



The Peach State Caravanner

Upcoming Elections Edition



We thought we were having fun...little did we know we were making memories!



August birthdays!



'Tis the season to be "Bear Aware"!

In This Issue:

- Pg 2 President Letter
- Pg 3 Wi-Fi Update
- Pg 4-9 Volunteer Corner
- Pgs 10-13 What Fun We Had
- Pg 14-15 Rally Info
- Pg 16 Around Helen
- Pg 17 From the Park
- Pg 18 Loving Concerns
- Pg 19 Schedule/Contact

President's Letter



Let's Just Camp!

This is great motto that I have been hearing in our park recently. How easy it is, especially with elections approaching, to get distracted or deflated by the politics that always exists in a social club, especially, a club as large and complex as ours. Politics is necessary to keep our club moving forward and changing with the times.

Our differences of opinion will cause frustration at times, but we should always try to remember what brought us together in the first place, and that is our love of Airstreams, meeting new people, community, travel, exploration, serenity, slowing down our pace of life, and enjoying our beautiful club and park that we are all so blessed to be a part of. Diversity is vital in any healthy organization, and so is a common goal. Our goal should be to create the best environment possible for all of us to enjoy the Top of Georgia to the fullest.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Labor Day Rally!

Thank you,

Doug

From the Park

Lighting Strikes Top of Georgia

A note from Jesse Stone

In June, a severe storm struck the mountains of north Georgia causing power outages, downed trees and significant wind damage. The TOG Park was spared damage from the winds however; it took a direct lightning strike that split a power pole in the lower section causing significant damage to equipment and the internet / WIFI system. The park was without power for days as our facility manager and club volunteers came together to restore the park's essential services.

Preparation for such an event paid off as the park's emergency generator enabled quick restoration of some communications, provided power to our freezers and supported limited lighting and cell phone charging in the library. Rick Sibly, our property manager, assessed the damage to equipment and immediately initiated repairs.

Damage to the Internet / WIFI system was extensive. Several key components of the system were damaged requiring innovative solutions to maintain phone and limited WIFI service while new equipment was ordered and replaced.

In July, connecting remotely from the International Rally in Rock Springs, WY, Jesse Stone worked with Doug Ralston, Mike Deegan and other volunteers to improve internet service as new equipment became available. A BIG THANK YOU to Doug Ralston who spent many painful days climbing ladders and replacing equipment to maintain limited phone and internet service in the park.

During the second week of August, a significant effort was made by Jesse and Eric Root to restore WIFI service to the bottom part of the park prior to the Carolina Airstream Club and TOG rallies in late August.

While not fully repaired, the TOG WIFI system is ready to support the Carolina Airstream Club and fall TOG rallies. We hope to see you at one of the Top of Georgia Rallies soon!



HOST AT

The Top of Georgia Airstream Park

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

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 to discuss the position and begin training while she's available!

**ONLY 3 MORE RALLIES, PLEASE, COMMUNICATE WITH NANCY AS SHE WILL BE RETIRING
AT THE END OF THE SEASON!**

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 so we can discuss the particulars.

**ONLY 2 MORE ISSUES, PLEASE, COMMUNICATE WITH CHRISTEE AS SHE WILL BE
RETIRING!**

Election of Officers

Officer elections will be held on September 2, 2023, at the TOG during the business meeting scheduled for 9am. 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 2nd year Directors, Sam Fontanez and Jesse Stone.

The Nominating Committee has 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.

Candidates running for Board positions:

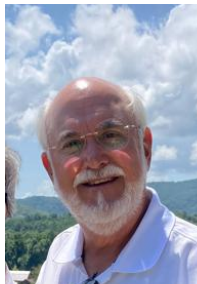
President-Elect: Jiji Haque

Vice President: Glenn Kornahrens,
Jessica Bailey, Nadine Johnson

Treasurer: Doug Ralston

Secretary: Betty Elder, Mike Deegan,
Wendy Burnett

1st Year Directors (we need 2): Rick
Sibly, Julie Alexander, Donn Grey



Glenn Kornahrens for
Vice-President

I have been enjoying the TOG life since 2021 and have been active in the club's activities since then.

I feel strongly that our leadership efforts should be focused on our future. Relying on a 30 year career in hospitality, marketing and management, I am eager to contribute fresh ideas to increase park occupancy and revenue as well as enhance the guest experience for both club members and visitors.



Mary Haque (Jiji) for
President-Elect

I retired from owning my own company in the Atlanta area in 2020.

My greatest joy is my family.

We have been members of the Top of Georgia for over 18 years.

I served as a director for TOG from 2020-2022 prior to being elected Vice President.

As part of my responsibilities as both Vice-President and Director has been to "approve and support what is best for the Club and all of its members". This will continue to be a priority under my leadership if elected.

Thank you for the opportunity and support to serve you.



Jessica Bailey for
Vice-President

From executive, to single mother, to Life Coach my skills are vast yet structured.

I am completely honored to potentially gain the ability to give back in a tangible way to a community I have come to love & cherish as extended family with respect, consideration and compassion.



Nadine Johnson for
Vice-President

Nadine is a long time member of the Top (2004) and an active volunteer (Host/Activity Director)

She is presently serving as a member of the board as a 2nd-year Director.

She has assisted with the Youth Rally for the past 4-5 years and has participated in almost all other rallies for 7-8 years, but still loves to travel. She loves the Top's community and wishes to continue serving the club.

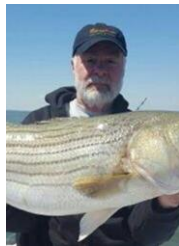
Volunteering is in her blood!



Doug Ralston for Treasurer

Current President of the Top of GA Airstream Club, former President-Elect and 1st VP.

I have worked closely with our current Treasurer and have a good understanding of the Club's business. I've been a Small Business Owner since 2006 and am CFO for two small businesses currently. Full life cycle bookkeeper with active clients in several states. Quickbooks Pro Advisor. Quickbooks Desktop and Quickbooks Online experience.



Mike Deegan for
Secretary

Married to Betsy Deegan for 50 yrs.

Betsy & I have two sons and two beautiful granddaughters [11 and 13].

Employed for 37 years with Brandel Stephens Company selling electronic components to both military & commercial customers.

You may know me better from volunteering as Host at the Top for a number of years.



Wendy Burnett for
Secretary

Wendy has recently obtained her Ph.D. from Augusta

She independently renovated her vintage Airstream and is now a full-time Airstreamer. Wendy enjoys being a member of the Top community and is always willing to offer her assistance.

She recently hosted during our spring rally and has played a crucial role in testing our registration system, as well as providing consultation for other applications that have benefited the park. Wendy is confident that her writing skills will be invaluable in keeping detailed meeting minutes and is enthusiastic about serving the Top community on a more profound level.



Kat Elder for Secretary

I, Kat Elder, am slowly becoming known as the “planting lady”.

I have served this past year as your Secretary, and believe I’ve done a pretty good job.

Secretary is an elected position that demands that one pay attention in class (Board meetings), and be diligent and prompt in writing up the minutes. It’s not quite that simple, but I have handled those duties over the past year.

I’m asking you to allow me to do an even better job this coming year.



Donn C. Gray for Director

Donn was raised on a farm in Indiana and graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor’s degree.

He worked 35 years in the automotive industry and 20 years in the educational field, having retired 7 years ago. Married to Julie Gray 56 plus years; they have three wonderful children and 6 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. A follower of Jesus Christ. He would like to help the wonderful Top of Georgia be even better.



Rick Sibly for Director

Rick has been a Top member since 2016 and is currently the Property Manager.

He helped rescue the park after the tornado and is directly involved in all the park improvements over the last 5 years. Rick’s professional knowledge gives him an inside edge for all details of tackling projects to ensure they are done safely, according to code, and technically correct. Rick has a passion for making the Top the best it can be!



Julie Alexander for Director

We picked up our Airstream December of 2021, moved in January 1, 2022, and have been enjoying our life of adventure ever since.

My husband and I enjoyed our first stay at Top of Georgia in the summer of 2022 and love the community atmosphere that is so prevalent in the park. From rally events to sharing an evening around a campfire at the shelter to swapping cheery "hellos" that blossom into full conversations while walking the dog in the evenings, community and relationships have shown themselves to be the beautiful backbone of this campground. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a Director because as a full-time RVer that continues to travel to new areas and campgrounds, I feel I can offer a unique and fresh perspective to issues TOG may face in the upcoming year.

Keeping Cool at the TOP - Youth Rally 2023 *by Nancy Sibly*



The addition of large boulders to the creek to control erosion did away with our shallow entry point, so Property Manager Rick Sibly repurposed an old playground slide, temporarily dammed a section of creek, and created our new swimmin' hole. The first two to give it a try were Riley Wolfersberger (11) and the oldest kid in the park, Lin Thompkins (somewhere north of 50).

Yes, it was in the 90s, but eleven children and a host of grandparents and “kids at heart” joined us at the Top for four fun-filled days. Eight of these children have been here before, and we hope the newbies, Aria, Paul, and Danny will beg to come back next year.

We don't change the script much because the kids look forward to “the usual”, but we did add the creek slide this year and it was immensely popular. If you haven't seen the videos on the Top's Community Page, you need to go look.



The festivities started with a pizza party Wednesday evening and continued with crafts, games, a bouncy house, an inflatable wading pool, a pet show, gold mining, movies, bingo, and my favorite, the water balloon toss/throw. Those water balloons felt great on a hot afternoon.



Kathy Church, the world's best naturalist came from Smithgall Woods to talk to us about Animal CSI. She had four tables with specimens: pelts, skulls, plaster casts of paw prints, and scat. Yes, scat.

Answer forms had blanks for guessing the animal corresponding with those "clues": bear, deer, fox, wolf coyote, skunk (spotted and Pepe Le Pew variety), squirrel, etc. There were as many baffled adults as there were children. Kathy never lets us down.



Nadine Johnson again headed up drum lessons and the talent show and our own artist Lane Carpenter painted beautiful souvenir rocks which the kids searched for down by the creek.



And, it wouldn't be a Youth Rally without a duck race from the Pavilion bridge to the swimming hole dam with some fearsome folks guiding the stragglers out of rocky dead ends. It was so much fun, that we did it again. And again. Fluffy stuffed ducks were seen later that evening following the duck racers home.



Thanks to Floy and Barbara Jumper for hosting, not once, but twice, an ice cream social with vanilla AND chocolate. At the kid's table, the ice cream is secondary to the toppings. Of course we also had S'mores at the Upper Shelter fireplace. It was just too hot for a fire pit.

Of note: We had one entry in the pet show that was not of the four-footed kind, Jessica Bailey's Banana Ball Python, Luna (Yes, she's yellow).

In addition to Aria (10) and Paul (8)(grandchildren of Vince and Dian Naman) and Danny (11) (grandson of Glenn and Mary Beth Kornahrens), we also had Molly (13) and Ada (almost 10)Moncrief (Ken Rabren's great-granddaughters) attending their third Youth Rally. Randy and Pat Godfrey from Florida found the Youth Rally was the perfect way to entertain their Woodstock grandchildren, Reagan (11) and Evan (8) for the second time, and the Sibly grandchildren, Ryder (15), and Riley (11) were at the Top for their sixth Kid's Rally.

We all look forward to next year. Bring your kids and grandkids and join us. We promise a good time. Thanks to all who helped make this a memory.



Labor Day Rally and Elections
August 30 - September 4, 2023
Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Bavarian Nights

Wednesday, August 30

6:30 P Rally Registration @ Pavilion
 Adults \$25; Kids 9 – 18, \$10; <9, free
 Refreshments, Rally Committee
 Welcome, Doug Ralston

Thursday, August 31

8:30 A Breakfast: Eggs, bacon, grits, juice (bring
 set ups – plates, cups, utensils, napkins)
 10:30 A Discover Blairsville
 12:00 P *Lunch at Jim’s Smokin’ Que in
 Blairsville
 6:30 P Rally Registration
 7:00 P Bingo and popcorn, Jiji Haque

Friday September 1

8:30 A Breakfast: Pancakes, sausage, juice (bring
 set ups)
 10:15 A Ladies’ Get-together @ Pavilion
 2:00 P Board of Directors Meeting (See Secretary
 to speak)
 6:30 P Rally Registration,
 Announcements, @ Pavilion, Doug
 Ralston
 7:30 P Game Night. Kim Malone

Saturday, September 2

9:00 A Membership Business Meeting/Elections
 1:00 P Ice Cream Social, Floy and Barbara
 Jumper
 1:00 -3:00 Craft Fair/Flea Market
 3:30 P * New Member Orientation @
 Office, Jaime Ralston
 6:00 P Bavarian Dinner at the Pavilion.
 Kat & Jackson Elder
Wear your Bavarian garb.
Best dressed get first dibs on dessert

Sunday, September 3

10:00 A Worship Service
 1:00 P Corn Hole Tournament or Croquet
 3:00 P Potluck Dinner
 5:00-8:00 P Christian Jones at the Upper Lawn
 (Wear your dancin’ shoes)

Labor Day, Monday, September 4

Safe Travels

NOTES:

** Please sign up for these activities if planning to attend*
Please do not move your RV during Worship Service

SEPTEMBER 14 – 17, 2023

Join **East Tennessee Airstream Club** as we head on down to the beautiful
 Airstream-only park called Top of Georgia. It is near the fun, Bavarian village of
 Helen, GA during Oktoberfest. Lots to do!

Click [HERE](#) to register and see a tentative schedule of events!



August 17 – 20, 2023



Carolinan Airstream Club will take part in a Sister-Rally hosted by the Top of Georgia – TOG members are welcome to join for a \$10 “donation” per person for the weekend.

THURSDAY

4:00pm HAPPY HOUR meet and greet! Please bring a beverage (or two) of choice for yourself and a pickup appetizer to share and get to know your fellow Streamers, and reconnect with others.

FRIDAY

8:30am - We will start off with a traditional GERMAN BREAKFAST. Coffee of course will always be hot and fresh!

9:30am - YOGA! Grab your towel or mat and join us for some physical, mental, and spiritual practices to relax our minds and bodies.

5:00pm - HAPPY HOUR!!! Bring your libations and snacks/appetizers to share. I will also be teaching some DEUTSCH (that is German to you, for now) and sharing about my history and heritage...hopefully the coffee from this morning was good and strong and you can stay awake, eh?

6:00pm - GERMAN DINNER of bratwurst, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and more.

7:00pm+ - ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY

8:30am - Light Germany style BREAKFAST and fresh, hot coffee.

9:30am - Another hour YOGA session - come join us (hopefully again)!

11:00am - Visit YONAH MOUNTAIN VINEYARD as a group! This is our favorite east coast vineyard! <https://www.yonahmountainvineyards.com/> - 1717 Hwy 255 S. Cleveland, GA 30528.

9:00pm+ - Please come gather at the TOP OF GEORGIA FIREPIT. Bring a chair, a drink, your spouse or partner if you wish...heck, bring the fur babies...let's gather around the fire...I will be playing some good old music.

SUNDAY

8:30am - Fresh hot COFFEE along with "safe travels", "good-byes", and "see you soon" and DEPARTURE (for most).

What's happening around Helen!

The Downtown Blairsville Heritage Festival

Sep 02 10:00 am - Sep 03 5:00 pm

DOWNTOWN BLAIRSVILLE



www.visitdowntownblairsville.com

Labor Day Car Show

Sat, Sep 2, 8 AM – 3 PM
Georgia Racing Hall of Fame
415 Hwy 53 East, Dawsonville, GA



Join us for the Annual Labor Day Car Show

Schedule of events:

8:00AM - Gates Open
9:00AM - Judging Starts
11:30AM - Presentation of Colors
12:00PM - Registration
3:00PM - Closes

15th Annual Folk Pottery Show & Arts Festival

Saturday, September 2, 2023

10am - 4pm on the SNC
Campus



All are welcome to explore the fascinating world of folk pottery! Admission is **free** for visitors, children, and families to the festival, the Folk Pottery Museum and other areas.

Northeast Georgia folk potters will be set-up in the Historic Gym where festival goers may talk with them and enjoy the fascinating pottery that they create and sell.

Visitors will be able to cast their vote for their favorite piece made by a local folk potter. Heritage art vendors will display and sell their wares on the lawn of the SNC campus. Also, visitors can participate in the festival's fundraising raffle to win pieces created by festival artists.

Festival goers are encouraged to visit the Museum where live potting demonstrations will be done throughout the day.

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.

ATTENTION!!

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

Please, email Christee Fontanez at 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!

Future projects for the Park

October 2023 Pre-work A 1 - A 10. New Electrical service coming in at A 3

New pedestal electrical boxes A1 - A10, new electrical service for pavilion and adjoining buildings (laundry, tool shed, etc.)

Estimated time to complete, 6 weeks. (Finish before Dec. 1)

January thru March Section D - New water, electrical w/panel boxes, sewer connections

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 or tel 803 278 0984 - you MUST leave msg.



LOVING CONCERNS

Our Sympathy



Sharon Ann Rippe – Beloved wife of Dave “Rip” and mother to Mariah and Travis and grandmother “Sha sha” to Rowan and Henry, passed away peacefully July 5th.

Sharon will be dearly missed and we thank you for all your love and support in our time of need.



Nelle Fields – Nelle (Nell) passed away on July 26th, 3 months after her 100th birthday. Her husband George passed away 5 years ago after 72 years of marriage. Nell and George loved camping at the TOP and during their 70th Anniversary year they shared marriage advice to our members. Nell loved to tell stories of their adventures. They travelled 13,000 miles one year pulling their Airstream trailer through Canada, Alaska, and the U.S.

Our Continued Prayers

Clara Smith – A former "First Lady" in 1990 has been battling cancer. Her address: 2046 Tanglewood Drive, Snellville, GA 30078

Rip Rippe - Our condolences go out to Rip at the passing of his dear wife, Sharon. Sharon passed quickly after learning she had a rare and fatal disease. Sharon spoke fondly of camping at the Top and all the friends in our Club.

John Meeks - Thank you for continuing prayers for our Treasurer, John as he battles cancer. We were glad he was able to attend the Youth Rally for a few days with MaryAnne.

Max Laseter - Thank you for continuing prayers as he is fighting cancer.

Please continue to remember **Kay Gray** and **Mary Holcomb**, both recent widows.

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

Barbara Jumper
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 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

Editor, Christee Fontanez
 Telephone 407-276-1593
 Email christee@mediadvine.com

2023 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 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 – MaryAnne Meeks

