

The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 50 • Issue 2 • May 2011



Greetings, Fellow Airstreamers!

Words cannot express our sincere thanks for the folks who braved the heat, cold, sun, and rain during Work Days. Our Work Days Chairman, Warren Fore, did a

fantastic job putting together an ambitious plan. Thanks to all who volunteered and stuck with us; we completed everything on his work list! I would also like to mention the efforts of Carol Cone. She is working very hard on making the Top a real garden spot and has formed a Garden Club to enlist help from many of you. We get fantastic volunteer help year round, but our work days this year raised the bar for the rest of *this* year.

I hope you had as much fun at the April Rally as we did. Rob Kelly put together a great program with something for everyone. He even ran a special Kids Program on Saturday. Al Holcomb had fantastic entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights! Jack Jones and his kitchen staff made sure we were well fed. We added something new to the meal plan. Willa Davis, Shirley Rogers, Herbert Crowe, and Mary Holcomb provided it—a wonderful bean supper. For those who registered on Wednesday night, Virginia Bailey served up refreshments for all.

This was our first try at running a rally. I know we missed a few details, but I hope we didn't miss anything major! Please use the Suggestion Box to offer feedback and new ideas.



Above: Just before the General Business Meeting.

Right: Everyone enjoyed the ice cream.



May brings our Buddy Rally. Please bring prospective Airstream Owners to see what we have to offer. I was asked if there is a limit on the number of Buddies you invite. I'm not aware of any limits in the Park or Unit Rules. This is the *only* time during the year we can invite friends to see what we do. I hope you will take advantage and bring in future members.

May also brings our Memorial Service. On Sunday morning we will recognize the family members of Georgia Unit members who we lost during the last year. Please take the time to let them know how dear their family members were to us.

I really appreciate those who took the time to provide feedback on the proposed changes to the constitution being debated at the International Rally. The Unit directed me to vote in accordance with your wishes. Please continue to give me your thoughts, so I can do just that. I will schedule an additional session for input at the May Rally.

Looking forward to July, we need talent for our Kids Talent Show. Please tell Al Holcomb about the special child, grandchild, or great-grand-

child you will be bringing and all about their talent. This was my favorite entertainment last year and with your help, Al will provide a better Kids Show than I did.

May is a fantastic time to visit the park and share it with friends. We hope you will join us at the Top!

Matt and Beth

“Keep your eyes on the stars, and the stars in your eyes...see if you can find out what's over the next hill, and the next one after that.” Wally Byam

Special Requests:

You can brighten the day of any of those members of the park who have lost a loved one or are ailing. There are a few who have requested cards and/or calls. Two are grandchildren: Jack Bradshaw's granddaughter and Mary Ann Parks' grandson. Please take a minute and bring a smile to someone's face—everyone wants to know someone is praying for them.

Laney Bradshaw, 2055 Harvington Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

Creed Campbell, c/o Mary Ann Parks, 101-E Country Club Dr., Americus, GA 31709. You can call his prayer pager at 229.931.1635 so he will know you're praying for him.

Special Note:

Richard Spruill will turn 85 years old May 12. To help cheer him up and lift his spirits, please send him a birthday card. His daughter has indicated that he could really use some encouragement at this time. Let's shower Richard with cards and let him know we care. You can send the cards to:



Richard Spruill
Baptist Manor
10095 Hillview Drive
Pensacola FL 32514

Continual Reminder:



The Automatic Heart Defibrillator (AED) is located at the Host Trailer. If you or your Airstream neighbor has need of the AED, get to the Host Trailer as soon as you know of the need. There are trained personnel to help you.

Loving Concerns

We have a number who are ill or convalescing or who have had a death in the family. Cards were sent to let them know that their Top of Georgia friends are thinking of them. If you know them, send them a card or note to let them that you are thinking of them.

Death of Family Member: Jack Cooper, death of wife Kathryn; Cathy Morris, death of father Charles O'Neal (member); Harben Kay, death of wife, Irene; Carol Stephens, death of mother; and James Richards, death of brother.

Get Well to: Laney Bradshaw, Creed Campbell (Mary Ann Parks' grandson), Anita Farley, Susan Hancock, Jimmy Jarrett, George and Rachel Jones, Alice and Jesse Lyle, Fred and Joyce Moore, Terrie Purmort, Lisa Roberts, Duell Robinson, Richard Spruill, Raymond Tarpley, Faye Wallace, and Ben Wilbanks.

Remember our Troops serving in the Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. Pray for their families as well. It is they who are protecting us and our freedoms.

Cards can only be sent if Mary Holcomb knows about them. You can contact her at 706.348.6060 (home) or 678.231.3355 (cell).

Our Chaplain, Jack Bradshaw, routinely passes on loving concerns by email to around a hundred members of the Georgia Unit. If you would like to pass on a concern, request a prayer, or would like to be added to his distribution list, email Jack at <Jbradshaw9@sc.rr.com>.

Calling All Members

The 2020 Committee would like to honor the Top of Georgia members who have been belonged for 15 years or more. If you've been at the Top for 15 or more years, please let one of these members know: Matt Hackney, Sharon Fore, Connie Crowe, Cindy Carr, Lisa Roberts, Cissy Thibadeau, Steve Rosenthal, and/or Carol Cone.

Officer Elections 2011

The 2011 rally season has started. Before we know it, election-of-officers-time will be here. If there is someone you would like to be considered for one of our elected positions, please contact Durrell Purmort at one of the rallies or email him at <mpurmort@bellsouth.net>.

"Airstreamers don't get old, they just oxidize." Steve Rosenthal

FYI:

Not Too Late to Caravan!

Matt and Beth Hackney will lead a caravan to the International Rally in DuQuoin, Illinois. This is your chance to attend the largest Airstream gathering of the year. The rally runs from mid-June through July 4. For more information on the Rally, see the *Blue Beret* or go to <www.wbcci.org>. The caravan will leave Georgia on June 23 and arrive at the rally June 27. In between, we plan stops near Lynchburg, Tennessee and Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky. Again, make your own rally reservations, but contact Matt if you want to caravan.

For more information, contact Matt Hackney by email at <eroney@aol.com> or call 706.860.8690.

Memorial Chair Fund

We are buying new chairs for the main pavilion and will be spending about \$3500 to do so. These will be more substantial stackable chairs and will be considerably more comfortable. We need your help! Please make a donation to the Memorial Chair Fund to help defray the costs. You can mail or hand a check or cash to Cindy Carr. Please be sure to identify the individual you would like us to remember. A plaque will be purchased shortly and will contain the names of contributors and include memorials. The park will be selling 110 folding chairs for a reasonable price. If your church, school, or other organization would like to buy some of these chairs, please contact one of your board members.

Doggie Bag Dispensers

Thanks to a donation, we are installing doggie bag dispensers. These will be placed in three locations below the dog line. Hopefully, this will make it easier to clean up after your dog. Please encourage other dog owners to do the same.

Door Prizes, Please!

Reminder: bring lots of fun goodies for the Buddy Rally *door prizes*. They don't need to be expensive, but unique—homemade cakes, pies and candy; hand-made crafts are great as well. Use your imagination and bring something wonderful and fun.

See you at the Buddy Rally

Steve Rosenthal, 1st Vice President

Calling All Grandparents

The July rally is the rally we have our annual *Children's Talent Show*. So, time to start practicing their singing, dancing, storytelling, tumbling or any other wonderful talent our grandchildren want to share with us. This is an event everyone looks forward to at the Top of Georgia. We truly have some talented grandchildren!! Hope they will step-up and share their talents with us. Just sign them up on dotted line!

Help Needed

Pat and Mike King have published our award winning *Peach State Caravanner* for seven years and are in need of some R and R. These are some very big shoes to fill, but we need someone to do this job next year. We all look forward to getting our *Caravanner* to keep up with the important news and loving concerns of our unit. Pat and Mike are more than willing to work very closely with the person (people) that would be willing to take on this job. If you are interested please contact me, Al Holcomb, at 706.348.6060.

Entertainment was everywhere!

The Neeley Family (all twelve of them)



Ralph Jones, Betty Berglund, Fain Edwards, Warren Fore, and Stan Lemons

Ray Shaw and his helpers!



Spring Work Days 2011

Wow, did we get a lot done during work days on April 11 and 12! Our volunteers were moving like bees all over the park. From painting (the water tank, tool shed, curbing, door sills, patio deck and picnic tables, and entrance directional arrows) to other projects including, cleaning (signs, the Pavilion tables and chairs), scrubbing (ovens and all the utensils in the kitchen), planting (flowers and shrubs), replacing inland timbers around flower beds and working in the rain. I heard one lady say, “ We like doing this in the rain; it’s so much fun”!

There were many more projects going on but the above was just part of a small list to let you know your fellow volunteers were getting “R” done and the park looked nothing short of beautiful for our opening Spring Rally! We set up six teams and these totalled an average of thirty-five people each day who made it happen! Thank you so much!

Jack Jones and his kitchen staff served the workers great lunches on both work days, and Willa Davis made some of the best peach, apple, and cherry cobbler we have ever tasted.

Our hearts go out to all who did what was needed to make the Top Of Georgia the very best Airstream Park in the entire country for 2011 and we’ll keep it that way with your help!

Warren, Work Days Chairman

Just a forethought : Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.



Left: Are you sure it’s supposed to be green?

Below: How many plants are going here?



Mike’s Rivets

Spring has sprung and, hopefully, your Airstream hasn’t sprung a leak—either from frozen pipes during the winter or roof leaks.

How are your batteries? Please check the water level of each of them. If you check the level at a rally and the water goes down by the next rally, they are gassing off the liquid and are toast! To check the condition of the batteries without a load tester (an electrical device that simulates a load to the battery), put a load on them by unplugging your electric cord and run lights and any other 12V items—fans, furnace, lights—for a day or two. Test the battery level using the control panel button. If they are dead, they’re not holding a charge; consider having them load tested at your local auto parts store. Batteries are important if you tow; you need them for your refrigerator and the breakaway switch.

How is your A/C drain working? It may be time for the annual clean out. You need to blow air through the drain or vacuum it or do both. If the drain tube plugs up the drain pan, it will overflow and drip onto your floor.

Speaking of dripping, please make sure you leave your wash tank valve open. Did you turn off the water at the pedestal? If you leave the tank valve closed and the water turned on, the water may have a slow drip which can eventually fill up the tank and possibly flood your trailer. This has happened to two different trailers at the park.

I had a different leak problem: my Moen faucet in the kitchen. I cleaned out the cartridge, but that only cleaned it; it continued to leak when used. I called Moen and discovered that all Moen faucets have a lifetime warranty. They sent replacements to repair the faucet at no cost to me. If you’re having problems with the kitchen faucet leaking, call Moen; they will send replacement parts free of charge or send a completely new faucet for \$55 plus shipping. My thanks go to Warren for passing this information on to me.

Are you having your wheel bearings packed for this year? Be sure to have the technician replace each brake spring. It is the only part that normally breaks and can cause big trouble.

May your rivets stay tight ’til we meet again!

Mike

Bring a Buddy for Special Activities at the Top

'Gone Fishing'—Bring your fishing gear and go fishing with Max Laseter in a North Georgia mountain stream. Fishing licenses are required; you can get one at Betty's in Helen if you need it. Free for those over 65; or \$3.50 for a three-day resident license and another \$3.50 for trout. Non-resident licenses are \$20. Streams are stocked on Wednesdays, so we'll fish on Friday.

Curb-side Café Social—Bring the fixin's to prepare your favorite snack to share with other Airstreamers at our late afternoon social.

Pet Show—Gussy-up and teach your pet a trick for the pet show. Come and see "Rocky."

Strawberry Picking—If the local strawberry-picking season waits for us, we'll pick a peck at a nearby pick-your-own farm.

Mountain Drive and Hike to High Shoals Falls—Drive the winding mountain roads through the fresh, spring-green vegetation of the mountains, and see the falls a-falling.

BBQ Time—On Saturday sleep in and work up an appetite for a delicious BBQ lunch and ice cream with your favorite topping.

Photo Contest—Post a copy of your favorite Airstream photo on the contest board. We'll judge the various categories at the Fall Rally.

Memorial Service—A special service in remembrance of our members who died over the last twelve months will be led by Reverend Jack Bradshaw.

And of Course—We'll have our traditional favorites of card tournaments, golf, horse shoes, mountain breakfasts, cookouts, and evening entertainments. If youth join us for the weekend, we'll schedule some special activities for them, too.

Let us know if you'd like to help out with any of the activities or have other ideas,

Rob Kelly,
Program
Coordinator



The park cook-out will be enjoyed by buddies and members alike.

New Garden Club Formed

One of the things we are very proud of at the Top of Georgia is our beautiful flower beds. Growing out of that is our new Garden Club. Before the meeting Carol Cone was told, "Don't be disappointed if very few people show up, all new things start off slow here." We did not start slow, we started with a bang. Thank you all for coming.

Carol Cone, our Beautification Chairman, led our first meeting. Founding members include Connie Crowe, Virginia Bailey, Lynne Clements, Lois Thompson, Mary Ann Parks, Judy Martiny, Pat King, Jan Kelly, Chris Rosenthal, and Carol Cone, chair.

The Garden Club will continue to meet at each rally. There will be speakers covering such topics as edible flowers, poisonous plants, wax camellias, shade/sun landscapes, deer-resistant plants, gardening for birds and butterflies, caring for roses, flower arranging. We hope to have outside speakers, as well as, speakers who are members at the Top.

The garden club members agreed to take on the TOG Gardens as a service project.

A door prize was awarded to one member holding the lucky ticket. Chris Rosenthal was the winner.

Please watch the rally schedule for the date and time of our May Rally meeting

Carol Cone,
Beautification Chairman



The charter members of the Garden Club (l to r): Lynne Clements, Lois Thompson, Mary Ann Parks, Judy Martiny, Pat King, Jan Kelly, Chris Rosenthal, Carol Cone, Connie Crowe, and Virginia Bailey.

Tentative ToG Memorial/Buddy Rally Program

Be sure to check your printed rally schedule—there may be some last-minutes changes to the schedule.

Wednesday, May 18

Sautee/Nacoochee Shopping (Self Led)
Registration, \$20 per person
Refreshments
Activities Sign Up
Beginners Joker

Thursday, May 19

Breakfast, bring your table setting
Golf
Manipulation Tournament
Mountain Drive/Hike to High Shoals Falls
Back Alley Bridge
Hamburgers in Hiawassee
Registration
Welcome, Announcements
Caravanning Video
Pass the Trash

Friday, May 20

Breakfast, bring your table setting
Fishing Outing , bring your gear
Strawbery picking if still in season, or Hike Mountain Blue Trail; see mountain laurel
Ladies Luncheon at Gusben's in Cornelia
Curb Side Café Social, bring/share a snack
Registration
Announcements, Door Prizes, Bingo, Popcorn
Jam Session

Saturday, May 21

Youth Activity Schedule, See Rob Kelly, #4627
Choir Practice
Board of Directors Meeting. See Beth Hackney if wish to speak
Airstream Clinic—Mike's Rivets
Garden Club Meeting
Pet Show, All Categories
BBQ Lunch & Ice Cream
Horse Shoes by Fire Pit
Joker
New Member Orientation
Hosting Orientation
Announcements, Game Winners, Entertainment

Sunday, May 22

Breakfast snack while it lasts
Choir Practice
Memorial Service
Cookout at the Fire Pit. Hot dogs/buns/left-overs provided

Georgia Tourism Event Calendar

These events were taken from the Georgia Tourism Web site (<http://www.exploregeorgia.org>). Changes can occur after the calendar was posted to the web site, so please confirm this information before finalizing your travel plans. The times for these activities are listed on the site as well. All are within a 50 mile radius of the Top of Georgia Airstream Park. Many more places to see, things to do, etc. throughout the state are listed.

Each Month

- Saturdays, March 5 through November 5: Enjoy the "Mountain Music and Medicine Show" live radio show in the Holly Theater, Dahlonega.
- Each full moon take advantage of the Full Moon Suspension Bridge Hike at Tallulah Gorge, Tallulah Falls
- May 6 through October 28: Friday Night Concert Series, Blairsville. in the courthouse at the Old Courthouse.
- June 1 through August 1: First Friday Movie Night, Hartwell. The movie starts at sundown in the parking lot next to the Post Office. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket

May

- 7 Wild & Woolly Forest Festival, Sautee
- 13-15 Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Southern Nationals, Commerce
- 14 White County Cork & Keg Festival, Helen
- 14-15 Wings of Flight at Amicalola Falls, Dawsonville (winged creatures)
- 20-21 Georgia Mountain EggFest, Hiawassee
- 20-21 Mountain Flower Fine Art & Wine Festival, Dahlonega
- 21 49th Annual Mountain Laurel Festival, Clarkesville
- 21 Taste of Sautee, Sautee
- 21-22 Spring Arts & Crafts Festival, Blairsville
- 22 JAKES Day, Smithgall Woods (youth)
- 27-30 Memorial Day Blast at Unicoi, Helen
- 27-29 Memorial Day Weekend, Blairsville
- 28 Spring Festival Crane Creek Vineyards, Young Harris
- 28 22nd Annual Pig Out Barbecue, Sautee

June

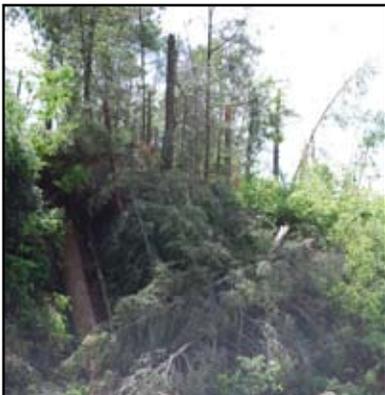
- 3-5 Helen-Atlantic Hot Air Balloon Race, Helen
- 11-12 8th Annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Blairsville
- 18 Annual Folk Potter's Festival, Homer
- 18-19 Civil War Expo, Helen
- 24-25 2011 Mountain Top Rodeo , Dahlonega



The Bean Supper was well-attended!

We Were Lucky!

On May 28 the storms that raced across north Georgia leaving much destruction missed the park by one mile and one valley; however, they didn't miss over 70 power poles, including ones on the mountain tops. The park was without power, telephone and water (no electric to pump it) for almost two days. The Habersham Electric Membership Corp (not Georgia Power as previously reported) must have worked overtime to get electric to us. Windstream followed right behind with telephone. By Saturday morning the park was up and running! This storm was just a reminder to leave our Airstreams ready for any emergency.



These photos were taken after the road was cleared along Route 75 about one mile south of the park.



Game Winners

The game winners for the Spring Rally were:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Back Alley Bridge | Beverly Bryan |
| Joker | Dale Bryan and Bill Narowski |
| Manipulation | Beverly Bryan |



Game Winners: (l to r) Betty Ivy, Chair, Beverly Bryan, Dale Bryan, and Bill Narowski



Steve Rosenthal

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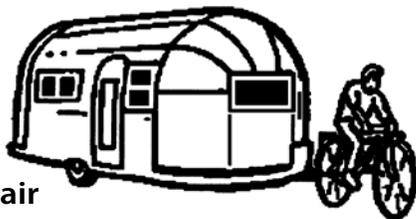
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email: srosenthal@allstate.com

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Boat, 4-wheeler, Jet Ski, Business and Life

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 www.topofgeorgia.net

2011 Rally Schedule

(All rallies start Wednesday evening)

| Date | Event | Location |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| December 11, 2010 | Christmas Luncheon | Lake Pines, Midland |
| April 11-12 | Volunteer Work Days | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |
| April 13-17 | Spring Rally/Welcome Back | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |
| May 18-22 | Memorial/Buddy Rally | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |
| June 28-July 4 | WBCCI International Rally | Du Quoin, Illinois |
| July 13-17 | Summer/Youth Rally | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |
| Aug. 31-Sep. 5 | Anniversary/Homecoming Rally | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |
| October 5-9 | Fall Rally (Officers' Installation) | Top of Georgia Airstream Park |

Officers:

President—Matt Hackney • President Elect—Al Holcomb • 1st VP—Steve Rosenthal
 Secretary—Beth Hackney • Treasurer—Cindy Carr
 Directors: Connie Crowe • Ed Bledsoe • Lisa Roberts
 President Emeritus: Warren Fore

You are invited to enjoy our
 Top of Georgia
 located in the mountains north of Helen and
 Robertstown on State Highway 75.

Parking is restricted to WBCCI members.
 Complete hook-ups, including cable TV.
 No washers/dryers allowed.

Park is open all year.
 No reservations—first come, first served.

This facility is provided for your use and
 pleasure by The Georgia Unit, WBCCI, Inc.
 Matt Hackney, President

