



# The Peach State Caravanner

Spring Edition



Christmas Luncheon pg 10



Park Upgrades – pg 3



A very full Andrew's Creek-  
Photo by Robert Apsley



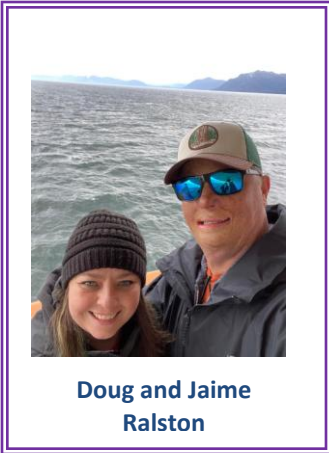
A coyote wandering our mountain trail – Trail Cam temporarily placed by David Cardoza

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# President's Letter

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Hello TOG family,

2023 is getting off to a great start. We have a full line up of the usual rallies on the schedule for the year. The schedule can be found on our website at <https://topofgeorgia.airstreamclub.net/rally> .

Our April rally is just around the corner. This is our Spring Volunteer Rally and we have a big list of work projects to keep everyone busy.

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 the park 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 system, 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



Jesse Stone, Sal Fazzino and Marc Malone installed a scrolling marquee on the south side of the host shed. The box was custom built by Jesse himself and Sal and Marc moved the TV from the inside of the host shed to its new position. Now you can see the scrolling announcements as you come up the hill towards the host shed. Thanks guys!



## Section B (creek-side) is now open!

- New frost-proof water hydrants
- All new pedestals equipped with 20/ 30/ 50 Amp service

Section A-11 through A-20 (upper) should be completed by April 1, 2023.

## Unser Garten



Last year we assembled a smallish vegetable garden featuring 4 varieties of tomatoes, bell and Tabasco peppers, mint, basil, lavender and rosemary, all allied with the protection of marigolds that help to drive off harmful insects. Too few of us visited and harvested from it, and this year we hope to change that.

This year we plan to expand the garden with a pair of large metal rectangular raised boxes. There we will plant patio and heirloom tomatoes, Japanese eggplant, bell peppers, zucchini, and arugula (which is reputed to grow well in northern Georgia). We expect a bumper crop this year as we plan to use better topsoil with supplemental compost and a mulch topping.

This is a garden built through the efforts of volunteers, using seeds and seedlings funded by Top. The idea is many help care for it, so that all may enjoy its fruits. (Take what you need, and leave the rest.)

Helen is a Bavarian themed town, and *Unser Garten* is a German translation of Our Garden. We mean that literally; it is our garden. We need help in weeding, and ideas for 2024's *Unser Garten*. Watering can be overdone, so caution is in order.

by Jackson Elder



A letter written by  
Don DeWitt, Sr.  
approximately 30  
years ago.

## ***Summer becomes exciting While traveling in our Airstreams***

***It is uncanny how we look forward to hooking up and getting on the roads toward our annual summer treks across America each year. We almost always shed the fast pace of daily tension from the winter months in Florida.***

***By the time we arrived at our chosen campsite last summer, we were eager to spend our entire summer there. I am, of course, referring to the Top of Georgia Airstream Park nestled in the mountains just north of Helen Georgia.***

***As we settle in and hook up to the amenities provided by the campground, we can actually feel how much more comfortable we seem to be.***

***The very next day, we start off the beautiful morning on the bench swings, under the pine tree, enjoying the pleasant people and hearing spontaneous conversations with old friends and total strangers. Folks there are so very pleasant and are eager to share their life's experiences in storybook form. So many interesting vocations. It never ceases to amaze us listening to the tales of their lives in first person form.***

***Then there is the anticipation of dining out at the many good restaurants with close friends and strangers alike. They always seem to make the effort to get along and laugh with each other.***

***God has been good to all of us. Life here at the camp lets one relax to see and feel the senses of all the scenery around us that he has created!***

***My wife June and I have felt the feeling of freedom and happiness without a care in the world while trekking around America in our Airstream every summer for the past nineteen years. It has become our purpose of human endeavor to live this way.***

***Eat more Grits,***

***Don and June De Witt***

# Volunteer Corner

## A Special Thank You!

We want to thank David Cardoza, Sal Fazzino, Mark Malone, Don Shaw and Adam Norris for all their hard work on the park. Some of their accomplishments include:

- Tree removal
- Firewood split and stacked
- Trail to the cross cleared
- Charlie Thompson Shelter chimney caulked and stained
- Limbs, sticks, and other debris picked-up
- Shop built, cleaned, and organized

Great job and a big THANK YOU to these hardworking guys!

**Thank you to all our members and camp-host volunteers!! The 2023 season is filled and we are working on 2024.**

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

**& select your desired dates**

**Reach out to Kim Malone, Host Coordinator, with any questions at [infotopofgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:infotopofgeorgia@gmail.com)**

## Editor for Caravanner needed for 2024 season!

The Caravanner has been a long-standing tradition at the Top of Georgia for 62 years! It's a way to inform our members of upcoming events and provide a lasting archive for future members of the Park!



Every editor brings their own unique style. No experience in editing is required....simply a willingness to “play around” and find your own story-telling style.

Editors do not have to contribute to content (unless they want to); only “edit” the articles submitted by board members, committee heads and other volunteer writers.

Only 6 newsletters per season, usually timed a couple of weeks before a Park Rally!

Anyone interested should contact Christee Fontanez at [Christee@mediadvine.com](mailto:Christee@mediadvine.com) so we can discuss the particulars. I would be happy to give you my templates to give you a starting point, if needed.

## **VOLUNTEER KITCHEN MANAGER NEEDED for 2023 SEASON**

- Plan rally meals and purchase ingredients
- Coordinate with other members interested in preparing a rally meal
- 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) to discuss the position and begin training while she's available!

### **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

## Volunteer needed to publish our annual Directory

Over the past three years, Doug Ralston has published our Top of Georgia membership handbook, commonly referred to as the “Directory”. As of the 2023 season the directory will no longer be available in print-form.

Skill set needed to perform this role is as follows:

1. Utilize Microsoft Excel to download and compile membership directory.
2. Utilize Microsoft Word to build handbook, incorporating a mail merge from Excel and insert images as needed.
3. Coordinate and compile information from the other officers and committee leaders, as well as regional leaders.
4. Some ability to create and edit PDF files.

\*\*It would also be a plus if you have some experience with graphic design software; however it is not necessary.

Doug will train the new volunteer and will be there for support for the next publishing of the handbook.

If this position sounds interesting to you, please email Doug at [ralstondoug@gmail.com](mailto:ralstondoug@gmail.com)



## Bylaws Committee Chairperson

The bylaws committee chairperson’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.

If interested, please communicate with Floy Jumper, 770-500-6182, [fwjumper@hotmail.com](mailto:fwjumper@hotmail.com) or Doug Ralston at [ralstondoug@gmail.com](mailto:ralstondoug@gmail.com)

**EXTERIOR CLEAN-UP**

- 1) Pickup sticks and rake leaves in common areas and parking sites
- 2) Rake leaves at the rear of the main pavilion and remove
- 3) Clear away brush and trees along creek
- 4) Move rocks under the bridge to the east side
- 5) Pickup all rocks in Sections B and A following new construction
- 6) Clean out ditch along mountain side, the cove & lower-end Section C
- 7) Remove dead tree limbs over camp sites
- 8) Trim shrubs at park entrance
- 9) Pull/cut weeds along park entrance
- 10) Pull/cut weeds around all shelters and pavilion.
- 11) Remove all leftover debris from the outhouse behind A-12
- 12) Clean lattice fence along main pavilion
- 13) Plant flowers in all planters
- 14) Pressure wash shelters & clean fans and lights
- 15) Clean out the well house
- 16) Clean out the TV shed
- 17) Continue clearing the trails

Contact Rick Sibly with questions  
and to volunteer.

[rmsibly@gmail.com](mailto:rmsibly@gmail.com)

There will also be a sign-up sheet  
at the Host Shed prior to the rally

**BUILD**

- 1) Pressure wash and paint water tank
- 2) Repaint arrows on the pavement
- 3) Extend 2" conduit across the bridge
- 4) Level and install pavers at the main fire pit
- 5) Build a new pedestrian bridge

**INTERIOR CLEAN-UP**

- 1) Clean pavilion, kitchen, library, bathroom and screened porch. (Vacuum spider webs and dead lady bugs from lights)
- 2) Pressure wash pavilion floor
- 3) Wash kitchen floor, counter tops, and walls with TSP, use rubber gloves & sponge mops
- 4) Organize & clean the Information Corner
- 5) Clean & Vacuum
  - a. Archives Room
  - b. Laundry room and organize the connecting storage room
  - c. Office
  - d. Garden tool building & Tractor Barn
  - e. Host storage shed



# What fun we had!!



Carl Funderburg, Bill Wild and Kimberly Funderburg

## Top of Georgia Thanksgiving Feast

Members, friends and families were invited to our annual Thanksgiving potluck. Smoked turkey, oven roasted turkey, smoked ham and all the stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, side dishes and desserts you could eat.



Just making sure it tastes okay!



So much food!



Did we mention, a LOT of food!



Always happy to make new friends!



After the meal, several people asked Linda Shaw for her cranberry bread recipe. "Changes I made: used more cranberries and nuts than the recipe called for (and I don't know how much more, just until it looked like enough), used butter at room temperature for the shortening, and beat a room temperature egg before adding it to the mixture." That's it! Here's the link:

[Ocean Spray cranberry bread recipe](#)



Linda Patton, Jiji Haque, David & Karen Cardoza,  
Judy & Tom Baker, Doug & Jaime Ralston



John & MaryAnne Meeks

### Top of GA Annual Christmas Luncheon

Members and park friends gathered in the main pavilion to share the traditional President's holiday luncheon.

There was plenty of turkey and ham, plus all the trimmings.

As a fun activity, they held a holiday ornament/decoration exchange. What fun!

They also collected canned food for local charities. Thank you to all who participated!



Tosha Brown, Jaime & Doug Ralston



Cindy Carr



Floy Jumper



Barbara Jumper



Lynne Clements



# Are you ready to Rally?

## Top of Georgia Airstream Park Spring Rally April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **Monday 4/10 and Tuesday 4/11 WORK DAYS**

Spring Cleaning at the Top – Inside and Out

*We need your help!*

**Tuesday Optional:** Breakfast Out\*

### **Wednesday, April 12**

Another Work Day – Hey, we have lots to do.

5:30 PM Rally Registration at Pavilion

Adults \$25; Kids \$10

6:00 PM Red Beans and Rice a la Jackson Elder\*  
(Bring set-ups)

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Doug Ralston

### **Thursday, April 13**

8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion – Bacon and eggs,  
grits, biscuits, coffee (Bring set-ups)

10:00 AM Let's get moving. Wear your dancing shoes.

1:00 PM Crafts in the Pavilion, Jaime Ralston

7:00 PM Trivia hosted by Rip & Sharon Rippe  
Wear your thinking caps.

### **Friday, April 14**

8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion –  
Pancakes and sausage (Bring set-ups)

10:00 AM RBM of Alpharetta will have an Airstream  
Mercedes Class B on display all day.

2:30 PM Board Meeting @ Pavilion

6:30 PM Rally Registration

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Doug Ralston  
Bingo & Popcorn. Bring your own drinks.

### **Saturday, April 15**

9:00 AM Business meeting  
(Coffee and pastries provided)

12:30 AM Box Lunches from Happy Hawg\*  
Drinks provided.

3:00 PM Ice Cream Social, Floy Jumper

7:00 PM Entertainment TBA

### **Sunday, April 16**

10:00 AM Worship in the Pavilion  
*Please do not move your trailers during this time.*

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



## Unit 30 Caravan to Top of Georgia

### Sister Rally April 20<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a week of fun in the North Georgia Mountains at the Top of Georgia Airstream Park  
just outside of downtown Helen, GA.

Great food, drinks, and friends will complement the outstanding natural attractions nearby.

Register for the event [HERE](#)

## **2023 Airstream Interstate 24GL coming to our Spring Rally!**



Whether you're heading to the beach house or to the game to tailgate, the Interstate 24GL Touring Coach elevates the whole experience. Step inside this luxury Class B RV and you and your guests will be wowed. Settle in and enjoy every comfort you can dream of during your time on the road.

And park at your destination and relax in style, surrounded by the best-in-class luxury features which made the Interstate line the #1 best-selling Class B diesel motorhomes six years in a row.

Now members and rally-goers at the Top of GA will have a chance to tour one. Lee Collins, Sales Representative from RBM of Alpharetta will be showcasing a 2023 Airstream Interstate 24GL on Saturday during our Spring Rally!

Meet and greet with

*Lee Collins*

Sales Consultant  
Mercedes-Benz Vans  
RBM of Alpharetta  
404-395-2647 Mobile  
678-987-0801 Fax

[lcollins@rbmofalpharetta.com](mailto:lcollins@rbmofalpharetta.com)  
[rbmofalpharetta.com](http://rbmofalpharetta.com)



# What's happening around Helen!

## 34th Annual Helen Trout Tournament

April 1 @ 6:00 am - 2:00 pm EST



**Helen Festhalle** (In-person Registration & Weigh-in)

1074 Edelweiss Strasse  
Helen, GA 30545

### Tournament Fishing Location

Tournament fishing shall be limited to the river access area on Escowee Street (just upstream from Hofbrauhaus German Restaurant) downstream through Helen to the 1st Brucken Strasse bridge at Cool River Tubing.

Register online [HERE](#)

## Acoustic Sunset Series

Hamilton Gardens at Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds



Thursdays April 13 - May 11 @ 6pm

Songwriters and sunsets make for a perfect

Thursday evening in Hiwassee!

Admission: FREE!

More information [HERE](#)

## The Rhododendron Festival

**Georgia Mountain  
Fairgrounds**

**April 14 – May 14, 2023**

**Every Friday, Saturday, & Sunday**

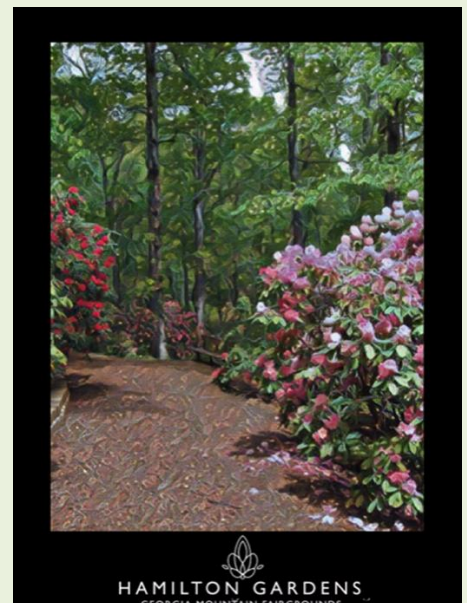
Operating Hours:

Friday & Saturdays: 10am-5pm

Sunday: 12pm-4pm

**Free Admission** to the Festival!

Tour Hamilton Gardens: \$6 per person



Spend a day in the most beautiful part of North Georgia - Hiwassee and the stunning Hamilton Gardens. This magical botanical garden is filled with native wildflowers like trilliums, shooting stars, and trout lilies, and more than 1,500 rhododendrons and native azaleas making it the largest collection in the Southeast!

Live music every Saturday from  
12pm - 3pm!

# 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.

### **ATTENTION!!**

There has been a change to our printed **membership directory**.

Due to the increased challenges of selling advertisements, along with our advertisers not seeing much reciprocation from their ads, and the costs associated with printing and distributing, the board has decided to only publish a digital copy of the directory this year.

The directory will be the same layout you are used to, but will be published in a PDF format. It can be found at <https://topofgeorgia.airstreamclub.net/membership-directory/>.

Use password togamember to access the directory. From there, you can download, save or print the directory if you wish to have a paper version.

2023 Member Directory should be uploaded within the next month!

## Airstream for Sale!



FOR SALE: 1991 Airstream Classic Limited 60th Anniversary Edition.

This "Gold" model was built to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Airstream Company. Only 60 of these rigs were built. It was to be the biggest and most expensive Airstream Travel Trailer to date when it was sold, retailing for \$60k brand new in 1991 and measuring 35' 1". It still holds the record as the longest standard production Airstream Trailer ever built. I think it has every luxurious feature that you can get in a '91.

Water heater and refrigerator use AC or gas.

Two furnaces - LR and BR.

I have all hub caps for it in storage.

Includes two mounted TVs, 250 watts solar panels, hitch, rear stabilizer jacks

Overhead AC unit also heats.

Needs some DIY repairs or take to dealer. Located in North Augusta, SC. \$25,000.

Email me for more info or to make appointment to see it - [jeflanders@comcast.net](mailto:jeflanders@comcast.net) or tel 803 278 0984 - you MUST leave msg.



# LOVING CONCERNS

## Our Continued Prayers

Herbert, **Tom Litton's** brother, received a new heart in January. He is home now and doing well. We thank God for this gift and pray for the donor's family and for Herbert's continued recovery.

**Bruce Bicknell** had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his colon (Feb. 27th) in Florida. After further examination of the lymph nodes that were removed along with the mass, Bruce showed no sign of cancer cells; no further treatment is needed, just regular colonoscopies!! The surgeon summed it up by saying: "Fantastic news!"

**Bob Gray** Bob was treated for a brain lesion the beginning of March and is now at home recuperating. The doctors are waiting two weeks for Bob's skull to heal from the tumor biopsy. They may use radiology treatments and/or chemotherapy after that. He can't drive for at least 6 months.

**Kay Gray** Three days after Bob found out about his brain tumor, Kay's eye doctor found a tumor behind her left eye. The treatment plan has not yet been established.

Bob and Kay really appreciate the prayers and love from all their friends at the TOG. Their children, church family and neighbors are caring for them well.

## Our Condolences

Our sympathy and condolences to **Danny and Debra Cribbs** at the passing of Danny's brother on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

We send condolences to the family of **William (Bill) St. John**. Bill and his wife, Evelyn, were former active members of the TOG. He passed away on February 20th. The graveside service was held in Augusta, GA.

We extend our love to **Pat and Mike King**. Pat's mom died the beginning of March at the age of 105. She still lived in her own home and was only ill for a short time. Pray for Pat as she travels to Ohio this week for the service.

**Julian Clements'** brother, Lt. Col. Miles T. Clements, Jr. passed away the beginning of March in Alabama. He was under care in the V.A. hospital near his home. Please pray for Julian, Lynne and their extended family.

*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, email [tog airstream@gmail.com](mailto:tog airstream@gmail.com) or call (404) 433-7268

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**2023 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events**

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
3/28 – 4/02	Region 3 Rally – Ocean Lakes in Myrtle Beach
4/10 – 4/16	Spring Rally / Volunteer Days
5/25 - 5/29	Memorial Rally / Buddy Rally
6/24 – 7/01	International Rally, Rock Spring, WY
7/04	Patriotic Day
7/19 – 7/23	Youth Rally
8/30 – 9-04	Labor Day Rally / Elections / Buddy Rally
10/11 – 10/15	Fall Rally / Installation
11/23	Thanksgiving Potluck
12/09	Christmas Luncheon

**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

