

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB
INTERNATIONAL**



**VOLUME 43
NUMBER 1
DECEMBER 2016**

bigbendfl.wbcci.net

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Treasurer

Martina Pelley

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Gary Anderson

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Linda Coleman

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Membership

Mary & Chip Adams

Directory/Webpage

RoseMarie Anderson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



WISHING YOU THE BEST OF THE THE SEASON

By Jim Weilhammer

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and extend Seasons Greetings to everyone. Katherine and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Tallahassee at the Holiday Luncheon on December 10th. You are all invited to our home after the luncheon. If you live outside the Tallahassee area you should be able to return home before dark.

I want to thank members who have volunteered to serve as club officials, committee chairmen and hosts for our rallies. Our 2017 Rally Schedule can be found on the website, <http://www.bigbendfl.wbcci.net> and is included in this issue of the newsletter with some updated telephone numbers, campground website addresses, and reservation contact information. We will be assisted this year by our Rally Coordinator, Bonnie Lewis, who will share up-to-date lists of rally participants and campsite numbers.

Our camping year begins with a beautiful location on the Gulf of Mexico. Coastline RV Resort is on Highway 98 in Eastpoint, FL. Wishing you the Best of the Season is continued on page two.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Toys for Tots.....	2
Rally Spotlight.....	3
Rally Recipes.....	9
MLK Rally Schedule	10
Holiday Luncheon.....	11
Welcome New Members.....	12
2017 Rally Schedule.....	14





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

To take advantage of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend, this will be a Kids & Grandkids Rally and will begin on Friday, January 13th and end on Monday January 16th. Monica and Craig Brinkley are our hosts for the weekend. To help with meal planning, please let them know if you will have other family joining you. See the M.L. King Holiday Rally article for more information on the schedule of activities.

If you are planning to attend but have not yet made a reservation, you need to act soon. Any unreserved campsites in the block set aside for the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club will be released for sale to the general public on December 15th.

We look forward to an exciting year and hope you enjoy this year of travel and camping adventures.

TOYS FOR TOTS

By Jim Weilhammer



The Big Bend Florida Unit has a long history of supporting Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corp Reserve to distribute toys to children whose families cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corp Reserve and created the Toys for Tots non-profit charity foundation.

The goal is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, and patriotic citizens. Nationwide, Toys for Tots distributed over 18 million gifts for 7 million children last year. Locally, Toys for Tots is working collaboratively with the Salvation Army Angel Tree, Children's Home Society and other local sponsors and anticipates serving well over 1,000 families this year.

We thank you for your past generosity and ask you again to help make the holidays brighter for local children. Members are asked to donate new, unwrapped toys or books for children birth to 12 years of age and bring them to the Holiday Luncheon. Please note that Toys for Tots cannot accept Play-Doh, play weapons or gifts containing food.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing

By Bill Coleman

As the slogan says, we have “*THE MEATS*” and that became the refrain for a great Installation Rally at Live Oak Landing in Freeport, FL. The hosts, the Anderson’s and Coleman’s, hope everyone had a great weekend. It was a good turnout with 30 attendees.

The usual suspects attending were: Rosemarie and Gary Anderson, Chip and Mary Adams, Tom and Karon Beyer, Jason Friedrich, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Martina Pelley, Jim and Bonnie Lewis, Carol and Winston Montague, Pat and Jim Hentz, John and Judy White, Jack and Sherry White, John and Gayle Duncan, Jay and Elna Thompson, and Bill and Linda Coleman.



Pat Hentz, Amy Waymire and Elna Thompson

Jim Lewis and Jay Thompson

Judy White, Bonnie Lewis, Elna Thompson and Carol Montague





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing continued . . .



In addition, we had two guest couples: Dick and Ursula Glenn, new Airstream owners, and David and Laurie Fredrickson, 30-year veteran Airstream owners and members of the Mystic Springs Unit.

Great news, Chip and Mary convinced the Glenn's we are a fabulous bunch and they became our newest members. Welcome Dick and Ursula!

Live Oak Landing was a magnificent venue. The huge live oaks were beautiful as were the river front views. The campground has paved concrete pads with four-way hook-ups.



The pavilion has a separate fully equipped kitchen with a large gas grill and a large recreation room with comfy chairs large eating tables. Can't forget the enormous flat screen for college football addicts!



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing continued . . .

Friday was grilling your own entrée, “*THE MEATS*” and bringing a side dish to share. The grill smoke could be seen in the next county! Some steaks covered 50% of the grill. The shared dishes were wonderful. Saturday morning breakfast was well received with only crumbs left of three pans of French Toast Casserole.



Saturday evening the culinary team of Jason, Gary and I grilled “*THE MEAT*,” 36, ¾- inch thick smoked pork chops from Bradley’s Country Store. In addition, sweet potatoes, applesauce, broccoli salad, bread/butter were served topped off with a Big Bend Florida sheet cake for dessert. With the exception of six pork chops, every dish vanished with requests for more. WOW, we can we eat!





RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing continued . . .

Prior to the Installation Ceremony, small tokens of appreciation were presented to Chip, Mary, RoseMarie and Martina for their support and much appreciated efforts throughout my year as President.





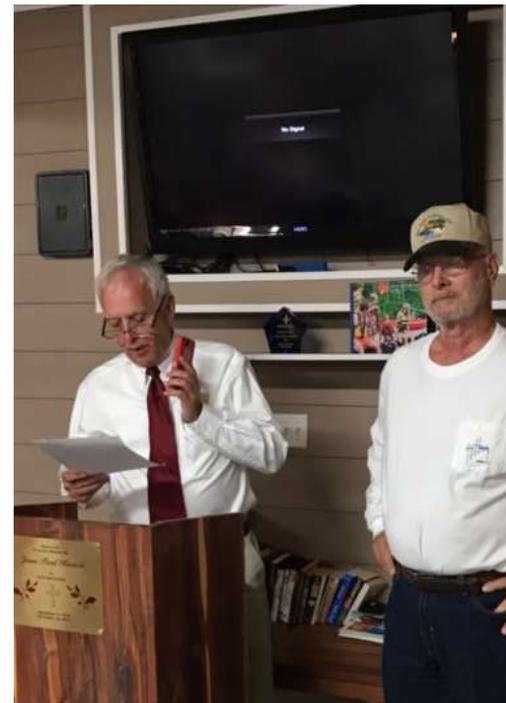
RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing continued . . .

This Installation Ceremony continued this season's theme of adaption to change. The President Elect voiced his desire to keep event simple and informal i.e. no Blue Berets. Our emcee, John Duncan, leapt at the chance to shed his Oshkosh B'gosh farmer's overhauls for a white shirt, tie and slacks for the ceremony.

Of course the installation of officers requires the officers to be present. Oops!! The President Elect "conveniently" scheduled shoulder surgery for that week. Joking aside, we all were so relieved when we called Jim Weilhammer to find him home from the hospital and thankfully doing well. John installed Jim as President and Katherine Kamiya, who will continue as our Secretary, via telephone. First Vice President, Tom Beyer was thankfully if reluctantly installed in person. Attempts were made to contact Second Vice President, Craig Brinkley but phone and internet service failed us. He was in Washington, DC to gain insight into forming a transitioning team for the new leadership (not on our budget). Craig was installed anyway.



John Duncan and Martina Pelley



John Duncan and Tom Beyer



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Live Oak Landing continued . . .



John Duncan, Gary Anderson, Linda Coleman and Jim Lewis



Bill and Linda Coleman

When not eating meals or watching football, the Waymire's trailer became the focal point for consuming roasted and boiled peanut and exchanging tall tales. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Luncheon.



RALLY RECIPES

What do you get when you combine almond bark, peanuts and chocolate? Two delicious candies – variations on a theme. Both were fan favorites at the Live Oak Landing Rally. Both are easy to make and perfect for the upcoming holidays.

PEANUT CLUSTERS

Submitted by Chip Adams



Break up two 20-ounce boxes of white almond bark. Combine the pieces with one 12-ounce package of bittersweet chocolate chips. Place the mixture in a crock pot set on low and stir occasionally until melted and well combined (15-20 minutes depending on your crock pot). Add the contents of a two pound can of salted party peanuts and stir until the peanuts are coated. Using a tablespoon, scoop mixture onto baking sheets covered with wax or parchment paper, spacing 1 ½” apart. Let cluster cool and store at room temperature. Makes about 150 peanut clusters.

ALMOND AND PEANUT BARK

Submitted by Sherry White



Melt one 20-ounce package of chocolate almond bark and ½ package of white almond bark in the microwave following package directions. Stir until well combined. Stir in 1 ¼ cups of dry roasted peanuts. Pour mixture onto a cookie sheet that is covered with wax paper. Spread in an even layer. When the candy is cool and hardened, break into pieces and enjoy.



M.L.K. HOLIDAY RALLY SCHEDULE: Coastline RV Resort, Eastpoint, FL

By Monica and Craig Brinkley

Friday January 13, 2017

- 5:00 p.m. Happy Hour at the Clubhouse.
- 6:00 p.m. Smoked Ham Pot Luck Dinner. Please bring a side dish to share.
- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Apalachicola Oyster Cook-off Art Auction preview and oyster tasting at the Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Arts, 86 Water Street, Apalachicola.

Saturday January 14, 2017

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Trash at the Clubhouse.
- 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Apalachicola Oyster Cook-off will continue at Riverfront Park. Food and refreshments are available for purchase. Entertainment, music, craft beer tasting, historic home tours, museum tours and shopping available in town. The event is a benefit for the Apalachicola Fire Department.
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner on your own. A group will probably plan to dine together in Apalachicola or Carrabelle.

Sunday January 15, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. Brunch at the Clubhouse.
- Optional touring of Tate's Hell Swamp, watching NFL Football and tasting more famous Apalachicola oysters.
- 5:00 p.m. Happy Hour at the Clubhouse
- 6:00 p.m. Open Grill. Bring a meat to grill. Baked potatoes and salad will be provided.

Monday, January 16, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

NOTE: All meals are **Eastern Standard Time**. Please bring eating utensils and dishes. A few extra chairs might also be helpful.



**IT'S NOT TOO LATE
TO RESERVE**

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT

Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 10, 2016

at Noon at

Marie Livingston's Steakhouse

2705 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, FL 32301

MENU

Choice of Entrée: Ribeye Steak, Shrimp or Grilled Chicken Breast

All entrees served with a house salad, baked potato and homemade rolls

Chef's Choice Dessert

Choice of Beverage: Coffee, Iced tea or Soda

COST \$28.80 per person including tax and gratuity

R.S.V.P. as soon as possible by calling Katherine Kamiya at (850) 894-4416 or by email at katherinekamiya@hotmail.com.



Please support Toys for Tots by bringing a gift of a new, unwrapped toy or book for a child birth to 12 years of age.

Following the luncheon, you are invited to a Sweet Table at Jim and Katherine's home.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome new members to the Big Bend Florida Unit. Participants at the November Rally enjoyed meeting Dick and Ursula and they are planning to attend the upcoming Holiday Luncheon so others will have an opportunity soon to welcome them to the club.



Richard and Ursula Glenn (#153)
Gainesville, FL
2016 19' Flying Cloud

MEMBER NEWS

By Mary and Chip Adams

It is time to renew your membership. The annual dues, including membership in the Big Bend Florida Unit, are \$75.00. There is a new online process that is quick and easy. To renew online go to: <http://wbcci.org/component/rsform/form/12-renew-your-wbcci-membership>. If you would prefer to renew by mail, please contact Martina Pelley to request the renewal forms and for instructions on processing procedures.



Merry Airstreaming



... and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



BIG BEND FLORIDA AIRSTREAM CLUB

UNIT 153 REGION 3

2017 EVENT/RALLY SCHEDULE JIM WEILHAMMER, PRESIDENT

Updated: 12/01/2016

Below is the list of events and rallies for 2017. The list below has been updated with the names of rally hosts and changes in some campground telephone numbers, website addresses, and reservation contact information. There are no changes in rally locations. *Please discard prior event/rally schedules and use the one below for future reference.*

Bonnie Lewis has graciously agreed to keep and share an up-to-date list of attendees and site numbers. When you confirm your campground reservations, please send an email to both Bonnie and the rally host (if named).

If you have any questions or are interested in signing up to be a rally host or co-host, please contact Jim Weilhammer at j.weilhammer@gmail.com or (850) 894-4416.

DATE/HOST	PLACE
Fri. January 13- Tu. January 17, 2017 Hosts: Monica and Craig Brinkley	MLK Holiday Rally – Kids & Grandkids Rally in conjunction with the Apalachicola Oyster Cook-off, January 13-14, 2017 Coastline RV Park 957 Highway 98 Eastpoint, FL 32328 850-799-1016 http://www.coastlinervresort.com/
Fri. February 17- Tu. February 21, 2017 Hosts: Ginger & Shearn Spenard	President's Day Rally – Buddy Rally Yellow Jacket RV Resort 55 SE 503 Avenue Old Town, FL 32680 352-542-8365 http://www.yellowjacketrvresort.com/



DATE/HOST	PLACE
Fri. March 10- Sun. March 12, 2017 Hosts: Tom & Karon Beyer	American Frontier Days, March 11-12, 2017 (event dates to be confirmed) F.D. Roosevelt State Park 2970 Georgia Highway 190 Pine Mountain, GA 31822 706-663-4858 http://gastateparks.reserveamerica.com/
Fri. April 7 – Mon. April 10, 2017 Hosts: Linda & Bill Coleman and Gayle & John Duncan	Old Florida Celebration of the Arts, April 8-9, 2017 (formerly known as the Cedar Key Art Fair) Cedar Key RV Resort 11980 SW Shiloh Road Cedar Key, FL, 32625 352-543-5097 http://www.cedarkeyrvresort.com/
Tues. April 26 – Sat. April 30, 2017	Region 3 Rally Georgia Mountain Fairground 1311 Music Hall Road Hiawassee, GA 30546 706-896-4191 http://www.georgiamountainfairgrounds.com
Fri. May 19 – Sun. May 21, 2017 Hosts: RoseMarie & Gary Anderson and Martina Pelley	Silver Springs State Park – Buddy Rally 1425 NE 58 th Avenue (camp entrance) Ocala, FL 352-236-7149 http://www.reserveamerica.com/
Sat. June 10, 2017	Summer Dinner
July 22-29, 2017	WBCCI International Rally Fairgrounds, Escanaba, MI



DATE/HOST	PLACE
August TBA	Family Day Trip to Florida Caverns State Park 3345 Caverns Road Marianna, FL 32446 850-482-1228 http://www.floridastateparks.org/park/FLorida-Caverns
Fri. September 15- Sun. September 17, 2017 Hosts Needed:	Ft. Pickens Campground 1400 Fort Pickens Road Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 850-934-2622 http://www.reserveamerica.com/
Fri. October 13- Sun. October 15, 2017 Hosts: Charlie & Annette Hurst and Bill and Frankie Worthington	Cotton Hill (Corp of Engineers Park) 427 Eufaula Road, Ft. Gaines, GA 39851 229-768-3061 www.recreation.gov
Fri. November 10- Sun. November 12, 2017 Hosts: Mary & Chip Adams (two breakfasts) and Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer	Veteran's Day and Installation Rally Georgia Veterans State Park 2459 US Highway 280 W Cordele, GA 31015 855-330-4300

REGISTRATION FOR 2017 RALLIES

Registration is now open for the January, February, March, April and May rallies. For more detailed information on each rally site, check the website at <http://bigbendfl.wbcci.net/>. At private campgrounds ask for the Big Bend Florida Unit rate when making your reservations. State and federal campgrounds fill up early, so it's not early to make your reservations. If your plans change, cancellation costs are nominal and transferring your reservation to another party is possible.