



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

President's Note

A lot going on this summer. I know folks have a lot of Airstream plans. Let us know where you are so maybe fellow ETLU members can cross paths.

Our membership is growing. We added four new members recently (more on them later). Keep looking for Airstreams in our area and invite them to join.

The 67th 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.

We have 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. Let us know ASAP if you want a spot.

If you want to be involved with ETLU we have plenty of committee and officer roles to fill. We need participation and welcome anyone that wants to take on a bigger role.

I look forward to seeing you all on the road.

Shelley Tumino
President, ETLU

Maintenance Minute

Is your door not latching or closing correctly? It could be loose hinge screws. This is a very simple fix. First pry the screw covers off with a plastic trim tool. They are just held on with double-sided tape. After removing mine, I just left them off. Simply tighten the two screws on each hinge and test your door. My guess is it will close as good as new. You can use new double-sided tape and re-attach the covers (or leave them off like I do).

While you are working on the door, it is a good idea to lubricant the door hinges and the lock. For that, a lot of folks are using Boeshield Lubricant.





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I have not used it myself, but have heard great things about it. I just use a silicon lubricant on the hinges and the inside parts of the door latch. It is usually best to use a dry (graphite) lubricant on the lock itself. Excess lubricant can attract dirt and grime and your lock may not work as good as you would like.

New Members

We have a four new BRNs this month. Paul and Barbara Terpening are from Keene, Texas and are ETLU home club members. Also joining as a home club member is Kayla Bass from Lindale.

Robert and Starla Jones are affiliate members from Houston and are members of the Texas Highland Lakes Unit. Mike and Ginger Ainsworth are joining ETLU from Dayton and are members of the Greater Houston Unit.

Please welcome all our new members it is great to have you all.

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/East>
- [TexasLakesAirstream/](https://www.texaslakesairstream.com/)
- 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

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- '47 Monochrome: \$27.15/each

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

Product Review

Back in February I wrote about our problems with the Dometic Thermostat. We got it running and reset, but I read how much people like the Micro-Air Easy Touch digital thermostat. The reviews were very good and I have had great luck with the Micro-Air Easy Start on my A/C unit so I decided to take the plunge.



The entire install took less than 15 minutes. So what is so good about it? Well it has a very simple and easy to use interface. Once you plug it in, it is pre-programmed for your AC unit (you have to specify when ordering). So it is plug and play simple. It also has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity plus a program option if you want to set different temperature profiles.

It is very nice to lay there on the bed and change the temperature. I know, it is a couple feet away, but when you are warm after a cold night it is convenient. The unit comes with a screw cap that will nicely cover one of the exposed screw holes from the old Dometic unit so the final install is very clean. So far we really like it and would certainly recommend it if you are fighting with your Dometic thermostat.

Trip Diary

The Battles are on a multi-month trip again. One of those stops is at the Mothership for some warranty work. Here is what they have to say:

Service at the “Mothership” in Jackson Center, Ohio



Our scheduled time for warranty service was at hand so we hit the road for “The Mothership”. We originally planned a leisurely trip that started with a quick stay in Robbers Cave State Park. But seeing how the weather is rather unpredictable this time of year, we didn't



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want to loiter much in OK, MO, or IL. We drove longer than usual, skipped the Harvest Hosts, and arrived a day sooner than anticipated in Jackson Center, Ohio.

The Terraport at the service center has 3 “Wally Byam circles” with 24 full-hookup spaces total. The day before and after your service are free—any additional nights are \$20. There is also a dump station and dumpster available. We arrived just before dark on Sunday and there was one spot left with a cone in it - usually indicating a reserved space. After talking to the neighbors we took it, hooked up power, and passed out.



We checked in with the service center the next morning to let them know that we had arrived. We received a tag to place on the front jack and were informed that there was an available time slot so they could start later that day!



Since everyone here wants to know “what you’re in for”, our repair list

included: main door needing an adjustment (badly), the Bluetooth not working in our radio, the freezer stopped working in the Norcold, the stabilizer jacks had movement and would “pop”, exterior compartment rivet that popped (and front-end separation inspection), and an annoying squeak in the floor near the nightstand. While we had an expert on hand we also added a water pump adjustment, awning latch adjustment, fixing a cut in the floor, and an interior rivet that had popped from the merciless beating we took driving down I70 East through Indiana.



Our service technician was Ryan (known in bodybuilding circles as Mr. Ohio) who has been with Airstream for over a decade and has also worked in every area of the factory (or so it seems). He was quite the expert and we were very lucky to have him. Most issues were covered under warranty but some weren't. Overall, we are very satisfied with the service, knowledge, professionalism, and communication at the service center.



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If your work list exceeds a day of work (and the rig is in one piece), they will return it to your Terraport spot at around 3:30. The following day they will come for it again sometime after 7 AM so be ready with hoses disconnected and jacks up. We heard the story of a man who was grabbing a quick bite inside his rig while he waited and was brought into the service bay before he could get out. They are very quick with that tractor!



The service center has a large and comfortable waiting room with free Wi-Fi. In addition, there are quite a few parts and maintenance items for sale in a small showroom that's attached. We picked up key blanks to make some spares and had them cut at the hardware store in town.

Airstream's new factory is a mile down the road so it's a perfect time to visit while you're waiting. The new building houses the museum (admission is free to those getting service), a small gift shop with more Airstream swag, and even a Starbucks. Factory tours are run Monday through Friday at 1pm and are very much worth the time spent. Overall, it is a very well thought-out and impressive operation! Unfortunately, no photos are allowed on the factory floor itself.



There really isn't much in Jackson Center besides Airstream. It's a nice little town in farming country. We did check out Curly's Meat Market which came highly recommended and picked up some burger patties and summer sausage. The store front is still under construction and there's no sign so we would have otherwise missed it. We also found a coffee stand, pizza place, hardware store, a Subway, post office, and a small theater all on the main avenue within easy walking distance. There are also 2 gas stations but we didn't get fuel here - it



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was MUCH cheaper on the interstate about 6 miles away. Airstream Club International's HQ is also right down the road but we didn't get a chance to visit this time. I've heard that they have plans for Airstream camping in the future, too.

Other Stuff

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 have an idea, let us know. You can always "reply all" to the newsletter if you are looking for dinner company. There just might be some takers. Good chance the Towns are available.

Sorry for no newsletter in April. We got distracted and did not get it done. Plus, we are looking for ideas...so send them into the Unit Gmail address.

**Hawley Towns – Newsletter
Coordinator**

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