



The Peach State Caravanner



Tropical Storm Fred (pg 5)



Upcoming Events (pgs 12-13)



From the Archives (pg 14)

“Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller.” – Ibn Battuta

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President's Letter



Dear Airstream Family,

For the past few months I have perused the archives with Lin Thompkins, Jiji Haque, and Judy Baker, researching our first 60 years, and how we grew as a club and park. At the same time, we look forward to expansion and continuing to grow for the next 60.

Key to our future is the vote the Board recently made to bring fiber optic cable into the TOG to enhance our WI-FI capability. A special thanks goes to Doug Ralston, President-elect, who is chairman of this project; as well as one of our members, Jesse Stone. None of this would be possible without the involvement of Jesse, who is spearheading the installation and maintenance of this new communication system. Much of the project is being done with volunteers, Jesse at the top of the list, followed by our property managers, Rick Sibly and Tom Baker.

As you may know, we have sustained some damage along the creek and some of the campsites from two severe floods this spring and summer. Rick and Tom and their volunteers are considering the best way to proceed with repairs. The host has been keeping a list of parking sites that are experiencing electric or cable problems, and we have been repairing them as we go along. Oscar Landscaping is doing a fine job of keeping the park mowed, trimmed, and looking good. The bottom line is that even though we are starting some large projects for the future of the park, we continue to take care of day-to-day maintenance.

Finally, it is time to consider officer elections. Due to the surge in Covid, we canceled our Labor Day Rally when we usually hold officer elections. There will be a special in-person and ZOOM business meeting at the TOG on Saturday, October 16, at 9 AM. Elections will be held in person, or via a website (survey monkey) either accessed onsite at tablets/computers in the pavilion or your own personal device within the set time frame. After the election there will be a free boxed barbeque lunch for all attending the meeting. Christian Jones, one of our favorite musicians, will entertain us with an outdoor concert from 2-5 PM. Following the singing, we will have the installation of officers for the 2021-2022 year.

My best always,

Mary Anne

Hello TOG Family,

I have some very exciting news for all of those bandwidth bandits out there. The board has voted to upgrade our park's internet service.

As we continue to attract more and more visitors to our park, the demand for internet capacity grows. Most people have a minimum of 4 devices that connect to our system. Many more people are working from their trailers and "streaming" is quickly becoming the preferred method for entertainment.

I would like to personally thank our "Git R Done" property managers, Rick and Tom, for introducing me to Jesse Stone. (More about Jesse in a moment.)

First let me recap our current internet set-up. The park is currently running on pretty old technology. We have 3 different DSL subscriptions; one in the upper pavilion, one in the pine pavilion and one in the lower section. Without "geeking" out too much, our park is currently running on about 400MB of download capacity and about 75 MB of upload capacity. But more specifically, the upper section shares about 200MB, the pine section shares 100MB, and the lower shares about 100MB.

Now, as many of you know, the park has availability to fiber-internet service. This means that we can have 1000MB download capacity and 1000MB upload capacity. That is 2.5 times more download and 10 times more upload capacity. And over the past year we have been trying to find the right company to design a new system to distribute the signal throughout the park.

Now enters our esteemed TOG member, Jesse Stone. He is retired military and has an extensive background in this area. Jesse has designed a broadcasting system that I can confidently say will be among the best RV park internet systems in the country. And even better, it will not cost as much as the less capable designs that we obtained from other outside contractors.

The new system will allow every camper to have equal access to all of the available bandwidth, no matter what section of the park you are camping. There will be redundant broadcasting methods and battery backups to help ensure that the internet service stays active. There will be safety features in place to help the park stay connected in power outages and emergencies. The new system can be managed by trained members of the park from anywhere in the world, which will allow us to save costs and ensure optimal utilization of our system. Jesse's modular design allows for ease of maintenance and upgrades and the system can easily grow or be adjusted as needed. This system is state-of-the-art and will carry us decades into the future.

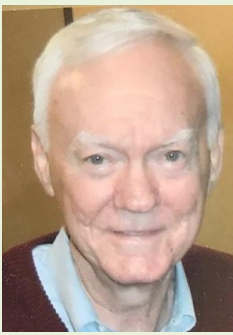
Jesse has an implementation timeline that, conservatively speaking, will have us up and running fully by then end of next year. We believe we can get it up and running sooner assuming availability of the volunteers, parts and components. Please be patient with the implementation. Due to Covid, many components are on back order.

Please join me in thanking Jesse for leading us through this highly anticipated upgrade to the park.

Doug Ralston - President Elect

Hosts Needed

**Ken Rabren,
Host Coordinator**



Serving as host for our park, I believe, is one of the most valuable services any member can volunteer for. We have been very fortunate to have had excellent volunteers that have worked very well with the changes that have been made in the past several months.

We are in need of hosts to cover the weeks during February and March 2022.

Anyone interested in hosting please give me a call at 404-660-5597. The times available are posted on the board in the Main Pavilion.

Thanks for your help. Ken Rabren

As a reward for volunteering:

- Hosts park free and have access to Hi-Speed internet under the shed. 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.
- We now have a laundry facility; while serving as host, there is no charge for the use of this service.

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

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 split the duties, time and rewards. All hosts and co-hosts will still require approval and training by Ken Rabren.

In the News



August 17th, **Tropical Storm Fred** brought flooding and tornado warnings to many areas in White County, including the Top of Georgia.

While there were multiple calls for downed trees, power outages and flooding, our Top members hunkered down in the kitchen just to be safe.



The Troll Tavern, in downtown Helen, had the river cresting onto its patio



With a reported 8 inches of rain in just a few hours, the town of Helen flooded causing damage to roads and bridges.

Fortunately, there were no injuries reported and all our Top members remained safe!

From the Park

Safety Event for Fall

Following up to our successful Safety Day this past May, we are currently planning our Fall event. Our goal is to have 2 safety events per year (Spring and Fall) to get safety on everyone's "radar", so we can enjoy our trailers with least amount of risk.

What we hope to achieve

Provide instruction and informal activities to review safety as a priority for TOG and with park members.

Cover topics, which can be easily overlooked, like fire extinguishers and smoke/CO detectors.

Review our current safety and emergency response procedures in the park. Example: During our May safety event the defibrillator was checked, batteries changed and better placement was determined with input from White County/Helen emergency services.

What we plan for Fall

- Have featured speakers covering various safety topics – we are planning to have Hiking safety speakers. We have spectacular hiking venues in our North Georgia Mountains and we want our members and guests to enjoy them with least amount of risk
- Provide hand-outs to participants regarding safety. We want our park members to be informed by participating in the events, but also to take action ...to quote Jiji Haque, "Safety First"!
- CPR training was identified as priority during our event in May.
- Fire safety demonstration with use of extinguishers in a "controlled burn" setting to be prepared.



Stay Tuned for more details!

Brad Singleton

On August 5, 2021, the Top of Georgia Airstream Club changed accountants after many years from Strickland & Associates to



Mixon, Mixon, Brown & Tench.

MMBT is a well-respected accounting firm, comes highly recommended and is the largest accounting firm in Georgia north of Gainesville with offices in Clarksville, Cornelia and Cleveland.

Mike Mixon, the CPA in Clarkesville, is in charge of our accounts and is an expert in the use of QuickBooks, the accounting system used by TOG.

We look forward to working with Mike and his staff for years to come in keeping our books and records compliant with IRS regulations and in filing our income and property tax returns.

Easy Volunteer Chores

Laundry

- Paint Entry Door
- Touch-up Interior Paint

Install new Door Lock to Store Room

Pavilion

- Paint Door from Screen Porch into Pavilion
- Paint North Wall in Pavilion
- Clean & Vacuum Pavilion
- Organize & Clean the Information Corner

Clean Fence Lattice at Pavilion

Clean and Vacuum Office

Clean and organize Host Store Building Site

Reset Stop Sign at Entry

Trim around Electrical Pedestals, Sewer, & Water

Pickup sticks

Clean creek of trash, & pipes

Remove all Debris of out-house behind A-12

Clear Trails

Trim Trees

Other Work to be Designed and Requires Professional Supervision

Repair Creek Damage to Banks

New Wi-Fi System Installation

Build New Pedestrian Bridge

Fire Wood

- Build Wood Racks

Dog Park

Install Posts, Fence, and Gate

Upper Shelter

- Install new Roof

New Gas Store Bldg. to purchase and place

New Garden Tool Building to purchase and place

New Greeting Office Final Design and replace Host Shed

Top of Georgia Airstream Park - 5 year Plan (cost to be determined and approved)

Projects	2021	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Update – electrical pedestals, winterize water \$2000 per site. Yearly upgrades	14 sites done				
Laundry	•				
Pavilion Upgrades					
Screen back porch	•				
RV sites (pads)					
Seal & Repair pavement					
Wi-Fi Upgrade (Stone/Ralston Project)					
TV upgrade sticks					
Host Office					
Dog Park					
Pine tree Pavilion fireplace					
Tractor Repairs			Tires		
Tractor implements		Bush hog		Back Hoe	
Landscaping Maintenance/repair Andrew Creek A12-20 infill-grade D1-11 raise Tool Shed (replace current)	Design				
Entrance Signs (north and south of Park)					
Picnic Area					
Lower Fire Pit (pavers)					

Update on the Fall Business Meeting

LABOR DAY RALLY

AND GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE

Dear members,

We will be holding our Fall business meeting in October due to the cancellation of the Labor Day Rally. Please understand that this is not a rally and every precaution is being taken for safety.

Saturday, October 16, 2021:

9 AM

Business meeting at the TOG, in person and on Zoom (meeting instructions will be posted separately). Seating will be spaced for Covid safety.

We will be holding the annual election of officers at the end of business meeting. Please see below for the full slate of nominees. Additional Nominations will be taken from the floor, but permission must be granted by nominee prior to submitting their name.

12 PM

Free boxed barbeque lunch for all who attend the meeting.

2 PM

Christian Jones out of doors musical concert at the upper shelter.

6 PM

Installation of officers by Bill Wild, Region 3 President.

Due to the cancellation of our September rally, our semi-annual business meeting and annual officer elections is now scheduled for the October Rally on Saturday, October 16th. We are preparing online options for participation as we did last year. More details will be forthcoming.

Please [click here](#) to see the full ballot for your consideration.

Celebrations!



August was a wonderful month for celebrating good friends!

Members celebrated Faye Murrell's birthday at the Chop House. (A local favorite)



They also celebrated Les and Cheryl Buford's wedding anniversary!

Congratulations!



ROAD TRIP – THE GREAT LAKES

By Nancy Sibly

When I was growing up, “going to the lake”, meant going to Lake Michigan with its majestic sand dunes and water so cold you would swear you could feel the ice chunks hitting your shins. We would hopscotch our way across random blankets and beach towels to avoid the burning sands, and then practically sizzle when we hit the water.

Water temps were regularly 50-something degrees. Sure there was always an uncle or cousin or family friend with a cottage on one of the not-so-great lakes in Michigan. Those muck-bottomed, leech-filled, bathwater-temp lakes didn’t hold a candle to the great Lake Michigan.

Our favorite beach was called Tower Hill for the massive sand dune that we had to climb at least once each trip. Tower Hill is approximately 250 feet tall. You would trudge up and then run down in a run/leap combination which planted your feet firmly in the sand and kept you from falling and rolling. At Sleeping Bear Dunes farther north, the dunes reach as high as 460 feet above the lake and go on for four square miles. These dunes are so steep and treacherous that people sometimes have to be rescued. At a cost nearing \$2,000!



For me, there are two things that distinguish Lake Michigan from most other lakes; the sandy beaches and the waves. Yes, waves. After a storm, while we were camped there this summer, the waves were 4-5 feet high and red flags were flying. We also encountered a new phenomenon, rocks on the beach. Let’s hope the waves pull them back where they belong.



Now if you like rocks, head to Lake Superior's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, America's first National Lakeshore.

We camped at Munising on Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The campground was flat and close to the shoreline, but just a few miles away were the gigantic, multi-colored, striped sandstone cliffs and caves of Pictured Rocks Lakeshore. High above, forests spread to the edge of the cliffs.

We did see a few hikers up there. I hope they were paying attention to the drop off. And the fact that just a few months ago 200 feet of Cliffside collapsed into the water.



NASHVILLE'S PARTHENON

Did you know that there is a full-sized replica of the Parthenon in Nashville? The Parthenon in Athens, Greece was built in 447-438 BC. The Nashville Parthenon was originally built in 1897 for Tennessee's Centennial Exposition. Situated on a beautiful site in Centennial Park, its 46 Doric columns, each over 6 feet in diameter, is a stupendous sight. And if you aren't in awe of its exterior, wait till you see the 42 foot statue of Athena, gilded to the max, inside. This just might be worth the trip.



Upcoming Caravan

Sho-Me the Ozarks

Start Date: September 30, 2021

Start Location: Mountain View, Arkansas

Stop Date: October 27, 2021

Stop Location: Eminence, Missouri

The region of America known as “The Ozarks” is a cultural and geographically distinct area of mountains, valleys and fresh water springs, rivers and lakes which centers in northern Arkansas and south Missouri.

Beginning in the Ozarks Folk Center you will travel through time and place with sites, events and food not to be missed, concluding with a traditional riverbank fish fry. Great group meals are a priority, but no food committee. Expect pig roasts, church dinners on the grounds, Dutch oven cobblers, Amish feasts, ham and beans with cornbread and much more. While some roads are narrow and twisty the daily trek distances will be short. Music will abound, from porch fiddles to an internationally famous vocal choir. Ranger Talk presenters are from a special roster of historians, locals, and conservationists.

You will visit the number one new attraction in the US, Bass-Pro Shops and Aquarium, Laura Ingalls Wilder home and museum, the Daisy museum, Crystal Bridges Art Museum, Silver Dollar City international food, music and craft fair, and much more. See the magnificent fall scenery and nature’s beauty.



711 N Bayou Dr
Mountain View, AR, 72560

Caravan Registration

Leader: **Luke & Barbara
Brennecke #5310**

Cell phone: 301-524-
1493/7624

Email:
luke.brennecke@gmail.com
blbrennecke2@gmail.com

Co-Leader: **Tim & Caroyl
Johnson #31088**

Cell phone: 602-750-1233
Email: indie51619@gmail.com

Total Number of Nights: 28

Number of Stops: 8

Maximum RV Units/With

Leader: 26

Kitty Fee w/2: est. \$4,000.00

Kitty Fee w/1: est. \$3,450.00

Deposit Amount: \$400.00;

1st payment due January 1,
2021 \$1,800.00

Date Balance Due: \$1800.00 by
May 1, 2021

What's happening around Helen!



Georgia Mountain Fall Festival

Look forward to the 2021 Fall Festival October 8th - 16th.

With its mild temperatures and beautiful scenery there is no better place to be than the North Georgia Mountains in the fall!

Each October, the 9-day event features Arts & Craft vendors, educational demonstrations, and exciting musical performances!

Admission \$12 Free Parking (no pets allowed)

Sautee Nacoochee Cultural Center

Our annual Trunk or Treat will be held Sunday, October 31 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Trunk or Treating



will start at 5:30 pm and the costume contest will be held on the outdoor stage at 6:30 pm. We will not be having an indoor carnival this year.

This event is a wonderful, fun filled, family event and includes trunk or treating and costume contest. If you would like to sign up to pass out candy from your trunk, contact Jessi Reed at jreed@snca.org.

Dates: Sunday, Oct 31
Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm
Place: SNC Campus

Oktoberfest

Helen Festhalle
1074 Edelweiss St.
Helen, GA 30545



Oktoberfest will run from September 23-26, then reopen again on September 30 and continue daily through October 31, 2021.



Join us for the Oktoberfest in Helen, GA!

Helen's biggest celebration! German music, dancing, food & drinks! Enjoy Waltzes, Polkas and the Chicken Dance!

Admission: Monday-Friday \$8.00 per person, Saturday \$10.00 per person, Sunday-Free Admission.

****Food & Drink are extra.**

For more information:

706-878-1908 or

<http://www.helenchamber.com>

From the Archives



BIGFOOT RETURNS by Mary Anne Meeks

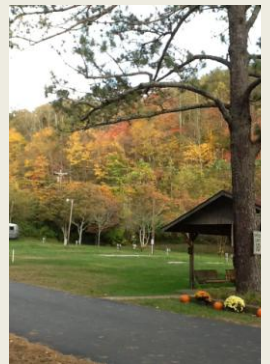
Did you know that from 1991-1999 Bigfoot lived in our TOG Park and traveled with our Airstreamers all over the United States? The legend, as researched by Lin Thompkins, is that a rock was found in Andrews Creek that was shaped like a foot. Martha Mixon, a past First Lady who we just honored at Memorial Day, painted toes on the rock to make it look like a foot.

Lin says "the purpose was for the rock to be hidden in a trailer while traveling, and then when found was hidden in another fellow-traveler's trailer. It traveled to many rallies and caravans." Bigfoot wrote the most interesting letters to the TOP to report on his travels. All of these letters are in the archives for anyone interested.

Bigfoot traveled to two Braves games and met another "Chip off the Old Block Jones," known as Chipper Jones. Bigfoot saw the space shuttle launch in Florida, and of course, went to Disney World. He almost froze in Cherokee, NC, except that he is a rock. In fact, they put a wool sock on his toes to keep him warm. He was discovered in a shoe in the oven on the way to the Canada International Rally in Manitoba. Bigfoot got a little bored with South Texas, where he stayed all winter and just wanted to go to the Grand Canyon. He even went to Mexico where he said the good times were "rocking and rolling." Bigfoot says the reason he had so much fun is he "was with Airstreamers who love to have adventures and lotsa, lotsa FUN!"

While we do not know where Bigfoot roamed over the last twenty years, we had word that he had "an itchy foot, so I'd like to do it again." And now he can. Dick Sells found a rock that looks like a foot in Andrews Creek and Lane Carpenter painted the new Bigfoot. So keep your eyes open in your trailer. Bigfoot may be hiding out, waiting for you to take him on an adventure. Be sure to help him write a letter to us telling of his adventures, and then when you get back to the TOG, please make sure Bigfoot is hidden with another fun loving, traveling Airstreamer. Long live Bigfoot and, "welcome home" to the TOG.

For those who do not know why the Pine Shelter is called "Pine", this beautiful tree was lost when the tornado hit the park a few years back.



Claudia Litton

Photo taken Oct. 28, 2014

Loving Concerns

Illness and Injury

Vonciel NeSmith, a current member, has been in the hospital with Covid since August 1st. She is off the ventilator now and needs prayer for strength and continued rehabilitation.

Al Holcomb, one of our Past Presidents, and his wife **Mary**, Past First Lady have both tested positive for Covid. They are at home with some manageable discomfort. He and Mary have been vaccinated. Pray for Al and Mary's quick recovery.

Ron Engle, a current member, had a clear CAT scan. Except for some muscle pain, he and Dorothy are thankful there is nothing seriously wrong.

Lane Carpenter is recovering well from surgery and will have other tests in about six weeks.

John Turner will have hip replacement this Monday, September 20th in the Atlanta area. He and Alice appreciate your prayers for a good outcome!!

Sympathy

Paul Tomlin, a previous member of the park, passed away on Monday, September 6th.

Please pray for **Barbara Jones**, former First Lady and **Ken Rabren**, our Host Coordinator. Their sister, **Margaret**, passed away this week in Destin, FL.

"On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased."

Psalms 138:3

Update

John Meeks, Treasurer

A good report from the Meeks' daughter and TOG member, Mary Elizabeth;

John Meeks surgery was a success.

The tumor was a bit larger than expected (6-7cm), so they had to do a thoracotomy to get it out.

He remained in the ICU at the heart center for a night and has since been released and is recovering comfortably at home.

All-in-all, good news! We will continue to pray for a quick recovery.

Please, join us in praying for these folks and their medical issues or their grief in a time of the loss of a loved one. Knowing that there are those who care is a true blessing to those in need.

We are a family of sorts, connected by our love for camping and love for each other.

If you are experiencing a difficult time or know of someone who is, please let me know.

Barbara Jumper
bwjumper13@gmail.com
770-241-3793



Ian Hampton passed away Sept. 12th

I lost you today...

*My friend whom I've loved and cherished dearly...
We lost you...The Top of Georgia Airstream Park...
For many years I drove by you and waved...you
were the host at the Top.*

My adventures were daily, in and out of the park...

*You were always reading a book chilling in the
shade.*

I wondered about the fresh eat-able plants in front

of your Airstream. They were beautiful plants...herbs...I say...so, healthy.

I didn't really know you other than a wave.

*Then one day, as many-many spots were open at the bottom section of the park (I call
it "section"). You never parked there and I always did...*

"Hey Ian, you are parked right beside me...Many sites are open, why?"

*His response..."Hey babe, dinner will be ready at 6 o'clock...We're having baked chicken
with rosemary sauce, potatoes and fresh green beans...don't be late!"*

I was shocked...Looking at all of the open sites.

My response, "What type of wine should I bring??"

I hurriedly got candles, wine and good music...

He could cook (Chef) and I love to eat...

So the friendship began.

We talked about everything and agreed, mostly...

Oh, my love...you tried...you did everything possible...

I will miss you always!

I love you, Ian!

Your gal, Jiji

The Peach State Caravanner
Top of Georgia Airstream Park
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Helen, Georgia 30545

The *Peach State Caravanner* is the official publication of the Georgia Unit, WBCCI, published six times a year.

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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 26th – 31st	Memorial Day Rally
June 16th – 20th	Youth Rally
July 4th	Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration
July 17th – 24th	International Rally / Lebanon, TN
September 1st – 6th	Labor Day Rally
October 13th – 17th	Fall Rally

Officers:

President – Mary Anne Meeks

President Elect – Doug Ralston

Vice President – Brad Singleton

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

