



NTAC NEWS

February 2024

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is a bit thin. Kim and I are taking a little break in some Southeastern Texas coastal towns. But the good news is Amy's back. No more smarmy imposters. We're continuing our ongoing eclipse updates. There's something new from David Smith: the Clifton Observatory, where he and Mike Mack volunteer, was featured on Channel 10. We also have some bits of nostalgia. Jim Courtney sent in a message from the past, courtesy of founder Howard Nelson. And I'll finally be sharing some promised wisdom from Earl Elam, as published in the first issues of this newsletter when he was Board President and Donna Scott was Editor.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We're almost into the home stretch counting down to the Eclipse. As I write this, we're about 46 days away. So many people are already working to beautify the park with the Rally Room Refresh. Thank you to all the many Shareholders who raised funds, donated funds, cleaned and painted, moved furniture, cleaned, de-cluttered and just made everything look so much better! We even have new bins for when we walk our dogs!



The "Souper Craft Lunch" on Saturday, March 2 and "A Beary Happy High Tea" on Tuesday, March 5 will be fun events so be sure to mark your calendars and attend.

Thank you to all those who attended our Town Hall and gave The Board valuable feedback. Our next Board Meeting is March 26 at 9:00 AM and I hope to see you all there.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President.....Amy Van Artsdalen
- VP OperationsDavid Majkowski
- VP Maintenance.....Randy Truesdell
- Treasurer.....Ruth Ann Walker
- ParliamentarianEd Landers
- DirectorSteve Zeringue
- Director.....Bruce Nutt
- Director.....Andy Dunkinson
- DirectorLynne Mack

SecretaryPamela Beckwith

COMMITTEES

- Activities
- Architectural Building Control
- Audit
- Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- Christmas Lighting
- Community Relations
- Directory
- Dog Park
- Flag
- Health & Wellness
- Info Technology
- Infrastructure
- Ladies Club
- Landscape Beautification
- Long Range Planning
- Membership
- New Member Mentoring
- Newsletter Editor
- Nominations
- Public Relations/Advertising
- Rally Welcome
- Safety Inspection
- Shareholder Listing
- Shop Building
- Social Media
- Sound Equipment
- Terraport
- Tractor Mowing
- Website Administration

The NTAC Newsletter is for informing and improving member awareness. Articles may not be republished, distributed, or shared in other media or forums without permission from the Newsletter Editor or NTAC Board of Directors.

After the eclipse, the next few months will be busy with a few Rallies coming to NTAC. I hope that you will come join us for the first of two Region 9 rallies. The first is the Stitchin' and Fishin' Rally which takes place at NTAC on April 19 – April 23. In May, our Terraport is full every weekend with rallies and we will have the second Region 9 Rally, a Ham Rally – a gathering for Airstreamers who are also Amateur Radio enthusiasts. If any of these events are of interest to you, please register to attend.

So thankful for this community and our many gifted and talented Shareholders!

Amy

2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE

Continuing our ongoing serial leading up to the 2024 Solar Eclipse. Some of the content will repeat so you don't have to look back to past issues. I don't know about youse guys, but I'm really enjoying this stuff. —Editor

Astronomer's Corner

Amy and **Scott** are still keeping up the Eclipse page on our website—<https://ntaci.com/2024-solar-eclipse-@-ntac>. The page is not just for our guests. You'll find a schedule of NTAC-sponsored happenings as well as links to Hillsboro events and other eclipse resources. The winning polo shirt logo is displayed there too. Be sure to check back for updates as the event nears.



Photo by Amy Van Artsdalen (in case you can't read the signature down there in the lower right corner).

David S. and **Mike**, our resident amateur astronomers, are members of the [Central Texas Astronomical Society](#). Recently, KWTX Channel 10 in Waco featured the [Clifton Observatory](#), owned and operated by the Society, in a piece focusing on the upcoming eclipse. View the story here—<https://www.kwtx.com/2024/02/17/central-texas-astronomy-society-invite-community-learn-about-total-solar-eclipse/>.

McDonald Observatory—<https://mcdonaldobservatory.org/eclipse>. Click for a writeup from McDonald Observatory regarding next year's eclipse. Notably, they have a Facebook page that anyone can follow and also subscribe to their mailing lists.

Sky & Telescope, Sky at a Glance—<https://skyandtelescope.org/observing/sky-at-a-glance/>. The Hill Country Astronomers forwarded this link.

Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky—<https://www.blancocountynightsky.org/newsletters.php>, from **David Smith**. Check new issues as April nears. You may find more on the upcoming 2024 eclipse.

Solar and Heliospheric Observatory—<https://soho.nascom.nasa.gov/home.html>. With the solar eclipse around the corner, there is a very interesting NASA Solar website which tracks daily and historical activity, including flares, and sunspots.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

An open letter from Howard Nelson

from Jim and Vickie Courtney

A dear friend of ours and a past member of NTAC, Tom Murphy, gave us a copy of the attached letter many years ago. We feel it is still appropriate today:

[Editor's note—Jim and Vickie sent me a scanned copy of the original, typewritten letter. I've reproduced just the text here.]

Dear NTAC Shareholders,

I wanted to write this letter to you to review some of our hopes and dreams when we first started talking about having our own private Airstream Park. It was exciting!

We wanted to build a Park where we could visit and or live and enjoy the outdoors and most of all enjoy each other. There would be nothing like it anywhere.

We knew it was going to be lots of hard work, because we wanted to do as much of the labor as possible ourselves, thus holding our costs down.

It was long, hard work but it was worth it. As we look back, it was also lots of fun, and we built camaraderie that you wouldn't believe—moral [sic] was out the top! We even had some (few) who worked on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving.

We kept saying that we wanted NTAC (we had a name by then) to have a soul and spirit—we wanted it to be like family. In the Newsletters the theme was "It keeps gettin' better and better."

I, for one, still believe that NTAC can be all the things we wanted it to be and even more!

Sometime ago, our personal agendas started to play a bigger part at NTAC, even to the point of being in conflict with the common good. Most personal agendas are okay because they also help build the Park. However, our personal wants should not cause us to lose sight of the overall good and harmony of the Park—If it's good for NTAC, it's good for us.

In the interest of achieving our original goals, I hope we will continue to strive for friendship and family—I hope we will be considerate of our neighbors even when we don't always get our way.

I call on each of us to rededicate ourselves to making NTAC be the very best it can be for all of us.

If we truly have love for each other, how can we miss?

*Keep the faith,
JHN
by Bernice for James Howard Nelson*

NTAC News Wayback Machine

from David Majkowski

Some of you may have heard of the *Wayback Machine*. This is a project of the **Internet Archive**, a 501(c)(3) corporation which aims to provide a point-in-time digital archive of the World Wide Web. You can find it at <https://web.archive.org/>.

Today, I offer you the NTAC News version of the *Wayback Machine*. In December, 2023, I told you about old copies of the newsletter Jenn Nekola found in a closet, the oldest being from January, 2006. **Donna Scott** was the Editor. It spanned a single 2-sided page with content by Contributing Editors **Earl Elam** (Board President at the time), **Jim Haddaway**, and **Jean McCormack**. Up until I read the Howard Nelson letter that **Jim** and **Vickie** shared with us above, which mentions the theme of “the Newsletters,” I thought this 2006 issue was the first-ever because it’s numbered Vol. 1, No. 1. **Earl** even says in the first sentence of his column, “Effective with this issue, **NTAC News** is the official newsletter of the North Texas Airstream Community.” Was **Howard Nelson’s** Newsletter unofficial? Just a minor mystery. Maybe the esteemed Editor Emeritus can clear it up.

Mysteries aside, I thought you might enjoy some interesting tidbits and wisdom from the past. Look for some familiar names too.

from **Earl Elam**, January 2006, Vol. 1, No. 1:

There are many ways in which communications can be improved. We will be working hard to do that through the newsletter and by other means, a most important one being the Public Relations initiative that has begun under the leadership of Jim Haddaway.

...

Another thing to keep in mind is our continued effort to improve communications through the development of written policies. Soon an Administrative Manual will be available at the counter in the office. It is a work in progress and should be a very useful set of documents.

...

Thought for the month: “The only limit to our realizations of tomorrow will be our doubts of today!” (Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 2, 1945.)

from **Jim Haddaway's** *WBCCI NEWS* column, January 2006, Vol. 1, No. 1:

Agenda items: [for the mid-winter IBT meeting in Anthony, Texas —Editor]

...

2. Recommend to Delegates that the constitution be amended to allow owners of the new Airstream "**Base Camp**" trailer to be eligible for membership.

...

9. Approve credit cards as a method of payment over the internet.

10. Recommend to Delegates that our name be changed to "**Airstream Owners Association, Inc. (AOA).**"

11. Approve new AOA logo.

from **Jean McCormack's** *Ladies Club* column, January 2006, Vol. 1, No. 1:

The New Year is off to a great start at the helm of incoming president **Sheila Lewis**. Activities are being planned to provide opportunities for fun, feast, exercise and enrichment. Recorder practice will commence on the 23rd at 1:30 pm and line dancing on the 24th at 1:30 pm.

...

In the coming months potluck dinners will provide some surprises...**The Reddings** will oversee cleanup after the potlucks for the month of January.

from **Donna Scott's** *News in the Park* column, January 2006, Vol. 1, No. 1:

The New year's Eve Party at NTAC was a night full of good food, fun activities, exciting games and good old fashioned visiting with friends. About 50 members attended and stayed until 10:30 pm. We had seven hearty souls that rung in the New Year at 12:00 pm [sic].

from **Earl Elam**, February 2006, Vol. 1, No. 2:

It is an inspiration to see the eagerness and enthusiasm that the NTAC committees and individuals charged with various tasks have shown as they have "hit the ground running" this year. Without singling out any committee or individual, I want to thank all of those persons who have accepted responsibilities to help take care of the business of NTAC and who share the goals of making it the finest Airstream Park in the nation.

...

Little things can make a difference. The Board, for example, on February 6 voted to approve the placing of inside "mail" boxes to improve internal communications...The Board also voted policy items to fly the WBCCI flag under the U.S. flag on the flagstaff and to encourage members to wear their unit name badges at official gatherings of the community.

...

Thought for the month: "It appears to me that little more than common sense and common honesty, in the transactions of the community at large, would be necessary to make us a great and happy Nation" (George Washington to citizens of Baltimore, April 17, 1789.)

from **Jim Haddaway's** WBCCI NEWS column, February 2006, Vol. 1, No. 2:

[Editor's note—For those of you wondering what happened with those January 2006 IBT agenda items reported in Vol. 1, No. 1, here's Jim's Vol. 1, No. 2 follow-up.]

The International Board of Trustees (IBT) met January 9-13 in Anthony, Texas and approved the following:

...

2. Recommending to the Delegates that owners of the new Airstream "**Base Camp**" trailer become eligible for membership in WBCCI.

...

6. Credit cards as a method of payment over the internet.

7. Recommending to the Delegates that our name be changed to "**Airstream Owners Association International, Inc. (AOAI).**"

8. Designing a new **AOAI** logo to be presented to the Delegates for approval.

also from **Jim Haddaway's** WBCCI NEWS column, February 2006, Vol. 1, No. 2:

NTAC SPORTS SHIRTS FOR SALE

The Public Relations Committee has a new short sleeve sport shirt (with collar) for sale with the NTAC LOGO over the left breast. It is available for \$15.00 each. Colors are navy blue and red.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Editor's Note—I'm pulling these birthdays and anniversaries from the directory published at the beginning of the year. That gives short shrift to members who joined during the year. I suppose an apology is due those folks, but, rest assured, your time will come.

Happy March Birthday!

Elaine Holmes & Peter Sajovich (3rd); Ed Landers (4th); Vickie Graham & David Roper (5th); Felicia Johnson (7th); Andy Selking & Carolyn Worley (9th); Bob Kaemmerer (10th); Linda Beu, Don Gubrud & Shery Henning (12th); Jack Dobbs (17th); Dara Poole (29th).

Happy March Anniversary!

Channing & Phyllis Fell and Pulse & Evelyn Martinez (6th); Rick & Carol Lowther (15th); Steve & Marilyn Holland (17th); Charles & Donna Scott (18th); Fritz & Deb Stuneck (21st); Michael & Judy Shelley (22nd); Jim & Janie Haddaway (25th); Bill & Pat Lovelace (26th).

NTAC ONLINE

Please visit our Social Media and Internet Web sites frequently for updates. Don't forget to share with others!

NTAC Website—www.ntaci.com

NTAC Public 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>

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

There is a lot to do in Hillsboro and the Hill County area. Here are some links to explore. We will check these periodically to ensure they are still active and have not moved. If you find dead links, please report them to the editor at NTACNewsletter@gmail.com.

Hill County

Home page—<https://www.co.hill.tx.us/>

Appraisal District—(254) 582-2508, <https://hillcad.org/>

Office of Emergency Management—(254) 582-2023, <https://www.co.hill.tx.us/page/hill.Emergency> or <https://hilloem.com/>

Tax Office—(254) 582-4000, <http://hilltax.org/>

Hillsboro

City of Hillsboro—<https://www.hillsborotx.org/>

Hillsboro Arts League—Cheryl Moniz, (682) 847-6126; <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089085022912>

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce—(254) 582-2481, <https://hillsborochamber.org/>

Hillsboro City Library—(254) 582-7385, <https://www.hillsborotxlibrary.org/>

Hillsboro Reporter—(254) 582-3431, <https://hillsbororeporter.com/>

Hill College

Home page—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/>

Athletics—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/Athletics/index.html> (click on each sport for links to the current schedule)

Continuing Education—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/JobTraining/index.html>

Performing Arts Series—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/CampusLife/PerformingArts/PASeries.html>

Texas Heritage Museum—<https://www.hillcollege.edu/Museum/Index.html>

@NTAC (Activities Calendar Highlights)

For the latest updates, please check the [online version of the calendar](#) in the *Shareholder Resources* section of our website, or the printed copy posted in the hallway of the clubhouse.

North Texas Airstream Community Activities Calendar						
March-24						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-Mar
						2-Mar
						3-Mar
						4-Mar
						5-Mar
						6-Mar
						7-Mar
						8-Mar
						9-Mar
						10-Mar
						11-Mar
						12-Mar
						13-Mar
						14-Mar
						15-Mar
						16-Mar
						17-Mar
						18-Mar
						19-Mar
						20-Mar
						21-Mar
						22-Mar
						23-Mar
						24-Mar
						25-Mar
						26-Mar
						27-Mar
						28-Mar
						29-Mar
						30-Mar
						31-Mar

The NTAC Newsletter is for informing and improving member awareness. Articles may not be republished, distributed, or shared in other media or forums without permission from the Newsletter Editor or NTAC Board of Directors.