

## President's Message

By the time you read this, the February Rally at Lake Brownwood State Park will have occurred. Registration was scant; Jan and I had planned on attending, but a lifting injury rendered dealing with the trailer simply not possible. A wee-bit of arthroscopic shoulder surgery is hoped to solve the issue with recovery in time for the Region 9 Rally scheduled for March 28 - April 2. Speaking of which, as of this writing, there are 101 rigs registered for the Region Rally in Gonzales, and 9 are representing the THCU (maybe more in the next few weeks). And here's a piece of info that is exciting.....the 2024 Region 9 Rally will be in Bandera at Skyline Ranch RV, May 1-5. The Rally is being shortened by one day, starting on a Wednesday (steak night at the 11th Street Bar!!).

Speaking of Rallies, the April THCU Rally previously scheduled for 4/20 - 4/23 in San Antonio has been re-located to Schatziland RV Resort in San Marcos, same dates. This is a one year old park located at 3169 Florence Street, off I-35 south of the city. The owner is German, and the word Schatzi translates to "treasure". Reviews are very positive, and landscaping is beginning to take hold. There is a community room, pool, large outdoor deck with picnic tables, pickle ball, bocci ball, horseshoes, sand volleyball and trails, all located on 200 acres, with 184 full hook-up sites on 28 dedicated acres. The basic sites are \$65 daily plus tax. However, the rate drops by \$15 if we have ten or more rigs registered. The park will hold a block of 10 sites together until 3/20. After that date, the block will be released and they will do their best to park rigs as close together as possible. When you call to register, you must mention you are with THCU. Please also drop me an email if you register. A schedule is set including visits/activities in both San Marcos and New Braunfels, BBQ, and German food!

We (Jan and I) have only been THCU members for 9 years, but I don't recall having a Rally in San Marcos previously. I am hopeful that this may attract some of our members who reside in the greater Austin area.

Bob

President, Texas Hill Country Unit

Email: [txairstreamer@gmail.com](mailto:txairstreamer@gmail.com); Cell: 210-722-1080



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*Editors: TnA Ebbers*

# 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 TGPU & 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>**

What is a rally with just one rig??? Oh, wait—that's just camping! We were the hosts for this Lake Brownwood State Park rally. The weather was pretty cold and even when folks signed off, we decided to go since it was on our calendar and we were very happy with our decision. Tim and I travel through Brownwood, TX a load of times before and stayed at this state park last summer but haven't explored the town itself. It has a lot to offer. If you want somewhere interesting to visit, you may want to put Brownwood on your list.



Here is what we did this weekend:

**A.** Hiked several miles of trails here in Lake Brownwood State Park. Even though it was so very cold in the morning and the night comes quickly, we hiked the Nopales Ridge Trail, Texas Oak Trail and Opossum Loop Trail. Some of these trails would've been too hot to do in in the summer.



**B.** Explored downtown Brownwood, TX. We went to the Brown County Historical Museum which included a tour of the Old Jail.



**C.** Had lunch at the Runaway Train Café. Two words...Jalapeno Bacon.



**D.** Toured the Martin & Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum. They had some running mini trains in mini towns complete with sounds. It was pretty cool. Check out the pics below...these look life-sized, but are mini trains or part of the mini town! Pretty cool. We aren't miniature train aficionados, but certainly appreciated the work that went to making these mini-towns. Entertaining!!



**E.** Lastly, we went to the *Agatha Christies Murder on the Orient Express* play at the Lyric Theater in downtown Brownwood. We went to the Saturday matinee since we didn't purchase tickets ahead of time. The play was great and the venue was gorgeous. If we come back to this area, we will always check out what is at the Lyric!



It was cold, but Tim and I learned a few things to adapt when camping in this weather. Additionally, we really love Brownwood. We will be back.



We did not have any new members since the last newsletter or any member spotlights. Since Tim and I have not done a member spotlight, here it is...Meet us—Tim and Ally Ebbers:

Our dream before we get too old and not want to travel is to visit, hike, and/or volunteer in all the US National Parks (it has expanded since then). After visiting some national parks in Utah and staying in hotels, we thought...there must be something better. We found short term rentals shortly after the Utah trip which would save us a little bit of money and would be much closer to Yellowstone National Park. When we went to Yellowstone the house we rented was adorable, but it was still an hour to the park entrance and, because it is Yellowstone, another hour to anywhere else inside the park. We saw some RV campgrounds inside and right outside the park. We thought, we should look into that!

We started earnestly trying to figure out what we want and settled on an Airstream with a hatchback after we saw an Eddie Bauer Airstream at one of the dealers. Why a hatchback? Because it is cool plus you can get a whole lot of crap in and out of the hatchback—what if we needed to replace the fridge or the bed or just open it up because we have such an awesome view? Tim was onboard, but I was still hesitant. For one of our anniversary, we found a place in Terlingua, TX which rented Airstreams like a house on Home Away. One step closer...the couple who ran the place was awesome, we stayed in Josephine and fell in love, until we turned on the AC. WOW—it was so loud I couldn't hear myself think! I thought I could get used to it, but NOPE...one step back. Life went on and Tim found out that Airstreams are going with ducted ACs. Game changer! Bad news was Airstream was no longer making Eddie Bauer Airstreams. Bummer. Out comes Airstream Pendleton! Bad news, all were sold out—that's

it—no more. It's OK, Home Away and Air B&B were still not super popular so rates were not outrageous and visiting national and state parks were still in our yearly vacation plans. Little did I know, Tim is always looking and found a gently used Airstream Pendleton #23 in Boise, ID. Tim's uncle and aunt (Darryl and Maureen Ostyn) have been 'streamers for a long time that they knew the folks at the dealership in Boise. We asked them to check it out and to please tell us what is wrong with it so that we can write it off—unfortunately they called us back and said "What a beauty! You should get it." Price was right after another interested buyer fell though and the Ostyn's were right, "TwentyThree is pretty dang awesome."

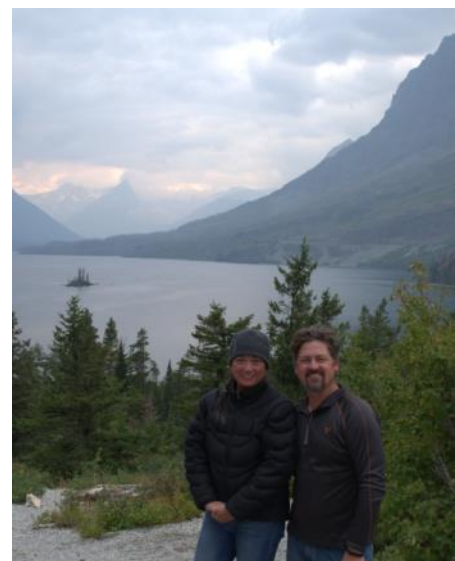
Our first big trip was to Glacier National Park. I believe this was our favorite trip thus far even though our heart belongs to Yellowstone. Cell phone signal at St Mary's is non-existent so we hiked a lot and ate a load of huckleberry ice cream each night. Both contributed to our top vacation spot pick.



In the last few years we've taken a trip back to Idaho every spring/summer since Tim and I both have family to see. Having your 'home' is so very nice, we visit then go home each night—none of the uncomfortable "overstay your welcome" conversations. Each time we go to Idaho, we take a different route so that we get to see other places/states. Our other favorite trips were to South Bend, IN (last year) and to Bruneau State Park in 2020. Ask us another day and our other favorites will probably change—for example, Kentucky has beautiful country, the Smokey Mountains can't be beat, hiking in Colorado is pretty awesome.

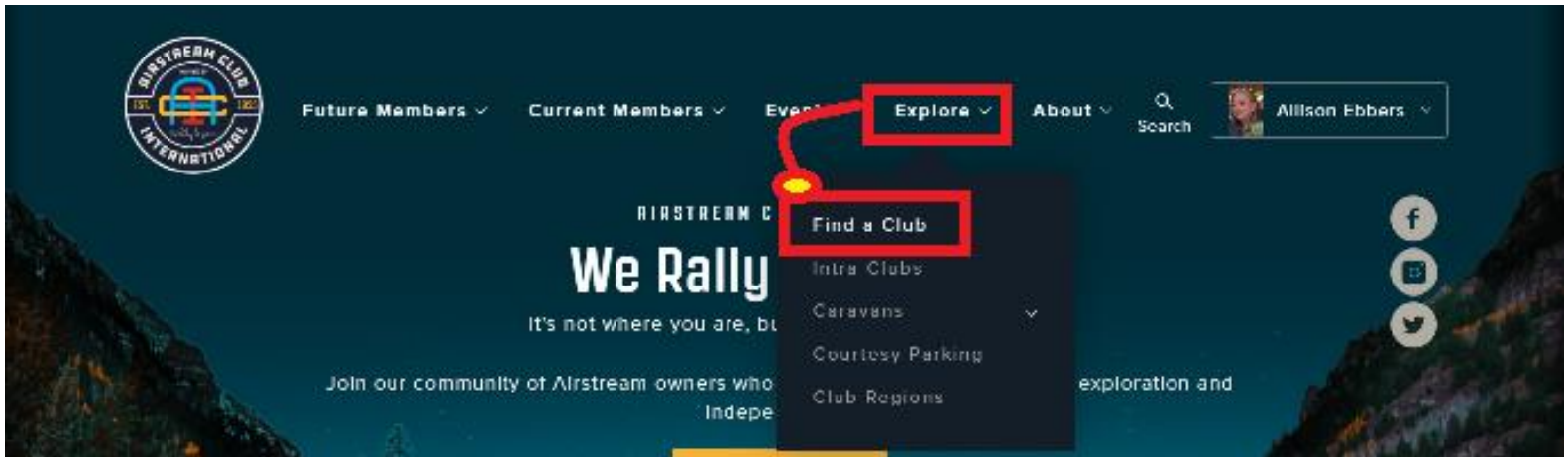
Memories

As far as future 'big' trips, we have Alaska, Bay of Fundy, Western Canadian national parks on the list—although there are a lot of places in between those destinations that could be our next favorite. For example, have you heard that International 2023 is in Rock Springs, WY? We've stayed at Sweetwater before and it was very nice—but more than a bunch of Airstreams in one place—it will be freaking WOW.



Tim has made updates to our club's site on [airstreamclub.org](http://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](http://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](#)

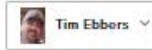
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If you select the THCU Rallies/Events link it will go to the 2023 THCU Schedule, which has more information, dates, and location for what we have in store for this year



MAKING GOOD MEMORIES

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This little icon goes directly to our THCU Facebook page

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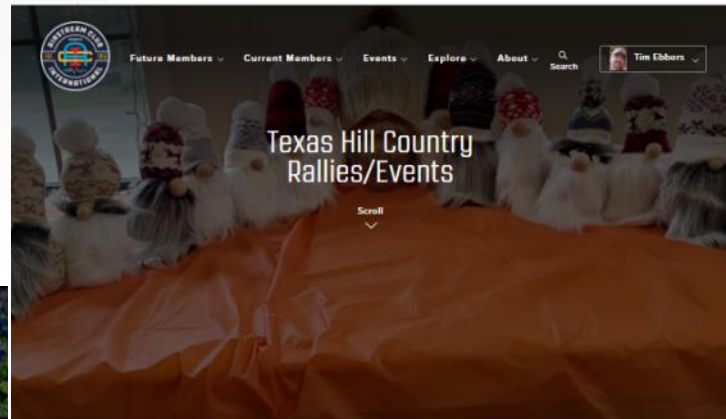
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## 2023 Schedule [\(Map, List\)](#)

**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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**FEBRUARY**

28 Jan Eiland

**MARCH**

12 Jeff McKee

14 Mark Knox

18 Joan Ermis

27 Charlie Williams



Feb 18 Lois Muir and Richard Fletcher  
Feb 19 Paul and Karen Mock  
Feb 23 Louis and Andrea Coldwell  
Mar 31 Jim and Joyce Schwerdfeger

**2023 THCU Officers**

- ◆ President: Bob Grimes
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Tim Ebbers
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Michael Green
- ◆ Corresponding & recording secretary: Carol Wallace
- ◆ Treasurer: Zephyr Marek
- ◆ Membership chairman: Yvonne Michek
- ◆ 1 year director: Ed Michek and Joanne Ermis
- ◆ 2 year director: Dan Marek and Dave Toy
- ◆ Newsletter: Ally Ebbers
- ◆ Web Master: Tim Ebbers

**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 ally.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 ( <a href="mailto:michekmgw@gmail.com">michekmgw@gmail.com</a> ) 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 <a href="http://www.reserveamerica.com">www.reserveamerica.com</a>	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
<b>Mar 28-Apr 02 Region 9 Rally</b>	<b>JB WELLS PARK, ARENA &amp; EXPO 2301 County Road 191 Gonzales, TX</b>	<b>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.</b>
Apr 20-23	Schatziland RV Resort 3169 Florence Street San Marcos, TX 78666 <a href="tel:7372213331">(737) 221-3331</a>	This is a brand new park in San Marcos. Mention that you are with Texas Hill Country Unit. Rate is 65/nite, but will drop by \$15/nite if we have 10+ rigs signed up.  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 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>  Host: Dan and Zephyr Marek
<b>Jun 28– Jul 01 International</b>	<b>International Rock Springs, WY</b>	<b>There may be a caravan going to International. If interested, please contact Bob Grimes or Ally Ebbers.</b>
<b>Aug TBD</b>	<b>Mid Year Luncheon</b>	<b>Location TBD</b>
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	

