

President's Message

By Rick Elkins

Thankfully the lull for our local club rallies is over! The break from June at Crockett Lake to September at Rusk was a long time between rallies. The lack of rallies during this time for our club is driven by circumstances where many members are unavailable due to traveling on caravans or perhaps with family. Plus in Texas, the summer extreme heat is a strain for both members and their rigs.

During the period between rallies, the Houston area has dealt with some extreme weather conditions with heat and storms. It is impressive how many members communicated with each other with the same urgency and priority that is given to their family. This demonstrates the bond we have within our club. Our prayers and well wishes for all who were impacted.

True to our spirit for having a good time as we rally together, we hit the ground running with our Rusk September Rally barely keeping it "On the Rails." Be sure to check out the rally report.

Immediately after the September Rally, a caravan of 34 club members met at the Texarkana RV Resort where they begin their journey from Texas to Missouri for the Airstream Club's 2024 International Rally in Sedalia, joining an estimated 1,500 other Airstreams.

Planning for this caravan has been on-going for months, and we understand when we arrive at Sedalia we will be the largest of the club caravans attending! Watch for caravan feedback in the club's October newsletter with photos, experiences and stories from our members. Certainly, many thanks to Wayne Wilkerson and all the others for their help in organizing the caravan.

Our next club rally is in November at the Airstream park in Zavalla, Texas, located on Lake Sam Rayburn. This is a joint rally with the Texas Gulf Coast Unit and it is shaping up as one you will not to miss for sure!

If you ask yourself what is better than an Airstream Club rally? The answer is simple, it is an Airstream rally with two or more clubs/units! Don't miss out on this great November rally. Registration is open now.

As always, the enjoyment everyone gets with this club is largely due to the volunteers who dedicate their time and talents for organizing and conducting the rallies. I encourage everyone to look for where they can join in as a volunteer. Great long and lasting friendships have happened with this very rewarding teaming effort. Contact me for any needed help with this. Hope to see you very soon, but until then, God Bless you all with safe travels.

Rick

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Region 9 Updates

By: Tracy Elkins, Region 9 President, BRN 9713

The following member events are sponsored or hosted by Region 9. Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming events!

Region 9 is bustling with events and Rallies. In September **Wally's Workshop** was a sold out maintenance rally at NTAC in Hillsboro. October will find Region 9 at the 67th Annual International Rally in Sedalia hosting a **Region Officers' Social** on Saturday Oct 5th, a **Members Breakfast** on Monday, Oct 7th and the **Blood Drive** Oct 7th - 9th.

We are delighted to have two Region 9 sponsored National Event Rallies in 2025. The 4th Annual **Streamin' on the Strand at Mardi Gras! Galveston** will be February 20-24, 2025.

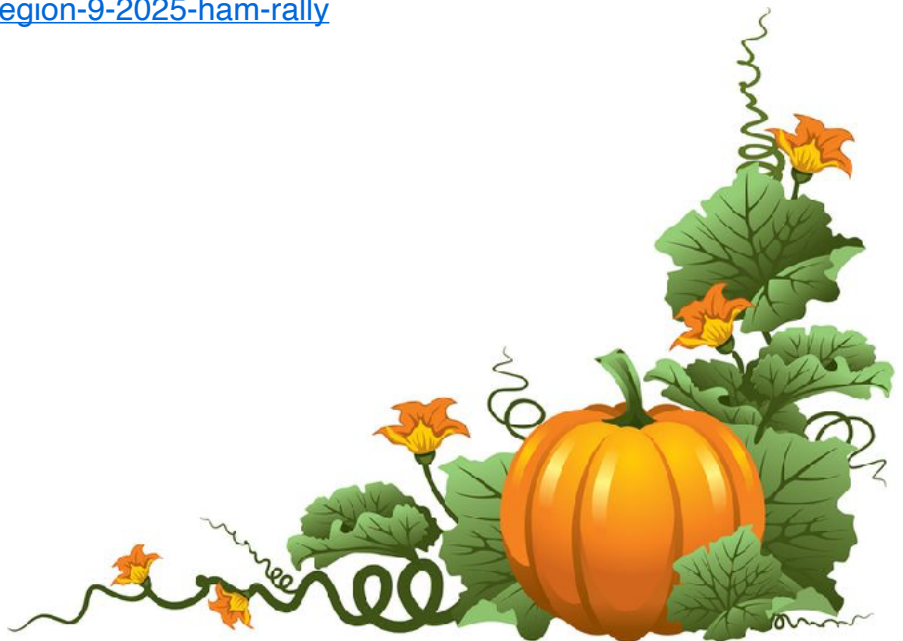
Registration is open: <https://airstreamclub.org/streamin-strand-2025>

Stitchin' & Fishin' in its 2nd year at NTAC in Hillsboro is a National Event Rally taking place April 24-25, 2025. Registration is open: <https://airstreamclub.org/stitchin-and-fishin-region-9>

Region 9 Rally will be March 26-30, 2025 at Brackenridge Recreational Complex in Edna, TX. If you would be willing to serve on a planning & host committee, please contact Region 9 President, Tracy Elkins at 281.725.1672 or region9wbcci@gmail.com.

Coming May 15-18, 2025 is the Region 9 Sponsored **HAM Rally** at NTAC. Registration is open: <https://airstreamclub.org/region-9-2025-ham-rally>

All the best,
Tracy Elkins
Region 9 President
281-725-1672



RALLIES AND CARAVANS



It could be you! Ticket winners are in the running for the End of Year Grand Prize, an Airstream Weber 1200 propane grill. The following are ticket winners to date:

- 2/9/24 Lisa Feine - 5 Tickets
- 3/2/24 Justin Hargadine - 5 Tickets
- 3/2/24 Holly McMurphy - 5 Tickets
- 3/3/24 Eric McMurphy - 5 Tickets
- 3/3/24 Bruce Lee - 5 Tickets
- 4/20/24 Ron Lange - 5 Tickets
- 4/20/24 Jim Miller - 5 Tickets
- 5/02/24 Richard Cull - 5 Tickets
- 5/25/24 Ashley Billard - 5 Tickets
- Rick Elkins - 5 Tickets
- Janice Lange - 1 Ticket
- Dan McAnulty - 1 Ticket
- 5/26/24 Julie Kulak - 2 Tickets
- Deborah Davis - 1 Ticket
- John Davis - 1 Ticket
- Caren Bundy - 1 Ticket

- 6/29/24 Jerry Goodwin - 5 Tickets
- Wayne Wilkerson - 5 Tickets
- 9/28/24 Eric McMurphy - 5 Tickets

Rally raffle tickets are won in various competitions/games at each rally. Talent, skills, and luck play a part in winning raffle tickets, but only possible if members are present at the rally. Don't miss out on fun, contribution to TRWB, and a chance to win a new grill!

Recommended Pet Policy for Events

All pets must be on a 6-foot, non-retractable leashes when outside the Airstream. Always check collars and leashes to ensure they fit correctly and are working properly. A size-appropriate pet containment system can be used at the campsite. Pets are not permitted in the buildings or outside dining areas during a meal except for working service animals. Well-mannered dogs are welcome to play and exercise in designated dog parks. Always clean up after your pet. And make sure your pet has an ID tag.





Off the Rails Rally Report

September 26-29, 2024 in Rusk Texas

By: Tracy Elkins – BRN 9713

It was the fall reunion for Greater Houston at the September Rally in Rusk, TX. After several months without a Rally, the excitement was palpable as we gathered at the Rusk KOA. East Texas provided a picturesque backdrop with its towering pines and cooler temperatures. The Rally Hosts, Rick & Tracy Elkins and Wayne & Liza Wilkerson, did an incredible job creating a welcoming atmosphere. The Rally Room was decorated with a Train Theme, adding a touch of whimsy to the event which was held in the city where the original Texas State Railway called home. With twenty rigs and several new members joining us for their first GHAC Rally, including Mike & Ginger Ainsworth (BRN 14285) and Jim & Cheryl McGee (BRN 6071), there was a wonderful blend of old friends and new faces. We shared stories, laughter, and memories that will last a lifetime.



Thursday was absolutely gorgeous – the drive was so pleasant and many of the Rigs arrived in time for Happy Hour followed by dinner. It was a good travel day and most were ready for an early night and after being well fed with pulled pork stuffed bakers, salad and cookies so following after dinner visits they made their way back to their Airstreams to straighten up a bit and prepare for a full day of exploring on Friday.

Friday was another cooler day – mid 70's and low humidity. Wayne and Rick fired up the FireDisc to make a hearty breakfast before folks headed out to explore the area. Throughout the day and into the early evening, several more rigs arrived. The explorers spread out to visit the Tyler Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Cherokee Wildlife Safari, Caddo Mounds, antique shopping in the oldest town in Texas, Nacogdoches or the Cherokee Heritage Museum in Rusk. There were plenty of stories to swap on sites seen during the day when we all gathered back at the Rally Room for Happy Hour and Grill Night. Everyone loves Grill Night, and this was no exception. The Hosts had prepared several sides and desserts to accompany whatever rally-goers brought to cook on the grills on the Patio behind the Rally Room. Several finished the evening with a classic movie, Murder on the Orient Express!



Saturday in Texas means college football – we know the drill, get your stuff done so we can watch the game! We started off the day with Ghost in the Swamp (aka Oatmeal & Ice Cream) which was one of Wally Byam’s favorite rally breakfasts. Some were a bit skeptical, but those that tried it all agreed it was a true treat! Afterwards we loaded up the Trucks and car-pooled to Rusk to find the Historical Footbridge. Constructed in 1861, the landmark spans 549’ in downtown Rusk.



We lined up to the sound of Ozzy Osborne’s Crazy Train for photos which our own Ed Ferrin graciously orchestrated and took! Afterwards we strolled around downtown Rusk browsing the small shops and The Daily Grind, visiting with the Museum Director, and stopping for lunch at La Charra. Everywhere we went, folks asked if we were part of the Airstream Group out at the KOA – word travels fast in a small town!



Game time started at 2:30, so we dropped down the big screen in the Rally Room for touchdowns and field goals! Those continuing on the Caravan to the 67th Annual International Rally in Sedalia had their Driver’s Meeting. The Rally Room was bustling already when the Hosts began preparing a wonderful pasta dinner. Happy Hour couldn’t have been happier with both Texas A&M and the Sooners winning their games. Happy Hour appetizers began showing up and everyone was trying to guess the ingredients of a delicious dip Justin Hargadine prepared (16 oz goat cheese, ½ cup fig preserves & ½ cup finely chopped pecans).

Table to table there was talk of the day’s happenings. Some non-football fans took ideas from yesterday’s adventures and headed out for afternoon explorations and one group wound up at the Wildlife Safari. Lesson learned shared by Narmin Parpia-Ramlal is that Ostrich will bite you; one tried to take her thumb along with an alfalfa pellet!

No GHAC Rally would be complete without some Team RWB action. We had a lively game of LCR won by 1st VP Eric McMurphy who kindly donated his winnings back to Team RWB but gratefully accepted 5 tickets into the Year End Raffle for a Airstream Branded Weber-Q Grill. The Team RWB Raffle is always a hit and everyone laughed so hard when Janice Lange selected as her prize the Bull Horn that President Rick Elkins is fond of using to get the group’s attention! Altogether we raised \$199.00 for Team RWB. Way to support, GHAC.



In preparation for a grab & go breakfast on Sunday; it was all hands on deck to take down decorations, pack and clean the Rally Room. What could have been an overwhelming task for the hosts went very quickly with the help of so many; as they say, many hands make light work! What a great Rally. Hosts send their appreciation to all these attendees: Mike & Ginger Ainsworth, Alan, Bernadine & Ashley Billard, Tom & Caren Bundy, Jim & Lisa Feine, Ed & Sharline Ferrin, John & Terry Fuselier, Jerry & Carol Goodwin, Vernon & Jo Goodwin, Mitch & Mary Guinn, Justin Hargadine, Alan, Julie & Jacen Kulak, Ron & Janice Lang, Jerry & Kenneth Lyddon, James & Cheryl McGee, Eric & Holly McMurphy, Raj & Narmin Ramlal, John & Susan Sheridan, and Doug & Leslie Stauber.

Overall, the September Rally was a resounding success. We are grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We look forward to our next gathering and the adventures that await us.

Thankful for Our Silver Bullet Lives!

TGCU & GHAC – Toasting & Roasting the Turkey!

Plus, the 2nd Annual Saturday Night Square Dance Fun

November 7-10, 2024 - Texas Airstream Harbor Airstream Park

Thursday, November 7 – Gathering Our Communities

- 5:00 pm Happy Hour at Clubhouse. Bring a beverage to toast a Thanksgiving blessing to new friends. Wear your comfiest!
- 6:00 pm Casserole Comfort Food (Bring a beverage and setups.)
- 7:00 pm Games & Community Firepits on the Patio

Friday, November 8 – Being Thankful

- 9:00 am Morning Coffee & Sweetbreads at Clubhouse
- 10:00 am TAHI Board Meeting
- 4:30 pm Happy Hour at Jon & LaVerne Villanti's Cabana at 210 Oak. (Bring a beverage.)
- 6:00 pm Taco Soup and all the fixins. Bring a snack, salad, condiment, or dessert to accompany the soup. Wear your favorite flannel shirt or sweatshirt. It is all about getting ready for Thanksgiving feeding and dancing. (Bring a beverage and setups)
- 7:00 pm Fellowship & Campfires

Saturday, November 9 – Sharing Thanksgiving Blessings

- 7:00 am Breakfast with Bodacious Breakfast Crew (Bring setups)
- 9:00 am TGCU Board Meeting
- 10:00 am TGCU Membership Meeting
- 2:00 pm Trailer Clinic at Clubhouse
- 3:00 pm Ice Cream Social at Clubhouse
- 6:00 pm Roast Turkey, Trimmings, & Pie. (Bring your own beverage. Setups provided) Wear your expandable sweatpants!
- 7:00 pm Saturday Night Square Dance Fun!

Sunday, November 10 – Honoring the Season

- 8:30 am Coffee & Pastries in Clubhouse
- 9:00 am Devotional
- 9:30 am Clubhouse Clean-Up



Estimated Costs:

- TAHI Parking Fee - \$20 per night, full hookups 30 amp (Pay at door)**
- Rally Fee - \$15 per person (Pay at door)**

Rally

DEC
5-8

The Greater Houston Airstream Club (GHAC)

presents

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION

and

INSTALLATION RALLY

Bring your RV palace and join the GHAC Airstreamers for this full-blown, four-alarm holiday treat you won't want to miss. You will enjoy a fun-themed, continuous party with some of the jolliest bunch this side of the nuthouse. You'll love hearing the words, "Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat?" over and over again. Sign up now, but "don't worry, we're gonna save the neck for you!"

Onalaska RV Park On the Lake RV Resort, 15152 US Highway 190 W, Onalaska, TX (936) 646-3824. Call and book your camping site. Be sure to tell them you are with the GHAC Rally. Also, register for the rally (link will be open soon).



Complete schedule will be provided after registration. Here's some of the fun you can expect.

Thursday ... Afternoon arrival and Dinner at Jerry's Restaurant, followed by team games.

Friday ... Breakfast, crafts, puzzles and games, Christmas Charcuterie Happy Hour, Dinner with Lampoon costume contest, Team Games and LCR.

Saturday ... Breakfast, learning time, special doggie event, explore Onalaska, Christmas Happy Hour, CATERED MEAL from Joe's Italian, INSTALLATION CEREMONY, Raffles, Gift Exchange

Sunday ... Breakfast, Morning Devotions and special music

- Installation Ceremony
- Catered Dinner
- Griswold Award for best Lampoon costume
- Special pet event
- Games and Contests
- Gift exchange
- Christmas Charcuterie
- Lampoon Trivia contest
- Raffles



Bring your own moose mug! No set-up bags ❤️

WE'RE ALL GONNA
HAVE SO MUCH FUN
WE'LL NEED PLASTIC
SURGERY TO REMOVE
OUR SMILES.
—Clark Griswold

JOIN US FOR THE HAP, HAP, HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS PARTY SINCE BING CROSBY TAP- DANCED WITH DANNY KAYE!

Registration opening
SOON!



2024 GHAC Rally Schedule

[Click for Details](#)

- October 5 - 11, 2024 - ACI International Rally at Missouri State Fair Grounds, Sedalia, Mo.
- November 7 - 10, 2024 - Joint Rally with Texas Gulf Coast Unit at TAHI, Zavala, Tx
- December 5 - 8, 2024 Installation Rally at On the Lake RV Resort, Onalaska, Tx

Rally Registration is a Two-Step process:

1. *Reserve your campsite with the Campground and pay direct (mention GHAC Rally).*
2. *Register at the GHAC Website & pay your Rally Fees.*



For the Record...



Off the Rails in Rusk

Mike & Ginger Ainsworth
Alan, Bernadine & Ashley Billard
Tom & Caren Bundy
Tracy & Rick Elkins
Jim & Lisa Feine
Ed & Sharline Ferrin
John & Terry Fuselier
Jerry & Carol Goodwin
Vernon & Jo Goodwin
Mitch & Mary Guinn

Justin Hargadine
Alan, Julie & Jacen Kulak
Ron & Janice Lang
Jerry & Kenneth Lyddon
James & Cheryl McGee
Eric & Holly McMurphy
Raj & Narmin Ramlal
John & Susan Sheridan
Doug & Leslie Stauber
Wayne & Lisa Wilkerson



*Rally Hosts (left to right)
Wayne and Lisa Wilkerson, Tracy and
Rick Elkins*

2024 Rally Hosts / Co-Hosts

Thank you for volunteering as a Host or Co-Host for a 2024 Rally! Contact Rick Elkins at Club155@airstreamclub.org or 713.859.5939 for information or to select a Rally to volunteer.

What Hosts/Co-Hosts Do

Click here for more specific details.....

- GC Contact
- Visit Location
- Set Rally Theme
- Plan Meals
- Plan Activities
- Rally Schedule
- Rally Fees
- Purchase Food
- Club Rally Boxes
- Reservations
- Promote Rally
- Monitor Registration
- Transport Food, Supplies, and Rally Boxes
- Greet Campers
- Prepare Meals
- Coordinate Activities
- Maintain Rally Room
- Lead Pledge, Devotion, & Grace
- Return Rally Room
- Report w/Pics for Newsletter
- Have Fun!

					
Dates	Rally Site	Host	Phone	Co-Host	Phone
Jan 20 th Luncheon	Golf Club of Houston 5860 Wilson Rd, Humble	Dave & Jan Rightmyer	713.818.9021	Bill & JoAnne Miller	832-577-7687
Feb 8 – 11	Magnolia RV Park Goodrich, TX	Jim & Lisa Feine	832.816.1242	John & Susan Sheridan	832-527-9644
Feb 29 – Mar 3	Lake Somerville State Park – Birch Creek Unit	Eric & Holly McMurphy	832.247.9480	Lisa Feine Tom Raia	832.816.1242 832-533-6435
April 5 - 9	Eclipse Buddy/Boondock Rally – Winnsboro	Jerry & Tracey Calvert	832-549-5042 281-210-6130	Rick & Tracy Elkins	713.859.5939 281.725.1672
Apr 18 – 21	Colorado Landing RV Park, La Grange	Justin Hargadine	979-450-6275	Rick & Tracy Elkins	713.859.5939 281.725.1672
May 1 – 5	<i>Region 9 Rally – Bandera Bound!, Bandera, Texas</i>				
May 23 – 27	The Preserve RV Park, Lake Livingston	Eric & Holly McMurphy	832.247.9480	John & Deborah Davis	832-216-3492 281-974-0321
June 27 - 30	Joint Rally w/THCU– Crocket Lakefront Resort & Marina, Crockett	Rick & Tracy Elkins	713.859.5939 281.725.1672	Tim & Cindy West	863-838-0187 863-670-2828
Sept 26-29	Rusk KOA, Rusk TX	Rick & Tracy Elkins	713.859.5939 281.725.1672	Wayne & Liza Wilkerson	832-326-8814 832-326-5221
Oct 5-11	<i>International Rally – Missouri State Fairgrounds, Sedalia, MO</i>				
Nov 7-10	Joint Rally-TX Gulf Coast – TAHI, Zavalla	Dan & Maria McAnulty	832.392.7033 832.392.7034	Jerry & Beth Adams	972.529.8320 972.832.5078
Dec 5-8	Installation Rally – On The Lake RV Resort, Onalaska	Tim & Cindy West	863-838-0187 863-670-2828	Rick & Tracy Elkins	713.859.5939 281.725.1672



2025 Rally Host/Co-Host Sign Ups



Dates	Rally Site	Host	Phone	Co-Host	Phone
Jan 18	Annual Luncheon Brandt 1910 Wallis, TX	Dan & Maria McAnulty	832.392.7033 832.392.7034	Alan & Bernadine Billard	281.732.6006 281.543.0248
Feb 20 - 23	Summer Breeze RV Park Brookshire, TX	Vernon & Jo Goodwin	713.818.4067 713.205.1277	Tom Raia	832.533.6435
Mar 26 - 30	<i>Region 9 Rally/GHAC Rally - Brackenridge RV Park, Edna, TX</i>				
Apr 24 - 27	Joint Rally w/THCU The Hilltop RV Resort Brenham, TX				
May 15 - 18	Brazos Bend State Park Needville, TX	Tom & Caren Bundy	281.250.7644 281.381.9416	Jerry & Carol Goodwin	281.787.6687 713.598.1063
Aug 23 - 28	<i>International Rally – York Expo Center, York, PA</i>				
Sep 18 - 21	Colorado Landing RV Park LaGrange, TX	Justin Hargadine & Guy Bily	979-450-6275		
Oct 16 - 19	Blue Water RV Resort Freeport, TX			John & Terry Fuselier; John & Susan Sheridan	713.703.2427 713.703.9873 832.628.0392 832.527.9644
Nov 20 - 23	Lake Somerville State Park Somerville, TX	Lisa & Jim Feine	832.816.1242		
Dec 4 - 7	Installation Rally On The Lake RV Resort Onalaska, TX	Rick & Tracy Elkins	281.725.1672	Raj & Narmin Ramlal	832.488.7157 281.881.2962

Thank you for volunteering as a Host or Co-Host for a 2025 Rally! We still need more volunteers. Please contact Rick Elkins at Club155@airstreamclub.org or 713.859.5939 for information or to select a Rally to volunteer.



September Membership Update

by Tracy Elkins

Membership & Directory Chair

281.725.1672

Tracy.d.elkins@gmail.com

Member Benefits

- Membership Discounts
- Product Savings
- Courtesy Parking
- Blue Beret Quarterly Publication
- Preferred Partners: Travel, Trip & RV Insurance

<https://airstreamclub.org/benefits>

Welcome New Members!

Guy Bily, Houston , 2024 Caravel

*Joe & Teresa Romero (Affiliates),
Spring, TX, 2023 Globetrotter*

*Sam & Ratna Singh, Humble, TX,
2023 Basecamp*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Justin Hargadine

My name is Justin Hargadine and I am going to be your 3rd Vice President in 2025. I grew up moving around every few years because my dad was a high school football and basketball coach, but the majority of my life before college was spent in the DFW area. I attended Texas A&M University where I received a degree in Political Science and got into oil and gas as a Landman a few months after graduation. I spent the first few years of my career traveling/moving around and spending a significant amount of time in the courthouses of small towns around West Texas. I went to graduate school so I could make a transition in my career to get a job that required less travel and eventually obtained an M.B.A. with a concentration in Energy Management.

After years of avoiding it, I finally made the move to Houston in 2017. Minus a brief stint as a real estate agent in Canyon Lake, Texas during Covid, I have been here ever since. I consider Houston home now and bought a house last year so I have no plans on leaving.

My grandparents owned two Airstreams, the second of which was an early to mid 70's 29ft International Sovereign. They traveled from coast to coast after my grandfather retired and loved every minute of it. That's where my love of Airstreams originated. My parents also owned an Airstream (only one. Haha), but had to sell it due to health reasons. I purchased my first Airstream in 2015 and am on Airstream #5. I currently own a 1989 29' Excella with twin beds that I bought from the son of the original owners, who lived down the street from me in Canyon Lake, after I wrote him a letter asking to purchase it. I've gone through a stressful renovation process and still have work to do, but am enjoying it in its current state for now.

This is by far my favorite Airstream (especially the twin beds) and has been the perfect size for the extended trips I've taken. I always travel with my dog Pierpont and he loves the adventures we go on (particularly all of the additional pets he gets from the different people we meet). We're both looking forward to the next adventures we have planned, including our first National Caravan!



The Sunshine Corner

By Carol Goodwin



"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

-Anne of Green Gables

Member Concerns

Condolences go out to new members, Sam and Ratna Singh, regarding the death of her father last Wednesday. Fortunately, Ratna was able to travel to India to be with him when he passed.

This past summer, we lost longtime member and past president (2001), Arnold Zander on July 22, 2024. We also lost Betty Ruth Carter Jones, Bob Jones' wife of 69 years, on August 3, 2024. Our condolences to their families as well.

Get well wishes to Scott Louis who was hospitalized with serious medical issues. We wish him the best with his battle.

Finally, we also send get well wishes to Jose Baptista who recently had two knee replacement surgeries. His right knee was replaced June 27, and his left knee was replaced September 3. He says, "I'm getting closer to being like Lee Majors." We wish him a speedy recovery.

October Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Mary Etta Zander
- 5 Rae Gilbert
- 9 Terry Fuselier
- 14 Pamela Alley
- 17 Alan Billard
- 19 Ginger Ainsworth
- 19 Pam Breeding
- 22 Kathryn (Kit) Bautsch
- 22 Scott Louis
- 30 Nancy Childers

Anniversaries

- 20 Pete & Carol Baker

HAPPY TRAILS AND SAFE TRAVELS!!



GHAC members,

Please start saving kids socks now to be collected in November and December. The schools are so desperate for clean socks to give to the children in need. Further details will be provided soon.

Thanks so much,
Jan Rightmyer

Journey to the Last Frontier...Should you go?

By Tom Raia



We were very fortunate to be able to participate in an Alaskan Caravan this summer and we just want to share a little bit of our wonderful adventure with you and perhaps dispel or reinforce some of the myths.

Spoiler Alert: *If you have an opportunity to explore Alaska with your Airstream, don't hesitate....jump in and do it!*

First and foremost, we'd like to thank all the GHAC members who gave us advice, recommendations, guidance and confidence to undertake this once-in-a-lifetime Airstream journey. We are fortunate to have so many experienced members who are always willing to lend a hand and share their valuable knowledge and experience. And now, we can provide additional tacit knowledge to our club's expansive travel database for you to tap into.

The Caravan

Since the Airstream Club Caravan has a very long waitlist and long-time friends asked us to join them on a *FantasyRV* Alaskan caravan this year, we decided now was the right time to take the plunge and make it happen.

The 25 rig (50 person) caravan was a potpourri of RV's comprised of many Class A buses with toads, two 5th wheels, a Class C, a Class B, 3 travel trailers and our lone Airstream! We all met in Blaine, Washington to start our 52-day adventure and when we were lined up, our 30 ft. Classic was dwarfed by most of the other RVs. This was going to be a real life experiment of how different RVs handle the diverse roads (more on that later), lots and lots of winding, narrow, mountain driving with grades up to 12% and all sorts of campground set-ups.



Similar to Airstream organized caravans, the route was set, campgrounds reserved, activities planned and all we needed to do was sit back, drive and enjoy.....well.....sort of. We quickly discovered that we were always the last ones to arrive to the next destination because we enjoy meandering, exploring, stopping to discover unique things along the way.. Seems our caravan buddies preferred to put the pedal to the metal of their gigantic, diesel power houses and "race" to the next destination.

However, when they saw the incredible places and unique things we uncovered by taking the time to stop, they began to understand the "Airstream way" of journeying. Here is very small sampling of the breathtaking vistas we enjoyed during lunch/stretch breaks.



The People

Yes, 52 days is a long time to be with 50 strangers. I could write a whole article on the interactions, sub-groups, drama, etc. But, the bottom-line is that our diverse group got along great. We were from all over the US/Canada, with different backgrounds, cultures, political views and socio-economic means. But, caravan life builds a community, camaraderie, friendships and bonds which overshadows any differences.

The Driving

Yes, it is a long, long, long way from the Houston area and you'll log at least 12,000 miles. But, mentally, you just need to break it down into 250 mile days.....at least that is what I kept telling my navigator in the passenger seat.....

Yes, there are some rough roads.....and there are good roads as well, and everything in between. You will get bounced around from frost heaves, your truck and AS will eat gravel, dirt, mud, tar and bugs and you may get some rocks thrown at you by passing vehicles. But, that's the price of admission.....the adventure is well worth it. You just prepare for it.



No, you can't rely upon your cell phone or Google for reliable directions. You'll need a true GPS navigation device.

Yes, your truck & AS will get very, very dirty. Oh well, the rain in Valdez will wash it off!

No, you don't have to worry about gas/diesel. There is plenty..but, you do need to plan and should work from the top half of our tank. And, **yes**, it is more expensive.

Yes, you can take a longer, non-lifted Airstream to Alaska. At times, you just need to be careful and go slow. But, most of the time, no one is around.....so, you have lots of time! And.....most days, it was hard to keep my eyes on the road because the drives are incredible.....every single day!

The Campgrounds



Yes, you can get full-hook up campsites. But, most campsites are 30 amp, gravel, dirt, grass and not very level. Many more are electric/water only. You just need to change your expectations, adjust and enjoy your surroundings.....remember, it is about the journey; not the campsite.

Yes, phone service is very spotty and non-existent for much of the driving.

The Activities

There is so much to do in Alaska, you just don't have enough time in a 2-month trip. There is something for everyone - hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, boating, fishing, museums, birding, etc. The local restaurants, kitschy shops and small towns will keep you wandering. For the most part, there is no traffic, few people and the silence is deafening.

I am happy to report that our truck/Airstream met the challenges and with the exception of a few missing interior rivets and a loose microwave we faired far better than many of the other RVs on the caravan. Oh.....I forgot; we did pick up a screw in one of the Airstream tires; but, you can read about that endeavor in our Alaska blog (see below). Thanks to our fellow club members advice, we were very well prepared!

Yes, we would definitely go again and would highly recommend the adventure if you have the time and desire to do so. You do need to spend a lot of time planning and preparing and it will cost a lot more than most RV adventures.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions and if you'd like to see more of our Alaska adventure, check out the weekly blog posts I published while we were traipsing across the Last Frontier. I also have a few blog posts on how I prepared the truck and Airstream for such a journey; including, a Starlink installation.



The Meandering Streamers

Around Every Corner, Riveting Adventure Awaits

www.themeanderingstreamers.com



Tech Tip - Protect Your Airstream

By BOB JONES RV

Greeting to all,

We at BOB JONES RV wish to express our appreciation for the kind words, prayers and support the club has blessed our family with. Mom would be so grateful. Many thanks to you all.

On a business note, we came in to work on September 4th 2024 (Wednesday) and we realized we were victimized. Two Airstreams were stolen from our lot. Fortunately one of the trailers had an air tag which allowed us to pinpoint its location. We drove over there and found both trailers. We called the police and they met us at the scene. We were able to tow both trailers back to our shop.

The point of all this is to make you aware that Airstream products are now marketable on the black market. Thieves are experienced and quick, so it is up to each owner to ensure their Airstreams are safe and trackable. Please consider purchasing some kind of tracking device for your unit.

We are also currently taking measurement to secure our shop.

Thank you,

Chris Jones

BOB JONES RV

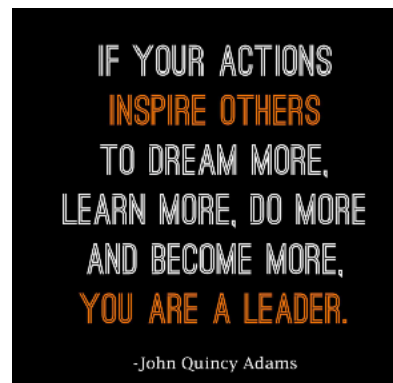
Note: Airstream support recommends several steps to secure your Airstream. You might find [this article](#) helpful, which also includes links to a variety of tracking devices.

Greater Houston Airstream Club 2024 Officers

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Newsletter	Cindy West	19963



New Club Email Account:

Please note GHAC's new e-mail. Airstream Club has changed all e-mail addresses effective 12/31/2023. All future communications will come from the e-mail account below, reflecting the name **Greater Houston**.

Club155@airstreamclub.org

Useful Links and Contacts

- ❖ Airstream Club International (WBCCI / ACI)
- ❖ Region 9 (Oklahoma & Texas):
- ❖ Greater Houston Airstream Club (GHAC, #155):
- ❖ GHAC Facebook Page

- ❖ Blue Beret Archive (club magazine):

- ❖ Blue Beret Blog (club blog):

Airstream Club International Headquarters

803 E. Pike Street P.O. Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334

Phone 937-596-5211; Fax 937-596-5542

- ❖ General Questions/Comments:
- ❖ Membership:
- ❖ Blue Beret:
- ❖ Website Feedback/Questions:

<https://airstreamclub.org>

<https://airstreamclub.org/region9>

<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-houston>

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterHoustonAirstreamClub>

<https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section/member-only-blue-beret-magazine>

<https://blog.airstreamclub.org>

assist@airstreamclub.org

membership@airstreamclub.org

blueberet@airstreamclub.org

feedback@airstreamclub.org

EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello friends!

Tim and I have officially been full-timers in our Airstream for 180+ days now. We have covered much of the midwest and are heading our way to Sedalia for the International Rally. While Tim is still working remotely, we have had great opportunities to visit some fun and educational sites. On this journey we have seen a lot of the “world’s largest.” Buffalo, holstein cow, scrap metal sculptures, and potato crisp, to name a few. We have stayed in National Parks, State Parks, KOAs and various other campgrounds.

We are full-timing in our Airstream until our new house is built. The builder has all of the plans approved and they have started preparing the ground. But honestly, we are having such a good time in our Airstream we don’t mind if it takes a few extra months.

Wildlife crossed our paths. State Capitols, Presidential Library/Museums, and National Parks gifted stamps in our passports. A few weeks ago we spent two nights in the Grand Tetons, and took a day trip up to Yellowstone. They don’t have any hook-ups in the campground, and we didn’t think book docking for two nights would be a problem. We have solar and lithium batteries after all. We know how to conserve power. It turned very cold and the furnace was a blessing.

However, full-time travel is also filled with challenges! Flexibility and patience are key. By the second night in the Grand Tetons, our batteries died and everything had to be shut off, including the 12v refrigerator. It was a cold night since the furnace requires electricity to turn on. The batteries didn’t charge on the tow to our next location, so we knew there was a problem. We have been in contact with Battleborn and Airstream, who suggested a load test. Time to divert our path to the Mothership at the end of October to have it checked out. In addition, one of our tires was wearing faster than the rest so Dexter Axle has shipped a new axle “as a courtesy.” We will have that replaced as well as a few other minor warranty items. Big “O” Tires switched us to the spare in the meantime, for a mere \$50. That TPMS is looking pretty good right now.

I hope to see you in Sedalia, and here’s to wishing you smooth ‘streaming on the journey ahead,

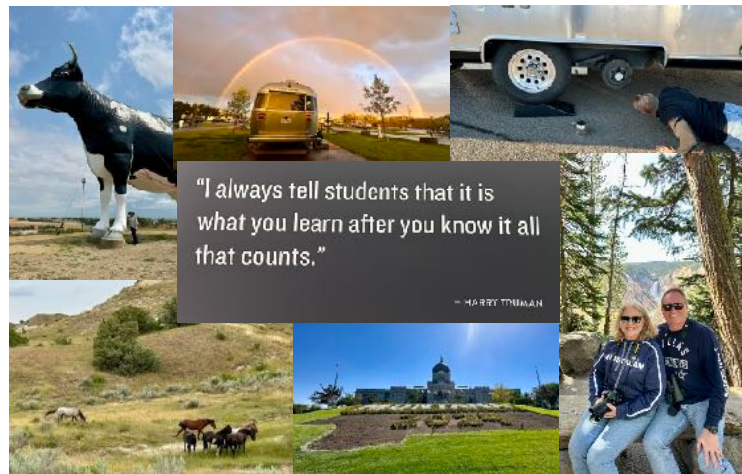
Lucinda (a/k/a “Cindy”) West

GHAC Newsletter Editor

lucindawest@mac.com - 863-670-2828

BRN 19963 - 2023 27' Globetrotter FBT (“Roam Home”)

Bored? Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).



P.S. Feel free to reach out to me if you have news to share. We want to hear your stories! Newsletters will be published every month we have a Rally, approximately one week after the rally ends. Also, I’m far from perfect, so when you find an error or omission, please email me with the correction (ever-so-gently *please*) so I can include it the next newsletter. Newsletter articles may be edited for length.

A Word From Bob Jones

Hello to all our Greater Houston Airstream Club members from the gang at BOB JONES RV!

We would like to express our excitement about an advanced service we are providing. BOB JONES RV has invested in a SEAL TECH machine that will pressurize the interior cabin of any coach, allowing us to detect leaks by soaping the complete exterior. It will identify efficiently any breaches in the exterior seal that will cause water leaks ultimately causing damage.

Our service team will pinpoint problem areas on a chart and consult with the customer on a plan for corrective action. This is a true cost saving & preventative measure to protect your RV investment. The cost is \$230 - \$345 depending on your coach configuration. So, give us a call to discuss how we can protect your RV, we think you'll be glad you did!

**Get out there and enjoy
your Airstream adventures!**



BOB JONES
RV REPAIR
SOUTH HOUSTON ★ TEXAS

GOT A PROBLEM? WE CAN FIX IT!

We also install Blue Ox towbars.

Call Bob or Chris at 713-910-2949.

*****Please Note*****

**Our new hours will be 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.
Thank you for your business.**