



THE BIG BENDER

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2026 Officers

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Jason Friedrich



Presidents Message:



Happy New Year!

As we close out the holiday season, I hope you enjoyed reminiscing about holidays past, making wonderful new memories, and looking forward to a year filled with exciting Airstream adventures.

Thinking back reminds me of the many blessings that owning an Airstream has brought us—the incredible places we've visited and the wonderful friends we've made along the way. I am truly grateful for the relationships we've built over the years and the time we've shared together. My prayer for the new year is that we continue to build those relationships, travel often, and approach each experience with gratitude for the blessing this life truly is.

Hopefully your travels will include many Big Bend rallies! Be sure to check the newsletter for details about our first rally of 2026 in Brunswick, GA.

Amy Waymire

President,
Big Bend Florida Airstream Club

Welcome New Members!

- Don & Julia Willmoth BRN 5311
Panama City Beach, FL
- Dick Wheatley & Janet Stevens BRN 9455 (affiliate)
Dade City, FL

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>

Golden Isles - Port of Call – Brunswick, GA

By: Gary Anderson

The time is here for the first Big Bend Rally of 2026. What better than a joint rally with South Carolina Coastal Airstream Club? This South Carolina club is growing at a rapid rate and has incorporated new ideas and procedures. Good chance to meet active Airstreamers and perhaps learn new Rally methods. Get packed for Brunswick GA on Feb 6 , 7, and 8. Brunswick, which is located half way between Jacksonville FL and Savannah GA started as a tobacco plantation in 1738 and grew into a town laid out in a grid pattern similar to Savannah. On the commercial side, Port of Brunswick today handles 10% of U.S. trade only behind Los Angeles and Newark. Brunswick port handles many different cargos and serves as the major port for numerous Automobile imports and exports to include Hyundai, Kia, Mitsubishi, Porsche, Volvo and Jaguar.



Brunswick was not always like this, like many cities Brunswick faced and experienced numerous challenges. During the Civil War the town was ordered to evacuate due to a blockade and so the people left. However, after the war, agriculture, timber and the railroad brought a new level of prosperity back to Brunswick ahead of most the other Southern Cities.

Challenges remained to include a Yellow Fever epidemic in 1893 combined with a hurricane that sent 6 feet of water into the city. Another hurricane in 1898 sent 12 feet of water into the city.



During WW I and especially WW II Brunswick's strategic coastal location made it a hub of shipbuilding. In addition to many smaller size ships the port launched 99 Liberty ships while the Naval Air station was the base for blimps that patrolled the Atlantic searching for German submarines.

While the Port of Brunswick today remains a key port on the Eastern Seaboard, Brunswick maintains a rich architectural heritage visible in its Old Town Historic District, which includes Victorian-era buildings and squares preserved from the original colonial design.

Brunswick claims to be the home of the famous Brunswick stew. The pot that is said to be the original 25 gallon "Pot" is on display at the Mary Ross Waterfront Park. While the original recipe used rabbit or squirrel as the source of meat – that has certainly changed with pork or chicken. In



addition, to the stew pot the 19th Century Victorian mansions to be seen along Union Street are part of Brunswick history and worth viewing. Add in the Ritz Theater along with a 900-year-old Live Oak on the corner of Albany and Prince St. and an enjoyable overview of Brunswick Ga will be yours.

2025 Christmas Luncheon

Not even rainy, dreary weather can stop Airstreamers from gathering for food and fellowship.

On December 6, thirty-eight Big Benders came together for their annual Christmas luncheon. Everyone enjoyed a delicious catered meal of Chicken Cordon Bleu, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli, and salad, followed by a selection of desserts: red velvet, chocolate, and Italian cream cakes. Beyond the meal, members enjoyed spending time catching up and visiting with one another.

In support of NWF Health Network, we donated 30 boxes/packages of diapers—enough to fill a car and help with a whole lot of diaper changes!

Thanks to Winston, Carol and Westminster Oaks for the use of the community house, Monica, Chris and Dolores for helping serve and to Shawn for parking everyone in the rain.



Ramblings of a former Airstream Travel Trailer Owner

By: Johnny Duncan

Back in the late Nineteen Seventies my State of Florida job had me working in the Melbourne Florida area. There was an exclusive Airstream RV Park in Melbourne called the Land Yacht Harbour of Melbourne Florida. While checking the area out I found myself going through the park thinking, "this is pretty neat". All these shiny trailers, folks setting out visiting and telling lies to each other. From that point, Airstream trailers on the highway caught my eye and I would begin daydreaming. Saying to myself "one day I am going to own an Airstream."

In 2004 while Gayle, our son Chris and I were returning from vacation in the Smokey Mountains we passed an older Airstream on the side of the road near Madison, GA. We stopped, looked it over, and I wanted it. No one was home but we got a phone number; it was priced for \$3,000. I contacted the lady and bought it for \$2,500. Then I had to find a way to get it home. A friend with a full-size truck went with me to pick it up. The adventure began.

After getting it home I discovered that it had no air conditioning, no awning, and the plumbing would not work. These things could wait. I had to go camping. A couple of my co-workers had Airstreams and they enticed Chris and I to go to an Airstream rally being held by the Big Bend Airstream club. The event took place at the Tallahassee RV park on West 90 in Tallahassee. It was a weekend rally and Chris and I really enjoyed it. We met several Airstreamers and joined the club. This was February 2005. After joining we got a new members letter from the membership chairman Charley Hurst. It outlined upcoming rallies. Chris and I convinced my wife, Gayle, to join us for the rally that was going to be held at Three Rivers State at Sneads. We enjoyed meeting the members, the campfire cook out, and the hospitality of the group. Sleeping was a little tight in the nineteen-foot cabin. The table let down for a bed large enough for two (closer than at home). Chris got the sofa that made into a bed. On the way home discussion centered around maybe a larger trailer. After putting on an air conditioner, an awning, fixing the plumbing and recovering the floor we sold the unit and basically got our money back. We soon found a 1979 27-footer in Grand Ridge, Florida. It was in very good condition. We would be the third owner. We paid \$6,500 for the trailer. It was unique in the fact the rear bath was large enough for a sit down tub with a shower. After replacing the gold shag carpet, we found the only disadvantage was that Chris had to go through our bunk bed area to get to the rear bath. This led to opportunity number three. We sold the 1979 trailer for \$8400. I began thinking about retirement from the Florida Department of Transportation. We looked forward to being a part of the Big Bend Airstream Club. We found a 30-foot Excello at Traver's Rest near Tampa. It was as advertised. Excellent condition, no smokers, no children, no pets. Newly installed hardwood floors. Just right for the three of us. We purchased the trailer for \$27,500 and pulled it with our Nissan Armada. The furthest we pulled the trailer north was Sugar Creek, Ohio, the furthest we went south was Sarasota, FL for two or three Florida State Rallies, and west to New Orleans. The best trip was a national event called the Fly and Drive in Alaska. Beautiful. We kept the 30-foot trailer for 10 years. We enjoyed the folks that became friends as of the result of being members of the Big Bend Florida Airstream Club.



Contact Johnny Duncan at jduncan1944@outlook.com

From the desk of the Historian - Jason Friedrich



How it all began
The birth of the
Big Bend Airstream Unit

September 12, 1974 a petition for a unit charter in the WBCCI was submitted.

October 15, 1974 a provisional charter was issued.

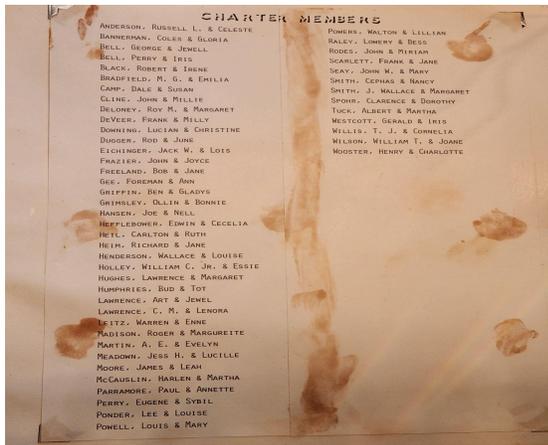
November 1-3 1974 the proposed Big Bend Florida Unit held their first rally at The Alligator Point KOA.



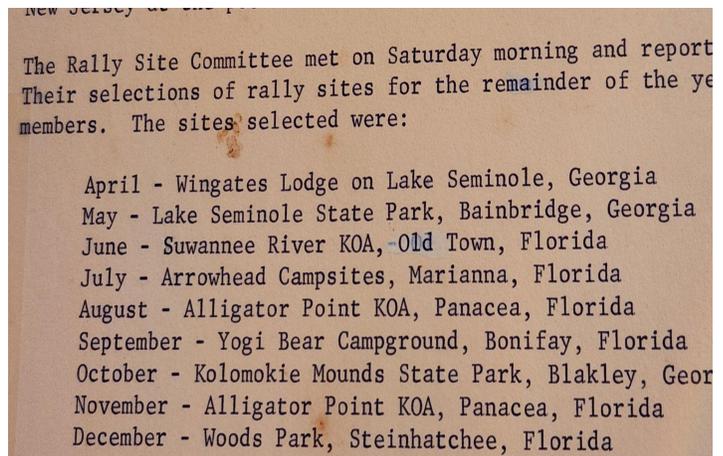
February 13, 1975 Big Bend Florida Unit was approved for a regular charter.

The first Unit President was Harlen L McCauslin, Sr

Charter Members



First rally schedule



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.

**COMING REALLY SOON!!!!!!
2027 RALLY SCHEDULE**





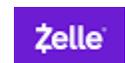
**Happy New Year!!!!
Canopener 20__??***

2019???

"Don't stop. Keep right on going. Hitch up your trailer and go to Canada or down to Old Mexico. Head for Europe if you can afford it, or go to Mardi Gras. Go someplace you've heard about, where you can fish or hunt or collect rocks or just look up at the sky. Find out what's at the end of some country road. Go see what's over the next hill, and the one after that, and the one after that." ~ Wally Byam



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



club153@airstreamclub.org

