

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB
INTERNATIONAL**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AT THE MID-POINT

By Bill Coleman

It's difficult to believe we are midway through our rally season. Our kick off to summer was celebrated in grand style at the May rally. The rain departed just as Friday "Streamers" (the Worthington's coined this one) arrived. Thank you Tom and Karon Beyer for again treating us to relaxing boat excursions. An enormous thank you to the Worthington's and Hurst's for taking on the task of finding a new campground then transforming the rally into the wonderful event that it was.

We have nine rigs traveling to Lewisburg, WV for the International Rally. Wherever you travel this summer have a great adventure and travel safely.

Please consider attending our fall rallies. The September rally at Eagles Roost RV Resort – Valdosta, GA looks to be a fun and interesting location. Hosts are still needed.

The Installation Rally will now be in **October** rather than November. Emerald Lake RV Resort has great amenities - perfect for and better suited for our celebration including: on-site catering, a restaurant and a game room/bar. At The Mid-Point is continued on page 2.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued . . .

We also have the option of seeing the **Georgia's Official Folk Life Play** "Swamp Gravy" performed in Colquitt and possibly dining in town. We'll need to make arrangements well in advance so let me and your hosts, the Duncan's, know if you will attend.

With all of our past interruptions and changes, let's make our last three rallies the most carefree and FUN!

RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Hardridge Creek

By Amy Waymire

After a change in date and venue, the May rally began with rain. However, it didn't dampen the spirits for the early arrivers. Thursday's attendees gathered, dodging showers, in order to grill dinner and share each other's company. Friday morning everyone slept in with the pitter patter of rain on their campers. Friday afternoon the skies cleared and the remaining Airstreamers joined the rally.



Those in attendance were: Bill and Frankie Worthington, Charlie and Annette Hurst, Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Craig Brinkley, Bill and Linda Coleman, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Ron and Karen Rush, Tom and Karon Beyer, John and Gayle Duncan, Chip and Mary Adams, Martina Pelley, Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya.

Our hosts, the Hurst's and the Worthington's lit fires and started their famous weekend of "cast iron cooking."

Friday's dinner consisted of beef stew and cornbread. After clean-up and a few hours of sleep, the hosts indulged us with hot biscuits and gravy for breakfast.

Charlie and Annette Hurst and Bill Worthington



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Hardridge Creek continued . . .



Lamar Waymire



Martina Pelley and Charlie Hurst



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Hardridge Creek continued . . .

Following breakfast, we had a business meeting to prepare for the upcoming International Rally in Lewisburg, WV.



Business meeting with the group

After breakfast, most members scattered to enjoy the area. Some toured Eufaula, AL and others Ft. Gaines, GA.



RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Hardridge Creek continued . . .

Tom and Karon Beyer brought their float boat and treated several members to a relaxing ride on Walter F. George Lake. What a special treat -- thanks so much Tom and Karon.



RoseMarie Anderson, Karon Beyer and Cassie

Chip and Mary gave impromptu tours of their “new” trailer and tapped the expertise of members to diagnose and fix small problems with the new rig. Saturday supper was a feast of chicken and rice, green beans, Charlie’s famous cornbread and peach cobbler for dessert. All of the meals were delicious, attractive and most appreciated for all of the hard work the Hurst’s and Worthington’s put into this rally. They gave some lessons in cast iron cooking and perhaps they may have some apprentices in the future.

Sunday morning found most heading home to prepare for their summer travels as we will not be rallying again as a club until September. I wish everyone safe travels for the summer and look forward to seeing everyone in September at Eagles Roost RV Resort in Lake Park, GA.



RALLY RECIPE: Dutch Oven Chicken, Broccoli & Rice

By Bill Worthington



Ingredients:

Cooking oil (canola or vegetable)
6-8 boneless, skinned chicken breasts
cut in bite size pieces
1 onion, chopped
Salt and pepper
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can of chicken broth
3 cups instant white rice
½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
10-oz. bag of frozen chopped broccoli

Directions:

1. Prepare a fire for Dutch oven cooking. Generously oil a cast iron Dutch oven.
2. Brown the chicken breast pieces and onion in the Dutch oven. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Add the soups, broth, rice and broccoli to the chicken and onion mixture. Mix well. Sprinkle cheese on top of mixture.
4. Cover the Dutch oven and cook for 45-55 minutes at 375 degrees (19 briquettes on top and 9 briquettes on the bottom). To cook in a home oven, pour mixture into a baking dish and cover with foil and bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove foil and cook 10 more minutes until cheese is brown.

Serves 10 people.



DESTINATION POINT: Chaco Canyon National Historical Park

By RoseMarie Anderson

Chaco Canyon. Remote. Fascinating. Unbelievable. Unbelievable that a culture could exist, no, flourish in such a dry climate. Fascinating that dwellings built with stone tools rise three stories high. Fascinating that this was all accomplished before the Europeans even thought about coming to the Americas.



Located near Farmington, in the northwest corner of New Mexico, Chaco Canyon is a must see destination. The Ancestral Pueblo culture began to flourish there in the mid-800s and persisted over 300 years. By 1050 Chaco was the ceremonial, administrative and economic center of the area. Massive Great Houses with hundreds of rooms is proof of the importance of their cultural influence, planned communities sometimes took years to complete through building techniques unheard of during their time. Always innovating and improving, structures remaining today display six different styles of masonry.



Chaco was connected to outlying communities and resource areas through a planned system of over 400 miles of roadway. Some still visible today. During the 1100's and 1200's, change began in Chaco.





DESTINATION POINT: Chaco Canyon National Historical Park continued ...

Some scientists think extreme weather changes created a drought so severe agriculture could no longer sustain the populace. The Ancestral Pueblos started to move toward Mesa Verde and Aztec.

When visiting this area, it is highly recommended NOT to drive a personal vehicle into the area. There are tours available through the Salmon Ruins Museum near Farmington, which provides transportation to the location, plenty of water, lunch and a guide. Well worth the money. And while at the museum, visit the Pueblo ruins on site, the Pioneer Homestead and view the artifacts on display in the museum. (www.salmonruins.com)

A few other facts before visiting Chaco Culture National Historical Park. The nearest town is 60 miles away; there is no lodging, gasoline, repair services or food available at the park. There is a campground a mile from the Visitor Center, which has tables, fireplaces and central toilets, but cannot accommodate trailers over 30 feet long. Water is available only at the Visitor Center.



While in the area, another Ancestral Community to visit is Aztec Ruins National Monument. Walk through the ruins and the Great Kiva. Their museum displays pottery reflecting the changes in culture over several periods. If it's a full moon, ask about their nighttime walks. Most fascinating! (www.nps.gov)



REMEMBERING WALLY WELCH

Compiled by Katherine Kamiya

The Airstream community lost a good friend with the passing of Wally Welch. As a tribute to him, we share these memories and thoughts.

"Wally will always be remembered for his bow tie, his fun way of looking at the world and his enjoyment of life. Although his health was always a problem he never seemed to let it stop him from doing what he wanted to do. His love for Carol was evident. I loved their story of lighting a "harmony candle" every day and when things would get a little rough he would ask if he should blow it out."

Carol Montague

"Wally had GRIT. He never gave up." RoseMarie Anderson

"I always tried to find Wally and Carol at each rally or convention because they were a good source of humor and friendship. Jim Weilhammer

"HERE ARE A FEW WORDS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF A FRIEND THAT WILL BE MISSED – SMART, DIVERSIFIED, BOW TIE, A SMILE ON HIS FACE, AND ALWAYS WILLING TO SHARE AND ASSIST." WINSTON MONTAGUE

"While Wally will be best remembered for his bow tie, I love this picture because it captures his sense of humor, his great partnership with Carol and his desire to make others smile." Katherine Kamiya





MEMBER NEWS

The Schedule for 2016-2017 Events and Rallies for the Big Bend Florida Unit has been finalized and is available on the website at <http://bigbendfl.wbcci.net/>.

Registration is now open for the January, February, March and April rallies. At the private campgrounds, ask for the Big Bend Florida Unit rally rate when making your reservation. You are encouraged to reserve early to assure you are able to participate. If you are interested in hosting a rally and designing the schedule of activities, or if you have any questions, please contact Jim Weilhammer at j.weilhammer@gmail.com or by calling (850) 894-4416.

MARKETPLACE: 1990 Excella For Sale

34' Excella 1000 for sale. The model has twin beds and all new appliances, except the stove and furnace. The couch and dinette have been re-upholstered. Call for more details and pictures. Asking \$15,000 or best offer. Please share this information with others looking for an Airstream. To get more information, call Chip and Mary Adams at (334) 208-0113.

LOOKING FOR TECHNICAL TIPS AND STORIES

The Big Bender is more interesting with articles from many members. Do you have a technical tip that will help others with a safety or maintenance issue? Perhaps you have a great Airstream story or adventure you would like to share. Do you have a wonderful place you would recommend to others for a future visit? Write it up and send it with photos to katherinekamiya@hotmail.com. Your articles, feedback and ideas are always welcome!



Sunset at Hardridge Creek

"There's a sunrise and a sunset every single day, and they're absolutely free. Don't miss so many of them."

Jo Walton, poet



BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3

2016 RALLY SCHEDULE

BILL COLEMAN, PRESIDENT

Last Updated: 05/29/2016

Please email Bill Coleman at ourplantation@gmail.com and the rally hosts to confirm your participation and site number.

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 Jack & Sherry White Martina Pelley Isabel & Ken Pollard	
September 9-11 Hosts Needed	Buddy Rally Eagles Roost RV Resort 5465 Mill Stone Road Lake Park, GA 31636 (229) 559-5192 www.eaglesroostresort.com 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 Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer	



DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
October 7-10 Hosts: John & Gayle Duncan	Installation Rally Emerald Lake RV Resort** 698 Enterprise Road Colquitt, GA 39837 (229) 758-9929 www.emeraldlakerv.com ** Participants are asked to reserve their sites through the hosts and not through the campground. 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 John & Gayle Duncan RoseMarie & Gary Anderson Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer	
November 4-6 Hosts: Rosemarie & Gary Anderson and Linda & Bill Coleman	Live Oak Landing 229 Pitts Avenue Freeport, FL 32439 (877) 436-5063 Rates will be adjusted based on the total number of units participating. Five to nine units will be given a 15% discount; 10 to 25 will be given a 20% discount.	Bill & Linda Coleman Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya	

**Have safe travels this summer and see you
down the road . . .**