keep traveling?

Since you can't know your response to every possible situation, the best thing to do is to agree amongst yourselves at least on the broad plan. In our case, knowing some elderly relatives were "not buying green bananas anymore," we talked about how we might respond in various theoretical scenarios.

These plans don't have to be set in stone, but it's a lot easier to talk about how you intend to respond in case of an emergency when you're not actually in the emotional turmoil of it.

## ***BEWARE THE SOCIAL MEDIA PRESSURE***

Keeping up with social media is hard, whether you're trying to see what everyone else is up to, or report from the road.

For one thing, you're going to find out that a lot of America still doesn't have reliable cellular coverage, especially out west. Even with good coverage, uploading lots of photos or video is a hassle. You're also likely to be too busy enjoying your own experience to check Facebook daily as all Americans are apparently expected to do these days. (I would argue that being disconnected is a good thing, but that's another blog.)

Many people asked us if we were going to blog, video blog, or Instagram our travels this summer, and we said "We'll try." We failed.

The social media stars of the world spend an inordinate amount of time putting together content to make their lives seem glamorous. I don't know about you, but at this age I don't feel the need, and most of the time we were just too busy.

When we weren't too busy, we were relaxing. It just seemed like way too much work to document our days, so I satisfied myself with a few snapshots and went on enjoying life.

(Sorry to those who were hoping to read about our travels.)

## ***WHAT PRIVACY?***

Tothie and I found something interesting: the amount of privacy we wanted over three months was quite different from what we would accept during a long weekend trip.



You can hold your nose (figuratively and perhaps also literally) for a few days of vacation travel and put up with a lot of stuff. But after the weeks grind on, the truth becomes gradually more unavoidable. The smaller the space, the more quickly the need for privacy becomes an issue, if it's going to be one.

This is highly dependent on the people involved, so my advice is only to think about how tolerant you are of living together in a small space. Felix Unger and Oscar Madison will not survive for long.

As a stopgap, consider taking a break during your travels. We booked a house in Maine for two weeks during our trip, which became an experience-inside-the-experience. The house allowed us to stretch out for a while, do a deep cleaning of the Airstream, and take care of some work projects that needed more intense attention. The change of scene refreshed us for the final month of our travels.

### ***BE AS SELF-SUFFICIENT AS YOU CAN***

I'm always harping on the need to carry tools and information so that you can handle common Airstream problems by yourself. Trust me, it's usually not a good option to rely on some friendly technician or mechanic coming by. You may not have cell reception, you may not be able to find help within 50 miles, and you are virtually guaranteed to severely disrupt your trip if you can't take care of basic things yourself.

Carry basic [maintenance parts and supplies](#), carry tools, and definitely have [what you need to replace a flat tire](#). All of the DIY kits we recommend come with instructions, and we also have [a lot of helpful videos that explain how to do basic procedures by yourself](#).

Self-sufficiency also means having a back up plan for when you can't connect to the apps you love.

I'm always mildly amused/horrified when I hear modern urbanites claiming that all you need to navigate this world is a cell phone with Wayze or Google Maps. Yeah, try that in the Utah backcountry sometime (but bring plenty of water because you'll be there for a while), or when towing the Airstream through the plain's states or the hundreds of rural miles between big cities. You'll soon learn that the Internet-reliant navigators you're used to won't be of much help about half the time.

Some Millennial Airstreamers don't like to hear this. Or, that they should carry actual cash with them on their journey too. But at the risk of incurring "OK, Boomer" comments I will say that a smart traveler still carries some cash for toll booths and emergencies. You can't Venmo your way out of every situation, and ATMs don't grow on cactuses.

A GPS—or a map—works when the cell signal fades. We relied on a Garmin GPS as well as an old-fashioned paper atlas nearly every day to get our bearings.

### ***REMEMBER THAT IT WON'T ALL BE ROSES***

There will be ups and downs in your travels. Nobody has a perfect life. We all know that. Sometimes you have to set up or unhitch in the rain. Or your only campground option for the night has ticks that set up residence in your dog.

So [when a tire chunk hits the Airstream and dents it](#), do your best to let it go. This is more important on the road than it is at home. If one of you storms out the door in anger, you're still going to have to come back and finish the trip together.



You and your partner (if you travel with someone) need to support each other through the thick and thin. Before you launch on your trip, just know that there will be challenging times as well as many wonderful ones.



### ***DREAM BIG***

Tothie had a "bucket list" item that she thought she'd never get to: Ever since she saw "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind" she had wanted to visit Devil's Tower National Monument.

She also wanted to visit Mt. Rushmore, see her elderly Aunt Eve in Ohio, catch up with friends in Maine, visit Monticello, tour the Airstream factory, and get married by an old college friend in Michigan.

Sometimes it wasn't convenient to make these stops and she was willing to concede that we weren't going to get to all of them. But we did. Because we weren't likely to ever replicate this trip, every stop was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. And as a result, all of them became treasured memories.

The Big Trip is your chance to do the things you've always wanted to do. Don't wait for "another time" if you can possibly hit the spot you've dreamed about on this trip. There's no time like the present time, and there's often no better way to visit a place than in your Airstream.

### ***DRIVE LESS, STOP MORE***

One sure way to take the fun out of a trip is to spend day after day driving. It's a slog, and mostly what you'll see is Interstate highway with the endless repeat of American generic fast-food and truck stops.

For scheduling reasons, we had no choice but to drive madly from Tucson to Gillette, Wyoming, work an intense week, and then continue madly onward to Lebanon, Tennessee for another intense week. The driving was awful, 400+ miles most days. We limped into each campsite with a sense of relief that the long day of driving was over, but also a sense of dread because it was going to happen again the next day.

By the end of July, after 4,000 miles of mostly uninspiring travel, Tothie was "unimpressed" with the Airstream summer trip. I couldn't blame her. Most of it wasn't fun. We had a big talk and got over it but thank goodness we had some time off planned for August.

So, slow down your expectations, and you'll probably have a better time. Remember that the goal of Airstream travel is to be able to explore places, not drive a lot.

Finally, allow all the time you need to explore, but don't overdo it. You'll remember your trip more fondly if you head home *before* it stops being fun. Once back at home base you can spend a few weeks appreciating the things you left behind and start thinking about the next Big Trip!

*(Printed with permission from Airstream Life Blog Rich Luhr, Oct. 2021)*

# MEETING MINUTES

## March NTxAC Business Meeting

Lake Mineral Wells State Park  
March 12, 2022 10:00 AM

Conducted by David Brandon

10:00

**Welcome and Introductions.** Present were David and Anna Brandon, Maxi and Cliff Millican, Carol Hayes, Neil Yant, Henry and Carol Wilkins, Sheila and Chris Fritz

10:05-

10:30

This was an informal meeting as we had no new business.

Treasurer's Report: \$5986.74 balance, \$49.65 expenses in the last month.

Membership Report: In this last month we have 10 new members and 2 new affiliate members.

T-Shirts: David Brandon will pick them up Monday. The shirts will be \$15 and the hats \$22—new members (retroactive to November 2021) will receive their shirts free when they attend a rally.

Upcoming Rallies: There will be no April rally but we will have a brunch meeting at the home of David and Anna Brandon—please RSVP. Region 9 is having their “Let's Get Together” rally in Mineola April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The next NTxAC campout will be May 13<sup>th</sup>- May 15<sup>th</sup> at Eisenhower State Park and is hosted by Scott and Christine Wayles. The park is filling up fast so reservations need to be made if you wish to attend. June 10-12<sup>th</sup> is our Pilot Knoll rally on Lake Dallas. Reservation details are all online.

## April NTxAC Membership Meeting and Brunch

David and Anna Brandon's home in Grapevine  
April 9, 2022- 12:30 PM  
Conducted by David Brandon

12:30

**Welcome and Introductions.** Present were Chet and Sherrie Beyer, David and Anna Brandon, Pam Brockaway, Andre Cary, Roxy and Mike Gross, Carol Hayes, Jennifer Hicks, Tom Jensen and Allana Patterson, Lynne Mack, George and Sheryl Mayer, Maxi and Cliff Millican, Jarrid and Erica Rollins, John and Karen Stutsman, Amy and Arnold Terkel, Christina Wayles, Henry and Carol Wilkins, and Steve and Georgina Woodward

12:30- **Allana Patterson, Parliamentarian, called the meeting to order.**

1:00 **Treasurer's Report: Lynne Mack, our Treasurer, \$3,244.23 balance, \$2802.51 (hats and T-shirts) expense in the last month.**

- Membership Report: Tom Jensen reported that we were joined in the month of March by 15 new members. This brings our total new membership to 189 rigs (303 members and 39 affiliate members).
- New Business: Steve Woodward reported that the Texas Highland Lakes Unit (THLU) is inviting NTxAC to take over the “Newbies” rally in conjunction with DFW Airstream (Vogt) this upcoming fall. Steve Zeringue, the THLU President, relayed they will continue to hold their twice-yearly Newbie rallies but will be pairing with Austin Airstream, a dealer more geographically central to their club. THLU is holding the spring 2022 Newby rally, May 6-8, at North Texas Airstream Community in Hillsboro. Any members interested in helping coordinate this rally in the fall are welcome to attend to learn the ropes. As this collaboration has been integral in the growth of THLU, members agreed that pairing with Vogt in the future would be advantageous for our club. Allana made the motion that we accept this invitation for fall 2022 and Maxi Millican seconded the motion.

T-Shirts: T-shirts and caps are here and available for purchase--the shirts are \$15 and the hats \$22—new members (retroactive to November 2021) will receive their shirts free when they attend a rally.  
 Upcoming Rallies: Region 9 is having their “Let’s Get Together” rally in Mineola April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. The next NTxAC “May Flowers at Eisenhower” campout will be May 13<sup>th</sup>- May 15<sup>th</sup> at Eisenhower State Park and is hosted by Scott and Christine Wayles. The park is filling up fast so reservations need to be made if you wish to attend. June 10-12<sup>th</sup> is our Pilot Knoll rally on Lake Dallas. Reservation details are all online.

## **RALLIES AND EVENTS**

(Rally details will be in newsletter 1-2 months out)

### **May 13-15: Eisenhower State Park, Denison, TX**

hosted by Christine and Scott Wayles.

Reserve your site at: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/eisenhower>

Schedule of activities:

#### **FRIDAY:** arrive and set up

- + Dinner on your own
- + 7:00 PM Dessert Exchange- bring a dessert to share-yum
- + 7:30 PM Around the campfire (Wayle’s provide the wood)

#### **SATURDAY:**

- + Breakfast on your own
- + 10:00 AM Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site visit
- + Lunch on your own
- + 2:00 PM Whacky Corn Hole tournament
- + 4:00 PM -Interpretive Ranger Session-or short hike on hiking trails led by Scott and James
- + 6:30 PM Group Dinner- Organized Pot Luck

Sausages, Pulled Pork	Wayles	Jamacain Jerk Chicken,	Wayles
Beans	Brandons	cherry cheesecake fluff	Wills
Buns	Brandons	apple or peach dumplings	Wills
BBQ Sauce	Brandons	<i>Feel free to bring what you would like to add</i>	
Pickles/Onions	Brandons		
Potato Salad	Patterson/Jensen		

#### **SUNDAY:**

- + Breakfast on your own
- + Group picture
- + Pack up and drive out



**JUNE 10-12**- Highland Village's "Red, White, and Blue" Celebration provides the backdrop for our rally. Our weekend here will include a Highland Village Fireworks show over Lake Dallas—this is a beautiful campground, and we have the best part of it! Call 940-455-2228 for reservations, ask for Dana, identify yourself with NTxAC to see if any spots are left. We have no "hosts" so activities will be on the fly! Contact [airstream099leadership@gmail.com](mailto:airstream099leadership@gmail.com) if you would like to host!

**JULY 23 – 29, 2022**

**65<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL RALLY - FRYEBURG, MAINE**

By now you have received emails and your entry date from National - all we can add to that is: There is nothing like the international rally- YOU MUST experience it- once you do, you will be hooked! NTxAC and Region 9 will have special activities for our members which should be in the June newsletter. Right now, the Region 9 lunch is on June 24 in Fryeburg, ME.

**August 13:** Rally Afterparty! Location to be announced later

**September 9-11:** Lake Tawakoni State Park, Wills Point. **No host established yet: PLEASE volunteer! No schedule yet but count on a trip to Canton!** <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/lake-tawakoni>

**October 7-9:** Hords Creek Lake, Coleman, TX. This is core of engineer park, so book soon. Lakeside campground is sites 63-76. **Ph: 325-625-2322** <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/gateways/499>

**November 18-20:** Oakdale RV Resort and Motor Court, Glen Rose, annual membership meeting and Installation Rally (indoor rally room). <https://oakdalepark.com>

**December 2-4:** Second Annual "Holiday in Grapevine Rally" at The Vineyard RV Park at Grapevine (will find indoor venue for meeting if necessary). *Grapevine Vineyards 817-329-8993 or [vineyardscampground.com](http://vineyardscampground.com).*

# RALLIES IN PICTURES

## Mineral Wells Rally

Our March rally in Mineral Wells had a slow start with bad weather on Friday, but we made up for it quickly over the beautiful weekend. Friday night we brought in local barbeque and sat by the fireplace in a cozy gathering space overlooking Lake Mineral Wells. Saturday a few toured the local claim to fame, Crazy Water (and Anna did seem a little more mellow when she returned with a case of #4). In the afternoon it had warmed up enough to hike with the guidance of the Fritz's who happen to know the park really well. Saturday evening there were laughs galore with Carol Hayes' tray of famous adult beverages, and Dan Brockaway's Pasta Sauce took first place. Neil Yant won the prize for coming the farthest (he traveled over from Odessa). We were able to get a cool picture of all the rigs on the spillway as we were leaving the park (Dan Dice's idea and Dan Brockaway's engineering).



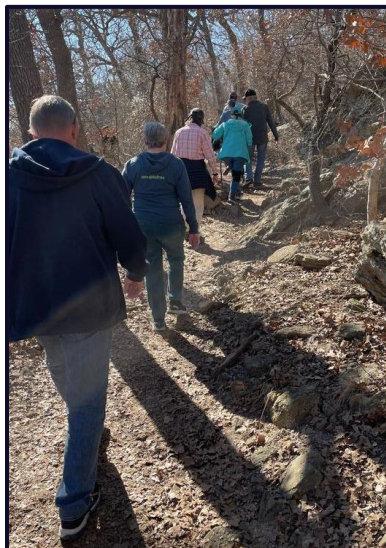
**Caravan over the spillway**



**Crazy Water Hotel in Mineral Wells-ask for the story!**



**Lake Mineral Wells**



**Hiking**



**Neil Yant**

## Meeting at the Brandon House

We had a great time at our April brunch meeting. Between the cinnamon rolls from Judy Pie's in Grapevine and the great conversation, it was almost as fun as camping. The minutes are posted on page 7 and the website. The food was great. We sold some t-shirts and hats and it was a beautiful day on the Brandon Patio. The Brandon's have given their all to help our club get active again after 2 years of COVID. Three cheers!



**The Millican's and everyone else enjoy the spring weather on the patio.**



**Tom, Anna, and Lynn discuss club business.**



## Region 9 “LET’S GET TOGETHER” RALLY in Mineola, TX.

The weather was absolutely perfect with beautiful spring days, and some wind. The Mineola civic center provided a fabulous circle of silver bullets, with plenty of green grass for gathering in the middle. HOTC and Highland Lakes provided a taco dinner Tuesday evening with STRONG Margaritas! North Texas was well represented with 13 trailers, and most had their new flags out front. We also sponsored a trip to Stitchin’ Heaven, the largest quilt store in Texas. This popular destination point for quilters gave us a warm welcome and a tour of the facilities. Amy VanArtsdalen brought along a Texas-themed quilt she sewed that was designed by the founder/owner of the store, Deb Littrell, and even has a picture with Deb showing it off beautifully. NTxAc got second place in the balloon volleyball tournament (only played one game).



**Opening Ceremonies**



**Taco Dinner Set Up**



**Dinner out at Kitchens-Mineola**



**Always a good time with Anna and David**



**Gary wants that Margarita**



**The excursion to Quitman for Quilters**





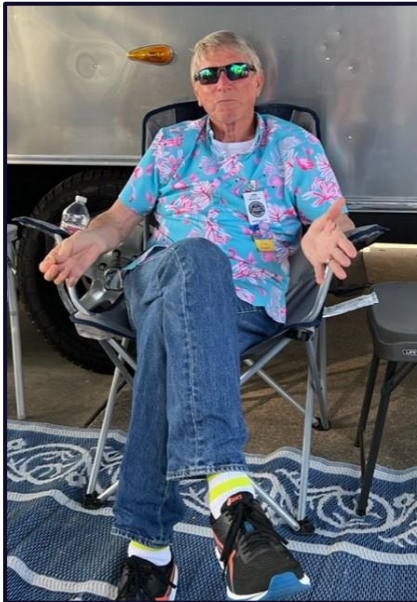
**The Circle center Gathering**



**Amy with her quilt**



**Goodies provided by Stichin'Heaven**



**David's Flamingo shirt-  
bought in  
downtown  
Mineola**



**Just hanging out**



**Gathering for Breakfast**



**Anna Brandon  
wins spiciest  
chili, and Rich  
Esparza wins 2  
gift certificates!**

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### ***Dan Brockawy's Pasta Meat Sauce —***

The key is Italian pork sausage and lots of vegetables.

Start with a little olive oil heating in a pan. Add Italian spices to the oil (I use a packet of spices my daughter brought back from Italy, but you can probably use any Italian spice mix if you add some red pepper flakes). Let the spices heat up but not burn.

Add in a pound of sweet Italian sausage and chop into 1/2 bits as it browns with a spoon or spatula. Cook meat until well done then remove meat to a bowl for later.

While meat is cooking, chop lots of onion, red pepper, mushrooms into 1/2-inch (big) chunks. You can decide how much of each, but together the vegetables should fill the pan. Add green onion whites and cook down until slightly softened. Don't overcook.

Add the meat back in with the veggies and pour in a jar of your favorite spaghetti sauce. I use Di Siena Classico.

The veggies release a lot of moisture so you might want to add a squeeze of tomato paste to thicken it up a bit.

Top with the green part of the scallions and serve.