

# THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA  
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB  
INTERNATIONAL**



**VOLUME 43  
NUMBER 5  
APRIL 2017**

[bigbendfl.wbcci.net](http://bigbendfl.wbcci.net)

## **OFFICERS 2016 - 2017**

**President**  
Jim Weilhammer

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
Tom Beyer

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Craig Brinkley

**Secretary**  
Katherine Kamiya

**Treasurer**  
Martina Pelley

**Trustees**  
Gary Anderson  
John Duncan  
Linda Coleman  
Jim Lewis

**Membership**  
Mary & Chip Adams

**Directory/Webpage**  
RoseMarie Anderson

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



### **SPRING FORWARD**

**By Jim Weilhammer**

Spring is the season of fresh starts and new beginnings. Last month, at F.D. Roosevelt State Park, temperatures plunged into the 30's overnight and we huddled in an open pavilion savoring breakfast beignets right out of the fryer. In the early hours of that morning, the time changed to daylight savings time, something that made sense when we were all farmers. The spring equinox ushered in the first official day on spring on March 20<sup>th</sup> with azaleas ablaze having survived the cold temperatures. This morning my grandchildren were entranced by a rabbit sitting in our yard munching on new sprouts that emerged overnight. They rushed downtown for the Springtime Tallahassee Parade in shorts and tank tops expecting high temperatures in the 80's.

For some, there is an urge to clean up the winter's dust or to repair that thing on the trailer before it gets too hot. My trailer has a new bright shine. Caravans have begun and caravan leaders are getting ready for their long travel season, stopping at the Region 3 Rally in Hiawassee, Alumapalooza at the factory, the International Rally in Escanaba before leading their own caravans. It is hard to believe that we have already had four events in the current camping year. We have had good attendance at each and the hosts have gone out of their way to add extra fun with themed events, local tours, restaurant dining and special activities.

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

Save Your Pull Tabs.....	2
Looking for Stories.....	2
Georgia Plantations Cookout.....	3
Rally Spotlight .....	4
Rally Recipe.....	8
Silver Springs Rally Schedule. ....	9
Favorite Spots .....	11





## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .**

This month we have two Airstream rallies. The unit rally at Cedar Key RV Resort, April 7-9, 2017 will coincide with the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts. The Region 3 Rally, April 26-30 is in a fantastic location, Hiawassee, GA. Look for the article, Favorite Spots in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northeast Georgia, by Chip and Mary Adams and their recommendations on the best BBQ and donuts and lots more. If you have registered for Region 3 Rally, you should have received the agenda from John Frerking, President of Region 3. If you get a chance, introduce yourself to John. He is a fine gentleman and his wife is a great partner a very nice lady. Speaking of officers, Jason Friedrich has agreed to serve as a trustee next year. We will need another trustee and a second vice president to follow Craig Brinkley. Please consider offering your time and talents.

Speaking of talents, I want to recognize Bill Coleman for his digital expertise documenting our many adventures at rallies. He is generous with his time and freely shares many of the photographs you see in the newsletter. I know Katherine is grateful for his work and welcomes others to share their photos.

Thinking ahead to the fall, the reservation window is now open for the Ft. Pickens Campground, location of our September 15-17, 2017 rally. Those who have already reserved are on Loop E. Join us in beautiful Gulf Breeze, FL. Keep your fingers crossed that we do not have any tropical storms or hurricanes that can block the entrance to the campground. To make reservations call or go online to Reserve America, <http://www.reserveamerica.com>.

And finally, hats off to Karon and Tom Beyer for sharing a preliminary rally schedule for the upcoming 2017-2018 year when we together camping at F.D. Roosevelt State Park. The camping locations they selected are great and they are giving us lots of time to plan. More on the 2017-2018 schedule in the next issue of the newsletter.

## **DON'T FORGET TO SAVE PULL TABS**

Bring your pull tabs from home to any rally. We will have a jar out at each meal to act as a reminder to collect pull tabs and to save any used during the meal. We will donate the tabs at the next WBCCI International Rally in July 2017 to benefit children's charities in the host community of Escanaba, MI.



## **LOOKING FOR STORIES**

Do you have a great Airstream story or adventure you would like to share? Maybe you have a technical tip or wonderful place you would recommend for a future visit. Write it up and send it with photos to [katherinekamiya@hotmail.com](mailto:katherinekamiya@hotmail.com). Your feedback and ideas are always welcome!



## GEORGIA PLANTATIONS AND MORE CARAVAN COOKOUT

Eighteen members of the Big Bend Florida Unit joined the Georgia Plantations and More Caravan for dinner at Bradley's Country Store on March 28, 2017. Caravan leaders, RoseMarie and Gary Anderson, gave a warm welcome to the Coleman's, Hentz's, Beyer's, Thompson's, Friedrich's, Montague's, Skipper's, Wood's, and Weilhammer/Kamiya's. President Jim Weilhammer offered greeting from the club and ideas for local touring. The weather was perfect for dining under the canopy of live oaks. Bradley's did not disappoint and we ate our fill of their famous sausage and smoked pork chops along with sides and Karon Beyer's delicious broccoli salad. We all enjoyed meeting members of the caravan and having the opportunity to visit with old friends in the Airstream family.



Part of the Big Bend Florida group at the Georgia Plantations and More Caravan cookout.





## RALLY SPOTLIGHT: F.D. Roosevelt State Park

By Frankie Worthington



Did you hear it was cold in Roosevelt Country? Did you also hear it was wet in Roosevelt Country? Well, it was cold and wet with temps down to 39 degrees. But did you hear what a great time everyone had despite the weather?

Our fun started Thursday afternoon when five of the ten rigs arrived. The other five made it Friday afternoon. We had lots and lots of good food the whole weekend. By Friday night, our hosts, Tom and Karon Beyer, began to lay out the food and never stopped until Sunday morning. Our hosts took good care of everyone and we like to thank them for doing such a great job. Their friend, Martha Hartley, who lives in Pine Mountain, was “recruited” as a co-host and offered her kitchen and labor which provided great assistance in producing delicious meals in a state park without cooking facilities. We like to thank her as well and hope she can join us again. It was nice having her take part in the rally and hope she enjoyed it as much as we did.

Tom gave each rig a list of possible rally sites for next year. He has not only done a nice job, with locations all around so maybe everyone will be able to attend rallies closer to them, he gave each rally a theme. Tom and Karon also entertained us with a trivia game. Talk about a challenge! This game took lots of brain power. There were prizes to be had ... Jay and Elna were the winners although I accused Jay of checking the internet for his answers. (You didn't, did you Jay?) Just to give you an idea just what we were up against...here's an example:

18 = H on a G\_ C\_

90 = D in a R\_ A \_

Can you solve these?





## **RALLY SPOTLIGHT: F.D. Roosevelt State Park continued . . .**

Everybody seemed to stay on the go. Some checked out the *FDR's Little White House*, some went to the *American Frontier Days* in the state park, others visited the *FDR Museum* while others checked out *Callaway Gardens*. There were shops to be checked out in Pine Mountain and Warm Springs as well. This is just a few things to see and do in the area. There are many more things to do as well.



Linda Coleman at FDR's Little White House



FDR's custom hand-controlled car



Chip Adams, Katherine Kamiya, Jay & Elna Thompson, and Jim Weilhammer





## **RALLY SPOTLIGHT: F.D. Roosevelt State Park continued . . .**

Bill and I checked out a few shops in Pine Mountain. Even though the sky was dark as if rain would come at any minute and a chill in the air, we just could not pass up having a scoop of ice cream while there. Then Saturday we checked out the FDR's Little White House. We enjoyed it all.

We met one our newest members at this rally. Our paths just haven't crossed until now. He's a nice guy and very likable as well as helpful. If you haven't met him yet, you will like him when you do. His name is Jason Friedrich. Looking forward to seeing him again.



Ron Rush, Jason Friedrich, John & Gayle Duncan, Chip Adams, and Jim Weilhammer

Okay, did you get the answers to the two trivia questions? If so, you did well on your own, if not, not to worry, most of us missed them too. If the truth was known, most of us got our answers from someone else because if we got one we were proud to shout it. We did seem to get excited when something comes together. If someone got one, we asked "what's your answer?" None of us followed instructions to "not talk." Okay, here are the answers:

18 Holes on Golf Course

90 Degrees in a Right Angle

Oh, there was one other thing...there was a scoring average to determine your intelligence. We had 35 to solve and the Thompson's got about 18, making the "intelligent" group and the rest of us were either "average" or "somewhat intelligent". Either way, it was a fun game.



## **RALLY SPOTLIGHT: F.D. Roosevelt State Park continued . . .**

Well, this was how I saw the rally. Just a few things to remember:

- 1) No matter how wrong I am, I am always right
- 2) If I am happy, everybody is happy
- 3) Most importantly, I love you all and wish each of you safe travels always

It was a great rally in Roosevelt Country. Until next time . . .



Photo of FDR at work set behind the actual table seen in the photo.



## **RALLY RECIPE: Spinach and Fruit Salad**

**By Pat Hentz**

The following salad was a huge hit at the rally. The recipe is flexible. Use your own judgement as to how much fruit you want to use and feel free to substitute your favorites for the one listed below.

### ***Ingredients:***

8-oz. bottle of Kraft raspberry salad dressing  
6 oz. bag of baby spinach, washed and dried  
Strawberries  
Blueberries  
Mandarin oranges  
Purple seedless grapes  
Kiwi  
Apple  
Sliced almonds

### ***Directions:***

1. Chill the salad dressing, spinach and a large bowl in the refrigerator.
2. Wash fruit and slice into bite size pieces and chill separately in the refrigerator.
3. Right before serving, mix together salad dressing, spinach and fruit in a large bowl.
4. Sprinkle salad with sliced almonds and serve immediately.

***Makes 8 servings.***





## **HIGH ON SPRINGTIME RALLY**

### **SCHEDULE: Silver Springs State Park, Ocala, FL**

**By RoseMarie & Gary Anderson and Martina Pelley**

Join us for the May Rally at Silver Springs State Park. There are a host of activities available, including canoeing, kayaking, hiking and biking trails, glass bottom boats on the springs, tour of a Cracker Village and Gypsy Gold Horse Farm or local museums.

**Cracker Village Tour** – If a docent is available, it will be schedule for Saturday afternoon. Located inside the campground.

**Glass Bottom Boat Tour** – Thirty minute tour leaves several times daily. Cost is \$10.00 for seniors. Last trip at 4:30 p.m.

**Extended Boat Tour** – Leaves at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 for seniors.

No reservations for either of the boat tours. Sign up inside Silver Springs Park Entrance. Entrance fee to the State Park is \$2.00.

**Gypsy Gold Horse Farm Tour** – Group tour at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Contact Martina Pelley to make your reservation. Discounted cost is \$20.00. Gypsy Vanner horses are a special breed used by Gypsies to pull their wagons in Europe. The breed has very long hair on the bottom of their legs, has a stocky build and is a good workhorse with an even disposition. The owners of the Gypsy Gold Horse Farm introduced the breed to the US. The farm is located on 40 acres in Ocala, FL. The facility features a 14-stall show barn, a



## **HIGH ON SPRINGTIME RALLY SCHEDULE: Silver Springs State Park continued . . .**

12-stall bedding free barn, surrounded by 19 lush paddocks dotted with ancient granddaddy oaks draped with Spanish moss.

**Other Options:** Appleton Museum featuring Frida Kahlo Through the lens of Nickolas Murray; Ocala Civic Center showing Shrek, the musical; Island Groves & Winery; and Don Garlits Dragstrip Museum.

### **Friday May 19, 2017**

6:00 p.m.                      Dinner of fajitas at campsite (chicken or steak). Members with last names beginning A-D, please bring a dessert to share.

### **Saturday May 20, 2017**

8:15 a.m.                      Breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Members with last names beginning with E-Z, please bring fresh fruit to share.

Lunch on your own.

5:30 p.m.                      Dinner at Mojo Grill. Order from the menu at your own expense.

### **Sunday May 21, 2017**

9:00 a.m.                      Continental breakfast of breakfast bread with cream cheese, butter and jam and cereal with milk.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** At the May Rally, we will be collecting donations of canned food for *America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend* (Second Harvest). Second Harvest is part of a national network of 203 food banks across the country. Their mission is to feed the hungry in 11 counties in the big bend area and to educate and engage the community in the fight against hunger. Last year, they collected 61,852 pounds of food or an equivalent of 4.8 million meals. Most Florida schools recess for the summer in May. Many children will face food insecurity without access to the free and reduced school lunch program. Members are asked to donate a plastic grocery sack filled with the six super foods: canned fruit; canned vegetables; canned meat/poultry/fish; whole grain cereal; hearty soups/stews; and peanut butter. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## FAVORITE SPOTS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

**By Chip and Mary Adams**

We hope you are getting excited about and ready for a good time in beautiful Hiawassee, GA for the Region 3 Rally. Our recommendations are not from a onetime trip, but time spent over several summer and spring trips. Please understand that things change over time so you may want to check before you drive.

We have been looking at a map of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northeast Georgia and Southwest North Carolina as we make suggestions that you might enjoy. We hope maps are provided at the Region 3 Rally check-in, but if not, they are available at the Visitors Center in Helen.

Hiawassee is located on US 76, which is from Clayton, off 441 around the mountain to Ellijay. The first thing you will notice about Hiawassee is the beautiful waters of Lake Chatuge. There are beaches on the lake for swimming and it is a great place for boating and fishing.



Lake Chatuge

Favorite places to eat in Hiawassee are PAPA'S PIZZA, a buffet, with our favorite being the chocolate peanut butter pizza. The view at the CHOP HOUSE overlooking the lake is spectacular. There are daily specials. The owner of the Chop House also has SMOKE RINGS BBQ. We have not eaten there, as it has recently re-opened. Home cooking can be found at GEORGIA MOUNTAIN HOME COOKING and DANIEL'S STEAK HOUSE. Both of these are buffets and some days are better than others.

West on US 76 is Young Harris, an attractive small town that is home to Young Harris Liberal Arts College, established in 1886, and William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

Continue onto Blairsville and turn south onto US 129 toward Cleveland. At Owl Town, you will find one of the best BBQ restaurants around. It is JIM'S SMOKIN' QUE on the left side of the road.





## FAVORITE SPOTS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA continued . . .

You will know you are there when you see the large pink pigs (propane tanks) out front, lots of cars, and a line of folks out the door. Hours are Thursday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. It is worth the wait to stand in line. We like the Special Reserve sauce, but all are good. We like the pork, brisket, and chicken and the serving size is large on all of these items.

This is our **#1 recommendation** - an understatement as Chip has his brother bring back sauce when he is in the area, and on our last trip he bought ½ case of sauce.



On US 129, you will pass VOGEL STATE PARK and you can see the waterfall from the road. As most of the parks in the area, this one is beautiful too. Most of the many falls in north Georgia are great, but hiking is involved in seeing them.

From Jim's Smokin' Que, go back north to Track Rock School Road and turn to the right. ALEXANDERS STORE (aka Mountain Walmart) is on this road. Alexanders has family clothing, sporting goods, appliances, furniture, and possibly some canned goods. At times great bargains can be found. Often there are tour buses in the parking lot.

Continue onto Highway 180 the road to BRASSTOWN BALD MOUNTAIN. This is the highest point in Georgia. A trolley is available at the parking lot to ride to the top. From the platform you can see quite a vista of mountains, lakes, and towns and experience noticeably cooler temperatures.





## FAVORITE SPOTS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA continued . . .

Continue to the east on 180 until you come to Highway 75. North goes back to Hiawassee and south goes toward Helen. If you turn south, you will pass Top of Georgia Airstream Park in a valley on the left. Down from the park is Robert Town, where there is tubing, zip lining and a flea market. At Highway 145, turn right to go to UNICOI STATE PARK, Anna Ruby Falls is to the left in the park. You can hike to the falls by paved path. If you are a pork rind fan, try them from the store just as you turn onto Highway 45.

Continue onto Helen, a charming alpine village. BETTY'S STORE is on the left. Bettys has groceries, a great meat market, a deli, a large selection of cheeses, and wine and beer and almost anything else you desire. HOFFMAN'S BAKERY AND RESTAURANT is on the left. They have great breads and desserts, especially the apple fritters. Helen has all types of shops and restaurants. PAUL'S STEAK HOUSE on the river is good but \$\$\$ and across the street from Paul's is THE TROLL right on the river. It has good sandwiches, and is nice to watch the tubers. NORTH GEORGIA BBQ is in Helen. It has good food, but not much atmosphere to dine in. For German restaurants, see Jim and Katherine, or Jim and Pat for suggestions. We have eaten in several, but not much experience to judge.

Continue on 75 to Nacoochee Village. NORA MILLS GRANARY, GRIST MILL AND COUNTRY STORE is a good stop. They have grain products, cook ware, and cookbooks. Go out the back door to the deck over the river. You can buy food to feed the large trout in the river or just watch the fish swim. Next door is JUMPIN' GOAT COFFEE ROASTER. Try a cup, coffee beans, or ground coffee. Across the road are HABERSHAM WINERY and NACOOCHEE ANTIQUES. There are several restaurants in the village and Unicoi Outfitters. There is a zip line and a new museum in the village.



At the INDIAN MOUND, turn left on Highway 17 toward Sautee. Visit OLD SAUTEE STORE, deli next door, and multiple shops. The store has clothing, jewelry, cheese, and gifts. The deli has good sandwiches, muffins, and cookies. There is a winery and a coffee shop in Sautee. Turn onto 255 and visit the POTTERY MUSEUM.

OLD BATES STORE is an interesting shop and has good hamburgers. It is on Skylark Road and Highway 255. Highway 255 and 197 heads toward LAKE BURTON. This is a beautiful lake and the favorite of many from Atlanta for lake houses. Coach Vince Dooley from the University of Georgia at Athens (UGA) and Coach Nick Sabin from UGA at that time, but now with University of Alabama, have had homes here. Rebuilding from a tornado several years ago is



## FAVORITE SPOTS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA continued . . .

still going on. There is a marina on Highway 197 and the CHOP HOUSE is a restaurant at the marina. Dining is inside or on the deck. Further to the north is the FISH HATCHERY. If gates are open you can view trout of all sizes in outdoor pools. Next to the hatchery is MOCCASIN CREEK STATE PARK. Reservations are recommended well in advance for this campground right on the lake.

Highway 197 goes back into US 76. The left is back to Hiawassee and to the right is Clayton at US 441.

If you turn north on US 441, you will go to Mountain City. The FOX FIRE MUSEUM is located here. Further north is BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK. No one has enough money to pay us to take the Airstream or any RV to this campground. In fact, once in the truck was enough.

Dillard, GA is the home of the famous DILLARD HOUSE which does country cooking and serves it family- style. There are antique stores and gift shops in the area. OSAGE FARMS is just before the NC line. The produce stand has many local grown fruits and vegetables.

TALLULAH GORGE STATE PARK is south of Clayton on US 441. Turn onto the road to the falls, where a view of the gorge is spectacular.

The MARK OF THE POTTER is on Highway 197 north of Clarksville. It is located in Grandpa Watts' mill. It has multiple potters' works for sale and is a most interesting shop. You can view large trout in the river from inside the shop or from outside further down the stream. NO FISHING ALLOWED.

DEER LODGE is located on 75 N between Helen and Hiawassee, just north of Highway 180. It is open Friday and Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m. BE THERE! They serve a large porterhouse steak, trout, and seafood, and the onion rings and fried green beans are all good. We usually split a meal and add an appetizer to share.



Cleveland, GA is home of the CABBAGE PATCH DOLL HOSPITAL. We have not been through the newer hospital, but the old one was very charming. The halls and rooms were filled with dolls in bassinets. We observed the birth of a doll, born under the leaves of a large cabbage. The birth was attended by a nurse. Arrangements can be made ahead of time to buy this doll and you are allowed to name this doll. There are many dolls for sale with their names and adoption papers. There is a method to rename and reregister your doll.





## FAVORITE SPOTS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA continued . . .

There is also a COURTHOUSE MUSEUM on the square of Cleveland, with much history of the area.

All of you who know Chip have realized that we have not discussed doughnuts. Cleveland has a doughnut shop and they are G-O-O-O-O-D. Get there early in the day.



On 75 between Helen and Cleveland there are restaurants which we have enjoyed. WENDELL'S has a good country breakfast and has lunch specials. It is in a small strip shopping center on the left going toward Cleveland. WESTERN SIZZLER is also on 75. It has a buffet with a large variety of foods. On weekends it has a nice breakfast buffet.

There is a WINEGROWERS TRAIL in this area for members who are into wines and vineyards:

Hightower Creek Vineyard	Hiawassee
Crane Creek Vineyard	Young Harris
Habersham Vineyard	Helen
Yonah Mountain Vineyard	Sautee-Nacoochee
Sautee Nacoochee Vineyard	Sautee
Serenity Cellars	Cleveland
Cottage Vineyard & Winery	Cleveland
Tiger Mountain Vineyards	Tiger
Stonewall Creek Vineyard	Tiger
Cavendar Creek Vineyard	Dahlonega
12 Spies Vineyard	Rabun Gap

We hope to see you all there. Look for the beautiful Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron on the mountain sides.



*"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."*

*Maya Angelou, teacher and writer*