

# The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 59 / Issue 1 / April 2020



**“Wherever you go, no matter what the weather,  
always bring your own sunshine.”**

Anthony J. D'Angelo FOUNDER OF THE COLLEGIATE EMPOWERMENT COMPANY

## **“Springtime in the Mountains”**

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Please note changes for the Spring Rally on Pg. 5  
and an additional letter from the President on Pg.9

## President's Letter



Tim and Caroyl at Air Museum

**1** Caroyl and I are honored to serve as your President and First Lady this year! We have enjoyed our time in the club, very brief compared to those of you who have 10 to 20+ years of experience with the club and park. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year, with five rallies scheduled at the Top, the Region 3 Rally at beautiful Ocean Lakes Family Campground along the ocean in Myrtle Beach, SC and the International Rally not far from the Rocky Mountains in Loveland, Colorado. We hope to provide a presentation at both the Region 3 Rally and the International Rally that highlights the amenities of our park and local attractions. We hope you will make time in your schedule to join us for any or all of these exciting events!

Our directory is great source of information that I would encourage you to review. It includes our recently updated by-laws, park rules, customs and traditions, a list of committee chairs, as well as mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for our members. It also includes other important information that can be very useful throughout the year.

As you all know, this club and park are successful because of the many folks that volunteer to assist on the board, committees, and with the work around the park. I am very impressed with the talent of these volunteers and their enthusiasm. Every time I visit the park, I see the effort of so many people keeping our park beautiful! The board you have elected is already very busy, and over the last couple of months we have held several conference calls and exchanged many emails.

The addition of the fireplace at the Upper Pavilion is a tremendous magnet for social activities. It's the first thing members and visitors view as they enter the park. We are considering other projects to beautify the park and encourage you to assist on one of these projects when time permits.

I mentioned at the Installation Ceremony in October that one of my goals is to improve transparency. That includes holding board meetings (when held during rallies) in the Pavilion. All members are invited to attend. We will place important documents into the "Cloud" which will allow all members to view these documents, even when you are unable to attend the rally. Documents include board meeting minutes, budget, and financial reports. They will also be posted on the bulletin board in the pavilion. We have developed a Running Action Item List (RAIL) that will list all open and completed projects at the park.

I encourage every Airstream owner that we meet, who is new to the Airstream life, to share the excitement of joining our club by attending rallies and quickly making new friends! Our PR committee contacted Southland Airstream and were invited to Southland's booth to handout brochures about our park. The annual 2020 RV show was held in January in Atlanta. The communications committee and various members are posting information on Facebook, online forums and blogs. We are getting the word out about our little gem in the North Georgia Mountains and inviting all Airstream owners to come visit us at the Top!

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





## Loving Concerns

### Sympathy:

**2019**

**Cheryl Batts** and family. Cheryl's brother-in-law passed away. Things seem more difficult when we lose someone during the Christmas season.

**Lorraine Thomley's** son passed away from liver failure. Lorraine has cancer and has opted not to have chemotherapy. Please keep her in your prayers for this loss as well as her own failing health.

**Update:** Feb. 2020, Lorraine was moved to Hospice. Please pray for her and Paul during this difficult time. Cards may be sent to 1438 Grove Park D Unit 11, Columbus GA. 31904

**Floy and Barbara Jumper** - Barbara's Mom, Ruth Wilson passed away. She was 100 years of age, was a precious child of God and had a wonderful, blessed life.

**Michelle Schuler and family** -Michelle's Mom, Dyann Baynes passed away. Please let the family know they have our sympathy and prayers during this very sad time. Michelle has been the secretary for the Top of Ga. Airstream Club for the past several years.

**2020**

**Barbara Jumper** – After just having lost her Mother, we are saddened to learn that her sister has also passed away. Please keep this family in your prayers and send sympathy to them as they recover from this difficult time of grieving.

See the message below from the Jumper family.  
*We very much appreciate the prayers, concern and cards with which we were showered at the death of Barbara's mother. We were also blessed to see Top of Ga folks at the visitation and the memorial service. We are truly blessed to belong to a group of such caring people!*

*Now, I must tell you that the day after Ruth's service, (their mom) we had to admit Barbara's sister, Linda Vick to the hospital. Unfortunately, she passed away yesterday. She was only 72 years of age. Please ask the folks to pray for the family. As you can imagine, it has hit hard, so soon after their mom's death. Thank you, Floy and Barbara Jumper*

**Mary Frances Clark** passed away from lung cancer. Prayers go out to her survivors.

### Illness and Surgery:

**2019**

**Lisa Roberts** wants to thank everyone for your prayers during serious surgery and her recovery. **Ricky** also had a sizeable polyp removed. He will not have to have chemo or radiation. They are also thankful for prayers on his behalf.

**Myrna's** friend, Langdon Harp, will be undergoing 3 back surgeries this week in Nashville. He and his family really need prayers that the surgeries will be successful and relieve the tremendous pain he's been living with.

**Bob Cone** had a heart procedure called a PFO Closure. The Dr. will close a hole in Bob's heart which was causing his strokes. We pray this will prevent further strokes.

**Jim Kauffman** had heart bypass surgery in November.

**2020**

**Mike Lankford** had knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, January 14, at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, GA. Stephanie was sick with a bacterial infection that caused complications with her asthma. We appreciate prayers for us as we go through this surgery and that we recover soon.

**Bob Gray** had to have major heart surgery. Bob and Kay sold their airstream recently due to health problems but they are still a part of our airstream club family especially during difficult times when we can be praying for them.

From Bob:

*My heart surgery will include one bypass, replacing my aortic valve, and repairing an aortic aneurysm. My surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28. Our mailing address is 1660 Jennings Mill Rd, Apt 330 Watkinsville, GA 30677.*

*It will be a blessing to know that our friends at the TOG are praying for us. Thank you all for remembering us.*

*Love and Blessings,  
Kay and Bob Gray*

Update on **Bob Gray**: *"I'm home now, but will require some Home Care for a couple of weeks. I seem to be making good progress. Just don't make me sneeze, cough, or laugh. You folks at the TOP are awesome! Thank you all for cards, calls, and prayers."*

**Glenda Young** had brain surgery to relieve terrible pain from the trigeminal nerve. Please put Glenda Young on your prayer list for a successful surgery. Their address is 660 Moore St., Jasper, Ga. 30143  
Continue to pray for her and John as she recovers.  
Update: Glenda's surgery was successful.

March

**3 Max Laseter** was recently in the hospital with pneumonia. He is home but still very weak. Runell's condition remains stable. The Laseters have been long-time members at the Top of Ga. For the past several years, he brought fresh produce to share with us at the rallies. He was our club president for 2017. Their mailing address is: 935 Gratis Rd. NW, Monroe, GA 30656. They would love to know that we are thinking of them and praying for him to recover his strength.

NOTE from Myrna - If you are a new member, or if you are not getting the email **Loving Concerns**, please email me and let me know your name and email address so I can add you to my listings. Please keep me informed of your "loving concerns" needs. My email address is: [myrnawarren@windstream.net](mailto:myrnawarren@windstream.net)



## Hosting

Serving as a Host at the TOG is vital for keeping our campground open. Without a Host on duty each day, the park could not operate on a volunteer basis. Sadly, the number of members that volunteer is a very small percentage of our total membership.

Currently the requests for Host volunteers have not had a good response. The Host Coordinator is happy to discuss the duties and offer the training for this very important part of our park operations.

To offer your assistance, please contact Ken Rabren, 404.660.5597 or email him – [rabrenw@ymail.com](mailto:rabrenw@ymail.com)

"Got your Eyes on an Airstream?"



Check out the Bulletin Board in the Pavilion for Airstreams for Sale.

## 2019 Holiday Events

### Thanksgiving

On Nov. 28, 40 people gathered at the Top of Georgia for our Thanksgiving fellowship. Our event hosts **John Meeks** and Mary Anne Meeks did an amazing job with the Turkey and Ham with all of the guests providing the accompanying side dishes and desserts. Neal Warren led us in a beautiful prayer of Thanks and the hall was decorated by **Judi Sells**, Mary Anne Meeks and **Kimberly Funderburg**. We are thankful for our members, volunteers and guests and we look forward to many more years of fun and fellowship at the Top.



*Our hosts: John and Mary Anne Meeks*

### Christmas 2019



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The Christmas luncheon was held December 7, 2019 at the Rock Eagle 4H Center in Eatonton, GA. While the lovely TOG ladies enjoyed socializing, it appears the men were engaged in some lively discussions. But everyone shared in the Christmas holiday spirit, singing carols led by Julian Clements and door prizes by President Tim Johnson. The meal was provided by the Rock Eagle staff.





## Membership

Stephanie Lankford has served faithfully as our Membership Chair for 5 administrations. She has also served as a Director on the Board for 2 years.

During Stephanie's years of service at the Top, she has gained in-depth knowledge about club operations and the relationship between WBCCI and the Top of Georgia. The thing about Stephanie is she cares about and protects the values our club holds dear and she won't mince words upholding those values!

Connie Crowe, the previous Membership Chair for 6 years, trained Stephanie and prepared her for all the challenges and dedication this job requires. Now Stephanie is taking a well-deserved break and writes:

*This week we made the decision that after six years, it was time to give up my volunteer work with the Top of Georgia. We also ask for Prayers for the Top of Georgia leaders as they find a replacement for Membership Chair.*

### **Mike and Stephanie Lankford**

Prayers worked! Stephanie had met a very bright, energetic, charming young lady in our club, Jamie Collins, and asked her to assume the membership position. Jaime accepted and the two have been working together diligently to insure a smooth transition. Jaime and Doug will be featured on the Profile page in a future issue, so stayed tuned.



Please welcome Jaime and Doug as our new Membership team!

**Thank You Stephanie and Mike for all your years of service to The Top of Georgia.**



Clara Ellis, Editor

## "Springtime in the Mountains"



Dear Fellow Airstreamers,

The April Rally at the Top of Georgia has been cancelled. We know this is surely not a surprise to anyone since the following rallies have also been cancelled: The Region 3 Rally, The Tennessee Rally (Rivets on the Ridge), and the International Airstream Rally this summer. All of these rallies have been canceled for the same reason your Board and Officers decided to cancel our April rally, as a protection for all of our members during this unprecedented COVID-19 virus. Nothing is more important than the health of our members.

The Top of Georgia Airstream Park will remain open and we feel it may be a perfect place for you to get away from large crowds. There is plenty of space and fresh air. Wal-Mart in Cleveland has grocery pick up that you may phone or send in electronically, and then pick up at the door. There is no need to go in the store. And best of all, it is not hard to keep your trailer clean inside, compared to ever present housework at home!

Speaking of work, however, the Work Days for the Park are still being held, but starting on Wednesday, April 15. If you want to get your mind off of this virus, come on up to the park. We will not hug you, but will be very happy for the help to keep the TOP clean and beautiful. We are looking forward to our Snow Birds coming home to us from Florida, and to our future rallies down the road.

Everyone please stay safe and let us know if you need anything. Your Board and Officers are here to serve you, not just during rally time.

Tim Johnson, President

Profile: Murphy Harrell (President Elect)  
and Cindy Harrell



We have two grown children and three grandchildren. Oh no, that's not right. We now have two more grandchildren and one on the way. Life is grand!

Our son now runs the family farm. I try real hard not to interfere.

I look forward to serving and pledge to do my best for the TOP. Please forgive me in advance when I fall.

Murphy and Cindy Harrell

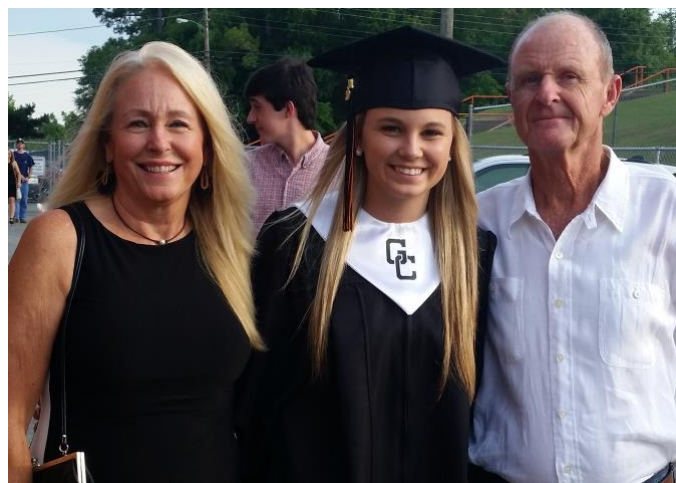
I have worn many hats during my years on this earth. I grew up in the rural town of Mitchell, Georgia helping my grandfather on the farm. Moved to Augusta, Ga. at thirteen with countless trips back to the farm on the mail truck.

I graduated from Butler high school in 1966 and then attended Georgia Southern University. Worked construction for a while before returning to good old Mitchell, GA. to take over the family farm. This is when I met my lovely young wife of 43 years. I actually high-jacked her in front of the bank where she and her friend were parked.

I was elected Magistrate Judge in 1985 and served for 12 years. I went to work at Thiele Kaolin and eventually was elevated to the glorious position of head honcho over the Limestone Plant. I retired from there in 2011.

Cindy has served on many committees and boards in the community. She was Executive Director at Gibson Housing Authority for approximately 20 years when she resigned to Airstream.

We have camped since our children were small. Our first airstream was a 23 footer, too small for four people. We did the "some other brand thing" for a while before buying another Airstream in 2004.





## Leilani’s Maiden Voyage

After months of work refurbishing Leilani, she was finally ready to be launched and make the journey to her permanent home at Land Yacht Harbor of Melbourne. Before she could return to Florida, she had her debut at Top of Georgia. She enjoyed participating in the Fall Rally and Open House. On another trip to see the grandchildren, we found that parking our “big girl” and her stead (57’ combined length) presented some challenges. On the road, even with Indie our F-250 with BlueOx WD/Anti-Sway hitch, we still felt the “push” from semis passing us on the interstates. Leilani will not be the long-distance traveler that Gracie, our 26’er will continue to be.



We arrived at Melbourne to temps in the upper 80’s, and high humidity; very uncomfortable for working outside. Perhaps we arrived too early to expect a temperature drop, but we wanted to get Leilani settled in before returning in early January. The TOP’s First Lady was

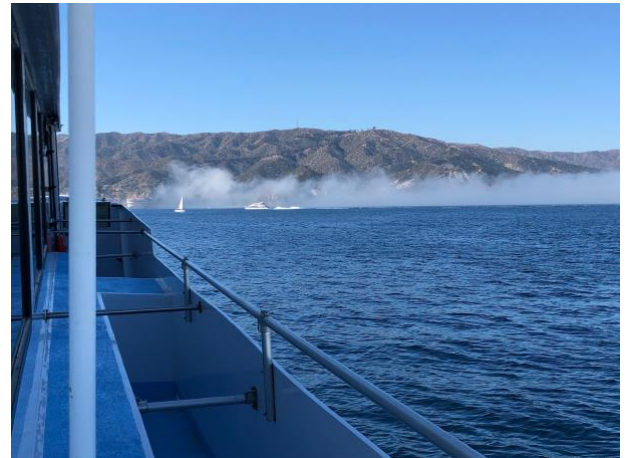


not fazed and put both of us in the hardscape modification phase. We dug up pavers, dug trenches, picked up landscaping rocks and then put it all back together. WOW... Not much of a vacation environment yet!

My Bucket List included a trip to Catalina Island.

When we told everyone about our ferry ride to Catalina Island, they warned us of the need for sea sick medicine. Caroyl and I were praying for smooth seas to accompany the Dramamine. Our prayers were answered and both East and West bound trips were 80 enjoyable minutes with fantastic views of the mainland shore and Catalina as we approached and departed each location! Departing at sunset from Catalina, provided spectacular views of the setting sun behind the mountains of Catalina! Folks that live on the island said that late October/early November is a great time to visit. We could not agree more.

Activities on Catalina Island included a glass bottom boat tour to see lots of colorful fish, watching the latest Terminator movie in the theater in the beautiful former casino. What a step back in time to see the elegant workmanship and materials throughout the theater. We rented electric bikes for the day and went through three sets of bikes to get fresh batteries as we climbed all the paved roads up the three accessible mountains. We passed within five feet of a deer on the way down one road. Two nights did not seem like enough time to fully enjoy and explore the island. Perhaps one day we will return? In the meantime, we are now ambassadors for the island, encouraging all to visit at some point in their life!



Final observations:

1. I could not believe that I was almost happy to purchase gas on Subbase @ \$3.81 per gallon! Why was I happy to pay that amount? Fuel outside base ran from \$4.19 and up for 87 octane!
2. Thought it would be a treat to try out senior officer quarters on Subbase, but discovered it was on the fourth floor and they do not have any elevators! Plus, can you imagine a lodging facility located a few feet from the ocean to be quiet? Of course not, those waves and loud, pesky seagulls like to make themselves known 24 hours per day!



## “Don’t Know Much About Geography” by Nancy Sibly

When you live in Atlanta, you take for granted that a huge hunk of granite rises from the ground. When you travel out west, there are natural wonders that put that hunk of granite to shame – mountains and geysers, volcanoes and earthquakes and great salt seas.

**Mount Rushmore, Black Hills, South Dakota.** Quick! Which presidents are carved on Mt. Rushmore’s granite face? Hint: Initials are GW, TJ, TR, and AL. Did you know that sculptor Gutzon Borglum who headed up the carving was briefly hired to do the carving on Atlanta’s Stone Mountain until he left after a disagreement with the project’s leaders.

### **Earthquake Lake, southwest Montana.**

On our way to Yellowstone’s northern entrance, the Madison River tumbled rapidly along the side of the road, suddenly ending at the magnificent, ice-covered Quake Lake. This 190 foot deep, six mile long lake was formed by an earthquake, 7.5 on the Richter scale, in 1959. The resulting landslide which dammed the river was estimated at 80 million tons moving down the Sheep Mountain at 100 mph.



**Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.** Yellowstone’s 3468 square miles are known for lakes, rivers, mountains, wildlife, and even petrified forests, but its name is synonymous with Old Faithful, still faithfully erupting every 90 minutes. Bet you didn’t know that Yellowstone was centered on a supervolcano or that half of the world’s geysers and hydrothermal features are in the park (1283 geysers). Boardwalks get you up close and personal with geysers, some clear enough to see to the bottom, others with plumes of colored waters painting the areas around them.

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**Craters of the Moon, Idaho.** Craters of the Moon is aptly named. Walking around it feels like walking in a moonscape. Imagine 618 square miles of lava fields formed by 25 volcanic cones, craggy and black with very little green anywhere. It isn’t pretty, but it is fascinating.



**Shoshone Falls, southern Idaho.** Shoshone, on the Snake River, bills itself as the Niagara of the West and at 212 feet is even higher than Niagara. The water cascading over its 1,000 foot rim is quite spectacular.

### **Great Salt Lake, northern Utah.**

There really is a salt lake. Utah’s Great Salt Lake dates to prehistoric times and is the largest salt water lake in the Western Hemisphere. It averages 1,700 square miles, but its size fluctuates widely due to shallow depths and rates of rainfall and evaporation. The water is saltier than seawater and is very buoyant. (We didn’t check out the buoyancy.)



**Arches National Park, Moab, Utah.** The formation of 2,000 spectacular sandstone arches and spires is due to an underground salt bed. Salmon-colored Entrada Sandstone is layered with buff-colored Navajo Sandstone for miles and miles. Very little grows here. With all the beautiful rock formations, we didn’t miss greenery.

**Continental Divide, Rocky Mountain National Park, northern Colorado.** The Continental Divide is the point in north America where rivers begin to flow in opposite directions, either eastward to the Atlantic Ocean via the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico or westward primarily to the Pacific Ocean. It’s also a stretch to get to the top towing a trailer.

Stage sets. Red mountains, black lava fields, pastel cauldrons of steam. Mile-high faces, balancing rocks that look like one good shove would fell them, rivers and lakes and waterfalls. All that beauty. Do you suppose that if you lived nearby, you’d take all that for granted?

## Fellow Club Members,

Your elected representatives have reviewed the former Park Rules and approved NEW PARK RULES on 13 December 2019. We are convinced these updated rules result in an improved document. It will be available for you to read:

1. In the Cloud: [Click Here](#)
2. Host Shed
3. Pavilion

Some highlights in the update/revision:

1. Section 4c - requires all RV's to be licensed, insured, clean and neat in appearance. External repairs must be completed in 30 days.
2. Section 4e - Monthly renters can hold their sites up to 14 days. Other campers can use these sites only during their absence.
3. Section 4g - Section S - long term stays (formerly called long term storage) - If a unit has not been occupied in 8 months, or its owner participated in 2 unit rallies, they may be asked to remove it from the park. All units need to be insured, towable, licensed, clean and neat. Owners will need to sign a Parking Agreement, which provides more details on parking units in this section.
4. Section 4i - Section E - (formerly called the "widows/widowers" section) - Units must be occupied during at least 2 rallies per year.
5. Section 10f - Smoking/Vaping - provides club expectations of smokers and vaping.
6. Section 15 - Members or guests may camp at our park during a rally and NOT pay or participate in the rally.

This is not a complete list of the revisions, so please read all of the Rules.

We are excited about the future of our park. More folks are becoming aware of the beautiful facility we have! At this time, we have a Tennessee unit that has asked to participate in our Memorial Day Rally to evaluate their interest in using our park for one of their future rallies. Our hope is that more units will see the value of using the TOP for their rallies. This would, of course, be on a not to interfere basis with our rallies.

Plus we plan on placing more documents on the internet where everyone can view our board documents, such as our recently approved budget, Board Minutes and our Action Plans for projects around the park. We will be holding Board Meetings in the Pavilion and all interested parties can attend and see your Board in action.

Warm Regards,  
Tim Johnson



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

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### 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

