



North Texas Airstream Club May 2023 Newsletter



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

PRESIDENT’S LETTER



I don't know about you but I have really been enjoying the rallies! It is so good to see everyone again and to meet some of our new members.

One of the areas we are struggling with is knowing who plans to attend the rally. We need this information so we can communicate the plans for the weekend to include an estimate of who will contribute to potluck, be around for activities, and plan for breakfasts. If you are signed up for a rally, please take a moment to contact the host and let them know you are attending. Thank you in advance for helping us overcome this challenge and set up our rally hosts for a successful and fun weekend.

In the past, NTxAC has relied on volunteerism and a community effort to defray the costs associated with a rally. We do this by having activities that are no cost or scheduled by each participant as well as potlucks or communicating the cost if we bring food in. At the April rally the subject of increasing our annual fee and charging rally fees came up. We realize other clubs may charge higher dues or have rally fees so in an effort to better understand the needs of our members, I ask that you take this [survey](#) and provide your input. The leadership team will use your responses to determine how North Texas will move forward.

The leadership team's focus this year is to firm up the foundation of our Club. In support of this, all roles are open and our Past President is standing up a Nominating Committee to seek interested candidates. Please contact [David Brandon](#) if you are interested in applying or have questions about the positions. We are working on a document that outlines what each position does so keep your eye on our internet page for more details. Outside of filling out our leadership team, we are working to

NTxAC OFFICERS

President
Jennifer Dice

1st Vice President
Arnold Terkel

Past President
David Brandon

Treasurer
Lynne Mack

Secretary
Anna Brandon

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Tom Jensen

Newsletter Allana Patterson

Rallies Maribeth Pappas

Webmaster Dan Brockway

For security purposes, we do not publish contact information. Please refer to your membership directory.

develop guidelines and a process for Rally Hosts, establishing our annual budget, determining if our constitution, bylaws, or policies need to be changed, and working on a president's handbook that will be passed on from year to year.

Lastly, I have been speaking to you a lot on social media and at our business meetings about the future of leadership at the Airstream Club International level. YOU play a vital role in electing 9 members to the International Board of Trustees (IBT) who will then elect our next Executive Council. This year thirty (30) members expressed interest in serving our Club by filling out a Statement of Candidacy, which tells you about who they are, and why they want to serve. I strongly encourage you to take the time to read the SoCs in your May Blue Beret, by going out to the [ACI website](#) (which also has a link to watch videos submitted), or accessing NTxAC's private social media page where all SoC information and videos were uploaded last week. Your ballot will land in your email inbox June 1 and you will have until June 15 to vote. We have some incredibly intelligent and highly gifted members who are volunteering to represent you. Please vote!

Jennifer Dice
BRN 30301

FROM THE EDITOR



We are back from our trip, and it was magnificent. I am including a bit about it in this Newsletter. Tom and I will have to miss this past weekend at Pilot Knoll, but we did attend the meeting on Saturday. At Boulders, I fell off my bike, and have been inundated with straightening out paying for it all between Medicare, supplement insurance, etc. It seems the UT Tyler Hospital is not in network! For those that are interested, I am doing fine, but still have concussion symptoms, and scars. I am trying to move away from writing this newsletter so I am still looking for volunteers. We are leaving early for Wyoming so I can go to band camp, so do not expect a summer newsletter. In this issue I will cover our rally at Boulders Lake Tyler, the next rally at Pilot Knoll, a feature about the Natchez Trace Caravan, and a bit about my trip to the Vancouver islands. Regards and hope to see lots of you in Wyoming.

Allana
BRN 12194

2023 Upcoming Rallies at a Glance

<i>June 24-30</i>	<i>66th International Rally, Rock Springs, WY</i>
<i>September 15-17</i>	<i>Twin Coves Park, Flower Mound, TX</i>
<i>October 26-29</i>	<i>LBJ Grasslands, Decatur, TX</i>
<i>November 17-19</i>	<i>The Range Vintage Trailer Resort, Bristol, TX</i>
<i>December 1-3</i>	<i>The Vineyards, Grapevine, TX</i>

Click <https://airstreamclub.org/north-texas> for information on future rallies

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Joined in April

AJ and Judy Shultz
2022 Caravel 19'
Plano, TX

Bary and Helen Lynch
2011 Flying Cloud 28'
Weatherford, TX

Janie Gracia
2023 International 23'
Colleyville, TX

Todd and Tanya Martchek
1972 Overlander 27'
Lewisville, TX

Mitch and Peggy Ott
2016 International 27'FB
Grapevine, TX

New Affiliate Members

Hunter and Allison Chaumont
2017 International 25'
East Texas Lakes Unit
Tyler, TX

Ron and Traci Battles
2022 Flying Cloud 27'
East Texas Lakes Unit
Gilmer, TX

James McGuire and Amy Wright
2023 International 30'
Northeast Mountaineers AC
Arlington, TX

Todd and Tanya Martchek BRN 07223

Hello all! We are Todd and Tanya Martchek of Lewisville, TX! Purchased our first Airstream a couple of months ago! A nearly original 1972 Land Yacht Overlander BRN 7223. Recently moved here from north of Memphis, TN to be close to our daughters, their families, and those precious granddaughters! We are a Military family as Todd is retired from the United States Marine Corps. and I'm prior United States Navy. It was a privilege to service this Country! We are fully retired now as Applications Engineer and Executive Director of Public Housing. Todd's interests are history and repairing just about anything! This is working out great fixing "Moonbeam"! I enjoy anything nature especially hiking and birding! We just had our first "Shakedown" and even with some hiccups we are hooked! We are looking forward to being a part of this Airstream Community and meeting you all!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Birthdays and Anniversaries



<i>Norma Collier</i>	<i>5/2</i>	<i>Frank Nulty</i>	<i>6/2</i>
<i>Mary Nulty</i>	<i>5/5</i>	<i>Sherrie Beyer</i>	<i>6/3</i>
<i>Ken Mitchell</i>	<i>5/9</i>	<i>Chet Beyer</i>	<i>6/7</i>
<i>Chris Hanus</i>	<i>5/13</i>	<i>Bruce Toney</i>	<i>6/8</i>
<i>Rita Green</i>	<i>5/18</i>	<i>Kelly Rodriguez</i>	<i>6/10</i>
<i>Mike Mack</i>	<i>5/25</i>	<i>Jeff Pappas</i>	<i>6/11</i>
<i>Kim Majkowski</i>	<i>5/25</i>	<i>Amy Hanus</i>	<i>6/23</i>
<i>Channing Fell</i>	<i>5/30</i>	<i>Edward Wilson</i>	<i>6/30</i>

Happy Anniversary

<i>Brett and Samantha Biegler</i>	<i>5/11</i>	<i>Frank and Mary Nulty</i>	<i>6/2</i>
<i>David and Kelly Rodriguez</i>	<i>5/13</i>	<i>Ken and Kathi Mitchell</i>	<i>6/22</i>
<i>Ronda and Steve Horstman</i>	<i>5/25</i>	<i>John and Rita Green</i>	<i>6/26</i>
<i>Ann Weaver & Bill Steddum</i>	<i>5/31</i>		

A spreadsheet will be at rallies trying to collect dates for our members. If you have a special date or event you want in the newsletter, please email airstream099leadership@gmail.com with your dates.

SWAG INFO



NEW members from November 2021 and after will be given a free t-shirt- **when they attend a rally/meeting**. If you would like to buy a t-shirt [send your order to Anna Brandon](#) and she will put them aside to give you at your next rally (including international). In the meantime, for those that want extra special clothing with our club logo embroidered- you may ordered from Land's End. If you want a personalized garden flag, email Airstream099Leadership@gmail.com and when we get a large enough order, an order will be placed.



Are you looking for ways to proudly display your Region membership at International? Why not do it with a garden flag! These high quality flags are printed with the logo on both sides and are sturdy and large enough for you to add your name and/or WBCCI Big Red Number above or below the logo. Price includes shipping and orders must be place before June 1 in order to receive your flag before the International Rally. You may pick up your flag at the Region 9 desk or the Monday breakfast. Use this [link](#) to order now!

ABOUT BRN'S

From Eric McHenry on social media: Clarification on BRN display (effective May 11th at the IBT meeting). I loved the process the IBT took - polling their members, then a significant amount of time in discussion amongst themselves. Ultimately the vote for the following language was adopted almost unanimously (14 Yes, 2 No, 3 non-voting).

The consensus was that a) BRNs were great and a neat part of our history/present, b) we encourage them to be displayed, c) the IBT also understands (and values) the preference of some members to be able to choose when/where to display.

16.6.10 Airstream Numbers

- A. The display of the Big Red Number (BRN) is encouraged for participation in Club activities to assist with the identification, location, logistics, parking, communications, and some safety considerations. When the BRN is required for participation, the activity organizer shall inform the participants in advance and at registration. All methods for displaying BRNs, when required, should be visible and clear to read as described on the "All About BRNs" Club webpage.

The traditional method of display is provided below:

1. The Club Decal is affixed to the recreational vehicle centered above the front and rear windows or cluster lights, if so equipped, though lower or not centered placement is acceptable if Airstream badging, antennas, cameras, etc. do not permit application in the preferred location.
2. The vinyl BRNs should be centered, front and rear, below the decal.
3. The use of 6" high numbers is desired unless space does not permit, in which case Headquarters will provide numbers of a size that may be used.
4. Membership Stars, one for each 5 years of membership, are ideally to be placed half on either side of the Club Decal, if space permits. In the case of an odd number of stars the extra star should be to the left of the Club Decal. If space does not permit, the Stars can be placed above or below the Club

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU TO CONTRIBUTE!

Share your Airstream story with the North Texas Airstream Club! We would love to feature your unique trailer or travel adventures in the Newsletter to inspire others to chase the Airstream dream. **Tell us what you are up to (keep it PG)!**

Photo Guidelines: When submitting a photo please send them to allanapat@msn.com

Feel free to tell us about yourself, the places you have traveled, and your favorite memories in your Airstream too!

Specs: Any photo taken on your phone will work! However, be sure to send the attachments as a png or jpeg.

Examples:

- Images with your Airstream in a campsite
- Images of your favorite activities with your Airstream (lounging in a campsite, fishing, canoeing, skiing, etc....)
- Images with your Airstream in a scenic location
- Images of cooking in your Airstream or generally using kitchen supplies
- Images of people enjoying the dining and lounge area (eating, reading, enjoying a game, etc.)

SWAP IT/SELL IT

If you have an item that you want to find, trade, sell send it to airstream099leadership@gmail.com

1970-25' Vintage Airstream Trailer, San Antonio, TX \$110,000 USD

Meticulously maintained 1970 25' Vintage Airstream completely renovated by the Airstream Factory Service Center plus recent upgrades by A & P Vintage Trailer Works. Solar, ion lithium batteries and ample storage throughout for boondocking and long-term trips. Custom hickory cabinetry & aluminum inside for a cabin on wheels look. Also available tow vehicle 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Duramax Diesel-36,000 miles. Complete details & additional photos available by contacting Joseph Webb 512-630-7053 jbwsahome@gmail.com or Victoria Summy 512-635-5782 vsummy@yahoo.com

We are recent long-term members of WBBCL and members of Highland Lakes. We are selling our 1970 25' Vintage Airstream & 2018 Chevy Silverado 2500 Duramax Diesel. (Retiring from camping) Victoria Summy



TRAILER WEIGHT INFORMATION

VIN OR SERIAL NUMBER 1S1BY22761518532 CLASS 30' TRAVEL TRAILER

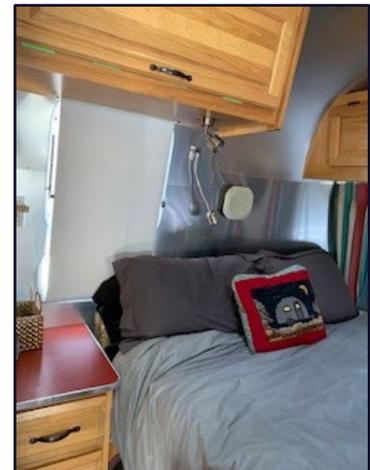
GVWR (GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING) IS THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE WEIGHT OF THIS TRAILER WHEN FULLY LOADED. IT INCLUDES ALL WEIGHT AT THE TRAILER AXLES AND TONGUE OR PIN.

UVW (UNLOADED VEHICLE WEIGHT) IS THE WEIGHT OF THIS TRAILER AS MANUFACTURED, AT THE FACTORY. IT INCLUDES ALL WEIGHT AT THE TRAILER AXLES AND TONGUE OR PIN, IF APPLICABLE. IT ALSO INCLUDES FULL GENERATOR FLUIDS, INCLUDING FUEL, ENGINE OIL AND COOLANTS.

CCC (CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY) IS EQUAL TO GVWR MINUS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: UVW, FULL FRESH (POTABLE) WATER WEIGHT (INCLUDING WATER HEATER), FULL LP-GAS WEIGHT.

CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY (CCC) COMPUTATION	POUNDS	KILOGRAMS
GVWR	10000	4536
MINUS UVW	7174	3254
MINUS FRESH WATER WEIGHT OF 61 GALLONS @ 8.3 LB/GAL	504	229
MINUS LP-GAS WEIGHT OF 14 GALLONS @ 4.2 LB/GAL	60	27
= CCC FOR THIS TRAILER*	2262	1026

* DEALER INSTALLED EQUIPMENT WILL REDUCE CCC
CONSULT OWNER MANUAL(S) FOR SPECIFIC WEIGHING INSTRUCTIONS AND TOWING GUIDELINES. CD-132



2021 Caravel 22FB for sale from member Amy Hanus



Extended Warranty | Lift | Lots of Extras – Your furnished Caravel is ready to hit the road with almost everything your trailer needs to go camping included. It just needs your final touches! This Caravel has a fantastic layout with a large open area to take advantage of the iconic Airstream windows and a substantial rear bathroom.

It has had annual inspections and wax at DFW Airstream. We are located halfway between Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City in Ardmore, OK. We are only selling this much loved camper because we are purchasing a new-to-us Airstream from a friend. It has been kept covered in our driveway and we are the only owner.

This unit has the new 2021 composite flooring, instant hot water system, 3 awnings, ducting throughout for the ac and heat systems and more. Your towing safety needs will be covered with the Blue Ox system and rear camera technology.

- Extended warranty
- Awning package
- Convection microwave oven
- 3 inch trailer lift
- Blue Ox towing system
- Elfa shelving system in large closet
- RV leveling blocks, sewer hose and water hose
- Tri-fold topper that fits the dinette bed
- Tempur-Pedic supreme topper for bed with two Performance Sheet Set by Threshold that fit the FB great.

The rear bathroom has a full size door. The large glass shower with seat and on-demand hot water system is a must! A retractable clothes line is located in the shower. There is a lot of counter space, storage and a porcelain toilet.

In the large living space you have the U-shaped dinette with a telescoping table and two storage spaces. We've included a tri-fold memory foam topper that can be added for making an even more comfortable large daybed when the table is down. The kitchen has a three burner stove and an upgraded convection microwave oven. The front bed is even more comfortable with the addition of the Tempur-Pedic topper and great fitting Threshold sheets. Enjoy the outside views with the panoramic windows that surround the bed.

For a closer look and photos of the inside, check it out on [RV Trader](#) and [Airstream Marketplace](#)

MEETING MINUTES

April NTxAC Meeting

The Boulders at Lake Tyler at 9:00 AM

Conducted by Jennifer Dice

9:08 Welcome: Present were Dan and Jennifer Dice, John and Rita Green, Jarrid and Erica Rollins, Lynn and Anne Clark, Jeff and Maribeth Pappas, Tom Jensen and Allana Paterson, Edward and Tiffany Wilson, Cliff and Maxi Millican, Henry and Carol Wilkins, Steve Hill, Lori and Greg Satterwhite, Phillis and Calvin Hamilton, Marianne and Sterling Combs, Chet and Sherrie Beyer, James and Shirl Wills, Tammy and Mike VanBuskirk, Greg and Jill Fearing, Bret and Samantha Bieghler, Scott and Christine Wayles.

Ed doing photos for the club, put together video, contact him or Jennifer if you have concerns about being in photos/videos and he will do his best to not include you.

Leadership:

Statement of Candidacy - 30 candidates for IBT

Call for Regional positions

Local roles available in all positions.

Rally host and the annual budget. Maribeth called for hands to be raised for who will pay fees or higher annual dues. Motion made to send a survey to determine if we raise annual dues or charge a rally fee.

Past: rally fees for catered dinners, club traditionally has bought meat for dinners, etc.

Unrealized costs - breakfasts, drinks, pizza, prizes, etc.

Getting the club back up and running, Process, Clear guidelines, budget for each rally, speaking with leadership team and will need to do motions after that.

BRNs – discussion at Region rally about how and if they should be required to be displayed. NTxAC does not have a directive for this. More to come from ACI with a policy that aligns with what is being done. Suggestion of doing a fun event for new members to celebrate and put on their BRN.

Rally at Pilot Knoll - May 19-21

Meat provided by Club

Wine tasting at each camper - 2 bottles

Mark your calendar for October - Jack Clyne is working to put together our first ever NTxAC Urban Rally. Details to come.

Rally – Maribeth: book Vineyards by October 1

Membership – Tom: 7 new members

Newsletter - Allana: Looking for someone to take over newsletter.

Treasurer report - \$5575 in our checking account

May NTxAC Meeting

Pilot Knoll Park 9:00 AM

Conducted by Jennifer Dice

9:10 Welcome: Present were Dan and Jennifer Dice, Jeff and Maribeth Pappas, Pam and Dan Brockway, Tom Jensen and Allana Patterson, David and Anna Brandon, Arnold and Amy Terkel, Edward and Tiffany Wilson, Jack Clyne, Shiril and James Wills, Erica and Jared Rollins, Jerry and Beth Adams, Ross and Phyllis Hamilton, Jill and Greg Fearing, Rick and Debbie Weaver, Elizabeth Therezo, Amy and Chris Hanus, Janet and Steve Hancock

11:15 Old Business: Jennifer opened the meeting following up on last month's discussion surrounding increasing membership and initiating rally fees—a survey will be sent out to members to capture their thoughts. Call for members to accept leadership roles: The club needs a vice-president, treasurer, and secretary— these are mandatory offices, but we also need help in other ways because of the growth in the club over the last couple of years. We are asking for help from members to volunteer according to their skill base— Jennifer will be putting together role descriptions so members can know ahead of time what types of responsibilities are involved in each role. According to the Bylaws, David Brandon, Past President, will be heading up the nominating committee. If you are interested, please put together a brief statement of candidacy and email it to us at airstream099leadership@me.com. Be ready to vote for the Executive Council June 1-June 15: There are Statements of Candidacy and YouTube videos to identify the nine members you think will be qualified to lead

ACI. The videos should not weigh in heavily in your analysis as some did not have time to prepare a video, some did not adhere to the two minute limit, and some were unprepared and may not have accurately represented themselves.

Introduction of new members: Elizabeth Thereso, originally from NJ but spent most of her life in Las Vegas. Moved to Texas in 2009 for her job. Her first Airstream was a 16', then four years ago she bought a 26'. Rick and Debbie Weaver, this is their first rally. They have had a number of campers in the past, including a little Casita. After a rainy cold trip to the northeast, they decided to purchase a 28' Airstream. A couple of years after buying it, they decided to join a club when they encountered several Airstreamers in parks whose friendliness convinced them to join. Debbie is an avid quilter and has many beautiful creations. Ross and Phyllis Hamilton, this is their second rally, and they live in Flower Mound. Old members introductions and fun facts! Members introduced themselves and passed on a fun fact about themselves. This weekend marks the 45th wedding anniversary of the Adams and the 40th wedding anniversary of the Hancocks.

Meeting 2. Treasurer's Report: \$5500.00 in our checking account.

Membership Chair: We have 165 rigs/294 full members; and 49 rigs/95 affiliate members.

Newsletter Editor: Allana Patterson requests information and pictures from the members including travel notes; she wants to get the next one out to the membership this coming Wednesday so anything she received can make it into this newsletter. There will be no summer newsletters while she is on the road this summer. If new members haven't sent her info, please do so that she can put a little about them in the newsletter to introduce them to the membership. Allana also announces that she has room in the column for any Airstream-related items you have for sale. Jennifer asks for volunteers to contact her if they would like to take the role of Newsletter Editor as Allana would like to take on a different role.

Upcoming Rallies: Maribeth reminds us that our next rally will be at Twin Coves Park and Campground (5001 Wichita Trail, Flower Mound) on the north side of Lake Grapevine Friday, September 15th through Sunday September 17th. It corresponds with the annual Grapevine Grapefest for any who would like to experience this local festival. There are only three sites left in the block so let Maribeth Pappas know if you haven't made your reservation and would like to join us. Our annual Installation Rally will be Friday November 17th through Sunday 19th, at the Range in Bristol, Texas (ten minutes from Ennis). They have allowed us to secure the whole park! There are a few boondocking sites and a few vintage trailers open for reservation. If you rent a vintage trailer, you can park your own trailer in front—this allows a friend/family member of yours to join in on the fun. The Holiday rally will be Friday, December 1 through Sunday December 3rd, and there are 12 sites left in our secured block—these sites will be released to the public on October 1st so be sure to call and reserve before then (be sure to identify yourself as with the group so that you'll get a campsite near the pavilion if you want to be parked with the group). This is one of the most popular rallies of the year so don't hesitate to reserve if you haven't. Jack reports that he and Jennifer are planning an Urban Air rally in McKinney, tentatively scheduled for Thursday October 5th through Sunday October 8th in the downtown square. Currently, they are still in negotiations with the city (who is very excited that we are considering this) and are working on parking for tow vehicles and choosing a philanthropic outreach for the community. It will be boondocking only, but there are plenty of restaurants around for eating out. Eric McHenry, ACI president, is impressed with the event and ACI has inquired about how they can help this be a success.

Closing Comments: Jennifer introduced Ed Wilson, who is a great photographer who has been taking great photos of our gatherings. Adjourned at 10:01

Featured Caravan

CRUIZIN' ALONG THE OPEN ROAD...OR THE NATCHEZ TRACE, IN THIS CASE

From Jennifer Hicks

With a phone call from a fellow club member as motivation, I logged onto the club website and registered for the **inaugural Cruzin' the Natchez Trace** caravan. Then I looked up the caravan to see what I had committed to, as travelling with my Airstream friends was enough to get me to sign up, but I was curious as to what they'd gotten me into. Seventeen days to drive 444 miles? With 5 stops? Geez, this was going to be a slow one...

Which is just how the Natchez Trace should be appreciated. Slowly and leisurely. No commercial traffic. 50 mph speed limit, which is rigorously patrolled and enforced by the National Park Service Police. Ample options to pull off the route and park for picnics, waterfall hikes, historical sites, ancient burial mounds, small towns full of character and history ... SOOO MUCH TO SEE!



We travelled the Trace from south to north, same as the Kaintuck would have done in the early 1800's – it's much easier to walk back home after floating your flatboats of goods for sale in the big cities of Natchez or New Orleans than fight the downstream currents. Starting in Natchez, we got an overview during lunch in an antebellum mansion (complete with tour). The next day was a tour of the Longwood House, an octagonal home never completed after the death of the original designer and the Civil War interrupting construction. That did not deter his wife from raising her children in the semi-finished basement level, and two more generations of the family living there, as well! When donated to the Natchez Garden Society, the donor stipulated the house was to remain in the same state of semi-completion as it had been lived in for all those years ... to preserve it for all it was *as it was*.

Then our first day driving up the Trace. The Driver's Guide stated "96 miles – approximately 5 hours" ... what?!?! This is when we learned that staggering our departures would allow everyone parking at the various stops along the route ... most lots were large enough for 3-5 rigs, but not all 22 at once. The route is clearly marked with "site ahead 1mile" signs, then larger signs at the sites. The Emerald Mound is the 2nd largest burial mound in Mississippi, built by the Natchez starting in approximately 1350, and in use until the early 1800's. One basket at a time. On foot. To honor their culture, people, and history. It's overwhelming.



cannonballs!

Second stop: Vicksburg, MS. Here we had a walking tour of the historic parts of downtown by a descendant of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, and a bus tour of the Battlefield, and the *Cairo* gunboat remains at the Visitor Center. A sobering history, balanced by the tangible remnants of the siege such as dented front gates and patched ceilings and floors due to



Our next day of driving was the longest, at 216 miles ... but also included a stop for lunch in French Camp, an historic town that is the present-day site of an academy for underprivileged kids, where they live and learn life skills in the pottery shop, bakery, store, farmlands, and other businesses. The Trace also provided more opportunities for waterfalls, historic stands (what the travelers called inns), and the Mississippi Craft Center.

Stop #3 was Tupelo, birthplace of Elvis Presley. We also toured the Buffalo Zoo animal sanctuary. More light-hearted than Vicksburg and Shiloh (next stop). The campground was also a spectacular state park where we had 12 of the sites that lined a peninsula into a lake with a beautiful shoreline and fantastic scenery. Our second "caravan dinner" was at this park



– where our kitty fee covered the cost of a meal prepared by members of the group. On a personal adventure, after stopping at the hardware store where "Miss Gladys bought her son his first guitar," I had lunch with caravan mates at a restaurant that met their criteria: 1. must not be a national chain, 2. must contain someone's name (if they're willing to tell you who is responsible, it must be pretty good!), and there must be ample parking. Kermit's Outlaw Kitchen fit the bill. Have you ever had a hamburger made from barbequed brisket? There are no words. I suggest you go explore downtown and taste for yourself!

Another 100-mile day to Pickwick Landing State Park, which put is mid-way between Shiloh National Battlefield (which we were directed to self-tour using the National Park Service app with driving tour) and Corinth, TN. Corinth was pivotal in the

establishment of control of supplies in the Civil War, as it is a railroad town with crossed tracks, allowing goods to come in from multiple directions. Both the Union and the Confederacy wanted this seat of importance. Eventually it went to the Union. The town has done a great job of preserving the history and highlighting other important cultural and historic sites of importance.



Our last day on The Trace was only 180miles, with another town at the mid-point to stop for lunch and some shopping. There were many fantastic points of interest along the route this day, including a memorial to explorer Meriweather Lewis (of Lewis & Clark fame), where he died. The final part of the drive is post-Trace and along interstates through/around Nashville to the campground near The Grand Ole Opry. The contrast between Elvis' modest beginnings in Tupelo, and then a back-stage tour and explanation of the history of The Grand Ole Opry showed the breadth of musical culture and history in America, and this caravan provided a way to learn of both. Even if neither are your preferred musical genre, the cultural significance of one man and one industry were impressive, and fun to see. Our show was also fantastic, and fun to be a part of the longest running radio program still on the air weekly! Our last day was the tour of President Andrew Jackson's home and gardens, followed by a final dinner and slideshow of the journey. Again, a great balance between history, culture and fun.

There will be some revisions to the route and timing based on comments from the participants this year, but this was a fantastic caravan. Just under three weeks allows for people to fit it into schedules, and not to become too overwhelmed by too many tours, or too much time spent with the same people. Roy & Charlotte (with help from Johnny & Cissy Thibedeaux as co-leaders) put together a great adventure to highlight a little-known part of American history, layered with some sobering Civil War sights, light-hearted zoos and musical venues, through a part of the country strong in its own culture and personality.

MY ADVENTURE ON THE SWELL

From Allana Patterson

At Christmas of 2019, my sister convinced us to join her and her husband on a tugboat through the inlet passages of Vancouver



Island. We agreed, because Tom loves boats, and planned the trip for May of 2020. Needless to say, COVID happened, and it has taken us 3 years to use the credit we received for the cruise. Tom and I went without my sister, as they are still not able to make the trip. Since they had done all the research and planning several years ago, I had no idea what to expect. The boat is a remodeled tugboat from 1912. The company is Maple Leaf Adventures. They are fabulous to work with, and good at what

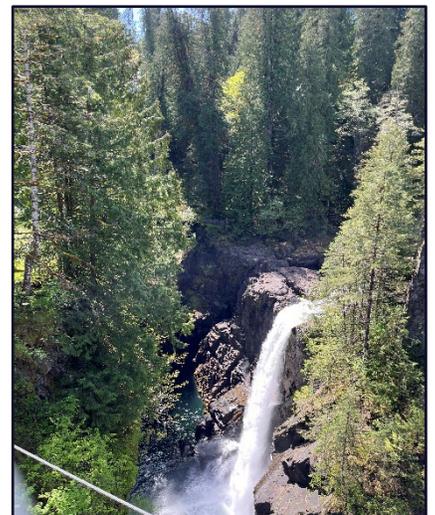


they do. The boat has room for 6 cabins (12 passengers) and 5 crew. Our crew was unbelievably generous, knowledgeable, and fascinating. There is no itinerary for this trip. We left Campbell River, Vancouver Island on a Sunday afternoon, heading north for Port Mc Neil, Vancouver Island by Sunday, May 14. The rest was "see what we can, go where we want". Thank goodness our crew had some great ideas for that! It didn't start out well but was an adventure. The first day the fuel line was clogged, and the engine failed. The Coast guard towed us back to Campbell River, and repairs were done. We did a bit of excursion and headed out on Monday. The temperatures were cool as they warned us, but the weather was perfect, no rain and sunny skies. In one week, we hiked forests, visited first nation (indigenous village sites), saw a black bear, sea lions, otters, chased one humpback whale for miles, four orcas, marine wildlife like urchins, star fish, etc. Kayaking, fishing, and great meals were among the other activities. But mostly, the people on the boat, crew and



John and Julie-Canadian Airstreamers

passengers were a joy. There were 6 Americans and 5 Canadians as passengers. Ages ranged from 88 (Allen from Vancouver-an active spry widower) to 39 (Patrick and his wife Allison from Winnipeg, Manitoba). We, of course, instantly connected with John and Julie-



members of the Airstream Club of Ontario. Six degrees of separation-they were on the Viking Caravan last summer with our members Cliff and Maxi Millican! One of our crew was a naturalist, so all questions were answered about any animal or plant you might see. Another of our crew was an environmental activist, who has worked all over the world saving wildlife, and in the Northwest saving Salmon from Salmon farms. I don't think I will ever cruise on a huge cruise ship again. The meals were all cooked by a chef with spectacular presentation. It was quite an experience. I think we might sail with them again someday. Here is the website: <https://mapleleafadventures.com/> I will let the pictures tell the rest of the story.





THE BOULDERS AT LAKE TYLER

The Boulders at Lake Tyler is an amazing RV Park, with cabins, a boardwalk, and a beautiful lake.

On Thursday night we had quite a rainstorm so there was not any socializing. Besides, Allana and Tom spent their “tornado” threat evening at the emergency room of UT Tyler Hospital. Allana stupidly fell off her new electric bike without a helmet and ended up with a black eye and concussion. Friday was a beautiful day, so black eyes be damned. The rally room was absolutely gorgeous, as more guests arrived on Friday it looked like we were going to have quite a crowd and that Maribeth had put together the perfect rally. The usual visiting took place, lots of walks for dogs, and people. Friday evening we had 40 or so people eating the most delicious pizza on the patio. Saturday, we had a continental breakfast in the rally room with a meeting that followed.

The meeting was very productive in discussion of rally fees and surveying the membership for preferences on providing food or paying fees.

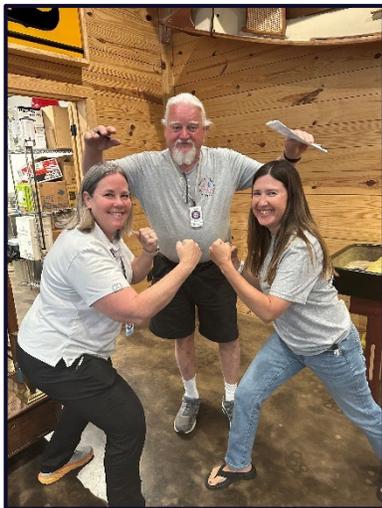




For lunch, some went into Tyler for famous barbecue, and some enjoyed the spoils of the food trucks on the property. The afternoon was on your own for a meet up around 3:30 for a billiards and shuffleboard tournament, followed by a Mexican buffet dinner. The East Texas Lakes unit joined us for this Rally, and we made new friends. We had a couple of new members at their first rally enjoy the experience and get their free t-shirts. Margaritas were flowing, the fireplace on the deck of the rally room was roaring, food was delicious and Jennifer Dice, NTxAC got a trophy for Shuffleboard, while the East Texas Unit claimed the pool championship.



We all enjoyed a group photo after Sunday's breakfast and definitely voted to repeat a rally at the Boulders next year!





Pretty sure Jack Cline is
photoshopped into this one,
because he was not there!
Just can't trust what you see!

PILOT KNOLL- MAY RALLY

By Rick Weaver

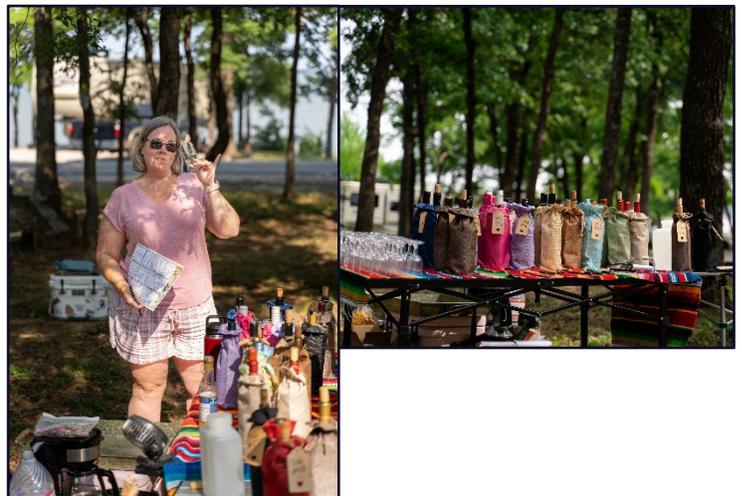


My wife, Debbie and I have been Airstreaming for about three and a half years after camping for the entire forty-six-plus years of our marriage in everything from a tent, to a pop up, to an ultralight SOB, to the pinnacle: Airstreaming in our 28' Flying Cloud. We named her "StreamWeaver" and last year as a birthday present Debbie gifted me a membership in ACI / NTxAC, a name medallion for StreamWeaver, and our Big Red Numbers (19552). We were official! But it was not until last weekend that we participated in our first NTxAC Rally at Pilot Knoll Park. We were a bit apprehensive and not sure what to expect but

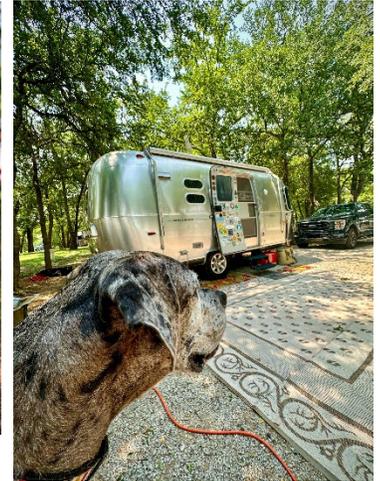


whatever those expectations were, the Rally far exceeded them! Minutes after we arrived, we were warmly greeted by our host, Jack Clyne (kudos to Jack and NTxAC leadership for putting together a great event). I want to note that Jack kindly (and wisely) waited to drop by until after we had the trailer backed in and positioned (because don't you just hate it when strangers come walking up to "help" you park your

Airstream??). Jack had even cleared some heavy tree branch debris from our site (there had been a heavy storm just before our arrival). We immediately began meeting new friends that afternoon and the next morning at the group breakfast we continued to feel welcome and part of the group.



At breakfast Debbie discovered several ladies who share her love of quilting and all things fabric related, so she spent the day Saturday quilt-exploring with other members of the group (needless to say, Debbie's all in now!). The wine tasting social and group dinner on Saturday evening were delightful and, like every other activity during the weekend, they were low-key and very comfortable. The after-dinner conversations, laughter, and game activities continued late into the evening. I could go on and on but I'll spare you and wrap up by saying: to all you experienced NTxAC rally-ers we would like to say thank you for making us feel at home and welcomed – and to any of you noobs to NTxAC Rallies (like we were) who may be wondering if you will “fit in” and have a great time at your first NTxAC Rally I will say, don't worry about that – you will!



UPCOMING RALLIES

June 24-30

66th International Rally, Rock Springs, WY
<https://airstreamclub.org/Rally2023>

Sept 15- Sept 17, 2023

Twin Coves on Lake Grapevine

This is our first Rally at Twin Coves on the fabulous north shore of Lake Grapevine. **Jill Fearing** and **Phyllis Hamilton** are our amazing Rally Hosts. It is GrapeFest weekend in downtown Grapevine (just 20 minutes away) so a perfect weekend to have fun! There are 3 waterfront sites still available in our reserved block. Please call NTxAC Rally Chairperson, Maribeth Pappas to book one of these full hook up sites. She has prepaid for these sites and the cost is \$81 total for the 2 nights. Her cell is 214-566-1210 and you can Venmo her payment.

October 26-29

LBJ Grasslands, Decatur, TX
Joint rally with HOTC

November 17-19

Installation Rally
The Range Vintage Trailer Resort, Bristol, TX

December 1-3

The Vineyards, Grapevine, TX

Only 12 spots left, reserve by October 1.

Contact tomjensen@msn.com if you need to cancel or want to be on a waiting list. There will be continued traditions like the ugly sweater contest, food bank contributions, and white elephant gift exchange, but look forward to some new exciting activities.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Chewy Caramel Pecan Diamonds

By Allana Patterson

For dessert at the Boulders Rally, I served my pecan diamonds. Warning: It take a LOT of pecans. (I did not drizzle the caramel on the batch at the rally.) ***Do not double recipe, make two separate batches if you want more.***

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 2/3 cup powder sugar
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) chilled un-salted butter (divide 3/4 cup for crust, 1/4 for topping)
- 1 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light karo syrup
- 4 cups coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 8 ounces of caramels
- 2 tsp milk

Directions:

Line a 13 X 9 baking pan with foil, leaving an overhang of at least 1" on all sides. Grease the foil with butter. Preheat oven to 350.

Crust: blend flour, powder sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Add the chilled butter (stick and a half) cut up in to chunks. Blend in food processor until mixture clumps together. Press dough evenly onto bottom of foil-lined pan. Bake the crust for about 20-25 minutes, until light golden. Remove from oven and cool. Turn oven down to 325.

While crust is baking, make the topping. Stir brown sugar, corn syrup, and half stick of butter in a heavy saucepan over medium high heat until sugar dissolves and mixture boils. Boil 1 minute. Add pecans and heavy cream. Boil mixture for about 3 minutes until thickened slightly. Stir in vanilla. Pour hot topping over warm crust.

Bake in the oven until the topping is darker and bubbles, about 20 minutes. Transfer pan to a cooling rack. Cool completely in the pan. The topping will harden.

Melt caramels in double boiler with milk. Drizzle over the top and cool. When completely cooled lift foil out of pan onto cutting board. Using a heavy sharp knife, cut crust with nut topping into diamonds. Can be made ahead and frozen.

Should make about 30 1.5" pieces.

A lot of trouble, a lot of \$\$ for pecans, but worth it!