

THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 41
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December 2014



President

Jim Hentz

1st Vice President

Bill Coleman

2nd Vice President

Unfilled

Secretary/Webmaster

RoseMarie Anderson

Treasurer

Martina Pelley

Trustees

Amy Waymire

Wally Welch

Carol Montague

Bill Worthington

Membership

Mary & Chip Adams

Historian

Chris Duncan

Website

Bigbendfl.wbcci.net

A message from the President:

Well, we have turned to a new chapter in the Big Bend Florida Unit. We have new officers and a new camping season is just about here. So, away we go!!

First I want to thank Gary Anderson for his outstanding leadership as our 2014 President. We applaud you for a great job!! I hope to do as well as you did.

We had a wonderful Installation Rally at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park. The weather cooperated although it was a bit cool. The food as usual was terrific! I know all the attendees join me in thanking our hosts Gary and RoseMarie, Martina Pelley, Katherine Kamiya, and Linda Coleman. Great job folks....

I believe we had 36 Big Bend members attend this weekend. Richard and Julie Hunt, David and Ann Tripp, and Bear and Connie Schenk attended their first unit rally and we all hope to see them at many of the 2015 rallies. Also in attendance were Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Bill and Linda Coleman, Martina Pelley, Wally and Carol Welch, Don and Sandy Wood, Tom and Karon Beyer, Chip and Mary Adams, Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya, Lamar and Amy Waymire, John and Gayle Duncan, Winston and Carol Montague, Jim and Sheila Skipper, Bill and Frankie Worthington, Charlie and Annette Hurst, Craig Brinkley and finally, Pat and I.

Gary conducted the Installation of the 2015 officers. What a wonderful ceremony. Bill Coleman was installed as the 1st Vice President, RoseMarie as our Secretary, Martina Pelley as the Treasurer, Amy Waymire and Wally Welch as 2nd year Trustees and Carol Montague and Bill Worthington as the 1st year Trustees. My thanks go to all the 2015 officers for their service to our unit.

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Jim Weilhammer has served as the Membership and Publicity Chair for a number of years and, understandably, needed to take a break. Chip and Mary Adams have agreed to serve as co-leaders of the Membership Chair. In one of his last duties as President, Gary presented Jim with the WBCCI Founder's award for his recruitment of more than 25 new WBCCI members. Super job by Jim and well deserved recognition. Jim is our second Founder's Award recipient with Charlie Hurst being our first.



RoseMarie was noted for her outstanding job as our Newsletter Editor. The Big Bend Newsletter placed third in the WBCCI Newsletter competition at the recent International Rally. She agreed to continue as our Secretary/Newsletter Editor. Bonnie Lewis has agreed to continue publishing the rally information. Both RoseMarie and Bonnie fill an important service in communicating information to all the Big Bend Members. Thank you both.



We have our annual Christmas "Toys for Tots" event coming up on December 6. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please join me in wishing a speedy recovery to Bill Daws, Elna Thompson, Jim Lewis, and Mac McCauslin.

My last comment is that we have members living in Missouri, Iowa, Michigan, Alabama, Georgia, and all over Florida. They could have chosen to join a local unit but chose to join Big Bend. Our club has a reputation as one of the best in WBCCI and I am proud to be a member of the Big Bend Florida Unit.



Have a great Thanksgiving and if I don't see you at the Christmas dinner have a blessed and wonderful Christmas.

Jim and Pat Hentz



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December 6, 2014 **Christmas Dinner @ Wakulla Springs State Lodge, Crawfordville, FL (Toys for Tots)**
Hosts: Jim and Pat Hentz

January 16-19 **No Host Rally @ St. Joseph Peninsula SP, Port St. Joe, FL**
Reservations: www.floridastateparks.com or 1-800-326-3521

February 13-15 **Unit Rally @ Rainbow Springs SP, Dunnellon, FL**
Reservations: www.floridastateparks.com or 1-800-326-3521
Hosts: Craig and Monica Brinkley & Tom and Karon Beyer

Feb 24-Mar 1 **Alumaflamingo. Sarasota, FL**
Reservations: www.alumaflamingo.com or 1-802-877-2900 ext 4

March 3-8 **Florida State Rally @ St. Augustine, FL**
Reservations: Blue Beret Application

March 27-29 **Unit Rally @ Stephen Foster SP, Live Oak, FL**
Reservations: www.floridastateparks.com or 1-800-326-3521
Hosts: Don and Sandy Wood & Jim and Sheila Skipper

April 24-26 **Unit Rally @ East Bank Campground, Lake Seminole COE, via Chattahoochee, FL (Buddy Rally)**
Reservations: www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777
Hosts: Jim and Pat Hentz & Lamar and Amy Waymire

April 26-29 **Caravan to Region 3 Rally (From Lake Seminole to Ladson, SC.)**
Reservations: To be announced

April 29-May 3 **Region 3 Rally, Exchange Park, Ladson, SC**
Reservations: www.region3.wbcc.net

May 15-17 **Unit Rally @ Fort Clinch SP, Fernandina Beach, FL**
Reservations: www.floridastateparks.com or 1-800-326-3521
Hosts:

May 17-24 **Stupendous Seashore and Swamp Unit Caravan**
Hosts: Bill and Linda Coleman

June 26-Jul 4 **International Rally @ Farmington, NM**
Reservations: Blue Beret

Sep 18-20 **Unit Rally @ Uchee Army Campground, Fort Benning, Ga**
Reservations: Jim Hentz
Hosts:

Oct 16-18 **Unit Rally @ Topsail Hill Preserve SP, Santa Rosa Beach, FL (Elections)**
Reservations: www.floridastateparks.com or 1-800-326-3521
Hosts: Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya & Tom and Karon Beyer

Nov 6-8 **Installation Rally, Sugar Mill Campground, Thomasville, Ga**
Reservations: 1-229-227-1451
Hosts:

2015 Unit Rally List

Contact Jim Hentz to
Host a Rally

To attend a Rally,

*1) Call the rally
campground to confirm
a site.*

*2) E-mail Bonnie Lewis
([jim-
bonnielewis@cox.net](mailto:jim-bonnielewis@cox.net))
with your site number.*

*3) Contact rally host
with the number
attending.*

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"Around the Table" at Topsail Installation Rally.....

Pot luck Friday



Saturday Installation Dinner was an Italian Feast with lasagna, bread, breadsticks and salad. Thanks to the decorating committee: Linda Coleman, Amy Waymire, Katherine Kamiya, and Pat Hentz for setting the mood with music and decorations.



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More Saturday night fun.....



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Welcome New Members!



Julie and Richard Hunt hail from the St. Louis Area and now live full time at Travelers Rest near Dade City, Fl. Rich is a retired Presbyterian minister who now pursues photography and Julie is a nurse, a first responder at Travelers rest, and her hobbies include card making, scrapbooking, beading and both love to read. Married for 53 years, they have 6 children, 9 grands and 1 great grand. Hunts have been Airstreaming about 8 years, traveling to 48 states and 4 provinces of Canada. They've done mission work and disaster relief in Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, Mississippi, Louisiana and Joplin Mo. While doing disaster relief in Mississippi they lived in their Airstream. As Julie says: "We love our Airstream as it can be a home in the woods, beside a river, backed up to the Gulf, and an extra home when company visits and yes, the place to sleep on rallies and caravans."



Connie & Bear Schenk have resided in Tallahassee, FL since 1993. They've owned RVs of all sizes and classes from vans thru class A diesel pushers. Their first Airstream, a 22', 1966 Safari was bought in Ohio, not far from the Airstream factory. Restoration plans include a stock look on the outside with a retro 60's diner look inside; including the latest appliances and electronics and their own floor plan. Bear quips: "It should be done by the turn of the century." They spend as much time as possible at their log cabin in the U.P. of Michigan (snow capital of the world-last year there was over 29 ft) Future plans are to live there about 8 months a year and travel the winters near warm beaches in "Sylvia" (Airstream) with their 3 Labradoodles. Their interests include classic cars, log homes and "doodles", and concentrating on renovation of their Safari.

The 2015 Big Bend Membership Directory will be printed in January. If anyone has any changes/additions/or subtractions in phone number, address or e-mail, please contact RoseMarie (adeeva@comcast) with those changes ASAP.

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Hats off to our newest members!

Welcome to Big Bend Unit.

Both couples are a great addition to our Unit!



New Big Bend Logo T-shirts are here!

David & Ann Tripp modeling the front and back of their new t-shirts.



If anyone is interested in ordering a shirt or cap with our embroidered logo, contact Allison & Wes Hurner at 615-666-5515. Allison & Wes are normally at each Airstream or Aluma function.

There is one low profile cap left (\$12), 2 Mens t-shirts size S (\$14) and XXL (\$16) If interested e-mail RoseMarie (adeeva@comcast.net)

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APPLE STUFFED STRATA ***

Serves 8 as a meal or 6 as a part of a buffet

Preparation Time 20 minutes

INGREDIENTS:

2 tsp. butter

4 cups sliced Golden Delicious apples

4 Tbsp. granulated sugar, divided

12-14 slices cinnamon-swirl bread, crust removed and cut in half diagonally

¾ cup chopped pecans, divided

1 ½ cups milk

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

5 large eggs

1 Tbsp. turbinado or granulated sugar

Thanks to Katherine Kamiya for the delicious egg bake recipes at the Saturday morning rally. The Apple Strata was prepared by Martina Pelley. The other 3 egg bake recipes will be in the next newsletter.

DIRECTIONS:

Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add apples and 1 Tbsp. granulated sugar to pan. Sauté for 8 minutes or until apples are tender and lightly brown. Remove from heat and cool 5 minutes.

Coat an 11" x 7" x 2" glass or ceramic baking dish with non-stick spray. Arrange half of bread in dish, cutting to fit if necessary. Top with apple mixture and top with ½ cup of the pecans. Arrange remaining bread over pecans, cutting to fit if necessary.

Combine the remaining 3 Tbsp. of granulated sugar, milk, cinnamon, and eggs in a medium bowl, stirring with a whisk. Pour milk mixture through a strainer over bread, pressing down to submerge the bread. Cover and chill overnight in the refrigerator.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Uncover dish. Sprinkle ¼ cup pecans and turbinado sugar evenly over the bread. Bake for 48 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Let rest for 15 minutes.

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Stupendous Seashore and Swamp Unit Caravan

May 17 – 24, 2015

Bill & Linda Coleman will be leading the 2015 Unit caravan which will leave Ft. Clinch on May 17 to explore the Southeast corner of Georgia. There will be stops at 2 different campgrounds, one at St. Marys, GA and another at Brunswick, GA. From each area there is a multitude of activities that Bill and Linda have been scouting. Following is a short agenda; a complete schedule will be in the December newsletter. Plan to put these dates on your calendar and join us!



Itinerary

May 17 – 20 - Camping at St Mary's, GA

Suggested dinner at St Mary's Seafood & More (great place)

May 18 - 19 - May Cumberland Island Tours or area exploration

May 20 Day trip to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge with possible afternoon boat ride plus exploration of Folkston, GA

May 21 - 24 Camping at Brunswick, GA

May 22- Suggested dinner at Zachary's Seafood & Steaks

May 23- Day trip on St Mary's Express train (only day offered)



Distances

Fort Clinch, FL – St Marys, GA	30 miles
St Marys, GA - Brunswick, GA	44 miles
Ft Clinch, FL – Wall Drug, SD	1813 miles

There is no Kitty Fee for this caravan; each unit will be responsible to make their own camping arrangements at the designated campsite. There will be suggestions for group activities or time to explore on your own schedule.

Contact Bill Coleman for info 850-668-0113 or ourplantation@gmail.com



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You're Invited!

Big Bend Florida Unit annual
"Toys for Tots" Event

Wakulla Springs Lodge,
550 Wakulla Park Drive, Crawfordville,
FL

6 PM EST, December 6 (Saturday)
\$20 per person



Choose one of the following menu items and email Jim at jdhentz@nettally.com with the number attending and the menu choices no later than December 3!

"High on the Hog - Petit Plate" : Two slow smoked pork shanks stacked against a bed of parmesan garlic mashed potatoes topped with our deeply flavored port wine gravy, served with our Wakulla Greens Side Salad.

"Grilled Lemon Oregano Chicken": Marinated, grilled to order, topped with a savor sautee of garlic, herbs, mushrooms, sundried tomatoes and light cream sauce. Served with mashed potatoes and our Wakulla Greens Side Salad.

"Grilled Gulf Shrimp": 10 Succulent Gulf Shrimp, marinated with fresh garlic, rosemary and olive oil, skewered them grilled to perfection. Served with a baked potato and our Wakulla Greens Side Salad.

"Petit Grilled Sirloin Steak": With parmesan garlic mashed potatoes, pan gravy and caramelized onions accompanied with our Wakulla Greens Side Salad.

Seasonal vegetables and rolls included

Each couple is asked to bring an unwrapped toy for both a boy and a girl.

A cash bar will be available.

Upon arrival at the gate inform the gate attendant that you are attending an Airstream event at the restaurant and admission will be free.