



The Alamo Bugle

Texas Alamo Unit



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 3
RICH ESPINOSA - PRESIDENT

MARCH 2024
MUFFIN CAMP - EDITOR

Presidential Ponderings March 2024

First Vice president AnnMarie Esparza and I decided to implement a "tech talk" during social hour on Friday evenings. As luck would have it, AnnMarie was contacted by Trailsmiths, a mobile RV repair company. One of their services is speaking at rallies about RV safety and routine maintenance. What a stroke of luck. The session sparked some great questions and conversation. One of those conversations led to this article.

Prior to a leaving the gate, pilots review their pre-flight checklist to make sure that all systems are in good working order before they take off. When you perform the same tasks over and over again, you can become complacent or simply distracted and forget something basic. There are a couple of lists I review prior to hitting the road with my Airstream. It's the same routine every time because I don't want to forget anything and I don't want the wheels to fall off. Don't laugh! That actually happened to me before I ever attended my first rally.

I made the list in Excel to ensure that I could make changes as necessary. I laminated the sheet at my local FedEx store so I can use a grease pencil to erase my check marks when completed. Then it's ready to use again when I hit the road for the next trip. I have attached a workable excel document so that you can modify it to fit your needs. (From the editor: You'll see photos of the spreadsheet on the following page. Please email Rich @ respoinc@gmail.com to receive the spreadsheet.)

I hope you find this helpful. See you down the road.

Rich



President Rich Espinosa

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AIRSTREAM TRAVEL CHECK LIST

	1	2	3	4	5	6
PREPARING TO TRAVEL INTERIOR CHECK LIST						
All keys accounted for						
All appliances off						
Cabinets securely closed						
Ceiling vents closed						
Closet doors securely closed						
Countertops cleared						
Dining table cleared						
Drain holding tanks						
Drawers securely closed/ Tention rods						
Entry door locked						
Air conditioner off						
Lights Off						
Maps/Route/ GPS Ready						
Microwave door locked						
Pocket doors secured						
Privacy curtains tied back						
Refrigerator off or turned to battery power, door latched						

Rich's Travel Checklist
Is in the form of an Excel Spreadsheet

Shelves secure
Shower soap put away
Sink covers in place
Sink Drain plugs open
Gnome on board
Stove off
Test water pump
Toilet seat down
Wall hangings secure
Water heater off outside switch
Water pump off
Windows closed and locked
Window Blinds down and secured

Wheel covers stowed	..								
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PREPARING TO TRAVEL EXTERIOR CHECK

Awnings secured and locked
Check Battery terminal condition
Breakaway connection connected
Cable TV cable stowed
Compartment doors locked
Doormat stowed
Door locked
Dump valve cap in place
Electric cable and accessories stowed
Check all fluids/ belts in tow vehicle
Freshwater tank partially filled

ARRIVING TO CAMPSITE

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Avoid dumpsters						
Avoid dump Stations						
Avoid infringing foot paths						
Check out your neighbors						
Avoid shared hookups						
Ensure room for awnings						
Choose shade in Summer						
Choose open area in winter						
Consider wifi conection						
Avoid infringing streams						
A level site is better						
Avoid stagnant water-mosquitoes						

PREPARING TO TRAVEL EXTERIOR CHECK

Water Softener / water filter stowed
Hitch pin lock secure
Hood latched
License plates secure
Light connection tight
Lights tested
ARGOSY Name plate stowed
Propane tank off
Leveling jacks/blocks stowed
Rock Screen in place
Roof clear
Safety chains attached
Sewer hose and accessories stowed
Spare tire Checked 65 psi
Step raised
Tires inspected for uneven wear
Tire pressure checked 65 psi
Wheel lugs torqued to 100 ft.-lbs
Trailer breaks tested and adjusted
Tow vehicle mirrors adjusted
Tire pressure valve caps tightened
Vents closed
Water heater outside switch off
Food grade water hose and water regulator stowed

DISCONNECTING AIRSTREAM FROM VEHICLE

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Leveling chocks in place RV wheels						
Lower rear levellers						
Disconnect light cord						
Disconnect breakaway wire						
Remove hitch lock						
Disconnect hitch lock						
Lower front leveling legs						
Slowly drive vehicle forward						

CONNECTING ELECTRIC

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Open Breaker box						
Turn off Breaker at post						
Insert polarity tester						
Turn on Breaker at post						
Verify good power						
Turn off Breaker at post						
Remove tester						
Verify all electrical appliances are off						
Extend RV power cord to post						
Plug in RV power cord to post						
Turn Breaker						
Close electrical box						
verify power source inside RV						

CONNECTING WATER TO THE AIRSTREAM

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Locate water source on site						
Connect water pressure regulator to water source						
Insure water pressure set at 60 psi						
Connect food grade water hose to pressure regulator						
Connect other end of food grade water hose to Portable water softener						
Connect other end of food grade water hose to filter						
Connect other end of food grade water hose to RV						
Open all Fausets in the Rig						
Turn on water at site						
Check water outlets in RV						

Rally Schedule. 2023-2024



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

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

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

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

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

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

Dec 2023 ~~NO RALLY~~

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

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

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

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:

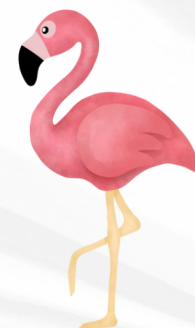
4 pm Social Hour
5 pm Opening Ceremonies
6 pm Dinner

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





MARCH

Birthdays:

02 Jimmy Cook
 09 Stephanie McConnell
 12 Barbara Brennecke
 13 Kevin Adams

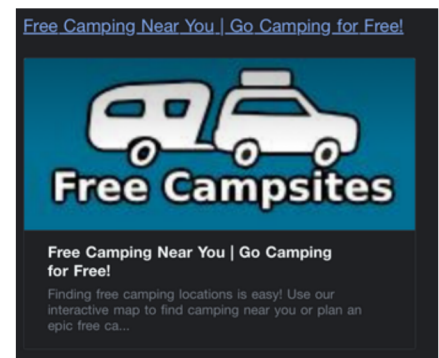
MARCH

None this month

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



Eldon Sheffer recently received his 500 volunteer hour service pin at the Texas Master Naturalist Chapter meeting.



Check out
Freecampsites.net to find
 low cost or free camping.

Q: What can you do for a hurt flamingo?

A: Give it medical tweetment



FILLING YOUR AIRSTREAM'S FRESH WATER TANK

One of the challenges while boondocking is how to fill your Airstream's fresh water tank. Assuming you have a source for fresh water, your first challenge is how to get the water from your remote supply to your Airstream. Your second challenge is how to actually get the fresh water from your container into your Airstream's fresh water tank without spilling half of it.

If you are like me, you probably have tried buckets and funnels with limited success. I have found an unbeatable combination that is easy on your back and you will not waste a drop.

Meet the Scepter 5 Gallon True Military Food Grade Water Container and the Harbor Freight Battery Operated Liquid Transfer Pump.

Scepter is a Canadian company that makes water containers for the Military. These are rugged 5 Gallon containers that are made of BPA free material to military standards. They can be found on Amazon for under \$50. A year or so ago I wrote about "The World's Greatest Gas Can". Well, this is the "World's Greatest Water Can". I always carry two of these cans whenever I boondock.

Getting fresh to my Airstream was only half the problem. I used to lift these 50# cans and pour the water into a long spout funnel. It was not only back breaking but ended up spilling much of my precious water. I have tried numerous syphons, drill attachments, and aquarium pumps. None of those worked very well or lasted more than a couple of refills. The Harbor Freight Battery Operated Liquid Transfer Pump is an inexpensive solution. Mine has lasted over two years. The pump takes two "D" cell batteries. It takes about three minutes to empty one 5 gallon can. The pumps sell for around \$13 but are frequently reduced on the Harbor Freight's website. I bought several thinking they would not last but am happy to report that my original pump just keeps going and is easy on batteries as well. The pump fits perfectly inside the Scepter container and the tube slides securely inside your Fresh Water Fill opening. The transfer pumps can also be used to transfer gasoline and other liquids. I painted one blue for gasoline transfer. Check out the enclosed photos to see how easy this system is to use.

SAFE TRAVELS,

Greg



Updates Spring 2024
Nancy Fitzgerald, Region 9 President
BRN 223

Several updates for you from the most recent IBT meeting February 22, 2024:

- This August, Airstream Club International (ACI) Hosts will be added to the Harvest Hosts map, giving Courtesy Parking Club members more robust functionality, including detailed Host profiles, contactless booking, photos, reviews, route planning tools, and more. If a Courtesy Parking Club Member is also a Member of Harvest Hosts, they will get their Harvest Hosts locations and Courtesy Parking Club locations all together on one map using one convenient log-in. The Courtesy Parking locations will be free. Harvest Host locations will still require a subscription.
- Many of you know that January 14, 2024: Per Hamnqvist resigned from the IBT, effective immediately. Resignation was from the Treasurer position and Executive Council. Kendall Felder was moved onto the vacated Executive Council position because he received the next highest votes in the previous EC elections. By emergency resolution, the IBT voted by two-thirds vote to elect a non-officer individual from the current Finance Committee to serve as Financial Director until August of 2025.
- Going forward, every two years, near the midterm of the EC, the International Board of Trustees (IBT) shall reaffirm the tenure of the Finance Director with a simple majority vote of confidence. With the recent growth and complexity of WBCCI's financial state and the importance of ensuring long-term financial stability, transparent reporting, regulatory compliance, risk management, budgetary control, operational efficiency, and strategic decision-making, having someone with an extensive financial background for this position is crucial. The current election process for Executive Officers may not always result in the most capable person being elected. By making the Finance Director (formerly the International Treasurer) elected by the IBT, we can ensure that the most qualified person fills the role.
- The IBT voted to clarify the structure of a Region Board. The motion eliminated the ambiguity about the responsibilities of the Region President. It also defined the responsibilities of the Region Treasurer and Secretary and provided a mechanism for the succession or removal with cause of an elected Region Officer. The impact of this is to address a recommendation of Roberts Rules that any organization operating under a Constitution and Bylaws with elected officers provide a method for the removal of officers.

I will head to Jackson Center for a March 12 -14 Strategy Session with the full IBT. Our focus is on membership, financial and budget deep dives, and identification of new opportunities and initiatives.

Do not forget to sign up for the Region 9 Bandera Bound Rally, May 1-5 at Skyline Ranch and Riverwalk Resort. Link: <https://form.jotform.com/240463319594158>
We have forty sites reserved for us at Riverwalk, and we will offer several activities at the satellite site. This is the year to elect our Region 9 Officers for 2024-2026. Tracy Elkins has been nominated as President Elect for Region 9 and will assume leadership August 1, 2024. Anna Brandon is nominated for 1st VP and Tim Ebbers is nominated for 2nd VP. Let your club president know your support and these officers will be installed at the Region 9 Rally in Bandera. You can read their bios on the Region 9 webpage or on the Region 9 Facebook page.

And finally, have you heard about the two fabulous rallies planned by NTxAC and HOTC at North Texas Airstream Park?

Stitchin' and Fishin' April 19th – 23rd

Be part of the first ever Airstream Rally in Region 9 gathering quilters and fisherpersons (of all levels)! Quilters will be able to visit a couple of the stores participating in the Shop Hop, as well as be able to set up their stations in a devoted rally space. The “fisherpersons” among you will enjoy a fully guided fishing trip on Lake Whitney on Monday, April 22nd. The trip will include all rods, tackle, fully rigged striper boats and guides. Participants will only need to bring snacks, drinks and of course a Texas Fishing License. Our catch will be cleaned and packaged for us.

Region 9 Ham Rally May 9th – 12th

Join us for an Amateur Radio (Ham) Rally at NTAC We will have a crash course targeted to help you pass your exam, a swap meet, tours, and lots of fun!

Call for Registrations:
North Texas Airstream Community
200 Walnut Hill Avenue #1
Hillsboro, TX 76645
254.582.5566



February Rally Gracie Waggener

February Rally
February 23-25, 2024 Concan, TX

Pot luck Mexican Dinner and tequila bar followed by RV troubleshooting by Howard and Tiffany Smith. Lots of good info and tips.



Saturday night:
Fajita dinner and dessert followed by bean bag baseball. The men finally won one 😊



Relaxing time, taking in nature!

