

# THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



Volume 42

Number 3

February

2016



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## Roaring Start

### By Bill Coleman

Our 2016 Rally Season is off to a *r-o-a-r-i-n-g* start. Those who arrived on Thursday for the January Rally weathered a terrible storm that night with wind gusts of over 50 mph and hailstorms of pinecones. Winds were roaring and trailers were rocking.

Our "no host" rally was a huge success with great attendance. Thanks to all who attended and a special thank you to all who provided all of us with wonderful breakfast treats that made Ho Hum yum-yum! It was a cool but simply gorgeous long weekend in Carrabelle.

The hosts of the February and March rallies are busily planning great weekends so how about joining us? Please make your campground reservations. Once you do, notify your hosts then send me an email at [ourplantation@gmail.com](mailto:ourplantation@gmail.com) to let me know you will be coming and your site number if assigned. The rally schedule updates will be in each newsletter and I will send out an additional update mid-month so you will be apprised of changes as they occur.

Looking ahead . . . Linda and I recently visited the February rally site, Yellow Jacket RV Resort, finding it a very nice place. A word of caution, both my Toyota GPS and Google Maps had misinformation on routing. Make the turn at the intersection of US 19 and 349 to the west.

Lastly, Linda and I want to send greetings from our Unit to those that are under the weather and or hospitalized. Please send us an email or call to let us know how you are doing.

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## *Ho Hum Big Bend Rally*

**By Judy and John White**

We have been put on the “Big Bend Rally Missing List” until this rally. Life has been happening causing us to make choices other than Airstream travel. However, we were able to catch up with a few members, including Bill & Linda Coleman, Shearn & Ginger Spenard, Chip & Mary Adams, Connie & Bear Schenk, Martina Pelley, Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya, recently at Ho Hum RV Park in Carrabelle FL.

We explored Tate’s Hell State Forest and learned the interesting story of its name sake while others were off visiting the Apalachicola Oyster Festival, George Griffin’s Pottery Studio, and Alligator Point. We had great fun including a Friday evening pot-luck supper which included Shearn and Ginger’s daughter and granddaughter, Steffany and Sara Perkins and Airstreamers Debbie and Jim Tome from Sycamore, IL who were in the area after participating in the CanOpener the week before. The Big Bend Unit has unbelievably good cooks. Saturday evening we ate, or should we say overate, at The Fisherman's Wife restaurant located in Carrabelle. The portions were generous and very good.

Mary Adams, Judy White, Linda Coleman, and Jack White



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*Ho Hum Big Bend Rally continued . . .*



Connie and Bear Schenk

Sunday was church, drives to check out our surroundings, and just plain visiting. One of the Big Bend member, we will call him Bill, set about finding a place for Sunday evening dinner. He did indeed find a place, but it closed early on Sundays. Not to be turned down, Bill talked the owner into staying open later for our group. The restaurant was called, Two Brothers and it worked out real good for them and us, as several people noticed it was open, came in and nearly filled the place. Lovely meals with decadent deserts and topped off with the owner making sopapillas for us topped with ice cream and honey.

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## *Ho Hum Big Bend Rally continued . . .*

Ho Hum Campground is located right on the bay side off Highway 98. It is a very pretty setting with a small beach, long fishing pier and a very accommodating manager. Check it out when you are in the area.



Coastline view from Ho Hum

One added note of interest -- a Ho Hum camper collided with a bear while driving his expensive Maserati near by the campground. We were told that bears are sighted regularly. The front of the car was badly damaged, the bear killed and the passengers unharmed. *Poor bear . . .*

We hope to see you all soon.



Beautiful sunset after a stormy night

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Among the many delicious dishes at the Friday night pot luck dinner at the Ho Hum Big Bend Rally, the following dish was a crowd favorite.

### *Rally Recipe: Beef and Vegetable Curry*

**Submitted by Ginger Spenard**

#### *Ingredients:*

1 box (8.8 oz.) of House Vermont Curry Sauce Mix <sup>TM</sup>

1 ¼- lb. of your choice of beef, pork or chicken

Cooking oil

4 medium onions

1-4 medium carrots

4 medium potatoes

Steamed rice or pasta as an accompaniment

#### *Directions:*

1. Cut meat or chicken, onions, potatoes and carrot into bite size pieces. Heat oil in a medium saucepan and sauté meat or chicken until lightly browned. Add vegetables and sauté until vegetables are lightly browned. Add 5 ¾ cups of water and bring to a boil.
2. Cook over low to medium heat about 20 minutes or until meat and vegetable are tender.
3. Remove from heat. Break curry sauce mix into pieces and add to saucepan.
4. Cook over low heat about 20 minutes to blend flavors and until curry sauce thickens.
5. Serve over cooked rice or pasta.

*Serves 6-8 people.*

NOTE: The recipe can be cut in half by reducing ingredients by one half and water to 3 ½ cups. House Vermont Curry <sup>TM</sup> is available in Mild or Hot and can be purchased at specialty grocery stores or at: [www.amazon.com/grocery](http://www.amazon.com/grocery)

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## *International Board of Trustees Meeting (IBT)*

**By Jay Thompson**

The Montague's and Thompson's attended the Mid-Winter IBT meeting in Rayne, Louisiana on January 10-15. There were 76 rigs in attendance at the rally. The Region 6 Cooking Crew provided the meals and they were good Cajun-style food. In addition, we made certain we ate at Shucks, Chef Roy's, and a couple of other good places we remembered from visiting the area on the Cajun caravan.

The IBT Seminar and Meeting were well attended and it is interesting to note that the region officers are actively working to move our club to improve operation and appeal to existing members and new Airstream owners. Several motions were passed to change various by-laws to simplify and reduce the number of by-laws and standing committees, and to increase the efficiency of the Jackson Center office.

Three new Units were granted charters. They are: Europe Airstream Club, Lake Tahoe Airstream Club, and the Utah Wasatch Airstream Club.

Two candidates for International Third Vice-President were interviewed and presented as nominees. They are Mona Heath, the present Region 10 First Vice-President and Pat McFadden, the Region 2 Immediate Past President.

The rally was worthwhile attending as we saw that our club is working to improve its operation and appeal to existing members and new Airstream owners. Also, as is the most important item when attending a rally, we saw many friends and enjoyed their company.

For more information on the IBT meeting go to:

<http://wbcci.org/ibt-mid-winter-meeting-2016/wbcci-publications/ibt-mid-winter-meeting-2016>



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## *Oldest Existing Airstream*

**By Katherine Kamiya and Jim Weilhammer**

We made arrangements at the CanOpener 2016 to have our trailer appraised by Tim Heintz of Heintz Designs Vintage Trailer Restoration, Panama City, FL. Our primary reason for wanting the appraisal was for insurance purposes. Jim has kept careful records of all our costs to renovate our 1974 trailer but we were unsure of whether we could re-coup those costs in the event of a total loss or if we ever sold the trailer. We were impressed by the thorough examination Tim did of the trailer and are anxious to learn the value of the trailer. One tip he shared was that if you own a restored or renovated vintage trailer, your insurance should be based on “agreed upon value.” Without that language in the policy, in the event of a total loss you may only receive the base value for an older trailer based on several RV Pricing Guides.

Separate from our personal business, we learned that Heintz Designs Vintage Trailer Restoration has possession of the oldest existing Airstream. The 1935 Airstream Torpedo was owned and built from plans sold by Wally Byam to Dr. Norman Holman. The plans sold for \$5.00 and were advertised in *Popular Mechanics*. They included instructions for structural requirements for the shell, wiring and electrical fixtures, plumbing and gas lines, springs axles, bubs, and brakes. In addition, directions were provided for the interior designs including the mattress and curtains.



Dr. and Mrs. Norman Holman

The trailer is 17' in overall length with a 14' interior body. The original Masonite shell took only three weeks to construct but it would be another two years before Dr. Holman took his inaugural trip to the Great Smokey Mountains in 1937. After years of use and a near disastrous

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## *Oldest Existing Airstream continued . . .*

trip in 1996, due to failing seals and brakes, a major restoration and refurbishment was undertaken. The exterior was skinned in aluminum and the plumbing, electrical, gas and brake systems replaced.

The trailer has traveled over 400,000 miles and been in the Holman family for 80 years. Dr. Holman's sons, Norman Jr. and Harry made a commitment to displaying the trailer around the country and attending the annual WBCCI International Rally. We were fortunate to meet Norman, Jr and to see the trailer at a state rally in Sarasota.

In 1984, Airstream, Inc. formally recognized the 1935 Airstream Torpedo as the oldest existing Airstream in the world. The Holman family is no longer able to maintain the trailer and Heintz Design Vintage Trailer Restoration has been asked to list this living piece of history for sale. For now, the trailer is in Panama City, FL and Tim has extended an open invitation to anyone who would like to see the trailer.

Contact Tim at (850) 632-4246 to make arrangement for a visit.

To see an interview with Dr. Norman Holman visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPLBfBWeugU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPLBfBWeugU)

For more information on the history of the trailer go to:

[http://tincantourists.com/wiki/doku.php?id=holman\\_norman](http://tincantourists.com/wiki/doku.php?id=holman_norman)

*"Although some originality has been lost and upgrades have been added, it only tells a continuing story from the original builder of this Airstream and the benefit is a trailer that continues to roll and may be serviced easily and relatively inexpensively. Most visitors have difficulty imagining that such a futuristic unit was designed in the 1930's."*

*Tim Heintz*

## *Searching for an Airstream*

Current members of the Big Bend Florida Unit, Connie and Bear Schenk are looking for another Airstream trailer. They want a 28' Flying Cloud with twin beds and a dinette. If you know of a seller, please have them contact the Schenk's at (850) 459-8055

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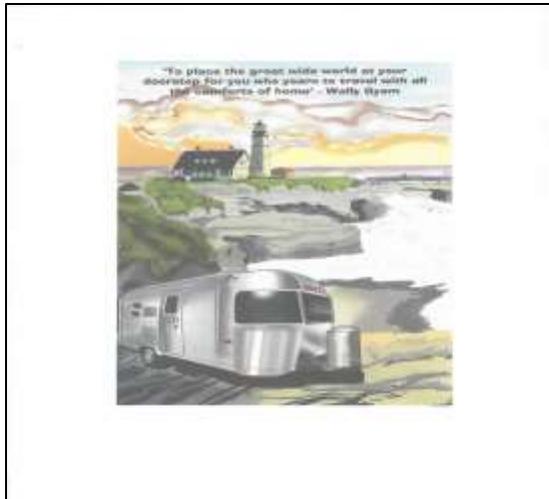
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## Membership Update

By Chip & Mary Adams, Membership Chairmen

The Big Bend Florida Unit currently has 42 regular members registered with WBCCI International, down from the prior year. We had three new members in 2015 that did not renew in 2016. None of these members attended a unit rally. One attended Florida State Rally in St. Augustine, but did not participate in any activities with unit members in spite of our outreach activities. We lost one member due to death and another due to ill health. We lost one member who sold their Airstream and purchased some other brand. We had two members transfer to the Georgia Unit, most likely due to increase in Top of Georgia park rates and making discounts to Regular Members only.

We have found the key may be getting new or perspective members to a rally to meet members and see what goes on at our rallies, visiting with each other, seeing local sites, and of course eating. The most effective recruiting method for us has been rally schedule along with a letter listing websites and information about our unit. It is always important to meet and greet Airstreams we meet in our travels, especially those without numbers. In the past we gave out membership packets. WBCCI International is no longer using these. They have been replaced by a series of post cards with WBCCI website listed. See one of the four cards below.



We have developed labels listing the Big Bend Florida Unit website and our names, telephone number and e-mail address. We have been e-mailing rally sites and letters first and if we get a response, we follow up with post cards and/ or membership forms. This is part of WBCCI to move to internet to handle business. The post cards and e-mails have cut recruiting cost. The cost of mailing packets was about \$3.55/ packet. The cost of post card label is @\$0.30 plus regular stamp. The over-sized post card requires a regular stamp. You may request post cards from us, which will include the Big Bend Florida Unit labels to distribute to perspective members.

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## 2016 Rally Schedule

Bill Coleman, President

Last Updated: 02/02/2016

*Please email Bill Coleman at [ourplantation@gmail.com](mailto:ourplantation@gmail.com) and the rally hosts to confirm your participation and site number.*

DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
February 12-14  Hosts: Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya and Shearn & Ginger Spenard	Children & Grandchildren Rally Yellow Jacket RV Resort 55 S.E. 50s Avenue Old Town , FL 32680 (352) 542-8365  Suggested activities: boat docks and rentals, nice kitchen in outdoor pavilion, heated pool and spa, modern clubhouse, Wi-Fi and cable.	Shearn & Ginger Spenard Steffany & Sara Perkins Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Bill & Linda Coleman Tom & Karon Beyer Martina Pelley	#34 #35 #38  #46 #42 #64
March 11-13  Hosts: Craig & Monica Brinkley and Tom & Karon Beyer	Fort Pickens Campground 1400 Fort Pickens Road Gulf Breeze, FL 32563 (850) 934-2622 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>  Suggested activities: touring Fort Pickens, swimming, museum, fishing, canoeing at Blackwater River State Park.	Bill & Linda Coleman Craig & Monica Brinkley Tom & Karon Beyer Elna & Jay Thompson Martina Pelley Rosemarie & Gary Anderson	E13 E30 E16 E59 E44 E-49

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DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
April 8-10  Hosts Needed	Chehaw Park Campground 105 Chehaw Park Road Albany, GA 31701 (229) 430-5277  Suggested activities: Chehaw Park Zoo, Native American Festival, Flint RiverQuarium, Albany Museum of Art, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Swamp, Swamp train tour, guided boat tours into the Okefenokee Swamp.		
6-11	Florida State Rally Sunshine Key Resort 38801 Overseas Highway Big Pine Key 33043 (888) 408-5018 <a href="http://floridaunit027.wbcci.net/florida-state-rally/">http://floridaunit027.wbcci.net/florida-state-rally/</a>	Chip & Mary Adams Tom & Karon Beyer Bill & Linda Coleman Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Don & Sandy Wood Tom & Karon Beyer Ron & Karen Rush Anniedia & Bill Daws	
27-May 1	Region 3 Rally Meadow Event Park Doswell, VA <a href="http://region3.wbcci.net/region-3-rally-registration/">http://region3.wbcci.net/region-3-rally-registration/</a>	Elna & Jay Thompson Bill & Linda Coleman	
May 13-15  Hosts Needed	T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park 8899 Cape San Blas Road Port St. Joe, FL 32456 (850) 227-1327 <a href="http://www.reserveamerica.com">www.reserveamerica.com</a>	Craig & Monica Brinkley Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Bill & Linda Coleman	#002 #052 #102

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DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
June 28-July 5	WBCCI International Rally Lewisburg, VA	Elna & Jay Thompson Jim & Shelia Skipper Carol & Winston Montague Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Bill & Linda Coleman Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya	
September 9-11  Hosts Needed	Buddy Rally Eagles Roost RV Resort 5465 Mill Stone Road Lake Park, GA 31636 (229) 559-5192 <a href="http://www.eaglesroostresort.com">www.eaglesroostresort.com</a>  Suggested activities: adjacent flea market, Lake Park Outlet Mall, Wild Adventures Amusement Park, Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village (45 miles), Farmhouse Restaurant.	Bill & Linda Coleman Anniedia & Bill Daws	
October 7-10  Hosts Needed	Emerald Lake RV Resort 698 Enterprise Road Colquitt, GA 39837 (229) 758-9929 <a href="http://www.emeraldakerv.com">www.emeraldakerv.com</a>  Suggested activities: Swamp Gravy, official folk life play of Georgia, (800) 514-3849, walking tour of Colquitt murals, Tarrer Inn, 15 S. Cuthbert Street, Colquitt, (229) 758-2888.	Bill & Linda Coleman	
November 4-6  Hosts: Rosemarie & Gary Anderson	Installation Rally Live Oak Landing 229 Pitts Avenue Freeport, FL 32439 (877) 436-5063	Bill & Linda Coleman Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya	

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## *Club Scenes*

We have some great photographers in the club. If you have pictures from unit rallies that are published in the Blue Beret, we get recognition points on our annual merit application. Send a description of the picture with member names and dates of the rally to [dsailor@wbcci.org](mailto:dsailor@wbcci.org) or WBCCI, P.O. Box 612, Jackson Center, OH 45334. Original photos or .jpg file formats are preferred.



*"One's destination is never a place but a new way of seeing things."*

**Henry Miller**