

Texas Plains Journal

TEXAS PLAINS AIRSTREAM CLUB

1st Quarter 2019



From the President's Desk

Are Ya'll Ready to Go ?

Well, I'm Not!

By Johnny Poff

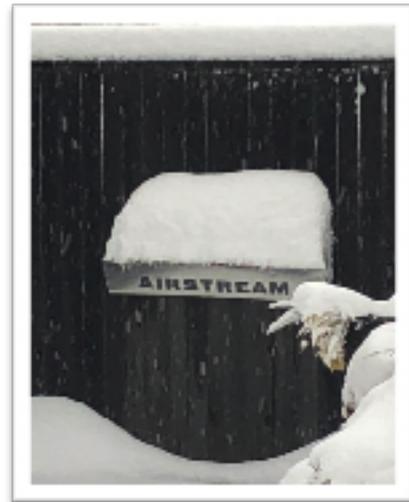
Well, we're off ... and It seems as if we are a herd of turtles. Here it is mid March and I am just now getting this newsletter figured out with the help of a WORD Template. Our installation lunch was delayed a month while Mother Nature gave us some snow and ice in December. I have included pictures from the lunch & installation that took place in January.

I told ya'll that I would get it to you on a quarterly basis. Working on this has made me appreciate all that goes into putting it together. So, thank you Ronny Foley for getting out a monthly newsletter lo, these many years.

Ray Tillery (2nd VP) contributed an article about his and Kandy's visit to Quartzite, AZ last year. You should find it very interesting.

There are so many things to do and they seem to be growing. Time to get the trailer ready for travel. "Ole Red" is ready for an oil change, wash, & vacuum. Oscar & Hank are hankering to jump in and go camping. Finishing this newsletter, I think, will help me launch into the things that I need to do to get ready to go.

Be sure to look at the schedule of rallies for the year. If I have done this right, it will appear at the bottom of the newsletter.



Clockwise from top:
**Installation Lunch at Dyers in
Amarillo;**
Mother Nature;
**Myrna Coffman, Joan Luman, &
Dick Lanham;**
**Betty Foley, Johnny Poff & New
Club Flag;**
Jan Thompson



Getting ready to win
Best Parade Float & Best in Show at International in Salem, Oregon ... Thank you Betty for your vision & endless patience.



Installation Lunch

Lee & Sherri Reynolds
Dick & Sherry Lanham
Bruce Fried & Friend Phillis



On the road to Salem

Sherri & Dick Lanham
Gene Cribbs & Jean Cole



Starting a New Year

By Susan Poff

Here we are well into the beginning of a new year and I am still finding people who want to hold on to Christmas a little bit longer, which I definitely understand. These folks want to keep the decorations up just a few more days or weeks. They want to continue what they consider the magic of Christmas.

Then there are those who really dread Christmas and holiday times and cannot be happier that it is over. Today a friend remarked that the Christmas season always depressed her and she was happy to see it go!

I found myself thinking about these extreme opposite feelings. I know it has to do with many things, the memories of good and bad family times. The reminders sometimes of those not still with us, as well as other things in our past. We all view the holidays in varying ways.

Then today I came across these words written by an unknown author and they spoke to me:

The old year is worn and tired, time now to kiss it goodbye.
Take with you it's wisdom, the power of all you learned.
Remember the past year with love, but let go of its despair.
Live the year that lies ahead with fresh energy and hope.
Be strong, have courage. It is time now for something new!

I hope these words speak to you too and help you look forward to a brand new year of exciting adventures and travels. I hope they make you think about all you gained in the last year and stop worrying, if you can, about the sad things that continue to hurt you. There is joy ahead, a new beginning. There is definitely something wonderful to look forward to!

Ray & Kandy Tillery travel to Quartzite... Rubber Tramp Rendezvous

By
Bernard Ray Tillery

This article isn't about Texas Plains Airstream activities in particular, but there may be some interest, never-the-less in the "Rubber Tramp Rendezvous", or more commonly known as the "RTR". I came to know and to be interested in this event that has occurred every year in January for the past ten years near Quartzite, Arizona.

Quartzite is hardly a wide spot in the road located on I-10 just twenty miles east of Blythe, California. However, this small town is known as a "mecca" of sorts for RV snowbirds. During the winter months, Quartzite becomes one huge flea market; has multiple RV parks, and caters to the wishes of RV types who are trying to avoid the harshness of winter in the remainder of the Continent. The traffic jams in winter at the one or two stop lights in the village resemble the biggest LA gridlock.

Anyway, the RTR is held annually about five to six miles southeast of Quartzite on BLM desert land for about ten days in January. This event coincides with the primary marketing event in Quartzite called the "Big Tent". The RTR event was initiated by a gentleman by the name of Bob Wells. Mr. Wells has become known nationwide by his You Tube Channel called "Cheap RV Living". In his videos, he promulgates the advantages and benefits of full time RV living. He offers numerous you tube videos that demonstrate how one can thrive in a thrifty lifestyle through full time life in an RV, a van, or even one's car by full time "boon docking". He calls these boondockers or nomads "rubber tramps". He's one himself. He lives full time in a cargo van he configured to his own personal needs. He visits other nomads in their own self-created environments who also emulate the nomad life style. He even finds people who actually thrive quite well even in small cars on a full-time basis.

Mr. Wells proclaims he initiated the nomad lifestyle in a cargo van by default. He found he was incapable of maintaining a household from a financial standpoint. He ended up living in a van full time. What began as a necessity for him has eventually become crusading passion for him and his disciples of other nomads. He has determined that by adopting some of the concepts he has gathered through his you tube efforts, that the lifestyle can be adopted by anyone who either desires to become migratory or has little financial choices, otherwise.

As a result, Mr. Wells initiated the "RTR" about ten years ago. It has grown to several thousand participants who all gather near Quartzite once a year. After the RTR event, several of the full-time nomads join Mr. Wells and other adherents to participate in "caravans". These caravans consist of a number of the nomads with each of their RV/van units who traverse about various locations on BLM land along the south Colorado River area as groups. The BLM and forest service do not allow boon dock camping at one spot for more than fourteen days at a time. They then must move to another location of at least about twenty-five miles away for another maximum of fourteen day stays. These caravans serve to provide community to many of the nomads for several months until the warmer weather causes most of them to nomad about in cooler climates of the Nation.

(continued)



I am the guilty party who began following several of the “Cheap RV Living” videos on You Tube. I became interested in Mr. Wells and his movement. He spoke of many whom he’d interviewed that were experimenting with various RV, van, and car lifestyle situations. I was amazed how well many of these people thrived on very little income and minimal living accommodations. These adherents eschew the extravagant lifestyle of the rest of us “stick and brick” mega consumers. They actually have sensible points of view, considering that many today believe the lifestyle of the typical American to not be sustainable in the future.

I extended my guilt to my daughter, Lacey, and her husband, Josh. I put her on to “Cheap RV Living”. She owned an Airstream at the time, and lives in Denver. But after watching these You Tube Videos, both she and Josh became RTR disciples. She informed me that we are going to attend the next RTR. Which we did. In the meantime, she and Josh sold her Airstream so they could build their own “RV”, which consisted of a 2000 shuttle style bus from a church. They installed a kitchen and bedroom with full capable solar power.

Kandy and I met them during the middle of the RTR event. We parked our Airstream amongst the myriad of RV’s vans, cargo trailers, tents, cars, and everything else you could imagine out in the Arizona desert. There were two or three other Airstreams around. I show several pictures of our campsite. We built a nice fire every night and roasted marshmallows. Bob Wells and his volunteers offered daily seminars on all aspects of nomadic RV life. Information about solar power installation, places to camp and boondock, how to customize your own RV or van, how to thrive as a nomad under various conditions, how to remain safe while camping alone in the country, and so on. They even had various venues of entertainment on some of the evenings.

I had to say, everyone there that I observed were cooperative and considerate. There was no loud noise at night, and such aspects as pet control was excellent. Actually, the planners of the RTR provided an area aside from the main camping area for those who wanted bands, noise, and a party atmosphere. I never did hear any of that at night from our campsite.

On the last Saturday of the RTR, the participants were encouraged to attend the “Big Tent” event in Quartzite. This event was essentially a huge tent building with hundreds of vendors who catered to RVers and nomads. In addition, some of the vendors offered part time employment that could accommodate many of the nomads who needed additional resources during the year. For example, Amazon had a booth; they provide campsites at various facilities for the purpose of attracting nomads to work for them for a period of time. Several companies who manage campgrounds for various state, forest service, BLM and other campgrounds sought employees to be utilized as campground hosts. It appeared that anyone who wanted to work during their nomad experience had these opportunities available.

We ended our stay on the following Sunday as the RTR wrapped up. On the last evening, one of our other daughters, Star, her husband, Dean, and our grandson, Christian joined us. They traveled from Lake Arrowhead in California to meet us that night. The RTR’s final event was the night time “Burning Van” event. The burning van was some crate lumber made up to look like a cargo van. Any who have heard of the “Burning Man” event that is conducted in the heat of the summer in Nevada will make the connection.

In the meantime, Mr. Wells and his cadre of volunteers have developed a non-profit organization intended for the benefit of nomads and potential nomads who may be of limited resources. The intent of the organization, called “Houses on Wheels Alliance” is to provide RV’s, vans, minivans, or other mobile vehicles for people who seek an independent lifestyle as a nomad with their own vehicle. The non-profit hopes to collect resources for a foundation that will provide for those who need a hand up that may help them get back on their feet. I suppose you would call it a version of “Habitat for Humanity” at a completely different level. Time will tell as to whether this vision will bear fruit, but it shall be interesting to watch. They have developed a new website for the Alliance, and hope to build funds from that basis.

Well, we finished our fourth day of “boondocking” on Sunday. Lacey and Josh headed back to Denver. Star, Dean, and Christian made their way back to Lake Arrowhead, and we traveled further west into California for about three hours to our other daughter, Kaylene’s, home in Riverside. We never ran out of battery power, but we used our last drop of water. We found a dump station in Quartzite that cost us fifteen dollars, but we’d cleared our pipes. It was a great trip, and I’m ready to go again. Maybe I’ll become a nomad one of these days, myself! (Probably not, I probably don’t have final say; sorry, Bob Wells!)



**Texas Plains
Airstream Club
2019 Activities**

<p>January 19, 2019 Officer Installation 11:30 am Dyers BBQ 1619 South Kentucky, Amarillo, Tx (near I40 and Georgia) Contact Jan Thompson if attending nana@highsiesta.com</p>	<p>First Saturday of Each Month AMARILLO- Dinner El Patron Restaurant 3401 W.I 40 Contact Dick Lanham (806) 674-9849 LUBBOCK- Lunch Logan's Roadhouse private room 6251 Slide Road Contact Susan Poff (806) 790-3848</p>
<p>February 9th Luncheon, business meeting and fundraiser Location: Lubbock Women's Club, 2020 Broadway *Reservations : Susan Poff (806) 790-3848</p>	
<p>March 27-31st" Exploring the Past" Joint Rally w/ TPAC and North Texas Unit Location: Oakdale RV Park 1019 NE Barnard Street- Glen Rose, TX (254 897-2321 *Call RV Park & say you are with Airstream group There are also cabins to rent Hosts: Larry & Joan Luman, Mike & Lynne Mack</p>	<p>May 1-5 "Fandango In Fredericksburg" Rally Location: Oakwood RV Resort, Fredericksburg, TX 78 Fm Rd 2093 (830) 997-9817 *Make reservations by calling Betty Foley (806) 687-5921 Hosts: Ron and Betty Foley Linda and Gary Shelton</p>
<p>May 6-11th "Cowboy Up" 50 th annual Region 9 Rally Location: Bandera, Tx Skyline Ranch RV Park 2231 Hwy 16 N. *Register with David Thompson david@highsiesta.com</p>	<p>June 12-16th Perryton, TX Rally Location: Wolf Creek County Park - Ochiltree County 13515 County Road U *Call Lee (620)453-0536 or Sherri (620) 541-1100 for Reservations (14 sites are reserved) Hosts: Dick and Sherri Lanham, Lee and Sherri Reynolds</p>
<p>July 20-28th International Rally Location: Doswell, Virginia</p>	<p>August 21-25 "Santa Fe In the Sunshine" Rally Location: Santa Fe Skies RV Park 14 Brown Castle Ranch Road (505) 473-5946 Rally Coordinator, Kevin *Call RV Park to make your reservations- ask for Kevin Hosts: Johnny & Susan Poff, Joan & Larry Luman</p>



ART LACEY'S BOMBER STATION
The only one in the world—6 mi. so. of Portland, Ore., on 99E



Art Lacey's B-17 Bomber

Now under restoration at museum at Salem airport

On the Road to Salem

There were 6 Airstreams in this group from Texas Plains Airstream Club



Vintage Airstreams need Vintage Tow Vehicles

WBCCI International

Salem, Oregon June/July 2019