

President's Message

First off, welcome to our new members Cheryl Wimberly and Jim Murrell and Laurie and Don O'Neal. They were affiliates before but are now THCU members! I also want to welcome Liz Stone to our group. Hope to see each of you at a future rally. Speaking of rallies...Another year and already we have a list of rallies to look forward to!

Our soonest rally will be our Coast Caravan between February 24 – March 2, 2024. We have 12 rigs signed up. If you would like to join this little mini caravan, let me know. There are two parks (out of the four stops) which are fully booked. You can join us in the middle two stops or book another park within the area or check the two parks for any cancellations (and book them).

On April 6-9, 2024 we have our Boondocking Eclipse Rally. This boondocking rally will be in Fredericksburg, TX and we have hit our limit of 16 rigs and we are currently taking names for a waitlist. So contact me if you are interested in getting on the waitlist for this one.

If you haven't seen on Facebook, the Region 9 rally in Bandera, TX is full with 105 rigs (May 1-5, 2024). They are currently taking reservations for the wait list. We are still waiting...

Our unit has a joint rally with the Greater Houston Unit on June 27-30 at Crockett Lakefront RV Resort in Crockett, TX. Give the park a call at (936) 544-8466 and let them know you are with the THCU GROUP to reserve your site. This will be a great opportunity to see some of the friends you've made while attending the Region 9 Rally.

The September rally dates are Aug 29 to Sept 2. This is Labor Day weekend and will start on Thursday and end on Monday. We also have some major activities that have been finalized—which are a tour of a scrap yard and a tour of Baylor University. We just need a couple of volunteers to host this event. If you would like to volunteer but don't know what it entails, please reach out to me. The Greens have created a "How to Host" a rally guide, PLUS we will help.

The 2024 Sedalia International caravan stops have been finalized and are available on page 5 of this newsletter. The parks know we are coming so you can call for reservations, if you wish. Please let me know by emailing (Email: timberintx@gmail.com) or calling/texting (Cell: 512-786-6380) him. The first stop at Tatum TX is a state park and we will make a group reservation before the general public. We already have five rigs booked! Fun times.

Finally—Please vote for your Region 9 leadership. If you did not get the email sent out to the THCU members or would like me to resend it to you let me know! We need all votes in by Jan 31, 2024.

Tim Ebbers
President, Texas Hill Country Unit
Email: timberintx@gmail.com
Cell: 512-786-6380

In this issue:

President's Message	P.01
Meet Laurie and Don O'Neal	P.02
2024 THCU Calendar	P.03
Some Rally Details Information	P.04
2024 International Information	P.05
Announcements and New Member Info	P.06
Birthdays and Anniversaries	P.07
EZ Links	P.08

Meet Laurie and Don ONeal

Although we both grew up on the Texas coast, we somehow ended up in Northeast East Texas. Don (spouse) was a private practitioner dentist in Longview Texas for 35 years. I have worked in a myriad of positions, but the last 10+ years, I was with Governor Perry's office as a regional economic development specialist. My work involved serving as a liaison with 52 counties in Northeast, Deep East, and Southeast Texas, including some work in the Houston area. We lived on Lake Gladewater (north of Tyler) for about 20+ years with our two beloved labrador retrievers, Lagniappe and Flambeaux. Our first lab passed in 2006 and we hunted ducks, doves, pheasant, chukar, geese, and retriever bumpers for most of our combined lab years. For 13 years we traveled with Maggie (our first lab) but quickly ran out of room in the 19 foot 1999 Bambi. We upgraded to a 2006 25 foot Safari and traveled with both of our labbie sisters for 10 years. Don and I retired on exactly the same day to await the arrival of our first granddaughter. After spending most of August/Sept in an RV park near a Houston hospital (think 100 degrees and 100% humidity), we both agreed to sell our trailer, our house, the boat, etc....but as fate would have it, we missed our time in the AS, so we bought the only 25 foot FC in 2015 with two air-conditioners and twin beds in the whole country. We picked it up at the AZ/CA border making the turn-around trip in just 3 days!

We returned to traveling, spending many months on the road and saw much of the western US including the "Mighty Five in Utah." In 2017, we did a few months traveling to the eclipse in WY, Mt Rushmore, the Badlands, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Since 2015, we have seen much of the west and attended our first International Rally in Summer of 2023. Numerous trips to Florida continue to be our "beach fix." One trip to JC for initial issues but those were worked out quickly with a great staff and workmanship. So we picked our present rig because it had two AC and twin beds. My only regret is that we spent 1999-2015 without joining WBCCI because we were both working and only had time for weekend trips close to home and our week of vacation in the mountains. I feel like we missed out making some dear friends and will always regret "that lost time."

We both love educational travel and enjoy the cultural and historical perspective we gain when we travel. I love photography and am seldom without at least two cameras (sunrises are perhaps my favorite followed closely by sunsets, beaches all times of the day, and of course, our 9 year old granddaughter.) Since Don's ocular cancer diagnosis in 2020, our focus and goals have dramatically shifted and we try to camp in the months between his scans every 3-6 months. We immediately sold our house on the lake and moved to the hill country to be closer to my parents and his oncology physicians who are specialists in the type of cancer that Don has.

Our favorite spot to camp is in rural Colorado in the mountains, preferably near a river as my happy place to "chill." (Pictured on the right). The respite is always welcome after the frenzy "of life."

Our trailer is numbered 8614 for two very landmarked years (married in 1986 and retired in 2014). Our trailer is named for my dad who was nicknamed ACE - he was a pilot in WWII flying B-24's - thus our Flying Cloud is "The Flying Ace." He taught me the love and gift of travel..

Canada "may be" on our bucket list with the AS but the auroras' are definitely on the list!



THCU 2024 Schedule

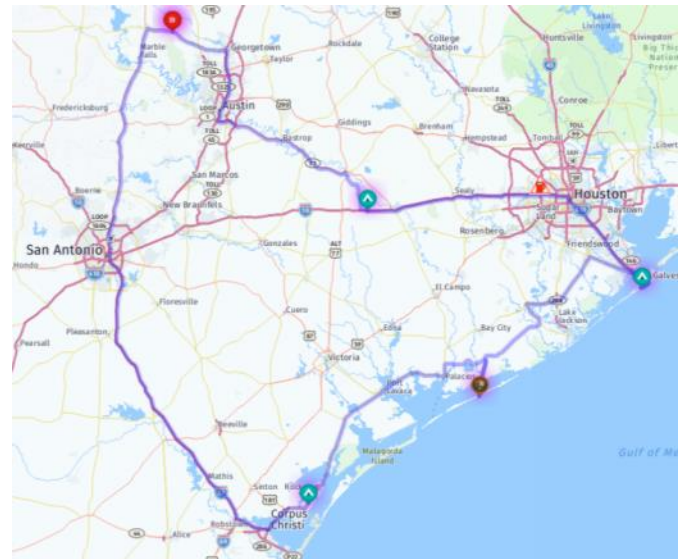
Date	Location	Comments
Feb 24-Mar 2	Tour of the TX Coast Rally	If you would like to attend part of this rally, review the additional notes for this rally on the next page. Contact Tim Ebbers for details if you are interested in joining us for all or part of this tour. Currently, there are 12 rigs attending this rally. Mustang Island State Park and Iron Horse RV Resort is completely full so if you are interested, you will need to book another park within the area or check the two parks for any cancellations.
April 6-9	Boondocking Eclipse Rally	This is a boondocking rally in Fredericksburg, TX. This boondocking rally is limited to the first 16 rigs to sign up. See next page for additional details regarding this event.
May 1-5	Region 9 2024 Rally Bandera, TX	There are currently 105 rigs registered. They are currently taking waitlist names in case someone cancels.
June 27-30	Joint rally with GHAC Crockett Lakefront RV Resort Crockett, TX	This will be a joint rally with the Greater Houston Airstream Club. Contact Tim Ebbers if you are interested in attending this rally. Reservations with the park will need to be done by calling (936) 544-8466 and letting them know you are with the THCU GROUP. They are expecting us.
July	<no rally planned>	
August TBD	Luncheon TBD	
Aug29-Sept2 Labor Day Rally	Mother Neff State Park 1921 Park Road 14 Moody, TX 76557	This rally will start on Thursday and end on Monday (Labor Day). This state park has full hookups.
Sept 26—Oct 10	International @ Sedalia, MO	Dates reflect start of the caravan to the end of International. See page 10 for details of the caravan.
November 07-10	Installation Rally Colorado Landing RV Park La Grange, TX	
December	TBD by incoming president	



Notes on a few of the THCU activities in 2024:

Texas Coast Caravan (February 24—March 2, 2024)

- Coordinators: Ira & Terri Rush and Tim & Ally Ebbers
- This will be a mini caravan through three TX coastal towns starting at
 1. Iron Horse RV Resort in Weimer, TX. (Feb 24—1 night)
 2. Stella Mare Resort in Galveston, TX. (Feb 25-27 - 2 nights)
 3. Matagorda Bay Nature Park in Matagorda, TX. (Feb 27-29 - 2 nights) Sites 3-12
 4. Mustang Island State Park in Corpus Cristi, TX. (Feb 29-Mar 2 - 2 nights)
- If you are going to do all or part of this caravan, please let Tim Ebbers know at timberintx@gmail.com. He will send you the information for booking the sites for each park. Unfortunately each park has its own way of reserving. It is recommended to make your reservations as soon as possible (REALLY). These beach cities start filling up with monthly renters from the north.
- Mustang Island State Park is completely full so if you are interested, you will need to book another park within the area or check Mustang Island SP for any cancellations. Contact Tim Ebbers for camping suggestions in the area.



Boondocking Eclipse Rally (April 6-9)

- Coordinators: Mike & Pat Green and Yvonne & Ed Michek
- If you plan on attending this rally, please let Tim Ebbers know by emailing him at timberintx@gmail.com. This rally is at the limit of 16 rigs, but we can put you on a waiting list if there is a cancellation. Due
- This rally will be boondocking in a cattle pasture. **Due to the location and season of the year, should there be rain before or during the rally, this rally will be cancelled.** We don't want y'all stuck with the bull in our wet pasture.
- Generators can be used as long as you are not annoying anyone else—human or bull.
- Our pasture (& home) is 9 miles east of Fredericksburg, just off Hwy 290. We are not in Fredericksburg.
- Fredericksburg has produced a lengthy [guide](#) to the eclipse. You can also access this at www.eclipseinfbgtx.com. The high points are:
 - a. The 'burg' will be filled to overflowing with eclipse chasers from all over the U.S.
 - b. Businesses will be slammed or will close down when they run out of supplies.
 - c. Come with a full tank of gas.
 - d. HEB is predicting they will run out of groceries before the weekend is over.
 - e. Traffic will be a booger—pack your patience.
 - f. On the above mentioned website, pay particular attention to pages 7 and 8.
- Additional information regarding activities, rally fees, and limitations will be published to the attendees as we get them.





THCU Sedalia Bound Caravan (September 26-October 10, 2024)

- Caravan dates are September 26—October 3, 2024. The stops on this rally include the following by date:
 1. Martin Creek Lake State Park in Tatum, TX—Sept 26-Sept 28—2 nights. Tim will make a group reservation for this park.
 2. Catherine’s Landing in Hot Springs, AR—Sept 28-Sept 30—2 nights. We are in site 206.
 3. Cooper Creek Resort and Campground in Branson, MO—Sept 30-Oct 03—3 nights. We are in site 78.
 4. We will caravan to Sedalia, MO on October 3rd. International officially starts on October 5 and runs through the 11th (check out is on Oct 11th).
 5. We are planning a trip back to TX via a different path through Oklahoma.

Additional information regarding the route with dates, number of nights and mileages

STOP	MI/HR	NIGHTS
1 Thu, 09/26/24 - Bertram, TX Bertram, TX, United States		
2 Thu, 09/26/24 - Tatum, TX Martin Creek Lake State Park	275 4:31	2
3 Sat, 09/28/24 - Hot Springs, AR Catherine's Landing	216 3:30	2
4 Mon, 09/30/24 - Branson, MO Cooper Creek Resort & Campground	222 4:12	3
5 Thu, 10/03/24 - Sedalia, MO Missouri State Fair Campground	156 2:48	8
6 Fri, 10/11/24 - Carthage, MO Big Red Barn RV Park	165 2:54	2
7 Sun, 10/13/24 - Norman, OK Lake Thunderbird State Park	271 4:42	2
8 Tue, 10/15/24 - Wichita Falls, TX Lake Arrowhead State Park	154 2:46	2
9 Thu, 10/17/24 - Dublin, TX Sowell Creek	155 2:29	2
10 Sat, 10/19/24 - Bertram, TX Bertram, TX, United States	117 1:52	

←--Good to go.

←--Subject to change

If you are interested in attending the caravan and/or joining us to head back to TX, contact Tim Ebberts at 512.786.6380 or timberintx@gmail.com for detailed information regarding making reservations at each park.

Welcome!

New Members:

- * Cheryl Wimberly and Jim Murrell of Georgetown, TX
- * Laurie and Don ONeal of Buda, TX
- * Liz Stone of Kyle, TX

We also have several members who have renewed.
Thank you for choosing THCU!

Join us our private Facebook group—[Texas Hill Country Unit](#)

2024 Elected THCU Officers

- ◆ President: Tim Ebbers
- ◆ 1st VP: Michael Green
- ◆ 2nd VP: Susan Fegley
- ◆ Recording secretary: <open>
- ◆ Treasurer: Zephyr Marek
- ◆ 1 year director: Dave Toy
- ◆ 2 year director: Felicia Johnson
- ◆ Newsletter: Ally Ebbers
- ◆ Web Master: Brian Walker
- ◆ Past President: Bob Grimes

ANNOUNCEMENT



Are you a member of WBCCI and Region 9? Do you want to be part of the Region 9 leadership team?? If the answer is YES...this is your chance.

Announcing a really good volunteer opportunity with a great team! There is an open position for Region 9 2nd VP; this position is open to every member who has an active membership with WBCCI in 2024. If you are interested in being the Region 9 2nd VP, please send an email to Bill Miller at billwfm212@gmail.com ASAP. You will need to submit a resume to be considered for the position.



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



January

- 01 Roberto Del Bosque
- 09 Bonnie Stanley
- 11 Michael Green
- 27 Richard Fletcher
- 28 Sylvia Lemley

February

- 17 Gary Odom
- 28 Jan Eiland
- 28 Patti Phillippe



- Jan 07— Michael & Pat Green
- Jan 11—Eddie & Jan Eiland
- Feb 18—Lois Muir & Richard Fletcher
- Feb 22—Gary Stacey Cameron



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



EZ Links

This page is dedicated to links you may want to access. These are links within AirstreamClub.org and other links you may find helpful. If you have a link or website you find helpful and would like to add to this, please send it to me at 0104@wbcci.net.

AIRSTREAMCLUB.ORG— <https://airstreamclub.org/>

Description: This is the mainsite for WBCCI Members. There are a few pages that do not require a log in, but most of the helpful links within these pages will require a log in. A log in can be created if you are a WBCCI Member.

Helpful links within airstreamclub.org (log in is required)

Courtesy Parking Directory— <https://airstreamclub.org/members/courtesy-parking-directory>

Description: Have you ever wanted to mooch-dock? If you find yourself in a situation where you just need a place to park with no/minimal hookups, check out this least used benefit of being a WBCCI member. Let's use it! It would be a great way to meet other members across the United States AND Canada. Can I get a WHOOP WHOOP?

Texas Hill Country Unit—<https://airstreamclub.org/texas-hill-country>

Description: This is the official THCU site within airstreamclub.org. It has links to the Rallies for our unit, newsletters, and other THCU Information. Check it out.

Blue Beret Magazine—<https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section/member-only-blue-beret-magazine>

2024 International Registration link (and information) - <https://airstreamclub.org/rally2024>

Campfire chats—<https://airstreamclub.org/events/campfire-chats>

Description: This page link includes all of the prior recorded campfire chats, any future campfire chat dates and time AND on the day of the campfire chat the link to the virtual meeting.

WBCCI local rallies, events and national caravans—<https://airstreamclub.org/events>

Description: If you want to check out and attend a rally outside of THCU rallies, check this out! If you want to attend another unit's rally it is proper etiquette to email the wagonmaster, event planner, or coordinator first prior to booking to ensure there is room for you to attend.—unless there are other registration instructions are listed for the event.

Other Links

THCU Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/267836193395602/>

Description: This is a private facebook group for THCU members and friends of THCU.

