

THE ROADRUNNER



A Publication of the Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club #172 of the Airstream Club International (WBCCI)

<https://airstreamclub.org/texas-highland-lakes>

'President's Message— June 2024

April was a very busy month for THLAC.

The month was kicked off by an unusual, and not to be repeated soon, Eclipse Rally at Hamilton, TX. There were many moving parts to this rally and a few hiccups to deal with but all was carried off in an awesome way by lead hosts Colin Melton and Mike Lovell. Many others helped as well. In the end the clouds disappeared at the last moment and we saw the entire eclipse through our approved glasses from start to finish. BTW, don't take my word for it, check out the YouTube video by searching for "Airstream Club International 2024 Solar Eclipse Rallies". Our part starts about the 5:30 point.

We had a good turn out at the Railroad Rally (many thanks to the Steeds, the Balls and others) and it was a great time despite less than ideal weather. Who knew trains have trouble going up hills when it is raining? Well now, we all do! Several of us then traveled to El Dorado, AR for a MASH themed Airstreams on the Square event the following week. After a one day turn around (Elaine says never again) eighteen THLAC rigs attended the Region 9 Rally in Bandera. Our folks were helpful volunteering to help host the rally on Friday, Gayle Steed created a beautiful basket with support (financial and otherwise) from our attending members that helped raise about \$2500 for a veteran's charity. A highlight was a THLAC member only breakfast attended by guests ACI President Eric McHenry and LaVerne. It was a great chance for all of us to get to know them personally.

May will be less busy but don't forget the final spring rally "The Best of Belton and Salado".

As I said in my remarks at the Region 9 business meeting we have a great club known for a high level of activity throughout the year. We are lucky to have such great members that give their time to administer the club as officers and to host rallies. We support charities and local businesses wherever we visit, and nationally as well. So congratulations on being a member of one of the best Airstream Clubs, and the largest club in Region 9.

Don't forget to have fun and see you down the road.

Bill Saulnier
President THLAC



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Executive Board:

President: Bill Saulnier
1st VP: Allen Faulk
2nd VP: Jim Dudley
Corr. Secretary: Keith Ferry
Rec. Secretary: Linda Glassman
Treasurer: Bruce Nutt
Past President: Frank Steed
Webmaster: Debbie Trimble
Trustees: Betty Richards
 Harvey Craig
 Jonathan Crenwelge
 Ginger Zeringue

Standing/Special Committee Chairs:

Caravan: Rick Trimble
Chaplain: Cinda Brooks
Constitution/Bylaws: Harvey Craig
Directory: Mike Lovell
Marketing: Peter Sajovich
Membership: Peter Sajovich
Newsletter: Keith Ferry
Sunshine: Cindy Berdan

For Security Purposes The Roadrunner does not publish contact information. Please refer to your Membership Directory.

2024

May 30-June 2 Best of Belton & Salado Belton, TX
 Aug 28-Sept 16 Upper Peninsula Caravan
 Oct 5-12 67th International Rally Sedalia, MO
 Nov. 14-17 Installation Rally Fredericksburg, TX
 Dec. 5-8 Margaritaville RV Resort Beach, TX

2025

Feb. 13-16 The Range RV Resort, Ennis, TX
 March 13-16 The Canopy RV Resort New Braunfels, T
 September The Vineyards Campground Grapevine, TX
 Oct. 2-5 Palo Duro Canyon State Park
 Nov. 13-16 North Texas Airstream Community Hillsboro, TX

The Roadrunner is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December for the Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club #172 of the Airstream Club International (WBCCI). Members are invited to submit articles about their Airstream travels, maintenance tips, family news and prayer concerns to : ferry_keith@hotmail.com.

Check us out:

If you own an Airstream and are curious about what being a member of the Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club and the Airstream Club International (WBCCI) would be like, visit us at <https://airstreamclub.org/texas-highland-lakes>. Listed are events offered by our club. You are welcome to attend one of our events provided there is space available. You would be responsible for any fees covering your camping site, event activities and/or meals. We look forward to welcoming you as a prospective member of our club.

Texas Highland Lakes President, Bill Saulnier

“Growing up in Vermont”



The entire length of Vermont is less than the distance from Austin to NTAC.

In the south, it is only about 40 miles wide. It is the only New England state that does not touch the ocean. My younger years were spent in Brattleboro in the Southeast corner of the state (population 12,000 in 2010). The downtown area is comprised of mostly old brick buildings built in the late 19th century. It is located on the very large Connecticut River where it is joined by the West River and the Whetstone Brook, a river by Texas standards.

Going away to the University of Vermont was a relatively short trip even though it is in the opposite corner of the state on Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain is the largest natural lake in the country outside of the great lakes. I spent one summer living with friends in a lake cottage where I learned to sail and slalom ski. The water skiing season is short in northern Vermont. I remember filling a beer cooler with ice from the lake at a graduation party in May.

Growing up, I learned to skate, ski, hike, camp, swim and generally spend a lot of time outdoors, which I still enjoy. I attended public schools and my graduating class had 233 folks – not counting several of my friends who failed to achieve that milestone. Vermont has a very cold climate compared to Texas, with winter lasting from October to May. Back in the 50's and 60's, anyone who could would go to Florida in the winter. Brattleboro is in the snow belt, so, while it is not as cold as Stowe or Burlington in the north, it often has more snowfall. My friends and I enjoyed pulling “flatlanders” out of the snow banks during ski season. If the thermometer hit 90 on a hot summer day, you could count on a state emergency being declared. No place I ever lived up there had air-conditioning, and neither did the classrooms. Vermont has the usual northern seasons except most of spring is known as “mud season.” Travel on any of Vermont's many dirt roads at that time of year and you will be educated. Don't even think about taking your Airstream!

Vermont was a great place to grow up, but like many folks from there, I left when it was time to earn a living. I returned to Vermont frequently over the years, but less so now. I think of Vermont much like a National Park, because it has little commerce and manages to remain relatively natural and beautiful. I suggest a visit. I think you might enjoy it!

I am now a proud Texan and got here as soon as I could! Enjoy these special items from my two favorite states.



TEXAS SIX SHOOTER CARAVAN



36 New Texas Six Shooters and Honorary Texans!

The inaugural Texas Six Shooter National Caravan finished unexpectedly in Hillsboro TX on 8 May of this year. Unexpectedly because we planned to finish in Grapevine TX, but due to a week of storms and rain the Grapevine campground was underwater. Luckily, the North Texas Airstream Community (NTAC) came to our rescue providing space on their terraport for five extra nights, use of their rally room, and miles of Airstream hospitality. We can't thank them enough! We had a great time with the NTAC folks and stayed close enough to Fort Worth to ride the Long Horns, tour the Stockyards and lunch at a great Texas steakhouse. To become an honorary Texan each caravanner had to complete ten items from a list of requirements. To highlight a few, we all saw a black bear in Alpine, the west Texas town where the caravan started, little tough keeping the bear still for all the pictures. In Big Bend many folks met Mayor Henry Clay, some even fed the mayor and his bearded companion. Several classic examples of Texas tall tales were provided on a wet, cold, day in Seminole Canyon from our Cowboy Poet Lee Haille. On to San Antonio where much TexMex and chili were consumed during Fiesta, the biggest party of the year in South Texas. Good music and great wine met us in Fredericksburg before heading to what turned out to be our last stop - NTAC. Wildflowers carpeted the hill country and beyond with purple, gold, blue and pink fields framing the winding back roads between stops. An incredible group of caravanners made this one easy, interesting, and quite a bit of fun – can't wait for next year! So saddle up and get those Silver Wagons ready to hit the trail...it's going to be a great ride! Welcome to TEXAS Y'ALL!



Six Shooters at the Alamo, San Antonio



Caravanning through an immigration check-point



The ladies braiding their Texas Six Shooter t-shirts



The men at Fort Worth Stock Yards



Membership



Howdy Airstreamers:

I'm Frank Steed, your immediate Past President and newly appointed Membership Chair. I am honored and challenged to follow in Peter Sajovich's footsteps. Just four or five years ago Peter took on the dual jobs of Membership and Marketing and set a goal of doubling the size of our Club. We had been shrinking thru attrition and Peter was determined to turn that around. As most of you know, with the hard work of Peter and Carol and many volunteers his goal was not only met, but the Club has actually tripled in size. The Newbie Workshops that Peter and Carol created have exposed hundreds of new Airstream owners to our Club experiences and the learning and safety tips they received have made their Airstream dreams come true.

Our Rallies and Caravans give all members and our many affiliates wonderful experiences and have created lifelong friendships. If you regularly watch our Facebook and Instagram pages and follow our Web page you'll have seen these memories chronicled. If you don't already, please use our FriendsOfTexasHighlandLakes Facebook page to post photos and stories of your own adventures.

We are thrilled that Peter will continue these Workshops and other Marketing duties. My goal is to assist by retaining existing Club members, welcoming new members and exposing At Large Members to the fun and adventures of the Texas Highland Lakes. I look forward to seeing you down the road soon.

Frank Steed
Membership Chair
Sent from my iPhone



THLAC BANNER

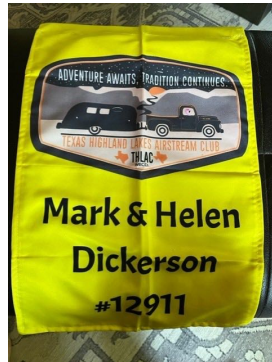
Welcome new and current members. If you don't already have a favorite banner to identify your rig, please contact Colin Melton (Colin.digthis@yahoo.com) to order your own customized THLAC banner.

You can add your name, BRN and/or other. Help us promote our Club wherever you camp.

The 2 sided banner is screen printed - 12''w x19''L. Fabric and print are uv grad (won't fade). All banners are the THLAC yellow. Cost is \$20.

Colin prefers to hand deliver each banner at a rally to save mailing cost. Add postage if you want your banner mailed.

TEXAS HIGHLAND LAKES AIRSTREAM CLUB



PERSONALIZED BANNERS

Name(s) to be placed on banner: _____

BRN# _____ **#of Banners** _____

Cost: \$20 payable to Colin Melton (plus postage if shipped)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Check one: **Deliver at Rally** **Ship**

Return form to:

Colin Melton 620 Rice Street Hamilton, TX 76531

Colin.digthis@yahoo.com

THLAC News

I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Frank Steed to the position of Membership Chairman for THLAC. We all know Frank well and know of the great contributions he has already made to THLAC as President and in other roles. This change is effective immediately and is enabled by the modification of the club bylaws voted in at the last executive board meeting.

I want to thank Peter Sajovich for the fine job he has done as Membership Chairman over several years while simultaneously serving as Marketing Chairman. The club has grown dramatically in recent years in no small part due to his efforts in these two roles. Peter has understandably expressed a desire to step down as Membership Chair while retaining his role as the marketing lead.

Please join me in supporting Frank and Peter in their important roles.

Bill Saulnier, President THLAC

Region 9 News

**REGISTER NOW
FOR
REGION 9
BREAKFAST**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:

[Region 9 Breakfast at 2024 Intl Rally | ACI \(airstreamclub.org\)](https://www.airstreamclub.org/region-9-breakfast-at-2024-intl-rally)



Region 9 Breakfast

Monday - October 7th - 8 am

MEC2 Building

[Jotform](#) Registration Open Soon



Second Annual Wally's Workshop

Friday, September 13-Sunday, September 15

200 Walnut Hill Avenue #1
Hillsboro, TX 76645

<https://form.jotform.com/241288307812053>

Whether you are headed to the International Rally at Sedalia or not, this is the perfect opportunity to both learn and service your Airstream trailer. Featured guests are The Royal Flush (tank maintenance and cleaning), Cross Country RV Solutions (Micro-Air Easy Start Certified RV Tech), DFW RV Rescue (Washing, Waxing), and Airstream Tech Jerry Vanloon. We will also have a few experts from our Region, Bill Poteet of the Oklahoma Airstream Club (Solar power), John Green (safety checks), Channing Fell (ProPride and other hitches), and Chris Hanus (tires) from the North Texas Airstream Club, and Andy Dunkinson from the Heart of Texas Camping Unit (hitch weights). You will make appointments for the services in which you have interest directly with the service provider and the work is done on site Friday, Saturday, or Sunday (you will receive an estimate of cost in advance). If you decide to take advantage of a service (or services) without an appointment, this will depend upon the tech's availability.

Preliminary Agenda:

Friday, September 13th

7:00 PM Sue Rasmussen of The Royal Flush will talk dirty (Grey/Black Tanks)

Saturday, September 14th

8:00 AM Andy and Channing are the perfect couple to describe hitches, importance of knowing your accurate hitch weight, tire pressure, brakes, and relationships between these systems.

10:00 AM Tim Love with Cross Country RV Solutions will shoot the breeze about your air conditioning system, what the EasyStart is, and whether you need one.

12:00 PM John Green will help you decide if you can mark yourself safe.

2:00 PM Bill Poteet will enlighten you on solar, AC, and DC Power.

7:00 PM Panel of Experts will dispense wisdom as you ask questions we failed to answer during the day.

Estimated Costs:

Full Hook-Ups, \$35 nightly, Food \$50 per person (Breakfast Saturday and Sunday, lunch Saturday, Dinners Friday and Saturday)

NEW MEMBER PAGE

Welcome New Members

Robert & Starla Jones
2019 Globetrotter 27'
Houston, TX

Caitlin & Ken Koontz
2022 Flying Cloud 27'
North Little Rock, Ark

Patricia Wise & Julie
Karam
2023 Basecamp 15'
Pflugerville, TX

Justin Krawaitz
2024 Classic 30'
Austin, TX

Glenn & Joni White
2022 Flying Cloud 25'
Silverdale, WA

Edward & Becky Whittle
2020 Globetrotter 27'
Temple, TX

Randy & Dawn Truesdell
2000 Landyacht 36'
Hillsboro, TX

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP

Many Texas State Parks contain aged, rustic rock and timber buildings. Have you ever wondered about them? Some are used as visitor centers, group shelters or cabins. Chances are that those structures were built by young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s and early 1940s.

The CCC developed 56 state, national and local parks in Texas during the Great Depression between 1933 and 1942. Twenty-nine of these are still in the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

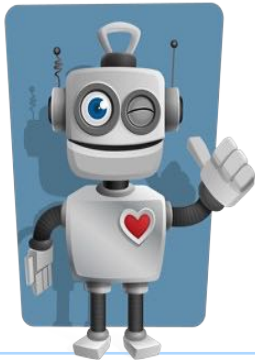
In just nine years the young men employed by the CCC made a great impact in the national, state and local parks throughout the United States. CCC enrollees built lodges, cabins, picnic pavilions, refectories, concession buildings, support buildings, footbridges and restrooms, usually from native rock and timber. They also constructed swimming pools, strung telephone lines, planted thousands of trees, developed hiking and equestrian trails, installed guardrails, built dams to impound lakes, and constructed culverts to provide drainage. They were all similar, yet unique to each site. The large limestone foundations of Central Texas gave way to adobe flair in the west, Spanish mission influence in the south, and piney log cabins in the east.

The Great Depression brought the unemployment rate up to 25%. In addition, and a nine year drought brought on the Dust Bowl in the Midwest and Southern Plains devastating agriculture. Many Americans were desperate for a solution. President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed the Civilian Conservation Corps as a massive plan to put millions of young men to work in the conservation of America's natural resources

The CCC employed young single men from ages 18 to 25 on outdoor conservation projects. They had to be physically fit and come from families that were on relief and to whom they were willing to send most of their pay. Each man earned \$30 per month, of which \$25 went directly to his family (the average CCC enrollee came from a family of eight).

By 1933, the Texas State Parks Board had acquired or been gifted land for parks but had no funds to develop and maintain a park system. Texas seized the opportunity to create state parks using CCC labor and federal relief funds. The first four CCC park camps in Texas were at the Davis Mountains, Caddo Lake, Blanco and Mineral Wells. Texas Canyons State Park was developed along the Rio Grande. It later became Big Bend State Park which was developed by a CCC camp. It became Big Bend National Park in 1944.

If you're interested in visiting these 29 parks, visit the [interactive site here](#) for more info on the history of each park and more!



Dear Rivet, My dog, Killer, loves to travel. Any advice about campgrounds?

I've found that regulations regarding pets varies from campground to campground. While on a caravan, a fellow traveler experienced a campground which did not allow large breed dogs such as German Shepherds or Doberman Pinschers. The Airstream caravanner was miles from home with no option except to board their dog — which was unacceptable. Some campgrounds charge a daily pet fee per pet. Others limit the number of pets allowed. It is a good idea to check the pet policy for each campground you will visit. You may also view their website to see if there is a designated pet area for Killer to exercise and socialize.

PARTY LINE and PRAYERS/CONCERNS

Gayle & Frank Steed

We left home in mid-April headed for the Texas Railroad Rally in Rusk. The KOA was great and provided meals and entertainment. Besides riding the train, we toured the Heritage Center of Cherokee County Museum which had more history in one place than you can imagine. We also enjoyed popcorn while watching the movie “Murder on the Orient Express”.

Next, we headed to El Dorado, Arkansas for the 7th Annual Airstreams on the Square Rally put on by the Arkansas Razorbacks Airstream Club. The theme this year was “Mash.” Those folks really know how to put on a great Rally! We met up with fellow Club members: Bill & Elaine Saulnier, Pam & Allen Faulk, and Ruth & Chris Heavener.



PARTY LINE *and* PRAYERS/CONCERNS

Gayle & Frank Steed

After that, it was time to head back to Texas for the Region 9 Rally in Bandera. All clubs were asked to donate a basket from their President's home state to raise money for the "Team: Red White & Blue" Organization. Our President Bill Saulnier is from Vermont and our basket was filled with Vermont products and a special one of a kind tea towel made by our club member, Ophelia Izquierdo. The fundraiser was a great success as was the entire Rally. Everyone had a great time with lots of things to do and old friends to meet up with.

Our adventure was not over. After six years of being on the road, we had our very first, and hopefully, last monster blowout on a lone desolate highway with no cell service between St. John's and Flagstaff, Arizona. As we stood on the side of the road scratching our heads about what to do next, a couple stopped to help us. They seemed to have done this dozens of times and had all the apparatus required. In what seemed like no time, we were back on the road headed to the next town to buy new tires. One thing we learned besides buying new tires sooner, is how to remove the spare tire from under the trailer which I must say, is a good thing to know. And, after a blowout you should expect serious damage to the wheel well and undercarriage of the trailer. It's a good thing to keep Duct Tape on hand.



More fun began when we stopped for a few days in Flagstaff where the temperature was sweater weather. As luck would have it, our neighbors at NTAC, Dan & Jen Dice happened to be staying in the area and we met them at "Mother Load Brewery" for a few beers. The next day they departed for California and we headed to Scottsdale, Arizona to see our youngest granddaughter graduate from High School.

After that, we are heading to Dewey, Arizona to have dinner with Airstream friends, Jan & Richard Girard. Then, home for the summer to get the Airstream repaired and get a few things done before we head out for the Upper Peninsula Texas Club Caravan in August, and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in October.

Safe travels everyone and we look forward to seeing you down the road.

Frank & Gayle Steed BRN # 9979

PARTY LINE *and* PRAYERS/CONCERNS

Debbie & Rick Trimble

Rick's mom, Lucille Elizabeth Holt Trimble, passed on April 14, 2024. Lucille lived in her home in Plano, Texas, until 103, cherishing her tenacious independence. Her suddenly deteriorating health made it necessary to move her to a small group home in Carrollton, Texas, where she passed peacefully in prayer, embraced and surrounded by her family. Her greatest desire was to remain in her home, which she was fortunate to do until the last four months of her life. Staying home as long as she did was possible because of the caring people who loved and looked after her. Her memorial service will be on June 15, 2024.

Our Brother-in-law, Frederick James Moss III (Jim) was born in Dallas, Texas, on November 7, 1951. He bravely and quietly lived with multiple health problems and died suddenly on April 13, 2024, on his wife's birthday—a shocking loss. He was a talented, professional photographer.

Things are going smoothly. As many of you have experienced, clearing Lucille's house was a big task. We had the help of our friends and her church to get it done. It looks like Lucille's next-door neighbor will buy her house so their mother can live nearby.

We went to NTAC in late May for the "interview." We hope to become owners of a grass lot near the Nutts, Row B.

We plan to spend some time in the Valley since we last got there in February. Finishing things for our MI/UP in late August is going smoothly. We have had only one cancellation, and the spot was quickly filled.

It has been nice to be home to see all my flowers blooming. I wanted to share some pictures.



PARTY LINE *and* PRAYERS/CONCERNS

Debbie & Rick Trimble



Colin Melton & Mike Lovell

Hamilton Herald newspaper/4-18-24



Totality in Texas- More than 40 Taiwanese citizens flew into Austin Airport last Friday and travelled to Killeen to view the eclipse April 8. Cloud cover in Killeen brought them to Hamilton Pecan Creek Park, where they joined many others with high-power cameras and telescopes for a clear view of the once-in-a-lifetime event. The Bradshaw family from "all over" met in Hamilton for a family reunion to view the eclipse. Above left, an Airstream club filled Fair Park for an eclipse rally organized by Colin Melton.

Region 9 Rally

Photos by Gayle Steed



Texas State Railroad Rally



Photos by Gayle Steed





Flamingo Flip

Thanks to a great suggestion from Jamie Eng, # 13135, we have a new page for our newsletter, Flamingo Flip. This is space for you to list items you have for sale or swap. Submit information and photos to Keith Ferry at ferry_keith@hotmail.com.

For Rent - Trailer shed to accommodate up to a 30' Airstream Trailer or a boat. Fully Covered with sewer dump and 30 AMP service. Located at 16731 Rocky Ridge Rd., Austin, Texas 78734 in the Hudson Bend area which is behind Mansfield Dam. Rent is \$100.00 per month. Call Myron Fischer 512-784-0635