

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
AIRSTREAM CLUB**

UNIT 153 REGION 3



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TIME OF YEAR TO BE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

By Tom Beyer

It's December already and we can feel it in the air. I remember when I was surprised to see families putting up Christmas decorations the day after Thanksgiving and now it's the day after Halloween when the retailers bring out the holiday decorations. It is the most festive time of year and everyone seems to enjoy all the excitement, lights, and decorations. This time of year we should be with family and in touch with close friends. Enjoy the holidays and try not to stress out with all the activities, shopping and deadlines. Sit back and watch a movie or sports event on television and remember who we really are celebrating this month.

The November Rally at Georgia Veterans State Park was fun and the weather was a real surprise. For those who arrived on Thursday, it was a rainy drive and damp night. We all woke up to a cold and breezy Friday and Saturday with Sunday returning to normal. Our Big Bend Florida Charity Marketplace was a whopping success, thanks to Katherine Kamiya. We sold over \$200 in donated items, food, and books. The money was donated to the K9 for Warriors, a very worthy organization headquartered in Florida, dedicated to training and providing service dogs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

A special thanks to Gary Anderson for handling the installation of new officers on Saturday night. We are now off to a new year of rallies, caravans and camping fun.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday December 9th at The Seineyard Restaurant at Wildwood in Crawfordville, FL on Highway 98, just south of Tallahassee. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to *Toys for Tots* for distribution to needy kids. Additional information is included later in this newsletter.

Before the 2018 camping year begins, this month is a good time to check on your rig. Make sure your tires are in good shape and take the time now to make any minor repairs or adjustments before it's time to get back on the road.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

MEMBER NEWS

By Karon Beyer

It's time to make your reservations for the winter rallies. Please email me to confirm your participation and to volunteer to be a rally host.

Holiday and New Year Celebration

Fri. January 19-
Sun. January 21, 2018

Hosts Needed

Seminole State Park
7870 State Park Drive
Donaldsonville, GA 39845
Reservations: 800-864-7275
State Park: 229-861-3137
<http://gastateparks.org/Seminole>
Rate: \$30.00/night.

Valentine's Day Celebration

Fri. February 16-
Sun. February 18, 2018

Hosts: Bill & Linda Coleman and
Martina Pelley

Eagles Roost RV Resort
5465 Mill Store Road
Lake Park, GA 31636
Resort: 229-559-5192
<https://www.eaglesroostresort.com/>
Rate: \$33.00/night. Advise "Big Bend Airstream"
when making reservations for 10% group rate.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Georgia Veteran's State Park

By Craig Brinkley



Changing colors on Lake Blackshear

Fall was definitely surrounding us this weekend. Leaves were turning colors and the weather was cool - finally! Heading up to Georgia Veteran's State Park in South Georgia was serene. The farmers' crops were being gathered. Tractors and wagons were all over the road taking in cotton and peanuts. It really reminded me of the true American Farmer and what they stand for. It also reminded me of the harvest of the crops that led to the Thanksgiving holiday that we now celebrate!

My rally experience started a few hours before I arrived at the park. I found a restaurant in Cordele, GA that was #1 on Trip Advisor. It was called Tri-County Seafood Market and Restaurant. Their special of the day was mullet and roe. I have been craving this since it is the season for mullet roe. They did not disappoint and it sure was good! After that, I was on to the park.



Cotton fields ready for harvesting



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Gerogia Veteran's State Park continued . . .

The rally participants consisted of Teddy and me along with Winston and Carol Montague, Tom and Karon Beyer, Ron and Karen Rush, Jay and Elna Thompson, Bill and Linda Coleman, Gayle, John and Chris Duncan, Jason Friedrich, Martina Pelley, Don and Sandy Wood, Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Katherine Kamiya and our newest members, Scott and Jan Phaff.



Scott and Jan Phaff

The rally started off Friday evening with a pot luck dinner. It was a good time under the pavilion. Thanks to the members that brought lanterns. Evening now comes early and we needed them!



Friday night pot luck dinner at the pavilion

Saturday started off with a delicious hot breakfast provided by the Coleman's including several homemade casseroles, fruit, sausage biscuits and coffee. After breakfast, several people went out to tour the area, visit the aircraft on display in the park, ride the SAM train to Plaines, GA and just shop in historic Americus.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Gerogia Veteran's State Park continued . . .



Aircraft on display in the park

Some stayed behind and watched college football. We gathered at 3:00 p.m. back at the pavilion for a white elephant/flea market/silent auction to honor the sacrifices of service members on Veteran's Day and to benefit K9 for Warriors, an organization that provides veterans with service dogs. There were lots of treasures and baked goods donated for the cause. We raised \$236.00! Thanks to everyone that participated in this endeavor.

Saturday night was a very special night. It was our Installation of Officers for the upcoming year. We were seated in a private room in the conference center at Lake Blackshear Resort and had a selection of diverse entrees for our dinner. Gary Anderson conducted the installation and Tom Beyer made special recognition of the veterans in the club and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Karon & Tom Beyer, Craig Brinkley, Martina Pelley, Jason Friedrich, Linda Coleman



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Gerogia Veteran's State Park continued . . .

A donation to the Big Bend Hospice House was made in memory of Jim Weilhammer. A special presentation of a bonsai tree was made to Katherine Kamiya for her tireless dedication to our club.



Karon Beyer, Katherine Kamiya and Tom Beyer

By the way, how can we forget the “free music entertainment” from the wedding reception next door to us? Thanks to the officers that are serving this upcoming year. President Beyer has some exciting places to go. Let’s all support him by participating in all the rallies.

Sunday morning brought a continental breakfast headed up by the Andersons. Breakfast consisted of a selection of muffins, breads, yogurt, fruit and plenty of fellowship. All good things must come to an end, and it did as we parted ways and headed back through the country back to our respective homes. All in all, another great rally!

RALLY SPOTLIGHT POST SCRIPT

By Katherine Kamiya

At the rally, I expressed my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club who through their cards and calls have shown their love and support to both Jim and I during these last few months. For those not present but so much in my heart, I also want to say thank you. It seems too little to say for so much.



RALLY RECIPE: Santa Fe Soup

By Gayle Duncan

Soup Ingredients:

2 pounds ground chuck
1 large onion chopped
2 (1-oz.) envelopes Ranch dressing mix
2 (1.25-oz.) packets taco seasoning mix
2 (11-oz.) cans white shoe peg corn
2 cups water
1 (16-oz.) can black beans, undrained
1 (16-oz.) can pinto beans, undrained
1 (16-oz.) can kidney beans, undrained
1 (14.5-oz.) can whole tomatoes, undrained
1 (10-oz.) can diced tomatoes with chilies, undrained



Garnishes:

Sour cream
Cheddar cheese, shredded
Green onions, sliced
Tortillas
Corn bread
Corn chips

Directions:

1. In a Dutch oven, cook ground chuck and onions until meat is browned and onions are tender. Drain off drippings.
2. Add all remaining soup ingredients, stirring well. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 2 hours.
3. Top individual servings with grated cheddar cheese, sour cream and chopped green onions. Serve with corn bread, tortillas or corn chips.

Makes 3 quarts, serving 12-16 people.



ALUMALINA: Palmetto Cove, SC

By Elna Thompson



Imagine driving through the mountain woods on narrow winding with beautiful colorful trees all around. Suddenly out into a clearing there appear multitudes of shiny silver bodies with hundreds of folks milling around. That's what it's like to go to Alumalina in October. We look forward to it each year and seeing lots of friends and making new ones in an action filled week. The Montagues and Thompsons joined in on the fun.

John Leake, our Region 1st Vice President, hosts this event each year and he and Susan are a delight to be around. Each of us campers had sites with full to minimal service.

Excellent seminars were offered on women in camping (DON'T MESS WITH AN AIRSTREAM WOMAN), technical aspects of rigs, brakes, plumbing, electrical systems, and a crafty creation time.



There were daily opportunities to meet and greet, time to exhibit and sell crafts, and "Rita" made her daily appearance. (John has a margarita machine that has grown in popularity!) Hot dogs and goodies, possum bog (a stew that tastes like and is chicken), a pot luck dinner and the star of the show - a fish fry featuring white fish, shrimp, deviled crab, hushpuppies and fries. Yum! NO ONE GOES AWAY HUNGRY!

With over 180 rigs in attendance Alumalina has become one of the more popular fall events. The rally fee is \$20 plus camping fees of \$25 per night. The location is Palmetto Cove, South Carolina. Sign up with John Leake and reserve your spot for next year!



DESTINATION POINT: Dearborn, MI

By Gary Anderson

Located in Dearborn Michigan, the Ford Museum and Greenfield Villages will transport you to a place in time that will showcase most any interest you may have. Staying at Addison Oaks county park RoseMarie and I spent two days visiting the museum and village. The RV Park was reasonably convenient to the venue and a fairly nice place. During the week quite calm and on the weekend it was filled with city folks. The gravel/clay sites after a rain did cause some issues but that is part of RV-ing.

Ford Museum was opened in 1929 with the purpose of preserving history in an entertaining way. So many originals: Farm equipment including the 1st Fordson tractor. The entire DC generator that Edison built to provide electricity to a portion of New York City during the time period of “Will electricity be AC or DC?” This exhibit hall is three stories high.

Automobiles/Transportation: The car that President Kennedy was riding in on that fateful day in November in Dallas. Bill Elliott’s record breaking race car – 212 M.P.H. at Talladega. The largest most powerful steam engine in the world. Furniture: The chair that President Lincoln was sitting in at Ford Theater. Hundreds of beautiful dressers and chairs. Air and Space: Famous aircraft including Admiral Perry’s equipment during his journey to the North Pole. At the Museum there is an area for RV-ing displaying the evolution of RV’s. And yes, there is an Airstream displayed.





DESTINATION POINT: Dearborn, MI continued . . .



At Greenfield Village - which is another day (do not attempt both on the same day) - Ford and his team recreated American History in districts. Working farms (real working farms), Eighteen and Nineteen Century homes and shops that represent the time periods. You can even hand cancel a letter in an old timey Post Office. If Model T's interest you, take a walk through the early 1900's village.

Ford purchased and moved to Greenfield Village many of the homes and buildings that belonged to famous people in American History. An example is the Wright Brothers bicycle shop and the homes of Noah Webster and Robert Frost.

Not everything is about buildings. RoseMarie and I enjoyed an authentic 1830 lunch, and then watched a baseball game from 1867. Speaking with the players I learned they were not paid employees but residents of the nearby communities that really play in a league for 1867 baseball. They were getting ready for an upcoming tournament.

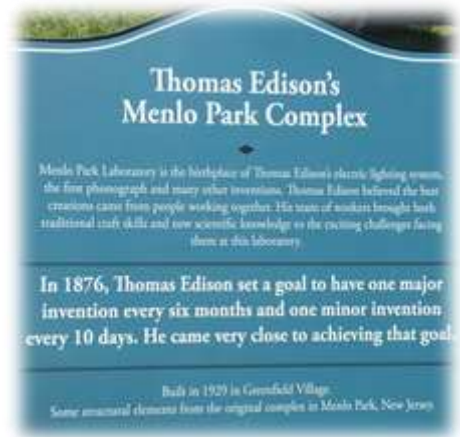
It was two enjoyable full days. Something for everyone - displayed in ways that you forget you are in a museum.



Blown glass vessel three feet high – look at the colors!



DESTINATION POINT: Dearborn, MI continued . . .



Edison's Lab





DESTINATION POINT: Dearborn, MI continued . . .

Poster found in the museum . . . a little reminder of how far we have come.





**BIG BEND FLORIDA AIRSTREAM
CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Saturday December 9 2017
The Seineyard at Wildwood
3870 Coastal Highway
(Highway 98)
Crawfordville, FL 32326
(850) 926-9191



We will be able to order from the menu and individuals will pay for their own meals. The menu includes shrimp, fish crab, oysters, and scallops, which can be prepared fried, blackened or grilled. Also available are steak and chicken dinners. All entrees are served with two sides. Choices are house salad or coleslaw, baked, sweet or French fried potatoes or grilled vegetables. Your choice of beverage.

To review all menu choices go to:
www.theseineyard.com/menu.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling Karon Beyer at (850) 656-7487 or by email at karonbeyer@outlook.com by December 2nd.

Please support **Toys for Tots** by bringing a gift of a new unwrapped toy or book for a child birth to 12 years of age. Gifts for older children are especially appreciated.



“The power of beauty is that it encapsulates all the bitter sweet elements and mirrors them back as a breathtaking masterpiece.”

Wayne Chirisa, writer and entrepreneur