



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 51 / Issue 6 / November 2012





Hello, Georgia Unit Members!

I'm honored and humbled to have been elected president of the Georgia Unit and Top of Georgia for 2012-2013. The park and the Georgia Unit have meant much to me and Chris all these years, and it's wonderful to be able to help keep alive the tradition and fellowship we've all come to cherish. As I think back on the fun times and great friends we've made, I realize we're like a big family: rich in experiences, diversity, knowledge and abilities. We're fortunate to have those resources, and we should use them.

The coming year will be challenging, because some of our experienced members are beginning to pass their roles along. These folks have made the park what it is, but it's time for the newer members to work on committees and chair them, go out and recruit new members, and do all the essential tasks of running TOG. If everyone would recruit just one new member this year and work on or chair a committee, we would have no problem finding fascinating new members and running the programs that our club needs.

It's time to try new and different things for the rallies. I'm looking forward to creating new menus for our meals and changing the things we do when we are at the rallies. If you have suggestions, send me an email at airstreemer@gmail.com or call me at 770-842-4652. This is your club; you'll find it much more enjoyable if you're doing new and fun things. I welcome your input. Our 2013 slogan is ***"Let's have some fun!"***

I also want to remind you of our Annual Holiday Party at Lake Pines Campground in Columbus, Georgia on Saturday, December 8th. Many are camping and will begin arriving on Thursday, December 6th; others will simply drive in for the party on Saturday the 8th. If you've never attended an event at Lake Pines, you're missing a beautiful facility and a wonderful meal. This year we'll have your choice of steak or chicken charcoal-grilled to order with a baked potato, salad, dessert, and drink; the room is warm, inviting and beautifully decorated. You can RSVP to me by phone or email to let me know how many will be attending. If you plan to camp, make a separate reservation at Lake Pines Campground by calling them at **706-561-9675**. Be sure to tell them that you're with the Georgia Unit, Top of Georgia, to get our special rate. If you can make it, you really should be there. It'll be a wonderful time!

The Wounded Warrior Project will be the recipient of donations raised during the coming year, including at the Holiday Party.

The Installation Banquet was beautiful, and the food was delicious. My hat's off to all who made it a success!

We look forward to a great year! With your commitment to help with what needs to be done, with new and exciting menus, and with your ideas to give a new spark to our rallies, we'll have the best year ever. You'll want to be a part of the fun and excitement!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Let's have some fun!

Steve and Chris Rosenthal

(Cover: Fred Gavin has done it again! He crafted and donated another beautiful shelf unit for our library at the October 2012 Rally. In recognition of his contributions, the Board of Directors has designated the library the Fred Gavin Library.)

Loving Concerns

Laney Bradshaw, Jack Cooper, Fred Gavin, Jimmy Jarrett, Jack Jones, Ralph and Jeanene Jones, Eddie King, Mike King, Jesse and Alice Lyle, Fred and Joyce Moore, Donald Purmort (brother of Durrell Purmort), Sybil Roberson, Ben and Irene Roach, Shirley and Cecil Rodgers, Richard Spruill, Charles and Clara Smith, Sandy and Raymond Tarpley

Mary Ann Parks will be chairperson for Loving Concerns in 2013; please call or e-mail her when a member of the Georgia Unit is sick or has a death: parksplace1953@att.net, phone 229-924-

0917, cell 478-244-1566. I have enjoyed the interaction I have had with the many Club Members in relaying "Loving Concerns," though it did prove to be a sad experience at times. I grieved with each of you as you faced difficult times. One of the conditions that made the job rewarding was working with Jack Bradshaw, who handled email notifications of Loving Concerns as well as serving as our Pastor. His presence helped in handling the sad news and was uplifting in spreading the good news. Thank you, Jack, for all your service to the Georgia Unit, and thanks to all the others who made my job rewarding.

--Mary Holcomb

"The Airstream Way of Life"

I must thank all the members who have supported Mary and me during our tenure. This Club survives not on the officers, but the many volunteers that step forward to serve our club. I would like to list all those I am indebted to, but in fear of leaving someone out, *thank you all*.

The October Rally was successful ending to our year. We attempted to provide you with rallies you could remember and enjoy, and it was our pleasure to try to provide lasting memories of a great rally season. It could not have happened without the dedicated service of many.

As I reflect over the year, I realize how much has been accomplished in improving the park for all of us. New patio pads were added on the roadside below the host trailer, the dog area was expanded, plans are underway to reconfigure the entrance and driveway into the park, and

the library was named the "Fred Gavin Library" in appreciation of the many improvements Fred has made to the park over the years. Section E problems were addressed and settled to the satisfaction of those involved. The Lottery for parking was abolished, and first come/first served was reinstated.

I must comment on the maintenance to our Park that has been handled by Charles Maddocks. I had said I did not want to single out any individual, but I feel Charles should be mentioned. I think the park is in excellent shape, and there are a lot of issues in operating a facility of this size. So, "Thank you, Charles!"

In writing this final summation of our year, I was reminded of how our park has changed over the years. The many capable Presidents that have preceded me had the vision to provide us with an outstanding place to enjoy our passion of Airstreaming. In our travels, I have heard many favorable comments from other Airstreamers about our park and about how much they have enjoyed the experience of staying with us. I have also heard former members relate what wonderful memories they have of participating in the Airstream **Life...memories that will last the rest of their** years. We take this experience for granted, but you will always have those fond memories as you venture into the "Golden Years."

Mary and I thank you all for allowing us to serve as your President and First Lady. We've tried to provide you with a year of good memories and friendships with wonderful people. As we leave this job, we wish Steve and Chris a very successful year. We appreciate the support they've given us during our period as President and First Lady.

We will continue to serve the Georgia Unit and The Top of Georgia as long as we can enjoy the Airstream Way of Life.

--Al and Mary Holcomb

Game Winners

Back Alley Bridge, Ann Millard;
Manipulation, Billy Wallace; Joker, Sharon Fore and Walter Berg; **Holey Board**, Linda Richards (ladies) and Ken Topham (men); **Ping-Pong**, Eleanor Florey (ladies) and Walter Berg (men); **Horse Shoes**, Linda Richards (ladies) and Durell Purmont (men).

Region 3 “Rally ‘round the Rock”

The Region 3 Rally will be held right here in Georgia next spring! The dates are April 23 – 28 and the location is Stone Mountain. The rally promises to be like no previous Region 3 Rally and **I’m** sure you will have a good time. Registration is simple this year. I hope to see you there. For more information, go to the Region 3 Website: region3.wbcc.net/newsletters

Why Not Focus on Rallies?

Several members have asked why I focus on Unit Caravans and Campouts. **Don’t** these detract from Rally attendance? These are good questions. My hope is that Campouts and Caravans help increase our membership.

I believe that traveling Airstreams and Georgia Unit members are a tremendous way to advertise our unit and the park. Through the Campouts, we visit parts of the state where a group of Airstreams gets attention. Our members also have a chance to show their trailers to folks who haven’t seen the inside of one. Finally, we meet and discuss our park with those who own other brands. With no dealer in Georgia, we must find inventive ways to spur interest in the Georgia Unit.

Many of our members are unable or unwilling to spare the money or time for a National Caravan, so Unit Caravans provide a way for these members to enjoy the kind of Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure Wally Byam shared on those original caravans. By increasing the benefit provided to our membership, we improve retention of existing members. In addition, these short caravans sometimes lead to signing of new members. On the Blue Ridge Parkway Caravan, we actually attracted two new memberships to our unit. It was also my hope that scheduling the Caravan to depart from the park following a rally, would mean those participating would attend and participate in the rally. Results were mixed.

Finally, the members who participate in Campouts and Caravans share experiences with one another. They become better friends and become generally more active in the Georgia Unit.

-- Matt Hackney

GA Unit Winter Camping – Make Your Reservations!

As you read this, many of us will have returned from the November Campout at Hard Labor Creek. **It’s not too late to make your** reservations for the remaining events. Please contact the parks and then notify Matt Hackney or Steve Rosenthal you will attend.

December 7 – 9, Lake Pines, Columbus; call 706 561-9675

January 18 – 21, High Falls State Park (Riverside CG), gastateparks.org

February 8 – 10, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center, reserveamerica.com

March, TBD

The December Campout is at Lake Pines. We plan two pot luck breakfasts and a pot luck dinner. If you are attending the campout, plan to provide food for one of these meals; contact Matt Hackney or Steve Rosenthal to firm up meal plans. If you have suggestions for nearby sites, restaurants, tours, or activities, please let us know.

Door Prizes; 2013 Entertainment

I want to thank everyone who contributed to **this year’s door prizes and auction items**. It’s your contributions and enthusiasm that helps make our rallies the success that they are.

It’s time for me to secure entertainment for next year’s rallies. I already have a few suggestions, but want to hear from anyone who **has ideas, especially if you’ve seen** someone at another function that you think the group would enjoy. Please send me your suggestions, with contact information if available, to egrbeav@bellsouth.net or mail it to me. My address is in the directory. Looking forward to an entertaining 2013 season.

--Roy Beavers, President Elect



Carol Cone coordinated the pumpkin decoration contest; these were the three winners. Yep, that’s a rat’s tail hanging out of the mouth....



(Photo by Rob Kelly)

Georgia Unit's Walter Berg Wins Award

At the 2012 National Swiss Festival in Sugarcreek, Ohio, a panel judged the many crafts exhibited by the attendees at the Hobby Show. The intricately crafted wooden bowls shown in the picture made by Walter Berg were judged to be "Best of Show" for all categories. Congratulations, Walter; you made our Georgia Unit proud!

Top of Georgia Programs 2012 and 2013

The 2012 TOG rallies featured some brand new activities such as the Clydesdale horse rides and continued the long-time, traditional favorites such as the various card tournaments. We tried new ideas to find activities that provide variety and attract new members. While the youth are awhile from buying an Airstream, we hope that the focus on activities at the summer rally for the youth such as the duck race and pet show will someday persuade them to do just that.

In 2013 the focus will continue on scheduling a variety of activities to attract new members, as well as to encourage our youth to someday return with an Airstream. In 2013 new members Rob and Katie Ditchens will chair the programs, and will have the opportunity to incorporate some fresh ideas for enjoyable rallies. I'll support them with what I've learned about what works. I'll suggest having at least some youth activities every rally on Saturday when the kids are out of school for the weekend, such as putt-putt golf or treasure hikes. They'll also encourage special activities for the weekend when the "working" members can be there to enjoy them. I also have some ideas to share that I learned at the Swiss Festival. Jan and I look forward to fresh thinking and the chance to relax and enjoy the rallies, hopefully make a trip or two.

--Rob Kelly, 2012 Programs Coordinator



Vonceil Nesmith coordinated a delicious soup supper to kick off the first evening of the October Rally, which hit the spot on a cool fall day. Thanks to the cooks!

Region 3 "Rally 'round the Rock"

Region 3 Rally will be held right here in Georgia next spring! The dates are April 23 – 28 at Stone Mountain Park. The rally promises to be the best regional rally ever; besides rally activities there's a lot to do at Stone Mountain. You're guaranteed to have a good time. Registration is simple; for information, go to Region 3's Website: region3.wbcci.net/newsletters -**Matt Hackney**



Pumpkin parade! They became table decorations.



RV Tire Care - My Experience

Jan and I were finally on our way to the famous Swiss Festival in Sugar Creek, Ohio with our 34-foot Airstream trailer. I had carefully checked all of my tires for adequate tread and inflated them to 65 psi. I also had the North Georgia Tire Center check all my brakes (found one broken spring) and grease all the wheel bearings. We were ready – or at least I thought we were—for the two-day trip!

But halfway on the first day on I-77 I heard a sharp noise to the rear. I glanced out the passenger-side rearview mirror and saw something flapping around the trailer wheel well, so pulled over into the breakdown lane to look. The lead tire was flat and had thrown off most of its tread, and the trim around the wheel well and the wiring to the tail lights had broken loose and was trailing behind. Some of the trailer siding was bent and torn, and the wheel well lining was buckled against the tire.

Shortly after I stopped, a policeman stopped to help and offered to road service. I felt better with his blinking blue lights warning oncoming traffic. I was able to jack the tire up and remove the tire. Fortunately a Walmart was seven miles up the road, so I pulled the trailer there on the two remaining good tires. I sawed off the dangling metal trim and cut off the trailing wires.

At Walmart I replaced the shredded tire and made temporary repairs to the wiring. I was able to push the buckled well liner back in place and hoped it would stay. It did, and we continued on to Sugar Creek. At Sugar Creek I started learning what I should have known in the beginning. Jerry Hodge was kind enough to give critical advice. He said to research the issue of tire failure on the web sites: <http://www.goodyearrvtires.com/tire-inflation-loading.aspx>; and http://www.goodyearrvtires.com/pdfs/rv_inflation.pdf; <http://rvsafety.com/tire-inflation-tables/> These sites will tell you that:

1-UV Damage The largest problem normally comes from UV damage, caused mainly by two things. First, the occasional use of RVs doesn't shorten tire life. Tire manufacturers add emollients to the rubber, but the only way those ingredients work is through constant heat and flexing of the tire as it is used on the highway. For this very reason a trailer tire becomes dangerous while looking good with no tread wear. Using tire covers is the best way to avoid UV damage. Whenever you park for anything more than 5-6 days or more, covering the tires will prevent cracking caused by the sun. Many manufacturers also suggest extended parking be on level places and on a wood, plastic or rubber pad.

2-Tire Age *Every* major tire manufacturer strongly recommends not using trailer tires more than 5 years (motorhome tires 7-9 years). You can find the age of your tires after the DOT symbol on the sidewall of in one or more ovals that include numbers and/or letters. The last oval will have four numbers in it; the first two will be the week of the year the tire was made, and the last two numbers will be the year of the 21st century. Therefore, 3008 will be the 30th week of 2008. Keep tabs on the age of your tires.

3-Tire Pressure The greatest reason for tire failure is *low tire pressure!* *Every* time you tow, you should be checking air pressure before leaving. Using the proper air pressure requires two things: First, know the weight of your trailer (including water, holding tank matter, and anything you have loaded into the trailer) before you look up the proper air pressure for the tire sizes and ratings you are running. Next, be sure your pressures are correct. Neglecting to do so *always* produces heat and can cause delaminating of the cords and tread from the carcass.

4-Physical injury to the tire is the least frequent problem, but can occur. We sometimes turn a corner short and curb our tires - sometimes slightly, and at other times severely enough to cause air loss and tire unseating.

In response to Jerry's comments and to advice from others, I replaced all six D-range tires—which were seven years old!—and the spare with new, load-range E tires; installed the Tire Tracker pressure/temperature monitoring system; and bought a laser remote temperature monitoring tool to check my tire temperatures and bearings for overheating. I also got two tire pressure gauges to double check that my tires are at 65 psi. The **damage to the wheel well wasn't cheap: \$4,500** at the Airstream factory in Jackson Center.

--Rob Kelly



Some of the best conversations are at the table.



We all knew Charles was a clown....



A million dollar smile!



Beautiful tables, thanks to Carole Cone and helpers

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Spontaneous music under the pine tree



Sunday afternoon at the firepit—a rally favorite



2013 Officers were inducted at the Fall Rally banquet.

Fain
Edwards'
daughter
carved the
winning
pumpkin.



Though new members, the Ditchens courageously assumed activity planning for rallies.



The Renaissance Man

Top of Georgia has its own Renaissance Man in Fred Gavin. There's not much Fred *can't* do, and if you need a part, odds are good he'll be able to help you get it...or even have it in his camper right at his fingertips. He's been a member of TOG since 1976, having purchased his first Airstream in 1972. He helped with the development of the expansion across the bridge, and is still the go-to guy for advice on repairs and improvements.

That's par for the course for farmers, who are among the smartest and most versatile people on the face of the earth. And Fred is one of the smartest farmers I've ever met. What's more he's a professional carpenter, having built a number of houses including two for himself—alone—and one of solid cedar. He retired, sold his farm to his son, and began travelling at age 45. He has travelled in every one of the 50 states except Hawaii, going to Alaska three times. He has been in every one of the Canadian provinces except Newfoundland, and to the Holy Land, Egypt, and five European countries. He spent three summers in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Fred once built his own motor home from a "blank" van shell, and once modified a conventional Airstream A-frame to create a gooseneck camper. "It towed so well you

didn't know it was back there," he recalls.

Trailer Life liked the idea so well that it featured the design in its November 1972 issue. He picked up his steel-fabrication techniques during a couple of years working for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad.

Fred didn't have an auspicious start in life; he only finished ninth grade, quitting school to start a charcoal business. He was born with one brother and three sisters on Gavin Road in Dover, Florida, named for his grandfather, who was a courier in the Confederate Army at age 15. He still makes his home near Zephyr Hills, Florida, as does his son, Dennis; his daughter, Debbie, and son Patrick live nearby. His father was a harsh taskmaster, and after repeated tries Fred was able to join the Navy in 1945 at age 18 when he finally got his weight up to 115 pounds. After his discharge he built a dairy barn for his father and built his own farm buildings, at one time growing 40 acres of irrigated strawberries with two deep 12-inch wells and tending 65,000 laying hens. He designed and built his own feed mill, working with Dr. Harms of the University Of Florida College Of Agriculture to develop ideal poultry feed formulas for starter, grower, and laying mash ranging from 16% to 20% protein. "I could make better feed than I could buy," he recalls, "and could get antibiotics into the feed fast when a disease got started."

Fred married his first wife, Alene, at age 20. After joining TOG they travelled with the Fortners and were friends with all the pioneers. After Alene's death he married Polly, and they also became regulars at TOG until her death. "I was married to two of the best women in the world," he declares. "Losing them never gets easier."

Over several years Fred built almost every shelf unit in the TOG library. The Board of Directors recently named the library for him in honor of his contributions.

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2013 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
December 8, 2012	Christmas Luncheon	Lake Pines, Columbus, GA
April 15-16	Volunteer Work Days	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 17-21	Spring Rally/General Bus. Mtg.	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 24-28	Region 3 Rally	Stone Mountain Park, Georgia
May 15-19	Memorial Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
June 27-July 4	WBCCI International Rally	Huron, South Dakota
July 17-21	Buddy and Youth Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aug. 28-Sept. 2	Labor Day Rally/Elections	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 23-27	Fall Rally/Installation	Top of Georgia Airstream Park

Officers

President: Steve Rosenthal; President-Elect: Roy Beavers; First VP: Jean Gilbert; Secretary: Jo Roskosh; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Directors: Mike Steele, Craig Stevens, Ronald Wright, Edgar Williamson

President Emeritus: Al Holcomb



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Hi, Fellow Airstreamers!

The Homecoming Rally was a big success. Wednesday began with 30 men going to breakfast at Wendell's for good food and fellowship. Later in the day Jan Kelly led the ladies shopping at antique shops in the area. That evening the Whittingtons and Tarpleys handled registration, then Vonceil Nesmith served delicious sundaes with all the trimmings. Warren Fore and his pickers tried out our new sound equipment (sounded great!). Ed Bledsoe & Raymond Tarpley led a game of Pass the Trash. Thursday began with Jack Jones and his kitchen crew serving a delicious breakfast, then games led by Jean Gilbert while Rob Kelly led a group hiking on the mountain along Andrews Creek. Carole Cone made all the ladies look younger with a face make-up class. Beverly Bryan led a group to the Cottage House for a great meal and fellowship. In the evening there was Bingo and popcorn hosted by Roy Beavers, then some serious card games.

Friday began with Jack Jones' "J-HoP" breakfast, followed by the Board of Directors meeting (results to follow). Several people hiked the Blue Mountain trail led by Rob Kelly, and Jean Gilbert led more card games. Mary Holcomb hosted 24 ladies for lunch at "The Meeting Place" restaurant; good food, good fellowship and shopping. Then came more games—Holey Board, Ping-Pong, Back Alley Bridge—and Roy Beavers served ice cream with all the trimmings.

That evening Roy Beavers gave out Door Prizes. Auctioneer extraordinaire Warren Fore auctioned some great prizes made by Walter Berg and Sharon Fore, with proceeds

going to TOG. Walter made a beautiful bowl of black walnut and curly maple, which brought \$200.00; Sharon made a beautiful necklace and earrings, which brought \$50.00. Afterwards Raymond Tarpley led a game of Pass the Trash.

Saturday began with more games followed by choir practice and new member orientation led by Willa Davis. We all enjoyed greeting and visiting with special guests for the homecoming luncheon, served Jack Jones and his crew: barbecue, baked beans, slaw, Brunswick stew, and banana pudding. An enthusiastic crowd of 170 diners, joined by our 15 "Special Guests," enjoyed the great meal.

Jean Gilbert Awarded trophies to all game winners on Saturday evening after announcements. The evening entertainment was kicked off with a skit by "Minnie Pearl" and "Bubba" played by Lynn and Warren. Everyone stayed late to enjoy musical entertainment from Warren Fore and the TOG band that has tentatively dubbed itself "Bo Peep and Her Flock of Old Goats": Ralph Jones, Ken Rabren, Sharon Fore, David Adams, joined by guest musicians Roger and Cheryl Raines.

Sunday began with Jack Jones, Herb Crowe, and Jack Cooper serving sausage biscuits, ham biscuits, coffee, and O J. Rev. Jack Bradshaw conducted our Church Service, and the choir gave us beautiful music. After Church a group of 30 people went to the Steak House for lunch. Later in the afternoon 60 people attended the "Curbside Café," and Al Holcomb led "Pass the Trash."

The Labor Day cookout on Monday was a great success with hot dogs, barbecue, and all the trimmings including watermelon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next rally!

Al Holcomb

(Cover: The Pratt Pavilion is a welcome refuge for folks in the "Back 40.")

Loving Concerns

Illness

Gene and B. J. Buice, Joy Fathauer, Jimmy Jarrett, Jesse and Alice Lyle, Norma Mantz, Mary Ann Parks, Ben and Irene Roach, Sybil Roberson, Ricky Roberts, Shirley Rogers, Lorraine Thomley

Death of Family Member

Willa Davis' brother, Ted Green

--*First Lady Mary Holcomb*

Nominating Committee Report

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The 2012 Nominating Committee recommends the following members to fill the vacancies that occur on an annual basis at the Top of Georgia. These vacancies include replacing two retiring directors and the naming of a candidate for First Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer have both agreed to serve another year. The tradition is that the First Vice President, President Elect, and President move up on the board. Since there were no resignations from these three positions and the Secretary and Treasurer have agreed to serve another year, the nominating committee recommends the following nominees for the 2012-2013 Top of Georgia Board of Directors: President, Steve Rosenthal; President Elect, Roy Beavers; First Vice President, Jean Gilbert; Secretary, Jo Roshkosh; Treasurer, Cindy Carr; Director 2nd Term, Mike Steele; Director 2nd Term, Craig Stevens; Director 1st Term, Ronald Wright; Director 1st Term, Edgar Williamson; Past President, Alton Holcomb

The Nominating Committee exerted great effort to secure competent, well-qualified individuals for our governing body. We feel that the Top of Georgia will continue to be a well-managed RV organization.

Respectfully Submitted: Herbert Crowe-Chairman; Ray Tarpley, Barbara Jones, Jack Jones, Jerry O'Connell

Dues Due...

...by November 15 if your name and information are to appear in the WBCCI International Directory! Get them in to Willa Davis in plenty of time.



Game Winners

Back Alley Bridge, Ann Millard;
Manipulation, Billy Wallace; Joker, Sharon Fore and Walter Berg; **Holey Board**, Linda Richards (ladies) and Ken Topham (men);
Ping-Pong, Eleanor Florey (ladies) and Walter Berg (men); **Horse Shoes**, Linda Richards (ladies) and Durell Purmont (men).

Hostess Notes

In response to many requests, I again served ice cream sundaes at the Labor Day rally registration. This time we had hot fudge sundaes with walnuts or peanuts, and strawberry sundaes made with fresh strawberries. Expecting an October chill in the air, I've planned a variety of home-made soups provided by our TOG lady volunteers for Wednesday evening. There will also be a choice of ice cream-topped desserts to fill your tummies. Fall is just about everyone's favorite time in the mountains, so come and enjoy our last rally of the year. See you at the Top!

-- *Vonceil*

Board Actions

1. Scheduled Saturday, Oct. 20th 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting and Election of Officers; Installation of Officers to follow at 6:00 p.m.
2. Gave Big Bend, Florida Unit permission to have rally at Top Of Georgia.
3. Willa Davis resigned from Board as of Oct. 20th, 2012.
4. Appointed Mike Steele to replace Willa.
5. Approved two (2) caravans for Matt Hackney.
6. Approved four (4) campouts for Matt Hackney.
7. Approved Ronnie Hughes to be exempt from Ten-month rule.



Georgia Unit Caravan participants enjoy their first meal on the road. (photo by Brett Greiveldinger).

Touching the Clouds on the Blue Ridge

A few members of the Georgia Unit left the Top on Labor Day and headed north. The Unit Caravan on the Blue Ridge Parkway took 11 Airstreams (and their adventurous owners) on a trip across Appalachia, through the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia. Along the way, we saw clouds above us, below us, and all around us. There were interesting plants and a few interested animals including a bear, turkeys, ducks, rabbits, and (of course) deer.

While you may normally travel 469 miles in a day or two, the Parkway offers a different type of travel. They say it's about the journey, not the destination; but for this trip the journey **was** the destination. Along the way we traveled through Cherokee, ate at Mt. Pisgah, toured parts of Asheville and Black Mountain, experienced the Diamond Back at Little Switzerland, experienced the beauty of the Moses Cone Mansion, visited the Blue Ridge Music Center, enjoyed Mabry Mill, ate and slept at Highland Haven, toured Monticello, experienced Montpelier, learned about Virginia wines, and wandered about the University of Virginia campus. We averaged



Cooking dinner for 22 on the road



"Touching the Clouds" blanketed by Clouds

about 120 miles, a dozen overlooks, and two Parkway visitor centers per day.

Along the way we shared seven pot luck meals with the best food and company one could hope for. We prepared food in dutch ovens over charcoal, in crockpots, in smokers and on grills using fresh vegetables we found along the way. We also made new friends at some of our stops, sharing happy hour and a meal with folks we met.

When it was time for us to head back home, many chose to continue the adventure. Some day, when we no longer need to spend vacation to travel, we will do the same. Join us next year for a unit caravan. I know you will enjoy the journey!

--Matt Hackney

Last Call for Door Prizes

Can you believe it? The 2012 rally season is coming to a close. Door prizes hit a new high during the Homecoming Rally, with lots of great donations by our members! Let's go out with a bang this year with the best selection of door prizes yet.

We will also have a 50-50 raffle on Saturday night with proceeds being used to kick off the Wounded Warrior fundraiser being organized by WBCCI. For more information on this effort, check the web site www.topofgeorgia.net and click on the Blue Beret Online tab or look at the back cover of your hard copy. Raffle tickets will be on sale during all registration times.

Bring your door prize contributions to my rig #4392 starting Wednesday night. See you at the Top! --Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President



Concentrate, concentrate....

Fall-in, Airstreamers—for Cool Fall Activities

Here are the special fall rally activities we're gearing up for you:

- **Chop House:** Join us for a through-the-mountains, fall-colors drive to Lake Burton's Chop House for meal with a scenic lake view!
- **Winery:** We'll also head over to the famous Frogtown Cellars for a winery tour and lunch with a view of their expansive vineyards.
- **Flea Market:** And bring your summer's crafts and attic extras for our semiannual craft/flea market sale.
- **Gold:** And for you gold bugs, this same weekend is the famous annual Dahlonega Gold Rush Days. Visit the Gold Museum, tour the Consolidated Gold Mine, pan for gold, shop 300 exhibitors, and lunch at the famous Smith House.
- **Caravanning:** Haven't tried a caravan yet? Learn all about caravanning from our Caravan Chairman and members who have been on WBCCI's exciting Southwest Caravan.



The "Pine-tree Swingers"



It was a Bingo bonanza for Mary and David Raisler from the Pensacola Unit

- **Installation:** And the big event of this rally will be our annual election, banquet and installation ceremony for our new 2013 Officers and Directors.

And of course we'll work in our traditional favorites of card tournaments, Wednesday night refreshments, mountain hikes, ice cream, fishing (bring your gear), motorcycle rides, jam sessions, hosting, horse shoes, golf, bingo, popcorn, door prizes, dine outs, and cook outs. See you at the Top for a cool, fall rally!

--Program Chairman Rob Kelly



Getting a head-start on breakfast



International red-ribbons for Caravanner and directory

Reg. 3 Rally—Mark Your Calendars!

The Region 3 Rally for 2013 is planned at nearby Stone Mountain on April 24 through 28, with forays in to Atlanta attractions. Stay tuned for details!

Mike's Rivets

Full is coming, but it's still warm outside—your Airstream air conditioner still needs to be working! To maximize the performance of your unit, the Airstream factory says the lowest voltage to have is 108 volts. Anything less than this can freeze up your unit and make it inoperable. To help prevent freeze up, keep your air flow on the high setting and **clean** your AC filters. This is especially true if the unit is run continuously with high humidity. To keep algae from plugging up your AC drain hose and causing it to drip inside the trailer, a quick clean out with some weed whacker line will work. The line is flexible but stiff enough to clean out the line as well as long enough. Just twist it around as you push it in and up.

Summertime is also hard on your batteries. You need to check their water levels; add water as needed—distilled water is preferred. You can get distilled water by catching the drips from your AC drain hose. If your converter has a wall switch, turn it off and give your batteries a rest. But, remember to turn it back on after a few days. The air conditioner and refrigerator need the 12 volt batteries above 10.5 volts to work properly.

Quick reminder: the bees and wasps are out in full force. Carefully check things before reaching into a compartment of your Airstream, especially the battery boxes and under the shore power lid.

Updates on items I have tested:

Zip Breakaway cable: a stretchy, coiled cable works excellently

I-Ball back-up camera: great for anyone who doesn't have a built-in camera on their car. It certainly helps to line up the hitch and the ball of the trailer. Remember—it won't work very well if the batteries are low.

Hensley Hitch: amazing. The Propride Hitch would fall into the same category. These are not perfect—the hook-up is a little bit more challenging, but the hitch is superior to all the others I've had when traveling down the road.

And, now, a blast from the past: I met George James III at Region 3 at Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina. He gave me permission to use his father's writings. These were used in the *Blue Beret* over many years as a guide to operating, maintaining and enjoying your travel trailer. The short bits of information were compiled and self-published as *Here's How by George*. According to George we have the "greatest tinkertoys (adult-size) to ever come down the pike." The following are gems gleaned from his compilation.

Rivets: they are loose if they have a black ring around them. Get them replaced before the hole enlarges. Don't neglect them by George.

For a fast cleaning job, use a kerosene/water combination. Two cups of kerosene in a bucket of water is plenty. Towel it off after rinsing. It won't hurt the finish at all, by George.

So you have to fix things now and then? Well, we'll say one thing by George. We'd still rather bitch than switch.

When backing up, watch where you are going. (Now, that's kinda silly, isn't it? Not as silly as folks who don't.) Try to arrange for a left turn as you back-the better to see where you are going.

When is the last time you unscrewed and cleaned the little screens in your faucets? Bath and kitchen. Watch out for some of those little parts that want to go down the drain! I bet there is some stuff in those screens, by George.

Safe travels, my friends

--Mike King, #3615



Nonie and GiGi Maniscalco livened things up

GA Unit Winter Camping – Make Reservations!

In the past two years we've held "Camp-outs" in November and December to allow participants a chance to see parts of Georgia they can't visit during a Rally at the Top. It's also an opportunity to continue having Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure all year long. This year will have five campouts, and it's time to make your reservations. Please contact the parks and then notify Matt Hackney or Steve Rosenthal you will attend. Here's a list of this winter's camp-out dates, locations, and contact information:

November 9 – 11, Hard Labor Creek State Park, gastateparks.org

December 7 – 9, Lake Pines at Columbus, 706-561-9675

January 18 – 21, High Falls State Park (Riverside CG), gastateparks.org

February 8 – 10, Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center, reserveamerica.com

March date TBD, location TBD, contact information TBD

If you have suggestions for nearby sites, restaurants, tours, or activities, please let us know.



In the spirit



Minnie and Bubba put in an appearance



Hubert and Kitty Moody, 34 yrs; Jane Miller, 40 yrs



Strollers



Pretty enough already!



Take aim, John



“It’s Been a Good Life.”

Warren and Mildred Fortner were married at age 18, and Warren reported to Ft. McPherson in Atlanta for assignment overseas with the U.S. Army the very day Mildred presented him with their first daughter, Sharon. Sharon was three years old the next time her father saw her. Warren fought with Patton’s Third Army through Europe while Mildred held down the home front.

Mildred graduated from Girl’s High School in Atlanta in 1940, and Warren graduated from Tech High School. At age 12, both were baptized at Western Heights Baptist Church in Atlanta, along with several friends including two or three sisters. “We grew up together,” Mildred recalls, “and Warren hung around our house all the time.” Mildred’s father was a 28-year veteran of the Atlanta Police Department, and as Warren virtually took up residence in their home, he kidded him asking “When are you bringing your suitcase?”

After Warren returned from World War II, the young couple lived with her parents until they could get established. Warren first worked with Georgia Power Company, then worked at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary as a guard while he earned his law degree on the G.I. Bill. After that he became a legal counselor at the penitentiary. Mildred became manager at the Candy Lane Elementary School lunchroom. They worked together to build their own house in Ben Hill, making their own cement blocks for the basement and installing windows salvaged from Atlanta streetcars.

They bought their first Airstream in 1969, and joined TOG in 1970. Warren’s service at the prison lasted until he retired in 1972, then they traveled for the next four years in their Airstream. The Fortners accumulate friends; they still stay in touch with the family who bought their South Carolina home.

When they settled down in 1984 at Sevierville, Tennessee, they both started second careers at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge. Warren served in security and as a field deputy with the Sevier County Sheriff’s Department (he still has a badge), and Mildred worked eight years at Miss Lillian’s Restaurant after making candy for five years. The day they retired from Dollywood, their co-workers made up a “money tree,” a small potted tree with money in the branches. Her supervisor then walked her to the front gate, berating her in a loud voice about her stealing the money and threatening her with arrest if she returned, with Warren and his fellow security guards following close behind. “I was so embarrassed I could have crawled in a hole,” Mildred laughs, recalling the spoof.

“Top of Georgia is one of our favorite places,” the Fortners declare. Mildred helped in the kitchen until she finally let younger folks take over the job, and Warren helped build the first wooden bridge over the creek to the back portion of the park. Sadly, their younger daughter also visited the Top only nine days before she died of lung cancer at only 54. They had been restoring an Airstream for her, but after her death they sold it to Bill and Linda Smith—again, making more lifetime friends.

This year both Warren and Mildred turn 90 years old, have been married 71 years (!), and have been members of TOG for more than 42 years. “It’s been a good life,” they gratefully declare. Warren is still recovering from a bad fall back in January when he broke ribs and vertebrae, but that smile is still there. They still live near the Smokies, with Warren and Sharon nearby. The Fortners helped Warren and Sharon Fore find their first Airstream, so you might say they’re indirectly responsible for at least one First Family at the Top of Georgia.



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 5 / Issue 4 / August 2012





Hi, Fellow Airstreamers!

The Summer Youth Rally was a success! Wednesday morning 36 men and four grandsons had good food and fellowship at Wendell's Restaurant. Sweet Bread hosted 26 ladies at lunch, followed by shopping. That evening Vonceil NeSmith and her crew served banana splits that would put an old-time soda shop to shame. Charles and Jackie Whittington got everyone registered as they filed in, then Raymond Tarpley and Ed Bledsoe led Pass the Trash. The Top of Georgia Hootenanny Band, led by Warren Fore, entertained us with a Jam Session in the evening, followed by activities at the fire pit led by Rob Kelly.

Jack Jones and his kitchen crew treated 111 Airstreamers to a delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs, biscuits, and grits on Thursday morning. We were then ready for a full day of activities planned by Rob Kelly and Craig Stephens, kicked off with a pet show and ice cream. Carol Cone conducted a skin care seminar for the ladies, and later held a class for children on how to decorate a clay pot. Their creations complete, the kids planted flowers in their pots. Beverly Bryan led a group of Airstreamers to the Cottage House for dinner. Terri Purmort, our resident medical guru, gave vital information about the dangers of Snakes and Poison Ivy plants, and coached everyone on good safety tips for young and old alike. Roy (Redenbacher) Beavers provided savory popcorn to accompany Durrell Purmort calling bingo, while the kids wound up their evening with a video.

On Friday Jack Jones gave us his "J-Hop" breakfast of sausage and pancakes, serving 118 hungry Airstreamers. Rob Kelly worked with the Clydesdale farm to provide "Clydesdale Cart Rides" for kids of all ages. The full day of activities included Joker competition in the pavilion and a watermelon feast. The kids burned off energy with a Scavenger Hunt,

watermelon seed spitting, a three-legged race and a water balloon toss while adults attended Lisa Roberts' host training seminar and Willa Davis' New Member orientation. An important highlight, as usual, was the traditional "Duck Race" for the youngsters, organized and run with generous dollops of fun by Craig Stephens. After evening announcements emcee Roy Beavers gave out door prizes; Bob Barker, eat your heart out. But the highlight of the evening was the sheer joy and display of family pride at the Annual Kids' Talent Show organized by Warren Fore. Good job everyone! We all enjoyed seeing those talented kids strut their stuff.

Saturday began with the Board of Directors meeting (see Board Actions) and choir practice led by Danny Howell. The generations mingled at the kids/adults treasure hunt, organized and run by Rob Kelly. Jean Gilbert organized others in the Manipulation contest, then the singles enjoyed a luncheon led by Danny Howell. Roy Beavers served another round of ice cream in the afternoon, but we all saved room for the low country boil that evening that Steve Rosenthal, Matt Hackney, and a bunch of volunteers served to 161 hungry people. Mighty good vittles—thanks, everyone! Entertainment for the evening was provided by Leon Jacobs, a talented musician brought to us by Steve Rosenthal. Enjoyed by all.

After Sunday's sausage biscuit breakfast, the church service was conducted by Rev. Jack Bradshaw, back at his post after an extended absence following the wreck of their Airstream. Danny and the choir added to the service—some mighty good voices there. After the service several members went to the Steak House for lunch while others roasted tube steak and other delicacies at the fire pit.

This rally was geared to the many children and grandchildren of Top of Georgia Airstreamers as well as young-at-heart adults; we sincerely hope that everyone had an enjoyable time in our "Little Slice Of Heaven." Remember, they're the future of our club!

See you at the next Rally!

Al Holcomb

(Cover: A water balloon battle was perfect for cooling off on a hot July day.)

Loving Concerns

Sick

Ann Bradshaw, Laney Bradshaw, Lynn Burgess, Jack Cooper, Fain Edwards, Dianne Hodge, Barbara Jones, Alice and Jesse Lyle, Ann Millard, Jane Miller, Fred & Joyce Moore, Mary Ann Parks, Ben Roach, Irene Roach, Bo and Sybil Roberson, Rickey Roberts, Shirley Rogers, Charles Smith, Richard Spruill, Missy (Moon) Underwood

Member Death

Richard Beckstein

Family Death

Warren Fore, brother Bruce Fore

--*First Lady Mary Holcomb*

Hosting

I want to thank all the folks who have hosted and the ones that have signed up to host.

We still have some times open:

August 28 through September 4, 2012;

September 4 through September 11, 2012;

September 25 through October 2, 2012; and

October 16 through October 23, 2012.

We also have some times in November; I will be posting a sheet at the next rally for the open dates in November. Please look at your calendar and see what you can do to help! If everyone will just do their part, we can fill all the open times. Thanks for your help!

Lisa Roberts, Host coordinator

Bylaws Vote in September

The WBCCI requires that all units update their Bylaws every five years. Our update has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and is posted on the bulletin board at the Top. The changes made reflect those made to the International Constitution and Bylaws since 2007; however, we still need you to vote at the Business Meeting in September. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Hackney.

Homecoming Luncheon

Top of Georgia is celebrating our 2012 Homecoming Luncheon on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 12:00 noon. We would like to issue a special invitation to all of our former members and inactive members to join us—hope you will be able to come and take part in the fun. Please RSVP to Al

Holcomb at 678-231-3355 so that we'll plan for enough food. Look forward to seeing many old friends!



Game Winners

Horseshoes—Girls, Katelyn Stephens; Boys, Ian Thibodeau; Men, John Thibodeau

Joker---Dean Henderson, Ken Morris

Back Alley Bridge—Fay Murrell

Manipulation—Beth Hackney

Hostess Notes

July was national ice cream month, so we celebrated with delicious hand-dipped Mayfield ice cream at the TOG. On Wednesday night we had banana splits or sundaes with all the trimmings, then Thursday we served scoop ice cream cones to little kids and big kids along with our own soft-serve ice cream. On Friday evening before the meeting we again served sundaes to all Airstreamers until supplies ran out. The ice cream was a big hit, and many have asked that we do it again for the next rally; we will if we can. Whether we can or not, you can be sure that we will have yummys for our tummies. See you on August 29th!

-- *Vonceil*

First in Line

*...At whatever time the program is set,
I'll be two hours early, on that you can bet
Whatever the hour, be it two or nine,
I'll wait at the door to be first in line.
I've watched them for years and it seems
clear to me
That Airstreamers have one plea.
It is please let me, please let me
Oh, Power Divine,
Please let me be first in line.*

--*Joe Smith, President of TOG 1981*
...some things don't change!



Gone to pot...planting in decorated pots

Nominating Committee Report

The 2012 Nominating Committee recommends the following members to fill the vacancies that occur on an annual basis at the Top of Georgia. These vacancies include replacing two retiring directors and the naming of a candidate for First Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer have both agreed to serve another year. The tradition is that the First Vice President, President Elect, and President move up on the board. Since there were no resignations from these three positions and the Secretary and Treasurer have agreed to serve another year, the nominating committee recommends the following nominees for the 2012-2013 Top of Georgia Board of Directors: President, Steve Rosenthal; President Elect, Roy Beavers; First Vice President, Jean Gilbert; Secretary, Jo Roshkosh; Treasurer, Cindy Carr; Director 2nd Term, Willa Davis; Director 2nd Term, Craig Stevens; Director 1st Term, Ronald Wright; Director 1st Term, Edgar Williamson; Past President, Alton Holcomb

The Nominating Committee exerted great effort to secure competent, well-qualified individuals for our governing body. We feel that the Top of Georgia will continue to be a well-managed RV organization.

Respectfully Submitted: Herbert Crowe-Chairman; Ray Tarpley, Barbara Jones, Jack Jones, Jerry O'Connell

Sedalia!

In case you missed it, the International Rally at Sedalia, Missouri was great fun. Over 460 trailers were parked on fairgrounds with

lush grass and large shade trees. The Georgia Unit Caravan found their way there by way of Memphis, TN and Warsaw, MO. During our day in Memphis we toured the Sun Records Studio (where Elvis recorded his early songs) and the Gibson Guitar factory, enjoyed music on Beale Street, watched the ducks travel from the lobby fountain toward their penthouse suite at the Peabody Hotel, and had barbecue at the renowned Rendezvous! Our stop in Warsaw featured shopping in a small town, boating on Lake of the Ozarks, and a tour of the Truman Dam Visitors Center. In addition to the rally, we toured the Sierra Bullet Factory, enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the Holcombs, and had a Fourth of July barbecue! I hope you will plan to join us next year for the WBCCI International Rally in Huron, SD.



Caravan to Sedalia International Rally



Region 3 Luncheon at Sedalia International Rally

Calling All Door Prizes!

The Youth Rally is over, and what a great time we had! Many thanks to all the youth that helped with the distribution of the door prizes. Also many, many thanks to those who contributed items. Without you this wouldn't be possible. We handed out all the door prizes we had, and I hope everyone enjoyed the prizes that they won. We will continue the tradition again at the Labor Day Rally; bring items to my rig (#4392) starting on Wednesday, August 29—***Roy Beavers, 1st VP***



Watermelon seed spitting...fierce competition!

“Labor” Day? - Not Really. It’s “Fun” Days at the Top!

Here are the special fun activities that we are preparing for the six-day Labor Day Rally from August 29 through September 3.

- Homecoming Luncheon Saturday - come see old Airstream friends.
- Antique Estate Sales Outing - You always could use one more antique.
- Lie Detection Demonstration - Looking for a few good liars.
- Fishing Clinic and local Stream Fishing - Bring your gear & license.
- Hike up to Creed's Cross off the Blue Trail - We helped put up a huge cross.
- Ladies Luncheon - A new restaurant in Helen, The Meeting Place.
- Face Make Up Class - Helpful tips.
- Holey Board and Ping Pong Tournaments - Men, ladies and kids, practice up!
- Curbside Café - Bring your favorite snack to share in the Pavilion.
- Ladies Craft - Bring silk ties for Pat King's neat scarf craft.
- Mike's Rivets - Helpful hints & answers for Airstream care.
- Airstream Decorating Panel - Idea sharing for fixing up your Airstream.
- Line Dancing - Bring your dancing shoes!
- Labor Day Cookout/Watermelon - All provided, but desserts welcome.
- Special Saturday Evening Entertainment – Come see what Steve Rosenthal has planned!

And of course, there will be our traditional favorites: breakfasts, card tournaments, ice cream, horseshoes, dinner outing, golf, motorcycle ride,

bingo, popcorn, door prizes, jam sessions, and worship service. And remember our semiannual membership business meeting and elections on Saturday.

And if you come early or at other times with your children/grandchildren and visitors, here's a list of local activities you could do (some are seasonal). You can also check with the Georgia tourism web site for other ideas.

- Helen: Go Carts, Bear Park, Putt-putt Golf, Tube the 'Hootch, Charlemagne Model Train Display, Goats on the Roof, Dukes Creek Falls, Helicopter Tour, Hike the Appalachian Trail at Unicoi Gap, Unicoi State Park and Anna Ruby Falls, Richard Russell Scenic Highway and Brasstown Bald visitors center
- Cleveland: Baby Land, Gold and Gem Grubbin', Strawberry picking, Adonai's Alpacas, Ruby Falls, Bowling, Roller Skating, Frogtown Vineyard
- Blairsville: antique shopping, Alexander's Store, Magic Mountain Railroad (models)
- Hiawassee: North Georgia Fair, Hightower Creek Clydesdale Farm, Blueberry picking, High Shoals Falls
- Dahlonega: Consolidated Gold Mine Tour, North Georgia Zoo, Gold Museum

--Rob Kelly/Craig Stephens, Programs



Kids and dogs...nothing like 'em!



Family time



The generations mingle with crafts



John and Ian Thibadeau team up for ping-pong



Clydesdale cart rides were a hit!



Smiles all around

Editor's Note: My thanks to Pat King, Craig Stephens, and others for supplying excellent photos during my absence, and to Al for help in coordination. The Caravanner is every inch a **Team Effort**. We won second place in publications competition at Sedalia; we're gunning for first place next year!



Kids come in all ages!



Hikers



Talented kids!



Can't live without 'em



The gallery for the Classic Duck Race

Rally Entertainment

Many thanks to Steve Rosenthal for providing us with great entertainment for this year's rallies; I know there's more to come for our last two. It's time to start thinking about what kind of entertainment we want for our 2013 rallies. In many cases we must book them a year in advance so we can work with their schedule. If you have suggestions for next year, please email them to me at egrbeav@bellsouth.net. If you have seen different acts at other functions and think they would entertain our members, pass their information along to me. Hard copy is fine (my address is in the book), or if they have a web page, please provide that link.

Roy Beavers, 1st VP

Georgia Unit Winter Camping

Don't you wish you could continue having Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure even after the October Rally? In the past two years, we have held "Campouts" in November and December. Those participating have had a chance to see parts of Georgia that they can't visit during a Rally at the Top. This year Steve Rosenthal, Matt Hackney, and Craig Stephens will be holding Campouts in each month we are away from TOG. The events will typically begin on Friday afternoon and end on Sunday afternoon. You can't make your reservations yet, but the tentative schedule is as follows:

11/ 9 – 11; Location TBD; Host TBD
12/ 7 – 9; Lake Pines, Columbus; Host, Rosenthal
1/ 18 – 21; High Falls S.P. (TBD); Host, Stephens
2/ 8 – 10; Location TBD; Host, Hackney
March, TBD; Towns Bluff, Hazelhurst; Host, Hackney

Plans are still forming; ideas are welcome!



Winter hiking at Providence Canyon State Park



Nell and George: A love story

We're all saps for a beautiful love story. One lives in our midst.

Nell and George Fields (WBCCI #2918) first met in Atlanta where Nell, less than a year out of high school, was visiting a cousin in 1941. George had an Atlanta *Constitution* paper route, and he dated her cousin, who was also a customer. He took time from his rounds to talk with the winsome lass visiting the home, and the social time resulted in a double date to a movie; George found a friend to date Nell. After the outing he decided he was more interested in Nell.

They were both in school, but three years later the budding romance became a lifetime friendship and love affair spanning 66 years. George graduated from seminary and served as a Baptist minister for 21 years, then worked for the Georgia state government helping cities and counties wend their way through the federal and state bureaucracy for funding. After earning her PHT (Pushing Hubby Through), Nell worked as a secretary, finishing her career at HUD.

The Fields have two sons, Louis and Martin, who live in Lilburn, and one daughter, Rebecca, who lives in Oregon.

Nell and George are regular participants at Top of Georgia rallies and activities, where they have been members since 1995. They are both active and outdoors-oriented, and both hiked regularly until George's knees began to give him trouble several years ago. Nell, in her late 80s, still participates in TOG hikes. Only a year or so ago she set the pace down to Duke Falls and back, beating much younger companions in the bargain!



TOG is a lively place even between rallies! A group of Airstreamers recently gathered for a luncheon at Brasstown Bald Resort near Young Harris. This photo was provided by a visiting Airstreamer, a friend of Bob Murrell's.

Northeast Georgia Events

Georgia Department of Tourism's web site <http://www.exploregeorgia.org/NortheastGeorgiaMountains> has monthly activities of interest to TOG members who come between rallies; you'll find quite an active group of "regulars" if you come up between times. One example just below Helen is Sautee-Nacoochee. According to the tourism web site, "Music, dancing, art, food, history and culture are the heartbeat of this small mountain hamlet. Native Americans built the Sautee Nacoochee Indian mound which stands today as a testament to their lasting footprint upon the land. The slave cabin on the grounds of the Sautee Nacoochee Center offers a look into a small portion of the area's heritage and culture along with the renowned Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia—functional works of art created by mortal hands but often displaying the creative soul within. The Stovall Covered Bridge is a testament to an era gone by. The Gourd Ladies at The Gourd Place mix the new with the old, sprinkling a little imagination. People often send their personal gourds from around the world to add to the collection at the International Gourd Museum. Vineyards dot the landscape and several tasting rooms have opened up giving visitors the chance to enjoy the local 'fruit of the wine.'"



The deck and fire pit—a favorite gathering spot.



Al and Mary managed to sneak in a Clydesdale Cart ride after the rest of the kids had finished.

You Must Pay the Rent!

This is to remind all members that rent/parking fees are due when you leave or, if you leave your camper for an extended time, every 30 days...not when you just have a whim to pay! Your Airstream Park is the greatest "deal" in Georgia—and beyond—and your park has regular expenses coming due every month as well. Please help keep our rates reasonable by making the job easier for those who must meet our regular obligations and **keep your account current!**



They didn't have to call twice when the Low Country Boil was ready!

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2012 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Location	Event
April 9-10	Volunteer Work Days	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 11-15	Spring Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 23-28	Region 3 Rally	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
May 23-28	Memorial/Buddy Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
June 27-July 4	WBCCI International Rally	Sedalia, Missouri
July 18-22	Summer/Youth Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aug. 29-Sept. 3	Labor Day/Homecoming Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 17-21	Installation Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
December 8	Christmas Luncheon	Lake Pines, Columbus, GA

Officers

President: Al Holcomb; President-Elect: Steve Rosenthal; First VP: Roy Beavers;
Secretary: Jo Roskosh; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Lisa Roberts, Jack Cooper, Willa Davis, Craig Stephens

President Emeritus: Matt Hackney



The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 51 / Issue 3 / June 2012



McElvis gave
Irene Roach
some special
attention!





Greetings Airstreamers!

The Memorial Buddy Rally was held May 22 to May 28, 2012 at the Top Of Georgia.

Wednesday morning we had twenty-eight men go to breakfast at Ma Gooch's; the food and fellowship were very good.

Some of the men went to County Line Salvage for a shopping trip. A group of ladies went to Geneva's for shopping, then lunch at the Creek Side Deli and then more shopping.

Wednesday evening Vonceil NeSmith and her crew served fresh baked pound cakes, cornbread cake and a delicious punch with all the extra trimmings. Raymond and Sandy Tarpley and Charles and Jackie Whittington handled registration. We had ninety-one units registered for the rally, of those, eight were buddies.

Thursday morning started with a delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs, biscuits, grits and all the trimmings prepared by Jack Jones and his volunteers. A full day of actives was planned by Rob Kelly. Carol Cone and the Garden Club toured the Hamilton Gardens and had lunch at the Chop House. Forty-eight people went to the Cottage House for dinner.

Thursday our president, Al Holcomb, opened the rally. Roy Beavers served ice cream; Bingo was called by Durrell Purmort. Warren Fore, David Adams and Ken Rabren entertained us with their music.

Friday Jack Jones had his "J-Hop" breakfast of sausage and pancakes with all toppings. Events of the day were a fishing class by Max Laseter; a hike of the Appalachian Trail led by Don Brookshire; and Terri Purmort with the help of the Helen Fire Department held a CPR/AED class which was well received by fifty in attendance. Danny Howell and

the singles went to the Steak House for lunch; there were twelve in attendance. The Curb Side Café social has come to be a great success with good food and fellowship. Roy Beavers ended the day with door prizes.

Saturday begin with Board of Directors meeting, (see Board Actions on page 2). Jean Gilbert and Durrell Purmort conducted card games and holey board. Craig Stephens led the ping pong action. We had more hiking with Don. A hosting class was conducted by Lisa Roberts and new member orientation was held by Willa Davis. A fish fry by Jack Jones and a host of volunteers served 750 pounds of catfish, 800 hush puppies, baked beans, slaw, and ice cream for dessert.

We had an Open House with people going in and out to see other trailers, then had a class on "What to Look for When Buying an Airstream". The day ended with great entertainment by McElvis.

Two of our buddies did the hula while McElvis sang *Blue Hawaii*.

Sunday began with ham biscuits

and grits casserole. The church service was conducted by Rev. Keith Ivey to memorialize our members that have passed in the last year. Danny and the choir added to the service.

Several of the members went to the Steak House for lunch while the others had a cook out at the fire pit. We had more games and a seminar was held by Greg Blue on Zip Dee Awnings. A pet social was hosted by Rob Kelly.

Monday began with strawberry picking and ended with a cook out.

See you at the Summer Rally

Al Holcomb



Loving Concerns

We have a number who are ill or convalescing or who have had a death in the family. Cards were sent to let them know that their Top of Georgia friends are thinking of them. If you know them, send them a card or note to let them that you are thinking of them.

Death of Member: Richard Beckstein.

Death of Former Member: Vi (Dyer) Faulkner

Death of Family Member: Mary Ann Parks, death of mother and great grandson; Walt and Sally Barksdale, death of mother.

Get Well to: Anne Bradshaw, Laney Bradshaw, Dale Bryan, Joy Fathauer, Warren and Mildred Fortner, Jack Jones, Ralph and Jeanene Jones, Alice and Jesse Lyle, Norman Mantz, Fred and Joyce Moore, Ben and Irene Roach, Sybil Roberson, Charles and Clara Smith, and Richard Spruill.

Remember our Troops serving in the Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. Pray for their families as well. It is they who are protecting us and our freedoms.

Cards can only be sent if Mary Holcomb knows about them. You can contact her at 706.348.6060 (home) or 678.231.3355 (cell).

Our Chaplain, Jack Bradshaw, routinely passes on loving concerns by email to around a hundred members of the Georgia Unit. If you would like to pass on a concern, request a prayer, or would like to be added to his distribution list, email Jack at <Jbradshaw9@sc.rr.com>.

Please Note: Ben and Jackie Moon's daughter, Missy, is making her recovery from her 75-foot fall. The Moon family says thank you to everyone for their prayers—they have been felt and deeply appreciated and they have been answered. Thank you also for all the kind expressions of concern—it's incredible how many care, and how many have responded. She needs continuing prayers; it will be a long road.

Ben Moon will return as editor for the next edition of *The Peach State Caravanner*.

Hostess Notes

I hope all of you enjoyed the homemade pound cakes and punch which were served for registration on Wednesday at the Buddy Rally. For our Youth Rally in July, I am planning to have an ice-cream parlor with banana splits and sundaes made with hand-scooped ice cream and all the trimmings.



Hope to see you there,
Vonceil

Board of Directors Actions

1. Postponed effective date of Section "E"
2. Approved \$50.00 for the center piece for the Region 3 luncheon table at the International Rally.
3. Approved new set of dog rules.
4. President Al Holcomb appointed a Committee to look at Section E and come back to board with recommendation by Labor Day Rally. Committee consist of Jean Gilbert, Terrie Purmort, and Steve Rosenthal.

Your Input is Needed

A committee has been appointed to study the parking in Section E (below the Pine Tree Pavilion). They are in the process of getting member input on the situation and would like your thoughts concerning the increase in rates for Section E. A time will be set at the Youth Rally for the committee to be available by appointment on a one-on-one basis. If you would like to make comments and/or suggestions for determining a solution, a sign-up sheet for appointments will be available on the bulletin board. Committee members: Jean Gilbert, Terrie Purmort, or Steve Rosenthal.

Ducks, Funhouse, Clydesdale, and Kids Talent Show!!

Say what? Yep. Our Summer/Youth Rally this year features kids activities like the:

- 3rd Annual Rubber Duck Race down Andrews Creek through the park with grand prizes.
- Inflated fun house that the kids can jump in until the sun goes down.
- An honest-to-goodness, huge, huge, thoroughbred Clydesdale horse will pull the kids on unforgettable cart rides.
- And finally, ta-duh, the kids will show off in the Friday night kids' talent show. Rehearse those kids and sign 'em up for whatever they do. We grandparents love and enjoy anything they do.

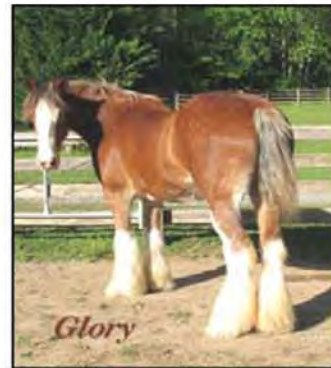
And that's just the big stuff. The youth will be spitting watermelon seeds in the spittin' contest, finding coins hidden under rocks while hiking the park trails, a treasure hunt, horseshoes, metal detecting, showing off their pets from stuffed

monkeys to Weimaraners in the pet show, kids' craft and flower planting activities, marshmallow roasting; and, we adults might even share our ice cream with them, too. For those who come early, there is always tubing down the famous Hootch through Helen.

While the kids and kids-at-heart enjoy their activities, we'll have a several more activities for the men and lady folks. These include ping pong, card tournaments, garden club presentation, singles' luncheon, fishing, horseshoes, ladies' skin care presentation, golf, motorcycle riding, bingo, door prizes, great breakfasts and a low-country boil Saturday luncheon, the famous Leon Jacobs, Jr. on the piano Saturday evening, and finally a Sunday hot dog cookout after church service.

Bring your camera!

Program Coordinators, Rob Kelly & Craig Stephens



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The fish fry was enjoyed by all, even if Jack Jones offered us sushi!



Summer-Youth Rally, July 2012 Schedule

July 18, Wed

Men/Boys Breakfast Outing
Ladies/Girls Lunch Outing
Helen's Bear Park Outing
Horseshoes, Adults/Kids
Rally Registration
Refreshments
Activities Sign Up
Pass the Trash Cards
Jam Session, Marshmallow Roasting

July 19, Thursday

Eggs, Bacon, Biscuits, Grits, Juice (bring set-ups)
All day: Kids' Fun House, tether ball, ladder golf
Fishing
Golf
Back Alley Cards
Pet Show
Kayaking
Motorcycle ride and lunch
Ice Cream
Ladies Skin Care Seminar
Kids Craft
Dinner Outing
Rally Registration
Welcome/Announcements
Kids Health Minute
Bingo & Popcorn
Kids Video

July 20, Friday

JHOP Pancakes, toppings, sausage, juice
Clydesdale cart rides
Joker
Watermelon Feast
Kids' Games @ Pratt Shed (scavenger hunt, seed spittin', 3-legged race, water balloon toss)
Host Training
New Member Orientation
Duck Race Registration
Announcements
Kids Talent Show
Door Prizes

July 21, Saturday

Board of Directors meeting;
See Jo Roshkosh to speak
Choir Practice
Kids/Adults Treasure Hike
Manipulation Cards
Kids' Garden Craft
Singles' Lunch Outing
Third Annual Rubber Duck Race
Ice Cream @ Pavilion
Low Country Boil Dinner, all provided
Announcements
Game Winners
Entertainment: Leon Jacobs, Jr.

July 22, Sunday

Breakfast Snack - while it lasts
Choir Practice
Worship Service
Cookout @ Fire Pit, all provided
Lunch Outing



Scenes from last year: 3-legged race, balloon toss, and watching the ducks race down the creek.

Calling All Door Prizes!

The Buddy Rally brought us lots of door prizes. We appreciate all members who contributed. We had so many that we had extras to be used at the Youth Rally. As usual, we need all the prizes possible, so bring your door prizes to my rig #4392 starting Wednesday evening.

See you at the Youth Rally!
Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President

Fund Raising Opportunity

Due to the absence of our esteemed auctioneer, Mr. Warren Fore, our fund-raising auction was postponed until the Youth Rally.

If you have craft items or want to donate a special item for auction, bring them to my rig, #4392, and let me know they are for auction and not regular door prizes.

See you down the road!
Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President

Change in Date for Scarves

Due to the wonderful activities planned for our youth at the July Rally, the scarf dyed with ties has been postponed until the September Rally. This gives you about one and one-half more months to search out the most colorful ties! Remember, they must be 100% silk. Be sure to sign up at this rally or contact Pat King (paking@windstream.net), so the correct number of scarves can be purchased!

Corn Bread Cake

from Mary Holcomb

4 large eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup light brown sugar, packed
1 cup canola oil
1½ cups self-rising flour
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease and flour 9 x 13 inch pan.

Combine ingredients in bowl in order listed. Bake for thirty minutes.

Game Winners

The game winners for the Buddy Rally were:

Back Alley Bridge	Julian Clements and Anne Stone (buddy)
Joker	Linda Robinson and Anne Stone (buddy)
Manipulation	Julian Clements
Ping Pong	John Thibadeau



Game Winners(l to r): Jean Gilbert, chair, Anne Stone, Linda Robinson, Julian Clements, and John Thibadeau.

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Enjoying friends, grandkids,
and roasting marshmallows!



Mike's Rivets

And, now, a blast from the past: I met George James III at Region 3 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He gave me permission to use his father's writings. These were used in the *Blue Beret* over many years as a guide to operating, maintaining and enjoying your travel trailer. The short bits of information were compiled and self-published as *Here's How by George*. According to George we have the "greatest tinkertoys (adult-size) to ever come down the pike." The following are gems gleaned from his compilation.

Rivets: they are loose if they have a black ring around them. Get them replaced before the hole enlarges. Don't neglect them by George.

For a fast cleaning job, use a kerosene/water combination. Two cups of kerosene in a bucket of water is plenty. Towel it off after rinsing. It won't hurt the finish at all, by George.

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So you have to fix things now and then? Well, we'll say one thing by George. We'd still rather bitch than switch.

When backing up, watch where you are going. (Now, that's kinda silly, isn't it? Not as silly as folks who don't.) Try to arrange for a left turn as you back—the better to see where you are going.

When was the last time you unscrewed and cleaned the little screens in your faucets? Bath and kitchen. Watch out for some of those little parts that want to go down the drain! I bet there is some stuff in those screens, by George.

Safe travels, my friends,
by Mike (WBCCI #3615)!

Pat's Olympic Rivets

I thought I'd let y'all know that Mike finally tried his hand at bucking a rivet while at Alumapalooza.

Unfortunately, he was paired with me. I think I was the weak link for any accomplishment he hoped to make. I now realize that

I flattened the back of all the rivets except one (the good one). But, watch out next year because I now know what to do and will be better prepared.

Mike is the expert at Olympic rivets—I think he replaced about 75% of the rivets in our previous trailer. The difference between a bucked rivet and an Olympic rivet is the Olympic rivet is used when you cannot reach the back side of it to buck.

Mike and his brother-in-law, Rick Cicigoi, participated in the backing up contest and came in fifth. Oh, it wasn't an Airstream, it was a truck backing up the smallest-size U-haul through some cones;



time was the determining factor.

See you down the road,
Pat



Is it a UFO?

No, it's a 1937 Airstream Clipper which sits in front of the Airstream Store in Jackson Center, Ohio, along with several other vintage Airstreams.

Georgia Unit Members Attend Old Fashioned Rally

If you attended our 50th Birthday Party last year, you saw a few photos of the early Georgia Unit and International rallies. A dozen members of our unit attended an old-fashioned event, much like those early rallies. During the first week of June, 175 Airstreams gathered behind the factory in Jackson Center. Why old fashioned? Begin with a grass field, add rally electric, rally water, a little rain and mud, a couple of large tents and add vendors, seminars, competitions, good food, great friends, and you have an outdoor rally.

The folks at *Airstream Life* and the Airstream Company teamed up to host a great event in Jackson Center, Ohio. The third annual Alumapalooza was a great event for all. There was entertainment, including a short movie, three musical acts, as well as, sword and flame swallowers. Add cooking seminars, repair and maintenance workshops, yoga sessions, bike rides, and factory tours. Top it off with Curbside Cafe and good friends and you have a real "Palooza". Event organizers provided a membership booth for WBCCI where several new members joined!

How do you run an event like this. Just call on a few volunteers and give them orange tie-dyed shirts. Ask them to do everything! Can such an event succeed? Bob Wheeler, Airstream President, and Rich Luhr, of *Airstream Life*, plan to return with an even bigger event next year! If you missed the event and plan to travel west later this summer, don't miss Alumafandango in Denver!

Mat Hackney

Caravanning Update

As you read this newsletter, a group of Georgia Unit members are headed to Sedalia for the International Rally. Some of them are traveling in an official caravan! We plan another later this year. There are twelve rigs headed to the Blue Ridge Parkway in September! No, you can't sign up to go, since it is filled. But you can contact Matt Hackney to get on the waitlist.



Next year, plan on more caravans—Sarasota, Florida; Huron, South Dakota; and Stone Mountain, Georgia—are among the destinations planned. You can also plan your own caravan. All it takes is two or more rigs headed in the same direction. For more information, contact Matt Hackney at eroney@aol.com or call 706.860.8690.

Pictures are from the caravan to DuQuoin: Land Between the Lakes Park, Kentucky, and DuQuoin.

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McElvis was a big hit!



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www.topofgeorgia.net

2012 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
12/3/2012	Christmas Luncheon	Rockeagle, Eatonton, GA
April 9-10	Volunteer Work Days	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 11-15	Spring Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 23-28	Region 3 Rally	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
May 23-28	Memorial/Buddy Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
June 27-July 4	WBCCI International Rally	Sedalia, Missouri
July 18-22	Summer/Youth Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aug. 29-Sept. 3	Labor Day/Homecoming Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 17-21	Installation Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park

Officers

President: Al Holcomb; President-Elect: Steve Rosenthal; First VP: Roy Beavers;
Secretary: Jo Roskosh; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Lisa Roberts, Jack Cooper, Willa Davis, Craig Stevens

President Emeritus: Matt Hackney



The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 51 / Issue 2 / May 2012





Hi, Fellow Airstreamers!

Our Spring rally is history. The Rally week ran from April 9th through 15th, 2012, including regularly scheduled work days on Monday and Tuesday.

Jerry O'Connell and Durrell Purmort led the team of volunteers who spruced up the park. Their efforts and those of other Airstreamers who pitched in have improved the park and made it ready for the season. Carol Cone and her helpers did a professional job of planting and decorating with colorful, beautiful plants; our "Slice of Heaven" has begun to look a bit like the Garden of Eden as well. Many thanks to all volunteers for coming early and helping out!

The help in the kitchen provided breakfast on each of these work days, and First Lady Mary Holcomb prepared a hearty lunch on both days.

On Wednesday, 28 men from the park had breakfast at Ma Gooch's. Ray and Sandy Tarpley registered 144 people occupying 71 units for the rally, one of the strongest spring rallies in recent history. Lisa Roberts and her helpers served up delicious strawberry shortcake, which put a fine finish to the evening.

We began Thursday with eggs, biscuits, grits, and all the fixin's cooked up by Jack Jones and his loyal kitchen crew. Jean Gilbert directed games afterward, which continued for the next few days. After the evening program, Roy Beavers presided over Bingo and popcorn.

Friday featured the famous J-Hop breakfast, followed by the Top of Georgia Board of Directors meeting. Friday ended with door prizes, Pass-The-Trash card game, and the traditional jam session and group sing coordinated by Past President Warren Fore. As always, great music!

The semi-annual Business Meeting on Saturday morning lasted approximately 1-1/2 hours. The report of action, plus Board of Directors actions, is given in another article.

That afternoon the Flea Market led to a lot of "Fleas" changing hands; as usual, it was a win-win situation with some cleaning out their basement and others adding to their store of treasures. Steve Rosenthal introduced the incredible Neely Family, who put a perfect finish to the evening. That date—April 14—just happened to be the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, which captured the imagination of people all over the world. The Neelys' program was a touching memorial with inspirational words and music.

1

Sunday church services ended the rally; Keith Ivey of Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries was kind to deliver the message, backed up by a full, four-part choir onstage (a first), directed by Danny Howell. After church some chose to go to the newly opened Western Sizzler for lunch, while others enjoyed "Tube Steaks" cooked over the fire pit with Jan and Rob Kelly. As the rally ended, we all parted company with warm hearts and full tummies.

See you at the Buddy Rally! Remember, it's the only rally of the year when non-Airstream campers can be parked, so invite your friends!

Al Holcomb

(Cover: Max Laseter will be leading another fishing expedition to nearby Unicoi State Park during the Buddy Rally...get on the list!)

Loving Concerns

Deaths:

Anita Farley, shortly after the Sarasota Rally
Mary Ann Parks' great grandson, Creed Campbell, 7, on April 15

Illness:

Laney Bradshaw (granddaughter of Jack and Anne), Dale Bryan (ICU, Gwinnett Hospital), Joy Fathauer (light stroke), Warren Fortner (improving after fall), Esther Hill (cancer, improving), Eddie King (much improved), Norma Mantz (kidney cancer, surgery May 2), Charles McIntosh (fall, fractured shoulder), Ben Roach (chemo), Sybil Roberson (cancer, lot of pain), Charles Smith (improving), Richard Spruill (improving), Lorraine Thomley (back surgery), Alice Turner (improved).

We miss members such as Jesse and Alice Lyle who are no longer able to come to TOG.

--First Lady Mary Holcomb

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Business Matters

The first Board of Directors meeting of the year was held on April 13, 2012 during the Spring Rally; several actions were taken.

(1) First, the lottery was discontinued, and the Top of Georgia Park will now be open all year; there will no longer be a formal "opening date." Sites will be available on a first-come, first-served basis

(2) Dead Storage will no longer be allowed in Section E. Rent will now be \$80.00 a month, or \$3.00 a day.

(3) The "dog line" was moved up to the edge of the host shed on the inbound side of the road, and to the telephone pole on the outbound side. No dogs will be allowed at the host shed itself except for dogs belonging to the host (don't want any dogs arguing).

(4) Rent was revised for Danny Howell.

(5) Winter hosting was reduced from five months to three months.

(6) The time that an Airstream camper unit can be out for repairs, with its site being held, was extended to 14 days; the limit was formerly seven days, which was occasionally inadequate.

At the official annual Top of Georgia Airstream Park Business Meeting, a proper quorum supported the following actions.

(1) A unanimous vote approved new International Officers.

(2) Matt Hackney was approved to represent the Georgia Unit and to vote on By-Law changes for WBCCI.

--Secretary Jo Roshkosh



A Voice From the Past

Joe Smith, who served as President of TOG in the 1980s, wrote the following for a business meeting at TOG "after a fuss among members about dogs":

I don't have a dog. But I love dogs and I love children. I hate to step where a good dog with a sorry owner has been.

I have a lot of good friends who have dogs, and some of those long-standing friends are not at this rally. I miss them. I hope that they will come back.

I have been a member of this club for about 30 years and to my knowledge there have been only two occasions on which trouble arose over dogs. Twice in 30 years is certainly not enough to cause friendships to be fractured or to cause this, the finest unit, to become split.

Those two people on those two occasions were not here long. They are gone.

We might not ever see them again. Let us not permit the actions, the negligence, or the contrariness of two people, now long gone, to tear us apart. We have worked hard to develop the area across the bridge. We have spent lots of money and time trying to make it a nice, desirable place to park. For Goodness sake let's not do anything to stigmatize that area or to discriminate against dog owners by saying, "All of you members who have dogs, even if you have paid your dues like everybody else, must go down yonder across the bridge and stay in the K-9 Colony." I do not believe that assigning a location will prevent a cranky dog owner from occasionally causing trouble.

I respect the deliberations of the Board. I've been in enough PTA meetings to know how painful hassles over issues can become. I am sure that the officers and directors have acted in good faith, but I believe that in this case for the benefit of the club that this new rule should be rescinded and that we revert back to the way it has been many years with only enough changes to meet legal requirements.

Let sleeping dogs lie and let the good times continue to roll along.

--Past President Joe Smith

Florida State Rally

The Florida State Rally is the second largest rally in the WBCCI. In February, the Georgia Unit Regular and Affiliate Members had well more than 30 rigs among the 325 present in Sarasota. Al and Mary Holcomb organized a fantastic luncheon at Troyers' where 72 attended, including national WBCCI officers and Region 3 officers, and all enjoyed a delicious meal. Our members chaired and volunteered on a number of committees and thoroughly enjoyed our week in the sun.

President Heckenswiler and Justin Humphreys (Airstream VP for Sales) provided information on the club and on Airstream, and there were plenty of side trips and fresh seafood. The rally promises to have some interesting changes next year, with the addition of an RV Show and additional vendors. You should plan to attend!

--Past President Matt Hackney

Adventurous Caravanners Wanted!

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The WBCCI is a club for Caravans as well as Rallies, and the Georgia Unit has a couple of interesting adventures remaining this year. In June we will take a group to the International Rally in Sedalia, MO, leaving on June 21st or 22nd and entering the Rally the following week.

Then in September we will leave the Top of Georgia on Labor Day and head up the Blue Ridge Parkway. This week-long caravan will visit spots along the way and finish near Charlottesville, Virginia the following Sunday.

If interested in either Caravan, contact Matt Hackney (706 860-8690, eroney@aol.com) for information. The Blue Ridge Parkway caravan is limited to approximately 10 units, depending on space available in campgrounds.

Please be aware that federal campgrounds along the Blue Ridge Parkway may not have some amenities.

--Past President Matt Hackney



Something for Everyone

Looking for a new Airstream for you or for your buddy? Just for you and the buddies we'll have an **Open House** event on **Saturday** so you can see the different Airstream styles and floor plans. And those who have an **Airstream For Sale**—spruce it up and open it up. We encourage Airstream owners to help by opening up. Then we'll follow up with a seminar on **what to look for when buying an Airstream**.

In addition to our traditional activities, here are some of the more unique activities:

- Adventure **Mountain Drive** and tour of the magnificent **Horse Trough Falls** deep in the Chattahoochee National Forest.
- Garden Club luncheon and tour of the **Hamilton Gardens**. See Carol's separate article.
- **Curb-side Café**. Bring the makin's for your favorite snack to share with others and meet the buddies.
- **Pet Social** to show off your favorite or latest four-legged "family" member.
- **Fly fishing clinic** and fishing led by expert Max Laseter. They usually stock the creeks on Thursday, so we'll go on Friday. Bring your pole, or we have some bamboo poles already strung.
- Computer Clinic: **how to shop on line** for bargains by expert Craig Stephens.
- **Motorcycle ride** and lunch in the North Georgia Mountains; join Jack McDonald.
- **CPR/AED (defibrillator) class** led by our Park Nurse, Terri Purmort.
- **Singles Lunch Outing** to a local restaurant led by Danny Howell.

- **Short Hike on Appalachian Trail** led by our Trail Master Don Brookshire.
- **Memorial Day desserts: Fried Pies!** Bring your pie irons, fry a pie over the fire pit and roast marshmallows. Bring desserts, too.
- **Strawberry or Blueberry picking**, whichever is best in season during the rally.
- **WBCCI caravan video** produced by our Walter Berg.
- **Ping Pong:** See if you can beat Lois Thompson, our own Park pro.
- **Saturday special lunch** and **Holey Board** and **hikes** to work off those delicious calories.
- Sing your favorite song on Warren's **karaoke** machine while we eat ice cream.
- Surprise **Saturday night entertainment** that only Steve Rosenthal knows.
- Join Reverend Jack's **Sunday Memorial Service** to remember our deceased members.

Card games, horse shoes, cookout, fabulous breakfasts, golf, bingo and door prizes, kids' activities. Did we miss anybody's planned activities? Let us know.

--Rob Kelly/Craig Stephens, Programs



The kitchen crew--our favorite folks.

Prizes and Philanthropy

Door Prizes, Please!--The Buddy Rally is almost here, and we'll need even more door prizes so as many people as possible can go home winners. Bring your door prizes to my rig #4392 anytime. We will have a drawing for door prizes only once so that we don't detract from the Saturday entertainment.

Fund Raising Opportunity--Top of Georgia has special projects that need



Game winners: Betty Ivy, Back Alley Bridge; Linda Robinson, Manipulation; Jeanine Jones and Ed Bledsoe, Joker.

funding: more pads to pave, a WIFI system that needs upgrading, and many other items on our list. If you have craft items or want to donate a special item for auction, I'm sure we can convince our resident auctioneer, Mr. Warren Fore, to use his talents to raise funds for the park. Bring any items to my rig, #4392, but be sure to let me know they are for auction and not regular door prizes.

--*Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President*



Springtime with the Garden Club

It's springtime again; our gardens at the TOG are in bloom. At the April Rally Jackie Moon gave a great presentation to the Garden Club about how to create a butterfly garden, discussing nectar plants and host plants to provide the habitat butterflies need to lay their eggs. She also discussed the various types of butterflies common in Georgia.

At the May rally the Garden Club will take a trip to Hiawassee to have lunch at the Chophouse Restaurant, then tour the Fred Hamilton Rhododendron Garden. This is a botanical paradise bursting with beautiful flowering plants, more than 400 varieties of rhododendron and more than 3,000 plants in all. The trip is scheduled for Thursday, May 24th, leaving from the Top of Georgia at 11:00 am. The basic cost to tour the gardens is

\$3.00; if you need motorized assistance, or if you would like a guided tour of the gardens, the cost will be \$5.00. A signup sheet will be provided on the activities bulletin board at the May Rally, so please sign up if you plan to attend. We'll need drivers, so check if you will be able to drive your car and take others with you. I hope you'll come—Happy Gardening!

--*Carol Cone*



Carol Cone and Pat King were among the garden volunteers.

Mike's Rivets

Hi, Airstreamers! Thanks for supporting our talks about maintaining Airstreams, and for sharing your own tips and tricks. At the first rally, we discussed:

--Your toilet bowl losing water because of debris in the groove of your rubber vane seal. Use a toilet-tool groove cleaner from Thetford, or a home-made tool made from a coat hanger; bend the tip of the hangar 90 degrees.

--Cover your tires to keep the sun's ultraviolet rays from degrading them, and keep them at proper pressure.

--A polarity tester (\$2.50) is a little yellow gizmo with lights that will let you know if you are in danger of an electrical shock. You plug it into a 110-volt outlet in your Airstream, and it determines if you have the correct polarity.

--How is your voltage? A plug-in gauge (\$15) will let you know if you have enough incoming voltage to run your air conditioner.

--A meter (\$15) that plugs into your round 12-volt plug will give you a constant reading from your batteries and read the performance of your converter; Wal-Mart or Home Depot.



--If either your refrigerator or hot water heater isn't running, check your GFCI (Ground Fault Current Interrupter) breaker in the circuit box first. Sometimes you can't tell that the GFCI breaker has tripped, because the red indicator may not pop up and the lever may barely move. Flip those breakers on and off once a month to be sure they're working. Yes, breakers can also go bad.

--Before plugging into the electric pedestal, clean the prongs on the power cord or use dielectric grease when you first plug it in, and turn off the power. You don't want to destroy the pedestal or burn your plug!

-- Take preventive measures such as screens to keep wasps out of your furnace vents, hot water heater areas, around your LP tanks, frame rails, any other places they could hide.

--Please see me after our talks for handouts. I am currently testing a Hensley hitch, a zip trailer breakaway four-foot cable, and an i-Ball wireless back-up camera that was reviewed in *Airstream Life*. We'll be discussing the results sometime during one of the summer rallies.

Safe travels, my friends!

--*Mike King*

Entertainment; Rally Fees

I hope everyone had a good time at the Spring Rally. I really thought the Neelys were terrific! They're an amazing family.



The Neely Family

I wanted to let everyone know that the rally fees for the rest of the season will be set at \$20.00. Our next rally will be the Memorial Day Rally, May 23-28. Ladies, get ready—your heart throb, "Elvis," will be in the building on Saturday night! Get ready for a great night of Jail House Rock!

--*Steve Rosenthal, President Elect*

Hosts Needed

Thanks to all the people who signed up for host training, as well as the those of you who have hosted this year. Our volunteer hosts are help to keep our park open, and at minimal expense, so please look at the host sheet and sign up. TOG needs you! We have open time to be filled, and are looking for people to host during the winter as well.

Remember, for each **week** you host, you will receive **two weeks** of free parking! It's a win-win situation.

If you need to talk with the host coordinator, please call me at 864-906-8053 or Email to: Chandler1945@gmail.com

--*Host Coordinator Lisa Roberts*



Fain and Kay Edwards

The Cutting Edge

Fain Edwards met the love of his life, Kay, while growing up in Jacksonville, AL. They went their separate ways, but re-united several years later and married.

Kay was quite an achiever in her own right, graduating with the highest average ever at Jacksonville State University; she modestly poo-poops that, saying it's since been exceeded. She became a special education teacher in Jacksonville after she and Fain married, and he taught English there for awhile.

Fain's career is the stuff of literature. During his army service in Germany he became personally acquainted with a scion of the Krupps Arms family, spending time on the baronial estate in the black forest.

He later opened an upscale men's clothing store in Birmingham in partnership with a friend. The store was a blazing success until a dishonest employee led to its failure, another story you'll have to get Fain to tell you.

Along the way Fain has made and lost several fortunes. His Christian faith strengthened him through it all.

Perhaps his most impressive achievement was learning how to mass-produce Damascus steel, beautiful and durable with a unique rippled pattern, perfect for knife blades. Kay resigned her teaching job to run the business side of the enterprise. Fain partnered with one of the leading knife manufacturers worldwide, but his partner had financial problems that led to stress in the partnership. Near the end of the venture he fought a protracted lawsuit against powerful interests.

During this time Fain suffered a heart attack from the stress, but the church they attended helped him to find a leading cardiologist who gave him superb care. Fain and Kay now live contentedly near Murphy, NC, where they have some wonderful neighbors—the Neely family. Though he's suffered betrayals and the ups and downs of fortune, Fain now says "I have only Christian love for any man."

Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of frustratingly brief profiles of members. We all have a story, and the intention is to present enough to introduce the person and provide the beginnings of conversation at TOG...which is, of course, a favorite activity.



A four-part choir with instrumentals—a TOG "first?"



"Tube steak" around the fire pit after church



Ladies' crafts—something to take home

Please note: The new telephone number for Helen's Riverside Café, one of our directory advertisers, is 706-878-7627; they also are in a new location. The menu is on the bulletin board, and a few discount coupons might be there as well.



The Peach State Caravanner

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Greetings, Airstreamers!

Mary and I trust that you had a wonderful holiday season. Our Christmas party was a great success with about ninety people attending the event. We enjoyed a lot of good food, and the fellowship was super. After the meal, Danny Howell and his musicians entertained us and we sang a lot of old favorite Christmas carols.

Many joined the camp-out, which was planned by Matt Hackney; decorations were festive, and we even had a "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree."

Instead of exchanging gifts, we collected money for a needy cause. In the spirit of the season we sent a check for \$1,000 to the children at White County DFACS, with seven hundred dollars being contributed by Airstreamers at the Christmas party at Rock Eagle alone. The children had a very Merry Christmas thanks to the generosity of our members and the club.



As I write this, we and others are about to depart for the Florida State rally in Sarasota; I'll give a report of that rally in the next issue of *The Peach State Caravanner*.

April will be here before you know it, and it will be time to get the Airstream out and head for the TOP. Work days are scheduled for April 9-10 just before the spring rally, with Past President Warren Fore coordinating efforts to see that the park is ready for the summer rally season. We'll serve a lunch in the pavilion for all the workers and their spouses, so plan to come early and add your efforts...we'll need a lot of helpers.

We're continuing to make improvements in our Park. The Board of Directors allocated funds to pour concrete patios for all the sites from the pine tree pavilion up to the handicap sites, which are the first sites to your immediate left upon entering the Park. We began that work in the late fall immediately following the October rally, and it was a muddy mess for awhile. Special thanks to Bob Cone, Jerry O'Connell, Bob Bailey, Mike King and Randy Hughes for helping spread gravel and landscape the area.

After the April rally, Mary and I will lead a caravan to Myrtle Beach for the Region III rally, leaving the Top on Monday April 23, 2012, which should be an especially good outing. Make your plans to join us for the caravan and rally.

Our theme for the 2011 – 2012 season is "Top of Georgia: Our Little Slice of Heaven."

Al Holcomb



Loving Concerns

Death of Family Member: Clayton Grant, his Brother and Sister; Sandy and Raymond Tarpley, niece; Willa Davis, her sister.

Death of Member: Maurice Piroumian passed away after a short illness on Jan. 28, 2012. Bio at Lakesidefuneralhomega.com (*A fascinating person...encourage you to read—Ed.*)

Get-Well to: Laney Bradshaw; Charlie Brown; Creed Campbell; Kaiden Crowther; Winnie, daughter of Jane Darsey, who received a kidney transplant on 1/27, and to her brave nephew who donated the kidney; Anita Farley; Warren Fortner (lot of pain from fall; having tests); Norma Mantz (lot of tests, growth on kidney); Irene & Ben Roach (Ben taking chemo for leukemia); Steve Rosenthal; Richard Spruill; Ed & Jennie Starling; Wilson Stephens; Ben Wilbanks.

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General Business Meeting

The spring General Business Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 10:00 AM. We will vote on an amendment to the WBCCI Constitution, which will affect us all. The wording of the amendment, available by time for the April rally, will be posted on the bulletin board in the pavilion. See Matt Hackney if you have questions or wish to discuss the amendment. Remember: a quorum of membership is required for passage!

Park “Opens” March 31

On Saturday, March 31, we will hold a lottery for those hoping to grab just the right site for the year. Of course the park is open year round, but on March 31 at 10:00 AM., those who participate in the lottery will be permitted to chose from most of the sites in the park. If you want to come in earlier in the week, please be prepared

to move again on March 31! Please see the Park Rules (in your new Georgia Unit Directory) for complete details.

A Few Prodding Notes:

- Are your storage fees up-to-date? Did you store your Airstream over the winter and somehow, paying the fee slipped through the cracks? If so, please send your payment to the Top of Georgia as soon as possible.
- Can the host clearly see your WBCCI numbers on the front of your Airstream? They're required to keep an accurate record of parked units. If there was an emergency (say, Lord forbid, a tree limb fell on it) would they know whose Airstream it is and who to contact?

Mike's Rivets

Spring is in the air and it's time to get your Airstream ready to go. One thing to consider is to determine if some unwanted critters moved in and want to share space with you. If you find evidence that they've taken up residence, a few mouse traps might be advisable, but put them in out-of-the-way places where you won't be reaching for something. I've heard that fabric softener sheets placed around the trailer help keep mice out. Next, let's fire up the furnace, get the refrigerator running, and make sure the water heater works.

For that first lighting, I like to light the stove top for a few minutes to purge any air that has gotten into the lines. Once I'm satisfied that the gas is flowing well, I try one appliance at a time, **reminding myself to be sure the hot water heater actually has water in it.**

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If you don't have a digital thermostat which is used on heat pumps, move the temperature button back and forth a couple of times until you hear it click. This separates the bi-metal coil which determines the temperature. Many times the coil is stuck from not being used. Don't forget to check the inlet and outlet furnace pipes for wasp nests in case you don't have screens on them.

Do you have day/night blinds in your trailer? If the plastic bobbins that the strings wrap around are cracked or broken, replace them with a sewing machine bobbin, either plastic or metal.

Stay safe, my friends,

Mike

Activities will be Springing Forth at the Spring Rally

What is in store for the Spring Rally? Something new and something traditional. For you folks who appreciate creative arts, how about an outing to the famous Goldhagen Art Glass studio in Hayesville for a demonstration of art glass creation by David, and to shop a studio full of beautiful art glass. See more about their art at www.goldhagenartglass.com.

Then for you outdoor adventurers, bring your fishing pole to fish the North Georgia Creeks and bring your motorcycle to ply the hills and curves of the North Georgia Mountains; bring your hiking boots to hit the mountain trails; and bring your golf clubs to make a hole-in-one.

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It's all in your perspective...this is an aerial photograph of Top of Georgia created by Roy Beavers. "Created" is the proper term, because he didn't simply point a brownie and click. It involved renting a helicopter to fly over TOG, of course, but he had to shoot several photos to include the whole

sweep of the park. He then retired to his computer and, using photo editing software, meticulously stitched together 35 carefully selected photos, with a lot of magic, to create what you see here. Thanks, Roy!

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For a little less activity try ping pong, horseshoes, or holey board. And if you want something less physical, but challenging, we'll have all our traditional card tournaments and even pass the trash.

And for you who have been working on your hobby all winter or have been cleaning out your attic, bring those treasured works and extras for the Spring Hobby and Flea Market to show and sell.

And have you been hearing about viruses, stolen identities and phishing scams on your computer? We'll give you computer novices, and experienced folks, too, ways you can identify threatening emails and how to SWAT back. Maybe you experienced my embarrassing attack when someone stole my email address and sent emails from me to probably hundreds of contacts in my address book on how to buy Viagra from Canada. Not nice!

And for you crafty ladies, Irene O'Connell will show you how to make a special Christmas décor for next year. It is a glass cube with inserted lights and wrapped with ribbon to look like a present. The small string of Christmas lights will brighten up a spot during the holiday season or any time of the year. If you haven't already, let Irene or Mary Holcomb know if you plan to participate so they can buy the materials you'll need; the cost will be about \$15 per person.

And for you "green thumb" ladies, don't miss Carol Cone's Garden Club special program, "The Birds and the Bees and Butterflies, too."

And although Christmas is over, Reverend Jack isn't. Hear one of his insightful and thought-provoking sermons Sunday morning to start off your new week.

And are you ready to refurbish you RV with new wood flooring and new upholstery? We've invited the local flooring and reupholstering vendors to show you how they can give your Airstream a fresh look. You can see firsthand how they have already done other Airstreams at the Park.

And you know what the biggest hit is? Jack's hot breakfasts will be goooood on the cool mornings. Al's men's breakfast at

Unicoi is a hit, too, as well as Mary's ladies' lunch. And maybe we will have a Saturday lunch for you sleepy heads who come in late Friday night after still working all week. You need to retire!

Oh, I meant to mention – WORK DAYS. Come early and help spruce up our beautiful North Georgia Mountain park. Low/no wages, but hot lunch provided. See you at the Top for ice cream, bingo, popcorn, door prizes, jam sessions, semi-annual business meeting, cook-out, and special Saturday Night entertainment.

--Rob Kelly, Programs



Region 3 Rally

Region 3 has secured the Ocean Lakes campground at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the 2012 Region Rally. The rally will be held from the 24th of April to the 28th with early parking beginning on Sunday the 22nd. Refer to the email sent earlier by Mary Holcomb for details including prices; it has an application form attached.

Nearby Attractions

Taken from the Georgia Tourism Web site (<http://www.exploregeorgia.org>); confirm this information before finalizing your travel plans. All are within 50 miles of Top of Georgia Airstream Park.

Each month:

Full Moon Suspension Bridge Hike:

Each month during the full moon, Tallulah Gorge, Tallulah Falls.

Folk Pottery Museum of Northeast Georgia,

Sautee; Mon.-Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Admission \$5.00, children \$2.00, seniors \$4.00.

Vogel State Park, 405 Vogel State Park Road, Blairsville, GA, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., parking \$5.00.

Brasstown Bald, GA Highway 180 Spur, Blairsville, GA, seven days a week 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., open May 28.

March 23, 30--Cosmic Laser Concert: Led Zeppelin:

The Rollins Planetarium at Young Harris College, 7:00 & 8:00 p.m., no late seating; fee: \$3.00; tickets available 30 minutes before show. Loud music, flashing lights, spinning stars and other effects that some may find disruptive. The observatory is open immediate after planetarium shows if skies are clear.

March 31--23rd Annual Trout Tournament, Helen:

6:00 AM - 2:00 PM, awards 2:00 PM, on the Chattahoochee River; open to all ages; free—parking \$2.00; \$2000 in tagged fish. Register on Friday, March 30 from 4PM - 8PM and Saturday, March 31 from 6AM - 9AM. Award and raffle drawings!

April 7--White County Cork & Keg Festival:

A new Spring festival in Helen; craft-brewed beer and wine sampling, food, music by local artists, held at the Helen Festhalle.

April 14--Senior Fishing Rodeo at Moccasin Creek:

Clarkesville, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., rain or shine; parking, \$5.00. Only anglers 65+; trophies awarded; 706-947-3194; handicap accessible.

April 21-22--Bear on the Square Mountain Festival:

Dahlonega; 21st, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; 22nd, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; bluegrass music on the square, master class workshops and live country auction on Friday, juried artists' marketplace, music workshops, Sunday morning gospel jam, Saturday evening old-time mountain dance, family activities.

May 5--Winefest at Habersham Winery:

Spring festival in Helen; craft brews, local wines, good, music by local artists.

May 5--U.S. Army Mountain Ranger Run & Open House:

Dahlonega. Skydiving Demonstration by Fort Benning's Silver Wings, combatives demonstration, mountain climbing and rappelling technique demonstrations, weapons and equipment exhibits, firing range; 5K/15K Mountain Ranger Run, 34K Mountain Bike Race.

May 11--Extreme Planets:

Rollins Planetarium at Young Harris College, 8:30 p.m., no late seating, fee \$3.00; tickets available 30 minutes before show; gives audiences an idea of what known planets might look like. The observatory is open immediate after planetarium shows if skies are clear.

May 19-20--Mountain Flower Fine Art Festival:

Dahlonega, Saturday: 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Sunday 12:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.; parking free.

May 19--Mountain Laurel Festival:

Clarkesville, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; oldest festival of its type in North Georgia; named one of the "Top 20 Events in the SE" by SE Tourism Society.



Garden Club

Spring is just around the corner, and it's time to begin planning and planting our gardens. Join us for the April Garden Club meeting—Jackie Moon is going to teach us about creating a Butterfly Garden. We will learn about the kinds of butterflies that live in Georgia and the kinds of plants that attract them.

Then in May we hope you will join us for a field trip to Hiawassee where we will tour the Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens. This garden is located within the Georgia Mountain Fairground at Hiawassee, and boasts one of the largest collections of hybrid rhododendrons in the state of Georgia. This unusual garden has more than 3,000 plants in bloom from early April to late May, a beautiful rainbow of colors. Admission is \$3 per person.

While in Hiawassee we'll have lunch at Chops, a restaurant overlooking the shores of Lake Chatuge.

--Carol Cone

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Gift to White Co. DFACS

Cheryl Dooley, White County DFACS Director, receives check from Al and Mary Holcomb presented on behalf of the Top of Georgia Airstream Park members. The generosity of our members helped to ensure that local children served by DFACS would have a Merry Christmas!



It's probably a good thing no money is being bet... some folks might lose their shirts.

Seeker of the Lost Ark

TOG member Bob Murrell is one of the most fascinating folks you'll enjoy talking with at the Top...his life story reads like a combination of a Dickens novel and an Indiana Jones movie.

Bob left home at about age 13 and held as many as 38 jobs, hitchhiking across the U.S., until he went to work for a sheet metal shop in Jacksonville where he learned to lay out major jobs. He later worked in a Jacksonville shipyard, and was the only mechanic who could lay out a funnel. He then worked two full-time jobs simultaneously at two airlines, earning his A&P license. National Airlines promoted him to flight engineer at age 25—their youngest—and taught him to fly. He flew for Pan Am after the NA/PAA merger and retired after 40 years.

For 18 years he lived the life of a "swinger" on a sailboat in Miami. He also bought, rebuilt, and sold two or three airplanes. Even so, life didn't seem complete...he prayed that he would start attending church if God would send him a good wife. He jokes that he dreamed of marrying a pretty blonde call girl, and God displayed His usual sense of humor when a vivacious lady named Faye, who worked in the radio room at National, filled that order; he called her often by radio during flights. "She was my speed bump in the fast life," he admits. But he warned Faye he planned to build a 48-foot sailboat so she would be ready for the challenge.

When Bob met Ron Wyatt, who had possibly discovered Noah's Ark, his life changed. That acquaintance led to his visiting many of Ron's research site—Noah's

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Bob with Ron Wyatt; Noah's Ark is in the background.

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home and gravesite, the route of Exodus from Egypt (he dove in the Red Sea to discover remains of chariot wheels and other debris), Sodom & Gomorrah (where he picked up a scrap of brimstone), and Abraham and Isaac's altar. One fascinating find was grain storage bins that the Egyptians carved from rock for the famine Joseph foretold; remnants of grain are still in the cracks of the rock.

Bob has made countless trips to the Holy Land, and plans a return soon. The team's latest project is searching for the Ark of the Covenant in an unexplored tunnel below Jerusalem, a quest fraught with danger from local authorities and religious sects as well as cave-ins; nine people died during Ron's earlier expeditions. Pick Bob's brain when you talk with him at the Top...you just might have a preview of a ***National Geographic*** article.

Bob and Faye have been full-timing for nearly 23 years; after thousands of miles travelling every state, they enjoy summers at the Top. Bob gives the Creator credit for his life experiences and protection throughout his life.



The Murrells' 48-foot sailboat they spent six and half years building and just recently sold after many wonderful years sailing her.

Calling All Door Prizes!

What a great year we had—2011 is over, and 2012 has already started with a bang! It will be another fun year at The Top. Before you know it, it'll be time for Spring Work Days and the Rally. We will continue the Top's tradition of having door prizes at each event. Please bring 1, 2 or more gifts so that we can have plenty to go around. If you crafty, bring along some of your wares to give away. If not, store bought is fine. We'll take food goodies, camping supplies, gift certificates, whatever you can dream up. If you have special items that we can auction off, they're especially welcome. I'll be available to collect your prizes on Thursday, April 12.

See you at the Spring Rally! Join us for more Fun, Fellowship and Adventure!

Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President

Top of GA Website

Did you know we have a website? Have you visited it lately? If not, why not? We migrated all our information to the WBCCI web site and are working with the Electronics Communication Committee to keep it up to date and more modern. To access the site, go to www.topofgeorgia.net. Over the coming months, I will be making changes to the site to make it more informative and visually pleasing for all members and visitors to it. If you have pictures, information or articles that you would like posted to the site, send them to me at egrbeav@bellsouth.net. I need rally photos, caravan articles and even photos taken during your visits to the Top. Send the full size and I will edit them as needed for posting. Full size photos have the most clarity when posted to the website. Committee chairmen, if you would like a page for your committee, send me the information and I will create a page for you.

Join us online for more Fun, Fellowship and Adventure!

Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President

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2012 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
12/3/2012	Christmas Luncheon	Rockeagle, Eatonton, GA
April 9-10	Volunteer Work Days	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 11-15	Spring Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 23-28	Region 3 Rally	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
May 23-28	Memorial/Buddy Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
June 27-July 4	WBCCI International Rally	Sedalia, Missouri
July 18-22	Summer/Youth Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aug. 29-Sept. 3	Labor Day/Homecoming Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 17-21	Installation Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park

Officers

President: Al Holcomb; President-Elect: Steve Rosenthal; First VP: Roy Beavers;
Secretary: Jo Roskosh; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Lisa Roberts, Jack Cooper, Willa Davis, Craig Stevens

President Emeritus: Matt Hackney
