In May 1990, a group of friends decided to celebrate the beginning of summer and, for some who had graduated, life after college by reuniting for some fun on Memorial Day weekend. They didn’t know it at the time, but that reunion led to another ... and another ... and would eventually lead to a 25-year strong tradition that continues today.

The reunion destinations fluctuated during the early years, from Canyon Lake to Galveston beach to Eagle Mountain Lake. When the group stayed in Galveston, they would spend the weekend hanging out on the beach and finding great buys at Col. Bubbie’s. If the reunion took them to Eagle Mountain, they would water ski and tube much of the day, then get cleaned up for a night of fun in Fort Worth.

Even though these destinations promised an enjoyable weekend, a favorite reunion locale soon emerged—a house at Canyon Lake. For many reasons—the centrality of the location, easy lake access, and opportunities to tube down the Guadalupe River—Canyon Lake became the group’s favored and staple destination, and the group now returns there almost every year.

Many fond memories from the early reunions stemmed from the lake house itself. The simple, three-bedroom building was built by the grandfather of James L. “Army Lou” Mayer ’90, and the group was hosted by, and adopted by, kindhearted and spirited “Gran-ny.” Back in the day, the lake house did not have an air conditioning system or television, which encouraged many nights of laughter and storytelling around the card tables. As Claire Spivey ’90 recalls, “Because of the lack of technology at the house, we were forced to sit around and talk. We spent many great evenings just visiting!”

Through the group’s expansion due to marriages and the births of children over the years, the lake house became quite a maze—most everyone would fall asleep where they landed after late-night 42 tournaments concluded. Nowadays, some from the group rent or own travel trailers that they park outside of the house for extra sleeping quarters.

Although a few among them had been friends since their high school days, what really strengthened the group’s friendship were the many experiences they shared together in Aggieland. Whether their Aggie bond grew through classes they shared,
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the organizations they were a part of together, or the potluck roommate they were assigned, Texas A&M was at the very core. It is that Aggie bond that keeps the group reuniting year after year.

“As the years have passed, our bonds have only grown deeper as we have welcomed new family members, said goodbye to others and held each other’s hand and supported one another through difficult times,” Spivey said. Throughout the year, members of the group find themselves going in many different directions, but they know that they can always rely on the love and support of each other, and on that one weekend each year when they reunite to celebrate their friendship and Aggie bond.

The late nights around a table with nonstop laughter and great music continue, although today, after a delicious communal meal, they can share their Aggie experiences with the children of the group. “Our kids have grown up together and all of them enjoy seeing each other every year and hearing our Aggie stories,” Spivey said. Often, the parents remind the kids of Aggie traditions and their on-campus experiences, but also underline the importance of new Aggies having their own adventures in Aggieland and making their own lifelong friendships—like the ones their parents share.

This year marks a special anniversary for the group of friends, as it is the 25th anniversary of their first Memorial Day weekend reunion. This reunion is also special to Spivey, whose son will be embarking on his own Aggie journey in the fall. “He has been there every year to witness and celebrate our Aggie bond, and I am certain this has played a role in his [college] decision.”

The same group of friends, decades later with their families on the Guadalupe River.

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