

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
AIRSTREAM CLUB**

UNIT 153 REGION 3



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OFFICERS 2016 - 2017

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Martina Pelley

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Gary Anderson

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Mary & Chip Adams

Directory/Webpage

RoseMarie Anderson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HARD ACT TO FOLLOW

By Tom Beyer

We've all the phrases "hard act to follow" and "big shoes to fill." Well that's how I feel as I assume the duties of President of the Big Bend Airstream Club. It is with a heavy heart and much admiration that I begin my tenure as President two months early after the passing of our 2017 President, Jim Weilhammer. He will definitely be missed. He would want us to carry on as usual and so we shall.

Our October rally at Cotton Hill Corp of Engineers Park, in Ft. Gaines, GA will be very busy since our September rally was cancelled due to weather conditions. We will be finalizing the nominations for next year's officers. We will vote by email ballot following the rally so that everyone has an opportunity to vote. The installation of officers will be held at the November rally at Georgia Veteran's State Park. The following nominations have been made: Tom Beyer, President; Craig Brinkley, 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President, (open); Karon Beyer, Secretary; Martina Pelley, Treasurer; and both Trustee positions for two-year terms, (open). Please consider serving in one of these open positions or be ready to suggest someone to serve.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

I proposed T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park for the 2018 March rally and have learned that there are no sites available. The site for the March rally will be switched to Fort Pickens Campground. Hopefully, the third attempt to camp at Fort Pickens will be the charm. Currently there are 51 sites available for reservation.

As a measure of formality and for insurance purposes, we need to vote at the October rally to approve the 2017-2018 Event/Rally Schedule. A copy of the preliminary schedule is included later in the newsletter. If you have any changes or suggestions, feel free to voice them.

More information regarding the Christmas Luncheon, future newsletters, a new flag with our approved logo and updates from the 60th International Airstream Rally in Escanaba, MI will be discussed at the October rally. Lots to do and lots to hear about.

Looking forward to seeing everyone since we've had a long camping layoff and with hopes for a strong ending to 2017 and new beginning for 2018.

MEMBER NEWS

By Martina Pelley

It's that time of year again – renewal time! You can renew online, by mail or telephone. You can pay the dues by credit or debit card, PayPal account or send a check using regular mail. You can also call WBCCI and renew with payment over the telephone.

If you joined the club July 1st of 2017 or later, you do not need to renew until next year because at the time you joined you also renewed for 2018. Any member who joined prior to July 1st will have to renew. Life Members also have to renew and pay the local unit dues.

Dues are \$75.00 (\$65.00 for WBCCI and \$10.00 for Big Bend Florida). The online system is easy and saves the unit time and money. To renew online, go to www.WBCCI.org and click the “join” button. Go to the bottom of the page that pops up where there will be two choices. Click the “renew online today” button and proceed. Headquarters uses the PayPal system to process payments whether a PayPal account is used or not. There is no charge for using a credit or debit card.

If any of your membership information has changed, please check the “no” button on the line asking if your information has changed. Clicking “no” will take you to a page where you can make corrections. Making corrections on the initial page will not result in changes being made in the system. You will need to fill out all of the (*)'d lines not just the information that is changing.

If you have questions or want to renew by mail, please call contact me.



NON-RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Fort Pickens Campground

By Mary Adams



Hurricane Irma was a gigantic storm, packing category 5 winds, and projected to impact the entire state of Florida. Seeking the advice of members who were signed up for the Fort Pickens Campground rally, Tom Beyer made the decision to cancel the rally. Access to the park is on a beachfront road prone to flooding, evacuees from across the state were clogging Interstate 10, and gas was in short supply. Cancelling was the safe decision.

While south and west Florida took a hard hit from the storm, by the time Hurricane Irma reached the panhandle of Florida it was down-graded to a tropical storm and had lost most of its strength. Chip and I were among a few brave souls who took our chances and went to Fort Pickens Campground. What we found was beautiful beaches and roaring adventure with the Blue Angels Practice session.

The Fort Pickens Campground is located on Santa Rosa Island inside the Gulf Island National Seashore south of Gulf Breeze and Pensacola, FL. Fort Pickens was completed in 1834 and remained in use until 1947. One interesting fact is that it was held by the northern troops during the War of the Northern Aggression. The campground is shaded, paved sites with table and barbecue grill. There is no sewage at the sites, so the bathhouses become very important. The one we used has private shower rooms, which were nice.





NON-RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Fort Pickens Campground continued . . .

The beach was just as the beaches on Florida peninsula advertises - sugar white sands, with sea oats gently blowing in the breeze. The waters of the gulf were fabulous with three colors showing- a deep blue, a deep green, and then a clear lighter blue. It was more beautiful than any picture could be.



When we arrived late Saturday afternoon, we found Anneidia and Bill Dawes in the park. Chip visited while I walked the dogs and got them settled in. They looked good and had been visiting family in the area. They left early Sunday morning.

Sunday early afternoon we found Sheila and Jim Skipper in the campground. They had been on cleanup duty in Tallahassee and Suwannee, with no major damage at either. They had friends in the area, as did we.

Chip and I had Sunday lunch at a small restaurant which appeared to be a local favorite, named NATIVE CAFÉ. We had “crabby burgers” which were excellent. They were very thick and had little filler. They were almost like Chip’s Mom made, but I would never say anyone else made better than Ann.

Monday seemed to be a good choice to visit with Bonnie and Jim Lewis. They came out to Pensacola Beach and we had lunch with them at the SHRIMP BASKET. Bonnie looked good, despite the ordeal she had been going through and it was good to see Jim. Lunch was late in the afternoon and we stayed and visited a while.

Tuesday the Blue Angles were scheduled for a practice. Our friends, the Busbees, visited and we went to the seawall at the fort to view the show. They were taking off just across the bay from the fort and many times they were right over our heads. It was a great show. Noisy, but as our friend Larry says “it is the sound of freedom.”





NON-RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Fort Pickens Campground continued . . .

Caroline has been my special friend since we were about 10 years old and we had many experiences together in band, church, and church choir. We went to CRABS right on the beach for lunch. The view of the beach and water was spectacular, as we sat on an outside deck. Chip and I shared shrimp and fish nachos which were tremendous. We overate and still were unable to finish the dish. I'm sure my Scotch Dad was watching, as he insisted on clean plates and no waste.

Wednesday, we had a meal with Jim and Sheila at a restaurant in Pensacola. Again, it seemed to be a favorite of the locals. It was the MARINA OYSTER BARN. The Skippers had eaten there before with their friends. It was excellent food and atmosphere, advertised to be a long-time seafood joint with southern food and seafood with a view of the marina.

The Skippers left on Thursday and we took advantage of a day to just rest. We came home on Friday, sorry to leave the Gulf and beaches behind. We both were a little homesick for our life at Dauphin Island. Then we remembered all the reasons for moving inland.





NON-RALLY RECIPE: Hurricane Irma Cocktail

For those who need relief from Hurricane Irma's devastation and those who want to celebrate escaping her wrath, we offer a recipe for a traditional cocktail re-named in her memory.

Ingredients:

2 ounces light rum
2 ounces gold rum
1 ounce passion fruit juice or syrup
1 ounce fresh orange juice
½ ounce fresh lime juice
1 tablespoon simple sugar syrup
1 tablespoon grenadine
Crushed ice
Orange slices
Maraschino cherries



Directions:

1. Add all ingredients to a cocktail shaker along with some crushed ice and shake well.
2. Pour into a glass and garnish with an orange slice and a cherry.

NOTE: This recipe can easily be doubled or tripled for additional servings.

Serves 1.



REMEMBERING JIM WEILHAMMER

1939 - 2017

By Karon Beyer



On September 15, 2017 our Big Bend Airstream Club lost its president, Jim Weilhammer, a dedicated member and loyal supporter of everything Airstream. Jim's commitment to Airstream began when he purchased a 1974 Airstream Sovereign trailer that his children had found in a barn in Michigan while on a skiing trip. He drove to Indiana to tow it back to Florida and by the time he reached Huntsville, AL the "solid" floor was thawing and falling out onto the highway. This began a five-year project of completely rebuilding and remodeling his vintage trailer. Jim joined the club in 2004 when the trailer was in pieces in his backyard. Jim, Katherine and their dog, Molly would participate in rallies by car. After a few years, several members asked, "Do you really have an Airstream?"

Working on a trailer was never ending and last year he totally remodeled the bathroom shower. He was working on a tail light repair shortly before he died. His love, hard work, and excellent workmanship always drew attention and lots of questions anywhere he and Katherine traveled. He loved his trailer almost as if it was another of his children.

Jim was born in Indianapolis, IN, the younger of two children. He graduated from Indiana University School of Dentistry and practiced in Indiana for 16 years before moving south to Moultrie, GA. Jim opened a dental practice in Moultrie that he worked in for 17 years. His last and favorite position was as a dentist at Southwestern State Hospital in Thomasville, GA. His patients were adults with severe developmental disabilities and cognitive impairments. He had a special place in his heart for them and the affection was mutual.

Jim loved to tell stories and to make jokes. His jokes were never mean spirited but had different levels of humor. Many of his friends say his smile is what they will remember most. He was always cheerful and in a good mood. If there was any idle time at a campground, Jim would be polishing or fiddling with something on his trailer. He was never still.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Katherine who was at his side throughout his courageous battle with cancer. Jim has five children, 18 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren who loved him dearly. His family will host an event in Tallahassee on Saturday, November 4th to share memories and to celebrate his life.



REMEMBERING JIM WEILHAMMER continued . . .

Jim commented shortly before his death that he regretted not being able to fulfill his tenure as president of our club. We, as members, will certainly remember him and miss him. The best way we can honor our good friend Jim, is to have the loyalty and dedication to our club that he had.

We offer our love and support to Katherine and hope she is able to remain part of our Airstream family.



*Perhaps they are not stars,
but rather openings in heaven
where the love of our lost ones pours through
and shines down upon us
to let us know they are happy.*

-Eskimo Proverb



COTTON HILL RALLY SCHEDULE: Ft. Gaines, GA

By Annette and Charlie Hurst

Please join us for the Dutch Oven Cooking Rally at Cotton Hill Corp of Engineers Campground on the shores of Walter F. George Lake. The lake is a great place for boating, swimming, fishing and camping. It is officially fall and the temperatures are beginning to cool down. It should be great weather for sitting outside and watching the pit masters at work. In addition to great food, Katherine (and Jim) made copies of a great article on how to select cast iron cookware and some recipes for cast iron cooking.

This is what we have planned:

Friday, October 13, 2017

5:00 p.m. Covered Dish Dinner. Please bring a dish to share, your beverage of choice, chairs and set-ups.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Casserole in the Dutch Oven with Biscuits. Please bring your beverage of choice, chairs and set-ups.

Local touring and lunch on your own.

5:00 p.m. Chicken Casserole in the Dutch Oven, Rice Casserole and Dutch Oven Cake. Please bring your beverage of choice, chairs and set-ups.

Sunday, October 15, 2017

No gathering is planned as the campground has a church service every Sunday which is very popular and well attended.

NOTE: All times are listed in Eastern Daylight Savings Time.



BIG BEND FLORIDA AIRSTREAM CLUB

UNIT 153 REGION 3

2017-2018 EVENT/RALLY SCHEDULE

Preliminary Schedule 10/01/17

If you have any questions or are interested in signing up to be a rally host, please contact Tom Beyer at bucklake@hotmail.com or (850) 509-7231.

This revised schedule includes three rally site changes from the initial draft of the 2017-2018 Preliminary Event/Rally Schedule distributed earlier in the year. This schedule will be discussed and finalized at the Cotton Hill Rally, October 13-15, 2017.

NOTE: All rallies are scheduled for Friday-Sunday. Participants can opt to arrive early or stay late.

DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Sat. December 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.	<i>Christmas Luncheon</i> The Seinyard at Wildwood 3870 Coastal Highway Crawfordville, FL 32326 850-926-9191 http://theseineyardatwildwood.com/	
Fri. January 19- Sun. January 21, 2018	<i>Holiday and New Year Celebration</i> 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. Located 16 miles south of Donaldsonville via Georgia Highway 39 or 23 miles west of Bainbridge on Georgia Highway 253/Spring Creek Road. From Tallahassee (approximately 1 hour, 10 minutes) take Highway 27 north into Bainbridge then Highway 253/Spring Creek Road west.



DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Fri. February 16- Sun. February 18, 2018	<i>Valentine's Day Celebration</i> 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. From junction I-75 (exit 5) and Highway 376, go 500 feet east on Highway 376, then ½ mile south on Mill Store Road.
Fri. March 16- Sun. March 18, 2018	<i>Daylight Savings Time Celebration</i> Ft. Pickens Campground 1400 Fort Pickens Road Pensacola Beach, FL 32561 850-934-2622 http://www.recreation.gov	Rate: \$26.00/night Reservation can be made through http://www.recreation.gov up to 6 months in advance. Two-way hook-ups; covered picnic pavilions within ½ mile of campground available on a first come first serve basis or by reservation for \$70.00 per day
Fri. April 20 – Sun. April 22, 2018	<i>Spring Celebration</i> Salt Springs Recreation Area 13851 Highway 19 N Ft. McCoy, FL 32134 Information: 352-685-2048 Reservations: 877-444-6777 https://www.recreation.gov/camping/salt-springs-recreation-area/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73853	Senior Rate: \$19.00/night. Reservations can be made through https://www.recreation.gov up to 6 months in advance. Sites 4-22 are around a bath house and are grouped together at the far end and are convenient. There is not a covered pavilion but the sites are concrete and large. We will need a couple of canopy covers for inclement weather. (Beyer's have one.)
Tues. April 24 – Sun. April 24, 2018	<i>Region 3 Rally</i> Myrtle Beach, SC	Please consider volunteering to represent the unit at this rally.



DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Fri. May 18 – Sun. May 20, 2018	<i>Summer Celebration</i> Gunter Hill Campground 561 Booth Road Montgomery, AL 36108 Campground: 334-269-1053 https://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/gunter-hill/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71187	Rate: \$18.00/night. Reservations can be made through https://www.reserveamerica.com up to 6 months in advance. There are many things to do around Montgomery, more details at a later date.
Sun. June 17 – Sat. June 30, 2018	<i>61st WBCCI International Rally</i> Oregon State Fairgrounds Salem, OR http://wbcci.org/international-rally/caravans/rallies/international-rally/2018-salem-or/2018-salem-or	Jay Thompson will be the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club delegate.
Fri. September 14- Sun. September 16, 2018	<i>End of Summer Celebration</i> Live Oak Landing 229 Pitts Avenue Freeport, FL 32439 Landing: 877-436-5063 http://rvcoutdoors.com/live-oak-landing/	Rate: Off Season rate: \$45-\$47/night. -10% off - 5 to 9 units -15% off - 10 to 20 units Advise "Big Bend Airstream" when making reservations.
Fri. October 19- Sun. October 21, 2018	<i>Columbus Day Celebration</i> Hardridge Creek Campground 592 U.S. Government Road Abbeville, AL 36310 Campground: 334-585-5945 https://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/hardridge-creek/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71190	Rate: \$24.00/night. Reservations can be made through https://www.reserveamerica.com up to 6 months in advance.



DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Fri. November 16- Sun. November 18, 2018	<i>Installation Rally</i> Sugar Mill RV Park 4857 McMillan Road Ochlocknee, GA Reservations: 229-227-1451 http://www.sugarmillrvpark.com/	Rate: \$25.38/night Advise "Big Bend Airstream" when making reservations.