



THE BIG BENDER

VOLUME 52

February 2026

NUMBER 2

2026 Officers

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Presidents Message:



Ah, February—the month of love. ❤️ I hope you're spending time doing what you love with the people you love most.

I'm excited to kick off our first rally of the year with the **Golden Isles – Port of Call Rally** in beautiful Brunswick, Georgia. From coastal charm to classic Southern hospitality, it promises to be a wonderful start to our rally season and a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

In March, we'll head to Bainbridge, Georgia, for our **Silver in the City Rally**. Be sure to watch for an article about the area. There are still a few openings available, so if you'd like to attend, please contact me to register.

Looking further ahead, we're happy to announce that the **2027 rally schedule** has been finalized and is ready for you to explore. There are some fantastic destinations on the horizon, and we hope you'll be able to join us often.

Happy Valentine's Day, and safe travels—see you down the road!

Amy Waymire

President,
Big Bend Florida Airstream Club

Up Next...

 <p><i>Golden Isles - Port of Call</i> February 6-8, 2026</p>	<p><u>Thursday, Feb. 5th</u> 4:00 pm - Meet and Greet at the Club House <u>Friday, Feb. 6th</u> 4:00 pm - Happy Hour / Book, CD or DVD Exchange. 5:30pm – Taco Bar provided by SC Coastal Club <u>Saturday, Feb.7th</u> 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast provided by SC Coastal Club 09:45– 11:00 AM- New Owners Seminar - Henry Knight will Facilitate. 1:00– 2:00 PM - Awning Seminar - Henry Knight will Facilitate. 4:00 pm - Meet and Greet at Club House 5:30 pm - Brunswick Stew provided by Big Bend (Vegan Option avail)</p>
<p>Silver in the City-Bainbridge March 19-22, 2026</p>	<p>Registration is now open. Contact Amy Waymire to register, waymire_a@yahoo.com or 850-260-5129</p>

Bainbridge, GA

By: David Ludlow

About 40 miles north of Tallahassee is Bainbridge, GA, also known as “Oak City”. Bainbridge started as a Native American village and trading post on the Flint River. It was named for William Bainbridge who had been a commander of the USS Constitution. In 1824 Bainbridge became the county seat of Decatur County. Being situated on the Flint River, Bainbridge became an inland port and, as its nickname suggests, the area became known for its lumber production.

Downtown Bainbridge, where we will be boondocking, has an historic district with a collection of architecture ranging from the late 1800’s to the early 1900’s. Also within the historic district is Willis Park which is a beautiful example of city parks of that era. It is a green city block across Water St from the courthouse. The park even comes complete with the stereotypical gazebo!

Within Bainbridge there are a number of restaurants serving a variety of American and Southern cuisine. There are also a couple downtown breweries! Nearby is the Flint River and Lake Seminole where you can picnic, hike and boat, especially if you bring your own boat.

It looks to be an enjoyable weekend with our Airstream family and friends.

Big Bend By-Laws state that each year the books and accounts are reviewed by a committee selected by the incoming President. This review typically takes place at the installation rally; however, our Treasurer was unable to attend that rally, so the review was postponed. The review has now been completed and is included below.

Thank you to our Treasurer, Julie Ludlow, for the outstanding job she does keeping our finances in order, and to former Treasurer Martina Pelly for conducting the review. This report will be voted on at our next business meeting.

Going forward, Julie asks that all reimbursement requests be submitted via email with scanned receipts attached.

**BIG BEND AIRSTREAM CLUB
Balance Sheet
08 Nov 2024- 07 Nov 2025**

Beginning Balance	\$5,822.32	
<u>Income</u>		
Chapter Dues	1290.00	
Rally fees	1390.00	
Other	27.00	
Donations	1040.00	
Total Income	3747.00	\$9,569.32
<u>Expense</u>		
Rally expense	2211.37	
Other	2976.39	
Total expense		5187.76
Net Income (Loss)		\$4,381.56

*01/14/2026
Reviewed and approved
Martina Pelly*

Canopener 2026

A small group of Big Benders made their way to the 19th Canopener Rally at Topsail Hill State Park in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. It's hard to believe Airstreamers have been gathering at Topsail for almost 20 years to kick off the year. The Andersons, Baltzs, Brocks, Friedrichs, and Waymires enjoyed a few days of perfect weather, good food, and great company—an ideal way to start the 2026 camping season.



Time of our Life - RoseMarie Anderson BRN #812

Goodness, we were so green! All we knew is that we wanted to start camping and traveling in an RV. We had a friend in the Big Bend Club who invited us to a rally in our area to meet some of the members. What we found were some VERY friendly folks who were VERY great cooks. Each member was proud to invite us into their rig to show us around... We realized Airstream was the smartest purchase we could make. If we decided we didn't like camping, we could at least get our investment back. And there was a whole group of people willing to hold our hand and teach us about this new world.

Our search took longer than expected but one day out of the blue our future Airstream was listed in the Panama City News Herald... and it was sitting in Destin! We asked our friend to go with us to look it over and while there he said if we don't buy it, he was going to. There were still factory stickers on the oven, and if our friend was willing to part with his hard-earned money, we knew it was a good deal. We drove the first mile of our new Airstream life in a 2008 25-foot Flying Cloud.

As mentioned before, we were green, never had an RV, only did tent camping. Joining the Big Bend Club was the next step...we could hardly wait to absorb all the knowledge possible from club members who were more than willing to share. We learned something every rally we attended. We were having so much fun we decided to get a bigger trailer to have even more fun, which led to the purchase of our 27-foot Flying Cloud. I loved that Airstream. It also led us to our first caravan, the Cajun, where we made friends with a couple from Nebraska who we traveled with for the next ten years. It took us to Canada and the Maritimes more times than I can count, we traveled 'the loneliest road in the US (Hwy 50 thru Nevada), roamed the Pacific northwest, and of course the National Caravans: the Southwest Caravan with Montagues & Thompsons leading, our first introduction to the horse racing thoroughbred world thru the Kentucky Caravan, and experiencing the Rocky Mountains, both Canadian and American, to name a few.

It's easy to get Airstream fever...go to an International Rally and check out the new rigs off the line. The fever struck us again in 2017. A 30-foot International Serenity had our name all over it. Done deal, we picked it up on our way back from New Found land. We realized this must be our forever trailer because the stickers from all of our travels found their way to the back window!

Our Airstream journey was still not done. The decision to become National Caravan leaders falls squarely in the lap of Carol & Winston Montague. We joined them on the Georgia Plantation caravan and that launched our wanderlust. We ran that caravan for a few years, then moved to the Southwest Caravan for 4 years which was our favorite. We're currently running the Southeast Coastal Crawl Caravan with friends from N. Carolina. April 2026 might be our swan song as National Caravan Leaders....and what fun it has been! Thank you, Big Bend Airstream Club!

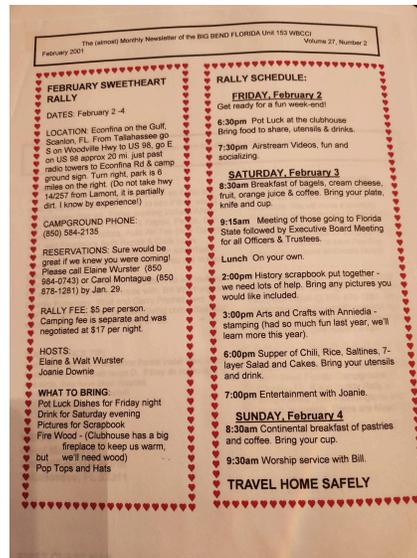
From the desk of the Historian - Jason Friedrich



In this February edition we are going to wind the clock back 25 years and see what the Big Bend Florida Camping Unit was up to.

February 2nd through the 4th 2001. The location is reported to be a forgotten area named Scanlon, Florida. The modern day location is near the Econfina State Park in Taylor county, a few miles from Perry Florida.

See rally schedule for all the fun filled activities.



Can anyone guess who our mystery members from 2001 are?



A Cool Upgrade We Didn't Know We Needed**

By Chip Leavine

Traci and I don't claim to be experts, but we do enjoy sharing the small Airstream upgrades that make a big difference on the road. And this one quickly became a favorite—especially for Traci.

Why We Added 12V Fans

On warm nights, or even just those still, stuffy evenings when the air refuses to move, we kept wishing for just a bit more airflow. The Fantastic Fan on the roof does good work, but sometimes you want quiet, directed air without opening vents or firing up bigger systems. That's what led us to add two Sirocco II 12V fans—and they turned out to be one of the best comfort upgrades we've made.

Why We Chose the Sirocco II

After researching and talking with other Airstream owners, one fan kept coming up: the Sirocco II. Now we understand why. For boondocking and small spaces, they're hard to beat:

- Quiet operation – You can run them at night without the constant drone of a loud motor.
- Impressive airflow – Despite their small size, they push a surprising amount of air. One fan easily keeps the whole bed area comfortable.
- Three speeds – Choose a gentle breeze or more serious circulation.
- Built-in timer – Set it for 1, 2, or 4 hours. Perfect for bedtime—no waking up to switch it off.
- Low power draw – They sip amperage, making them ideal for boondocking and battery conservation.

A Simple DIY Install

This was a straightforward DIY project. We tied the fans into the existing 12V lights over the beds, which made installation simple and clean—no new switches, no complicated wiring runs. The fans power up right where we need them, and everything feels factory-neat. If you're comfortable with basic wiring and take your time, this is a very approachable upgrade.

A Comfort Upgrade Worth Considering

These fans have made our Airstream feel cooler, fresher, and far less stuffy—especially during shoulder seasons when AC feels like too much but you still want moving air. It's a simple upgrade that genuinely improves day-to-day comfort.

We'd Love to Hear From You

If you have questions about installing the fans or want to know more about how they perform, feel free to reach out. And if you've added something you love to your Airstream, we'd love to hear about that too.

chip.leavine@gmail.com



2026 Rally Schedule

Dates	Campground	Where		Hosts	Reservation
February 6-8, 2026	Coastal Georgia RV Resort	Brunswick, GA	Golden Isles - Port of Call	Waymires & Knights	Window is open 1-912-264-3869
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 Rally	Window is open waymire_a@yahoo.com
April 10-12, 2026	Paynes Prairie Prsv State Park	Micanopy, FL	Camping on the Prairie	Ludlows, Phaff & Moscoso	Window is open www.reserve.floridastateparks.org
May 1-3, 2026	EastBank COE	Chattahoochee, FL	Off to the Races	Everyone	Window is open www.recreation.gov
Aug 22-27, 2026		Minot, ND	International		
September 10-13, 2026	Windcreek State Park	Alexander City, AL	Lake Life	Craig & Monica Brinkley	Window is open www.alapark.com
October 9-11, 2026	Pensacola RV Park	Pensacola, FL	Angels & Airstreams	Namans & Andersons	Window is open 1-850-944-1734
October 11-18, 2026	<i>Club Caravan</i>	Natches, MS - Lynchburg, TN	Tracin' & Tastin' Caravan	Chad & Dolores Jones	Currently Full
November 13-15, 2026	Coastline RV Resort	Eastpoint, FL	Not So Forgotten Coast Rally	Sammy & Chris Stockstill Jason Friedrich	Window is open 1-850-799-1016

All campgrounds are open for reservations. After you make your reservation be sure to complete the registration jot form at airstreamclub.org So your rally hosts will know you are attending.



I am pleased to announce the following Big Bend Florida Rally Schedule for 2027. You will notice that for most rallies the schedule indicates arriving on Thursday and departing on Sunday. Thursdays will be “early arrival day” and no formal activities will be planned. However, be prepared for impromptu happy hours and spur of the moment activities. The regular rally activities will proceed as usual on Fridays. Most rallies still need volunteers to host or co-host. Please let me know if you can help. I am looking forward to 2027 being a great year filled with exciting streaming adventures.

Chad Jones, 1st VP

2027 Rally Schedule

DATES	CAMPGROUND	WHERE	HOST	RESERVATIONS
February 11-14, 2027	Suwannee River Music Park	Live Oak, FL		sites saved -instructions pending
March 19-21, 2027	Tallahassee Car Museum	Tallahassee, FL	Brinkleys	sites saved- instructions pending
April 8-11, 2027	Lake Pines	Columbus, GA		706-561-9675
April 11-22, 2027	Brews and Views		Stockstills	Unit Caravan details to follow
May 13-16, 2027	TH Stone Memorial Sp	Port St. Joe, FL		window open 4-13-2026
June 26-July 1, 2027	International Rally	Rock Springs, WY		details to follow
September 16-19, 2027	Crooked River SP	Kingsland, GA		window open 8-16-2026 GA state park
October 7-10, 2027	Topsail Hill Preserve SP	Santa Rosa Beach, FL		window open 11-7-2026
November 11-14, 2027	Reed Bingham SP	Adel, GA		window open 10-11-2026 GA state park



Love is in the air!!!!

February 2019
Yellow Jacket RV Resort
Old Town, FL

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

Visit us on the Web <https://airstreamclub.org/big-bend-florida>



[Bend Florida Airstream Club \(Group\) | Facebook](#)



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