



COYOTE TALES

Texas Coastal Plains Unit #155, WBCCI, The RV Club of Airstream Owners

Volume 41 Issue 5

Barbara Mercer, Editor b.a.mercer@hotmail.com

MAY 2016

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

May 26-30: Mission Trail Rally,
Travelers'World RV Resort, San
Antonio. **Contact Bill Kindle**
(713-907-2700) or
airstream4126@gmail.com

June 28-July 4: International Rally
in Lewisburg, WV.

Sept. 1-5: Labor Day Rally at
Johnson Creek RV Resort in
Kerrville. **Contact Don Reeves,**
(979)855-1398 or
reevesde@aol.com by **August 1.**



The President's Corner



Our Big Bend caravan was a great experience! Makes a fellow want to climb a mountain and meditate. We are so thankful to have great TCPU friends to travel and enjoy this great country with us!

As you know, our Memorial Day rally in San Antonio is just around the corner. At this time, we have 30 rigs signed up to attend. This is a great location with lots to do in San Antonio.

We are excited to have so many TCPUers attending International in Lewisburg, WV, this summer. Our club should be well represented! There are plans for those who can to meet up in Wytheville, WV, on June 21 and go in together on June 22. If you would like to join this group, let Tom Bundy know.

I want to recognize and praise Team Bundy for the great job they did on planning our Brazos Bend rally. Everyone enjoyed great camping, great meals, great activities, and great fellowship! Also, praise to Jerry Lyddon for organizing our Big Bend caravan! Our members are the greatest!

See you down the road,
Jim



Gator can now add Big Bend National Park to his travel journal! From the Florida swamps to the Texas deserts, that alligator gets around!



Like us on Facebook: Houston Area Airstream Club-WBCCI-Texas Coastal Plains Unit

Unit Website: <http://tcpu155.wbcci.net>



*Team Bundy Hosts: Caren & Tom Bundy, Rae & Ronn Gilbert,
Beverly & Jack Williams, Searcy & Fred Kracke*

**Gator Gonna Getcha Rally
Brazos Bend State Park
March 14-17, 2016
by Caren Bundy**

Twenty-four rigs attended the Gator Gonna Getcha rally at Brazos Bend State Park. Attendees were Ron & Susan Bernucho, Alan & Bernadine Billard, Gene & Kathy Blanchard, Tom & Caren Bundy, Red & Nancy Childers, Bob & Dorothy Cooney, Russ & Nancy Dionne, Ronn & Rae Gilbert, Jerry & Carol Goodwin, Vernon & Jo Goodwin, James & Tonia Goodwin, David & Gayla Haas, Jack & Autumn Isbell, Bill & Dorma Kindle, Fred & Searcy Kracke, Jerry & Irene Lyddon, HV & Pat Martin, Jim & Barbara Mercer, Scott & Sally Mercer with William, Bill & Joanne Miller, George & Jamie Nixon, Dave & Jan Rightmyer, Bob & Vaughnette Stogdill, and Beverly & Jack Williams.

Most of the attendees arrived on Thursday and enjoyed walking and cycling in the park. Thursday evening, we gathered at the dining hall for dinner. Everyone brought something to grill and pot luck sides. For dessert we had Klondike Ice Cream Bars.

Friday morning about half of the group met at 40 Acre Lake for a guided bird hike. The hike went through several different habitats so we saw many varieties of birds. Some of the favorites were bitterns, indigo buntings, moorhens, and great blue herons. We also saw the alligators roaring as part of their mating ritual. The rest of the day was spent enjoying the park, visiting, and doing things around the trailers. Friday evening, we dined on a Tex-Mex Squash Chicken casserole, salad, and strawberries with angel food cake. Following dinner Searcy called out the clues for a game of Brazos Bend BINGO. After that we all enjoyed a great campfire made from hickory wood provided by affiliate members Matt and Deanna Shepard. George Nixon and his daughter, Fred Kracke, and Ron and Susan Bernucho provided music. Everyone tried to sing along when they could. It was a perfect ending to a great day.

We started the day Saturday with breakfast tacos and fruit. After paying rally fees everyone was free to enjoy time on their own. A new Airstream couple who live in Edna, Kent and Darlene Miller, came to see what we did at rallies.

Continued from page 2

They joined us for dinner and then signed up to join the unit. At 2 pm Jack and Beverly Williams and Ronn and Rae Gilbert gave a Dutch oven cooking demonstration. They made biscuits, popcorn, and baked apples which we all sampled. Following the demonstration, the hosts put together 7 cobblers (peach, cherry, and blueberry) for the evening's dessert. Saturday night we feasted on Creole style pork chops with mashed potatoes and salad. Dessert was the delicious cobblers cooked in the Dutch ovens topped by Blue Bell ice cream. The fabulous dessert was a superb ending to another day in the park. After dinner, Jim Mercer installed Jerry Goodwin as the 3rd VP and new members, James and Tonia Goodwin into the unit. James, Jerry and Vernon Goodwin are cousins.

Sunday morning the five rigs caravanning to Big Bend left bright and early to head for their first stop at Garner State Park. We sent them off with left over pork chops and fruit danishes to enjoy on the trip. Following a continental breakfast of assorted breads and fruit, Rae and Beverly provided a great devotional on spring cleaning and Mothers' Day. In true Airstream form, everyone helped to break down the chairs and tables and clean up the dining hall before heading back to their rigs to head for home.



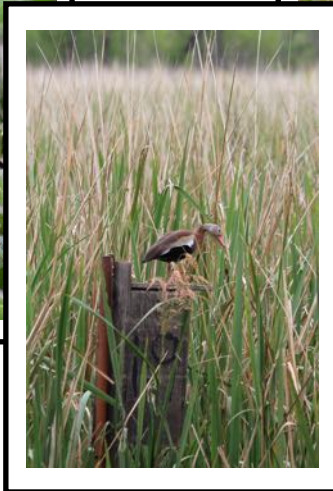
Lots of gator and bird watching went on at Brazos Bend. Our Gator wasn't too sure about making friends with "their" gators!



Birdwatching Hike



Bittern



Black-Bellied Whistling Duck



Little Blue Heron



The Gilberts presented a Dutch oven cooking demonstration.



Brazos Bend Bingo



Jamming around the hickory campfire

More Brazos Bend Fun



TCPU Big Bend Caravan
Reported on by Gator Mercer, Jr.

Wow! I am one lucky gator! I know I've said that before, but this Airstream bunch really knows how to have fun! No sooner did Aunt Rae and Uncle Ronn return me to Mom & Dad (AKA-Jim & Barbara Mercer) at the Brazos Bend rally, than I was having a great time looking for cousins in the park. I didn't even see that many gators on our Florida trip with Aunt Rae and Uncle Ronn!

After a fun time at Brazos Bend State Park, five of our members lined up on Sunday morning for our trip to Big Bend National Park. Our caravan included Jerry and Irene Lyddon, Red and Nancy Childers, Bob and Dorothy Cooney, Dave and Gayla Haas, and Mom & Dad Mercer. Our first night was spent in Garner State Park. We were able to enjoy a nice dinner from the great left overs from the rally. We had heavy rains that night, but they stopped long enough for us to get back on the road to Big Bend. On the way to Big Bend, Mom (Barbara) got a picture of our caravan crossing the Pecos River Bridge. It is the tallest bridge in Texas, and our Airstreams looked awesome crossing it. As always she never stopped looking for photo ops!

Once at Big Bend, we stayed at Stillwell Ranch RV. This place has a really interesting history and was originally part of the ranch owned by Roy and Hallie Stillwell. Hallie has written a couple of books about her life on the ranch from 1918 until her death in 1997. The RV park even had a museum dedicated to her life. The RV park also had lots of wildlife around it. There were so many strange birds, much different from those we have in the swamps. We saw lots of Scaled Quail, Cactus Wren, and Roadrunners. Mom (Barbara) even saw a bobcat there and almost got a perfect picture. He ran away before she got a second chance. I think they were both scared!

Big Bend National Park is huge as we soon learned. Everyone decided to just do their own thing and see the things they were most interested in seeing or doing. Everyone loved the Santa Elena Canyon of the Rio Grande and Mom & Dad enjoyed hiking the Lost Mine Trail in the Chisos Basin. Everyone enjoyed a meal together at the Chisos Lodge and watching the sunset through The Window. The cactus was blooming all across the desert. There were yellow, red, bright pink, and orange blooms. They were beautiful, just don't try to pick a bouquet! I was amazed at all the living things that can thrive in the desert. We saw deer, rabbits, javelina, bobcat, and bears. The Lyddons spotted the bears playing in the road on their way out of Chisos Basin. We also saw many wildflowers and even some Big Bend bluebonnets. But, I didn't see any alligators, only lizards.

Everyone had a great time, but it was soon time to head out. I hope we get to go back again soon!

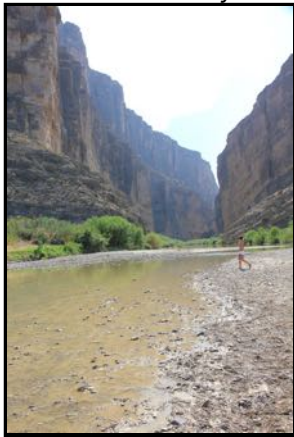
Our Caravan Buddies



Red and Nancy at Pecos River Overlook



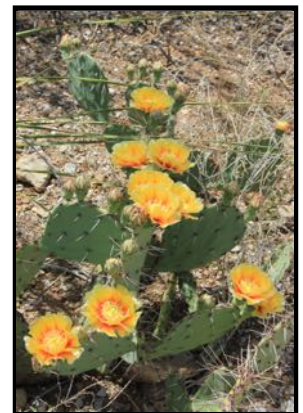
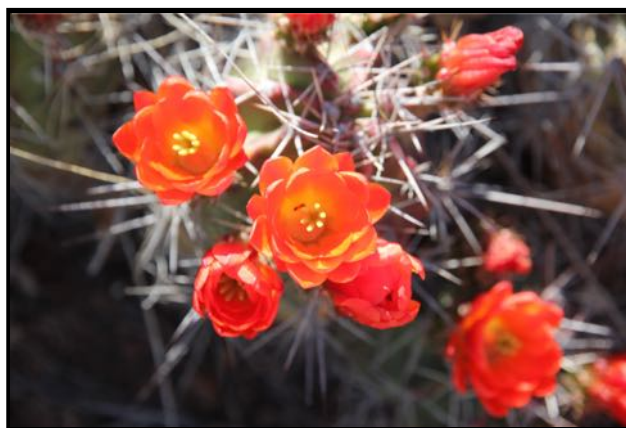
Santa Elena Canyon



Some of the Blooming Cacti



Jim & Gator Go Hiking



Sunset in Chisos Basin



Big Bend Bluebonnets



More Big Bend NP



Barbara at Boquillas Canyon. This trail was too hot to hike. It was almost 100 degrees in the shade. Early morning hikes only after this one!



Vista from the top of Lost Mine Trail



Sotol plants (above) provided food and material for weaving baskets for early inhabitants.



Left: Dave, Jerry, Irene, and Dorothy at Panther Junction Visitors Center



The ocotillo plant had a beautiful bloom at the tip of its long branches. If there is enough moisture, the branches will have small leaves on them. They can live up to 100 years and reach 20 ft in height.



Mexicans from across the Rio Grande River had set out their wares in a couple of places. They left a container for "honor system" payments. We saw some of the men watching from across the border. Some had horses on which they crossed, and some came across on small boats.



Sunshine Corner

by Nelda Tope

Our sympathy to Dave and Gayla Haas on the recent death of Dave's father. His parents were members of WBCCI and Dave and Gayla now own his parent's Airstream. It has treated 4 generations of the Haas family to some great adventures.

Tracey Calvert reports that she is doing well with her radiation treatments and plans to attend the Memorial Day rally. We will all be anxious to see her and Jerry.

No other reports of illnesses or needs have been reported, so hopefully all is well! As always, please let me know of anyone who needs a card, prayer, or word of encouragement. Email me at neldatope@gmail.com or call me at 210-724-2478.

Best wishes,
Nelda



Do Gooder's Corner

by Sherry Miller

At the Memorial Day Rally, we will make Airstreams from foam boards for the International Rally Parade. If you have anything special to decorate a foam board Airstream, please bring it to May Rally. (fabric for curtains, decals, etc.)

We will have a jar at the May Rally to collect any tabs you have been saving. I will turn them in at International. Last year it seems there was more change found in the collection than the amount of money they got for the tabs. You can throw a handful of coins in the jar and I will turn it in with the tabs.

Also, if you have any greeting cards (Christmas, Birthday, Thank you, Get Well etc.) Please bring them to a Rally. I'm collecting them to send to Jude's Ranch for Children. They use the fronts of cards to make new cards that they sell on line.

That's all for this month. See you all Memorial Day!

Sherry61247@gmail.com

214-770-3271

TCPU Officers, 2016



President: Jim Mercer
1st Vice President: Don Reeves
2nd Vice President: Hub Miller
3rd Vice President: Jerry Goodwin
Recording Secretary: Nelda Tope
Treasurer: Jerry Lyddon
Assistant Treasurer: Jerry Calvert
Two Year Trustee: Tom Harris
Two Year Trustee: Jerry Kavalieratos
One Year Trustee: Rob Tope
One Year Trustee: Sherry Miller

TCPU Committee Chairpersons, 2016

Constitution and Bylaws: Vernon Goodwin III
Crafts & Projects: Sherry Miller
Directory Editor: Bill Miller
Electronic Communications: Tom Bundy
Health: Rae Gilbert
Membership: Jo Goodwin
Newsletter Editor: Barbara Mercer
Sunshine: Nelda Tope
Technical: Don Teegarden
New Member Mentor: Ronn Gilbert



June Birthdays

6-1 Jamie Nixon
6-6 John Luker
6-10 Dan McAnulty
6-12 Jo Goodwin
6-12 Sherry Miller
6-18 Bill Clifford
6-22 Bonnie MacDonald
6-28 Carol Goodwin
6-30 Susan Sheridan



June Anniversaries

6-1 Robert & Susan Warner
6-6 Dan & Kathleen High
6-6 Don & Helen Teegarden
6-10 Kevin & Melissa Katz
6-15 Grady & Keith Ferry
6-15 Don & Eloise Reeves
6-20 Ronn & Rae Gilbert
6-20 Arnold & Mary Etta Zander



2016 Texas Coastal Plains Rally Schedule

Jim Mercer, President

Thursday, December 31, 2015-Sunday, January 2, 2016--New Year's Rally, Coushatta Recreation Ranch, Bellville, TX; HOST: Hub & Sherry Miller; CO-HOSTS: Tom Harris, Fred Walschburger, Don & Eloise Reeves

January 10-15--IBT, Rayne, LA

Saturday, January 23, 2016--Annual TCPU Luncheon at Brady's Landing. HOSTS: Arnold & Mary Zander, John & Lavaughn Luker, Don & Helen Teegarden

Thursday, February 4-Sunday, February 7, 2016--Winter in the Woods Rally. Magnolia Lake RV Park, Goodrich, TX. HOST: Tom Harris; CO-HOSTS: Fred Walschburger, Don Hardman, Hub & Sherry Miller

Thursday, March 3-Sunday, March 6--Pre Region Rally, Rusk KOA, Rusk, TX. HOST: Rob & Nelda Tope; CO-HOSTS: Red & Nancy Childers, Hub & Sherry Miller, Don & Helen Teegarden, Bill & Joanne Miller

Monday, March 14-Saturday, March 19, 2016--Region 9 Rally, Shawnee, OK

Thursday, April 14-Sunday, April 17, 2016--Gator Gonna Getcha Rally, Brazos Bend State Park, Damon, TX. HOST: Tom & Caren Bundy ; CO-HOSTS: Vernon & Jo Goodwin, Ronn & Rae Gilbert, Jack & Beverly Williams

Thursday, May 26-Monday, May 30, 2016--**Mission Trail Memorial Day Rally**, Travelers World RV Resort, San Antonio, TX. HOST: Bill & Dorma Kindle; CO-HOSTS: Bill & Joanne Miller, Hub & Sherry Miller, Lyle & Peggy Snow

June 26-July 4, 2016--**International Rally**, Lewisburg, WV

Thursday, September 1-Monday, September 5, 2016--**Labor Day Rally**, Johnson Creek RV Resort, Kerrville, TX. HOST: Don & Eloise Reeves

Thursday, September 29-Sunday, October 2, 2016--**Fair on the Square Rally**, Huntsville State Park, Huntsville, TX. HOST: Ronn & Rae Gilbert; CO-HOSTS: Tom Harris, David Jr. & Kelli Rightmyer

Thursday, November 17-Sunday, November 20, 2016--**A River Runs Through It Rally**, Lazy L & L Campground, New Braunfels, TX. HOST: H V & Pat Martin; CO-HOSTS: Jack & Beverly Williams, Don & Helen Teegarden

Thursday, December 8-Sunday, December 11, 2016--**Christmas Celebration and 2016 Officer Installation Rally**, Advanced RV Resort, Houston-Pearland, TX. HOST: Vernon & Jo Goodwin; CO-HOSTS: Jack & Autumn Isbell, Bob & Vaughnette Stogdill



Mission Trail Memorial Day Rally

May 26 Thursday thru May 30 Monday

Travelers World RV Resort

Important directions on next page!

*Do not use GPS as it will guide you
across steep RR tracks.*

2617 Roosevelt Ave.

San Antonio, TX 78214

Phone: (210) 532-8310 or 1-800-755-8310

Latitude: 29.3747892960405

Longitude: -98.4817028045654

Hosts

Bill & Dorma Kindle, Bill & JoAnne Miller, Hub & Sherry Miller, Lyle & Peggy Snow

Rally fee TBD

Thursday MAY 26 – Parking all Day – Check with office for assigned site

5:00 Social Hour

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Social Hour Continued

Friday May 27 – Parking all Day – Check with office for assigned site

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Tour San Antonio on your own

5:00 Social Hour

6:00 Dinner

Saturday May 28 - Parking all Day – Check with office for assigned site

8:00 Breakfast

9:30 Annual Business Meeting – Election of Officers

5:00 Social Hour

6:00 Dinner

Sunday May 29

8:00 Breakfast

9:30 Devotional

5:00 Social Hour

6:00 Dinner

Monday May 30

8:00 Breakfast

Have a safe trip home or to your next destination

IMPORTANT!

*DO NOT GET STUCK ON
THE RAILROAD TRACKS!*



Another cactus variety in bloom.

Bob Jones

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Directions to Travelers World RV Resort

**DO NOT USE YOUR GPS OR MAPQUEST—
FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS.
GPS MAY TAKE YOU OVER A RAILROAD
TRACK THAT IS NOT RV FRIENDLY.**

**NOTE: DUE TO WATER PRESSURE IN THIS
CAMPGROUND, BE SURE TO USE A
REGULATOR.**

From the north on Interstate 35: Exit onto
Interstate 37 South, Exit #158B (towards Corpus
Christi).

From Interstate 37, take Exit 135 (Military Drive)
and turn right (west) about 3 miles to Roosevelt
Ave. Go right on Roosevelt 1.3 miles.
Travelers World is on left.

From the north on Hwy 281 (Interstate 37): Take
Exit 135 (Military Drive) and go right (west) about
3 miles to Roosevelt Ave. Go right on Roosevelt
1.3 miles.

Travelers World is on left.

From the south on Interstate 37: Take Exit 135
(Military Drive) and turn left (west) go about 3
miles to Roosevelt Ave. Go right on Roosevelt 1.3
miles.

Travelers World is on left.

From Interstate 10 coming from the east: Exit 574
onto Interstate 37 South (towards Corpus Christi).
From Interstate 37, take Exit 135 (Military Drive)
and turn right (west) go about 3 miles to
Roosevelt Ave. Go right on Roosevelt 1.3 miles.
Travelers World is on left.

From Interstate 10 coming from the west:
Interstate 10 and Interstate 35 will merge in
downtown San Antonio, and when they separate
again, take Interstate 35 South towards Laredo.
From Interstate 35 South take Exit 150B (Military
Drive), turn left (under freeway) go about 3 miles
to Roosevelt Ave. Turn left on Roosevelt 1.3
miles.

Travelers World is on left.



LABOR DAY RALLY
Johnson Creek RV Resort
Ingram/Kerrville, Texas
Sept. 1 - Sept. 5, 2016
Telephone: (830)-367-3300

Directions: From Houston, take I-10 west to exit 488 at Junction 27 and I-10. Travel southeast on 27 for 9 miles. Resort is on the right.

Hosts: Don and Eloise Reeves

Parking: \$32 per night. **Make own reservations one month in advance by August 1.**

Rally fee: TBD

Reminder: BRING TABLE SERVICE TO ALL MEALS.

Thursday, September 1

- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 5:30 Dinner by Hosts
- 7:00 Visiting and Hiking

Friday, September 2

- Free to tour area attractions
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour--Appetizers by Even Numbers
- 5:30 Bring Meat to grill and a Vegetable or Salad dish to share.
- Dessert by Hosts
- 7:00 Games and Visiting

Saturday, September 3

- 7:30 a.m. Early Coffee
- 8:00 Breakfast by Hosts
- 9:00 Pay Rally Fees
- Lunch on Own
- Continue to enjoy area attractions.
- 5:00 p.m. Caravan to Mamacita's Restaurant and Cantina for dinner

Sunday, September 4

- 7:30 a.m. Early Coffee
- 8:00 Breakfast by Hosts
- 9:00 Devotional at The "little" White Church in the Woods
- Lunch on Own
- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour--Appetizers by Odd Numbers
- 5:30 Picnic by Hosts followed by Competitive Games

Monday, September 5

- 7:30 a.m. Early Coffee
- 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- Bon voy age

Please respond at (979)-885-1398 or e-mail: reevesde@aol.com by AUGUST 1, 2016. Include Name, Number attending, Arrival and Departure Dates.

Editor's Note

I hope you are enjoying each issue of Coyote Tales as much as I am creating them. After our Memorial Day Rally in San Antonio, I will be sending out one more issue before our summer break. So many of our members will be traveling over the summer. I wish everyone safe travels and lots of fun adventures. I know I am looking forward to the International Rally in West Virginia and visiting with relatives in Georgia and Tennessee on the way there and back.

If you would like to do an article in an upcoming Coyote Tales about a Caravan you took or just a fun Airstream experience, let me know. We can make it happen!

One word about the Labor Day rally. Don & Eloise are in need of co-hosts, so if you think you might be able to attend, please consider pitching in to help our hosts. Also, please notice the August 1 deadline to call the park and register. It's a great park in a great location — Kerrville! Hope to see you there after your summer of Airstreaming.

Barbara



Boat crossing the Rio Grande from Mexico



Time to pack up Gator and head home.



The almost perfect bobcat picture. In trying to get a picture of some Scaled Quails, I almost stepped on him. He took off and so did I—but not until I snapped that shutter!

