



# THE BIG BENDER

VOLUME 50 | APRIL 2024 | NUMBER 4

**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 & Laurie Jones

**Directory/Webpage**  
Randy Shropshire

**Club Historian**  
Jason Friedrich



## Presidents Message:

Happy April everyone,

We have lots of new and exciting rallies added to our schedule. Check them out!

Thank You to everyone that volunteered to host in the year 2025. It seems so far away, but it will be here before we know it. David is also still looking for hosts, reach out if this is something you want to do.

If anyone has any other fun adventurous things we should do, please feel free to let us know! It doesn't have to be a weekend long rally, it can simply be meeting up locally for some food, or exploring a nearby park. We have members all over the place and many of you live within a rocks through from each other. Feel free to think outside of the box, and let us know if you want to host a fun get together, wherever you may be.

Happy Travels and "See Ya Down the Road".

Lindsay





## Battery Park, Apalachicola Florida

March 14-17, 2024

# Apalachicola Crawl

By Vincent Naman

Our much-anticipated Rally took place over the St. Patrick's Day weekend in Apalachicola, Fl. We were dry camping under the bridge with beautiful views of the Harbor, the Bay, and the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge. The Rally was hosted by none other than our President, Lindsay (and Randy) Shropshire. Their excellent planning and communication all paid off as we had a wonderful rally.

It started with perfect weather as we arrived on Thursday. The Wagon Wheel was well planned by Chip Leavine, under the leadership and knowledge of Gary Anderson, who together with his crew, got every rig in place for a picture-perfect circle! Appropriately, this was done on Pi Day – 3/14! That first evening, we all congregated inside our circle and enjoyed Whiskey tasting and the delicious food from the “Tamara’s On The Go” food truck. Everyone decorated the ‘tail end’ of their Airstream for St. Patrick’s Day. When the votes were tallied, the winners were Amy Waymire and Julie Ludlow! After a good deal of fellowship, we settled in for some well needed rest! Kudos to those who relied solely on their solar panels and batteries!

Friday Morning our Big Bend Barista, Jason got us started with some fresh brewed joe. Some of us then enjoyed the historic tour with Judi Stokowski from “Enjoy Apalachicola” while others enjoyed a tasty lunch at Lynn’s Quality Oysters followed by refreshments at the Eastpoint Beer Company. Happy hour that evening was at the Apalachicola Yacht Club with live music. Then some of us had a scrumptious dinner at the Owl Café.

Saturday morning, more fresh coffee from Jason. Then the grills came out and the Wing Cook-Off began! Bocce Ball was being played in the circle, drones were being flown overhead while the smell of wings filled the air to the delight of all, including the local sea gulls! Monica Brinkley led us in craft lessons while others enjoyed more whiskey tasting. After our tummies full of wings, the votes were counted and (following a tie-breaker) the winner of the cook-off was David Conrad – Congratulations! We celebrated the great day with Happy Hour at the High Five Dive Bar followed by dinner at the Half Shell Dockside. Those who returned later to the High Five were treated to more live music.

Sunday Morning seemed to come too soon! We had so much fun – great food, great fellowship, and wonderful weather the entire weekend. It was time for us get hitched up and head on down the road. Thanks to Lindsay, Chip, and all those who helped make this a special rally!

**Attendees:** Randy and Lindsay Shropshire, Chip and Traci Leavine, Tony and Barbara Olm, Beccy and Wayne Van Den Handel, David and Mary Conrad, Paul and Laurie Braun, Daniel and Amber Brock, and their three daughters, Vince and Dian Naman, Lamar and Amy Waymire, Craig and Monica Brinkley, Chad and Dolores Jones, David and Bernedette Leach, Chuck and Margaret Cook, Todd and Michelle Buhr, Jessica and Dan Susich, Guy and Dawn Neff, Julie and David Ludlow, and Jason Friedrich.

**We Rally Together**

[AirstreamClub.org](http://AirstreamClub.org)

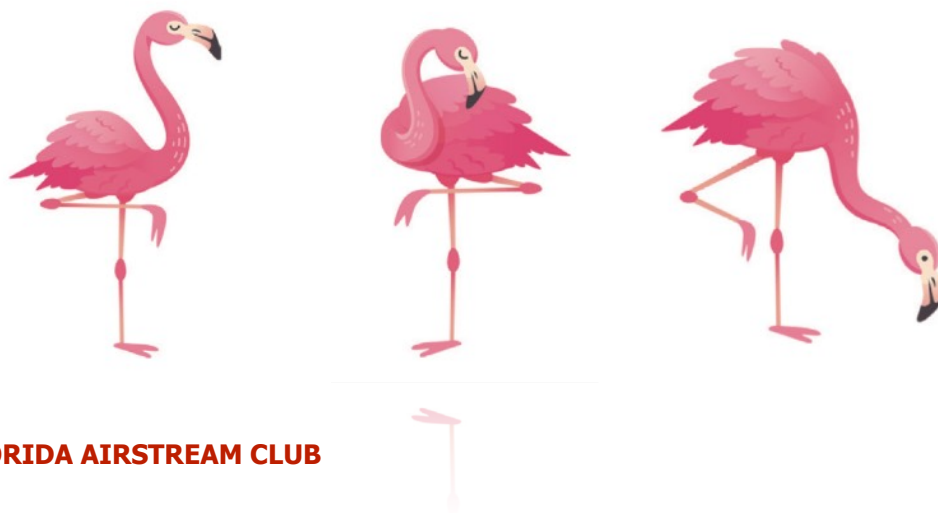
Date 2024	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
April 18-21 "Old Florida"	Ceder Key RV Resort	Cedar Key, Florida		David & Julie	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b>  (352)543-5097
May 16-19 "Choo-Choo"	Georgia Veterans State Park	Lake Blackshear, Georgia	Historic SAM Shoreline Railroad	Vince & Dian	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b> <a href="https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/">https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/</a>
September 12-15 "Happy Birthday Big Bend"	Live Oak Landing	Freeport, Florida	Kayaking to Cypress Springs	Lindsay & Randy Vince & Dian	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b>  (877) 436-5063
October 5-12 "International Rally"	Missouri State Fairgrounds	Sedalia, Missouri	Camp with 1200 of your Airstream Friends		<b>Reservation window is now open on the ACI website.</b>
October 24-27 "Sunets and Sunrises"	St. Andrews State Park	Panama City, Florida	Beach Rally	RoseMarie & Gary Sammy & Chris	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b> <a href="https://www.floridastateparks.org/">https://www.floridastateparks.org/</a>
November 7-10 "BINGO!"	Hidden Hollow RV Park	Cottonwood, AL	Installation Rally		<b>Reservation window is now open.</b>  (334) 452-4229
February 7-9 2025 "Campers and Caves"	Florida Caverns State Park	Marianna, FL		<b>Host Needed</b>	<b>Reservation window now open.</b> <b>Non Res: April 7, 2025</b>
March 20-23 2025 "Football and Fighters"	Chewacla State Park	Auburn, AL	Planning on tour of Auburn Football Facilities on Friday. Make reservations in the 2nd Loop (17-36)	Pat & Laurie	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b>  <a href="http://alapark.com">alapark.com</a>



<p><b>April 25-27 2025</b> "Rallyantic Atlantic"</p>	<p>Anastasia State Park</p>	<p>St. Augustine, Florida</p>	<p><b>Host Needed</b></p>	<p><b>Reservation window:</b> <b>Fl Res- 5/25/24</b> <b>Non Res- 6/25/24</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.floridastateparks.org/">https:// www.floridastate parks.org/</a></p>
<p><b>May 16-18 2025</b> "Race Ya!"</p>	<p>Champions Run RV Resort</p>	<p>Ocala, Florida</p>	<p>Bill &amp; Kathy Neider</p>	<p><b>Reservation window is now open.</b></p>
<p><b>August 23-28 2025</b> "International Rally"</p>	<p>York Expo Center</p>	<p>York, Pennsylvania</p>		<p><b>Reservation window TBD</b></p>
<p><b>September 25-27 2025</b> "It's Very Nice!"</p>	<p>Rocky Bayou State Park</p>	<p>Niceville, Florida</p>	<p><b>Host Needed</b></p>	<p><b>Reservation window:</b> <b>Fl Res- 11/24/24</b> <b>Non Res- 12/24/24</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.floridastateparks.org/">https:// www.floridastate parks.org/</a></p>
<p><b>October 24-26 2025</b> "Relaxing Rally"</p>	<p>Travelers Rest</p>	<p>Dade City, Florida</p>	<p>Gary &amp; RoseMarie Anderson</p>	<p><b>Request for reservations starts 10/24/24</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.travelersrestresort.com">www.travelersres tresort.com</a></p>

**DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT THE JOT FORM ON THE ACI WEBSITE TO LET THE HOSTS KNOW YOU ARE COMING!!!**

**\*Some 2025 rally Jotforms are not available quite yet\***





We are excited to host and for everyone to come and enjoy our part of Florida's Big Bend!  
Below is our tentative schedule.

\*\* If you haven't completed the Jotform on the Big Bend website please do so, so that we can plan meals accordingly\*\*

Thursday

Arrival.

5:30 - Welcome everyone.

Bring an appetizer to share

Friday

A day to enjoy the sights and activities that Cedar Key has to offer.

5:30 - Happy ½ hour

6pm Dinner -Pork Sliders & Fixin's -with vegetarian option

Saturday

9:00am- Breakfast - 'Everything Continental' - get fueled for another day of activities.

5:00 pm - Happy ½ hour

5:30 pm - Dinner and Bingo - Taste and savor Tony's famous award winning Clam Chowder- everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy

Tony's clam chowder which won the New England clam chowder contest 3 years in a row!

Our very own Cedar Key bingo with prizes to be won!

Coming soon - more details to all of our rally attendees, David and Julie



# THE PRESIDENTIAL FLYER

**MAY 18, 2024**

**\*TICKETS ON SALE NOW\***

Riding in air-conditioned, 1949 vintage train cars, you will travel from Georgia Veterans State Park, across Lake Blackshear to Plains, GA and Archery. Explore President Jimmy Carter's hometown, go shopping and sample peanut butter treats. They you will travel to President Carters Boyhood home farm at Archery, GA.

Coach, Deluxe, and Premium available on all trains, with Chairman's Class area also available.

Schedule:

- 9:30 AM Boarding Begins
- 10:00 AM Depart Georgia Veterans State Park Depot
- 11:15 AM \*\*Flag Stop Americus, GA\*\* (South Jackson St)
- 11:45 AM Arrive Plains, GA (2 Hour Layover)
- 1:45 PM Depart Plains, GA
- 1:55 PM Arrive Archery (40 Minute Layover)
- 2:35 PM Depart Archery
- 3:15 PM \*\*Flag Stop Americus, GA\*\* (South Jackson St)
- 4:30 PM Arrive Georgia Veterans State Park Depot



# BIG BEND FLORIDA AIRSTREAM CLUB

## Celebrating 50 Years!

September 12-15, 2024

LIVE OAK LANDING

229 Pitts Ave

Freeport, Florida 32439

877.436.5063

Event Hosts:

Lindsay & Randy

Vince & Dian



**THE EPIC EVENT WHERE  
AIRSTREAM OWNERS UNITE IN A  
SHARED PASSION FOR  
ADVENTURE, EXPLORATION AND  
THE ICONIC AIRSTREAM  
LIFESTYLE.**

**Join us for tons of Fun in the Fall at the 67th Annual Airstream  
Club International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri:  
October 5-10, 2024.**

**Get ready for all the treasured traditions of adventure and  
friendship at ACI Rally2024, coupled with the fantastic tastes,  
sights, smells and temperatures of fall in the Midwest**

**Photos: Rock Springs, WY- International Rally 2023**









**\$55 a night, \$35 for 20+ Rigs.  
25% off Military Discount**

**National Peanut Festival**  
**November 1-10, 2024**  
<https://www.nationalpeanutfestival.com/>

**The Crossing at Big Creek**  
<https://thecrossingbigcreek.com/>




# Florida Caverns State Park

**February 7-9, 2025**

Reservations Available:  
Residents: March 10, 2024  
Non-Residents: April 7, 2024

3345 Caverns Road  
Marianna, Florida 32446  
[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)




# FOOTBALL AND FIGHTERS!

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MARCH 20-23, 2025  
CHEWACLA STATE PARK  
AUBURN, ALABAMA

*Hosted by Pat and Laurie Jones*

PLAN ON COMING ON THURSDAY SO WE CAN  
TOUR THE AUBURN FOOTBALL FACILITIES ON  
FRIDAY.





**Race Ya!**

## CHAMPIONS RUN

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O C A L A  
LUXURY RV RESORT  
MARCH 16-18, 2025

NOW TAKING  
RESERVATIONS

HOSTED BY:  
BILL AND KATHY  
NEIDER



# ★ IMPORTANT NOTICE ★

## Bend has come into the digital world!

Last year the executive board voted to move ahead with using either Venmo or Zelle to allow members to make digital payments for rally fees. Since Wells Fargo uses Zelle, an account has been set up as WBCCI Big Bend Florida club. The treasurer, as the registered agent, is also listed on the account. The club email address is **club153@airstreamclub.org**. Members with Zelle accounts can pay rally fees directly to the Big Bend club through the above email address, as well as the treasurer can reimburse members for rally expenses. Checks and cash payments will still be accepted, further details are below:

### Instructions to send and receive Monies via Zelle - Big Bend Airstream Club

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Many banks have Zelle capabilities, please check first before going to the Zelle APP. I went to upload the APP and it informed me that I should set up my Zelle account through my bank.

When setting up your account please include an email address in your contact information as funds will only be transferred to members email addresses.

To transfer funds to Big Bend please use the the following email address:

**club153@airstreamclub.org**

This email address has been set up for this purpose.

When sending funds please indicate on the memo line what the payment is for. If you are sending payment for multiple items please note the amount for each item.

Any questions please contact me: Julie Ludlow, Treasurer 352-213-3218

# ★ More Important Stuff ★

## FROM THE YEAR 1974-

### Cost of Living 1974 - How Much things cost

Yearly Inflation Rate USA 11.3%. Yearly Inflation Rate UK 17.2%

Year End Close Dow Jones Industrial Average **616**

Average Cost of new house **\$34,900.00**

Average Income per year **\$13,900.00**

Average Monthly Rent **\$185.00**

Cost of a gallon of Gas **0.42**

Buick Station Wagon **\$4,371**

A Dozen Eggs **45 cents**

Ford Galaxie 500 **\$3,883**

Tomatoes **19 cents per pound**

Boneless Hams **\$2.29 per pound**

Portable TV **\$264.88**

Dozen Medium Eggs **28 cents**

Cassette Recorder **\$49.95**

Combo Toaster and Mini-Oven **\$24.99**

Men's shirt **From \$12.99**

Country ranch 10 acres 3 bedroom large barn fruit and oak trees ---  
Vallejo --- California **\$59,200**



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groups/1417888775051892/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1417888775051892/)