



# North Texas Roundup

March 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

*Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.* - Voltaire.

As I reflect on this past weekend in Dublin, TX, gratitude is what I feel. The RV Park went above and beyond to welcome us. Although we did not have the luck of the Irish on our side with weather, we did with friendship, community, and the spirit of Airstreaming. I was thrilled to have new member **Stephen Bartling** join us and hear of his antique car collecting (we could use that for a rally some time!) We also had new attendees: full-timers **Kevin** and **Deborah Rogers**, and **Jennifer Olsem** from Florida, and several affiliate members. I am thrilled when we give away t-shirts at rallies to first time attendees! We also had a visit from city leaders and the Airstream dealer in Dublin, (who knew?) BAYERRV.com. They brought gifts, introduced themselves, and said they are happy to service or sell, especially if you have trouble getting in for service at other big dealers. I am indebted to and thankful for **Erica** and **Jarrid Rollins**, **Henry** and **Carol Wilkins**, and **Nicole** and **Patrick Scott** for all

their work on this rally, from the charcuterie table, to donuts, and to St. Patrick's Day Bingo. Rain or shine, we know how to have fun! I danced, made music, and drank a lot in Irish fashion! Next up: Coffee Creek, Fredericksburg, and Bandera!

North Texas Airstream Club will be helping prepare breakfast on Thursday at the Bandera Region 9 Rally. At last count we had 26 rigs attending from our club. I will reach out to you soon with a schedule for that day. If you have a griddle or a Blackstone, please bring it.

Other news for the club: we tried the pop-up shop for quality polo shirts and jackets, and it was minimally received. We are trying the online swag site "You Customize It"

<https://www.youcustomizeit.com/des/North-Texas-Airstream-Club/7066625?filters=70007>. This site will be available as long as we want. The company is owned by a member of the Greater Houston Airstream Club, and she has created several sites for other Airstream clubs, and for the Region 9 Rally in Bandera, if you are interested.

We also have tried to introduce some kind of mentorship pro-

gram, which has been minimally received. It was our hope that we could connect new owners with "experts" on all things Airstream and create connections between our members. If you are interested and didn't get the memo, here is the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-Mz\\_4uBLDIzrrYVrT8oS1SX-pH9mUuqJ1BGQ\\_Jvpl8LBt8n-pg/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-Mz_4uBLDIzrrYVrT8oS1SX-pH9mUuqJ1BGQ_Jvpl8LBt8n-pg/viewform?usp=pp_url).

I look forward to a beautiful Spring in April and May. Maybe the bluebonnets will still be out as we drive from Coffee Creek to Fredericksburg. I hope to see many of you in Bandera, and if you haven't signed up yet, you still can at <https://form.jot-form.com/240463319594158>.

That's all for now. Please know that we have a welcoming, warm, and serving club, dedicated to giving you camping opportunities with a communal spirit. Get involved - come join us!

See you down the road.



Allana  
Patterson  
BRN 12194

## Editors' Corner

Happy Spring, everyone!

Tis the season to be camping -  
*fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la!*

Seriously, friends, get out there and get Airstreaming! Any of you who attended the Dublin Rally know what great times can be had with this club even in spite of the weather, so if you add in a perfect Spring weekend, guaranteed good times await you. April's Coffee Creek Rally is next, so check out the details in this month's newsletter.

Many thanks to **Michelle** and **Bruce Toney** and **Nicole Scott** for contributing rally reviews of the Dublin Rally. It's a lot more fun for everyone when we have input from our members. You don't have to limit your shared stories and photos to our rallies. Show us your personal trips with family and to destinations you've waited to see. We're the eager group who wants to see the "slide show" your relatives don't want to sit through!

We've welcomed so many new members and affiliates in the past six months and we're eager to meet you, help you, and share the fellowship that our club is known for.



Ann Clark  
BRN 12279



David  
Majkowski  
BRN 5594



## 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
Lori Ernst	3/10	Steve Garcia	3/24
Rich Kazura	3/11	Dara Poole	3/29
David Hanson	3/13	Bruce Harrower	3/30

## March Anniversaries

Stephen and Kris Hill	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
Ross and Phyllis Hamilton	3/19
Chris and Ruth Haefner	3/25
Jim and Susan Fant	3/29

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## April Birthdays

Martha Henson	4/4	John Calvin	4/15
Jeff Cason	4/10	Denise Walker	4/15
Susan Fant	4/13	Phyllis Hamilton	4/18
Richard Roelke	4/13	Wendy Cason	4/22
Rob Turner	4/14		

## April Anniversaries

Jeff and Mary Kohnle	4/2
Sara Brown and Justin Erbskorn	4/12
John and Kathy Ward	4/12
Rob and Kim Turner	4/21
Arnold and Amy Terkel	4/30

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

#### Richard Keaton

1970 Safari 30'  
Azle, TX

#### Steve and Sherwood Garcia

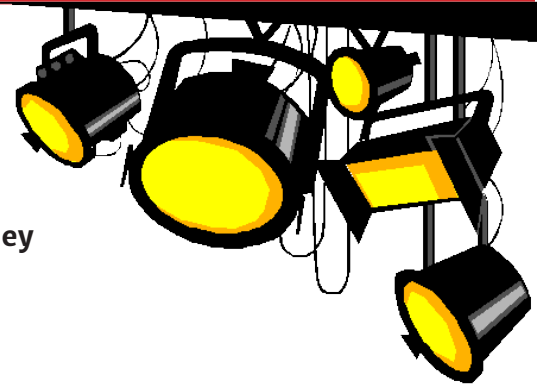
2021 Flying Cloud 28'  
Denton, TX

#### Martin Peacey and Alicia Bailey

2020 Flying Cloud 23'  
Ft. Worth, TX

#### Jeff and Caitlin Heaton

2024 Flying Cloud 30'  
Cleburne, TX



### New Affiliate Members

#### Dora Palao and Patrick Arnold

2007 Safari 25'  
Plano, TX

#### William and Elaine Saulnier

2021 Classic 30'  
Dripping Springs, TX

#### Irene Miller

2021 International 28'  
Kerman, CA

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## Jeff and Caitlin Heaton, BRN 10206

We're Jeff, Caitlin, and William (3-years old), and we decided a few years ago that we wanted to spend more time with our son seeing the country and less time at our high-demand jobs. Jeff is a creative director with 12 years of experience in the advertising industry and now works independently. Caitlin taught in elementary schools for over a decade and now can teach their son from wherever they take the Airstream. William is a 3-year-old who's full of life and has already visited 12 states and a dozen or more state and national parks. He loves dinosaurs, construction vehicles, and visiting all the zoos across the country.

The 2024 Flying Cloud 30' Bunk is actually our second Airstream. Our first was a 2022

International 27FB.

We love cooking, spending time outdoors, hiking, and finding hidden gems and surprises as

we travel.

Our Instagram for those that like to follow other Airstreamers: @heatonthetrail.





## Steve and Sherwood Garcia, BRN 19758

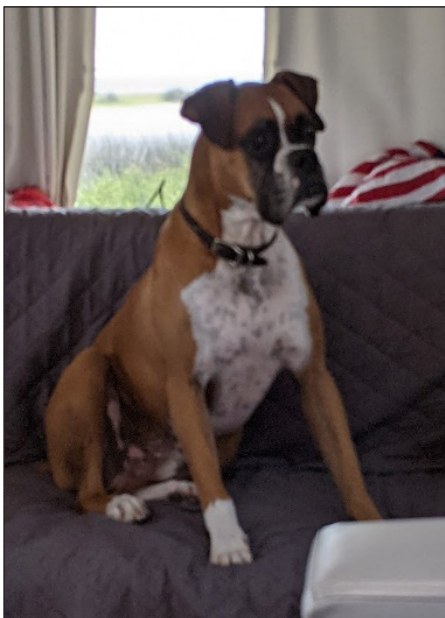
We moved from California to Texas last July to be closer to our daughter and son-in-law. Steve had never lived anywhere but Santa Clara County in CA his whole life except for his time in the Navy and for IBM training in Chicago, where he met me. I had grown up just south of Chicago and moved to CA in 1974. Steve worked for IBM for 36 years and retired in 2009. I retired from the Santa Clara Valley Water District in 2015. We have two children: our son Kevin, who lives in Glendale, AZ, and our daughter Ashley, who lives in Argyle, TX with her husband Mike.

We like to do a bunch of various things. I like to garden, knit, sew, cook, read, and travel. Steve likes to golf, work in the yard, work around the house, and travel. We both love to travel with the Airstream with our dog, Bruno the Boxer.

Our Airstream is a 2021 28' RB Flying Cloud Twin named SLIM,

bought in 2020. It is our first Airstream, but not our first trailer. Previously we had a 2019 Lance 2285 which was a terrific trailer, but as we used it, decided it was just not the right layout for us as we planned for long-distance travel. Our friends in Austin have a 2017 28' RB Flying Cloud and that absolutely sold us. Hence, we have SLIM, who is pulled by Waylan, a 2020 GMC Denali HD

2500. We've made several trips to Texas and to various rallies with our NorCal club with this trailer, and almost three years ago went on a 4.5-month trip around the U.S. Fabulous, and we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to see our country. We're looking forward to going to this year's International Rally as well as meeting new friends in our Texas club.



*Bruno the Boxer*





## Patrick Arnold and Dora Palao, BRN 05398 (Affiliate Members)

Hello Airstreamers!

I am Dora Palao and my awesome husband Patrick Arnold purchased our first Airstream! It has been a dream for both us, especially after watching the "I Love Lucy" episodes with the Arnaz's traveling with an Airstream when we were young.

A little about us: we have two little dogs, Chico Bean the chihuahua and Lucy Gussy the Super Mutt who is our recent rescue.

Patrick and I met in 11th grade at Plano Senior High in the mid-80s. After several attempts at marriage we reconnected and had a surprise wedding at Patrick's 50th birthday party at Classic BMW of Plano. We didn't

tell guests it was a wedding, so what a surprise!

Patrick is an avid car guy who worked for BMW for over 23 years, and now has been with Porsche of Plano for several years. If you want to talk cars please talk to my husband, but be prepared to talk for awhile as he knows so much about all cars.

I, Dora (the Explorer), have been a hairdresser and salon owner for about 40 years. I am a car girl that loves football on Sundays. I also enjoy antiques, quilting, and love gardening at the salon for my clients to take something with them when the salsa garden is doing well.

We have two children who are

20-year-olds from previous marriages. They're not twins, although we've been asked if they were several times.

Michael is an incredible, awesome, and handsome guy who is an entrepreneur and loves his many furry friends. Beautiful Elysia is in her second year at Texas A&M College Station studying Neuroscience as a major and Neuropsychology as a minor. Yikes!

Waiting on grandbabies someday, hopefully in the future, but for now we can try to enjoy our Airstream "Mrs. Lucy."

We hope to get to know all of you on our silver adventure journey.



## Irene Miller, BRN 08257 (Affiliate Member)

First, I want to say that I am looking forward to this next chapter of my life.

I am recently a widow. My husband passed away February 1, 2024. My husband, John Miller, was a retired disabled veteran. While my husband was in remission we purchased our first Airstream in late 2020 - a 2021 28' International RBT. We have 3 small Chihuahuas, each weighing under 5 lbs. We loved traveling and visiting places we had never been before. I love meeting new people, especially those that have Airstreams.

I enjoy the outdoors. I enjoy succulents and yard work. I recently took up leather crafting, starting off with using vintage western belts and adding them to picture frames, and making earrings, bracelets, coasters, and keychains. Once I get settled I will be making larger things in the future.

My husband and I own property in Gladewater, TX which is near

Tyler and Longview. We have 4 acres there, and in the future I would love to be added on as a host if someone needs a place to stay. We, or I, will be having a small house built and it has 2

RV hookups.

I'm still in the process of figuring out how to tow such a large trailer by myself, but I made a promise to my husband and I intend to keep that promise.





## Your 2024 NTxAC Officers & Committee Chairs

### **President**

Allana Patterson

### **1st Vice-President**

Mike Hooker

### **Past President**

Jennifer Dice

### **Treasurer**

Edward Wilson

### **Secretary**

Jill Fearing

### **Newsletter**

Ann Clark

David Majkowski

### **Webmaster**

Dan Brockway

### **Membership**

Tom Jensen

### **Social Media**

Maribeth Pappas

### **Trustees**

Lynn Clark

Ann Clark

Maxi Millican

Henry Wilkins



Front Row: Tom Jensen, Allana Patterson, Jill Fearing;  
Back Row: Ed Wilson, Maxi Millican, Mike Hooker, Debbie Hooker,  
Ann Clark, Lynn Clark, and Henry Wilkins

## International Board of Trustees Newsworthy Notes

- This coming August, Airstream Club International 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 login. The Courtesy Parking locations will be free. Harvest Host locations will still require a subscription.
- Region 9 Executive Officers Election Results  
Thanks to those who took the time to vote. Our club results show 60 votes, all voting yes, and no write-ins. Congratulations to Region 9 President **Tracy Elkins**, 1st VP **Anna Brandon**, and 2nd VP **Tim Ebbers**.



**Tracy Elkins**



**Anna Brandon**



**Tim Ebbers**

# North Texas Roundup's *High Profile*

## **High Profile:** Amy Hanus

**Name:** Amy Nicole Hanus

My husband Chris calls me Amy Lou, which has also stuck with friends.

**Current Hometown:** Ardmore, OK

**I Grew Up In:** Conyers, GA

**Current and/or Former Occupation:** Program Director for the non-profit foundation, Ardmore Institute of Health, which provides the free Full Plate Living nutrition program I lead.

**Airstream Model/Year:** 2021 Flying Cloud 25FBT

**Your Airstream's Name:** We're still trying to find the right name. Our previous 22' Caravel was Camp Champ, but we're not sure it fits this one yet. We purchased this one from my boss, who named it EJ after their two children. I've been tempted to keep the EJ initials and have been jokingly calling it El Jefe. I also call it my "Sanity Can."

**Favorite Thing About My Airstream:** The Hatch! I love a good screened-in porch and this turns our Airstream into one wherever we're parked.

**Hobbies:** Airstreaming and cooking

**I Drive A:** 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD

**Favorite TV Shows:** Survivor and America's Got Talent

**Favorite Music/Bands:** I love most music, so I'll pick artists with albums I could listen to in their entirety: George Strait, Guns & Roses, David Garrett, Fleetwood Mac, Queen, ABBA, Miranda Lambert.

**My Fantasy Dinner Party Guests (Living or Deceased) Would Be:** Jesus, Dolly Parton, Nora Roberts, and Matthew McConaughey

**My Last Meal Would Be:** It depends on the type of day. If it's a cloudy, rainy, cold day I'd want a big bowl of stew. On any other day I'd say strawberry salad, grilled asparagus, crispy potatoes with avocado aioli, filet mignon, and grilled peaches with a scoop of ice cream.

**I'm Known For:** My love of food

**Behind My Back They Say:** I have no clue and want to stay clueless!

**Favorite Airstream Destinations:** Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in Florida is our favorite so far because we love the beach. We've been six times and now go annually to help with the Canopener Rally. We also enjoy Lake Murray State Park in Oklahoma several times a year since it's in our backyard. If you ever want to go camping there, let us know and we'll rally.

**My Dream Destination In My Airstream Would Be:** Anywhere with a great view and nice weather

**Best Travel Advice:** Have a general plan that's flexible so you can embrace the adventures you didn't anticipate.





# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

**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>
- 3:00 pm Begins outside Caliche Coffee Bar & Ranch Road Roasters, 228 W. Main St.  
\*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.*

# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

**May 1-5, 2024**

**Region 9 Rally, Bandera, TX**

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

**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



# NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule

## International Rally Caravan Schedule, *continued*

**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.

**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**

## **NTxAC 2024 Rally Schedule**

**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*

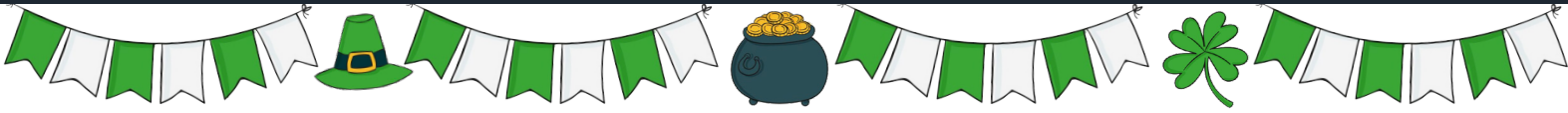


## **YIPPEE, THEY'RE FREE!!**

Hey, new members, you will receive a FREE NTxAC T-shirt when you attend a rally/meeting.

If you did not get your free T-shirt because we were out of your size, **we now have all sizes.**

Any members wanting to buy a T-shirt may purchase one for \$15 at a rally.



## St. Patrick's Day in Dublin!

### "Moore" in Dublin: Rally Review by Bruce and Michelle Toney

The club met at the Moore RV Park in Dublin. Fun fact: our club's Airstreams christened the *new* addition to their park. The weekend started Friday evening with the World's Finest Charcuterie board, drinks, and catching up with fellow clubbers. I do believe it would have been **Jack Clyne** approved, it was beautiful!

The rain came and several of the activities were postponed or cancelled, but that did not stop folks from getting out. The community of Dublin worked hard to bring Ireland to Texas. The music, fanfare, and costumes were entertaining. Of course, no club event is complete without the traditional Wilson couple costume!!



Yes, Bruce and Michelle, **Jack Clyne** WOULD approve!

Dinner, grownup Bingo, and St. Patrick's Day beverages made for a cheerful and fun weekend. If you missed Dublin, put it on your to-do list.

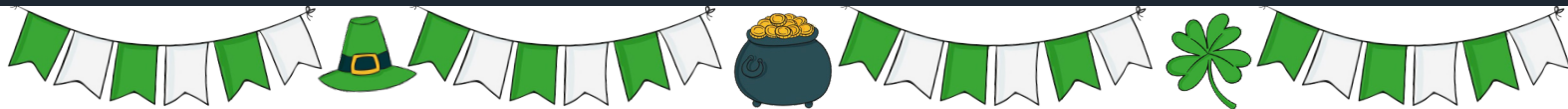


*The Wilsons*



*Our beautiful Airstreams lined up at the new addition of Moore RV Park*





# St. Patrick's Day in Dublin!

## Dublin Rally Review by Nicole Scott

St. Patrick's Day Rally in Dublin, Texas, but the rain didn't dampen our St. Patrick's Day spirits. The weekend was full of great fun, awesome food, and Shenanigans with some great people.

We enjoyed day tripping into the town of Dublin and even an evening trek to Comanche.

The catered grazing table dinner Friday evening was outstanding! The Lucky Vines Vineyard and

Winery was a favorite stop as well as Backwoods for dinner and Lucky Bingo!

We appreciate Moore RV Park and Backwoods for hosting us!



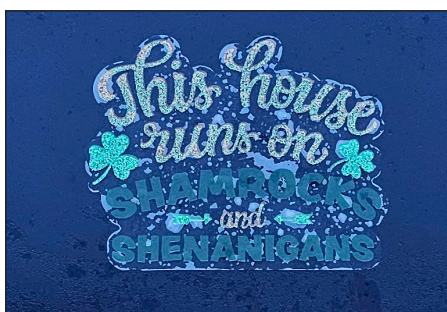
Patrick and Nicole Scott



Wine tasting at Lucky Vines Vineyard and Winery



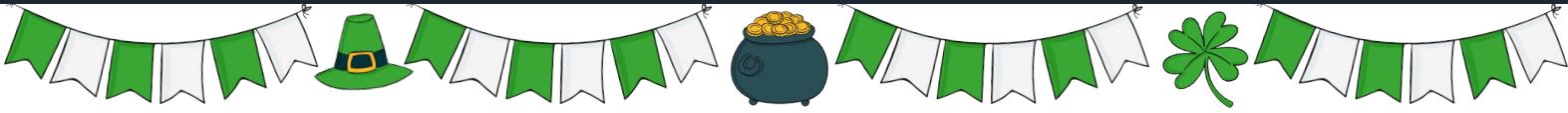
Hosts Carol Wilkins and Erica Rollins



Dinner and Bingo at Backwoods







## ***St. Patrick's Day in Dublin!***



*Allana Patterson jams with the Irish entertainment*



*Elvis is in the building!*



*David and Anna Brandon*



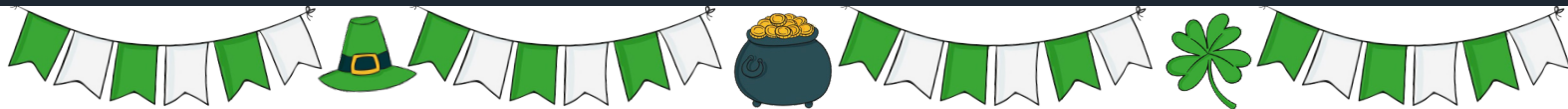
*Dan and Jennifer Dice,  
Deborah and Kevin Rogers,  
and Jennifer Olsem*



*David Brandon, Henry Wilkins,  
and Edward Wilson*







## *St. Patrick's Day in Dublin!*



*Bruce and Michelle Toney*



*Feelin' lucky at Lucky Vines Vineyard and Winery*



*One of the first Airstreams to arrive at the new addition to Moore RV Park*



*Jennifer Olsem, Dan Dice, and Deborah and Kevin Rogers*

Thank you to our hardworking hosts **Patrick and Nicole Scott, Erica and Jarrid Rollins, and Carol and Henry Wilkins.**

A special thank you goes out to **Anna Brandon, Jennifer Dice, Nicole Scott, and club photographer Edward Wilson** for the great photos.



# NTxAC Members' Winter Adventures

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

After enjoying Dunnellon and Naples, we woke early and headed East on 75 through Big Cypress National Preserve and near Miami before turning south and taking the Overseas Highway to Key West, Florida. During our drive, friends of our travel companion heard that we were caravanning down, made a sign and a plastic flamingo and acted like our very own welcoming committee when we hit Marathon Key. It was great fun and energized all of us during the last hour of the drive.

We spent 5 days boondocking at Sigsbee Naval Base, which was an excellent location, and the proximity to the downtown area of Key West allowed us to ride our bikes everywhere. During the week, I worked during the day and explored in the afternoon and early morning. We had Cuban coffee and Key Lime pie (sometimes covered in chocolate on a stick) with regularity, stopped by the Southernmost Point Buoy for sunrise, explored



Duval Street, and had drinks at the Green Parrot while listening to a live reggae band. We had the best Cuban sandwiches ever at a hole-in-the-wall named Sandy's Cafe which is attached to a laundromat, and drank craft beer at the southernmost brewery, which also happened to be the birthplace of Pan-American World Airways - First Flight Island Restaurant & Brewery.



We took it upon ourselves to conduct a Key Lime pie tasting. The hardest part of our tasting was the self-imposed rule that we were not allowed to make any comments, yummy noises, or faces until after all the pie was sampled, and only then could we compare notes. Kermit's was our clear favorite, even after we found out they now make it in Orlando due to high demand.

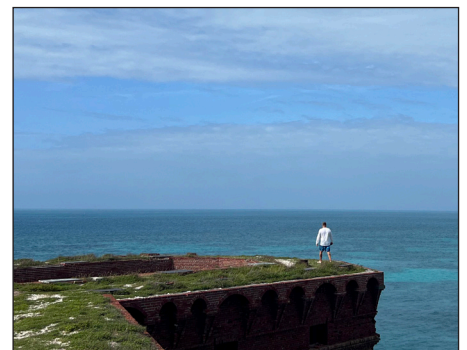
Perhaps my favorite excursion while in Key West was chartering a seaplane to take us over to Dry Tortugas National Park and historic Fort Jefferson. This



*Jen and Dan on the seaplane*

100-square mile park is almost 70 miles (113 km) west of Key West and 150 miles south of the mainland. It consists of mostly open water with seven small islands and is only accessible by boat or seaplane. It's so remote that visitors must provide their own food, water, and all supplies while there.

As one of the most remote parks in the National Park system, it isn't crowded and saw a mere 83,817 visitors in 2021. The name Dry Tortugas comes from two separate factors. There is no fresh water source on the keys within the park, causing early explorers to label the area "dry." Tortuga is the Spanish word for turtle, of which there are five kinds within the park.



# NTxAC Members' Winter Adventures

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



*Which one of these will explode first?*

The park is known for Fort Jefferson, the largest all-masonry fort in the U.S., which was built between 1846 - 1875 to protect the nation's gateway to the Gulf of Mexico.

It boasts picturesque blue waters, excellent coral reefs and marine life, and a vast assortment of bird life that frequents the area.

We spent part of our time there exploring the fort and the other part of our time snorkeling in the waters off the moat. Visiting this National Park has been the highlight of my year. Yes, I know it's only February, but I have a feeling that excursion will be hard to beat.

After our time was up in Key West we trekked back north and Dan dropped me off at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport and I flew to Dallas to be in the office for work. He headed to Lakeland, Florida and spent a week with the Florida Suncoast Airstream Unit at the Airstream Jamboree: Florida RV SuperShow Rally. From there he headed to Pensacola for a stay at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. I flew

into Pensacola on a Wednesday night and worked from the Airstream while listening to the waves crash on the shore and the Blue Angels practicing overhead.

At this location my favorite things to do were playing ball on the beach with Jade, and the time we spent exploring the Naval Museum, which is open to civilians and definitely rivals the Smithsonian's Udvar Hazy in Chantilly, Virginia.



*Jade and her ball at the beach*



*The Naval Museum*

After a couple of days, we hit the road again and this time stopped into the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama. We usually drive right by this and don't make the time, so I was excited



*The USS Drum*

to finally stop. The small museum with planes, automobiles, and history greeted us before we decided whether we wanted to explore the submarine, USS Drum, or the battleship. Since I'd never been on a submarine I was excited to explore the USS Drum first. It's amazing all they fit in such a cramped space!

Having been in the Navy on a ship, upon boarding the USS Alabama the smells of the ship brought me a sense of comfort and familiarity. As I navigated the passageways and stairs between the upper and lower decks, I marvelled that at one time I had no fear and would slide down the rails on my hands (at high speed) with my boots barely touching each stair! There are numerous planes, boats, and armored vehicles on the property to check out, and I could have easily spent several hours wandering around.



# NTxAC Members' Winter Adventures

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



USS Alabama

Next, we landed for a couple of days at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. It was here that I finally got to meet and celebrate Mardi Gras with a good friend Dan had served in the Navy with while in Portugal. We had dinner with new friends we met at Canopener who were in the area, and welcomed Jennifer Olsem back into the traveling fold.

At the last minute, we decided

to join her at the Streamin' on the Strand National Rally in Galveston, Texas instead of heading back to Hillsboro. Since we had not signed up for the rally, we stayed at an RV park and visited during the day. After a second weekend of fun celebrating Mardi Gras with other

Airstreaming friends, we finally drove home and wrapped up a full month of adventure on the road. For me, the ability to work and play while seeing this great country is the highlight of being an Airstreamer.



Dan in Key West



Jade's favorite tank



Jennifer and Jennifer Olsem at the Green Parrot



U.S. Navy Veterans and Airstreamers Dan and Jennifer Dice



# *Editor David's* **Airstream Club Primer**

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## **March 2024: Let's Take a Trip to Our Website!**

What? You haven't bookmarked our website yet? Well, just stop reading and take a moment to do it now—<https://airstreamclub.org/north-texas>. You'll need to follow along.

Done yet? Good, because I wasn't going to continue until you were.

Our website is on the public side of the Airstream Club's website. You don't need to login to get there. This is not only convenient for members, but it gives Airstream owners who aren't yet members a place to explore what the local clubs have to offer.

"The North Texas Airstream Club extends to you a hearty Texas welcome!" What an inviting way to greet people who visit our site. You can read on, but I think we all understand the joys of Airstream ownership and the advantages of North Texas. I'd say these opening paragraphs are mostly directed outside of our group.

Scroll down, now. See those photos from recent gatherings? Click "View All Photos" after the last one. See any of yourself? No? Well what are you waiting for? Get thee to a rally!

Where and when are the upcoming rallies, you ask? Right there! A little further down the page. Put in your dates or filter by events. Scroll the left sidebar to browse a list, then click any rally box for more details. There's even a map if you prefer to search by location.

What's next? Our club leadership. Scroll through their photos. Get to know them at rallies. These are the people who ensure we all have events to enjoy. Thank them when you get a chance. You'll see in a minute how to find their contact info.

Down the rest of the page is a map of our locality and a contact box for Tom Jensen, our Membership Chair, followed by the informational footers, including links to our social media.

But wait, there's more! Head back to the top of the page and notice the navigation menu on the right. From here you can get to the full list of our club leaders (and their emails, as promised), minutes to club meetings dating back to 2021 (for those who like to know how the sausage is made), and finally—saving the best for last (no bias here!)—the newsletter archive. After you read about what we've been up to, you can get back to the home page by clicking the first entry of the navigation menu.

Hope you enjoyed your tour. You can explore other local club and intra-club sites too. In the far, upper right of any page, click the drop-down menu icon (3 horizontal bars), then the down-arrow next to Clubs. Finally, select the area you're interested in.

Until next month, 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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### ***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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