

THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 41

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A few words from Jim.....

President

Jim Hentz

1st Vice President

Bill Coleman

2nd Vice President

Unfilled

Secretary/Webmaster

RoseMarie Anderson

Treasurer

Martina Pelley

Trustees

Bill Worthington

Carol Montague

Amy Waymire

Wally Welch

Membership

Mary & Chip Adams

Historian

Chris Duncan

Big Bend Members – In my last newsletter I failed to mention the results of our short business meeting held at the April Rally at East Bank. So, allow me to bring you up to date. RoseMarie Anderson was approved to be our delegate at the International Rally. We found out that Jack and Sherry White would also be attending the International Rally so Jack was approved to be our alternate delegate. There are two issues for our delegate to vote on our behalf; (1) The nominees for 2016 WBCCI Officers and (2) one constitutional amendment. Our delegate is authorized to vote yes on both issues. If other issue(s) come before the delegates meeting, RoseMarie is authorized to vote as she deems appropriate.

Following the East Bank rally several members traveled to Ladson, SC for the Region 3 Rally. We have two Region 3 reports in this newsletter. Elna Thompson was kind enough to write up a summary of some of the happenings at the Rally and Carol Montague prepared a summary of the Region 3 Board meeting. Thank you Elna and Carol for the reports.

Pat and I regret not being able to attend the May Rally at Fort Clinch or participate in Bill and Linda Coleman's mini caravan. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a summary of the rally and mini-caravan prepared by Bill and Linda.

Martina has provided a financial report as of the May 7 bank statement. The unit has \$323.42 in the church fund and \$4,275.90 in the general fund for a total of \$4,599.32. Thank you Martina.

Kudos to Vickie Hooks Gallina on her article in the Blue Beret about her beautiful quilt!

This will be our last newsletter until August. Hope everyone will have a wonderful summer. Our next rally will be at Uchee Army Campground, September 18-20. More information regarding the September rally will be in the August newsletter. Hope to see many of you there.

Blessings to all

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Region 3 Meeting – Elna Thompson

Big Bend was well represented by 17 members (9 rigs) and affiliates at LOW COUNTRY REFLECTIONS, the 2015 Region 3 Rally. The Cowarts, Hunts, Lewises, Martinys, Montagues, Skippers, Thompsons and Jack Whites and Tom Cotter.

Located at the fairgrounds (Exchange Park) in Ladson, SC, just outside Charleston, we had many opportunities to tour this Historic harbor town by foot, horse drawn carriages and car. What a great place to tour and dine. Culinary Tours and Brews Cruise sold out quickly, but by mentioning the Airstream name we were able to get discounted rates on Harbor Boat Tours, Walking or Paddling Tours or even a Civil and Revolutionary War Tour. So much textbook/novel history occurred here!

At the huge building scheduled seminars on Leadership, Caravanning, Boon docking in your rig, Tire monitoring, the Balloon Fiesta, Water and Taking care of your Tanks. We were served delicious breakfasts and a Low Country Boil with dessert provided by the Dutch oven cookers! Yum! No rally would be complete without a swap meet/craft show and we had a good one. Sandwiched in amongst the other meetings, we had our 2015 Region 3 business meeting updating members on region and International issues. Drawings for door prizes were held with the monies raised going to Meals on Wheels.

One night we were entertained by Jocelyn Oldham whose vocal renditions amazed us all and the next night Black Bottom Biscuits played selections of old time country and "rockabilly". Spare time was spent browsing through Airstream of South Carolina's four rigs they brought to tempt some with the new models of 23', 28' and 30' trailers and a beautiful Interstate.

Our unit got together for a pot luck hunch and that was great as we had time to visit with new members and each other.

BIG BEND ROCKS!

Report on the Region 3 board meeting - Carol Montague

Jack did a great job with the flag at the opening ceremony. There were 244 people registered at the Region 3 rally, 131 rigs.

Currently there are 6,014 members of WBCCI - a 4 year high. We are growing. Region 3, the largest region, has 900 - 1000 members with 20 units. Matt Hackney is President; John Ferking - 1st VP and John Leake - 2nd VP. Next year's Region rally will be held in Richmond VA - dates not determined yet.

At the IBT meeting the Long Range Planning Committee became a standing committee. There are 3 proposed changes that will be discussed and voted on at International. (One month ago there were 375 signed up for the International Rally.) A nominating committee for Region 3 was selected, consisting of Ron Allen, Alicia Rafter and Jay Thompson. All Presidents were reminded that they should have the proper paperwork to the representative of the unit at Farmington.



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Six Months Here, Six Months Where?

David & Ann Tripp

Until a couple of years ago we were full timing in a large fifth wheel. We did not like towing the large unit and on occasion would get into trouble when getting off of the interstate and hitting some two lane roadways. We decided that since we spend about 6 months in southwestern Florida and the other 6 months traveling that we would buy a park model unit in the rv park we were using in Arcadia. We were only going to be spending 6 months in the rv so we decided to down size to a smaller unit. We wanted to be able to go anywhere we wanted without worrying about tree limbs, road widths, tight gas stations, etc. After a lot of research an Airstream was our best choice. So we traded in the fifth wheel for a new Airstream and have no regrets, well, maybe a little more storage would be nice but we have learned to live within our space.

So, somewhere around the first of April we moved into our Airstream knowing we will be living in it until around the first week or so of October. This year on the advice of my older sister we are trying to resist using rv parks and focusing on state or national parks. Her opinion was that in state parks you get larger sites, there is more to do and they are less expensive. So far we have experienced all of those with the only drawback being you do not always get 3 point hookups. So you learn to lean on the education from Jay about how to make your gray tank last longer. You use the shower house for your showers, only wash dishes once a day and it is OK to use paper plates.



So far since we hit the road we have been in 9 state parks, not a lemon in the bunch, although Faver Dykes could use a little more water pressure. Georgia has some really nice state parks as does Florida. We are currently enjoying a nice park in Mississippi, Paul B. Johnson state park. We do not use a strict travel plan that stretches out for a long duration and we make reservations on short notice, based on the weather or our need to take some time off for site seeing, golf or just enjoying a new location . We want to be as flexible as we can in case we want to head a different direction at some point. We know that we want to visit our son in Abilene, Texas we just do not have an exact route we will use to get there.

That is how our summer will go in our Airstream using state parks, hiking the trails that they have and looking at the sites that they provide.

David & Ann Tripp spend 6 months of the year in Arcadia, Florida and spend the other 6 months traveling around the upper 48 states.

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May Rally at Fort Clinch

It was a glorious, sun filled, but wee bit dusty weekend at the Fort Clinch Rally. Entering through a tree lined road into the campground made me think we were WAY out in the woods, yet we were only 5 miles from the pretty little town of Fernandina Beach, Florida. It's hard to sum up the weekend in a few words when it includes a beach, a historic fort, a historic plantation, a groovy little town, great restaurants and fun member get-togethers. So take it from the mouths of some of our members who were asked what they liked about the weekend.

Tom Beyer – *Gnats and no see-ums cooperated for a wonderful weekend.*

Martina Pelley – *Tree lined road into camp was breathtaking!*

Chip Adams – *Dusty. Lots of shade. Excellent food. Good breakfast. (Baked French toast casserole – look for recipe at the end of the newsletter!)*

RoseMarie – *Dancing on the beach. Spider web heaven.*

Linda Coleman – *Scenic Splendor.*

Mary Adams – *Weather amazing. Hosts wonderful. (Totally unsolicited! ☺)*

Katherine Kaymira – *Visit to Kingsley Plantation showed me a part of Florida I had never seen.*

Gary Anderson – *Diversity of park. Short walk to beach, fort, town. Sightseeing opps.*

Bottom line, if you haven't been to Fort Clinch, put it on your to-do list. It was a great weekend!



Rally Attendees: Andersons, Adams, Colemans, Pelley, Beyers, Tripps, Gallinas (yes, they are married now) Woods & Weilhammer & Kaymira.

Rally photos by Bill Coleman & Rosemarie Anderson

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In 1847 construction began on **Fort Clinch**, a military installation built to guard the mouth of the St. Mary's River and protect coastal shipping and the deep-water port of Fernandina, Florida. Today it is a time capsule including a prison, guard room, barracks, bakery, blacksmith shop, kitchens, laundry, latrine, storehouse and Quartermaster.



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Dinner at Crab Trap in Fernandina Beach



1st VP....always
recruiting new
members!



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Stupendous Seashore and Swamp Unit Caravan

The fun began as Chip and Mary Adams, Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Bill and Linda Coleman and Martina Pelley caravanned from the Ft. Clinch Rally to St. Marys, GA. Monday bright eyed and eager we headed for the Cumberland Island's "Land and Legacy Tour". The 45-minute boat trip was simply awesome as was our day trip on the very romantic and historical Cumberland Island.



We were surprised that only 300 people are allowed

on the Island each day - we were part of the precious few in our 10 party van tour. We were given the glorious history of the island and even visited the tiny chapel where JFK Jr. and Caroline were married in 1996.



The tour of Carnegie's Plum Orchard Mansion was a highlight-very "Downton Abbey".



Chip Adams admiring one of many Tiffany lamps throughout the home.



Written by Bill & Linda Coleman

Photos by Bill Coleman

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The Okefenokee Swamp Adventure boat ride was next! What a glorious day to cruise through the lovely canals filled with gators and lily pads. Then who knew... a Thai restaurant in tiny Folkston, GA to savor the exotic in rural Southern Georgia along with the roar of major train traffic in "The Funnel"!



Our adventure continued in Brunswick, GA. The Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation turned out to be a gem-complete with a colorful guide/historian. Another picture perfect day included trolley tour of St. Simon Island with a charismatic guide through history. The last day included a self-guided Jekyll Island through the land of the rich and famous a short train ride in St. Marys.



With Big Bend Food IS Foremost. "St Marys Seafood and More" provided a simple but a satisfying seafood dinner. "Wee Pub" was an unexpected treasure with their own slant on British pub food and entertainment in St Marys (also in Brunswick). In Brunswick we rendezvoused for Shrimp and Grits, Crab Cakes and Shrimp Creole at nearby Zachary's! On St Simon's we fought for a table at "Southern Soul BBQ" - a local fave featured by famed Food Networks 3Ds Guy Fieri.

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Baked French Toast Casserole with Maple Syrup



Recipe courtesy of Paul Deen and Food Network

Total Time: 9 hr
Prep: 20 min
Inactive: 8 hr
Cook: 40 min

Yield:
6 to 8 servings
Level: Easy

Ingredients

1 Loaf French Bread (13 to 16 ounces)
8 large eggs
2 cups half-and-half
1 cup milk
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
Dash salt
Praline Topping, recipe follows
Maple syrup

Praline Topping:

1/2 pound (2 sticks) butter
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
2 tablespoons light corn syrup
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Directions

Slice French bread into 20 slices, 1-inch each. (Use any extra bread for garlic toast or bread crumbs). Arrange slices in a generously buttered 9 by 13-inch flat baking dish in 2 rows, overlapping the slices. In a large bowl, combine the eggs, half-and-half, milk, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt and beat with a rotary beater or whisk until blended but not too bubbly. Pour mixture over the bread slices, making sure all are covered evenly with the milk-egg mixture. Spoon some of the mixture in between the slices. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

The next day, preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Spread Praline Topping evenly over the bread and bake for 40 minutes, until puffed and lightly golden. Serve with maple syrup.

Praline Topping:

Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl and blend well. Makes enough for Baked French Toast Casserole.

Recipe courtesy of Paula Deen

Thanks to Linda Coleman for contributing the recipe.

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Reasons NOT to be an officer of the Big Bend Airstream Unit

When Gayle Duncan approached me to be an officer in the Unit I started ticking off in my mind the title of this message. Wait a minute Gayle I can't do this – I am working full time, have a business in which I have major responsibilities, I participate in other organizations that I am committed to, there are things I want to do in my own life and on and on and on. When thoughts are on that path one will convince themselves why something should not be done. In spite of all these thoughts Gayle gave me the “look” and I knew what the answer was going to be.

Yes. There are always challenges when accepting a new task, but many of these evaporated due to the willingness of club members to help. Perhaps the major responsibility was to schedule the monthly rallies. One of my objectives was to schedule campgrounds that the Club has not used in a while. Remember I was still working full time. I turned to the internet, club member input, and geographical locations that would seem fair to all members. Another bonus for me was that Gayle and John were continually sharing records, timelines and coaching me to finish, prior to the due date, the small amount of paperwork that is necessary.

In summation, none of the reasons I initially thought of became true. What did happen is that I expanded my Airstream world. It provided amazing opportunities to meet and work with people from whom I learned so much about Airstreams, WBCCI, and the total RV'ing experience. I enjoyed my time as an officer of Big Bend and encourage others to take that leap. With a good positive attitude I am confident you will not regret the move.



Submitted by Gary Anderson



Southern Souls BBQ

Food stop for the Unit Caravan

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2016 Rally Sites

December (2015)

12 Dec @ 5PM Christmas Dinner/Toys for Tots
Old Town Café
1415 Timberlane Rd Tallahassee, FL
850-893-5741
www.old-town-cafe.com/



January

15 - 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend No Host
Ho Hum RV Park
2132 Hwy 98 East, Carrabelle, FL 32322
850-697-3926
www.hohumrvpark.com/

February

12 - 14 Yellow Jacket RV Resort
55 S.E. 503 Ave.
Old Town, FL 32680
352-542-8365
www.yellowjacketrvresort.com/

March

11 - 13 Fort Pickens Campground
1400 Fort Pickens Rd, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561
850-934-2622
www.reserveamerica.com/

Suggested activities

Canoeing @ Blackwater River State Park



shutterstock - 133846958

April

Early April Florida State Rally (Keys?)
8 - 10 Albany RV Resort
1202 Liberty Expy, Albany, GA 31705
866-792-1481
229-431-2229

www.albanyrvresort.com

Suggested activities

Chehaw Park/Zoo/Native American Festival

Flint RiverQuarium

Albany Museum of Art

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, the Okefenokee Swamp Park

<http://www.okeswamp.com/>

Swamp Park Train/Guided boat tour into the Okefenokee Swamp

Flea Market/Nearby Farm House Restaurant

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May

15 – 17 T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park
8899 Cape San Blas Rd, Port St Joe, FL 32456
850-227-1327

www.reserveamerica.com/

June 28 – July 5 International Rally

Lewisburg, W. Virginia

www.wbcci.org



August Luncheon/ Dinner TBD

September

9 – 11 Eagles Roost RV Resort - *Buddy Rally*

5465 Mill Store Rd, Lake Park, GA 31636

(229) 559-5192

www.eaglesroostresort.com

Suggested activities

Flea Market Adjacent

Lake Park Outlets

Wild Adventure Amusement Park within 13 miles

1890'S Agirama Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village

(45 miles away)

October

7 – 10 Emerald Lake RV Resort Colquitt GA

698 Enterprise Road Colquitt Ga 39837

229-309-7195/ 229-758-5878

www.emeraldalakervresort.org

Suggested activities

Tarrer Inn 155 S Cuthbert St Colquitt, GA 39837 (229) 758-2888

Swamp Gravy (Official Folk Life Play of Georgia) 1-800-514-3849

Walking tour Colquit murals

November Installation Rally

4 – 6 Live Oak Landing Freeport, FL

229 Pitts Avenue

Freeport, FL 32439

877-436=5063

www.rvcoutdoors.com/live-oak-landing/

Spring 2016 – Unit Caravan - TBD