



# COYOTE TALES



Greater Houston Airstream Club, Unit #155, WBCCI, The RV Club of Airstream

Volume 44 Issue 4

Jerry & Carol Goodwin, Editors – jlg79@comcast.net

30 April 2019

## Up, Up and Away!



Rain or shine, 2019 keeps rolling forward with new adventures. In April, we had a great rally at a new location. Big Spot RV in San Leon, Texas is a new park (~1 year old) down near Galveston Bay. There is always some risk in picking a new site that no one has been to, but we feel that this was a winner. Just a hop, skip & a jump from Houston, lots of good food, great two exciting venues to tour, good company, tight spaces, lots of shared experiences. The weather cooperated enough to help make this another good GHAC rally. A little rain, a lot of wind, some sun and chilly temps by the weekend did not deter us from touring the local areas. It was an excellent turn out for the weekend adventures (19 rigs, 37 people)!

I want to thank all of the hosts that helped organize the rally. Extra credit goes to Don & Helen whose hard work made this rally a huge success. From the insights from Don's years at NASA with Don as personal tour guide of the Space Center, to a tour of the Flight Museum, it was a weekend to remember for a long while.

We still need hosts for future rallies! In particular, I am looking for co-hosts for the Memorial Day Rally in Lexington. If you have not signed already up for one, please consider signing up as a host or co-host to help run the activities and meals.

For Lexington, we are looking for 1-2 couples take a meal (breakfast or dinner) to help spread the load out a bit.

Quote:

*"Kilometers are shorter than miles. Save gas, take your next trip in kilometers."  
– George Carlin*

We continue to see new faces at the rallies which is highly encouraging. Whether in a Motorhome or Trailer or Van, Airstreamers share a bond of adventure.

Keep the shiny side up and safe travels!

*Jerry & Carol*

**Up Next:**

**6-10 May 2019  
Region 9 Rally  
Bandera, Texas**

**23-27 May 2019  
Memorial Day Rally  
Sonny's RV Park  
Lexington, Texas**





*Fly into the April Rally*  
**Big Spot RV Park San Leon, Texas**  
**11 – 14 April 2019**

### Tax Day Rally Report

As I sit down to figure out how to describe our Tax Day Rally, the words “herding cats” flashes repeatedly through my mind. Without a doubt, it was a great experiment in building a close-knit fellowship with our Airstream pals and steering them through the halls of aviation and space.

The rally began when every attendee except one couple met at the renowned Top Water Grill in San Leon for dinner. The laggards were Janice and Ron Lange who picked up their rig at Bob Jones late afternoon and then just had to drop by the hospital to see a brand new baby in the family. The experiment commenced back at the Big Spot campground about eight miles from the TWG when we squirmed 37 people into the 25 capacity rec room and dazzled the crowd with visions of space and aviation. Helen prayed for divine intervention while our wonderful co-hosts Mercers, Calvert’s, and Jim Goodwin’s became angels of mercy.



Don opened the rally in a trembling voice with a “Welcome to Fantasyland – a place where dreams become reality.” After reading a passage expressed by Moon Man Buzz Aldrin about his dream of walking on Moon, we began a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of he and Neil Armstrong doing that very thing. Next, a big screen, animated movie popped on the park TV showing the Orion spacecraft racing to Mars and landing.

The star-struck audience found they were soon to be engulfed in a world of dreamers and doers as they were to have a chance to see how people like themselves came together to take earthlings to Moon and back, and even preceded that achievement by winning the greatest war in history to preserve our freedom.

Tonia and Jim Goodwin prepared us for a long Friday by preparing and serving a delicious breakfast featuring fruit compote before we raced to Space Center Houston for our tour. Upon our return we were treated to a pizza supper prepared by Mercers and served by the cohort gang. The evening presentation gave us a personal look at the link between our Airstreams, aviation and space. Wally’s unique airplane design came from a collaborative effort between Wally Byam and Hawley Bowlus, a Ryan Aircraft designer and plant manager in the year 1935. Bowlus had designed the first gliders in America and worked with Charles Lindberg to create the Spirit of St Louis. In 1964, NASA found the Airstream trailer to be the ideal solution to a demand by the National Academy of Science to protect Earth from back contamination from Moon. They eventually shuttled the astronauts throughout the Space Shuttle Program to the launch pad and back from landings in a 1983 Airstream motorhome, the Astrovan.

In short, no bugs from Moon were allowed. Our Bob Jones and a young NASA engineer by the name of John Hirasaki from Vidor, TX, solved the problem with an Airstream trailer design for use as a Mobile Quarantine Facility or MQF for short. Don took on John’s persona and told John’s personal story based on his writings and photographs.

Jerry and Tracy Calvert launched us on Saturday with a terrific breakfast in true Airstreamer style (sausage biscuits, et al). Our day became a look at aviation history and airplanes in the beautiful new Lone Star Flight Museum at Ellington Field. This day, we viewed their exhibits through the eyes of two of our own, Vern Goodwin II and Van Skiles. Their personal stories were highlighted as we visited each of the airplanes that they had flown during their flying days in WWII. Jerry & Vernon III Goodwin documented the day by having their picture taken in front of the Jimmy Doolittle replica B-25. Both Vern and Van flew B-25s as their final airplane of WWII. Throughout the tour, several of our group told interesting stories. Vernon III humorously described his assignment as a Landing Gear Down observer on a DC-3. And, while we were learning about a Huey gunship that had been donated to the LSFM

by a couple to commemorate Van’s son Theodore who was killed in Vietnam flying one, Ron Lange told us of the courage of such men. Ron said he owed his life several times to his friends in the sky.

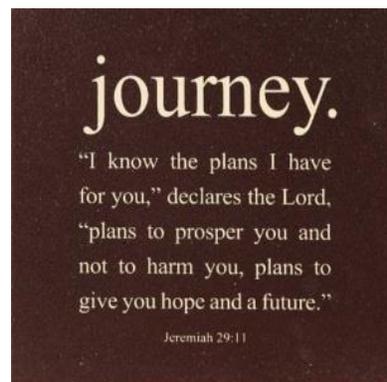
On Saturday evening, after a fine meal of Firehouse Spaghetti, Helen’s go-to meal for crowd-pleasing consumption, we shared a few stories from the day. Rick and Tracy Elkins, our newly inducted members, told us how they found the museum to be a way to honor Rick’s Brother-in-Law, retired Air Force Col. Nicholas C. Nicholas, on his 90th birthday by arranging a recognition day at the museum for him. The grand finale program presentation was given by Vernon III as he told the story “One Man’s Journey.” This was a beautiful story about Vern and Jamie and the journey that they travelled during the years of WWII and after, and included how Vern became a pilot of a B-25. Vernon even surprised Don when he presented him with a historical artifact ripped from the skin of an Airstream trailer we all saw on our tram tour through the Space Center. This trailer was an instrumentation facility used by the Structures and Mechanics Division at NASA to record vibration and acoustic testing data. The artifact now rests on the Teegarden mantel.



Sunday morning’s breakfast of leftover fruits, donut holes, and other good stuff was followed by a thoughtful and appropriate devotional created by Jerry and Tracy Calvert. Tracy had decorated our tables with palm fronds and Jerry picked up on the Journey theme in Jeremiah 29:11 and inspired us all to realize what Wally had in mind when he wrote his creed and what we saw in the Airstream lives of Vern and Jamie as they instilled that love in all who know them.

Thanks to everyone who attended for your patience and good humor – we’ll see you down the road!

Don



The Team RWB raffle raised **\$211.50** for the charity.



*A huge round of applause for great job by our Hosts!*  
Don & Helen Teegarden James & Tonia Goodwin  
Jim & Barbara Mercer Jerry & Tracy Calvert

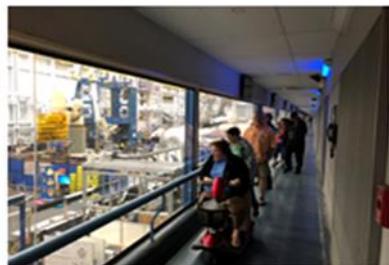
### Top Water Grill



# Big Spot RV



# Space Center Houston





**Lots of  
vintage aircraft**





2019 Greater Houston Airstream Club



***A note from Tracey Elkins:***

Don, From Thanks for your call. I've included the short biography we gave to the LSFM as well as a photo of the certificate and challenge coin Col Owens gave to present to Nick. We don't have the date selected yet, but it will feature free admission to the museum for all.

Biographical sketch for Nicholas C. Nicholas, Col, USAF, BSC (Retired)

Nick is a second Greek who is proud of his heritage but he is a true blue American! Throughout his career in the United States Air Force his first thought was to serve his country. Nick was born in Baltimore Maryland on April 20, 1929 in "Little Greece." His mother died when he was 4 years old and his father died when Nick was 7. Orphaned and with no relatives in Baltimore, his Mother's aunt and her family in West Virginia took him to live with them. Thus began Nick's lifelong habit of hard work with a good humor. At age 14 Nick and a friend joined the Merchant Marines after being less than honest about their ages (they were 14). Upon arriving at the port in New York, when the officer asked Nick when he would be 16 Nick promptly told him which resulted in he and his friend being immediately returned to Baltimore. Nick wanted to remain in Baltimore so he took any kind of work he could find in order to stay in school at City College in Baltimore. He did everything from making cargo nets to a pharmacy helper. He became a valuable employee to the drug store owner and although just a high school student Nick was entrusted with running the store when the owner was not there. Nick is very proud of his early beginnings at City College and the education he received there.



After being graduated from high school Nick enrolled in the University of Maryland where he planned to enroll in pre-med classes. He enjoyed the classes very much and being creative he always found ways to earn an extra dime by tutoring players from the football team. A couple of his lifelong friends were Elmer Wingate and Joe Tydings.

After his sophomore year funds ran out so Nick joined the ROTC which allowed him to stay in school. Thus began the lifelong love of the military. Upon graduation from the university Nick fulfilled his military obligation by joining the Air Force in June 1952. He continued to plan for med school upon completion of his four year military commitment; however, he received flight status and at the end to the four year tour learned he could save a lot of money toward med school by extending two more years on active duty.

At the end of the six years, Nick had decided he wanted a career in the Air Force so he reenlisted and the rest is history.

Soon after his reenlistment he transferred to the "medics" which really peaked his interest. His assignments in Texas at Carswell AFB and other locations gave his the opportunity to work with aircraft manufacturers. Nick always has a talent of identifying a problem then finding the solution. This ability allowed his to contribute sound ideas and solutions in the aircraft industry as well as the space program. In particular, he used a pressure suit to refit it for a woman who was paralyzed and unable to stand or walk. Nick and his assistants fit the pressure suit for the lady and she was able to attend her son's football game for the first time. During a tour of an aircraft plant in Washington state, he identified a problem with the ejector and his suggested solution led to the problem being corrected.

Nick also served at Offutt AFB under General Lemay and also at Little Rock AFB. Earlier in he was assigned the Biomedical Corps and during his time at Offutt, Little Rock, and then the Air Force Academy he not only tested himself in the chambers, but also performed chamber flight test on those assigned flying status. He performed this duty for the remainder of his career until he was appointed in 1981 by the Surgeon General of the Air Force the Chief of the Biomedical Sciences Corps.

After Little Rock AFB Nick was assigned to Kadena AB Okinawa. His duties included flights into SE Asia.

From Okinawa Nick returned to the United States and was assigned as the Chief, Department of Medicine at the School of Health Care Science, Sheppard AFB. He was the first non-physician for that assignment. He was responsible for the training and assignment of those trained in the new program of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners (General, Pediatrics, OB/Gyn).

In 1976 Nick was sent to Washington DC Office of the Secretary of Defense as the Director of the TriService Medical Information Systems program, a new program that would revolutionize medical service within all branches of the US military.

In 1978 Nick became the Chief of Plans and Programs in the Air Force Surgeon General's office. His medical knowledge as well as his administrative talents enabled him to fulfill the obligations of these positions and make an invaluable contribution to the medical service and those who were served.

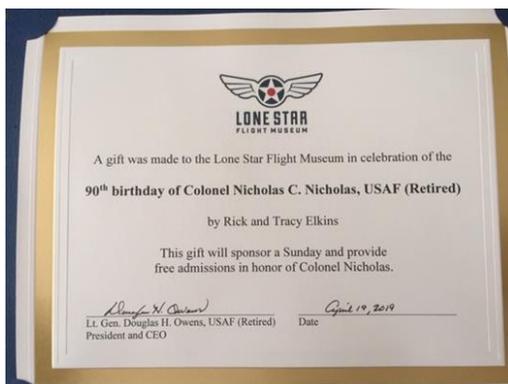
In 1981 Nick was selected as the Biomedical Sciences Corps chief and assigned to the AF Surgeon General's office. He also continued to hold the title Chief of Plans and Program. As the Corps Chief he traveled frequently visiting sites around the world.

Nick retired September 30, 1984 after proudly serving over 32 years. He still loves sharing stories of the people he met and worked with from his many assignments which including military and civilian friends. He was active in the Aerospace Medical Association as well as many other active duty associated organizations.

Since his retirement, several years ago he and his wife were invited to attend the celebration of the Air Force Medical Service anniversary in San Antonio. He proudly displays a photograph taken during that celebration of the newly appointment Chief of Staff of the Air Force and himself. Nick always says it has been an honor to serve his country in the US Air Force.

All the best,

Tracy



Update: They are planning for a recognition day at LSFM on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

# Memorial Day Rally

May 23 - 27, 2019

**Sonny's RV Park  
8816 US Highway 87  
Lexington, Texas 78947**

**Directions:** Take Hwy 290 to Giddings, TX. Turn right onto Highway 77 and head north for 17 miles to Lexington. Sonny's RV Park is on the right as you come into Lexington

**Hosts:** Jerry & Carol Goodwin      **Parking:** \$23.00 per night      **Rally Fee:** TBA

**Bring Table Service to all Meals**

**Thursday May 23**      Early Arrivals  
5:00 PM Social Hour  
6:00 PM Dinner – bring something to grill

**Friday May 24**      Parking all day  
Breakfast and Lunch on your own  
5:00 PM Social Hour (**Odd number rigs bring appetizers**)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Games

**Saturday May 25**  
8:30 AM Coffee  
9:00 Breakfast (Breakfast Tacos)  
10:00 AM Pay Rally Fees  
10:30 AM Business Meeting – Election of 2020 Officers  
Lunch on your own  
1:30 PM Quilt Museum Tour or Tour Texas Prison (La Grange)  
5:00 PM Social Hour (**Even Number Rigs bring appetizers**)  
6:00 PM Memorial Day Picnic (Hamburgers & Hot Dogs)  
7:30 PM Games

**Sunday May 26**  
8:30 AM Coffee  
9:00 AM Breakfast  
10:00 AM Devotional  
Lunch on your own  
2:00 PM Games  
5:00 PM Social Hour (Odd number rigs bring appetizers)  
6:00 PM Dinner – Beer Brats (Bundy to host)  
7:00 PM Games (bring your favorite game)

**Monday May 27**      **Memorial Day**  
8:30 AM Continental Breakfast  
9:00 AM Prep for departure

Everyone have a safe journey home!

**Please e-mail or phone your reservations to Jerry & Carol by 15 May 2019.**

[jl79@comcast.net](mailto:jl79@comcast.net)

**281-787-6687 or 713-598-1063**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Rig# \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer \_\_\_ MH \_\_\_ 30a \_\_\_ 50a \_\_\_  
Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

## 2019 Rally Schedule

**January 19**

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

Landry's Seafood House  
22215 Katy Freeway,, Katy, TX 77450  
Hosts: Gilbert, Kracke, Harris

**January 25-29**

**MID-WINTER IBT**

Baldwin County Coliseum and Arena  
19477 Fairground Road  
Robertsdale, Alabama 36567

**February 14-17**

**MID-WINTER RALLY**

Summer Breeze USA - Conroe  
3043 Waukegan Rd., Conroe, TX 77306  
Hosts: H. Miller, Ketchum, Lange

**March 14-17**

**ST. PATRICK'S RALLY**

Brazos Bend State Park  
21901 FM 762, Needville, TX 77461  
Hosts: Bundy, Mercer, Taroni, Williams

**April 11-14**

**FLY INTO APRIL RALLY**

Big Spot RV  
2241 E Bay Shore Dr, San Leon TX 77539  
Hosts: Teagarden, J. Goodwin, J Mercer

**May 6-11**

**REGION 9 RALLY "COWBOY UP"**

Skyline Ranch RV Park  
2231 State Highway 16 N, Bandera, TX 78003

**May 23-27**

**MEMORIAL DAY RALLY**

Sonny's RV Park  
8816 US 77, Lexington, TX 78947  
Hosts: **Need Hosts!**

**June 17 - September 7**

**Alaska Caravan**

Texas to Alaska  
Caravan Leaders: Snow

**July 20-27**

**INTERNATIONAL RALLY**

The Meadow Event Park  
13191 Dawn Blvd.  
Doswell, VA 23047

**August 30 - September 2**

**LABOR DAY RALLY**

Oakwood RV Resort  
78 FM 2093, Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Hosts: J Goodwin

**October 3-6**

**HARVEST RALLY**

Bolivar Peninsula RV Park  
1685 State Hwy 87, Port Bolivar, TX 77650  
Hosts: V. Goodwin

**November 8-10**

**BUDDY RALLY**

Stephen F. Austin State Park  
2100 Park Rd, 38, San Felipe, TX 77474  
Hosts: Isabell,

**December 6-8**

**CHRISTMAS & INSTALLATION**

Coushatta RV Ranch  
812 Nelius Road, Bellville, TX 77418  
Hosts: **Need Hosts!**

## Welcome new GHAC members!

The club continues to grow each month! We continue to see new members join the club every month.

Rick & Tracy Elkins joined us for their GHAC rally and we hope to see others at some of the upcoming rallies. If you see the new members at any of the rallies, please join us in giving them a warm welcome them to the club!



## Odd & Ends from the back office -

- **Corrected Web Address:**

I mentioned in the last newsletter that WBCCI has received permission to use the name Airstream Club in the club's internet address. They decided to use unit names in the individual unit web sites to get better name recognition. The *new* web address is: [greaterhouston.airstreamclub.net](http://greaterhouston.airstreamclub.net)

- Hosts - We are still looking for hosts/co-hosts for several rallies (**Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Christmas**). Please sign up!
- **"Cowboy Up"** (Region 9 Rally) – we are headed out this weekend to Bandera to participate in the Region 9 Rally. GHAC will be staffing the registration table on Monday afternoon at the Rally, handing out information and welcoming in members from across Region 9. This is a great opportunity to meet people as they sign into the rally and demonstrate how GHAC steps up to provide support. Please let us know if you are able and willing to help register people as they arrive at the Rally. The rally program was just published last week and it looks to be a lot of fun and interesting times. There may still be slots available, if you would care to attend the rally. Please let me know if you plan to attend the Rally in Bandera.
- **Enjoy The Ride** – 62<sup>nd</sup> International Rally in Doswell 2019 – I am collecting a list of members who will be attending the 62<sup>nd</sup> International Rally in July in Doswell, VA. So far, we have a list of 10 possible rigs signed on for a possible caravan to the rally. Please let me know if you plan to attend the rally. The initial information from the rally is being sent out with arrival dates already being published.
- Proposed changes – At the impromptu board meeting in December, a recommendation was made to discontinue publication of the GHAC Directory as a hard copy instead to post it online for members to access/review. Other clubs have successfully implemented an online membership directory with security issues being of concern. The idea was discussed but nothing was put

forward at this time. I am still fielding comments and recommendations and will bring them to the next board meeting at May's rally.

- Reminder: New GHAC flags are for sale!! For those who would like to proudly fly the unit colors in front of their rigs, we have flags with the new Greater Houston Airstream Club logos available for \$35.00. I will have flags available at rallies throughout the year, so contact me if you would like to get your very own unit flag.
- Pull tabs for charity. Remember to bring your pull tabs to the next rally and we will submit them to the International Rally in Doswell in July.



*Happy Birthday!!!***May**

1-May Matthew Shepard  
 2-May Christina Jordan  
 9-May Yvonne Hannigan  
 13-May Jonette Schmidt  
 15-May Tom Harris  
 18-May George Nixon  
 23-May Dave Rightmyer  
 25-May Bill Hamilton  
 25-May Jack Isabell  
 26-May Eileen Burch  
 28-May Danny Brown  
 28-May Peter Gilmore  
 31-May Daniel Schwarz

**June**

1-Jun Jamie Nixon  
 2-Jun John Tynes  
 4-Jun Rob Schmidt  
 5 Jun Ginger Hancock  
 7-Jun Jeanette Bowen  
 10-Jun Dan McAnulty  
 12-Jun Ron Lange  
 12-Jun Jo Goodwin  
 12-Jun Sherry Miller  
 17-Jun Janice Archibald  
 24-Jun Lisa Scharz  
 28-Jun Carol Goodwin  
 30-Jun Susan Sheridan

*Anniversaries***May**

4-May-80 Jerry & Carol Goodwin  
 4-May-02 Fred & Searcy Kracke  
 6-May-08 Clark Garner & Debbie Pfunder  
 9-May-97 Chuck Bracht & Cheryl Verlander  
 13-May-72 Tom & Virginia Taroni  
 15-May-15 Chris & Renee Carantza  
 18-May-74 John & Susan Sheridan  
 21-May-77 Wayne & Belinda Hale  
 21-May-12 Kent & Lia Laney  
 22-May-71 Ron & Janice Lange  
 25-May-05 Thomas & Vicki Ketchum  
 28-May-99 Stuart & Janice Archibald

**June**

4-Jun-66 Russ & Nancy Dionne  
 6-Jun-57 Don & Helen Teegarden  
 15-Jun-63 Don & Eloise Reeves  
 15-Jun-74 Grady & Keith Ferry  
 16-Jun-17 Jerry & Tanya Slayton Tilles  
 20-Jun-59 Arnold & Mary Etta Zander  
 20-Jun-70 Ronn & Rae Gilbert  
 30-Jun-01 Alan & Eileen Hubbard

### **THE SUNSHINE CORNER**

Spring has Sprung, the Taxes are Done, Now's the Time for Fun. Unfortunately, not everyone can have some fun. We've learned that Bob Hanson had an accident where he fell at the back of his truck and ended up with five broken ribs, a chipped vertebra, and a punctured lung.

Some of our other members like Vaughnette Stogdill, are suffering with severe allergies due to the high pollen count.

On a more positive note, Jan Rightmyer is well on the road to recovery after her recent hip replacement surgery.

Hub Miller is back at home getting ready for radiation treatment for liver cancer. Carol talked with Sherry Miller a couple of days ago and she indicated that Hub is doing fine and following doctor's orders. Hopefully, after that, they'll be back to travelling with us soon.

Also, as many may have heard, Vernon Goodwin was hospitalized Easter Sunday for strep infection of his knee (the knee he had replaced two years ago). Doctors took him into surgery to drain the infection and to remove his knee. A temporary knee/spacer was implanted. He will be on antibiotics for 6 weeks. He is back at home recuperating. They will not be going to Region 9 Rally, Memorial Day Rally, nor the Alaskan Caravan.

Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers especially Bob as he has a long road to recovery.

If you know of someone that needs a little "sunshine" please let me know.

[hmteegarden@verizon.net](mailto:hmteegarden@verizon.net)

## GREATER HOUSTON AIRSTREAM CLUB UNIT # 155

**Unit Officers:**

President	Jerry Goodwin	# 1131
1st Vice President	Clark Gardner	# 2646
2nd Vice President	Bruce Lee	# 5461
3rd Vice President		#
Recording Secretary	Barbara Mercer	# 1353
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Goodwin	# 1131
Treasurer	Jerry Lyddon	# 7746
Assistant Treasurer	Caren Bundy	# 2835
Trustee 2 Years	Jerry Calvert	# 30333
Trustee 2 Years		# 5067
Trustee 1 Year	Lisa Hansen	# 2646
Trustee 1 Year	Tom Taroni	# 2162
Parliamentarian	Joanne Miller	# 4958
Immediate Past President	Hub Miller	# 4558

**Committee Chairpersons:**

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Crafts & Projects	Sherry Miller	# 4558
Directory Editor	Bill Miller	# 4958
Electronics Communications	Tom Bundy	# 2835
Health	Rae Gilbert	# 1450
Membership	Joletta Goodwin	# 1311
Newsletter Editors	Hub & Sherry Miller	# 4558

# "COWBOY UP"

*Never too early to  
plan your trip next  
year to the*

**50th Annual**

**REGION 9 RALLY**

**In Bandera, TX**

**May 6—11, 2019**

**Skyline Ranch RV  
Park**

**2231 Hwy. 16N**

**Bandera, TX 78003**

**1-800-267-1402**



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**Greater Houston Airstream Club**

<http://GHAC155wbcci.net>

**Previously Texas Coastal**

## *A Message from Bob Jones RV*

Hello to all our Greater Houston Airstream Club members from the gang at BOB JONES RV.

We would like to express our excitement about an advanced service we are providing. BOB JONES RV has invested in a SEAL TECH machine that will pressurize the interior cabin of any coach, allowing us to detect leaks by soaping the complete exterior. It will identify efficiently any breaches in the exterior seal that will cause water leaks ultimately causing damage.

Our service team will pinpoint problem areas on a chart and consult with the customer a plan for corrective action. This is a true cost saving & preventive measure to protect your RV investment. The cost is \$230 - \$345 depending on your coach configuration. So give us a call to discuss how we can protect your RV, we think you'll be glad you did!

## **Bob Jones**

**RV REPAIRS  
& SERVICE**

**GOT A PROBLEM?  
WE CAN FIX IT**

**We also install Blue Ox tow-bars**

**Call Bob or Chris at  
713-910-2949**

*Get out there and enjoy your  
Airstream adventures this spring*

