

# THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA  
UNIT 153 REGION 3**

**AIRSTREAM CLUB  
INTERNATIONAL**



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[bigbendfl.wbcci.net](http://bigbendfl.wbcci.net)

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



### **SPRING FORWARD AND FALL BACK**

**By Bill Coleman**

The May Rally looks to be the best attended of the season. What a way to kick off the summer! Fourteen units: 27 people.

Those who attended the Florida State Rally were certainly treated with Chamber of Commerce weather and scenery. The Rally afforded great food, education, entertainment and most of all delightful fellowship. Thanks to all that voyaged South and special kudos to the Wood's and Beyer's who hosted us as Fred, the iguana, salivated over our luscious low country boil.

We are still in need of hosts for our September Rally. It's a terrific venue with many entertainment opportunities. Who can resist the g-y-n-o-r-m-o-u-s flea market just down the road from the campground? As you consider attending and possibly hosting, please think about adding your names to those participating in the October and November rallies as well. The fall weather will be so welcome by then and your hosts are eager to have you join them for food, fun and more.

***Please make your reservations soon.***

Before we know it the WBCCI International Rally will be upon us, so far eight units are traveling to the land of the **Hatfield's-McCoy's** (1863-1891).

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

Rally Spotlight .....	2
Rally Recipe .....	6
Region 3 Rally .....	7
Georgia Plantations & More .....	9
Memories of Days Gone By .....	12
Technical Tip .....	14
Member News .....	14
Marketplace .....	15
2016 Rally Schedule .....	17





## RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Florida State Rally

By Jim Weilhammer



Katherine and I left Tallahassee on March 31<sup>st</sup> and our three unit caravan began in Rainbow Springs State Park near Dunnellon where we met up with our travel mates Chip and Mary Adams and Tom and Karon Beyer. The highlight of this overnight stop was dinner at Swampy's on the banks of the Rainbow River. The next leg of our journey took us to Myakka River State Park east of Sarasota. Although we stayed for two nights, rainy weather prevented us from enjoying the park's canopy walk or tram so we settled for an old fashioned Amish dinner and pie at Yoder's Restaurant. The last intermediate stop was deep in the Big Cypress National Preserve at Midway Campground. Here we met up with Don and Sandy Wood and about 10 other Airstreamers bound for the state rally. Based on the recommendation of Shelia and Jim Skipper, we took a very interesting tram ride at the Shark Valley Visitors Center for a close up look at Everglades National Park.

We ate at the only game in town, Joanie's Blue Crab Café and enjoyed good (but expensive) seafood. Chip and Katherine took an airboat ride into the glades with a Miccosukee guide.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> we reached Sunshine Key RV Resort in Big Pine Key. As we exited the Seven Mile Bridge in Marathon, we began to see a sea of shiny Airstream trailers. Altogether I believe there were 170 rigs in attendance. The Big Bend Florida Unit was well represented. Present this year with us were Bill and Linda Coleman, Karen and Tom Rush, Chip and Mary Adams, Tom and Karon Beyer, Charlie and Annette Hurst, Frankie and Bill Worthington, Don and Sandy Wood, Ann and David Tripp and Gordon Johnson.



## **RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Florida State Rally continued . . .**



Sunshine Key RV Resort

We were camped under a palm tree and we were surrounded by turquoise colored water. It was easy to catch the Keys “laid back” vibe. The rally fee included two breakfasts, a dinner, nightly entertainment, door prizes, three workshops and a two-day ticket for the Old Town Trolley. Don and Sandy braved the traffic driving into Key West with the Beyers, Katherine and me so we could ride the trolley around town. We had the obligatory cheese burger in paradise at Jimmy Buffet’s Margaretville. Tom and Katherine took a quick tour of Mel Fisher’s Treasure Museum. We did local touring which included a huge unoccupied bat house and the Blue Hole at the National Key Deer Preserve. We had stone crab claws and our first Lobster Reuben sandwich. Sandy and Don hosted a unit Low Country Boil providing the shrimp with the Beyer’s providing the other ingredients to reprise their successful dinner at Seminole State Park. Other members provided drinks, appetizers and of course key lime pie. We renewed an old acquaintance from the Vintage Club and learned a lot about dolphins and seals at the Dolphin Research Center. By the closing event, seven members of the unit had won a door prize!





**RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Florida State Rally continued . . .**



Animals of the Florida Keys



## **RALLY SPOTLIGHT: Florida State Rally continued . . .**

We left Sunshine Key RV Resort on April 11<sup>th</sup> for the short trip to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo. We took a 2-hour ride on a glass bottom boat out to Molasses Reef and were able to see a wide variety of marine plants and animals. Our next overnight stop was Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring and our final stop was Salt Springs in the Ocala National Forrest. We enjoyed the springs and recommend this as a potential rally location. We returned home on April 16<sup>th</sup> with memories of many camping adventures and confirmed that Florida is one L-O-N-G state.



Sunset in paradise



## **RALLY RECIPE: Lobster Reuben Sandwich**

**Submitted by Katherine Kamiya**

While Key Fisheries Restaurant in Marathon, FL was *not* sharing its recipe for its famous Lobster Reuben Sandwich, the recipe below has all the right ingredients and may be close to the original without the water view.

### ***Ingredients:***

- ¾ - 1 lb. of steamed spiny lobster meat cut in bite size chunks
- ½ cup of Thousand Island dressing
- 1 cup of well-drained sauerkraut
- 4 thick slices of Swiss cheese
- 4 slices deli-style rye bread cut in thick slices
- Butter, softened

### ***Directions:***

1. Generously butter one side of each slice of bread. On the unbuttered side of two slices of bread, spread ¼ cup of Thousand Island dressing and layer each with half the lobster meat and sauerkraut. Top with two slices of Swiss cheese and bread, placing the buttered side of the bread on the outside of the sandwich.
2. Add butter to a griddle or cast iron skillet and melt over medium heat.
3. Gently add each sandwich to the griddle or skillet and cook until brown. Carefully flip the sandwich over and cook until the cheese has melted and the other side is brown.
4. Remove from the griddle, cut in half and enjoy.

***Serves 2 people.***



## **CHANGES IN THE BIG BENDER**

**By Katherine Kamiya**

The Big Bender has a new look and feel. Over the last few issues I have experimented with new content and graphic changes to improve readability. The new format includes the website address and features our beautiful new logo designed by Wally Welch. Graphically it has a sharper overall look that I hope is visually appealing. I want to acknowledge Tracey Rouse, a multi-talented individual that I have the pleasure of knowing through my daughter-in-law. Tracey volunteered her time and talents and did most of the work to achieve this new look.

I am very interested in your feedback about the “new look” and the expanded content in The Big Bender. I am always interested in your ideas about how to better serve our members and welcome your ideas. Send your comments to [katherinekamiya@hotmail.com](mailto:katherinekamiya@hotmail.com) or call at (850) 894-4416.

## **WBCCI 2016 REGION 3 RALLY: Spirit of Secretariat**

**By Jay Thompson**

Carol and Winston Montague and Elna and Jay Thompson represented the Big Bend Florida Unit at the Region 3 Rally in Doswell, Virginia. Winston carried the Unit flag at the opening ceremony and Elna was the representative at the board meeting. Carol and Elna also assisted with registration. Carol has been the region treasurer for the past four years. Jay was a member of the region board of directors as the immediate past region president. Both Carol and Jay have completed their terms.

Several seminars were presented ranging from maintenance to “Getting Involved with your Unit” and “Planning and Hosting a Rally” to “Planning a Road Trip”. Jay presented two sessions of Unit Officer Training and a seminar on “What is a Caravan”. Jim Cocks, International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President talked about the “State of WBCCI” and Matt Hackney, the “State of Region 3”.

In summary, Region 3 has gained 5% in membership over the past three years. Our unit has lost 12.8% in membership over the past three years. Obviously since Airstream sales are up almost 25%, our region’s membership record could be better.





## WBCCI 2016 REGION 3 RALLY continued . . .

Region 3		2016			
Unit #	Unit Name	New	Renewals	Total	% delta
153	BIG BEND FLORIDA	2	39	41	-12.8
21	CAROLINAS UNIT OF NC	14	52	66	4.8
37	COASTAL GEORGIA	6	12	18	-14.3
144	EASTERN NC	4	20	24	-17.2
28	EVERGLADES FLORIDA	0	8	8	-38.5
27	FLORIDA	28	56	84	23.5
174	FLORIDA SPRINGS	1	16	17	-37.0
129	FLORIDA SUNCOAST	8	22	30	30.4
162	FLORIDA TREASURE COAST	1	51	52	-17.5
32	GEORGIA	36	221	257	-2.3
110	NORTHERN VIRGINIA	4	34	38	15.2
22	PALMETTO STATE SC	6	30	36	-7.7
161	PIEDMONT NC	12	41	53	35.9
149	SHENANDOAH VLY UNIT OF VA	1	17	18	5.9
150	SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL	11	31	42	23.5
30	SOUTH FLORIDA	10	33	43	13.2
12	SOUTHEASTERN CAMPING UNIT	20	55	75	59.6
111	TIDEWATER VIRGINIA	8	23	31	24.0
109	VIRGINIA	6	27	33	26.9
169	WESTERN NC	3	24	27	-10.0
<b>Region 3</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>5.1</b>

Matt noted that Region 3 will have 186 rigs in attendance at the International Rally in Lewisburg. Scheduled to attend from Big Bend Florida Unit are the Anderson's, Coleman's, Skipper's, Montague's, Thompson's, Jack and Sherry White, Jim Weilhammer and Katherine Kamiya and Martina Pelley is on the waiting list for a site with limited service.





## GEORGIA PLANTATIONS & MORE . . .

**By RoseMarie Anderson**

Thanks to club members Carol and Winston Montague and Jay and Elna Thompson, we have a dynamic national caravan right in our back yard. For the next couple years, both the Montagues and Thompsons are going back to lead the Southwest Caravan, so Gary and I have the honor to lead the Georgia Plantations & More Caravan. And MORE there is. We not only will be visiting some of the most spectacular Plantations in Georgia, but investigating the agriculture behind their existence, the families that built and worked the plantations and were instrumental in either their eventual demise or adaption with the times.



Did you know there are over 120 plantations between Tallahassee and Thomasville? We will be visiting three with very different histories and futures. From large dairy and horse plantations to timber and hunting lodges, you'll experience it all.



Small towns in Georgia are numerous, each with rich histories, interesting architecture and their own story to tell. Like the murals in Colquitt, Uncle Remus museum in Eatonton, and the old capitol building in Milledgeville where succession from the union was heatedly debated and finally decided. Social Circle





## GEORGIA PLANTATIONS & MORE continued . . .

with the famous Blue Willow Inn, which would not have succeeded without the serendipitous visit from a famous newspaper columnist.

Bradley's Country Store outside Tallahassee gave each of us the chance to try dry-camping and to the surprise of the never initiated, it was a non-issue. Delicious grilled smoked pork chops and sausages, the gorgeous canopy road and country quiet made it an excellent stop.



A trip through southwest Georgia would not be complete without a stop in Americus and Plains – home of former President Jimmy Carter. The President still does Sunday school class once a month. It might just be the Sunday we are there. Andersonville with its new museum is another must see stop while in the area.



Rich in Civil War history, steeped in tradition and with an overwhelming number of pre-civil war homes, Madison, Georgia is high on the list of favorite stops. Mr. J. Stratton Hicky will give us a personal tour of the Stokes-McHenry-Hicky Home, which has been in his family for seven generations. The Hicky family opens their home to the public only twice a year - once for our Caravan and the other as a local fundraiser. The opportunity to hear first-hand stories of this family and their home is amazing.



## **GEORGIA PLANTATIONS & MORE continued . . .**

There are six stops on the caravan, three of them in gorgeous Georgia State Parks, some of them the earliest parks in the system, located near springs, or sacred early Indian Mounds. With these beautiful surroundings, there will be time for outdoor cookouts, and hikes as well as investigating the surrounding area.



Heritage Hall in Madison, GA



Jarrell Plantation – Another multi-generational plantation farmed until the 1960's

There is so much MORE to see on the Georgia Plantation Caravan, join us to see it all for yourself, in the company of like-minded, adventurous people...Airstreamers!

**Caravan Dates: March 23-April 13, 2017**

**Rally Fee: \$1,500.00 for two persons/\$1,200.00 for one person**

**Application: See the Blue Beret. A \$200.00 deposit is due with the application. Balance is due November 1, 2016.**

**Questions? Email Gary or RoseMarie at [gary.rosemarie@gmail.com](mailto:gary.rosemarie@gmail.com)**





## MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY

**By Frankie Worthington**

We have seen present events of all the things our club has done....so I thought it might be nice to take a look back on the many things done in days gone by. Sometimes it's nice to just look back for a moment in time. So here we go!

### **Florida State Rally.....Sarasota.....February, 2002**

As you can see from these pictures our club has/had clowns! Yes, they were seen in public! The first picture is of Adair Weston, Charlie Hurst and Bill Weston. The second clown picture is of Charlie and Annette...she's not looking like a happy clown. The last picture is of the Westons wearing one of their many colorful outfits...they made all their matching outfits. They were a cute and loving couple and fun.





## **MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE By continued . . .**

**Three Rivers State Park...March, 2006.....Low Country Boil....Host: John, Gayle, Chris Duncan**

You must not put more potatoes in the pot than the recipe calls for! John made sure. Many of us sat and watched the cooks in action while John guided his assistances in the preparations to the letter. Great entertainment and great food. (Gayle was smart to just stay in the background.)



**April, 2011...Meaher State Park....Mobile Hosts: The Adams and The Lewis**

We woke up to a foggy morning, but that didn't stop any of us from getting out and picking up where we left off the night before...great conversation and good eats! Chip, Mary, Jim and Bonnie fixed a good breakfast and we all did a good job of taking care of it. Now on to the day's fun and evening meal.



Hope you enjoyed your trip down memory lane and keep travelling and making new memories.



## TECHNICAL TIP: Tire Safety

**By Bill Coleman**

Many of you have experienced, as I recently did, tread separation. In my case the tire stayed inflated and I was tempted to drive to the next safe spot or service station. I chose to remove it and placed it in my tow vehicle. **DON'T DO WHAT I DID!!!** I was advised later that the tire could have exploded because of the weakened casing. If this happens to you, deflate the tire immediately.

## MEMBER NEWS

The Schedule for 2016-2017 Events and Rallies for the Big Bend Florida Unit has been finalized and was sent out to members by email in late April. The schedule includes both public and private parks and locations across the geographic area of our members. Several rallies have been scheduled in conjunction with local activities including the Appalachicola Seafood Festival and the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts in Cedar Key. Reservations can be made **now** for the January, February, March and April rallies. 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](mailto:j.weilhammer@gmail.com) or by calling (850) 894-4416.



Congratulations to Monica and Craig Brinkley on the birth of their first grandchild. Audrey Ann was born on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The grandparents are more than thrilled!

Pat Hentz has progressed to an intensive phase of treatment that will last over the next month. If you would like to share messages of encouragement and support, text message or email are the best avenues. She is in a protective environment to limit her exposure to potential sources of infection so greeting cards are not suggested at this time.

Please remember Anniedia Daws in your prayers for healing and health as she recovers from a recent fall.





## **MARKETPLACE: 1966 Safari For Sale**

Just remodeled 22' Safari in a mid-60s diner theme with black/white checker board vinyl floor. All new white bead board cabinets and over 10 feet of black crystal Formica counter tops and microwave. Full-size queen bed with storage below. Vintage propane light and unique custom interior including pull-out pantry dining table, trash/recycling bins. This rig has more storage than most newer models due to creative design and space utilization.

New equipment includes a Dometic air conditioner, 2 Fantastic vents, 3 burner stove/oven, large refrigerator/freezer, 10 gallon water heater, water pump, heavy duty converter, ceramic toilet with bidet, HD TV/DVD/CD/radio, interior LED lights, pleated shades on all windows, heavy duty screens and blackout windows, PEX plumbing, 120 and 12 volt circuits, and tires. Awning and new fabric not installed.

None better out there! See pics and video on request. Asking \$25,000 or best offer. Call Bear Schenk at (850) 459-8055.





*"As with any journey WHO you travel with can be more important than your destination."*

Author Unknown



Karon and Tom Beyer, Chip and Mary Adams, Linda and Bill Coleman, Katherine Kamiya, Gordon Johnson, and Jim Weilhammer at the Blue Hole in the Florida Keys



# BIG BEND FLORIDA UNIT 153 REGION 3

## 2016 RALLY SCHEDULE BILL COLEMAN, PRESIDENT

**Last Updated: 04/29/2016**

*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
May 13-15	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>	<b>RALLY RE-SCHEDULED SEE BELOW</b>	
May 20-21  Hosts: Annette & Charlie Hurst and Bill & Frankie Worthington	Hardridge Creek Corp of Engineers Campground 592 U.S. Government Road (County Road 97) Abbeville, AL 36310 (334) 585-5945 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>	Rosemarie & Gary Anderson Jim Weilhammer & Katherine Kamiya Bill & Linda Coleman Annette & Charlie Hurst Bill & Frankie Worthington Jim & Shelia Skipper Tom & Karon Beyer Craig Brinkley Jim & Bonnie Lewis Amy & Lamar Waymire Gayle & John Duncan Don & Sandy Wood Chip & Mary Adams Martina Pelley	#34 #28  #26 #32 #33 #31 #35 #25 #23 #27 #24 #20 #22 #21





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	
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 Annie & Bill Daws Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer	
October 7-10  Hosts: John & Gayle Duncan and Lamar & Amy Waymire	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 John & Gayle Duncan Lamar & Amy Waymire Katherine Kamiya & Jim Weilhammer	



DATE/HOST	PLACE	ATTENDEES	SITES
November 4-6  Hosts: Rosemarie & Gary Anderson	Installation Rally 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	

**See you down the road . . .**