

Texas Highland Lakes Unit

March, 2011



President's Message - Harvey Craig

The March Newsletter is a little late due to our Davis Mountains/Big Bend Unit Caravan which ended on March 23.

March is a month that we often experience winds, and we start to see the trees and grass begin to green from their winter dormancy--it's a time of renewal. I urge THLU members to renew their friendships with fellow members and the Club.

March often brings winds to our area----and so too, winds are starting to blow and possibly affect change within WBCCI. The last communication that I received concerning proposed WBCCI Constitutional changes indicated that Unit Presidents should receive the proposed changes around the first of April. As of this time, I have not received them; however, I shall send them out via e-mail to our members as soon as I do.

In previous newsletters, I have noted that in my opinion, change in WBCCI is needed and is something that is necessary for an organization to remain vibrant and meet the needs of its members in the future. Often times, we do not like change; however, often once change is accomplished, organizations adjust and become stronger along with its individual members.

I recently received an audit for WBCCI Region 9 Membership as of March 15, 2011. It indicated that THLU has a total of 72 regular members with 10 delinquent

members. Currently, THLU is the second largest unit within Region 9. Texas Gulf Coast Unit is the largest with 97 regular members with only 4 delinquent members. The third largest unit is Texas Coastal Plains with 67 regular members and 6 delinquent members. Overall, membership is down within all of the Region 9 Units from last year at this time, and Region 9 currently has a total membership of 510 with 63 delinquent members.

Our membership chair, Marque Mooney has been doing an outstanding job in reaching out to new, potential members. At the Boerne Rally, March 10-13, we inducted three new members into our Unit---Bill & Lin Brinkman, Jim & B. Bailey, and Doug & Kyong Draves.

April is almost here along with the Region 9 Rally, March 28-April 2 in Abilene. Unfortunately, I suffered a knee/leg injury on Tuesday, March 22 while departing Fort Stockton for Junction on the Davis Mountains/Big Bend Unit Caravan and will not be able to attend the Region 9 Rally. However, Marque Mooney, our 2nd VP, will take my place at the Rally for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as the Region 9 Seminar and Business Meeting. In addition, Myron Fischer and Jim Haddaway have volunteered to take care of my other Region Rally duties including the Rally rig count and presenting a seminar on Airstream Caravanning. I have asked Marque to write an article covering the Region 9 Rally for

our April Newsletter.

As spring and April arrive, I urge all THLU members to resolve to become more involved in our Unit. Our last Unit Rally before September as well as our last Unit Voting Business Meeting before October will be our 7th Texas Vintage Airstream “Round-Up” National Rally in Glen Rose, May 12-16. **All members are urged to attend and should mail-in their Rally Registration Form (which may be downloaded and printed from our unit website---THLU.org) to Jean Beebe, 503 Chihuahua Trail, Austin, TX 78745 by April 23.**

Boerne Rally Was a Rousing Success – Kathy Blanchard



A rousing, enthusiastic crowd of 31 rigs descended upon the beautiful, Top of the Hill RV Resort in Boerne to gather for an Irish-themed event, an early celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Many attendees were new members, some were buddy visitors, those preparing for the Big Bend caravan, and a number we had not seen in a while.

Opening night, president, Harvey Craig, introduced new members going on their first unit caravan. They were Jim and B. Bailey from Edinburg, Marty and Cindy Berdan from Lakeway, and Julie Callahan from Dallas. Other new members attending their first official unit rally were: Bill and Lin Brinkman, of Round Rock, and Doug and Kyong Draves from San Antonio. Baileys,

Brinkmans and Draves were also inducted as new members.



Doug & Kyong Graves of San Antonio



Jim & B. Bailey of Edinburg



Bill & Lin Brinkman of Round Rock

Buddy visitors attending were Nancy and Dick Westley, guests of Werner and Gail Hord, and Anne and Roger Wilson, Ontario, Canada, guests of Carlos and Rosemary Leach. Faces we were happy to see after a long absence were: Miranda Lambert,

Ardell Mayton with friend, Patti Ramsey, David and Marilyn Blakey, Jim and Paul Haddox, and Pat and Linda McDowell.



Ardell & friend Patti Ramsey

Fellowship highlighted this spring rally with so many first timers and returning members attending. However, lots of fun was part of the weekend as well. On Friday, nineteen ladies lunched and had tea at Mary Brogan's Irish Cottage. Food fare included scones with preserves, finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, shamrock cookies and creamy lemon tarts. Following the delicious meal, the ladies shared favorite book titles, and enjoyed gathering some good books for future reads. Men visited the "Cave With No Name" and agreed it was one of the finest they had seen. They enjoyed lunch at the Cypress Grille in Boerne.



Cave Without a Name



Boerne Happy Hour

Delicious potluck dishes prepared by the members were served Friday night. And, the fun continued with a presentation of the Members' Fairy Tale story. Gayland Stephens narrated the funny story of a lovely princess, played by Ella Faye Stephens, captured by a dastardly villain, played by Ardell Mayton. The valiant prince, Luke Guidry, rescued the princess, and returned her home to her parents, the queen, Kathryn Fischer, the king, Myron Fischer. Other members played the parts of flowers, bees, sun. However, one of the funniest characters was played by Windy Fleming, as a boar with a LOUD oinking call. Lots of laughter accompanied the skit, which was directed by Kay Irwin.



THLU Actors Performing at Boerne



Fischer Regales

On Saturday morning, hosts, Flemings, Irwins, Turners and Blanchards prepared Egg McWallys, which seemed to be a popular choice with the members. Friday's breakfast of cereals, fruit, cinnamon breads and yogurt also fared well with Airstreamers. It appears that many approved of healthier choices.



The Irish Gentlemen Hosts

Kay Irwin collected a large assortment of donated food items from members and delivered them to the local food pantry. In addition, the THLU Executive Committee met briefly to review and approve the unit budget for 2011.

Members had a variety of choices for places to go in Boerne on Saturday. Wings Over Boerne proved to be a wonderful choice. Falconer, John Karger, along with assistants,

Ian Joplin and Sarah Montez, raptor technicians presented the birds. They demonstrated hunting techniques of several raptors including a peregrine falcon and the red-tailed hawk. He dispelled false conceptions of the birds, and showed what powerful hunters they are. The primary mission of Last Chance Forever, The Bird of Prey Conservancy, is to rehabilitate and release back into the wild, injured, sick or orphaned birds of prey. Karger, and his assistants travel extensively presenting educational programs from Texas to Minnesota hoping to invite a change in the attitudes concerning birds of prey.



Birds of Prey Exhibition at Boerne

Enjoying the beautiful weather, other members strolled through Boerne's monthly market days on the town square, where they were entertained by a country western band. Still, others made their way to a variety of main street shops and local eateries.

Harvey conducted a preparatory meeting mid-afternoon for the group of 24 making the Davis Mountains/Big Bend Unit Caravan that began bright and early on Sunday morning.

Saturday afternoon at 5, everyone converged on PoPo's Family Restaurant, just down the hill from the RV park, and enjoyed some down home country cooking. Special guests at the dinner were Jonathan Crenwelge's parents.



Dinner at PoPo's

Following dinner, all returned to the rally hall for dessert and the presentation of awards. Members receiving a 5 year membership star were: Richard and Janet Turner, Pat and Linda McDowell, Bob and Janis Brown. Gary and Marilyn McClanahan received a second star for 10 years in the THLU unit. Other members who were unable to attend the Boerne Rally but who received anniversary stars included: Howard and Grace Duff for 30 years, Lynwood & SuAlice Jostes for 15 years, and Mike & Jill Barnes for 5 years.

A dozen door prizes were donated by Tom Kaminski, who owns TK RV Repair & Sales at 7980 North Highway 183 in Lockhart. Marilyn presented our closing devotional Saturday night, as a number of members would be departing early on Sunday for the unit caravan



Perfect Ending for a Perfect Rally



Caravan Parking

Davis Mountains/Big Bend Caravan U-392 was Full of Fun, Fellowship, Adventure & A Huge Success- Harvey Craig

Sunday, March 13 marked the departure of twelve THLU Airstreams and some twenty-four members for a ten night/eleven day caravan into the Davis Mountains and Big Bend which was full of fun, fellowship, and adventure that would have made Wally Byam happy.



Caravan Dinner at Caverns of Sonora

This was the first unit caravan of this length in a number of years. Caravan members included: Jim & B. Bailey, Tom & Jean Beebe, Marty & Cindy Berdan, Gene & Kathy Blanchard, Julie Callahan, Harvey & Gail Craig, Windy & Shirley Fleming, Mike Lovell & Colin Melton, Gary & Marilyn McClanahan, Luther, Alice, & Jeremy Price, Richard & Janet Turner, and Stuart & Ilene Wetterschneider.

The first stop was The Caverns of Sonora where members toured the caverns, had happy hour, dinner provided by the Craigs &

Julie Callahan, viewed wildlife, peacocks, Guineas, and a beautiful sunset. Monday afternoon, found the caravan in Fort Stockton where members had a group picture in front of Paisano Pete, toured the Annie Riggs Memorial Museum and the Historical Fort Stockton. That evening we had a special treat when B. Bailey played her harp (yes, she carries her Harp in her Airstream) during happy hour at the Baileys trailer.



Members in front of Paisano Pete

Tuesday, members traveled on toward Fort Davis stopping to visit Balmorhea State Park. That evening, happy hour and a delicious dinner hosted by the Beebes and Berdans was enjoyed by all.



Members at Balmorhea Swimming Pool

The highlight of Wednesday was the McDonald Observatory activities which included tour, lecture, sandwiches in the Stargazer Café, and a Star Gazer Party.



Members at Historic Fort Davis



Looking SE from McDonald Observatory

Thursday, most members drove over to Marfa to explore while others enjoyed hikes and still others enjoyed a scenic 75 mile loop of the area. Happy hour and buffalo burgers were served by Mike, Colin, and the Baileys that evening with B. playing some Irish tunes and sharing an Irish story.



B. Bailey with her harp

On Friday morning, the caravan headed for Presidio and Lajitas stopping at Fort Leaton Historical Site for a tour and a picnic lunch. Dinner was prepared and served that evening by the Lajitas RV Resort pool by the Prices and Turners. Saturday saw members out bright and early for hikes and tours of Big Bend. Some went on jeep tours, some on ATV tours, and Jean Beebe even braved it alone on a canoe trip down the Rio Grande. The Wetterschneiders and Blanchards prepared a delicious Italian dinner served around the RV Resort pool.



ATV Tour

Sunday saw more Big Bend adventures and hikes. The day ended with members wearing their cowboy and cowgirl dress and having happy hour in the Lajitas Golf Resort's Thirsty Goat Saloon followed by a four course meal in a private dining room for the Caravan's Farewell Dinner. At the dinner, Windy & Shirley, Gene & Kathy, and Mike & Colin were presented caravan gifts for serving as caravan leaders or caravan cabooses. In addition, Julie Callahan received a gift for traveling all the way from Colorado to be on the caravan and for her independence in traveling alone since Ken could not join the caravan. Also, Jeremy Price received a gift for his efforts in making each member flamingo notepads. At the conclusion of the dinner, Colin made a presentation to me which was an embroidered pillow featuring all of the historical spots in the Big Bend area. On the

back of the pillow, the caravan's name and date as well as each caravan member's names were written.

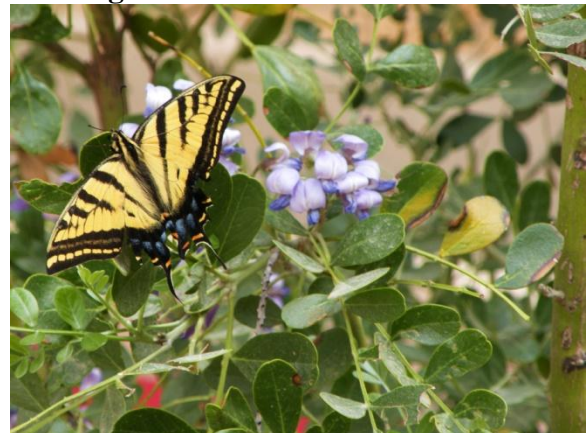


Harvey receiving Caravan Pillow

On Monday morning, the caravan started home first stopping in Marathon to tour the Gage Hotel, have lunch and finally stopping for the night at Fort Stockton where the McClanhans and Flemings treated all to tacos with the trimmings.



The Gage Hotel



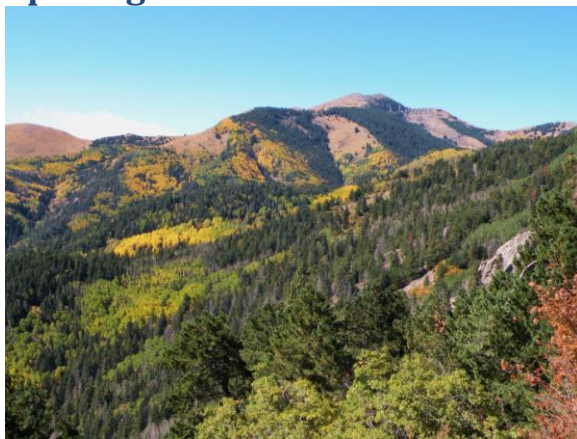
Finally, the rigs headed for Junction on Tuesday morning in high winds. While traveling IH 10, Tom & Jean lost their trailer's skylight---shooting some 50 to 70 feet up into the air. The caravan parked at the South Llano River State Park where Luther made a nice campfire for all to enjoy and tell stories of their caravan adventures.



South Llano River State Park--- Perfecting Ending for a Perfect Caravan

All caravan members had an outstanding time with no major accidents, or problems. On Tuesday morning of the last day, I did manage to injure my right knee and leg hurrying out of my trailer. It is fine, and hopefully, will back to normal in two to three weeks.

Ruidoso/New Mexico October Unit Caravan U-393 Still Has Openings

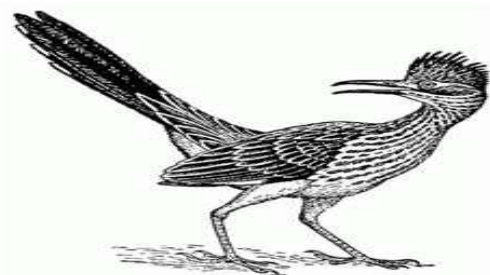


Ruidoso in October

At the conclusion of the Davis Mountains/Big Bend Caravan, several

members signed up for the October Ruidoso/New Mexico Caravan; however, the caravan still has openings. This caravan departs from our Rock, Rattle, & Roll Buddy Rally held at Mitchell RV Resort in Perrin on Sunday, October 9. It is a ten night/eleven day caravan featuring five stops. The deposit for this caravan is \$250 with a total caravan cost of \$500 per couple. A caravan coupon may be downloaded and printed from our website: THLU.org.

The caravan includes the following stops, sites, and tours: Bottomless Lakes State Park; Roswell, NM including: International UFO Museum, Roswell Museum and Art Center, Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art; Ruidoso Downs, NM, Hubbard Museum of American West; Ruidoso, NM: Sierra Blanca Mountain and Ski Apache--- hopefully with the possibility of some fall colors, Lincoln National Forest, Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino; Alto, NM, the Spencer Theater; Fort Stanton, NM historic fort; Cloudcroft, NM, The Lodge with lunch at Rebecca's; Alamogordo, NM: New Mexico Museum of Space History, and White Sands National Monument; a farewell dinner at either the Texas Club or at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso; Artesia, NM, Carlsbad, NM: Living Desert Zoo & Gardens, Carlsbad Caverns, and Fort Stockton, TX.



THLU RUIDOSO/NEW MEXICO CARAVAN U-393---October 9-19, 2011

Region 9 Rally is March 28-April 2 in Abilene

C.C. Gattman, Region 9 President, has planned a great Region 9 Rally in Abilene. Currently, there are some 75 rigs registered for this rally. In addition at this time, THLU has eight rigs attending which include the: Irwins, Callahans, M. Fischers, W. Fischers, Mooneys, Haddaways, Larsons, and Shellys. THLU members will either park on Monday morning sometime after 10 a.m. or will park on their own; however, the Region 9 parking crew will attempt to park all THLU members together at the rally site.

If you have not sent in your Region 9 rally registration, you may still attend by showing up and registering at the rally site. Marque Mooney, 2nd VP, will be carrying our flag and representing us at the Region 9 Board Meeting. In addition, Marque will write an article covering the Region 9 happenings for our April Newsletter.

7th THLU Texas Vintage Airstream "Round-Up" National Rally is Approaching



David & Marilyn Blakey's Vintage

THLU's last rally until September's Labor Day Campout at Bastrop State Park and THLU's last voting business meeting until October's Shake, Rattle, & Roll Buddy Rally in Perrin is fast approaching. This will be THLU 7th Vintage Airstream Rally and will be held at the Tres Rios River RV Resort in Glen Rose, May 12-16.

This rally is shaping up to be much fun with many seminars for everyone. Catered barbeque and Mexican dinners are planned along with two pot-luck dinners. In addition, Friday evening will feature country and western music and Saturday will feature Blue Grass music. In addition, Glen Rose offers many other sites and things for individuals to do. The rally fee is \$28 per person for 1-2 nights and \$40 per person for 3-4 nights with a parking fee of \$20 per night.

This rally is an important one since on Monday, May 16, THLU will hold a business meeting to elect next year's unit and international officers. In addition, discussion will be had over proposed new WBCCI Constitutional changes. As soon as I receive these in April, I shall e-mail them to all THLU members for their review prior to our May 16 business meeting. THLU has decided to begin offering this vintage rally every-other year. The next THLU Vintage Airstream Rally will be held in 2013----so, plan to attend this year!

Members who wish to attend this important rally need to send their rally registration forms along with check to Jean Beebe, 503 Chihuahua Trail, Austin, Texas 78745 by April 23. Registration forms may be downloaded and printed from our website: THLU.org.

New Members

Texas Highland Lakes Unit has recently had several new members. In this newsletter, we would like to share some background information on Bill & Lin Brinkman who live in Round Rock. Bill and Lin met while both were attending University of Oklahoma and married while students. They moved to New York for twelve years and then to Round Rock in 1979.

Bill retired from University of Texas as an electrical and mechanical engineer. Lin catered for eighteen years, taught cooking for eleven years, and was a campus secretary for Austin Community College. They have two sons. Andrew is in the Air Force stationed in Belgium and has three children. Their second son, Bob works for the Texas Historical Commission and lives in Round Rock with Stephanie and Benjamin who is 18 months old.



Bill keeps busy with 40 years of sail plane flying and instructing as well as with submarine reunions while Lin volunteers, reads, does crafts, and enjoys cooking. The couple bought their Bambi in May, 2010.

Their THLU mentors are Janet & Richard Turner.

..... **Harvey Craig**

SPECIAL UP COMING APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Terry Clopper | 04/03 |
| Dave Skinner | 04/07 |
| Janie Haddaway | 04/11 |
| Harry & Liz Rodgers | 04/12 Anniv. |
| Erlene Shelly | 04/12 |
| Gene & Kathy Blanchard | 04/16 Anniv. |
| Marcia Barker | 04/18 |
| Jill Barnes | 04/21 |
| Doug Draves | 04/21 |
| Kevin Young | 04/22 |
| Judy Hazen | 04/25 |
| Carter Younts | 04/29 |
| Harry Rodgers | 04/30 |

Sunshine Report – Kathryn Fischer Gail Craig’s right eye has now cleared, and her hernia surgeon told her to delay the hernia surgery until it starts bothering her and, “. . . to get out in the Airstream and have some fun . . .” which is what she did on the recent Big Bend Unit Caravan.

Our best wishes to all. If you know of any other THLU Members who could use our support and prayers, please let me know. Kathryn Fischer 512/784-0635 or e-mail fisch963@earthlink.net

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

Mon.-Sat., **March 28-April 2:** Region 9 Rally in Abilene.

Tue, **April 5:** Unit Lunch at South Luby’s located at US 290 & Brodie Lane

Thu.-Mon., **May 12-16:** 7th Texas Vintage Airstream “Round-Up” National Rally at Tres Rios RV Resort in Glen Rose with THLU Business Meeting & Elections on Monday, May 16.

THLU Member Sale Items

Marvin & Annie Fisher have two side by side 40 x 80 ft. lots in Zavalla for sale. One has a 10 x 10 ft storage shed and a 12 x 14 ft cabana with a 12 x 12 ft. covered patio. The other lot has asphalt that is grassed over. Both lots have electricity, water, and sewer with a view of the lake. Their e-mail is: annie-marvin@hotmail.com or call: 810/728-5517.

Carlos & Rosemary Leach have a three year old 1000 Yamaha generator with less than 70 hours running time that is in great running shape for sale. Their e-mail is: cmleach3@comcast.net or call: 281/536-6185.



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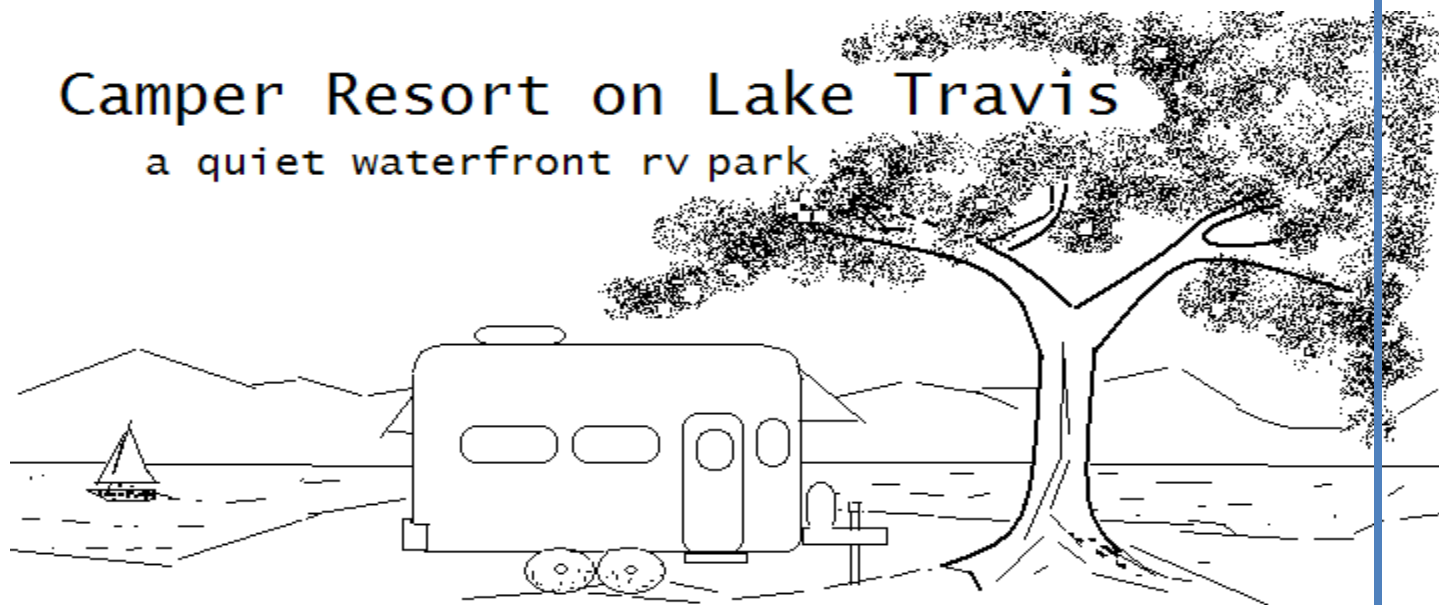
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