

# The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 50 • Issue 6 • November 2011



## Greetings Airstreamers!

Mary and I are honored to have been elected to be your president and first lady for the next year. The park has just celebrated fifty years of fun, fellowship, and adventure. We hope to continue

this celebration in 2012 at the *Top of Georgia, Our Little Slice of Heaven*.

We look forward to serving and fellowshiping with you next year.

We have a very busy schedule for the coming year. Check the rally list on page 8 for all the dates of the rallies. We start the year with our work days April 9-10. The Spring Rally follows, April 11-15. Next, we head to the Region 3 Rally at Myrtle Beach, April 23-28. Later in the year, we will caravan to Sedalia, Missouri for the International Rally, June 27-July 4.

Rob Kelly, our activity director, always keeps us busy during our rallies. He is hard at work planning new activities and games. If you have any new ideas for activities or games that might be fun, contact Rob or me. We want your input.

Our Installation Rally was a great success! Charles Whittington, our parker, was kept extremely busy

parking 112 units. Charles did an excellent job; some of the units had to be rally parked. Jack Jones and his crew outdid themselves serving 180 people at our banquet. Last but not least, (our own) Region 3 Second Vice President Dick Martiny and his wife, Judy, did a superb job of installing our new officers. Thanks to everyone!

Mary and I have some big shoes to fill. Beth and Matt did an outstanding job guiding our unit to such a successful year. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped get the job done and kept the *Top of Georgia, Our Little Slice of Heaven*, the best unit in WBCCI.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event, the Christmas party at Rockeagle in Eatonton, Georgia, December 3. You can order tickets from me. Make checks out to Georgia Unit/WBCCI; cost is \$20.00 per person. Send your check to Al Holcomb, 102 Trent Trail, Cleveland, GA 30528. You can also buy your tickets at the door. I do, however, need to get a head count. If you plan on buying your ticket at the door, please call me at 706.348.6060 or 678.231.3355 to let me know you are coming. Also, remember there is a camp out at Country Boy's RV Park in Madison, Georgia if you want to join us.

Enjoy the winter season. The Top is open for anyone who loves cold weather and, possibly, snow. The park will close all sites that are not winterized November 15, 2011.

See you down the road,

Al



Top: Al and Mary with their family listen to Dick Martiny during the installation.

Bottom: Matt hands over the keys to the park to Al.



"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. One is a long-time member and two are grandchildren: Richard Spruill, 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  
1207 Cormac Street  
Franklin TN 37064

Richard Spruill  
Baptist Manor  
10095 Hillview Drive  
Pensacola FL 32514



*What you do speaks so loud I cannot hear  
what you say.* Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Anger is the feeling that makes your mouth  
work faster than your mind.* Evan Esar

## 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:** Mildred & Warren Fortner, death of her sister; Sharon & Warren Fore, death of her aunt; Clayton Grant, death of sister; Anne Bradshaw, and Evelyn St. John.

**Get Well to:** Ed Bledsoe, Anne Bradshaw, Laney Bradshaw, Creed Campbell (Mary Ann Parks' grandson), Kaiden Crowther, Anita Farley, Joy Fathauer, Fred Gavin, Bob Glancy, Gary Leboeuf, Alice and Jesse Lyle, Fred and Joyce Moore, Richard Spruill, John Turner, 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>.

## Steve-isms

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

"Airstreamers don't get old, they just lose their clear coat."

Remember, Airstreamers Never Die...They just "POP Their Rivets!!!"

## 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.



At the last rally, it seemed as if an Airstream had become musical. David Adams was discovered behind his Airstream providing the music.



Right:  
Getting  
ready for  
the rush  
for ice  
cream.

Below: Mike's Rivets draws a crowd interested in winterizing.



## FYI:

### Christmas Camp out

December is a great time to camp and decorate your Airstream. Beth and I will be hosting a our third Christmas Camp out, December 2-4, in Madison, Georgia. You are welcome to arrive early and stay late! Last December, eighteen of us stayed at Lake Pines for the Christmas Party and we hope to top that number this year. Current plans are for arrival on Thursday, December 1 (late) and head home on December 4 (Sunday). We will visit various sites in the area on Friday, have dinner out on Friday, enjoy the Christmas Luncheon and curbside café on Saturday and potluck breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. As with last year, we will have a decorating contest for those who wish to win a Major Award! The campground offers full hookups, a great location, and a group room with for our meals and games. In



This special Airstream was seen at the December, 2010 Christmas Luncheon.

addition, they are offering a discount for our group, so make sure you tell them you are with the Georgia Unit, WBCCI. If you would like to go, please contact the park soon to make your reservations and let me know you

are participating. Their contact information is:

Country Boy's RV  
888.742.1799 or  
www.countryboysrv.com

Matt and Beth Hackney, 706.830.8039, eroney@aol.com

### Caravan to Sarasota

The Florida State Rally will once again be held in sunny Sarasota. The rally will take place February 14-19, 2012. A caravan for early workers will leave on Friday, February 10 and spend the night in South Georgia. We will spend Saturday night dry camping in the bullpen at Sarasota and enter the fairground on Sunday afternoon. If you would like to travel together and work at the rally, contact Matt and Beth Hackney (email: eroney@aol.com; phone: 706.830.8039).

November 2011

### Christmas Luncheon

The Christmas Luncheon will be December 3, 2011, 12:00 noon at Rockeagle in Eatonton, Georgia.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person. The sales of tickets are going well, so make your plans to come and we will party, party, party.

Plan to bring your Airstream and camp with us at the Country Boy Campground. See the article on this page for details.

If you can't bring your trailer, drive down for the day, we will see you there.

Al Holcomb

### 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

- Each full moon take advantage of the Full Moon Suspension Bridge Hike at Tallulah Gorge, Tallulah Falls

#### November

- 7 Banks County CVB Chocolate Fair, Commerce
- 11-12 Cumming Steam, Antique Tractor & Gas Engine Expo
- 18-30 Magical Nights of Lights, Buford (through December 31)
- 19 Appalachian Christmas at BabyLand General Hospital, Cleveland
- 25 Lighting of the Village, Helen
- 25-26 Fall Arts & Crafts Festival, Young Harris
- 25-30 Festival of Trees, Unicoi Lodge, Helen Christkindlmarkt, Helen

#### December

- 1-10 Festival of Trees, Unicoi Lodge, Helen
- 1-5 Christkindlmarkt, Helen
- 2-3 Banks County Christmas Festival, Homer
- 3 Christmas Parade, Helen
- 3 Deck the Halls of Unicoi, Helen
- 4 Christmas Celebration, Homer
- 9 Christmas Parade of Lights!, Hartwell
- 10 Christmas Tree Lighting, Vogel State Park, Blairsville Nacoochee Village Christmas, Helen

#### January

- 1 Polar Bear Swim, Gainesville: Start Your New Year out by doing something few people will ever do...jump into Lake Lanier On January 1st!

# What A Year!

## ToG Rally Attendance Trend is Up!

WBCCI membership and national rally attendance are on a downward trend, but Top of Georgia rallies are up. How come? Feedback I get attributes much of the positive change to the creative activities added to our rallies aimed at all ages and interests. Over the last five years we have programmed a variety of new activities to attract new members and to increase rally attendance of the young to the young-at-heart while continuing our time-honored, traditional favorites.

Thanks to our many volunteers and their creative ideas, *new* activities scheduled over the last several years have ranged from bird watching, to kayaking, to ladies day outings, to water fall hikes, to garden clubbing, to llama petting, to a Misty Mountain train tour, to horseshoes, to Mike's Rivets, to Curbside Cafés, to hiking the Appalachian Trail, to pass-the-trash cards, to computer clinics, to hot dog roastings, to Clydesdale grooming, to jam sessions, to Saturday luncheons, to Park caravans, to Christmas rallies, to a Frogtown Winery tour, and to many more activities unique to the North Georgia mountains.

Youth activities and their increasing attendance were not lacking either. We had them tubing the Hootch, gold panning, on treasure hikes up the mountain, racing rubber ducks down Andrews Creek, spitting watermelon seeds, in youth talent shows, fishing at the hatchery, in water balloon fights, exhibiting their pets, swinging on our new play set, playing ping pong, metal detecting, roasting marshmallows, and on and on.

Okay, so I said the trend in rally attendance *is up*. Are we sure it isn't just a temporary blip? Don't think so. When I became President in 2008, the historic attendance records were passed on to me by our past historian, Audrey Albright. It indicated that in 1991 the total *annual* rally attendance of registered Airstream units was 822. Attendance declined from there at an average annual rate of 6 percent per year until 2008 with a record low attendance of 345 units for the year.

Seeing this decline, we were motivated to initiate some new rally activities and form the 2020 Committee to seek ways to enhance membership participation. Rally attendance then generally increased for the next three years to a total of 438 for the 2011 rallies, at an average annual *increase* of eight percent per year! I'd say that an increasing attendance over a three-year period is not a blip, but could be the start of an upward trend. Is it a mini or a long-term trend? We'll keep tracking the numbers and see.



Matt holds the chart showing our attendance record. Please notice the chart is starting an upward trend.

So what's next? How do we keep this positive trend going? Our members made many attractive improvements to the Park such as the fire pit picnic area, additional concrete pads, additional winter-proofed sites, a media room, the Pratt creek-side shelter, play set, flowered landscaping, and most recently padded chairs for the pavilion that certainly have "wowed" our increasing membership, and, the Board is researching more ideas. *And*, the feedback also says that the new activities have made a significant contribution, so we will continue to research new and creative ideas for 2012.

Got a few new activity ideas that we're working on now such as rafting the Chattahoochee, shuffle board, pony rides, Jitter Bug inflatable, outing to the glass blower, outing to Hamilton Gardens, motorcycle rides, hike up Mount Yonah, upholstery and flooring vendor demonstrations, petting zoo, Airstream refinishing seminar, CPR clinics, ping pong tournaments, and new restaurants. And we are looking for other suggestions. Send 'em in. Al says the door is "wide open."

Rob, Programs

Our Sunday hot dog roasts keep them coming back each rally!



# Thank You Friends!

It has been a fantastic year for us, and I hope it has for you as well. The October Rally was a fitting end to a year filled with *Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure*. In this Caravanner, you will find an article from Rob Kelly on rally success this year. He certainly added to the *fun* at our rallies and continues to find new and different activities with each rally. I believe his hard work has helped make the last several years a great success. Beth and I want to thank Rob for his ideas and tireless work.

We would also like to thank all of you for the fellowship we shared this year. No individual helped more with the *fellowship* of our unit than our chaplain, Jack Bradshaw. I can't tell you how pleased Beth and I were to have Jack back this year to perform our Sunday services and to provide for the prayer needs of our Georgia Unit family. Jack has served us for many years and he deserves more thanks than I can provide.

I know *adventure* is where you find it, but many of you found it with us this year. We had new hikes, kayak trips, a motorcycle ride, and a trip to a local winery this year. In addition, we had Georgia Unit Airstreams in Columbus in December, in Sarasota in February, in Jackson Center in May, in DuQuoin in June, and in Sugar Creek in September.



Top: Beth and Matt open their thank-you gift (folding bicycles). Middle: Matt gave Beth a special thank you for all her help and support for the year. Bottom: Beth and Matt especially appreciated the support their daughter, Marie, gave them during their terms of office.

In addition, many of you found Caravans in between.

At the Top, we found new ways to celebrate and eat! We shared our 50th Birthday, were treated to a low country boil by Jack Cooper, and had a Top of Georgia barbeque treat. Jack Jones provided a wonderful selection of food and helped us keep our rally fees low!

Finally, Al Holcomb provided great entertainment at our rallies. More entertainment than we have had in recent years. In between rallies, he and Mary worked with a staff of volunteers to provide us with an improved park full of wonderful friends.

So it is no surprise that our rally attendance for the year was the highest we have seen since 2004 and continued a recent trend that is reversing the longer term decline in our unit and the WBCCI.

In my remarks at the Installation, I thanked only a few of those who have made our year so much fun! We would like to take this opportunity to thank *all of you* for giving us the opportunity to serve you!

We will continue to find ways to serve you in the coming year and hope you will join us in our campouts and caravans in the coming year. Until then, we hope to *see you down the road!*

Matt and Beth



## Region 3 Rally, April 22-29, 2012

The Region Rally will be held at Ocean Lakes Campground in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, April 24-29. Early parking is available for April 22-23. It has been the National RV Park of the Year four (4) times in recent years. Site fees will be approximately \$45/day for 5-point hookups and a large concrete pad at every site. The prices for next year will be set soon. Our reserved locations are short walks to both the ocean and our meeting hall. Martha Kerns will assign your site number when you register for the rally. Rally fees are \$85 per person, \$50 for Friday and Saturday only, and \$35 for persons choosing to attend Saturday only. This is a family resort park. Registration forms will be available at the Installation Rally and in the next newsletter.

Brochures and area literature are available in the pavilion at the Top. The sites will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. If you desire to park with another friend, please send your rally registration requests in the same envelope.

There are great events planned—everything from seminars, a flea market, a craft show, open house for all Airstreams regardless of age, a cook-out, entertainment, and all of Myrtle Beach to enjoy!

## Our New Board of Directors



Front row (l to r): Matt Hackney, President Emeritus; Lisa Roberts, Director; Steve Rosenthal, President Elect; Al Holcomb, President; Willa Davis, Director of Membership; Jack Cooper, Director.

Back row (l to r): Jo Roskosh, Secretary; Roy Beavers, 1st Vice President; Craig Stevens, Director; and Cindy Carr, Treasurer.



Scenes from the Installation Banquet from the diners to volunteers to Debbie Waters keeping her cold germs away from Steve Rosenthal.



**Steve Rosenthal**  
 Exclusive Agent  
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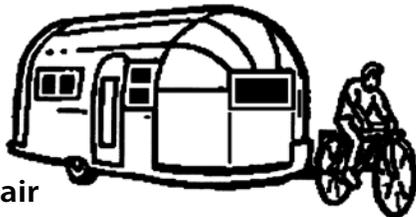
## Is your vinyl ceiling falling down upon your head?

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**James Richards**  
 Ellijay, Georgia  
 770.845.0769

## Game Winners

The game winners for the Installation Rally were:

Back Alley Bridge	Walter Berg
Joker	Dean Henderson and Dale Bryan
Manipulation	Mary Ann Parks
Ladies' Holeboard	Linda Richards
Men's Holeboard	Dan Woodall
Golf	Warren Fore



Game Winners:  
 Above: (l to r) Betty Ivy, chair, Walter Berg, Dale Bryan, Dean Henderson, Mary Ann Parks, and Warren Fore.



Right: Linda Richards and Dan Woodell.

## Special Hikers

Rob Kelly presented certificates to the Andrews Creek Hikers and the Smithgall Woods Hikers.



Andrews Creek Hikers: (l to r) Rob Kelly, Lynne Clements Sandy McGahn, Eura Ridenour, Pat Griffith, and Nell Fields. Craig Stevens not pictured.



Smithgall Woods Hikers: (l to r) Sandy Enfinger, Neal Enfinger, Gloria Carter, Tom Carter; Don and Debra Brookshire not pictured.



The Peach State Caravanner  
 Pat & Mike King (paking@windstream.net)  
 126 Trent Trail  
 Cleveland GA 30528

The Peach State Caravanner is the official publication of the Georgia Unit, WBCCI, Helen, Georgia 30545. It is published six times each year. **Send address change to:**

Willa Davis, 14255 Hwy 75 N, Helen, GA 30545 or call her at 706.878.3590.



Georgia Unit, WBCCI  
 Top of Georgia Airstream Park  
 14255 Hwy 75 N, Helen, GA 30545  
 Telephone 706.878.3590  
 www.topofgeorgia.net

**2012 Rally Schedule**

(All rallies start Wednesday evening)

Date	Event	Location
December 3, 2011	Christmas Luncheon	Rockeagle, Eatonton, Georgia
April 9-10	Volunteer Work Days	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
April 11-15	Spring Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aoruk 23-28	Region 3 Rally	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
May 23-28	Memorial/Buddy Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
June 27-July 4	WBCCI International Rally	Sedalia, Missouri
July 18-22	Summer/Youth Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
Aug. 29-Sep. 3	Labor Day/Homecoming Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park
October 17-21	Installation Rally	Top of Georgia Airstream Park

**Officers:**

President—Al Holcomb • President Elect—Steve Rosenthal • 1st VP—Roy Beavers  
 Secretary—Jo Roskosh • Treasurer—Cindy Carr  
 Directors: Lisa Roberts • Jack Cooper • Willa Davis • Craig Stevens  
 President Emeritus: Matt Hackney

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.  
 Al Holcomb, President

