



The Peach State Caravanner



White Christmas by Jaime Collins (pg 5)



10th Annual Fasching Sidewalk & River Parade (Pg 5)



New registration sign (pg 3)

The Mountains are calling and I must go...

- John Muir

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President's Letter



John Meeks (Treasurer) Mary Anne Meeks (President)

Dear Airstream Family,

Life is never still, as we see from the fact that I am now your Top of Georgia President. It saddens me deeply for Murphy Harrell to resign as President, but I understand and respect him always. Please know that I accept this office with humility and a desire to serve you.

We are entering into a new Rally season, and we are looking forward to having all of our rallies this year. Of course, nothing is certain in this time of COVID, but we are hoping you will make plans to join us at the Top of Georgia. We are going to take every precaution to keep things safe, and the rallies will be modified some to assure that. We think you will have fun, meet old and new friends, and learn along the way. Our first rally is April 7-11, 2021, at the TOG.

Lest we forget, the Top of Georgia is an all-volunteer park, and we need your help, please, to prepare the park for the spring and summer. We have spring cleaning planned for Monday and Tuesday, April 5 and 6, which is the week after Easter. No matter your age, physical condition, or how much time you have to share, I know we can find a project in which you could help and make a difference in beautifying and readying our park.

The officers and directors who make up your Board for the Top of Georgia Airstream Club will be meeting on Friday, April 9, and then again the next morning, Saturday, we will have a business meeting. Everyone is invited to attend both of these meetings. In the meantime, if you have any questions or ideas for the TOG, please send them my way or to any Board member. Our e-mails and phone numbers are in the latest Directory that you should have received in mid-March.

Airstreams were made to travel. Please plan to come see us, to attend our rallies, and to go to the Region 3 **Tally Rally** in Tallahassee, and/or the **International Rally** in Lebanon, Tennessee. Both are close enough to Georgia for many to attend. Details are in the **Directory** and the **Caravanner**. See you at the TOG!

My best always, Mary Anne

A Message from Murphy Harrell

Dear TOG Members and Friends,

Due to recent developments, I feel that I must resign my position as President of Top of Georgia Airstream Club. I have been back and forth with this decision for some time.

New business developments will take too much of my time and I simply will not be able to perform the duties that the President position requires and deserves.

With the Park's 2021 committees formed, rallies scheduled, directory mailed and an excellent board in place, I feel confident things will progress without pause.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the TOP in the future.

Best Regards, Murphy Harrell

What's New in the Park

Coming soon

Welcome to the Top!



After our old registration sign was damaged, Sammy and Jacob Fontanez got to work on a new, more rustic “check-in” sign!

- The Communications Committee is in the process of putting together the internal capital costs for new broadcasting equipment upgrades to the park Wi-Fi systems.
- A donation-based laundry room has been approved
- The Board is investigating several new registration systems
- Unfortunately, White County does not offer recycling services at this time

The Blue Beret magazines are such a great source of information. Before you “spring clean” and toss your older issues out, consider donating them to the Park so we can share the benefits of joining the WBCCI and the Airstream community with our newest guests!

More room for winter fun...

The park entered winter with the upper and mid-section sites already filled with campers. The Board approved a lofty upgrade project and crews broke ground in November, completing their work in January. We now have 16 newly winterized sites in the upper section of the park. New electric posts (double 30-amp and some 30/50 amp) and plumbing with frost-proof water spigots.



Volunteering

Are you interested in Hosting?

A special note from Ken Rabren, Host Coordinator:



"I would like to thank everyone that served as Host last year and everyone that helped to fill host weeks while I was taking care of Kathy. She was really looking forward to serving juice and coffee as soon as we could begin having rallies again."

As the first face to welcome members and new campers at check-in, the role of Host is an important one to the Park.

There are a number of benefits to hosting, in addition to ensuring our park operates smoothly; it is fun and a great way to meet new members and friends. You have access to high-speed internet and you earn additional parking credits to go towards your future camping.

If your schedule works for any of the following weeks, please, call Ken Rabren (404) 660-5597.

April 3rd, Saturday through April 10th (rally)

April 17th, Saturday through April 24th

April 24th, Saturday through May 1st

May 1st, Saturday through May 8th

May 8th, Saturday through May 15th

June 5th, Saturday through June 12th

Your help ensures a beautiful and safe park for everyone to enjoy year-round!

The Spring Work Days are scheduled for April 5th and 6th

Here are the clean-up projects that need volunteers, contact Rick Sibly, Property Manager, to sign-up at rmsibly@aol.com :

Paint rear access gate
Replace the barge rafters on the Upper Shelter
Paint Upper Shelter
Paint Roof side of Chimney
Pick up sticks
Remove 3 Trees at Pavilion

Clean Pavilion
Paint steel beams in Pavilion
Clean creek of trash, pipe & concrete slabs
Remove broken out house behind A-12
Install new tether balls
Repair benches on the Creek
Repost water hydrant Site B-18
Repair Stop Sign

What fun we had!!

Due to COVID-19 social distancing and gathering restrictions, the park was not able to host the annual Thanksgiving pot-luck meal, nor the annual Christmas luncheon; though the winter campers certainly enjoyed each other's company. (Especially Jim and Casey Kauffman's Valentine's doughnuts!)

When it snows
ain't it thrilling
Though your nose gets a chilling.
We'll frolic and play
the Eskimo way,
walking in a winter wonderland...

Campers woke up to a glorious snow on Christmas morning. Not enough to make a snowman, but certainly enough to make the park beautiful for a while.

Photo by Claudia Litton



While New Orleans was celebrating Mardi Gras, the town of Helen was celebrating Faschingsverein ("Carnival Club").

10th Annual Fasching Sidewalk & River Parade

On February 6th, party-goers donned costumes and noise makers and paraded across Helen; completing their festivities by tubing down the, very cold, Chattahoochee River.

Photo credit #AlpineHelenGA
Cover photo credit #AlpineHelenGA



Are you Ready to Rally?

Top of Georgia Airstream Park Spring Rally April 7 - 11, 2020

Wednesday, April 7

6:30 PM Rally Registration
Adults \$15; Kids Free

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Mary Anne Meeks
Snacks provided; bring your own drinks

Thursday, April 8

8:00 AM Breakfast at Truett McConnell*

11:00 AM Trip to Lasso the Moon Alpaca Farm*
Blairsville. Tours at 12:00 and 1:00

Friday, April 9

10:00 AM Build and/or paint a birdhouse

Hike the trail behind our campground

1:00 PM Birthday party “mixer” for all at the pavilion.
Wear your party hat.

2:30 PM Board Meeting @ Pavilion

5:30 PM Rally Registration

7:00 PM Welcome/Announcements, Mary Anne Meeks
Bingo & Popcorn, Doug Ralston & Jaime Collins
Bring your own drinks.

Saturday, April 10

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

11:30 AM Box Lunches from Happy Hawg*
Drinks provided

1:00 PM New Member Orientation*, Jaime Collins

1:00 – 4:00 Corn hole tournament
Q&A with Mark Spears
Visit Tantrum Brewing Company in Cleveland
Who has the best winter camping story?

Sunday, April 11

9:30 AM Join us in the Pavilion for coffee with
Andy Stanley and a live-stream service from
North Point Community Church

NOTE: *Please sign up if planning to attend

Region 3 Tallahassee ‘Tally’ Rally



LAST CALL! After stalling for a few months to see how pandemic numbers and vaccine schedules would shake out, Region 3 leadership has decided to move forward with our annual rally. Top of Georgia members are invited to join us at the North Florida Fairgrounds for the:

Tallahassee ‘Tally’ Rally from April 21-25, 2021.

We have four days of food, fun, and fellowship planned with a nod to Cajun cuisine on Saturday when we will enjoy a Low Country Boil complete with a Zydeco band. We will also raffle a Solo Stove Bonfire fire pit, the must-have Airstream accessory for 2021, with proceeds going to our chosen charity, [Tunnels to Towers](#).

Registration is open now at the Region 3 Events section of the new [WBCCI website](#).

What's happening around Helen!

It's that glorious time of year when the birds return and the flowers start blooming. It's also the time for outdoor activities and fun. In addition to planned events for the park, here are a few fun ideas to put on your calendar!



Friday, **April 23, 2021** 10:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday, **April 24, 2021** 8:00am - 3:00pm

One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Come shop 1 mile worth of treasures at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds!

Free entry to shoppers! Parking on location! Concessions!

MEMORY LANE CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Friday, **April 30, 2021** 9:00am - 4:00pm

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds
1311 Music Hall Rd
Hiawassee GA 30546



- Free Admission!
- On-site Parking!
- Family Friendly!



DARA CARTER

Singer, writer and
instrumentalist

Sautee Nacoochee Cultural Center

Saturday, **APRIL 3** at 7:30pm in
Center Theater, restricted seating

A native Georgian, this diverse singer, writer and instrumentalist captures the attention of audiences everywhere with her magnetic spirit and outstanding musicianship.

(Due to COVID-19 restrictions a maximum of 25 tickets are available for sale and masks are required.)

Reserve your tickets [HERE](#)

From the Park



Be Bear Aware!!

Spring is here and so are the bears!

Please, do not leave food or garbage outside and clean your bar-b-que grills well.

All kitchen garbage must be placed in the dumpster by the bridge and not in the dog waste bins.

Bird feeders attract bears, and are not allowed.

Important Reminders...

Clothes lines are not permitted outside your RV.

External items such as a table, chairs, and grills are allowed in the area covered by your awning.

Tents are not allowed, but screen enclosures are allowed due to the severity and volume and behavior of Georgia bugs!

All trailers in the park MUST have current tags and insurance, please take corrective steps if your tag is expired.

**The TOG Park is not responsible for stolen or damaged property.

We LOVE our furry friends!!!



Dogs must be on a leash at all times when outside their RV.

Owners must clean up behind their pets. Pet waste bags and receptacles are located in pet walk areas. (There are 3 in the park)

Leashes used to secure pets at your campsite must keep them out of the roadway and from reaching your **neighbor's site**.

Pets are not permitted in the main pavilion. (Documented support animals are always allowed in all areas of the park.)

Membership



Cover designed by Doug Ralston, photo by Cindy Carr

Our 2021 Member Directory and Handbook has been printed and mailed. If you have not received a copy, or are not yet a member and would like one, stop by the Host shed or send a note to Membership.

To become a new member or to renew your membership, you can simply log on to WBCCI website:

<https://airstreamclub.org>

Or call/fax:

Ph 937-596-5211

Fax 937-596-5542

WBCCI membership dues are \$75 for the year.

Top of Georgia dues are \$15 for the year.

Jaime Collins
Membership

togairstream@gmail.com

Loving Concerns

A Special Note of Thanks...

I want to take this opportunity to let all of my many friends know what's been going on with me over the last 18 months.



When I left the TOP in October of 2019 to winter at my Florida home at Land Yacht Harbor, I expected to be back the next May to carry on hosting as I usually do. Unfortunately when I went to my doctor for my usual check up I found out I had a cancer called MDS. This is a cancer in the blood similar to leukemia. I began chemotherapy and was unable to leave Florida.

In September I was informed that the chemotherapy was not working and my only option was to have a bone marrow transplant. To add to this news the same week I learned that my son Ross had passed away. Through this difficult time my friends at the TOP and here at Land Yacht Harbor have given me the strength and will to get through this. I have received so many cards and phone calls with love and support that I want to thank everyone for helping me.

On March 5th I am entering the hospital for my transplant. I will be in the hospital for 30 days and will then be spend 3 months with friends in Deltona as I have to have 24/7 care for that time. If all goes well I'm planning to be back at that TOP by July. I'm so looking forward to being there this summer.

Again thank you all so Much! **Ian Hampton**

Update - *On February 3rd I went to Orlando for a bone marrow biopsy in preparation for my transplant. It showed that I now have leukemia and I have to be in remission before I can have the transplant. This is going to require me to have three months of chemotherapy, when they think they will be to get me in remission.*

Illness and Injury

Mary Holcomb had colon cancer surgery in November.

Gail Ward had knee replacement surgery.

Faye Murrell had a stroke in November. She continues to improve.

Prayers are needed for Al and Mary Holcomb. Al had 2 serious seizures March 14th morning.

Sympathy

Kathy Rabren had breast cancer surgery and another stroke; she passed away in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bradshaw had a daughter pass away in December.

Sympathy was extended to Joy Fathauer on the death of her husband, Don, who passed away in January.

Sympathy was extended to Carlton Wheeler on the death of his wife, Dot, who passed away in February.

After a long illness, Jack Jones, former TOG President in 1995 and 2000, passed away in March. Continued prayers for his wife, Barbara.

Since the last Caravanner, we have had members who passed away and a number of who have had serious health problems. Thanks to your love, cards, calls, emails and prayers they have been very encouraged and thankful. May we continue to be there for each other like a family.

If any of you have the need for prayers and want me to send out a message to our members, please let me know at: myrnawarren@windstream.net

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.

Membership address changes to: Jaime Collins, 2654 Green Meadow Lane, Marietta GA 30066 or email tog airstream@gmail.com or call (404) 433-7268

Georgia Unit, WBCCI
 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

2021 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

Date	Event
April 5th & 6th	<i>Spring Work days</i>
April 7th - 11th	<i>Spring Rally</i>
April 21st – 25th	<i>Region 3 Tally Rally / Tallahassee, FL</i>
May 26th – 31st	<i>Memorial Day Rally</i>
June 16th – 20th	<i>Youth Rally</i>
July 4th	<i>Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration</i>
July 17th – 24th	<i>International Rally / Lebanon, TN</i>
September 1st – 6th	<i>Labor Day Rally</i>
October 13th – 17th	<i>Fall Rally</i>

Officers:

President – Mary Anne Meeks

President Elect – Doug Ralston

Vice President – TBD

Secretary – Kimberly Funderburg

Treasurer – John Meeks

Directors Year Two – Clara Ellis and Dick Sells

Directors Year One – Jiji Haque and Bill Harris

President Emeritus – Tim Johnson

