



The Alamo Bugle

Texas Alamo Unit



VOLUME 46, ISSUE 5
RICH ESPINOSA - PRESIDENT

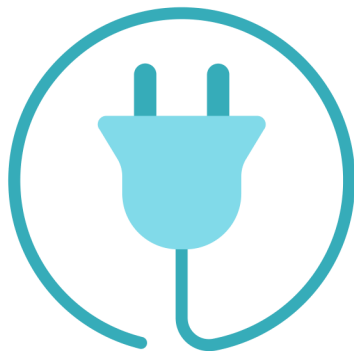
MAY 2024
MUFFIN CAMP - EDITOR



Presidential Ponderings May 2024

Inspired from a past "tech talk"

I'm not Electrician, but I do a lot of research online. My first international Airstream rally in Lebanon, Tennessee there was a session with Mike Sokol from RV Electricity. Mike writes a daily blog answering questions of issues on RV electricity and gives answers to electricity questions. This past weekend during our rally a member backed into a site which only had a 50 amp plug. Their rig used a 30 amp line for power. They were fortunate to have a dogbone.



Mike writes on his blog that as long as the campground pedals are wired properly any 30 to 50 amp or 50 to 30 amp dogbone adapter should be safe from catching fire. Mike also writes that there are a few adapters that may not totally be compliant in all states but believes are safe if use properly. Mike also recommends two types of adapters that he feels comfortable with and recommends. (Camco and Southwire brands.) Mike also writes that because nearly every adapter failure he has seen are from those super inexpensive puck adapters that were not likely assembled correctly to begin with.



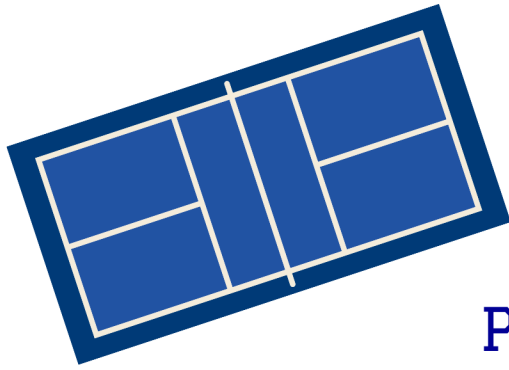
Rich

President Rich Espinosa

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PICKLEBALL AT THE RALLY!

My wife says I am addicted to Pickleball and she is right. I am not alone. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country. It was developed by a family in 1965 in Bainbridge Island, WA, and named after the family dog.

Pickleball is easy to learn, but difficult to master. If you've played any paddle sport, you will be good on day one. If you haven't played, it's easy to catch on! The court is 1/4 the size of a tennis court. In Boerne, we play on 8 courts, every day except Sunday, from 7:30AM until about 11:30 AM. It is called Open Play and anyone can join in. You can find open play and join in at almost any Pickleball court wherever you travel.

I am thrilled to be asked to have an Intro to Pickleball at our Rockport Rally. I will bring the pickleballs and rackets for enough people to play on 2 courts. If you have court shoes, bring those, if not, tennis shoes will suffice until you become addicted. If you already have your equipment, bring it and help me out!

The basic rules of Pickleball are:

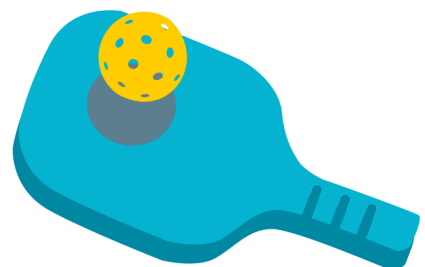
1. First team to 11 points wins
2. Must win by 2 points
2. Must be serving to score a point

If you think you are back in your Swedish teen days, eventually you will get hurt. Play sensibly. Nobody in the park is playing for money. I will tolerate 50% effort.

Looking forward to meeting you all out there on the court.

Let's Play Pickleball!!!

Tom St. Pierre



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. 81 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

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

April 19-21, 2024 Patriot RV Park
5784 US 90 ALT East Gonzales, TX 78629
(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 *Please note that our May rally location has changed to Majestic Oaks RV Park*
1298 TX-188, Rockport, TX 78382
Please call 361-727-0034 to make reservations and tell them you're with TAU.

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:

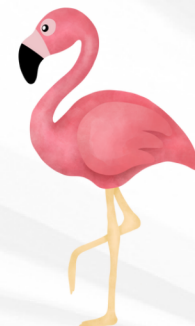
4 pm Social Hour
5 pm Opening Ceremonies
6 pm Dinner

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





MAY

Birthdays:
10 Geno Dunn

MAY

Anniversary:
19 Susan and Les Postlewait

Have we missed
your birthday or
anniversary? email:
muffincamp@gmail.
com with your
information

May Rally Meals

Thursday: early arrivals - dinner out

Friday: Social hour and Dinner at Betty
and Gino Dunn's home
107 N 4th St; Fulton, TX 78358

Saturday: Breakfast - RV Park
Outing - explore market days in Rockport
Play pickleball!
Social hour and dinner at Johnda and
Jason Pugh's home
4 Primrose Dr. Rockport, TX 78382

Sunday: Breakfast - RV Park



4th Annual Pizza Party at the
Espinosas!
May 11th 2:00pm
31372 Longhorn Trail
Bulverde, 78163

Rich and Diane would like a head
count so please RSVP today!
(202) 327-4562



In honor of Robert
Tillman and to
remember his
loving kindness, we
are gathering April
27th at 2:00pm at
the New Berlin
Community
Center.

If you would like to send
Denise a note of encouragement
her address is:
Denise Tillman
PO Box 562
LaVernia, TX 78121

Meet Bob and Gracie Waggener!

Why did you decide to buy an airstream? What drew you to them?

After years of backpacking and tent camping, we decided it was time to move up to an RV. We made the trip to Buda to “just look”, and bought our airstream that day.

It was 2018, so there were lots of options to explore, but choosing an airstream over a SOB was the easy part. We liked the sleekness and grace of the airstream, and it is pure Americana!

What kind of Airstream do you have?

We have a 27 ft Tommy Bahama edition.

What is your Airstream’s name?

Our airstream is named The Salty Mermaid!

What have been your favorite spots that you’ve traveled to in the Airstream?

Our favorite trip had to be to Yellowstone National Park. It’s a long way from Texas, but worth the visit! The geology, trees, flora and fauna are incredible! We saw eagles, bison, lots of birds and flowers. Of course, all the “must-see” geysers too. We also like to go to Chama NM, where we can camp right on the river. Since we have a hatch, it can be up there to catch the cool breeze—in August, and listen to the river even inside the RV. And the open hatch is the perfect place to hang the hummingbird feeder.



The Salty Mermaid

What do you have planned in the future?

We will be going back to Chama again this summer, and staying longer this time.

Have you done any boondocking?

No! See answer #1

What's your favorite thing about Airstreaming?

Going to new places, and we always meet new people where ever we are camping. Some have Airstreams, and some are just curious about Airstreams.

Do you work and or have hobbies?

Bob still has some contacts in the oil business, and does some consulting work from time to time. He likes to flyfish, so is always looking for new fishing spots or buddies.

Gracie is a retired Convention Florist. She does lots of time as a volunteer for the Texas Master Naturalist program, Riverside Nature Center in Kerrville, and Fredericksburg Nature Center, along with monitoring milkweeds at the Kerr WMA, and educating adults and kids about Monarch butterflies. Coming up next will be all of the butterfly counts for parks and on private ranches.

Tell us a little bit about your family, including fur-babies.

Bob and Gracie have 3 sons, 1 daughter and 3 grandkids. The current fur-baby is Ava, our cat who loves to go camping with us. If you have not met her yet, hopefully you will at a rally soon.



Bob and Gracie Waggener



Ava, the glamping cat

Part 2 of Luke and Barbara's Around the World Tour

It has been nearly two months since I gave you a taste of what Barbara and I were up to on our around-the-world adventure. Since that report, we have visited New Zealand (7 ports), Australia (6 ports), Indonesia (3 ports), Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan, The Philippines, Japan (7 ports), S. Korea, and China (2 ports). Days at sea are also as action-packed or as leisurely as you desire.

Just to give you an idea of the offerings, beginning shortly after breakfast you can participate in putting (putt-putt) competition (a little tougher when the ship is rolling), needlepoint (mostly chatting as I gather), Bridge lessons (beginners thru advanced).

There are "enrichment lectures" on everything from history to geography, to "The Sex Life of Sponges", art lessons of all types, Mah Jongg, table tennis tournaments, and organized singing. (Our "Sing Out Loud" group put on a successful concert just before we arrived in Auckland). There is also bingo, shuffleboard, and competitive trivia in several venues. (This was literally a small cross-section of activities.). Wine, gin, whiskey, liquor (and other types of libations) tasting are common. Entertainers from magicians to comedians to singers to string quartets, etc., etc. are scheduled throughout the cruise.



At most ports of call, we arrive early in the morning. Barbara and I booked more than 50 shore excursions through Oceania long before the cruise began. Many people also book independent commercial tours. And, of course, there's always the option of just getting off the ship and exploring on your own. (We've done all of those).

If you're on your own, just make sure you have a ride back to the ship. Barbara and I literally had to hitchhike back after our cab driver failed to pick us up from the Auckland Aquarium as promised. All turned out well, however, as every "Kiwi" (New Zealander) we encountered was wonderful.



Continued, Page 2

On a cruise such as this, an essential trait is flexibility. Even before the cruise left port, itinerary changes had to be made due to international conditions. For example, we had to bypass Myanmar because of political turmoil there. Instead, a couple of stops were scheduled for Sri Lanka. (Barbara and I were happy because we had toured Myanmar, but had never been to Sri Lanka.) Then, of course, the Hamas/Israel situation necessitated having to bypass Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. For me that was particularly disappointing, but new ports of call were scheduled for the eastern Mediterranean and Adriatic (bummer, since we had previously visited all of them).

Then, along came the Houthis who decided to attack western shipping in the Red Sea resulting in the second MAJOR itinerary change. From Dubai, we are now going to bypass the Red Sea and Mediterranean ports entirely and cruise around Africa with all new ports. This, of course, caused major consternation on the part of many folks who really wanted to visit the Mediterranean, but once again, the changes meant new adventures (and opportunities to visit places where we had never been) for my bride and me. We are happy campers (or cruisers, as it were).

The diversity of experiences beyond my own wildest imagination has made our ATW cruise the trip of a lifetime. Where can one get up-close and personal with "salties", giant five meter long salt water crocodiles, as we did in the Adelaide River near Darwin, Australia, then make it back to the ship in time to enjoy "High Tea" while being serenaded by a lovely string quartet? Then, there was trek through the jungle on Komodo Island, Indonesia in search of one of their fearsome giant dragons in the morning then come back and relax in the afternoon.

We do not know what is completely in store for us for the remaining 100 days of our cruise, but Barbara are eagerly looking forward to the adventure.





The TAU Total Solar Eclipse Party occurred near Evant, Texas the week of April 8th. The Esparzas, McConnells, Rogers and Youngs arrived on Saturday, April 6th, well before the predicted traffic jams along the eclipse path. We stayed at Buena Vista Wildlife Safari and RV Park. The Dells and Willis' arrived on Friday - the overachievers!

There were a few pre-eclipse activities to enjoy on Saturday and Sunday. Joi found out about a special planetarium event at Tarleton State University with another Airstream club. Joi, Roseann and Ben, Samuel and I enjoyed the road trip to Stephenville and the planetarium show, afterwards we had an impromptu tour of the cemetery in Stephenville which was decorated with Confederate flags. (I still haven't figured out if they place the Confederate flags year around or if there was something significant about that weekend or month), along with a pitstop at Wiseman House Chocolates in Hico.

Saturday was a Tex-Mex themed potluck dinner and as usual, we had PLENTY of food! The weather was good at the park and everyone could enjoy the animals at the safari or the petting zoo.

Sunday was a little more relaxed...as we planned a grilling potluck at the 4T ranch for the late afternoon. As usual, Joi and George were gracious hosts! Finally, the morning of the eclipse arrived....some planned on viewing from the park, others from the 4T Ranch. Although it was cloudy, it sure seemed like the clouds rolled away perfectly in time with the moon's grand dance with the sun. It was an amazing event, and so fun to spend with friends!

AnnMarie Esparza

