



The Peach State Caravanner

Winter Edition



Good times and good friends during the Fall Rally



Chris McConnell helping host, Don Doerr

In This Issue:

- Pg 2 President Letter
- Pgs 3-6 Park Notices
- Pgs 7-8 We're Friends
- Pgs 9-19 What Fun We Had
(Labor Day Rally, International Rally & Fall Rally)
- Pg 20 Upcoming Events
- Pg 21 Around Helen
- Pg 22 Loving Concerns
- Pg 23 Schedule/Contact



Wally and the Milky Way

President's Letter



I have a dream

To create unity with our board and members – continuing the love and support of one another.

I'm very proud and excited to be your next president. I want to thank you, the members, for bestowing upon me your trust. Thank you so very much.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of the process.

I will apply my skills and abilities to contribute to the legacy and rich history of the Top of Georgia.

Your question may be – “What’s my vision?”

What I can tell you is that each day I will be part of this team. Striving to have a positive impact on our community.

What I bring to this position is diversity and experience and, above all, heart.

Members come first. We are the Top of Georgia.

Jiji Hague

A special “Thank you” to Nancy Sibly for my fabulous tiara and feather boa!



It has been my honor to serve as your President during this past year. At our October Rally I shared my thoughts on the cherished moments of the past year and reflected based on three words Service, Sharing and Strength.

Service. It has been a hallmark of our Club and this past year’s Board to remain true to our commitment. We worked on behalf of our membership to have a very well executed process for gaining nominations and pulling through to our first online voting successfully.

Sharing. We are blessed with the bounty of park, our membership and our access to nature. Our Board worked to maintain our traditions for successful rallies, events and opportunities to gather for fellowship and community

Strength. We worked to strengthen our core document, our Bylaws. One area that we all agreed needs to be elevated in importance is our Code of Ethics. As we recognize the ability to accomplish wonderful things together in service to our members and park; it’s important for the core document to reflect this key value.

Brad Singelton

Thank You!



Jacob Fontanez welding a new supportive edge to the Park's old grill!



We have new washing machines!
(They are wonderful!)



Eric Ernst, David Cardoza and Larry White working hard to clear our mountain trail and trim back some of the foliage around the upper loop.



Eric Root, Jesse Stone, Adam Higgins and Rocky Stone. Missing from photo was Bill Harris, who is also part of the IT team.

Great job, guys, keeping the internet strong!



Upcoming projects in the Park

1. We will likely shut the water off for “widow's row” and below the bridge by the end of November. The exact date is dependent on colder temperatures.
2. We are in the process of getting quotes for upgrading the water hydrants and pedestals below the bridge. For financial reasons, that will probably be done in stages.
3. November 14-15, septic tanks will be pumped. There are 5 regular tanks and a "grease trap" above the bridge. Hopefully, this can be done expeditiously in two days or less, and without creating much inconvenience for the folks up top. My further goal is to have the bottom section pumped very soon after we close it for the winter.
4. Electricians will be in the park to replace the service entrance breaker box for the driveway sign and to further troubleshoot the pedestals in C-2 and others.
5. During the fall rally, a new warning siren was installed on the well house to warn us of low water pressure.

Thank you!

We are very appreciative of the many folks who volunteer to make repairs, help others with problems in the park, and report needed repairs. This is a team effort, and we are members of a wonderful team, led by a great board!





WINTER COMPLIANT CAMPING AT THE TOP OF GEORGIA

- When freezing temperatures are expected, you must completely close the large faucet valve handle at your site. This will allow the water to drain below the freeze line in the ground. Use your freshwater tanks as your water supply.
- When you plan an extended stay of a month or more in one site, you may want to take the additional steps necessary to leave your water hose connected. Place a 'trouble light' with a 60-watt light bulb on and covering the frost proof faucet handle on the Park's water tap. Place a large plastic garbage bin upside down over the frost proof valve or canvas cover. You must install heat tape on the water line, faucet valve, and hose and then wrap with insulation and vapor barrier. Do not forget to heat and insulate the metal union that connects the trailer to the water hose. This is a common area to freeze if not properly insulated.
- In case there are power outages, disconnect water lines ASAP. In anticipation of power outages, make sure you have your water tanks full and a good charge on your rig's batteries.
- The Park's Property Manager or a representative will review all water hookups during freezing weather. They have the right to demand, at any time, that that water connections be modified, changed, or disconnected. Those campers who do not comply in a timely manner with the recommendations for winter compliant camping at the Park are subject to having their water locked-out. If the Park's water taps or lines are damaged due to improper use or failure to follow recommendations during freezing weather, the Top of Georgia Board of Directors have the right to charge damage repair costs to the camper(s).

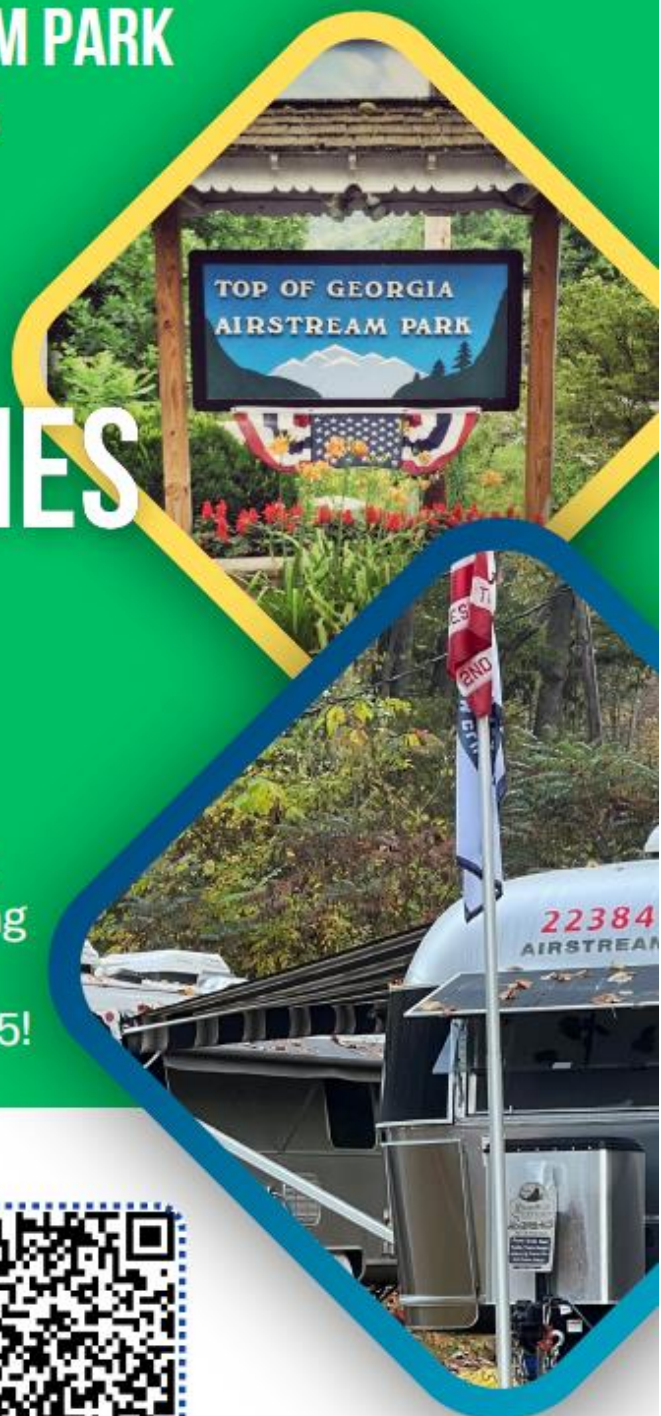
Notice for winter storage:

The mountain side of the lower C-section will not be available for parking or winter storage. Only creekside due to construction plans for power upgrades on the mountain side.

TOP OF GEORGIA AIRSTREAM PARK
14255 HWY 75 N, HELEN, GA 30545

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025!

With over 600 members, our Georgia Unit offers a beautiful park to enjoy year-round. Hiking, biking, and socializing while taking in the stunning scenery. Come host at the Top of Georgia in 2025!



Earn Free Parking



Free Internet



Meet New People



Free Laundry



Sign Up Here

<https://form.jotform.com/2414178763151576>

We're not just members; we're friends...

Jiji Haque, Chris McConnell & Adam Higgins, Sammy, Christee & Jacob Fontanez and their family, Dakota Ledig & Kyle Douglas went river rafting in Reliance, TN.

A gorgeous day not soon to be forgotten.



Webb Brother's Rafting on the Hiwassee River



Always a fun time
thrifting around Helen!

You never know what
you'll find.



Good friends!
Don DeWitt, Sr and Bob Murrell

Above: Casey Kauffman

Right: Lin Thompkins



Right: A group from the Top caravanning to
the International Rally.

Kimberly Funderburg, Nancy & Rick Sibly,
Murphy & Cindy Harrell, David & Karen
Cardoza and Judy & Tom Baker



MIKE'S QUEST FOR THE HOLY PUMP BY CHRISTEE FONTANEZ

Once upon a time, in a small Airstream park in the mountains, a man, nay, a friend, named Mike Kent resided. He was a quiet man, a dreamer, captivated by tales of travels, treasures and legends.

One stormy day, as he realized his supplies were running low, Mike decided to drive through the winding mountain roads to the local store.



A journey, fraught with peril, as before he could even leave the park his truck failed. The broken auto-part became the elusive treasure he had dreamed of pursuing and finding.

Days turned into weeks as he battled shipping delays and a stop in the manufacturing of the part, ever-present doubts and despair gnawed at him. The lowest point in his journey was when Mike discovered the mechanic shop had the correct part come in but had pulled the wrong pump from his truck and sent it back, leaving him floundering in the abyss of broken-down vehicles.

He lost his way, faced hunger, and nearly succumbed to despair. (not really, he rented a great sports car) But amidst the lows, he found fleeting moments of joy—friends of friends who worked in the automotive industry, who decided to join him in his quest. Together, this band of mechanical brothers forged ahead, one step at a time, reaching out to other mechanics to find this missing link.

Finally, after what felt like an eternity (2 months and 1 week, to be precise), Mike received the phone call he had been waiting for. The air was thick with anticipation, the voice on the line thick with Southern drawl.

“Yer truck is ready.”

Outside, the sun broke through the clouds, casting a golden light over the landscape. Mike stood, breathless and alive, clutching the phone. Yet, in that moment of triumph, he realized that the true treasure wasn't just the long-awaited car part—it was the journey, the trials, and the great story he can now travel the country to tell.

Passing out doughnuts in the Park.

Jacob Fontanez, Casey Kauffman, Les & Cheryl Buford, Faye Murrell and Lin Thompkins



LABOR DAY 2024 RALLY by Nancy Sibly and Christee Fontanez



We had a sea of silver in the park for the Labor Day weekend with many members and friends enjoying our beautiful mountain setting.

No rally can properly begin without a good home-cooked breakfast. Thank you to Nancy Sibly and our amazing team of park volunteers!



Ken Rabren, Glenn Kornahrens and Rick Sibly



Tom Baker



Georgia Barron helping us ladies create gorgeous floral arrangements with our afternoon pickings.

A full day of fun and activities!

A group of us ladies caravanned to Whimsy Flower Farm followed by lunch at Jim's Smokin' Que in Blairsville. Delicious!

For those us who could still move following lunch, Nadine taught us some new line dancing moves!



Of course, no rally is complete without a fun game of BINGO!

We really had a full house for the Business Meeting and Elections on Saturday morning.

We were fortunate to have many people running for Board of Director positions. It's gratifying to see so many interested, especially some of our newer members.



Thank you, Adam Higgins and Don Doerr for calling the numbers



The highlight of the weekend was the spaghetti dinner prepared by Nadine Johnson and her kitchen crew.

It was all delicious. Thanks, Nadine!



June Rabren Clara Ellis, Glenda Gayton, Nadine Johnson
Judi Sells and Kristin Root

A day of music!

After a wonderful ice cream social, thank you always to the Jumpers; TOG friend, Dakota Ledig hosted music trivia. Tunes ranging from 1930s to 1980s. It was fun for the young members and the young at heart.



Dakota Ledig



Saturday night, we got to put our new line dancing moves to the test with Rhonda Carrier and her Still Cruisin' Band.



2024 INTERNATIONAL RALLY - SEDALIA, MISSOURI

FUN IN THE FALL

by Nancy Sibly

Just try to impress your non-Airstream friends by telling them your big trip is to Missouri. Missouri? Well, we did stop in Mississippi and Arkansas on the way. No, really. As always, with an International Rally, it's amazing the number of states that are represented. Rumor has it that Airstreamers from 48 states were there for a total of nearly 3,000 people in 1,250 Airstreams. And they still had room for YOU.

The Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia was built in 1903 and covers 600 acres. During the fair's run in August over 350,000 people visit. That made our group look like a drop in the bucket. Across the road from the fairgrounds is the main camping area with 1500 sites. There's a tunnel under the road, so no one had to take their life in their hands to cross. There were golf carts to rent, and it was the perfect place for bicycles and e-bikes. We got lots of exercise which was good because there were a number of food trucks offering goodies.



The two most striking things about the fairgrounds were the size and the architecture of the beautiful buildings. Who knew a Swine Barn could look palatial. It did. The style of the original buildings is often referred to as Mission Revival, although buildings like the Women's Building are very classical in their design. Entering the fairgrounds from across the road, there is immediately a huge open area which would be the Midway during the fair, set up with a Ferris Wheel, other rides, and, of course, cotton candy. Then there is the sea of silver which goes on and on and on. Sedalia was very gracious in welcoming us to their city located 90 miles east of Kansas City with signs and coupons for their businesses and a concert one night. Sedalia was founded as a railroad town and one of our favorite diners was in an old railroad car.



International rallies are always a mix of exhibitors and vendors of Airstream parts, new models to ogle over, seminars and get-togethers. Opening Night with a member of each unit marching in with their flag is always inspiring as is the band and choral program at the Closing. A highlight of the rally is always the Vintage Parade with trailers lined up by year from 1954 to 1985. The Vintage Airstream Club also hosted a Halloween dance for all in the Swine Barn! If you don't like being crowded on the dance floor, you could claim one of the many small pens surrounding it. There was a tie for most popular costume between flamingos and Buc-ee Beavers. Yes, folks, you heard it here. And they did the Monster Mash. It was a graveyard smash.



Lori, Adison and Chris Modly



Below: Nancy & Rick Sibly



A special day trip was to the breeding farm for Budweiser's Clydesdales. The 100 horses there get pampered with daily baths and grooming, special hay shipped from Utah, and all that horse bling. Staff members wear red shirts. Guess who else wore a red shirt that day?



Region 3 had a catered lunch and also, the Top of Georgia hosted a pizza party in the Highway Gardens, a serene corner of the fairgrounds. The Top had the largest attendance of any unit with 120 members and 80 of them joined us at the gardens. We had some newcomers and many familiar faces. It's always fun to spot a familiar face in a crowd like that.

The International Rally next year is in York, Pennsylvania, 8/23-8/28/25. Put that on your calendar.

FALL 2024 RALLY by Nancy Sibly and Christee Fontanez



Breakfast on Thursday morning always has a great turn out.

Thank you to the kitchen crew for another delicious meal!



Julian Clements, Rick Sibly, Tom & Judy Baker

We had a full park for the Fall/Installation Rally.

The Park looked amazing as we had peak fall colors, so not much was else was needed by way of decorations.

There was an impromptu “Movie and Pizza night”, thank you Chris McConnell and Adam Higgins for the idea.

Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice was a hit with everyone!



Mike Smith and Ken & June Rabren



There were several of us who went to visit Mercier Orchards in Blue Ridge. Such a beautiful drive and great time spent apple-picking.

They are a fourth-generation family and veteran-owned and operated apple orchard founded back in 1943 by Bill and Adele Mercier.



After all that hard work of apple picking, we met at a local restaurant, Misty Mountain Hops. It is centered around good food and music.

Fun times and a fully belly saw us back to the Top for more rally festivities of BINGO and popcorn.



Nadine gave line dancing lessons Friday morning and that was fun. Some of us, yours truly, have two left feet. Later that day, Mike Deegan gave a seminar on Airsteam plumbing. Very informative.

That evening included more eating at a Park favorite, the Cottage House, followed by a fun and relaxing time around the lower bonfire.



Good friends, good times. Brad Singelton, Adam Higgins and Jiji Haque

Saturday, more eating.

Kat and Jackson Elder, with the help of many volunteers,
cooked up a Low Country Boil for Jiji's installation meal.

Thank you to everyone who helped set-up stations, serve
and clean.



Jackson Elder



Sammy Fontanez and Don Doerr



Julian Clements



Judy Baker, Julie Gray and Casey Kauffman

And a special "thank you" to
Jackson and Kat Elder for all the
hard work!



Julian Clements, Kat Jackson, Casey Kauffman, Jackson Elder
and Julie Gray



The installation was a great success!
Congratulations to our new board members!



Betsy Deegan, Fran Phillips (Jiji's mom)
and Jiji Haque

Meet your 2025 Board of Directors



Jiji Haque and Brad Singelton



Singer, Steve Bryson and Rick Sibly



Nancy Sibly and Alice Turner

Always a great time with a great band! The Steve Bryson Band always gets folks dancing.
A successful rally, indeed. I look forward to seeing what we do next year.



Welcome your 2025 Board members:

President: Jiji Haque

1st Vice President: Adam Higgins

2nd Vice President: Don Doerr

Secretary: Mike Deegan

Treasurer: Doug Ralston

2nd Year Directors: Donn Gray & Rick Sibly

1st Year Directors: MaryAnne Meeks & Bill Harris



Mary Haque (Jiji)
President



Adam Higgins
1st Vice President



Don Doerr
2nd Vice President



Mike Deegan
Secretary



Doug Ralston
Treasurer



Rick Sibly
2nd Year Director



MaryAnne Meeks
1st Year Director



Donn C. Gray
2nd Year Director



Bill Harris
1st Year Director

Upcoming Events in the Park



Happy turkey day!

JOIN THE TOP OF GEORGIA FOR A
THANKSGIVING FEAST.
THE PARK WILL PROVIDE TURKEY AND HAM.
GUESTS ASKED TO BRING A SIDE DISH
OR DESSERT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
* ONE O'CLOCK *
IN THE MAIN PAVILION

RSVP: Christee@MediaDvine.com by 11/13/24



let's get together

Holiday Potluck

AT THE TOP OF GEORGIA
ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
AT 1PM IN THE MAIN PAVILION

*Wear your tacky Christmas sweater
and bring canned goods for donation*

TURKEY AND HAM PROVIDED
GUESTS ASKED TO BRING A SIDE DISH
OR DESSERT

RSVP CHRISTEE@MEDIADVINE.COM

2025 RALLY SCHEDULE

03/31/2025 – 04/05/2025	Spring Rally / Volunteer Days, Business Mtg, TOG
04/09/2025 – 04/13/2025	Region 3 Rally, Ladson, SC
05/21/2025 – 05/26/2025	Memorial Day/Buddy Rally, TOG
06/18/2025 – 06/22/2025	Youth Rally / Buddy Rally, TOG
07/04/2025	Patriotic Day, TOG
08/23/2025 – 08/28/2025	International Rally, York, PA
08/27/2025 – 09/01/2025	Labor Day / Business Mtg, TOG
10/08/2025 – 10/13/2025	Fall Rally / Installation, TOG
11/27/2025	Thanksgiving Potluck, TOG

What's happening around Helen!

Annual Lighting of the Village

Friday, November 29
Riverside Park, Helen



Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive as the village is lit up to begin the holiday season. Musical performances by local groups will precede his arrival and children are invited to meet with Santa from 5:00 to 7PM.

HELEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

Dec 14, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Downtown Helen



Expect big things...and yes, the Big Man – Santa himself – will be there. Rain or shine!

This is such a fun small-town parade with fire trucks, horses, dirt-buggies, unique floats, and TONS of candy!
The best place to be is across the street from the Downtown Gazebo!

Dropping of the Edelweiss

Helen Festhalle
1074 Edelweiss St.
December 31, 2024, 8:00 pm - 12:00 am



Join us as we ring in the New Year at the Festhalle with the Annual Dropping of the Edelweiss!

Live Music

Dancing

Party Favors

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres

Champagne Toast at Midnight

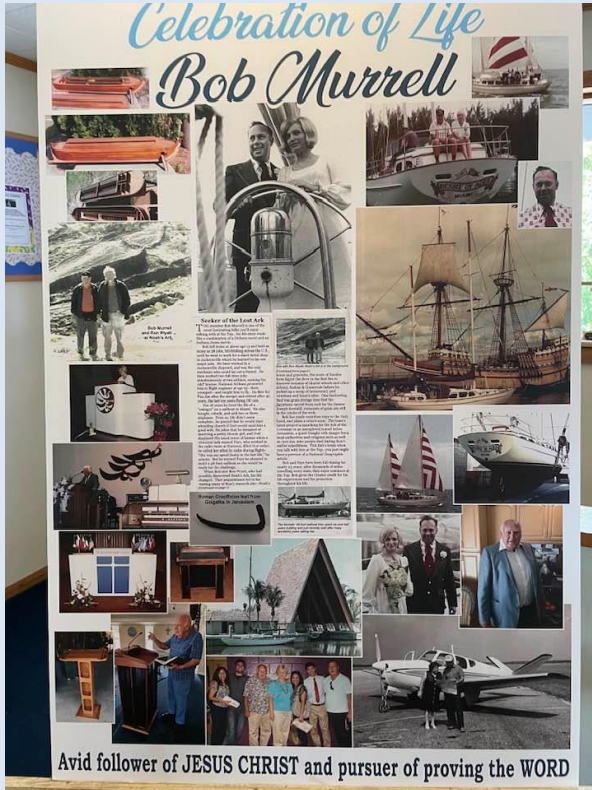
Beer & Wine Available for Purchase

Adults \$30

Kids 6-12 \$15

Kids under 6: FREE

Loving Concerns



Our dear friend and long-time member, **Bob Murrell** passed away in August 2024. Please continue prayers of comfort for Faye over the loss of her husband.



Friends from the Top celebrated Bob at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Cleveland, GA

Clara Ellis - is recovering from several health issues and appreciates your prayers.

Pat King - is back in the hospital in Roswell. Please pray that her treatment will be successful as she is fighting cancer and kidney problems.

Don DeWitt- Pray for Don to gain strength so he can return to us next season

Dave Rand - Dave is scheduled for surgery in Chattanooga. He and Carolyn appreciate your prayers.

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

2024 Top of Georgia Airstream Club Rally / Events

Rallies held at Top of Georgia Airstream Park unless otherwise noted

Date	Event
March 21 -24	<i>Grapes and Grains Sister Rally TOG</i>
April 1 - 7	<i>Spring Rally/Volunteer Days TOG</i>
April 17 - 21	<i>Region 3 Rally, Doswell, VA</i>
May 22 - 27	<i>Memorial Day/Buddy Rally, TOG</i>
June 19 - 23	<i>Youth Rally / Buddy Rally, TOG</i>
July 4	<i>Fourth of July / Patriotic Celebration TOG</i>
Aug 28 - Sept 2	<i>Labor Day Rally TOG</i>
October 5 - 10	<i>International Rally / Sedalia, MO</i>
October 23 - 27	<i>Fall Rally / Installation TOG</i>
November 28	<i>Thanksgiving Potluck, TOG</i>
December 15	<i>Christmas Party, TBD</i>

2024/2025 Officers:

President – Jiji Haque

President Elect – Adam Higgins

Vice President – Don Doerr

Secretary – Mike Deegan

Treasurer – Doug Ralston

Directors Year Two – Donn Gray and Rick Sibly

Directors Year One – MaryAnne Meeks and Bill Harris

Past President – Brad Singelton

