



# THE BIG BENDER

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**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:

As we enter February, the month of the Feast of Saint Valentine, its important to remember that February isn't just for valentines, and sweethearts; it can also be a month for self-love and self-care, and strengthening relationships with family and friends.

Mystic Springs Airstream Park is a great campground for just that, and much more!

With its rustic atmosphere, quiet natural setting, it's easy to fall into relax mode. Listening to the flow of the Escambia River in the background and the crackling of wood burning, or the sounds and smells of food cooking, this is what camping is all about.

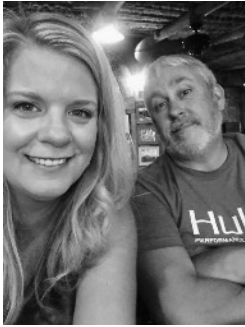
I know I've been looking forward to this February rally all year. A rally to sit back, and do camping stuff.

For those that can't make it to the rally, we hope you have a wonderful love month, and we will see you in the spring.

Lindsay



## MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS



**Lindsay Shropshire** has been an empty nester since 2018. Diving full-force into Airstreaming, Lindsay serves on the International Membership Committee and is a proud member of the International Rally Arrival Team. On most occasions you will find Lindsay behind the wheel while Randy does his best to multi task a full time job while also following Lindsay around the country. In their free time, they both love visiting breweries, museums, and other history related attractions. Lindsay can also be found piddling around the Airstream trailer, and the Airstream B190 Van that she hopes to get on the road in next decade.

**David Conrad** retired in 2019 to enjoy traveling with Mary in their 2016 28' International. They've done big loops in the Mid-West and East Coast, and are looking forward to the West Coast and Alaska. National parks drive their planning, but it's the state parks in between that have turned out to be the hidden gems. Wander Widely!



I'm **Amy Waymire** your 2nd Vice President, that means I will be your president In 2026. Lamar and I have been Airstreaming since 2003, we started our adventure with a 1957 Flying Cloud, we now travel with a 2015 Flying Cloud what a difference 58 years make. I look forward to leading you on many adventures in 2026, in fact I already have some ideas.

**Monica Brinkley** is a native Floridan who has spent her life in the panhandle. She retired after 33 years of service, from the UF/IFAS, Extension Service. During her 33-year career, she was a Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, 4-H Youth Development Agent, and County Extension Director. Monica married Craig 38 years ago. They have two children who are both married and have one granddaughter. Monica and Craig have camped most of their married lives and became Airstreamers 10 years ago. These 10 years have brought much happiness, lots of adventures, and many new friends. Monica can be found enjoying quilting, and doing other handworks when she's not teaching young students to sew.



**Julie Ludlow** retired from a 27 year career at the University of Florida where she worked in the Dept. of Neurological Surgery's fiscal office. Since retiring in February 2022 she and, her husband Dave, have travelled 3-4 months each year in their "Streamer" visiting family, friends and discovering the wonderful sights across the U.S. Since joining WBCCI & Big Bend Club they have had the honor to be part of a wonderful group of people. They are especially grateful for courtesy parking. When they are not traveling you can find Julie out in her garden or kayaking with her husband.



**Gary and RoseMarie Anderson** joined the Big Bend Club 16 years ago and owe everything they know about Airstreaming to the members of the club. From putting up an awning correctly to learning how to cook for 50 at a rally. Gary was Club President in 2014 while RoseMarie was the Newsletter Editor for 3 years and Club President in 2023. They have spent 7 years as National Caravan Leaders, leading caravans through Georgia and the Southwest. Currently they are working on revitalizing the Southeast Coast Caravan. Gary is the current Treasurer for the National Caravan Fund. Both serve on the Executive Board, Gary as Trustee and RoseMarie as Past President.

**Delores Jones** and Chad, bought our airstream in 2021 after starting with a tent 30 years ago, a pop up, hybrid, fifth wheel and motor home. We have been retired since 2016 and have been enjoying traveling with no deadlines on when we need to be home. We have been to two international rallies and plan on going to Sedalia this year. Originally from Ohio, we moved to south Florida in 1998 and when we retired we moved to Perry FL. Two of our sons still live in Ohio and our youngest lives in Texas. We have one granddaughter. We are enjoying the many friendships we have made since joining the Big Bend Airstream Club.



**Carol Montague** is a long-time Airstreamer and Big Bender. She and Winston began Airstreaming in 1987 when they discovered a 1963 Airstream in the woods. Since then they have tried out a number of Airstreams (7 trailers, 2 motor homes and now an Atlas). Carol retired from FSU and the state in 2002. At that time they began going on caravans (44 so far). Through the years they also attended Internationals (16), National Rallies (15), as well as Region and State rallies. In 2010 they began co-leading the Southwest Adventure caravan with Jay and Elna Thompson. This continued off and on for 6 years. In 2014 they created and then led the Georgia Plantation caravan for several years. She and Winston have been fortunate to travel and make friends in 49 states and 9 provinces.



**Chip Leavine** is a fourth generation Floridian who originally hails from the Tampa Bay Area. Chip retired from a 33 year career in law enforcement and began a charter fishing business on Florida's Forgotten Coast. Chip and his wife Traci spend four to five months a year traveling around the country in their Airstream "BettyAnn." Chip and Traci love the airstream community; the friends they have made, and look forward to making many more as they travel the open road!"



Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."

[Henry David Thoreau](#)





We are **Pat and Laurie Jones** – your new Membership Committee. We have been married for 39 years. Pat grew up in Jackson, TN and Laurie grew up in Brooklyn, NY. We lived in Fort Lauderdale for the first 34 years of marriage, until we moved to Tallahassee almost 5 years ago. We have one son, daughter in law and an 11 year old grandson who live in Jackson, TN. Pat was a Firefighter Paramedic Captain with 28 years of service. Laurie was the owner of an Allstate Insurance Agency for 25 years. We purchased our 2016 International Serenity in 2016 so we could travel with our dogs. We had no idea about the awesome Airstream family that we had waiting for us. Life for us had totally changed. We’ve been across most of the United States, all the way to Alaska to the west and through parts of Canada to the east, including Newfoundland. We have been on 5 Caravans, one International Rally and many regional and local rallies. We have loved the Airstream lifestyle and enjoy being part of the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club.

**Randy Shropshire**

Hello Big Benders, I started my career in the USAF back in 1986 as an Electronic Warfare technician then I left full time Air Force and joined the Air Force reserves from 1991-1995 as an Aerial Gunner on an AC-130 Specter Gunships. I have been a contractor the last 30 years working for several companies and have been with BAE Systems as a Senior Program Manager for the last 17 years. Being an Airstreamer has changed our lives like I would have never imagined. Lindsay and I love traveling around the country, seeing new sights, learning about the history, all the while experiencing the local food scenes and trying new frosty beverages from the local breweries. Hope to tip a mug and cheers with you down the road!



**Jason Friedrich**

Born in Fort Lauderdale, Graduated Fort Lauderdale High School, Attended Broward Community College, Graduated Broward County Police Academy. Worked in Law Enforcement 28 years, Married to wife Annette 25 years, No Children. Retired and moved to Jefferson County FL. Hobbies: Airstreaming, Amateur Radio and Craft Beer. Currently volunteering with: Jefferson County Emergency Management, Second Harvest and FL. Cares INC. Currently watching: Americas Test Kitchen. Favorite Mini series; Jesse Stone. Favorite old movies: Electra Glide in Blue and The Shining and The Omega Man

**We Rally Together**  
AirstreamClub.org

Date 2024	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
<b>February 15-18</b> "Let's Go Camping"	Mystic Springs Airsteam Park	McDavid, Florida	Bring your own Dutch Oven and Ingredients	David&Mary Conrad	Limited Availability (40)  Register on the Big Bend Website Jotform
<b>March 14-17</b> "Apalachicola Crawl"	Battery Park	Apalachicola, Florida	Boondocking Urban rally	<a href="mailto:lindsayshrop@gmail.com">lindsayshrop@gmail.com</a>	Lottery has ended, email to get on the waitlist
<b>April 17-21</b> "Region 3 Rally"	The Meadows Event Park	Doswell, VA		Region 3	<b>Reservation window is now open on the ACI website.</b>
<b>April 18-21</b> "Old Florida"	Ceder Key RV Resort	Cedar Key, Florida		David&Julie Ludlow	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b>  (352)543-5097
<b>May 16-19</b> "Choo-Choo"	Georgia Veterans State Park	Lake Blackshear, Georgia	Historic SAM Shoreline Railroad	STILL NEED A HOST	<b>Reservation window is now open.</b> <a href="https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/">https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/ga-veterans-park/</a>
<b>September 12-15</b> "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
<b>October 5-12</b> "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>
<b>October 24-27</b> "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>
<b>November 7-10</b>	TBD				

# 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](mailto: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.

# March 14-17, 2024



## APALACHICOLA CRAWL

**\*\*MORE INFO COMING SOON\*\***

**\*\*\*EMAIL LINDSAY TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST\*\*\***

[LindsayShrop@gmail.com](mailto:LindsayShrop@gmail.com)

### March 14: Arrival

- \*\*Arrival no earlier than 1:00 p.m\*\*
- Decorate the rear of your trailer for St. Patrick's Day
- 5:00 p.m. Decorating Contest Judging
- Welcome by Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce
- FOOD TRUCK-MANGIA

### MARCH 15:

- 9:00 a.m.-Coffee Social
- 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Apalachicola Historical Tour, With JUDY \$20 + tax,
- 4:00 p.m. Happy Hour, Oyster City Brewing

### MARCH 16:

- 9:00 a.m.-Coffee Social
- 12:00 p.m - Wing Cook-off/Croquet Tournament/Whiskey Tasting
- 4:00 Happy Hour – High Five Dive Bar

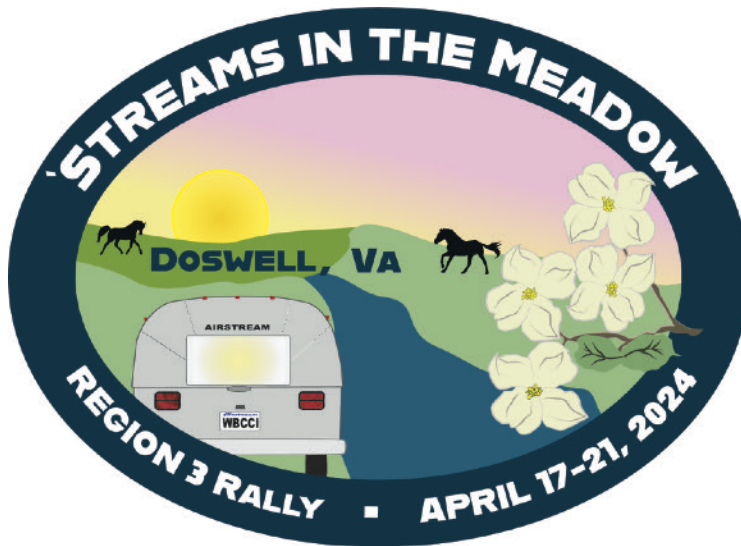
### MARCH 17:

- Depart by 11am

Event Contact-Lindsay Shropshire

[lindsayshrop@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayshrop@gmail.com)  
(478) 284-2847





*From the Region 3 President*

First Mate Joe Baum and I are excited about hosting our 2024 Region 3 Airstream Club rally at The Meadow Event Park at the State Fair of Virginia Fairgrounds in Doswell, Virginia. I am thrilled about our planned rally activities and enthusiastic to showcase and encourage visits to the nearby Richmond and Fredericksburg area historical sites. Above all, I'm ready for the fun of being together and enjoying each other's company.

The Region 3 Executive Leadership Team, including 1st VP Bob Ealy, 2nd VP Bob Hoffman and I, have been busy planning an exciting agenda of live entertainment, vendor booths, seminars, happy hours, and of course meals. You will find opportunities for day trips to explore the history within the broader Richmond area and much more. We are calling this year's Region 3 Airstream Club rally — **'Streams In The Meadow'**. Registration for the rally will include your camping reservation and rally fee, and can be completed by clicking the link below. Our preferred payment method is electronic (via Square), but we will also provide instructions to snail mail a check, if requested by you.

We welcome your attendance and participation at the **'Streams In The Meadow'** rally. And, we will need your volunteer help to make the rally successful. Many hands make light work! You will have an opportunity to sign up to assist by completing the separate volunteer signup form(s) that we will make available in the *next few weeks*.

**Deadline is Monday, April 1, 2024.**

*NOTE: All electric power at the rally will be 30-AMP; please bring an adapter, if needed. Additionally you may want to bring extra water hoses, sewer hose extensions and water hose Y-adapters. Camping includes water and electric. Please plan on arriving to the rally with empty gray and black tank. The Meadow Event Park facility does provide access to multiple dump station locations for your "blue-boy" portable sewer container (should you own one) for emptying throughout the rally.*







# 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**







# More Important Stuff



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