



# Newsletter

March/April  
2021

What a way to start the year. Bitter cold, high winds, and everyone hustling to find a site to get vaccinated. This last year was a whirlwind, and if the first 3 months of 2021 are an indication, it may be another wild ride. Just over the last week, spring took hold of our community. trees, flowers, and wildlife just sprung into action. The trees along avenue C are spectacular and before long Bluebonnets will be popping. Everyone is eager to get back to some form of normalcy and both Vickie and I welcome the notion too.

This month we get to welcome new members Keith and Ellen Enstrom. Their bio is included and we look forward to getting to know them. Linda Ward shared her adventure in preparing for Andy's surprise retirement party, and you will find some website information. CONGRATULATIONS, Andy!!! Vickie and I included an article on The Range Vintage Trailer Resort just outside of Ennis. The owners, are WBAC members and live on site in their 2016 Airstream. The Range is a special treat. This years book club is winding down and many are already looking forward to the 2021/2022 book finds.

If you have a subject you would like to share, I would be thrilled to include it in a future edition. I am willing to help with editing and

proofreading as desired and necessary to help fit available newsletter space.

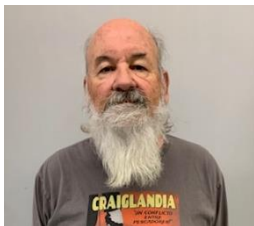
This months newsletter will probably be the last until fall. It seems finding content to fill more than a page or so is a real challenge with everyone traveling. If anyone cares to send their topics, articles, recipes, photos, or favorite finds, over the spring and summer please do! If enough content is available I will gladly try to publish an issue.

As I prepare to publish this months newsletter, Vickie and I, as are so many of you, are eager to get on the road,. Preparations are obvious all around the park. As you prepare, please keep in mind, I encourage everyone to capture photos and details of special places they visit or attractions found. Please share them with your NTAC neighbors via this newsletter and on Facebook. Any items can be sent to the email address at the bottom of this section. I also will pull Facebook Group page items, as many of our neighbors do not use Facebook.

As always, please send what you would like to share in the newsletter to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com) and I will do my best to keep up.

## 2020 NTAC President

It appears Spring is upon us. As Marilyn and I were driving to Waco the



other day, the bluebonnets were popping up on the side of the highway in West. As you look west of the pavilion, you will see ours are not far behind in the growth cycle. The rebirth of spring is also demonstrated in the number of villa/houses being remodeled, added onto and just spring cleaned. When you do your spring

cleaning, don't forget your garage. Clutter seems to grow there, so don't make your neighbors look at yours all summer while traveling.

We have many individuals who received approval for NTAC membership and properties are selling at a fast pace. The new directories are in (Thanks Jennifer and crew), so you can get updated on all your new neighbors.

As we move to the travel time of year, I want to thank several committees for the work they have done. Activities asked when we can begin to reopen for various activities. Membership and Listings have both been busy as noted above. Tom Collier, our Rally Master, has been extremely busy the past few weeks. Landscape is doing a great job making our facility look as good as it does. The Drainage and Rain Barrel committees have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to providing information for the community and the boards to make informed choices. Rules/Bylaws provided clarity to several issues on

which I asked their guidance. I am sure I have forgotten many; but, as always, volunteerism is what makes NTAC what it is.

I would be remiss in not mentioning our office manager, Jenn Nekola. During this pandemic, she has had to deal with changes, a deluge of Amazon packages, stressed residents, and requests from NTAC officers for a million things. Now, as she handles all of these plus rallies, let's take a minute to appreciate the job she does.

We have one committee, Christmas Lights, without a chairman. If you would be interested in handling this position, please let me know. I will sleep better in Montana knowing this is off the table.

**Steve Holland**  
**NTAC 2021 Board President**

### 2021 Board Meeting Schedule

- 27 September**
- 25 October**
- 11 December (Annual Membership Meeting)**

*All meetings are planned for the Rally Room with Social Distancing and Masks required.  
Board Workshops are generally held the Wednesday prior, but be sure to check the online calendar for changes.*

*Remember this newsletter is all about you and your neighbors. Articles and photo submissions are certainly welcome from everyone, especially photos of members, on the road or not; your favorite pictures, special campground discoveries, great deals, or a unique recipe. Please include a brief description of any photo and I will try to include submissions in a future edition.*

## New Member Welcome

A warm welcome to Keith and Ellen Enstrom, new shareholders of 123 and 124 on Avenue A.

Keith and Ellen have been married for 24 years. Between them, they have 4 kids and 11 grandkids spread out in Illinois, Iowa, Texas and California.



Keith is retired from John Deere and Ellen retired from the US Post Office. Their first retirement home was an acreage in Wisconsin with a large home, outbuildings, and lots of woods, gardens, and flower beds to tend.

Three years ago they sold it and moved to much smaller place much closer to some of their grand-kids. That is, until they got transferred away 6 months after arriving..... That home is in western Illinois, where they live on the Mississippi River and enjoy boating and also rally's with their home unit, the Northern Illinois Airstream Club throughout the summer.

They have been "Airstreamers" for only 5 years. Their RV experience started shortly before when they purchased a small "SOB" and toured the Old Route 66 from downtown Chicago to the Santa Barbara Pier. Finding the experience so enjoyable, they ventured out to RV shows where Ellen discovered "Airstream". Starting out with a 23' International Signature their SUV could pull, they shortly thereafter developed a bad case of 'two-foot-itis' and upgraded to a 25 foot Airstream a year later, and now finally to a 3rd 27' Airstream and a much larger tow vehicle.

After getting bit by the the RV bug, they discovered it's almost required to have a pet to take along, and found a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named 'Bimmer'. It's pronounced 'beemer' as in BMW. He thinks he's royalty and the kids are now worrying about their inheritances.

Keith and Ellen visited NTAC many times over the last three years, always impressed with the facility and all the people met while visiting. Their first few weeks here confirmed they made the right decision to become members, nothing "We're thrilled to be here."

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## Social Media Links

**NTAC Website**  
[www.ntaci.com](http://www.ntaci.com)

**NTAC Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/AirstreamCommunity/>

**NTAC Instagram Account**  
<https://www.instagram.com/northtexasairstreamcommunity/>

**NTAC Twitter Account**  
<https://twitter.com/NTAirstreamComm>

**NTAC Private Facebook Group**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthTexasAirstreamCommunity>

## More Website News and Updates

Scott G Web Admin Committee

Many of you may notice a change in the colors and menu, along with some new photos. Thanks to those offering suggestions!

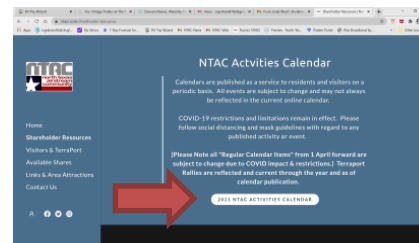
The **Member Access** section, added in November, seems well received. While primarily to help improve communication of Board activities, the online directory and resident map is a great help. The Member Access section is accessed the left column menu the bottom of each NTAC website page. Access requires the



from  
or at

member to login to view materials. Members having trouble logging in to this area should send an email to [ntac@ntaci.com](mailto:ntac@ntaci.com) and let Jenn know so a new invitation can be sent.

The updated **Activities Calendar** seems to be a hit in the new online format, especially as updates happen in real time! This ensures changes, which seem to happen at least daily for both Jenn and Pat, are



reflected as they are posted. NTAC is saving lots of paper, time, and improving communication with this new tool, which is also accessible by anyone who with an internet connection or mobile device. For those who

must have a printed copy the online version is a PDF file able to be printed at home. Users can go to the [Shareholders Resources](#) page and click on the **2021 NTAC Activities Calendar** button. Changes made are reflected when posted, so please keep this great tool in mind, and look to the calendar header for each month for special notes. I have met a number of visitors who have visited this link and really are impressed with the variety of activities we conduct, which is another great draw for people interested in joining our community.

Your NTAC Website is found at [www.ntaci.com](http://www.ntaci.com). Please check it out and share your thoughts on what you would like to see included or changed. Your ideas are more than welcome and can be sent to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com).

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## Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

Want to know what is happening in our own community? Please check out the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Happenings.

Check out info on our website or at [www.hillsborochamber.org](http://www.hillsborochamber.org). There is also a link on the NTAC website to the Chamber of Commerce along with great area attractions.

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## Retirement, At Last

Linda Ward

How did I help organize a surprise online retirement party living together 24/7?



I changed all my husband's colleagues and several of my own friends phone contact names to an alias; Meredith became Mary B, Janice became Jane K and Zac became John C. I never left my phone unattended nor gave it to Andy even though the battery died and needed charging almost constantly. As I responded to emails, texts and messages, I immediately sent them to trash but didn't delete. Money was collected, presents suggested and ordered, then addressed and delivered to the office

manager – with many thanks to Jennifer Nikola! Packages were picked up by me or a neighbor, checked, photographed and confirmation sent to those involved, and then safely stored at a neighbor's, all happening weeks just prior to the event on January 27th.

Invites and emails were furiously sent and former colleagues stalked for current emails. Andy's colleagues took charge of the technology and were getting nervous with over 100 confirmed attendees located in several countries and time zones. Those unable to attend produced several short memorable videos. Gifts were collected and wrapped the day before while Andy was on a rare hour out! They were hidden in my office, though Andy came in and out and did not notice.

On the day of the event, I discreetly tidied Andy's home office but I couldn't vacuum or really polish as he would know something was up. At 2:45pm Thursday, I log on muted, and waved from my own office next door, telling Andy I was in a literacy program training session. It was wonderful to see so many old friends and former colleagues and I held up a sign "I am on mute as Andy is in the next room" while they laughed and chatted, all wondering why he is not on as the minutes seemed to tick by and I could hear him moving about. Finally we saw his name as he logged on and everyone shouted surprise and waved, while many of our wonderful local neighbors popped in at the same time with the balloons. Thank you to the Indian Team for being up and looking good at 3am.



The celebration of Andy's long career lasted ninety minutes; time flew by, tears shed, and many memories shared. Such a joyful and great time! Everyone noted it was even better than an in person event as this was so inclusive, and few would have been able to be in Montvale, NJ.



Many of you might enjoy some of the interactive questions about Andy, with correct answers at the end. Andy Worked for KPMG, one of the big four accounting firms, for twenty nine years. He started in Leeds, England, then moving to Perth Australia with

many trips to Sydney, followed by another transfer to KPMG to Montvale NJ. Andy retired as A Managing Director but is not an accountant!

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## A sample of some of the questions:

- What did Andy receive on the first day of work and still uses today? (One correct answer) A calculator, A to-do list, A pen A KPMG leather binder, or A wallet?
- What countries has Andy not travelled to for colleagues weddings? (One incorrect answer) India, England, Ireland. Australia, South Africa, or Australia?
- What has Andy not worn to the office or a work event (One incorrect answer) A nightie and rollers, A Shark outfit, A Father Christmas outfit, A Gaucho Mark's outfit, or Speedo's?

## Answers to questions

- Andy still has a to do list that he received on his first day at work - it has been copied so many times!
- We have never travelled to Ireland to attend a wedding but have been there for work and vacation
- Andy has never dressed as Father Christmas in the office or for a work event

We both look forward to now travelling and seeing more of the United States in Our Airstream. We hope to travel to Europe in 2022, and plan to Walk the Camino De Santiago, a 600 mile pilgrimage across Spain, and of course see some of our family. We look forward to an active healthy retirement and making many friends at NTAC.....

Cheers Linda & Andy Villa 219

## 2021 NTAC Book Club

Bob & Marne Kaemmerer want everyone to know ANYone can lead book discussions, and welcome your participation. While the club used to meet in the Card Room on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 look for updates and location in the newsletter, on the bulletin board, or on Facebook.



### 📖 "The Library Book" by Susan Orlean, Apr 1, 2021

On April 29, 1986 a disastrous fire broke out in the Los Angeles Public Library. It reached 2000 degrees and burned for 7 hours consuming 400,000 books and damaging 700,000 more. Was it purposefully set? Why? Who? A mesmerizing book also telling the story of libraries and librarians.

### 📖 "In Hoffa's Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth" by Jack Goldsmith, May 6, 2021

His stepfather was a long-time associate of Jimmy Hoffa. Goldsmith explores Hoffa's rise and fall and why the golden age of blue-collar America came to an end. He unravels one of the 20th century's mysteries.

**P.S. Even if you haven't read the book you're welcome to join in**

**See some special thank you notes in this month's Newsletter!!**



## 'Merica

By Channing Fell

When you pause a moment, it is pretty awesome folks can do what we have, for a common reason, pulling together in protection of others.

We are meant to be in contact with others. It is part of how we are created. We are "in contact" more remotely these days, but remoteness cannot survive unless it leads to balance, then to true connection and, RE-connection.

This year has been a physical, mental and spiritual challenge to stay in balance. We have had different paths to bring us to enjoy the blessings we have being members of NTAC and each path has contributed as we survived this "lockdown".



It is time we emerge from this scourge.

Several members have ranged quite far, and last week another NTAC couple was added to those who dared a trip "outside the wire". The purpose, to do something for others, to attend a family wedding on March 20.

While they were the only Airstream to dare the weather AND family on St. Patrick's Day and through the weekend, the world is still spinning. ;) And, yea, the spinning sun came up.

We found life out here, Y'all.

Here is a glimpse, a small reminder life exists... inside the real 'Merica, "outside the wire" of our fear... as another glorious day and fear ebbs.

May God bless and keep you safe. There is no fear of the wire. There is no fear...

Peace and blessings of Christ be with you all.

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## Thank You!!

By Mike Mack

### Jennifer Nekola – NTAC Office Manager

Jennifer's many everyday duties include sorting packages, helping and communicating with shareholders, NTAC bookkeeping, reading utility meters, maintaining supplies and much more. She also has one very important job many may not be aware of.

Jenn "IS" NTAC to many of our visitors and is responsible for booking rallies and keeping the Terraport under control. Much of this starts with a phone call, often times received on our answering machine. This important start point has her checking and confirming rally and visitor dates, coordinating with Tom Collier, and sometimes searching for spare lots to place visitors on. As a Rally date



approaches, she reaches out to Wagon Masters, confirming the number rigs and helping decide how they should be distributed on the Terraport. When rallies exceed the number of available spaces, Jenn will work with NTAC shareholders who have open lots to help accommodate overflow.

Jenn prepares and ensures all rallies receive packets with information and NTAC rules for use of the Rally Room and NTAC property. She helps Wagon Masters complete attendee tally sheets and deposits all rally fees.

What Jenn does for our visitors and rally attendees is much of the reason many of the hosted rallies continue to return to NTAC. She puts in a lot of work, and as we realize the return of rallies this year it is good to have her expertise. Everyone has to admit it's good seeing things getting back on track, and really nice to have trailers on the Terraport again! Thanks, Jennifer!!

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***If you chair a committee and want to included information in a future newsletter to create awareness or solicit participation, or thank those serving on your committee, please send a brief synopsis to [ntacnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ntacnewsletter@gmail.com).***

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## Thank You!!

By Mike Mack



### Rally Welcome Committee Chair – Tom Collier

Tom is the first person Terraport rally visitors come in contact with the when they arrive. His main job is to keep the rally folks happy!

Working with Jenn Nekola, he first coordinates the dates and then contacts the Rally Wagon Masters for any special requirements. This may include things like number of tables needed, HVAC temperature setting adjustments, and kitchen needs.

Once the rally begins, Tom typically makes twice a day checks with the Wagon Master, checking on new requirements and visitor satisfaction.

Tom has lots of experienced in this area, after being Unit President, Region President as well as International President of WBCCI.

Tom and Norma are long term residents of NTAC, and he served as NTAC Board President, along with being a mentor to many in our community. Thank You Tom!!

**Please visit our Social Media and Internet Web sites frequently for updates and please share with others!**

## The Range Vintage Trailer Resort..... A Unique and Wonderful Destination

by Scott Graham

Vickie and I celebrated her recent birthday at The Range Vintage Trailer Resort, near Ennis, TX. In addition to the owners being WBAC members, we have a family connection, and were intrigued by the



Airstream and Vintage flare we saw in Facebook postings. Visitors can bring their own Airstream, or stay in one of the vintage trailers appointed with everything a guest might need.

Always willing to share stories of NTAC member great locations and interesting finds, we certainly thought this destination was worth sharing. What a great visit, certainly one we will make again. The Range VTR is situated just NW of Ennis in the village of Bristol, and in arguably one of the best locations for Texas wildflower and bluebonnet viewing.



Owned by WBAC members Sarah and Paul Beauregard, (BRN 8369) they opened the resort just over a year ago. The resort is not typical of any resort we have ever visited. Spacious sites, attention to detail in everything from the bath house to walking trails, and wonderful dining on Saturdays, set this location apart from others.

Just 22 sites, 5 of which have vintage trailers completely set up for users who don't or may never have experienced the RV lifestyle. Two of these trailers are vintage Airstreams, a 1967 Globetrotter and a 1972 Overlander. Others available for stay include a 1953 and 1965 Boles Aero, and a 1966 Shasta. Each of the rental trailers are fully appointed and furnished for visitors to relax and enjoy, visiting with friends, or as a location for checking out the area. Sarah takes great pride in tending to their customers. She and Paul also live on site in their 2016 Airstream.

Each RV site is spacious and private, and while we took our trailer with us, all the sites are level concrete pads and include full hook ups. The rental trailer sites include a deck, a weber grill, all you would need for grilling, and a hammock and chairs for lounging.

Everything you might want is available, including laundry facilities, a bath house, pool, food, and libations, all within easy access on their groomed walking trails. The Range, pretty much has most everything one could want for just relaxing and just visiting, or celebrating a special occasion.



The resort uses a 1959 Airstream Globetrotter, set up next to the Barn, set up for serving refreshments, and featuring Texas spirits. Weekends feature a local chef who prepares a spectacular dinner using locally grown and sourced foods. Great care was given to social distancing and

attention to cleanliness of all the facilities. They have an outdoor fire pit and capped off our evening with s'mores.



While Vickie and I visited, all the rentals were occupied by a group of friends congregating from Houston and DFW area, 3 of them repeat visitors. Not only were they enamored with the vintage trailers, but after talking

with us, seemed eager to start investigating ownership of an Airstream. It seems this would be a great special getaway if you did not want to or could not tow your own Airstream.

What impressed us most about The Range is the attention to detail and purpose. Sarah and Paul clearly work hard to remain "green" by repurposing lumber and ensuring the flower, fauna, and water are part of the resort. The small bathhouse is outfitted with reclaimed sinks and troughs, along with doors, knobs and latches which are interesting to look at in their own right. Sarah pointed out, none of the doors match, which adds to the ambiance.



NTAC shareholder Frank Steed noted, "The Range is a lifelong dream fulfilled for Sarah and her family. Every site is secluded but yet still within walking distance of their pool, fishing ponds, store, bar and pavilion, which is complete with a full kitchen. In the future they will open additional sites for boon docking which will enable Airstream Clubs to hold Rally's and enjoy both the Range and events in nearby communities like Ennis and Waxahachie. All the while being 30 minutes from the DFW metroplex."

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## Thank You!!

By Jenn Nekola

Volunteerism, takes so many forms. Whether it is helping a neighbor, picking up a piece of trash on the ground, or serving on a committee, so many people do so many things. It is nice when we get to thank those who make a difference.

Jenn Nekola noted another person deserving a huge Thank You, John Calvin. Off times scooting around with their dog, Candy, John helps manage and keep up with the "Free Goods" table in the Laundry area, though many of us aren't aware of his efforts.

This area of the Laundry became a bit of an eyesore, which our Office Manager found she had to make time to keep straightened up. Seemingly out of nowhere, John stepped in and kept the area neat and orderly. Since stepping in to assist Jenn N in this area, not only is the area neat and orderly, but if things don't get picked up by other shareholders, he makes frequent trips to Hillsboro Interfaith Ministry or Hillsboro PAWS to ensure usable items get donated and not just discarded. Thank you, John!!



## Mobile Photo Challenge Winners!

A huge thank you to everyone involved with the NTAC Mobile Phone Challenge, both those who submitted a photo..., and those who voted.



The Grand Tetons on a Rainy Day by David Harris

NTAC is so fortunate to have so much talent! Many of you know we have a few "pros" in our midst,



Flamingos in the Snow by Bill Lovelace

everyone is encouraged and inspired and capture and share more images. If so, please share them and send a copy to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com), along with a brief description for a future issue.

but it is wonderful to see such amazing images captured using just our cell phones.

Thank you Pat for organizing this event! Who knew we were going to have to make such difficult choices? The top 3 images, along with the runners up, are available on the NTAC website, or our Facebook page. It is nice to be able to include them in the Newsletter as well.



Fuzzy Caterpillar by Scott Graham

As Newsletter Editor, I hope

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Do you have a photo you think is worth sharing? Send it to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com) with a brief explanation for a future issue!

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## Instant Pot Cooking – Lemon Garlic Roasted Chicken

By Amy Van Arstdalen

Recently, the Instant Pot Air Fryer lid caught my eye.

The prospect of a lid that adds 6 new functions such as Air Fry, Roast, Bake, Broil, Reheat and Dehydrate, to the already full featured 6-quart Instant Pot was so tempting I could not pass it up. So, wanting to put the lid through its paces I decided to try roasting a chicken and see if it could brown nicely just as though it were roasted in the oven. To make it even better, this recipe makes delicious gravy for potatoes, rice, or even the start to a delicious bowl of chicken noodle soup.

I'm happy to say I was really pleased! One whole 5-pound chicken fed the two of us for the better part of 1 week. Here is what you'll need to make this chicken and if you don't have the air fryer lid you can always place the chicken under the broiler to get the skin crispy.

## Lemon Garlic Roasted Chicken

1	Whole Chicken (4-5 lbs)	2/3 C	Water
2	Large carrots (Chopped)	1/4 C	Butter (Melted)
2	Celery stalks (Chopped)	1 TBS	Lawry's Garlic Salt
1/2	Large onion (Quartered)	1 TBS	Lawry's Garlic Pepper
1	Lemon (Cut in half)	2 TBS	Corn Starch
3-4	Garlic cloves (Peeled)	2 TBS	Cold water
2 tsp	Better than Bullion Chicken		

### Instructions:

Place water into bottom of the Instant Pot and add carrots, celery, and Better than Bullion. Stir to blend the Better than Bullion into the water. I also like to place the whole garlic cloves into the liquid.

Thoroughly rinse chicken removing giblets. Pat dry with paper towels.

Insert the onion and lemon inside the cavity of the chicken. Place the chicken on a rack, preferably the one that came with the Instant Pot. Season the chicken thoroughly with the garlic salt and garlic pepper. Pour the melted butter over the top of the chicken.

Cook the chicken 8 minutes per pound. For a 5-pound chicken, use either the manual or poultry setting and set the time at 40 minutes. Make sure the release valve is set to "Sealing". After the timer beeps indicating the proper amount of time has elapsed, allow another 10 minutes to release the pressure naturally. After the 10-minute natural release, set the release valve to "Venting" and release any remaining steam.



Attach the Air Fryer lid and

use the "Broil" setting for 5 to 10 minutes. I like to use 10 minutes for a deliciously golden chicken.

When the chicken is browned to your liking, remove the chicken and allow it to rest while you make the gravy.



Combine the cornstarch and water and set the Instant Pot to "Sauté". Once the vegetables and dripping begin to bubble add the cornstarch mixture and stir. Season to taste. This makes a delicious gravy, or I like to use it as a starter for chicken noodle soup.

**Bon Appetite!**

## Photography Classes at Hill College Perfect Your Memories

by Douglas Carr Cunningham

Photography talent exists and thrives throughout our North Texas






Airstream Community! The evidence is clear, as Pat Lovelace's recent online Mobile Photo contest demonstrated. Pat showcased all the entries at the last board meeting and everyone, especially myself were quite impressed by the perspectives, color, composition and impact - just the

things taught within the Hill College Continuing Education Photography courses offered right next door!

For those interested in expanding or honing their photography skills, there are three classes offered through Hill College, specifically targeted for those possessing a 35mm-style digital camera. These courses are held in the evenings and on a Saturday, and will be sure to enhance your abilities, and be quite a bit of fun. Take a break from polishing the silver bullet. Take the creative challenge to create great trip photos.



Upcoming course offerings include:

-  Beginning Photography (April 13-May 6, 5:30pm)
-  The Art of the Camera Portrait (May 11-June 8, 5:30pm)
-  The Art of Camera Storytelling (Saturdays, May 15-June 19, 9am-noon)

More information is available from Hill College Continuing Education <https://www.hillcollege.edu/ContinuingEducation/Enrichment/Photography.html>

Photography is fun! And it keeps your memories intact.



## Airstream Sales and the Industry's Future

By Peter Sajovich, NTAC Marketing/Advertising

As marketing and membership chairman at Texas Highland Lakes Airstream Club since 2019 I've had the opportunity to work closely with two of the largest dealers in Texas. Not only are they the largest in Texas but Camper Clinic II is the largest dealer in Central United States according to Josh Fonner, Regional Sales Director for Airstream – Central.

So exactly how large is large? Due to Covid and the rush towards safely distanced travel, Airstream DFW sold 49 Airstreams in June 2020. Camper Clinic II in Buda, TX sold 51 units during the same period. When you consider the average trailer costing around \$88,000.00 that's nearly 4.5 million in sales, Wow!

In 2019, I met with Justin Humphreys, executive VP (at the time) of Airstream Inc. at the Virginia International Rally to discuss Airstream service or lack thereof. He explained the company is aware of the situation and has taken steps to improve by closing dealerships who do not commit to building an all Airstream facility and finding new dealers who are willing to make the commitment.

*Continued next column*

In my opinion their efforts are starting to work!

I'm sure many of you have visited Airstream DFW's location at 109 N.



Chandler Drive in Fort Worth.

The photo provides an idea of what the showroom could and will look like in the future. If you visit today, however, it is totally bare. Maybe 2 or 3 trailers inside but even those are committed.

What you probably don't know, and was a VERY PLEASANT surprise to me, was hearing about the introduction of SAME DAY SERVICE at Airstream DFW. Yep, Same Day Service, your eyes are not deceiving you. At our most recent Airstream Weekend Workshop, Colby Cannon Partner and Sales Manager at DFW visited our group of new Airstream owners and described a new pilot program he says is working very well. Here's how it works, you describe your issue or the items needing replacement. DFW then orders the parts if necessary and schedules your same day service. Let's not all call them today, remember this was announced as a pilot program, but certainly a step in the right direction.

As for Camper Clinic, it looks like the owners were not willing to commit to building an all new Airstream facility and thus sold out. The sale was consummated in February 2020 and the new owners are RV One, one the largest RV dealers in the Country. Airstream of Austin [www.airstreamofaustin.com](http://www.airstreamofaustin.com) will be their fifth all Airstream dealership.

Many of you don't know Camper Clinic II owned 22 acres with frontage on I-35. The plans for a new Airstream facility are approved by the City of Buda and construction will start this year.

Once they finish construction on the new facility, RV One will start on construction of a new Super RV Center next door on the remaining portion of the land.



Throughout my short term as Marketing/Membership Chairman for Texas Highland Lakes, I've had the opportunity to meet some very impressive and talented people at Airstream Inc. Don't know if any of you have met or dealt with Brent Rudd former Regional Sales Director for Airstream. He is the one who helped us upgrade to our 2018 Classic, only months prior to Carol and I leaving for the Alaska Caravan. Brent retired at the end of 2019 and was replaced by a young, energetic and totally Airstream oriented Regional Director, Josh Fonner. Josh and his wife Christine purchased their 22' sport in 2014. He was formerly in sales with another sports oriented company where he traveled throughout the country visiting with his retailers in their Airstream.

That's all the news that's fit to print, In my opinion everyone at Airstream is working diligently and making progress towards improving sales and servicing those sales. Who would have ever thought that a pandemic would have resulted in unbelievable records sales?

## Airstream Rallies, Time to Get Out Again

This past month a number of NTAC shareholders, went boon-docking with the Heart of Texas Camping Unit (HOTC). HOTC tries to visit the LBJ Grasslands at least once a year, near Halloween, and again in the spring, weather permitting. So #NTACeverywhere signs were prominent at this year's Spring Rally. The weather was nearly perfect!



Situated on top of the Grasslands Mesa, just north of Decatur, 23 rigs, from vintage to new, a Basecamp to Atlas and all sizes in between, enjoyed a spectacular spring weekend of fun and conversation. HOTC President John Coppedge encourages social distancing and personal



responsibility, and what better place than in the wide open spaces of North Texas. This rally is also a buddy rally and often includes "new to camping" along with new airstream owners.

The rally attempts to get everyone parked in a wagon wheel on top of the mesa, but it always seems there are those challenged with the concept. Of course you never know what may happen at an Airstream Rally, and this year was no exception. Linda Ward was found cutting hair, and a few managed to log some mountain bike hours.



It is indeed good to be getting out again!



**See you in the Fall & Safe Travels!!**

**Share your camping units activities, photos or plans,  
by sending them to [NTACNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:NTACNewsletter@gmail.com)!**