



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 52 / Issue 6 / November 2013





Hello Airstream friends!

Wow, Airstreamers, did we have a great Fall Rally or what! The weather was just what the doctor ordered, cool nights and mostly very nice days. Everyone had an attitude of "Live, laugh and love," and believe me, your Board worked "better together" and got a lot of things accomplished. Of course, the major project is the replacement of the entrance retainer wall to the park. The contract has been approved, and construction should get underway by mid-November to be ready for our Spring Rally.

This last rally of the season was the Installation Banquet; a fabulous time was had by all! The Food Factory did a nice job with the dinner, **and Jack's kitchen volunteers did** a wonderful job serving. They served more than 140 good food-loving folks! Our breakfasts were superb with a record 16 folks volunteering in the kitchen each morning, serving 80 or more people each meal! Hospitality was simply wonderful with Carol Cone's and Clara Ellis's apple pie and ice cream on Wednesday evening.

Rob Kelly and his program staff have done a great job on activities/programs this year, and have some neat things for your enjoyment next season.

I want to say a big "welcome" to our **six** new members who joined during the rally! We appreciate you and look forward to getting to know you better. To those of you who joined recently, yet haven't had the opportunity to

visit, please come to the Top and get involved. You'll be glad you did!

To all our volunteers, thank you for your participation and help that is so vital for our success. Vonceil and Howard NeSmith did a great service leading the Airstream Tips session on Saturday. There was good information shared to keep our members aware of procedures to maintain their Airstreams. We always learn something helpful in these sessions! There were more than 30 members attending.

I'm already getting excited about next season and our April work days on April 14-15! This is a neat time when our members come and work together to ready our park for our first rally of the season, the spring rally! Thanks to all the Volunteers who help to get the Top in shape.

Our 2014 season will bring some new ideas to us such as theme names for Rallies, and your First Lady Sharon will share a new craft each rally with the ladies. One additional Buddy Rally is set to introduce more of our buddies to the Airstream lifestyle. Sharon, Jackie Moon, and Carolyn Stephens are already organizing a Dulcimer group for ladies and men next season. Many more ideas are in the works!

Don't forget our Christmas luncheon at noon on December 7th at Rock Eagle 4-H facility in Eatonton, Ga. We will also have a camp-out at Country Boy's RV Park in Madison, Ga. the evenings of Dec. 5, 6 and 7. The night of Dec. 6 we will have a pot-luck dinner in the office meeting hall. Call me for reservations—865-712-5672—for the luncheon or the camp-out. Many thanks to everyone for your support and desire to make the Top of Georgia the best it can be! "We're better together!"

May everyone have a safe and Happy Holiday Season; Sharon and I will see you down the road.

***"Live, Laugh, Love—
We're Better Together!"***

—Warren and Sharon

***Just a ForeThought—Always do your best.
What you plant now, you will harvest later.***

Main Entrance Closing for Repair Work

Folks coming to the Top of Georgia during the winter months will need to use the lower end (south entrance) of the park where the trash dumpsters are located to enter the park during construction. We will move the gate at the South Entrance inward toward the trash dumpsters approximately 15 feet so that trucks and RV rigs can turn into the park and be completely out of the main highway. We anticipate this project to begin mid-November and be completed in time for the park opening on April 1st, 2014. This will be a bit inconvenient, but the work will secure our main entrance for many years to come.

This work has been necessitated by the fill dirt at the entrance slumping at the back side where water has soaked into the soil and caused it to collapse, cracking the asphalt and creating a slide danger. The turn-in itself, closer to the road, is on solid ground.

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Your host for the winter months is Willa Davis; she'll still be located at the Host shed where you will check in. Ben and Ann Millard will be your Co-hosts assisting Willa, located just inside the South Gate should you need help.

--Warren Fore
President



Send Cookbook Recipes!

We have been collecting recipes for our very own Top of Georgia cookbook for several months. Now that most of us are at home for several months, it's time to seriously

get busy with this project. Please go online to the ToG web site, print the form, and send in your families' favorite recipes. If you don't have a computer or didn't carry forms home with you, you may simply copy your recipe on a sheet of typing or computer paper. Please print or write them so they can be read easily.

We need 10 or 20 recipes from each of you, because the book we plan to publish will contain 500 to 700 recipes. We would like for every Airstreamer to have at least one recipe, but if you can, send 10 or 20! We'll all be proud to see our recipes with our names and Airstream numbers in print!

Please mail or email your recipes to Mary Ann Parks at 101 Country Club Drive, Apt. E, Americus, GA 31709, parkspace1953@att.net or to Jean Gilbert at 6404 Garrett Road, Midland, GA 31820, Gilb17240@aol.com.

--Mary Ann Parks
Chairman, Cookbook Committee

Loving Concerns

Our sick who need our prayers are: **Aubry Burnette**, knee replacement; **Connie Fikes**, knee surgery; **Runelle Laseter**, cancer surgery; **Earl Robins**, shoulder surgery; **Barbara Robins**, back surgery and stent; **Walter Jarrett**, broken heel; **Jimmy Jarrett**, chronic infection; **Lisa Roberts**, lymphectomy; **Lewis Chandler** (Lisa's father), quadruple bypass and aortic valve replacement; **Edgar Williamson**, double hernia surgery. **Durrell Purmort** is taking radiation, and **George Fields** is now at home after an extended hospital stay.

We extend sympathy to the family of **Faye Dunn**, who was a long time member of our unit; **Cindy Carr**, whose father passed away; **Sam Hendley** whose mother recently passed away; and **Barbara Jones**, who lost a sister-in-law.

We continue to remember all who cannot travel and are not able to be with us at our rallies.

Please let me know if you or another Airstreamer needs to be remembered by our club. You may call me at 229-924-0917 or 478-244-1566.

Mary Ann Parks
Loving Concerns Chairman



--Photo by Cindy Carr

Fire at the Top

About 5:30 p.m. Sunday, November 3 Willa Davis was checking a guest out at the host shelter, smelled smoke, saw smoke coming out of the vent stack on top of the roof, and called the fire department. It was fortunate she saw it before it grew.

According to Helen Fire Chief Lee Poteat, "It appears that the fire started in the kitchen area and spread to the cabinets. It burned through the wall, which burned through a water line. The water line acted like a sprinkler and controlled the fire until Helen Engine 8 arrived on scene." Units from White County Stations 3 and 7 also responded upon the request of the Helen Fire Department. "Lt. Shular Barden advised that upon arrival, smoke was coming from the structure," Poteat said. "Firefighters made entry and wet down some hotspots and overhauled the area."

"It seems to have started in the stove area on the back wall near the freezer in the corner; no one was injured, and no one was in the kitchen when it started," adds Warren Fore. "We were blessed that the pvc water pipe leading to the icemaker,

which ran over the stove, melted during the fire and put the fire out when it ruptured. We had a lot of water in the kitchen, but we were fortunate. If it hadn't been for the pipe in that exact location and Willa's seeing the smoke, our entire building could have been burned down. **We're truly blessed."**



Betty Ivy presents medals to game winners Ken Topham (Holey Board), Elizabeth Duncan (Joker), Ann Berg (Back Alley Bridge), Walter Berg (Joker), Duell Robinson (Joker), and Linda Robinson (Manipulation).



Hardy Mt. Yonah hikers (in freezing weather, no less!) receive awards from Rob Kelly: Donna Rothery, Elizabeth Duncan, David Anderson, and Maryanne Anderson. Don and Deborah Brookshire led the intrepid trekkers.



2014 officers: president Warren Fore; President-Elect Jean Gilbert; First VP George Ward; President Emeritus Al Holcomb; Directors Edgar Williamson, Ron Wright, Carol Cone, Betty Ivy; Treasurer Cindy Carr; Secretary Donarene Steele.

Caravan to Pigeon Forge

Seven beautiful Airstreams and 14 ToGers pulled out of the Top on October 28th and headed out on the "Caravan To the Smokys;" what a beautiful trip it was!

The leaves were almost at their peak, the weather perfect, and all rigs shining bright. We pulled out in five-minute intervals, met for lunch in Cleveland, TN, and arrived in Pigeon Forge safe and sound. Everyone agreed the drive through the mountains was spectacular!

The week was most enjoyable as we visited Dollywood, Smoky Mountain Opry, and other attractions in the area. There's so much to do you just can't do it all in a week!

Folks, the fellowship, fun and adventure were very evident on this caravan. We all shared how much we enjoyed the trip, but we also expressed how much we love our Top of Georgia **that's** a wonderful place to come home to! "Live, laugh and Love—it's all better together."

Please come join us on our next Caravan! You just never know where we might go!

*Warren Fore
President*



Boon compadres—a rowdy crowd



Cutup queens! The ladies were feeling their oats in the crisp fall air.



Pigeon Forge and the Smokys have more to do than even an active crowd can get around to in a few days.



Nothing like good food and good fellowship—and a great trip to boot! The Caravan to the Smokys was indeed memorable.
(Photos by Warren and Sharon Fore)



Girls of ToG entertained the fall rally with dance and song (left): Jackie Whittington, Lynn Worley, Jackie Moon, "Flooze," Lin Thompkins, Connie Crowe, Clara Ellis. (Right) The other girls watch in the background as Lynn Worley makes up "Flooze" (Charles Whittington).



The most recent “RV Tips” and “ToG Topics” meeting drew even more participants! The sharing of tips and ideas, led by Vonceil NeSmith, was invaluable. It was followed by an ideas forum for the Top of Georgia—what’s right, what’s wrong, how to improve.

Tips at the Top

In September I was asked to moderate a forum on Airstreaming tips for members to share successful ideas gleaned from their personal experiences.

The forum was so successful that it was repeated again at the October rally with even more enthusiasm and participation. We learned the optimum pressure for our tires, how to boost our cell service, how to eliminate tank odors, the best products to use in washing an Airstream trailer, how to quiet a noisy pet, and much more.

Immediately following my session, President Warren Fore led a discussion on topics specifically affecting the ToG. Some topics discussed were an improved WiFi system, local unit caravans, hosting procedures, a second buddy rally, a new membership committee, and more.

Come prepared to share your tips next year with fellow members!

--Vonceil NeSmith

Rivets from Mike

What do you mean the tires have grown in size? Is that even possible? Yes, it is. The problem was the steel belts had come loose. Would exploding treads be next? You see, I **couldn't get the expandable chocks between the tires** and decided to figure out why. After checking all four load-range D tires, I discovered

all were expanding. Two of them even looked very strange—very round at the tread. I pulled two tires off on the same side and headed to Turner Tire in Cleveland. The technicians put each tire on their balancer. Each tire was all lumpy, bumpy. They determined that the belts inside each tire had come loose and were trying to escape. Turner Tire replaced them with load-range E tires.

So, how does someone else determine if their tires will have the same problem? Other than pure luck, you need to be pro-active. Inspect the tires. I had planned to get mine rebalanced after they were 2½ years old, but my experience with the chocks forced an earlier trip to the tire shop. You should also look on both sides on the tires.

Yes, you'll need to get under the trailer or take the tire off to see the other side. Remember, if you replaced all the tires at the same time and one goes bad, be suspicious of all of them!

In case you're curious about my tires, I have Triangle tires—a private label tire from TPC Corporation. They privately label many different named-tires sold at various dealers. Yes, they were made in China. Generally, our choices are Goodyear, Marathon (used by Airstream), Carlisle, Maxxis, and several private-label ones. Good luck choosing! If your tires are Triangle tires, inspect them ASAP!

I'm just happy that nothing went wrong on my last trip with the Airstream.

Safe travels, my friends!

--Mike King

Mountain Dulcimer Music at the Top

Jackie Moon, Carolyn Stevens and Sharon Fore are starting a new interest group at ToG—**Mountain Dulcimers**. Sharon has owned a dulcimer for years, and Jackie and Carolyn are members of a performance group in LaGrange. It seems quite a few folks at ToG have always wanted to play a mountain dulcimer.

If you are interested in learning to play, or if you already play the mountain dulcimer, contact Jackie Moon at 770-854-8458 or email her at benlmoon@bellsouth.net. The three organizers would be happy to answer your questions, and plan beginner classes as early as the April rally.



Dulcimers come in a variety of shapes, tones, and wood varieties.

The mountain dulcimer, or Appalachian dulcimer, is a beautiful instrument of the zither family that originated in the Appalachians in the early 1800s. One of the most active associations is the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, which holds a popular convention featuring classes and performances the weekend before Thanksgiving each year at nearby Unicoi State Park.

--Jackie Moon



This collectible model of a 1968 Airstream was given to Top of Georgia. The top removes so you can see the inside; it's perfectly detailed right down to the interior furnishings!



The installation banquet was a sumptuous feast as usual—and pleasant companions further aid the digestion! (photo by Clara Ellis)



Jackie does love those trailer-side garage sales....



The tour and tasting at Frogtown Winery was a fine outing for a cold day.



Past President Esther Hill (1992) made a welcome appearance at the installation banquet. Isn't tradition great!



The Worleys

Lynn and John Worley are among the newer members at Top of Georgia, but they're already vital volunteers. Besides work days they're involved in two of the most essential ongoing activities: bustling around the kitchen, and making great music.

They volunteer in other facets of their lives also, helping to build Southern Baptist churches in Peru, Alaska, Hawaii, the Cayman Islands, Idaho, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee...**whew!** John helps with construction, and Lynn helps John with the volunteers, making sure they work safely and keeping them supplied with whatever they need to work. **"John comes from a long line of men who know how to do stuff,"** Lynn declares. **They've** engaged in mission and relief work for 18-19 years, starting during vacations while still employed. They work with Baptist Disaster Relief out of the Toccoa Unit #7 led by Tim Beck, **John in "mud-out" and Lynn in childcare.** For more than 15 years **they've volunteered** at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center, headed by Bill Wheeler, doing general repairs and helping serve at banquets. John was a career firefighter for the Marietta Fire Department, moving into training for his last 25 years. Lynn was a Customer Service Trainer with Wellstar.

The Worleys were sweethearts at Sprayberry High School. They have a musical heritage, her father having played guitar—she grew up with gospel music—and John taking lessons beginning at age 12. They married in 1971 a couple of years out of high school, and still live in Acworth **near John's dad on a 26-acre farm.** The farm was featured in the local newspaper

as **"the last working farm in Cherokee County."**

The Worleys have two boys: Keith (Min), moving soon to Oklahoma City, and Tim (Tammie), who lives in Dallas, GA. Both boys play the guitar, and Tim also plays mandolin. Tim has a son and a daughter, TJ (Tim, Jr.), 11, and Darien, 17. **Sadly, Lynn's sister, Barbara** Pierce of Jasper, is in the final stages of lung cancer; she asks our prayers for her.

The Worleys are the quintessential active couple, retiring in 2006 when they were 53 and indulging their interest in camping and riding **motorcycles.** **They've ridden 70,000 miles** tandem on their motorcycle through all states except Alaska and Hawaii since retirement, **winning the "Saddlesore Award"** (yes, there really is one) by riding 1,000 miles in a single day! Once they were gone three months on a cycling trip in 2007. **John's** softball playing days in the church league ended a few years ago, however, when he tore an Achilles tendon; **"Folks heard it pop from the stands,"** he recalls.

They purchased their 1968 Airstream back in **2006 on Craig's List, "the answer to a prayer,"** Lynn says, for lodging during mission trips. They joined the Top of Georgia last year after **being Members at Large for one year.** **"John's family has always been 'go' people,"** Lynn explains; she adapted to the lifestyle well.

Their motorcycle rides led to a scary accident several years ago. They rode with their son up **Highway 129 through Tennessee on "The Tail of the Dragon,"** which has **311 curves in 11 miles.** Returning through the Nantahala Forest, they took a wrong turn and wound up on a gravel road. Retracing their route, they were slowly approaching some folks on horseback when one of the horses bolted, knocking them and their motorcycle down a 20-foot embankment into an icy river. They flipped over the windshield; Lynn was just banged up, but John broke his ankle. They were lucky (or blessed!) to go off at the only sandy, unobstructed area of the bank. It was freezing November weather, so they climbed quickly as possible up the 20-foot bank. At the top they were met by 8-10 kids—the children of rescue workers—a federal forest ranger, two wreckers, a fire truck, and a rescue truck, all of which had arrived within 15-20 minutes!

That was only one of the adventures the robust **Worleys survived.** Ask 'em about the **"hitchhike mouse"**

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2013 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
December 8, 12	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
December 7	Christmas Luncheon	Rock Eagle 4H Center, Eatonton, GA

Officers

President: Warren Fore; President-Elect: Jean Gilbert; First VP: George Ward; Secretary: Donarene Steele; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Directors: Carol Cone, Betty Ivy, Ronald Wright, Edgar Williamson

President Emeritus: Al Holcomb



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 52 / Issue 5 / October 2013





Hello Airstream friends!

A lot has been going on at the Top in the last few weeks: the change of the guard is now complete, and new officers are excited and ready for the new year! We're looking for a great turnout at the Fall Rally and Installation to celebrate a new era at Top of Georgia. We want to listen to members and solicit opinions. The goings-on of the past few weeks have been discussed exhaustively. Decisions have been made for the good of both Top of Georgia and the new club, and we are moving on. In the movie "Forest Gump," Tom Hanks summed it up: "That's all I've got to say about that." It's a new day for the Top of Georgia and for our sister club: a time when differences are forgiven, hearts are mended, and we look toward the future. We both want to bring as many members into the WBCCI family as we can. Let's all pull together and prove to everyone that the Georgia Unit/Top of Georgia Airstream Park is alive and well! We will continue to be a pillar in the Airstream R/V market for all people looking for fun, fellowship, and adventure.

We can do this because **We're Better Together**. That's part of my theme for next year: when we do things together, they're done better. We have the best volunteers and the best resources to accomplish anything. I was amazed when I asked for folks to help clean the pavilion for the beginning of the last rally—we were covered up with people excited to get started! We were Better Together. And yes, we all had a good time. Some of our new members came; working together—what a great way to meet and get to know others! So be anxious to volunteer.

I was once interviewed for a job that ended up being my final career for 28 years. The owner asked me three questions to determine whether I got the job: Are you honest? Will you work hard? Will you treat no one any differently than you would want them to treat you? I answered **"yes" to all three; I try to live my life that way.** At the end of those 28 years, all of us at that company were Better Together by working together, sharing together, and taking responsibility together. When you encourage another, most likely you both feel better. That leads me to our complete slogan for 2014:

***"Live, Laugh, Love—
We're Better Together!"***

Let's make it a point to get to know one another, to introduce ourselves to new members or any members you don't know. It's catching; you'll feel alive with laughter and love in your heart, and that makes us all **Better Together!**

I want to say a big **Thank you!** for your support during this change we're going through. I was honored to be your President in 2010, and **I'm** just as honored, if not even more so, to assume that seat once again. The new administration is dedicated to listening to your needs and concerns. We want your input; it will make us Better Together!

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Everyone seemed to have a great time at our Labor Day Rally; there were lots of good things going on. Rob Kelly has done a wonderful job with activities. Carol Cone keeps amazing us with her award-winning banana pudding at Hospitality Evening. Jack's kitchen and our volunteers served some fantastic meals, and fellowship was superior. I also want to thank all the folks who filled in for others who weren't able to be there for one reason or another. This **column isn't big enough to list everyone, but** know that you're all appreciated. **We're amazed** how people come forward when needed. You make us proud to be your President and First Lady!

***"Live, Laugh, Love—
We're Better Together!"***

—Warren and Sharon

Just a Forethought: In seeking happiness for others, you find it for yourself.

One-time Bylaw Modification

The following is an explanation presented to the membership at the August 28-September 2, 2013 Labor Day/Elections Rally concerning the one-time modification to the Georgia Unit bylaws. This modification will apply only to this one election; future elections will revert to the original bylaws.

A provisional charter for a new unit named Southeastern Camping Unit #12 is being organized out of the Georgia Unit. This should be a win-win for members of the GA Unit/Top of Georgia and the newly formed SE Camping Unit #12 by accommodating younger families who are still working and unable to attend mid-week rallies.

This is the first time officers in the Georgia Unit/Top of Georgia have chosen to be among the charter members of a new club, which offers a unique opportunity for the Unit to install its 2014 newly elected officers. To complete the transition, we needed a one-time modification to the Unit bylaws to allow installation of new officers to occur immediately after their election on Saturday, August 31, 2013. The measure was voted on by the Board of Directors on Saturday morning, August 31 and, after approval, was presented and voted on in the annual business meeting on the same morning. The membership then approved the change; therefore, the new officers were installed so that they could conduct the business of the Georgia Unit/Top of Georgia until their formal installation dinner at the October Rally.

This is the first year in many that WBCCI has had a net increase in membership. By creating a new unit in Georgia, we can look at it positively as an opportunity for growth in membership for both units and for our Club as a whole.

With your support in the election of officers and this one-time change to our bylaws, we can move forward with positive thoughts and good attitudes. In my opinion, this is the best avenue for the Georgia Unit/Top of Georgia. Should you have questions, I will answer them to the best of my ability.

--Julian Clements
Past President, Region 3

Officers' Committee Responsibilities, 2013-14

President - Warren Fore 865-712-5672

By Laws - Ben Wilbanks

Parliamentarian - Jack Jones

Program Activities - Rob Kelly

Property Manager - Charles Maddocks

Legal and Legislative - Al Holcomb

Nominating Chairperson - Vonceil NeSmith

Audit - Ken Rabren

Public Relations - Ann Millard, Susan Hancock, Angie Hicks, Deborah Brookshire

President Elect - Jean Gilbert 706-561-2154 or -566-1371

Caravanner - Ben Moon

Communication - Ben Wilbanks

Entertainment - Jean Gilbert

Directory - Pat and Mike King

Registration - Cathy Morris

Blue Beret - Connie Crowe

First VP - George Ward 912-657-0139

Chaplain - Keith Ivey

Choir Director - Danny Howell

Ethics and Grievance - Jack Jones

Ice Cream/Popcorn - George Ward

Kitchen - Jack Jones

Secretary - Donarene Steele 404-849-8190 or -840-2438

Hospitality - Clara Ellis

Treasurer - Cindy Carr 770-605-2507

Grounds/Beautification - Jackie Moon

Director - Carol Cone 770-846-3073/1598

Caravans - Warren Fore

Membership - Connie and Herb Crowe

Director - Betty Ivy 478-987-0179/-396-3307

Host Coordinator - Mike Steele

Parking - Charles Whittington

Director - Edgar Williamson 706-485-9331

First Aid - Terri Purmort

Police and Safety - Bob Cone

RV Safety - Chessie Brooking

Director - Ron Wright 358-804-1424

Games - Betty Ivy

Archives/Historian - Betty Ivy

President Emeritus - Al Holcomb 706-348-6060 or 678-231-3355

Loving Concerns - Mary Ann Parks

Protocol - Mary Ann Parks

Planning - Al Holcomb, Ray Tarpley, Edgar Williamson, Durrell Purmort

Treasurer's Summary

Below is the summary Statement of Financial Position as reported on August 31, 2013:

Total Cash:	\$89,882.68
Total YTD Income:	\$76,246.40; down ~ 26%
Total YTD Park Exp:	\$66,121.97; down ~ 14%
Total YTD Unit Exp:	\$20,625.39; down ~ 18%

Comparing Year-to-Date Income, \$76,246.40, and Year-to-Date Expenses (including depreciation), \$97,373.23, reveals a **"Net Income" deficit of \$21,126.83**. This deficit is mainly caused by a large decrease in income, the major source of which is parking fees. Year-to-date parking fee income at the Top of Georgia is down 30% from last year.

The solution to this deficit, of course, is to increase the number of folks who come to the Top of Georgia and pay parking fees.

Please visit the park often and encourage others to visit as well. Rally attendance is vital to **keeping our income up, but you don't have to wait for a rally**. The Top of Georgia is a great get-away for weekends or vacation, and it's the greatest value in the **Southeast! You won't find a more central location to a multitude of North Georgia mountain attractions and for a fraction of the cost a commercial campground charges...not to mention the fact that you'll often find Top of Georgia friends doing the same.**

*Cindy Carr
Treasurer*

Christmas Luncheon December 7, 2013

This year we're looking forward to our annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 12 o'clock noon at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Georgia. This is a beautiful facility with great food and they always make us feel welcome.

Tickets will be on sale at the October Rally for \$20 per person. If you are unable to attend the rally to purchase your tickets, you may call Warren Fore at 865-712-5672 to secure your reservation. We would love to see all the Homecoming Folks there as well so we can share the Christmas season with them, because we didn't have a Homecoming Rally this year.

Come join us!



Julian Clements explained the one-time bylaws change that permitted the new officers to take their posts immediately (see his statement on the facing page). The next morning, following the Board Meeting, Julian installed new officers to serve the remainder of 2013 and the full year of 2014. A lot of people put considerable hard work, time, and thought into this solution, including seeking input and endorsement from International WBCCI. We owe them our gratitude.



Outgoing officers meet one last time.



...And here's the payoff: a slate of new leaders who will make 2013-2014 among our best times! Left to right: Carol Cone, Director; Warren Fore, President; Cindy Carr, Treasurer; Jean Gilbert, President-Elect; George Ward, First Vice-President. Not shown: Donarene Steele, Secretary; Betty Ivy, Director; Edgar Williamson, Director; Ron Wright, Director; Al Holcomb, President Emeritus. All these folks will celebrate their installation at the Installation Banquet during the October Fall Rally. Be there!

Caravan to Pigeon Forge

Come join us as we caravan to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee from October 28 through November 1, 2013. We'll leave Top of Georgia on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. right after the Fall Rally, and make a rest stop at "Fields of the Wood Bible Park" in Murphy, NC. There's plenty of parking available and a covered picnic area. We'll then continue on to Creekside RV Park, 2475 Henderson Springs Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863; phone 865-428-4801 and 800-498-4801; website www.creeksidervpark.com. We'll stay four nights at the campground, but you have the option of staying additional nights if you wish.

While in Pigeon Forge we'll stay busy with sight-seeing and attending the many entertainments: dinner shows, good restaurants, several outlet malls, Dollywood Theme Park, Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg, and Tuckaleechee Caverns in Townsend. Cades Cove and Clingman's Dome (the highest point in Tennessee) are both close by. There are also many hiking trails if that's what you enjoy. We can't do it all, but as you'll see, there are plenty of things to do.

Reservations at the Campground must be secured by October 7, 2013, and a \$30 deposit will be required. Time is short, so if you want to participate please contact Warren Fore at 865-712-5672. We look forward to a wonderful time.

Christmas Campout Dec. 5, 6, and 7, 2013

Warren and Sharon would like to invite you to a campout at Country Boy's RV Park for some cool-weather camping and fellowship before the Christmas Luncheon. The RV park is located just a few miles from Rock Eagle, where we have thoroughly enjoyed staying two previous years during the time of our Luncheon. We'll have a trailer decorating contest and other fun activities. If you can join us, please make your reservation at Country Boy's RV Park, 2750 Eatonton Road, Madison, GA, 30650. Their phone numbers are: 706-342-1799 and 888-742-1799. Be sure to tell them you are with the Airstream Group.



Ready for the onslaught! The Barbecue Brigade is ready for hungry Airstreamers at the Saturday BBQ, cobbler, and ice cream feast.



Game winners recognized on Saturday night included (above) Irene Roach and Dale Bryan, Joker; Ken Morris, Holey Board; Back Alley Bridge, Ann Millard. Evelyn St. John (left) won at Manipulation.



I believe someone once said "every rally is a youth rally," and the Cone family proved that at the Labor Day Rally. Bob (cropped off, unfortunately) and Carol enjoyed having their son and grandchildren with them...and their son even joined the Top of Georgia Troubadours in the evening jam session.
Photo by Clara Ellis

Fall Rally

Incorporates Suggestions

The survey that we circulated last rally generated some neat suggestions that have been included in the Fall Rally. Here's the planning for special activities.

Sports Theme - Wear, fly, exhibit, cheer your favorite sports team all day Saturday.

Trailer-Side Garage Sale - Clean out your Airstream, and home too, and sell off your extra stuff on your patio, or truck bed, or nearest shelter, or borrow a table on Saturday.

Frogtown Cellars Winery Tour, Tasting and Lunch. Great facility and a gorgeous view of the North Georgia vineyards while you eat your lunch on the veranda on Friday.

RV-ing Tip & Park Ideas Sharing - The trial of this activity went over so well—40 attendees, and complaints that 1-1/2 hours wasn't enough time—that a sequel was suggested. Come and share your favorite RV tips and ideas for our Park, whatever they are. Bring note paper and pen.

Pet Social - Bring a dog treat with your pet to the Pratt Shelter and let your pet practice its socializing skills on Wednesday afternoon. Bring you-know-what-else, too (pooper scoopers, of course).

Jamming, Dancing and Sing-Along - Join in with Warren's jam sessions and be part of the activity, with dancing led by the Ellises and Whittingtons...plus a gospel sing-along Friday.

Photo Club - Ben Moon's first meeting drew such an enthusiastic group that they would like to continue their get-togethers and sharing. Bring your fancy camera and neat pictures you took to show around. No lectures--this is a *participation* event! Speak up!

Hike up Mount Yonah - Don Brookshire knows the trail up the mountain to a spectacular view of the North Georgia fall colors Saturday morning for you energetic Airstreamers. Please bring us some pictures!

Other planned activities include fishing, bike riding, men's breakfast, and ladies' lunch...plus the old standbys. Sharon Fore is asking ladies to reimburse her \$5 for yarn used in the scarf-making class; you'll enjoy this ladies' craft!

AND, Saturday evening, the formal **Installation Ceremony** of 2014 officers followed by **Jack's Installation Banquet**.

See you at the Top for some memorable times, and if you have some other activity ideas, tell one of us on the Program Committee: Rob Kelly, Ben Moon, or Susan Hancock. And thanks to all you **activity leaders for your participation**. It wouldn't be the Top without you.

--Rob Kelly
Activities Chairman



Some ToGers had a taste of Sugar Creek Swiss at the Labor Day Rally when a group of folks took an outing to the "Amish Red Barn" on Hwy 17 just south of Sautee Village, which sells Amish furniture shipped down from Lancaster, PA at good prices. It's nearby, opens on weekends, and has Amish lifestyle displays such as this 1946 buggy.

5

We All Love Cookbooks!

‘T is true—so send in your favorite recipes for the ToG cookbook being published next year. Let's make it 100% participation, with every member sharing as many as 20 recipes! The cookbook committee includes Mary Ann Parks, chairman; Sharon Fore, Jackie Whittington, Virginia Bailey, Betty Ivy, and Jean Gilbert. The form is available on the ToG web site, or you can get one from a committee member and make copies. Send legibly written recipes to the address on the form or give them to a committee member.



Informal interest-area events, such as this RV Tips confab at the Labor Day Rally, are increasingly popular. You can listen to others' ideas and share your own. Hey—it's human. Everyone likes to talk better than they like to listen!



The Neely family of Andrews, NC are perennial favorite entertainers at Top of Georgia—just seeing that family in action somehow makes you feel good. Perhaps sociologists should study their family dynamics! The oldest girl has married since their last appearance at ToG...and is about to add still another member to the Neely clan.



Howard and Vonceil haven't lost the spark. They're among the folks who enjoy just a-swingin' under the Pine Tree Pavilion and visiting with all their friends at the ToG.

Loving Concerns

Keep these folks in your prayers:

Angie Hicks, recovering from surgery; **Joanne Topham**, having a series of tests; **Durrell Purmort**, surgery at Emory on September 24; **George Fields**, at A. H. Rhodes Rehab, and may be a little better; **Esther Hill**, has another chemo this month; **Lois Thompson's brother** has cancer and isn't doing well; **Sam Selph, son-in-law of Betty and Mike Ivy** is in a Gainesville hospital, waiting for a heart transplant.

Deaths—sympathy is extended to:

Opal Yawn's family—Opal was a member of our club for many years; **Sara Gilmore's family**—Sara was a past first lady of our club and past first lady of Region 3; **Love Presley's family**—Leon and Love were members of our club many years; **Bill St. John**, whose brother recently passed away.

We remember:

Doug Showker, who is in a wheelchair and not able to drive now; **Mildred and Warren Fortner**, failing health; **Bob Glancy**, failing health; **Ginny Piroumian**, not able to tow; **James and Marilyn Robinson**, not able to tow; **Duell and Linda Robinson**, not able to tow yet.

--Mary Ann Parks
Loving Concerns Chairman



The ladies at ToG always have an enjoyable craft activity...



...and check out the best places to eat in North Georgia.



You never know what you're gonna see at ToG...Fred Gavin was giving his new compact bike a spin.



Clara and Joe Ellis are among the growing number of new members at Top of Georgia... and Clara is already active at ToG. In fact, she contributed this month's cover!



Versatile Troubadour

David Adams it's said, can play any musical instrument on the face of the earth. That may well be an exaggeration, but not by far—and no one has really tested him. Let's just say he can play a wider variety of instruments than anyone this writer knows. That's safe.

David started out at the age of 9 on a harmonica, which of course he still plays as part of his considerable stable of instruments. “I just added a couple more each year,” he recalls. In high school he played the cornet in the school marching band. He has played with two or three bluegrass bands, some country bands, and of course the renowned Top of Georgia Troubadors (often referred to as “Bo Peep and the Old Goats” when Sharon Fore joins them).

In addition to harmonicas David has ukuleles, mandolins, guitars, banjos (both five-string and tenor), celestaphones (like autoharps), uke violins, steel guitars, dobros...he actually has a hard time remembering them all off the top of his head. And he further expanded his reputation by practicing with an accordion at the Labor Day Rally. He really adds to the pleasant atmosphere of the park with his spontaneous playing; you never know when you'll hear strains of music from behind his Airstream, from the Pine Tree Pavilion, or from the Pratt Shelter. Music just seems to ooze from his fingers.

In addition to playing, David collects old instruments. Among his treasures are a 1955 Martin guitar, a 1929 Martin guitar, a 1941 Gibson lap steel guitar, and an 1897 Washburn “tater bug,” a bowl-body mandolin. And these aren't just museum pieces: he *plays* them...all by ear. He declares his favorite instrument to be a beautiful 1924 Gibson mandolin. That

instrument is couched in a case converted from an old wooden suitcase made by his uncle, a Baptist preacher. “A man in South Carolina padded it for me to fit the Mandolin,” he says.

David was born in Seneca, South Carolina and lived there until serving in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1960, taking numerous cruises in the Atlantic and Mediterranean out of Norfolk on a refrigerated cargo ship. After his discharge he worked in auto supply for four years before joining Atlanta Gas Light, where he worked more than 30 years until his retirement in 1995. In 1986 he had met Vivian while she was living in Mary and Al Holcomb's basement apartment; she took him home to meet them. “They approved of me,” he recalls. Six weeks later they were married—“we just knew”—and in 1997 that friendship led to the Adams joining the Top of Georgia. They enjoyed years of travel in addition to their idyllic visits at ToG.

Their travel came to an end when Vivian suffered a stroke, but David helped her around in a wheelchair and they still enjoyed the Top of Georgia. Vivian finally died in July of 2010. She has a son who lives in Tennessee, and David's daughter, Cindy Trutt, lives in Cumming. David's granddaughter and three-year-old great-granddaughter live in Hawaii. David now makes his home in Lithonia, and has a strong church family at the Conyers Church of Christ that has been an important support to him through the years. His “family” at the Top of Georgia has been an essential support as well. He still enjoys the classic western TV shows such as Bonanza and Gunsmoke, choosing not to be involved in the computer craze.

David seems especially “family” to me, because his grandmother's first cousin was named Ezra Moon...thus my favorite nickname for him, “cousin.” The Adams family rumor is that old Ezra Moon once owned Stone Mountain. Though born in South Carolina, David couldn't be more solidly rooted in Georgia.



David's 1924 Gibson mandolin is his favorite instrument; you'll hear him playing it often under the Pine Tree Pavilion.

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2013 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
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
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October 23-27	Fall Rally/Installation	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
December 7	Christmas Luncheon	Rock Eagle 4H Center, Eatonton, GA

Officers

President: Warren Fore; President-Elect: Jean Gilbert; First VP: George Ward; Secretary: Donarene Steele; Treasurer: Cindy Carr

Directors: Directors: Ronald Wright, Edgar Williamson, Carol Cone, Betty Ivy

President Emeritus: Al Holcomb



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 52 / Issue 3 / July 2013





Presidential Ramblings

I hope everyone had a nice holiday. Memorial Day is a wonderful time to thank our Veterans and give thanks for the wonderful country we live in. Without our soldiers' willingness to defend and fight for our freedom, we would not have it.

I want to thank Don and Cindy Carr for all of their hard work and diligence in running the Wounded Warrior Project for the year. They are to be commended, as well as all of the folks who so graciously donated to one of the most important causes of our time. These returning soldiers deserve our thanks, our gratitude, and our support. I believe that we have done a great job in supporting these heroes, and I hope each of you will continue to do so for many years to come.

By the time you are reading this we will either be on our way or are attending the International Rally in Huron, SD. There are many issues confronting the WBCCI these days, and hopefully some of these will be resolved by the time Chris and I have returned. Either way I am glad to have represented you. I will assure you that I have done what you sent me there to do.

On the subject of representation, your President Elect Roy Beavers will be "Running the Show" for the July rally. Chris and I have

decided to spend some time out west this summer, and Roy will get his first taste of sitting in as President. I was told by several folks that it used to be the tradition of the club that the incoming president was required to run a rally prior to taking office. Please make every effort to attend this rally to support Roy. It is also the combined KIDS/BUDDY rally so bring along your kids, grandkids, and your friends and their kids and grandkids. I am sure Roy and Rob and Jack will be planning some great things to do as well as some great food to eat.

I also want to personally thank all of the folks for their input at the last rally. This is a wonderful place to enjoy, and it needs everyone's input and volunteerism to continue. Everyone's opinion counts and is important. Thanks for the guidance and direction; it's what your board and executive committee need in order to effectively run our park.

Have a wonderful summer, enjoy the Top of Georgia, and we will see you for the Labor Day Rally.

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Relax--Let's Have Some Fun!

Steve



COVER—Seems we keep going back to Andrews Creek for our covers! Well, it's a prominent feature of Top of Georgia. This month we see new affiliate member Bill Lancaster from Huntsville, AL putting Rob Kelly's coaching in gold-panning to use. Note the grains of gold...relax, they're a "plant" courtesy of Rob's stash, so don't go digging in the creek. Bill and his wife, Betty, are "The Alabama Bluegrass Express," who provided evening entertainment at the May rally.

Loving Concerns

Seems with summer here, we've had fewer illnesses to report. Here are the concerns that I know about since the last newsletter; a short report for my committee is a blessing. Please remember these families with your prayers and cards.

Illness:

McCall Brown, granddaughter of Max and Runelle Laseter, was recently in a serious automobile accident. With one shoulder and the opposite leg broken, getting around has been a challenge for this recent graduate; she received her diploma in the hospital.

Deaths:

Dale Bryan's sister; Durrell Purmort's brother; Charlotte Williamson's brother.

We remember:

Mildred and Warren Fortner; Mildred is recovering from her heart problem.
Esther Hill, recovering from cancer.
Alice and Jesse Lyle, failing health.
Sara Reams, failing health.
Jane Darcey, not able to tow.
George and Rachel Jones, not able to tow.
Leon and Love Presley, failing health.
Fain and Kay Edwards, failing health.
Jerry and Dianne Hodge, working out of area but hopes to make at least one rally this year.
Harry Philips, failing health.
Clara and Charles Smith: I recently learned that Charles must have conditioned air because of his health; Trane and Knight Air Conditioning and Heating Co. of Lawrenceville recently installed a new Trane unit for him. Charles served in the army and received a purple heart. It was great for these civic-minded companies to recognize this need and award one of our veterans such a nice and needed gift.

If you know of anyone you would like for our club to remember, please call me.
My phone number is: 229-924-0917
My cell number is: 478-244-1566
My e-mail is: parksplace1953@att.net
Please leave a message on my call recorder if I don't answer your phone call.

--Mary Ann Parks
Loving Concerns Chairman



The watermelon seed-spitting contest and other youth events brought smiles at the 2012 Youth Rally

Calling all Georgia Unit members and their "buddies"!

Our July rally is not only our celebrated Youth Rally, but also the 2013 Buddy Rally. I can't wait to see the things that Warren, the kids and some adults, too, come up with to entertain us this year. It's a fun experience for all. Don't forget to invite your RVing friends to come enjoy the Top of Georgia experience with us.

*Roy Beavers
President Elect*



The hayride this year will have mechanical horsepower, but will still be fun. What kid doesn't love a tractor?

Note—Correction of email address for Ron Wright, current director:
WrightSusan1968@gmail.com

July 4 at Top of Georgia

Beverly Bryan is coordinating some traditional activities for those who are at the Top of Georgia on the Fourth of July, and invites all who are there to participate. On July 4th there will be a parade at 11:00 a.m.—always a fun source of creativity—and a covered dish lunch at 1:00 p.m. Plan to dress up, prepare a dish to share, and come and take part!

Bring ‘em on – Kids’ and Buddies’ Activities at the July 17-21 Rally

We have some new activities and annual favorites planned for the Youth and the Buddies. **Bring ‘em on for a memorable time! Here’s what’s in planning:**

Pre-Rally. First, for those who bring kids up early, here are a few self-led activities you can do:

- Monday: Lunch at Huddle House and visit the Bear Park in Helen
- **Tuesday: Lunch at Wendy’s and Putt-Putt Golf in Helen**
- Wednesday: - **Tube the “Hootch” from Roberts Town to Helen, or Car Pool to Blairsville for lunch at Fatz and shop Alexanders**

Youth Specials. Get your camera ready for these!

- Tractor Hay Ride around the park; you too, if you want
- Treasure hike the Blue Mountain Trail and find coins under rocks
- Gold panning by Andrews Creek
- Garden craft - Construct a Terrarium
- **Seed Spittin’ Contest, 3-Legged Race, and Toss 180 Water Balloons**
- Scavenger Hunt contest between the Blue and the Red Team
- A Jitterbug Fun House to jump around in, and
- Fourth Annual Duck Race down Andrews Creek, with “quackers”

Adult/Youth Activities.

- “The Magic Man” magician show, with kids’ participation
- Talent Show - adults and kids start rehearsing your entry, and call Warren Fore ASAP at 865-712-5672 with your tentative entry plans
- Horse Shoes & Holey Board
- Pet Show - **practice your pet’s tricks;** kids’ stuffed animals welcome, too
- Jam Sessions - **bring your kids’** instruments to join in, and
- Marshmallow Roasting around the fire pit, Watermelon Feast, and Ice Cream

Adult Activities. Mainly watching the youth having a ball, but a few events for you, too.

- **Jack’s Mountain Breakfasts, pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits;** and a surprise lunch special on Saturday; Sunday tube-steak cook-out, too
- Card Tournaments: Joker, Manipulation and Back Alley
- Airstream-hints roundtable - Bring an RV/traveling hint to share, and
- Airstream Restoration - replacing an Electrical Inverter

Special Buddy Activity. Airstream Open-House Sale starting Thursday; see separate article. Spread the word to sellers and buyers, and let Durrell Purmort know if you plan to open up your camper for prospective buyers. Balloons provided.

As Porky Pig says, **“T-That’s All, Folks!”**
See you at the Top!

--Programs Committee



The Youth Talent Show was a big hit last year—all the kids had a great time “struttin’ their stuff.” The adults will want to share their talents, too, and the kids will probably see a side of their parents and adult friends they never suspected!



There's always an interesting kids' craft in the plans for the Youth rally, something they can take home with them.

Prize Winners—Without photo, thanks to the official photographer being asleep at the switch (sorry!): Manipulation—Beverly Bryan; Joker—Beverly Bryan and Jo Roshkosh; Back Alley Bridge—Dale Bryan; Ping Pong—John Turner; Special Gold Panning Award—Bill Lancaster:



And, of course, there will be another pet show!



It's always nice to let someone else do the cooking!



The legendary Great Duck Race is a prime attraction for all ages at the Youth Rally.



"We all scream for ice cream" indeed...simple pleasures are the best.



Do-it-yourself gourmet cooking at the TOG Firepit...everyone's favorite Sunday lunch!

Selling Your Airstream? Or Buying One?

Bring or open up your spruced-up Airstream at the July Buddy/Youth Rally for the “Open House Sale” Thursday, July 18. Hang out a balloon, post price and contact information, and leave it open for the day, or the whole rally, or for a scheduled, two-hour block of time to show your Airstream to buddies and potential buyers. Airstreams have sold this way in the past.

If your Airstream is in storage and you can’t make it to the Rally, either contact the Host, if we have a key, to have it opened up and a balloon hung out for you, or mail the key and sale information to the Host to be posted on your unit.

If you are unable to get to the Top to spruce up your Airstream and if it needs washing or repair, contact James Richards at (770) 845-0769, or Durrell Purmort at (770) 228-4197, members who may be able help. Call early.

If you have an Airstream parked elsewhere **and can’t get it to the Top, mail the sale notice and a picture to the Host and we’ll post it on a special “For Sale” bulletin board.** If we get enough sale information early, we may post it on the Top of Georgia web site, too, or you can post it there yourself at any time. Spread the word and help grow our club!

Questions? Contact Durrell Purmort at (770) 228-4197.



The First Family of Food at TOG...



...and some of their cheerful helpers. Let’s face it, folks, the food we enjoy at TOG takes a lot of work to prepare and it’s one of our major pleasures here. Thanks to those who do it!



The ladies usually have a fascinating craft to take home such as a decorative light that creates a beautiful pattern.



Don’t you believe a word! Corbin and Walter Duncan, Elizabeth Duncan, Mike Ivy



A new hat for Minnie!



Mike's Rivets

6 Howdy, Airstreamers! Well, the heat of summer has replaced the cool of spring. **Heaters are off; air conditioners are on! It's** time to clean your A/C filters often—every two to three weeks. More air flow means fewer problems with the unit.

If you have a dripping air conditioner, the first line of defense is to clean out the drip tube **that's on the outside of your Airstream. Some** people prefer to blow the tube out with an air compressor. I like to use a section of weedwhacker line to snake up through the tube. It's flexible but stiff enough to make the journey.

Soap box time: clean your shore power 30-amp plug. Clean it; clean it! Di-electric grease it. **Don't burn it up or blow it up. I'm not going to** even mention that yellow sticker. Flip your circuit breakers in your trailer on and off at **least once a month. If they stick, they won't** work properly.

If you are parking your trailer for the summer months, **don't forget** to check your tires to be sure they have the correct pressure. The correct air pressure for load-range "D" tires is 65 psi cold. Cover them to protect them from ozone damage.

We just returned from Alumapalooza at Jackson Center, Ohio. If you need a job, Airstream will hire fifty more people this fall. Their sales have greatly increased; they ship out each week what they used to ship out in a month. Lots of newbies are buying aluminum! Wally lives!

Safe travels, my friends,

--Mike King, #3615



The popular hike to Horse Trough Falls in the Mark Trail Wilderness (named in honor of Georgia cartoonist Mark Dodd, who created the character Mark Trail)



The Ladies' Day Out in Clarkesville included gardens.





Walter and Ann Berg

Walter Berg considers his heart attack in 1973 at only age 40 to have been the best thing that ever happened to him. “It made me **think about life and what’s important. Something like that can change your priorities.**” He declares that it led him to rediscover God and appreciate his family even more.

Of course, Ann is *really* the best thing ever to happen to Walter. She was born in Patterson, GA, and he met her his junior year at Georgia Tech while working in Tampa on a co-op job with General Electric. She had just graduated from high school and was going to school in Tampa to become a court reporter. In 2014 they will celebrate 60 years of marriage.

After graduation from Georgia Tech in 1955 with a degree in mechanical engineering he worked with Florida Power and Light three years in Sarasota then all over the state. The Bergs had three children and he was working as manager of a shrimp processing plant in Tampa, managing 300 women, when he had his heart attack (any wonder?). It led him to re-evaluate his life. In 1975 he left that company and went to law school at Stetson.

Walter had always been involved in his **children’s lives, however**, helping raise guinea pigs and rabbits to enter in the state fair, and umpiring Little League from the time their oldest child was in first grade. He continued to coach Little League, Pony League, and other sports activities. In 1975 his team won the state championship and competed regionally in Atlanta. They managed to get one practice in **when it began to rain...for three days. He was**

stranded with two other coaches and three active and bored teams—45 boys—in a Quonset hut at Dobbins AFB with one pool table and one cue stick, the boys soaping doorknobs and pulling other pranks. They almost won, losing when Walter let a boy bat—he struck out—instead of substituting a stronger player (“**He deserved a chance**”). “**Almost**” was good enough. Walter celebrated by jumping into the motel pool with his uniform on.

When he received his law degree in 1980 he joined a Plant City, FL law firm for ten years. They were in a campground in Perry, GA on their way to search for a college for their daughter when they heard singing; it was a caravan from Tampa Bay on its way to the international rally at Notre Dame. They were invited to join the group for supper that night, **and were given a “goody bag” of Florida oranges and grapefruits.** The kindness of those Airstreamers led the Bergs to join WBCCI, **going on the “North by Northwest” caravan as their first club outing.** “**We enjoyed that so much that we sold our house, retired from the law firm, and spent the next year and a half full-timing.**” **They’ve gone on 26 caravans.**

Tragedy struck the Bergs in 1982, however, when their 20-year-old daughter, Laura, was killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver in Gwinnett County. She and friends were driving from Nashville to Athens to see her boyfriend, Jeff Turner, play for Vanderbilt in a college basketball game against UGA.

The Bergs’ son Larry lives in Brandon, FL and **has two sons (Walter and Ann’s grandsons)** who are a deputy sheriffs in Hillsboro County, FL. Their son John is also a Georgia Tech graduate who lives in Farmville, VA and has three children, two girls and a boy, the youngest girl now in college. The Bergs have six great-grandchildren!

Today the Bergs make their home at Young Harris, GA where he indulges his interest in woodworking—having made most of the furniture in their home—and turning fine-art bowls, some of which have been auctioned at rallies for benefit of TOG. Walter also makes videos of caravans complete with narration and music; each caravanner gets a copy as part of **the “kitty” fee.** Walter is also a Gideon, currently serving as chairman of scripture distribution in Towns County. **Ann’s love of cooking keeps Walter well-fed and healthy.**

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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
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Aug. 28-Sept. 2	Labor Day Rally/Elections	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 23-27	Fall Rally/Installation	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
December 7	Christmas Luncheon	Rock Eagle 4H Center Eatonton, GA

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



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 52 / Issue 2 / May 2013





Greetings, fellow TOG Members!

I have just returned home from the Spring Rally. It was fun and I am TIRED! I hope all of the folks that attended had as good a time as Chris and I did. We enjoyed seeing everyone again after the long Winter season. It is so much fun to be with our Top of Georgia friends and family again.

Work days was a great success! Our new storage room sure does clean up the clutter and adds a nice touch to the room. Great idea Warren, Jerry, and Bob, and thanks to the ladies that put the finishing touches on it with the paint brushes. The grounds were made perfect by everyone planting, painting, and barking in the beds. Wow!!!! Great Job Everyone!

We are embarking on a major project coming up at the end of our rally season that will repair the damage to the entrance and make the entry and exit to the park much safer and easier. We are also going to purchase a smoker/grill to help reduce our costs, give us higher quality food, and have fun hanging out around the smoker when we are cooking. We have already received pledges of \$500.00 towards our goal of \$2,000.00! Our friend and fellow member Gary Waters has given us the information to get the proper equipment at a very good price.

I would like to thank Charles Maddocks and Ronnie Hughes for doing an outstanding job of keeping the park in wonderful condition over the winter. I think they completed over a hundred projects! Also Ronnie and Angie Hicks have outdone themselves as our Winter hosts. I have received many wonderful compliments about Ronnie and Angie. The

Georgia Unit is lucky and thankful to have these folks!

The May Rally is going to be here before we know it and I want everyone to come and see the new and exciting things we are doing. We had some major changes to our menu at the Spring Rally, and there will be even more fun menu items and fun things to do in May. Talk to all your friends and come see what's new! I think you will like it! Jack Jones gives us all he has and we are all better for the awesome job he and Barbara do for us. Barbara, "Drink your WATER!"

I appreciate all of the hard work, trust, and willingness that everyone has shown us as our year is progressing. I promise you that we will do everything possible to keep the park in good running order, have fun and exciting events, and preserve the park for future Airstreamers. We need to recruit good folks to help us keep the park going. We will and should make new folks feel welcome and comfortable when they visit. They are our lifeblood!

Relax, Lets have some fun!

Steve and Chris Rosenthal



The great photo of Andrews Creek featured on the cover of the last issue was taken in winter by Cindy Carr—quite a change in April (this issue's cover). Thanks, Cindy!

Loving Concerns

Death of Members and Family members:

Sympathy to Jean Beggs and family in the death of Dan Beggs. Jean and Dan were long-time members of our Georgia Unit. Sympathy to Susan and Mike Hancock and others in the family of Eddie King. Sympathy to Frances Howard's family. Ralph and Frances were also long-time members. Sympathy to John Turner's family on the death of his sister-in-law.

Illnesses:

Ed Bledsoe, left rally sick; Laney Bradshaw, continuing Kidney problems; Leon Jacobs, recovering from surgery for colon cancer; Barbara Jones, heart catheterization; Norma Mantz, continuing kidney problems; Ben and Irene Roach, continuing cancer treatment; Ed Starling, recovering from pneumonia; Ron Wright, eye lid surgery and reconstruction; Duell Robinson, recovering from surgery.

2 We remember the following who cannot travel:

Ben and Irene Roach; Bo and Sybil Robinson; Ralph and Jeanne Jones; Joyce Moore; Alice and Jesse Lyle; Anne and Jack Bradshaw.

Please call me when you or someone you know is sick or has a problem, so that I can let them know we are thinking about them and praying for them.

My phone number is: 229-924-0917

My cell number is: 478-244-1566

My e-mail is: parksplace1953@att.net

Please leave a message on my call recorder if I don't answer your phone call.

--Mary Ann Parks
Loving Concerns Chairman



Eddie King died the Monday before the rally, among those who will be missed this year.



Volunteers for "Work Days" were rewarded with pizza...and a lot of gratitude!



The TST representative presented a seminar about tire pressure monitoring systems and tire safety in the Media Room...



...while Craig Stephens presented a seminar on Online Shopping in the Fred Gavin Library.



Horse Trough Falls Photo by Rob Kelly

Drought is Over and the Waterfalls are Splashin'

Spring time in the North Georgia Mountains is beautiful, and we're getting out to see it at the May rally. North Georgia is famous for its numerous waterfalls, and we are visiting one of the most stunning—Horse Trough Falls. Starting at Unicoi Gap we'll drive the exciting Route 44 through the Chattahoochee National Forest and stop about halfway for a short, easy walk to the falls, then continue on to Helen for lunch.

For the more vigorous we are also planning a hike up 3,166-foot Mount Yonah, a distinctive profile in the Chattahoochee National Forest between Helen and Cleveland. The name "Yonah" means "Bear" in Cherokee. The mountain is a short drive from our Park through the Appalachian foothills; you can see the bald brow best from the parking lot of the Western Sizzlin' restaurant. The cliffs at Mt. Yonah have seen development by the Army's 5th Ranger Battalion, who use the area for mountaineering training. There are two main sections, Army Routes A and Army Routes B where cables or bolts have been placed. Additional climbing is lower down on other faces as well as some bouldering. A cement latrine is in the upper parking lot that everyone can use. Pack out all trash!

For those who like a gentle, scenic walk, we'll be making a nature stroll up Andrews Creek through the 100+ year-old hemlock forest and see other unique natural features such as trillium, Indian squaw corn, and giant rhododendrons. If you walk up the old Hiawassee Wagon Trail (the mountain Blue Trail), your timing may be good to see a "snowstorm" of spring-blooming mountain laurel, too.

While the Adventurers are out in the countryside, the Ladies Day Out will take the ladies to Clarkesville for lunch at the Sweetbreads Restaurant and shopping at their local landmark outlet, or maybe the Ladies Day Out subcommittee will come up with something even more enticing.

At TOG Park it's Curb-side Café time again, late Friday afternoon. Please bring your favorite snack to share with your fellow Airstreamers.

We're also planning a Saturday luncheon with a "Steve-surprise" menu especially scheduled for the still-working members who can't get to the Park until late and are looking forward to sleeping in rather than an early breakfast. Along with that we will have our traditional favorites of cards, games and other activities. We're planning a neat ladies' craft activity, too, and Matt will discuss how you can renovate and upgrade your Airstream for your next caravan.

Sunday's memorial service will focus on our past members who so beautifully built our Park over the past years to what it is today. These pioneers are invited to either join us for Sunday dinner out or to join us for our cookout at the fire pit in the great outdoors next to the *drought-free*, bubbling Andrews Creek.

*--Rob Kelly
Programs Committee*



The Worleys (left) are among the latest additions to the Top of Georgia Troubadours; Julian Clemons also made a guest appearance.

May Rally Entertainment

Long-time friends of Top of Georgia, Bill and Betty Lancaster (a.k.a. "The Alabama Bluegrass Express") will be the featured entertainment for our next rally. They entertained us at the Florida State Rally and I'm looking forward to a repeat performance at The Top! Join with me on Saturday night for some traditional, down home bluegrass music.

--Roy Beavers
President-Elect

I Scream...

...you scream, we all scream for ice cream! We served four gallons of ice cream to approximately 150 people with some coming back for seconds. Be sure to get on down to the pavilion before the freezer runs dry next month.

Thanks to Herb Crowe and Julian Clements for helping and instructing me how to use the machine and how to dismantle, clean and sanitize it!

Popcorn was enjoyed by the bingo and card players.

I have a new project that will launch soon—so start gathering your favorite family recipes. Details will be announced at the May Rally. I want everyone involved!

Thanks to everyone who brought great door prizes. One of Sharon Fore's beautiful

necklaces was auctioned off, bringing \$60 to the "Wounded Warrior" project. As you travel about, pick up a door prize and/or items to auction at the May Rally.

I'm looking forward to serving as an officer in this unit and welcome any and all comments and suggestions that you have to make our rallies better and more fun than ever. Just remember:

"Relax.... Now let's have some fun!"

--Jean Gilbert
First Vice President



Work days went rapidly. Necessary chores such as repainting the bridge were knocked out in a day; John Worley and Craig Stephens pose with their handiwork.



Julian Clements, Bob Cone, Carol Cone, Chris Rosenthal, and Irene O'Connell were among those who played in the dirt and enhanced the natural beauty of TOG.



Felix Olshefski proudly displayed his fully restored 1954 Schwinn bicycle that he purchased with his paper route money for \$69 in 1953-4. A craftsman in Tampa did the work.



(Left to right) Prize winners Mary Ann Parks (manipulation), Kenneth Morris (horseshoes), Elizabeth Duncan and Charlene Wilbanks (back-alley bridge), and Mike Ivy (joker); Betty Ivy is games chairman.



Steve Rosenthal's emphasis this year is "Let's Have Some Fun!" which is what the Top of Georgia is about, after all.

Please add officer contact info to your Directory:

Ron Wright, 987 N Suncoast Blvd., PMB 202, Crystal River, FL 34429, 352.804.1424, black07beauty@hotmail.com, WBCCI#2360.



Former President Julian Clements personifies TOG's tradition of Servant Leadership.



Multi-talented Sharon Fore drew the ladies in with her jewelry creations at the Flea/Hobby Market Saturday



A lot goes on behind the scenes to produce the delicious meals at TOG.

Mike's Rivets

Blow out the cobwebs. Air up the tires—even if you're not towing. Inspect for little critters who made your Airstream their winter home. Inspect those cupboards! Check the water level in the batteries—regardless of their charge—they might need some water (preferably distilled). Use caution; some batteries which are left in trailers over the winter will freeze and break open. I recommend at least one battery be left in the trailer as a 12-volt buffer for circuit boards. The newer the trailer is, the more sensitive the boards are. Even a cheap car battery would work.

Clean off the prongs on the 30-amp male plug before you hook up for the first time. Contact cleaner or an emery cloth then a little dielectric grease would be helpful. Spray contact cleaner into the shore power plug as well. Before you hook up at the Top, read the yellow sticker on the box! (Hint: it instructs you to turn the circuit breaker to "off" before inserting the plug!)

Fill your water heater before you turn it on. This is true for those who either have a hot rod or just use propane.

Is your smoke detector, propane detector, and/or carbon monoxide detector more than five years old? These detectors do have a specific lifespan, usually five to seven years. This is also true for those you have in your home. Newer ones have an expiration date on them. This is not an instance in which you take a chance. This was discussed in the February *Blue Beret, Airstream Tech Help Group* in more detail.

Update your knowledge—read, regardless whether you're new to Airstreaming or someone with great experience trailering. The *Newbies Guide to Airstreaming* by Rich Luhr is a great start for all of us. As the editor of *Airstream Life* and a full-timer for several years, he has a lot of information to share. You can get the book at www.airstreamlife.com, Airstream, or Amazon. It's even available in a

Kindle edition. It has great checklists to use before leaving home, arriving at the campsite, and going home.

Communicate—if you have a topic you want covered at the discussion at the park or in this newsletter, email me with your request at bip.mike@gmail.com. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Safe travels, my friend,

--Mike King, #3615



"Mike's Rivets" talks are always a highlight of the rallies...at least among the guys...



...while the ladies pursue interests of their own.



Rob and Jan Kelly— Keystones at TOG

One of the busiest guys at TOG is former president Rob Kelly, who is another example of our club's tradition of Servant Leadership. His lady fair, Jan, tolerates his activities (such as gold-panning) with good humor and was an affable, effective First Lady.

When his term as president at TOG ended, Rob never shifted gears but continued activity planning for the rallies. A native of New England, Rob's penchant for "partying," began when he served his fraternity in college as social chairman. He received a degree in chemical engineering at University of New Hampshire then began his career as a Chemical Corps officer with the U.S. Army.

His first assignment was Hawaii, where he "combined work and partying"; Jan wasn't in the picture to keep him straight.

It was while he was stationed at Ft. McClellan near Anniston, AL that he met his southern belle, Jan. Her aunt had invited her and her cousin to come to the officer's club pool; during a thunderstorm Rob came over to sit with them and invited Jan to a movie. It seems Jan won the swimsuit competition. They were married within the year.

During the Kellys' term as President and First Lady, Jan participated in the many activities and learned to plan ladies' outings and continues to do so. He credits her love of children—and pets—with the Top of Georgia becoming more compatible for both during their term of office and since. One of Jan's greatest assets, Rob feels, is "she's a good listener. She listens with interaction; she really hears what you say."

The Kellys' military career took them all over the world; their first assignment was in Arizona where Rob completed his M.S. He then went to Vietnam in 1967-68 while Jan stayed in Arizona for mutual support from other Army wives. The next assignment was as a chemical and biological warfare instructor at San Francisco, where they lived on Treasure Island Naval base in sight of San Quentin. Next Rob headed up the chemical ammunition depot at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Jan remembers that they had rabbits in pens near the poison gas bunkers, so if they had a leak they would know immediately when they found a rabbit dead...like the canary in a coal mine. The Army then posted the Kellys to Wurzburg, Germany in 1975-78 where he served the Third Infantry Division as their Chemical Officer. Their final assignment was Edgewood Arsenal near Baltimore, Maryland; Rob next had orders to move to the Pentagon, but instead they chose to retire.

They first moved to Marietta, but then to Raleigh where Rob worked with a privately owned environmental engineering company. Their next move was to Woodstock, Georgia, where they still live. In striking distance of Jan's hometown in Alabama, it's also in the heart of the Georgia gold belt where Rob indulges his passion for gold-panning. He's led rally participants on several gold-panning and prospecting adventures over the years.

The Kelly love affair has resulted in **five** children and 12 grandchildren—7 boys and 5 girls. Their eldest daughter, Cathy Dietz, lives at Johns Creek, GA near them; son Michael lives at Winston-Salem, NC; son Chris lives nearby at Holly Springs, GA; daughter Kimberly Haug lives in Roswell; and son Shaun lives nearby in Woodstock.



Rob's gold panning resulted in a special gift for Jan: a beautiful, solid-gold Cherokee cross.

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2013 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
December 8, 12	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
December 7	Christmas Luncheon	Rock Eagle 4H Center, Eatonton, GA

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



Peach State Caravanner

Volume 52 / Issue 1 / April 2013





Greetings, fellow TOG Members!

I hope you've all had a good winter! We've been busy attending many Georgia Unit events this winter. The board voted to allow the unit to have offsite campouts every month during the winter season.

The first campout was hosted by Past President and our current Region 3 Vice President Matt Hackney and his wife Beth at Hard Labor Creek State Park. Nine rigs attended, and the weather was beautiful. We toured the towns of Rutledge and Madison and shared wonderful meals.

Our Holiday Party was well-attended by approximately fifty folks at Lake Pines Campground in Columbus, GA. The decorations were beautiful; thanks to everyone who helped set up the room. The Rosenthals hosted that weekend as the December campout. There were some beautiful entries in our annual holiday trailer decorating contest, some more modest, but all fun to see. All had a great time, especially the seventeen rigs camping for the whole weekend!

Our January campout was hosted by board member Craig Stephens and his wife, Carol, at High Falls State Park. Again the weather, the food, and the fellowship were **great**! We toured Lane Orchards, and though the peaches were not in bloom or producing fruit, the crop of pecans was wonderful and the lunch at the restaurant was delicious. We also toured the Jarrell Plantation Historic Site in Juliette, GA. It was interesting and incredible that this plantation was able to produce so many different things so long ago. We had a delicious lunch at the Whistle Stop Café, which was featured in the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes," enjoying some of their signature

culinary delights. We also went to the Air Force Museum in Warner Robins, GA to see a wonderful assortment of military aircraft. We had a great weekend.

As I write this the February and March campouts have yet to happen, but we're looking forward to them. Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center in Florida on the way to the Florida State Rally is the site for the February campout, and Chattahoochee Bend State Park near Newnan, Ga. was planned for March by Jerry and Irene O'Connell. It is the newest state park in Georgia, only eighteen months old. Right on the Chattahoochee River, it has beautiful walking trails and is a serene place to camp.

The winter at the TOP has gone well thus far. Mike Steele, host coordinator, and Ronnie and Angie Hicks have done a terrific job. We appreciate Ben and Anne Milliard helping out when the Hicks are not on site. We have great members; when we really need them, they're there to do the work necessary to keep our park running.

Speaking of volunteers, we need someone to be our membership chairman! Chris Rosenthal has been filling in until we get a permanent volunteer, but she'll be unable to continue functioning in that capacity as she has other commitments. Chris will be happy to teach you what needs to be done. It just takes a few minutes, a couple of days a week, to handle this important job for the club.

On page **2** you'll find an explanation of the new rates at Top of Georgia; I congratulate the board for taking this necessary step to ensure that our park has the funds to keep us going.

Work days will be April 15th and 16th, the weather will be warm, and it will be fun for all to help get the park ready for the Spring Rally and General Meeting. Come and help! Do a little or do a lot, but come give us a hand. The park is always beautiful in the spring. Last but not least: when you come to the TOP— **Let's have some fun!**

Steve and Chris Rosenthal

Cover: *Winter works its special magic on the creek, witnessed by hardy winter campers.*

Loving Concerns

Death of Members and Family members

--Sympathy is extended to Joyce Moore and family, in the death of Mr. Fred Moore. Mr. Fred loved the TOP and attended every rally he could. We will miss him.

--Richard Spruill's family has our sympathy. Richard was at the park most of the time and was a special friend to us all.

--Shirley and Cecil Rogers, death of their Grandson.

--Nancy Gore, death of her Mother.

Illness

Laney Bradshaw; Raymond Tarpley; Leon Jacobs, friend of many; Susan Hancock; Duell Robinson; Ed and Runette Bledsoe; Lisa Roberts; Jimmy Jarrett; Ralph Jones. Irene Roach received encouraging results from her latest bone marrow biopsy and PET scan. Ben is feeling well and receives an IV each month for his immune system.

2 At Home, not able to attend rallies

Jesse and Alice Lyle; Charles and Clara Smith; Shirley and Cecil Rogers; Sybil and Bo Robinson; Joy and Don Fathauer; Sarah and Sid Waters

Of Interest: Pierce Haynie celebrated his 90th birthday last November.

(A correction to last Caravaner: Durrell Purmort's brother had brain surgery; he did not die. Apologies to Durrell and Don.)

Note from Loving Concerns Chairman:

Many who have been ill through the winter were not brought to my attention. I am happy to send cards on behalf of the club to all when I know about illness, death, etc. I will also pass the information on to Jack Bradshaw if the affected person agrees.

My phone number is: 229-924-0917

My cell number is: 478-244-1566.

My e-mail is: parksplace1953@att.net

Please leave a message on my call recorder if I don't answer your phone call.

--Mary Ann Parks
Loving Concerns Chairman

New Parking Fees Effective January 1, 2013

Regular Sites:

\$8.00 per day

\$210.00 per month

Section E:

**\$2.00 per day
unoccupied (no
hookups allowed)**

**\$8.00 per day occupied
with hookups**

Storage:

**\$2.00 per day or \$60.00
per month (no hookups
allowed)**

The Board voted at the Fall Installation Rally to increase rates; the new rates went into effect on January 1, 2013. We still have the best deal going, the best amenities for the price at any campground anywhere. If we want to keep our park running and up to date, we need to make sure we have the funds to do it. Utilities and other costs associated with operating the park have steadily risen over the years, and will continue to do so. We congratulate the board for taking this necessary step to ensure that our park has the funds to keep us going.

--Steve Rosenthal, President



Caravanning to the Last Florida State Rally

Several Georgia Unit members met at High Falls State Park in Jackson, Georgia to start the short caravan to the 2013 Florida State Rally. After a brief overnight stay, we all headed south to join other members from the Georgia Unit and friends from other units to enjoy the Stephen Foster Cultural Center in White Springs, Florida and each other. As usual, there was lots of food and camaraderie. If you have never been to Stephen Foster, you need to visit. The museum honors the memory of Stephen Foster, who wrote “Old Folks at Home,” **and there are exhibits** depicting life in the old South. The old spring pool is no longer operable, but the pool structure is still standing so visitors can get an idea of the healing enjoyment of soaking in the hot sulphur spring water while overlooking the beautiful Suwanee River.

The centerpiece of the park is the 97-bell carillon that not only chimes on the quarter hour, but also plays some popular Stephen Foster tunes. Visitors get to see the huge, fully automated “**music box**” **and relays that help** create the melodious tunes, and examine a scale model of the bell assembly that is housed overhead in the tower.

After a short drive to Sarasota, we spent the night in the bull pen, outside the fairgrounds,

along with many other rigs for the rally workers. We met new friends, got reacquainted with old friends and, naturally, had more good food. The next morning, we all entered the fairgrounds to get things ready for one of the largest gatherings in recent history.

Unfortunately, the Florida State Rally is winding down and folks are heading their separate ways. **It’s sad**, because we just **attended the last “official” Florida State rally** in Sarasota. The Rally Board of Directors elected to disband and let the rally go out on a high note honoring the men and women of our armed forces. We had more than 333 rigs in attendance and all had an enjoyable time. The Sunday evening wrapped up with a rousing performance by Antsy McLain and the Trailer **Park Troubadours. If you haven’t heard Antsy,** he wows the crowd with southern trailer park humor that comes from his experience growing up.

All is not lost, however. The rally will be replaced with “Alumaflamingo” in 2014. Alumaflamingo will be hosted by the folks that bring us “The Can Opener,” “Alumapalooza,” and many other Airstream-oriented rallies. Stay tuned for more information as it unfolds.

*Roy Beavers
President Elect*

Region 3 Rally

Many of you have asked about the upcoming **Region 3 rally**. If you haven't registered, it's easy. All you do is call Stone Mountain Park, give them a credit card number, and they handle everything – no coupon needed. There are several events scheduled including a Duck ride, a bus tour of Atlanta, a special night at the Laser Show, and much more.

Since the rally is immediately after our spring rally and business meeting, we will have caravans, for anyone interested, from The Top to Stone Mountain. There will be several TOG members going, **based on folk's entry dates to Stone Mountain Park**. Sign-up lists will be posted on the bulletin board.

*Roy Beavers
President Elect*

4



Groundhog Day at Top of Georgia—wonder what Gen. Beauregard Lee would have predicted from this?

Rally Entertainment

This season's entertainment is coming together nicely. We will have some familiar groups returning, along with **some that we haven't seen in quite awhile**. See you at The Top for work days, April 15-16, and the Spring Rally and Business Meeting, April 17-21!

*Roy Beavers
President Elect*



...but by time for the April Rally, the Top of Georgia will look more like this: Blue skies, warm weather, flocks of old friends, good food, entertainment, fresh activities. Be sure to come early and help with work days. If you've never helped, you've missed another dimension of camaraderie...and it sure does spruce up the Top for the coming season of fun and activities.



The "Great Duck Race" is a perennial favorite activity for kids of all ages.

2013 Activities at TOG

It's going to be a beautiful spring at the Top of Georgia. We're finally getting back on the road after a deer tried to run between our tow vehicle and our Airstream as we were headed to the Canopener Rally around New Years. We're happy to be camping again, and we're excited to help with programs this year. Rob Kelly has done an amazing job as program chairman in years past, and we will be leaning on him to help us get started. We're grateful for his ongoing help.

We will be circulating a survey to find out what kinds of programs everyone would like to see. As the parents of seven kids whose grandmother spends part of the year with us as well, we want to offer programs that will bring the generations together. We'd love to hear from people who have hobbies, crafts, and skills to share.



...and we'll always have the old favorites such as cards!

We're planning scavenger hunts and obstacle courses for the kids, outings for the whole family and some grown-up crafts and classes, too. Would you like to learn how to make Airstream-themed doormats, flowerpots, and nightlights? How about studying fly-tying or birdhouse-making or learning some new dance steps? Are you interested in some easy and inexpensive storage ideas and other modifications you can make to spruce up your camper and make things easier? How about some airstream-specific maintenance and safety? (**"Mike's Rivets" articles have been** well-received.) There is much to see and do in the surrounding North Georgia mountains, too, so we enjoy all the area has to offer.



TOG's Angels, sans leather jackets

Don't be surprised if a clipboard-carrying youngster approaches you in the park sometime soon. The kids are working on a project to interview some of our long-term members and record their stories, memories, and ideas. Ben Moon has agreed to help us make a special book of member bios we can keep in the library to share. Do you know someone who ought to be interviewed? Please let us know!

Our phone number is (770)570-6236, and our email address is Rditchen66@yahoo.com or, if you see us at the top, stop by and give your ideas and suggestions. Our number is 1922.

We're looking forward to having a lot of fun at the Top of Georgia this year; hope you are too!

Rob Ditchen & Katie Schulz-Ditchen
Programs

Fred Bothman's Guide to Polishing an Airstream

In the February 2004 issue of Blue Beret "Phred" (nome de plume of Fred Ettline, WBCCI # 27901) reported an effective process used by Fred Bothman, WBCCI # 9318, for Airstream polishing. It bears repeating—with "Phred's" permission, of course.

Step 1: Take off all awnings, nameplates, plastic pieces, and miscellaneous hardware. Get Strip-Eze in an aerosol can and use it to strip the plasticcoat. Choose a cloudy day with high humidity; spray a ten-foot section, top to bottom. When it turns white, hose it off. Do the whole trailer.

Step 2: Get Super Heavy-Duty Rubbing Compound from 3-M at paint or automotive finishing stores. Buy an industrial buffer with a 10-12 inch double-sided buffing pad. Get three cutting and two buffing pads. Put a small amount of rubbing compound on the surface and high-speed buff with the cutting pad. If it turns black instantly you've used too much compound. Do this process in the shade. You're taking the grain out of the metal. It will look good when finished, but will have a light haze and swirl marks.

Step 3: Buy one pound of Nuvite grade C polishing paste from www.perfectpolish.com on the internet. With a new cutting pad on the buffer, use finger daubs of the paste and buff again. This process goes much faster and gets rid of the heavy swirl marks.

Step 4: Buy one gallon of Aluminum Prep or Star Bright at a NAPA Auto Parts store. Dilute the acid to recommended strength. Choose a shady afternoon so the sun doesn't dry it too quickly. Use a very soft plastic bristly brush with a push broom handle and wash the surface with the acid. Do one side at a time and rinse with water before it dries. While rubber gloves aren't mandatory, they're recommended, as well as eye covering. When done rinsing, rinse again with emphasis on all cracks. Finally, RINSE AGAIN! If you don't get all the acid rinsed off, you'll leave heavy white streaks in the metal. After the process the surface will turn a white milk color.

Step 5: Use the high-speed buffer with buffing pads and Nuvite S to remove the milky white. A finger full of the compound will do a three-foot square area. This will produce a mirror shine with swirl marks from the high-speed buffer.

Step 6: Purchase a Cyclone Polisher from www.perfectpolish.com for about \$300. It's an industrial/professional-grade polisher with six-inch orbital heads. Use green foam pads, supplied with the polisher, and cut 100% cotton to cover the pads for polishing the surface. **Do not use terry cloth!** The cotton material you want resembles that on the interior of a fleece-lined sweatshirt, and is available at most sewing shops. Get about five yards of the material. Take your time, and the area will turn black. Polish until the black disappears. Replace with new cotton and redo area. Your Airstream will then have a completed mirror-finish shine!

As a footnote: Fred painted the trailer top without completing any polishing steps on it. He used Interlux Blue-Glo White, an aluminum boat paint that is self-leveling (brush marks settle out). He purchased one quart and applied it in the shade.



Jolly friends, good food, and dazzling decorations: the Holiday Banquet was a hit!



Those camping at Lake Pines Campground found the Holiday Banquet to be a moveable feast.



Jane Miller: TOG PR

Jane Miller of Marietta is almost always at the rallies, such a dependable and affable presence that you miss her when she's not there. **She's still the unofficial goodwill ambassador at the TOG, and has taught a multitude how to play the popular games. She does confess to cheating at solitaire, though.**

She missed the most recent fall installation banquet for the first time in ages—she took a tumble in a store, and it slowed her down a bit. She hopes to make it to the April rally, or whenever her children can drive her to at least a few in this, her 40th year as a member. Her children are hesitant to let her drive to the top at her age (88), but she reassures them that **“I drive just as bad as I always did.” She says she doesn't worry about Alzheimer's, because “I understand it only affects smart people.”**

Jane's son, Danny Miller of Woodstock, and daughter, Melinda Anderson of Jasper, are her “wheels” now. One granddaughter, Claudia Miller, is a free-lance writer in Key West and two others, Meredith Lowe and Melody Whatley, are schoolteachers in the Atlanta area. She has three great-grandchildren.

Jane is a wellspring of information about the pioneers of TOG, and was an immense help to this editor when she loaned her copy of Joe Smith's book. **You've probably noticed several articles lifted from Joe's chronicle of his and Teresa's years among the early members, most of them first published in the *Caravanner*. The Moons were honored to purchase their 26-footer as our first Airstream, and it was a well-cared-for jewel. With their permission we also assumed their number: 5079. Joe's humor and**

common sense are frequently timely even today. Teresa Smith taught home economics in high school, and started our tradition of breakfasts during rallies, publishing a cookbook that **“should still be around somewhere. I think Jack may use it occasionally.”** Jane enjoys working in the kitchen with Jack whenever she comes to a rally; **“I could make an excuse that I've put my time in, but as long as you're receiving you need to keep giving.”**

The Smiths were only two of the many Jane has known through the years. She recalls TOG giving James and Lerah Maxwell toy Tonka dump trucks when he retired as president, because he had been instrumental in having the state haul fill dirt for the expansion over the bridge.

Jane's husband, Chet, died in 2009; they had been married 66 years and ten months. “We had known each other four months and two days when we married in 1942, then Chet left to serve in the Air Force.” Upon his return he worked as a department manager for Lockheed until he retired. They travelled afterward, attending the first international rally in Canada. They spent winters in Florida, where Chet crafted musical instruments such as violins and guitars. Their contacts in WBCCI were widespread; Jane is also a member of the Kentucky unit, where they attended rallies.

The Millers often liked to take the back roads and get the flavor of the countryside. Chet shied away from serving as an officer because **he didn't want to be tied down, but they both performed public relations for TOG. “We would meet folks on all sides of our site, and right away have four new friends.”** Jane recalls going out of her way to talk with Chesley and Sarah Gilmore on their first visit to the Top of Georgia, talking them into becoming regulars. Chesley later served as president; the Gilmores were also close friends with Mary Ann Parks.

Jane recalls Duell Robinson as a boy, and knew **his parents well. “His mother made Chet a pair of coveralls—in fact, did that for other members too.”** She also has fond memories of Lynn and Audrey Albright. **“We were the first ones to park our trailer in their yard,”** she recalls. **“Audrey served us a delicious supper that night, then we went to breakfast together.”** And along with such receiving, Jane has spent years at TOG also giving—paying it forward.

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2013 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening.)

Date	Event	Location
December 8, 12	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
December 7	Christmas Luncheon	Rock Eagle 4H Center, Eatonton, GA

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