



NTAC NEWS

December 2023

FROM THE EDITOR

The more astute among you will notice a change in this month's banner—from **NEWSLETTER** to **NTAC NEWS**. "Why?" you ask. I'll be happy to tell you. Jenn Nekola was doing some clean up in the office and she came across a few old issues of this publication ... as old as they come ... like all way back to Vol. 1, No. 1 from January 2006. The name at the top was **NTAC NEWS**. This month's banner is our tribute to those who came before us. Should I keep it? I'll be sharing some nuggets of wisdom from ought-six in a future issue. If you have any of your own nuggets of wisdom to share, please send them along to NTACNewsletter@gmail.com.



December is always busy around NTAC. I hope this issue will give you a flavor for some of that. December also brings about changes in our leadership. Check out the new Board of Directors at the top of the sidebar to your right —> over there. All our committees are also listed, though I'm going to make you navigate to the [Shareholder Resources](#) page on our website to find the link that lists the committee chairs. I suppose I can publish the list in January. Too many other things this month.

Speaking of committee chairs, my name is still next to Info Technology (IT) and Newsletter. However, it's also next to VP Operations now, which is a bit bigger job. That VP thing should dovetail nicely with IT, but I suspect it will take away time from the newsletter. I'll do my best to get monthly issues out, but no promises. If any of you have editorial aspirations, let me know and I'll happily hand you the keys to the Press Room. If not, well all y'all will just have to wait for issues as they come. (Kim wanted me to add that she won't be continuing as co-editor. She may contribute stories from time to time, which I'm very happy about because they're always well-prepared and offer great depth and insight.)

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
 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
 Solar Eclipse 2024
 Sound Equipment
 Terraport
 Tractor Mowing
 Website Administration

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Christmas Greetings "Neighbors that are Friends and Friends that are Neighbors,"

I love that quote from Diane Bailey about why she loves living at NTAC. My other favorite quote is from Jim Haddaway and I like to retell it often—"Do you know why Airstreamers live longer? They've already paid for their next rally!"



We have such a treasure in our community—a treasure of friendship and camaraderie not found in other communities. We know what it is to travel, to see new places and make new friends. We live by the Wally Byam Creed:

"In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream. To those of you who find in the promise of these words your promise, I bequeath this creed... my dream belongs to you."

- To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.
- To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.
- To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands...of rediscovering old places and new interests.
- To open a whole world of new experiences...a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.
- To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.
- To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts...to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.
- To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.
- To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.
- To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

—Wally Byam

May this Christmas and the New Year bring you love and fulfill your dreams of happiness,
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



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

Photo of the Month

Let's start with a dual-purpose submission. We'll use this photo for this month's *Photo of the Month*, and because it's so cool, I'll post it at the top of this feature right up through the eclipse. This one comes from our very own NASA Solar Eclipse Ambassador, **Amy Van Artsdalen**. Amy says about this photo, "This is the beginning of the Diamond Ring phase of totality. The photo is from 2017 in Teton Village, WY. You can see the red solar prominences and the corona." (Well, maybe not at the resolution I publish. But I'm sure Amy would be happy to show you a better copy. —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.

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.*)

WHERE AND WHEN TO VIEW THE ECLIPSES

This interactive map let you look up when the solar eclipse will be visible (if at all) from any given location:

- *Map of April 8, 2024, Eclipse Path: <https://bit.ly/46JVawB> (I recommend this one. It's pretty cool, especially for you sailors who crave the ultimate middle-of-the-ocean experience. — Editor)*
- *This map shows the times in Universal Coordinated Time. Here's a converter to change that time to your time zone: www.worldtimebuddy.com*

*Another resource for looking up the eclipse path is the **Totality app (free)**.*

When choosing a viewing location (We don't need to worry about this one, do we now? — Editor), consider:

- **Weather:** Check if the location historically has clear, cloud-free skies on the date of the eclipse. The night before, check the forecast and have an alternate viewing site in mind if yours will be clouded out.
- **Lodging:** Hotels along the eclipse path (especially the total eclipse in April) will fill up quickly. Book yours well in advance.
- **Traffic:** Traffic will be heavy (especially for the total eclipse in April), so plan your route in advance and allow plenty of time to reach your viewing site.

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

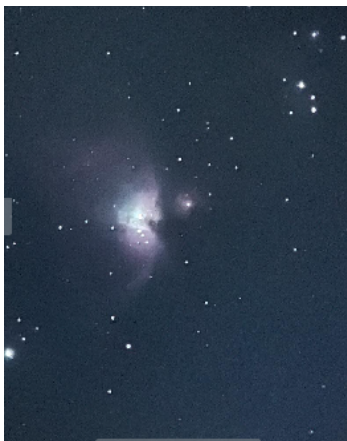
Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky—<https://www.blancocountynightsky.org/newsletters.php>, from **David Smith**. Check new issues as April nears. You may find more on the upcoming 2024 eclipse.

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.

Orion Nebula M42—There's that **David Smith** again with this tidbit concerning **Orion Nebula M42**, which, intriguingly, is captured in a photo on our [NTAC home page](#).

Winter is here, and so is one of the most majestic views in the night sky, and one of the easiest to find. M42, aka the Orion Nebula. M42 is one of the Messier Objects. Messier was a Comet observer in the 17th century. He created the [Messier catalog](#) of over 100 objects. These were objects that weren't comets, and he didn't have a need to see them again. So for him, his catalog was there as items to avoid, as an odd twist, the Messier catalog is an astronomer's go to directory of some of the most magnificent objects in the night sky. And as a stranger twist, there are two craters on the moon named [Messier A, and Messier B](#), possibly made by comets.

The Orion Nebula can be viewed with binoculars. Without binoculars, or a telescope, M42 is simply a faint fuzzy in the center star of Orion's scabbard, under the three stars that make up Orion's belt.



Looking towards Orion, the Hunter's left shoulder has the brilliant orange star [Betelgeuse](#), a stunning sight just by itself. Orion's right foot has Rigel, another very bright star.

Within M42 is the Trapezium star cluster. The picture at left was taken with my iPhone through my 101mm Refractor scope and a 42mm eyepiece. There are theories that this is a star incubator.

What does Orion look like and how can you spot it? Start by visiting the [NTACi home page](#) and scroll down to the pictures

on the front page with notable accolades to **Douglas Carr Cunningham** for such a stunning picture. (Stunning, apart from the wonky green arrow showing us the way to the nebula, hand-drawn by either David or a guest artist from the local pre-school. —Editor) Above the rear of the Airstream is Orion, with his belt, left shoulder, scabbard, and the center fuzzy mass of the scabbard is M42.

Finally, from a distance perspective, M42 is just in our backyard in our Galaxy at approximately 1400 light years away. A light year is just over 6 trillion miles.



TRAVEL STORIES

A long night in Alaska ... the Rest of the Story

from Linda Ward

A lot of us take a break from camping come the year-end holiday months, but here's a story hearkening back to summer adventures. Following on from **Andy's** strange night near Denali, **Linda** has a few words to add. She enlightens us with what Paul Harvey famously called, "The Rest of the Story." Take it away, Linda. —Editor



There's an axe in there somewhere. Why not lend it to a potential murderer, Andy?

Whilst I was suffering a migraine and Covid and trying to lay down get some rest in the back of the Enterprise van. The van door was constantly being open with Andy looking for supplies to help the stranded men. On top of that we could not figure out how to stop the light also coming on. When Andy finally came to lie down the phone was constantly ringing and Andy was then going out to give the guys updates and make sure they were warm and keeping the fire lit. As Andy finally came to bed he stated that he gave the guys our axe to be able to make a good decision. I am a true crime podcast listener, I just said this is how people die in remote locations under beautiful starry nights but that I could finally sleep maybe for ever!

The next morning the guys were so grateful and sheepish looking and I was feeling so much better and laughing about a very strange night!!

AROUND THE PARK

Lots happening around the park since last issue; a selection presented to you here in a series of photo essays. Since I'm compiling these, I get to write the captions. Sometimes I make stuff up. Consider yourself warned. (That's my side-handed way of appealing to you for your submissions—NTACNewsletter@gmail.com.)

2023 Membership Meeting



The meeting was well attended. Unfortunately, there was some rude guy with a Santa hat in a too-small chair at the front checking his stock portfolio instead of paying attention. Good job everybody else!



The inimitable **Isaac Holmes**, receiving the Steve Woodward "Good Job" award from outgoing Board President, **Allen Faulk**.



A full year later and **Jennifer Nekola** STILL can't understand a word **Andy Dunkinson** is saying!



Outgoing Board members (L-R) **Mike Mack**, **Debi Rich**, & **Allen Faulk**, presented with a token of appreciation for their service.

Men of Shop Talk Breakfast

Prior to the Shareholder Meeting, the Men of Shop Talk hosted a proper, American breakfast, featuring sausage, eggs, hash browns, toast, orange juice, and coffee. Donations will be going to replace the maintenance shed out by the workshop. We may need a separate fundraiser to find a new home the critters currently living there.

Steve Zeringue writes, "I want to thank everyone for helping with the 'Men of Shop Talk' first Breakfast. The amount of money that was donated continued to grow after the breakfast and Board meeting. Two additional donations were made, one for \$500 and another \$100. This puts our total over \$2K. Thanks again for your hard work and volunteerism."



Would you trust donation collection to these characters? We did. **Bill Stallworth, Steve Woodward, Bruce Nutt.**

If we had thought to snap a group photo, I could have named the 20 or so volunteers. But we didn't, and I can't. Sorry guys. Don't think this means your efforts went unappreciated. They most certainly were!



The eggs couldn't come in fast enough. Note the waiting plate, bottom left. **Steve Holland, Andy Selking, David Majkowski.**



Keith Enstrom at the sausage station. Sorry **Ken Mitchell**, we know you fried up most of them, but Keith was the one there for the photo.



Jim Courtney and Mike Mack with a toast to **Sue Essary.**

Cookies and Caroling

Donna Scott rounded up some talented musicians at NTAC to lead us in a night of caroling. Of course there were lots of home-baked cookies, Cookies, COOKIES!



Once again, spurred on by **Sue McLaughlin**, the Ladies of NTAC leave the Keebler Elves in the dust with their prodigious baking.



Donna Scott and Mary Ellen Cribbs treated us to some piano four-hands.



A trumpet-cornet duet by the NTAC Brass, **Ed Landers and Bruce Morrow**.



Songmeisters **Doug Cunningham, Kim Majkowski, and David Harris** called the tunes.



And what would a night of music be without our reed-man, **Bob Kaemmerer**, this time taking us to the Honky Tonk for Christmas.

Cookies for Hillsboro

What?! More Cookies? **Kathi Mitchell** reports,

NTAC member **Sue McLaughlin** led the annual Christmas time cookie decorating activity on December 6, 2023. The purpose of the activity is to have holiday treats for sharing with the Hillsboro Services that are so important in keeping members safe. Cookies are also for special holiday activities. This year our talented members treated the community to a musical night on Thursday December 7th. Cookies will also be used for the Caroling in the Park on December 20.

Cookies were delivered to Hillsboro Public Works Department, Hillsboro Police Department and the Fire and Rescue Department.



Cheese it (cookie it?), Kathi, it's the cops! Or is it? No caption came with this one. I make stuff up.



This isn't Roger Miller's "Engine, Engine #9," it's Hillsboro's Engine, Engine #1

2023 Membership Cocktail Hour, Dinner, and Dance

This year **Allen Faulk** presented a "Country Christmas" President's Dinner with boot-scootin' music by Gary Beard. Up In Smoke's catered dinner featured barbecued brisket and chicken-off-the-bone. Preceding the festivities was a cocktail hour where **Kim Majkowski** and **Jim Courtney** skillfully tended bar and raised "tip money" for Paw Pals. **Linda Ward** did a bang-up (shoot-'em-up?) job both decorating the Rally Room to the theme and organizing the Paw Pals fundraiser.



They don't come much more Texan than this pair



A septet of NTAC Cowgirls



*Two-steppin' with **Linda** and **Norm Beu***



*Presentation of the quilt to our Ice Cream Queen Emeritus, **Sue Essary**, by **Linda Ward, Vanette Harris, and Anna Brandon.***



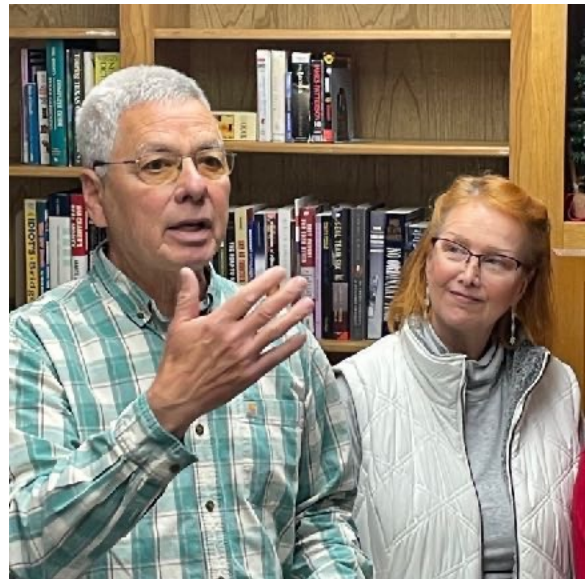
Richard's Angels

Paw Pals—Drinkin' for a good cause

Thanks to our Christmas Party bartenders extraordinaire, **Kim Majkowski** and **Jim Courtney**, \$650 was raised for Paw Pals, our local animal shelter. Mike Hendricks, Paw Pals Founder, and Victoria Stine, Keeper of the Cattery, took time from their busy schedules to receive our gift. Thanks, **Linda Ward**, for coming up with this idea to help us contribute in the larger community.



*Mike and Victoria, with volunteer, Desi, accept our donation raised by the mixing skills of **Jim Courtney** and **Kim Majkowski**.*



Mike shares an impassioned and informative exposition of Paw Pals' history and mission, and provides solid examples of their success.



This is Lickin' Trixie, one of the beneficiaries of our largesse. Ear's to you NTAC!

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Poker Run

Richard Redding and **Millie O'Donnell** presented NTAC's first(?) Poker Run. Participants visited four stations around the park—hosted by **The Steeds**, **The Morrows**, **The Beus**, and **The Wrights**—to collect their cards before returning to the Rally Room, where **Becky Gray** helped them complete their hands. **Ginger Zeringue** won the top prize for Best Hand, with **Anna Brandon** placing second. \$200 was raised to support the building of a new maintenance shed.



*A straight flush got you a seat at the finalists table where **Millie** dealt one last hand. **Anna, Vanette, Amy, Maryanne, and Ginger** were our card sharps. Where are all the gentlemen?*



***Deb Stunneck** showing **Steve Woodward** that a bottle of wine is a good backup plan for a bad hand.*



*You can't resolve it in this photo, but that's **Ginger** holding Kings over Sevens to win it all.*



*Our winner—**Ginger "Nothing Up My Sleeve" Zeringue**.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Editor's Note—It only just occurred to me (after 9 months, no less!) that 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 January Birthday!

Ginger Zeringue (7th); Linda Ward (10th); Darel Ball (13th); Jerry Worley (14th); Pulse Martinez & Kevin Pflug (15th); Pam Beckwith (16th); Anna Brandon & Phyllis Fell (17th); Jim Courtney & Randy Truesdell (18th); John Van Artsdalen (19th); Denise Morrow (22nd); Silvana Bertalovitz (23rd); Allen Faulk & Steve Pohler (24th); Millie O'Donnell (28th); George Beckwith (29th).

Happy January Anniversary!

Randy & Dawn Truesdell (1st); Frank & Gayle Steed (8th); David & Anna Brandon (16th); Peter & Judy Schwarz (23rd).

Welcome New Members!

Jimmy & Patty Eaton, BRN 16926. Jimmy & Patty purchased share 304 (grass lot) from Buresh and lot 507 (villa) from Gilley. Here is some information about the Eatons. They grew up in Allen & Midland and moved here from Antlers, OK. They have 2 children, 7 grandchildren, and a black lab named Ralphie. They've been Airstreaming for 9 years and enjoy photography, camping, kayaking, fitness, building things, and music. You can email Jimmy at jeeaton89@gmail.com and Patty at pkmeaton89@gmail.com. Please reach out and say hello.

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Sorry, folks, I ran out of time for fancy-dancy white space optimization. Gotta pack for a 2 week trip. —Editor

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						
January-24						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-Jan	2-Jan	3-Jan	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan
	9-10A Yoga		9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga	
	2-4P Canasta Card Rm	5:30 Potluck & ugly Christmas sweater contest	5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk-Pavilion	1P-2P Book Club Card Rm	10A Bridge - Card Room	
4:00P Ice Cream Rally Rm		Joker after potluck		2-4 Canasta Card Rm		5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
7-Jan	8-Jan	9-Jan	10-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan
	9-10A Yoga		9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga	
	10 - Eclipse Meeting Card Room	9:30 Ham Radio MTG Card Room	10:15 Ladies Club Card Rm	10A - Rally Room Shareholder Information - All About the Eclipse	10A Bridge - Card Room	
4:00P Ice Cream Rally Rm	2-4P Canasta Card Rm 6:30 Bible Study Rally Rm	5:30 Potluck Joker after potluck	5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk-Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm		5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
14-Jan	15-Jan	16-Jan	17-Jan	18-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan
	9-10A Yoga	Comanche Peak Sams 1-Day Rally Room Rental	9-10A Yoga	10A Knitting & Such @ Mary Ellen's 311	9-10A Yoga	
4:00P Ice Cream Rally Rm	2-4P Canasta Card Rm 6:30 Bible Study Rally Rm	Dinner at Branded Burger 5:30 Joker after dinner	5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk-Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm	10A Bridge - Card Room	5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
HOTC Rally						
21-Jan	22-Jan	23-Jan	24-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan
	9-10A Yoga	9:30 Board workshop Card Room Closed till 3	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	
4:00P Ice Cream Rally Rm			5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk-Pavilion	2-4 Canasta Card Rm		
	6:30 Bible Study Rally Rm	5:30 Potluck Joker after potluck				5P Shop Talk - Pavilion
HOTC Rally						
28-Jan	29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan			
	9-10A Yoga	9:00A Board Meeting	9-10A Yoga			
4:00P Ice Cream Rally Rm	2-4P Canasta Card Rm 6:30 Bible Study Rally RM		5P Ladies Social Hr Card Rm & Shop Talk-Pavilion			
		5:30 Potluck Joker after potluck				