



COYOTE TALES

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

Volume 41 Issue 4

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

APRIL 2016

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

April 14-17: Gator Gonna Getcha Rally at Brazos Bend State Park.

Contact Tom Bundy
(281-250-7644)

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.



Be sure to read about Gator's adventures in Florida later in this newsletter.

The President's Corner



Greeting! We've had a busy month with lots of travel, fellowship, and good times! After the Pre Region Rally in Rusk, we enjoyed our unit caravan to Shawnee, OK, and then the Region 9 Airstream Pow Wow! Within this news letter you can read reports of the Unit Caravan and the Region 9 Rally. We enjoyed our first trip in our new rig even though we had a few hiccups, but that's RVing!

We have a couple of great rallies to look forward to before Houston's humid, hot summer has many of us hitting the roads for cooler retreats. Coming up next weekend, is our Brazos Bend Gator Gonna Getcha Rally. Brazos Bend is always a favorite with lots of hiking, biking, and gator watching.

May 26-30 is our Mission Trail Memorial Day Rally and annual business meeting at Travelers World RV Resort in San Antonio. We need to have as many members present at this rally as possible as this is when we make important decisions for the upcoming year. On that note, ballots will be going out soon for the election of our 2017 officers. You may vote online or at the May meeting.

Hopefully, you will be able to join us in San Antonio. This is a very popular RV park that is within one mile of three of the missions on the mission trail. You may actually walk to the missions on the trail that connects them. Because of its popularity, the park has given us a hard deadline of April 26 to retain the 30 sites we have reserved. If you plan to attend, please let Bill Kindle know before that date. After that date, you will have to contact the park yourself to check on availability. Important information is on the rally flyer on pages 13-14 in this newsletter.

*See you down the road,
Jim*



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

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



TCPU Caravan to Region 9 Rally

by Barbara Mercer

Immediately following the Pre-Region 9 Rally in Rusk, a group of 6 rigs departed for the Region 9 Rally in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Our group included Dorma and Bill Kindle, Pat and H V Martin, Bill and Joanne Miller, Dave and Jan Rightmyer, Melissa and Kevin Katz, and Jim and Barbara Mercer. Our first stop was KE Bushman's Camp, a very nice RV park in Bullard, near Tyler.

While in Bullard, we toured the NASA Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine. These are not just your ordinary weather balloons. These balloons are used to carry science instruments and experiments much as an orbiting satellite or Space Shuttle would, but at much lower costs. Another benefit is that the balloons can carry larger and heavier payloads in as little as 6 months time after approval. In addition, balloon instruments can be recovered and reused. It was fascinating to learn that the material from which the balloon is made is about the same thickness as an ordinary sandwich bag. It's hard to believe that this could support an 8,000 pound payload to a height of 118,000 ft. Lighter payloads can reach even greater altitudes. Each balloon has a parachute attached. When the mission is ended, a message is sent from the ground station to separate the payload from the balloon. A parachute is deployed, which brings the payload back to ground where the scientific team can safely recover it. The balloon itself falls to the ground where it is recovered and disposed of. Missions may last as long as 100 days with the new Super Pressure Balloons. It was a very interesting and informative visit to a facility that most of us did not even know existed.

After a nice lunch, we traveled on to Roseland Plantation near Tyler for a guided tour of this beautiful 1854 plantation home. We were guided through the house by its owners, Tim and Carolyn West. They purchased the home in very bad condition in 1998 and have done a complete restoration. Mrs. West is a collector of antiques from the period and has filled the home with beautiful furnishings appropriate to the era. It was quite evident that much love and attention has gone into the restoration. They are actually living in the home which made the tour all that much more intimate and interesting.

At this point, Jim and I had to leave for a couple of days to attend to a leaking shower faucet in our new rig. (A big thank you to the Katz for allowing us to stay in their home while the trailer was in the shop overnight in Buda.) The remainder of the folks enjoyed a trip to Kiepersol Winery and a delicious lunch, I am told, at the Kiepersol Restaurant.

Though the rains had set in by this time, that could not discourage our caravaners! They stayed on the planned

Continued for page 2

agenda, and moved on to Bob Sandlin State Park near Pittsburg, TX. In Pittsburg they visited the Witness Park and Prayer Tower. Also, they toured the Depot Museum and Annex where they saw the Ezekiel Airship replica. Everyone was happy that Tracy and Jerry Calvert were able to join them for dinner. It was good to see Tracy feeling better!

Jim and I were able to get back on the road and rejoin the group at the Winstar Casino in Thackerville, OK. Here we were also joined by Hub and Sherry Miller and Don and Eloise Reeves. It seems we have some lucky folks in the crowd who were able to leave the casino with some extra jingle in their pockets. Unfortunately, I was not one of those! On Sunday, we all hitched up and pulled out for Shawnee and the Region 9 Pow Wow!



Roseland Plantation was beautiful inside and out.



The Ezekiel Airship in Pittsburg



The rain clouds finally parted!



Happy Hour at the Casino



All hitched up and ready to roll to Region 9



*Heart of Oklahoma Conference Center
Shawnee, OK*



Lots of silver in Shawnee

Airstream Pow Wow 2016 Region 9 Rally

Our group arrived in Shawnee on Sunday in order to get everything lined out for our registration duty on Monday morning. Jim and HV got tape cut and attached to the rally ribbons in advance so they were ready to go when folks started arriving. Another team was responsible for door prize tickets while the rest of the crew handed out information on Shawnee and the rally favors. Registration went off without a hitch with 85 rigs signing up by the week's end.



We were happy to have seven rigs representing TCPU at Region 9 this year. In addition to our TCPU President and First Lady, Jim and Barbara Mercer, our First VP, Don Reeves, and Eloise were also in attendance. Others representing our club were HV and Pat Martin, Bill and Dorma Kindle, Bill and Joanne Miller, 2nd VP Hub and Sherry Miller, and Dave and Jan Rightmyer.

We are proud of the leadership role our club members had this year. Pat Martin served as Head Usherette with Dorma Kindle and Sherry Miller assisting her. Bill Kindle presented an excellent seminar on caravans. Joanne Miller served as Parliamentarian. Barbara Mercer was Region 9 Photographer. Bill Miller was in charge of printing the program schedule. And, of course, our president represented us at the board meeting and presented our flag during the opening ceremonies.

We were well represented in the events, contests, and games that took place during the rally. Sherry Miller took "Best of Show" in the Hobby contest with her cross stitched wall hanging of a poem written by her friend. She also received a first place in Hobby-Crocheted Items with her "Welcome" wall hanging. Eloise Reeves won 2nd place in the Bridge tournament. Rae Gilbert's fancy flamingo totem pole won third place in the Table Decoration category where competition was extremely fierce and was decided by popular vote from all the attendees. Our club put up a fight in the Bean Bag Baseball event, but unfortunately, we need more practice! We were eliminated

Continued from page 4

after the first round. One of the most entertaining events was the driving contest. It was held on a freezing cold, windy morning. Everyone was wrapped up and shivering, but it was worth it to see the navigator direct their blindfolded partner around the course. There were lots of laughs as the golf carts knocked over cones, drove over curbs, and almost took out spectators. The Rightmyers and the Hub Millers represented TCPU in the timed event. Unfortunately, the Millers first run was disqualified when Sherry tried to help Hub by steering him back on the track! No hands on the wheel next time, Sherry! Hub was happy to survive and celebrated as they crossed the finish line on their second run with Sherry driving. Unfortunately, our teams did not place this year, but wait until next year!



During the Board of Directors meeting our Membership Chairman, Jo Goodwin, was recognized for receiving the prestigious Founder's Award in 2015. To tell you just how special this award is, there have only been 24 people in the history of WBCCI to receive it. Way to go, Jo! One of the biggest surprises at the rally was when Bill Kindle and Bill Miller stepped forward and volunteered to serve as 2nd and 3rd Vice Presidents for Region 9. When nominations for 2017 officers were presented, there were no volunteers for those two positions. We are so pleased and proud that two of our members stepped forward. This is no small commitment as it requires a 4 year commitment for Bill Kindle as 2nd VP, and a 6 year commitment for Bill Miller as 3rd VP. Congratulations, Bill and Bill! Now it is our job to support these two gentlemen as they take these leadership roles for Region 9.

Entertainment at the rally this year was exceptional. One night was a Native American Storyteller from the Oklahoma tribes who told us stories that have been passed down from one generation to the next. The next night was Fancy Dancers and a singer/drummer. The costumes and dancing were amazing. The last night was a Cowboy singer who entertained us with those old Gene Autry and Roy Rogers tunes. I think everyone would agree that Oklahoma provided some fantastic entertainers!

All in all, it was a great rally in windy Oklahoma! If you missed this year's rally, you need to start making plans to attend next year's Airstream Aloha at Mitchell RV Park in Perrin, TX. Be sure to mark March 20-26, 2017, on your calendars!

Enjoying another Happy Hour



Jim accepts the Merit Award for 2015



Region 9 Officers, Unit Presidents and Spouses



Waffles Anyone?





Our Entertainers



Shawnee Sights



*Scenes from the Skit Introducing
Airstream Aloha, 2017
"Gilligan's Island"*



Gator Goes to Florida State Rally

by Gator Mercer



Boy, I am one lucky gator! Mom and Dad let me go on vacation with Aunt Rae and Uncle Ronn. We really had lots of adventures!

Aunt Rae promised to keep me safe and buckled me in my car seat everywhere we went. First, we went to North Carolina so I could meet Aunt Rae's grandchildren. We had so much fun together. They loved riding on my back. Petey and Bubba liked to snuggle up with all of us, too.

I hated to leave those kids, but we had to get down to Florida Keys for the Florida State Rally. Lots of our friends from TCPU were meeting us there, so we were excited to join them. I was excited to see Fred Walschburger, Nelda and Rob Tope, Tom Harris, Clark Gardner and Debbie Pfunder, John and Mary Ann Boerner, and our old friends, Marilyn and Jerry Thomas.

The grown ups had lots of fun in Florida. They were always having Happy Hour, cooking out, or going out to eat at restaurants. They did lots of fun stuff like watching the dolphins, swimming on the beach, and riding in ocean kayaks. I don't need a kayak, I can swim! They did take me to the beach, and I loved slithering around in the warm sand. One time I even got to pretend I was driving a Wave Runner across the water! I wish I could have actually gotten that thing out on the water! People probably would freak out if they saw an alligator driving a Wave Runner, so I guess Aunt Rae was right when she said I'd better not get it on the water.

Aunt Rae took lots of pictures to send home to Mom and Dad. We even sent them post cards from the places we visited. I really missed them, but I'm so glad I got to go to Florida. Thank you, Aunt Rae and Uncle Ronn!!!

Now to share a few of those pictures of my exciting adventures!



The kids dressed me in bunny ears for Easter!

Aunt Rae and Uncle Ronn

Here we are on the beach with Aunt Rae, Uncle Ronn, and Nelda and Rob

More from Gator — — —



I told you they ate out a lot!



Dressed in my swim trunks with Rob



Rob & Nelda having fun!



Tom & Uncle Ronn at Cape Canaveral



We had to keep a close eye on these two mischievous guys!



Hanging out with the Beach Bums!



Guys at the Dolphin Research Center



Here I am on the Wave Runner!





Sunshine Corner

by Nelda Tope

Our sympathies to the family of James Yeates who passed away after an accident at the close of the Region 9 Rally. He was a long time member of Texas Gulf Coast Unit and very active in Region 9 activities. His contributions will be greatly missed.

Tracey Calvert reports that she is doing well and has begun 6 weeks of radiation. The final step in her treatment will be reconstructive surgery. Her surgeon wants to wait a year for that in order to allow her body to recuperate from all the chemo and radiation. She expressed her gratitude for all the support she has received from TCPU. She wanted to let everyone know how much your prayers, messages, cards, and thoughts have meant to her. And, she is very anxious to attend a rally (maybe in May), and thank everyone personally.

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.



Do Gooder's Corner

by Sherry Miller

All the bags, blankets, and other items that we have sewn and contributed for the Shriners Children's Hospital were taken to the Region 9 Rally and added to the items contributed by other clubs in the region. There were several tables full of items, in addition to a sum of money collected at the rally. A picture of all the items can be seen on page 7 of this newsletter.

Our totem poles made awesome centerpieces on the tables at Region 9, and I am happy to report that Rae Gilbert's won 3rd place by popular vote.

Our next project will be the props for our 4th of July parade at the International Rally in Lewisburg. We will be working on these at the May Rally. If you have been saving tabs, bring them to the May rally and we'll get them to International.

Sherry61247@gmail.com
214-770-3271

TCPU Officers, 2016

President: Jim Mercer
1st Vice President: Don Reeves
2nd Vice President: Hub Miller
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



May Birthdays

5-01 Matthew Shepard
5-03 Ramona Stehle
5-06 Diana Hobbs
5-06 Debbie Gant
5-15 Tom Harris
5-18 George Nixon
5-23 Kevin Katz
5-23 David Rightmyer
5-25 Bill Hamilton
5-25 Jack Isbell
5-27 Marilyn Ketterling
5-28 Danny Brown
5-28 John Roberts



May Anniversaries

5-03 Mitch & Heidi Newton
5-04 Jerry & Carol Goodwin
5-04 Fred & Searcy Kracke
5-06 Clark Gardner & Debbie Pfunder
5-13 Tom & Virginia Taroni
5-14 Bob & Dorothy Cooney
5-18 John & Susan Sheridan
5-21 Wayne & Belinda Hale



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

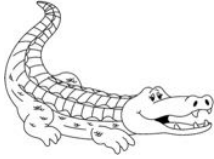
June 26-July 4, 2016--**International Rally**, Lewisburg, WV

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



Gator Gonna Getcha Rally
April 14-17, 2016
Brazos Bend State Park
21901 FM 762 RD
Damon Texas 77430

Directions: Take US 59 South and exit for FM-2759/Tx-99. Turn Left onto TX-99/Crab River Rd. Go 11 miles and turn left onto FM 762. Go 5.8 miles and turn right onto Park Road 72

Hosts: Caren and Tom Bundy, Rae and Ronn Gilbert and Beverly and Jack Williams

Thursday

5:00 PM – Happy Hour at dining hall:

6:00 PM – Bring something to grill and a side to share. Hosts will provide dessert.

Friday

Arrivals all day

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: Early coffee

8:00: Breakfast provided by hosts

9:00: Pay Rally Fees

9:30: Enjoy the park during the day. Lunch on your own.

3:00: Dutch oven cooking seminar

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

6:00: Dinner provided by host

7:30 Activity – George observatory - \$10 fee payable at observatory

Sunday

7:30: Early Coffee

8:00: Breakfast

9:00: Devotional

9:30: Rally ends

Please let Tom and Caren Bundy know you are coming by E-Mail: Tom-Caren@SBCglobal.net or by calling 281-250-7644. Let us know your WBCCI #, rig length and number of attendees.

The deadline making reservations is April 5th. We will release extra camping sites after the deadline.

Fees: Meals - \$15/person. RV site and dining hall fees: \$70 for Friday arrivals, \$90 for Thursday arrivals. Dining Hall Fees will be adjusted depending on total rig count. The Club will be charged a \$20 cancellation Fee for reservations cancelled less than 4 days before the Rally.



Mission Trail Memorial Day Rally

May 26 Thursday thru May 30 Monday

Travelers World RV Resort

Important directions on next page!

2617 Roosevelt Ave.

San Antonio, TX 78214

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

Latitude: 29.3747892960405

Longitude: -98.4817028045654

The RV park has given us a deadline of April 26 to hold sites. If you have signed up with the hosts prior to that date, you are assured a site. After April 26, you must call the park yourself and make your own reservation.

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 your next destination

IMPORTANT!

*DO NOT GET STUCK ON
THE RAILROAD TRACKS!*



Silver amongst the pines!

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.