



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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## President's Note

I hope everyone is having a great summer traveling the country in their Airstream. It's a hectic time for summer travel, so everyone be safe on the road.

A reminder about some future events. The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual International Rally is October 5-10 in Sedalia, MO. If you plan on going let us know so we can make sure we meet up before or during the Rally. There will a group leaving from Caddo Lake State Park if you want to caravan to Missouri. Call me if you would like a site. None rally goers are welcome to attend as well.

There are plans for an ETLU Rally in Palo Duro Canyon State Park October 30th to Nov 3rd. All our spots in the group campground are reserved, **but** we can secure **more** spots in the adjacent campground if needed. It would be great to have more ETLU members attend as the park is amazing

We need to be thinking about new officers for 2025. If you have any interest, please let Doug or myself know so we can get you all the information you need. We need plenty of volunteers as we have many openings that are unfilled.

Shelley Tumino  
President, ETLU

## Maintenance Minute

Many people forget about tire care and maintenance. You normally think about it 2 seconds after a blowout. Here are a couple of things to consider:

1. How old are my tires? If you store your rig in the sun, UV can be hard on tires. It is recommended by many tire pros to replace trailer tires every 5 years, regardless of miles. I tend to look for cracks, worn tread and other visual clues that the tire may need replaced. Remember, new tires are way cheaper than a blow out on the road that could seriously damage your rig.
2. Always check your pressure. This is somewhat rig and taste dependent, as well as tire specific. Get the specifications for your tires at the manufacturer's website and make sure you have the correct inflation for your rig weight. For most trailer tires, that will be somewhere between 60 and 80 PSI. Something to consider is the higher the pressure, the rougher the ride can be. I try to go as low as possible knowing my tires will warm up once we get moving. Our tires

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July 2024



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

---

typically increase 5-7 psi on the road. On the sun side, it could be 10 psi or more. So think about the temp the tires will be on the road, not in your garage.

3. Check the batteries in your TPMS if you have them. I replace mine annually whether then need it or not. I buy them on Amazon in bulk and carry a few extra in my tool kit.

## New Members

We have a new home club member this month. Greg and Robyn Ellerman have joined our group from Tyler.

Please welcome our new members it is great to have you both in our Unit.

## People Profile

No volunteers this month. Please send us a short bio so we can send it out next month in the newsletter. You might get asked next month...

## Pet Profile

No pets to share this month, but we need to hear about the Terry's little pup...again.

## Social Media Update

Don't forget to follow ETLU on social media. The sites are up and running:

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastTexasLakesAirstream/>
- [TexasLakesAirstream/](https://www.instagram.com/east_tx_lakes_ac)
- Instagram: east\_tx\_lakes\_ac
- Airstream Website:
- <https://airstreamclub.org/east-texaslakes>

## ETLU Gear

We still have some hats left. If you are interested, please let me know (everyone should have received an order form).



The final cost on each of these hats is the following:

- Richardson Color Logo: \$31.30/each
- '47 Monochrome: \$27.15/each

These are being sold at cost to Unit Members so we can show some ETLU spirit.

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July 2024



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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## Product Review

One of the things that spoil a trip is the loss of refrigeration. On two long trips we have refrigerator problems. The good news is we managed to get it working again. However, our only back plan was ice. In some places, like places we end up, ice can get hard to come by or it can get expensive.

Ice is not a good fall back for a host of reasons outside of cost. It melts (even in a Yeti), food gets soggy and does not stay frozen, and ice takes up precious room in your chest. So what are your options?

We decided to get an ice-free, 12V cooler. After a couple months of study and reading dozens of reviews, we landed on the BougeRV, Rocky 55 quart, dual zone portable fridge.

Why this unit? One, it came with a very good warranty on a promotion, 3 years. It is wrapped in Stainless Steel (durable and matches the rig), has Bluetooth connectivity, dual cooling zones, and a reversible door. It also fits under our bed cover and stays under 22" tall. The price point was significantly under the Dometic alternatives of the same size which are the industry standard.



We also paired this unit with a lithium battery station from EcoFlow (12V and 120V). That will be the subject of another review. We had a problem with our first EcoFlow unit and I am waiting for a replacement. This was a cheaper and more useful alternative than buying the BougeRV battery that can integrate with the cooler.

We have not taken a trip with it yet, but I have played with it in the house. It is very quiet. In fact, you have to get your ear close to it to hear anything. It works great. You can pick a freezer/fridge configuration, freezer/freezer or fridge/fridge. It cooled to 4F in about 15 minutes while empty.

The downside, it is a bit heavy. You are better off removing the two internal baskets and fill the cooler once you get it where you want to keep it.

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July 2024



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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Otherwise, it is a two-person job to move it.

We will do a long-term follow up once we test it on a few road trips. But so far, it looks like a great fall back plan to the Airstream unit. There are a lot of good product like this out there. Let us know if you have tried one and what you think.

## Trip Diary

The Battles are on a multi-month trip again. This is part two of their trip diary:

Since we were going to be in the area and neither of us had ever been to Wisconsin, Traci and I signed ourselves up for the “Sip of Wisconsin” to try something new. This would be our first Grapes & Grains intra-club rally! We visited friends and family in Ohio after our service appointment at The Mothership and then headed towards Monroe, Wisconsin.



We arrived at the Green County Fairgrounds in time to top off our fresh water and set up before the “happy hour” meet & greet at 5pm. We met the hosts Charlie and Linda Meinholz and

received an introduction to Monroe, WI from a Monroe City Official. We were also given some entertaining facts about Limburger cheese and the option to try a sample. I wasn't quite intrigued enough to try it but Traci did. (Just don't breathe through your nose and you won't gag!) The evening culminated in cheese trays and crackers. There was a huge cooler with various beers that was donated by one of the rally attendees. I was intrigued by the McMango Face IPA that packed a whopping 9.5 ABV! It was quite popular.



The next morning, we had coffee and pastries from New Glarus Bakery. They have been in business since 1910 and pride themselves on keeping the traditions of making authentic Swiss pastries.

They were delicious! After breakfast, we headed over to the National Historic Cheese Making Center and enjoyed a guided tour of cheese making over the years. Then we visited the Alp and Dell Cheese Factory and was shown around by Tony, who immigrated from

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July 2024





# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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Switzerland and is also an award-winning yodeller, so he gave us a short performance. It was amazing! The Alp and Dell store had cheeses from all over Wisconsin and imports from Switzerland, as well as their award-winning cheeses made there at the factory. The cheese curds were phenomenal. And, naturally, since we were in the cheese capital of Wisconsin, we had to have a grilled cheese sandwich from Decatur Creamery. We finished the evening back at the fairgrounds with another happy hour and pizza delivered from Vince's, made with (of course) local, Green County cheese!



Day three started with breakfast breads from New Glarus Bakery, then we boarded a bus to spend a day in New Glarus. We started at New Glarus Brewery for a self-guided tour and tastings of their brews. It was such a beautiful facility! Then, we were bussed over to Bailey's Run Winery and Whiskey Run Distilling for a hybrid tasting tour. Next, we were treated to a catered Swiss dinner at Chalet Landhaus

restaurant and was given a fondue lesson and samples while we waited for our meal. Dinner entertainment included an introduction to the Alphorn, which was quite interesting to watch. After a delicious dinner, we walked a few blocks to the annual Polka Fest, where there was more beer, live music, and dancing. It was a busy, but fun day!



The last day of the rally took place within a mile of the fairgrounds where we were staying. Monroe has many breweries and cafes, and is a nice place to explore. Our group had a tasting at Bulquarian Brewery, then a guided brewery tour of Minhaus Brewery, which is the second-oldest brewery in the United States. Across the street from the brewery is the Minhaus kitchen, where we had our farewell dinner and the best Wisconsin Old-Fashioned I've ever tasted!

Not including the arrival, set up, and happy-hour on the first evening, the event was 3 days. The registration fee was \$190 per person which seems very

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July 2024



# East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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reasonable for all that was included. We had a great time, met some great new people, and are excited to attend the Sip of Oregon in September. I think that our personal highlight was all of the cheeses that we got to try (and buy!).



What a great trip and thanks for sharing. The Towns are officially jealous...

## **Other Stuff**

The North Texas Unit is having what they call a “Wally’s Workshop” September 13-15<sup>th</sup> in Hillsboro. This is the perfect opportunity to learn about your Airstream from some professional (actual profession RV techs) and seasoned Airstreamers. If you have interest, you can call Ann Brandon at (214) 460-0420 for details on how to sign up.

If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let us know. We would like to add

birthdays and anniversaries, but we don’t have many in our data base. You can send those to the ETLU Gmail address (no years please, just day and month).

We will also be organizing some non-rally socials to get people together. If you would like to have dinner and organize a meeting at a local watering hole, just reply all to the newsletter email. There are bound to be takers.

Sorry for no newsletter in June. We need material so your input is need.

**Hawley Towns – Newsletter  
Coordinator**

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July 2024