



The Peach State Caravanner

Volunteer Issue



Storm Damage (Pg 3) (photo by Kimberly Funderburg)



(Nancy Sibly in photo) Volunteering! (Pg 5)



Rally fun! (Pgs 6-7) (Photo by Maria Harris)

"Life was meant
for great
adventures and
close friends."

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President's Letter



Dear TOG Community and Members,

One of the things I loved about teaching was when I would ask for volunteers and someone would say, “Sure, I can help.” It is that willingness to help that makes all the difference in this world and in the TOG Airstream Park. We recently had our annual Spring Clean Up in the Park and there were many who said, “Sure, I can help.”

The purpose of this letter is to say “thank you” to all those volunteers, many who I did not know and some who I did not get their name to say thanks. Please forgive me if I missed you, but know that you are valued. The TOG looks great!

I would also like to appeal to all of you in the Park, but especially if you have been with us for awhile during the pandemic. We are more than just a place to park your trailer. We are your home, and we need your help to keep the park looking great. I would encourage those who can, and are willing, to ask the Host every now and then if there is something that needs doing. If nothing else, as you walk around the park, pick up any sticks that may be in the way of our mowers. Pull weeds in the flower beds, clean the refrigerator in the Pavilion if you use it. No effort is too big or too small.

Be the person who says, “Sure, I will help,” and make a difference.

My best always, Mary Anne

What's New in the Park



Photo by Kimberly Funderburg

A severe storm, the beginning of April, poured several inches of rain into the area causing our creek to become more like raging rapids and eroding the banks along the lower section of the park.

Crews and volunteers got to work and installed new electric pedestals and water spigots.

Sites 1 through 5 in the lower section/creek-side have been upgraded!



Photo by Jaime Collins

Creating some space in the active storage area of the Park! Members in this designated area have a little extra breathing room!



Photo credit:
Dick Sells

Coming Soon

- Waiting on the plumber and electrician before the laundry room can be finished (hopefully, by July)
- The Board has approved foot-bridge repair and erosion control along the creek
- The Board has approved screening in the back porch of the main pavilion. Work to begin in June.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- The park will need help screening in the back porch
- We need volunteers to help keep the grounds mowed, trimmed, weed-whacked and free of fallen branches/sticks and debris.

If you would like to help with any of the above projects, please, email Rick Sibly, Property Manager:

rmsibly@gmail.com

Volunteering

Volunteer Position Available: *Loving Concerns*

Myrna Warren and her husband, Neal, have been members of the Top of GA Airstream Club since the early 1990's. Over the years, they've had numerous Airstream motor homes, including a "Squarestream". To benefit most from their TOG membership, they got involved in various volunteer activities during rallies.

Myrna replaced Mary Ann Parks as the Loving Concerns person in the fall of 2017.

As Myrna explains, "The club is like a big family and through Loving Concerns, we offer prayers and support to our members when there is sickness or a death. We also celebrate together when our prayers have been answered after effective treatments and we grieve with each other when there is a loss.

The reason I'm retiring from the position is that we are selling our camper. We live close enough to the park to maintain contact with friends there. It's been a great experience!"

The duties of being the Loving Concerns person are to send cards to members on behalf of the park and to communicate via email to members letting everyone know of who is sick, having surgery, treatments or deaths so we can pray for them. This also gives individuals a chance to send cards, emails or make calls to support their friends in need. The other responsibility is to advise the Blue Beret (via email) of current members' deaths so that it will be published in the magazine's next issue.

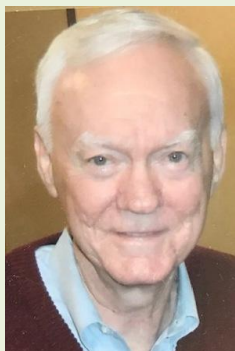
The club pays for the cost of cards and postage. This is really an enjoyable job being of service to others. I have several boxes of cards to help someone get started and I'm happy to meet a volunteer at the park to offer support and guidance.

If interested in taking over this important role to the Park, please contact Myrna at:

myrnawarren@windstream.net

Hosts Needed

Ken Rabren, Host Coordinator



*Thanks to everyone
that has served as
host in the past.
Your service is
greatly appreciated.*

The park is operated by volunteers! Hosting is a great opportunity to meet other members of the Club and to serve an important role in our Top of Georgia Community.

If your schedule works for any of the following weeks, please, call Ken Rabren. (404) 660-5597

- July 10 thru July 24
- July 31 thru August 7
- September 11 thru September 18
- October 16th through the remainder of the year

As a reward for volunteering:

- Hosts park for free on the days they are hosting. Have access to Hi-Speed internet. Plus the host will receive a voucher for one free day of parking for every day that you are on-duty.
- As an extra bonus, if you host between the months of November through March, you receive two days free for every one day hosting.

Interested in Hosting, but not the full-time commitment?



The Park is encouraging members to try “**Buddy Hosting**”.

Here is how it works: If hosting for two weeks or more, you can recruit your own helper (co-host) to help you manage the duties and time. All hosts and co-hosts will still require approval and training by Ken Rabren.

The Main host will park under the shed, with the co-host parking nearby. Signs are being worked on to alert campers to which host is on-duty/off-duty and the cordless phones can be easily passed back and forth. Both hosts have access to high-speed internet already installed in the Host Shed.

The main Host will be in charge of the accuracy of the books and deposits. The Host and Co-Host can divvy up the days however they want. The Main Host is responsible for letting the treasurer know how to split the free parking rewards via the report turned in with the deposit. This system is designed to encourage those who want more freedom to go out to dinner, run errands, go on family excursions, or just "unplug" during those longer hosting periods.

Heartfelt THANKS

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Wayne Murphy removing the old outhouse



Above: Meet Peter and Clemencia Lipka! These folks graciously volunteered to help their friends Bob and Faye Murrell with our beautification efforts at the Top. Under less than ideal circumstances (rain and cold), they gathered up Black Eyed Susans, and started planting! Director Clara Ellis, on the right, brought the transplants from her garden. Please thank Peter and Clemencia for being so generous with their time and labor.

The Spring Work Days were a success!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help keep our community beautiful and well-maintained! As a park that depends on its volunteers, no project or amount of time given is too small!



Right Photo:
Julie Gray
weeding the
main pavilion
garden



Left photo:
Bill Harris, Tom Baker &
Donn Gray working on the
new laundry room.

Right Photo:
Laurie Murphy cleaning
the pavilion fridge

Thank you, Maria Harris, for the great photos!



It's Purple!!

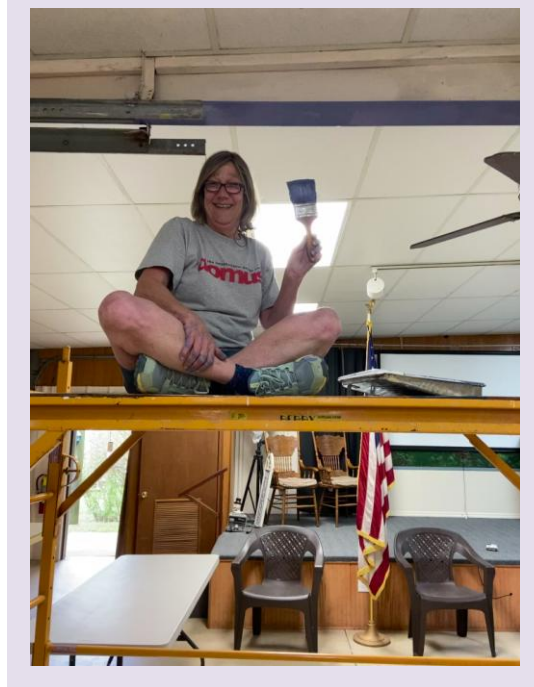
By Nancy Sibly

After several years of talk about painting the posts and overhead beams in the Pavilion, JiJi Haque commandeered that project.

Trusty helpers Vince Marolla, Jaime Collins, and Mary Anne Meeks aided Michelangelo JiJi on her scaffolding for what seemed like days. (Or to JiJi, weeks.)

When I first heard, "It's purple!" I was sure someone was exaggerating. Well, no, the color is PURPLE. The color selector, who shall remain anonymous, blames it on a poor color match for his chosen shade of blue. It actually grew on us.

Think "purple mountain majesty" and come and put in your two cents worth on it.



*P.S. Is it a coincidence that our
Madame President Meeks went to LSU?
You know what their colors are.*

What fun we had!!

Top of Georgia Spring Rally Recap April 7-11, 2021

By Nancy Sibly

It was fun to meet a few new members and to see some long-time members, a few of whom stayed put at their home base last year due to COVID restrictions. The unofficial rally count was 50 and with full-timers we had a park full.

Spring is always pretty at the Top and the place was a hub of activity on the work days preceding the rally. Repairs were made to the Upper Shelter, the kitchen received a good cleaning, the ancient bathhouse from the previous campground was demolished, AND construction began on the laundry. Lots of hands made quick work of dividing the storage room in two to make room for the relocated Archives and prep its former space for a laundry.



Mary Anne overseeing the laundry room construction! Thanks, fellas!



About 25 of us had an outing to an alpaca farm. It's hard not to smile at these creatures with their curly bangs, sideways chewing, and serious under bite.

They share the **Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm** with ducks, geese, chickens, and two hounds to keep everything in line. Some of our knitters are working with alpaca yarn now.



Left photo:
Rick Sibly creating
stands to make
painting the birdhouses
easier. Thank you, Tom
Baker for building them



Right photo:
Barbara Wild painting a
birdhouse

Birdhouse painting
As with most painting
projects at the Top, it was a
hit!



Happy Birthday!!

We had a party for everyone who had a birthday over the past year and didn't get to celebrate. People found the table for their birthday month and mingled with those who had a birthday in the same month.



Bill Harris & Clara Ellis



John Meeks & Tom Baker



We had our usual Bingo and Popcorn night and a table of new members kept winning the prizes.

That's one way to keep them coming back!



Doug Ralston leading BINGO

And what's a rally without meetings? The Board had an excruciatingly long meeting Friday afternoon to narrow down the issues for the Business Meeting Saturday morning.

Meeting attendees on Saturday morning were rewarded with coffee and pastries before and

afterwards a BBQ lunch from Happy Hawg in Hiawassee.

(Try saying that real fast.)



The corn hole tournament got rained out, but we'll try again next time.

Mark Spears shared his wealth of info with us.

Later, some daring souls checked out the new-ish Tantrum Brewing Company in Cleveland.

Have you noticed how many wineries and breweries have sprung up in the area?



Christian Jones singing at Tantrum Brewery Company

Fun, food, friends!

By far the most fulfilling is catching up with our second family, sometimes while we're walking around the park and sometimes when we're working side by side.

Come join us the next time!

A Sea of Silver in Tallahassee

By Mary Anne Meeks, TOG President

The Region 3 Talley Rally was held in Tallahassee, Florida at the North Florida Fairgrounds from April 21-25, 2021.

The Top of Georgia Airstream Club was well represented at the Region 3. We had 19 trailers present, the most out of all the Clubs present.

The Rally 3 President, Bill Wild, is Past President of the TOG, Kimberly Funderburg (Bill's daughter) is Region 3 Secretary, and John Meeks, our Treasurer, is also Region 3 Treasurer.



Bill & Barbara Wild and Kimberly Funderburg



There were 121 trailers present from the five states in the region: Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. Some of these Airstreamers overnighted at the TOG on the way to and from the meeting. Overall there were 244 members present.

The purpose of the Region 3 is to have a business meeting and discuss plans for the Region and for the International Convention this summer. But most folks come for the fun, the food, and the entertainment. A good time was had by all.



Visit to nearby Wakulla Springs



Beanie-Weenie chefs, Tom Baker & Bill Harris



Always with welcoming smiles, Judy Baker and Dick & Judi Sells



What's in the pot, Julian Clements?



Rally, rally, time to rally

Top of Georgia Airstream Park

Memorial Day Rally May 26 - 31, 2021

Wednesday, May 26

6:30 PM Rally Registration
Adults \$20; Kids free

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Mary Anne Meeks
Snacks provided; bring your own drinks

Thursday, May 27

8:00 AM Breakfast at Kami's Place (former Wendell's)*
(Men and women invited)

10:00 AM Flower Arranging *

Friday, May 28

8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion – Bacon & eggs, etc.
(Bring set-ups/plates, mugs, eating utensils)

10:00 AM C-C-C-Cicadas: Learn more about these
insects that appear once every seventeen
years. Are there any in our Park?

1:00 PM Field Trip to Whimsy Farm or Folk Art Pottery
Museum *

6:30 PM Rally Registration

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Mary Anne Meeks
Bingo & Popcorn, Doug and Jaime Ralston
Bring your own drinks.

Saturday, May 29

9:00 AM Board Meeting @ Pavilion

1:00 PM Ice Cream Social at the Pavilion*
Where Have You Been This Winter?
Trivia Contest

1:45 PM New Member Orientation *, Jaime Collins

2:00 PM Corn hole tournament *

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner at Pavilion *
Bring plates and eating utensils.

7:00 PM Bill & Betty Lancaster (Members of the
Alabama Club) – Songs from the 50s-60s

Sunday, May 30

10:00 AM Worship Service at the Pavilion.
Memorial Service for members we've
lost this past year. Refreshments to
follow.

2:00 PM Jam Session hosted by Bill & Betty Lancaster
Bring your instruments/All skill levels
welcome

Monday/Memorial Day, May 31 - R&R; Safe travels

NOTE: *Please sign up if planning to attend

Kitchen Volunteers are needed!!

Between COVID and the lack of a Kitchen Manager, a Top tradition of serving a large breakfast in the Pavilion has fallen by the wayside. We have also lost some of our loyal worker bees and are in need of more to help to cook, serve and clean!

Please email Nancy Sibly in advance or sign up at the beginning of the rally if you are able to help.

nancysibly@gmail.com

P.S. One of the hardest parts of rally planning is getting an accurate **head count for the food** which has to be ordered several weeks in advance. Please let us know in advance if you plan to be there. Thanks.

What's happening around Helen!

Bavarianfest

Saturday, May 29, 2021

TIME

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

LOCATION

Festhalle
1074 Edelweiss Strasse,
Helen, GA 30545



COST
\$8

FOR MORE INFORMATION

706-878-1908 or www.helenchamber.com

Help us honor our Military and Civil Servants. Free admission for all active military & veterans (ID required). Experience a live Oompah band, dancing and a festive German atmosphere.

*Imported and domestic beers and wines *Wurst on a bun with sauerkraut, hot dogs and snacks will be available for sale.

48th Annual Helen to the Atlantic Balloon Race

**Thursday, June 3, 2021 through
Saturday, June 5, 2021**

Helendorf River Inn

33 Munich Strasse Helen, GA, 30545



Race competitors and local flyers will take to the sky at 7 am on June 3rd, 2021.

While the competition to the Atlantic continues, other balloonists compete in local events beginning Thursday evening around 6 pm. Local flying events will take place also on Friday and Saturday. The balloons will fly around 7:00 am & 6:30 pm each day (weather permitting).

There will be opportunities available to the public; assisting with the inflations, being a part of a chase crew, taking a tethered ride in a balloon or a champagne flight over the mountains.

Be sure and check out

www.HelenBalloon.com for more information

Hardman Farm State Historic Site Presents:



Southern Food. Local Brew. Music.
Appalachian Culture. History.

**Saturday May 29, 2021
5-8pm**

Hardman Farm State Historic Site

Dinner catered by Cowboys and Angels.

Featuring local brew by Tantrum.

Tickets \$65 + tax/person

<https://hardmanfireandshine.eventbrite.com>



For more information or to purchase tickets, visit
<https://hardmanfireandshine.eventbrite.com>

From the Park

Did you know you can invite your Buddies to join you at the park?

Buddies = friends who own a non-Airstream RV

Members may invite their friends and family members as buddies when the member is in attendance. Members may invite a maximum of two RV buddies who may stay as long as the sponsoring member remains in the park. They also pay the same member nightly rate!



Copperhead snakes and Timber Rattlesnakes are common in North Georgia

Watch your
Step!



Important Reminders...

The TOG accepts cash, checks and credit card for payment of parking fees.

All fees will be paid upon departure from the TOG, unless monthly or storage and then it is the member's responsibility to provide payment to the host or mail in a check/credit card by phone each month.

If any fees are over sixty (60) days late, a late charge of 15% will be added to the entire late bill.

To **prevent damage** to the trailers in the park, all members are encouraged to use the push-mowers and weed trimmers (supplied by the Park) to keep the area around your trailer neat and looking good!

****The TOG Park is not responsible for damaged property.**

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



Plans are underway for our Memorial Day Rally

5/26-5/31 with a few details still to be worked out.

The most important event of that weekend will be a Memorial on Sunday morning, combined with our worship service, for those members whom we have lost in the past year.

Letters will be sent to family members and all are invited to attend.

Youth Rally June 16th thru 20th
For the young and young-at-heart!

SISTER RALLY

Eastern Tennessee Unit is hosting a "Sister Rally" at our Park June 10th thru 13th.

They are very excited to gather at the Top and enjoy the views and amenities our park has to offer. We are expecting 8 to 10 trailers.

Be sure to stop by and say "Hello"!

Region 3 Business Meeting Report

April 21-25, 2021

The Top of Georgia Airstream Club was represented by Mary Anne Meeks, Unit 032 President, at the annual Region 3 Business meeting. Bill Wild, Region 3 President, presented the slate of officers for the International Convention, along with the proposed changes to the WBCCI Constitution. He also announced that a new Caravan Handbook was soon to be released, along with online training to become a caravan leader (three hours). WBCCI Caravans are resuming in the USA.

The altruistic project for Region 3 was the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year of helping first responders and their families. The Foundation has built four Smart homes (full accessibility for the disabled), one GOLD STAR home, and paid off three Fallen Heroes mortgages in Georgia. Region 3 donated \$3000 to the Foundation!

Each club president was allowed time to talk about their club. There was favorable response to Mary Anne's remarks about a laundry being built at the TOG. She invited everyone to come and visit the TOG and enjoy the beauty of our park in the North Georgia Mountains.

Bill announced the following WBCCI Rallies:

- International in Lebanon, Tenn. July 17-24, 2021
- Galax Old Fiddlers Rally in Galax, VA August 8-15, 2021
- International Board of Trustees in Savannah, GA January 17-21, 2022
- Region 3 in Hiawassee, GA April 21-24, 2022



All are welcome at these rallies. Please note that all of these rallies are really fun and fairly close to the TOG.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Meeks

April 26, 2021

Celebrations and Loving Concerns

*"True friends are never apart.
Maybe in distance, but never in
heart."* – **Helen Keller**



Left Photo:
Casey Kauffman,
Barbara Jumper,
Christee Fontanez,
Nancy Sibly, Maria
Harris (with Kate
Singleton's scones
and Rick Sibly
photo-bomb)

Below Photo:
Sammy and
Christee Fontanez

A touching and loving
farewell party was
coordinated by several
members in the park for
Sammy, Christee and Jacob
Fontanez.

*A special thank-you and
much love to everyone for
spending the weekend with
us and for the delicious
food! Christee*



Rick Sibly,
Bill Harris,
Brad
Singleton,
Tom Baker

Illness and Injury

Grant Mackay had 3 stints in his heart.

Faye Murrell is still having throat problems since her stroke; she is seeing a specialist.

Ian Hampton has had a setback on getting a bone marrow transplant. He is undergoing other treatments before having the transplant.

Jimmy Jarrett is experiencing failing health.

Bill Wild has had shoulder and knee surgery.

Stephanie Lankford had a spider bite on her leg that required treatment.

Sympathy

March 27, 2021

Irene Roach passed away.

April 11, 2021

Elaine Beavers passed away. Many of you remember Roy and Elaine from their membership at the Top of GA some years ago.

Thanks to your love, cards, calls, emails and prayers they have been very encouraged and thankful. May we continue to be there for each other like a family.

If any of you have the need for prayers and want me to send out a message to our members, please let me know at:

myrnawarren@windstream.net

A Special Thank You!



Update on Al and Mary Holcomb

During the months of October and November 2020, Al and Mary, both, received cancer diagnoses.

Al had a place on his nose and Mary had colon cancer.

Following many doctor visits and tests, Mary had surgery which removed 50% of her colon. She has since lost 30 lbs and still experiences some problems, but is doing better each day.

Al's cancer was removed and he is doing well.

Walt and Sally Barksdale, Airstream friends from Ocala, FL, spent two weeks caring for Mary and Al.

"We are so grateful to have Airstream friends that love us and are willing to take care of us," commented Mary.

Al and Mary would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, calls, food and cards.

They have been members at the Top for 40 years and look forward to seeing many of you this year!

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.

Membership address changes to: Jaime Collins, 2654 Green Meadow Lane, Marietta GA 30066 or email tog airstream@gmail.com or call (404) 433-7268

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2021 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

Date	Event
April 5th – 6th	Spring Work days
April 7th – 11th	Spring Rally
April 21st – 25th	Region 3 Tally Rally / Tallahassee, FL
May 26 th – 31 st	Memorial Day Rally
June 16 th – 20 th	Youth Rally
July 4 th	Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration
July 17 th – 24 th	International Rally / Lebanon, TN
September 1 st – 6 th	Labor Day Rally
October 13 th – 17 th	Fall Rally

Officers:

President – Mary Anne Meeks

President Elect – Doug Ralston

Vice President – TBD

Secretary – Kimberly Funderburg

Treasurer – John Meeks

Directors Year Two – Clara Ellis and Dick Sells

Directors Year One – Jiji Haque and Bill Harris

President Emeritus – Tim Johnson

Nominating Committee-
 Maria Harris -Chairman, Sammy Fontanez,
 Faye Murrell, Barbara Jumper, and Stephanie Lankford

