

President's Message

As I read posts from other clubs, on AS discussion groups, and Airstream Addicts about rigs hibernating for the winter, I think about how lucky we are to generally be able to stream year-round. And for those of us who try to do that, we're generally rewarded with easier to book campsites. And AS clubs in the South have the opportunity to Rally year-round as well. We have a schedule that can be found under the "Files" tab at the top of our FB page. Join in! As noted in the next paragraph, we have a bunch 'o new members we're looking forward to meeting!

The new Blue Beret includes some info on membership growth in ACI this past year....just under 25% nationally. The Texas Hill Country Unit had a remarkable year as well. Although we lost some renewals, we added 42 new household members in '22, and each household averages 2 members, for 84 new members. And in January 2023, we already welcome Skeet & D'Ann Wilbanks, Shareece & Peter Dumont, and Robert Harp.

Though Jan and I were unable to attend, the weather was great for the January San Saba Rally. Thanks to Yvonne and Ed Michek for hosting. Upcoming events include the February rally at Lake Brownwood State Park 2/16 - 2/20. I am advised that the Council Bluff Loop is already full, so if you are planning on attending, you can check availability in nearby loops through reserveamerica.com. See the schedule mentioned above for reservation info. And, the Region 9 Rally is scheduled for 3/28 - 4/2 at the JB Wells Park, Arena and Expo in Gonzales. This is a great opportunity to mingle with members of the 9 other clubs in Texas and Oklahoma that make up Region 9. As of a year ago, Region 9 comprised +/- 9% of total ACI a membership.

And don't forget those Valentine's Day gifts, cards, or flowers!

Bob Grimes

President, Texas Hill Country Unit

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Editors: TnA Ebbers

Meet Keegan and Brooke Carrick

My name is Keegan I am a medically retired police officer. My wife, Brooke, is the accounting manager at a large marketing firm based out of Denver Colorado.

We sold our mountain home in Colorado about a year ago and decided to travel the country while we decide where to purchase our next home. We have always liked the Texas Hill Country and are planning to purchase something in that area when we are ready to settle down again.

This is our first airstream and are coming from a 45ft toy hauler. We purchased a Flying Cloud 25FB. The simplicity and ability to fit in state parks and sites we could not before was very appealing to us. It was difficult giving up the space and luxuries of a fully automatic and large rig but airstream has won us over.

We travel with our 7 year old Belgian Malinois. Anyone who knows about the breed knows she keeps us on our toes and active. She fits well with our lifestyle. We prefer stars over city lights and long hikes over a crowded downtown street.

The last 6 months have been great. We spent fall in Maine and winter in the Florida Keys. Currently enjoying Camp Margaritaville in Florida. We will be coming to the hill country for spring. If anyone has RV park recommendations let us know! After that we plan to go back to Colorado, Utah and Montana. Excited to meet some new people at the rallies.

-Keegan & Brooke



Meet Ira and Terri Rush



We started our Airstream Life in 2018 when I was discussing attending the Telluride Bluegrass festival with my wife Terri. It was kind of a bucket list bluegrass festival with a focus on camping in a spectacular location. Terri refused to tent camp and I asked if she would attend if we had an Airstream.... She said yes! Within a week of this conversation neighbors put their Airstream up for sale. We started talking with them and they suggested we check out the various sizes at the Airstream dealer. Which we did and left the dealer as the owners of a used 2014 22FB! We bought tickets and an RV pass for the TBF and off went on our first big roadtrip adventure!

The excitement and travel opportunities of our Bambi kind of pushed me into full retirement joining Terri. With a background in Electrical Engineering, I set about adding solar, Lilon and an inverter to the Bambi which worked great for a couple seasons of travel.

But the narrow width and crosswise layout of the queen bed convinced Terri it was time to go bigger! So in late 2020 in the grips of the pandemic, with no Airstream on any dealer lot, we decide to look at upgrading! We found several lightly used 25ft models but they were snapped up pretty quickly and at a premium price. We talked with the dealer and were able to secure a new 25FB Flying Cloud at a pretty reasonable discount. So 6 months later in June of 2021 we took delivery. The 2014 Bambi was sold in under 6 hours, with multiple backup offers.

Our Airstream calendar is generally organized to leave Texas in August and return in October. We have covered large swaths of the west including a trip through Yellowstone to Seattle where our daughter lives. And then continued all the way down the west coast to San Diego before turning towards Texas. Last summer we went east visiting the southern states including a stop at Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" Pennsylvania, and a stop at our newest National Park in West Virginia, The New River Gorge.

2023 will see us visiting various Texas locals in February, enjoying the Old Settlers Music festival (Dale, TX) in April, and attending the International Rally in Wyoming in June. Other Airstreaming plans for the year are still in the works. You can expect to see us at a rally or two as our schedule allows!

January 2023 San Saba Rally:

Attendees of the rally were (hosts) Yvonne and Ed Michek, Dan and Zephyr Marek, Craig and Susan Fegley, David and Nicky Allen and Tim and Allison Ebbers..



Pictures from the Wedding Oak. This tree is ginormous! Although, it is not as giant as it was a few years ago when some of it's branches fell and had to be severely trimmed back. More pics will be posted on Facebook.



Pictures from the Regency Suspension Bridge. There is an RV Campground at the end of the bridge although there has to be another way around since the bridge can not support trailer+tow vehicle. Yikes. More pics will be posted on Facebook.



REGENCY SUSPENSION BRIDGE
AFTER A SERIES OF TRAGIC FLOODS WASHED OUT EARLIER COLORADO RIVER CROSSINGS HERE, SAN SABA AND MILLS COUNTIES JOINTLY BUILT THIS BRIDGE. NAMED FOR THE MILLS COUNTY COMMUNITY OF REGENCY, THE AUSTIN BRIDGE COMPANY OF DALLAS COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION IN OCTOBER 1909. THE ROAD DECK HANGS SUSPENDED FROM TWO STEEL CABLES, EACH MEASURING THREE-AND-A-QUARTER INCHES IN DIAMETER AND CONSISTING OF 475 STRANDS OF GALVANIZED WIRE. RESTORED BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN 1999, THIS IS ONE OF THE LAST SUSPENSION BRIDGES OPEN TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN TEXAS.
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 2019
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS



Other pictures from get togethers. More pictures are posted on Facebook—Texas Hill Country Unit.



There was a lot of great food at the rally. Here are a few recipes to share:

Zephyr Marek made these **Biscuits & Gravy Casserole** for breakfast. YUM.

Preg: 10 mins, Cook: 35 mins, Total: 45 mins, Servings: 6, Yield: 1- 9x13 baking dish

Ingredients:

- 1 (10 ounce) can of refrigerated biscuit dough (such as Pillsbury Grands)
- 1 (1 pound) bulk pork sausage
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 6 eggs
- ½ milk (I used ½ & ½)
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 1 ½ cups cold water, or more as needed
- 1 (1.5 ounce) package pork gravy mix

Directions:

- Step 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- Step 2: Line the bottom of the prepared baking dish with biscuits. (I cut them in 4 pieces.)
- Step 3: Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5 to 7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Scatter sausage over biscuit layer and top with 1 cup cheddar cheese.
- Step 4: Whisk eggs, milk, salt, and pepper together in a bowl and pour over cheese layer.
- Step 5: Mix water and gravy mix together in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until gravy is thickened, 1 to 2 minutes, adding more water for a thinner gravy. Pour gravy over egg layer. Sprinkle remaining ½ cup cheddar cheese over casserole.
- Step 6: Bake in the preheated oven until egg is fluffy and cheese is bubbling, about 30 minutes.

Susan Fegley made these two soups—really good especially when it is cold:

Chicken Tortillia Soup

Ingredients:

- 1/2 onion chopped
- 1 can corn
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes
- 1 can Ranch Style beans
- 1 can chicken breast (I used shredded chicken from the meat dept)
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1 tsp cumin

Directions: Combine all ingredients in saucepan and heat. Serve with shredded cheese, diced avocado, crumbled tortilla chips

Crockpot White Chicken Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 lb boneless skinless chicken breast trimmed of excess fat
- 1 yellow onion diced
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 24 oz chicken broth
- 2 15 oz cans Great Northern beans
- 2 4 oz cans green chilies
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp cumin
- 3/4 tsp oregano
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- small handful fresh cilantro chopped
- 4 oz reduced fat cream cheese softened
- 1/4 cup half and half

Directions:

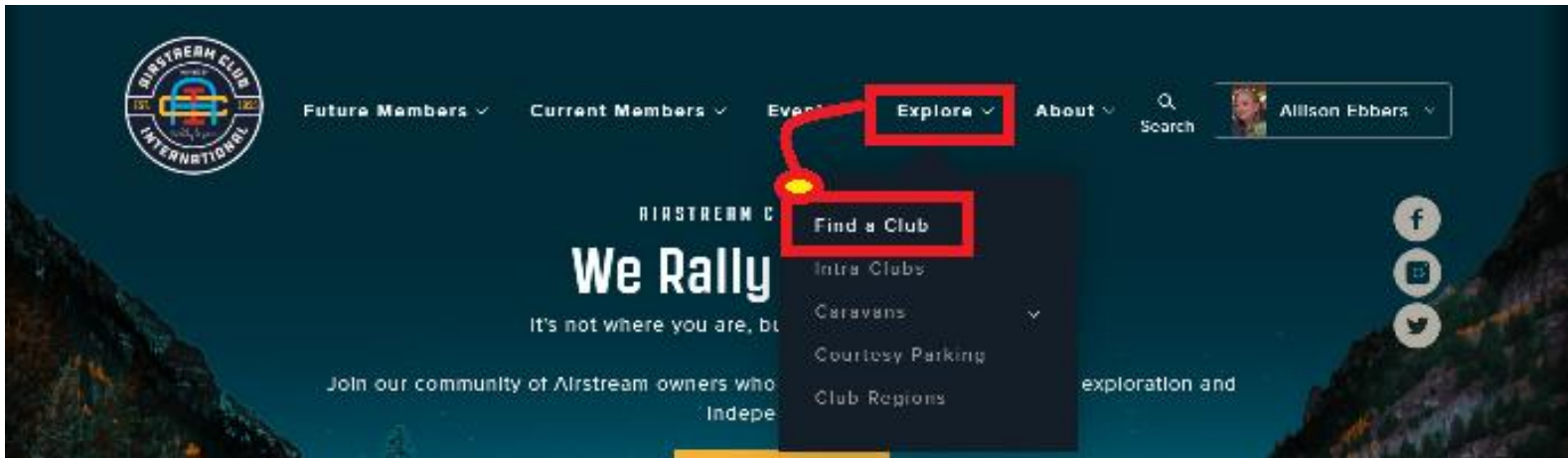
- Step 1: Add chicken breasts to bottom of slow cooker, top with salt, pepper, cumin, oregano, chili powder and cayenne pepper.
- Step 2. Add diced onion, minced garlic, Great Northern beans, green chilies, corn, chicken broth and cilantro. Stir.
- Step 3. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or HiGH for 3-4 hours.
- Step 4. Remove chicken to large bowl, shred, then return to slow cooker.
- Step 5. Add cream cheese and half and half, stir, cover and cook on high 15 minutes until chili is creamy and thickened. (To ensure a smooth blend of the cream cheese, add the softened cream cheese to a small bowl and add a ladle of the chili and whisk until smooth. Then stir that mixture into the slow cooker and add half and half.)
- Step 6. Stir well and serve with desired toppings

Possible toppings

- sliced jalapeños,
- sliced avocados,
- dollop of sour cream,
- minced fresh cilantro,
- tortilla chips,
- shredded Mexican cheese blend

Tim has made updates to our club's site on airstreamclub.org. The updates include THCU General Information, new and past newsletters, THCU Rallies, the bylaws, etc. To easily navigate to our page select this link [Texas Hill Country Unit | ACI \(airstreamclub.org\)](http://Texas Hill Country Unit | ACI (airstreamclub.org)). If you find yourself, however without the link OR if you want to explore other clubs, here is an easy way to navigate to a club's page. I will use Texas Hill Country Unit in this example.

Step #1 after logging into airstreamclub.org. Select 'Explore' then 'Find a Club' from the drop down list.



Step #2 after the page goes to the "Find a Club Near You"; scroll down where you will see the clubs listed on the left side of the page. Use the scroll icon to scroll down to Texas Hill Country Unit and select the box.

LOCAL CLUBS

We've got options with over 100 local clubs across the world. Are you a weekend warrior? Check out the local clubs near you. Travel most or full time? The world awaits. We encourage you to "find your flock" which offers activities, interests and events that align with your dreams.

Select a Country

North America
Europe



Step #3 Once you have selected the Texas Hill Country Unit page you should find yourself in our home page. From this home page you can navigate to our club's information, review past/present newsletters, review the president's message, and most importantly, see what rallies/events are coming up.



[Future Members](#)

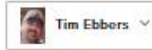
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If you select the THCU Rallies/Events link it will go to the 2023 THCU Schedule, which has more information, dates, and location for what we have in store for this year



MAKING GOOD MEMORIES

Texas Hill Country Unit

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Check us out on Facebook in the link below.

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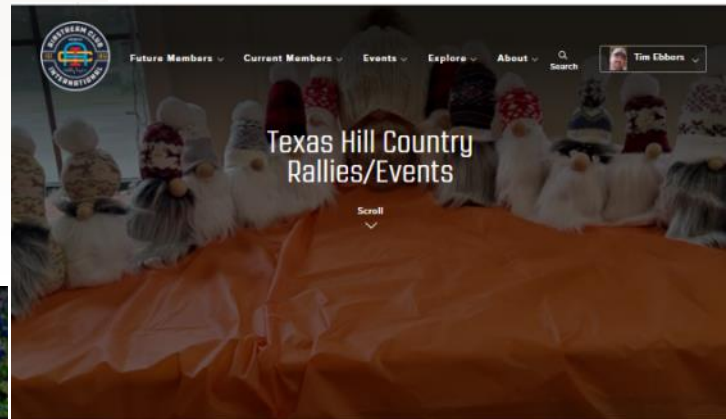
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2023 Schedule [\(Map, List\)](#)

San Saba, Texas

Date: Jan 19-22

Location: San Saba City RV Park & Golf Course, 723 CR 102, San Saba, TX, 325-372-3212

Overview: San Saba is known for being the pecan capital of the world, housing 8 different pecan companies. It is also a fisherman and hunters paradise, with the San Saba River and Colorado River flowing through the city.

Links: [Event Page](#), [San Saba](#)

Lake Brownwood State Park, Texas

Date: Feb 16-19

Location: Lake Brownwood State Park, 200 Park Road 15, Brownwood, TX 76801

Overview: Lake Brownwood is a CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) State Park located 11.9 miles north of Brownwood, TX.

Links: [Event Page](#), [Lake Brownwood State Park](#), [Brownwood](#)

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Come and Stream It in Gonzales, TX



March 28 - April 2, 2023

Registration is open! You are invited to the Region 9 Annual Rally at the [JB Wells Park, Arena, and Expo Center in Gonzales, TX](#), an historic town nestled on the banks of the Guadalupe River, for our monthly campout in March of 2023. We'll kick off the event with a Margarita and BBQ Welcome Party complete with a DJ and boot scootin' (bring your cowboy hat and boots). Some of the planned events include a visit to the ["Come and Take It" cannon](#) at the Gonzales museum with a storyteller recreating the stand-off between Santa Anna and the rebel Texans, [a golf outing](#), a tour of [Spoetzl Brewery](#) (home of the quintessential Shiner Bock), and a tour of four of the [Painted Churches in Schulenberg](#). Add to that are on-your-own opportunities to visit nearby places to [bike, walk, or kayak/canoe](#). Of course, there is also the best part of our get togethers: chumming around with folks from other clubs in the region and learning new tips and tricks for Airstreaming. Below is the preliminary schedule of events. Additional information and specifics should come out as we get closer to the date and have approximations of participants.

Included in your registration are five nights of full hook-ups (30/50 amp), breakfasts, coffee all day long, Airstreaming classes, Margarita Welcome Party, and the Presidents' Dinner/Grill Night. You can also join us for the second annual Chili Cook-off.

Registration will be done using JotForm.

Here is the link: <https://form.jotform.com/223305585017048>. If you prefer a QR Code:



Hope to see you in Gonzales!

Nancy Fitzgerald, Region 9 President

Rally Itinerary is on the next page. To get an updated itinerary, please go to the following link: [2023 Region 9 Rally | ACI \(airstreamclub.org\)](https://www.airstreamclub.org/2023-Region-9-Rally-Itinerary)

Region 9 Rally March 28 – April 2, 2023

**JB Wells Expo Center 2301 CR 197
Gonzales TX 78629**

Tuesday – March 28

JB Wells Expo Center
Parking 2-4 pm

Welcome Packet Pick-Up/Registration
Margarita Welcome Party!
Welcome Ceremony
BBQ Bash
Boot Scootin' with DJ
Ice Cream Under the Stars

Hosted by GHAC, TPAC, OAC & TAU

Wednesday – March 29

JB Wells Expo Center
Blackstone Breakfast
Come and Take It Story
at Gonzales Memorial Museum
Catered Lunch in Town
Explore Gonzales and Area
Chamber of Commerce Social Hour
Dinner on Own
Ice Cream Under the Stars

Hosted by TGCU & ETLAU & THCU

Thursday – March 30

JB Wells Expo Center
Breakfast-To-Go
Golf Scramble
Biking/Walking/Kayaking /Games
Lunch on Your Own
Cook-off Competition
Ice Cream Social / Music Jam

Hosted by THLAC & HOTC

Friday March 31

JB Wells Expo Center
Sky Med Breakfast & Presentation
Airstream 101
Lunch on Own
Explore Spoetzl Brewery, Home of
Shiner Bock Beer &
Painted Church in Shiner
Dinner on Your Own or
Return to Expo Center for
Public Roping/Music Event at JB Wells

Hosted by NTxAC



Saturday-April 1

JB Wells Expo Center
Pancake Breakfast
Region Board Meeting/Membership
Club Leadership Training Meetings
Airstream 102
Lunch on Your Own
Additional Clinics/Vendors
Presidents' Dinner/Grill Night
Presidents & Club Leaders Closing
Hosted by Region 9 Leadership Team

Sunday –April 2

JB Wells Expo Center
Coffee & Donuts
Clean-Up & Good-Byes & Departures
Hosted by Region 9 Executive Board

Each local club is asked to gather donations for Region 9 Charity of Choice Team Red, White & Blue. Each local club will present its donations at the Rally on Saturday evening. Team Red, White & Blue is America's leading health and wellness community for veterans. To read more about the organization, click the link: <https://www.about.teamrwb.org>



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

- 01 Roberto Del Bosque
- 07 Elise Winchester
- 08 Louis Coldwell
- 09 Bonnie Stanley
- 11 Michael Green
- 27 Richard Fletcher
- 28 Sylvia Lemley

28 Jan Eiland

welcome

New members:

- ⇒ Brandie Clevenger and Brian Spain
- ⇒ Robert Harp
- ⇒ Shareece and Peter Dumont
- ⇒ Skeet and D'Ann Wilbanks



- Jan 07 Michael and Pat Green
- Jan 11 Eddie and Jan Eiland
- Feb 18 Lois Muir and Richard Fletcher
- Feb 19 Paul and Karen Mock
- Feb 23 Louis and Andrea Coldwell

General Announcements

- ⇒ You will notice that our Facebook page is Private. If you are a new member and would like to join our Facebook group, search for the page name = 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 al-ly.ebbers@gmail.com and I will post on the next newsletter.



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



THCU 2023 Schedule

Date	Location	Comments
Jan 19-22	San Saba City RV Park & Golf Course 723 CR 102, San Saba, TX 325-372-3212	Eight sites being held until 1/10/23. Make reservation with the park directly and advise Yvonne Michek (michekmgw@gmail.com) to get an accurate head count. Host: Ed and Yvonne Michek
Feb 16-19	Lake Brownwood State Park 200 Park Road 15 Brownwood, TX 76801 www.reserveamerica.com	Council Bluff Loop, full hookups, 10 FH sites available as of 12/20/2022. Many other non FH sites available in other loops Host: Tim and Ally Ebbers
Mar 28-Apr 02 Region 9 Rally	JB WELLS PARK, ARENA & EXPO 2301 County Road 191 Gonzales, TX	This is your opportunity to experience a larger rally, and replaces a THCU rally for this month. Info on registration to follow from Region 9. Rally runs Tuesday – Sunday.
Apr 20-23	Traveler's World RV Resort 2617 Roosevelt Ave. San Antonio 78214 210-532-8310; 844-726-2450	This is the FIRST WEEKEND OF FIESTA and will book quickly. You will/should make your reservations ASAP. As of 10/26 there are 63 back in sites @ 69/ nite and 15 pull through sites at 76/nite. Since this is Fiesta , activities will consist of going related activities and local site-seeing. Host: Bob and Jan Grimes
May 18-21	Airport Park Lake Waco 4600 Skeet Eason Rd Waco, TX 76708	Group site has been booked with 7 sites. If you want to book one of the 7 sites, please let Bob Grimes know. It is FCFB (first-come-first-book). Once group site is filled and you want to attend this rally, you will need to make own reservations from www.recreation.gov Host: Dan and Zephyr Marek
Jun 28– Jul 01 International	International Rock Springs, WY	There may be a caravan going to International. If interested, please contact Bob Grimes or Ally Ebbers.
Aug TBD	Mid Year Luncheon	Location TBD
Sep 17-22 Big Bend Caravan	Roadrunner RV Park 23315 FM 170 Terlingua, TX 79852 432-466-1036	Depart Saturday 9/16, overnight in general Ft. Stockton area, arrive in Terlingua Sunday 9/17. Five nights, four days on site, head home 9/22. You can caravan or go at your own pace. Current rate \$55/nite. September average low 58, average high 78. Coordinator: Bob and Jan Grimes
Oct TBD	Schitz Creek Distillery 101 County Road 257 Liberty Hill, TX 78642	This will be a boondocking event. There is a limit on the number of rigs. Dates and Registration info to follow. Host: Dan and Zephyr Marek
Nov 16-19 Thanksgiving and Installation rally	Brazos Valley RV Park 2190 TX-21, Caldwell, TX 979-200-3007	Subject to change based on 2023 A&M football schedule
Dec TBD	Holiday Luncheon; location TBD	



Additional 2023 Rally Information:

February Rally (Feb 16-19):

- ◆ This is Brownwood State Park and you will have to reserve your site from www.reserveamerica.com. It is easier if you create an account.
- ◆ If you have a current Texas State Park Pass, your entry fee will be waived.
- ◆ As of 1/26/23 there are no sites available in Council Bluff. Check first to make sure no one cancelled. If you are unable to get a site in Council Bluff Loop, there are many other sites available in other loops. The other loops will not have full hookups.
- ◆ Let Ally Ebbers know you are coming to get an accurate headcount. Currently, there are three rigs who have made reservations.
- ◆ If there is questionable weather, this rally will be cancelled. If it is cancelled, change your reservation dates to ensure you don't lose your \$\$.
- ◆ The rally itinerary will be sent out separately as we get closer.

April Rally (Apr 20-23) in Traveler's World RV Resort in San Antonio, TX:

- ◆ This rally is occurring during Fiesta; this is the first week of Fiesta (opening day is Apr 20). The activities for this rally will be going to Fiesta and related activities and local site-seeing. For the itinerary check out this site: [Official Fiesta® Event Calendar \(fiestasanantonio.org\)](http://OfficialFiesta.com) and go to the month of April.
- ◆ As of 01/25/2023, Traveler's World has the following available: 60 full hookup back-in sites, 09 full hookup pull through sites, 2 cottages (if you don't want to pull your rig). To reserve, go to this site: [Traveler's World \(sunoutdoors.com\)](http://Traveler'sWorld.com) or call one of these numbers: 210-532-8310; 844-726-2450.
- ◆ Once you have made your reservations, please let Bob Grimes (txairstreamer@gmail.com) know you are coming.
- ◆ Additional information will be posted here.