



# North Texas Roundup

February 2024

*"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

*"You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas."*

—Shirley Chisholm

In honor of Black History month and the onslaught of campaign ads, I thought I would quote our nation's first black congresswoman. She is right...too many of us stand on the sidelines and complain, and I keep trying to figure out a way to get more members involved so we can progress into the most active and best local club in Region 9. We have 2 or 3 new members a month. Join us at a rally and get your free t-shirt!

Our next rally is coming up in three weeks in Dublin, TX. The RV Park says they are right on schedule with the new RV sites we will be using, and there are 13 rigs so far! We would love to have you join us for St. Patrick's Day fun in the Irish capital of Texas. Call 254-979-3967 for reservations.

In keeping with the state's primary season, we have upcoming elections for officers of Region 9. I will send out an electronic voting ballot March 2. Votes will have to be returned by March 9, as I must turn in our

club's vote on March 11. All of the candidates are running unopposed, but the ballot will give you the opportunity to write in someone if you wish. The candidate's information is in this newsletter. We promise there will be no political ads!

Many thanks to our members that have put together trips, hosted rallies, and come up with ideas to implement. Our return on the form sent out for Airstream assistance has not had much response. Here is the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-Mz\\_4uBLDIzrrYVrT8oS1SX-pH9mUuqJ1BGQ\\_Jvpl8LBt-8npg/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-Mz_4uBLDIzrrYVrT8oS1SX-pH9mUuqJ1BGQ_Jvpl8LBt-8npg/viewform?usp=pp_url)

Please give your input. Perhaps you are not reading the emails, or they are going to your Spam folder. Make sure you approve receipt of email from [Airstream099leadership@gmail.com](mailto:Airstream099leadership@gmail.com).

We have Coffee Creek and the Road to Region 9 Rally in April/May, and Swimming at Dinosaur Valley in June...make plans to join us. Region 9 and the North Texas Airstream Community also have a "Stitchin' and Fishin" rally coming up in April. It sounds like a great time for all our quilters and fishermen.

We also sent out a list for our Caddo Lake rally in September, which has a road trip to Sedalia for the international Rally for those that want to keep going. We are pre-paying for reservations at Caddo Lake State Park, so we need to get a count. If you had trouble opening the Google doc to put your name on the list, I have fixed it and here is the link: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11Px57m-hAsHnj54PX1goDxHsVkkQtB-PGL3fXaBb\\_pQiE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11Px57m-hAsHnj54PX1goDxHsVkkQtB-PGL3fXaBb_pQiE/edit?usp=sharing) We currently have 9 on the list... I know there must be more. This rally is in conjunction with the East Texas Lakes Unit.

There are plenty of opportunities to come join us. Please do not sit on the sidelines. We are a social camping club with about 300 members. We love having your \$15 membership fee, but we would love getting to know you at events even more! Enjoy the read and hope to see you down the road!



Allana  
Patterson  
BRN 12194

## Editors' Corner

Greetings, fellow travelers! It's that time of year when my runny nose and watery, itchy eyes tell me that Spring is almost here. Spring is that glorious time of year for camping, and we have some awesome opportunities to take advantage of the season. Check out the rally schedule for details.

Many thanks go to **Jen Dice**, **Maxi Millican**, **Ed Ferrin**, and **Anna Brandon** for sharing their photos from the Streamin' on the Strand Rally in Galveston. To say a good time was had by all appears to be an understatement! Our club knows how to party (didn't I say that last month, too?)

**Also, thanks to Jen Dice** for the first of a series in this issue on the Dice's winter travels. What a ride!

Co-editor **David Majkowski** is on the road with his wife Kim on the Texas coast. **Lynn Clark** and I stole away for a few days at Lake Ray Roberts where we proceeded to eat more S'mores than the law allows.

We're looking forward to being with friends in Dublin soon. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to wear your green. See you down the road!



Ann Clark  
BRN 12279



David  
Majkowski  
BRN 5594



## February Birthdays

Ruth Ann Walker	2/2	Olivia Krull	2/10
Chris Haefner	2/3	Lila Deakle	2/15
Nansii Downer	2/4	Bryan Downer	2/15
Mike Gross	2/7	Dennis Howard	2/18
Tom Collier	2/9	Cynthia Karkoska	2/20

## February Anniversaries

Dennis and Denise Walker	2/14
David and Kim Majkowski	2/20
Henry and Carol Wilkins	2/28

## March Birthdays

Amy Terkel	3/2	Steve Horstman	3/15
Felicia Johnson	3/7	Kris Hill	3/16
Tori Johnston	3/7	Robert Speer	3/22
Rich Kazura	3/11	Dara Poole	3/29
David Hanson	3/13	Bruce Harrower	3/30

## March Anniversaries

Stephen and Kris Hil	3/5
Channing and Phyllis Fell	3/6
Scott and Ann Swanson	3/11
Jerry Hissong and Abby Cooke	3/12
Rick and Carol Lowther	3/15
Chris and Ruth Haefner	3/25
Jim and Susan Fant	3/29

We want to celebrate you! Send your birthday and anniversary dates to Ann at [aec2you@gmail.com](mailto:aec2you@gmail.com).

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## New Members Spotlight



### New Members

**Marty and Amy Klindt**

2021 Globetrotter 27'  
Prosper, TX

**Fred and Amy Villa**

2018 Bambi Flying Cloud 19'  
Plano, TX

**Richard and Leda Roelke**

2023 Globetrotter 30'  
Knollwood, TX

**Steven and Dana Blankinship**

2019 Flying Cloud 26'  
Fairfield, TX

**Jim Tolleson and Jama Barron**

2018 International 25'  
Flower Mound, TX

**Rick and Katie Schwausch**

2023 Pottery Barn 28'  
Ft. Worth, TX

### New Affiliate Members

**Daniel and Melissa Mullins**

1999 Excella 1000 30'  
Karnack, TX

**Chris and Cheryl Chambers**

2023 Flying Cloud 23'  
Tyler, TX

**Steven Wyatt & Debbie Lightel**

2017 International Serenity 30'  
Caddo Mills, TX

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## Jim Tolleson and Jama Barron, BRN 01828

We are Jim Tolleson and Jama Barron, and we are very happy to join your community. After dreaming about owning an Airstream for awhile, we finally made that dream come true last month when we purchased our first Airstream - a 2019 25' International. Given it is Winter we've only been out once so far, a weekend trip to Lake Grapevine to practice our camping skills, but we're looking forward to many more adventures in the future.

Between us we have four kids, two grandkids, and two dogs. Jim works in the building materials business and Jama has had a long career in Information Technology. We are both Oklahoma State University (where Jim played college football) Alumni and avid fans. We're

season ticket holders, and a big reason we bought the Airstream is to take it to the football games. We both like getting outdoors in general and will be bringing our bikes along to the

campsites.

We look forward to meeting you all in the near future! We will be the ones with smiles on our faces and a margarita in our hands :)





## Richard and Leda Roelke, BRN 17021

We are Richard and Leda Roelke from Knollwood, Texas – a tiny little town sandwiched between Sherman and Denison, about an hour north of Dallas. We have three amazing grown children and have embraced our status as empty-nesters. Richard has failed retirement twice, but just recently officially retired again at the end of December from his job as an Industrial mechanic. He is one of those people who can fix anything. He tinkers in his shop and enjoys fixing and restoring cars. I am an elementary school principal and am looking forward to retiring this June after 22 years in public education. I enjoy long distance running and complete several full and half-marathons each year. Richard and I are over the top excited to begin our dream of traveling around the country in our Airstream.

Richard and I consider ourselves accidental Airstreamers. Both of us have always loved all things retro. Wherever we travel, we frequently end up combing through junk shops and antique malls, collecting all types of vintage objects. Both of us grew up admiring Airstreams and their timeless aesthetics. In 2022, we were driving home from Durango, Colorado and we saw our first Basecamp. We were intrigued by this shiny little trailer and started investigating it. This led us to a whole new world. We were smitten. We began tirelessly looking for a used Airstream. Returning home from an unsuccessful search one weekend, we passed

an RV dealership and amongst the plethora of 5th wheels and toy haulers, we saw the glint of aluminum. We hurriedly turned around, found a salesman, and asked if we could look inside. Two hours later, we walked out of the dealership as the proud owners of a Flying Cloud 25FB. We were elated! We learned all things Airstream and have never regretted our impulse purchase. After a year, we stumbled across a Globetrotter. Once we went

inside, we fell in love all over again. We traded in our Flying Cloud and towed our 2023 Globetrotter 30RB home. Any time we travel, we are on the lookout for Airstreams. They are quite rare in our area. We get a lot of inquiries and positive comments everywhere we take her. We cannot wait to meet our fellow Airstreamers, attend some rallies, and go to Sedalia in the Fall for our first international rally.





## Fred and Amy Villa, BRN 10000

Amy and I just bought our first Airstream in November 2023 after we decided to drive to Austin and “check one out” and ended up bringing her home. We have a 2018 Bambi Flying Cloud 19’ CB. It seems in 2018 the Flying Cloud made the Bambi more like today’s Caravel – at least as far as we can tell. The original owner put many upgrades on it, so it looks more like a Caravel than a traditional Bambi.

Amy and I met at Grand Prairie High School in the 1980s and were married in Arlington in 1989. I’m a graduate of Dallas Baptist University, and Amy is a graduate of Baylor University. We have two grown children – Matthew and Courtney – who both went to Prestonwood Christian Academy in Plano and

then to Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Amy and I are members of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano and have been since 2001. I’ve been a RE/MAX Realtor for just over 30 years, and she works in technology at Prestonwood Christian Academy where she’s been for 15 years.

Both of our grown children are now married, and our son and his wife recently had our first grandchild – a precious girl born in April 2023!

We traveled all over the country to national parks when our kids were growing up, and even to several places around the world. Now that we’re empty nesters, but both still working full-time, we plan to take short 1-3-day getaways anywhere from 2-4 hours from the DFW area. We

plan to explore the many Texas state parks, lakes, and quaint towns nearby. The 19’ is the perfect size for us to pull, park, and enjoy for a couple of days at a time.





# Your 2024 NTxAC Officers & Committee Chairs

**President**

Allana Patterson

**1st Vice-President**

Mike Hooker

**Past President**

Jennifer Dice

**Treasurer**

Edward Wilson

**Secretary**

Jill Fearing

**Social Media**

Maribeth Pappas

**Membership**

Tom Jensen

**Webmaster**

Dan Brockway

**Newsletter**

Ann Clark / David Majkowski

**Trustees**

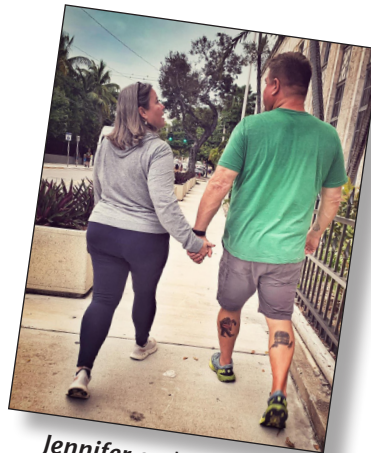
Lynn Clark / Ann Clark / Maxi Millican / Henry Wilkins

## Love Is In The Airstream

Some of our NTxAC couples showed their love through tributes and images on our Facebook page recently. How wonderful to see them sharing their Valentine with us. Spread the love!



Cliff and Maxi Millican



Jennifer and Dan Dice



Jeff and Maribeth Pappas



Edward and Tiffany Wilson



# North Texas Roundup's **High Profile**

Here's our second installment of our monthly feature profiling our NTxAC members.

## **High Profile:** Mike Hooker (Club 1st Vice-President)

**Name:** Mike Hooker

**Current Hometown:** Grapevine, TX

**I Grew Up In:** West Plains, MO

**Current and/or Former Occupation:** Nortel Sales Manager;  
City of Grapevine Parks Department Contract Administrator

**Airstream Model/Year:** 2016 Flying Cloud 25'

**Your Airstream's Name:** Sweet Melissa

**Favorite Thing About My Airstream:** Easy to tow

**Hobbies:** Camping, fishing, working on mechanical clocks

**I Drive A:** Ford F-250 6.7 Diesel

**Favorite TV Shows:** Gutfeld!, Johnny Carson

**Favorite Music/Bands:** Rock & Country / Tom Petty, ELO, Jackson Browne, Gerry Rafferty, Gordon Lightfoot, Procol Harum, William Beckman, and George Jones

**My Fantasy Dinner Party Guests (Living or Deceased) Would Be:** Dwight D. Eisenhower, Winston Churchill, Stonewall Jackson, and Ulysses S. Grant

**My Last Meal Would Be:** Steak, baked potato, and banana pudding

**I'm Known For:** Fixing things, yardwork

**Behind My Back They Say:** He doesn't throw anything away  
(you never know when you might need it)

**Favorite Airstream Destinations:** Wherever we are currently camped

**My Dream Destination In My Airstream Would Be:** Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

**Best Travel Advice:** Go!



# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

**Come and put on the GREEN in Dublin, the Irish Capital of Texas!**

**March 15-17, 2024**

**Moore RV Park, Dublin, TX**

<https://moorervpark.com/>

Call 888-562-2352 for reservations. Tell Sharon you're with the North Texas Airstream Club so we can park together. Call before March 1; blocked sites for our club will release to the public after that date.

*Hosts: Henry and Carol Wilkins/Jared and Erica Rollins/Patrick and Nicole Scott*

Weekend Activities: Check here for updates on Dublin's festivities <http://dublintxchamber.com>

**St. Patrick's Day Parade** downtown

Festival activities in City Park

Interesting shops along Patrick Street

Four museums

Lucky Vines Winery

Veldhuizen Cheese Shop and Dairy

**April 26-28, 2024**

**Bandera-Bound Kickoff Rally, Coffee Creek RV Resort & Cabins, Santo, TX**

<https://coffeecreek-rvresort.com/>

13429 U.S. 281, Santo, TX 76472

Make your reservations at 940-769-2277

*Hosts: Bruce and Michelle Toney*

*You do not have to be attending the Region 9 Rally in Bandera to attend the Rally at Coffee Creek.*

*You are most welcome to join us just for the weekend!*

**Region 9 Rally Caravan Schedule:**

**Sunday, April 28** (198 miles to Fredericksburg, TX)

Arch Ray Resort/RV Park

4584 US 290, Fredericksburg, TX 78624

830-304-2903

<https://archrayrvpark.com/>

Make your reservation BY TELEPHONE for rate reduction to \$62.

Identify yourself as being with the David Brandon group.

3 nights (4/28-4/30) depending on your planned arrival at Region 9 Rally

**Monday, April 29**

11:00 am Fredericksburg sights: Pacific War Museum, wineries, shopping  
Fredericksburg Fiasco Scavenger Hunt. Have fun learning about Fredericksburg!  
Cellphone-based so you can register individually or as couples:

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Fredericksburg/Fredericksburg-Fiasco-Scavenger-Hunt/d50796-200006P136>

Begins outside Caliche Coffee Bar & Ranch Road Roasters, 228 W. Main St.



# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

## Region 9 Rally Caravan Schedule, *continued*

- 3:00 pm \*Things in a Room, 239 E. Main St., Fredericksburg. (No discount. This is a cute combination quilt and home decorating store downtown.)
- 4:00 pm Becker Vineyards Wine Tasting (\$20 Veterans, \$25 for others) Six one-ounce pours; glasses of wine available for purchase.
- 6:00 pm Dinner wherever we end up!

### Tuesday, April 30

- 10:00 am \*One Quilt Place, 648 Post Oak Road, Fredericksburg  
(10% discount on all purchases)

### Wednesday, May 1 - Sunday, May 5 (55 miles to Bandera, TX)

Skyline Ranch RV Park  
2231 State Hwy 16N, Bandera, TX  
**Region 9 Bandera-Bound Rally**

*\*Note: If you're joining us for the quilting visits in Fredericksburg and Bandera you MUST RSVP to Anna at [annarbrandonphd@gmail.com](mailto:annarbrandonphd@gmail.com) in order to receive the goodie bags that we make ahead.*

*The discounts at the quilt stores are applicable whether or not you have registered.*

## May 1-5, 2024

### Region 9 Rally, Bandera, TX

[https://airstreamclub.org/region9-2024-region-rally?fbclid=IwARoX86ttf\\_f-BIkkCKIsl-SoJj2bkMD5U7P8YltsdjQxvhcoDNTgnBN14-q4](https://airstreamclub.org/region9-2024-region-rally?fbclid=IwARoX86ttf_f-BIkkCKIsl-SoJj2bkMD5U7P8YltsdjQxvhcoDNTgnBN14-q4)

## June 7-9, 2024

### Summer by the Pools Rally, Dinosaur Valley RV Park, Glen Rose, TX

<https://www.dinosaurvalleyrvpark.com/rv-sites>

20 sites will be held until March 1

*Hosts are needed*

## July/August, 2024

### No Rally: Surprise Gathering

*Host: Allana Patterson*

## September 13-15, 2024

### Wally's Workshop Maintenance Rally & Hawaiian Luau, NTAC, Hillsboro TX

*Hosts: Anna and David Brandon/Steve and Georgina Woodward*

# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

**September 27-29, 2024**

**Kickoff to Sedalia (International Rally), Caddo Lake, TX**

*Hosts are needed*

*You do not have to be attending the International Rally in Sedalia to attend the Rally at Caddo Lake. You are most welcome to join us just for the weekend!*

## **International Rally Caravan Schedule:**

### **Friday, September 27**

Caddo Lake State Park

245 Park Road 2, Karnack, TX 75661

903-679-3351

2 nights (9/27-9/28), departing 9/29

\$25 nightly (full hookup) \$10 nightly (water only); reservation window 5 months; reserve 4/27

### **Sunday, September 29** (175 miles to Hot Springs, AR)

Catherine's Landing

1700 Shady Grove Road, Hot Springs, AR

501-262-2550

2 nights (9/29-9/30), departing 10/1

\$89 nightly

Many things to do: historic Hot Springs, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, pontoon boat tours

### **Tuesday, October 1** (202 miles to Eureka Springs, AR)

Kettle Campground Cabins & RV Park

4119 E. Van Buren, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

479-253-9100

2 nights (10/1-10/2), departing 10/3

\$52 nightly

Can reserve now. Put in "Requests" field that you are traveling with David Brandon. Be sure to check what date you're entering the International Rally and reserve at this spot accordingly.

### **Tuesday, October 3** (201 miles to Sedalia, MO)

Missouri State Fair Campground

1865 Clarendon Road, Sedalia, MO 65301

660-530-5600

### **Saturday, October 12** (229 miles to Bull Shoals, AR)

Dam Site RV Park

10 Bull Shoals Dam Blvd, Bull Shoals, AR 72619

870-405-9619

2 nights (10/12-10/13), departing 10/14

Around the Bull Shoals Dam is one of the best places in the country for trout fishing. The park is near enough to the lake for fishing and kayaking.



# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

## International Rally Caravan Schedule, *continued*

**Monday, October 14** (146 miles to Little Rock, AR)

Downtown Riverside RV Park

250 S. Locust Street (GPS), North Little Rock, AR 72114

501-340-5312

2 nights (10/14-10/15), departing 10/16

\$30-\$45 nightly, depending on amenities; reservation window of 6 months, so book on 4/14

**Wednesday, October 16** (267 miles to Tyler, TX)

Tyler Oaks RV Resort

10855 US Hwy 69 N, Tyler, TX 75706

430-235-2030

1 night (or as long as you want to stay) (10/16), departing 10/17

\$49 nightly

If you're joining us for all/part of the road trip email the Brandons at [dbtextilesoffice@icloud.com](mailto:dbtextilesoffice@icloud.com) so you can be put on our communications stream!

7 stops / 1, 219 miles / \$398 camping cost (estimated)

**October 5-12, 2024**

**Airstream Club International Rally, Sedalia, MO**

**November 8-10, 2024**

**Installation Rally, The Boulders at Lake Tyler, Tyler, TX**

*Hosts: Jeff and Maribeth Pappas/Greg and Jill Fearing/Bret and Sam Bieghler*

**December 6-8, 2024**

**NTxAC Holiday Rally, The Vineyards on Lake Grapevine, Grapevine, TX**

*Hosts: Tom Jensen and Allana Patterson*

**Jerry Vanloon / RVIA Certified Mobile RV Technician**

[jvan4734@gmail.com](mailto:jvan4734@gmail.com)

**682-556-1141**

*Your business is valued. Labor guaranteed*

## NTxAC Members' Winter Adventures

### Jen Dice's FLORIDA IN THE WINTER - Part One of a Series

Our 2023 ended and 2024 started in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida while attending both Pre-Canopener and Canopener. I loved staying in one spot for a bit and exploring the area. Topsail Hill Preserve State Park is a beautiful location off 30A which provided me with a lot of opportunity to walk, play, and



bike with Jade while getting my fill of tuna dip. I was so thrilled to finally attend Canopener after hearing so many great things about it. During those two weeks, I reconnected with old friends and made some new ones. If you are interested in going, I highly recommend you download Wandering Labs ([www.wanderinglabs.com](http://www.wanderinglabs.com)) and be ready to jump on last minute cancellations in the last couple weeks prior to the rally. The Rally also has a very active Facebook site where those releasing reservations give others a heads up before doing so. Reservations for 2025 may be even harder to obtain given the change to Florida State Parks which allows Floridians to book sites a full month before residents of other states.

We left Santa Rosa Beach and headed a few hours south to

Dunnellon, Florida for a short stay at Rainbow Springs State Park, but not before making the crazy choice to stop into a Trader Joe's in Gainesville. The parking lot here is very big and usually not busy, so we anticipated being able to easily park and do some grocery shopping at one of our favorite places. What we didn't anticipate was the start of the school year for the University of Florida the next day and a very very congested parking lot. Dan and our travel partner, Jennifer Olsem, navigated the chaos like pros, found parking, and she and I popped in quickly to pick up food.

Rainbow Springs State Park is another beautiful Florida State Park with level sites, and lots of privacy between each site. This park is very small, but had some great trails and a put-in for kayaks, canoes, and SUPs directly into the sapphire blue waters of Rainbow Spring.

While there, we took a day trip over to Crystal River, which is only about 25 minutes away. The weather had been overcast all day with off and on rain. We explored the Crystal River National Wildlife Reserve, an



Jennifer, Dan, and Jennifer Olsem

80-acre refuge established in 1983 to protect the West Indian manatee. The refuge also preserves the Three Sisters Springs,



the last unspoiled and undeveloped spring habitat in Kings Bay. The preserve has several volunteers around to answer questions, provide helpful information, and educate the public on manatee etiquette.



The water is astonishing shades of blue and turquoise and filled with manatees.

From there we headed over to Paddles Outdoor Rentals to join a paddling tour in clear kayaks to see the manatees. There was no shortage of laughs as Jennifer and I tried to get into the kayaks without falling into



## NTxAC Members' Winter Adventures

Jen Dice's FLORIDA IN THE WINTER - Part One of a Series, continued

the spring and Dan shouting encouragement from afar while taking photos just in case we did! Our guide provided a great tour of the small islands, including a house that had been taken over by pelicans, how to tell the adolescent pelican vs. a mature one, and took us into little coves to see manatees



regularly. We ended up floating in the waters of the Preserve I previously described and we

got up close with several of the manatees. They are naturally inquisitive creatures and will surprise you by silently cruising up to the kayak and sticking their face out of the water. Our tour guide emphasized that manatees don't have any natural predators, living up to 60 years old or more, and are generally injured by boat motors. While out, we dodged a few more rain clouds and initiated an off and on game of competitive rowing to see who could outrun the drops. I would love to go back to this location sometime and snorkel with the manatees. They are so chill and relaxing to watch. Fun fact: they can regulate their buoyancy by passing gas...

As mentioned, we were experiencing some chilly and rainy weather with some dangerous winds headed our way the next day so we got out of Dunnellon early and headed to Naples,

Florida. The winds during the drive south were pretty heavy and I was glad Dan was doing the driving while I worked from the passenger seat. We took advantage of our Harvest Host membership and stayed the night with cows and goats at Golden Gate Farm. To say that we were thankful for hookups to power the AC and combat the high humidity as a fierce storm blew throughout the night is an understatement. The lightning and thunder was on par with Midwest greatness!

*Next month: Part 2 of Jen Dice's FLORIDA IN THE WINTER*



Dan Dice chillin' on his kayak



## Streamin' on the Strand/Galveston

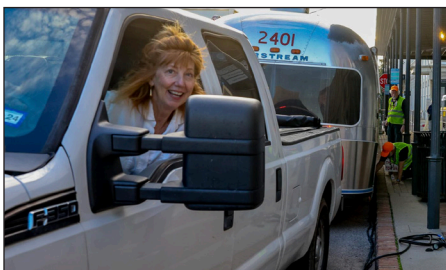
### Rally in Review by Anna Brandon

The North Texas Airstream Club was represented well at the third annual "Streamin' on the Strand Airstream Rally" during the first weekend of historic Mardi Gras! Galveston February 1st-4th (next year it will be held February 20-23rd).

Streamin' on the Strand became an ACI National Event Rally last year and plans are for this to keep going until no Airstreamers sign up! Not likely to happen because this event is a blast. It begins with the most amazing parking feat of getting 45 or 50 Airstreams parked on Mechanic St, parallel to the curb, nose to tail, in 2-3 hours over four city blocks.



This year everyone was parked by around 8:30. YAGA, the city event organizer, provided a free happy hour from 8-10. Then everyone headed to the hospitality tent for pizza & beverages.



*Pam Dowdy shows women CAN tow!*



The real fun begins on Friday with coffee, mimosas, and King Cake in the morning. The city opening of Mardi Gras! doesn't begin until 5:00 PM, leaving plenty of time to walk down the Strand and look in all the cool stores, walk down to the seawall and beach, or have a really good lunch at one of the city's great restaurants. We gathered at the hospitality tent again on Friday evening for a Whiskey Bourbon tasting and snacks between the parades. For the second year (and now I guess this is a "grandfathered" event) **Nancy Henderson** of the Texas Plains Unit organized a Flamingo entry to the famous event Umbrella Parade. A lot of us have attended many parades in our lives, but this time you get to be part of the parade! If you doubt the fun of it, just talk to our new member **Stacey Daniel** who rocked it! Saturday began with the Jolly Jester 5K walk/run; this year we only had one in the race, **Cathy McDonald** of the Heart of Texas

Camping Unit, but she had plenty of us to cheer her on. The parades were slated to begin at 11 but were pushed back a bit because of rain overnight. Some of us sat in our chairs and enjoyed being showered with beads, and others stood in their doorways playing "catch the beads" with the floats as they went by. In the event you had too many beads, you could always hand them back out to the High School marching bands that came through regularly in the parades. Recycling beads is one way the high schools generate funds, so it was wonderful to receive and give back! The last parade is generally through by 10 PM, but then you can walk one block over to the Strand for all of the concerts.



Sunday morning we all attacked the sad feat of going home and were off the street by 9:30 AM, additional evidence that we have the best parkers and guests ever. If this looks like something you would enjoy, be sure to watch for the opening of registration sometime this fall.



***Streamin' on the Strand/Galveston***



***Jim Pfeil and Tracy Holub***



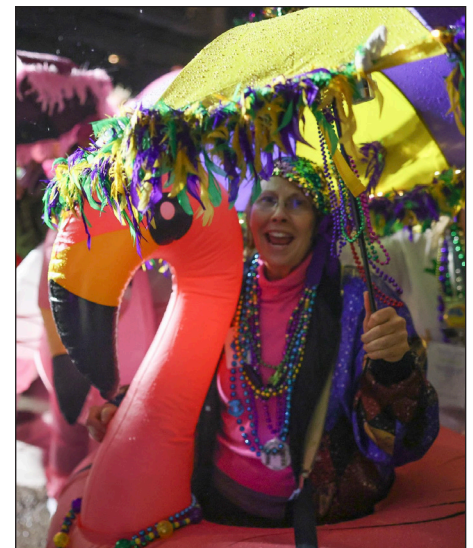
***Your friendly parking team, including our own David Brandon, center.***



***Brian and Clarita Walker***



***The Flamingo Parade***



***Maxi Millican***



***Anna Brandon***

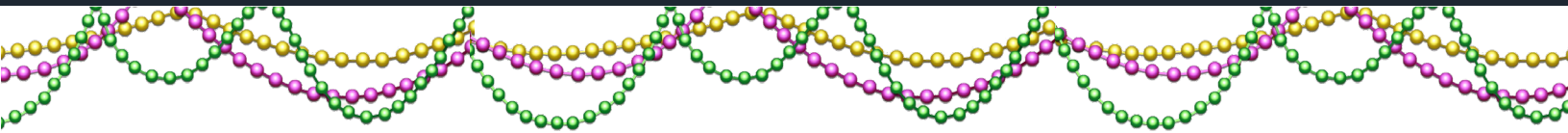


***The Hospitality Crew:  
Pam Dowdy, Tracie Holub, Alfred and Carla Ricks, Marya and Bruce Barefoot, Jan and Bob Grimes, and Stacey Daniel***



***Cathy McDonald***





## *Streamin' on the Strand/Galveston*



*Becky Gray and Nancy Fitzgerald*



*Airstreams line the parade route*



*Geno Dunn*



*Anna Brandon and Rich Espinosa*



*A happy camper!*



*The Mardi Gras Parade*



*Fun at the Parade route*



*Streamin' on the Strand/Galveston*



*Dan Dice*



*Insert your caption here*



*George and Sheryl Mayer and Stacey Daniel*



*The Hospitality Suite on the Strand*



*Snack time with great hospitality*

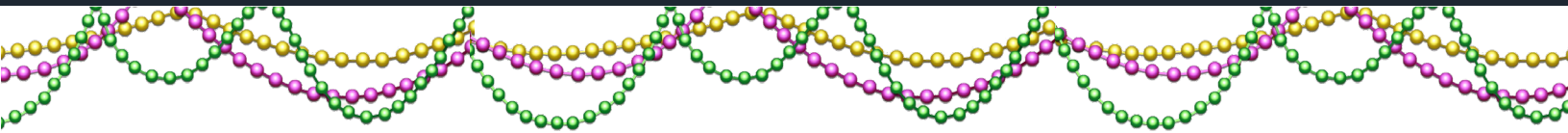


*A beautifully adorned Argosy*



*Who knew Abbey Road was in Galveston?*





## *Streamin' on the Strand/Galveston*



*David and Anna Brandon and friends*



*Bruce and Marya Barefoot*



*Jennifer Olsem, Dan and Jennifer Dice*



*Maxi and Cliff Millican*



*The Krewe*



## Region 9 Officer Candidates

The following people have agreed to be nominated for the 2024 Region 9 Executive officers. Ballots will be sent to you on March 11, and at that time you will submit your vote for our nomination ballot. We will introduce our new officers at our Region Rally in Bandera during our membership/business meeting.



### **Tracy Elkins, President**

ACI National Caravan Leader

ACI National Event Rally Host

Region 9 1st Vice-President

Greater Houston Airstream Club #155 Membership and Directory Chair

*Rick and I have been active with Airstream Club International in the Greater Houston Chapter since 2018. Rick's retirement gift was a 2018 Classic and we jumped in with both feet as soon as we picked it up! We have enjoyed many club rallies and regularly serve as hosts. We have attended three International Rallies, two Region 9 Rallies, two National Event Rallies, a National Caravan, and numerous Club Rallies, Caravans, and Events. Rick is currently serving as President of Greater Houston, and I'm the Club Secretary and chair for Membership and Directory. I have served as a Region 9 Officer for 3 years: participating on the International Board of Trustees, assisting with Region Rallies, Caravans, National Events, and as the Region 9 Representative for the development of ACI's Explorer Program during this tenure. In September 2023 we were co-leaders for the inaugural National Caravan, Mother Lode of the Mother Road exploring the famous Route 66 from Illinois to California across 2,300 miles and 59 days with 23 rigs. Rick and I served on the Host Team in 2024 for the National Event Rally, Streamin' on the Strand. We host weekly Monday dinners with our GHAC community. Our family consists of 4 adult children, 3 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and our brother and sisters, all of whom live in southern Oklahoma and the greater Houston area. Sunday dinner at our home is a regular event and if you're ever in the area, the door is always open, and the food is plentiful. Aside from our family, church, and the Airstream community, we are avid Oklahoma University fans attending many of their games and enjoy exploring vineyards wherever we travel.*

*After a career of over 40 years, I retired from the corporate world in January 2022. Over those years, I worked predominantly in the Oil and Gas industry with a jaunt into Bio-medical, but always focused on facilities, corporate real estate, and industrial construction. In my last role, I led the North America Real Estate and Construction department for Weatherford International in Houston; previously I held similar global management roles for Thermo Fisher Scientific in Waltham, MA and Halliburton Energy Services in Houston. In my early years I worked as a mud engineer for an independent drilling fluids distributor, as a construction manager for a commercial/industrial general contractor and in a machine shop.*

*I was a non-traditional college graduate. I began working during high school and completed my degrees while working full-time and having a family. I completed course work in construction management at OSU and finance and real estate development at Mays College of Business at TAMU and earned degrees in the 1990's from Cameron University and in 2000 a Master's from UT-Arlington.*

*Rick and I have found that getting involved and helping with whatever we're doing is simply who we are. The time in the Airstream world has been no different. We find engagement and staying busy has been an*



## Region 9 Officer Candidates

### Tracy Elkins, continued

*integral part of our life and we have no desire for anything different. I have an open communication style and understand the value of being part of an empowered team. Your consideration for Region 9 President is appreciated. I am available by phone or email should you have any questions.*



**Anna Brandon, PhD, 1st Vice-President**  
ACI National Event Host  
Region 9 2nd Vice-President  
North Texas Airstream Club #99 Past Secretary  
Chair of Marketing, North Texas Airstream Community

*David and I laugh as we tell friends that in 2019, we bought an Airstream to do a little camping and business travel. Now we own two Airstreams (2006 75th Anniversary 30' Classic Limited Slide Out and 1977 Argosy 20' Minuet), live in an Airstream-only active adult community, and travel every month for both business and fun. David served as President of the North Texas Airstream Club (NTxAC) in 2022 as the world woke up from its deep COVID hibernation, and it was a great joy to watch our club become revitalized. We had such fun with our first WBCCI International Rally in Lebanon, TN that we have led road trips to the 2022 and 2023 rallies and will be leading one to Sedalia beginning end September. I accepted the position of Region 9 Treasurer in 2022 and then stepped into the role of Second Vice-President in 2023. It has been an honor to be part of the remarkable Fitzgerald-Elkins Region 9 leadership team, which leaves big boots for me to step into in the years to come. I also assist on a Special Committee of the ACI International Board of Trustees (IBT), working on describing better the roles of IBT officers as well as exploring ways to improve our voting processes. David and I have been part of the volunteer team hosting the Streamin' On the Strand rally since its inaugural event in 2022, moving into hosting positions as it became a National Event Rally. Since the 2nd VP position has fewer actual tasks than the position of Treasurer, I've been able to spend additional time developing new Region 9 special events. I'm happy to say that this year Region 9 is partnering with the North Texas Airstream Community to host Stitchin' and Fishin' (April 19-23rd; a quilting retreat coupled with a striped bass fishing in Lake Whitney), Amateur HAM Radio Rally (May 9-12th; preparation for the HAM exam in Sedalia), and Wally's Workshop (September 13-15th; our second rally helping new and seasoned Airstreamers maintain and improve their rigs).*

*David and I have a blended family of five children and 12 grandchildren, the newest of whom are identical twin boys born in December (David is an identical twin so I guess it does skip a generation!). Most of our family members live in Texas and Oklahoma, solid Region 9 territory, although my oldest daughter and her family live in New Jersey. David owns a sales agency representing multiple fabric companies to quilt stores and small garment manufacturers over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Two of our children also work for the agency, allowing David to spend less time with business travel and more time Airstreaming (although we often combine the two).*

*After spending my early working years in sales, I began my college education in my 30's at a small community college in Dallas while I continued working full time. Southern Methodist University gave me a full scholarship to complete my education there—the scholarship came from the Cox School of Business but in those five free semesters I was able to complete a dual degree in Psychology and Organizational Behavior. Falling in love with*

## Region 9 Officer Candidates

### **Anna Brandon, PhD, continued**

*the discipline of psychology, David and the children supported my next four years in a doctoral program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW). My early academic career was spent doing clinical research, first at UTSW and later at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After a decade of funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, I wearied of constant grant writing and publication expectations. Although we loved Chapel Hill, most of our children were back here in Texas and we missed those Sunday dinners Tracy mentions in her resume. I completed my projects and we returned to Texas in 2014, where I set up a private practice in Southlake. Although I continue to do a small amount of teaching and consulting, I retired the private practice in 2022.*

*I appreciate your consideration of my move to the office of 1st VP later this year. I am certainly receiving good training from Nancy and Tracy and aim to keep our momentum going in the years ahead. The WBCCI has gone through some immense organizational changes recently and these changes have impact upon regions, clubs, and members. One of our challenges in leadership is to examine what Airstreamers want and need now in 2024, and then find a way to employ necessary modifications in an acceptable and efficient manner. As Nancy has done and Tracy will do, I assure you that I will take the responsibility of representing our members in communications with the IBT seriously. And just as Nancy will be integral as our Past President moving forward, Tracy will be integral to my leadership of this region as well.*

*Thank you for the time you spent reading this, and I welcome comments, questions, or feedback all along our way together.*



### **Tim Ebbers, 2nd Vice-President**

BRN 5337

Cell: 512.786.6380

Email: [timberintx@gmail.com](mailto:timberintx@gmail.com)

*Allison and I joined the WBCCI in 2017. We became interested in owning an Airstream from my uncle and aunt who has been members of WBCCI for over 20 years. They talked about how much they enjoyed being part of Airstream family and how many good friends they made. Allison and I have made a lot of good lifelong friends by being a member of WBCCI. We got our Airstream in 2017 and have had a lot of great adventures with Airstream rallies, traveling and visiting family and friends.*

*I was born in Idaho which instilled a love of outdoors at a young age. After graduating from high school, I wanted to expand my world, so I served in the U.S. Coast Guard in southern California. I worked on a ship that conducted navigational aid maintenance, search and rescue with occasional law enforcement patrols at sea. My most memorable deployment was going to Alaska to assist with the Exxon Valdez oil spill. We never made it to Valdez but it was a great summer of hiking and biking when I was off duty. My most memorable experience was meeting (at the time) President Bush (#41). I was part of a USO show and got to sit behind him.*

*It was in California where I met Allison and where I received my Bachelor's degree in Management Information*

## Region 9 Officer Candidates

### Tim Ebbers, continued

*Systems from Cal State Dominguez Hills. My management style is participative and transformational. I like to gain buy-in from others and provide the tactical strategy to achieve the vision or goal. I retired in 2021 from an electricity company after working there for 16 years. I held a number of different positions starting as a Data Analyst, then as Application Support Analyst, then Manager of Operations, and finally Cyber Security Compliance Analyst. I had many roles in the time I was there. In my last role, I worked on the defending against state and federal audits, managed committee meetings that dealt in Cyber Security. It was a very challenging and rewarding job!*

*Currently, I hold the President position for the Texas Hill Country Unit in Region 9. I was the Web Master for our unit from 2019 - 2023. We regularly travel to Idaho to visit family and we love having our home wherever we go and experiencing new destinations. In my spare time, I enjoy working on our Airstream, learning how I can upgrade our rig, and also learning through helping others with maintenance or repair issues. Other hobbies are camping, running, listening to music, and driving Allison crazy.*

*Thanks for considering me for the Region 9 2nd VP position. I look forward to working with the Region 9 leadership to ensure that our members enjoy their Airstream, the club, and rallying.*

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### Big Red Number and Airstream Club - What is it and why you want to Rally!



Recently, co-editor David explained the story of the Big Red Numbers (or BRNs) in one of his Airstream Primer features. For those of you who missed it, or if you're new to Airstreaming, check out this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irfdq5boMD8>

# Editor David's Airstream Club Primer

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## February 2024: Caravans and Rallies

I was trying to come up with a subject for this month's primer and two things popped into my head providing inspiration: the name of the club and the big shipping container that travels to the International Rally every year. Kinda random thoughts, I know, but who knows what makes the proverbial light bulb over the head light up?

Let's start with WBCCI, or Wally Byam Caravan Club International. Now focus on that word *caravan*. How does this idea of caravanning fit in with the Airstream Club? My trusty Merriam-Webster's app defines a caravan as "a company of travelers on a journey through desert or hostile territory." A rather uncomfortable thought. But one of Wally Byam's driving ideas behind the Airstream was to travel with all the comforts of home. So I see the Airstream as taming this historical idea of the caravan as a trial of survival. Although his early caravans faced many setbacks and hardships, I think he ultimately succeeded masterfully at upending the rugged connotation of a caravan. Now we can caravan in fun and fellowship—across deserts and more—and not worry so much about hostility.

And, of course, Wally being a marketing man, the caravans were an adventurous way to promote his brand. As his cousin, Dale "PeeWee" Schwamborn, [put it](#), "Airstream, like any other manufacturing company, was created to make a product. For the owner and entrepreneur, Wally Byam, to fulfill his goals in life and to make a living.

The first Caravan in 1951 was conceived to assist Airstream owners and others (the first few Caravans were open to all manufactured RV's), to travel as an American Community. Airstream's reward was publicity to sell Airstreams."

On to the second inspiration—the club's shipping container. On the side is painted a very large slogan—We Rally. Ol' Webster's definition 2 of the noun form says a rally is "a mass meeting intended to arouse group enthusiasm." This is fairly close. In the Airstreaming context, though, I think group enthusiasm is a precondition. We know we'll be meeting up to have some fun so we're already enthusiastic. Rallying repeats caravanning's themes of fun and fellowship, but unlike caravans, which move, we rally in place at a predetermined location.

Caravans and rallies suit different kinds of travelers and personalities. Many have a preference for one over the other. You'll never know for yourself which you prefer until you try both. So, go back a few pages in this Roundup and pick a rally to attend, then head over to the ACI [Events](#) page and find an appealing caravan. You pack the enthusiasm, and the caravan leaders will keep you away from hostility. See you down the road.

David Majkowski, Co-Editor

BRN 5594



## ***Useful Links and Contacts***

Most pages require a login. Your username is the email that you have on file with the club headquarters. If you are signing in for the first time, enter your email and click "Forgot Password?"

### ***NTxAC Membership Assistance Program***

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMz\\_4uBLDlzrrYVrT8oS1SXpH9mUuqJ1BGQ\\_Jvpl8Lbt-8npg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMz_4uBLDlzrrYVrT8oS1SXpH9mUuqJ1BGQ_Jvpl8Lbt-8npg/viewform)

### ***ACI/WBCCI (the Club)***

**Airstream Club International** (*ACI, our club*)

<https://airstreamclub.org>

**ACI Region 9** (*our region within the club*)

<https://airstreamclub.org/region9>

**ACI North Texas Airstream Club** (*NTxAC, our unit, #099, within the region*)

<https://airstreamclub.org/north-texas>

**Big Red Number and Airstream Club - What is it and why you want to Rally!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irfdq5boMD8>

**Blue Beret Archive** (*club magazine*)

<https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section/member-only-blue-beret-magazine>

**Blue Beret Blog** (*club blog*)

<https://blog.airstreamclub.org>

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**General Questions/Comments:** [assist@airstreamclub.org](mailto:assist@airstreamclub.org)

### ***Airstream (the Company)***

**Airstream USA** (*the Company*)

<https://www.airstream.com>

**Live Riveted** (*Airstream's blog*)

<https://www.airstream.com/blog>

**Airstream Owners** (*resource page for owner information and support*)

<https://www.airstream.com/owners>

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