

THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3



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Looking Ahead

By Bill Coleman

The year began with two well-attended rallies. Everyone had wonderful weekends filled with great food, extraordinary scenery and fellowship. Linda and I and all who attended the February rally want to give a BIG shout out to Tom and Karon Beyer for bringing their spacious pontoon boat to Yellow Jacket RV Resort. They very graciously took us out for cruises on the beautiful Suwanee River on both Friday and Saturday. Thank you so much!

As a volunteer docent at the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee, I recently had the honor guiding the Skipper's Florida Fantasy Caravan through the museum.

Looking forward, we have some great activities and opportunities coming up.

March 11-13: Eleven units have signed up for Fort Pickens Rally. Yeah team!

March 28: The Georgia Plantation Caravan, led by our own Winston & Carol Montague, will be in town soon. See the *Member News* column in the newsletter for an invitation to share dinner with the caravan participants. Looking Ahead is continued on page 2.

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Looking Ahead continued . . .

April 8-10: We have a predicament. The plans for the Florida State Rally were in doubt when the date for the April Rally for the Big Bend Unit was set. Currently we have eight units attending Florida State Rally, including your Excellency, leaving few Big Benders to attend the April Rally. I am making a “bold” suggestion – cancelling our scheduled April Rally. However, I’d like to leave an opportunity open to anyone who might like to organize one for those not attending the Florida State Rally. Let me know your thoughts.

May 13 -15: Hosts are needed for the rally at T. H. Stone Memorial at St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This is a spectacular location just awaiting our fun loving Big Benders.

June 28 – July WBCCI International Rally in Lewisburg, VA. Wow, eight units from Big Bend Florida Unit are attending!! Jim Weilhammer is scouting a route for those who do not have to arrive early for caravan leader training. More on a suggested route will be coming soon.

September 9 –11: Hosts are needed for the rally at Eagles Roost RV Resort. This is a very nice facility with lots of local activities including an adjacent flea market, Lake Park Outlet Mall, Wild Adventures Amusement Park, Farmhouse Restaurant. Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village (45 miles) and The Crescent (13 miles).

Member News



The Georgia Plantations Caravan will be visiting Tallahassee March 28-31, 2016. All members of the Big Bend Florida Unit are invited to join the caravan for dinner on Monday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. The dinner will be held outside of Bradley’s Country Store, 10655 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL. The cost is \$10.00 per person and reservations can be made by calling Carol Montague at (850) 212-3726 or sending an email to wmontague@embarqmail.com. Please note there is no shelter at the site and in the event of rain, the dinner will be cancelled.

Airstream Marketplace

Big Bend Florida Unit member, Tom Beyer has a brand new Dometic Penquin II (low profile) air conditioner for sale in the original box. The unit was purchased but did not arrive in time for installation when he had the motor home roof re-done. He also has the new control box for the inside roof. The price for the air conditioner is \$650 and the inside control box is \$75.

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Rally Report: Yellow Jacket RV Resort

By Karon Beyer

What's worse, being old or as dumb as a mule? Or is there a difference? This is a question we pondered at the Children and Grandchildren Rally held at the Yellow Jacket RV Resort in Old Town, FL, February 12-14. We were a small group but a robust and happy one. Those in attendance were Tom and Karon Beyer, Bill and Linda Coleman, Martina Pelley, Shearn and Ginger Spenard, Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya, and Don and Sandy Wood. Jim and Katherine and Shearn and Ginger were our hosts. Also in attendance were Steffany and Sara Perkins, Shearn and Ginger's daughter and granddaughter and Lynn and Phillip Samuels, Martina's daughter and son-in-law.



Don and Sandy Wood, Ginger and Shearn Spenard, Bill and Linda Coleman,
Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya, Tom and Karon Beyer

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Rally Report: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .

While waiting on the Friday arrivals, Captain Tom Beyer took us on a boat ride up the Suwanee River. We went to the bridge at Fanning Springs and actually went into the spring area itself. We saw six manatees slowly swimming and enjoying themselves while ignoring us. Posted signs on the river warned of jumping sturgeon. Fortunately none of us had to duck. We traveled back to the campground and went by the Manatee Springs docks but we were not allowed to enter the springs. It was a chilly and windy ride but we all enjoyed the trip.



Captain Tom and Karon Beyer and Martina Pelley

Friday night everyone went to dinner at the Salt Creek Restaurant in the town of Suwanee. We were joined by Roger and Diane Perry, an Airstream couple from Minnesota, who were visiting Florida for the winter. The snow shoes they had hanging on the front of their unit easily identified them as northerners.

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Rally Report: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .



Dining at Salt Creek Restaurant

Saturday started with a great breakfast in a cozy clubhouse at the campground and another boat ride this time down river. The Suwanee River is definitely a view of “old Florida.” We saw more birds on this trip and cabins in the woods that were almost invisible. After we got back to the campground everyone was on their own for rest and relaxation and side trips and adventures. Tom and Karon took advantage of the time to scope out some possible campgrounds for future rallies.

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Rally Report: Yellow Jacket RV Resort continued . . .

Saturday night dinner was Shearn's delicious hand-smoked brisket plus steamed potatoes, and salad. We enjoyed ice cream and Valentine cookies for dessert. Our meal was warm, delicious, and wholesome and enjoyed by all especially because of the cool weather. Muffins, fruit, and yogurt were served for breakfast Sunday morning before everyone left for home.



Shearn Spenard

A special thanks to our hosts for serving us so well. The camp ground was nice and the facilities were great. The clubhouse was fully equipped including a large screen television and lounge area and had a wonderful covered porch overlooking the river. Our only issue seemed to be the fact that the club house was upstairs. The hosts really got a workout hauling everything up and down those stairs.

A good time was had by all and we look forward to the next rally at Fort Pickens in Gulf Breeze.

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Rally Recipe: Blueberry Streusel Coffee Cake

By Katherine Kamiya

Ingredients for cake:

2 cups of blueberries, washed and dry
2 cups of flour
2 Tbsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ cup butter
¾ cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 egg
½ cup milk
Grated rind of 1 lemon
½ cup chopped walnuts

Ingredients for topping:

1/3 cup flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup sugar
¼ cup butter

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Sprinkle berries with 1 ½ Tbsp. of the dry mixture. Toss gently and set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and egg and beat until fluffy and light. Stir in remaining dry ingredients alternately with milk. Stir in rind and spoon batter over berries. Fold gently until just mixed.
3. Turn into a buttered 9-inch square pan (or a 7 by 11-inch pan) and spread evenly. Sprinkle with nuts.
4. To make the topping, combine the flour, cinnamon and sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over the cake.
5. Bake 50 minutes and cool at least 30 minutes before cutting.

Serves 12-16 people.

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Destination Point: Flaming Gorge Dam Utah

By Sandy Wood

On May 27, 2005 Donald and I were leaving Vernal, Utah on our way to Lander, Wyoming.

We had spent two nights in Springville, Utah on Highway 89. We were going into Salt Lake City to visit the Mormon Temple so we were looking for an “out of the way” road to see something new, so we headed to Vernal. When we got to the KOA in Vernal, I said we are headed to Lander and was told we had a tough road to pull a trailer on up ahead of us. So, the next day we scouted our route and looked for a campground to spend a few days before arriving in Lander.



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Destination Point: Flaming Gorge Dam Utah continued . . .

We came upon a beautiful campground in the National Forest on top of the mountain called Firefighters Memorial overlooking Utah's beautiful Flaming Gorge Dam. It was empty except for the host and co-host so we had our pick of spots. They were all asphalt, back-in and level. We drove back down to Vernal and got what we needed and headed back up the mountain the next morning with our trailer. The lady at KOA was right, it was a tough road but our diesel made it just fine. It's just that it had so many switchbacks that they had numbered them so you knew how many you had to go.



Getting behind a big cattle truck or log truck slowed you down, as well as a fast, little car pushing you, and it seems the right side of the road, my side, is always narrow and if we go off the road, a long way down. A little nerve racking but a different experience that you will not get anywhere else, other than the road from Montrose, Colorado to Durango, Colorado. Don't take

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Destination Point: Flaming Gorge Dam Utah continued . . .

your trailer on that road because ladies, you can't see the bottom in some places, and your back end is meeting your front end on some curves because the curves are so sharp. It's one of those rides where you are pinching the heck out of your drivers leg or hollering "get over" the whole time.

It was dry camping so as we pulled in filled up with water and found our spot and proceeded to set-up. It was beautiful overlooking the dam and waking up to the deer and chipmunks in our backyard. This was one of those stops you didn't even know existed until you pulled over and checked it out. We have found over the years that these are some of the best spots and will make some wonderful memories as our traveling slows down and we reminisce.

A local asked us if we had been to Red Canyon, which we hadn't, so he told us it was just a short way from our campground and we should not miss seeing it. He was right, it was beautiful and again, something different. I'll let the pictures do the talking as walking could be dangerous.

This was a wonderful trip and so glad we did it and we have since then gone back again and traveled it starting from the north and going south.

Vernal is also the way into Dinosaur National Monument on the Utah side.



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Destination Point: Flaming Gorge Dam Utah continued . . .



Mac and Mary Palmer and Sandy and Don Wood

We spent four nights at Firefighters Memorial and then moved to a campground outside of Lander for a night. When we pulled in, there was another Airstream there and it had a Florida tag. The vehicle was gone, but later in the afternoon the couple came in and we went over and introduced ourselves and after talking awhile we said they needed to join our group. The man said, “We already belong to the Big Bend Unit.” It was Mac and Mary Palmer. You just never know who you’ll meet or where on your travels.

Happy traveling to everyone and “make memories.”

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2016 Rally Schedule

Bill Coleman, President

Last Updated: 02/29/2016

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

DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
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 www.recreation.gov Suggested activities: touring Fort Pickens, swimming, museum, fishing, canoeing at Blackwater River State Park.	Bill & Linda Coleman Craig & Monica Brinkley Tom & Karon Beyer Jay & Elna & Thompson Martina Pelley Charlie & Annette Hurst Davis & Linda Gate Bill & Frankie Worthington Don & Sandy Wood Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Chip & Mary Adams	E13 E30 E16 E59 E44 E21 E19 C7 E49 C2
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.		

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DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
April 6-11	Florida State Rally Sunshine Key Resort 38801 Overseas Highway Big Pine Key 33043 (888) 408-5018 http://floridaunit027.wbcci.net/florida-state-rally/	Chip & Mary Adams Tom & Karon Beyer Bill & Linda Coleman Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Don & Sandy Wood Ron & Karen Rush Charlie & Annette Hurst Annieda & Bill Daws	
April 27-May 1	Region 3 Rally Meadow Event Park Doswell, VA http://region3.wbcci.net/region-3-rally-registration/	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 www.reserveamerica.com	Craig & Monica Brinkley Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Bill & Linda Coleman	#002 #052 #102
June 28-July 5	WBCCI International Rally Lewisburg, VA http://wbcci.org/	Elna & Jay Thompson Jim & Shelia Skipper Carol & Winston Montague Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Bill & Linda Coleman Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Jack & Sherry White Martina Pelley	

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DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
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 Bill & Anniedia Daws	
October 7-10 John & Gayle Duncan Lamar & Amy Waymire	Emerald Lake RV Resort 698 Enterprise Road Colquitt, GA 39837 (229) 758-9929 www.emeraldlakerv.com 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 Lamar & Amy Waymire	
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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Looking for Stories

Do you have a great Airstream story or adventure you would like to share? Maybe you have a technical tip or wonderful place you would recommend for a future visit. Write it up and send it with photos to Katherinekamiya@hotmail.com. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome!



Boat dock at Yellow Jacket RV Resort

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain

