

# COYOTE TALES



Volume 50 - Issue 2

Editor: Lucinda ("Cindy") West

February 2025

## President's Message

By Eric McMurphy

Hello fellow club members!

February was a great month to be in the club. This month, members had access to two separate rallies celebrating Mardi Gras. *Streamin' on the Strand* and *Summer Breeze* were very successful despite weather that was cold and rainy. My experience at *Summer Breeze* was great. We had excellent food, played games, made crafts, visited a fantastic man-cave, and best of all, had an amazing time together. I heard *Streamin' on the Strand* was also excellent. The weather was harsh, but Airstreamers hung in there and enjoyed the weekend on the streets of Galveston. Overall, both rallies had strong attendance, and it was wonderful to see everyone and the Airstreams since we were last together in December.

The Executive Board met to discuss our 2025 Caravans. The board approved the *Express* and *Scenic* International Caravans to York PA. The *Big Bend Caravan* was also approved for later this year. If you are interested in signing up for the Big Bend Caravan please contact Bruce Lee (281-615-3253). Signups for the two York caravans will be out soon, so be on the lookout. We're still looking to do a caravan to see a rocket launch on the Gulf Coast at SpaceX. As soon as we get a new launch schedule, we will put out some information. The Executive Board also discussed starting up a data management system. When I became President, the first thing I wish I had was a place where I could access the club's data. I found we are working with information stored in many places on many computers. I've challenged a committee led by Tom Raia to help us fix that, and Tom has been working hard to do just that.



Tom gave a very impressive presentation in the board meeting, and we are well on our way. I look forward to final recommendations and rollout. I know you will all benefit from data in a central place like pictures, newsletters, club by-laws, etc. We will also work to get old paper documents scanned and loaded electronically.

I am currently in the process of establishing a nominating committee to find future leaders of our club. This year, in May at the *Gator Haven Rally*, we will vote on a 3rd Vice President (3rd VP) and two trustees who serve a two-year term. These positions will be sworn in at our *December Installation Rally* in Onalaska, TX.

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# President's Message

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The 3rd VP position is in line to eventually become club president. The Trustee positions serve on the Executive Board, like the 3rd VP, and get involved in several club issues to help lead committees do work identified as needs by the President. If you have been thinking about joining club leadership, I would love to talk with you. Our nominating committee will be coming up with candidates to reach out to. Just my 2 cents but I always joke about becoming the President (I started as the 1st VP due to some vacancies), but I very much enjoy serving all of you. Serving is my love language and while it adds committed time to my plate dedicated to the club, I see each day how important the club can be to people's lives, and I'm just thrilled that Holly and I can be a small part of it. Will you consider serving?

The year is just getting started with many rallies and caravans during the spring and summer. I encourage you all to rally with us! Below is a list of what is coming up. You can find more information in this newsletter or by searching our GHAC ACI website. Registration is currently open for all rallies listed below.

- ♦ March Region 9 pop up rally with the North Texas Unit March 24 to 26 in El Campo, TX (contact Lisa Fiene, 832.816.1242)
- ♦ March Region 9 rally in Edna TX from March 26 to March 30
- ♦ April Bluebonnet joint rally with Texas Hill Country Unit in Brenham TX April 24 - 27
- ♦ May Gator Haven mid-year business meeting rally in Brazos Bend, TX May 15-18

I encourage all of you to come out and have a great time like I do. I really enjoy meeting new people, helping others and seeing friends.

Hope to see you at Region 9!

Eric



## Region 9 Updates - Feb. 27, 2025

By: Tracy Elkins, Region 9 President, BRN 9713

Howdy Airstream Friends!

Brrr—what a winter we've had! The past couple of months have thrown some serious chills our way, and I don't know about you, but I'm ready to wave goodbye to the blustery days and roll straight into camping season. Here's hoping your Airstreams weathered the storms like the champs they are!

### Streamin' on the Strand Recap

Last week, Region 9 threw its 4th *Streamin' on the Strand Rally* during the kickoff of Mardi Gras! Galveston—our 3rd year as a National Event Rally! Despite the beach being a bit too frosty for flip-flops, over 90 Airstreamers parked along the historic Strand on Mechanic Row for a blast of a time. Beads flew, parades marched, bands played, and the food? Nonstop deliciousness. Mark your calendars for next year: February 5-8, 2026, with registration opening mid-September for about 48 adventurous rigs. You won't want to miss it!

*Continued on p. 3*



### **Wally's Workshop – Gear Up!**

Spring tune-up time is almost here with Wally's Workshop, happening right before our big Region 9 Rally. This hands-on event on the Terraport at North Texas Airstream Community in Hillsboro is your chance to get your rig road-ready. On-site pros like The Royal Flush (tank maintenance), Cross Country RV Solutions, DFW RV Rescue (wash & wax), DFW Airstream, and a mobile RV tech will be there to help. Book your appointments ahead, and they'll work their magic onsite. Plus, there's a Swap Table and book exchange—purge what you don't need or score something new! Details here: [airstreamclub.org/wallys-workshop](http://airstreamclub.org/wallys-workshop).

### **Escape to the Country – 2025 Region 9 Rally**

Get ready for a fantastic 4-day getaway at the stunning Brackenridge Recreation Complex on the banks of Lake Texana near Edna, TX! Our Escape to the Country Rally is a Region 9 classic, bringing together Airstream friends from all ten clubs. Expect a Shrimp Boil with a live Zydeco Band, Casino Night, Dam Tours, Winery Excursions, and a lineup of clinics and programs to keep you busy. The annual Board and Members Meeting is set for March 27th at 10 AM. Only a few campsites remain—secure yours now at [airstreamclub.org/region-9-2025-rally](http://airstreamclub.org/region-9-2025-rally)!

### **Stitchin' and Fishin' – Year Two and Thriving!**

Back for its 2nd year and now a National Event Rally, Stitchin' and Fishin' at North Texas Airstream Community was such a hit last time, it's officially a must-do! April in Texas is pure magic—Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush line the roads, the weather's just right, and the fishing's prime. Sewists can hit up stops on the "All Texas Shop Hop" and set up in a dedicated rally space for projects, while anglers get a fully guided fishing trip on Monday, April 28th—a four-star day for reeling in striped bass, per the solar lunar tables! It's sold out, but join the waitlist here: [airstreamclub.org/region-9-stitching-and-fishin](http://airstreamclub.org/region-9-stitching-and-fishin).

### **Volunteers Needed – Step Up!**

Region 9 thrives because of YOU—our amazing volunteers. We've got two chair positions open (Membership and Caravan) and a call for candidates coming soon for 2nd VP elections. Whether it's a leadership role or joining a standing committee, your time and talents keep our club rolling. Think about jumping in—we'd love to have you!

Here's to warmer days, open roads, and Airstream adventures ahead. See you out there!

Happy Camping,  
Tracy Elkins  
BRN 9713  
Region 9, President





# RALLIES AND CARAVANS



Mardi Gras Rally, Summer Breeze USA RV Resort in Brookshire



## CARAVANS

"To open a whole world of new experiences... new dimension in enjoyment where travel, adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions." -Wally Byam, *Kiawah*

Check out the following **FOUR Club Caravans** in the works for 2025:

- ◆ Express caravan to York, PA for 2025 Airstream International Rally - August 2025 Route & Stops Selected (CG Reservations not made yet) - Kitty Fee Budget in process
- ◆ Scenic caravan to York, PA for 2025 Airstream International Rally - August 2025 Route & Stops Selected (CG Reservations not made yet) - Kitty Fee Budget in process
- ◆ Big Bend Caravan - Bruce Lee scouting routes & campgrounds - November 2025 Route & Stops Selected (Bruce verifying) - Kitty Fee Budget in process
- ◆ Boca Chita SpaceX Caravan - Dates TBD based on publish of launch schedule. Route & Stops Selected - Kitty Fee Budget in process

Official sign-ups for The Express and Scenic Caravans to York will be out later this month.

LOOK, I DON'T NEED A LECTURE. I KNEW THAT WAS YOUR LUNCH.



WE BOTH KNOW YOU LEFT IT UNSUPERVISED. I'D SAY YOU LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON TODAY.

# MARDIS GRAS FEBRUARY RALLY REPORT

*By Vernon & Jo Goodwin (Hosts), with Tom & Susan Raia and Jim & Cheryl McGee (Co-Hosts).*

***Laissez les bons temps rouler!***

*(The phrase is a calque of the English phrase "let the good times roll", that is, a word-for-word translation of the English phrase into Louisiana French Creole).* That was the theme for our February Rally at Summer Breeze USA RV Resort in Brookshire. And from what we could see, a good time was had by all!

Although the weather could have been better. Everyone made the best of it. When your hosts arrived on Thursday, Jerry & Tracey Calvert were already in residence. Following us that afternoon was Jim & Cheryl McGee, Tom & Susan Raia, Eric & Holly McMurphy, John & Deborah Davis, Bob & Dell Jones, Wayne & Liza Wilkerson, Bruce Lee, Mitch & Mary Guinn, Jim & Lisa Feine, Deanna Shepard, Jerry & Carol Goodwin, David & Kimberly Savage.

Everyone soon gathered in the rally room for social time. Shortly following, the grills were hot, and everyone was ready to cook their entrée while their side dishes were assembled for our evening meal. After dinner everyone stayed in the warm and festive rally room to catch up with each other.



Arriving on Friday were Ken & Lia Laney, Lisa Hanson & Nando Lopez, Alan, Bernadine & Ashley Billard, and Jim & Liesa Glover.

Friday we all headed over to *Hemi-Hideout*<sup>TM</sup> for our 1 pm appointment to view a very awesome & colorful display of vintage Mopar 70's cars, neon signs, porcelain signs, a few vintage tractors plus various items from years gone by. Our dinner that night was a potato bar complete with all the fixings and a mixed garden salad. Co-host Cheryl McGee baked home-made chocolate chip cookies, using green, yellow, and purple M&Ms for dessert. Of course there was

ice cream! (Airstreamers are ice cream addicts).





On Saturday the campers started the morning with a hearty breakfast of Egg Casserole, hash browns, sausage patty, a biscuit, fruit cocktail & juice. This was all served on 'old fashion' school lunch trays.

Several of our folks headed up to Bellville to check out the town. They stopped at the *Bellville Meat Market* for lunch & other tasty items they sell. Some even went to the *Trump Café™* and had a Trump Burger.

At 2 pm, 24 of us gathered in the rally room for a craft session. Following our Mardi Gras theme, we decorated paper mâché masks.



It never ceases to amaze me how creative and talented our members are. Upon arrival for happy hour, several people showed up in full Mardi Gras attire. To complement our theme, our dinner that night was Chicken & Sausage Gumbo, created from an authentic New Orleans recipe. Of course, gumbo is not complete without white rice (and dirty rice). There was also French bread and a salad to complete the meal. This was followed



by King Cake with more ice cream, for dessert.

Shortly after dinner, the evening festivities got underway with the RWB drawing. The highlight being that the final number drawn won a \$100 gift card. Congratulations to Deanna Shepard on being the lucky winner. This was followed by a rousing game of LCR (left-right-center). The competition was tough, but in the end, Alan Billard came out as the winner!

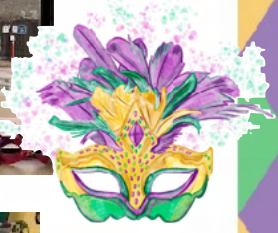
By the time Sunday morning rolled around, the weather was warming a bit, and the rain was pretty much done. We finished the rally with a Continental Breakfast of breakfast breads, pastries & fresh fruits. There was even a tray of Egg Casserole leftover that quickly disappeared. Bruce Lee concluded our rally with a brief but meaningful devotional.

Everyone definitely *Let The Good Times Roll!*

### ***This'U knock your socks off! At the GHAC Rally in February...***

- We collected 81 pairs of socks with a goal of 3000 pairs by December.
- We collected 1.75 gallons of pull tabs for the Future Streamers/Ronald McDonald House with a goal of 5 gallons by the York International Rally.
- We collected \$185 for TRWB with the raffle.
- The \$10 that each person paid to tour the Hemi Hideout was matched by the owner and given to charity.

# WINNERS



Mardi Gras



# REGION 9 RALLY ~ MARCH 26-30, 2025

**BRACKENRIDGE RECREATION COMPLEX**  
Edna, TX 77957

**All Activities at HAERNICK RECREATION CENTER**  
Unless Otherwise Specified

## WEDNESDAY – MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>

- 1-4 pm PACKET PICK-UP/REGISTRATION
- 4 MARGARITA THROW DOWN
- 5 **OPENING CEREMONY**
- 6 DINNER BUFFET  
with TUNES FROM DJJEFF
- 8 ICE CREAM

Hosted by GHAC & TPAC

## THURSDAY – MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>

- 7 COFFEE'S READY (bring your cup)
- 7:45 am EXERCISE MASHUP @ Pavilion  
with Mary Short & Linda Ward
- 8:30 BLACKSTONE GRILL BREAKFAST
- 10 **Texana Community Education Center**  
BLOOD DRIVE by South Texas Blood & Tissue
- 10 **MEMBERSHIP REGION BOARD MEETING**
- 12 Make ya' a Sammich LUNCH
- 1 pm AIRSTREAM CLINIC - Lithium & Solar  
presented by Kevin & Mary Short
- 2 SELF CARE ON THE ROAD
  - Exercise with Metaquest
  - Unlock the Power of Hairsmart
  - Relax & Unwind with Yoga – Barb Schierf
- 3 SAVE-ON-FUEL with Eric McMurphy
- 4 DUTCH OVEN COOKING MADE EASY  
presented by Susan & Robert Warner
- 5 KLEENTANK OF AUSTIN Presentation
- 6 SHRIMP BOIL ON THE PATIO BY KLEENTANK  
Bring a small dessert to share
- 6-8:30 LIVE on Stage!  
**ZYDECO J AND CREOLE PRESSURE**

Hosted by TAU, THCU & ETLU

## FRIDAY – MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

- 7 am COFFEE (Bring your cup)
- 8 BRFAKFAST-Grab & Go
- 9 Pet Stroll
- 9 EXPLORATION / RECREATION  
Hiking, Fishing, Kayaking
- 10 PALMETTO DAM TOUR
- 10 GAMES GAMES GAMES
- 10 LEND A PAW (Pet Pics) by Jim Pfiel
- 12 noon WINE TOUR (Pre-registration Only)  
Lunch on Your Own
- 2 BACK UP CLINIC – Haernick Parking Lot
- 3 BISCUIT ON A STICK @ Pavilion  
with Jerry Goodwin
- 5 BEER / WINE / CHARCUTERIE  
Bring your Favs to Share
- 6 **CASINO NIGHT**
- 8:30 AWARDS & RAFFLE DRAWING #1/CLUB BASKETS

Hosted by NTxAC, HOTC & TGCU

## Saturday – March 29<sup>th</sup>

- 7 am COFFEE (Bring your cup)
- 7:45 EXERCISE MASHUP @ Pavilion  
with Mary Short & Linda Ward
- 8:30 SkyMed BREAKFAST & PRESENTATION
- 9 EXPLORE JACKSON COUNTY  
Lunch with Your Local Club
- 4 OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING
- 5 **CLOSING CEREMONY**
- Awards & Raffle Drawing #2/ Club Baskets
- 6 CATERED DINNER
- 6:30 CAMPFIRE TUNES & STORIES  
with LEE HAILE
- 8 ICE CREAM

Hosted by THLAC & OASC

## SUNDAY – MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

- 8 am BREAKFAST-TO-GO
- 9 **Historic Texana Church**  
Nondenominational Service
- 10 REGION 9 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
Clean-Up & Good-Byes & Departures

Hosted by Region 9 Executive Board



Each local club is asked to prepare a creative and themed gift basket with a \$100 Value that can be raffled off for donations to Region 9 Charity of Choice - *Team Red, White & Blue* In Support of Enriching Veteran Health

## Location:

Brackenridge Recreation Complex  
891 Brackenridge Parkway, Edna, TX 77957

## Registration Link:

Region 9 2025 Rally | ACI

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. We're only a short drive from the Gulf, so we'll have a shrimp boil, local excursions, tours, golf, and even skeet shooting.





# JOINT RALLY TEXAS HILL COUNTRY UNIT & GREATER HOUSTON AIRSTREAM CLUB

*April 24-27*  
*in Brenham, TX*  
THE HILLTOP RV RESORT

Two Step Process - Call the RV Park (979-269-7505) and tell them you are camping with the "Airstream Club" to get your discounted reservations. Second, both Club's register on the Jotform (Rally Fee \$11/person) at this link: <https://airstreamclub.org/ghac-april-2025-joint-rally-thcu>

## THURSDAY

6pm - Informal Happy Hour at Campsites and then local restaurant on your own or with friends.

## FRIDAY

7-9am - Coffee @ Hosts Site & "Ghost in the Swamp" (Oatmeal w/ a yummy surprise, bacon & fruit) Breakfast

\*\*Morning Adventures, Lunch & Afternoon Adventures on your own\*\*

5-9pm - Happy Hour (BYOB) @ Hey Barn. Bring your own meat to grill (appetizers, sides & desserts to be assigned)



Including Games & Social Time



## SATURDAY

7-9am - Coffee @ Hosts Site & "Breakfast Baggie Bar" (custom omelette, fruit)

\*\*Morning Adventures, Lunch & Afternoon Adventures on your own\*\*

5-7pm - Happy Hour (BYOB) @ The Clubhouse. Food Trucks will be on-site for dinner \$\$

## SUNDAY

7-9am Grab-n-Go Breakfast @ Hosts Site

See You Down the Road

Your Hosts: Greg Carroll & Loyce Engle (THCU),  
Ira & Terri Rush (THCU), Eric & Holly McMurphy (GHAC),  
Dan & Maria McAnulty (GHAC)

# Nearby Places of Interest

## BRENHAM

### **Brenham Art Walk**

**Brenham Fire Museum**  
Saturday 11 - 2, free entry

**Brenham Heritage Museum**  
105 S Market Street Friday and Saturday 10 - 4  
The Brenham Heritage Museum is a local history museum located in Downtown Brenham. Exhibits and collections reflect a focus on the history and culture of Washington County. Originally serving as the United States Post Office, this magnificent building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was eventually transformed into the museum you see today.

**Blue Bell Creameries & Ice Cream Parlour**  
1101 Blue Bell Road Observation deck is open Friday 8 -2. Country store, visitor center, ice cream parlour open Friday 8 - 5

**Antique Carousel**  
910 North Park Street Saturday, 11-4. Children under 12 may ride the horses. Fully restored, the carousel is one of eight that exist in Texas today and is the only example of a C.W. Parker carousel with Herschell-Spillman horses. Manufactured prior to 1910, it is housed in a unique 16-sided WPA building in the heart of Fireman's Park.'

### PLACES TO EAT

**Pioneer Smokehouse and Mercantile**  
309 S Park Street  
BBQ and outdoor dining - by the old train depot

**Yum! Sweets and Eats**  
106 E Alamo Opens 11 am  
Burgers, wraps, salads, Blue Bell

**Must Be Heaven**  
107 E Alamo Street  
Soup, sandwiches, salads, Pies

**Santa Fe & SP Cafe**  
302 W First Street  
Blue plate specials, burgers, a local favorite!

**Honey's Bee'Stro**  
2116 S Market  
Lunch plate specials, soup and salad bar

**Brenham Grill**  
107 W Commerce St  
Casual dining inside the elegant & historic Ant Street Inn

**The Cannery Kitchen and Gift Shop**  
314 E Alamo  
Homestyle American food served buffet style. Supports a local charity, Faith Mission

## INDEPENDENCE

### **Antique Rose Emporium**

**Old Baylor Park at Windmill Hill**  
11300 Old Baylor College Road, Brenham, Texas 77833  
On the east side of FM 50 (next to the Antique Rose Emporium), interpretive signage and a reconstructed bell tower mark the archeological ruins of the Baylor campus for males. A well-marked walking and/or driving trail with 19 interpretive signs relates the history of the village of Independence. On the west side of FM 50, ruins mark the site of the original Baylor University and its female department, one of the best places in the state to enjoy springtime bluebonnets. Adjacent to the John P. Coles homes, this park features picnic tables and a playground area.

### **Early Texas Home Tours**

## WASHINGTON

### **Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site**

#### **Star of the Republic Museum**

**Barrington Plantation State Historic Site**  
23400 Park Road 12, Washington, Texas 836.878.2214  
Travel back in time to 1850 and explore the original home of Dr. Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas. The Jones family lived at the farm for over a decade, building a successful cotton farm with enslaved labor after Texas joined the union. This living history farm is complete with period costumed interpreters using 19th century farming practices for planting, cultivating, harvesting and working with livestock. Explore the sights and smells of farm life and experience the daily lives of those who came 150 years ago. Located within Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. Entrance fees apply. Open Wed-Sun 10am-4:30pm

## BURTON

**Burton Short Stop**  
12400 Fm 390 West, Burton  
American style fo

**Burton Cotton Gin Festival**  
Saturday, April 26, 2025 :: 10:00am - 6:00pm  
This is a FREE family friendly event featuring a day full of fun and history! The day begins with a parade through Burton, and continues at the grounds of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum. Shop and eat in our Arts & Crafts Vendor Area and Food Court. Watch Folklife skills demonstrations like blacksmithing, butter churning, spoon carving, and more. Enjoy our Tractor, Engine, and Classic Cars on Display, and take part in fun contests and games. Live Music begins at 11am PLUS we will have two step dance classes at 12:30 and 2pm with Hill Country Two Step! Tours of the Burton Farmers Gin are from 11am to 2pm. At 3pm, the Oldest Operating Cotton Gin in America will come to life, and a bale of cotton will be ginned!

# Gator Haven Rally at Brazos Bend State Park

May 15-18, 2025

## Location:

21901 FM 762 RD, Needville, Texas 77461

## Hosts:

Caren and Tom Bundy (281-250-7644), Carol and Jerry Goodwin, Jim & Liesa Glover

GHAC has reserved 35 RV sites for this rally and will be assigned by the hosts. The cost for the sites are included in the rally fees. Upon arrival at the park, pay day use fees or present park pass and obtain campsite location. The online rally registration is found at: <https://airstreamclub.org/ghac-2025-may-rally>. If you need to cancel your registration or want to be placed on the standby list in the event the rally sells out, call or text Tom Bundy at 281-250-7644.

## Rally fees:

\$96 for RV site. (Site cost included with total rally fees)

Meals \$17/person

## Thursday

5:00 PM – Happy Hour at dining hall

6:00 PM – Dinner: bring something to grill and a side to share

## Friday

8:00 AM – Bird watching hike in park

5:00 PM – Happy Hour at dining hall (Even Number Rigs bring appetizers)

6:00 PM – Dinner provided by hosts

7:30 PM – Activity

## Saturday

7:30 AM – Early coffee

8:00 AM – Breakfast provided by hosts, Bring table service

10:00 AM – Field trip to learn about Texas Native Coastal grasses and visit the last remaining site with these native grasses

1:00 PM – Annual Business meeting

3:00 PM – International caravans meeting

3:30 PM – Dutch oven cooking seminar followed by breaking up into teams to cook dinner in Dutch ovens. Host will provide the food to be cooked in the dutch ovens

5:00 PM – Happy Hour (Odd Number Rigs bring appetizers)

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:30 PM – Activity – campfire (Bring your musical instruments.)

## Optional activity

The George Observatory located in the park is hosting star gazing sessions on Saturday at 9:00 PM and 10:00 PM. If the weather is poor, the sessions will be held in the planetarium. The cost of the program is \$13/person. Make your own reservations by calling 713-639-4629.

## Sunday

7:30 AM – Early Coffee

8:00 AM – Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – Devotional

Coyote Tales, February 2025





# Pop-Up Rallies: Let's Freestyle!

*By Tracy Elkins*

Alright, Airstream adventurers, buckle up your seatbelts and prepare for a wild ride through the world of spontaneous camping! Let's face it, sometimes you just get that itch to hit the open road, park your Airstream, and hang out with your favorite Airstream buddies. But you didn't quite have time for all that *planning*? Enter the glorious, the magnificent, the utterly unpredictable: the Pop-Up Rally!

Think of it as the camping equivalent of a flash mob, but with more awnings and fewer synchronized dance moves. We are perfecting this new camping style and now we're unleashing it upon you. The Calverts hosted a pop-up Rally for the Solar Eclipse in 2024 and our first pop-up Rally of 2025 is right around the corner when we make a pit stop at Lost Lagoon in El Campo with the North Texas Airstream Club on the way to the Region 9 Rally in Edna (basically a party on wheels).

## What is a Pop-Up Rally, You Ask?

Well, imagine this: You wake up one day, the sun's shining, the birds are singing, and you think, "Hey, wouldn't it be great to gather a bunch of Airstreams and... just go somewhere?" That's a Pop-Up Rally!

Basically, it's a rally that throws the rulebook out the window (gently, of course, we don't want to litter). You, yes YOU, can be the mastermind behind a spontaneous gathering. All you need is a location, dates, and a burning desire to share your camping genius with the world. Oh, and a quick chat with our fearless leader, Eric McMurphy, at least 30 days before you hit the road. (He needs time to polish his "Approved!" stamp.)

## Important Tidbits (aka The Fine Print, But Funnier):

- **No Rally Fees!** This is a DIY extravaganza. You handle your own expenses, like a true independent traveler.
- **Approval Required!** Club President Eric McMurphy, BRN 15220, is the gatekeeper of Pop-Up Rally glory. So, run your ideas by him first.

## Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It:

Think of a brilliant, quirky, utterly irresistible Pop-Up Rally idea. Maybe a "Stargazing Under the Airstreams" night? Or a "Gourmet Campfire Cooking Challenge?" The possibilities are endless!

## In the words of Wally Byam:

"To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home." And with Pop-Up Rallies, we're making that doorstep even more spontaneous and fun!

So, check your calendar, unleash your inner rally planner, and let's make some memories on the open road. And remember, keep an eye on the newsletter and online calendar for all the adventures ahead.

See you down the road, fellow adventurers!

All the best,  
Tracy  
281-725-1672

LET'S GO CAMPING



# 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.

## For the Record...



### **Mardi Gras Rally**

Alan, Bernadine & Ashley Billard  
Jerry & Tracey Calvert  
John & Deborah Davis  
Jim & Lisa Feine  
Jim & Liesa Glover  
Jerry & Carol Goodwin  
Vernon & Jo Goodwin (Hosts)  
Mitch & Mary Guinn  
Bob & Dell Jones  
Ken & Lia Laney  
Bruce Lee  
Lisa Hanson & Nando Lopez  
Jim & Cheryl McGee (co-hosts)  
Eric & Holly McMurphy  
Tom & Susan Raia (co-hosts)  
David & Kimberly Savage  
Deanna Shepard  
Wayne & Liza Wilkerson


### **Streamin' on the Strand**

David & Anna Brandon  
Jay & Amanda Bubela  
Rick & Tracy Elkins  
Jason & Johnda Pugh  
Raj & Narmin Ramlal  
Alfred & Carla Ricks  
Burney & Keely Wood



# 2025 Rally Host/Co-Host Sign-Ups



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



**More pictures from Streamin' on the Strand, Galveston Texas.**

Top left is Raj & Narmin Ramlal (BRN 2385) parking in front of Rick and Tracy Elkins (BRN 9713). Burney and Keely Wood attended their 1st Rally. The top right photo is Burney with their Bambi. Also, the Rangeline on the right of the Group Photo on p. 3 belongs to Jason and Johnda Pugh.

# February 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!**

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Clay & Jenny Brown, BRN 16090, Katy, TX - 2027 27' Globetrotter

Tim & Allison ("Ally") Ebbers, BRN 5337, Bertram, TX (Affiliates) 2016 27' Pendleton

Tim & Georgia Jackson, BRN 10608, Sealy, TX - 1965 25' Safari



## **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](mailto: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



*“May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day.  
May songbirds serenade your every step along the way.  
May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that’s always blue.  
And, may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.”  
-An Irish Blessing*

## Member Concerns

Former GHAC President (2023), **Dan McAnulty**, is recovering from a minor stroke. He says that he’s doing therapy and slowly recovering. He’s had some loss of dexterity and balance. He does feel fatigued, but is not in pain. He says he was unaware how quickly his stroke occurred and its after affects. He is continuing his prescribed treatment of Plavix, 81 mg aspirin, and therapy as well as getting lots of rest. He says walking well is still an issue, but getting better. We hope that Dan has a full recovery and that he and his wife, Maria, will be back traveling with us soon.

Former GHAC President (2022), **Michael Iversen**, is recovering from a stroke that he suffered in January. His wife, Carrie, says that he’s doing well. She says, however, that his heart is back in Atrial Fibrillation. He may have to have an ablation procedure to restore its normal rhythm. We wish Michael well with his continued recovery.

Former GHAC President (2024), **Rick Elkins**, is recovering from recent surgery. He says that his healing is going very well and that he is quickly returning to normal life with very few modifications or improvements. Great news!

Former GHAC President (2008), **Dave Rightmyer**, had recent hip replacement surgery. His wife, Jan, reports that he is doing great. He has no pain and has been walking normally since a week after the surgery. Great news!

Former GHAC (2007) and Region 9 President (2021), **Bill Miller**, suffered a subdural hematoma caused from hitting his head while working inside his Airstream. After experiencing a mini-seizure, he went to the hospital and doctors placed him on anti-seizure medication. While in the hospital, he had another mini-seizure and his doctors increased his meds. He was discharged and was told to take his meds, rest, and take it easy. After experiencing hand tremors, Bill returned to the hospital for more treatment where the doctors placed him on another medication specific to these tremors. We wish Bill a speedy recovery.

### March Birthdays

- 11 Carla Daggett
- 12 Ines Baptista
- 13 Jerry Lyddon
- 13 Kay Neichoy
- 14 Dell Jones
- 17 Gary Alley
- 21 Jerry Goodwin
- 22 Joe Romero
- 24 Ron Bernucho
- 27 Jerry Adams
- 27 Jim Glover
- 28 Paul Evens
- 31 Vernon Goodwin

### March Anniversaries

- 06 Rick & Jennifer Cary
- 12 Jason & Sherry Goodwin
- 13 Kelly & Gina Hargraves
- 17 Tom & Caren Bundy
- 19 James & Lisa Feine
- 21 Bill & Sofia Smythe
- 22 Michael & Judy Shelley
- 23 Gary & Pamela Alley
- 24 Mark & Danielle Sitton
- 28 Paul Evens & Natalie Garrett

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

**HAPPY SAINT PATRICK’S DAY!! HAPPY TRAILS!! SAFE TRAVELS!!**



# Tech Tip

By Eric McMurphy



## *Internet on the Road*

Last month, I'm sure you read my tech tip, and I hope you found it useful. I do want to amend what I said about all hot water tanks in Airstreams. A fellow Airstreamer from East Texas Lakes emailed me to say that rigs with Atwood units have an aluminum tank, therefore not needing the Cathode since the tank is aluminum. He suggested if you have an Atwood, just use a plastic plug and remove it after each use to keep deposits and any corrosion from building up. I suggest you consult your manual to see if your tank is steel. If it is, you should have a Cathode plug so the metal on the Cathode takes a beating instead of your tank walls.

So this month, I'll just share a bit about internet communications while camping. Everyone does this differently and technology is changing all the time. People run the spectrum from using rv park wifi to cell phone hotspots to mifi's to Starlink. Whatever way you get to the internet, understand that the ways of wires is gone. Some of our rigs have Smart TV's and some do not. You can easily convert an older TV to a Smart TV with a Roku or a Chromecast device. In addition, I'm now 100% streaming my TV and entertainment. I gave up DirectTV after 25 years and I've never been happier and don't miss it for a day. The cost is much less, and I still get the shows I want to watch. I know change is hard, but I encourage all of you to keep your options open and try something new. You will be glad you did and if you do it right, you will have better communications at less cost. I'm happy to discuss options with anyone of you in the club, just reach out to me. I enjoy learning from you as well.

Happy camping and streaming!

Eric

# Greater Houston Airstream Club

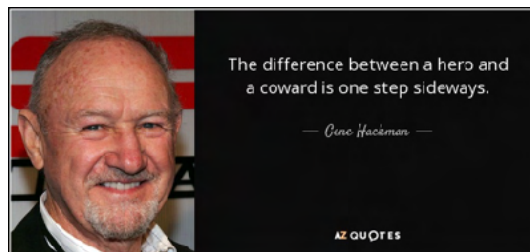
## 2025 Officers

### Officers

|                                |                  | <i>BRN</i> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| President                      | Eric McMurphy    | 15220      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Lisa Feine       | 31415      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Wayne Wilkerson  | 1849       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 |



### Happy Birthday GHAC!

We are celebrating our Club's 50th anniversary this year. At each rally we will be celebrating the Club and all of its members as YOU are what makes this Club a special group to be apart of as we travel in our wonderful Airstreams.



### 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://www.facebook.com/GreaterHoustonAirstreamClub)

[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>

[assist@airstreamclub.org](mailto:assist@airstreamclub.org)

[membership@airstreamclub.org](mailto:membership@airstreamclub.org)

[blueberet@airstreamclub.org](mailto:blueberet@airstreamclub.org)

[feedback@airstreamclub.org](mailto:feedback@airstreamclub.org)

# EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello Friends!



I'm embracing the Mardi Gras theme, even though we missed both rallies this month. It looks like everyone had a blast, except for the rainy weather. We've been in Florida for most of February, and the rain hit us a few days after you. The State Capitol was on our drive path to our final destination, our 17th stamp in our passport. Then on to Melbourne, where we are currently staying at Land Yacht Harbor, an Airstream park. The day we arrived, we got to watch a rocket

launch right from our site—how cool is that? I know some of you are here as well, and we're still hoping to bump into you! We'll be in site 92 until around March 10th, so feel free to swing by and say hello.

We're loving our 2025 Airstream Classic. Like with all new trailers, we're still figuring things out, but the extra space has been amazing. Tim finally has a permanent spot to work! I posted a question in the Airstream Classic Facebook group, asking about an issue similar to ours, and it turns out the expert who answers a lot of questions there lives full-time at Land Yacht Harbor! He's practically our neighbor—what are the odds?

The issue? I'm glad you asked. We've been getting an error message on our Alde system that kept popping up even after all the resets. This is a known issue with the "load monitor" error on the 2025 Classics. The load monitor limits the power consumption in the unit. In the U.S., we don't use load monitors because we have 50 and 30 amp power almost everywhere, but since the Alde system is made in Europe where currents vary, there's a plug-in for the load monitor. Airstream dealers aren't supposed to plug anything into that spot, and in fact it is taped off! Apparently, they don't always know that. So, the system keeps looking for a load monitor, which obviously isn't installed, and the error continues to appear. The Truma (Alde) technician confirmed this as well.

Enter our new friend, *Jackie Chan* (he \*really\* looks like him!). He came over to our Airstream, opened up the Alde cover beneath the dinette bench, and showed us exactly what needed to be done. He unplugged the load monitor, and just like that, the error code vanished. While he was at it, he cleaned up some construction debris and tidied up the wires with zip ties. What a gem! He saved us a trip to Truma, so we owe him a nice dinner.

He seems to enjoy having our Airstream nearby, as he's asked to peek under the couch, take pictures of the wiring, and he uses these for training others with similar issues. We learn so much each time he comes over. He's the real deal, and we're so grateful—considering our E.R. docs (Eric & Rick) are all the way in Texas, Dau is a total lifesaver!

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](#).



"There is a name for people who like winter...Floridians."  
-unknown

## 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 hours are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.  
Thank you for your business.**