



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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## President's Note

This year, in **February**, I had the opportunity to attend "Streaming on the Strand in Galveston, and we had such an amazing time meeting new people, observing and participating in parades, and enjoying the local restaurants. I highly encourage you to attend next year if you can. It was such a cool experience to watch parades from the comfort of my Airstream. People on the floats threw beads directly into my open door. Not sure what to do with all of the beads, we started decorating the camper with them. This was such a great kick off to the 2024 camping season. As some of you know, I camp with several different groups, and organize rallies and attend as many as I can. We kick off our season with the 10th Annual Gathering of Southwest Teardrops and Vintage Trailers, 7-10 **March** 2024 at Tyler State Park. We expect to see about 11 Airstreams at this Rally, 7 of them members of ETLU. Since so many members will be attending, we would like to extend an invitation for members to come out to the park and participate in a Unit meeting on 3/9/2024 @10am in site #209 or login online at the Google Link send out by Doug. After the meeting you are welcome to hang out and participate in our open house. Here is where you can find each of us.

- Shelley Tumino - 209
- Doug & Hawley Townes- 310
- Teresa & Niki Coats - 216
- Carie & Chris Bodnar - 201
- Cheryl & Chris Chambers - 202
- Tanner & Carrie Terry - 309
- Ron & Traci Battles - 312

Spring rallies are the best. Check this one out, if you can, Texas Vintage Trailer Club Spring (TVTC) Rally 11-14 **April**. \$110 includes camping fees and rally fees. Located at Wolf Creek Park, on Lake Livingston in Coldspring, Texas. All sites are water and electric only, but there is a self-serve honey pot and dump station onsite. 21 Wolf Creek Park Road (FM 224 At Park Rd 60), Coldspring, TX, United States, Texas Register to attend online:

<https://happycampers.wufoo.com/forms/tvtc-2024-spring-rally/>

Man, I just love life in my airstream. Just when you think there isn't enough going on... there is more!

In late **April-May** my husband and I will be hitting the road with our 2 dogs, and 16-year-old daughter. The plan is to visit the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Once in the park we plan to take the bus tour, the train excursion and ride the Burros to the base of the canyon. When we finish up there after 4-5 days we are planning to head into south Utah and will visit places like Bryce Canyon, Mount Zion, the Arches and anything else we can find along the way. We plan to be gone about 3 weeks. Shortly after returning we will head up to Hot Springs to host the Arkansas Trailer Nuts Annual Rally at the Hot Springs KOA 31 **May-2 June** 2024. In **July** we will hit the road again, and head North to Wisconsin. This is a boon docking trip where we meet friends at an antique Airfield in Brodhead, Wisconsin the weekend before Airventure. We traditionally host a Spaghetti dinner feeding about 200 people to raise money for our EAA chapter and the Kelch Aviation Museum.

In **September**, ETLU will host the Sedalia Caravan Kickoff Rally with NTxAC. September 27-29, 2024. Rally participants do not have to be participating in the caravan, all are welcome. We need information on how many people plan to participate as we will be booking through TSP group booking. Reservation information will be published soon. We will be traveling with the caravan to attend the ACI 29 September - 16 **October** 2024. And just in case your head is not spinning from all of this information, there is more! We have been invited to participate in the NTxAC Installation Rally at the Boulders 8-10 **November** 2024.

*In keeping within the guidelines of our By-Laws all positions have a one-year term and should not serve more than 2 consecutive terms. In keeping with these guidelines we should ask for position nominations/volunteers for the 2025 Board by mid-summer for elections at our October meeting in time for the Installation Rally in November.*

I look forward to seeing you all on the road.

**Shelley Tumino**  
President, ETLU

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## Maintenance Minute

We just returned from our Spring trip. This year we journeyed to Big Bend. It was fantastic. However, on the way home our TPMS (tire monitor) picked up a slow leak. As I mentioned last month, the TPMS is a life saver. Sure enough we had a screw in the tread and got it changed before it ruined the tire or the rig. So another data point for using a TPMS on your Airstream.

For those of you that have a Dometic thermostat (10 or 12 button), I want to point out a little tip.



At times, the circuits may get hung up and you will not be able to switch modes or anything else on your panel. When this happens it may be necessary to reset your thermostat. Now I have to admit I got a little frustrated with the directions on a reset. My manual said to turn the thermostat to the “OFF” position. I took this to mean the mode “OFF” position (more on this in a minute). After this, you are to press and hold the “Mode” and “Zone” buttons simultaneously and then

release. An “INT” message will appear on the display. At that point the thermostat will reset to the original parameters and function properly.

I could not get this to work. However, when the directions say “OFF” position, they are not referring to the “Mode”. It really means the power button needs to be turned off. Then press the two buttons and it will reset.

We had one other problem on our trip that I want to point out. We got the dreaded “E0” error on our refrigerator. This error means the display panel is not communicating with the lower circuit board on the outside of the unit (for you newer Airstreams, you have a compressor style, not an ammonia circulation system unit so this does not apply to you.) So I checked all the fuses, they looked good. I also unplugged the unit to see if it would reset. No luck. I also went through the reset and check protocol. No luck. Of course at this point we were in day 3 of a 10-day trip and I was a bit, let’s say... unhappy. So I did the only thing I knew how to do without replacing the circuit board (which I did not have handy). I started unplugging all the connectors to the circuit board and spraying them down with contact cleaner and reattaching. I am not sure if it was

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prayer or contact cleaner, but the “E0” error disappeared and the unit started functioning and worked great for the remainder of the trip. So two things to remember. One, always carry contact cleaner in your tool kit. Two, find a cheap electric multi-tester and keep it in your rig tool kit so you can check conductivity through your fuses. It may save you some headaches. Those are two easy fixes for the “E0” error.

## New Members

We have no new members joining ETLU this month. Fortunately, we have some good ones in place already!

## People Profile

No volunteers this month. Please send us a short bio so we can send it out next month in the newsletter. Charlotte I am waiting...again.

## Pet Profile

No pets this month, so I want to share a link to a great pet story this month.

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/dave-portnoy-donates-277k-rescue-shelter-saved-pit-bull-miss-peaches>

## Social Media Update

Don't forget to follow ETLU on social media. The sites are up and running:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/East>
- [TexasLakesAirstream/](https://www.instagram.com/TexasLakesAirstream/)
- Instagram: east\_tx\_lakes\_ac
- Airstream Website:
- <https://airstreamclub.org/east-texaslakes>

## ETLU Gear

The new ETLU hats are in! I think they look great. One is for the more colorful, the other is for the monochromatic look. I think they both turned out great.



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The final cost on each of these hats is the following:

- Richardson Color Logo: \$31.30/each
- '47 Monochrome: \$27.15/each

These are being sold at cost to Unit Members so we can show some ETLU spirit. A form will be coming out soon. You can write a check or Venmo to secure one of more of these hats. We have 20 of each (make that 19, sorry I got mine first). They will be available at the Tyler State Park Rally. I can also make arrangements for limited delivery around Tyler.

## Who's going where?

Send your travel plans to the Unit Gmail address by the 15th to be included in that month's newsletter.

The Towns just got back from Big Bend and have been a slacking on our monthly trip plans. Doing Tyler State Park in March, but looking to finally get to Mineral Wells in April (after two cancellations due to weather) and maybe Possum Kingdom in May. No firm dates yet.

Where are you going? Let us know.

## Trip Diary

We just returned from the Big Bend area in Southwest Texas. This was a four-park trip for us.

It started with 9 hours to Davis Mountain State Park with a stop in Balmorhea to see the State Park there (and the huge spring-fed swimming pool). We hit some cold weather on day two (21 degrees), but it warmed up quickly to perfect weather. Davis Mountain SP is a nice park right next to the National Historic Site of Ft. Davis. The McDonald Observatory is also just down the road. We highly recommend the "Star Party" for an evening of astronomy and telescopes. The night sky in that part of Texas is phenomenal. It is also hard to believe those mountains are in Texas.

Next it was onto Big Bend Ranch State Park about 100 miles south. We stayed at the Maverick Ranch RV resort in Lajitas. It is only primitive camping in the State Park and the sites can be a little challenging to get to. However, we are going to give it a try next time. Maverick Ranch is a great location and offers full hook-ups, Wi-Fi that works, a pool, and laundry facilities. There is a general store next door and the Golf Resort is across the street. Great place to stay if

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going into the State Park as the entrance is just a mile up the road.

As for the Park, the Closed Canyon is an amazing 2-mile hike. It has some rock crawling, but it is beautiful.



We then moved 17 miles up the road to Terlingua/Study Boote and the Paisano Campground which offers great access to the Big Bend National Park. Big Bend NP has to be on everyone's travel bucket list. The Chisos Mountains, located entirely inside the huge park, are a wonder.



The hiking is amazing in Big Bend NP. On our last day we hiked the Santa Elena

Canyon Trail and the 1,500 foot walls of the canyon are spectacular.



We had perfect weather with lows in the 40's and highs in the 70's with the exception of one hot day in the upper 80's. Timing was good on the crowd front as we never felt like there was a mass of people anywhere. That will not be the case in a few weeks when the Spring Breakers make it to the Parks.

There are some truly beautiful hikes in Big Bend. We highly recommend both the State and National Parks and we found the company of several fellow Airstreamers along the way. If you want more information about our trip we would be glad to give you some tips at the rally (or anywhere for that matter).

Texas is blessed to have such great State and National Parks right here in our backyard.

**Hawley Towns – Newsletter  
Coordinator**

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