

THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 41

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Bill Coleman

2nd Vice President

Unfilled

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Chris Duncan

A few words from Jim.....

From the reports Pat and I have received the Rainbow Springs rally was outstanding!! The Beyers' and Brinkleys' did a great job in hosting their first time. We have a report elsewhere in this newsletter from Kathrine Kamiya on who attended and what activities occurred. It was Valentine Weekend and to paraphrase a hit 1978 song "Love is in the Air", Allen Gallina and Vicki Hooks announced their engagement. Congratulations to Allen and Vickie. What a great weekend!!

Pat and I regret we were unable to attend the Rainbow Springs festivities. I send my appreciation to Katherine for preparing a rally summary and sending it to RoseMarie.

We now move on to our next Airstream outings. As this is being written some of our members are at the AlumnaFlamingo in Sarasota followed by the Florida State Rally in St Augustine March 4-8. We have our March unit rally at Stephen Foster SP March 27-29. Jim and Sheila Skipper and Don and Sandy Woods are the hosts. I understand that all campsites at Stephen Foster SP are filled and I suggest that you keep checking for cancellations if you wish to attend. Don't forget to notify the hosts and Bonnie Lewis if you will be attending.

Martina Pelley has provided me with a financial report as of February 6. The bank statement indicates we have a total of \$4,807.26 in our account. The Church Fund has \$348.42 and our General Fund has \$4,458.84.

At the February rally a motion was made and seconded and unanimously voted to approve the Unit caravan to the Region 3 Rally and the Unit caravan led by the Colemans to South Georgia.

Hope all are in good health. Let's go Airstreaming.....Hope to see you at Stephen Foster.

Jim

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February Rally

Valentine's Day was even sweeter for members who participated in the rally at Rainbow Springs. The 27 members and three guests included: Mary & Chip Adams, Rosemarie & Gary Anderson, Karon & Tom Bayer, Craig & Monica Brinkley, Linda & Bill Coleman, Judy & Sonny Cowart, Vickie Hooks & Allen Gallina, Gordon Johnson, Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer, Mac McCauslin, Carol & Winston Montague, Martina Pelley, Karen & Ron Rush, Ginger & Shearn Spenard and their daughter Stephanie and two of their grandchildren Sarah & Javen, and Don & Sandy Wood. Love and romance were in the air and Allen started the weekend announcing that he and Vickie were engaged and would be married in May.

Monica & Craig and Karon & Tom were terrific hosts. We gathered at Karon and Tom's site and enjoyed *D-E-L-I-C-I-O-U-S* meals. Evenings saw near freezing temperatures and we found frost on the tables on Saturday morning. Days were sunny and allowed us linger outdoors to enjoy the beautiful surroundings at this new rally site. On Saturday, a group caravanned to the Three Sister's Springs in Crystal River. River Ventures offers van transportation and access to two boardwalks that bring you close to the 300 manatees that make the springs their winter home. We saw manatee love with sea cow/calf pairs snuggling close to nurse or swim together.

We dined early on Saturday to enjoy the sunshine and to have time for the Big Bend version of the Newlywed Game. Craig played the host posing romantic (and slightly suggestive) questions first to the wives and then to the husbands of four couples. Monica and Karon kept track of the responses. There were many laughs and no scores were kept. Everyone got a bag of Valentine goodies and the ladies got a rose that lite up the dusky sky.

Did I mention the *D-E-L-I-C-I-O-U-S* food! Check out the recipes that Monica and Karon were kind enough to share.



3 Sisters Springs / manatees, snorkelers & kayaks

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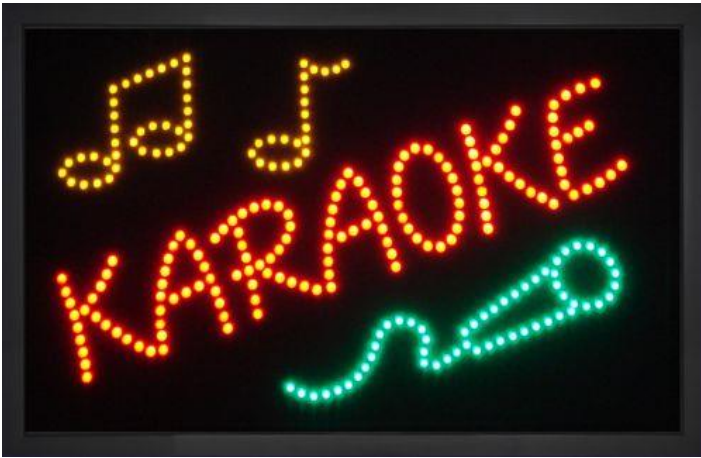
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February Rally Rainbow Spring State Park Dunnellon, Florida

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March Rally!

March 27 - 29

Stephen Foster State Park

Live Oak, Florida



Doesn't matter if you can carry a tune in a bucket or an opera house, Karaoke is FUN!!! Sing solo, with a group, or just watch and cheer on the performers. Fun for all!

Hosts: Sandy and Don Woods

Sheila and Jim Skipper

Have you called the rally host with the number attending the rally?

Friday Night Dinner

6pm - Pot luck

Saturday morning Breakfast

8:30am - Sausage/gravy/biscuits/fruit

Saturday Lunch - On your Own

Saturday Dinner

4pm - Bring your beverage of choice

4:30pm - Dinner - Stew/breadsticks/dessert

Sunday Breakfast

8:30am - Rolls

Be sure to bring your own utensils, drinks and chair.

All times are EASTERN



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Alumaflamingo

Sarasota, Florida

February 24 – March 1, 2015

Temperatures may have been on the chilly side February 24 – March 1, but that didn't extinguish the spirit at Alumaflamingo in Sarasota, Florida. More than 200 Airstreamers gathered for workshops, field trips, entertainment and comradery. There was something for everyone, including coffee and donuts in the morning, a rum distillery tour, volunteering at a Habitat home, kayaking, hands on polishing sessions, a pottery demonstration, mobile app workshop and the latest news from Airstream executive Justin Humphreys. Our own Jay Thompson gave 2 workshops on Caravanning and Camping off the Grid. Gary & RoseMarie Anderson took first place in the navigational challenge.....driving a golf cart with a bag over the drivers head with the partner giving directions!



Gary putting the bag over his head in preparation for the big race.

The crowd is gathering....thinking....????



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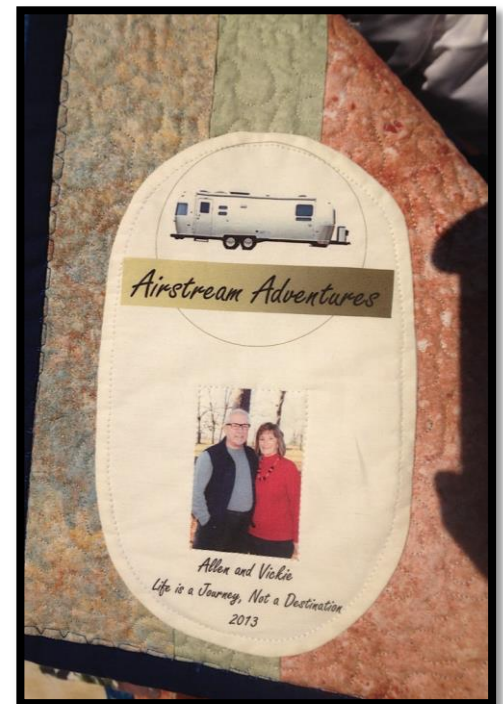
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In the
Spotlight

Allen Gallina & Vickie Hooks

Congratulations on their engagement!



Vickie shared with us her extraordinary quilting talent at the February Rally.

She has created a quilt with photos of the places they have visited with their Airstream.

Such an original idea, with hours of time invested. One talented lady!

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Recipes

This is one of the delicious chicken and rice dishes from the February Rally. Thanks to Karon Beyer!

Chicken and Rice

Boil and chop or shred cooked chicken.

Cook rice and add chopped celery and onions.

Add poultry seasoning, salt, pepper, and a little garlic salt.

Add a can of Cream of Chicken Soup and Chicken Broth to reach a smooth consistency.

Mix together with cooked chicken and bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until done.



Region 3 Rally

April 29 – May 3

Ladson, South Carolina

Join other Region 3 members for a fabulous rally near Charleston, SC!

Big Benders already registered are Thompson, Montague, Anderson, Hentz, Tripp, Lewis

To register, go to: <http://region3.wbcci.net/region-3-rally-registration/>

There is no upfront cost, pay when you arrive.

Cost is \$40 per adult, Total cost for 2 adults is \$200.

There is no discount for boondocking.

Electrical hookups at the Fairgrounds are mostly 50amp. Please bring a 50amp cord or a 50amp to 30 amp adaptor.

*For planning purposes, please register by **April 15**.*



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Stupendous Seashore and Swamp Unit Caravan

May 17 - 24, 2015

Bill & Linda Coleman will be leading the 2015 Unit caravan which will leave Ft. Clinch on May 17 to explore the Southeast corner of Georgia. There will be stops at 2 different campgrounds, one at St. Marys, GA and another at Brunswick, GA. From each area there is a multitude of activities that Bill and Linda have been scouting. Plan to put these dates on your calendar and join us!

Itinerary

May 17 - 20 - Camping at St Mary's, GA

Suggested dinner at St Mary's Seafood & More (great place)

May 18 - 19 - May Cumberland Island Tours or area exploration

May 20 Day trip to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge with possible afternoon boat ride plus exploration of Folkston, GA

May 21 - 24 Camping at Brunswick, GA

May 22- Suggested dinner at Zachary's Seafood & Steaks

May 23- Day trip on St Mary's Express train (only day offered)

Distances

Fort Clinch, FL - St Marys, GA 30 miles

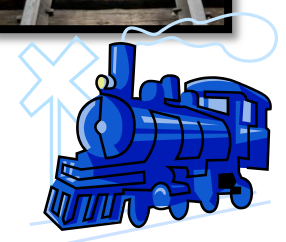
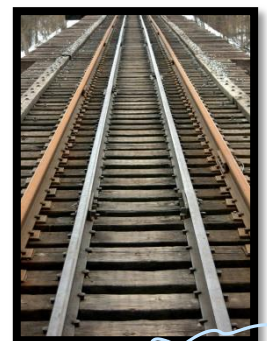
St Marys, GA - Brunswick, GA 44 miles

Ft Clinch, FL - Wall Drug, SD 1813 miles

There is no Kitty Fee for this caravan; each unit will be responsible to make their own camping arrangements at the designated campsite. There will be suggestions for group activities or time to explore on your own schedule.

NOTE: Passage on the boat to Cumberland Island should be made ASAP. Call Cumberland Tours 1-877-860-6787. M - F (10am -4pm)

Contact Bill Coleman for campsite info
850-668-0113 or ourplantation@gmail.com



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Florida State Rally

March 1-8, St. Augustine, Florida



Sandy & Don Woods, Mary & Chip Adams and Bonnie and Jim Lewis on a Boat trip during the Florida State Rally.

Watch next month's issue for the complete lowdown from Woods, Adams, Lewis, Daws & Weilhammer!

International Convention/Rally



June 26 - July 4, 2015

Farmington, New Mexico

Registration information is included in the Blue Beret and also at the website (wbcci.org) and Facebook. (Farmington Rally 2015)

Mesa Verde –One of the spectacular places to visit near Farmington.