



THE BIG BENDER

VOLUME 50 | November 2024 | NUMBER 10

**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

Webpage
Randy Shropshire

Club Historian
Jason Friedrich



Presidents Message:



Adventure is where you find it, any place, every place, except at home in the rocking chair.

— Wally Byam —

Thank you, Big Benders, for such a fabulous year. I enjoyed each and every single second representing the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club throughout the year. It was my pleasure to serve, as well as host, the 2024 year...our FIFTIETH year as a local club. It was truly an honor.

Congratulations to the new set of officers, and Good Luck in 2025!

Lindsay



Date 2024	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
November 7-10 "BINGO!"	Hidden Hollow RV Park	Cottonwood, AL	Installation Rally		Reservation window is now open. (334) 452-4229
Dec 7, 2024 "Christmas Luncheon"	Runaway Island Restaurant	Panama City Beach, FL	1-3pm	Mary & David Conrad	RSVP-David Conrad mykidsdadof4@yahoo.com
February 7-9 2025 "Campers and Caves"	Florida Caverns State Park	Marianna, FL		Craig & Monica Brinkley Jason Friedrich	Reservation window now open. https://www.floridastateparks.org/
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 Jones	Reservation window is now open. alapark.com
April 9-13 2025 "Region 3 Rally"	Exchange Park Fairgrounds	Ladson, South Carolina		Bob & Ginger Ealy	Reservation Window TBD
April 25-27 2025 "Rallyantic Atlantic"	Anastasia State Park	St. Augustine, Florida		Sammy & Chris Stockstill Chad & Dolores Jones	Reservation window is now open. https://www.floridastateparks.org/

<p>May 15-18 2025 "Race Ya!"</p>	<p>Champions Run RV Resort</p>	<p>Ocala, Florida</p>	<p>Rally Host Needed</p>	<p>Reservation window is now open.</p>
<p>August 23-28 2025 "International Rally"</p>	<p>York Expo Center</p>	<p>York, Pennsylvania</p>		<p>Reservation window TBD</p>
<p>September 26-28 2025</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Shane & Katie Montague</p>	
<p>October 24-26 2025 "Relaxing Rally"</p>	<p>Travelers Rest</p>	<p>Dade City, Florida</p>	<p>Gary & RoseMarie Anderson</p>	<p>Reservation window is now open. www.travelersres tresort.com</p>

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

Some 2025 rally Jotforms are not available quite yet



BINGO
Installation Rally

YOU ARE INVITED

November 7-10
Hidden Hollow RV Park
11295 US-231
Cottonwood, AL 36320
[\(334\) 452-4229](tel:(334)452-4229)

Don't forget to fill out the Jotform to register!
www.airstreamclub.org

**\$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/>

Bingo! Installation Rally Schedule

Thursday, November 7-

5pm: Happy Hour & Dinner

Folklore Brewery & Meadery
153 Boll Weevil Circle
Dothan, Alabama, 36301



RALLY ATTENDEES as of 10/31

- Elwood and Pat McElhane
- Randy and Veronica Poster-Booth
- David and Mary Conrad
- Randy and Lindsay Shropshire
- David and Julie Ludlow
- Emily and Nick Frerman
- Ron and Karen Rush
- Chad and Dolores Jones
- Vince and Dian Naman
- Luke and Rachel Naman

Friday, November 8-

Feel free to visit the National Peanut Festival, or try your hand in Bingo.

7pm-ish Group Bonfire @ Lindsay&Randy's

If you have **NOT** RSVP'ed through the Jotform, please let Lindsay know ASAP

lindsayshrop@gmail.com

Saturday, November 9-

9am-Breakfast at Lindsay&Randy's

3pm-Business Meeting at Lindsay&Randy's

4:30pm: Dinner

The Old Mill Restaurant
2557 Murphy Mill Road
Dothan, Alabama 36303



See a bonfire? Everyone is invited to join!



For More information:

<https://www.nationalpeanutfestival.com/>

For over 60 years, the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (Airstream Club International) has been assigning members numbers and it all started in 1951 with the first Airstream Wally Byam Caravan.

Why were they needed?

Imagine leading a caravan of 63 or so Airstreams throughout Central America not now, but in 1951-1952. Without having the benefit of cell phones or GPS to connect with caravan members, Wally Byam assigned big red numbers (sometimes referred to as BRN) which were placed on the front and rear end-cap of the Airstreams – making it easier to keep track of a large group of travelers facing rugged terrain and many weather-related problems.

How are they chosen?

Upon joining Airstream Club International, members get to select their preference of a BRN. If available, they are assigned that number or the following sequential number available in the Club. Numbers available range from 1001 to 32000. Numbers less than 1000 are reserved for specific leadership roles within ACI.

Red Stars?

Each of the red stars on either side of these numbers reflects five years of membership in the Club.

Modern Applications



Don't want to apply your numbers to the Aluminum: Maybe this is not your for-ever trailer or you don't want to get the ladder out. You can apply your numbers and ACI emblem to an aluminum panel attached across your rock guard or mount your numbers in the upper center or driver's side of your rock guard. Add your numbers to your back window or rock guard. Applying numbers to the rock guards makes them easy to remove when you get that next trailer.

Removing old numbers: If your Airstream has old numbers to remove, a hair dryer will soften the adhesive and allow them to be peeled off. Don't get anxious, peel carefully, a needle nose pliers is useful to keep from burning your fingers. Aim the dryer right at the old number and try to get it off in one piece. When the numbers are removed, clean area with kerosene or WD-40, wash with soap and water, then dry.



When I was a kid, I would see these Airstreams with Big Red Numbers come through my town and would dream of owning one someday. Today is the someday!!!



Alternate BRN Display Ideas

Don't want to apply your numbers to the Aluminum: Maybe this is not your for-ever trailer or you don't want to get the ladder out. You can apply your numbers and ACI emblem to an aluminum panel attached across your rock guard or mount your numbers in the upper center or driver's side of your rock guard. Add your numbers to your back window or rock guard. Applying numbers to the rock guards makes them easy to remove when you get that next trailer.

Congratulations to our members that earned a star this year!



5 YEARS

Mike and Debbie Bianchi **BRN 10481** 11/14/2019

David Fleet and Becky Ferris **BRN 5176** 11/05/2019

Wes and April Herndon **BRN 10427** 10/25/2019

Mary and David Conrad **BRN 3675** 07/15/2019

Mark and Beverly Alexander **BRN 4920** 04/08/2019

Melody Hatcher and Don Brymer **BRN 21519** 02/19/2019

Lindsay and Randy Shropshire **BRN 2118** 03/13/2019

Geoff and Rita Dean **BRN 1784** 01/28/2019



10 YEARS



Craig and Monica Brinkley **BRN 1241** 01/17/2014



15 YEARS



Ron and Karen Rush **BRN 1446** 08/26/2009

Jack and Sherry White **BRN 6300** 03/13/2009

Lane and Pat Watkins **BRN 1763** 03/13/2009



BIG BEND FLORIDA AIRSTREAM CLUB

Christmas Party

**December 7, 2025
1-3pm**

**Runaway Island
14521 FRONT BEACH RD
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL**

RSVP:
DAVID CONRAD
mykidsdadof4@yahoo.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

Hosted By:
Craig and Monica Brinkley
Jason Friedrich

Don't forget to fill out the
Jotform to register!

www.airstreamclub.org



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FOOTBALL AND FIGHTERS!

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.



Rallyantic Atlantic

Don't forget to fill out the Jotform to register!
www.airstreamclub.org

Anastasia State Park
 St. Augustine, Florida

April 25-27, 2025
 Hosted By:
 Sammy & Chris Chad & Dolores

Race Ya!

CHAMPIONS RUN

O C A L A

LUXURY RV RESORT

MAY 15-18, 2025

NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS

HOSTED BY:
RALLY HOST NEEDED





Registration Now Open

THE EPIC EVENT WHERE AIRSTREAM OWNERS RALLY TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE A SHARED PASSION FOR ADVENTURE, EXPLORATION AND THE ICONIC AIRSTREAM LIFESTYLE

Let's Make History at the 68th Airstream Club International Rally in York, Pennsylvania: August 23-28, 2025. Embrace the timeless traditions of adventure and friendship while exploring and enjoying the sites and sounds of the Mid-Atlantic at the 2025 ACI Rally.



www.airstreamclub.org



Hi Big Benders:

It's time to order badges for any Regular members that have joined the Club (not Affiliates) in the past year and also for our 2025 Officers. Please reach out to me, Laurie Jones, by text – (954) 242-1987 and let me know if you have not received your badges that look like this.

The cost of your first badge is on the Club. If anyone needs a replacement badge, I can also order it for you at a cost of \$4 each. The order will be placed by **November 10th** so please reach out to me as soon as possible.

-Laurie Jones
Big Bend Florida Airstream Club Membership Chair

★ IMPORTANT NOTICE ★

Big 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

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 ★

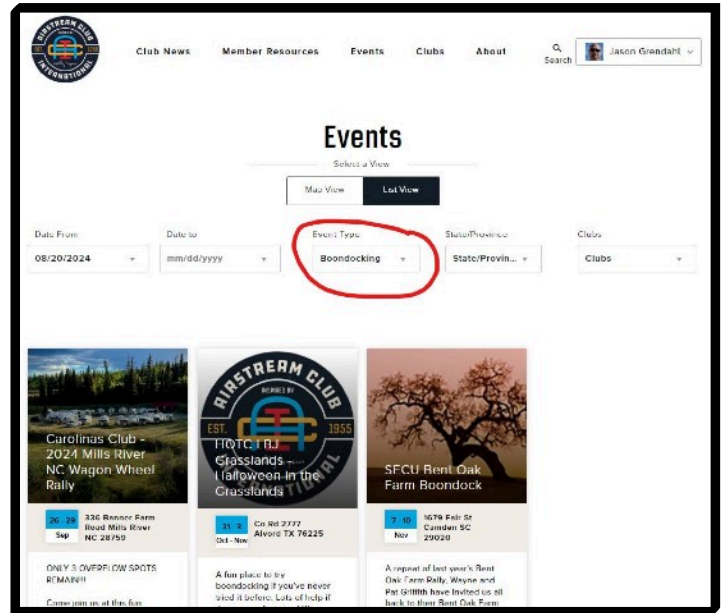
Hello Everyone.

I wanted to share a new feature in the ACI website's events list. There is a new ability to sort for Boondocking or otherwise no-hookup events. Please see the image.

Webmasters and Presidents have been informed and some have started tagging events already. This ability was an initiative of the Boondockers Airstream Intra-Club, but it is usable by any club to show their event as Boondocking so that people looking for such events can easily find them within all ACI clubs.

Happy Boondocking!

Jason Grendahl - President Boondockers Intra-Club



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