

Texas Highland Lakes Unit

December, 2010



President's Message~ Harvey Craig

The Christmas holiday season finds families and friends gathering together. The same is true for our Airstream family with our unit Christmas. Christmas is also a time for remembering others. For many years, the unit has sponsored a special community project during its December rally. The last few years, the unit has held an auction which has generated over \$1,500 with at least half of the proceeds going to some charity. In addition, other activities have been done during our December rallies---for instance, one year we decorated donated Christmas trees and took them to a local retirement center. This year, we raised some \$1,027 of which half will go to the "Wounded Warrior Project". This organization with headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida was founded in Roanoke, Virginia and helps the injured service men and women of this generation.

At this time of year, many of us reflect upon the good times that we have had with our Airstream community and friends. We remember the fun as well as the sad times such as the loss of fellow Airstreamers. This year, we saw the passing of two outstanding unit members---Judi Wynne and Karmen Younts. I constantly find myself remembering these individuals and am so thankful that I had an opportunity to have known them and to have had them in my life. I always come away from our Christmas rally feeling so very blessed to have so many loving and good friends. In

my opinion it does not matter, what one's religious beliefs may be---this time of year is a time for the celebration of birth and life.

WBCCI makes our organization and unit possible. It also broadens our horizons and allows us to be a part of an international organization---thus allowing us to make friends from across the nation, Canada, and even other countries. WBCCI has faced challenges, made mistakes, and is working to make changes and to improve itself---serving all of its members better. Recently, I attended another unit's Christmas rally where one member hashed over old WBCCI issues always focusing on negative issues and over exaggerating them with false details, facts, and information. In my opinion, this over-exaggerated negativity can do more harm than ever---especially when it is directed to new members who have no first-hand knowledge of the various issues. I feel that each of us should be as factual, unbiased, and positive as possible without distorting or covering up the problems and issues within the club. I feel blessed that I am a part of this unit.

The Christmas rally on December 9-12 held at Fredericksburg RV Park was an enjoyable celebration. Our Christmas hosts included: Tom & Jean Beebe, Jonathan Crenwelge, Gary & Marilyn McClanahan, Stuart & Ilene Wetterschneider, Frank Saenz & Michael Smith as well as Michael's mom, Dorothy Smith who did an outstanding job providing a unit celebration enjoyed by all. Other rally participants included: Blanchards, Craigs, Fischers, Vicki Fischer & Ron Plaxco, Fishers, Flemings, Hazens,

Irwins, Leachs, Mike Lovell & Colin Melton, Mooneys, Prices, Stephens, and new members: Marty & Cindy Berdan, Rich & Sheila Gallagher, Art & Mary Kelly (new affiliate), and Charlie Williams and Martha Rucker (new affiliate).

The hosts along with five other early arrivals caravanned Wednesday evening to Johnson City to see the courthouse and PEC light displays. The arrival and parking of most of the other rally participants occurred Thursday. A Vintage Airstream Rally Committee meeting convened in the afternoon to go over the plans for the Texas Airstream Vintage Rally that will be held at Tres Rios River Ranch Resort in Glen Rose, Texas, May 12-16. The usual happy hour followed the meeting along with a scrumptious stew, dinner rolls, and dessert served by the hosts. Announcements were made and all seemed to enjoy socializing.

Friday morning saw Tom flipping blueberry pancakes. After breakfast, a representative from All Pro Water-Flow presented information on cleaning and maintaining holding tanks. A caravan followed to the Fisher & Weiser Peach Haus where Mark Weiser gave an interesting history of the business. All enjoyed sampling the various goodies produced and marketed by Fisher & Weiser. That evening a very happy hour was had followed with a catered Mexican dinner. The evening ended with the Chinese gift exchange. No real fights broke out; however, a few of the participants were very reluctant to relinquish their gifts.

Saturday morning the male hosts served a breakfast consisting of coffee cakes, yogurt, fruit, and juice. After breakfast and before the formal unit business meeting,, new members were inducted into the unit as follows: Mike & Cindy Berdan and Rich & Sheila Gallagher. That evening scrumptious

hors d'oeuvres with outstanding wines were enjoyed. The Christmas auction brought many good natured rival bids that amounted to \$1,027. Our unit will retain half of the auction funds and the other half will go to the Wounded Warrior Project during the Region 9 Rally.

On Sunday, Marilyn McClanahan did an outstanding job leading the members in the devotional. On behalf of my Mom and myself, I wish all the VERY BEST OF HOLIDAYS !

Business Meetings Were Held During the Christmas Rally~ Harvey Craig

The Vintage Standing Committee met to review plans for the May 12-16 Texas Vintage "Round-Up" Rally which will be held at Tres Rios River Ranch in Glen Rose. The rally is shaping up to be a great rally with fun for all as well as interesting seminars and workshops, blue grass music, country & western music, catered dinners, potlucks, a flea market, and an open house. The Vintage Committee voted to start having the Texas Vintage Airstream Rally in odd numbered years and to present a motion to that effect at the THLU business meeting. After consulting with Marque Mooney, 2nd VP, the committee decided to have the next vintage rally after this May during the month of October in 2013. In addition, Fred Hazen and I indicated a willingness to serve as Vintage Chair in 2013.

THLU Executive Board met on Saturday morning before the general meeting and selected a nominating committee which includes: John Irwin, Chair; Marque Mooney and Gary McClanahan. It was noted that we will need the following nominees for unit offices next year: 2nd VP, treasurer, and two trustees. The Nominating

Committee encourages unit members who wish to nominate or who are interested in one of these positions to contact one of the nominating committee members as soon as possible. Election will take place in May.

During the business meeting, minutes of our last May business meeting were read by Janet Turner, our new secretary, and accepted. Richard Turner, the treasurer, passed out a detailed budget report reflecting income and expenditures with a unit balance of \$11,886.50 as of November 30, 2010. Under new business, three resolutions were passed: (1) 50% of auction proceeds will remain in the unit account with the remaining 50% going to the Wounded Warrior Project; (2) approval of \$500.00 as seed money for Texas Vintage Airstream Rally; (3) THLU will sponsor the Texas Vintage Airstream Rally which will be held in odd number years starting in 2011. The next regular business meeting will be held during the Vintage Rally in May with the last business meeting of this year scheduled in October during the Rock, Rattle, Roll Rally in Perrin.

Christmas Reflections~ Kathy Blanchard

This time of year stirs up memories of times, people, and places. We think of friends or family that we may not have talked or written to in a long time. We are also reminded of those whose needs surpass our own. Using the acronym of Christmas, hope to remind each of us of special needs that we can fill and simple pleasures we can enjoy over this special holiday season.

C---Call those friends or family that come to mind.

H---Have a heart to hear someone that needs an empathetic ear.

R---Remember those who have blessed your life in an amazing way and return the

favor

I---Instill the true message of the season in the little people whose lives you touch

S---Savor all the wonderful flavors of this time---peppermint bark, wassail, hot cocoa, beef roast, hot bread and fresh baked cookies.

T---The gift of time, however it's spent---out to lunch, a visit to a nursing home or hospital, lunch with someone who has recently lost a loved one. There are endless possibilities for this one!

M---Manage the time, and remember the people are more important than the presents.

A---Be an angel of caring and compassion. Smile at the harried and hassled sales clerks in the stores. Give the stressed out mom with tired and fussy children your place in the grocery store line.

S---Savior. Keep in mind that we celebrate Christmas because our Savior, Jesus, was Born to save and redeem us.

As Airstreamers, we can be grateful for our friends in our unit, our club, and all the new folks we have met as we have traveled in caravans. Let's remember what Wally encouraged us to be "ambassadors of good will" wherever our travels take us

Eligibility for Discounted International Rally Registration Fee Ends January 1~ Harvey Craig

It is not too late to receive the discounted rate for the 54th International Convention/Rally at Du Quoin Fairgrounds in Du Quoin, Illinois. Registration forms need be received by WBCCI Headquarters by January 1, 2011 to receive the discounted registration rate. In addition, for individuals to be eligible for the drawing of some \$2,500 door prizes presented by Airstream, registration forms need to be received by January 1st as well. Currently, over 312 registrations have been received.

Some of the entertainment at the rally will include: The Steel City Stompers---two musicians/comedians from Pittsburgh, PA; Brian Roman---who sounds like Frank Sinatra; and the Hammons---a blue grass family group. Efforts are underway to try and secure the Air Force Band of the Midwest as well. Of course, the WBCCI Band will have their Festival of Music.

Registration forms for the rally can be found on line at www.wbccci.org as well as in The Blue Beret. If we have enough interest, we shall have a caravan to international.

Make Plans for the 2011 Texas Hold 'Em Mid-Winter IBT Rally & Caravan January 24-28~ Harvey Craig

All THLU members are encouraged to attend the Mid-Winter IBT Rally which will be held at the Richard Borchard Regional Fairgrounds in Robstown, Texas, January 24-28.

For new members, Mid-Winter IBT Rally is not just for WBCCI officers but for all. It may be one of the best kept secrets---and it's right in our backyard! Not only can a member learn firsthand how WBCCI business is accomplished, but members have an opportunity to make their opinions heard.

In addition, the rally offers a fun time for all attendees and will include: happy hours, reception, three nights of entertainment, one breakfast, and two dinners. It provides an opportunity to make new Airstream friends from across the U.S. and Canada, and it offers an opportunity to see old friends. In the past, rigs from all over the U.S. and Canada have attended this event.

The cost of this rally is attractive---around

200 miles south of Austin and for about \$250, two people can have five nights/six days of camping, food, entertainment, and fun. Details and rally form can be found in the Blue Beret or online at www.wbccci.org. The deadline for receipt of rally form and fees is by Wednesday, January 19.

THLU shall have a caravan to IBT on Monday, January 24. We shall meet-up at Camping World located at 3891 I-35S, New Braunfels at 9:30 with departure from Camping World by 10:00. (From I-35S take exit 193 and then continue south on the Frontage Road to Camping World. From I-35N take exit 193 and turn left to cross I-35 and then turn left (South) on the Frontage Road to Camping World.) We shall have lunch around 11:20 in Pleasanton either at Mc Bee's Barbecue at 309 2nd Street; or at Don Jesus Restaurante at 1201 3rd Street. We should park at the fairgrounds in Robstown around 3 with happy hour at 4:30. Please let me know if you plan to join us for the Caravan to IBT so we won't depart Camping World without you---eharv@msn.com or 512/633-0380.

McKinney Falls State Park Campout in February Fills~ Harvey Craig

THLU first no-host campout will be held at McKinney Falls State Park in Austin on February 18-20 which is President's Day Weekend. Only twelve sites were reserved and as of December the following members have reserved to attend the rally: Beebes, Craigs, Fischers, Flemings, Haddoxs, and Lovell/Melton; thus, we have only six reserved spots remaining open. If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know at: eharv@msn.com or at 512/633-0380. Once our twelve reserved sites are filled, an individual will need to secure reservations through the Texas State Park System. Park

officials indicate that they expect the park to be full since this is President's Day Weekend. Once the park is full, an individual may try and park in the over-flow parking area which has no hook-ups.

Davis Mountain/Big Bend Caravan Now Taking Standbys~ Harvey Craig

THLU caravan to the Davis Mountains and Big Bend is full with reservations and deposits from the following members: Jim & Betty Bailey, Tom & Jean Beebe, Marty & Cindy Berdan, Gene & Kathy Blanchard, Ken & Julie Callahan, Harvey & Gail Craig, Wendy & Shirley Fleming, Mike Lovell and Colin Melton, Gary & Marilyn McClanahan, Luther, Alice, & Jeremy Price, Richard & Janet Turner, and Stuart & Ilene Wetterschneider. If you are interested in this March caravan, please contact me at: eharv@msn.com or 512/633-0380. I am in the process of contacting WBCCI to see if this caravan can be a WBCCI sanctioned, numbered unit caravan.

The Nearly Perfect Tire Failure~ Stuart Wetterschneider

On our recent trip to Arkansas via I-30 a tire on the Airstream failed. Just as we approached an off ramp in Greenville, Texas our PressurePro controller started to beep, and its panel indicated the left front trailer tire was at 56 psig (from an initial 65 psig) and dropping. We took the exit and looped back to the Discount Tire store we just passed. Total distance traveled after failure was approximately one mile, and fortunately the failed tire caused no damage to the Airstream.

The only tires in stock that would fit the existing rims were Carlisle Radial Trails, and 70 minutes later we were back on the road with four new Carlisle ten ply, e-rated

ST225/75R15E tires.

Carlisle requires that these tires be inflated to their maximum pressure of 80 psig, and also recommend that the tires do not exceed 60 mph because excessive heat build will occur. The consequences of exceeding the manufacturers' recommendations will be shortened tire life or sudden tire failure.

After returning home and reading a comment regards to tire inflation vs rim capabilities on AIRFORUM I telephoned Jackson Center, and was advised that the OEM rims should not have tires mounted with pressures exceeding 65 psig. Clearly, I needed to replace the Carlisle tires or buy new rims rated for 80 psig.

As some of you already know Jackson Center will now install Michelin LT light truck tires - if you so desire. Also, and maybe more importantly, Michelins position with respect to using LT tires on trailers has, in my opinion, modified.

Three years ago when I spoke with Michelin I was told "Michelin does not manufacture a tire for use on trailers" - end of story. Now, when I called Michelin I was told that if *I wanted* to mount Michelin tires on my Airstream their LT XPS RIB, with its steel belted sidewall, was the tire to use. Michelin is aware that their LTs are being used on Airstreams - and are providing good service, but they do not as yet "recommend" their LTs for such service. Supposedly, this is because Michelin has not done sufficient testing to make such a recommendation. Their position is that it is the consumers choice to use them or not. I decided to replace the Carlisle tires with 16" LTs, and ordered Michelin LT225/75R16E1 XPS RIB tires with new rims to fit.

The maximum inflation pressure of the LT tires is 80 psig, and Michelin requires that

the tires be inflated to their maximum pressure. The Michelin tires have a Q (100 mph) speed rating and are E load rated.

It's worth noting that the OEM tires, Goodyear Marathons, were on the road about 17,000 miles, almost never driven faster than 60 mph, and inflated to the recommended 65 psig when cold. And that it was a street side tire that failed, not a curb side tire (i.e. That from time to time may have hit a curb or shoulder debris.). But they were *3 1/2 years old* from date of manufacture - when a tire failed.

The only negative issue that I have read about to date with respect to Michelin LT tires is over time they may develop cracks in the sidewall due to exposure to the sun, and it is suggested that they be kept covered when not in use. Interestingly, Michelin advised that they discard LTs not sold after three years. Considering their relatively high cost this raises the question whether it makes any sense to buy a new Michelin LT for use as a spare since it could well deteriorate before ever being used.

Interestingly, the first set of tires delivered to Discount for my use were manufactured in July of 2009. Considering that my STs failed after three years of use (they were in fact 3 1/2 years old) and knowing Michelins policy of discarding and LTs unsold after three years, I rejected these. Notwithstanding the tech rep at Discount explaining they had no way to order age specific tires the second set delivered was manufactured in October of this year.

A few points to consider:

- Verify that your rims are rated to handle the inflation pressure of the existing tires.
- Verify that your rims will handle the inflation pressure of replacement tires.
- Do not exceed the tire manufactures'

recommended speed for their tires.

- A pressure sensing system may well pay for itself.
- Special Tires (ST) generally last from three to five years.
- All tires, properly maintained or not may fail, and may well fail before expected life span.
- Verify the age of "new" tires because, tire dealers sometimes sell "new" tires that are already several years old.

New Members~ Marque Mooney

Texas Highland Lakes Unit is proud to introduce our newest members:



The Berdans and the Gallaghers

Sheila and Richard Gallagher

Sheila and Rich live in Kerrville and came to us from the Heart of Texas Unit at the recommendation of C. C. Gartman, Region 9 President, and his wife Carla. They have been Airstreaming since 2002, and Rich is a former president of the Texas Unit while Sheila was a treasurer in that unit. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Cindy and Marty Berdan

Cindy and Marty are new Airstreamers having just bought their first Airstream - a 27' 2008 International - in August. They are

friends and neighbors in Lakeway to Fred and Judy Hazen who invited them to join Texas Highland Lakes Unit. You will know them when you see them because they are always in the company of at least two or three beautiful Golden Retrievers. They are Golden Retriever rescuers and Master Gardeners.



Martha Rucker and Charlie Williams - Affiliate Member

Martha and Charlie joined us as Affiliate Members at our Kerrville Rally. They are members of the Texas Hill Country Unit and live in Rogers. Charlie is a former Alamo Unit president and they have been Airstreaming together since 1997.



Art and Mary Kelly - Affiliate Member

We had such a good time getting to know our newest Canadian Affiliate Members at our Fredericksburg Rally. Art has been retired for 12 years and Mary just retired this last summer and they are finally getting to live their dream of traveling in their Airstream. Back home they have three grown children and have plans to build an energy efficient barn on their 32 acres of forest.

A big THLU welcome to all of our new members!

SPECIAL UPCOMING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Kathryn Fischer	01/03
Tom Sharpe	01/03
David Blakey	01/04
Sharon Marshall	01/05
Sheila Gallagher	01/06
Frank Saenz	01/07
Buzz Hempel	01/10
Elaine Risher	01/11
Virginia Reyes	01/11
Tom Beebe	01/15
Sandy Loner	01/16
Luther Price	01/19
Carlos & Rosemary Leach	01/20 Anniv
Janis Brown	01/21
Pat & Linda McDowell	01/22 Anniv
Gladys Ruth Allen	01/28
Fred Hazen	01/31

Reminders (Contact Harvey Craig at eharv@msn.com or 512/633-0380 for more information or reservations):

Tue, January 4: Unit Lunch at South Lubys located at US 290 & Brodie Lane

Mon, January 24: Caravan departs Camping World, New Braunfels for IBT in Robstown

Mon-Fri, January 24-28: Mid-Winter IBT Rally in Robstown

Tue, February 1: Unit Lunch at South Lubys located at US 290 & Brodie Lane

Fri-Sun, February 18-20: McKinney Falls President's Day Winter Campout

Tue, March 1: Unit Lunch at South Lubys located at US 290 & Brodie Lane

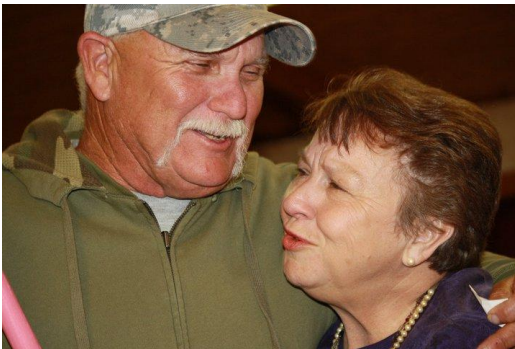
Sunshine Report ~ Kathryn Fischer

G R Allen is recovering from recent hip replacement. She is in Room 202 at Hays Nursing & Rehab Center, 1900 Medical Parkway, San Marcos, TX 78666-7520.

Cynthia Hemple underwent knee replacement surgery this past Friday and is doing well.

Harry Rodgers is bouncing back from a bout of pneumonia.

We were pleased to see **Gayland Stephens** at our last two rallies.



You wouldn't steal my flamingo cane, would you, Ron?

Dale Burger visited our Dec luncheon while he was in town for treatments and had a favorable report from his doctor. Janie Haddaway's daughter **Dana** is "doing OK" but is fatigued with her cancer treatments. Dana's husband **Stan** had good news on his thyroid reports – the cancer has not spread outside the lymph nodes. Our best wishes to all...



Ella Faye's festive flamingo

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