



# The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 58 / Issue 6 / November 2019



## *Meet Your New Top of Georgia Board for 2019-2020*

Left to Right: Rick Sibly, Director Tom Baker, Director Dick Sells, Director Murphy Harrell, President Elect  
Tim Johnson, President Clara Ellis, Director Kimberly Funderburg, Secretary  
Charlotte Williamson, Past President Mary Anne Meeks, First Vice-President John Meeks, Treasurer

Let's support these brave souls, who have volunteered to conduct the business of running a campground and sustaining a club. Serving on a committee does just that and also allows you to get to know the members and develop friendships. So, share your skills and talents to enhance life at the TOP.

## ***President Tim Johnson and First Lady Caroyl Johnson***



(Edited version of President Tim Johnson's comments at the installation ceremony on 19 October 2019)

**1** First I want to thank my beautiful and talented wife for renovating our two Airstreams, which enabled us to join this club and attend rallies at this beautiful park over the past 2 ½ years. I would also like to thank Charlotte Williamson and Bill Wild for providing guidance to me these past 18 months and the Board for their patience with my learning process.

My MOTTO (borrowed from legendary coach Lou Holts)  
Do What is Right  
Do Everything to the Best Of My Ability  
Show Leadership Team I Care

### My GOALS

1. Improve transparency of Board activities and decisions.
  - All documents, except personnel matters, will be placed in the Cloud where everyone should be able to see minutes, financials, etc.
  - Board Meetings will be held in the pavilion in front of the stage. There will be room for anyone interested in attending.
2. Focus on how to increase the opportunities for fun and fellowship, and grow participation in camping and rallies at the Park. If you have any ideas on this topic, please talk to any Board member, who will forward to the entire Board.
3. Challenge everyone to ONLY use positive and uplifting comments when addressing policies, procedures, best practices, or something that needs to be improved upon with fellow club members, whether they are on the Board or not, which leads to my last point...
4. Minimize "politics". How many times have I heard "I do not want to serve on the Board or a Committee because of the politics". None of us enjoy this topic.

Finally, we have a lot of open committee chair positions that need volunteers, including Kitchen Manager, which was recently held by Herb & Connie Crowe.

## Loving Concerns



Sympathy:

Our condolences to the family of:

**Bob Bailey**  
Sister of **Jerry Hodge**

Illness and Surgeries:

**Barbara Jones** who has shingles.  
**Clara Ellis** who is recovering from a pinched nerve in her spine.

**Jimmy Jarrett** who is experiencing failing health.

**Al Holcomb** had pneumonia during the Oct. rally.

**Warren Fore** had a bad sinus infection during the Oct. rally.

Our prayers continue for **Lisa** and **Ricky Roberts**.

**Lorraine Thomley** - Please keep Lorraine and her family in your prayers as they face some difficult times ahead. A previous cancer has returned and they are making decisions on treatment. Pray for and send cards to: **Lorraine Thomley, 1438 Grove Park Drive-11B, Columbus, Ga. 31094**

*Myrna Warren,  
Loving Concerns*

### Membership

*November, 2019 Membership  
News.....*

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership for the year 2020.

If you still need to renew, mail your renewal notice and check directly to:

Wally Byam Caravan Club International  
803 E. Pike St.  
Jackson Center, OH 45334

Or phone them at 937-596-5211 (with a credit card)

They are still receiving on-line renewals at [Airstream Club.org](http://Airstream Club.org).  
All affiliate members to the Top of Georgia may still pay their \$15.00 dues when they come to the Park.

*See you in the New Year!*

*Stephanie Lankford, Membership Chair,  
serving since 2014*

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### Fun Times at the TOP



Jacob Fontanez, son of Christee and Sam (our winter hosts) is joined by "Wally", the camp cat.



Check out the results! Who says there are no fish in our creek?! Jacob released the fish back into the creek. Good for you Jacob!

**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO  
THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE TOG**

November 28, 2019 12 PM

Bring yourself, your family, your friends

Dress is Casual

Turkey and Ham will be provided by the hosts.

Please bring a dish to share - we will have sign up opportunities later.

Come hungry and let's all be thankful!

Host: John & Mary Anne Meeks

There are also many activities taking place over the holiday weekend in and around the North GA/ Helen area. The following is a list of some events:

1. Annual lighting of the Village-downtown Helen (Date. 29-Nov-2019. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)
2. Festival of Trees at Unicoi State Park Lodge (Nov 13, 10 AM – Dec 7, 10 PM)
3. Holiday Celebration-Live Nativity, North GA Zoo, Cleveland, GA (Nov. 22&23 5-7pm) [www.northgeorgiazoo.com](http://www.northgeorgiazoo.com)
4. Alpine Mistletoe Market, (Nov 29-30, 11 a – 6pm) Helen Arts & Heritage Center. [www.helenarts.org/mistletoe-market](http://www.helenarts.org/mistletoe-market)
5. Mountain Country Christmas in Lights - GA Mountain Fairground, (Nov. 29, 6-9pm) We're looking forward to seeing you! Hiwassee <http://www.georgiamountainfairground.com/>.
6. Dahlonega "Lighting of the Square", (Nov29)

Contact the Helen, GA Chamber of Commerce [www.helenga.org/events](http://www.helenga.org/events) for these and other events.

So pack up the Airstream and bring the family to the Top of Georgia for the long Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. If you have non-Airstream camping buddies, bring them along for the weekend!



***ToG Christmas Luncheon***

You are invited to our annual

*Christmas Luncheon*

December 7, 2019 @ 11:45 a.m.  
Rock Eagle 4H Center, Eatonton.

\$20 per person.

Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to Tim Johnson, 111 Crestview Church Rd., Warner Robbins GA, 31088 OR call 602-750-1233

**LAST Day to purchase tickets is  
November 26, 2019.**

We will be unable to accept reservations with pay at the door this year. Must pay in advance. Looking for a great turnout to celebrate this special time of the year with Airstream friends. Please share with friends who may have sold their Airstream and your Buddies. We would love to see them again.

### IN THE PARK

Just in time for cool weather, we have a new focal point at the Top, a fireplace in the Upper Shelter. It's already been the site of several gatherings attracting new members, old members, and visitors alike, and makes use of a shelter that hasn't seen much use in recent years. President Tim calls it a socializing magnet. If you haven't seen it yet, go now. It's perfect fire weather.



The fireplace "innards" were donated

and many hands did an awesome job of framing it: Tom Baker, Sam Fontanez, Ian Hampton, Murphy Harrell, Bill Harris, Grant MacKay, Vincent Marolla, Will Moore, and Rick Sibly. Kimberly Funderburg decorated the mantel for fall and Ron Cannon donated fireplace tools. And, of course, we have about a decade's worth of firewood. The Upper Shelter is also the site of the Memorial Brick Walk which was laid in August. The bricks form a semi-circle at the upper end of the shelter surrounding the fireplace.

Another project recently completed was a new roof to replace the rotted one on the electrical building in the back by the former tractor barn. This work was completed by the same team that built the fireplace plus Rod Wilson. While the roof itself is not that exciting, meander back there and see how nice that area looks thanks to some ace bush-hogging by tractor whiz Murphy Harrell. Murphy removed stumps and a year's worth of underbrush to reveal a small creek that feeds into Andrews Creek and to provide better viewing of Andrews Creek where the banks are just a few feet high. While the rally committee tries to provide activities to interest our diverse membership,

nothing quite drew attention like the pruning of several dead branches hanging over electrical wires along the creek. Every male, plus a few women and children, in the park was out there either helping or giving advice. Finally, Tom Baker had to get up in the tree to finish the job. Special thanks to Bob Murrell who provided what he calls "dead weight" to haul Rick Sibly up the creek bank after he went down there to thread a rope to the tractor on the other side. Never say Top members aren't hard workers or that they don't have a sense of humor.



*Rick Sibly, Property Manager*

## Fall Rally Dinners and Ceremony



Left: New members of our Board for 2019-2020, Kimberly Funderburg (Secretary) and Mary Anne Meeks (First Vice-President) busy at work preparing for the Installation Dinner and Ceremony Saturday night.



Gary Schwaiger doesn't like to be the center of attention, but after the incredible meal he and Renee prepared for us on Friday night, everybody wanted to thank him! Gary was the right-hand man for Herb and Connie Crowe, our Kitchen Managers. He wanted a BIG finale to honor the Crowes for all their hard work and dedication to the Top of Georgia. And it was BIG! The meal was a token of appreciation to all our volunteers (Mary and Al Holcomb's idea). Gary and Renee cooked up a spread worthy of a Prince (that would be you Herb Crowe)!

Gary's menu featured Halloween-ish names for the dishes, so we encouraged folks to wear their scary costumes. Edgar Williamson's costume came naturally! You can't see the rest of his outfit but it was the perfect finishing touch! Charlotte Williamson, our president this year, gave Gary her full support and Wally, the ToG cat stayed by Gary's side during those long nights tending meats on the smoker!



*New Directors Dick Sells and Clara Ellis*

Bill Wild administered the installation and Ken Rabren was our MC.



*Charlotte is ALL smiles as she becomes the Past President*

Clara Ellis,

Editor

## *A Tribute to Two Dedicated Members: Al and Mary Holcomb*



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Over the 38 years as members of the Top, we have enjoyed serving in many capacities. Al has served as President, Director, Property Manager as well as building and remodeling jobs all around the park. Mary has served with Membership, Protocol, Loving Concerns and the Nominating Committee. Both of us have always helped in the kitchen over the years as needed.

We have made friends all over the country by going to other unit Rallies, International Rallies and many caravans. We would not have had these opportunities had it not been for the Top of Georgia.

We have such fond memories of all of the many people we have met. Many fun times that will always be cherished. We want to thank you all for the beautiful plaque presented to us at the October rally. As we come to the end of our time at the TOG, we would like to say a special thank you for all the prayers, help and love you have shown for us over the years.

*Al and Mary Holcomb*

## ***FALL RALLY NEWS***

The October Rally was perfect. We had hot weather, cool weather, sunshine, and deluges. Something for everyone. If you ever want to see how differently minds work, give 20 women and one 12-year-old boy a piece of wood and a paintbrush or marker and ask them to make a “Be Kind” sign. We even had some “Bee Kind” signs in honor of our winged honey-making friends. No two were alike. And some were quite pretty.

The rain interfered with some of our outside plans, but napping is almost as important as eating when you’re ‘streaming. One visitor asked what we did at rallies and I said, “Mostly we eat”, and eat we did. Gary Schwaiger brought his smoker and a truckload of food. He and wife Renee locked themselves in the kitchen (they said they were cooking) for three days and produced enough food for 200 people. Since there were only 125 of us, we had to sacrifice and take large doggie bags home filled with smoked pork, chicken breasts, wings, Brunswick Stew, corn casserole, sweet potato soufflé, broccoli salad, homemade rolls, and a tableful of desserts. If you missed it, eat your heart out.



On Saturday night, President Charlotte Williamson turned the Pavilion into a wonderland of gold and silver with lanterns, pumpkins, and leaves, painstakingly spray-painted by First Mate Edgar, for the Installation Banquet marking the end of her reign as President.

Incoming President Tim Johnson was installed and gifts and Certificates of Appreciation were given to all who volunteered this year. A special plaque was given to Al Holcomb, retiring after close to 40 years as Property Manager.

The Open House was fun. Tim and Caroyl Johnson showed off their newly restored Airstream, Leilani, complete with an island vibe, Ken and Kathy Rabren opened their decorated-to-the-max motor home, and Bob and Carol Cone showed us how the other half lives (a fireplace, y’all) with their newly purchased SOB (some other brand) after years as Airstreamers. New members Craig and Robin Davis and long-time members Mike and Pat King opened their Flying Clouds for a taste of the new and Judy Baker hosted visitors to the Archives Room where everything you ever wanted to know about the Georgia Unit could be found. Somewhere. Judy worked hard in the spring to get everything out of boxes and onto shelves.

In addition to the rally regulars, we had some long-time members that we hadn’t seen in a while, some first-time new members, and some visitors from other Airstream Clubs. New member, Jack Hunnicutt, who attended with his wife Conchita and daughter Jackie, did a seven minute You Tube video of the park. Look for it on the Top of Georgia website. It’s excellent.

Lots of fun activities are already in the planning stages for the 2020 rallies. Every time I hear 2020, I think of perfect vision, something I have not perfected yet. If you have rally suggestions, please email me at [nancysibly@gmail.com](mailto:nancysibly@gmail.com). See you next time.

***Nancy Sibly, Rally Committee***



(The following 3 pages are a Travelogue written by Judy Baker.  
Thank you, Judy for sharing this with the Caravanner.)

## *The Places We Have Been; a travelogue by Judy Baker*

### “The Traveling Trio”

Rick & Nancy Sibly, Murphy & Cindy Harrell, and Tom & Judy Baker

After spending a great week at the International Airstream Rally in Doswell, Virginia, the Traveling Trio went north in search of cooler climates. The first destination was Liberty, NY for Rick & Nancy to visit their beautiful 11-week-old great niece. We were able to get reservations at the **Happy Days Campground** established in 1967. The campsite was filling up fast since it was located near the Woodstock Museum and Concert Arena, the original site of the Woodstock Music & Arts Fair August 15, 16, 17, 1969. Notably, this campsite is known for Peace, Love & Camping. We visited the Woodstock Museum with its green rolling hills and lavish buildings. I'm sure it does not look like it did in the aftermath of Woodstock. Although none of our Trio attended Woodstock it certainly brought back memories of what we were doing at the time and other world events.



8 Our next stop was the hometown of Tom Baker, Penn Yan, NY which is located on Keuka Lake of New York's Finger Lakes. Surrounded by rolling, vineyard-covered hills, the Keuka Lake area is a perfect place to relax and recharge. We camped close by at the **Country Charm Campground** which is surrounded by beautiful Mennonite owned farms. This campground is family owned and operated with a fishing pond, walking trails, and all amenities. While visiting Tom's sister and brother-in-law they served us an award-winning dinner with mussels, mouth-watering smoked chicken, sausages, and all the "fixins". As an added treat, they took us on an afternoon boat ride around Keuka Lake. We visited some of the local Wineries and learned the history of the vineyards and wine making in the area. While at one vineyard, Rick spotted a couple with an Airstream and quickly went to introduce himself and tell them all about the Top of Georgia. We also toured some new breweries in the area and learned some unique processes. We visited the Glenn H. Curtis Museum, located within the Finger Lakes in Hammondsport, NY. This is more than just an aviation museum on aircraft history, it also includes a significant motorcycle collection of early motorcycles including vintage/antique motorcycles and Hammondsport history. A "must see" if you are in the area.



While in New York we visited the Erie Canal, which is part of the east-west, cross-state route of the New York State Canal System. What a beautiful and historic spot to visit! If you decide to go, be sure to book the boat tour in advance.



Next Stop! The 1000 Islands located on the St. Lawrence River between New York and Canada. We camped at the **Association Island KOA Co-op** in Henderson, NY. This island campground is 65 acres dedicated to camping and marina slips. What a beautiful panoramic view! It was originally developed as a summer retreat for General Electric Executives in the 1920's and was in operation through the mid 1950's. Located close to the 1000 Islands region. We booked a tour on Clayton Island Tours seeing many of the islands including the famous Boldt Castle on Heart Island. In order to be considered an island in the 1000 Islands you must be above water level all year, have at least 1 square foot of land, and have at least 1 living tree. We saw huge islands and very tiny islands while on the tour; however, we did not see an island with an Airstream on it.....something to think about if you have a couple of million to spend.

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Of course, you can't go to New York without visiting Niagara Falls. We stayed at a "unique" campground that was in the back of an older motel. We were a little leery at first, until we saw there were numerous campsites behind or next to motels. It worked out fine. We visited the US side of Niagara Falls and took a ride on the Maid of the Mist. We all got very wet even with our rain ponchos on, but it was a great adventure.



Before heading south, Rick had the wonderful idea of visiting the Kazoo Museum. Nestled in the quaint town of Eden, NY, this working museum details the history of the kazoo, and is inside the only functioning metal kazoo factory (established 1916) in the world. Each of the guys purchased a small Kazoo. Rumor has it they are planning a Kazoo Concert at the Top of Georgia.



On the way back south to our homes in and around Atlanta, Ga., we stopped overnight at the **Penn Woods Airstream Park located in New Bethlehem, Pa.** We called to see if we could stay the night and received a warm welcome from several of the owners and residents. We had full hookups on a level grassy site. We toured the park which had a clubhouse and walking trails. One gentleman provided us with some history on the park. It was very rural and peaceful.

Traveling further south, we spent our last night of the trip at the **Virginia Highland Haven Airstream Park** which is in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The ride to the park is amazing as you wind through the Blue Ridge Parkway. This is a beautiful campground and should be on your list of places to go. Reservations are a must since they only have 46 well-manicured sites. Along with the wonderful view, spectacular sunsets, they have a clubhouse with a kitchen, fireplace, tv, game room, and laundry facilities. It is located near Floyd, Va. which has nice shops and restaurants. Floyd features a variety of musicians and music events, including Friday Night Jamboree at the historic Floyd Country Store and the Floyd Fest music festival.



**Final Day--- Home Sweet Home!**

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

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Web site: <a href="http://www.topofgeorgia.net">www.topofgeorgia.net</a>	joeelli@gmail.com

**2019–2020 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally | Events**

*Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless noted otherwise.*

Date	Event
Nov 28, 2019	Thanksgiving Gathering
Dec 7	Holiday Luncheon at Eatonton (Rock Eagle)
Mar 30-Apr 5, 2020	Airstream Club Int. Region 3 Rally, Myrtle Beach, SC
Apr 13-14	Spring Work Days
Apr 15-19	Spring Rally   Business Meeting
May 20-25	Memorial Day   Buddy Rally
Jun 20-27	Airstream Club International Rally, Loveland, CO
Jul 4	Patriotic Celebration
Jul 22-26	Youth Rally   Buddy
Sep 2-7	Labor Day Rally   Elections
Oct 14-18	Fall Rally   Installation of Officers

**Officers**

President: Tim Johnson; President-Elect: Murphy Harrell; First Vice-President: Mary Anne Meeks; Secretary: Kimberly Funderburg; Treasurer: John Meeks; Directors: Rick Sibly, Tom Baker, Dick Sells, Clara Ellis; Past-President: Charlotte Williamson

