



# COYOTE TALES



Volume 48 - Issue 3

March 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March Greetings my fellow Club members! I can't believe we are at the Roman Calendar Ides of March and Spring is in the air. For a little history, The Roman calendar did not number each day of the month from the first to the last. Instead, they counted back from three fixed points of the month known as the Nones, the Ides, and the Kalends that loosely correspond to the first, middle, and end of the month. The Roman calendar had a lunar origin, and the Ides was supposed to be the first full moon of each month. It was also a bad day for Julius Caesar as he was assassinated on March 15, 45 B.C. I'm glad we have a wall calendar now and a computer-phone in my pocket for me to keep up with the date. Speaking of time, we've just sprung forward and lost an hour (hopefully for the last time) depending on what Congress does regarding daylight savings time.

Come and Stream It! As most of you know, our March Rally is a combined Region 9 Rally in Gonzales, TX at the JB Wells Expo Center. Region 9 President Nancy Fitzgerald along with Region 9 Vice President Tracy Elkins, have worked non-stop to organize the event scheduled for March 28-April 2nd. We have 28 rigs signed up to attend. Many of you have volunteered to help with parking, shuttling folks to and from the parking area to the event, assisting in serving refreshments, food, setting up chairs, tables, and the dance floor when the music starts! Thanks to each of our volunteers These things can't get done without folks stepping up to help.

The Coyote Tales newsletter is an important source of information about our club. It is also a place where our members can share information that we can all benefit from. If any of you want to share an important or interesting event, photo, recipe, or Airstream trailer issue, please submit your information so it can be included.

Lastly, First VP Rick Elkins steers the Mentoring Committee and welcomes new members to the GHAC Club. If anyone needs advice or guidance with their rig, don't hesitate to ask for help! The President's job is made easier by having a great First VP and Rick certainly fits that bill.

## Meet A Member

### David & Felicia Petit

Big Red Number 30508

Hi, we're David and Felicia Petit and we live in Dickinson, TX. Native Texans, born and raised. We've been married 52 years this December. We have two wonderful children, Rachel and Adam. They have given us 4 grandchildren. Everyone in the family loves to travel and see new sites. I'm a retired 8th grade science teacher and David is retired from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. We absolutely love to be on the road and we don't care where we are headed. Our longest trip so far was 110 days, 18,000 miles to Alaska and back. Looking forward to many more adventures.

**A journey is not measured in miles, but the adventure along the way.**



# March Rally – Come & Stream It

March 28 – April 2<sup>nd</sup>

JB Wells Expo Center – 2301 CR 197, Gonzales TX



Region 9 Rally March 28 – April 2, 2023  
JB Wells Expo Center 2301 CR 197  
Gonzales TX 78629

## Tuesday – March 28

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  
Officer in Charge: Tracy Elkins

## Wednesday – March 29

Blackstone Breakfast

Come and Take It Story  
Gonzales Memorial Museum  
Catered Box Lunch in Town  
Explore Gonzales and Area  
Chamber of Commerce Social Hour  
GHAC Dinner – Grill Night  
Ice Cream Under the Stars  
Part 1-Vintage Film-A  
Journey Through Africa: 1959  
Caravan

Hosted by TGPU & ETLAU & THCU  
Officer in Charge: Keith Ferry

## Thursday – March 30

Breakfast-To-Go  
Golf Scramble  
Biking/Walking/Kayaking /Games  
Texas Quilt Museum-LaGrange  
Lunch on Your Own  
Biscuits on a Stick  
Chili Cook-off Competition  
Guest Speaker–Kathryn Clark Childers  
Ice Cream Social / Music Jam  
Hosted by THLAC & HOTC  
Officer in Charge: Amy VanArtsdalen

## Friday March 31

Sky Med Breakfast & Presentation

Explore Snoetzel Brewery, Home of Shiner  
Bock Beer  
Painted Church in Shiner  
Lunch on Own  
Return to Expo Center for  
Hot Dog Dinner  
Entertainment by Brian Kalines  
Americana/Folk Singer  
Hosted by NTxAC  
Officer in Charge: Anna Brandon

## Saturday-April 1

Kolache Breakfast  
Region Board Meeting/Membership  
Club Leadership Training Meetings  
Airstream Clinic  
Lunch on Your Own  
Seminars/Demonstrations/Vendors  
Dinner honoring Club Presidents  
Leadership Recognition  
Part 2-Vintage Film-A Journey  
Through Africa: 1959 Caravan  
Closing Ceremony  
Officer in Charge: Tracy Elkins

## 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>



## COME AND STREAM IT IN GONZALES, TX!

The GHAC Club Rally next month will be joining Region 9 Units for a large rally on **March 28-April 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales, TX. There are a total of 109 rigs signed up to attend so we are guaranteed to have a fun time and getting to know folks from other Units. GHAC has 28 Units registered to attend. If you'd like to help and haven't yet volunteered, please contact Tracy Elkins at 281.725.1672 to sign up and help on Saturday Activities!

We will Have our GHAC members gathering for a Club Dinner on Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>. Get ready to group and grill!





**Greater Houston Airstream Club**  
**DENIM & DIAMONDS RALLY**

**Date** – 20-23 April 2023  
**Colorado Landing RV Park**  
 64 E Bluffview Dr  
 La Grange, TX 78945  
 (979) 968-9465  
 \$40/night

**Register by: April 5th**

**Texas 2-Step Registration**  
 1) Reserve Camp Site  
 2) Register with GHAC  
<https://airstreamclub.org/ghac-april-2023-rally>  
 Rally Fee \$20/person

**Overview:**

- Thurs - Park & Set-Up / Happy Hour
- Fri - Breakfast, Site Seeing on Your Own, Happy Hour, Dinner, Video & Texas Trivia
- Sat - Breakfast, Earth Day, Swap Meet, Happy Hour, Dinner, Fashion Show
- Sun - Breakfast & Break Camp

**Activities:**

- Site Seeing on your own
- Earth Day Clean Up -Kreische Brewery & Monument Hill
- Swap Meet (\$5 per person for Team RWB)
- Texas Trivia Game
- Denim & Diamonds Fashion Show

**Hosts:** Rick & Tracy Elkins  
 281-725-1672  
 Paul Evens & Natalie Garrett

## DENIM & DIAMONDS RALLY - April 20-23, 2023

Colorado Landing RV, La Grange, TX

It's a two-step registration process.

- 1) Complete the GHAC Registration link for this Rally: <https://airstreamclub.org/ghac-april-2023-rally>
- 2) Make your campground reservations with Colorado Landings – P 979-968-9465

LaGrange is famous for many things, hone up on your trivia! Wear your jeans and your “diamonds”, it'll be like no other Rally you've ever attended! We'll have a Swap Meet, so get your things together and let's exchange; remember, one man's junk is another man's Diamonds! Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, so in addition to repurposing our junk at the Swamp Meet, we'll do some community service work at Monument Hill, a State Historic Site. The full Rally Flyer is posted at the GHAC Registration link above. Please contact Rick or Tracy Elkins at 281.725.1672 for any other details.

# MEMORIAL DAY RALLY & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

May 25 - 29, 2023

Big Spot RV Park

2241 E Bay Shore Dr. San Leon, TX, 77539 P 832-864-2930

It's a two-step registration process.

3) Complete the GHAC Registration link for this Rally:

<https://form.jotform.com/230735603932151>

4) Make your campground reservations with Big Spot RV, just let them know you're with GHAC's Rally Crew for a \$39/night rate.

Rally fees are \$18 per person. The Rally Fees covers the cost of dinners and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and a continental breakfast on Monday. We will be going out dinner on Friday. Call Jo Goodwin at 713-205-1277 for any other details.



## Greater Houston Airstream Club Caravan – Destination Rock Springs, WY June 10 - 21, 2023

### GREETINGS CARAVANERS:

President Dan McAnulty is planning to lead a Caravan from Houston to Rock Springs, WY departing Houston on **June 10th** and arriving in Rock Springs on Wednesday **June 21st, 2023**. The caravan is limited to **10-12** trailers due to availability of campsites along the way and the logistics of more trailers than that. If you are interested in joining us, please let Dan know as quickly as possible.

We plan to stay two nights in some of the stops in order to allow us to see the sights near the campground. The tentative route is below starting from Houston, TX:

**1. June 10,11 (2 nights) To Waco 163 miles via Hwy 6**  
Deer Crossing RV Park 610 Lady Bird Rd 254-848-8048 Debbie  
[deercrossingwaco@gmail.com](mailto:deercrossingwaco@gmail.com)

Potential sights: Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, Dr. Pepper Museum, Valley Mills Vineyards, Magnolia Market at the Silos, Cameron Park, Waco Mammoth National Monument.

**2. June 12 (1 night) To Quanah, TX 288 miles via I-35W/Hwy 287**  
Ole Towne Cotton Gin RV Park 230 Market St Township of **Goodlett**, TX (9 miles west of Quanah) 940-674-2477 Email: [oletowne2@gmail.com](mailto:oletowne2@gmail.com)

**3. June 13,14,15 (3 nights) To Amarillo 146 miles via Hwy 84 / IH 27**  
Big Tex RV Ranch, 1414 Sunrise Dr., Amarillo, TX 79104 866-244-7447

Potential sights: Big Texan Steak Restaurant, Cadillac Ranch, Jack Sisemore Traveland RV Museum, Amarillo Botanical Gardens, American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame, Texas Air & Space Museum, Route 66 Historic District, Palo Duro Canyon and State Park,

**4. June 16 (1 night) To Raton, NM 215 miles via Hwy 87**  
Raton KOA 1330 South 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Raton NM 87740 1-800-562-9033 or  
[575-445-3488](tel:575-445-3488) [ratonkoa@yahoo.com](mailto:ratonkoa@yahoo.com)

**5. June 17,18, 19 (3 nights) To Monument, CO 169 miles via IH 25**  
Colorado Heights RV Resort, 19575 Monument Hill Rd, Monument, CO 80132  
(719) 481-2336 [reservations@coloradoheights.com](mailto:reservations@coloradoheights.com)

Potential sights: US Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs) Monument Rock Trail, Pike's Peak, Garden of the Gods Park, Glen Eyrie Castle, Cheyenne Mountain Nuclear Bunker (Visitors not allowed-drive by only)

Broadmoor Seven Falls, Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, Rocky Mountain Chocolate factory, National Museum of WWII Aviation

**6. June 20 (1 night) To Rawlins, WY 308 miles Hwy 287 / IH 80**  
Stay at Red Desert Rose Campground 3101 Wagon Circle Rd, Rawlins, WY 82301  
(307) 328-1091 or email [asdgreddesertserv@outlook.com](mailto:asdgreddesertserv@outlook.com).

**7. June 21-31 (10 days) To Rock Springs, WY 110 miles via Hwy 80**  
International Rally site is Sweetwater Event Complex, 3320 Yellowstone Road, Rock Springs, WY 82901  
307-352-6789 [info@sweetwaterevents.com](mailto:info@sweetwaterevents.com)

We are arriving on a Wednesday and will try to rendezvous somewhere near the rally site so we can go in as a group and be parked close by each other.

### **NOTICE:**

**It is important for you to call and make reservations at these stops as soon as you can.** Let them know you are with the Greater Houston Airstream Club (GHAC). Most parks will give 10% off if you have AAA, Good Sam's, or similar memberships.



# 2023 RALLIES

February 9-12, 2023 - Hardy's Resort, Bryan, Tx

March 28 to April 2, 2023 - Region 9 Rally, Jb Wells Expo Center, Gonzales, Tx *This will be the GHAC March Rally*

April 20-23, 2023 - Colorado Landing RV, La Grange, Tx

May 25-29, 2023 - Memorial Day Rally and annual Business meeting, Big Spot RV Park, San Leon, Tx

June 24 - 30, 2023 - International Rally, Rock Springs, Wy

September 7-10, 2023 - Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, Fredericksburg Tx

October 19-22, 2023 - Huntsville State Park, Huntsville, Tx

November 30 to December 3, Grand Encore RV Park, Natchitoches, La

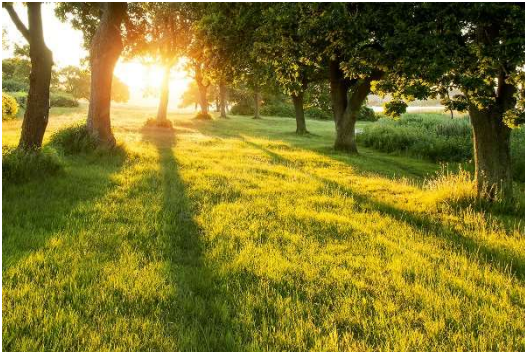
December 14 - 17, 2023 - Christmas and Installation Rally, Rayford Crossing RV Resort, Spring, Tx

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\***

**We still need Hosts and Co-Hosts for September, and November Rallies.**

# THE SUNSHINE CORNER - April 2023

By Carol Goodwin



Wake up with gratitude & joy  
Tell a joke that makes people laugh  
Take time to wind down before bed  
Spend time on a hobby  
Do a brain dump for mind clarity  
-OurMindfulLife.com

(Carol's editorial note: Attend a GHAC rally!)

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Bob Hutson    | April 3  |
| Joanne Miller | April 4  |
| Susan Meeks   | April 8  |
| Jerry Calvert | April 9  |
| Peter Dumont  | April 11 |
| Grady Ferry   | April 12 |
| Ronn Gilbert  | April 15 |
| Keith Ferry   | April 17 |
| Rick Cary     | April 18 |



|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Lana Dalston    | April 21 |
| John Davis      | April 21 |
| Bob Jones       | April 22 |
| Suzan Bernucho  | April 23 |
| Ashley Billard  | April 25 |
| James Feine     | April 27 |
| Bill Kindle     | April 27 |
| Kimberly Harmon | April 28 |
| Lee Howell      | April 28 |

### Anniversaries

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Dan & Rose Nugteren  | April 13 |
| Jerry & Irene Lyddon | April 15 |
| Jim & Barbara Mercer | April 17 |
| David & Louise Parry | April 25 |
| Paul & Amber Corley  | April 27 |



## MEMBER CONCERNS

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers:

Irene Lyddon who had hip replacement surgery and is wearing a brace to help it heal. She will see her doctor soon, and hopes that she is healed and can remove the brace permanently. In the meantime, she says that she's hanging in there. She hopes that she and Jerry will back traveling and attending rallies soon.

Bernadine Billard who had cancer removal surgery last month. Thankfully, her surgery was a success, and she will not need chemotherapy. She is recovering at home. As expected, she has good days and bad days. She will have immunotherapy on another spot soon. We wish her well.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Zachary & Cynthia Leos**, Big Red Number 18888. The Leos join us from New Braunfels in their 2010 International Signature 23D Series.

**Dayle & Zella Pugh**, Big Red Number 1907. The Pughs join us from Houston in their 2019 Flying Cloud.

We look forward to these new members joining us at a Rally soon!

# Club Leadership and/or Service

By: Rick Elkins



Tracy and I received our first Star this year representing 5 years of being a member of Airstream International but just as important to

us, 5 years of being a member of our local club, Greater Houston Airstream Club (GHAC).

Upon joining the club in 2018, it did not take long for either of us to recognize the knowledge and experience the local club offered us. We watched and observed as others happily organized the rallies, events, and caravans for our club and its members, including us!

Club leadership made sure that we were aware that mentors were available to collaborate with us guiding, educating and communicating to whatever degree we desired. Participating as a volunteer in rallies, as with almost all volunteering anywhere, is one way to learn more about the organization and to meet people.

At the club's annual luncheon, a very impressive photo was taken for all past presidents who were in attendance. The group photo is rewarding as you see many who have provided so much to our club. The photo totaled 16 and some had also served the club by serving as a Airstream Region 9 officer or Committee Chair.

This group of past presidents were always supported by the club's other officers, trustees, committee chairs/members, and rally hosts in efforts to provide the club members with the best fun, enjoyable and entertaining experience regardless of the venue.

Officers and leaders of the club set a good example and are role models for others. They are kind and respectful to all club members, taking their

commitment to the members seriously, always willing to take initiative and lend a helping hand.

Leaders promote 3 pillars, God, Country & Family.

When you think of our club today, these are leaders who help to sculpt what it is. As our society changes, the club needs members and leaders to assist in sculpting any changes.

Tracy and I chose to serve GHAC as an officer when asked by a club past president for whom we have great respect from his time as club President. I accepted the role once the club members voted me into the position of Second Vice President and currently serve as GHAC First Vice President and Mentorship Committee Chair. Tracy accepted the role of Vice President for Region 9 as well as GHAC Membership & Directory Committee Chair.

We continue to host rallies for the club where we can as we get significant joy in that role. We are very fortunate to always have great co-hosts that are so willing to make everyone's experience the best it can be.

For us, we can honestly say that while the roles we have accepted do require time and effort, the rewards of sharing time supporting, organizing, and planning with our fellow club elected leaders, friends and members continues to be fun which make it all very worthwhile. The club is blessed with so many talented members and we **encourage** everyone to look for their spot within the club, whether be club/region officer, committee chair/member, or rally host.

**GHAC has several open roles on Committees, as a Trustee and an Officer position. If you are interested in serving the club or learning more about any role of interest Bruce Lee.**



# STREAMIN' ON THE STRAND

## Region 9 National Events Rally – Galveston, TX

### Feb 9 – 12, 2023

By: Tracy Elkins

A gathering of Airstreams is always going to be a fun event, but pair it with a Mardi Gras Celebration and you get revelry beyond compare! The 76 Airstreams lining the Streets along the infamous Galveston Strand along with multiple parades, live music, joyful crowds, pleasant weather and a bountiful supply of restaurants, shops and a wharf full of ships added to the ambience of this amazing weekend.

This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Airstreams were a part of the first weekend of Mardi Gras – Galveston; but it was the inaugural year as a WBCCI / ACI National Event Rally. The capacity was increased substantially over 2022 to provide as many as possible with a place in this unique urban rally setting. Rick and I did not attend last year, but after hearing how well it went, we made a point to sign up as soon as registration opened in the summer of 2022. That was a good thing as the spots filled within only hours, which prompted WBCCI / ACI to make 2024 registration a lottery event.

After registering and picking up a goody bag at one of the two staging points, the Airstreams parked against the curbs on either side of Mechanics Street between 20<sup>th</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues: the actual parade route along the Galveston Strand. This area is closed to vehicular traffic on Thursday evening and remains closed through Sunday afternoon. There is controlled access to this area – the Entertainment District – throughout the weekend.

After getting the Airstreams parked and the tow vehicles moved to a secure lot nearby, festivities got underway with a Happy Hour sponsored by Yaga Entertainment at Tsunami Lounge. Afterwards everyone was ready to get some rest to prepare for the weekend ahead!

Attendees awoke on Friday morning to King Cake and Mimosas served up by the Krewe from Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club led by Keith and Grady Ferry. This lively event included a 2<sup>nd</sup> goody bag from one of the Sponsors and a visit from Mardi-gator aka Rich Espinosa from Texas Alamo Unit. The daily line up included various entertainment options with a jam-packed evening kicking off the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend with the George P Mitchell Awards Ceremony celebrating, later the fabled Funky Uptown

Umbrella Brigade and the Mardi Gras Entertainment Band closed out the day live on stage at 23<sup>rd</sup> & Strand.

We could not ask for better weather for February in Texas. It was really cool in the evenings and the mornings were brisk, but the days were fabulous. This was confirmed by KPRC Channel 13 Chief Meteorologist, Frank Billingsley, as he made a visit to Mechanics Street on Saturday and did a live weather forecast with a sea of Airstreams in the background and even interviewed a few of us Airstreamers! Rick and I heard from several that we made the 10-pm news that evening.

We were very fortunate to have Ed Ferrin, GHAC, as the official Streamin' on the Strand photographer. Ed is masterful in the art of photography and his beautiful shots were posted on several social media platforms and will be featured in an upcoming Blue Beret.

Saturday was bustling! We shopped along the Strand, had a great lunch at Little Daddy's Gumbo Bar (good golly - those Jacked up Jalapeños were delish with a big bowl of gumbo). The Jolly Jester Jaunt was a 5K Run that was hilarious to watch with many of the participants dressed for Mardi Gras! We hosted a Happy Hour at our Airstream in the afternoon and met several new GHAC members including Jay & Amanda Bubela and affiliate members, Alfred and Carla Ricks. Paul Evens and Natalie Garrett drove over for the day to hang out and enjoy the festivities. Throughout the day and evening there were many parades. The floats and vehicles were incredible from the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius, Krewe d'iHeart Media and Krewe of Gambrinus, Zaniest Golf Cart Parade, Art Cars, and many groups of area High School Bands, military and law enforcement and others marched along the Parade route between the beautiful silver Airstreams where their lights were reflected, and beads were tossed strategically. Rick collected a bounty of beads, I'm not sure what he did to inspire so many!

Urban Rallies tend to each be unique as they don't occur in spot you'd typically find Airstreams. Streamin' on the Strand was a very exciting and interesting Rally. We enjoyed it tremendously! If you have any inclination to attend, I encourage you to sign up for the Lottery for 2024.



*Parking the Airstreams on The Strand*



*KPRC 13 Frank Billingsley's Live Weather Forecast*



*Floats from several Krewes passed by the Airstream lined Parade Route*



*Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade*



*Tracy & Rick Elkins with Mardi-Gator*

*New Members Amanda & Jay Bubela*



***Marching Bands, Art Cars and Zaniest Golf Carts on Parade***



# Country Cajun Mardi Gras

By: Jan Rightmyer



There is Mardi Gras and then there is "Country Cajun Mardi Gras". Four couples were supposed to attend the Louisiana Airstream Club's rally in Eunice.

Unfortunately, the Kindles had to cancel due to their trailer not being repaired in time. But, the Snows Millers and Rightmyers attended. We left On Tuesday, Feb 14 and spend

Valentine's night at the RV park at the Coushatta Casino in Kinder, LA. We had a nice dinner and then gambled a little. Bill Miller was the only one who was ahead at the end of the evening, a whopping 54 cents!!

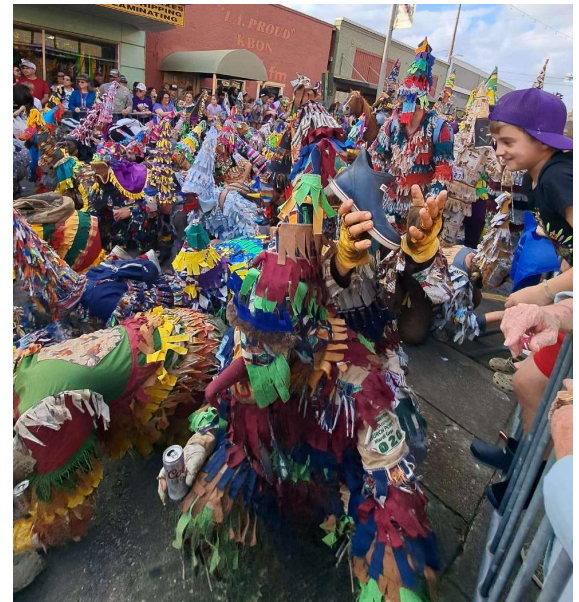
Then on to Eunice to celebrate Mardi Gras the way it has been celebrated for over 100 years. It's called Courir de Mardi Gras. Revelers dress in rag looking costumes, hats, and masks. They eat and drink and parade out in the country, eating and drinking, with their Crewe. The



Capitan asks a farmer for a chicken and the farmer tosses it in the air and the Crewe chases it till caught. They do this out in the country all day and when they return to town they parade thru downtown riding on horses or "floats" tossing beads. It's a fun filled week, going from town to town as they have parades on different days. Schools and some businesses are closed during this time.

It's a great time to go and help them celebrate and what food we had!! The Louisiana Club knows how to cook, we had turnip green stew and while I do not care for turnips greens, it was DELICIOUS!! The first night we went to DI's and had local food, Joanne Miller had 3 pounds of crawfish and said it was great! DI's is a must when in that area. Snows and Rightmyers went out to eat at a local restaurant on Fat Tuesday. and the former mayor of Eunice sat across from us and made us feel VERY welcome. His recommendation on strawberry daiquiris was EXCELLENT!

Our club used to go to Eunice for Mardi Gras for a few years about 6-7 years ago. There usually was about 20 of us from Texas and we stayed at The Community Center. We were usually joined by the Louisiana Club's members too. So, the 4 of us have been affiliated members there for a few years. This year we decided to join them. It's a fun filled week and the beads are an extra..



# GHAC Mentoring



A mentoring program can help retain members, increase participation, improve member satisfaction and reinforce safe RV practices. Many new Airstream owners join the Wally Byam Caravan Club so they can socialize with experienced Airstreamers and learn the skills of Airstream travel.

Mentoring is designed to help new members rapidly become a comfortable part of the group; otherwise, experience shows many will feel disconnected, somewhat unwelcome, and may eventually drift away. A primary role of a mentor is to help the new member feel welcome and become

knowledgeable about all events and activities. A first step for the mentor is to listen to the new member to find out their interests, expectations of the club, and their past RV experience.

Our club is blessed to have significant experience and knowledge. Members serving as mentors offer new members a great opportunity for quickly sharing and enhancing their club involvement and enjoyment.

## **GHAC 2023 Mentorship Committee - March 2023**

Committee Chair: Rick Elkins

Committee Members: Dave Rightmyer, Jan Rightmyer, Tom Raia, Jim Miller

This year the mentorship team has contacted 10 new members offering to assign a mentor to assist them with their new club membership. Currently two mentors are teaming with other members.

Mentors are great to team with new members at rallies, where introductions to members and rallies are made much easier for everyone. Mentors also offer partnering for more experienced members.

Mentors seek to partner with members striving for the best possible club experience. Mentors are available to all members upon request by contacting anyone on the committee.

## AIRSTREAM Friends

By Tracy Elkins



Friends, some are those you grew up with; others were made through a place you went to School or worked alongside;

some are made happenstance, but the relationships forged through friendships are invaluable. We have made so many friends through the Club; friends with the common desire to see the beautiful country and with the wanderlust to be willing to travel without a specific route in mind. We've also found that when we're not traveling or camping, we enjoy the company of these friends, swapping stories and experiences and ways to resolve various issues we encounter; anything from something associated with the Airstream or tow vehicle to installing an appliance at your home.



Regularly throughout the months, groups of GHAC members gather for a meal in their neighborhoods. Occasionally some will travel across the city to meet with a gathering outside their neighborhoods. It is a wonderful community and something I look forward to immensely!

If someone needs some assistance, these friends are always there at a moment's notice. On one recent Monday evening, a member had purchased a large toolbox for his garage. He realized as he watched it being loaded by several young men that he had a chore in front of him getting it unloaded. But it was a Monday, and he knew that there were a group of Airstream friends getting together at a restaurant near his home in just a matter of hours,

so he was certain he could get some help unloading! Sure enough, he just mentioned his need at dinner in it was all hands on deck at his home right after dinner.

It was large and it was heavy; a minimum of 350 lbs without the crating. But that did not phase these fellows. Buffeted by a great Mexican dinner and a margarita (or two), they unloaded that beast and even assembled it in just a matter of minutes! In the process, they had a few discussions about the best way to get it out of the truck, uncrate and of course whether he needed help assembling. Then there were the opinions on where to put the two locking wheels and getting the handles on either end. All great fun!



Friendship may not be a published benefit of belonging to Greater Houston Airstream Club, but it is a tangible one! We so enjoy these relationships that we would have never made had it not been for purchasing an Airstream and joining WBCCI / ACI. It was only 5-years ago for us, but we know these are friends for a lifetime.

# Is an Electric Bike in Your Future?

By Tracy Elkins



Are you thinking about purchasing an Electric Bike? Many streamers travel with them now because they provide a compact and comfortable means of easy transportation. Rick and I purchased ours at the 2022 International Rally in Fryeburg ME because we needed a way to get from the area where our Rig was parked (which we affectionately referred to as, "The Back 40") to the Rally Buildings on the airgrounds. I've pulled together some details to consider if you're thinking about getting one soon.

Though we purchased ours on a bit of a whim, there were specifics on our checklist that led to the model we bought.

- ✚ Type – we opted for foldable to maximize space when transporting.
- ✚ Size – we went with a medium frame because of weight and size constraints.
- ✚ Tire Width – our use is on hard surfaces rather than soft so we chose standard over fat
- ✚ Speed – 20- or 20+ - there are insurance and use implications for 20+ so we went with 20-
- ✚ Weight – If you're planning to carry on an AS mounted bike rack, this is critical.
- ✚ Price – varies greatly from \$400 – over \$5K each

We learned that e-bikes come in several "Classes" depending on types of motors and whether pedal assist is a factor. Below are the definitions adopted by the most manufacturers that sell in the US:

- Class 1 e-bikes have a motor that aids only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.
- Class 2 e-bikes have a motor that exclusively propels the bicycle but only up to the speed of 20 mph.
- Class 3 e-bikes have a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the e-bike reaches 28 mph.



If you're planning to use an e-bike in a National Park, you should know that NPS rules state that the park superintendent is authorized to restrict speeds and throttle-only

biking based on circumstances that vary park to park. You'll want to understand this if you purchase a Class 3 and intend to use it in a National Park.

In case you wondered, here are a couple of items we investigated outside the bike amenities and the accessories we chose with ours:

- 1) There is no license required to operate an e-bike. Most states do have an age requirement of 14-years of age;
- 2) Most home-owners insurance policies cover Class 1 & 2 e-bikes subject to the deductible. Class 3 requires a separate policy.
- 3) Ours came standard with a headlight and speedometer. I recommend both.
- 4) Carry Bag – for the foldable e-bikes this is a ballistic nylon bag that makes transport a breeze.
- 5) Saddle Bags or Basket – many e-bikes have a rear rack for saddle bags but a front basket is also an option
- 6) Helmet – Always recommended
- 7) Phone Holder – most have room on the handlebars to add a phone mount

If you plan to mount a bike rack on your Airstream, the rack by Flamma is the only one endorsed by Airstream. It costs around \$600 and after accounting for the 20 lbs that the rack weighs, with two bikes, each could weigh no more than 40 lbs. We didn't find an e-bike with the amenities we wanted that fell into this weight, so we elected to buy foldable bikes that we could transport either in the tow vehicle or the Airstream. Since we would not always have the Airstream when we were using the bikes, this was the better solution for us for more than just the weight factor.



As with many purchases, there are enumerable choices. I hope these details help you get your list of must-haves identified and shorten the number of potential options to consider. If you have an e-bike or acquire one, you should bring it to the Rallies, you'll be amazed at what you see on your next ride!

## Greater Houston Airstream Club 2023 Unit Officers

### Unit Officers:

|                                |                 |       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| President                      | Dan McAnulty    | 2162  |
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| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Rick Vice       | 1743  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President | Vacant          |       |
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| Corresponding Secretary        | Maria McAnulty  | 2162  |
| Treasurer                      | Jerry Lyddon    | 7746  |
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| Trustee 1 Years                | Debbie Pfunder  | 2646  |
| Trustee 2 Years                | Bill Kindle     | 290   |
| Trustee 1 Year                 | Daniel Schwarz  | 5404  |
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| Parliamentarian                | Joanne Miller   | 212   |
| Immediate Past President       | Michael Iversen | 8621  |

### Committee Chairpersons:

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| Constitution & Bylaws      | Bruce Lee     | 5461 |
| Crags & Projects           | Carol Goodwin | 1131 |
| Sunshine                   | Carol Goodwin |      |
| Directory Editor           | Tracy Elkins  | 9713 |
| Electronics Communications | Tom Bundy     | 2835 |
| Historical                 |               |      |
| Membership                 | Tracy Elkins  | 9713 |
| Mentorship                 | Rick Elkins   | 9713 |

# Message from Bob Jones

Hello to all our Greater Houston Airstream Club members from the gang at BOB JONES RV!

We would like to express our excitement about an advanced service we are providing. BOB JONES RV has invested in a SEAL TECH machine that will pressurize the interior cabin of any coach, allowing us to detect leaks by soaping the complete exterior. It will identify efficiently any breaches in the exterior seal that will cause water leaks ultimately causing damage.

Our service team will pinpoint problem areas on a chart and consult with customer on a plan for corrective action. This is a true cost saving & preventive measure to protect your RV investment. The cost is \$230 - \$345 depending on your coach configuration. Give us a call to discuss how we can protect your RV. We think you'll be glad you did.

## Bob Jones

RV REPAIRS &  
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We also install Blue Ox tow-bars

Call Bob or Chris at

**713-910-2949**



**Get out there and enjoy your  
Airstream adventures!**