



# The Peach State Caravanner



Santa Rick Sibby at Christmas Party



Fiber Optic Wi-Fi is Live in the Park



Wonderful Winter land

*Behold, my friends, the spring has come.*

*The earth has gladly received the  
embraces of the sun, and we shall soon  
see the results of their love.*

*~Sitting Bull*

## What's Inside:

Pg 2 President Letter

Pg 3-5 What's New

Pg 6-7 Volunteering

Pg 8 What Fun We Had

Pg 9 Upcoming Events

Pg 13 From the Park

Pg 14 Loving Concerns

Pg 15 Schedule/Contact

# President's Letter

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**Mary Anne Meeks (President)**

“Life is better when you’re surrounded by your best friends in the mountains.”

This anonymous quote is my wish for all of my Top of Georgia Airstream family as we begin anew our camping season in the park. If you have not been to the TOG, please come. If it has been awhile, we are ready for you to come back, but you will find some changes we hope you like.

We have just upgraded our communication systems, installing top of the line fiber optic Wi-Fi throughout the park. If you are working remotely, we have fast service for you. We are in the process of installing new pedestals and

frost-free water spigots to 16 sites as we continue to improve our infrastructure. Last year we screened in the back of the pavilion and added a very convenient laundry.

To help you enjoy meeting new campers and visiting with old friends, we are planning our rally schedule, which starts April 25-May 1, 2022 with Volunteer Days and the Spring Rally. Please see the complete rally schedule in this Caravanner. Also, do not forget that there is a Region 3 Rally in Hiawassee April 6-9. All of our rallies are an excellent way to introduce you to “Airstreaming” with many seminars and fun events.

As always, I invite you to, please, let either me or another member of the Board know any ideas you may have for improving our club and park. We are here to serve you, and I mean that sincerely. Likewise, we could not function without the support of all our volunteers, especially our wonderful hosts. If you have not hosted before, it is an excellent way to meet fellow campers. Our volunteer days are an opportunity for all of you to come help in any small way that you can to prepare the park for the summer. If you like to hike, come help clear a trail. If you like to party around a fire, there is a fireplace and fire pits that need some tidy up work. You get the idea, no task is too small.

In the meantime, stay well and we hope to see you soon surrounded by your best friends in our mountains.

*My best always, Mary Anne*

# What's New in the Park

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Our new fiber optic Wi-Fi is “live” throughout the park. The host will give you log-in information when you check in so you can set-up all your smart devices (TV, phone, tablets and computers).
- AT&T and Verizon phone extenders have been discontinued. Your cell phone needs to be switched to “Wi-Fi” calling. Depending on your carrier, you may need to call them to help you activate.
- New pricing structure has been approved for the park, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022:

### For ACI members:

30 amps: \$20.00/day or \$375/month

50 amps (including 30/30 y-connector): \$22/day or \$435/month

### For non-ACI members:

30 amps: \$25.00/day

50 amps (including 30/30 y-connector): \$27/day

### Storage for TOG members only:

\$2.50/day or \$75/month



Jesse Stone & Sam Fontanez installing Wi-Fi access points



Sam Fontanez, Sal Fazzino, Jesse Stone & Tom Baker reconfiguring propane lines for the back-up communications generator



This was quite the project. Thank you to everyone involved!



Sal Fazzino replacing the wood border around the hosta garden next to the host shed

*thank you*

Rick Sibly, Property Manager, extends his gratitude and thanks to Tom Baker, Sal Fazzino, Vince Marolla and Sam Fontanez for their hard work repairing the water lines after a burst pipe over the winter.



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.

Recycle bins are located in the breezeway near the laundry.  
Please, no trash, and lets all do our part to keep things clean and tidy.

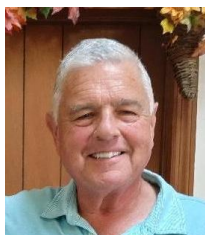
- Boxes need to be flattened and clean. No Pizza boxes.
- Plastics #1-5 need to be clean. No plastic bags.
- Aluminum and tin cans. Again clean.
- No bottles or glass. White County does not recycle them for now.

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

# Meet your Committee Heads

## Bylaws Committee

The bylaws committee's charge is to review and recommend modifications to the board and the membership of the Top of Georgia Airstream Club, as needed. Changes do occasionally become necessary, some because of International Club requirements and some because of changes in local circumstances.



We are fortunate to have a foundation of bylaws that were well-crafted at our local club's beginnings, and meticulously maintained over the years by faithful officers and members.

Our goal this year is to continue that review process to assure that we are in compliance and that our local needs are being served by the bylaws, without becoming burdensome. Please feel free to contact me if you see a need for changes. The bylaws are available in the pavilion.

Floy Jumper  
770-500-6182  
[fwjumper@hotmail.com](mailto:fwjumper@hotmail.com)

## Ethics/Grievance and Legal & Legislative Committee

Second-year director and chair of Ethics/Grievance and Legal & Legislative committees. Helped advance initiative to re-evaluate park fees initiated by previous board member, Dick Sells. Brought issues to the board requested by membership such as eliminating alcoholic beverage restrictions in main pavilion, reviewed HEMC electrical usage records for recent 2 year period to compare year to year and correlate electrical and water usage with TOG occupancy.



Volunteered with others to construct chimney at upper shelter, wire pedestals for campsites, painted water tank, re-wired archive/storage room lights, and assisted repairing broken water pipes.

Bill Harris  
[mcmachew@comcast.net](mailto:mcmachew@comcast.net)

## Sister Rally Chairperson

Responsible for collaborating with sister clubs to promote and foster relationships and encourage participation during our scheduled rallies and invite them to host a rally of their own at the TOP.



Kate Singleton  
[SingletonK1@aetna.com](mailto:SingletonK1@aetna.com)

## Top of Georgia Membership Chair

As many of you may have noticed, Airstream International has launched a new software platform that now processes all memberships, including renewals, affiliates, and local memberships. Now, all memberships are processed online or by phone directly with Airstream International. This has been a great improvement for data integrity when it comes to our membership records. We still receive all our TOG dues back at the park, so all of your contributions are still being used to improve and enhance the Top!



Now down to business... 2022 has already proven to be a great year for the Top of Georgia Membership!

Below are our membership stats for 2022:

Regular Members: 316

Affiliate Members: 31

Honorary Members: 8

Total: 355

Hope to see you soon!

Jaime Ralston  
Membership, Top of Georgia  
[togairstream@gmail.com](mailto:togairstream@gmail.com)

# Volunteering

## Are you interested in Hosting?

### Ken Rabren, Host Coordinator:



*"I would like to thank everyone that served as Host over the last year and winter and for those already signed up in 2022."*

As the first face to welcome members and new campers at check-in, the role of Host is an important one to the Park.

There are a number of benefits to hosting; it is fun and a great way to meet new members and friends. You have access to high-speed internet, free laundry and you earn additional parking credits to go towards your future camping.

Schedule is open after June 12<sup>th</sup>, see calendar in the main pavilion for available dates or contact: **Ken Rabren (404) 660-5597.**

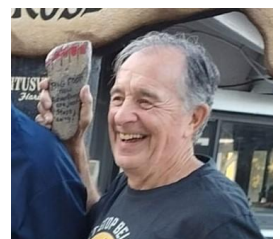
It's a beautiful day in Melbourne, Fl., 79 degrees with an expected high of 84; it's the beginning of spring and what's on our minds? The Top of Georgia and a new and exciting year, of course! Gradual changes and improvements have been implemented; others are being discussed and debated, all for the purpose of improving our park and preparing for the future for our children, grandchildren and TOG members. A strong, energetic and forward thinking Board is necessary to achieve this, and the current board members are ready for the task.

The nomination committee, Barbara Jumper, Faye Murrell, Sydney Ryanczak, Mary Elizabeth Spires and Dick Sells are charged with the responsibility of presenting to the membership, two candidates for the Director positions which will become available in the fall.

Members that are interested and would like to take part in guiding our park to a bright future by becoming a board member, please contact one of the nominating committee members to volunteer.

"Ask not what the TOP can do for you, but what can you do for the TOP".

~ Dick Sells



## The Spring Work Days are scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Here are the clean-up projects that need volunteers, contact Rick Sibly, Property Manager, to sign-up at [rmsibly@aol.com](mailto:rmsibly@aol.com) or use the sign-up sheet at the host shed:

- Pickup sticks, remove dead tree limbs and rake leaves
- Clean away brush and trees along creek
- Move rocks under the bridge to the east side.
- Clean ditch-mountain side, lower end
- Trim bushes at park opening
- Pull/cut weeds on bank at park opening
- Pull/cut weeds around all shelters and pavilion.
- Plant replacement flowers in all aluminum pots
- Caulk fireplace at upper shelter
- Re-grout memorial pavers with sand at upper shelter
- Clean pavilion, kitchen, library, bathroom, screen porch. Spider webs and dead lady bugs need to be removed. Clean all lights of bugs.
- Pavilion Paint Interior of Pavilion "Agreeable Gray" by SW 7029
- Paint Overhead Doors
- Organize & Clean the Information Corner
- Repairs to playground and fencing along creek
- Landscape timbers around island across from host shed
- Clean and Vacuum Office and Laundry room
- Repair/replace paneling above the garage doors in the pavilion
- Paint inside pavilion (where designated)
- Check each site and evaluate power, water, and sewer. Repair as needed.
- Clean and organize Tractor Barn
- Clean & Vacuum Tool and parts store Rooms
- Clean and organize Host Storage Building
- Service John Deer tractor and all lawn mowers
- Clean and organize the garden tool shed.
- Remove all Debris of out-house behind A-12
- Clean Lattice Fence at Pavilion
- Work on Clearing the Trails
- Build firewood racks
- Stack split wood in racks upper fire pit and section 8
- Caulk holes drilled in buildings were network wire was run
- Service original park generator
- Water spigot at host shelter leaks

# *What fun we had!!*



Mary Anne Meeks and Lynne Clements



Sal & Gail Fazzino



Dave Adams



Kimberly Funderburg, Rick Sibly & Judi Sells

December 2021, the Park hosted a  
Christmas Party!

A full food spread with all the trimmings.  
And live music to keep the festive spirit.

The “ugly sweater” contest was a big hit!



Barbara Wild





# Are you ready to Rally?

## Top of Georgia Airstream Park Spring Rally April 27 – May 1, 2022

### Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

Volunteer Days in the Park!  
(Sign-up sheet will be posted in Host Shed)

### Thursday, April 28

8:00 AM Breakfast at Truett McConnell Cafeteria\*  
  
1:00 PM Crafts in the Pavilion  
  
6:30 PM Rally Registration at Pavilion  
Adults \$15; Kids \$5  
  
7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Mary Anne Meeks  
Snacks provided; bring your own drinks

### Friday, April 29

9:00 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion –  
Bacon and eggs, grits, biscuits, coffee  
  
10:00 AM Rhododendron Festival at Hamilton Gardens in  
Hiawassee, All day, \$5  
  
2:30 PM Board Meeting @ Pavilion  
  
6:30 PM Rally Registration

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

### Saturday, April 30

9:00 AM Business meeting (Coffee and pastries  
provided)  
  
12:30 PM Box Lunches from Happy Hawg\*  
Drinks provided  
  
1:00 PM Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at the Top  
Intro to new Fiber Optics system, Jesse Stone  
  
3:00 PM Ice cream social in Main Pavilion  
  
7 – 9 PM Entertainment

### Sunday, May 1

10:00 - 11 AM Worship in the Pavilion, Bob Gray

(please, no trailer check-outs during this time)

**NOTE:** \*Please sign up if planning to attend

## Region 3 Hiawassee Rally



**LAST CALL!** Mark your calendars for April 6-9, 2022 for the next Region 3 Rally when we will gather at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds in beautiful Hiawassee, GA!

RESERVE YOUR CAMPSITE NOW BY CALLING 706-896-4191.

**Silver on Chatuge Rally from April 6-9, 2022.**

[Airstream Club International website](https://www.airstreamclubinternational.com/)

\*\*If rally location is full, the Top of Georgia Airstream Park is only 25 minutes away!  
(Parking fees apply)

# Birding at Top

by Jackson Elder



Our campground lies on a manicured meadow surrounded by prime habitat for woodland birds.

This presents a four seasons opportunity to do a little birding. Kat and I began bird watching from a sun room adjacent to what North Carolinians refer to as a “nature area”, in our case 100-year

floodplain land with both understory and canopy trees. We strung a clothesline between trees about 12’ off the ground to support seed feeders and mounted a suet box on a tree. This soon became a popular destination for blue jays, cardinals, downy woodpeckers and flickers, house finches and, now and then, a UFO. We bought a Peterson’s *Field Guide to Eastern Birds* along with some cheap binoculars opening our eyes to the “unidentifiables”.



I should have done more research on both purchases. Peterson’s was written in 1934, and our 5<sup>th</sup> edition bears a 1980 copyright. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is a better choice showing drawings with more variations of plumage. *The Stokes Field Guide to Birds of North America* is a good one with photographic illustrations. Cheap binocs help, but a spotting scope on a tripod would have offered us steadier viewing. Alas, we should not put out bird feeders here; seed, suet, or hummer water might attract ol’ Clawhawkus, the camp bear.

A few years ago Kat and I took a wonderful ranger walk called “Flyin’ at Zion” led by a NPS ornithologist. She helped us spot Cooper’s hawk and hummingbird nests (the latter resemble spider web cocoons), and an immature summer tanager who naturally and appropriately looked nothing like Peterson’s drawing of a mature rooster or hen. She recognized birds by their songs or chirps, perches of choice, and even flight patterns. We learned that one needs to be just a bit furtive – birds don’t like being stared at – the **now** term now used is “birding”.

Many think of robins as harbingers of spring, but many of them live here year ‘round. So do cardinals, northern mockingbirds, goldfinches, Carolina chickadees, crows and ravens (A field guide will help you distinguish the last two by size, sound, and tail shapes).



Goldfinch

Bluebirds may winter here, but I don't recall sighting any when it's cold. They may be our first spring arrival and the lower level of Top has a birdhouse well-used by a nesting pair the past two springs.



Hummingbird

Hummingbirds migrate to Cuba or Latin America in early fall and return to warm weather, red flowers and flying insects (they can't make it on sugar water alone!). In May, a flock of migrant swallows returns to build mud nests on the walls of our shelters. Get a good look at them in flight and let's figure out whether 'ours' are cliff or barn swallows. Cliffies show a squarish tail in flight, but Barnies are the only US swallow with a long forked swallow tail.

Top of Georgia's swallows dislike our campground cat. If Wally ventures into what they consider a no-cat zone, you may see them undertake tag team strafing runs at him. I don't think they actually peck him, but swallows have earned Wally's respect. And he ain't no fool. Wally has learned to sprint from truck to truck, or trailer to trailer, one at a time until he's back to safety, fat and panting.

Go birding!

## Other things you might spot this spring

By Rod Wilson



Weaver orb spider



Lady's-Tresses



Jack-in-the-pulpit



Eastern Eyed Click Beetle



Fairy Fingers Ghost Fungus

# What's happening around Helen!

## Lanier Lantern Festival 2022



### Date and time

Sat, April 2, 2022  
2:00 PM – 10:00 PM

### Location

Lake Lanier Olympic Park  
3105 Clarks Bridge Road  
Gainesville, GA 30506

Tickets    Adults - \$20    Kids 4-12 - \$8

## BEAR ON THE SQUARE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

### Info

[Dahlonega, Georgia](#)

Website [Visit Event Website](#)

### Date & Time

Apr 22, 2022 10:00 AM to  
Apr 24, 2022 10:00 AM



The 24th annual Bear on the Square is an authentic Appalachian Heritage Festival featuring bluegrass and old-time music, a juried Artists Market Place featuring traditional mountain crafts, storytelling, free music workshops and demonstrations, local wine and beer, a Sunday Gospel Jam, children's activities, dancing, and more. All Saturday and Sunday events are free.

## Hiawassee Highlands Wine Festival

May 7th, 2022

Starts at 11:00 AM

The Hiawassee Highlands Wine Festival will be on Saturday, May 7th. Enjoy music by Wyatt Espalin & friends on two stages, arts and crafts, food trucks, and tours of the blooming Hamilton Rhododendron Gardens.



### Enjoy:

20 acres of a beautiful  
Rhododendron gardens

20+ Wineries

Live Music all Day!

Photo Ops

Mountain Views

Lake Views

Food Vendors

Arts & Craft vendors

Free Parking

# From the Park



## ***Be Bear Aware!!***

Please, do not leave food or garbage outside and clean your bar-b-que grills well.

All kitchen garbage must be placed in the dumpster by the bridge and not in the dog waste bins.

Bird feeders attract bears, and are not allowed.

The park has hired landscapers to keep the grounds looking nice. However, for those campers who are here for a length of time you will still need to mow/trim around your trailer. The park provides the equipment and gas. See host for assistance.



## Important Reminders...

Alcoholic beverages are allowed throughout the park; however, we ask that you not carry glass bottles or cups!

**All trailers in the park MUST have current tags and insurance and be kept clean**, please take corrective steps if your tag is expired.

**\*\*The TOG Park is not responsible for stolen or damaged property.**

## We LOVE our furry friends!!!



Dogs must be on a leash at all times when outside their RV.

Owners must clean up behind their pets. Pet waste bags and receptacles are located in pet walk areas. (There are 3 in the park)

**\*\*There's been a problem with people taking full rolls of waste bags. Please, only take bags as needed and alert the host if a station is empty.**

## Membership

Our 2022 TOG Member Directory and Handbook will be sent to the printers shortly and mailed to members in April. Be sure to keep a look out!

### **Changes to Membership**

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

If you were a member before July 1, 2021, 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.

**\*\*\* 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

ACI membership dues are \$75 for the year.

Top of Georgia dues are \$15 for the year.

Jaime Collins  
**TOG Membership**  
[togairstream@gmail.com](mailto:togairstream@gmail.com)

# Loving Concerns

## Illness and Injury

Our dear friend and fellow member **Al Holcomb** took a fall while in Florida. His arms are both badly scraped and bruised and he has fractured his sacrum at S4.

**Dorothy Engel** is thankful to be home recovering from a cerebral hemorrhage.

**John Turner** reports that he has recovered well from hip replacement surgery and is pain free.

**Eddie Wirtz** had a hemorrhagic stroke on 12/9. He is now improving with therapy.

Treasurer **John Meeks** is still being treated for the aftereffects of lung cancer surgery, but is glad to report he's feeling much better and no new cancer has been detected.

**John Worley** reports his back surgery was successful and he continues to heal from his Achilles tendon injury.

**Casey Kauffman** is very excited to announce a full recovery from COVID-pneumonia and will be returning to her friends at the Top shortly.

## Sympathy

Long time member, **Faye Wallace** passed away on November 4th. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Billy, two children and many other loved ones.

We regret to inform you of the death of a long-time former member of the club, **Kenneth Morris**. He passed away on January 25th.

*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](mailto:bwjumper13@gmail.com)  
770-241-3793

***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, ACI, published six times a year.

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

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### **2022 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events**

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Event</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>April 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup></b>       | <b><i>Region 3 Hiawassee Rally</i></b>               |
| <b>April 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b><i>Spring Work days</i></b>                       |
| <b>April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b><i>Spring Rally</i></b>                           |
| <b>May 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup></b>       | <b><i>Memorial Day Rally</i></b>                     |
| <b>June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b><i>Youth Rally</i></b>                            |
| <b>July 4th</b>                                    | <b><i>Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration</i></b> |
| <b>July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b><i>International Rally / Fryeburg, ME</i></b>     |
| <b>Aug 31st – Sept 4<sup>th</sup></b>              | <b><i>Labor Day Rally</i></b>                        |
| <b>October 12<sup>th</sup> – 16th</b>              | <b><i>Fall Rally / Installation</i></b>              |

### **Officers:**

President – Mary Anne Meeks

President Elect – Doug Ralston

Vice President – Brad Singleton

Secretary – Kimberly Funderburg

Treasurer – John Meeks

Directors Year Two – Jiji Haque and Bill Harris

Directors Year One – Nadine Johnson and Rod Wilson

President Emeritus – Tim Johnson

