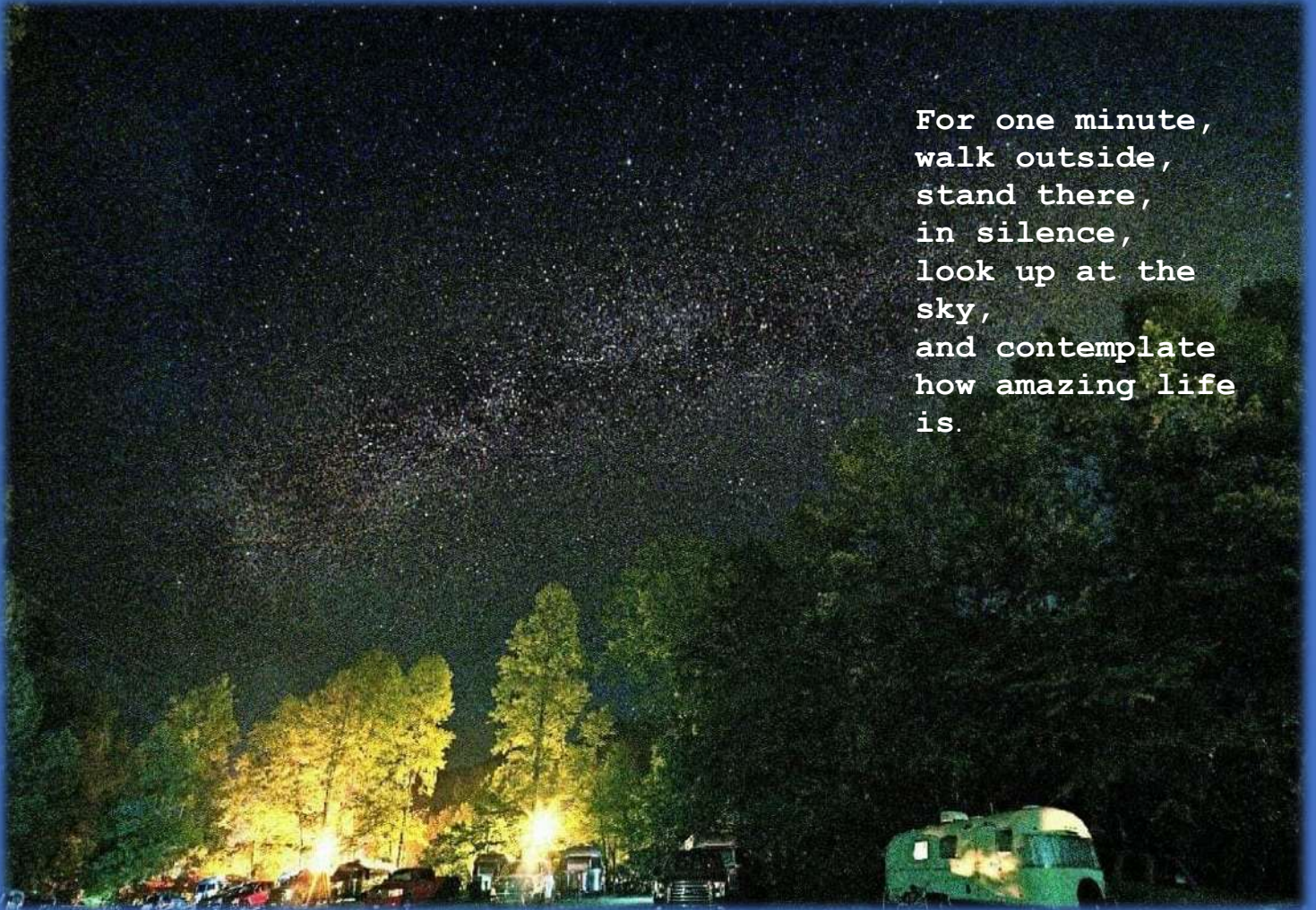


The Peach State Caravanner

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For one minute,
walk outside,
stand there,
in silence,
look up at the
sky,
and contemplate
how amazing life
is.



This stunning view of the Milky Way at the Top of Georgia reminds us what a precious gem we have at our disposal. Life at the TOP is pretty amazing too, with all the natural beauty that surrounds it and members who maintain a respectful, welcoming attitude to everyone. We look forward to seeing you there as we continue to abide by the CDC guidelines.

Photo by Samuel Fontanez

President's Letter



What an unusual year we are having, with the COVID restrictions and the violence racking many locations in our beautiful country! Despite these challenges, camping is a welcome relief to all of us.

1 As you will read in my “Rolling Stone” article in this issue of the Caravanner, the First Lady and I have been out and about for approximately two months in “Gracie”, our beloved vintage Airstream! At every stop, we met wonderful “fellow Americans” that I do not hear about on the nightly news! They were willing to provide advice on activities and help with any challenges we had setting up or hooking up Gracie. They were genuinely friendly people that shared their unique stories of living, working and camping in another state!

I have heard from several people that the TOP has been very busy this Spring and early Summer, as people tired of being quarantined chose to get out and enjoy great discussions with old friends and make new friends while social distancing in the North Georgia Mountains! We plan to visit at the end of July and will host for two weeks in August, so we will finally see many of our friends after all these months apart!

We have two guest rallies scheduled for August, where we will provide an excellent venue for these clubs! August 7 - 9, Palmetto State and August 14 - 16, Argosy Club.

Anyone miss the rallies in April, May and now July? We sure do! First time in history this has occurred and we hope our rally over Labor Day will not be canceled! I think we cancelled one rally a couple of years ago due to the storm that hit our campground, but three in one year surely has set a record that I hope and pray will not be repeated!

I just read an email from WBCCI Region 3 providing new leadership for 2020. Our club is well represented on this important board:

President - Bill Wild
Treasurer - John Meeks
Secretary - Kimberly Funderburg
Registrars - Dick & Judi Sells

This participation speaks volumes about the importance of our club, which is the second largest in the U.S., and in our leadership experience and willingness to provide support for the great WBCCI organization!

On a sad note, we have received news of two events that can be very trying: Al & Mary Holcomb's accident driving home from LYH in Melbourne and Kathy Rabren's recent stroke. Our prayers are with both couples!

Tim Johnson
President, Top of
Georgia Airstream
Club



LOVING CONCERNS

Sympathy

Our condolences to the family of **Jean Gilbert** upon the death of her brother, Brown Hortman.

We extend sympathy to **Nadine Johnson** and family on the death of her husband, Vic Johnson.

Illness and Surgery

May 13, Keep **Lisa Roberts** in your prayers as she had very serious surgery to remove a recurrence of lung cancer. Update: June 2, After a period of rehab, she is recovering at home but is extremely limited and is on oxygen. "Please continue to pray for me, Ricky and our family." Cards of encouragement can be mailed to Lisa at 29 Cedar Wood, Greer, SC29651

Kathy Rabren suffered a stroke, affecting her right leg and arm. Ken and Kathy love the Lord and are depending on your prayers for her recovery. You can send cards to their home address or email Ken.

2904 Brookhaven Run Circle, Duluth, GA 30097

Ken's [email: rabrenw@ymail.com](mailto:rabrenw@ymail.com)

Update Ju 24, from Ken - *After eleven days in Northside Hospital at Lawrenceville, we received approval to move Kathy to Eastside Rehab at Snellville Ga. The problems with the coronavirus have complicated medical treatment. Kathy and I are looking forward to this change. She has made very little improvement during the days in the hospital. We appreciate the prayers and concern of our friends at the TOP.*

Update: July, After Ken completed some training classes concerning Kathy's care, he was able to bring her home.

Youth Rally 2020 Cancelled

The Board for the Top of Georgia Airstream Club regrets having to announce that the Youth Rally, scheduled for July 22-26, 2020 is cancelled. The Board came to this decision upon the recommendation of the Rally Committee. Once more Covid is rearing its ugly head and makes the rally an unacceptable risk to our children and entire Airstream family.

The rate of Covid cases has been the highest in Georgia since the beginning of the pandemic. Also, children are not as aware as adults of the need for social distancing. In fact, it is not really in their vocabulary once they start playing.

As always, everyone is invited to come to the TOG and bring your children and grandchildren. There will be no activities planned by the Rally Committee, but we do have a wonderful place for riding bikes, skateboards, and roller skates, and playing in the creek. Helen and Hiawassee are open for business and would welcome your patronage.

Do not forget to social distance, use face masks, and wash your hands often. Just because we are camping in paradise, it does not mean that we should lose our caution about Covid.

Membership

Here are our current numbers....

A	8	Assoc.
B	0	Business
H	4	Honorary
R`	0	Reverse Record
R	288	Regular
	300	TOTAL

“Thank You”

To all our Top of Georgia Friends,
We want to thank you for the prayers,
phone calls, food and cards following our
recent accident.

A special thank you to Edgar and Charlotte
Williamson for coming to the hospital and
taking us to the lot where the trailer and Yukon
were relocated. They helped us get food and
personal items out and brought us home that
night.

Also, a special thanks to Danny and Virginia
Howell for meeting us in Dublin on Monday
morning to finish cleaning out the trailer and
Yukon. They brought all that to our house.

All of our Top of Georgia friends are special to
us.

3 There was an Angel riding with us that day and
we are so thankful to be here today.

Al and Mary Holcomb



Spring Clean Up

The list below is not current, but you might be
interested in seeing exactly how much work has
to be done. Volunteers are always needed to
help with maintaining the park. Any
contribution you make towards this effort is
appreciated.



Spring Clean-Up as of April 23, 2020				
Project	Status	Sign-Up/Name	Completed	
1 Repaint arrows on drive	Spring	Doug		
2 Paint water tank (include pressure washing	Spring			
3 Tractor Work: Remove rocks from spring pond and fill level	Spring			
4 Pavilion Pressure wash Pavilion floor Paint steel columns & beams in Pavilion Clean chairs and tables Clean and dust Library Clean covered porch and furniture at back of Pavilion	Spring			
5 Pressure wash Shelters & clean fans and lights	Spring			
6 Clean out well house	Spring			
7 Pressure wash & paint fireplace chimney	Spring			
8 Replace and bury TV cables and connectors	Spring			
9 Paint TV shed door	Spring			
10 Landscape: Weed flower area Pick up sticks in the lawn Prune trees and bushes Reset & plumb stop sign at exit to highway	Spring Continuing project	Faye to oversee		
11 Paint side of tractor/tool shed	Spring 2020			
12 Protect water/electrical outlets with ground cover and gravel - start with 10 sites as a test	2020			
13 Test all electrical outlets at site for adequate service	Spring 2020			
14 Remove two leaning trees next to creek 4 trees	Spring 2020			
15 Fence Dog Park				
16 Clear trail to cross on Mt.	Spring 2020			
COMPLETED WORK				
3 Clean ditch behind parking in section C	Complete	Murphy, Vince		03.28.20
3 Level lawn at parking for trailers	Complete			04.22.20
1 install STOP sign at host shed	Stop Sign installed	Rick & Doug		04.22.20
10 Repair balustrade on walk to fire pit	Complete	Rick		04.22.20
9 Install door on TV shed	Donated from Tom B.	Rick, Vince, Sam		04.21.20
9 Cleaned TV shed		Vince, Rick		04.21.20
8 Documented all TV connectors	Reviewed & List	Hatfield & DeLany		03.28.20

“HOME AT LAST”

One of the byproducts of the terrible Covid-19 pandemic that we have all been experiencing has become a good thing for the Top of Georgia Airstream Park. We had Airstreamers from all over the country come to stay in place at the TOP, seeking a haven to safely ride out the disease. While there are some that have already gone home as the economy is slowly reopening, there are others who are very much at home at the TOP.

Kat and Jackson Elder are representative of many of these Airstreamers. They have been full timing for 7 ½ years. While they have a post office box in South Dakota (as do many full timers), they have family spaced out across the country. Both Kat and Jackson hail from Louisiana, and they have a daughter, Stephanie, living in New Orleans. Jackson says Stephanie is a “Happiness Engineer with Wordpress.” Their son, a landscape architect who is an Aggie (Texas A&M), still lives in Bryan, Texas, along with his wife and three-year-old son. Part of the Elder routine is to travel the United States, visiting family as they go. But this year the pattern was interrupted by the Coronavirus.

Kat and Jackson were camping in Anderson, Texas, when they received word from the campground that they were closing and would have to leave. They started calling Airstream campgrounds around the country and were told that they were not open to any new business, that due to the epidemic they were protecting the campers they already had in place. This left the Elders in a bind, until they called the Top of Georgia, a park they have visited three times in the past as they traveled to see family. They were thrilled to be told by the host on duty that they were welcome to come to the TOP and stay in place with us.

They left Texas in their 1999, 28’ Excella, and drove 900 miles in three days to get to our park. Along the way they passed a car pushing another car on the Interstate, doing at least 60 mph, and they had to spend the night in a Wal-Mart in Mississippi for all the campgrounds along the way were closed.

But no harm done, they made it to the TOP and we are so happy they did. No one knows the course of the Covid virus or howlong it will last, but all Airstreamers are welcome at the Top of Georgia as part of our Airstream family.

Mary Anne Meeks



Rolling Stone by Tim Johnson

On May 12, the First Lady and I decided it was time to see our granddaughter. We missed her first birthday on Easter because airline travel was severely throttled. Options were to walk, ride a bike, catch a train, or bus, or drive Gracie out to Denver. We departed Warner Robins with high hopes of an exciting four days of driving with three nights en route. First night we stayed in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel near Chattanooga, TN. Second night was at Scott AFB, East of St Louis. We found an interesting tunnel on base.

It



5 was so intriguing, we had to take a photo! Third night was spent at an RV Park in KS. While driving over 1,400 miles, at times it was so boring Tim turned the trip computer to the transmission temperature gauge just to see how much it changed on small hills! Arrived at our daughter's home and immediately began spoiling our beautiful 14month old granddaughter who had recently started to walk!



She loved to climb up next to "Papa" and watch Minions on a YouTube channel!

After 10 days in Denver, we drove North to Estes Park, stayed in an RV park, and went into the National Park on the first day it re-opened. Thinking it would be crowded, we got up early and arrived at the park to find no line for folks with lifetime passes! First time in memory all parking lots had spots for us to park and we avoided riding shuttle busses!



A popular activity at Rocky Mtn. National Park is to walk around one of several lakes. This trail of Bear Lake was very entertaining with a "cool" temperature!

Our departure from Estes Park for a long drive South to Ouray, CO was canceled. Our daughter called and asked us to provide day care for our granddaughter the following week. Her

regular babysitter is her other grandma.

Unfortunately, Grandma Evans had to take care of her hubby who had back surgery. Another glorious week of bonding with my granddaughter, as she and I took daily two hour walks/rides. We will return often to spend great time with her!





Off to Ouray to spend 7 nights at the local KOA. This included a long climb up to Monarch Pass with an 11,300-foot summit.

Nothing like experiencing a relaxing Rocky Mountain High in the shade of some beautiful evergreens and aspens!



Time for a southerly drive to Cortez, CO to visit our neighbors of 23 years in Chandler, AZ, who recently moved out of the “Valley of the Sun”! We had plenty of room to park Gracie on their 17 acres!

Now for the exciting drive South to Albuquerque via Hwy 371 (Farmington to I-40), where we saw only three other cars headed south in over 100 miles! Yep, I watch the transmission temperature change for excitement! We spent the night at a lovely KOA on the East side of Albuquerque.

Now we were seriously headed Eastward and home! Drove to Lubbock to visit Tim’s nephew, who had recently moved to Lubbock from Minneapolis. He had a new addition to his family that we have not seen other than in pictures.

Who knew there is an AFB (Cannon) in the middle of nowhere (Clovis, NM)? We found an interesting RV park in Lubbock called Buffalo Springs Lake. There were power boats, paddle boards, jet skis and ATV’s for off road adventures. AND, we had hail on the first night that thankfully did not damage Indie or Gracie!

Next stop Oklahoma City, where we camped at the Family Camp at Tinker AFB. We visited friends from our church in Chandler, AZ who have moved to OKC and a couple we know from Land Yacht Harbor in Melbourne, FL. We departed OKC and overnighted near Little Rock, AR, before a 574-mile drive to Warner Robins.

2020 was our year for towing Gracie solo across country. We are planning 2021 to be a year that includes a Caravan to some exciting places and we would love for some of you to join us. A specific caravan has yet to be determined and we will probably be on a wait list.

Tim

Region 3 News

These are unusual times. The 2020 International officer installation ceremony still took place as scheduled on Friday, June 26th at 7:00 PM MST (Loveland, CO time), but it all happened via a Zoom webinar with the participants logging in from across the nation. Here in the Eastern time zone that meant the ceremony started at 9:00 PM! Past International President Barry Bell did the honors for the international officers and the incoming region presidents and then left it to the outgoing region presidents to install the incoming region vice presidents locally. It was all over in less than an hour.

Here in Region 3, outgoing president John Leake hosted a non-rally at Palmetto Cove RV Park in Cleveland, SC. The park is a former Airstream only park and is still the rally home for the Palmetto State local club. We had a nice turnout and even managed a social distanced social gathering and a ceremony of our own to recognize incoming and outgoing officers and committee chairs. As you might expect, a good time was had by all. We even managed a Covid-19 compliant serving line for some pre-prepared party food.

I was installed as Region 3 President along with my First Lady Barbara. Christine Baum (Joe) from the Spirit of Virginia local club is the new region 1st VP, and Jerry Peterson (Debra) from the South Carolina Coastal local club is the new region 2nd VP. Kimberly Funderburg (my First Daughter) will serve as Secretary for both the Top of Georgia and Region 3, and John Meeks will do the same as Treasurer. Dick and Judi Sells will also join the team as Registrar for both the local club and region as well.

Barbara and I are excited to be leading Region 3 for the next two years, but want to be clear that it will be a team effort that involves everyone in our five state region. Airstreaming is the ultimate social distancing activity, so with a little creative planning we can keep enjoying our lifestyle in spite of the craziness of today's world. Together we will keep Region 3 going and growing.

Bill Wild
President, Region 3

Bill and Barbara Wild
(Top of GA Airstream Club)
as President and First Lady



Top Shots ---- Fourth of July Celebration



1st Place Winners

Peter & Clemencia Lipka WBCCI 8526

Members from Pennwood who visited for the holiday and may join us as affiliate members.



The park has a new See Saw! It was donated by one of our members and the kids love it! It is located near the playground and the lower pavilion. The kids in the picture are the grandkids of Linda Baker-Rae Moore.



2nd Place Winners

Mike and Rebecca Flynn 2754

Members of ToG



3rd Place Winner

Bob and Faye Murrell

Member of ToG



Yes, our furry friends had a great time at the Top too !

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2019-2020 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally Events	
<i>Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless noted otherwise.</i>	
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

