

THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 40
Number 10
November, 2014



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Gary Anderson

1st Vice President

Jim Hentz

2nd Vice President

Bill Coleman

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Chip Adams

Amy Waymire

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A few words from Gary.....

The Halloween October Rally held at Frank Jackson Park in Opp, AL was a sure winner for all who gathered. The weather was fantastic for the entire event. Participating were Carol and Wally Welch, RoseMarie and Gary Anderson, Linda and Bill Coleman, Pat and Jim Hentz, Mary and Chip Adams, Martina Pelley, Annette and Charlie Hurst, and our Host's Frankie and Bill Worthington. Thursday evening Chip & Mary invited their friends from the Andalusia area and prepared a delicious sausage dinner for everyone.

We are close to the end of 2014 and looking back it has been quite a year. Reflecting on the numerous opportunities for travel that were available to Big Bend members during 2014, who wouldn't want to be a member of WBCCI? Following the Christmas Dinner we had great weather in January for Grayton Beach. February was on to St. George Island and Sarasota for Alumaflamingo. During March we were treated to a wonderful Georgia Unit Caravan hosted by Jim and Pat Hentz. In addition to the April and May Rallies we had the opportunity to enjoy Region 3 in Ashville and the State Unit Rally in Key West. The summer months allowed members to travel to Alaska, Northwest U.S., Northeast U.S., Canada, Texas, the Midwest and who knows where else! Then all back together safe and sound to wrap up the Fall season. RoseMarie and I look forward to visiting with fellow Big Benders during our Rally at Topsail to hear about travel experiences, the 'do not miss sights' as well as the 'sights to miss.'

Purchasing an Airstream and joining Big Bend Unit has been a positive life changing experience for RoseMarie and me. What a great unit we belong to! I am anxious to welcome in 2015, enjoy the many roads we will travel, the sites we will see, the friends we will enjoy, and the new friends we will make. Join us!

Membership Notice!

Big Bend Members and Affiliates - A reminder to send in your 2015 membership renewal to Jim Hentz as soon as possible. Make your check out to Big Bend Florida and send it to the following address:

Jim Hentz
3119 Middlebrooks Circle
Tallahassee, Florida 32312-2449

Members need to send a \$75 check and Affiliates send in a \$10 check. Thank you for your continuing support of the Big Bend Florida Unit."



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The State Park Nature Walk was fun to meander (or take a golf cart) to view the numerous and varied 'scarecrows' placed along the path.



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Costume Night!



Bill Coleman - Best Male costume



Carol Welch - Best Female costume



Chip & Mary Adams - Best Decorated Trailer



Bill & Frankie Worthington - Best Food!

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Spotlight on.....Jim and Sheila Skipper 20 years of Airstreaming History 1994 to 2014

While tent camping in North Georgia Jim & I traveled through Helen, Georgia. We were driving north from Helen and passed the Top of Georgia Airstream Park. We thought WOW look at all that silver. We decided right then that one day we would own an Airstream.

In 1994 Skip was working in Marianna, Fla. We were renting an apartment when it dawned on us, "this is our opportunity for an Airstream". We began looking in the Tallahassee area. We learned that the Airstream Dealer in Tallahassee was being sold and the new owner did not want the Airstream inventory. We contacted Airstream Dealer George Bell and found out that he had two Airstreams for sale. George had already sold the dealership so the Airstreams were at his house. When we arrived to look at the two Airstreams, George told us he was going to keep the one we didn't choose. We chose the 1992 narrow body 34' and George took the 25'. When we returned to pick up our Airstream, John King (who had worked for George at the dealership) was detailing and checking everything out when we arrived. Note: John King is still our Airstream repair man.

George was a member of the Big Bend Florida Unit and encouraged us to join the Airstream membership. We had no intention of joining a group. But, that all changed when we were contacted by Sam and Lurlene Murrow, also members of BBF Unit. Sam asked us to come by their home for an introduction to the Unit. Sam was a talker and a strong influence for WBCCI. You guessed it, we joined. We've never forgotten what Sam told us about traveling in an Airstream across country. "You'll always know who slept in your bed last and who used your toilet last".

Well, guess where we went on our first Airstream trip? Top of Georgia! We were so excited to pull into the park among all that silver. The host rang the bell and then....they noticed we did not have the big red WBCCI numbers. They told us we could not stay at the TOP because we were not members. We told them we had just joined Big Bend Florida Unit and had not received our numbers yet. After seeing our Unit membership card they let us stay.

We've never regretted the purchase of our first Airstream. It has been a wonderful experience. Our travels unforgettable. Our friendships made along the way....Priceless!

Thanks for the memories!!!!



Skip served as President in 1998-1999. Sheila served as President in 2010-2011. Both are currently National Caravan Leaders.

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November Installation Rally
November 7 & 8
Topsail State Park



2015 Slate of Officers

President - Jim Hentz

1st Vice President - Bill Coleman

2nd Vice President - Lamar Waymire

Treasurer - Martina Pelley

Secretary - Rosemarie Anderson

2nd Year Trustees - Amy Waymire
and Wally Welch

1st Year Trustees - Carol Montague
and Bill Worthington

Weekend Schedule (Central Time)

Friday Night

4:30pm - Social Time (Bring beverage of choice)

5:30pm - Pot Luck

A sliced Ham will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Saturday

9am - Egg Bake/Juice/Fruit/ Coffee

4:00pm - Social Time (Bring beverage of choice, appetizer provided)

5:00pm - Installation

5:30pm - Italian Feast

Sunday

9am - Quickbreads/yogurt /coffee

All activities will be in the enclosed pavilion. Please bring your own plates, utensils and beverage of choice.

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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



T-shirts and caps are on their way! Our new logo t-shirts and hats will be distributed at the November rally at TopSail. If you ordered and have not paid, bring your checks made out to Big Bend Unit.

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Thank Frankie Worthington for the following recipe which was served at the October Rally to rave reviews!

Creamy Pumpkin Pie Dip

8 oz. Pumpkin Puree (Libby's recommended)

8 oz. Cream Cheese, softened ¼ cup Brown Sugar

1 tsp. Vanilla Extract

1 tsp. Cinnamon or Pumpkin Pie Spice

Mix Pumpkin & cream cheese till smooth. Beat in sugar, vanilla & cinnamon or spice till smooth. Cover and refrigerate till serving time.

Dippers: Apple slices, peeled or unpeeled and/or ginger cookies.

Look at this.....



Coming Up.....

December 6, Unit Christmas Dinner & Toys for Tots

January 16-18, 2015 - Rally at Port St. Joe State Park



Christmas Dinner - December 6, 2014, Wakulla Lodge Big Bend Florida Unit Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend our annual Toys for Tots dinner. It will be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge, 550 Wakulla Park Drive, Crawfordville, Fl. Dinner will be at 6 PM EST and will cost \$18 per person. The price includes tax, gratuity, tea or water, and dessert. A cash bar will be available. We will again be participating in the Toys for Tots program so please bring an unwrapped toy for both a boy and a girl. I am arranging for a Marine Corp representative to come down and pick up the toys.

The menu choices will be pork, chicken, shrimp or steak. I should have a complete menu description at the November rally.

Pat and I want to especially invite the longtime members of the Big Bend Florida Unit who have not been able to join us for a weekend rally the past several years. It is time to get acquainted with one another and for you to provide us with your long time ago camping experiences. Please make every effort to attend. We appreciate your continued membership.

Additional information will be provided at the November Rally and the subsequent newsletter. In the meantime, make your plans to attend.

Jim & Pat Hentz