



THE BIG BENDER

VOLUME 51

APRIL 2025

NUMBER 3

2025 Officers

President

David Conrad

Vice President

Amy Waymire

2nd Vice President

Chad Jones

Secretary

Monica Brinkley

Treasurer

Julie Ludlow

Trustees

Daniel Brock

Chip Leavine

Guy Neff

Carol Montague

Webmaster

POSITION AVAILABLE

Newsletter

POSITION AVAILABLE

Membership

Gaye Baltz

Historian

Jason Friedrich



Presidents Message:



I won't say that we partied like college students on Spring Break (...out loud), but our Auburn Rally was awesome. Thanks to Amy, Lamar, Jason and my wife (and Buc-ee's) for awesome eats and great tours! Too bad we couldn't catch a March Madness basketball game!

Your leadership teams were hard at work in March. We now have our Constitution & Bylaw edits being reviewed by corporate, and our motion to update our club flag is up to Region 3, pending forward to corporate!

If you're looking for more rallies to join, sign up now for Champion's Run (May), Travelers Rest (Oct), Port St Joe (Nov), and now Brunswick Georgia (Feb '26). Some of these campgrounds will be releasing our blocks of sites soon! And then don't forget to go out to Airstreamclub.org, to the appropriate Club Event and Register!

We're still looking for more hosts and volunteers to keep the fun rolling! If you're interested or have questions, please contact me (mykidsdadof4@yahoo.com) or Carol Montague (montaguec43@gmail.com).

See you in St Augustine in a couple of weeks! And if not, Wander Widely!

~David

Welcome New Affiliates!

- John & Rachel Valk (BRN 30809)
- Mike & Debbie Bianchi (BRN 10481)



Rally Recap

Spring break this year found us at Chewacla State Park in Auburn, AL. Chewacla is a beautiful park located outside of Auburn, home of the Auburn Tigers, and just down the road from Historic Tuskegee. Cooler weather cut Thursday short for most, with some heading out for dinner and others retiring early into their campers. Friday was football day, and after breakfast we headed to Auburn University to tour Jordan-Hare Stadium.



Three Auburn marketing students led our tour and did a fantastic job! They were even very tolerant of our Gator, Crimson Tide and Nat'l Champion Ohio State Buckeye fans. We visited the Tiger Den, Media Room, Broadway Suite, Heisman Room, the Tiger Locker Room and were even able to stand alongside Pat Dye field. The tour was spectacular and Jordan-Hare Stadium is an exceptional facility. Can I get a War Eagle!! Friday evening's Taco Bar capped off a much warmer evening. Saturday was about fighters, and after breakfast we headed over to the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. The

Tuskegee Airmen were determined young men who became America's first Black military aviators in the Army Air Corps (AAC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. They flew more than 15,000 sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II, with great distinction! In addition to some 1,000 pilots, the Tuskegee program trained nearly 14,000 navigators, bombardiers, instructors, aircraft and engine



mechanics, control tower operators and other maintenance and support staff. The museum and grounds were an interesting history lesson in perseverance for everyone. Buc-ee's was the next stop for most, because who can pass up a Buc-ee's brisket sandwich and beaver nuggets? The afternoon found us napping, visiting and exploring the park's waterfall.

Saturday night, David manned the grill and cooked up burgers for everyone. A special thanks again to Jason, our club barista, for hot and delicious coffee each morning. And welcome to our first timers, Elwood and Patricia McElhaney from Tallahassee, and Vicky Lawrence and Jay Roach from Panama City.

Up Next...



St Augustine, FL
April 25-27, 2025

**Apr 25 - Arrival Happy Hour Social
 Pasta Dinner**

**Apr 26 - Breakfast Casserole
 Trolley Touring**

Join the Rally WhatsApp Group!

From the Historian's Desk... **Don't go Color Blind!**

Hey fellow Big Benders and Affiliates. After an incident occurred with fellow RV'ers at a local BP gas station, and seeing this mishap re-occur more than a few times, I felt it worth a quick word. About a year ago, a fellow camper pulled into the BP at I-10 and S/R 19, in Monticello, FL, for fuel and a bite to eat. The problem was that this gas station does not sell diesel, but all the fuel handles are green. Unfortunately the diesel tank got filled with gasoline, but thankfully the error was realized not long after. The driver did the right thing and shut the rig down immediately and had it towed to a diesel repair shop. The good news was that their quick action saved the engine. And after an unplanned delay, they were safely back on their way.

Since that incident I have witnessed on more than a few occasions, a repair vehicle pumping out the tanks of other campers, fifth wheels and a small delivery truck. I'm not sure why BP hasn't done something to warn of this hazard. So please be careful at all filling stations and make sure the correct fuel is being pumped. Green is not always diesel!

See you down the road. ~**Jason Friedrich**



Our Remaining 2025 Rally Schedule

2025	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
April 9-13 "Region 3 Rally"	Exchange Park Fairgrounds	Ladson, South Carolina		Bob & Ginger Ealy	Window is open
April 25-27 "Rallyantic Atlantic"	Anastasia State Park	St. Augustine, FL		Sammy & Chris Stockstill Chad & Dolores Jones	Window is open https://www.floridastateparks.org/
May 15-18 "Race Ya!"	Champions Run RV Resort	Ocala, FL		Julie & David Ludlow Scott & Jan Pfaff	Window is open (352) 322-2992 Mention Big Bend Airstream Rally
August 23-28 "International"	York Expo Center	York, Pennsylvania			Window is open airstreamclub.org
September 26-28 "It's Grayt"	Grayton Beach State Park	Santa Rosa Beach, FL		Don & Gaye Baltz	Window is open https://www.floridastateparks.org/
October 23-26 "Relaxing Rally"	Travelers Rest	Dade City, FL		Gary & RoseMarie Anderson	Window is open (352) 588-2013 Mention Big Bend Airstream Rally
November 7-9 "Sunsets & Sunrises"	Port St Joe RV Resort	Port St Joe, FL		Hosts needed	Window is open (850) 280-6177 Mention Big Bend Airstream Rally

**DON'T FORGET REGISTER ON THE ACI WEBSITE
TO LET THE HOSTS KNOW YOU ARE COMING!!!**

A 'Southern Kentucky Derby' awaits you!

Bring your favorite Derby or any other fun hat for a 'Horsey' good time in the Horse Capital of the World!

Experience the wonders of a first magnitude spring and try your hand at our own 'Horsey Bingo' with prizes to be won!



Call to make a reservation! Say you're with the Big Bend FL Airstream Club. They have a section for us!

May 15-18, 2025

Come *Stay and Play* at Travelers Rest - October 23-26th!



It's the ideal location for fun! Like Pickle Ball or tennis? Bring your rackets. Bocce Ball anyone? Join our tournament. You say you're a golfer? Bring your clubs. Want to try some water aerobics? Bring your swimsuit. Just want to relax? You can do that too, or take a stroll through the beautiful gardens. There's so much to do and so little time. Other surprises are waiting for you when we see you October 23-26.

Limited sites are still available! Book your site today by calling Travelers Rest at **352-588-2013** and mention the Big Bend FL Airstream Club Rally. And then don't forget to register on the ACI website (airstreamclub.org), so the Hosts know you're coming!



We Rally Together
AirstreamClub.org

Golden Isles - Port of Call February 6-8, 2026

Come enjoy Brunswick, GA, gateway to the Golden Isles. Just minutes from beaches, historic sites, Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, and shopping. This will be a joint rally with SC Coastal Airstream Club, so reserve your site now! Come early and/or stay late so that you can enjoy all the Golden Isles' have to offer.



Please call Coastal Georgia RV Resort at **(912-264-3869)** to make your reservation. There is a block of sites reserved under the Big Bend FL Airstream Club. And then don't forget to register on the ACI website (airstreamclub.org).

Our 2026 Rally Schedule!

Dates	Campground	Where		Hosts	Reservation Information
January 8-11, 2026	Topsail Hill Preserve State Park	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Canopener		Window is open www.reserve.floridastateparks.org
February 6-8, 2026	Coastal Georgia RV Resort	Brunswick, GA	Golden Isles - Port of Call	Host needed	1-912-264-3869 March 2025
March 4-8, 2026	SUN 'n FUN Campground	Lakeland, FL	Region 3 Rally		
March 19-22, 2026		Bainbridge, GA	Silver in the City-Bainbridge	No Host	January 2026
April 10-12, 2026	Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park	Micanopy, FL	Camping on the Prairie	David & Julie Ludlow	5/10/2025 www.reserve.floridastateparks.org
May 1-3, 2026	EastBank COE	Chattahoochee, FL	Off to the Races	Everyone	11/1/2025 www.recreation.gov
August 22-27, 2026		Minot, ND	International		
September 10-13, 2026	Windcreek State Park	Alexander City, AL	Lake Life	Craig & Monica Brinkley	9/10/2025 www.alapark.com
October 9-11, 2026	Pensacola RV Park	Pensacola, FL	Angels & Airstreams	Vince & Dian Naman	1-850-944-1734 TBD
October 11-18, 2026		Natches, MS - Lynchburg, TN	Tracin' & Tastin' Caravan	Chad & Dolores Jones	
November 6-8, 2026	Coastline RV Resort	Eastpoint, FL	Not So Forgotten Coast Rally	Sammy & Chris Stockstill Jason Friedrich	1-850-799-1016 TBD



◆ Don't Forget! ◆

Big Bend has come into the digital world!

Members with Zelle accounts can **pay rally fees** directly to the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club through the club Zelle address, club153@airstreamclub.org. The treasurer can also quickly **reimburse members** with Zelle for rally expenses.

Of course, cash and checks will still be accepted!

Instructions to send and receive payments via Zelle - Big Bend FL Airstream Club

.....

2,200 banks have Zelle capabilities, so check your bank's mobile banking app. **The standalone Zelle mobile app no longer allows users to send and receive money transfers as of 4/4/2025.** So if your bank supports it, set up your Zelle account through your bank. When setting up your account, please include an email address in your contact information as club funds will only be transferred to members via an email address.

To transfer funds to Big Bend, use the following address: club153@airstreamclub.org

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

Please contact our Treasurer, Julie Ludlow at 352-213-3218, if you have any questions!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1417888775051892>