

The *Peach State Caravanner* is the official publication of the Georgia Unit, WBCCI, published six times a year. **Address changes to:**
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The Peach State Caravanner **Top of Georgia Airstream Park** **14255 Hwy. 75 N.** **Helen, Georgia 30545**

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;



**Grab the grandkids and come to the
Annual Youth Rally!**



The Peach State Caravanner
June 2019



**YOUTH
RALLY!**

**GRAB THE
GRANDKIDS
AND MEET US
AT THE
SUMMER**



**IF YOU
HAVEN'T MADE
IT TO A RALLY
THIS YEAR
CHECK OUT
THIS EDITION
OF THE
CARAVANER TO
SEE WHAT YOU
HAVE MISSED!
AND GUESS
WHAT? YOU
WILL ALSO SEE
WHAT YOUR
ARE GOING TO
MISS IF YOU
AREN'T AT THE
NEXT RALLY.**



**Greetings
from
The Briar
Patch!**



What a wonderful Memorial Day/ Buddy Rally we had! The weather was beautiful, though a little too warm for me. The Rally Committee did a wonderful job in planning and implementing all our activities, adventures, meals, and fun. Thank you, Rally Committee, - Clara, Nancy, Mary Anne, Myrna, Dick, Judi, Herb, Connie and all your helpers for a job well done!

We had so many new faces (my Silver friends) and a lot of old faces (my Gold friends) that we haven't seen in a while. Everyone, new and old, commented on how beautiful our park is. New friends could not believe all the food we served for only \$25 pp rally fee. All was delicious!

The Park was fuller than we have seen in a few years according to Ian and Ken. We, also, had a record number of rally attendees. So, I believe the word is out that our Park has recovered from our last year's disasters. Our Public Relations Committee is also publicizing our Park near and far asking members to share our brochures everywhere they travel.

The Saturday night auction was a huge success. We had a variety of items donated and lots of bidders with some bidder wars taking place. We made \$843.00 for the Park. It was a fun evening. Thanks Warren Fore for being our auctioneer. Also, a big Thank You to the donors and bidders!

A really big Thank You to the volunteer grass cutters, weed eaters, and ground crew. You did a wonderful job getting the park ready for the rally. The rain in recent weeks had really made the grass and weeds sprout. Thank you – Ian, Edgar, Grant, Tom, Gary, Jim, Faye, Floy and all the volunteers!

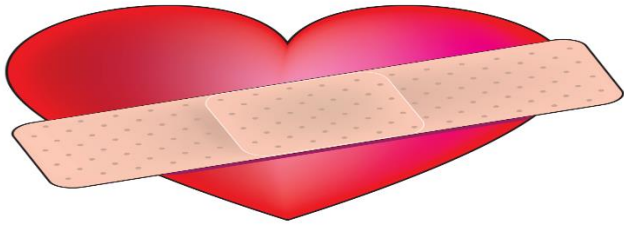
The Board met and discussed progress on the three property projects approved last Board meeting. Volunteers will begin some of these projects before the Youth Rally. The Board also voted to incorporate a donated fireplace at the Thompson (Upper) Shelter with the Memorial Brick project.

On Sunday, we held a memorial for 2 of our members who passed this past year – George Fields and Martha Mixon. We also recognized members who lost family in service to our country. Then we recognized and honored those members in attendance who served our country in 4 of the 5 branches of our military.

It was a wonderful week of fellowship, remembrance, fun, and lots of meals and ice cream. Join us at our next few rallies and gatherings. We look forward to seeing all our Silver and Gold Friends!

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

Charlotte & Edgar Williamson
President and First Mate



“Loving Concerns”

During the Memorial Day/Buddy rally, we had several people who needed prayers for various reasons. Signed cards have been sent to them, but they would appreciate hearing from others and knowing they are remembered in prayer.

Nadine Johnson had 2 surgeries to remove kidney stones. Before she was fully recovered, they learned Vic needed heart valve surgery. It was scheduled and the hospital was having electrical problems and they had to reschedule that.

Shirley Pratt McIntosh is having heart problems. She has been put on a new medication and hopes to avoid having to have surgery.

Kathy Rabren was not up to being at the rally with Ken. She is having extreme pain in her foot. She has already had surgery on that foot and hopes to have that problem corrected soon. She has an appointment with a foot doctor the week of June 3rd. She is not able to sleep well due to the pain. Ken had responsibilities as part of the kitchen staff as well as being the host coordinator, so he came on to the rally. Kathy usually does the coffee and juice for our breakfasts at the rallies.

Runelle Laseter fell at home and got a broken arm.

Casey Kauffmann had surgery.

Mike Lankford had to go to the ER Sat. night of the rally because of pain in his back. He was given pain medication and they feel he has a pinched nerve in his back.

Charles Whittington was in a car accident 3 months ago. He had several broken ribs and is still in a good bit of pain.

Jack Jones is receiving chemo treatments for the skin cancer on his cheek. He is feeling some better.

Danny Howell will be having surgery on July 8th for a small cancer in the urinary track.



Mary Holcomb had a cousin pass away. She was very close to this cousin who died of cancer.

Cindy Carr's nephew was killed in a car accident.

Please keep Myrna informed of any sickness or deaths.

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

Myrna J. Warren Love and Concerns





Membership News

Traveling around the United States of America, we come across other airstream parks and clubs to spend a night or a few days. During those visits we find new friends and great places. So, WBCCI makes it possible to be members of our home Unit (Club) and those other Clubs at the same time. So, ask to join them as an **Affiliate** member. They may ask you to join them. The cost is minimum, and the rewards of friendship are great, just the Unit membership fee, some as low as \$1.00 per year.

Top of Georgia welcomes all our new affiliate members to our Airstream Park and Club. It's exciting to meet new members and have them join. I am always asked if they can join as an associate member. The answer is yes, you may join as an **Affiliate** Member. So, during your travels, invite those new friends you meet along the way to come join us as Affiliate Members.

Did you know that you can be a **Lifetime Member** of WBCCI at any age and only pay Unit Club dues each year? **Lifetime Member** - A Regular member or a Member at Large who has purchased a Lifetime membership by

paying the established one-time fee for Lifetime International dues. If interested in joining this year as a Lifetime member, just contact WBCCI at 937-596-5211. It is based on your age, for example: Age 59 is \$1,300, Age 69 \$900 or Age 80 it is \$250. Sometimes we gift our outgoing President with a lifetime membership.

Benefits of a Lifetime Membership include but is not limited to: 1. Special designations for the listing of Lifetime Member(s) in the Annual Membership Directory. 2. The official emblem and insignia for WBCCI Lifetime Member(s) is a duplicate of the membership logo surrounded by a 1" gold strip imprinted in large black letters with the words "Life" at the top center and "Member" at the bottom center. 3. A gold Lifetime Membership card for each member. 4. A \$20.00 discount on the International Rally Fee, starting in 2017. 5. A ten percent (10%) discount on goods purchased from the WBCCI club store. 6. Other discounts that may be offered by WBCCI Sponsors.

Safe Travels and see you down the road.....

Stephanie Lankford
Membership Chair, Unit 32

Slankfordmembership32@yahoo.com



Property Report from: Al Holcomb and Edgar Williamson

The Property Committee has lots of projects in the works for this year.

- Archive Room – new AC and heater units will be purchased and installed
- Memorial Bricks – will hopefully be finished by June rally
- Fireplace – donated fireplace installed at Thompson Shelter with memorial bricks
- Dog Pen – will be started after June Rally
- Playground – clean up and fencing hopefully completed by June Youth rally

If you would like to volunteer for any of these projects, please see Al or Edgar. These members have already volunteered to work on these projects – Rick, Tom, Dick, Edgar, Tim, Grant.

There are also some maintenance projects completed and some in the works.

- WiFi – Upper updated and completed. Password – Uppersites
- WiFi – Pine updated and completed. Password – Pinesites
- TV – updated and completed. New cable and splitters replaced some corroded and damaged ones.

The TV reception is the best in years. We do have some individual parking site connections that still need replacing. We are working on them. If your TV connection at your parking site is not working, please let Ken Rabren know.

- Electrical repair – Kitchen and office. Waiting on quote from electrician.

The Short/Long Range Committee has several short-range projects, as listed above, currently approved by the board. We, also, have several long-range projects on our list which we prioritize as to the need and the money.

The grass cutting, weeding, and general grounds upkeep is being done by volunteers. Please remember to help us out by using the light-weight push mowers and weed eaters available to mow around your trailer as needed. See host for check out. Edgar is keeping the blades sharpened. Please be sure to check gas and oil before each use. If any power equipment needs servicing, please let Edgar know as he is servicing to keep cost down. Thanks to Ian, Floy, Edgar, Jim, Grant, Gary, Tom, Neal, Faye and the other volunteer grounds crew.

Only authorized members should be charging items to the park and/or turning in tickets for reimbursement. Please get Property Managers' approval before charging anything at Ace Hardware or purchasing anything for reimbursement. We appreciate your help in keeping our cost down.

Thanks to all our volunteers who make our Park and Club enjoyable for all members and guests.



While attending our Spring Rally at the TOP, we received an early morning phone call from our son-in-law informing us that our daughter Becky's "water had broken" and that our newest granddaughter was about to make her "grand" entrance! Sitting in "Gracie", we decided to get Grandma there as quickly as possible. Now, the last-minute airfare shopping began! Delta wanted \$700 for a one-way non-stop ticket, Southwest \$400 and United was offering one for 12,500 miles and \$80 at 8PM on that same day! Yeah United ☺ Now to begin the long drive. We left Gracie at the TOP, drove Grandma to our home in Warner Robins and packed for Denver, CO weather. We drove north to the airport to drop Grandma off and then Papa drove back to the TOP. WOW, what a day! Turns out our new granddaughter decided to wait until Grandma arrived, putting our daughter through 34 hours of labor! We attended the "gender reveal" party in February, but did not know baby's name until she was born. **Emma Avery Johnson** is God's blessing and a beautiful addition to our family! I could tell, while holding this sleeping beauty that she yearns to go camping in Gracie with Grandma and Papa!

During our month long stay in Denver someone got the great idea that with our Southwest Companion pass, we could take a one-week trip to LA for \$150 RT making up for the trip interrupted

earlier this year. So, off we flew to the City of Angels. We stayed at the Navy Base at Point Mugu, a bit north of Malibu on the coast. It's next to the beach and an RV park that we hope to visit with one of our AS's in the near future. By staying in Ventura County, north of the crowds in LA and Orange counties, we had a quieter experience.

Highlights:

- Having recently lived in Simi Valley, we had a great time visiting friends from our church there.
- Caroyl was able to visit friends from her Bible study group at (John MacArthur's) Grace Community Church.
- We checked out Pismo Beach, home to a large vintage rally; and Morro Bay, which had been on our radar. Morro Bay has a very large rock in the bay that Caroyl thought was reminiscent of a Sci-Fi movie's "dinosaur turd". We found a great restaurant in Morro Bay by texting our former neighbors in Arizona, who called their friend who lives in that city, and he called us and provided great recommendations! Lots of vintage cars driving around the city streets was a real plus!
- Bucket list item – visit to Hearst Castle in St. Simeon, south of Monterrey and north of Morro Bay. W.R. Hearst inherited a bazillion dollars from his parents and built a castle on top of a hill overlooking the Pacific, where the family owned over 250,000 acres of land. Truly spectacular architecture, with gorgeous gardens and two unbelievably beautiful swimming pools. You

have to purchase several package tours to see the entire castle, so we decided on two, the “Upper Rooms” and “Kitchen and Cottages”. We walked around the grounds appreciating how many man-hours it takes to keep this estate looking good. Many years ago, the Hearst Foundation donated the castle and many acres to state of California.

So, this closes another chapter in our mobile lives and attempts to share a few examples of how God has really blessed us as a couple to enable us to travel around the greatest country the world has ever seen!



**Tim Johnson
Vice President Elect**



(Gracie)

Fun Times at the Memorial Day Rally



Our Veterans: Left to right: John Meeks, Warren Fore, Danny Howell, Buddy Moric, Caroyl Johnson, Tim Johnson, David Adams, Bill Wild, and Jimmy Jarrett



The Places We Have Gone Again and Again and Hope to Go Again

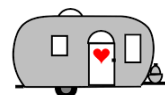
What makes a campground so special that we go back year after year? To answer that I talked with Cindy Harrell, wife of Murphy Harrell, our First Vice President. She and Murphy have gone every year to Hunting Island State Park in South Carolina. She says that all of her children grew up each summer on the beach, and the only years they missed were the two years the park was closed due to hurricanes that devastated the area. Her kids loved fishing, kayaking, bike riding in the park, and playing on the beach.

Hunting Island State Park has 100 sites with electric and water. There are no sewers, but there is a dump station. There used to be 200 sites, but the hurricanes changed all of that. The park has bath houses and a store. It is located next to Fripp Island, and Beaufort, South Carolina is only 13 miles away. It is between Hilton Head and Edisto Island.

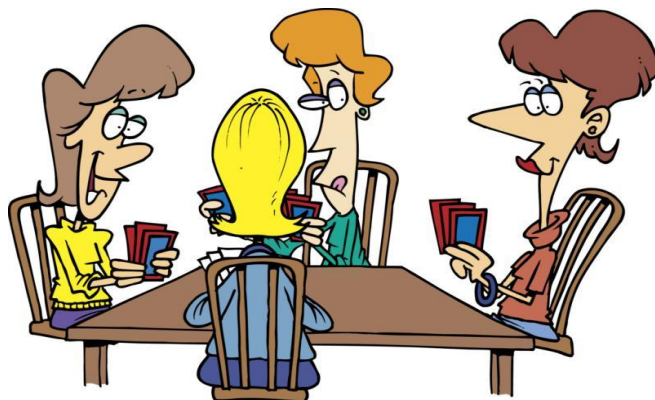
Cindy says there is always a breeze and the bugs (always bugs somewhere) are on the back side of the island. The reason for this year's trip was to honor their oldest grandchild, Halle, who just graduated high school, by going to her favorite beach. Cindy wonders if they will ever again have such a spectacular spot on the island. They were the only site to face towards the beach and they were surrounded by water, breezes, and no bugs. So, if you are looking for a new beach to visit that is not too far away, go to Hunting Island State Park and tell them the Harrell's sent you!



(If you have any campgrounds you would like to recommend, please e-mail mapmeeks@bellsouth.net)



I GO WHERE I AM TOWED



Publicity Committee Great fun was had by all at the May Rally playing Joker. Eight new members learned the game from our Past International Winner, Doris Jarrett and Betty Ivy. Come join us at Rally's. Contact Judi Sells or Betty Ivy for more information.

Stephanie Lankford
Membership Chair



We are trying something new at the Youth Rally. We invite all campers to please bring items needed to the rally for the Charles Smithgall Humane Society, just south of Helen, GA. This shelter is the only non-kill shelter in White County and needs our help. We hope to have a representative from the shelter to talk to our Youth about the Humane Society and how they operate. They will present at our Pet Show on Thursday, June 20, at 10:30 AM, at the Pratt Shelter (the lower pavilion across the bridge). We will then present them with our donation.

There is a desperate need for the following items:

- Medium size collars & leashes, nothing fancy, just sturdy
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Windex
- Rags to clean cages
- Toys for cats – little mice, etc.

Remember, anyone can bring any type of pet to the Pet Show (use your imagination).

If you have any questions, contact Mary Anne Meeks @ mapmeeks@gmail.com



We are asking that you let us know if you are coming to the Youth Rally. Please e-mail Connie Crowe at conniecrowe@msn.com 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.





- In 1955, the United States military used an Airstream in atomic bomb testing in the Nevada desert.
- President John F. Kennedy had a mobile Airstream office which he used during a visit to White Sands, New Mexico, where the Army demonstrated its latest weaponry for the President and his staff.
- In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson's daughter Lynda Bird toured America in a caravan of Airstreams to help publicize the nation's beauty in the "See America First" campaign. Both National Geographic and McCall's magazine covered the tour.
- In 1969, Neil Armstrong and members of the Apollo 11 were quarantined for three weeks in a specially built Airstream after returning from the first voyage to the moon, until it could be determined that there was little likelihood that they were carriers of "lunar pathogens." President Richard Nixon visited them while they were quarantined.
- Several specially built Airstream trailers are commonly used to transport American officials around the world. The trailers are strapped down inside a military cargo plane, usually a C-17 Globemaster III. Vice Presidents, First Ladies, generals and admirals are among the more frequent travelers.
- When flying across Afghanistan in 2008 to visit the troops, First Lady Laura Bush was cocooned in her own private Airstream trailer which had been towed on board The Spirit of Strom Thurmond. Vice Presidents Dick Cheney and Joe Biden have also occupied it.
- For decades, NASA has used a fleet of Airstreams to transport astronauts to launch pads.
- Ralph Lauren created the Polo Ralph Lauren Foundation to benefit medically underserved persons. In 2002, he and his creative team transformed and auctioned off four vintage Airstreams in to benefit the foundation. Airstreams that Ralph Lauren decorated include Adirondack Caravel, Western Bambi and the Utility/Surplus Airstream.
- A 1960 Airstream Bambi travel trailer is part of the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) for excellence in style and design.
- Architect Paul Welschmeyer bought a 1958 "Traveler" and completely revamped the inside in hopes of creating a dual-purpose mobile office and family vacation home. With the help of his wife and two sons, Paul received the Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects for his design (beating out lavish \$8 million homes) and is the proud owner of a truly unique work of art.
- In 2009, the world's only penthouse trailer park was built atop the luxurious Grand Daddy Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. Seven Airstream trailers are surrounded by tiny gardens, an outdoor movie theatre, and the alluring outline of Table Mountain.

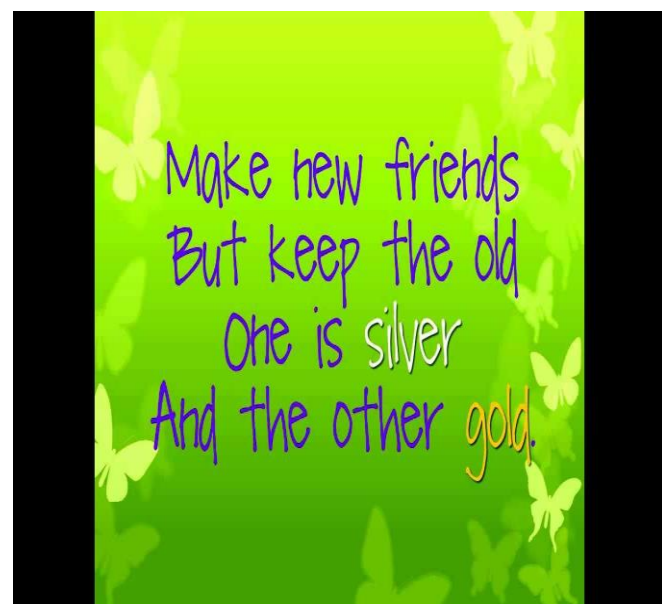
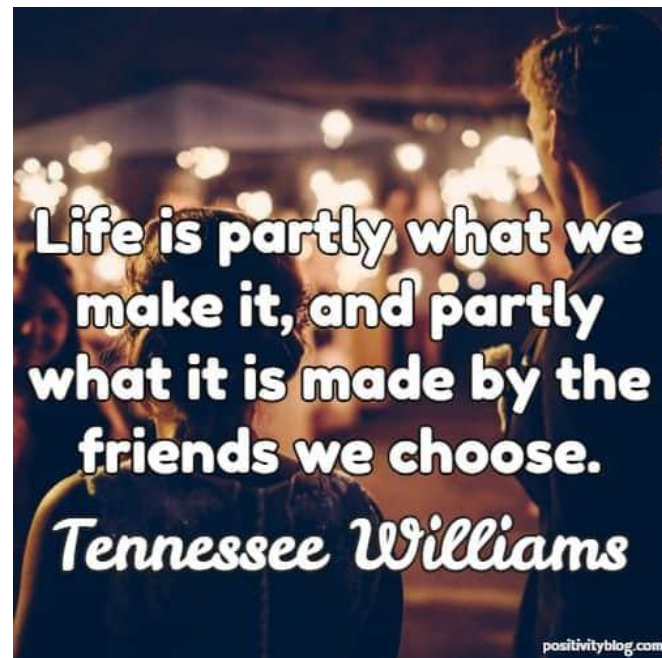
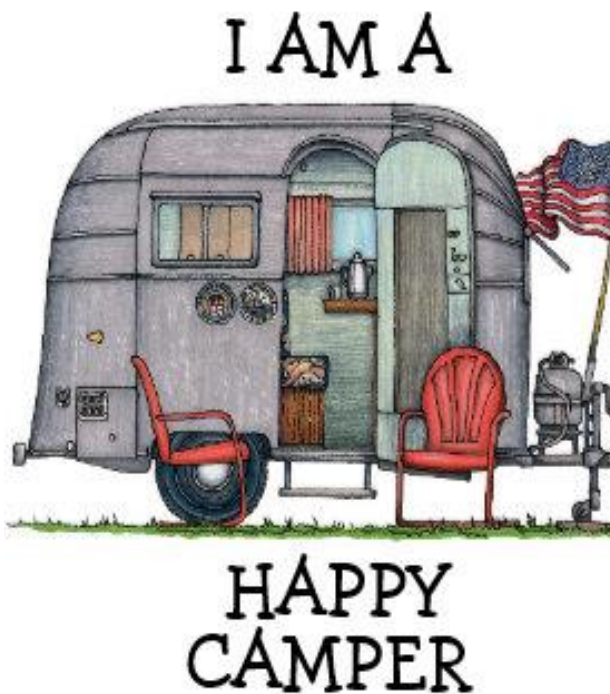


June 19-23 Youth Rally

July 3-7 Patriotic Celebration**

Aug 28 – Sept 2 Labor
Day/Homecoming & Elections

Oct 16-20 Fall Rally/Installation of
Officers





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UPCOMING YOUTH RALLY JUNE 19-23, 2019

ARE YOU READY?
It is time for our annual Youth
Rally.

Bring the kids and grandkids to the Top for a memorable time of a variety of kids' activities listed here.

- 10th Annual Duck Race down Andrews Creek with "quackers" and stuffed duck awards.
- Family Magic Show – Professional magician doing magic tricks with kids' participation
- Kids Talent show – Have a talent? Start practicing your act
- Boys Fishing in Andrews Creek in the park – Yes, there are fish in the creek!
- Girls Craft Activity - make something cute
- Jitterbug Bounce House - all day
- Water Balloon Tossing Contest – careful, you might get wet!
- Metal Detecting for coins - Got a metal detector? Bring it, too
- Watermelon Feast, Ice Cream, too

- Scavenger hunt contest
- Pet Show - show any kind of pet imaginable. They are all winners!
- Three-legged race - kids paired up with adults
- Treasure Hike through the park - finding coins under rocks
- Corn Hole Tossing
- Horseshoes, Ping Pong
- Kids join choir for Sunday Service
- Marshmallow cook out at the fire pit

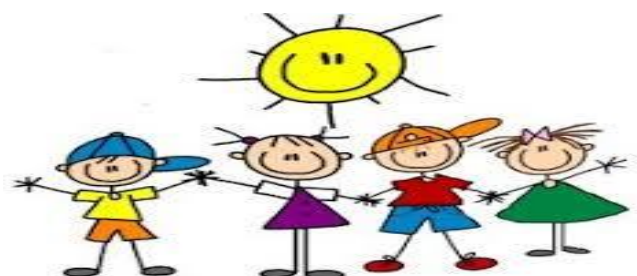
And, if you come early, we'll coordinate some more self-led activities including:

- Tubing the Hooch
- Touring Cabbage Patch Baby Land
- Playing in Helen's Water Park
- Touring Charlemagne's Model Railroad
- Riding the new Mountain Coaster

And for the adults, some card playing, door prizes, pass the trash, great breakfasts and lunch, caravans and special rallies forum, jam session, Ranger presentation on Birds of Prey, and bingo, but mostly participating with and watching the kids having the memorable time of their life.

If you would like to assist with one or more activities, let me know.

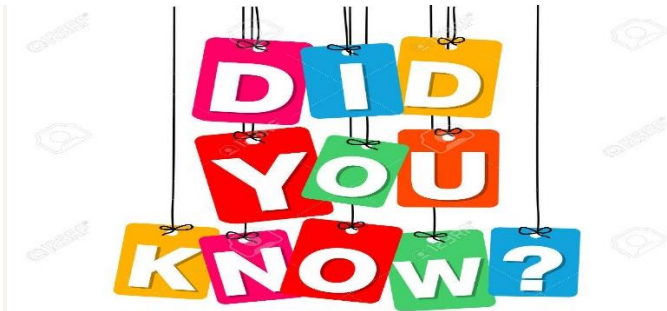
Rob Kelly, rrkelly@bellsouth.net



COOL RAPTORS



A naturalist from Smithgall Woods State Park, Cathy Church, will be presenting a program on raptors, and the effect they have on the songbird population in our area. Anyone who loves birds will appreciate this presentation, youth and adults alike. All are welcome. It will be on Friday, June 21, at 10 AM in the main pavilion. Cathy will join the ladies and girls after for lunch at the Creekside Deli in Cleveland.



Inventing the first Airstream

After graduating college, Wally used his experience on the Stanford school newspaper to earn him several jobs in advertising and journalism in Los Angeles. On the side, Wally became a publisher, and by the late 1920s, he owned seven magazines. Around that same time, Wally met and married his first wife Marion James. Together they went camping regularly, but Marion never loved sleeping on the ground in a tent.

When the stock market crashed in 1929, Wally's magazines went under, and he needed a new venture. It was then he got the idea to build a travel trailer not unlike the wagon he lived in as a child on the farm – but one Marion would actually enjoy camping in.

He started with a Model T chassis with a tent contraption on top. But it was tedious to put together onsite, and it didn't provide protection from the elements. So, he took that same platform and built on it a tear-drop shaped structure with sleeping space, a stove, and an ice chest. Wally and Marion took the trailer on a camping trip and loved it as much as their fellow travelers did – along with their neighbors when they got home.

Wally published a DIY guide in Popular Mechanics on how to build the trailer, and soon several of his neighbors commissioned him to build trailers for them. Eventually demand was big enough that Wally opened a small trailer factory in California to build what he called "Airstreams," after the way they moved "like a stream of air" down the road.



Memorial Day Rally, 2019

The Memorial Day Rally featured hiking Anna Ruby Falls, Rock Painting by Lane, dinner at the Cottage House and recognition of deceased members of the TOP and our own veterans. We had a number of Buddies attend as well as friends and family members.

Thanks to May Anne Meeks for planning the hike and our intrepid leaders Faye Murrell and Edgar Williamson.



The hike started after being fed a delicious breakfast by Herb and Connie Crowe and their faithful kitchen cooks and servers.

The walk to the falls was breath taking. Lush trees and shrubs surround the rushing waters, casting shade over our route.



Some take an easier way to get to the falls.



Many thanks to Judi Sells and Betty Ivey for reviving our Card Playing activities.



A special THANKS to Ken, Warren and David for providing background music for our S'mores around the campfire and our Gospel Sing Sunday evening. Also, thanks to Rick Sibley for the extra marshmallow sticks and Mike Lankford for the awesome fire.

Special thanks to my "secret pal" for helping with the hot dog lunch. You know who you are!

Clara Ellis