



The Alamo Bugle

Texas Alamo Unit



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RICH ESPINOSA - PRESIDENT

JUNE 2024
MUFFIN CAMP - EDITOR



Presidential Ponderings June 2024

The 2024 Region 9 Rally was held in Bandera, Texas at Skyline Ranch RV park from May 1st to the 5th. One hundred thirty-six rigs were in attendance. The rally has grown significantly since we attended two years ago. TAU was well represented by Barbara and Eldon Sheffer, Bob and Gracie Waggener, Betty and Geno Dunn and Rich and Diane Espinosa. In addition, there were two very special attendees, the President of WBCCI, Eric McHenry and his lovely wife LaVerne.

Events included lectures about solar and Airstream maintenance along with fun activities like cooking biscuits on a stick over an open fire and a cowboy roping demonstration.

The highlight of the rally was a Texas swing band on Saturday night. They had a phenomenal twenty-one year old fiddle player who had already won a spot on the Grand Ole Opry. Boy could he play!

I am sad, however, to report that TAU did not win the chili cook-off this year. There were twenty-five entries including several green chili varieties. It was a really tough competition with all those choices. I'm not sure how the judges were able to come to a decision with that many chilis to sample. Oh well, we'll just have to try again next year. 😊

Rich



President Rich Espinosa

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Betty auctioned one of her Flamingos at the Region 9 Rally for \$200.00!



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

April 19-21, 2024 Patriot RV Park
5784 US 90 ALT East Gonzales, TX 78629
(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 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.

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:

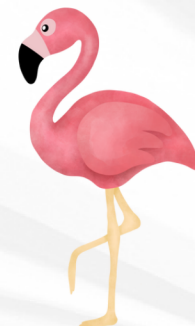
4 pm Social Hour
5 pm Opening Ceremonies
6 pm Dinner

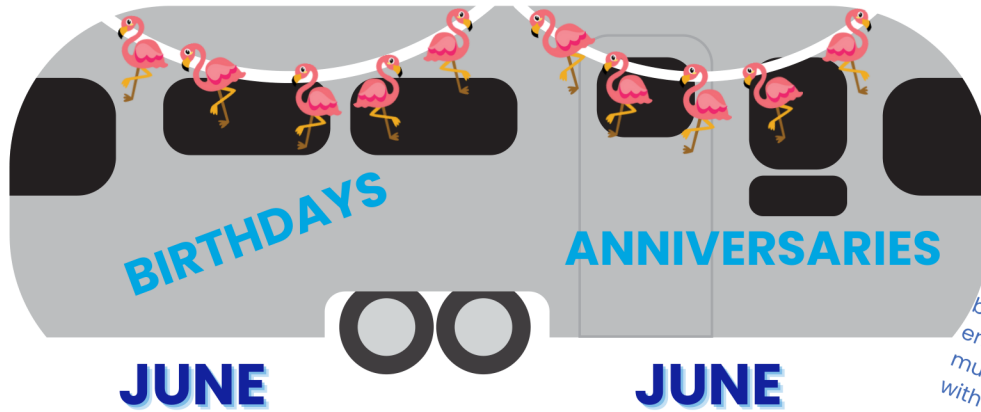
Saturday

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





JUNE

Birthdays:
21 Blanche Royall
27 David Flores

JUNE

Anniversary:
10 Ben & Roseann Young
20 Eldon & Barbara Sheffer

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

From President Rich: An email will go out to every member to vote on this change. Two-thirds of the membership must vote and approve the change in order for the amendment to pass.

Please note that this will only impact the International Board, not the Region or the Individual Units.

Upcoming Vote:

On Feb. 22, 2024, the Wally Byam Caravan Club International Board of Trustees (IBT) moved, and approved, that the IBT propose amending its Constitution to change the title of Treasurer to Finance Director and to change the process of how the Finance Director is seated.

Per WBCCI Policy 18.1.1, Timeline and Method for Handling Proposed Amendments to the International Constitution, subsection C, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBL) has created a report regarding the proposed amendment.

This report indicates to the membership that an all-membership vote will occur on, or about, June 20, 2024.

This election by the membership will be the first Constitutional Amendment considered under the new rules that eliminated the delegates meeting in 2022.

Information taken from this blog post:
<https://blog.airstreamclub.org/your-vote-matters-proposed-wbccci-constitutional-amendment/>

Meet the Espinosas

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

We didn't make a conscious decision to buy an Airstream. I love to restore old cars and have a 1959 Chevrolet Apache truck that I bought and restored after Diane and I moved to Texas. I originally purchased it from a man in Del Rio. I was back in del Rio working so I stopped by the man's house to show him what I had done with the truck. During that visit, he asked me about my next project. I told that I would like to restore a camper and he said he had one. He explained that it was built by some guys that used to work for Airstream.

I went back to my hotel. researched it and learned it was an Airstream. I made him an offer, which he initially refused. He called me back later and accepted because he said his wife said that he had to get rid of it.

What kind of Airstream do you have?

It's a 1976 Argosy. Those were the painted Airstreams and they only made them from 1971 - 1979.

What is your Airstream's name?

It's a little unusual. The name is "Gnome Away From Home." One of my closest friends was named Manny Arias. I used to call him Pepito. After Manny died, I bought a gnome and named him Pepito. We put it in the camper and take it with us wherever we go, thus the name.



Gnome Away From Home



Rich and Diane Espinosa

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

The best place has to have been the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM. We actually worked on a balloon crew and had such a good time.

What do you have planned in the future?

No big trips planned in the future with the Airstream except the International rally in Sedalia, Missouri.

What's your favorite thing about Airstreaming?

It's a cliché but it's all the wonderful people you meet.

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

We have two daughters and one granddaughter. They're all coming to visit the first week in June. Our granddaughter wants to sleep in the camper while she's here. We have no fur babies except our grand dogs. There are four of them: two very large chocolate labs in Maryland and two French Bulldogs in Colorado.





Friday, September 13–Sunday, September 15

200 Walnut Hill Avenue #1
Hillsboro, TX 76645

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)

TAU Rockport Retreat May 2024

Every TAU Rally seems to develop a personality of its own and this one was no exception. In particular, we spent two lovely evenings in the homes of our members.

Because the scheduled RV park broke their contract with TAU, we moved the rally from the historical location of the Lagoons RV Park to Majestic Oaks RV Park which is about midway between Rockport and Aransas Pass. Majestic Oaks features level concrete pads; more trees than most RV parks; a very comfortable rally hall with a well-stocked kitchen and a regulation pool table; a friendly helpful staff; an outdoor swimming pool; and a Pickleball Court.

Although the rally would not officially start until Friday, on Thursday, a group from the TAU went to Port Aransas bird watching and were delighted to see a flamingo (they are normally seen in Florida but not Texas), Roseate Spoonbills, a large alligator, and a variety of other beautiful birds. (see pictures). Later on Thursday 14 of us gathered at the Pier 77 Restaurant for Seafood and beverages. (see picture). Seafood is one of the strong points of every Rockport Rally. In addition to TAU members, Chuck Bracht and Cheryl Verlander from the Houston area joined us and we enjoyed their company. Unfortunately, three TAU members who planned to join the rally were unable to attend due to weather related problems.

May Rally
Rockport, Texas
May 17-19, 2024

Then on Friday evening, we gathered at Geno and Betty Dunn's home for a wonderful dinner (thank you Betty) and the official opening of the rally. A member noted that the entire parking area was filled with silver trucks, perhaps because we like our tow vehicles to look good with an aluminum Airstream.

Saturday morning began with a tasty casserole breakfast made by the cooking team (see picture) followed by a Skymed presentation. Many of us then moved to the Pickleball court for instructions by Tom St. Pierre. A positive of Pickleball is that it is relatively easy to learn, and many who had not previously played quickly developed some proficiency and had a great time. Thank you, Tom.





On Saturday evening we gathered at the home of Jason and Johnda Pugh for another outstanding dinner with plenty of great food and wonderful desserts. Along with the great food, several attendees enjoyed a friendly competition of corn hole. On both Friday and Saturday night TAU friends gathered in the rally hall for unique and interesting card and dice games.

A fine Sunday breakfast was followed by a devotional on the Epistle First John led by Eldon Sheffer. Following his wife's instructions, he kept it both interesting and short. In conclusion, the May TAU rally in Rockport featured wonderful opportunities for fellowship at the two homes of our members, while playing cards, while playing Pickleball, while birding, at the swimming pool, and more.

Barbara and Eldon Sheffer



Enjoy your summer! See you in September!

