



Volume 50 - Issue 1

Editor: Lucinda ("Cindy") West

January 2025

President's Message

By Eric McMurphy

Happy New Year Everyone!

This is my first message as 2025 club President. I want to say thank you for the honor to lead this great club and to serve in the great footsteps of past Presidents who have worked so hard to keep the club moving forward. I was "allowed" to be in the picture of past Presidents at our annual luncheon on January 18th and standing there with so many great people was an honor. I will do my very best to move the club forward with the ideas of the members!

Let me be the first to congratulate all of you on "50 Years" as a club. We will be celebrating this great milestone all year. This is a great accomplishment!

In 2025, I have some goals that will be great for the club. These goals are the following:

- ♦ Continue our longstanding support of members and charities. Provide mentors to new members, support those in need and be a pillar of support for our Greater Houston friends and families.
- ♦ Revise our Policies which will be led by committee.
- ♦ Plan great caravans (Space X, Big Bend, International - Scenic and Express).
- ♦ Increase attendance to rallies through the use of rally themes, great hosts/co-hosts and having fun. Communication will also be key to encourage members to attend.
- ♦ Increase membership. Explore targeting tools to put "eyes" on our GHAC message. Encourage those with Airstreams currently to consider joining our club, and those who have bought the great American ICON - an Airstream.
- ♦ Manage our data electronically, allowing members access to historical memories, pictures and records.
- ♦ Lastly, continue to recruit members for future Executive Board positions such as VP and Trustees to replace members who have served their time.



In closing, I encourage all of you to look at your calendar's and consider attending rally(s) or caravan(s) in 2025. There are two open events currently on our website which are the Mardi Gras rally in Brookshire (February 20-23) and the Region 9 rally "Escape to the Country" (March 26 - 30). We would love to have you!

Thanks,
Eric McMurphy
2025 President
Greater Houston Airstream Club
832.247.9480

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Region 9 Updates

By: Tracy Elkins, Region 9 President, BRN 9713

Hello Airstream Friends:

Mark your calendars. Region 9 has a busy few months ahead!

- ♦ **Streamin' on the Strand:** The National Event Rally kicks off at Mardi Gras! In Galveston, February 20th-23rd. While the waitlist is full, you can still visit us on Mechanic Row between 22nd and 25th Streets on the Historic Galveston Strand!
- ♦ **Wally's Workshop:** Need to get your rig ready for camping season? There are still a few slots open at Wally's Workshop, happening March 21st-23rd at NTAC in Hillsboro. Register here: <https://airstreamclub.org/wallys-workshop>
- ♦ **Escape to the Country:** Join us for the annual Region 9 Rally, March 26th-30th at the beautiful Brackenridge Recreation Complex on the banks of Lake Texana! Registration is open now at <https://airstreamclub.org/region-9-2025-rally>. Don't miss out!

We hope to see you at one of these exciting events!

Region 9 has volunteer opportunities with two chair positions currently open. If you are interested and have some time to serve, please consider the Region 9 Membership Chair or the Region 9 Caravan Chair. I would be delighted to visit with you about either of these roles!

All the best,

Tracy Elkins
Region 9 President
BRN 9713



RALLIES AND CARAVANS



No GHAC Rally in January, but we did have an awesome time celebrating 50 years as a club at the Annual Luncheon (see report on the next page).
Be sure to join us at the next rally!

In addition, here is a list of upcoming caravans. Stay tuned for more details!

Space X Caravan - S. Texas - Schedule TBD 2025

- ◆ Hosted by Gary Alley and Rick Elkins

International Caravans To York PA - August 2025

- ◆ Express Caravan - Hosted by Eric McMurphy and Julie Kulak
- ◆ Scenic Caravan - Hosted by Rick Elkins and Wayne Wilkerson

Big Bend Caravan - Early November 2025

- ◆ Hosted by Bruce Lee and Justin Hargadine



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.



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

& ANNUAL LUNCHEON KICKOFF

January 18, 2025

By Eric and Holly McMurphy

Hello members and affiliate members,

Our GHAC annual luncheon was held on Saturday, January 18th at the Brandt 1910 in Wallis, TX. The event was hosted by Dan & Maria McAnulty and Alan & Bernadine Billard. Unfortunately, the McAnulty's could not attend due to family priorities in Florida. I want to thank the many members who were asked to help pull off the luncheon. Along with Alan & Bernadine Billard, we had help from Tom & Susan Raia, Rick & Tracy Elkins, Ginger & Mike Ainsworth, Jim & Lisa Feine and Holly McMurphy. Special thanks to Ed Ferrin for taking and providing wonderful pictures as well. We also recruited a few members of the McMurphy family to help set up the photo booth and manage the food. We had a mix of catered BBQ and homemade fixings. For dessert, we had delicious cake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of GHAC.

We were honored to have more than 70 people attend the luncheon. Our honored guest from Team Red, White and Blue (TRWB) was Tiffany Garcia who has served in our military as well as several members of her family.

We had special guests Tim and Georgia Jackson. They brought with them an International truck that traveled on the historic caravan that went from the US to Cape Town, South Africa and caravanned to Cairo, Egypt. Our many thanks to the Jacksons for coming to the luncheon. I, and many members, had the pleasure of talking with them. I learned they live in Sealy, TX like I do and they help with animal rescues not far from my house. Small world and maybe, we will see the Jacksons more in in the future.

We were honored to have fellow member and Region 9 President, Tracy Elkins. Tracy and Rick Elkins are working on three upcoming Region 9 events and I encourage members to attend. First, "Streamin' on the Strand" in Galveston, Wally's Workshop, and the Region 9 rally "Escape to the Country."

For the luncheon, we had a welcome table with pre-printed name tags. A balloon filled photo booth to celebrate the theme "Hollywood Glam" included pearls and boas for those ladies (and gents) who wanted to live it up a bit. Rick Elkins had a table that showed past pictures of the 2019 Caravan to Alaska and we also had a table for our fabulous Gift Card Tree raffle. During the luncheon, we raised \$1,085 for TRWB and gave away three prizes. Third place, a \$50 gift card and Airstream mug, was won by Jerry Lyddon; second place with a \$100 gift card and Wally Byum street sign went to the Kulaks; and our first place winner was the McAnultys, the gift card tree which totaled a value of \$795 in over 50 gift cards. Congratulations to our winners!



50

During the luncheon, we recognized members who were celebrating 5-year anniversaries to obtain anywhere from their first star to their sixth star. Congratulations to the following members.

We also had members and affiliate members who attended their first event. Thank you to those folks who chose to spend a Saturday with us.

2025 GHAC First Event Members

- Jennifer & Richard Cary
- Pierre Judge & Michelle Bernier
- Deanna Shepard (Affiliate)
- Stacy & Gary Cameron (Affiliate)
- Alfred & Carla Ricks (Affiliate)

During the luncheon, I honored Rick & Tracy Elkins for their very successful 2024 Presidential year. Many thanks to Rick who has been a mentor to me. Both Rick and Tracy are always available to help and I cannot thank them enough for the job they did in 2024. Rick is a hard act to follow, but I will do my best.

For our efforts this year raising money for TRWB, we presented a check for \$3,085 which is an all-time record. Many thanks to all of you who played many games of LCR and gave to a great charity supporting our veterans and troops!

We celebrated the club's efforts to donate socks to the Humble ISD. Dave and Jan Rightmyer have a passion to give to the kids of the community. The club donated 2,649 pairs of socks which is another record. We are thrilled the kids will have warm feet this winter!

Rick Elkins presented 2024 in review. When I look back at what all Rick did as President in 2024, I am so impressed. He moved the club forward on many difficult tasks such as updating the club constitution and club by-laws. He also filled several vacant spots in leadership with great people. If I can only do a part of what Rick did, I would consider 2025 a success.

We also announced the Executive Board members and the Committee's at the luncheon. My many thanks to all the volunteers who put in their extra time to help the club be successful and help guide the club to greater heights.

Airstream Club 5 yr Milestone

Name	BRN	Anniversary Date	Stars
Vernon Goodwin	01311, 00731	10/06/1995	★★★★★★
Thomas Harris	01373	01/21/2000	★★★★★★
Jerry Goodwin	01131	10/13/2000	★★★★★★
Jerry Lydden	07746	10/06/2005	★★★★★
James Mercer*	01353	02/12/2010	★★★★
Douglas Stauber*	05812	01/03/2020	★
John Fuselier	07155	02/20/2020	★

* Not attending luncheon

Airstream Club 5 yr Milestone (continued)

Name	BRN	Anniversary Date	Stars
Tim Bashor*	23773	03/09/2020	★
Edward Ferrin	07302	03/31/2020	★
Jeff Gray*	07848	06/29/2020	★
Jeson Goodwin*	13111	09/28/2020	★
Paul Evens	20004	10/12/2020	★
Justin Hargadine	09650	10/28/2020	★

* Not attending luncheon

2025 GHAC Executive Board Leadership

• President – Eric McMurphy	• 1 Yr Trustee – Joletta Goodwin
• 1 st Vice President – Lisa Feine	• 1 Yr Trustee – Paul Evens
• 2 nd Vice President – Wayne Wilkerson	• 2 Yr Trustee – Alan Billard
• 3 rd Vice President – Justin Hargadine	• 2 Yr Trustee – Raj Ramial
• Treasurer – Jerry Lydden	• Immediate Past President – Rick Elkins
• Asst. Treasurer – Caren Bundy	
• Recording Secretary – Maria McNulty	
• Corresponding Secretary – Holly McMurphy	

2025 GHAC Committees & Chairpersons

- Constitution & Bylaws – Bruce Lee
- Electronic Communications – Tom Bundy
- Asst Electronic Communications – Holly McMurphy
- Mentorship – Rick Elkins
- Membership Directory – Tracy Elkins
- Crafts & Projects – Carol Goodwin
- Sunshine Corner – Carol Goodwin
- Newsletter Editor – Cindy West
- Caravan – John Sheridan
- Parliamentarian – Joanne Miller



Lastly, we covered the 2025 rally and caravan schedule. We are still looking for a few hosts and co-hosts for Brenham and LaGrange. If you want to volunteer, we would love to have you.

2025 Rally & Caravan's (continued)

- 2025 Caravan Schedule
- Space X Caravan – S. Texas – Schedule TBD 2025
 - Hosted by Gary Alley and Rick Elkins
- International Caravan To York PA – August 2025
 - Express Caravan
 - Hosted by Eric McMurphy and Julie Kuiuik
 - Scenic Caravan
 - Hosted by Rick Elkins and Wayne Wilkerson
- Big Bend Caravan – Early November 2025
 - Hosted by Bruce Lee and Justin Hargadine

Date	Rally Event	Rally Location	Host	Co-Host	Theme
Jan 18	Annual Luncheon	Brandt 1910, Wallis TX	Dan & Maria McNulty	Alan & Bernadine Billard	"Hollywood Glam"
Feb 20-23	February Rally	Summer Ereeze, Brookshire TX	Verson & Jo Goodwin	Tom Raia	"Madi Gras"
Mar 26-30	Regions 9 Rally	Bracknridge RV Park, Edra TX	Vacant	Vacant	"Escape to the Country"
Apr 24-27	April Joint Rally with THCU	Hill-Top RV Resort, Brenham TX	Vacant	Vacant	"Blubonnet"
May 15-18	May Rally & Club Business Meeting	Branco Rand State Park, Needville TX	Tom & Caren Rundy	Jerry & Carol Grohman Jim & Lessa Glover	
Aug 23-30	International Rally	York PA			"Let's Make History"
Sep 16-21	September Rally	Colorado Landing RV Park, LaGrange TX	Justin Hargadine & Guy Bily	Vacant	
Oct 16-19	October Rally	Blue Water RV Resort, Freepport TX	Tim & Cindy West	John & Terry Fuselier, John & Susan Sheridan	"John Wayne Western"
Nov 20-23	November Rally	Lake Somerville State Park, Somerville TX	Jim & Lisa Feine	Larry & Susan Meeks Jim & Lessa Glover	
Dec 4-7	Installation Rally	On the Lake RV Resort, Onalaska TX	Rick & Tracy Elkins	Raj & Nerrin Ramial	"The Fabulous Fitness"

For those of you who attended the luncheon, I hope you had a great time. I have received several compliments about the luncheon and all I can say is that we did what we did for you, our members and affiliate members. It was our pleasure (Holly and I) to help coordinate, decorate and communicate with all of you.

To all of those I spoke with and did not get a change to speak to, it's my honor to serve the club and thank you for trusting me to achieve success in 2025. See you down the road at a rally or caravan!

Thanks,
Eric McMurphy
2025 President
Greater Houston Airstream Club
832.247.9480



Past and Current Presidents



Eric and Holly McMurphy with their children



Team Red White and Blue, Receiving the check





Mardi Gras Rally Feb 20 - 23

Summer Breeze RV Resort

1019 Wilpitz Rd, Brookshire TX 77423

Rally fee: \$15 pp

Hosts: Vernon & Jo Goodwin Co-hosts: Tom Raia w/Cheryl & Jim McGee

Traveling west on I-10, take Peach Ridge exit 730. Turn right at the very first street, Wilpitz Rd & cross over the RR tracks. Traveling east on I-10, take Peach Ridge exit 729. Go about 2 ¼ mi & turn left at the second stop sign (Donigan Rd) then proceed over the bridge to Highway 90. Turn left at the stop sign. Go ¾ mile & turn right at the first street, Wilpitz Rd & cross over the RR tracks. Check-in is at the blue building on the left as you enter the park.

This is a Mardi Gras themed rally so Laissez les bon temps rouler!

“Let the good times roll”

Bring your best Mardi Gras swag to show off any time we're together.

Thursday, February 20th: Early Arrivals: Check in time is 12:00 pm or any time after 12:00 pm

5:00 pm Happy Hour - Bring a personal beverage to the Rally room

6:00 pm Dinner - Bring something to grill & a side to share.

Friday, February 21st:

Breakfast / Lunch on your own.

1:00 pm - Travel in groups to the *Hemi-Hideout™* for a unique show & tell of a very large vintage auto collection with lots of memorabilia: **This is a not-to-miss private event held exclusively for GHAC members – the cost is \$10 cash/pp paid at the door & is not included in the Rally fee.**

5:00 pm Happy Hour - Bring a preferred beverage - **Even numbered rigs** bring an appetizer to share.

6:00 pm Dinner - provided by your hosts.

Saturday, February 22nd:

8:00 am - Special *Mardi Gras* “plated” breakfast, coffee/tea & juice.

No set-ups are required - Hosts will serve you.

Lunch on your own - suggestion is Bellville Meat Market in Bellville for BBQ & Shopping.

2:00 pm - Craft time in the activity room.

5:00 pm Happy Hour - Bring a preferred beverage - **Odd numbered rigs** bring an appetizer to share.

6:00 pm Dinner - provided by your hosts.

Sunday, February 23rd:

8:00 am - Continental breakfast w/coffee/tea & juice.

9:00 am - Short Devotional.

Please call the RV Park to reserve your site/days Phone: [\(713\) 358-8430](tel:7133588430)

The Rally fee is paid through the Jot form link on the GHAC website.

<https://airstreamclub.org/ghac-2025-february-rally>





AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL REGION 9 RALLY



ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

EDNA, TEXAS MARCH 26-30 2025

BRACKENRIDGE REC COMPLEX

Registration is open for the 2025 Region 9 Rally!

Dates - March 26 - 30, 2025

Registration Link: [Region 9 2025 Rally | ACI](#)

Location: [Brackenridge Recreation Complex 891](#)

Brackenridge Parkway, Edna, TX 77957

Note: For the Region 9 Rally there is one registration that covers the sites and Rally Fee. No need to register with the Campground.

The campground is beautiful and the lake is known for kayaking and fishing. There are several trails to hike or bike. Hafernick Hall is reserved for Rally Activities. We're only a short drive from the Gulf, so we'll have a shrimp boil and we're planning local excursions, tours, golf, and even skeet shooting.

2025 GHAC Rally Schedule

[Click for Details](#)

- January 18, 2025 - Annual Luncheon at the historic Brandt 1910, Wallis, TX
- February 20-23, 2025 - Rally at the Summer Breeze RV Park, Brookshire, TX
- March 26-30, 2025 - Region 9 Rally at Brackenridge RV Park, Edna, TX **
- April 24-27, 2025 - Joint Rally with the Texas Hill Country Unit at The Hilltop RV Park, Brenham, TX
- May 15-18, 2025 - Rally and Annual Business Meeting at Brazos Bend State Park, Needville, TX **
- August 23-28, 2025 - International Rally, York Exp Center, York, PA **
- September 18-21, 2025 - Rally at Colorado Landing RV Park, La Grange, TX
- October 16-19, 2025 - Rally at Blue Water RV Resort, Freeport, TX
- November 20-23, 2025 - Rally at Lake Somerville State Park, Somerville, TX **
- December 4-7, 2025 - Installation Rally at On The Lake RV Resort, Onalaska, TX

*Rally Registration follows this Two-Step process, unless indicated with **:*

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

** Rallies indicated with an asterisk will follow a different registration and campsite reservation process. Please see the information for those specific events to learn more.

Annual Luncheon

Mike & Ginger
Ainsworth
Michele Bernier &
Pierre Judge
Alan, Bernadine, &
Ashley Billard, &
Bernadette Guzman
Tom & Caren Bundy
Jerry & Tracey Calvert
Gary & Stacey
Cameron
Richard & Jennifer
Cary
Rick & Tracy Elkins
Paul Evens & Natalie
Garrett
James & Lisa Feine
Ed & Sharlene Ferrin

Sabra Francis
Terry & John Fuselier
Tiffany Garcia (TRWB)
& family
Jim & Liesa Glover
Jerry & Carol Goodwin
Vernon & Jo Goodwin
Mitch & Mary Guinn
Justin Hargadine
Tom Harris
Tim & Georgia Jackson
Bob Jones
Alan & Julie Kulak
Ron & Janice Lange
Bruce Lee
Gerald Lyddon &
Samantha Hogue

Eric & Holly
McMurphy, Kerensa
& Bobby Monaco
Lawrence & Susan
Meeks
Bill & Susan Meeks
Joanne Miller
Tom & Susan Raia
Carla Ricks & Alfred
Ricks Jr
Daniel & Lisa Schwarz
Michael & Judy Shelley
Deanna Shepard
Tim & Cindy West
Wayne & Liza
Wilkerson

For the Record...





2025 Rally Host/Co-Host Sign-Ups



Dates	Rally Event	Rally Location	Hosts	Co-Hosts	Theme
Jan 18	Annual Luncheon	Brandt 1910 Wallis, TX	Dan & Maria McAnulty	Alan & Bernadine Billard	"Hollywood Glam"
Feb 20 - 23	February Rally	Summer Breeze RV Park Brookshire, TX	Vernon & Jo Goodwin	Tom Raia	"Mardi Gras"
Mar 26 - 30	Region 9 Rally	Brackenridge RV Park Edna, TX	<i>Tracy Elkins, Region 9 President, and Region 9 officers. Contact Tracy if you want to help out with this event.</i>		"Escape to the Country"
Apr 24 - 27	April Joint Rally with THCU	The Hilltop RV Resort Brenham, TX			"Bluebonnet"
May 15 - 18	May Rally & Club Business Meeting	Brazos Bend State Park ** Needville, TX	Tom & Caren Bundy	Jerry & Carol Goodwin; Jim & Liesa Glover	TBD
No Rallies in June or July. Join one of our caravans to the International Rally!					
Aug 23 - 28	International Rally	York Expo Center, York, PA			"Let's Make History"
Sep 18 - 21	September Rally	Colorado Landing RV Park LaGrange, TX	Justin Hargadine & Guy Bily		TBD
Oct 16 - 19	October Rally	Blue Water RV Resort Freeport, TX	Tim & Cindy West	John & Terry Fuselier, John & Susan Sheridan	"John Wayne Western"
Nov 20 - 23	November Rally	Lake Somerville State Park Somerville, TX	Lisa & Jim Feine	Larry & Susan Meeks, Jim & Liesa Glover	TBD
Dec 4 - 7	Installation Rally	On The Lake RV Resort Onalaska, TX	Rick & Tracy Elkins	Raj & Narmin Ramlal	"The Fabulous Fifties"

What Hosts/Co-Hosts Do

Thank you for volunteering as a Host or Co-Host for a GHAC Rally! For more information or to select a Rally to volunteer, please contact Eric McMurphy at Club155@airstreamclub.org or 832-247-9480 or contact Holly McMurphy at 832-808-3309.

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!



Hi All,

I'm going to give the final update for 2024 on behalf of Dave & Jan Rightmyer. I hope to see the Rightmyers at a rally soon to continue our club's current and previous success donating socks to the children at Humble ISD.

In 2024, the club broke a record and raised 2,649 pairs of socks which is 317% increase from 2023. The thank you notes Jan sent me were heartwarming. From teachers to nurses to school administrators, they all were very thankful we could provide this essential piece of clothing they see kids coming to school each day without or in disarray.

With your help in 2025, I challenge all of you to give generously to the cause and top the 2024 sock donation amount. When I saw the smile that Dave and Jan had when I dropped off my sock donation in late 2024, I saw the commitment and passion the Rightmyers had towards the kids. This is very heartwarming and frankly, it's a small part of our busy lives we can give to that makes a big difference.

I plan to get my Amazon order going soon. Ordering bulk socks is easy and can be either donated at a 2025 rally or shipped to the Rightmyers themselves. Let's help the kids and make a big difference in their lives and the lives of the people who care about them.

Thanks,
Eric McMurphy
2025 President
Greater Houston Airstream Club
832.247.9480

January 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!

Lowell & Toni Anderson rejoined us as GHAC Members from Cypress, Texas. BRN #1786.

Terry & Darla Burton joined us from Baytown, TX with their 2025 30' International. BRN #6006.

Deanna Shepard joined us as an Affiliate from Richmond, TX with her 2012 30' Classic. BRN #1032

Dale & Kathy Spillman joined us as Affiliate Members from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. BRN #15880.

2025 GHAC DIRECTORY

Everyone needs to be sure their contact details are up-to-date in the ACI website at this link:

<https://airstreamclub.org/members/account-information>

We will use the information from International for the 2025 GHAC Directory published in 1Q2025. If anyone wants a current photo included, please send one to Tracy at tracy.d.elkins@gmail.com.

INVITE YOUR AIRSTREAM FRIENDS!

WBCCI/ACI received approval from Airstream, Inc. to pay the 1-year (ACI) membership fee for new buyers. This policy went into effect in August 2023. Buyers should receive the 1-year free option (Explorer Program) when they purchase a new Rig. This is a great opportunity for us to bring on new members to the club. If you know someone who is making an Airstream purchase, remind them they get free membership to ACI. And we would love it if they would please select GHAC as their primary club.



The Sunshine Corner

By Carol Goodwin



“In February, let nature be your guide and find solace in its beauty and rhythm.”

-John Muir, My First Summer in the Sierra (1911)

Member Concerns

Please keep the following members and their families in your thoughts and prayers:

Scott Louis died on October 27, 2024, after losing his battle with cancer. He and his partner, Gail Bailey, joined our club in 2023. They had already been on a 70-day solo trip to Alaska. It covered about 14k miles, eleven states, three Canadian provinces, and eight national parks.

Richard (Jr) and Lisa Sambrano lost his father, Richard Noe Sambrano on January 1, 2025. Richard also lost his sister-in-law, Ellena Ilzarbe Sambrano, on December 24, 2024.

Former GHAC President (2022), **Michael Iversen**, has been diagnosed with a small brain bleed known as a cerebral amyloid. His wife, Carrie, says that he was life-flighted to HCA Conroe because he was experiencing seizures. His doctors performed CT scans, an MRI, and an angiogram. Additionally, they performed a brain biopsy to determine if there is plaque causing the bleed. The biopsy went well, but they will have to wait several days for the results. Michael has been released from the hospital at this time. Carrie says he's doing great. We hope for a full recovery.

Former GHAC President (2024), **Rick Elkins**, will undergo surgery on January 31 at MD Anderson hospital. We hope that he has a successful surgery and a speedy recovery.

Former GHAC President (2008), **Dave Rightmyer**, had a recent hip replacement. We wish him a speedy recovery as well.

Patty Blanchet is recovering at home with respiratory issues due to RSV. We all wish her well.

Congratulations are in order for **Tom and Caren Bundy** who welcomed a new granddaughter on December 24, 2024. She is their third grandchild!

February Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3 Bill Smythe
- 7 Debbie Pfunder
- 10 Douglas Towns
- 12 Mark Sitton
- 14 Bernadine Billard
- 15 Mark Atkins
- 17 Cheryl McGee
- 19 Beth Adams
- 23 Clark Gardner
- 26 Ray Wall

Anniversaries

- 13 Daniel & Lisa Schwarz
- 14 Jim & Cheryl McGee
- 16 Reid & Kathy Westmoreland
- 26 Alan & Bernadine Billard

NOTE: Airstreamers love to celebrate special dates. If we missed yours, please contact Tracy Elkins at tracy.d.elkins@gmail.com or 281-725-1672 and we'll get you next time!

Happy Valentine's Day!
Happy trails!!
Safe travels!!

Tech Tip

By Eric McMurphy



The RV Water Heater Anode Rod

For those of you who have hot water heater tanks (not on-demand hot water devices or Alde hot water/heating systems).

This winter, I have helped several members winterize their rigs for the cold weather Houston is not really used to. Part of the winterization process is removing the water from the rig by either replacing the water with RV anti-freeze or blowing the lines empty with air pressure.



I noticed three of the rigs I helped to winterize that had hot water tanks, only had the plastic drain plug threaded into the tank. This got me thinking about what I can do to help members (my love language), ensuring their rigs last as long as possible with preventative maintenance measures.

Although I'm NOT an engineer in my career, I've worked with some really smart ones.

One of them worked with me when I ran a terminal in NJ where we distributed gasoline, diesel and jet fuel through a loading rack into large tanker trucks. Our engineer was big into what he called "Cathodic Protection". What this does is it allows the chemical reaction between water and a metal designed to be attacked, the most vulnerable metal. Running the terminal, the engineer did not want any water to attack the steel tanks which held the water, they wanted the water to attack a "targeted piece of metal" instead of the tank so the tank lasts for years.

Well, your hot water heater is the same concept. You want to add a drain plug where the water can "attack" the "targeted piece of metal" versus your tank.

This is where the RV water heater anode rod comes into play. Every spring when I put my rig back into service that had a hot water heater, I would use a metal plug with an anode rod. This allows the water to attack the metal of that rod vs the metal of your hot water tank. This will add several years of life to your hot water tank and keep your rig from potentially getting flooded if the tank fails.

So, my recommendation is DO NOT use just a plastic plug. Use a metal plug with anode rod which fits your specific hot water heater. In my example, you will see a picture with a new anode rod drain plug and the same drain plug after being in the tank for a year. You can see a bunch of the metal is gone. This is much better than part of the metal of your tank eaten away and gone.

I hope this little advice tip helps you with the maintenance of your rig.



Greater Houston Airstream Club

2025 Officers

<i>Officers</i>		<i>BRN</i>
President	Eric McMurphy	15220
1 st Vice President	Lisa Feine	31415
2 nd Vice President	Wayne Wilkerson	1849
3 rd Vice President	Justin Hargadine	9650
Recording Secretary	Maria McAnulty	2162
Corresponding Secretary	Holly McMurphy	15220
Treasurer	Jerry Lyddon	7746
Assistant Treasurer	Caren Bundy	2835
Trustee 1 Year	Jo Goodwin	731_1311
Trustee 1 Year	Paul Evans	20004
Trustee 2 Year	Alan Billard	7707
Trustee 2 Year	Raj Ramlal	2385
Parliamentarian	Joanne Miller	212
Immediate Past President	Rick Elkins	9713

Committee Chairpersons:

Caravan	John Sheridan	1326
Constitution & Bylaws	Bruce Lee	5461
Crafts & Projects	Carol Goodwin	1131
Sunshine	Carol Goodwin	1131
Directory Editor	Tracy Elkins	9713
Electronic Communications	Tom Bundy	2835
Historical	Vacant	
Membership	Tracy Elkins	9713
Mentorship	Rick Elkins	9713
Newsletter	Cindy West	19963

**“Go out on a limb.
That’s where the fruit is.”**

-Jimmy Carter



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

<https://airstreamclub.org>
<https://airstreamclub.org/region9>
<https://airstreamclub.org/greater-houston>
[https://www.facebook.com/
GreaterHoustonAirstreamClub](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterHoustonAirstreamClub)

- ❖ Blue Beret Archive (club magazine):

[https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section/
member-only-blue-beret-magazine](https://airstreamclub.org/member-only-section/member-only-blue-beret-magazine)
<https://blog.airstreamclub.org>

- ❖ 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:

assist@airstreamclub.org
membership@airstreamclub.org
blueberet@airstreamclub.org
feedback@airstreamclub.org

EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello Friends!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we should be experiencing some warmer days. Can you believe all that southern *snow*?! Tim and I were originally planning to go to Florida right after the Annual Luncheon, but we decided to stick around until after the snow melts. I'm so glad we did! They got more than we did! Parts of Florida, including the State Park where we would have been staying, got more snow than Alaska has seen so far this year. It's a head scratcher for sure.

For those of you who have been following our journey, our new house build has once again been delayed. We had our pre-construction meeting this month and we now have plumbing, so that's progress! It looks like our house will not be completed until June or July (their timeline). However, we are not planning until August or later (our timeline). In this instance, we set our expectations low so we will never be disappointed. Given the new timeline as we knew it in November, and Tim working from home, *we did a new thing*. We even put together a ten-minute video to share the thing with you. If you haven't already seen it, [you can watch it here](#). Go ahead. Click the link. Turn on your sound for the full effect. Go on. *Click it*. You know you want to! 🤔

Okay, maybe you don't want to click a link, so I'll alleviate the suspense. 🙄

We bought a new Airstream! Since we will be living in it for a while—and who knows just how long—we felt like we could use some more space. I recall mentioning this in a previous newsletter, and we have gone back and forth with this decision. As the video shared, they offered a deal we couldn't pass up. We traded our 2023 27' Globetrotter for a 2025 30' Classic, with rear bed twins, comfort white and early gray interior. The New Year started with challenges, for example learning the new Alde system, organizing differently, figuring out why in the world Airstream would choose a "key" that looks like a locked cabinet to turn an entire computer system on and off rather than a normal switch, and more.

I would like to shout out to **Rick and Tracy Elkins** who selfishly gave half of their Saturday to help me out while Tim was out of town. Our Alde system ran out of glycol fluid (which wasn't supposed to happen), and it was freezing outside. The week before the Luncheon, I woke up to 41 degree ambient temperatures inside the rig. Rick asked if they could come to the trailer to help problem-solve, and I said YES. When they arrived, Tracy was carrying a full gallon of glycol as a "housewarming gift." And yes, Rick did fix the problem! **Eric McMurphy** and **Tom Raia** also spent more than an hour on the phone helping Tim learn the new system after he got home. This is one of those many times we are so glad we joined the Greater Houston Airstream Club!

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 - 2025 30' Classic RBT ("Classy Girl")
Bored? Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#).



"Taking care is one way to show your love.
Another way is letting people take good care of you when you need it."
— Fred Rogers

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.