



THE BIG BENDER

VOLUME 50 | December 2024 | NUMBER 11

2025 Officers

President

David Conrad

Vice President

Amy Waymire

2nd Vice President

Chad Jones

Secretary

Monica Brinkley

Trustees

Daniel Brock

Chip Leaveine

Guy Neff

Gary Anderson

Webmaster

Randy Shropshire

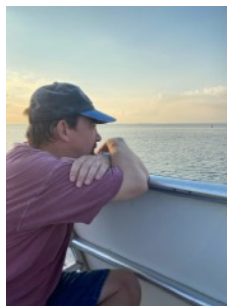
Newsletter

Lindsay Shropshire

Historian

Jason Friedrich

Presidents Message:



Happy Holidays Big Benders! I hope your Thanksgiving was amazing, and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you again at 1 PM (central time) on Dec 7th at Runaway Island on Panama City Beach for our end of year Holiday Party.

Our Christmas Giving Project this year is to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief, given the multiple recent hurricanes impacting the Big Bend area and our members. Cash or checks (made out to Big Bend Florida Airstream Club) will be accepted at the party. Or you can contribute at your leisure anytime until New Years via Zelle. The club email address in Zelle is club153@airstreamclub.org.

2024 seems to have flown by, and please join me in thanking Lindsay for giving us an outstanding 50th year as Big Benders! I'm still remembering the awesome anniversary dinner at Live Oak Landing in Freeport. And thanks as well to Lindsay and Randy for hosting our Nov installation rally in Dothan. The Crossings at Big Creek was quite a nice venue and campground, and we all seemed to survive navigating around the Peanut Festival traffic.

I'm looking forward to serving you all as the 51th Big Bend Florida Airstream Club President. Our 2025 Rally Schedule hopefully has some new and different locations and sites to see, so I hope you join us!

Wander Widely!
~David



Date 2024-2025	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
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>Julie & David Ludlow</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.travelersrestresort.com</p>

2026 Rally Schedule – Coming February 2025

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



Congratulations to our new 2025 Leaders!



- David Conrad - President
- Amy Waymire - Vice President
- Chad Jones - 2nd Vice President
- Monica Brinkley - Secretary
- Julie Ludlow - Treasurer
- Daniel Brock - Trustee
- Guy Neff - Trustee



MEET YOUR VOLUNTEERS



David Conrad (President) 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!

Amy Waymire (Vice President) 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.



Chad Jones (2nd Vice President) and Dolores and I bought our Airstream in 2021 after 30 years of camping in various SOB's. We immediately joined the WBCCI and the Big Bend Florida unit. Since then we have traveled the country attending many local rallies, a national caravan, and four international rallies. We have enjoyed the many adventures we have experienced and the many friendships we have made along the way.

Monica Brinkley (Secretary) 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





Julie Ludlow (Treasurer) 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 (Trustee) 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.



Chip Leavine (Trustee) 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](#)



Daniel Brock (Trustee) and his wife Amber started their airstream adventures with their first airstream purchase in 2021. They have fallen in love with the freedom of spontaneous travel, made possible by airstream ownership and Club membership. Daniel has developed quite the passion for customizing and modifying their airstream set up. From batteries and inverters for off grid camping, to hauling motorcycles and bicycles for two wheeled adventures, he says “the excitement of making your rig your own never gets old.” Having a construction company and car rental business, it seems that both of those interest collide with the airstream community. “What’s better than a luxury house on wheels!”

Guy Neff (Trustee) and his wife Dawn purchased their Airstream in December, 2018, a 30’ International Serenity. They are members of the Big Bend Club, and affiliate members of the Carolina Airstream Club. They have actively participated in numerous rallies with the Big Bend and Carolina Clubs, including the International Rally in Rock Springs, WY in 2023, with their grandson, Mercer. They enjoy going on Caravans, and have participated in the American Revolution – Southern Campaign (2019), Ores, Shores and Lights (2019), Taste of the Blue Ridge (2021), and the New York State of Mind (2024) tours. In 2021 they took their two granddaughters out to Montana for a 3-week trip, which included the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. They also did a DIY trip for 4 months with 3 other Airstream rigs to Alaska in 2022. They are registered for the Viking Trail Caravan in 2025, the Southeastern Coastal Crawl in 2026 and Lewis and Clark in 2027. Guy figures that as long as he and Dawn are registered for a caravan in the future, they’re never gonna die!



We are **Pat and Laurie Jones – Membership**. 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.



Jason Friedrich - Historian

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

Randy Shropshire - Website

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!



Lindsay Shropshire (Newsletter) has been an empty nester since 2018. Diving full-force into Airstreaming, she serves on the International Membership Committee and the International National Event Rally Committee, but most people know Lindsay as the leader of the Canopener Airstream Rally. Lindsay loves to visit breweries, museums, and other history related attractions, and can also be found piddling around the Airstream trailer, and the Airstream B190 Van. Lindsay recently took up Sour Dough, a new skill she learned at the Minnesota Airstream Park, where she and Randy recently bought a lot, and plan on spending summers.

We Rally Together
AirstreamClub.org

A banner featuring a blue background with a white topographic map pattern on the left side. On the right side, the text "We Rally Together" is written in a large, bold, yellow font, and "AirstreamClub.org" is written below it in a smaller, white font.



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

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

www.airstreamclub.org

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

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

HOSTED BY:
 JULIE AND DAVID
 LUDLOW

NOW TAKING
 RESERVATIONS





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

★ 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 ★

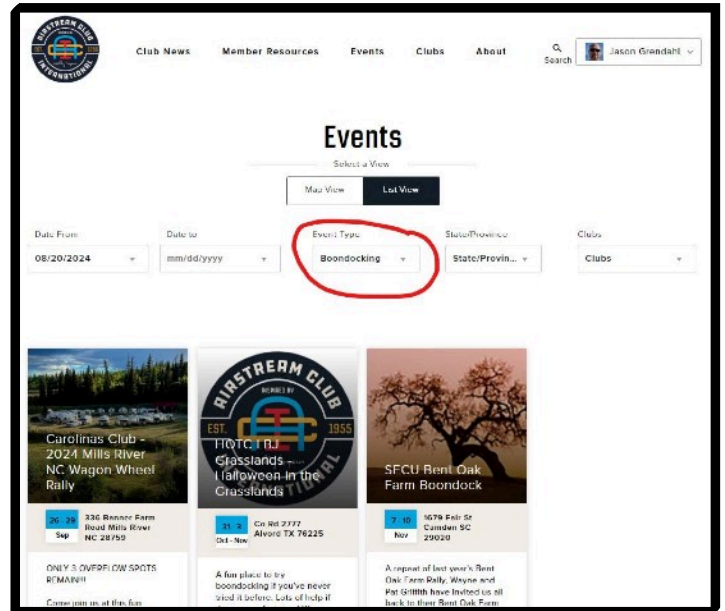
Hello Everyone.

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/)