

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB
INTERNATIONAL**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THE MORE THE MERRIER

By Jim Weilhammer

As you look through the photos taken at Yellow Jacket RV Resort, you can see the enjoyment we all experienced. I want offer special thanks to Ginger and Shearn Spenard who were our rally hosts, Dorinda and Bob Paynter for the karaoke party on Saturday evening and Tom and Karon Beyer who brought their boat and gave wonderful rides on the Suwanee River. In true Airstream spirit, there were many hands that helped with food preparations for our well attended buddy rally. The Clubhouse was overflowing with participants from our unit; family and friends; prospective members; and new Airstream friends staying in the resort. I really appreciate all the contributions that made the February rally a great success.

Springtime at the F. D. Roosevelt State Park should be beautiful for the March rally. American Frontier Days at the park, historic sites in Warm Springs, azaleas at Callaway Gardens and shopping are beckoning. Please plan to attend and join the fun. The April rally will be located at the Cedar Key RV Resort and is scheduled to coincide with the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts. The art fair is a huge draw for artists from around the country. A stroll through the center of town is like stepping back in time to get a taste of old Florida.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Georgia Plantations Cookout.....	2
Gypsy Gold Horse Farm Tour.....	3
Rally Spotlight	3
Rally Recipe.....	7
Cedar Key Rally Schedule	8
Welcome New Members.....	9
Member News.....	9
Ft. Pickens Campground.....	9





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

Speaking of tastes, don't forget to get some award winning clam chowder from Tony's Restaurant. April activities will end with the Region 3 Rally in the beautiful location of Hiawassee, GA. Rally registration is \$80.00 per person and is now open online.

We have made a great start to an exciting year of Airstream adventures with great friends.



GEORGIA PLANTATIONS CARAVAN

The Georgia Plantations Caravan will be visiting Tallahassee March 28, 2017. Members of the Big Bend Florida Unit are invited to join the caravan for a cookout on Tuesday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. The dinner will be held across the road from Bradley's Country Store, 10655 Centerville Road, Tallahassee. The menu will include Bradley's famous sausage and smoked pork chops. The cost is \$11.00 per person and reservations can be made by emailing RoseMarie Anderson at tango2020pc@gmail.com. Please let RoseMarie know by March 10th if you plan to attend. Come early to browse through an old country store, buy some stone ground grits or soda in glass bottles. Please bring chairs and your set-ups.

GYPSY GOLD HORSE FARM TOUR

A tour of the Gypsy Gold Horse Farm will be available on Saturday, May 20th as a part of the May rally at Silver Springs State Park. The farm breeds the Gypsy Vanner horse which is known for its sturdy build, even disposition, and long hair on the bottom of its legs. This breed was once used to pull gypsy wagons in Europe. The farm is one of the top attractions in the Ocala area and located less than 30 minutes from the campground at 12501 SW 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL. The tour is normally \$30.00 per person but our group is getting a discounted rate of \$20.00 per person. No payment is needed at this time but the rally hosts need to confirm the tour number by March 20th. If you are interested in participating, please email both co-hosts, RoseMarie Anderson at tango2020pc@gmail.com and Martina Pelley at pelley2112@bellsouth.net to confirm your reservation. For more information on the farm, visit their website at www.gypsygold.com.





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: YELLOW JACKET RV RESORT

By Jason Friedrich

The one thing you can count on at a Big Bend Florida rally, a huge warm welcome when you arrive. Thursday and early arrivals are always ready and eager to welcome you. From the newest to the oldest member it seems like a homecoming event at every rally.

In attendance were rally hosts Ginger and Shearn Spenard, Karon and Tom Beyer, Monica and Craig Brinkley, Carol and Winston Montage, Ursula and Dick Glenn, Katherine Kamiya and Jim Weilhammer, Sandy and Don Wood, Linda and Bill Coleman, Martina Pelley, Anniedia and Bill Daws, Pat and Jim Hentz, Jack White, John White, the Spenard's daughter Steffany and granddaughters Sarah, Shelby and Samantha, the Wood's daughter Dorinda and son-in-law Bob Paynter, prospective members Doris and Jim Greene, other Airstreamers Bill and Bess Edwards and Nancy and Ronald Hanson, and myself.

After setting up camp, I was off to the Clubhouse where Ginger led a group of volunteers in preparing Saturdays breakfast. It was a flurry of activity as we put together several different egg casserole dishes. With the dishes done and the kitchen clean, volunteers decorated the Clubhouse in red, white and blue for the Presidents' Day Holiday weekend.

Friday night's dinner was a return to Salt Creek Restaurant. An impressive caravan of SUV's and pick-up trucks snaked its way out of the campground to the small town of Suwannee. As usual with this group, dinner was fun-filled, good people, good conversation and good food. No one left disappointed.



Restaurant



Spenard and Perkins families and Karon Beyer



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .

Saturday morning started out with a breakfast feast of an assortment of egg casseroles, fruits, bread and juices. President Jim Weilhammer led a short business meeting, and after a quick clean up every one was off to their daily activities. Tom Beyer treated me to a boat ride on the Suwannee River. Along with Carol and Winston Montage, Jack and John White and Katherine Kamiya, we had a wonderful scenic tour. A big thank you to Karon and Tom who brought their boat to the resort and provided fellow club members with an unforgettable ride on the great Suwannee River.





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .

No time to rest, rally host Ginger and Shearn stayed busy providing the club with a delicious BBQ rib dinner. The night's entertainment was karaoke provided by Dorinda and Bob. In the beginning, willing participants were hard to come by, but as the night progressed more and more club members braved the mic. I take my hat off to all of you who sang. Unfortunately I hide out in the back of the room with others (you know who you are) who were too shy to take the mic.



John White singing YMCA



Craig Brinkley



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .

Sunday morning began with another yummy breakfast and stories of last night's karaoke. Club members went their separate ways under the blue sky of another beautiful Florida day. For me it was to be a lazy day at camp, reading and relaxing, to my delight I was invited to a tour of Katherine and Jim's 1974 vintage Airstream trailer. I am told that Katherine and Jim spent three years restoring this classic to the modern day beauty it is today. From the hardwood floors, ships clock and barometer, the nautical theme was done very well.

Sunday night we enjoyed a meal of turkey soup, chicken curry and all the other fixings. I want to give a big thank you to Ginger and Shearn who worked though out the weekend ensuring everyone was well fed and had a good time.



Ginger Spenard, Jim and Pat Hentz

As every rally begins, they must also end. Monday morning we had a quick continental breakfast, cleaned up the clubhouse and said our good byes. While listening to the group, Martina mentioned a line she heard from another camper,

“See you down the road.” This may have different meaning to different people. I’ve decided to adopt this line because my feeling is “I will see you down the road.” Signing off on this rally spotlight, see you down the road!



RALLY RECIPE: Rote Grütze German Mixed Berry Pudding

By Ursula Glenn

Ingredients:

2 ¼ lbs. of any red fruit in any combination (currants, raspberries, strawberries, brambleberries, cherries)
½ cup sugar
1 quart of water
½ cup cornstarch
1 cup rum (optional)
1 package instant vanilla pudding and other required pudding ingredients
1 cup 2 percent milk
Milk or cream (optional)

Directions:

1. Wash fruit and pick through for stems. Set aside ¾ cup of fruit.
2. Set aside 1 cup of water. Combine the remaining fruit with the remaining water and sugar in a saucepan.
3. Bring mixture to a boil and cook fruit over medium heat until done, but still holding its shape.
4. Sweeten to taste with more sugar, if needed.
5. Stir cornstarch into reserved water and stir until dissolved.
6. Stir into the fruit mixture and bring to boil, cook until thickened. Remove from heat.
7. Blend in the rum if desired.
8. Mash reserved, uncooked fruit in blender and stir into the thickened cooked fruit mixture. Refrigerate (if desired).
9. Make vanilla cream sauce by preparing vanilla pudding mixture as directed on the package and adding an additional 1 cup of milk for a creamier consistency.

The mixed berry pudding can be served hot or cold with cold or warm vanilla cream sauce or plain milk or cream.

Makes 8 servings.



“OLD FLORIDA CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS” RALLY SCHEDULE: Cedar Key RV Resort, Cedar Key, FL

Friday April 7, 2017

- 5:00 p.m. Social Hour at the Clubhouse. Bring your beverage of choice.
- 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck dinner at the Clubhouse. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Saturday April 8, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast of sausage and egg muffins, fruit cups and coffee at the Clubhouse.
- 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. “Old Florida Celebration of the Arts”
- 5:00 p.m. After eating, shopping and more eating, join us for festival stories, share your art purchases and bring an hors d’oeuvre to share. Bring your beverage of choice.

Sunday April 9, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast of coffee cake, yogurt cups and coffee at the Clubhouse.
- 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For those staying through Sunday evening, you can enjoy a second festival day at the “Old Florida Celebration of the Arts” or take in the beauty of Florida’s Nature Coast.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome new members to the Big Bend Florida Unit. Doris and Jim Greene were our guests at the February rally at Yellow Jacket RV Resort. They have joined the unit and we look forward to seeing them again soon.



Jim and Doris Greene with Linda Coleman
Gainesville, FL
2017 Interstate Grand Tour

MEMBER NEWS

At the International Board of Trustees (IBT) meeting on January 20, 2017, Jay Thompson was appointed Chairman of the Caravan Standing Committee by President Richard Girad. Jay has great experience as a participant on many Airstream caravans and demonstrated leadership expertise as a caravan co-leader of the SW Adventure Caravan. We offer our congratulations to Jay on his appointment to this important WBCCI committee.

FT. PICKENS CAMPGROUND

The September rally will be held at Ft. Pickens Campground, September 15-17, 2017 in beautiful Gulf Breeze, FL. The reservation window will open for this rally on March 15th. To get a prime location, make your reservations early at Reserve America, <http://www.reserveamerica.com>.



In honor of Presidents' Day, some made speeches, some walked in parades, and some visited historic landmarks. But who could beat our creativity making a vegetable "flag."

TIP: If you squint at the picture and use your imagination you can see the stars and stripes!