



# THE BIG BENDER

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## 2025 Officers

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David Conrad

**Vice President**

Amy Waymire

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**Membership**

Gaye Baltz

**Historian**

Jason Friedrich



## Presidents Message:



Anastasia State Park and St. Augustine are gems. So of course the April rally was amazing! Thanks to Chad and Dolores, Chris and Sammy and Jason for awesome eats and great sightseeing!

But with great joy, sometimes comes great sorrow. It's still saddening to know that Jay Thompson is no longer with us. He touched so many and always shared his passion for Airstreaming. So we are left to cherish his memory, and to fill his big shoes, to pass on all that he shared, and more!

Our Constitution & Bylaw edits came back with just one change, and our motion to update the club flag has been **APPROVED!!** Thanks to Guy Neff and Chip Leavine and his team!

**Reservations for Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park open May 10th** for FL residents. So mark your calendars and set an alarm. You don't want to miss Paynes Prairie and Micanopy next April!

We're looking for more hosts and volunteers to keep the fun rolling! If you're interested or have questions, contact me ([mykidsdadof4@yahoo.com](mailto:mykidsdadof4@yahoo.com)) or Carol Montague ([montaguec43@gmail.com](mailto:montaguec43@gmail.com)), and we'll get you plugged in!

If you won't be at our May rally in Ocala, I hope that great summer Airstream plans are shaping up! Wander Widely!  
~David



## Rally Recaps

### Streamin' in the Sweetgrass, Ladson, SC

Our trip to the Region 3 Rally started with a Harvest Host stay at Debellation Brewing Co in Richmond Hills, GA with 4 other Airstreams. Great minds think alike! This was our first regional rally and we had a great time. Chad represented our club at the opening ceremony and during the executive board meeting.

The seminars and presentations were diverse and very informative. Jam sessions, a Charleston-area storyteller, live music and a flea market kept things hopping. Grapes and Grains also had a tasting with the usual bourbon, wine and beer. And the fiesta night dinner and a low country boil, with evening ice cream socials kept us going! The next Region 3 Rally will be held at Lakeland, FL at the Sun and Fun Aerospace Expo Campus, March 4-8, 2026.



~ Chad and Dolores Jones

### Rallyantic Atlantic, St Augustine, FL

Anastasia State Park did not disappoint, and Chad and Dolores, Sammy and Chris and Jason did an excellent job hosting. Thursday evening's happy hour brought everyone together to start the weekend off. Friday was exploring on your own. The girls found the beach, and the boys found a campsite to sit around and share old and new camping stories (I wonder how many were true and/or embellished).

Friday night our hosts treated us to a delicious lasagna dinner. Saturday's breakfast of Apple French toast and fruit was just the start we needed to tour Florida's oldest city, St. Augustine.



Most started the trolley tour together, but quickly separated, each choosing what they wanted to see. Most enjoyed lunch and/or "linner" at The Columbia. Then, after a busy day of sightseeing we gathered at the Brinkley's campsite for a campfire and more stories from the day. Thank you David for choosing Anastasia for an amazing rally and to our hosts for a fun filled weekend! And welcome to our affiliates, Diane and Kenny Pagano from the Florida Airstream Club.

~Amy Waymire



**Up Next...**

<p><b>Race Ya!</b></p> 	<p><b>Thu 15 May</b> - Meet &amp; greet with horsey O d'oeuvres</p> <p><b>Fri 16 May</b> - Breakfast &amp; Dinner 11:00 am - Tour UF's Equine Science Center</p> <p><b>Sat 17 May</b> - Breakfast &amp; Dinner Morning paddle or glass-bottom boat at Silver Springs River State Park Horsey Bingo after Dinner!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Join the Rally WhatsApp Group!</b></p>
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**Our Remaining 2025 Schedule**

2025	Campground	Where	Notes	Hosts	Reservation Information
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 <a href="http://airstreamclub.org">airstreamclub.org</a>
September 26-28 "It's Grayt"	Grayton Beach State Park	Santa Rosa Beach, FL		Don & Gaye Baltz	Window is open <a href="https://www.floridastateparks.org/">https://www.floridastateparks.org/</a>
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

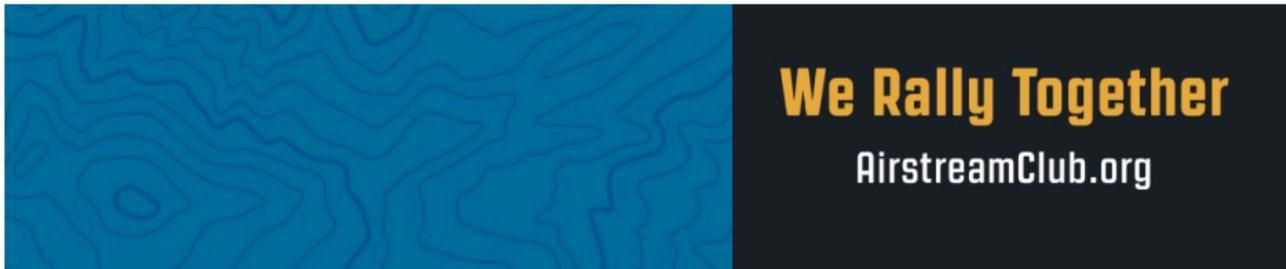
**DON'T FORGET REGISTER ON THE ACI WEBSITE  
TO LET THE HOSTS KNOW YOU ARE COMING!!!**

## 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](http://airstreamclub.org)), so the Hosts know you're coming!



## 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](http://airstreamclub.org)).

**Our 2026 Rally Schedule!**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Campground</b>	<b>Where</b>		<b>Hosts</b>	<b>Reservation Information</b>
January 8-11, 2026	Topsail Hill Preserve State Park	Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Canopener		Window is open <a href="http://www.reserve.floridastateparks.org">www.reserve.floridastateparks.org</a>
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 Praire Preserve State Park	Micanopy, FL	Camping on the Prairie	David & Julie Ludlow	5/10/2025 <a href="http://www.reserve.floridastateparks.org">www.reserve.floridastateparks.org</a>
May 1-3, 2026	EastBank COE	Chattahoochee, FL	Off to the Races	Everyone	11/1/2025 <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a>
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 <a href="http://www.alapark.com">www.alapark.com</a>
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](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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>

## Airstream Club International Executive Council Elections

Voting for 2025-2027 ACI Executive Council is rapidly approaching. eVoting will be open from June 1st thru June 15th. The deadline for requesting a paper ballot is May 27th. And the results will be announced on July 17th. **Members and partner members can both vote**, but each needs their own separate [AirstreamClub.Org](https://www.airstreamclub.org) login. So have your spouse/partner member register for their own ACI account if they haven't already.

There are twelve Executive Council candidates, but these two reached out and provided the newsletter submissions below. This is not my, or the club's, endorsement of either candidate. It is provided for your information, based on their request. I encourage you to be involved and as always, Wander Widely! ~David Conrad

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### Rachael Miller ([rachael.miller@hotmail.com](mailto:rachael.miller@hotmail.com))



I'm honored to run for the ACI Executive Council and offer my experience as an executive and board member because this community has truly shaped my life and I'd love to help shape its future. As a full-timer, I've found friendship, wisdom, and joy through rallies and meetups, and I've tried to give back by creating the Airstream Full Timers Facebook group. Our weekly check-ins and in-person gatherings have helped fellow travelers feel a little less alone on the road.

Professionally, I run a small business, have served on nonprofit and international boards, and bring a background in psychotherapy. I prefer to lead with clarity and compassion valuing consensus, clear communication, and collaboration over ego.

ACI is evolving, and that's exciting. I want to help us adapt while staying true to our roots by offering more flexible ways to get involved, strengthening member-leadership communication, maintaining a good relationship with Airstream, Inc. and making space for solo travelers, digital nomads, and the next generation of Airstreamers.

I love this community - not just the trailers or the travel, but the people. If elected, I'll bring big-picture thinking, grounded leadership, and a genuine belief that our best days are still ahead. Thank you.

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### Bill Hamblin ([bhamblin21813@gmail.com](mailto:bhamblin21813@gmail.com))



Hello fellow ACI members. I'm Bill Hamblin and I'm running for Executive Council. I'm a semi-retired 45-year-old traveling full-time in a 25' Globetrotter with my wife, Frances, and our two dogs, Sutton and Rhett. We enjoy traveling and learning about our country through local history and local cuisine.

From the moment we joined the club we felt like part of a community. Traveling full-time in our RV gives me a unique perspective on the Club as we meet members from across the country.

I feel the best way to give back is to volunteer. From holding local office to leading the Tables & Chairs committee and being a part of the photography committee at International, I enjoy serving the Club.

I encourage you all to check out each candidate's Statement of Candidacy and video. And be on the lookout for the upcoming mini-interviews and webinar to better understand each candidate and their platform.

I think the Club is a great resource for all its members and I look forward to helping it grow in the years to come. Thanks for your consideration and I'll see you down the road.