

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
AIRSTREAM CLUB**

UNIT 153 REGIONAL



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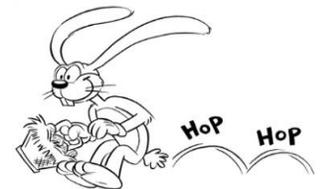
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Easter!!!

By: Tom Beyer



Throughout our lives we must make choices. Some are easy, some are not so easy. When we were younger, our choices could have been as easy as what to wear to school or what flavor of ice cream we wanted for dessert but as we became teenagers and young adults our choices became more involved and difficult. Do I cheat on a test, do I get involved in drugs, do I lie to my parents, who do I marry? These were our formidable years and a difficult time for all of us. Now that we (most of us) are in our senior years, our choices have changed again. Am I spending my retirement money properly, do I follow a healthy diet, do I feel safe on the road? Choices are just what they are. It's up to us to make our own choices and choose them wisely. What may be a good choice for one individual may not be a good choice for another. Think before you speak and act and choose wisely.

We were finally successful in being able to hold a rally at Ft. Pickens. The weather was almost perfect, until we left, and a good time was had by all. For those of us who had not visited this part of Florida before, it was a great learning experience. The Emerald Coast is beautiful.

Changes and upcoming events are included in the newsletter. Be sure to make note of any that affect you. Hope you have a Happy Easter whether you celebrate it alone or with family and friends. Spring is definitely here!!!





RALLY SCHEDULE: April '18 – November '18

DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Fri. April 20 – Sun. April 22, 2018 Hosts: Tom and Karon Beyer	<i>Spring Celebration</i> Salt Springs Recreation Area 13851 Highway 19 N Ft. McCoy, FL 32134 Information: 352-685-2048 Reservations: 877-444-6777 https://www.recreation.gov/camping/salt-springs-recreation-area/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=73853	Senior Rate: \$19.00/night. Reservations can be made through https://www.recreation.gov up to 6 months in advance. Sites 4-22 are around a bath house and are grouped together at the far end and are convenient. There is not a covered pavilion but the sites are concrete and large.
Tues. April 25 – Sun. April 29, 2018	<i>Region 3 Rally</i> Myrtle Beach, SC	Tom and Karon Beyer will be attending and representing the Big Bend Airstream Club. They will be caravanning from Salt Springs to Myrtle Beach. Please let Karon know if you have registered.
Fri. May 18 – Sun. May 20, 2018 Hosts: Jim and Sheila Skipper and Jason Friedrich	<i>Summer Celebration</i> Gunter Hill Campground 561 Booth Road Montgomery, AL 36108 Campground: 334-269-1053 https://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/gunter-hill/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71187	Rate: \$18.00/night. Reservations can be made through https://www.reserveamerica.com up to 6 months in advance. There are many things to do around Montgomery, more details at a later date.
Sun. June 17 – Sat. June 30, 2018	<i>61st WBCCI International Rally</i> Oregon State Fairgrounds Salem, OR http://wbcci.org/international-rally/caravans/rallies/international-rally/2018-salem-or/2018-salem-or	Jay Thompson will be the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club delegate.



DATE/HOST	PLACE	DIRECTIONS/NOTES
Fri. September 14- Sun. September 16, 2018 Hosts: Craig and Monica Brinkley and Amy and Lamar Waymire	<i>End of Summer Celebration</i> Live Oak Landing 229 Pitts Avenue Freeport, FL 32439 Landing: 877-436-5063 http://rvcoutdoors.com/live-oak-landing/	Rate: Off Season rate: \$45- \$47/night. -10% off - 5 to 9 units -15% off - 10 to 20 units Advise "Big Bend Airstream" when making reservations.
Fri. October 26- Sun. October 28, 2018 Host: RoseMarie and Gary Anderson	<i>Columbus Day Celebration</i> White Oak (Creek) Campground 395 Hwy. 95 Eufala, AL 36027 Campground: 334-687-3101 https://www.recreation.gov/camping/white-oak-creek-campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=71498	Rate: \$24.-\$48. Night. Reservations can be made through https://www.recreation.gov up to 6 months in advance
Fri. November 16- Sun. November 18, 2018 Hosts: Carol and Winston Montague and Jay and Elna Thompson	<i>Installation Rally</i> Sugar Mill RV Park 4857 McMillan Road Ochlocknee, GA Reservations: 229-227-1451 http://www.sugarmillrvpark.com/	Rate: \$25.38/night Advise "Big Bend Airstream" when making reservations.





MARCH RALLY AT FT. PICKENS UPDATE:

We finally were able to camp at Ft. Pickens State Park but those that stayed an extra day or two were barely able to get out! A big storm came through with high winds then fog and the water and sand on the road was surprising but passable. The park was “tight” for most of our rigs, parking off the grass was difficult, but the fort, museum, and beach were both interesting and beautiful. We had a brief visit from new affiliate members Denis and Mary Jungblut who were camping elsewhere in the Pensacola area and Chip and Mary had dinner with Bonnie and Jim Lewis Monday evening. The park ranger at Ft. Pickens gave an informative and animated tour of the history of Ft. Pickens. It was a good rally and enjoyed by all.



The Navy Museum was a history lesson in itself. This is where pilots were trained for safety sake rather than in the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans. The work they've done in restoring old airplanes is remarkable. Did you know there are over 200 airplanes at the bottom of Lake Michigan?



The beaches and dunes were beautiful and are protected from both people and condos.



MARCH RALLY AT FT. PICKENS con't:



We all enjoyed the food. This was a no host rally but we were lucky to have Saturday breakfast of pancakes and sausage prepared by Chip and Mary Adams and Sunday breakfast of apple cider oatmeal with toppings, yogurt, and breads and spreads prepared by our new resident chef, Jason Friedrich.



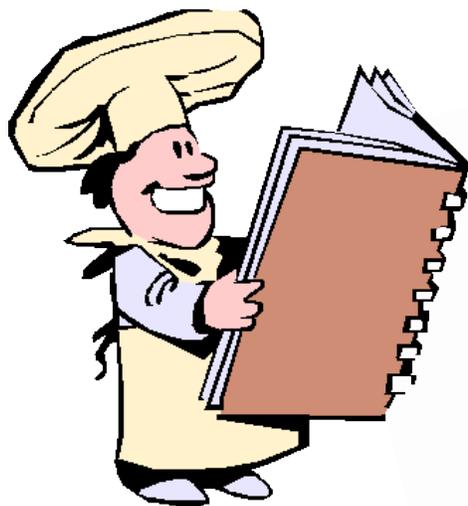
We ate out as a group at "Crabs, We Got 'Em" and "Peg Leg Pete's". The food was excellent, served fresh, and in large quantity.



Those who attended were: Chip and Mary Adams, Jason Friedrich, Bill and Linda Coleman, Carol and Winston Montague, Martina Pelley, Craig and Monica Brinkley, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Scott and Jan Pfaff, and Tom and Karon Beyer.



Jason's Crock Pot Apple Cider Oatmeal Recipe:



Ingredients:

- 6 cups apple juice or cider
- 2 cups steel cut oats
- 2 tablespoons to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Instructions:

Mix ingredients together in 4-5 quart slow cooker.

Cook 3-4 hours on low.

Cook longer if you double the recipe.

Add toppings of your choice (raisins, slivered almonds or chopped pecans, dehydrated/dried fruit, more brown sugar or cinnamon).





April Rally at Salt Springs:

The April rally at Salt Springs is fast approaching. Those who have signed up are: Martina Pelley (#15), Kathrine Kamiya, Craig Brinkley (#51), Chip and Mary Adams (#19), Amy and Lamar Waymire, Charlie and Sue Goodman, Jay and Elna Thompson (#45), Jason Friedrich, and Tom and Karon Beyer (#18).

If I do not have you listed as attending the April rally and you have reservations, please let me know. Unfortunately, it appears that there are currently no available sites but we were told that our “snow bird friends” will be leaving the park daily and sites may become available.

Please check daily either online at the park’s website or with the Reservation websites to see if a site becomes available.



YOUR HOSTS

Karon & Tom



There is no covered area but plenty of room in the park. We will bring a canopy but will probably need a couple more. If you have one and you are attending, please let Karon know.

This park is near Ocala where there are plenty of sites and things to do. If the weather cooperates we should have a great time.

Friday

Dinner: Potluck. Bring your favorite dish!

Saturday

Breakfast: Casseroles, fruit, biscuits/breads, juice and coffee

Dinner: Grilled hamburgers, all the fixins, baked beans, a variety of salads (broccoli, pasta, and potato salad), and dessert

Sunday

Breakfast: Katherine Kamiya has graciously volunteered to serve Sunday morning continental breakfast with breads and spreads. We’ll also have fruit and juice and coffee.



Georgia Plantation Caravan:

The Georgia Plantation Caravan hosted by RoseMarie and Gary Anderson rolled through Tallahassee on March 26th-30th. They made their usual stop at Bradley's Country Store and enjoyed their meal of Bradley's sausage and pork chops. Jim and Pat Hentz are also traveling with this caravan. There were folks from California, Texas, New York, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina who were excited about visiting the many plantations and southern sites. We know they will have a good time with RoseMarie and Gary as their hosts.



Region 3 Rally in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Tom and Karon will be following Jay and Elna Thompson from Salt Springs to The Region 3 Rally in Myrtle Beach South Carolina April 25th – 29th. Jim and Bonnie Lewis will be meeting us there. We will let you know about what is discussed, any changes, and upcoming news after we return. This is a huge park. I'm sure it will be a sight to see all those Airstream trailers in one spot. We should have a good time and learn a lot too.



May Rally at Gunter Hill Campground

As a reminder, the May Rally is at Gunter Hill Campground in Montgomery, Alabama is on May 18th-20th. If you plan to attend, make your reservations now and choose the Catoma area. Those registered so far are the Brinkley's (#7), Chip and Mary, Martina (#65), and the Beyer's (#64). Let me know if you are coming and your site number. Address, reservation and cost information is included in the Rally Schedule in this newsletter. Sheila and Jim Skipper and Jason Friedrich will be hosting this rally.

Change for October Rally Site:

We have found out that the Hardridge Creek campground we had scheduled for our October rally will be closed from September 2018 through March 2019. After discussion and approval with those who attended the February and March rallies, we have rescheduled the October rally to be at White Oak (Creek) campground, a Corp of Engineer park in Eufala, AL. The date of the rally will change also. It will be October 26th-28th. The campground is on Lake Eufala and in the same vicinity as the Hardridge Creek Park. The address is 395 Hwy. 95, Eufala, AL 36027. Reservations can be made on Recreation.gov beginning April 26th. Don't let it slip up on you. RoseMarie and Gary Anderson will be hosting this rally.

**Please
Make Note!**



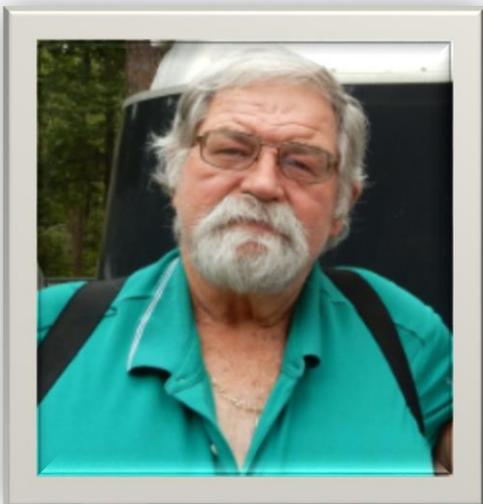
Congratulations

WAY TO GO CHIP ADAMS!!!

Chip Adams reported that in 2016, 2017, and 3 months into 2018, he, with Mary's help, signed up 19 new members! WOW!!!

Additionally, there were several folks who joined as members from other clubs and we also attracted several affiliate members. The list of new members that Chip signed up, was sent to WBCCI. This amazing feat resulted in the coveted Founder's Award Bolo and 15 Member Gold Bar already awarded and presented to Chip Adams. Great Work Chip, Congratulations!!!!

Our club has a reputation and it's a good one. Other Airstreamers have heard about how much fun we have together and how frequently we travel and that we stay at great parks. We often get inquiries from folks from all over wanting to join us at our rallies but unfortunately, there usually are no reservations available by the time they contact us. We hope to see some of the new members Chip helped sign up at future rallies.





**FRIENDLY
REMINDER!**

Don't forget to collect those soda and beer can pop-top-tabs. These tabs will be taken to the International Rally in Oregon. The proceeds from the tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House. Last year over 2,800 pounds of tabs were taken to a recycling plant. What an easy way to donate to a great cause and to help the environment too.



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ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS:

Some other clubs make group reservations at rally sites for expected rally participants. Our club does not. You are responsible for making your own reservations through "ReserveAmerica.com" or "Recreation.gov". After making a reservation, notify Karon Beyer karonbeyer@outlook.com that you will be attending and list your assigned site number, if known. Make your reservations early. Some private parks accept reservations a year ahead of time, some state, national, and Corp of Engineer parks accept reservations 6 to 11 months prior. Check each park's website to determine when reservations can be made. Future rallies are listed in the newsletter each month for your information and convenience.

**Don't get left
out, reserve
early!!**



**Our New Big Bend Florida Airstream Club Flag...
IS FINALLY HERE!!!!**



As you can see, the flag shows our new logo and unit name. The flag is 3X5, one sided, with 2 metal grommets on the left side. The cost is \$31.80. Let Karon know if you want one. There are only 4 flags available on a first come, first serve basis.