



The Alamo Bugle

Texas Alamo Unit



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2
RICH ESPINOSA - PRESIDENT

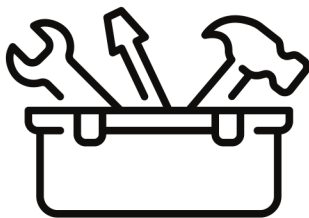
FEBRUARY 2024
MUFFIN CAMP - EDITOR

Presidential Ponderings February 2024



At our January rally, we decided that it would be a good idea to have Tech Talk on Friday evenings during happy hour. The purpose is to discuss issues that folks might be having with their Airstreams. I have learned that many of us have had the same or similar issues with our rigs and have learned how to solve them; this is knowledge and lessons that can benefit our members. We all bring various tools with us when we travel just in case there are mishaps along the way. If you happen to be having an issue with your rig and someone knows of a solution, perhaps we can help you fix it.

In 2021, I attended my first International Airstream rally in Lebanon, Tennessee. One of the sessions was conducted by Mike Sokol from RVelectricity. Mike Sokol has a background that consists of 50 years of electrical design and troubleshooting experience.



He uses his extensive experience to teach others about electrical issues for RVs. He has a daily blog with all sorts of questions on this important topic. I specifically learned about changing my outdated twist lock 30 amp shore plug to the 30 amp smart plug. Mike said that the issue that he hears most often is that people do not secure the 30 amp twist lock plug properly. This dangerous and very simple mistake could cause the entire rig to become electrified thereby causing a shock or even electrocution if you come in contact with the rig's outer skin or any other metal surface on the rig. You can register for his blog by submitting your email. This is a free service, but also offers a paid subscription.

<https://rvelectricity.substack.com/>



President Rich Espinosa

In this issue...

Presidential Ponderings, Pg 1
Rally Schedule, Pg 2
Birthdays and Anniversaries, Pg 3
Coffee Talk, Pg 4

Floating Flamingoes, Pg 5-6
Streaming on the Strand, Pg 7-9
January Rally, Pg 10

Rally Schedule. 2023-2024



September 22-24 Roadrunner RV Park
501 S Hwy 281, Johnson City 2023
830-255-7650

Oct 27-29, 2023 Mystic Quarry
13190 FM 306 Canyon Lake, TX 78133
POC Monica 830-964-3330

Nov 23-26, 2023 Oakwood Resort
FM 2093 Fredericksburg, TX 78624
POC: Malinda 830-997-9817

Dec 2023 NO RALLY

Jan 26-28, 2024 Longhorn RV Resort
12921 Camino Real Niederwald, TX 78640
512-398-3677

Feb 23-25, 2024 Parkview Riverside
2561 Co Rd 350, Concan, TX 78838
830-232-4006

Mar 22-24, 2024
Miller Creek RV Park
5618 U.S. 281 South
Johnson City, TX 78636
(830) 251-6673

April 19-21, 2024 Patriot RV Park
5784 US-90 ALT East Gonzales, TX 78629
1 (830) 468-5709

May 2-5, 2024 Region 9 Rally
Skyline Ranch RV Park
2231 Hwy. 16N Bandera, TX 78003
830-796-4958

May 17-19, 2024 Lagoons RV Resort
600 Enterprise Blvd Rockport, TX 78382
361-729-7834

Sept 27-29, 2024 Lake Buchanan
1420 FM690, Burnet, TX 78611
512-887-7410

Weekend Schedule

Thursday Early Arrivals:

4 pm Social Hour
6 pm Potluck Dinner

Friday:

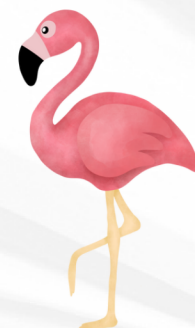
4 pm Social Hour
5 pm Opening Ceremonies
6 pm Dinner

Saturday

8:30 am Breakfast
4:30 pm Pay Rally Fees
5 pm Social Hour
6 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Games

Sunday

8:30 am Breakfast
9:00 am Devotional





FEBRUARY

09 Sandy Baird
09 Lilly Putney
11 Muffin Camp
14 Luke Brennecke
15 Nova Stephenson
20 Betty Dunn

FEBRUARY

02 Samuel & AnnMarie Esparza

*Have we missed your birthday
or anniversary? email:
muffincamp@gmail.com and
let her know*

Ham & Hash Brown Heaven

By Roseann Young

1 30-oz package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
1 12-oz package diced ham
2 c sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 onion, chopped
1 10.5 oz cream of chicken soup
1 8 oz container of sour cream
1/2 c butter melted
salt, pepper and sliced scallions to taste

Preheat oven to 350.

Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish

Combine all the ingredients. Put in prepared baking dish and cover with aluminum foil

Bake about 45 minutes to 1 hour until cheese has melted.

Remove foil and continue to bake until brown, about 15 more minutes.

THANK YOU for this month's newsletter contributions!

Do you have an idea for an article, interview, or something else you'd like to share with the club? I'd love to hear from you! The articles are all written by TAU members... like you! Submissions for the newsletter (including rally write-ups) should be emailed to Muffin (muffincamp@gmail.com)



Coffee with the Sheffers: at Home and in Our Airstream

Barbara and I were introduced to excellent coffee in Italy about 40 years ago. Our hotel included cappuccinos with breakfast! After arriving back in Texas, we purchased a low-tech espresso machine and continued to enjoy it for many years. Some years later, we were introduced to the Nespresso line of coffee machines while in Boston. Currently, our home coffee making includes a Moccamaster coffee brewer for early morning coffee, a Nespresso Vertuo for mid-morning coffee, and a Gaggia espresso machine for the afternoon. We use a Breville milk frother for our afternoon lattes. We nearly always grind our own beans and do that in a Capresso coffee grinder unless the Gaggia is performing that task.

In the Airstream, for our morning coffee, we use a much smaller blade grinder and a Melitta pour over funnel with a small electric tea kettle. We do the pouring near our stove top with the fan running to reduce the amount of moisture we put in the air. In the afternoon, we use an original Nespresso machine which is much smaller than the Vertuo we have at home, a Nespresso milk frother, which is also much smaller. An original Nespresso makes espresso and lungo, while a Vertuo sometimes makes a full cup of coffee depending on the type of pod being used.

The Nespresso machines have a disadvantage in that they require purchased pods, but the advantage that each person can choose the type and boldness preferred. Barbara is a fan of sourced Colombian or Cosi coffee while Eldon likes Kazaar or Ristretto which are much darker. We are glad that we can enjoy quality coffee while traveling in our amazing Airstream!



Barbara and Eldon Sheffer

Hello, Texas Alamo Unit. Greetings from the South Pacific Ocean about halfway between Samoa and Fiji. While this article is not about Airstream travel, it is about travel. Although we truly love our “Shinything” and have traveled all over North America, we were looking for something a little different. Barbara and I are on Day 24 of our 180-day cruise around the world (ATW) during which we are scheduled to visit 99 ports. Before I get too far into our travelogue, however, Barbara and I would like to give a gigantic shout-out and thank you to fellow Texas Alamo members, Greg and Dottie Ulrich, for putting this crazy idea into our heads. As I mentioned, we’ve only been gone for about 3 ½ weeks, but in many ways we are already dreading the day we will have to leave the ship for good. (Some people don’t; I sat next to a wonderful lady on a tour bus yesterday in Apia, Samoa who, along with her husband, was on her sixth ATW cruise.) We are on the Oceania ship, Insignia, a small ship by today’s standards; about 650+ passengers and 425+ crew members. About half the passengers are ATW passengers. The remainder will be doing one or more of the 15 segments of the cruise, the first of which will end in just about a week in Auckland, Australia. So far, we can truthfully say that we have not yet had one negative experience on the ship. The crew is fabulous. The service is wonderful. The passengers, like Airstreamers, are like folks we have known forever. And the food – oh the food!!!!!! Muffin has asked that I tell you about the places we have visited and some of our experiences. Unless she puts a stop to it, I have volunteered to send an update every couple of months or so. So, here we go.



The *Insignia* in Kona



On our veranda in Bora Bora



Barbara on our tour bus
in American Samoa

Continued Next Page



Rangiroa, French Polynesia



Clan Chief in American Samoa



Who can turn down a cup of "Immaculate Coffee"?

We departed Los Angeles, CA on 12 January. After five full days of mostly smooth sailing, we arrived at the first of four ports in Hawaii (Kailua-Kona, Hilo, Nawiliwili-Kauai, and Honolulu-Oahu). No matter how many times one visits our 50th state, you never tire of the beauty. Five more days of cruising brought us to French Polynesia (FP) where we docked (or anchored) at Rangiroa, Papeete (Tahiti), and Bora Bora 2 days). Somewhere north of FP we crossed the equator. First-time crossers ("Slimy Scallywags") were ceremoniously transformed into "Shellbacks" (after having kissed a giant fish and baptized with equatorial sea water). If you've not experienced the crystal clear waters and stunning beauty of these volcanic islands, try to add them to your bucket list. As if things could not get more beautiful, two more days of cruising brought us to Pago Pago (pronounced "Pango Pango"), American Samoa. The Samoans there were as beautiful as their spectacular island paradise. In the relatively short (80+ nautical miles) between American Samoa, an American protectorate, and Samoa (an independent nation, formerly a protectorate of New Zealand), we crossed the international date line where we went from February 4th to February 6th with no stop in between (how time flies!) Before we left home, I downloaded about 12 books on my Kindle, so I would have something to do on board. As of Day 24, however, I have not found the time to read a single sentence. There are more onboard activities than one can imagine. I'll not bore you with more narrative. Enjoy the pictures.

Streamin ON THE STRAND February 7-4, 2024



Jason Pugh is ready for the parade



Last Airstream to be parked on Thursday



Thursday Night at the hospitality tent



Rich taking a break



Alligator costume... who could be in there?

Streaming on the Strand by Johnda Pugh

February 1st through the 4th was the annual Streamin' on the Strand National Event Rally. TAU was well represented along with members from as far away as Alaska and Toronto. With the reduction in numbers this year, parking was quick and easy, which gave everyone plenty of time to arrive at Tsunami Tequila Bar on the Strand for the welcome reception. Everyone was in a festive mood and the costumes were as splendid as a Mardi Gras float.

Friday morning brought King Cake, coffee, and plenty of mimosas along with more mingling. We took advantage of Friday to enjoy the shops around the Strand district and grab some lunch and a funnel cake. Friday evening was the whiskey tasting experience at the hospitality tent. There were well over 20 different whiskeys to try along with snacks and more entertainment. That evening some members participated in the Umbrella parade.

Saturday morning delivered rain, which gave the attendees extra time to get in the spirit for the upcoming events. Starting after noon was an endless procession of activities, to include a run/walk, an art car and jeep parade, and a seemingly endless parade of dancers, bands, floats, and revelers of all kinds leading into the night.

The events concluded early Sunday morning with bagels and flamingos delivered to all the rigs.

This was our second year attending; Jason and I had the most amazing time! I would highly recommend going and enjoying the festivities and great Airsteam Community.



Jason and Jonda Pugh



Betty Dunn is ready for the parade!



Umbrella Parade on Friday Night



Parking Team is finished!



All Airstream Participants on Saturday afternoon

January Rally

by Diane Espinosa

January Rally
January 19-21, 2024 Neiderwald, TX

This was our third time at Longhorn RV Resort in Neiderwald. We love this rally because the rally hall is large and provides ample space to play games or just hang out. The past two times have either been bitterly cold or pouring rain. This year the weather was just beautiful except for the high winds on Saturday. Gracie and Roseann were our hosts for the rally and their cooking expertise and decorating talents did not disappoint. Friday evening was a potluck of soups, salads and desserts. It was so delicious that we collectively decided to have potlucks on Friday nights going forward. That will also make hosting a bit less daunting.

Saturday evening was our annual chili cook-off. There were five entries this year and first prize went to Roseann Young, Dottie Ulrich took second and Rich Espinosa came in third. Roseann and Ben won't be attending the Region 9 rally due to other commitments but we'll get her chili recipe entered into their chili cook-off. TAU is going for three years in a row!

Other items of note for the rally were a rousing game of bean bag baseball. One again, the ladies trounced the men. On Saturday afternoon a number of us participated in a "flamingo" glass art class. It was a lot of fun and the art projects were so creative. Last, but not least, we inducted new members Laurie and Craig Darilek. We're excited to have you as part of our TAU family.



Rich crowns Roseann as first place winner!



Laurie and Craig Darilek, our newest members!



Flamingo Art

