

## President's Message



“April showers bring May flowers”. Yeah, well, maybe. Thankfully, the torrential rain, high winds, and tornado warning had passed by Friday morning during our Rally in San Marcos. Friday morning started with a visit to Wimberly Glassworks, and demonstrations on glass blowing. Think about this.....the furnace vat that contains the raw component, molten glass, holds +/- 400 pounds, and is kept molten 24/7/365. Lunch followed at Blacks BBQ (celebrating their 90th year), and some visiting the Confederate AF Hanger and museum. Saturday morning had the Fegley's introducing many members to their (hopefully) first taste of Pickle Ball, followed by lunch at Krause's Cafe in New Braunfels, and some visiting the NB Train Museum, and historic Gruene, TX. Members provided munchies each evening, and lots of fun games prevailed as well.

Our business meeting covered monthly events for the rest of the year (the schedule is attached), and it was announced the August luncheon will be Saturday August 19th at Longhorn Louisiana Cafe in Round Rock at 11:45AM. They are a small family operated cafe and have been featured on Good Taste With Tanji on the San Antonio ABC affiliate. NOTE!! Attendance will be capped at 40 individuals because of cafe size. If you are interested, send me an email (txairstreamer@gmail.com);

space will be filled in order of receipt. We also talked about the Big Bend Caravan in September; this will likely be more of a rally than caravan, with participants meeting and overnighing at Fort Stockton RV on Saturday 9/16, and moving on to Terlingua on 9/17 for 5 nights at Roadrunner RV. We now have seven (7) planning on attending! Hiking. Golf @ Lajitas. Maybe rafting if the Rio Grande River cooperates. Schedule TBD!

And, we talked a little about the upcoming voting, June 1-15, for the new Executive Council for Airstream Club International. This is an historic election, with candidate submissions for the first time from the general membership, including myself. There are 30 candidates for 9 positions. All candidates have filled out a profile questionnaire which you can find on airstreamclub.org. I'm told these will also be in the May Blue Beret. Each has also submitted a 2 minute video that will be posted on the ACI YouTube channel. Please, take the time to review the candidates. You will receive an electronic ballot when voting is open. BTW, ballots will be sent to valid emails for up to 2 listed household members. For example, mine is listed below, plus Jan has a personal email, so we will get 2 ballots for 2 votes. IF you and your partner only have one email, you will only receive one ballot for one vote. To remedy this QUICKLY, call Amber Regula in Member Services 937-596-5211 and she can set-up or advise how to set-up a "placeholder" email account in your membership profile, so you get 2 ballots for 2 votes for listed members.

Finally (finally!), a huge welcome to new members Gary Odom, Loyce Engle and Greg Carroll, Melody and Bud Stein, Hunter and Allison Chaurmont, John and Melissa Brattlof (affiliate members), and Mike and Kathy Waligore . That brings our club membership to 86 households, and +/- 150 members. Wowza!

Bob (and Jan Grimes)  
President (and First Lady), Texas Hill Country Unit  
Email: txairstreamer@gmail.com; Cell: 210-722-1080

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## Waco Rally @ Airport Park Lake Waco

4600 Skeet Eason Rd  
Waco, TX 76708

May 18-21, 2023

WagonMasters – Dan and Zephyr Marek

### May 18 – Thursday (Arrival Day)

05:00 PM Meet and Greet  
06:00 PM Potluck dinner  
Games and/or gather around the fire  
(if allowed)

### May 19 – Friday

Breakfast on your own

09:00 AM Line up to go to Waco Mammoth  
National Monument  
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive  
Waco, TX 76708

Group admission fee = \$4.00  
11:00 am Dr. Pepper Museum  
300 South 5th Street  
Waco, Texas 76701

Admission Fee = \$7 (includes a Dr Pepper). This is a discounted rate for our group

01:00 PM Lunch @ Barnetts Whiskey House  
420 Franklin Ave, Waco, TX 76701

Afternoon on your own

05:00 PM Happy Hour  
Bring your own drinks and hors d'oeuvres to share. Games and/or gather around the fire (if allowed)

### May 20 – Saturday

Breakfast on your own

09:45 AM Line up to go to Brazos Valley Cheese  
206 Halbert Ln, Waco, Texas 76705  
We have scheduled a group tour @ 15/Person

Rest of the day on your own. FYI - Within walking distance of Brazos Valley Cheese is Homestead Craft Village, Homestead Market, Homestead General Store and Red Wagon BBQ.

05:00 PM Happy Hour

06:00 PM Grill your own meat (or veggie); we will provide the grill, salad and potatoes!  
Games and/or gather around the fire (if allowed)

### May 21 – Sunday (Departure Day)

08:30 Breakfast furnished by the WagonMasters

See you at the next rally



## Meet John and Tamara Cragle

Provide a little bit of general info about you two such as work, pets, kids, hobbies and interests.

Tamara and I are still full time working, Tamara is in the legal field, and I am a Cloud Engineering. We love our dogs, goats, chickens, antelope, and no matter what Tamara ever says, we do not need anymore, we are full up. We have three boys, all out of the house pursuing their journey into manhood. We would like to say we are empty nesters, but they seem to be keeping one foot in the front door at all times, we love this also and would be sad if it was any other way. We love to travel, see the wonders around us and experience the beauty of nature as much as we can. Camping, Boating, Vintage Cars, but most of all we enjoy a cold beverage and a quiet remote camp that we can relax and unwind from the hustle and bustle of today's busy 1000 mph world.

Why did you choose the rig you have?

Evee short for Tamara's grandmother Evelyn, choose us I believe. Tamara had been looking for an Airstream, for some time, and through a bit of a disagreement after finding one, I felt it was not up to par, it had not been maintained well and had way to many band aid fixes that just did not set well with me, she decided if she was not getting an Airstream then she would get some goats to focus on for the lack of Airstream camping she was not doing. Don't ask me why those two steams of thought line up, but it is part of the reason I love my wife. After goat tending for 3 weeks Tamara happened on another Airstream and we went for a look, we walked in and knew it was us, I don't think it took more than two steps in. We bought it right there, and I immediately proclaimed, "We can return the goats now!" So now we have Evee and six goats in the back yard.

Is this your first Airstream?

Yes, we have had other campers, small Jayco to the big top end of Double Suites 22k pound monster. Tamara's not a stanger to the Airstream, as a child she has memories traveling with her grandparents, the sound of that door closing is very familiar, she can pick out another Airstream parked miles away in the back of a National Park when we are out. We joined the club on the road trekking out to Tucson for a business/mini vacation trip, Tamara put in an inquiry to International about her Grandparents BRN, Tamara supplied the approximate year range based on a trip she was on with them, she remember being 7 and a young girl in a gift shop asking if she knew that Elvis died, Tamara did not know who Elvis was at that time, but that gave her August 16, 1977, International took the information names and home address and went searching around that time. When we arrived back home already in the mail where Tamara's reclaimed BRN from her Grandparents so now Evee got her 26616 BRN's.

What are the things you like about it and what are the things that need improvement?

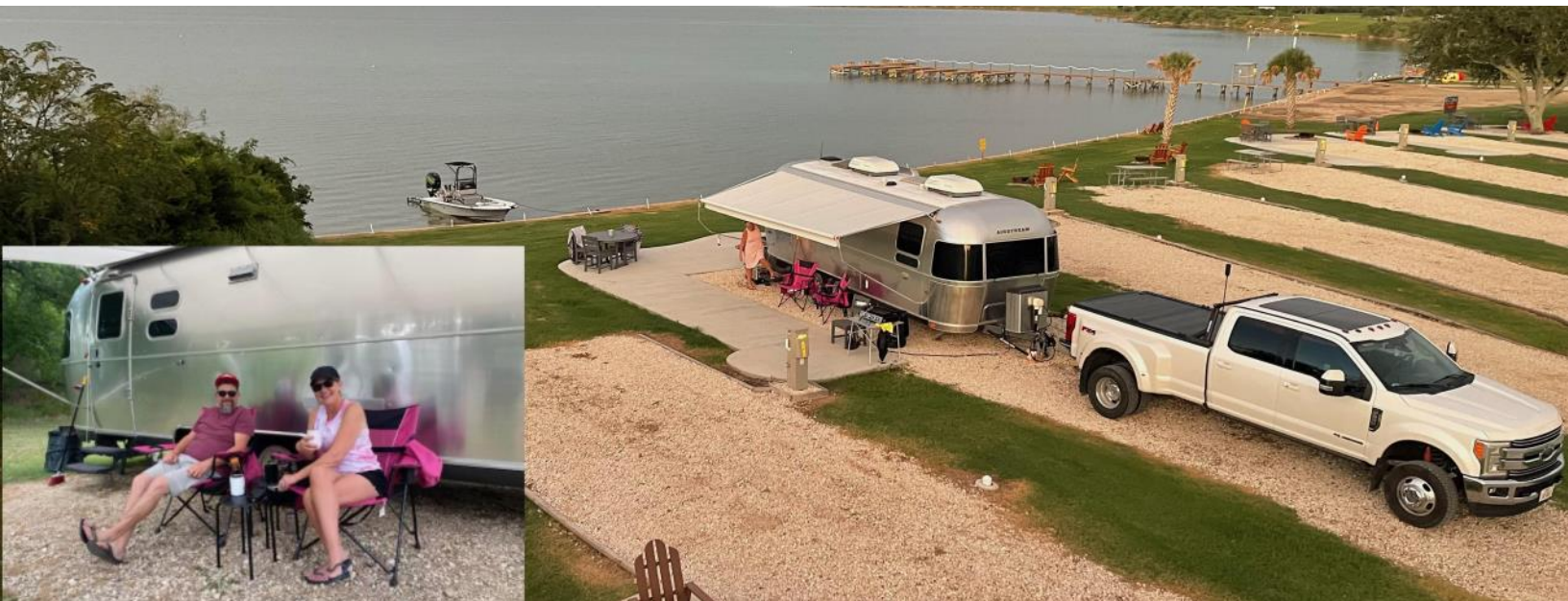
I don't think there is much we would change, our Airstream is a presence all to its own, she is changing every trip we make, a new scratch, dings in the rock guards. Whatever it is, her presence is ever changing just like us; making stories, getting bruises, breaking parts, but all at the expense of building the best memory. All that we can hope for is that the story behind each repair, each scratch, each ding, leads to a camp fire, a cold drink with friends, and another chapter to the book. You know the old saying, watch what you own because those objects can end up owning you, Evee is more of a partner in our journey, she doesn't eat too many campfire hamburgers but whatever she needs we try and keep up.

What is the most memorable trip you've done this far in an airstream?

We think that memory is still out there, this book is not done yet, and when we are done, maybe it's not the one trip but the total of them all.

What is in your bucket list trip (future trip) in the airstream?

Our bucket list thus far is filling in that map with all those stickers, we have a patch work quilt currently with about 30k miles in Evee. Strange thing is that we keep kicking the bucket over and filling it back up, no telling how much stuff we keep dumping in there, we just hope that we can never get to the bottom of the bucket, just because we keep throwing something new in there. We say cheers to having a full bucket all the time.



## Meet Gary Odom

I am a Texan by birth, and an old military and retired corporate helicopter pilot. I recently lost my wife of 54 years to prolonged cancer and as her primary Caregiver for the past 4 years, we really were never able to travel much as before her illness - so hoping to make up for it now! I am also a Vietnam combat helicopter pilot and have also ridden motorcycles all my life and Harleys all over America for the past 35 years for my main hobby - guess it was so close to flying that it was inevitable that I put my face in the wind!

My full time companion is a 5 year old GoldenDoodle named Stella. We recently purchased our first Airstream a few weeks ago - a beautiful 2019 International Signature but have yet to get it on the road. After my wife passed, Stella and I decided to get in the Airstream family, as I really appreciate how the trailer is constructed similar to an airplane and have wanted one for many years. With flying all over the world for the past 40 years, I was never able to satisfy that desire until now. We are novices and hope to learn the ropes from club members and make many new friends along the way. Right now my plans are to visit as many Texas state parks as we can in the next couple of years with Stella and maybe with my college-age granddaughters - who live here in the New Braunfels area. My wife and I have 3 grown kids and 6 grandchildren. With the exception of our daughter and 3 granddaughters, the rest of the kids and grandkids live in Chicago and Virginia...hoping the Airstream will allow me to visit them more often.

I look forward to making new friends and participating in Airstream activities as much as possible in the coming years. Thanks for welcoming Stella and I into the club and we look forward to meeting all soon.



April Rally in pictures—Visiting (the first night) and a trip to Wimberley Glassworks



April San Marcos Rally (continued)

Friday nite dinner included games afterwards. Pool, Sequence, FortyTwo, Jenga and Left-Right-Center. We won't discuss the Bean Bag Baseball tourney. No one has pics so no proof the guys won.

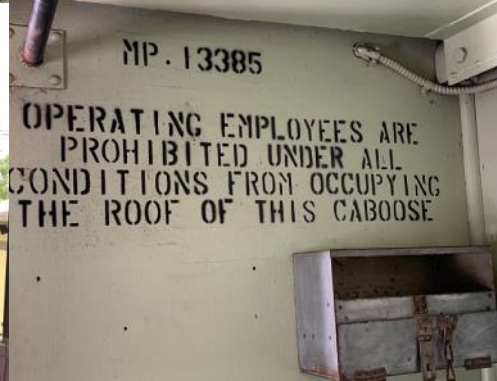


April San Marcos Rally (continued)

Saturday, we were treated to pickleball. Thank you to Sue and Craig for teaching us and providing the equipment. After play, lunch was at Krause's.



April San Marcos Rally (continued)  
After Krause's some of us went shopping, to the train museum, or explored Gruene, TX







April San Marcos Rally  
(continued)

Saturday nite potluck dinner,  
business meeting and potluck  
dinner.

Bottom two pics are from  
Sunday morning breakfast  
before leaving to go back  
home. It turned cold(ish).



Texas Hill Country Unit Business Meeting  
San Marcos, Texas  
April 21, 2023

Members Present: Bob & Jan Grimes, Joan Ermis, Dan & Zephyr Marek, Jerry & Theresa Davis, Mike & Pat Green, Kevin & Felicia Johnson, Craig & Susan Fegley, David Toy, Jan & Eddie Eiland, Ed & Yvonne Michek, Tim & Ally Ebbers

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

All attendees should have already received a refund from the park based on the agreed nightly fee.

The Waco Rally looks to have 12 registrants at this point. Sites for those staying in the shelter area have been assigned, and any questions going forward should be directed to the hosts for this rally, Dan and Zephyr

The August Luncheon will be Saturday, August 19 at 11:45 AM at Longhorn Louisiana Café in Round Rock. Participation will be capped at 40 people due to the café size. Those interested should email Bob, and space will be allocated in the order received.

Big Bend in September has only had 2 members respond, plus one ACI member-at-large. After discussion, we added 5 more club members. Bob and Jan are the hosts, and they will communicate on where we will stay enroute. This will be a rally versus a caravan as reflected on the schedule. Much more to come later.

October will be boondocking at Schitz Creek Distillery, Winery and Brewery, and Dan and Zephyr are again hosts. Much info to come, including registration, and if space will require limiting the number of recipients.

Zephyr, as Unit Treasurer reported a savings account balance of \$983, and a checking account balance of \$2,724. She also secured signatures changing the signatories to the Unit accounts, with current signatories now being Bob Grimes, Tim Ebbers, Mike Green, and Zephyr Marek. The books was reviewed. The THCU treasurer's report from January to March is in the subsequent pages.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Prepared and Submitted by Bob Grimes, President.



January 2023  
through March 2023  
THCU Treasurer's  
report

Texas Hill Country Unit, WBCCI  
Treasurer's Report  
January 2023

January 2023 Beginning Savings Balance:	\$ 900.60
Interest 1/31	<u>.04</u>
Total 1/31	\$ 900.68
January 2023 Beginning Balance	\$ 3,243.72
Interest 1/31	<u>.08</u>
Sub. Total 1/31	\$ 3,243.80
Deposits:	
1/05 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	90.00
1/17 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	<u>15.00</u>
Sub Total	\$ 3,348.80
Checks:	
Check # 1261 (Bob Grimes - May Rally)	\$ 450.00
Check# 1262 (flag pole and first ladies badges)	46.06
Check # 1263 (ink & paper)	<u>75.70</u>
Sub Total	\$ 2,777.04
Outstanding Checks:	
CK # 1258 Ally Ebbers (rally food)	<u>26.46</u>
Total available funds:	\$ 2,750.58

Note: Keep \$20 cash out of rally fees to have for change.

Texas Hill Country Unit, WBCCI  
Treasurer's Report  
February 2023

February 2023 Beginning Savings Balance:	\$ 900.68
Interest 2/28	<u>.07</u>
Total 2/28	\$ 900.75
February 2023 Beginning Balance	\$ 2,777.04
Interest 2/28	<u>.11</u>
Sub. Total 2/28	\$ 2,777.15
Deposits:	
2/3 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	30.00
2/17 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	<u>30.00</u>
Sub Total	\$ 2,837.15
Checks:	
Outstanding Checks:	
CK # 1258 Ally Ebbers (rally food)	<u>26.46</u>
Total available funds:	\$ 2,810.69

Note: Keep \$20 cash out of rally fees to have for change.

Texas Hill Country Unit, WBCCI  
Treasurer's Report  
March 2023

March 2023 Beginning Savings Balance:	\$ 900.75
Interest 3/31	<u>.08</u>
Total 3/31	\$ 900.83
March 2023 Beginning Balance	\$ 2,837.15
Interest 3/31	<u>.07</u>
Sub. Total 3/31	\$ 2,837.22
Deposits:	
3/2 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	30.00
3/22 WBCCI unit fees (see attached)	<u>75.00</u>
Sub Total	\$ 2,942.22
Checks:	
Ck # 1264 - Daniel Marek reimbursement of unit flag	191.41
Ck # 1265 Replacement for lost ck #1258	<u>26.46</u>
Total available funds:	\$ 2,724.35
Outstanding Checks:	

Note: Keep \$20 cash out of rally fees to have for change.

Recipe made by Zephyr Marek taken from their electric coop magazine from December 2022.



### Jalapeño Popper Bites

8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
½ cup finely shredded cheddar cheese  
½ cup chopped jalapeño peppers  
½ cup cooked and crumbled bacon  
½ teaspoon salt  
Pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional)  
30 phyllo shells  
Pickled jalapeño slices, for garnish

**COOK'S TIP** For a vegetarian option, the bacon can be left out.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a bowl, combine cream cheese, cheddar, chopped jalapeños, bacon, salt and cayenne until smooth and uniformly mixed.
3. Use two spoons or a small cookie scoop to divide mixture among phyllo shells. Place filled shells on a rimmed baking sheet and bake 10 minutes, until shells are crisp and filling is just starting to brown.
4. Let cool slightly and top each shell with a slice of pickled jalapeño. Serve warm.

**MAKES 30 POPPERS**

**TCP** Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at [stetted.com](http://stetted.com), where she features a recipe for Everything Bagel Pretzel Bites.



These were also pretty yummy. Theresa Davis made them. I believe they are teeny weenies wrapped in a crescent roll served with a variety of dipping sauces and made in an Airstream. YUM!



### MAY

- 08 Martha Gosnell
- 18 Jan Grimes
- 17 Cal Bonugli
- 28 Nicky Allen

### JUNE

- 10 Mickey Finch
- 16 Warner Hord
- 25 Gail Hord
- 21 Cindy Mckee

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 13 David and Nicky Allen
- May 14 Katy and Cal Bonugli
- May 21 Jeff and Cindy Mckee
- May 26 Robert and Sylvia Lemley
- May 31 Gerald and Theresa Davis
- Jun 20 Dan and Zephyr Marek

### 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

# WELCOME

### New Member:

- ⇒ Gary Odom
- ⇒ Loyce Engle and Greg Carroll
- ⇒ Melody and Bud Stein
- ⇒ Hunter and Allison Chaumont
- ⇒ Mike and Kathy Waligore

### Affiliate Members:

- ⇒ John and Melissa Brattlof

### General Announcements

- ⇒ 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 have a friend or family member who owns an airstream and they want to join our FB group with an interest in joining THCU, please message one of the group admins. Our goal is to keep out scammers, sales people, etc. Admins are Yvonne Michek, Bob Grimes and Ally Ebbers.



**Website:** <https://airstreamclub.org/TexasHillCountry>  
**THCU President:** [txairstreamer@gmail.com](mailto: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</b> <b>Region 9 Rally</b>	<b>JB WELLS PARK, ARENA &amp; EXPO</b> <b>2301 County Road 191</b> <b>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. Currently, there are 12 rigs signed up. - Host: Bob and Jan Grimes
May 18-21	Airport Park Lake Waco 4600 Skeet Eason Rd Waco, TX 76708	Group site is been booked with 7 sites. If you want to book a site, please make own reservations with <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> . Please let Bob Grimes ( <a href="mailto:txairstreamer@gmail.com">txairstreamer@gmail.com</a> ) or Zephyr Marek ( <a href="mailto:faye_marek@yahoo.com">faye_marek@yahoo.com</a> ) know if you are coming  Host: Dan and Zephyr Marek
<b>Jun 28– Jul 01</b> <b>International</b>	<b>International</b> <b>Rock Springs, WY</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. Current rate \$55/nite. September average low 58, average high 78.  Coordinator: Bob and Jan Grimes
Oct 19-22	Schitz Creek Distillery 101 County Road 257 Liberty Hill, TX 78642	This will be a boondocking event and there is a limit on the number of rigs attending. Registration info to follow.  Host: Dan and Zephyr Marek
Nov 16-19 <b>Thanksgiving and</b> <b>Installation rally</b>	The Vineyard in Fredricksburg RV Park 2647 N US Highway 87 Fredericksburg, TX 78624 <a href="http://thevineyardsrvpark.com">thevineyardsrvpark.com</a>	Call the park for reservations. Let them know you are with the THCU group.  Host: Mike and Pat Green and Gerry and Theresa Davis
Dec TBD	Holiday Luncheon; location TBD	

