

The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 59 / Issue 2 / May 2020



**Literary quotes for a pandemic that are surprisingly apt,
even in these “unprecedented” times.**

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” —J.R.R. Tolkien

“Where are we going, Pooh?” “Home, Piglet. We’re going home because that’s the best thing to do right now.” —A.A. Milne

“The Top of Georgia welcomes you to your home away from home, when you feel comfortable and safe to do so. We miss seeing each and every one of you!”
Top of Georgia Board

President's Letter



Helen Welcome Center is posting daily updates concerning what is open in Helen. <https://www.helenga.org/>

We were disappointed that some Rallies had to be cancelled. Many of us had planned to attend the Region 3 Rally at beautiful Ocean Lakes RV Park in Myrtle Beach, SC, International Rally in Loveland, CO, (later this summer) and our Club's Rallies in April and the Memorial Day Rally in May.

On a personal note, the First Lady and I have been hosting our son's family from Richmond Hill, since he is an Army nurse and in contact with several folks that have tested positive for the virus. What a change in lifestyle for this old geezer! I miss the old days when at least one of the grandchildren would take a nap with Papa! Memories are being made that will last a lifetime! We feel so blessed to have had this experience with these young and beautiful children (many of you have met them during the past two Youth Rallies) and their parents! On a fun note, the bed of our pickup (when empty and temperatures are pleasant) has been turned into a "boys' clubhouse", where I can sit in a fold up chair and my grandson can play with his toys or watch a show on my iPad! Turns out his two sisters think they should have access to this fun place! As expected, it is password controlled for non-boys!

As you know, the purpose of rallies is to get together with like-minded Airstream folk and renew friendships, tell tall tales, and share what has happened in our lives since we last met! Please take advantage of our virtual rallies which will be advertised in advance and/or a casual visit to the TOP.

Finally - I hope that this note finds you all in good health, anxious to return to our beautiful park and share stories of how everyone has survived the biggest health event of our lifetimes plus other significant events!

Tim and Caroyl Johnson
President & First Lady

1 Greetings from your leadership team! We have been very active despite the virus limitations on our freedom of movement. We could have panicked and made a thousand different phone calls to discuss important matters. Fortunately, we had previously embraced electronic tools such as conference calls for Board Meetings (as early as October 2019) and a few since that time. We have generated a large flow of emails between Board members and other folks, such as our Membership chair, Jaime Collins, our "world renowned" Host Coordinator, Ken Rabren, host, Christee Fontanez (have you seen her pictures of a snowy TOP?) and Doug Ralston. Doug has developed a Google Drive folder to house pertinent documents for all members to access in the near future. Currently, we have saved financial reports, our new budget, Board and Business Meeting minutes, annual directory, Board response to comments received in 2019, park projects, etc..

While we have "sheltered in place", the TOP has been open. We closed the pavilion and bathrooms. Several folks arrived, after having been encouraged to leave other parks. Some of the leadership team have also been at the TOP to ensure that all needed maintenance or repairs were accomplished. However, having said that, I want to encourage everyone to review our Park Projects list that offers opportunities for all of us to contribute to the success of our park in 2020! Please sign up for one of these projects, come up to the TOP and help get that project completed. If you cannot locate the list, contact anyone on the board and we will send it to you. Note that the

Loving Concerns Apr-May 2020

Sympathy:



To the family of **Evelyn St. John**. Evelyn was a long-time member of the Top of Ga. Airstream club. She shared her love for the club with Tommy and Steve who continue to be members. Please express your sympathy to this family.

“Mrs. Evelyn Hodges Burden St. John
November 19, 1930 - April 9, 2020
Statesboro, GA Mrs. Evelyn Hodges Burden St. John,
age 89, died on April 9th, 2020 at her residence under
the care of Regency Hospice. Friends may sign the
online register book at www.joineranderson.com”

Al Holcomb's cousin, Joel Rogers has succumbed to the Covid-19 virus. He died on April 25 in New Orleans. He and his wife had moved there to be near one of their children. He had COPD and emphysema, so he was already in a weakened state when he contracted this virus. His wife also has it. They will have a graveside service in Cleveland, Ga.

Illness and surgery:

Max Laseter is still very weak after having pneumonia. Please pray that he will regain some of his strength. Runelle remains stable with her memory condition.

Sharon Fore suffered a fall, hitting the back of her head and suffered bleeding on the brain. She is in the hospital and Warren is not able to be with her due to the restrictions of the covid-19 virus. Please be praying for her and that she won't need surgery to relieve pressure from a hematoma.

Al and Mary Holcomb are home after having an accident on their way back from Melbourne, Fl. They were under God's protection. The Yukon was totaled, the trailer had some damage, a guard rail saved them from going down a steep embankment but neither of them were seriously

injured. Edgar and Charlotte Williamson drove down and picked them up from the ER, unloaded the Yukon and items from the trailer at a wrecker yard, then drove them 3 1/2 hours home to their house. Thank you, Edgar and Charlotte!

LIVE WITH PURPOSE

“Having a purpose in life feels great. Literally. In a survey of 1,042 adults, those who said their life had meaning were more likely to feel well, both physically and mentally, on a daily basis than those who said they were searching for meaning.

SOURCE: The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry

Dear Fellow Airstreamers

(and Careful Covid-19 Watchers),
Once again, your TOG Board is compelled to cancel one of our rallies. We feel it is in the best interest of everyone to cancel the Memorial Day Rally this year. We will hold our first business meeting during the September Labor Day Rally. Also, we are going forward, with fingers crossed, for our July 22-26, 2020 Youth Rally. (In fact, the naturalist from Smithgall Woods is planning on bringing her Snake Show to the rally!)

In an attempt to keep everyone informed and in visual contact with each other, we are incorporating Zoom Rallies as we go forward. Kimberly Funderburg will send out a Constant Contact and give you the link to join. You do not have to have the Zoom app on your computer, and you can use your phone, Ipad, tablet, and computer to join in. Also, please check out our two Facebook pages and the TOG web page. We want everyone to know that the Top of Georgia is open, and we encourage you to bring your Airstream and come camp. The Pavilion is still closed, and we are asking everyone to continue to observe social distancing. But the park is beautiful, our folks are friendly, the trails are there for hiking, the waterfalls are flowing, and the wildflowers are blooming. Come and see for yourself. PS: Ken Rabren says thank you, that we have hosts signed up until the beginning of August, but we sure do need hosts for August through mid-December. Just think of how beautiful it is in the fall and winter in the mountains, and come host at the TOG.

Also, Rick Sibly, our Property Manager invites you to come help with some of our spring cleaning. We did not have our Work Days back in April and those weeds are still growing!

Mary Anne Meeks
1st Vice President

Speaking of **SPRING CLEANING**



An important part of keeping our park beautiful includes maintaining our trailers. See Pg.56, Sec.4c in your Directory for rules about keeping your trailer maintained. If your Airstream has gathered a lot of pollen, mold or other unsightly debris over the seasons, we have an opportunity to get your trailer cleaned. Call 407.276.1593 to get information on having your trailer washed by Sammie Fontanez , for a reasonable fee. Wouldn't it be a welcomed relief to come to the Top and have a nice clean Airstream greet you !

[Volunteering at the Top](#)

I am sitting on B26 behind my Argosy watching the subtle rapids of our beloved creek, contemplating how blessed we are to be members of such a wonderful club. I feel truly blessed to always have a home away from home to retreat to. I find comfort in being able to hook up and drive over; knowing that there will always be a spot for me; without having to reserve weeks in advance; without having to pay \$40 to \$60 a night; to have full hook-ups and high speed internet on every site; to be in such a wonderful location in the middle of the national forest along one of the state's most beautiful rivers, scenic towns, and southern origin of the Appalachian trail; to have such great access to so many outdoor activities; and finally to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. We have traveled all over the U.S. and have stayed at many parks! I can't believe what a value we have at the T.O.G. How blessed we are!

When we joined, and started coming to the Top, we just enjoyed the area and treated the club like any other campground that we had visited. We didn't really understand what a rally was or that all of those people working so hard around the club were just members who were volunteering. After getting to know the members, I started to appreciate the people and structure that allows us to have such riches at such a discount. This is all possible because we are a volunteer park. How awesome are our volunteers? Thank you!

I find myself eager to help and give back to the club that provides so much. Let me tell you, once I started volunteering, my love for the club grew! I absolutely love hosting. What a great way to meet our current and future members and learn about the operations of the park. I would highly recommend hosting. Hosting is an easy and great way to serve, especially if you aren't in the position to get out and do yard work or serve on a committee or as an officer. I also love getting out and cutting grass which helps keep our club looking good. Just pulling a few weeds every day goes a long way to keeping the club tidy. And finally, bringing new skills and ideas to a committee or

office keeps the club current and moving forward.

Jaime and I love our family at the Top. We are grateful and feel blessed to be a member here. We both love volunteering and encourage everyone to try volunteering at some level. We know that you will gain a great deal more than your efforts!!

Doug Ralston
#2483

Volunteering !



Serving in the kitchen



Fixing things



Sharing Talents

The Public Relations Committee

is So Much More

What do you think when you hear the word “public relations” at the Top of Georgia?

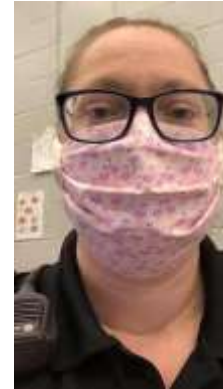
Most Airstreamers know it is one of the committees that reports to the Board, and they may think automatically of a publicity committee. True, the PR Committee has sent out hundreds of TOG brochures and rally cards to Airstream dealers across the southeast. They have encouraged members to share our brochures as they travel the USA. Last year, for the International Rally, the committee created a slide show advertising our park to the Airstream Association of Parks, to which we belong. And they have designed TOG tee shirts and stickers to advertise the TOP. But the PR Committee is a whole lot more.

Some may think of a group that works with the Helen Welcome and Visitors Center, to which the TOG belongs, and this is true. In conjunction with the Welcome Center we create welcome bags that are given out by our hosts to all campers new to the TOG. These welcome bags contain information pertinent to our park, and also have information about Helen, trails and waterfalls, places to shop, restaurants, artists in the area, coupons, and so much more. We also work with Helen to keep our webpage updated because it appears on the Helen Welcome Center site.

But we are still more. The members of the PR Committee think of themselves as a group that cares for the individuals in the Club, hoping to achieve a sense of harmony in the Park. Nothing is more important to the members of the committee than the welfare and happiness of the Airstream family staying in the park, whether it is for overnight or the entire year. With that in mind we launched an art project, creating “Be Kind” plaques during the last October rally. We hope you see them around the park. We also sent cards this winter from Wally the Camp Cat to our Florida Airstreamers, encouraging them to come back too. For folks who have visited us for the first time, we have been sending pictures of the park with a note inviting them to come back soon.

The members of the committee ask for your input, as we would like to do and be even more for you. If you have any ideas related to public relations, please send them to a member of the Public Relations Committee: Chairman, Judi Sells, Members Christy Fontanez, Kimberly Funderburg, and Mary Anne Meeks.

Mary Anne Meeks



Kimberly, member of the PR committee, modeling her Covid/Flamingo mask



TOG Promotional Brochure

First Time as a Snow Bird

by Judi Sells



Even in Georgia the winters are cold, at least for me. In January, we decided to head south to Land Yacht Harbor in Melbourne which is on the east coast of Florida. Why did we choose LYH? It was highly recommended by several TOP members who spent their winters in the sunny South. Evidently that's where many friendly, interesting people reside. LYH is an Airstream Park but does allow SOBs (some other brand).

There are a number of amenities such as a Post Office, fully staffed office, scheduled sport activities, wood working, sewing and quilting, a full library, and my favorite, card games each night. The beaches are convenient, just 6 miles away. The only negative aspect is that pets are not allowed.

In the winter months, Jan-Mar, the Park is packed with full-timers, and occasional travelers staying a day to several weeks. We recommend calling for reservations in April for space the next year. Residents come from all over the US and Canada. During our stay this year we met many friendly people, friends that we will stay in touch with. Snow Birds tend to depart for home in mid- March but this is totally up to you, people from Canada stay until May. During the summer, the park is not as busy due to the heat as you can imagine.

6



We found plenty of activities during our stay this year; shopping, visiting the Brevard Zoo, McKee Botanical in Vero Beach, Kennedy Space Center and an Airboat ride while counting the alligators in the many waterways in the area. Oh, and the wide variety of restaurants, you could eat at a different one every day.

Do we recommend LYH? **YES!**



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, WBCCI, published six times a year. **Address changes to:** Jaime Collins, 2654 Green Meadow Lane, Marietta GA 30066 or Email togairstream@gmail.com or call (404) 433-7268

Georgia Unit, WBCCI	Editor, Clara Ellis
Top of Georgia Airstream Park	204 Hunters Ridge
14255 Hwy. 75 N, Helen, GA 30545	Canton, Georgia 30114
Telephone 706-878-3590	Telephone 706-442-6503
Web site: www.topofgeorgia.net	caravannerclara@gmail.com

2019–2020 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally | Events

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless noted otherwise.

Date	Event
Nov 28, 2019	Thanksgiving Gathering
Dec 7	Holiday Luncheon at Eatonton (Rock Eagle)
Mar 30-Apr 5, 2020	Airstream Club Int. Region 3 Rally, Myrtle Beach, SC
Apr 13-14	Spring Work Days
Apr 15-19	Spring Rally Business Meeting
May 20-25	Memorial Day Buddy Rally
Jun 20-27	Airstream Club International Rally, Loveland, CO
Jul 4	Patriotic Celebration
Jul 22-26	Youth Rally Buddy
Sep 2-7	Labor Day Rally Elections
Oct 14-18	Fall Rally Installation of Officers

Officers

President: Tim Johnson; President-Elect: Murphy Harrell; First Vice-President: Mary Anne Meeks; Secretary: Kimberly Funderburg; Treasurer: John Meeks; Directors: Rick Sibly, Tom Baker, Dick Sells, Clara Ellis; Past-President: Charlotte Williamson

