

# THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 40

Number 5

April, 2014



A few words from Gary.....

## President

Gary Anderson

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Jim Hentz

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Bill Coleman

## Secretary/Webmaster

RoseMarie Anderson

## Treasurer

Not Filled

## Trustees

Martina Pelley

Chip Adams

Amy Waymire

Wally Welch

## Membership

Jim Weilhammer

## Historian

Chris Duncan

Here it is mid-April already and Region 3 Rally is just around the corner. Jay, Dick and Matt have assembled an agenda with scheduled and non-scheduled events, seminars and opportunities to visit and experience many different venues in the Ashville area. It will be a fun week.

March 21 we assembled at GA Veteran's State Park at Cordelle GA with Jim and Pat Hentz hosting a great week end rally. All the meals were planned and prepared so well it is hard to believe that in former lives Jim and Pat did not own a successful restaurant. Some members took the SAM train to Plains GA while others enjoyed the Park.

During the rally a business meeting was held. Discussion focused on the two main changes to WBCCI that will be voted on at International Rally. It was discussion only as our actual unit vote will take place at Rocky Bayou in May. The two agenda items:

- 1) Flexibility in dates for the National Rally to allow for expanded venues and pricing options.
- 2) Electronic payment to WBCCI for dues. More information will be forthcoming.

We also nominated and elected Jim Hentz to represent Big Bend as the delegate in Gillette. A brief report from the directory committee was given with concrete recommendations in the near future. It was good to have new member Craig Brinkley, who lives in Bristol, attend the Rally. Also in attendance were the Adams, Andersons, Colemans, Duncans, Hentzs, Palmers, Pelley, Rushs, Waymires, and Jack and Sherry White. Jim and Katherine Weilhammer joined us on Saturday as did Tom and Karon Beyers from Tallahassee. Chuck and Pam Wells, airstreamers from the Chicago area joined us for dinner.

On Sunday March 23 eight units – Anderson, Duncan, Hentz, Pelley, Palmer, Rush, Waymire and Whites began the Antebellum Unit Caravan traveling to Macon, Milledgeville and Madison, GA. Each area was unique and provided the group with numerous things to do and see. Parades, museums, antebellum home tours, lots of history, old capitol tours and the list can keep going. Thanks to Jim and Pat it was a caravan not to be missed.

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On March 29 we celebrated the completion of another successful unit caravan with a delicious dinner in Madison. The next morning everyone headed either for home or to mile marker 39 – Sunshine Key for the Florida Unit Rally!

Big Bend had 11 units represented at the Florida Rally– out of a total number of 112 Airstreams attending. A great turnout for the ‘new’ Florida Rally. I don’t think anyone was disappointed with the numerous restaurants, outdoor activities in the area and the live entertainment provided throughout the rally. The entertainment was excellent and lasted until 11:00 p.m. on two different nights. Think about that for our next rally. Be sure to read Martina Pelley’s firsthand impressions of the Rally on page 5.



Upcoming Rallys!

Do not let Reed Bingham slip out of sight and plan for our Unit auction at Rocky Bayou in May. Keep Bonnie Lewis posted as to attendance and the Rally Host in the communication loop so Rally planning can go smoothly.

Both of these Rallys will be designated as Buddy Rally’s as we get more and more inquiries about our Unit.

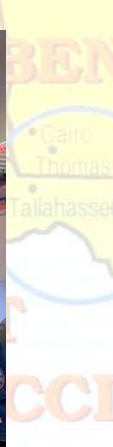
Our unit continues to grow with new members. Welcome to Tom and Karon Beyer and Hugh and Judy Cowart, both from Tallahassee. The motivating thread that unites all new members is the desire to use their Airstream for different and new adventures. We have a unit that can and does provide the opportunity for members to experience a variety of adventures with enjoyable people.



Big Bend has exceptionally unselfish members and that is one reason we continue to grow. One member, Jim Weilhammer, is being nominated for the WBCCI Founders Award. The Founders Award is recognition of recruitment of 25 unit members. Jim continues to do an outstanding job for Big Bend and deserves this award. Congratulations Jim – you have earned this award!

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Trip to Plains Georgia on the RR.  
Rally attendees at Georgia Veterans SP



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Parade in Macon, Georgia. There are not enough adjectives to describe this event!



A few of the antebellum houses we toured. Scored a bonus when Mary Palmer's cousin was home to show us around her home!



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Trolley ride in Milledgeville, Ga



Welcome to the Florida Rally at the Florida Keys



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## Florida State Rally

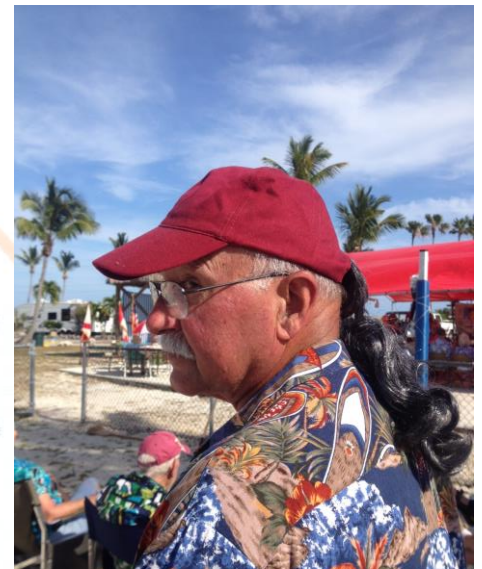
by Martina Pelley

One hundred twelve Airstreams made an immediate right after the 7-mile bridge in the Florida Keys to participate in the Florida State Rally. And participate we did. Some line danced, some sold this and that at the rally flea market, some made day trips into Key West and other Key locales and then came back to the "Big Red Tent" to share their adventures at the daily 4:00 happy hour. All had a great time.

The rally was organized and managed superbly by the Florida Unit. It was held at the Sunshine Key RV Resort and Marina on Big Pine Key. From the opening ceremony on April 2 to the closing dinner and concert under the stars on April 6, WBCCI airstreamers were entertained, relaxed, and had fun among cool breezes, swaying flora, and impossible-to-describe blue/green waters.

Big Bend members who attended the rally were: Chip and Mary Adams, Gary and Rosemarie Anderson, Charley and Annette Hurst, Jim and Bonnie Lewis, Bill and Anniedia Daws, Gordon Johnson, Mac McCauslin, Martina Pelley, David and Ann Tripp, Don and Sandy Wood, Bill and Frankie Worthington as well as affiliated members Dave and Mary Jo Choate, Tom Scheitler and Jeanne Seip.

As good a time as we had, we missed those of you who could not join us.



Getting into the 'Key West' state of mind!



Closer to Cuba than Walmart!



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## Winners at Florida Rally!

Don Woods won a signed Jimmy Buffett print which he donated back to the Wounded Warrior auction. It generated another \$100 donation to Wounded Warriors. Thanks Don!

Jim Lewis was the winner of the 50/50 Wounded Warrior Raffle.

## APRIL RALLY

### Reed Bingham Rally April 25 thru 27, 2014

Hosted by John, Gayle, Chris Duncan and Chip and Mary Adams

*Bring drink of choice and eating utensils to all meals.*

**Friday Evening:** April 25, 6:00 PM EST Pot Luck

**Saturday Morning:** April 26: 8:45 AM EST Sausage, Pancakes & Coffee

**Saturday Lunch:** On your own.

**Saturday Evening:** April 26:

5:30 PM EST Welcoming New Member(s) Bring a lite snack. Drink of choice.

6:30 PM Fried fish, cheese grits, coleslaw, hush puppies and dessert

**Sunday Morning:** April 27: 8:30 PM EST Donuts and Coffee 9:00 PM Short Devotion

Reed Bingham State Park is located on SR 37 between Moultrie and Adel, Ga. (There are two entrances to the State Park. Either will lead you to check in.) *This is a Buddy Rally*

## MAY RALLY

### Rocky Bayou State Park May 16 - 18, 2014

Hosted by Margie & Les Wells and RoseMarie & Gary Anderson

Club Auction – get your items to sell and plenty of cash to Buy! Buy! Buy!

Buddy Rally ---Watch next months newsletter for menu and weekend schedule.

*Check out our Facebook page called Big Bend club. Post comments, good camping spots or restaurants and photos.*

*Our website is: [bigbendfl.wbcci.net](http://bigbendfl.wbcci.net)*

*Password is bigbend11*

Photos submitted by Bill Coleman, Bill Worthington and RoseMarie Anderson