



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

President's Message

It's a new year and ETLU is continuing to get better and better. For the first time in years we have a rally schedule, our membership is growing and we are seeing members develop new friendships and memories together.

There are still many positions open for volunteering within our unit. We would love for more people to get involved and helps us make ETLU even better. If you would like to know what options there are for volunteering, please shoot me an email and I would be glad to let you know where we need people.

Ron Battles is working on the update to the ETLU Bylaws and Constitution. We hope to have a draft of the new documents out to members in the next few months so they can be voted on and ratified. It is thankless work, so thanks Ron.

As usual, my calendar is filled with rallies, outings and hitting the road with friends (mostly dogs). I cannot wait to see you all at one or more of our outings this year.

Live life Riveted! I highly recommend it.

Shelley Tumino
President, ETLU

Region 9 President's Message

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!

January 2025



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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

Maintenance Minute

An often overlooked maintenance item is tire pressure, both on your rig and tow vehicle (TV). While I will not be discussing TV tire pressure, it worth making sure you are in compliance with your vehicle's guidelines.

So let's talk about Airstream tire pressure. There are really two schools of thought here. One is the max operating pressure of the tires themselves. Many people feel this is the one sure-fire way to make sure your tires have the air pressure they need. The second, is minimizing air pressure to improve ride quality.

Most tires coming out of the factory have been Goodyear Endurance tires. For the 225/75 R15 tires, Goodyear recommend a max tire pressure of 80 PSI. At 80 PSI, the tire is rated for 2,830 pounds. If you have 4 tires (2 axles) that would give a total capacity of 11,320 lbs. Most Airstreams do not weigh this much. Our 25 foot International has a gross vehicle weight of 7,300 pounds. Based on the below chart, we could run our tires at just over 50 PSI (7,300 lbs / 4 tires = 1,825 pounds per tire).

LOAD INFORMATION FOR GOODYEAR™ ENDURANCE SPECIAL TRAILER (S1) TIRES
 TIRE LOAD LIMITS (LBS) AT VARIOUS COLD INFLATION PRESSURES (PSI) USED IN NORMAL HIGHWAY SERVICE*

Tire Size	Max Speed Rating	Inflation Pressure - PSI																	
		25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	110	
ST235/70R14	87	1170	1300	1430	1560	1690	1820	1950	2080	2210	2340	2470	2600	2730	2860	2990	3120	3250	3380
ST235/75R14	87	1270	1400	1530	1660	1790	1920	2050	2180	2310	2440	2570	2700	2830	2960	3090	3220	3350	3480
ST235/70R15	87	1220	1350	1480	1610	1740	1870	2000	2130	2260	2390	2520	2650	2780	2910	3040	3170	3300	3430
ST235/65R16	87	1420	1550	1680	1810	1940	2070	2200	2330	2460	2590	2720	2850	2980	3110	3240	3370	3500	3630
ST235/60R16	87	1720	1850	1980	2110	2240	2370	2500	2630	2760	2890	3020	3150	3280	3410	3540	3670	3800	3930
ST235/55R16	87	1820	1950	2080	2210	2340	2470	2600	2730	2860	2990	3120	3250	3380	3510	3640	3770	3900	4030
ST235/50R16	87	2110	2240	2370	2500	2630	2760	2890	3020	3150	3280	3410	3540	3670	3800	3930	4060	4190	4320

Note: Chart can be found at www.goodyearrvtires.com.

So what is a person to do on tire pressure? It is really best to look at the two competing factors mentioned earlier, factor of safety (running tires at maximum tire pressure) and ride quality (running tires at minimum tire pressure). The lower the tire pressure yields a softer ride for your Airstream. A softer ride means fewer popped rivets and less mess when you open your door after a road trip.



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

For us, we run our tires with both factors in mind. After some trials and testing (using the TPMS), we found that running at 65 PSI (at 80 F) is best. There are a couple reasons why we find this to be optimal inflation. When it gets colder, our pressure can drop 7-8 PSI and when it gets warmer it can rise 4-5 PSI. By running at 65 PSI, we are always in the safe operating range with our tires.

We also have found that our rig rides really well at 65 PSI in terms of ride. The lower pressure (vs 80 PSI) means the tires absorb some of the bumps in the road instead of the rig frame. At the same time, we are still well above the minimum pressure based on our gross vehicle weight and tire load rating.

There is no right or wrong answer to the question of tire pressure unless you are out of the safety range. The important thing is you know your tire pressure and that you regularly take tire pressure readings and know how to be safe.

New Members

We have no new members this month. Membership sits at 30 Member and 19 Affiliates.

ETLU Gear

We still have a few 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

Rally Schedule

- February 22st @ 11:00 AM
Rowdy Creek Ranch Winery
4048 Texas 300
Gilmer, Texas
More details to come via email.
- March 6-9 11th Annual Gathering of the Southwest Teardrops & Vintage Trailers Group & ETLU Airstream Group
Tyler State Park
789 Park RD 16
Tyler, TX 75706
For more information, Contact:
Shelley Tumino 903-426-0171

January 2025



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

- March 26-30 Airstream Club International Region 9 Rally
Escape to the Country with Region 9
Brackenridge Recreational Complex
891 Brackenridge Parkway, Edna, TX 77957
Registration Link Below:
<https://form.jotform.com/Region9WBCCI/2025-escapetocountry-region-9-rally>
- April 24-27 Wind Point Park
<https://www.windpointparktx.com/>
6553 State Park Rd 55
Lone Oak, TX 75453
(903)-634-9463
Host: Call Tanner Terry for more information: 903-220-3890
- June 6-8 Sipping Through the Vines in Hill Country Wine Country
Buddy Rally with North Texas
Lantern Oaks RV Resort
3255 South State Highway 16
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Call Tanner Terry for details: 903-220-3890
- August 23-28 Let's Make History; Airstream Club 68th International Rally
York, PA
Registration is open now. Click the link below.
<https://airstreamclub.org/rally2025>
- November 14-16 Installation Rally
Buddy Rally with North Texas
The Boulders at Lake Tyler
16822 McElroy Rd
Whitehouse, TX 75791
Registration Details will be emailed once we are closer to the event
- There is also a new International Rally scheduled for July that takes place around the Calgary Stampede. Tanner sent out a separate communication on this particular event so check your email.

Product Review

It seems we are always on the lookout for a better camp chair. In fact, we have a closet full of chairs that were not exactly the comfort and convenience we liked. After all, a comfortable chair can make sitting around the campfire a wonderful experience or a back breaking one.

We have tried the cheap (Walmart for \$15) to a more expensive Rtic brand (\$100+). We even did a test drive in the Yeti chair (very nice, but a little pricey for our taste for a chair that can catch a runaway ember and burn up). What we landed on was essentially a his and hers combination of chairs. Hawley has the GCI Outdoor Kickback Rocker Chair.

January 2025



East Texas Lakes Newsletter



This chair is a little shorter than the normal “one-size fits all” chair and has the rocker feature of other GCI chairs.

Doug likes the bigger GCI Outdoor Roadtrip Rocker.



It is a little more “robust” for a bigger person and has a mesh back that is really nice during warm weather.

Both chairs fold up in a cylinder shape and store nicely in the back of the truck. They are lightweight yet heavy-duty enough to withstand the abuse of a

regularly used camp chair. The price is acceptable for a chair you know will likely wear out at some point. Amazon has them \$10-15 off the list price on occasion.

Doug also really likes the GCI Freedom Rocker XL. This chair is a bit bigger (wider) and heavier duty. However, it just does not fold up in a way that makes it easy to throw in the back of the truck.

So far these chairs have held up very well with 5-6 trips of abuse. We recommend them for comfort, convenience and portability.

What chairs do you like? Please let us know. Better yet, write a review and send it to us and we will put it in a future newsletter.

Do you have a product that is helpful on your adventures? Please send in a review and share with members.

Trip Diary

The Towns have continued our quest to camp and visit in all Texas State Parks. This month we stayed at Eisenhower State Park (ESP) in Denison, TX. ESP is named for President Eisenhower who was born in Denison just a few short miles from the park entrance.

January 2025



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

The park sits along Lake Texoma just north of Denison. It is a very nice park with mostly pull-through, full hook up sites. The sites are also recently paved and many have lake views. The shower and bathroom facilities are in very good condition and very clean.

There is some hiking, but the park is known for its ATV trails. There are miles of ATV-only trails and they have back-up docks to load and unload ATVs. We did a couple 3 mile hikes and found some really interesting fossils that are very common in the park.

Denison is becoming a small tourist destination. The downtown area is undergoing a revitalization and has many restaurants and specialty shops. We enjoyed dinner at The George Tavern. It is located in the old train station along with several small shops. The food was great and the micro-brew tap selection was very good. Highly recommend The George Tavern if you are in Denison.

We enjoyed our long weekend even though temperatures dropped down into the high teens. Our rig kept us plenty warm and no freezing problems. ESP is a great weekend that is not far from most of us in East Texas. While it was not crowded when we were there, I am sure it is a very busy place in the summer.

Other Stuff

As carry over from last month, we are going to offer advertising space in our newsletter in 2025. Typically, there will be 10-11 issues throughout the year. We will offer ¼ page ads for \$100 to be run in each issue. If you know of someone that wants to advertise, please have them get with Doug at the ETLU Gmail address.

We are always looking for newsletter content. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let me know.

We will also be organizing more non-rally socials to get people together. If you would like to have dinner and organize a meeting at a local restaurant, watering hole or fun place to meet just reply all to the newsletter email or let Tanner Terry know. There are bound to be takers.

Ten of us had a wonderful time in Jefferson, TX having lunch at Kitts Corn Bread Sandwich Shop. We are hoping members can make the next one in February at [Rowdy Creek Ranch](#) in Gilmer. Be looking for more details in your inbox.

January 2025



East Texas Lakes Newsletter

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

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastTexasLakesAirstream/>
- Instagram: east_tx_lakes_ac
- Airstream Website:
- <https://airstreamclub.org/east-texaslakes>

**Hawley Towns – Newsletter
Coordinator**

January 2025