



# The Peach State Caravanner

## Memorial Edition



The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Airstream International Rally in Rock Springs, WY.  
Approximately 1200+ Airstreams in attendance.  
Photos courtesy of TOG members, Judy & Tom Baker



Fairy garden in the Park



Doug assisting with Wi-Fi restoration following the June power outage

### In This Issue:

- Pg 2 President Letter
- Pg 3 From the Park
- Pg 4-7 Volunteer Corner
- Pgs 8-11 What Fun We Had
- Pg 12 Rally Info
- Pg 13 Around Helen
- Pg 14 From the Park
- Pg 15 Loving Concerns
- Pg 16 Schedule/Contact

# President's Letter

---



Hello TOG family,

The Memorial Day Rally was a huge success. Thank you to all of our guests and especially to the awesome volunteers who worked so hard to put on such a great event.

We hope to see you on the 4th of July and at our next rally.

The Youth Rally is July 19-23. The Youth Rally is also a “Buddy Rally”, so invite your fellow non-Airstreamers. Just a reminder, any non-Airstream RV must be hard-sided and self-contained. Also, for the Youth Rally only, we will allow one small sleeping tent to be set up on your site. See host for details.

A word on our rules: A special thank you to our host coordinators, Kim and Marc Malone, and our hosts for their continued efforts to implement our latest park rules. I want to encourage all of our members and guests to take special care to read and follow our rules.

[Follow this link to see our latest membership handbook with our latest rules.](#)

Finally a word on Volunteering: We would not be able to operate our club and park without all of our wonderful volunteers. We are able to throw the world's best Airstream rallies and maintain our “best in class” RV Park, at the nation's lowest rates, because of our wonderful volunteers.

I want to encourage you all to experience the joy of volunteering at our club and park. There are many ways to contribute, just start by asking how you can help or look at the “Volunteer Corner” of this newsletter to see what positions are available.

Safe Travels and see you at the TOP.

Thank you,

Doug

# What's New in the Park

## ATTENTION MONTH TO MONTH Guests

### ALL SITES ACTIVE, STORAGE & E-SECTION:



#### *Tow Vehicle Insurance*

Please show the current on-duty host proof of valid tow vehicle insurance



#### *Airstream Insurance*

Please show the current on-duty host proof of valid trailer insurance



#### *Valid Registration*

Please show the current on-duty host proof of valid registration (tag) on Airstream and all vehicles

**DUE NOW**



14255 GA-75, Helen, GA 30545



706-809-9285





## 2024 HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

With over 300 members, our Georgia Unit offers a beautiful park to enjoy year-round. Swing, hike, bike, and socialize while taking in the stunning scenery. Come host, at the Top of Georgia in 2024!



Earn Free Parking



Meet New People



Free Laundry

14255 GA-75,  
Helen, GA 30545

**BOOK NOW**

404.408.5710  
Host Coordinator

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

## **VOLUNTEER KITCHEN MANAGER NEEDED for 2024 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!

## **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 you 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.

## 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.

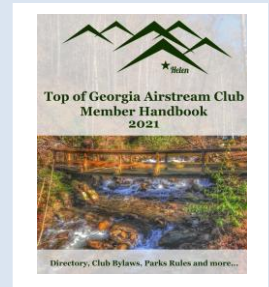
Skill set needed to perform this role is as follows:

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 Doug Ralston at [ralstondoug@gmail.com](mailto:ralstondoug@gmail.com)

# Election of Officers

Officer elections will be held on September 2, 2023, at the TOG during the business meeting. All members are invited and encouraged to attend as we will need a quorum.

Ballots will be available in person and online for members who attend the meeting via Zoom.

Positions not being voted for: Brad Singleton, President and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Directors, Sam Fontanez and Jesse Stone.

The Nominating Committee is tasked with recruiting and selecting the following slate of officers upon which we will need to vote:

- President-Elect
- First Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 1st year Director
- 1st year Director

Nominations can be accepted from the floor. Permission must be received from the person being nominated before the nomination can be made.

We will also elect from the floor three club members to be on next year's nominating committee.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Representative of the Club, or would like to make a suggestion, please email Dick Sells, Nomination Committee Chair, at [rasells67@gmail.com](mailto:rasells67@gmail.com)

# Memorial Rally 2023

by Nancy Sibly



A quick visit to the Fairy Garden



Lane Carpenter

We had perfect weather for the Memorial Day Rally this year. Days were mostly sunny, nights were cool, and the humidity was low.

We had new members, long-time members, visitors, kids, and the usual array of four-legged friends.



Chris McConnell



June Rabren



Lynne Clements and Nancy Sibly



Nancy Cortinoves

We did watercolors of flowers, frogs, cats, and whales, tested our knowledge with a trivia contest.



Nadine Johnson



Cindy Harrell



We were treated to a delicious chicken alfredo dinner prepared by Robert and Vanessa Wilkerson.

Vanessa made hundreds of cupcakes, strawberry, vanilla or chocolate, piled four layers high on her cupcake tray tree. That may well have been the best chocolate frosting I've ever had. And they served it with smiles. Thank you, Robert and Vanessa.



President-Elect Brad Singleton stood in for Doug Ralston, busily touring Europe, as Chief Welcomer. AND, Brad won the big bingo prize. The Uhuburg Castle tour was cancelled because their prices took a big jump. We're hoping they come down later. It's starting to get a lot of press. A castle in Helen. Imagine.



Jesse Stone was testing a text alert system about daily activities and last minute changes such as the Board Meeting being cancelled because we lacked a quorum.

Al Parent (right) talked to us about taking travel photos. He's an expert and had lots of examples.

If you haven't seen his Facebook page, you should. Out of 1,000 photos that he takes, he uses about 100.

Did I mention his patience?



We had a potluck at the pavilion Saturday evening and an ice cream social on Sunday afternoon.

Thank you, Floy and Barbara (left) for getting all three spigots going.



Rick Sibly (right) led a group discussion on getting ready for summer travel. Everyone has their own way, but there's always a thing or two to be learned.



Cindy and Murphy Harrell

The weekend ended with Christian Jones and his friend Rene Diaz on congas playing at the Upper Shelter.

It was a lovely way to unwind and enjoy Christian's beautiful music in our beautiful setting at the Top.



Right: Dene Huff, Wendy Burnett and Kim Malone

Mary Ann Meeks led a beautiful service, assisted by Julian and Lynne Clements, honoring four members whom we've lost in the past year.

Max Laseter and his three children, Lisa, Kevin, and Randall, all came to remember their mother, former First Lady, Runelle. Max is 92, came from farthest away, and guess who got there first?

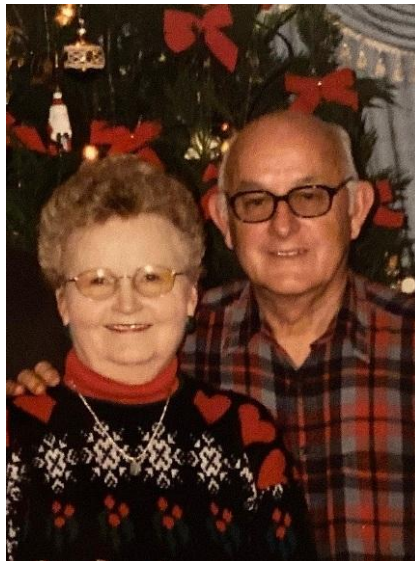
Brad Singleton talked about what it meant to him to be a veteran and how he cherishes those life-long friendships.



Anne Allen Bradshaw passed away on August 8, 2022



Myrna Josey Warren, 76, passed away on Sunday, October 30, 2022



Runelle Gunter Laseter (pictured with husband, Max) passed away on August 18, 2022, at the age of 91



William St. John, age 94 of Tucker, GA, died February 20, 2023.



Left: MaryAnne Meeks, past-President presenting the Memorial service.

Rumor has it that the late-night crowd, after 9:00 PM in Top terms, hosted nightly bonfires, music, kids running around, and laughter in the lower loop. Those youngsters!

Speaking of "youngsters"; be sure to plan for our upcoming Youth Rally!



# Youth Rally

## Top of Georgia Airstream Park

### July 19 -23, 2023

#### Wednesday, July19

- 1:00 PM Unofficial activity - Tubing the Chattahoochee with Cool River Tubing; each parent is responsible for their own children.
- 6:00 PM Pizza Party at Pavilion;  
\*\*bring your own drinks
- 6:30 PM Rally Registration  
Adults \$20; Kids over 4 \$8
- 7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Doug Ralston

#### Thursday, July20

- 8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion – Bacon + eggs  
(Bring plates, utensils, cups)
  - 10:00 AM Crafting  
  
Take advantage of the many fun activities in the Helen area: Georgia Mountain Coaster, go-karts, mini golf, Jolly's Toys, Babyland General, slot car racing, Unicoi Park, creek wading, bike riding, etc.
  - 1 - 4 PM Airstream Games - Three-legged race; Water balloon toss; Scavenger hunt; Etc.
  - 4:00 PM Talent show sign-up + Practice  
With Nadine Johnson
  - 5-6:00 PM Rally Registration
- Movies on the lawn at the Upper Shelter:*
- 6:00 PM "Lyle Lyle Crocodile" (younger kids)
  - 8:00 PM "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (older kids)

#### Friday, July21

- 8:30 AM Breakfast at the Pavilion –  
Pancakes + sausage
- 10:00 AM Animal CSI, Kathy Church, Naturalist,  
Smithgall Woods State Park
- 1:00 PM Ice Cream Social, Floy Jumper
- 2:00 PM Talent Show practice/Nadine Johnson\*
- 5 – 6:00 PM Rally Registration
- 7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Doug Ralston  
Bingo & Popcorn; Bring your own drinks.

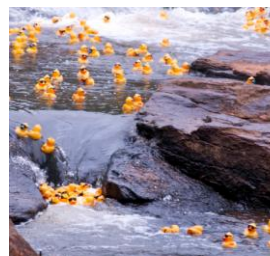
#### Saturday, July22 Bouncy House

- 9:00 AM Executive Board Meeting
- 10:30 AM Gold Mining
- 1:00 PM Ice Cream Social at the Pavilion  
Floy Jumper
- 2:00PM Pet Show
- 3:30 PM Duck Race at the Creek\*
- 6:00 PM S'mores at the upper shelter
- 7:00 PM Talent Show / Nadine Johnson\*

#### Sunday, July23

- 10:00AM Worship Service at the Pavilion

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



# What's happening around Helen!

## Harvest Festival at Hardman Farm

Saturday, Jul 22, 2023 (10 AM to 3 PM)

Hardman Farm Historic Site  
143 Highway 17  
Sautee Nacoochee, GA 30571



Harvest your own pesticide-free corn and enjoy music, old-fashioned games, pet farm animals and more.

Enjoy a beautiful day in the Valley with music, games and treats.

Admission: \$7. Children 5 and under: Free

## 73RD ANNUAL GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FAIR

1311 Music Hall Road Hiawassee, GA 30546

August 18th - August 26th, 2023



The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds proudly hosts first class musical performances, arts & crafts, fun carnival rides, unique attractions and a glimpse into North Georgia's rich history and culture.

Follow the [website link here](#) for detailed hours and events.

## *Sunflowers & Selfies*

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023 (10 AM to 3 PM)

Sunday, Aug 13, 2023 (10 AM to 3 PM)

Saturday, Aug 19, 2023 (10 AM to 3 PM)

Sunday, Aug 20, 2023 (10 AM to 3 PM)

Smithgall Woods State Park  
61 Tsalaki Trail  
Helen, GA 30545



A much-awaited annual event, "Sunflowers & Selfies", promises to deliver on a family-fun day of hayrides, games, photo-ops, a native plant sale, and our blooming field of sunflowers.

Sunflowers will be for sale, as well as artisan vases, originally crafted by one of our talented volunteers. All proceeds will go toward Smithgall's Cabin Fever campaign, launched to acquire and restore a historic log cabin on-site.

This event is weather permitting. No dogs allowed on the hayride.

Children 12 and under are free.

Admission: \$5

Parking fee: \$5

# 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!!**

\*\* Do you have a photo and story for "The Archives" you would like to share?

Please, email Christee Fontanez at [Christee@mediadvine.com](mailto:Christee@mediadvine.com) so that our new members can appreciate the 60 years of fun and fellowship and work that has made the Top of Georgia what it is today!

## Unser Garten coming along!



Photos by Kat Jackson

## 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. \$20,000. (A \$5,000 reduction)

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 Sympathy



Robert B. Gray “Brother Bob” peacefully went to heaven on June 13, 2023. Brother Bob’s first passion was living every moment for Christ and second was his family.

He loved camping in their airstream and served as chaplain of The Top of Georgia Airstream Club. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 63 years, Kay Gray.



Al Holcomb, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, past-President and Property Manager at the TOP peacefully passed away on June 17, 2023, at the age of 89.

Al was a dedicated Christian family man and devoted husband to his wife of 48.5 years, Mary Holcomb.

## Our Continued Prayers

Please pray for **Sharon Rippe**. She has been diagnosed with AL Amyloidosis. It’s a rare and fatal disease that attaches to your internal organs. After a valiant fight for the past 30 days, she has made the decision to move into Hospice care.

Please remember Sharon and Rip through this difficult time.

Our faithful past president, **Max Laseter**, has informed us that he has cancer and will be receiving treatments. Max and his family were just recently at the Top of Georgia for the Memorial Day service which honored the memory of his beloved wife, Runelle, who passed away in August of last year.

Please pray for Max as he is treated for this illness.

**Bob Murrell** is recovering well after an emergency appendectomy. Prayers for continued healing are welcome.

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

Georgia Unit, ACI  
 Top of Georgia Airstream Park  
 14255 Hwy. 75 N, Helen, GA 30545  
 Telephone 706-878-3590  
 Web site: [www.topofgeorgia.net](http://www.topofgeorgia.net)

Editor, Christee Fontanez  
 Telephone 407-276-1593  
 Email [christee@mediadvine.com](mailto:christee@mediadvine.com)

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

