

THE BIG BENDER

**BIG BEND FLORIDA
AIRSTREAM CLUB**

UNIT 153 REGION 3



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Airstreamclub.org**

OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

President

Lindsay Shropshire

1st Vice President

David Conrad

2nd Vice President

Amy Waymire

Secretary

Monica Brinkley

Treasurer

Julie Ludlow

Trustees

Gary Anderson
Dolores Jones
Carol Montague
Chip Leavine

Membership

Pat and Laurie
Jones

Directory/Webpage

Randy Shropshire

Club Historian

Jason Friedrich



By: Lindsay Shropshire



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Happy New Years and Happy 50th Birthday Year, Big Bend Florida Airstream Club!

There were 24 people that attended the Christmas Luncheon at Chanticleer Bakery. After brunch, ten of us headed over to Eden State Park for a short hike, learning about native flora. The camellia bushes were in bloom which is always a treat. There are hundreds of varieties around the park, if you have not done this, winter is the best time to visit. Fun was had by all.

Later in December and the beginning of January some of us met up at Topsail State Park, in Santa Rosa Beach, for the Canopener Airstream Rally. We had a great turnout by members and affiliates alike. Highlights included a Christmas Eve Dinner, Christmas Brunch, a NYE Poker Run, painting Be Kind signs with Amy Waymire (Thanks!), a book club, more hiking at Eden State Park, a brewery and distillery crawl, Live Music by fellow Big Benders, Wes and Savannah Herndon (Thanks!), a Corn Hole Tournament, a Mardi Paw Parade, the inaugural Long Long Table and the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club also hosted a beer exchange, which is always a big hit. We even managed to squeeze in FREE DAYS, which was very popular among the rally goers.

We are also looking forward to February's rally, at Mystic Springs Airstream Park, in McDavid, Florida. The theme is "Let's Go Camping". See Below for details.

As we enter the New Year, we have a couple goals we are going to work on. One of which is getting a 50 Year logo, incorporating our club logo, so we can proudly sport the half a century of being a club. As Gary Anderson pointed out last November, our club has never had a repeat president, which is quite impressive. If you haven't signed up for our Birthday Party, in September at Live Oak Landing, you might want to do that. It is going to be a great time.

I hope you all have a safe and healthy year, filled with lots of adventures and the company of new and old friends.

Cheers, Lindsay Shropshire BRN 2118



2024 Rally Schedule

Date 2024	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Earliest Date to make reservation
February 15-18	Mystic Springs Airstream Park “Let’s Go Camping”	McDavid, FL	Let’s do camping things. Dutch ovens/fires/ smores/games	David an Mary Conrad	LIMITED AVAILABILITY (40) Register on the Bid Bend website Jotform
March 14-17	Apalachicola Crawl	Apalachicola, FL	Boondocking Urban Rally		Lottery begins Jan 17 at 8 AM EST
April 18-21	Cedar Key RV Resort “Old Florida”	Cedar Key, FL		Julie and David Ludlow	LIMITED—ON HOLD 30 SITES Reservations are NOW OPEN 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	Historic SAM Shortline Railroad	Still need a host!!!	RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE 13 MONTHS IN ADVANCE Reservations are NOW OPEN 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 Vince and Dian Naman	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 Beach, FL	Beach Rally	RoseMarie and Gary, Sammy and Chris	Reservations are now open! (11 Months)
November 7-10	TBD	Dothan, Alabama	Installation Rally	Lindsay & Randy Shropshire	Installation Location TBD



2024 Rallies...

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



Reach out
if you want
to Host a
Rally!

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. Register on our ACI Big Bend Website or RSVP to Lindsay. Limited to 40 rigs.





Apalachicola Crawl
March 14-17, 2024
Apalachicola, Florida
Lottery starts Jan 15

Boondocking Urban Rally in downtown Apalachicola, Florida.
Limited availability, will be offered to members first then affiliates.



APALACHICOLA CRAWL

IS ON ITS WAY...

LOTTERY BEGINS

January 17th, at 8AM

LIMITED AVAILABILITY to 25

This will be a dry camping experience.
There will be NO water, electric or dump facilities.
Be aware and Be prepared.
Plan accordingly. Off-site dump options will be
available for after the rally.



“Old Florida”

April 18-21, 2024

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 an excellent 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, 2024

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.

If you want to join us for this spectacular river adventure, birthday party, book now.

If you are not a kayaker (kayaks will be available for rent) you don’t have to go on that trip, there is plenty to do in the area. Freeport now has TWO breweries, as well as 30A being just across the bridge, with hiking and shopping and beach sitting available.



“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 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



Christmas Luncheon at Chanticleer Eatery Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Those who attended: Dave and Mary Conrad, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Pat and Laurie Jones, Shawn and Katie Montague, Scott and Danese Montague, Chip and Mary Adams, Winston and Carol Montague, Don and Gale Baltz, Sammy and Chris Stockstill, Rose Marie and Gary Anderson, Randy and Lindsay Shropshire and Daniel and Amber Brock. After lunch some folks went to Eden Start Park to enjoy some nature.





Canopener 2024

Canopener is such a unique rally it is hard to describe. If you have never attended, this should be on your radar. CanOpening begins 2 weeks prior to the actual Canopener. Various activities are planned for the early arrivals: Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day brunch, visit to Eden Garden State Park, News Year Eve Poker Run, Axe Throwing, painting “Be Kind” signs plus lots of happy hours and impromptu fireside chats. Then the actual rally begins!!!!

The 2024 CanOpener opened on Thursday, January 4, with 130 Airstreams turning the park silver. Big Bend hosted a Beer Exchange during registration, this exchange is popular among the beer drinkers as you get a chance to try beer from many different areas.

Friday brings Chili and Corn Hole. Everyone gathers at the club house for chili, margaritas (don't knock it if you haven't tried it) and the world famous corn hole tournament. Big Benders participating: Jason Friedrich, Dolores Jones, Chad Jones and Pat Jones.

Saturday morning begins with a MardiPaw parade, all the Big Bend dogs participated, Teddy even won a prize.

The parade ends with Bloody Marys, tomato sandwiches, moon pies and sweet tea - what a combination. Rest up for the finale—— Long, Long Dinner Table. This was absolutely a wonderful way to end the rally. A dinner party with a 300+ foot table. Everyone setup their tables, (some just a table others with candelabras and everywhere in between) brought their dinner, appetizers, wine and/or dessert and enjoyed dinner as a group, there was even music and a fire pit. So much fun, even for the guys who didn't want to go. I should mention Foley RV, a major sponsor of CanOpener, they really go above and beyond with their sponsorship and we all received Yeti cups and Airstream door prizes. Thanks Rick Foley and Ron Leste!!

A huge shout out to our own Lindsay Shrophshire who is the ringleader of all the fun. Lindsay and her teams make this rally look easy, but if you have ever hosted a local rally for 3 days with 12-15 Airstreams you know it is not an easy task. Thank you Lindsay! Topsail Hill State Park and CanOpener is a great way to end and start a year, the area offers so much and a park full of Airstreams what could be better? If you missed it, start planning for next year, it will soon be time to make those reservations for the one and only 2025 CanOpener Airstream Rally.





Information about upcoming rally's:

Let's Go Camping!

Mystic Springs Airstream Park



CAMPING IS FUN!

This is going to be one of the most relaxing rallies of the year. The goal is to do fun things, by not trying too hard. You might even have time for a nap!

Food will consist of a shared appetizer, a Taco Bar, and a fun day making yummy things in the Dutch ovens. If you don't have a Dutch oven, that's okay, they feed many people. Bring your appetite. RSVP David Conrad (mykidsdadof4@yahoo.com) what you plan to cook in your Dutch oven. It can be anything from a breakfast item, a lunch item, a dinner item, or a dessert. We will do some crafts too!

Please fill out the Jotform on the ACI page, if you plan on attending.

1

THURSDAY

5pm-Bring an appetizer to share to the clubhouse

2

FRIDAY

ALL DAY-LAWN GAMES
4pm-Happy Hour
5pm-Taco Bar

3

SATURDAY

ALL DAY-Bring your own Dutch Oven. Bring your own recipe, to share.



Plan on sitting by the fire!



Pack your Dutch Oven!! And something to cook in it.



Wear what you want.



“The Apalachicola Crawl” March 14-17, 2024

Location: Under the Bridge in Apalachicola Florida-Battery Park

This will be a dry camping experience. There will be NO water, electric or dump facility. Be aware and Be prepared. Plan accordingly. Off-site dump options will be available after the rally.

Sites will be available for arrival on Thursday March 14th from 1-4pm.

Cost: The City of Apalachicola will charge \$50 per night per rig. See below for Payment procedure.

1. To register, email the following information to Lindsay at Lindsayshrop@gmail.com by Feb 1. Lottery starts **JANUARY 17th - 8AM EST**, please do not email earlier than the lottery start date, unless it is a basic question. Feel free to reach out with questions....

Name:
BRN:
Length of Rig:
Slide-outs (Y or N):
Primary Phone:
Primary E-mail:
Arrival Day (Th or F)

2. Members will be registered the day the above information is received. A confirmation will be returned to sender.

3. After confirmation, please send a check for camp fee made payable to Big Bend Airstream Club and mailed to Julie Ludlow by March 01, 2023. The check should be \$100 or \$150 depending on arrival day. In case of necessary cancellation please contact Lindsay ASAP so the site can be filled. The entire deposit will be refunded except in the case of a total no show, in which there will be a \$30 cancellation charge.

Mail checks to:
Julie Ludlow
10230 SW 38th Place
Gainesville, Florida 32608
(352) 213-3218





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 for 2023 rallies, or Lindsay Shropshire for 2024 rallies..

2) **THEN, register on the Big Bend website** to let us know you are attending. This helps with our planning for food and activities.

Photo Credits for this newsletter:

Thank you everyone that contributed photos to this month's newsletter.

Registering on the Airstream Club International website: airstreamclub.org

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 lindsayshrop@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 ACI 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 ACI site OR if you are unable to register, that you have contacted the hosts directly.

Don't forget to look up and post on our club Facebook page!

Big Bend Florida Airstream Club (Group)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1417888775051892>



Keep streamin'... and we'll see you down the road!