



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

FROM THE EDITOR

We've been focused on personal projects lately so I'm grateful to the members who have come through with contributions to this issue. It would be mighty thin without you. Keep it coming to NTACNewsletter@gmail.com.



One personal note: **Kim** would like to thank everyone who came out for the Hill College 100th Anniversary Fall Concert. She joined stalwarts **Bob Kaemmerer** and **Bruce Morrow** in supplementing the Hill College Band and Choir. It was an enjoyable and varied program.

Now, on with *this* show.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This is what I get for waiting until the end of the month to work on the newsletter (yes, I'm a first-class procrastinator!). I didn't send my usual reminder to Allen for his column until the 29th, the very day he and Pam were leaving for a rally. Consequently, he was unable to send his monthly missive before our deadline. So let's take this opportunity instead to laud him for his many, many contributions throughout the year as NTAC's 2023 Board President. Thank you, Allen for everything you've done for this community. In addition to your visible efforts, we acknowledge your tireless behind-the-scenes work on behalf of NTAC. Perhaps "tireless" is the wrong word; I'm sure fatigue has crept in more than once, as Board President can be an exhausting, though hopefully rewarding, job.



*If I may speak on behalf of all NTAC Members—which is a bit presumptuous, I know...but I'll do it anyway—**THANK YOU!!!** —Editor*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PresidentAllen Faulk
- VP OperationsAndy Dunkinson
- VP Maintenance.....Bruce Nutt
- Treasurer.....Ruth Ann Walker
- Secretary.....Debi Rich
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- DirectorSteve Zeringue

COMMITTEES

- Activities
- Architectural Building Control
- Audit
- Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- Christmas Lighting
- Directory
- Dog Park
- Flag
- Health & Wellness
- Info Technology
- Infrastructure
- Landscape Beautification
- Long Range Planning
- Membership
- Mentoring New Members
- Newsletter Editor
- Nominations
- Public Relations/Advertising
- Rally Welcome
- Safety Inspection
- Shareholder Listing
- Shop Building
- Social Media
- Solar Eclipse 2024
- Sound Equipment
- Terraport
- Tractor Mowing
- Website Administration

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. —Editor

Astronomer's Corner

We are fortunate to have a pair of knowledgeable amateur astronomers in the park—**David Smith** and **Mike Mack**—who are members of local astronomical groups such as Central Texas Astronomy Society and Hill Country Astronomers. They have tapped their resources to educate us about solar eclipses.

Amy and **Scott** are also 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.

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. Here is a selection from the website. (*Editor's Note: Over the coming months we will publish excerpts from this site in installments.*)

HOW TO VIEW A SOLAR ECLIPSE SAFELY

The only time it is safe to look at the sun with your naked eye is during the brief total phase (totality) of a total solar eclipse, such as the one that will occur on April 8, 2024. During a partial or annular solar eclipse, such as the one that occurred on October 14, 2023, there is no time when it is safe to look directly at the Sun without using adequate protection.

Adequate protection includes:

1. **Eclipse glasses and viewers:** Make sure they meet an international standard of eye protection (ISO 12312-2), are certified, and are free of scratches or other flaws.
2. **Welder's glass:** No. 13 or 14 welder's glass provide both protection and visibility.

Visit the American Astronomical Society's website to [learn about eclipse eye safety](#).

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>. David S. says, "This is a very active group out of Blanco. I was in Blanco during the annular eclipse." The link will take you to their Newsletters page. The subject of 2023 Special Edition newsletter was the annular eclipse which some of you may have seen from Hillsboro. Check new issues as April nears. You may find more on the upcoming 2024 eclipse.

TRAVEL STORIES

A long night in Alaska

from Andy Dunkinson

Several couples from NTAC went on the "North to Alaska" caravan. The caravan was run by Peter and Judy Schwartz, and ably assisted by Jim and Vickie Courtney.

NTAC attendees on the caravan included Bruce & Cindy Nutt, Amy and John Van Artsdalen, Linda and myself. George and Pam Beckwith were going to be the caravan co-leaders, but had to post-pone due to injury. They were, however, with us in spirit.

Some of the best things that happen are often unplanned or random events (if you know Linda, she constantly uses the word random). It started with us having some problems with our truck after a few days of slightly rough roads and some very rough roadworks.

We had to wait a few weeks just to get into a garage in Fairbanks. We were unable to rent a pickup truck (apparently they had all been rented by people fighting bush-fires). We hired a Ford Transit van from Enterprise whilst our truck was waiting to be fixed. We used the Enterprise rental van as a "van-life" vehicle and continued to travel with the Alaska caravan. It was a strange site on the Alaska caravan when all the Airstreams pulled into and parked up at the campsites and a white van with an Enterprise Truck rental sign pulled up alongside them.



An "Enterprise"ing breakdown solution

When we were staying at Homer we got a call from the garage that our truck was finally fixed. We headed back to Fairbanks (a 10-hour drive) to collect our truck and Airstream. Somewhere near Denali we stopped at a rest stop/camping spot at the side of the road. At about the same time two guys in a car pulled up nearby (they were also boon docking for the night).

Unfortunately, the guys managed to lock their keys in their car, along with their phones and everything else they had. Linda was suffering from Covid, so she was laid down trying to get some rest in the back of the Enterprise van while most of this was going on.

It was quickly becoming clear that no breakdown service was coming out that night. Neither the guys, AAA, the car rental company, their insurance company or the state police were able to get in touch with a tow truck company.

The police advised the guys to just break the window to get the keys because they were hours away. Much to Linda's chagrin, when I finally went to bed, and told them when they got desperate, they should use the Axe to



Looks like a happy camper despite the challenges

break the car window. The guys didn't want to break the window and waited until the police turned up and managed to break into the car (about 1:00am).

Going to bed was wishful thinking because all of the different people we tried to contact were ringing my cell phone about every half hour to do nothing more useful than tell us they hadn't been able to contact a towing company.

Also using the rest stop that night was a German guy who was cycling from Fairbanks to Anchorage. He had some Spaghetti that he offered up and started to cook on his alcohol stove. He didn't know what to ask for when he bought fuel for his stove (a few days prior) and was using hand sanitizer for fuel. I went for a dig in my camping gear and found some denatured alcohol for cooking stoves and also gave the guy some water. It turns out his Spaghetti dinner was just that, no meat, no sauce no veggies which left me feeling a little guilty that I hadn't cooked up something better for the guys. So I gave them a few snacks as well.

We had some great conversations over the course of the evening and it turned out to be an excellent night, albeit somewhat out of the blue and everyone in the group was dealing with some problem or another.

BOARD BUSINESS

Proposed Budget 2024 Preview Q&A

from Ruth Ann Walker, Treasurer

As a follow-up to the October seminar on *Budgeting 101*, there will be a *Proposed Budget 2024 Preview Q&A* in the Rally Room following the Tuesday 12/5 potluck, starting around 6:15–6:30 PM. You need not have attended the October seminar to follow along with this preview.

Service Dog Policy Update

from Andy Dunkinson, Vice-President Operations

As many of you already know we recently updated the Bylaws, Rules, Regulations and Policies (the "BRRP") to reflect the ADA rules regarding Service Dogs.

If you want to read the ADA rules regarding service dogs here is a link to their web-site <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>.

What this means for NTAC is that service dogs are allowed in the clubhouse (note they still need to be on a leash). A service dog is different from a therapy dog or comfort animal. We have created a service dog policy that provides more detail.

Wait, we live in Texas I hear you say, well we looked at the "Texas.gov" website as well. https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/assistance_animals.

A long-standing rule at NTAC has been "no animals are allowed in the clubhouse." The board approved changing that to "pets shall not be allowed in the clubhouse with exceptions pursuant to the NTAC Service Animal Policy 10/23." The board also approved the service dog policy which is now on file in the office.

What about the other areas of the park? Animals are allowed in other areas of the park including the pavilion. The NTAC website used to say, "no animals are allowed in the pavilion." However, that isn't in our rule book, so we updated the webpage and deleted that statement from the website.

To be clear: Pets are allowed in the pavilion and other common areas of the park.

Something that hasn't changed is that pets must be on a leash. Article 2.26 (in the General Restrictions) states that "Dogs, cats or any other pets shall be kept on an owner's lot except when walking, at which time a leash shall be used."

AROUND THE PARK

OK, so two of these events were not strictly "around the park," unless you take "around" to mean nearby. But my headline vocabulary only goes so far on a tight deadline, and they both involved park residents so I'm sticking to it. You gotta problem with that you can write to my Editor, NTACNewsletter@gmail.com. —Editor

Cookie Reception

The ladies of NTAC hosted a cookie reception at Hill College following the *Baylor Brass* concert on November 9. The concert and reception honored Philip Lowe, who organized the college's *Performing Arts Series* in 1994. Among the bakers and hostesses were Sheila Lewis, Kathi Mitchell, Pat Lovelace, Elizabeth Flores, Peggy Spruell, Sue McLaughlin, Donna Scott, and Vanette Harris. Apologies if I didn't have the full roster of bakers.



*Sheila, Kathi, Pat, Elizabeth, Peggy
... and cookies*



... and cookies



... and cookies



... and more cookies!

Cecilia's Birthday

A number of neighbors gathered at the *Cracker Barrel* in Bellmead to celebrate Cecelia McGill's birthday. No cynics and language hawks, we did not celebrate without the guest of honor herself; she was picked up from the West Rest Haven nursing facility and driven to the restaurant. As you can see, it was a happy gathering and we were pleased to see Cecilia looking so well.



Georgina, Cecilia, Rayne, and a very colorful flamingo pillow birthday present. (photo: Sue Arnesen)



Kim, Georgina, Cecilia, Rayne, Bonnie, Sheila, Norma, Sue, and David (photo: Accomodating Cracker Barrel Waitress)

Terraport Crack Filling

A crew from the Infrastructure Committee gathered on the Terraport on a beautiful November morning to fill some cracks. This is the kind of volunteer spirit it takes to maintain our community, folks! *(For my part, I volunteered to come down and snap a photo. ;-)* Ha! —Editor) Thanks to Darel Ball, Steve Zeringue, Randy Truesdell, Jim Flores, Greg Walker, and John Green (not pictured).



FROM OUR MEMBERS

Annual Food Drive for Hillsboro Interfaith Ministry

from Marne Kaemmerer

The 2023 food drive is now underway to help our local food bank—HIM. It began the Friday before Thanksgiving and will continue until the end of December, although donations are welcomed all year. The goal this year is 120,000 lbs. of food or cash equivalent—**every \$2 is counted as 5 lbs. of food!!**

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD PRODUCTS are what is needed, such as:

- Canned Meats (tuna, chili, stew, chicken)
- Canned Vegetables

- Cereal
- Baby Food
- Peanut Butter
- Dry Beans
- Rice
- Flour
- Sugar
- Cornmeal
- Pasta/Sauces

Several members of NTAC are active with HIM and/or the Food Drive—Sue Arnesen, Greg Walker and Bill Stallworth. They could answer any questions you might have.

Christmas in Hillsboro, TX

from Marne Kaemmerer

Christmas is fun in Hillsboro! If you are a new resident to Hillsboro, you might be interested in some of the concerts and other celebrations that take place here during the month of December.

FRIENDS OF THE HILLSBORO LIBRARY GALA

Friday, Dec. 1st, from 7–9 PM (come and go as you please).

HILLSBORO'S "CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS" PARADE

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 6:30 PM beginning behind Brookshire's and ending at the Courthouse. The **ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING** will immediately follow the parade. Before the parade, the *Hillsboro Arts League* (in which Cheryl Moniz and Doug Cunningham are very active) will be holding a **SIDEWALK ART MARKET** along West Elm Street from 12–4 PM.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

First Presbyterian Church, 301 Old Brandon Road, Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 6 PM, featuring Frederick Grimes, organist, on the pipe organ, with friends on violin and harp.

"THE CHRISTMAS CAROL FARCE"

Hill College Players, Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Dec. 7th, 7:30 PM; Friday, Dec 8th, 7:30 PM; Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2:30 PM. \$5 admission.

"A SON IS GIVEN" NATIVITY AND CONCERT

Central Baptist Church, 1100 Old Bynum Road, Sunday, Dec. 10th, 6 PM, presented by members of area churches, including Kim Majkowski.

ROGERS FARMS CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW

1554 FM 309, Hillsboro. Nightly from Nov. 25th through Jan 7th, 6–10 PM. Shows at the top of each hour. Tune into 98.1 FM for music synchronized to the light show.

NTAC Poker Run

from Richard Redding & Millie O'Donnell

Richard Redding and **Millie O'Donnell** are organizing a Poker Run and Meal to be held in conjunction with this year's Golf Cart Christmas Parade. Come join the fun on Saturday, December 16. If you don't know what a Poker Run is, click the link to see what Wikipedia has to say about it—https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poker_run—or just ask Richard or Millie.

The run will start at the Pavilion at 15:00 (that's 3 PM for you non-military types) with stops on Avenues A, B, C/D, and E/F before arriving back at the Pavilion for a late lunch/early supper followed by the parade. Richard will be providing BBQ chicken, sausage,

Another Humorous Interlude (or 2 or 3)

from John Green and David Majkowski

At a couple's counseling session, the therapist said that couples these days are so disconnected that 85 percent of all husbands don't know what their wife's favorite flower is. The husband in the session turned to his wife and whispered, "It's self-rising, isn't it?"

If John's joke wasn't enough to get your eyes rolling, here's another from your editor. —Me

Kim and I lived in Chicago for 17 years. The city is notorious for its corruption. Shortly after moving there, I was driving home and got pulled over by a cop. He took my new Illinois license and registration back to his cruiser. When he returned he said to me, "Says here on your license that you need corrective lenses." I frequently wore contact lenses back then so I replied, "Not to worry officer, I've got contacts."

potato salad, pinto beans, & Boston baked beans (for the Yankees among us).

The game is 5-card stud. You can play from 1 to 5 hands for \$1 per hand. Walk, ride your bike, or drive your golf cart to each stop to pick up your cards. Bring your set-ups for the post-run meal. There will be prizes for the best poker hands.

Please RSVP by 12/6 to Millie in villa 503 (Ave. C) so Richard knows how much food to prepare. Also talk to Millie if you want to host one of the 5+ card stops. Flag down Richard in his golf cart or contact Millie for more details. (Please note, if you email Richard his address has changed to richardredding53@gmail.com).

He reflexively snapped back, "I don't care who you know, buddy, I'm gonna give you a ticket anyway."



Seen in a Waco restroom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy December Birthday!

Cynthia Nutt (1st); Barbara Adamson (5th); Earl Elam (7th); Greg Walker & Kathy Carl (12th); Gary Copeland (14th); Jennifer Hicks (15th); Mark Glasnapp (19th); Carol Lowther (20th); Peter Schwarz & Kathi Mitchell (31st).

Happy December Anniversary!

Bruce & Cynthia Nutt (16th); Douglas Cunningham & Cheryl Moniz (18th); Matthew & Deanna Shephard (18th); Allen & Pamela Faulk (27th); John Sanders & Mary Beth Comer (28th); Linda Ward & Andy Dunkinson (29th); Scott & Vickie Graham (30th).

Welcome New Members!

Phillip & Linda Glassman, BRN 9409, of Lancaster, TX. Phillip & Linda purchased share 313 (villa) from the Nutts.

John & Linda Christensen, BRN 5713. John & Linda purchased share 402 (villa) from Sue Essary.

Please say hello if you see them around the park, or drop them an email greeting.

Linda G.: lindaturner2105@gmail.com

Philip: phillipglassman@gmail.com

Linda C.: lkchristensen@earthlink.net

John: jandlchristensen@earthlink.net

In Memoriam

We express our condolences to Steve & Ginger Zeringue. Steve's mother, Rita, passed on 11/14 at the age of 93 with her family by her side. Private funeral services were held on the 28th.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Jenn Nekola found this one in a closet. There's a note taped to the back which reads, "2-21-91 Bernice Nelson By Bill Bellomy."

I think we can all recognize the property near the top outlined in yellow, if only by the shape.



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://hillloem.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						
December-23						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1-Dec	2-Dec
					9-10A Yoga	
					10A Bridge - Card Room	5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
					Dallas Fort Worth SAMs Rally	
3-Dec	4-Dec	5-Dec	6-Dec	7-Dec	8-Dec	9-Dec
			Rally Room Blocked DO NOT BOOK			
4:00 Ice Cream		9:30 Board Workshop Card Room Closed				9AM NTAC Annual Membership Mtg
4:30 Bean Bag Baseball	9-10A Yoga	5:30P Potluck	9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga	
Dallas Fort Worth SAMs Rally		Joker - After Potluck	Cookie Decorating 5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk- Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm Music & Cookies	10A Bridge - Card Room	Annual Membership Dinner
10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec
Rally Room Blocked		10A Eclipse Meeting	9-10A Yoga			
	9-10A Yoga		10:15 Ladies Club Card Rm		9-10A Yoga	3P Poker Run
	2-4P Canasta Card Rm		5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk- Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm	10A Bridge - Card Room	5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
			HRRVC Rally			
17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec
	9-10A Yoga		9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga	
	2-4P Canasta Card Rm	5:00 Progressive Dinner	5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk- Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm	10A Bridge - Card Room	5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
	Texas Highland Lakes ??					
24-Dec	Christmas @ NTAC	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec
	9-10A Yoga			9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga
	2-4P Canasta Card Rm			10:15 Ladies Club Card Rm		10A Bridge - Card Room
		5:30P Potluck			2-4 Canasta Card Rm	5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
		Joker - After Potluck	5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk- Pavilion			
31-Dec						

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