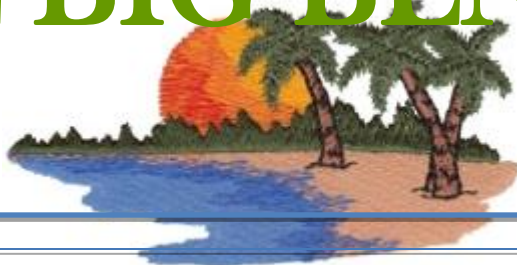


THE BIG BENDER

BIG BEND FLORIDA
AIRSTREAM CLUB

UNIT 153 REGION 3

VOLUME 49
NUMBER 4
March 2023
Airstreamclub.org



OFFICERS 2022 - 2023

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RoseMarie Anderson

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MARCH



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

By: RoseMarie Anderson

Ahhh...Apalachicola Crawl...what a Rally. Thanks to our Rally coordinator and Wagon Wheel Mathematician Gary for setting the stage for our Shenanigans leaders Monica and Amy to do their magic.

Watching our Big Benders this weekend reminded me of something a friend said to me many years ago. She surmised there are two types of people in this world – Givers and Takers – it made me look more closely at how folks interact, and I must say Airstreamers score heavy on the Givers' side. They give of their time, smiles, knowledge, helping hands, ideas, laughs, food, and equipment...all by never being asked, they just do it. I'll say it again, it is special to be a part of this community.

There are some important deadlines for upcoming Rallies so read this issue carefully and save electronically for future reference. Chris has also sent the 2023 and 2024 Rally schedules separately so both can be stored electronically for easy reference.

Watching for you down the road!
RoseMarie





Reminder for all members new and old, when you make a reservation for a specific rally, register online at the WBCCI site, OR let the Host and Chris Stockstill know you are coming. List your site number, if known. stockcm1@gmail.com

2023 Rally Schedule

Date 2023	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Earliest Date to make reservation
March 29 – April 2	Region 3 Rally Silver on the Sands, Take #2	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina	877-510-1413	Regional Rally No Host	Register on the WBCCI site after January, 2023
April 21-23	Meaher S.P. Mardi Gras After Party	Spanish Fort, AL	Alapark.com 251-626-5529	1. Laurie & Pat Jones 2. RoseMarie & Gary Anderson	April 21, 2022 The park is full! If your name needs to be removed from the Airstreamclub.org roster, please let RoseMarie or Chris know ASAP.
May 10-14 (Wed - Sunday)	Jekyll Island RV Island Time	1197 Riverview Dr Jekyll Island, GA	10% discount for our club members	1. Lisa and Phil Gentry 2. RoseMarie & Gary Anderson 3. Scott and Jan Pfaff	Participants should have received an email from the park with directions to complete their reservations. Questions? Contact RoseMarie at Gary.rosemarie@gmail.com. Payment should be complete by April 26, 2023.
June 23 - 30	2023 International Rally	Rock Springs, WY	Register on the WBCCI site	International Rally No Host	Make Reservation Online, Waitlist only available now
July	No Rally			-----	
August, date up to Host	Area Lunch We hope to have several groups meet for lunch in their respective areas. See contacts listed.	Tallahassee Panama City Alachua		Luncheons No Host	Contacts: Carol Montague - Tallahassee Dian Naman: - Panama City _____? – Alachua
September 15-18	Port St. Joe RV Resort Beach Party	Port St, Joe, FL	800-761-2857 Ask for Miles or Michell	1. Sammy and Chris Stockstill 2. Daniel and Amber Brock	Reservation window is open now. Request Big Bend Airstream Club 800-761-2857. Great park, fantastic staff! Deadline to make reservations: June 1, 2023.
October 13-15	Lake Pines RV Park and Campground Go North!	Columbus, GA	Tour of vintage Airstreams for our Club	1. Vince and Dian Naman 2. Lindsay and Randy Shropshire	Reservations are open at this time. 706-561-9675 Campground has vintage Airstreams onsite!
November 10-12	Suwannee River Rendezvous Resort Lazin on the River Installation Rally	Mayo, FL	386-294-2510	1. Carol and Winston Montague 2. Martina Pelley 3. Amy and Lamar Waymire	Reservations are now open! Call the resort directly and mention Big Bend Airstream Club. Check their website for discounts. All sites are new with 50-amp full hookups. Large pavilion with poo; and snack shop. Deadline to make reservations Oct. 10, 2023



2023 Rallies...

Mardi Gras After Party

April 21 - 23

Meaher State Park
5200 Battleship Pkwy
Spanish Fort, Alabama

Alapark.com

251-626-5529

Beautiful setting on North Mobile Bay. See the bridge lights at night. Close to fresh seafood and incredible civil war history. Registration open right now. This is a state park which fills up fast. Join us on the Delta Explorer river boat for a cruise with a historian to Old Mobile or simply cruise the Bay. Enjoy evening music at Blakeley Park.

Island Time

May 10 - 14

[Jekyll Island RV Park](#)

1197 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA
912-635-3021

Influential members of the Gilded Age used Jekyll Island as their playground. We can enjoy the results of their work by touring the beautiful Hotel and the mansions they left behind. Combine the colorful history of the island with the beautiful grounds, Georgia Sea Turtle Center, restaurants, beaches, and miles of biking and walking and it will be an amazing 4-day Rally! Bring your bikes/walking shoes for a beautiful time on Jekyll Island off the coast of Georgia.

Our site allotment is full for this rally. Contact RoseMarie at Gary.rosemarie@gmail.com. to be placed on a wait list in case of a cancellation.

The beach at Jekyll Island...





Beach Party!

Sept 15 - 17

[Port St. Joe RV Resort](#)

153 Red Fish St
Port St. Joe, FL
800-761-2857

Pack the flip flops and your bathing suit, we're gonna have a beach party! There are 77 sites at this brand-new campground, full facilities, close to St. Joe beach or Cape San Blas for scalloping, boating, or beach walking. **Reservation window is open now.** Request Big Bend Airstream Club or RoseMarie Anderson. Club price is \$70/night, which is our discounted price. Campground managers, Miles, and Michell, have set aside 30 full-hookup sites for us. The pool is heated, and they usually have live entertainment on weekends! You don't want to miss this!

Deadline to reserve is June 1, 2023.

Go North!

Oct 13-15

[Lake Pines RV Park & Campground](#)

6404 Garrett Road
Columbus, GA
706-561-9675

This campground offers something different! Owned by Airstreamers, there are several older Airstreams in various stages of refurbishing to be added to the list of rentals. The Owners will give us a personal tour of their grand plan. Columbus GA itself has a wealth of shops, breweries, and sightseeing for your weekend activities.

Reservations are open at this time. This is the jump off Rally for the Big Bend Club Caravan. Monica & Craig have a week of fun lined up in Alabama. Don't miss it! Register with Monica.

Lazin on the River (Installation Rally)

Nov 10 - 12

[Suwanee River Rendezvous Resort](#)

828 N.E. Primrose Rd
Mayo, Florida
386-294-2510

The Suwanee River Rendezvous is a 40-acre campground that has much to offer campers including canoe and kayak rental, Chicken Poo Bingo, Pigeon Classic Race, Karaoke & Trivia, restaurant on the grounds, and numerous beautiful Springs in the surrounding area. It is also home to Convict Spring, a natural freshwater spring that feeds the Suwanee River.

Make your reservation for [Upper Rendezvous](#), (also known as the RV Resort) which has FHU 50-amp sites for larger campers which include cable and WI-FI. The [Lower Rendezvous](#) includes primitive tent sites, water and electric only sites, and FHU 30-amp sites for campers less than 25' in length. **Reservations will open on March 1.** Call the resort directly and mention Big Bend Airstream Club. Check their website for discounts.



2024 Rally Schedule ... NEW!

Date 2024	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Earliest Date to make reservation
December 2023		TBA	Christmas Party/Luncheon		Arrangements are still being made. Stay tuned for further details for exact date and location..
Date TBA					
January 4-7	Topsail State Park	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Canopener	Buddy Rally with SECU	
February 15-18	Mystic Springs Airstream Park "Let's Go Camping"	McDavid, FL	Let's do camping things. Dutch ovens/fires/smores/games		LIMITED AVAILABILITY (40) Contact Lindsay Shropshire for reservations before Nov 1, 2023 lindsayshrop@gmail.com
March 14-17	Bainbridge, Ga "Silver in the City"	Bainbridge, GA	Boondocking Urban Rally		TBD
April 18-21	Cedar Key RV Resort "Old Florida"	Cedar Key, FL			LIMITED—ON HOLD 30 SITES—Email will be sent once reservation window opens. 1(352)543-5097
April 17-21	REGION 3 RALLY	Doswell, Virginia	The Meadow Event Park		Save the date, registration information coming soon
May 16-19	Georgia Veteran State Park "Spring is in the Air"	Lake Blackshear, GA	SAM Shortline Train Ride		RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE 13 MONTHS IN ADVANCE (Sunday, April 16, 2023) https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/
June	No rally				
July	No Rally				
August	No Rally				
September 12-15	Live Oak Landing "Happy Birthday Big Bend"	Freeport, FL	Kayaking to Cypress Springs	Lindsay & Randy Shropshire	CALL BY APRIL 1, 2023 DEADLINE Kim or Kendra (877) 436-5063 Pavilion screened by pool AC FREE First Come/First Serve Clubhouse AC 10 or more !0% off 20 or more 15% off 30 or more 20% off
October 5-12	Sedalia, Mo "International"				TBD
October 24-27	St. Andrews State Park "Sunsets & Sunrises"	Panama City, FL	Beach Rally		Reservations open Friday, November 24, 2023 (11 Months)
November 7-10	TBD	Dothan, Alabama	Installation Rally	Lindsay & Randy Shropshire	Installation Location TBD



2024 Rallies...

“Christmas Luncheon”
Saturday, December 9, 2023
TBD

“Canopener Airstream Rally”
January 4-7, 2024
Topsail Hill Preserve State Park
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

A Buddy Rally with Big Bend Florida Airstream Club and the Southeastern Camping Unit. Reservations must be made through the Florida State Parks website or by calling the Florida State Parks reservation number. This extremely popular rally is SOLD OUT, but there is always a chance to grab a cancelation. Join the “CANOPENER AIRSTREAM RALLY” Facebook page, to stay updated with tons of information and maybe a chance to catch a site. You are also welcome to stay off-site and still join in on activities, by registering through the Facebook page in the fall.

“Let’s Go Camping”
February 15-18, 2024
Mystic Springs Airstream Park
591 Mystic Springs Road
McDavid, Florida 32568
(850) 256-3280

Mystic Springs Airstream Park is located in McDavid, Florida, 40 miles north of Pensacola, right on the Escambia River. The plan is to do camping things. Everything from s’mores, to dutch ovens, to bonfires to playing card games. Camping stuff! RSVP to Lindsay by November 1, 2023. Limited to 40 rigs.

“Silver on Main Street”
March 14-17, 2023
Bainbridge, Georgia
TBD

Boondocking Urban Rally in downtown Bainbridge, Georgia

“Old Florida”
April 18-21
Cedar Key RV Resort
11980 SW Shiloh Road
Cedar Key, Florida 32625
(352) 543-5097

Cedar Key is commonly known as the Key West of NW Florida. Located where the Suwannee River meets the Gulf of Mexico, the town of Cedar Key is three miles from the mainland on an island called “Way Key.” Once a major shipping port of cedar, cypress pine, Rosen, and turpentine is Florida’s second oldest town, Cedar Key feels untouched in today’s world.



“Choo-Choo”

May-16-19, 2024

Georgia Veteran’s State Park
2459 US-280 West
Cordele, Georgia 31015
(229) 276-2371

Located on Lake Blackshear, an 8,600-acre lake, known for Bass fishing, Georgia Veteran’s State Park has a lot to offer. The SAM line train begins inside the park, and travels to Plains, GA, and Archery and back. Explore Jimmy Carter’s hometown, go shopping, and sample some peanut butter treats. Then travel to Archery, GA, the location of Jimmy Carter’s boyhood home. Andersonville National Historic Site is located 30 miles from the park. A former Confederate prisoner-of-war camp during the Civil War, the NPS has done a great job preserving the location also known as Fort Sumter. Anderson National Cemetery is located on the 26-acre property. The famous Salt Lick Sausage (SL Sausage) is also from Cordele. If you like sausage, this is for YOU. Reservations can be made 13 months in advance, through Georgia State Parks. (Sunday, April 16, 2023).

JUNE – No Rally

JULY – No Rally

AUGUST – No Rally

“Happy Birthday, Big Bend Florida Airstream Club”

September 12-15, 2023

Live Oak Landing
229 Pitts Avenue
Freeport, Florida 32439
(855)891-9606

Let’s celebrate our 50th birthday by kayaking Holmes Creek to Cypress Springs. This is a huge spring located on private property with the only access by kayak or paddle boards. Kayak rentals will be available as the date nears. Stay tuned. We also have a couple special celebratory dinners planned. Reservations can be made once an email is sent the group with further instructions.

“Airstream International - Sedalia Missouri”

October 5-12, 2024

Reservations open July or August 2023

“Sunsets and Sunrises”

October 24-27, 2024

St. Andrews State Park
4607 State Park Lane
Panama City, Florida 32408

St. Andrews State Park is a beautiful waterfront park with lots of things to do inside the park, such as the beach, or the bay, hiking trails, bird watching and bike riding. A shuttle is also available to the famous Shell Island. Reservations open up 11 months in advance on Friday, November 24, 2023, at 8AM EST, through the Florida State Parks website or by calling the FSP’s reservation line.

“Dothan, Alabama”

November 7-10, 2024

TBA... more information coming soon



Apalachicola Crawl March 16-19, 2023

Wow!!! This one is hard to put into words! Dave Ludlow summarized the rally for us:

What a great extended weekend we had in Apalachicola! The wagon wheel set up was fun and created a feeling of community with a large common area to gather in. The St Patrick's Day decorating and judging was fun and the happy hour with appetizers was so good and so abundant that we didn't need to make dinner. Amy Waymire put together a trivia game featuring St Patrick's Day and Apalachicola.

Friday started with a splash of Irish crème for your coffee followed by several silly (but fun!!) games and a historical tour of the city. We saw many areas and beautiful homes that we would not have known about otherwise, plus a tour of the downtown and the history thereof. That afternoon we had the oyster cook off. There were several contestants vying for the coveted green beaded necklaces. Daniel and Jay tied for the win! For happy hour that night we started at the Oyster City Brewing Co and ended up at various locations before calling it a night.

I'm glad we came together on Thursday because Saturday was a washout. It rained all day. So, after being cooped up all day, happy hour lived up to its name. We met at the Gibson Inn for drinks. Many thanks to all who put in the time to allow us to have such a wonderful weekend. From the crew who set up the wagon wheel, to Amy and Monica who scheduled everything, including the games, to David and Mary without whom there would have been no oyster cook off we offer our appreciation and congratulations for a job well done! -- Dave Ludlow

Attending this rally: Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Chad and Dolores Jones, Amy and Lamar Waymire, David and Julie Ludlow, Sammy and Chris Stockstill, Phil and Lisa Gentry, Lindsay and Randy Shropshire, David and Mary Conrad, Craig and Monica Brinkley, Vince and Dian Naman, Guy Neff, Martina Pelley, Chip and Tracie Leavine, Chuck and Margaret Cook, Tony and Barbara Olm, Stan and Helene White, Jay and Elna Thompson, Beccy Hosoda and Wayne Van Den Handel, Winston and Carol Montague, Brenda Ward, Pat and Laurie Jones, Daniel and Amber Brock, Don and Gaye Baltz, and Rene and Monica Brignac. Sandy and Bruce Anderson and Tara and Bill Osterberg each joined us for a day as well.





The Most Incredible Parking Job ever!



Hats off to **Gary Anderson** and the parking crew for this fabulous wagon wheel formation! Parkers included **Gary and RoseMarie Anderson, Chip and Tracie Leavine, Phil and Lisa Gentry, and Stan and Helene White.** Bravo!!

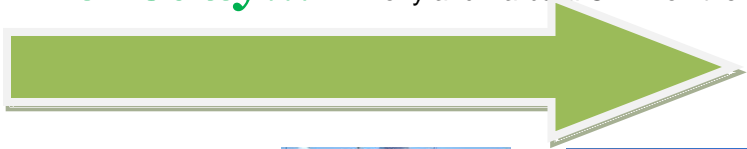
And aren't we lucky that **Vince Naman** had his drone, and he was able to capture these fabulous shots from the air? Thanks. **Vince!**

Finally, thank you to ALL who were involved in planning this event, especially **Gary and RoseMarie** for the hours it took to organize it all!



Thursday...

Tony and Barbara Olm won the decorating contest! Congratulations!



Friday...



Thank you so much to these two ladies for organizing all the fun activities for the weekend! Your hard work was definitely appreciated by all who attended! Amy Waymire and Monica Brinkley...

Thank You





Some of the lucky winners of the games...



and others who were just naturally “lucky” 😊



Oyster cookoff... thank you Mary and David!





Oyster cookoff winners... It's a tie!

Thank you to all our cookers, pictured below. Stan and Helene White were on a tour and missed the photo. Congratulations to our two winners who tied: Jay Thompson and Daniel Brock! And thank you to David and Mary Conrad for organizing this event!



Friday... Fun in town and Happy Hour





Saturday... at the Gibson Inn Bar



What a great Rally! Thank you, everyone!



Meaher State Park Rally Itinerary: April 21-23

Thursday, April 20, 2023

5:00 pm Early Arrival Happy Hour – Bring heavy appetizers to share, your own drinks and chairs Site #15 or #22

Friday April 21, 2023

Tours and Activities listed below – some need reservations

4:30 pm Social: Bring your own drinks, set ups and chairs. NO appetizers
5:30 pm Dinner: Lead Chef: Pat assisted by Chef Gary: Tenderloin roast – red Potatoes – Caesar Salad, Dessert- Angel food or pound cake/strawberries/whipped cream.

Saturday April 22, 2023

8:30 am Coffee
9:00 am Breakfast: Lead Chef: Pat assisted by Chef Gary
French Toast/bacon or sausage/maple syrup/butter/coffee/strawberries

On Saturday, April 22nd, we are planning on going, as a group, to Historic Blakeley State Park and take the boat ride “Delta Discovery Boat Tour”. The tour will be 90 minutes on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, also known as the “American Amazon”. This is a beautiful natural habitat and will be a relaxing, beautiful ride. If you are interested in participating, please go to the following website: <https://www.blakeleypark.com/>, click on book cruises, then Delta Discovery Tour, April 22 at 1:00 and purchase your tickets. Tickets are \$21 for adults. Seats are limited and this is a busy time of the year, so do so as soon as possible. Once you have secured your seats, please contact Laurie Jones at lauriej33308@gmail.com and let her know how many people are in your party so we can have a head count.

5:00 pm Meet at Tamaras Downtown – 104 N. Section St. Fairhope -11.5 miles 21 min drive

Sunday April 23, 2023

8:30 am Coffee, Yogurt and granola

Things to do in the area:

Meaher State Park Trail Hike
USS Alabama Tour – Self guided
Mobile Carnival Museum – 11 miles
Gulf Quest - National Maritime Museum in Mobile
Fairhope Brewing Co
Fairhope Tea Plantation – 1 hour tours at 12 noon and 2 pm, groups of 6/\$10pp



List of Attendees for Meaher State Park

Chad and Dolores Jones
Pat and Laurie Jones
Jason Friedrich
John and Nancy Smith
Gary and RoseMarie Anderson
Sammy and Chris Stockstill
Ron and Karen Rush
Lamar and Amy Waymire
Tony and Barbara Olm
Tom and Jeanne Hayes
Daniel and Amber Brock

IMPORTANT: If your name is NOT on this list and you WILL be attending the rally, please email Laurie Jones. lauriej33308@gmail.com . We need an accurate head count to buy the correct amount of food.

Also, if your name is on the list and you WILL NOT be attending, please let us know ASAP. Since we are purchasing food, No shows will be responsible for Rally Fees.

Jekyll Island Information:

Jekyll Island Rally – Island Time: More specific information will be included in the next newsletter.

The following names have been submitted to attend the Jekyll Island Rally May 10 -14. An email has been sent out from the campground with instructions on how to register and pay for your site. If someone has not been contacted yet, please email RoseMarie. (gary.rosemarie@gmail.com)

Anderson, RoseMarie and Gary
Honeycutt, Brett and Jan Conley
Braun, Paul and Laurie
Shropshire, Lindsay and Randy
Trick, Tom and Brenda
Fleet, David and Becky Ferris
Bush, Cindy and Jim
Brinkley, Craig and Monica
Jones, Chad and Dolores
Eaton, Brian
Neider, Bill and Kathy
Pfaff, Scott and Jan
Neff, Guy and Dawn
Montague, Winston and Carol
Stockstill, Sammy and Chris
Waymire, Lamar and Amy
Gentry, Phil and Lisa
Pelley, Martina
Stair, David and Debbie
Jones, Pat and Laurie
Kelley, Chuck and Lori
Smith, John and; Nancy





How Do I Register for a Big Bend Rally??

To register for any Big Bend Rally please do the following:

- 1) **Contact the campground FIRST** and secure your campsite. Mention Big Bend Airstream Club or RoseMarie Anderson.
- 2) **THEN, register on the Big Bend website** to let us know you are attending. This helps with our planning for food and activities.

Registering on the WBCCI site: airstreamclub.org

Scott has added more dates to the web site, so you can now register for several upcoming rallies. If anyone needs to cancel their current reservations for any of the upcoming rallies, or if anyone really wants to attend one, and is unable to secure a reservation, please email me at stockcm1@gmail.com and I will try to contact those of our folks who are looking for a site. Just a reminder, you must first secure campground reservations online or with the campground directly BEFORE registering on the WBCCI site.

PLEASE be sure the hosts of any rally that you are attending know that you'll be there! No one wants to run out of food! It's always great to have big rallies, just be sure that you have registered on the WBCCI site or that you have contacted the hosts or Chris directly.

Welcome to our new members in the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club

- Dixie Partington and Jerry Hall of Apalachicola, FL
- Melanie and Dan Westfall of St. Johns, FL
- Melissa and Donald Harris of Panama City Beach, FL

In addition, we had several affiliate members attending their first Big Bend event at the Apalachicola Crawl:



Donald and Gaye Baltz
of Valparaiso, FL



Chuck and Margaret Cook
of St. Helen Island, SC



Beccy Hosoda and Wayne Van Den Handel
of Melbourne Beach, FL



Needed: Club Secretary for 2024

Job Description: Must be willing to hang with Big Benders at Rallies and know his/her way around a computer working with Word or Google Docs.

Title: Communication Czar.

Benefits: include exciting travel, photo opportunities, ability to spin yarns and tell stories. Only those who are good at playing with others will be considered for this opportunity

Training: available.

Notify: Chris or RoseMarie for further information.

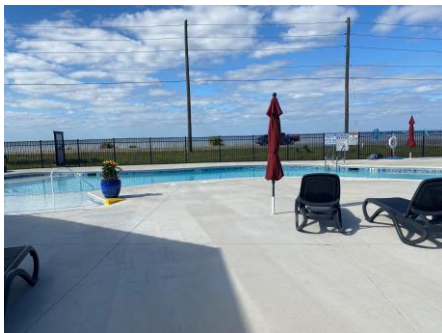


Rally Deadlines for Reservations/Payments:

Deadlines for 2023 Rally Schedule

- **April 26, 2023** - Jekyll Island, May 10 – 14, 2023– All fees must be paid.
- **June 1, 2023** – Port St. Joe RV Park, Sept 15 – 18, 2023. Any of our designated sites not booked will be released to the public. Book Now! Don't miss this one. it's during scallop season! BONUS!
- **October 10, 2023** – Suwanee River Rendezvous Resort, Nov 10-12, 2023. (Installation Rally) Any of our designated sites not booked will be released to public. Call now.

Speaking of **Port St. Joe RV Resort**, Sammy and I got to spend several wonderful days at this park prior to our Apalachicola Crawl. The managers of this park, Miles, and Michell Roberts, are super fun folks! They are so excited that we have their park on our agenda this year, and they have lots of ideas already in the works! Check out Miles and Michell below, along with the fabulous Port St. Joe RV Resort pool and pavilion!





Garden Flags order and badge information:



Several members have mentioned an interest in purchasing garden flags. If you would like to purchase email Amy at

waymire_a@yahoo.com.

The cost of the flags is approximately \$10.00. If you would like personalization, I can do that for you an additional \$4.00. We need a minimum of 36 flags to order at this price. **We will need more orders to be able to proceed.** Please contact Amy ASAP!

Birdy, RoseMarie, Scott, Amy, Laurie, and Dian will be working to find out more about ordering new member badges. More information to come...

Photo Credits for this newsletter:

Vince Naman, Carol Montague, Chris and Sammy Stockstill, Monica Brinkley, Lindsay Shropshire, RoseMarie Anderson, Stan and Helene White, and Michell Roberts



Keep Streamin' and we'll see you down the road!!!