

The Peach State Caravanner







Under the Milky Way - photo Sam Fontanez



What Fun! (pgs 7-9)



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President's Letter



Dear TOG Airstream Family,

"Oh let us thankful be," words to a hymn I learned long ago, but have taken to heart for this letter to all of you. On behalf of my own family, thank you to my Airstream family and friends who have prayed for and encouraged John and me in our quest for good health. Your love and support have made all the difference.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your president. I have enjoyed being president and I really look forward to the year ahead. I so appreciate the dedication of the members of the Executive Board and all the committee chairmen and members who give so freely of their time, their talents, and also their money. We would not have any success, however, if it was not for the many, many volunteers who step up and do the work needed. Thank you all.

As a way of saying thank you, I want to invite all of you to the President's Christmas Party. This year it is going to be held at the Top of Georgia on December 4. You can find full details in this newsletter. It has not been held at the TOG in more years than most can remember as the president usually has it near his or her home. This year I want it at our Airstream home, at the TOP. There will be no charge for the luncheon, but you are asked to please bring a dish or dessert of your choosing. The Board is paying for and providing the turkey and ham. Also, please bring some canned goods for the White County Food Pantry.

My best to each of you for good health and happiness during this holiday season and in the year ahead.

My best always, Mary Anne

What's New in the Park

Fiber Optic Internet by Doug Ralston, Pres. Elect

I have signed the contract for fiber internet through Windstream. Thanks to Rick Sibly's coaching, I was able to negotiate a reduced term. From 5 yrs to 3 yrs, plus we get the first month free when we start service.

We do not pay until service starts in a few months.

So now we are "all in" on this project.

Jesse Stone, Rick Sibly and Tom Baker
and the maintenance team are making
great strides on implementation.



FYI, the fiber installation from Windstream can take up to 90-120 days. So that is why we needed to sign now.

According to Jesse, the "Einstein of Wi-Fi", this should coincide nicely with the roll out of the park broadcasting equipment.

I am very excited about the next generation of Internet Access at the Top of GA. If you see Jesse, Rick and his team, give them a pat on the back. The amount of work they are doing in the private sector would cost many multiples of what we are investing. We are truly blessed to have members of our park that bring with them industry knowledge so vast and valuable.



TOG member, Larry White, is personally starting a pilot program for recycling in the park. He will take the recycling to the White County Recycling each week.

Larry will be here through

November. If no one volunteers
to cover for him during the time
that he is away from the park,
the recycling program will be
suspended until his return.

- Boxes need to be flattened and clean. No Pizza boxes.
- Plastics #1-5 need to be clean. No plastic bags.
- Aluminum and tin cans. Again clean.
- No bottles or glass. White County does not recycle them for now.

Clean is "key" with this program as these trash bins will not be bear-proof.

MEET YOUR 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



President: Mary Anne Meeks



President Elect: Doug Ralston



1st Vice President: Brad Singleton



Treasurer: John Meeks



Secretary: Kimberly Funderburg



2nd year Director: Jiji Moore



2nd year Director: Bill Harris



1st year Director: Rod Wilson

I would like to take a moment to thank all those members who had enough faith in me to give me their vote.

I will work faithfully to support the current Administration and the membership with both maintenance and improvements for the future of the park.

Sincerely, Rod Wilson #4051



1st year Director: Nadine Johnson

"The Top" has been a life saver for me and many others, especially through COVID and personal loss.

I am thrilled to have been voted in as a director and look forward to serving the membership!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call or text me at 727/418-1333.

-- Nadine Johnson, TOG

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS WINTER

2021 THE TOP OF GEORGIA

Easy Volunteer Chores

Laundry

Sand and repaint Interior

Pavilion

Paint North Wall in Pavilion "Agreeable Gray" by SW 7029

Place drop cloths on floor before painting

Paint above Overhead Doors

Clean & Vacuum Pavilion

Organize & Clean the Information Corner

Clean and Vacuum Office

Other

Clean & Vacuum Store Room

Clean Lattice Fence at Pavilion

Clean and organize Host Storage Building

Upper Shelter Caulk the Siding on Fireplace- Clear sealant

Site

Reset & Plumb Stop Sign at Hwy 75 Entry

Pickup sticks, logs, and debris in Section 8 ditch - Mountain Side

Remove all debris from outhouse behind A-12

Work on Clearing the Trails

Stack split wood at upper fire pit

Split firewood in Section 8 and stack

Dog Park

This spring - Install Posts, Fence, and Gate

Contact Rick Sibly, Property

Manager, if you would like lend a

helping hand:

rmsibly@gmail.com

Other Work Requires Professional Supervision

Repair Creek Damage to Banks with Track hoe

New Wi-Fi installation ongoing

Build New Pedestrian Bridge

Fire wood

Build Wood Racks

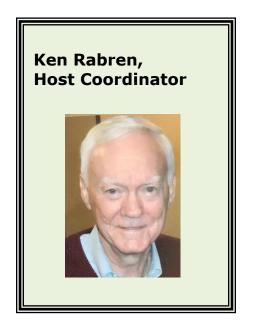
Upper Shelter

Install new Roof and decking

New Garden Tool Building to purchase and place

New Greeting Office Final Design to replace Host Shed

Hosting



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.

Even though the hosting calendar is full until May it would be a good time to check the calendar for next year in order to get the weeks that you would like, the calendar is posted and training is available.

Please call Ken to volunteer and set up a time (404) 660-5597

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 they 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.

Would you be interested in being a "back-up" host?



A back-up host is someone who can fill in should a host need to cancel their week due to illness or family emergency, or maybe you would simply be interested to cover for an hour or two, while you happen to be camping in the park, to relieve the current host to go shopping or run to the bank for the park. Call Ken for approval and training.

What Fun We Had!!

Many planned events and rallies had to be canceled due to COVID, however, we were still able to squeeze in a little fun celebrating our members and good friends!



Friends gathered at the Soda Fountain Café to celebrate past President & Property Manager, and dear friend, Al Holcomb's 88th birthday! We look forward to many more!



Grant MacKay and Al Holcomb

Activity coordinator, Nadine Johnson, threw a wonderful party celebrating members whose birthdays and anniversaries fell in October!







Nadine Johnson



Tom Baker & Ricky Sibly



Barbara & Floy Jumper



Maria & Bill Harris



Safety Day

Safety Day at the Top was a GREAT success!

A BIG thank you to Brad Singleton for putting this together and to the Club for covering the costs.

Park members of all ages learned so much and feel very confident should an emergency ever arise!



18 club members took advantage of CPR training



Sam Fontanez learning proper breathing



Ray and Jean learning chest compressions



Maria Harris saving a life



Alex receiving one-on-one training



Kyle Spires learning infant compressions



2nd Annual Halloween Bash in the Park





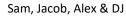


With the uncertainty of COVID, we had just a small group of young (and young-at-heart) celebrating Halloween at the Top.

Pumpkin Painting, an Escape Room (that the kiddos managed to solve with 26 seconds to spare), Trick-or-Treating and a Nerf Battle!









A Bonus: It was DJ's birthday!





Don't worry...everyone wore safety glasses!



Hipcamp, a great resource for your next Adventure

By Jean Rearick



Hipcamp is a free resource for locating, reserving and paying for campsites, of all kinds, on private properties. The owner of each Hipcamp site sets their prices, rules and provides the description of their site(s).

My husband, Tom and I stayed at a couple of Hipcamp sites this past summer. One was a boondocking experience at a working heritage pig farm near Waynesville, NC and the other site had hookups for water and a 50 Amp service at a Horse Farm near Sumter, SC.



Right before the town of Canton, NC, was inundated by a flood; we camped just outside of Waynesville, NC, alongside the Pigeon River at the Mangalitsa Pig Farm owned by Catherine and Rick https://www.hipcamp.com/en-US/discover/north-carolina/working-mangalitsa-farm.

Our 3 night stay by the shooting shed couldn't have been more perfect. We were even able to put our kayaks in the water and play around in the river right from our campsite. Besides learning about heritage pigs from Catherine, she told us about Presnell's vegetable stand just down the road with the best tomatoes in the world and every other fruit and veggie you could want.



Then in Clyde, we visited Sentelle's Seafood market where you can purchase fresh fish alongside every other provision you can think of including a fabulous craft beer and wine selection. We also enjoyed hilltop star-gazing a short walk from our campsite (take a picnic blanket to lie on or sit in the Adirondack chairs already there).

The pigs are so cute and watching them being fed was another highlight. Don't forget to pick up some Mangalitsa pork to take home on your way out (they even had ice available).

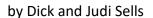
We also visited Jane and Mike's Horsecamp near Sumter, SC near Congaree National Park, Poinsett State Park and a lovely Kayak trail nearby. https://www.hipcamp.com/en-US/south-carolina/jane-k-s-land-5/horse-farm.

Staying at Jane and Mike's Horse Farm was delightfully perfect. It was like camping with a concierge. They are located in an area with beautiful parks (Congaree National, Poinsett State, and Swan Lake Iris Gardens) and incredible food (Hamptons in Sumter). Their property was peaceful and it was great to have running water and electricity. Stay here, you won't be disappointed.



The best part of Hipcamp is that you can camp for multiple days at a time and they are all over the USA.

Happy Trails!!





'Jewel of the South' Rally

A friend of a friend was the key that led to an invitation to an Airstream rally being held by the North FL unit. Campground reservations confirmed, we pulled into the weekday Atlanta traffic in mid-September heading for the 'Jewel of the South' rally at Jekyll Island, GA.



Equipped with plenty of bug spray and more than a little curiosity, we cruised south, through periodic rain showers, arriving six hours later under mostly cloudy skies.



Through the gates (\$8) and a straight shot, where you arrive at Beach Village, go around the traffic circle and head north for the campground (3 miles).

Rustic comes to mind as you first see a forest of water oaks with Spanish moss in abundance.

The office, a small building that blends in perfectly with the surroundings, and also had a great little gift shop, is on the right, and we were quickly on the way to our campsite.

Streamers were already in abundance and we were greeted with lots of smiles and waves. We smoothly parked (thanks to excellent pilot/co-pilot communication) between beautiful trees that made the awning unnecessary for our 6 day stay.

Socializing began immediately and never stopped. Note: teamwork again comes into play here, one sets up, one socializes - it just seems to work. We met many new friends, and reacquainted with many more that we remembered from their visits to the TOP.

The week was filled with organized sunrise bike rides, regular bike rides (one of us is still sore), museum visits, turtle sanctuary visits, boat tours of the bay, short meetings, auction for a chosen cause and did we mention organized food gatherings... Catered, potluck, potluck leftovers, shrimp, cheese and crackers, dip and chips and, of course, happy hours.



Adjacent to Jekyll is St Simon and also the unique village of Bruinswick, both good tourist destinations, we hear, as we never left Jekyll. Our experience attending another unit's rally was wonderful and we would encourage others to do the same if the opportunity is there. The bug spray was unnecessary.

What's happening around Helen!

A Victorian Christmas in Nacoochee

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER Fridays and Saturdays Only TIME 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

LOCATION

Hardman Farm Historic Site Sautee Nacoochee, GA



COST Adults: \$12, Youth (6-17): \$7, Children 5 and under: Free, Family Rate (2 adults + their children) \$40.

Come see the house in period holiday decor and learn about Victorian Christmas traditions from docents dressed in their finest 1870's garb. This open house on Friday and Saturday nights in December is highlighted by twinkling candle lights, and a walk down the Unicoi Road. Guests will need to purchase their tickets in the Visitor Center, which will have a special treat each night, including live Christmas music and hot chocolate. Guests are advised to bring a flashlight for your walk back to the parking lot.

https://gastateparks.org/HardmanFarm

New Year Fireworks!

December 31st, 2021

Starts at 8:45 PM

Come out to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and help usher in 2022 with bang!



Fireworks will begin at 8:45pm on Friday, December 31st!

Blairsville Cruisers will be on the Fairgrounds from 5pm-7pm for a car show. No charge. All welcome to attend!

Hot Chocolate, BBQ, Fire pits, and Hotdogs will be available for sale beginning at 5:30pm.

Annual Lighting of the Village

Helen, GA

DATE Nov 26, 2021 **TIME** 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

COST Free



DESCRIPTION

On Friday, November 26, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at Riverside Park as the village is lighted to begin the holiday season. Musical performances by local groups will precede his arrival and children are invited to meet with Santa from 5:00 to 7PM.

14th Annual Christkindlmarkt

Helen, GA

DATE Nov. 27th - Nov. 28th TIME 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

LOCATION Downtown Helen 8600 N. Main St. Helen, GA 30545



DESCRIPTION

Located in the Downtown Marketplatz, Alpine Helen, GA. The Christkindlmarkt is a traditional German event that offers everything from unique Christmas gifts and decorations to an assortment of savory and sweet foods, drinks and candied treats.

From the park



Everyone loves a nice fire on a chilly night!

Fireplace and Fire Pit Rules:

Whoever starts the fire is responsible for putting it out.

There is an ash bucket next to the fire place. If you enjoyed the fire place at night, please clean the ashes out the next morning once cooled, so that the next person can enjoy it as well.



Park's quiet hours are from 10pm to 7am, doesn't mean you have to leave, just be aware that your neighbors may be trying to sleep and adjust voices and music volumes accordingly.

Stay warm and have fun!

Membership

It is time to renew your ACI and TOG membership for 2022. The current pricing is \$90 (\$75 for ACI and \$15 for TOG)

ACI (WBCCI) made a big change to the membership renewal processes this year.

If you were a member <u>before July 1, 2021</u>, then you will continue to renew your membership by the calendar year. (Meaning you will renew by December 31 each year.)

If you became a member after July 1, 2021, then you will renew on your membership anniversary date. For example, if you joined on August 15, 2021, you would renew by August 15, 2022.

To renew your membership, you must renew online! We cannot renew your membership at the club level.

- Go to the following URL:
 https://airstreamclub.org/members/dashboard
- 2. Login into your account
- 3. Choose "Membership Information" from the menu or the popular links section of your dashboard
- 4. Click "renew membership".
- *** You must login as the primary member to renew.

 The partner member will not be able to renew from their account.

If you have trouble logging in, you must call the membership department at Airstream Club International. The contact information can be found at: https://airstreamclub.org/contact-us - (p) 937-596-5211

If you have any questions about membership, please call our membership coordinator, Jaime Ralston at 404-435-7268 or email togairstream@gmail.com.



2022 Top of Georgia Rally Schedule

January 17-21 Midwinter IBT, Savannah

April 6-9 Region 3 Rally, Hiawassee

April 25-May 1 Spring Rally/Business

Meeting/Volunteer Days

May 25- 30 Memorial Day/Buddy Rally

June 22-26 Youth Rally

July 4 Patriotic Celebration

July 23-29 International Rally, Fryeburg, Maine

August 31- September 5 Labor Day/Business
Meeting/Election/Buddy Rally

October 12- 16 Fall Rally/Installation

November 24 Thanksgiving Potluck

December 10 Christmas Party (Location to be determined)



LET'S HAVE A COMPETITION

This is a copy of our Top of Georgia flag. It has been suggested that we need a newer, more updated, colorful, fun flag for our club. The Board is announcing a competition to select a winning design. Did you know that our name was a competition among the members back in 1961, so why not a competition now for a new flag?

The only requirement on a flag for the TOG Club is that it have our name and WBCCI or ACI somewhere in the flag. Traditionally we have always had a dark blue background, but that is open for creative design as well. You may use any colors you like. You can even incorporate the 032, our unit number, in the design, but it is not necessary.

The deadline for submissions is <u>April 1</u>. You may send your design to Mary Anne Meeks, <u>mapmeeks@bellsouth.net</u>. We will appoint a group to have a blind juried selection of the top two designs or allow the membership to vote at the April business meeting, 4/30 (to be determined in the future). Please note that no new design may be selected. So come on all you artists and designers, show us what you have.

WINTER COMPLIANT CAMPING AT THE TOP OF GEORGIA



By Rick Sibly, Property Manager

- When freezing temperatures are expected, you must completely close the large faucet valve handle at your site. This will allow the water to drain below the freeze line in the ground.
- Your water hose must be disconnected from the Park's water service when the temperature is below freezing (unless you have taken the following recommended steps.) Use your fresh water tanks as your water supply.
- When you plan an extended stay of a month or more in one site, you may want to take the additional steps necessary to leave your water hose connected. Place a 'trouble light' with a 60 watt light bulb on and covering the frost proof faucet handle on the Park's water tap. Place a large plastic garbage bin upside down over the frost proof valve or canvas cover. You must install heat tape on the water line, faucet valve, and hose and then wrap with insulation and vapor barrier. Do not forget to heat and insulate the metal union that connects the trailer to the water hose. This is a common area to freeze if not properly insulated.
- In case there are power outages, disconnect water lines ASAP. In anticipation of power outages, make sure you have your water tanks full and a good charge on your rig's batteries.
- The Park's Property Manager or his representative will review all water hookups during freezing weather. He has the right to demand at any time that that water connections be modified, changed, or disconnected. Those campers who do not comply in a timely manner with the recommendations for winter compliant camping at the Park are subject to having their water locked-out.

If the Park's water taps or lines are damaged due to improper use or failure to follow recommendations during freezing weather, the Top of Georgia Board of Directors have the right to charge damage repair costs to the camper(s).



Region 3 President's Update November, 2021



It is 7:00 AM, and I've been dreaming of 'streaming. It's been a crazy season of surgeries and cancelled trips at our house, but I've been Facebook watching all of you having a great time at rallies around the region, on caravans, at special events, or just out having fun on your own. We really wanted to be out there with you, but sometimes life happens. I want to send special thanks out to our 2020-2021 unit presidents, most of whom have already passed the gavel to their successors. I hope you enjoyed your time in unit leadership. I also want to thank and congratulate the new or promoted officers and wish you well in the coming year. The club only functions because of dedicated volunteers like you. And to all of you who aren't currently serving on a board, I encourage you to support your fellow members who have stepped up. The success of the local club depends on everyone!

The same is true at the region level, and we are actively seeking a volunteer to fill our open 2nd VP position, and for an incoming VP to be installed when 1st VP Christine Baum becomes Region President at the Fryeburg, Maine International in July 2022. Please contact the nominating committee chair Matt Hackney, Christine, or me if you are interested. We would love to talk to you. We had a busy year, starting with the Region 3 "Tally' Rally in Tallahassee, FL. We had about 120 Airstreams at that rally with great weather, great food, and great entertainment. Region 3 also sponsors the Galax Old Fiddlers Special Event Rally every year and this year we had several Airstreams in attendance. This rally coincides with the annual Old Fiddlers Convention at Felts Park in Galax, VA. Region 3 had 44 rallies on the schedule this year and several more that didn't make the online schedule. Eight of those are still coming up in November and December. It's not too late for some Fall camping!

We've included a list of Region 3 and International dates below to help you plan your future travels.

Unit webmasters should upload local unit 2022 Rally Schedules to the Airstream Club website as soon as possible.

Finally, please remember – If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right!

Bill Wild

Upcoming Region 3 and International Events

2022:

Can Opener Rally Topsail Preserve State Park Santa Rosa, FL Jan 6-9, 2022 Sold out but watch for openings.

Winter IBT CreekFire Motor Ranch Savannah, GA Jan 17-21, 2022 Register soon. Space is limited.

Region 3 Rally Georgia Mountain Fairground Hiawassee, GA Apr 6-9, 2022 Call the fairground to reserve.

International Rally Fryeburg Fair Campground Fryeburg, ME Jul 22-29, 2022 Registration is open online.

Galax Old Fiddlers Rally Cool Breeze Campground Galax, VA Aug 7-13, 2022 Watch for details in 2022.

Alumalina (AirForums Rally) Tom Johnson RV Park Marion, NC Oct 20-23, 2022 Hosted by John Leake.

2023:

Region 3 Rally Ocean Lakes Family Campground Myrtle Beach, SC April 2023 Tentative.

International Rally Sweetwater Events Complex Rock Springs, WY Jun 23-30,2023 Watch for details in Fryeburg.

2024:

Region 3 Rally Meadow Event Center Doswell, VA April 2024 Tentative.

Your Region 3 Leadership Team

President Bill Wild R3President@AirstreamClub.net

1st VP Christine Baum baumic@gmail.com

2nd VP This could be you!

Secretary Kimberly Funderburg kimberly@thefunderburgs.com

Treasurer John Meeks region3treas@gmail.com

Nominations Chair Matt Hackney mhackney7@comcast.net

For more information, visit the Region 3 Website https://airstreamclub.org/region3

Loving Concerns

Illness and Injury

Vonceil NeSmith is recovering in a rehabilitation apartment facility with Howard. We are thankful that she is improving and regaining her strength.

John Meeks, Treasurer, is still receiving chemotherapy treatments. The side effects are pretty severe. John and Mary Anne appreciate your prayers.

Wes Lankford, We are happy to report that Wes has improved and is home from the hospital. Because of his good progress, Stephanie and Mike have been able to return home.

Claudia and Tom Litton, Claudia has had leg weakness and trouble walking. She will be meeting with neurologist on November 15 to discuss diagnosis and treatment needed. Pray also for Tom for ongoing health issues.

John Worley has been treated for a ruptured Achilles tendon. He will be having back surgery soon to relieve pressure on a nerve and also has other health concerns.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

<u>Update</u>

Lane Carpenter has recovered from her hernia operation in October and has since received official results that the lesions removed recently are not cancer. We are very thankful for this outcome.

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 <u>bwjumper13@gmail.com</u> 770-241-3793 The Peach State Caravanner Top of Georgia Airstream Park 14255 Hwy 75 N. Helen, Georgia 30545

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Membership address changes to: Jaime Collins, 2654 Green Meadow Lane, Marietta GA 30066 or email togairstream@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 5 th & 6th	Spring Work days
April 7 th - 11th	Spring Rally
April 21 st —25th	Region 3 Tally Rally / Tallahassee, FL
May 26 th — 31st	Memorial Day Rally
June 16 th 20th	Youth Rally
July 4th	Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration
July 17 th —24th	International Rally / Lebanon, TN
September 1 st 6th	Labor Day Rally
October 13 th 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

