



# The Peach State Caravanner



Safety Day



Beautiful fall colors



Music, campfire and good friends



## What's Inside:

Pg 2 President Letter

Pgs 3-4 What's New

Pgs 5-6 Volunteering

Pgs 8-11 Fall Rally

Pgs 12-15 What Fun!

Pg 16 Upcoming Events

Pgs 17 Big Foot Letter

Pg 18 Around Helen

Pg 19 From the Park

Pg 20 Loving Concerns

# President's Letter

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**Doug Ralston**  
(President)

Dear Top of GA family,

We are coming off a great fiscal year for the club and park. Thanks goes out to our awesome past president, Mary Anne Meeks, and the awesome board that served us so well. We say a special thank you to Tim Johnson and Bill Harris whose terms are ending on the board and welcome our new members Betty Elder, Sammy Fontanez, and Jesse Stone. Jiji Haque has left the position of director and joined us as first vice president. I am very excited about this board of directors for the upcoming year and know they are going to serve the club and park well.

Over the past year, we have accomplished so much, and the trend will continue for this upcoming year. We are continuing to replace damaged and aged electrical pedestals and upgrading to frost free water spigots in the remaining B section spaces and all of A section. We are undertaking improvements in landscaping and grounds. We plan to standardize our communications platforms and data retention systems, improve our virtual meeting infrastructure, continue to improve our internet capacity and coverage, improve our registration systems, continue to expand our safety awareness and risk management processes and much more.

Along with these infrastructure and process improvements, we will always keep focus on our most important asset, which is our community. We continue to grow in numbers and diversity. We will work to attract fellow Airstreamers from across this great country of ours and abroad. We will continue to work to improve our activities, community involvement and sense of family and home. The number one reason people stay with us for as long as they do and keep coming back year after year is because of our community.

Jaime and I feel blessed to be members of this great club. You all are our family. I am looking forward to serving as your president and we will work hard to serve the club and park to the best of our ability.

Thank you,

Doug



# What's New in the Park



Thank you, David Cardoza, for all your hard work painting and creating a clean space to showcase our Park apparel.

Introducing our new garden flag created by Sammy Fontanez. Thank you to everyone who participated in the design contest. Flags will be for sale at the Top for \$20 for the garden flag and iron holder, \$10 for the flag only.

Please see the host.



Tree trimming throughout the Park is complete.

A special "thank you" to Rick Sibly, Tom Baker, Marc Malone, Amy Dunzweiler and David Cardoza for all your hard work digging along the creek and cleaning out the trench!

We appreciate you!



## **TOG Showcases a new Marquee**

Announcement from Jesse Stone

During the recent fall and Grapes & Grain rallies, the TOG demonstrated a new marquee to display slides and videos. Two marquees are operational: one marquee is located in the library and the other under the host shelter. Currently being displayed are important TOG information and events, weather/freeze warnings, as well as local community events.

The TOG Board is considering moving the host shelter marquee to a much larger screen and positioning it where club members and guests can read it as they walk or drive by.

Marc Malone has graciously volunteered to lead the Marquee Content Team.



Thank you, Dan Shaw, for building and organizing a wood-working bench!

To my dear Airstream  
Family,

Thank you for all of your  
help with our fall  
installation rally. Your well  
wishes, love and especially  
prayers are so  
appreciated.

I especially enjoyed the group card from Jiji's  
village in "Area 51".



Let the good times roll and  
remember to give a little  
bit extra in everything we  
do – lagniappe.

My best always,  
Mary Anne

## **Upcoming Park-Upgrade Projects:**

1. New electrical pedestals and water lines will be installed in the upper-section A 1-20 and creek-side section B 17-32. Section B will be first, completed before Thanksgiving. Section A should be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**\*\*All trailers will need to be moved in order for work to begin.**

2. A new roof will be installed on the upper (fireplace) shelter, date to be determined.

3. Concrete parking pad repairs, date to be determined



# Volunteering

## New Host Coordinators

*Marc & Kim Malone*

Marc & Kim have been full-time RV'ing since 2018. In that time, they hosted, volunteered, and even managed an RV park in their travels across the country.

They have three adult children between them and a handsome traveling pup Finley.

Marc & Kim share a passion for serving others and will use that passion as host coordinators at the Top of Georgia.



*Finley*



**WE NEED YOU! Hosts needed for 2023!**

Availability starting in May 2023

Please use the sign-up form <https://form.jotform.com/222917908549166>

& Select your desired dates

Reach out to Kim with any questions at [infotopofgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:infotopofgeorgia@gmail.com)

**SIGN UP TO  
HOST AT**



**Top of Georgia  
AIRSTREAM PARK**

Earn Rewards For Free Parking  
Meet New People & Have Fun

\*Use QR Code or Link to Select  
Your Dates

<https://form.jotform.com/222917908549166>



## **VOLUNTEER KITCHEN MANAGER NEEDED**

- Plan rally meals and purchase ingredients
- Oversee kitchen volunteers (to include food prep, serving and kitchen clean-up)
- Keep tabs on kitchen appliances and arrange maintenance as needed
- Free parking during rally week



Contact Nancy Sibly [nancysibly@gmail.com](mailto:nancysibly@gmail.com) if you are interested or have any questions about the position.

## **TOG Seeks Help from Members with Unifi Systems Experience**

In late 2021, TOG began installing Ubiquiti's Unifi Internet and WIFI equipment to leverage a newly installed 1000 mbps fiber circuit running into the park. The Unifi network became fully operational by early summer of 2022 and has provided stable internet access allowing hundreds of club members to use cell phones, access the internet, play games and stream videos during six large rallies.

The TOG Unifi network is a large system consisting of a Unifi UDM-Pro (Dream Machine), 12 switches, 13 WIFI-6 long range access points, building-to-building radio bridges and ULTE failover capability. The system is supporting 10 security cameras, a Unifi Talk VOIP telephone and an early access connect application that broadcasts slides and videos to two TV monitors in the Park.

TOG has one skilled system administrator and two in training. We would like to have 4-5 system administrators supporting our network. We are hoping to find one or two club members, with home or work Unifi network experience willing to volunteer to help us manage the TOG Unifi network.

Since our system is established and proven, the time commitment supporting this effort is minimal and can be performed remotely from anywhere. This is also a great opportunity for current Unifi users to improve their understanding and network management skills by participating in the management of a much larger and diverse Unifi network.

If you possess any Unifi network management skills and wish to volunteer to be a TOG Unifi network administrator, please contact Jesse Stone at [jesse@2stoneclan.com](mailto:jesse@2stoneclan.com).

### **A single integrated interface**

A true multi-application network operating system



Network



Protect



Talk



Access

## WINTER COMPLIANT CAMPING AT THE TOP OF GEORGIA

- 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. 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).
- Open flames, like cooking stoves, produce carbon monoxide gas. Always maintain good ventilation, which is also effective in controlling the moisture level in your rig. Do not use portable propane catalytic heaters inside your unit. Replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



# October Rally and Installation 2022 *by Nancy Sibly*

October is always one of the prettiest months at the Top and this year was no exception. It was perfect camping weather with cool nights and warm, sunny days. We had an excellent mix of old faithfuls, newbies, those just passing through, and a few trying to stake out a good site for the next week's Grapes and Grains sister rally. We had a full house and as one trailer left, another appeared to take its place. The newly painted pavilion looked great and, with both creek-side doors open, we had an expansive view of the colorful woods beyond.



Above: Dick & Judi Sells  
handling rally registration

Left: Mary Anne Meeks  
welcoming the crowd



We had a Helen to Hardman hike, with some of our group staying on to tour Hardman Farm which sports a field of sunflowers this year.

We did have a minor calamity when the ice cream machine froze. And I don't mean that in a good way. Floy Jumper and Blue Bell came to our rescue. Otherwise, we'd just be staring at syrup, whipped cream, and maraschino cherries in a cup.



Doug Ralston





The Steve Bryson Band, a local country western group, had us all tapping our feet and “chair-dancing” and a few brave souls even made it onto the dance floor. The band’s rendition of “God Bless the USA” had us all on our feet.

Brad Singleton organized a Safety Day where we could practice putting out a fire with a fire extinguisher in a burn pit. Yes, we all have them, but how many of us actually know how to use them?

Michael Kinard talked to us about safety when hiking, then that afternoon talked about his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail.



Joe Ellis, Rod Wilson, David Adams  
and Bob Gray



Jaime Ralston

If we can’t get to Cottage House, Cottage House can come to us. Doug Ralston’s request for his coronation, I mean Installation, dinner was fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans. For dessert he got his chocolate cake and I got my strawberry cobbler. Being Rally Chairman does have its perks. We kept upping our order, starting with 65 and increasing to 110 before the deadline.

The Installation was short and sweet, especially with Region 3 VP Bob Hoffman giving each new officer candies to match their duties. Congratulations, everyone!



Mary Anne Meeks



Bob Hoffman and Doug Ralston



Welcome, 2023 Board Officers and Directors

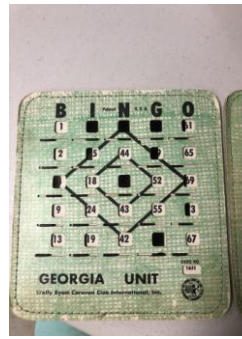




Nadine Johnson



Patty Ball



Ken Rabren



Tom Baker



It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Judy Baker



John Meeks

In addition to our usual breakfasts and bingo, the absolute most fun we had was with the awesome National Parks Trivia Contest that John Meeks put together. John, you really need to take this on the road. I'm sure every club would enjoy it as much as we did. Ask for an honorarium. Teams were chosen loosely based on the tables where people were sitting, so it was fun to see people outside their usual groups. John had photos of the parks and we had to guess which ones they were and come to a consensus. There was a lot of, "Oh, I've been there. Now what's the name of it?".



For many of us, the October Rally is a chance to say goodbye to our Florida friends who head back to warmer climes for the winter. Happy Trails.





By Brad Singleton

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> safety event was held October 15 during our Fall Rally. The weather was perfect and we had amazing participation from the park for the live event!

We were, once again, supported by Helen Fire Department and welcomed Peach State Fire.

Jody and Tyler of Helen Fire Department provided instruction and informal activities to review fire and first aid safety.

Lucas, from Peach State Fire, provided us with a demonstration on the use of fire extinguishers in a “controlled burn” setting. We had several volunteers learn the proper way to use an extinguisher. Peach State Fire also assisted in charging or exchanging fire extinguishers for many of our members.

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. Our featured speaker “Iron Mike” Kinard gave an informative presentation regarding the essential items to carry for a day’s hike and shared his experiences of hiking the Appalachian Trail. Local resident and AT shuttle driver, Suches, also provided some great tips.

Our review of current safety and emergency response procedures within the park is on-going and we can always use volunteers in this area to help us develop an effective plan.

Remember to check batteries for smoke and CO detectors this New Year’s Day.

Stay tuned for upcoming safety event on CPR/AEDs and first aid in 2023.



“Iron Mike” presenting Hiking Safety





By Bob Hoffman



Despite lots of anxiety and excitement leading up to the big Grapes & Grains Rally, the event went off without a hitch!

Roughly 50 Airstreams rolled into the park for this incredible rally, and all were greeted with our traditional Top of Georgia warm smiles and lots of "Welcome to the Top" from the hosts and other members!

The event started off on Thursday evening with a happy hour and presentation from Jo Anna Weinman and Jennifer Yoder, identical twins and Top of Georgia members who, with their husbands, own WY Vineyards. They told their comedic story about how they became the owners of a vineyard and how their Airstreams fit into the picture.

The rest of the weekend was filled with an enjoyable wine tasting presentation from Wolfe Winery, additional happy hours and fun times by all. Saturday evening there was a delicious potluck dinner followed by a very creative Halloween costume contest as well as a campsite decorating contest. Mark Kruer, the president of the Grapes & Grains Intraclub and his wife, Karen, were very thankful for all of the organization, help and friendliness that they and the rest of the rally attendees experienced.

A special thanks to everyone from the Top of Georgia that made this rally such a success! Cheers!!



Maria & Bill Harris, Argh



Rip Rippe, the hippy



# OCTOBER ACTIVITIES



Warren Fore



David Cardoza



David Adams



Ken Rabren



Celebrating October birthdays



Activity Chairperson Nadine Johnson has kept an amazing calendar all season designed with the community in mind as a way for members and guests to get together for fun and friendship.

October was a real treat: jam sessions, a birthday celebration and a visit to the Georgia Fairgrounds to see the Oakridge Boys sing.

Thank you, Nadine!



Nadine Johnson and Eleanor Flory



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween at the Top



DJ Spires hanging crafty candles



It was a dark and stormy night....just kidding....it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Halloween celebration at the Top! Thank you to all the members and volunteers who made it such a fun weekend!

Best decorated trailer contests, best costume contest, a pet parade, a spooky ice cream social and a reverse trick-or-treating, where folks gave candy to campers rather than collect candy. What fun!







Thank you, Jaime Ralston and Tosha Brown for sponsoring a wonderful Halloween shadow box craft!

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's Halloween celebration!



## Upcoming Events & 2023 Rally Calendar

### Top of Georgia Airstream Park



2023 Rally Schedule	Be sure to mark your calendar
Region 3 Rally - Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach	03/28 - 04/02
Spring Rally/Volunteer Days, TOG	04/10 - 04/16
Memorial Day/Buddy Rally, TOG	5/25 - 5/29
International Rally, Rock Springs, WY	06/24 - 07/01
Patriotic Day, TOG	07/04
Youth Rally, TOG	07/19 - 07/23
Labor Day/Elections/Buddy Rally, TOG	8/30 - 09/04
Fall Rally/Installation, TOG	10/11 - 10/15
Thanksgiving Potluck, TOG	11/23
Christmas Party, TBD on	12/09



# THE ADVENTURES OF BIG FOOT



October 2022 Traveling with Bob Hoffman & Wayne Clark

"Made the way to Bob & Wayne's "The Chang Tin Pony" Airstream towards the end of October 2022 after spending time at two major rallies at the Top of Georgia Airstream Park; for the Fall rally and installation and the Sip of Georgia Grapes & Grains Rally.

The week before Halloween, we all made the trek from Helen, GA, to Marion, NC. As it turns out, I wondered if I might spot any fellow sasquatch as Marion happens to be the home of the annual BigFoot Festival.

Alas, while many large, hunched, and hairy folks were around I didn't catch a glimpse of any kin. We did have a rousing great time socializing with fellow Airstreamers at this year's Alumalina Rally, where nearly 250 Airstream trailers were present.

Couldn't help but make the way down to Old Fort to check out some local drinking holes, wineries, distilleries and breweries in the area and also to catch up with some fellow Top of Georgia Airstream Club affiliate members and friends.

And finally, just in time to escape those dropping temps, we journeyed on to Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach, SC, to hang out with more Airstreamer friends at the Carolinas rally, where we have seen sunny days and temps hovering near 80 degrees. (And by the way, this just so happens to be the site of the 2023 spring Region 3 rally!)

So curious where my travels with these shiny trailers and their curious, explorative owners may take me next..."



Amidst the many Airstreams at Alumalina 2022 in Marion, NC



Hanging out with friends in downtown Old Fort, NC; l-r- Bob Hoffman, Cory Barger, Marc Nijdam, Andrew Troppoli, Wayne Clark



Getting some time in the sun at Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach, SC

# What's happening around Helen!

## Annual Lighting of the Village

Friday, November 25, 2022  
1074 Edelweiss Strasse, Helen, GA



On Friday, November 25, 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.

## Helen's Annual Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 2 p.m.



This is such a fun small-town parade with fire trucks, horses, dirt-buggies, unique floats, and TONS of candy! Expect big things...and yes, the Big Man – Santa himself – will be there. Rain or shine!

The best place to be is across the street from the Downtown Gazebo!

## New Year Fireworks ~ Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

**DECEMBER 31, 2022 8:30 PM –  
12:00 AM**



Come out to the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds and help us usher in 2023 with bang!

Fireworks will begin at 8:45pm on Saturday, 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



# From the Park

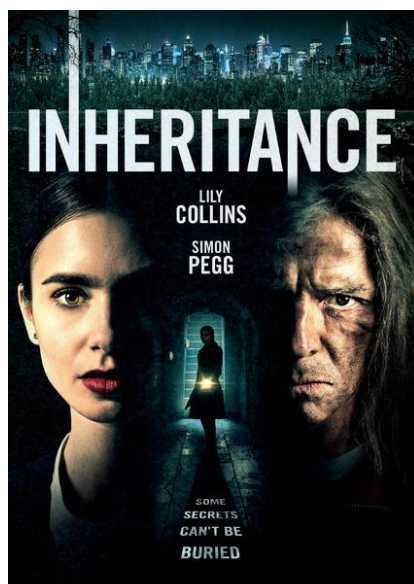
## Interested in selling your Airstream?



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](mailto:Christee@mediadvine.com) to discuss.



Recommended movie on Netflix – by Dick Sells

In a wealthy prominent Southern family we have the daughter who is the DA, the son running for office and a deep family secret?

One early morning the daughter was out for a jog in the park and her brother was working on his campaign, their father has a heart attack and tries to drive himself to the hospital only in vain, he passes.

Reading the will reveals that Daddy wasn't an innocent man. Secrets were many and daughter discovers the buried treasure.

## Airstream for Sale!



### **\*1993 Airstream Excella for Sale\* PRICE: \$12,500**

34 Ft. 3 Axles- includes new tires and a Hensley hitch

Inside Features:

- Full Size Pull Out Sofa/Bed
- Microfiber Recliner
- 4 Seat Banquette Folds into Bed
- All Working Appliances, including: 4 burner Gas Stove/Oven, Microwave, Refrigerator
- Double Sink, Appliance Garage and Pullout Pantry Drawer
- Heat, A/C and Gas Water Heater, all work great
- Recently replaced curtains all around and blinds
- 3 Door Closet
- Self Contained Bathroom with Sink, Shower, and New Toilet
- Master Bedroom w/ 2 XL Twin beds, Bedside Table and Chest of Drawers
- Tons of Storage, As with any Airstream!
- All Original Awnings- Look Great- Blue Stripes
- No Roof Leaks

Outside has a few "bumps and bruises"- all aesthetic  
Needs new carpet (or whatever flooring YOU put in)

**NO OWNER FINANCING,**

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Currently located in Dallas, GA.

**CONTACT: DALE MCDUGALD 770-833-1208**

or [merib63@gmail.com](mailto:merib63@gmail.com)



## LOVING CONCERNS



**Macon Little Theatre**  
4220 Forsyth Rd  
Box Office: 478-471-7529

Come support DJ Spires, cast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Buy tickets [HERE](#)

### **Disney's Beauty and the Beast**

December 2-11

Enjoy a romantic Disney musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. Plucky Belle yearns for adventure in provincial France. In an act of courageous sacrifice, she gets imprisoned with a horrific Beast who was once a Prince. With the help of an enchanted castle, love melts both hearts and creates beauty out of ugliness in a "tale as old as time."

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances  
at 8:00pm.

Sunday performances at 2:30pm.

**Tom Litton**- Tom's brother, Herb, is now on the heart transplant list at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville. Herb and his wife are raising their granddaughter and live in west Tennessee.

**Bob Carpenter**- Bob is experiencing eye issues and weakness. A full checkup with blood work and other tests are scheduled.

We are sad to report that our great friend and former member **Myrna Warren** has passed away. She was our former Loving Concerns Chairman, a long-time TOG member alongside her beloved husband Neal, and a great friend to many.

Memorial Service for Myrna will be held on Sunday, November 20th, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. at the Hiawassee Church of Christ. Obituary can be found on the Cochran Funeral Home website.  
[www.cochranfuneralhomes.com](http://www.cochranfuneralhomes.com)

Hiawassee Church of Christ  
882 Sunnyside Road  
Hiawassee, GA 30546

*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**

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

**Officers:**

President – Doug Ralston

President Elect – Brad Singleton

Vice President – Jiji Haque

Secretary – Kat Elder

Treasurer – John Meeks

Directors Year Two – Nadine Johnson and Rod Wilson

Directors Year One – Sam Fontanez and Jesse Stone

Past President – Mary Anne Meeks

