

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB
INTERNATIONAL**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ALWAYS BE PREPARED

By Jim Weilhammer

The summer solstice is not until June 21st but in most other ways it feels like summer already. School is out, temperatures have already exceeded 90 degrees, vacation travel has begun and so has the Atlantic hurricane season. At the last WBCCI International Rally in Lewisburg, VA, I attended a fascinating lecture by Beth McCall on *Using Your Airstream as an Escape Pod*. Most of the tips were familiar but grouped together they made me think of my Airstream in new ways. Your Airstream is a potential evacuation shelter, if moved well ahead of the storm to an area outside of the storm's path. It can also be temporary housing following a disaster when your home is damaged or power is out. We used our trailer last September when Hurricane Hermine hit Tallahassee. Although only a category 1 storm, over 700 homes were damaged and power was knocked out to more than 95,000 electric customers. Ahead of the storm, we started the trailer refrigerator and after losing power, we were able to save most of our food by moving it into the trailer freezer and refrigerator.

There are a number of good local, state and national resources with checklists of food, water and supplies to have on-hand to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane. One of the best is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/features/hurricanepreparedness/index.html>.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

Thinking specifically about your Airstream as an evacuation shelter or temporary housing, consider the following tips:

- ✓ Complete routine maintenance on your tow vehicle, trailer or motorhome
- ✓ Complete routine maintenance on your generator and have fresh fuel available
- ✓ Fuel up your tow vehicle and motorhome
- ✓ Have maps available of areas that may be potential evacuation zones
- ✓ Make copies of important papers you may need if you leave your home
- ✓ Fill your propane tanks
- ✓ Empty your waste tanks
- ✓ Fill your fresh water tanks before the storm
- ✓ Check batteries (large and small) and have a supply of extras
- ✓ Have disposable goods onboard for eating and trash collection
- ✓ Have a good selection of tools, tarps, duct tape, dust masks and other repair supplies
- ✓ Have a hand-crank or battery-operated radio
- ✓ Have portable battery-operated lights
- ✓ Have personal hygiene and first aid supplies, including a space blanket
- ✓ Have a whistle (to alert others of the need for assistance)
- ✓ Have adequate supplies of all medications
- ✓ Have a bucket for multiple uses including as a portable toilet (with the addition of kitty litter)
- ✓ Non-perishable food and water
- ✓ Consider purchasing a hand-powered portable washing machine
- ✓ Get cash in case banks and ATM's are temporarily unavailable

June 2-4, 2017 is a sales tax holiday in Florida for hurricane and storm supplies such as flashlights, batteries and weather radios. For more information go to:

www.floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Pages/default.aspx.

Have fun this summer but always be prepared.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Big Bend Florida Unit has new members to add to the Membership Directory and a few members have contacted me recently with additional updates. Before I issue a revised directory, would you please take a moment to review your entry and let me know if there are any changes in your contact information. No action is required if your information is complete and correct. Please send any updates by June 16th to katherinekamiya@hotmail.com. A revised directory will follow shortly thereafter. Thanks for your assistance.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Silver Springs State Park

By Katherine Kamiya

Miss Smarty Pants, our Garmin navigator, mis-spoke and Jim and I missed the final turn for 58th Avenue that would take us into the campground entrance for Silver Springs State Park. After finding a road where we could turn around, we pulled up to the ranger station just after 5:00 p.m. on Friday. It was raining and we were not looking forward to setting up in the poor conditions. We were at the campsite less than five minutes when Chip Adams showed up and within twenty minutes, our stabilizer jacks were down, the water was hooked up and power was on in the trailer. He told us dinner had been moved to the pavilion and gave us time to gather our dishes while he collected Mary and returned to pick us up in his truck.

We were the last to arrive at the pavilion and joined Gayle and John Duncan, Craig and Monica Brinkley, Linda and Bill Coleman, Don and Sandy Wood, Karon and Tom Beyer, Shearn and Ginger Spenard, Shelia and Jim Skipper, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Karon and Ron Rush, Jason Friedrich, Gordon Johnson and his guest Jan Sentman. We gathered many hugs and handshakes from friends we had not seen for a while. We heard about the boat trip that several members had enjoyed that afternoon as well as a Museum Tour provided by WBCCI members, Barbara and Tom Davis, who were hosting at the campground. RoseMarie and Gary Anderson and Martina Pelley, our hosts for the weekend, were struggling with power at the pavilion and too busy to visit. The aroma of sizzling beef fajitas told us that power problems had been overcome. We enjoyed a wonderful meal of fajitas with all the trimmings and a delicious selection of desserts provided by members. It was a busy day and we slept well.





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Silver Springs State Park continued . . .



Saturday started with an early continental breakfast so those touring the Gypsy Gold Horse Farm could depart at 9:00 a.m. Martina graciously let me ride with her and we joined about half our group for an orientation lecture and tour of the farm. We learned about the personal journey of the owner, Dennis Thompson, discovering the breed in a Roma Caravan in England, establishing and naming the breed, and developing a breeding registry and farm in the US. The Gypsy Vanner breed is a small Shire known for its elegant head, gentle disposition, and feathered hair on its legs. The horse that was in the show barn was a beautiful stallion, with striking piebald (black and white) markings and a beautiful long mane and tail and the distinctive feathered leg hair.

The farm itself sits on 40 beautiful acres and includes a 14 stall show barn, and 19 lush paddocks and of course a gift shop. We toured the farm and were able to provide carrots and apples in a bucket for the horses and most allowed us to stroke them.



Jim & Shelia Skipper



We also learned about Mule Moms who act as surrogates in an embryo transfer program.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Silver Springs State Park continued . . .

Jim stayed behind at the campground and had a more relaxing morning visiting with friends and enjoying a boiled shrimp lunch with Sandy, Donald, Chip, Mary and Shearn.

Back at the campground, I joined a docent led tour of the Cracker Village next to the pavilions. The tour included an old home, a one-room schoolhouse and a blacksmith demonstration. The day was hot and I ready for an air conditioned break before dinner.



Chip and Mary came to our assistance again and drove us into town to Brooklyn's Backyard, an informal eatery with a large menu. We were apparently competing with graduation weekend reservations and the hosts were glad to find a place that could accommodate our large group. At dinner and several other activities throughout the weekend, Jim and I enjoyed talking with Euna and Hugh Ridenour, Members-at-Large who are living in their Airstream at the campground while their new home is being completed. The group left the restaurant well satisfied and took a moment for a group picture.





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Silver Springs State Park continued . . .

Sunday morning was a treat with homemade pancakes, sausage and fresh fruit. We had a relaxed and delicious breakfast before getting ready to head home. Chip (again) helped us load the food donations collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank. He was our guardian angel this weekend for sure. Ginger and Shearn led the way out of the campground, with a shortcut that avoided in-town traffic, and Jason fell in behind us so we had company a good part of the way home.



Monica Brinkley, Karon & Tom Beyer, Martina Pelley and RoseMarie Anderson and the leftovers from the morning breakfast.

Early the following week, we drove to the Second Harvest Food Bank and we were surprised and pleased that our group donated over 81 pounds of non-perishable food. Coincidentally a few days later, the local newspaper front page headline was **AREA LEADS IN FOOD INSECURITY**. “In Second Harvest’s 11 counties there are 99,913 children and youth under 18 years old. Fully 22.7 percent or 22,720 are food insecure. . . Children are not the only vulnerable population, Robin Safley, executive director of Feeding Florida – formerly the Florida Association of Food Banks – warns that a perfect storm of food insecurity is coming for low-income seniors.” Our giving campaign was timely and your generosity was remarkable and much appreciated. Thank you.



RALLY RECIPE: Tommie Jo's Strawberry Trifle

By Mary Adams

I have been making this trifle since 1970. It is a great spring and summer dish as it requires no cooking, is unusually pretty and is an easy recipe. It is very forgiving with substitutions and easy to customize to your favorite flavors.

Ingredients:

- 1 large carton of Cool Whip
- 2 quarts of fresh strawberries
- 2 large boxes of vanilla pudding mix or your favorite flavor
- 6 cups of 2% milk
- 2 large raspberry jelly rolls or 3 boxes of Little Debby's jelly rolls, or pound cake or sponge cake and raspberry jam
- Rum, fruit juice or pineapple wine (optional)



Directions:

1. Combine pudding mixes with milk according to package directions. Cover with plastic wrap directly touching the pudding (to prevent a skin from forming on the pudding).
2. Wash the strawberries, remove the tops and slice berries reserving 6-7 of the prettiest whole berries for decoration.
3. Slice the jelly rolls or cake (and spread cake slices with raspberry jam).
4. Line the bottom and sides of a trifle or glass bowl with slices of the jelly roll. Sprinkle with rum, fruit juice or pineapple wine if desired. Pineapple wine is excellent if you can find it.
5. Mix half of the Cool Whip with the prepared pudding. Place 1/3 of the mixture over the jelly roll or cake slices in the bowl.
6. Place 1/3 of the sliced strawberries over the pudding mixture.
7. Do two more layers the same as the first.
8. Top the last layer with the rest of the Cool Whip and decorate with the whole strawberries.
9. For the best flavor, refrigerate the trifle for several hours before serving and eat it on the day it is made.



REGION 3 RALLY: Hiawassee, GA

By RoseMarie Anderson



Traveling the curvy mountain roads to the Region 3 Rally at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and Campground was slow going. Upon arrival, a full facilities camping area surrounded by a beautiful blue green lake greeted us. Was this Shangri-La? It must be with Airstreams of all sizes parked in site after site. Almost 300 Airstreamers were gathering for four days of seminars, news and entertainment.

No time was wasted, after registration there was a meet and greet, then prep for the evening opening ceremony.

We gathered for a catered dinner of

ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, macaroni and cheese plus pumpkin or pecan pie. Yum, everything was tasty.

The Opening Ceremonies started with the presentation of the American and Club flags, with our Region President John Frerking as Master of Ceremonies. John did an outstanding job throughout the program keeping it light and humorous. His wife Eileen introduced us to “Luci” lights which are inflatable solar



lights designed for people in developing countries who live without electricity. The Luci light was phenomenal. They can be ordered at www.mpowerd.com. Even better, during checkout type Airstream in the code box and receive 20% off plus a Luci will be given to the International Medical Corps for each Luci purchased.



REGION 3 RALLY: Hiawassee, GA continued . . .



Thursday started with a continental breakfast and presentations on Fire Safety, Personal Safety and Tire Pressure monitoring systems. Wine tastings, meet and greets and touring new Airstreams gobbled up the afternoon. Pizza supper and a Magician for evening entertainment followed by ice cream and door prizes sent everyone to bed happy.

Friday and Saturday seminars covered everything from Airstreaming 101 - Basic Systems to Moving your Unit into the Future through Media and Effective Technology. Especially interesting was the presentation on Staying Safe Online. Eleven mini seminars on “guiding your unit to greatness” allowed each of us to attend 3 different sessions of our choosing. Seminar topics included club positions as President, Secretary, Delegate, New Member Orientation,

How to Host and Plan a Rally and Getting and Keeping Members. Sandwich in a Crafts and Flea Market, a Trace Adkins concert, a beautiful walk through the Rhododendron Gardens, a local entertainer, plus a Region 3 Board Meeting where Big Bend Florida Unit was presented with a Superior Merit Award Ribbon, catered dinners, door prizes, raffle drawing, sightseeing on Bell Mountain and Brasstown Bald Mountain and that about sums it up. Whew! It was a busy couple of days.



So, will we see you at Myrtle Beach May 2018?



Elna & Jay Thompson receiving their appreciation gift from President Jim Weilhammer & First Mate Katherine Kamiya and the Big Bend Florida Unit



View from top of Bell Mountain



TECHNICAL TIP: Trailer Friendly Gas Stations

By Lane Watkins

I find pulling our 27' Airstream on our travels stress free, except for wondering where I can buy gas at a place I can easily negotiate in and out of the pump area. So, I started keeping notes of suitable places. Many of you have offered tremendous help to me over the years and I hope this is useful for you. Your comments and additions are welcome.

HIGHWAY	EXIT	TOWN	STATION NOTES
FLORIDA			
I-10	283	Live Oak	Busy Bee BP is huge.
I-10	142	Marianna	No room for a tow vehicle and trailer.
I-10	130	Cottondale	Love's Travel Stop.
I-10	120	Chipley	Shell station is okay.
I-10	98	Ponce DeLeon	Sunoco okay and rest area.
I-10	70	Mossey Head	Love's Travel Stop.
I-10	31	Milton	Looks decent on the north side.
I-10	7	West Pensacola	Racetrack gas $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of exit near Five Flags RV Park.
ALABAMA			
I-10	44		Love's Travel Stop.
I-10	13	Theodore	Gas station 2-3 miles north of exit near Its All About Relaxing RV Park.
MISSISSIPPI			
I-10	38		Love's Travel Stop.
I-10	28		Possibly.
LOUISIANA			
I-12	42	East Baton Rouge	Chevron okay and good Po'Boy shop. Shell station is okay.
I-12	40	East Baton Rouge	No room for a tow vehicle and trailer. Very congested.



POSTCARD FROM THE ROAD: Mesa Verde National Park

By Dick and Ursula Glenn

You can't see this in Florida! It is May 18th and we woke up to snow in Mesa Verde National Park on day ten of our Great Southwest Adventure. Our departure was delayed a couple of hours, then it was on to Hovenweep with partly cloudy skies and a "balmy" 48 degrees.



Newbie mistakes 1 & 2:

- If a freeze is forecast, disconnect your outside water line and hose.
- Before disconnecting, fill your fresh water tank and drain wastewater tanks.

Hope all is well and cheers from the road!

Are you traveling this summer? Send us a postcard from the road with a photo and an update on your adventures.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome new members in the Big Bend Florida Unit. Several Tallahassee members were able to join the Georgia Plantations and More Caravan Cookout at Bradley's County Store earlier this year, and enjoyed meeting Theresa and Chris Beidler. They are new owner but members of the "extended" Airstream family, Don Wood's daughter and son-in law. Euna and Hugh Ridenour are long-experienced Airstreamers. Euna is a past International Recording Secretary of WBCCI. They joined us for many activities at the recent Silver Springs Rally and have transferred from Members-at-Large to the Big Bend Florida Unit. We look forward to meeting Charles and Debby Courtney and Bill and Ellie Spivey at one of our summer events or fall rallies. Please extend a warm welcome to these new members.



Theresa and Chris Beidler (#8098)
Crawfordville, FL
30' Excella



Debby and Charles Courtney (#3419)
Gainesville, FL
26' Flying Cloud



Ellie and Bill Spivey (#3251)
Panama City, FL
16' Sport



Hugh and Euna Ridenour (#311)
Ocala, FL
30' Classic



MARKETPLACE: Wheels and Tires for Sale

Four 18' stock aluminum wheels and like-new Michelin tires for a GMC or Chevy 2500, 8 lugs fits 2011 to 2017 GM trucks. The Michelin tires are 265/70/18 with 4,500 miles. Asking price \$1,200. Contact Tom Beyer at (850) 509-7231 for pictures and more information.

JUST A REMINDER

By Jim Weilhammer



If you are staying home this summer, please consider joining us for two unit activities. The first is coming up next week. We will have a Summer Dinner on Saturday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. at:

Little Italy Pizzeria and Restaurant
Magnolia Courtyard Commercial Center
111 South Magnolia Drive (at Park Avenue)
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 878-7781

You will have your choice of a wide variety of delicious Italian specialties. You can preview the menu at <http://littleitalyally.weebly.com/>. Please call me at (850) 894-4416 or send an email to j.weilhammer@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve your place.

The second event is a Family Day Trip to Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna, FL. There is a cave tour, small museum and hiking trails and Marianna offers a choice of a country buffet or fine dining for lunch. Please contact me by phone or email so I can determine the level of interest in this day trip.

In July, we have several rigs going to the WBCCI International Rally in beautiful Escanaba, MI. I would like to confirm who is attending and determine if there is interest in forming a caravan of Big Benders. Please let me know your plans, departure and arrival dates as soon as possible.

Looking ahead, the reservation window for Ft. Pickens Campground and Cotton Hill are now open for the September and October rallies. We need rally hosts and co-hosts for Ft. Pickens. Please contact me if you are willing to volunteer to serve as a host or co-host.



“Make your heart like a lake, with a calm, still surface and great depths of kindness.”

Lao Tzu, philosopher and poet of ancient China