

**The Peach State Caravanner**  
**Top of Georgia Airstream Park**  
**14255 Hwy. 75 N.**  
**Helen, Georgia 30545**

The Peach State Caravanner is the official publication of the Georgia Unit, WBCCI, published six times a year. **Address changes to:** 6962 Springwood Dr., Douglasville, GA 30135 or call 770-949-7250

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**2019 WBCCI GA Unit Rally & Event Schedule**

April 8-9	Work Days
April 10-14	Spring Rally & General Business Meeting
April 24-28	WBCCI Region 3 Rally (Marion, NC)
May 22-27	Memorial Rally/Buddy Rally
June 19-23	Youth Rally
July 3-7	Patriotic Celebration**
July 20-27	2019 WBCCI International Rally – Doswell, VA
Aug 28 – Sept 2	Labor Day/Homecoming & Elections
Oct 16-20	Fall Rally/Installation of Officers

**Officers**

President: Charlotte Williamson;  
 President-Elect: Tim Johnson;  
 First Vice-President: Murphy Harrell;  
 Secretary: Michelle Shuler; Treasurer: John Meeks;  
 Directors: Jack Jones, Stephanie Lankford, Tom Baker and Rick Sibly;  
 President Emeritus: Bill Wild



**The Peach State Caravanner**



**WATERFALLS & WILDFLOWERS!!!**  
**SEE YOU AT THE TOP FOR OUR**  
**ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY RALLY!**



**Greetings from  
The Briar  
Patch!**



April showers bring May flowers!  
Well, we certainly had the April showers, looking forward to the flowers. Our Memorial Day/Buddy Rally theme is Wildflowers and Waterfalls. What a relevant theme for May in the mountains. Hope you will join us.

We had a good crowd for our April Rally. The weather was good up until Sunday when the skies opened with a torrential downpour. Our church service was sparse as most tried to pack up and leave before the predicted storm. Before the rain, we did manage to flamingle with some New Silver Friends and a lot of Old Gold Friends, get the park spruced up, and do some much-needed repairs.

We had a productive board meeting and semi-annual business meeting. Here is a list of items/projects approved and/or completed since January 2019.

1. Mobile Payments – we will now accept credit/debit card payments for parking, rally registration, and merchandise purchases. There will be a slight charge for this convenience added at the time of your transaction.

2. Park PA system repaired. Wire and labor donated.
3. Pavilion PA system repaired at a nominal cost. Labor donated.
4. Upper, Office, and Pine WiFi upgraded.
5. Archive & Storage Room AC duct moved from old Archive room to new room.
6. Memorial Brick ordered and delivered. The design will have the engraved bricks at ground level with blank bricks dispersed throughout design at north end of the Thompson (Upper) Shelter with room for expansion.
7. Dog Pen location is at the lower end of lower park. Signage will be on site to instruct the pet owner of the requirements for that area.
8. We voted to change our bylaws to include the referred to name, Top of Georgia Airstream Club, if approved by International. This did not change our legal name as explained in the last Caravanner. We will wait until International approves before we officially start using.

The 2018 Audit Committee presented their report to the Board. The committee determined that all records were maintained properly, and no irregularities were found.

The Public Relations Committee presented a plan of work to the board. After discussion, the Board approve a revised plan.

The TOG Merchandise Committee meet with the board to discuss new design of hats and shirts using the new name. After discussion, the Board approved a new design.

The Board appointed a Budget Committee of Bill Wild, Julian Clements, and Charlotte Williamson. John Meeks will serve as an advisor. The committee will compile a workable annual budget.

After all those meetings, we enjoyed a wonderful meal of bar-b-que, Brunswick stew, smoked chicken and all the fixings by our very own grill chef, Gary Schwaiger. With his big rolling smoker heated up, he had a ball cooking for us on Saturday as well as for our work day lunch. I hope he left his grill! 😊 Thanks Gary, Herb, and the Kitchen crew!

Look forward to seeing you at the May Memorial Day / Buddy Rally.

“Make New Friends but Keep the Old. One is Silver, and the other is Gold.”

*Charlotte & Edgar Williamson*  
President and First Mate



Dennis Ivy, the park electrician, wife died  
Martha Mixon a past 1st lady, passed away.



**“Loving Concerns”**

There have been a good many loving concerns just for the month of April.

Mike Lankford had knee surgery then had some bad cuts on his hand that required 18 stitches.

Jack Jones has had a return of some of the skin cancer on his cheek and is having to have chemo infusions for that. Eric and Michelle Shuler were sick with a bronchitis during the spring rally. Erica was recovering from having her 4 wisdom teeth cut out.

Jack Laseter is now living with his daughter as his health is failing.

Lisa Roberts is having shoulder surgery.

Tim and Caroyl Johnson announced that they had a new granddaughter born during the spring rally.

Neal and Myrna Warren both came home from the spring rally with bronchitis.

Please keep Myrna informed of any sickness or deaths.

You can contact Myrna Warren by email email: [myrnawarren@windstream.net](mailto:myrnawarren@windstream.net) or call her at 706-233-2722.

**Myrna J. Warren**  
**Love and Concerns**





**Property Report from:  
Al Holcomb and Edgar  
Williamson**

We had two good work days before the April rally. Numerous volunteers got the grounds ready by cutting grass, picking up sticks and debris, pulling weeds, trimming shrubbery, pressure washing concrete and blowing leaves. Another group worked steadily sweeping the pavilion and the shelters, cleaning the tables and chairs, getting the library, office, and kitchen cleaned, and organizing the archives and storage rooms. The ice maker was thoroughly cleaned after being off for the winter. We rented a boom man lift to replace and repair the street lights as well as to cut limbs over our in-park power lines. We also used the lift to put in new wire for the outside PA system. Work has also been done on the WiFi and TV. Thanks to all who volunteered. The park looks great!

The Short/Long Range Planning Committee met and discussed several plans to improve the park as well as to maintain our infrastructure and equipment. We presented several short-range projects to the Board for approval. We will complete these projects this year with volunteer labor.

We need and appreciate all those members who are willing and able to volunteer for various work projects and rally duties. Please let Al or Edgar know if you would like to help. This is your Club who happens to own a campground for its members. Volunteers are the reason we can keep our parking fees so low.

Reminder: At the present time, volunteers are cutting the grass. The riding lawn mowers will not cut within 3 feet of your camper. If you see the grass being cut, please offer to move your vehicle. A light weight weed eater and push lawn mower are available for your use. Please see host.

Al Holcomb & Edgar Williamson  
Property Managers



**DON'T FORGET!**



# Rolling Stone

As our winter travels continued, we returned to Land Yacht Harbor (LYH) Melbourne, FL, with our beautiful six year old granddaughter. We enjoyed spending time with wonderful friends that we met during previous trips and with Top of Georgia folks that were visiting LYH also. Before leaving, the “party couple”, Al & Mary Holcomb arranged a lunch, where TWENTY Georgians attended! We really brought up the quality of the clientele at that restaurant! Now, on to news about the exciting addition to the Johnson family. Caroyl’s friend Darla, whom she met at the Region Three Vintage Rally last year in Daytona Beach, was interested in selling us a 1989, 34’ Excella 1000. She hadn’t advertised it or told anyone else the Excella was available. Since we purchased a share in LYH, and were intrigued by the affordable annual lease fee, we thought a longer Airstream would be more comfortable for a several months long stay. So, in the pursuit of prudent purchasing, we asked three world renowned experts to review this trailer - Murphy Harrell, Al Holcomb & a friend from Canada, Mike Goode. They all agreed that for the price, this trailer was more than acceptable. So, we agreed upon a purchase price, and arranged to keep her on the current site. Caroyl was excited to choose a name and décor, so after consulting with the family, we decided to name her Leilani, which is Hawaiian for “Heavenly Flower”. We have a tropical/Hawaiian theme in mind for her remodel. You may know that Caroyl and I spent three years stationed with the Navy on Oahu and that our son was born there. We have also made numerous trips back to our former home state!

Now that we have increased our fleet of Airstreams, where do we go from here? We arranged for a local AS handyman to remove the carpet and vinyl flooring, repair a few bad spots in the subfloor, grind off the rust and paint the tongue, and repair the fresh water tank before we bring her home. We will replace the old lighting with new LED lights, clean and possibly paint, install new finished flooring, reupholster the sofa and dining cushions, and then begin the adventure of spending winters with her in Melbourne, FL and perhaps taking her out to explore other RV parks in the region. Gracie, our 1964 26’ Overlander will still be our go-to-girl for longer trips. She is currently well suited to accommodate our three grandchildren in Georgia, so we promised “Gracie” that we would continue to keep her wheels rolling along. With all these silver beauties, it makes one wonder why we are keeping a sticks and bricks house...

To accommodate the increased weight and length of this beauty, we are upgrading our tow vehicle to an as yet un-named F-250 Lariat, we had to order, since we did not want a 4x4, a diesel engine, or a black interior! Our current F-150, “Big Red” will be sorely missed when some lucky second owner gets to take him on more exciting adventures with that new family!

## **Tim Johnson Vice President Elect**



# The Spring Rally

Flamingos were abundant.



Two breakfasts, a yummy BBQ meal and a pot luck supper was highlights of the rally.



“ Kindness is  
seeing the best in  
others when they  
cannot see it in  
themselves. ”  
- RAKtivist





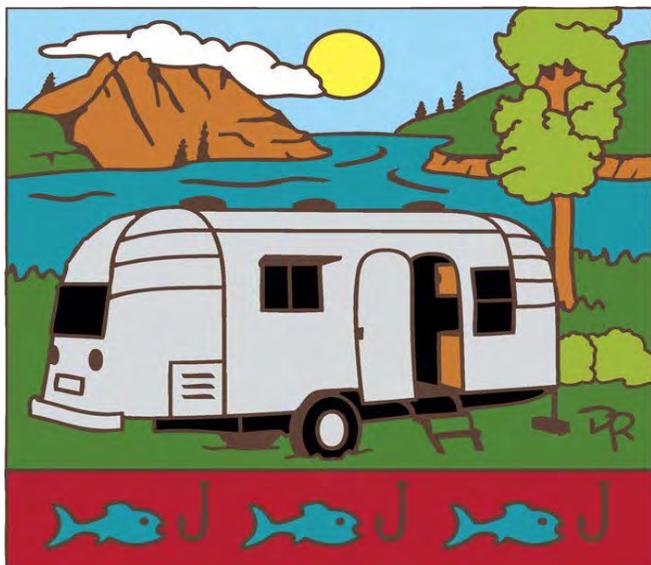
Attention all TOG Airstreamers, have you wintered somewhere special this year? Or have you recently made some fun trips?

Please send me a synopsis of who, why, what, when, and where so I can write it up for the **Caravanner**. What made this special for you and why should we consider going there soon?

Thank you and I hope to see you at the TOG soon.

Mary Anne Meeks

[mapmeeks@bellsouth.net](mailto:mapmeeks@bellsouth.net)



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UPCOMING SPRING RALLY

**May 22 - 27, 2019**



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Grab your camera.

You will not want to miss the opportunity to take pictures along the hike up to Anna Ruby Falls.

You know the food is bountiful during rally times. Make sure to keep a check on your schedule because you don't want to miss out on a meal at the park or when we will travel out to eat together.

There is going to be an auction, a Cornhole Tournament & a Memorial Day Cookout. Along with a Curbside Café (so pack the ingredients for your favorite dish to share) and some good ole gospel singing on Sunday night.

Don't forget to go by and sign up for any of the events you want to participate in. The signup sheets will be on the board in the Main Pavilion.



## Attention: All Hikers

Come to the Memorial Day Rally, May 22-27, 2019 at the Top of Georgia Airstream Park, and hike our beautiful trails and visit our waterfalls. As part of the program we are going to hike to Anna Ruby Falls on Friday morning, but there is ample time for more hiking during the rally. The weather should not be too hot yet, and the water should be perfect for pictures. See you at the TOG.

**DO NOT FORGET YOUR CAMERA**

May is the perfect month for taking pictures of the many wildflowers in the North Georgia mountains. Trillium, Mountain Laurel, Flame Azalea, and so many more are out there for you to find. Or just come take pictures of the many flowers blooming in our beautiful park.



We are asking that you let us know if you are coming to the Memorial Day Rally. Just e-mail Connie Crowe at [conniecrowe@msn.net](mailto:conniecrowe@msn.net) or call (or text) and leave a message at 706-366-8601.

Knowing how many people to expect helps reduce waste and costs.



***Volunteers are always welcomed and needed in the kitchen.***

# AUCTION

At the May Rally, we will have an auction with donated items from our members and friends.

If you or your friends have a hobby, craft, talent, etc., we would love a donated item. We are looking for the following items:

Homemade/handcrafted clothing apparel & accessories (such as shirts, jackets, scarfs, aprons, purses, jewelry, etc.), handcrafted pottery/glassware/wooden pieces, home baked cakes, pies, candy, & other goodies, framed art work, vintage pieces, rare items, collectibles, or Airstream items.

We are not looking for yard sale items for this auction. Please donate those to your local Goodwill or thrift store.

Please get your items to Charlotte Williamson before the auction. If you would like to be recognized during the auction for your item, please attach a card with your name. If you would like to donate a door prize, please put on table on the stage. We don't want the auction items mixed in with our door prizes.

The money raised from this auction will benefit the park. So, we hope you will donate and attend the annual Top of Georgia Auction. It will be fun!

Rally Committee



May 22-27 Memorial Rally/Buddy Rally

June 19-23 Youth Rally

July 3-7 Patriotic Celebration\*\*

Aug 28 – Sept 2 Labor Day/Homecoming & Elections

Oct 16-20 Fall Rally/Installation of Officers



## The Places We Have Gone and Hope to Go

As of April 30, 2019, my husband and I are homeless, and are living our lives as full time Airstreamers. The place we have gone is to our favorite, The Top of Georgia Airstream Park. We are living, along with our four cats, in the 31', 1977 Airstream trailer that Mom and Dad gave us in 1989. We always wanted to experience what life is like to be a full timer, and now we have the opportunity, but only for a few weeks. We move into our new home two days before the Memorial Day Rally. We will unload the furniture and be back with the cats and our grandson for the rally.

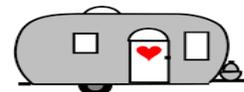
I must say, the most daunting task of preparing for this lifestyle was how to prepare the cats. I talked with Kent, who lives full time with one cat, and Marie, who travels with her two tortoise shell cats. Both gave us invaluable advice, to give the cats lots of love and treats the first few days in the trailer. We purchased a litter box that had high sides, but found it was not large enough for our bigger cats. I went to Walmart in Cleveland and bought their largest box, which fit perfectly in the bottom of our shower, on a large black plastic bag. I also purchased before we left home (still not used to that thought) a special plastic mat with holes to catch the litter from the cats leaving the box. It works perfectly and really cuts down on litter in the trailer. We have always used crystals for litter, that have no odor, or at least none that we notice. And the final big purchase that has really made a

difference is the Litter Genie Plus, a version of a diaper pail. It takes up little room, stores the poop, and has no odor, at least to us. (We bought most of these items from Chewy.com, the cheapest we could find.)

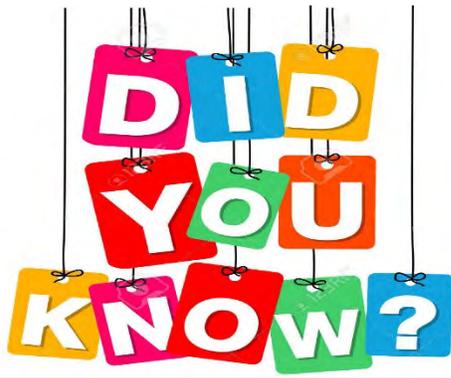
The reaction of the cats to trailer living has been interesting. Our 18-year-old cat, Lou, who I worried most about, has been chilled out and sleeping under the covers, just like at home. Kitten, our black 12-year-old, is just as anti-social with the other cats as ever but loves us. Possum, named for who she looks like, is a tortoise shell who goes in every tight space in our trailer, and Airstreams are known for ridiculously hard places to reach (just ask a repairman). And finally, Bob, our American Bobtail, has been curled up in the bin under the sofa where I keep my blue jeans-all 17 pounds of him. He, who has been the bully, is scared of every strange sight and sound. Cats go figure.

Anyway, we have been enjoying the cool weather and the beauty of the park. Flowers are blooming, we are meeting new Airstream folks, and life is good. Every night when I say my prayers, I thank Mama and Daddy for the gift of this fine old Airstream that has been our best friend while being homeless!

Mary Anne Meeks  
[mapmeeks@bellsouth.net](mailto:mapmeeks@bellsouth.net)



I Go Where I Am Towed



Wally Byam was born July 4, 1896, in Baker City, Oregon. At that time, Baker City was a boom town along the Oregon Trail, which his grandparents had traveled along on their journey out west in a mule-drawn wagon.

Wally was named after his mother Carrie Biswell Byam's brother Wallace, who died just before Wally's birth. Wally was only three years old when his father, Dr. Willis Bertram "Bert" Byam, and mother divorced. Bert moved away, and Carrie married a butcher named David T. Davis.

Wally developed his wanderlust in Oregon, where he spent his childhood surrounded by water, forests, and hills to climb. He worked as a crew member on a sailing fleet, which only encouraged his thirst for travel. Wally also worked with his uncle Roger on a sheep farm in the mountains, where he lived in a wooden wagon towed by a donkey – much like his grandparents before him. Inside the wagon he had a stove, food, water, and everything he needed, which would later inspire his first travel trailer.

When he was 20 years old, Wally's stepfather was killed in a cattle accident. A few months later, his mother passed away from a heart condition. Wally was on his own. His always-high grades got him into Stanford University, and he worked several jobs to pay his way, graduating with honors in 1921.

## **Wally Byam's Creed & Code of Ethics**

"In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream. To those of you who find in the promise of these words your promise, I bequeath this creed... my dream belongs to you."

To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.

To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.

To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.

To open a whole world of new experiences... a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.

To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.

To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.

To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.

To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.

To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

– Wally Byam

**Top of Georgia Airstream Park  
Memorial Day/Buddy Rally, May 22 -  
May 27, 2019**

**Waterfalls and Wildflowers**

**Wednesday, May 22**

- 8:00 am \*Men's Breakfast at Wendell's  
@ Host, Al Holcomb  
1:00–3:00 Ladies Day Out (Clara Ellis)  
6:30 pm Rally Registration @ Pavilion,  
Dick & Judi Sells  
Refreshments, Rally Committee  
Welcome by Charlotte  
Pass the Trash

**Thursday, May 23**

- 8:30 am Breakfast: eggs, bacon, grits,  
juice (bring set ups – plates,  
cups, utensils, napkins), Herb &  
Connie Crowe  
9:30–11:00 \*Crafts with Lane – Rock  
painting (small charge)  
11:30 am \*Snack to share  
1:00 pm Ice Cream Social, Tim Johnson  
2:00 pm Jokers 101, Judi Sells  
4:00 pm \*Dinner Out, Country Cottage,  
Cleveland @ Host, Mary H.  
6:00 pm \* New Member Orientation @  
Library, Stephanie Lankford  
6:30 pm Rally Registration, Dick & Judi  
Sells  
7:00 pm Welcome/Announcements,  
Charlotte Williamson  
Bingo & Popcorn, Tim Johnson

**Friday, May 24**

- 8:30 am Breakfast: Pancakes, sausage,  
juice (bring set ups), Crowes  
10:15 am \*Outing – Anna Ruby Falls  
6:30 pm Rally Registration, Dick & Judi  
Sells  
7:00 pm Announcements, @ Pavilion,  
Charlotte Williamson  
Door Prizes, Tim Johnson  
Followed by a Bonfire and S'mores at the  
Firepit  
\* Please sign up for any activities with a \* if  
planning to attend.

**Saturday, May 25**

- Note: No Breakfast; Luncheon at 12:00*  
8:30 am Board of Directors Meeting (See  
Secretary to speak)  
12: 00 pm Luncheon/Ice Cream @  
Pavilion, bring appetite, Crowes,  
Mary Holcomb, Tim Johnson  
1:30 pm Cards in the Library or  
Alexander's Shopping Trip  
7:00 pm Announcements, Charlotte W  
Auction – Warren Fore

**Sunday, May 26**

- 8:30 am Breakfast snack while it lasts,  
Herb & Connie  
9:15 am Choir Practice, Danny Howell  
10:00 am Worship Service, Chaplain  
Memorial for members who  
have passed away this year & Veterans  
Recognition  
11:30 pm Dinner Out, Daniels/Hiawassee  
@ Host, self-led  
2:00 pm Ice Cream @ Pavilion, Tim  
Johnson  
3:00 pm \*Corn Hole Tournament @  
Pavilion, Rick Sibly  
6:00 pm Curbside Café; bring snack to  
share and your own drinks and  
set-ups @ Pavilion  
7:00 pm Gospel Singing @ Pavilion

**Memorial Day, Monday, May 27**

- 11:00 am Cookout, bring drink and set-  
ups @ Fire Pit

