



The Peach State Caravanner



Spring work days were a success



Having some Rally fun



Hello, from all your friends (drone photo by Jesse Stone)

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so
much."* – Helen Keller

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President's Letter



Mary Anne Meeks
(President)

Dear TOG Airstream Family,

Over the next week we will be inviting you to our Memorial Day Rally. This is a wonderful rally rich in traditions such as our Memorial Day Service honoring those Airstream members who died during the last year, and celebrating veterans, alive and dead, who gave us our freedoms. The Park never looked better or more ready to have fun. Please answer your Evite invitation to the Memorial Day Rally with a big “YES” and let the good times roll.

I want to share with you one of my favorite memories from last week at the TOG Spring Rally. Just before our worship service on Sunday a young service man, Jim, and his beautiful, young daughter joined us. He had come the day before from Virginia, where he picked up his new Airstream, and he was driving on to his Air Force base in South Georgia.

After the service he was surrounded by Airstreamers of every age. Casey Kauffman went to her trailer and came back with toys for his children. Before I saw him go down to his trailer he had a long talk with our host, Mark Malone, about how to dump his black tank. I thought about our Chaplain, Bob Gray, whose sermon was about praising others and praising our dear Lord, and here it was in action as we welcomed Jim.

Thank you, to each of you, who go out of your way to welcome others to the Top of Georgia. John and I have been to places in the past where no one said a word to us, and we have not been back. Life is too short to not share it with friends who love you and who love Airstreaming. I am trying to learn to slow down some and enjoy the good times.

May we share some good times soon!

My best always, Mary Anne

Meet your Committee Heads

Loving Concerns

"Loving Concerns" reaches out to the members of the Top of Georgia with care and concern. Cards, emails and texts will be sent to members who are ill, bereaved or going through some other difficulty. Members will be notified of these concerns by email. There is great comfort in knowing that we have the love, encouragement, and prayer support of our friends at the TOP.

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



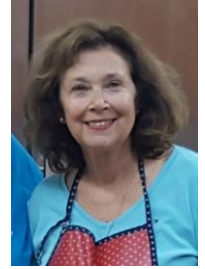
Barbara Jumper

bwjumper13@gmail.com

770-241-3793

Rally Committee

As Co-chairmen of the Rally Committee, Mary Anne Meeks and I determine dates for the rallies, meals, activities, decor, entertainment, seminars, etc. and create a rally schedule. We usually end up supervising cleaning of the Pavilion as well. We would normally coordinate with the president of the Georgia group. With Mary Anne as our current president, that step is an easy one. Sometimes we have suggestions from other members as to what activities they would like to have at a rally and we try to include those. We always need fresh ideas.



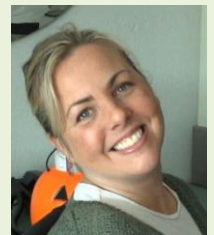
Nancy Sibly

nancysibly@gmail.com

Editor of the Caravanner

As editor of the Park's newsletter, I report activities and events planned for our members, any projects for the park and edit the written summaries of the rallies and ongoing happenings that become a part of the archives so that future generations can see the people who have cared for and enjoyed Top of Georgia Airstream Park over the years.

Almost all the featured articles are written by members, and it is my job to edit, format and include photos that help complete the story being told. The Caravanner definitely takes a community to keep it going and I thank everyone for their help and contributions!



Any ideas, articles or suggestions, please email **Christee Fontanez** Christee@mediadvine.com

Correction from 1st issue:

The nomination committee consists of Barbara Jumper, Faye Murrell, Scott Palmer, Mary Elizabeth Spires and Dick Sells

2022 WORKDAYS RECAP

by Nancy Sibly

A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**
We couldn't do it without you!



Sal Fazzino & Sam Fontanez replacing the wood border around the upper island



Mary Anne Meeks and Lane Carpenter weeding the Hosta bed by the host shed. (Lane also cleaned and organized the library)



Judy Baker, Maria Harris and Julie Gray (pictured) as well as Lane Carpenter, Nancy Sibly and Laurie Murphy worked hard weeding and cleaning out the garden beds.

The spring cleanup and work days at the Top were wildly successful. Everywhere you looked there were people tackling the Property Manager's 28-item "To Do" list plus some things that weren't on the list. We worked and we worked and we worked. We ate and we ate and we ate. We talked and we talked and we talked. AND we had fun.

Outside weeds were whacked, dead trees and branches cut, leaves raked, vines pulled, fairy gardens unearthed, and memorial bricks weeded and sanded.



Larry White transplanted Hostas to create a beautiful garden space outside the laundry room



Glenn Kornahrens,
Rick Sibly, Dick
Sells, Tom Baker
and Rip

Our carpenters built tee-pee type
log holders that look attractive
and will keep the wood dry.

The Pavilion is cleaner than it's
been in years. Even the walls and
garage doors were washed in
preparation for interior painting.
Closets were emptied and swept,
light fixtures were de-bugged.

Tom Stieber
chopped a pile
of fire wood for
our members



Ken Rabren
worked hard to
split a pile of
firewood



Christee and Jacob Fontanez cleaning the bugs
from the pavilion lights



Ron & Leslie Akridge and Donn & Julie Gray stacked
all the chopped fire wood into our new stands



Casey Kauffman, with the help of
Marybeth Kornahrens, Sissy Stone and
Lane Carpenter, cleaned and dusted
everything that stood still in the pavilion



The long-awaited, much-discussed dog park is now a reality. Of course it was 82 degrees the day the guys were digging post holes. All 62 of them. (Posts, not guys.)



Wayne Murphy, Donn Gray and David Cardoza installing a post



Bill Harris digging out rocks by hand



Ron Akridge, Wayne Murphy and Donn Gray taking a much needed water break



Rick Sibly, Bill Harris, Rip, Tom Baker and David Cardoza digging post holes



Rick making sure the dogs are happy their new park



Planning ahead, the ancient tool shed was emptied in anticipation of a brand new tool shed, on order, which will even have electricity. And the pad for the old tractor barn was cleared and ready for a new structure to house the tractor and mowers. You'll have to see it to believe it.

For me, one of the most heartwarming sights was "newbies", just passing through, working alongside long-timers and every bit as hard. We hope they'll come back.



Kay Gray, Tom Goubeaux, Sue Goubeaux, Karen Cardoza, Judy Baker, Sissy Stone, Tom Baker and Nancy Sibly! Our amazing kitchen team!

And, as always, there's abundant food at the Top. We were the fortunate beneficiaries of leftovers from a meal at the Region 3 Rally.

From that we had three lunches for volunteers on the work days, then Glenn Kornahrens made us a delicious dinner of chicken and rice pilau (PEE-loo).

Note: The hardest thing we did all week was learn to say PEE-loo.



David Adams enjoying BBQ



Mary Anne Meeks & Nancy Sibly worked hard cooking for the crowds and keeping the kitchen clean



Glenn Kornahrens' delicious pilau

What you can't see, but that will benefit us all, is the winter installation of a new Wi-Fi system that will bring the Top into the 21st century.

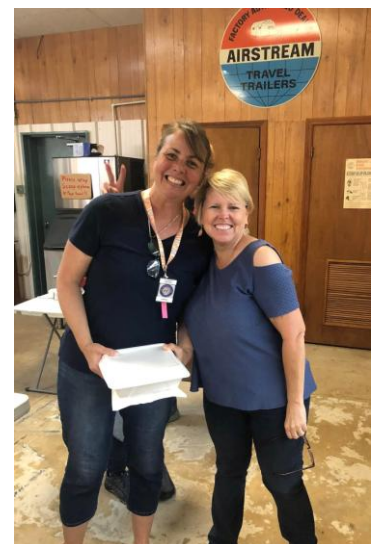
We now have 2-1/2 times the bandwidth and far greater reliability to eliminate outages in the Park.

Thank you, Jesse.

We also have a Ring doorbell to provide an additional layer of security in the Park. We have had no problems, but it never hurts to be prepared.



Jacob and Sammy Fontanez fixing a security camera



Christee Fontanez and Kim Malone (with a surprise visit from Maria Harris' hand)



Tom and Judy Baker

A project largely spear-headed by new member, David Cardoza, the trail to the cross that overlooks our Park has been cleared.

Thank you to David, Larry White, Tom Baker and Sammy Fontanez for all your hard work; cutting, chopping, raking and creating a path we can all enjoy again.

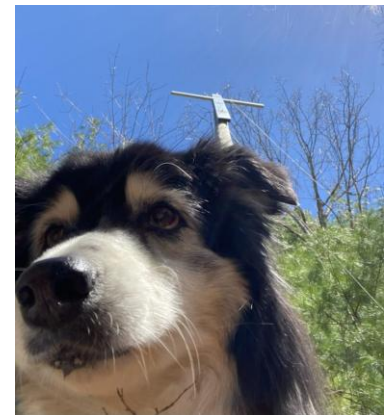


Christee and Jacob Fontanez



Left:
Tom Baker, Maria &
Bill Harris, Christee,
Sammy & Jacob
Fontanez and our
friends, Aimee & Mike
Jinks

Right:
Jenna White
(Larry's pup)



Cairns have been placed along the trail to mark the path to the cross. (Larry White has topped one with a rock shaped like a shark fin...See if you can find it)

What is a Cairn??

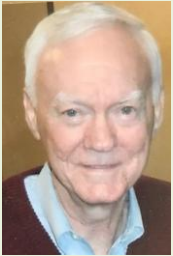
Rock cairns are human-made stacks, mounds or piles of rocks. They take different forms, and have been built by cultures around the world for many different purposes. Cairns may serve as monuments, burial sites, as well as mark routes to safety, to food, and to villages.

The act of adding a small stone to a cairn, especially on a hilltop, is a deep-rooted Scottish tradition that signifies respect. By adding a rock, you are preserving the integrity of the monument and helping to protect it from harsh weather.

Volunteering

Are you interested in Hosting?

Ken Rabren, Host Coordinator:



"I would like to thank everyone that served as Host so far this year and for those already signed up."

As camp host, you are the first face to welcome new guests and returning members and ensure that park operations are running smoothly.

It is an essential role to the park and one that sees an on-going need.

Perks for camp hosting:

- Free parking while hosting
- Free laundry while hosting
- Free access to our new hi-speed Wi-Fi
- For each day you host, you receive a day's credit to go towards future parking fees

While you are MORE than welcome to sign up for Fall and Winter hosting positions, our immediate needs are for the months of **July and August.....**

All weeks from 7/9 through 8/27:

****Hosting weeks run from Saturday to Saturday**

If interested in covering a week, or more, please call Ken Rabren (404) 660-5597.

2022 Volunteer To-Do List: Items to be completed

EXTERIOR CLEAN-UP

- 1) Move rocks under the bridge to the east side
- 2) Clean spring-ditch mountain side
- 3) Remove all Debris of out-house behind A-12
- 4) Plant replacement flowers in all aluminum pots

BUILD

- 1) Repair Playground building roof
- 2) Caulk fireplace at upper shelter

INTERIORS CLEAN-UP

- 1) Paint Pavilion Interior of Pavilion
"Agreeable Gray" by SW 7029
- 2) Paint Overhead Doors

Spring Rally 2022

by Nancy Sibly

After working so hard during the volunteer days it was time for a little fun and enjoyment as we kicked off our 2022 Spring Rally!

Thursday morning began with an easy breakfast at Truett-McConnell College.

We had a crafty afternoon painting hydrangeas with bubble wrap and Q-tips...that was interesting.



Sissy Stone and Mary Anne Meeks



Jacob Fontanez and DJ Spires



Barbara Jumper and Nancy Sibly



Jacob must get his artistic ability from his dad...no offense, Christee



Kim Malone wins the prize



Some more talented than others, but we all enjoyed ourselves!



Lin Thompkins and Nancy Sibly

Friday kicked off with bacon, eggs, grits and biscuits; always a Top favorite! Followed by the Spring Rhododendron Festival at Hamilton Gardens in Hiawassee where a few of us carpooled. Our very own “Minnie Pearl” was the highlight of the festival, and the flowers weren’t bad either.

Jesse Stone gave an outstanding introduction to the Wi-Fi system broken down into beginner, intermediate, and advanced segments targeting everyone’s skill level. A test of the system from 5-6 PM Saturday when everyone was to use their devices encountered no problems. Great news!



Festival photos by Sissy Stone



How-w-w-DEE-E-E-E!



Our Saturday seemed filled with eating. We had BBQ sandwiches catered from Happy Hawg and that afternoon the “Scooping Fontanezes” dipped Mountain Fresh Creamery peach or vanilla ice cream, with toppings, for us. An afternoon of learning the intricacies of a Cricut followed. Thank you, Kimberly!

Entertainment included our in-house “pickers”, David Adams and Ken Rabren, who were joined by visitors Chris McConnell and Dave Cardoza. We had a bonfire at the lower fire pit, the requisite bingo and popcorn, and lots of plain catching up and getting acquainted.

Did I mention we ate a lot?

If you missed it, we hope to see you next time.



Floy Jumper calling BINGO





Memorial Rally

Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Spring Rally May 25th – 30th, 2022

Wednesday, May 25

- 6:30 PM Rally Registration
Adults \$20; Kids \$5
- 7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements,
Mary Anne Meeks
Snacks provided; bring your own drinks

Thursday, May 26

- 8:30 AM Bacon, eggs, grits & biscuits
(Bring your own set-ups/plates/utensils)
- 10:30 AM Crafts at Pavilion
- 4:00 PM Happy hour at Upper Shelter
BYOB and your best camping story

Friday, May 27

- 8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion – Pancakes & sausage
(Bring set-ups/plates, mugs, eating utensils)
- 12:30 PM Sightseeing in Helen and Vicinity
(On your own)
- 6:30 PM Rally Registration
- 7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements,
Mary Anne Meeks
Bingo & Popcorn
Bring your own drinks.

Saturday, May 28

- 9:00 PM Board Meeting @ Pavilion
- 5:30 PM Potluck Dinner at Pavilion*
Bring plates and eating utensils.

Optional: Bavarianfest at Festhalle in Helen 6-11 PM

Sunday, May 29

- 10:00AM Worship Service at the Pavilion.
Memorial Service for members we've
lost this past year.
- 1:00 PM Ice Cream Social at the Pavilion
- 2:00 PM Corn hole tournament *

6:00 – 9:00 PM Christian Jones at the Upper Pavilion

Monday/Memorial Day, May 30 - R&R; Safe travels

- 3:00 PM Taps at the flagpole with Bob Gray??

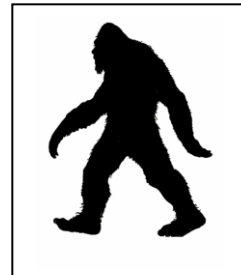
(please, no trailer check-outs during this time)

NOTE: *Please sign up if planning to attend

YOUTH RALLY IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 22ND - 26TH!



THE ADVENTURES OF BIG FOOT



Original "Big Foot"

From 1991-1999, off and on, a rock that looked like a big foot traveled with TOG Airstream owners. The letters Big Foot wrote home can be found in our Archives.

(Big Foot recently started traveling again!)

Traveling with Don and Annette Doerr

"I departed Top of Georgia Airstream Park in mid-October 2021 after many years' long hiatus somewhere. While visiting Maggie Valley, NC I met a friend at a bar-b-que bar alongside a little creek.

Another rock nearby helped me remember where I was."

"Next, I did some hiking and found myself at the highest elevation on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just over 6000'.

The view was spectacular."

"After a week or so, I was wading on the Georgia side of Lake Hartwell where I visited with 'Sisters on the Fly' and 4 of these ladies were in Airstreams."

"My last stop on this trip was the Pelican Roost RV park at the Mayport Naval Station. From here I could watch USN ships enter and leave the base from my Airstream vantage point only a couple hundred yards away.

This one happened to be a guided missile destroyer. So, now I will take a break for a while but I am hoping to see a SpaceX Falcon 9 crew launch next week."



February 2022, Traveling with Dick and Judi Sells

Living in the Georgia hills, I've become accustomed to the silver homes pulling into the parking area in my backyard; the hairless ones call it the TOP.

Each year, as the weather begins cooling, the silver homes begin their exodus, so this year I followed a few.

South we went, leaving the hills for rolling farmland that turned into large flatland farms with huge farm equipment, and noticeably warmer temperatures; frequent wetlands and swamps where I saw relatives roaming about, unseen by the hairless.

We made our way to the coast where my unsuspecting hosts visited friends, and I cruised around in a Rolls Royce.

The next day, after a half-day ride further south we arrived in Melbourne, FL, at another park with hundreds of the silver homes and everyone greeting each other as if it's a homecoming. No surprise, I remember a lot of these folks from their visit to my home in the hills.

Adjoining this park is a large wooded area with water that I found very comfortable and from where I could observe all manner of life. The wildlife here is abundant and different, but I find deer and boar with relatives from my home area. The seafood was great! But the ocean - Nothing like that in the Georgia hills! Some of the ladies in the park even complimented me on my pedicure as we compared our nail colors. When the temperatures began warming, I decided to return to my cooler hills.

Certainly enjoyed my trip south, but must admit, I will never forget those sugar frosted hush puppies.

My next adventure? Not sure, perhaps I'll head north if I can hitch a ride.



What's happening around Helen!

DAHLONEGA ARTS & WINE FESTIVAL



MAY 21 - 22, 2022

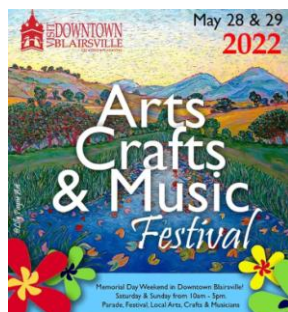
High Quality Arts & Crafts, Live Jazz Performances
Wine & Beer Garden with Local & Regional Wines & Craft Beers
Downtown Dahlonega, Georgia
May 21 & 22, 2022
Saturday 10 am to 6 pm - Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival

Saturday, May 28, All Day

Sunday, May 29, All Day

Downtown Blairsville
62 Blue Ridge St
Blairsville, GA 30512



The Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival is an annual event held Memorial Day Weekend in Downtown Blairsville. This year's event promises to be the best yet. Taking place the weekend of Memorial Day, this two day event features a parade on the Square, demonstrations, crafts unique to the region and, of course, music.

NORTH GEORGIA HIGHLANDS SEAFOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

June 3rd, 4th & 5th 2022

MAYORS PARK, YOUNG HARRIS, Georgia 30512, United States



Parking is free around the park and at surrounding area.

Tickets **Price: \$5-12**

Festival Entertainment:

GOLD STANDARD BAND

Performing Motown, Carolina Beach and Classic Soul, GSB is the South's best entertainment value and the best party band in GA. With three great singers out front with super vocal harmony, a tight rhythm section and an awesome horn section. No matter the age of the audience, they will get off their feet and party. They have something for everybody!

From the Park

Interested in selling your Airstream?



For \$5 per issue, we can feature your Airstream for sale in the Carvanner.

Each issue is emailed to 300+ members, as well as seen by over 2000 followers from our social media pages.

Email Christee@mediadvine.com to discuss.

Park priorities for 2022:

1. Site
 - a. Update electrical pedestals & water piping Section B-17 - B-32
 - b. Build pedestrian bridge
 - c. Replace tractor tires
2. Main Pavilion upgrades:
 - a. Ceiling Fans
3. Upper Shelter
 - a. Roof & Decking
 - b. Caulk & seal fireplace chimney
 - c. Paint
 - d. Ceiling Fans
4. Repair Parking Pads
 - a. Repair broken Pads
5. Build new Host Office and Greeting Room

Announcements

Our **2022 TOG Member Directory** is currently at the printers and will be mailed to members shortly.

Airstream Club International (ACI) asks you to please vote this June 2022!



Click [here](#) to read the full language of Constitutional Amendment #1.

Click [here](#) to read the shortened version of Constitutional Amendment #1.

Click [here](#) to read the full language of Constitutional Amendment #2.

Click [here](#) to read the shortened version of Constitutional Amendment #2.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Airstream Club International Headquarters by emailing comments@airstreamclub.org or contact your Region 3 Officer, Bill Wild wlwild@bellsouth.net

Mailing address is:
Airstream Club International
PO Box 612
Jackson Center, OH 45334
Ph 937-596-5211

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, email tog airstream@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

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

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

