

The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 50 • Issue 1 • March 2011



Greetings, Fellow Airstreamers!

Beth and I hope you have had a blessed winter. We have been very busy with family, the holidays, and WBCCI Activities! We had a great time at the Christmas Party (and

Camp Out) and just returned from our very first Florida State Rally in Sarasota, Florida. In case you couldn't be with us, this issue of The Peach State Caravanner contains pictures and a rundown on all you missed. I'm sure you will enjoy the information and the photos. Who knows, maybe they will convince you to join us next winter!

At our Christmas Camp Out we had seventeen (17) Airstreams! That means seventeen Airstreams travelling Georgia highways and thirty-six Airstreamers (George and Nell Fields found a way to join us without their trailer) seeing the sites in and around Columbus! We had a great time at beautiful Lake Pines Campground, where the facilities were fantastic and the staff most helpful. At the Christmas Luncheon we enjoyed food and fellowship with sixty-five of our members.

At the Florida State Rally, Beth and I went in as early workers and spent nine days at the rally. We had the chance to make many new friends through our committee assignments and to visit with members of the Georgia Unit. We also had an interesting session with the International President, Norm Beu. He briefed us on a re-write of the



WBCCI Constitution. This proposed amendment will be discussed at our April Business Meeting. In preparation, he asked that we present the proposed changes to our membership. By April 1, we will receive information from Jackson Center. I have scheduled three informative sessions during our April Rally and will present the information. These sessions will allow us to discuss the issues before our Business Meeting on Saturday morning. I hope each of you will attend one of these sessions.

You may know that Region 3 is not holding a Region Rally this year, so we held the annual Region Board Meeting in Sarasota, as well. At that meeting, our own Dick Martiny was elected Region 2nd Vice President. He and Judy join Jay Thompson (and his wife Elna), who was elected Region 1st Vice President in supporting Rick and Carol Bell. Please extend your congratulations and thanks to our new officers when you see them next.

Improvements have continued at the park, in spite of the cold winter. Charles Maddox, Cecil Rogers, Al Holcomb and others have been very busy. Changes include brush clearing, electrical maintenance, additional frost-free sites, and general clean up and repair. It has been a very busy winter, indeed.

We also look forward in this issue. Spring is just around the corner and that means time to open the park. We will have our lottery for prime site selection on April 2. Spring workdays and the April Rally will follow close behind. I know you will enjoy this beautiful season at our home away from home and hope you will join us at the Top!

Matt

"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, 8229 Goldstream Court, Vienna, VA 22182

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.

Richard Spruill, Room 89, 10095 Hill View Drive, Pensacola, FL 35414; 850.969.7937 (Call in the afternoon and evening.)

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: **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. :
:.....

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.

Deaths: Bennie Avera, Hoyt Beck, Jeane Boyer, Polly Gavin, Sharon Howell, Frank Moser, Charles O'Neal, and Letha Phelps

Death of Family Member: Anne Bradshaw, death of sister-in-law; Jack Bradshaw, death of brother-in-law; Cindy Carr, death of grandmother; Ralph Jones, death of brother; and Sara Waters, death of sister.

Get Well to: Laney Bradshaw, Creed Campbell (Mary Ann Parks' grandson), Jeanene and Ralph Jones, Duell Robinson, Clara Smith, Richard Spruill, Ken Topham, Faye Wallace, and Mel Winkler.

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>.



Dear Friends,

My family and I thank you so much for all the many prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during our six weeks in the hospital with Kathryn.

The huge crowd on visitations on Friday and the overflowing crowd on Saturday was a great testimony to her. That old saying "you have to be a friend to have a friend" was quite evident on those days. A special thanks to those who came long distances on Friday and Saturday to be with us.

I have 58 years of wonderful memories to help me through the days ahead.

Kat loved the Top of Georgia; those 15 years were the best.

She will not be with us in body any more, but the memories will never fade,

Love you all,
Jack and Family

Continual Reminder:



The Automatic Heart Defibulator (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.

FYI:

Park “Opens” April 2

On Saturday, April 2, we will hold a lottery for those hoping to grab just the right site for the year. Of course the park is open year round. But on April 2, 10:00 AM, those who participate in the lottery will be permitted to choose from most of the sites in the park. If you want to come in earlier in the week, please be prepared to move on that day. Please see the Park Rules (in your new Georgia Unit Directory) for complete details.

Not Too Late to Caravan!

Matt and Beth Hackney will lead caravans to two events this summer. These caravans are official Unit Caravans, but have no Kitty Fee and caravan costs.

Alumapalooza is NOT a rally, but is a gathering in Jackson Center, Ohio. The event is sponsored jointly by *Airstream Life Magazine* and the Airstream Company. You can go to the website at <www.alumapalooza.com> for more information. There are approximately 205 sites available (of 200). Make your own reservations, if you are interested. This Caravan will leave the Top of Georgia on Memorial Day, May 30 and arrive in Jackson Center on May 31.

The International Rally in DuQuoin, Illinois offers the 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.wbccci.org>. The Caravan will leave Georgia on June 23 and arrive at the Rally on June 27. 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.

Come on Up!:

WOW! it is spring already and the weather is getting warmer, the trees are budding the flowers are blooming and the Top Of Georgia is beautiful, so that means it is Rally time again. We need you to come on up and get ready for a lot of good food and a lot of laughs.

Matt gave me a good budget for entertainment this year so I have been hard at work. I have a lot of fun filled things in the works, so come on up

Al Holcomb, holcomb1@windstream.net

General Business Meeting

There will be a General Business Meeting held at the Top on Saturday, April 16, 2011, 10:00 AM. There will be an amendment to the WBCCI Constitution which will be available after April 1 to be voted upon—the information will be posted on the bulletin board as soon as it is available. Also, Matt will hold three informational meetings for anyone interested. See his article concerning this.

Remember: a quorum of membership is required.

Door Prizes, Please!

Reminder: bring lots of fun goodies for the Spring Rally *door prizes*. I would like to see some different types of gifts. They don't need to be expensive, but unique. Homemade cakes and pies and candy...hand-made crafts are great as well. Use your imagination and bring something wonderful and fun. I will collect them from you when you get to the rally. I promise you we are going to have a *great time* during the door prize giveaways!

See you at Work Days and the Spring Rally!!!!

Steve Rosenthal, 1st Vice President

Officer Elections 2011

The 2011 rally season is just getting 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>.

A Few Prodding Notes:

- Are your storage fees up-to-date? Did you store your Airstream over the winter and somehow, paying the fee slipped through the cracks? If so, please send your payment to the Top of Georgia as soon as possible.
- Can the host clearly see your WBCCI number on the front of the Airstream? They are required to keep an accurate record of parked units. If there was an emergency (say, a tree limb fell on it), would they know whose Airstream it is and who to contact?

Florida State Update

The Florida State Rally is the second largest event in the WBCCI. This past month, about 350 Airstreams rolled into Sarasota to enjoy a week of *Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure*. There were vendors, seminars, games, dance lessons, and competitions. You don't have to be from a Florida unit to help or win at this rally. Georgia Unit Members served as Chairman for seven committees and Walter Berg (Wooden Bowls) and Jean Gilbert (photography) won blue ribbons for their handy work!

The Georgia Unit Luncheon gave sixty members and guests a chance to share food and fellowship! International President Norm Beu (and Linda), International First Vice President Heckenswiler (and Lesley), and Region President Rick Bell (and Carol) were on hand for the event.



Mike's Rivets

Spring is almost here which means it's almost time to bring those trailers out of mothballs and get ready to rally. Here are some suggestions for the spring cleaning:

- Flush out the RV antifreeze or just flush the empty lines; give the hot water heater a good flushing as well. It is best to remove the drain plug for a good flush.
- Clean off the male plug before hooking it to the park's electric box. Remember to read the little yellow sticker on the box!
- Warren Fore had this tip after he had trouble with his refrigerator flame blowing out: put a thin furnace filter behind the refrigerator access door to block the wind from blowing it out. Atta boy, Warren!
- Check your batteries.
- Time to check that awning—remember *no* WD40; use silicone spray liberally down the double arms. It might be time to have a Show and Tell on this one at the Spring Rally.

If you have a Hott Rod installed in your hot water heater, you don't have to use your LP for heating the water which could result in savings. Some of our members with newer trailers have a built-in gas/electric unit, but most of us have gas only with a piezo electric pilot light or a standard standing pilot light. A Hott Rod costs about \$100 (for a six gallon tank) at camping supply stores. It's easy to install and it will allow you to use electric not LP to heat the water.

If you have to replace your water heater, you might want to spend the extra for a propane/electric/DSI (direct spark ignition) with winterizing bypass.

Do you suspect a valve stem leak in one of your trailer tires at the Schrader valve? Try securing a balloon over it; it should slowly inflate and let you know there is a leak.

Be sure to check out our advertisers both in the newsletter and in the directory. There a few new ones and some returning ones. One of them should be able to help you with all sorts of problems from heating and air to awnings to ceilings to health issues to hunger and beyond.

Spring Rally 2011

It's spring! Come ready to enjoy Airstreamer activities in the refreshing (that means cool to you Floridian snowbirds) mountain air of North Georgia. Beside our traditional rally activities of cards, holey board, great breakfasts, bingo, horseshoes, door prizes, evening entertainment, and Sunday cookout (hot dogs on us), we are working on some rally specials, too.

We're striving for a variety of activities that interest both our seasoned members and the up-comers. The Spring Rally specials include:

- Show and Sell Flea Market—bring your crafts and extra stuff;
- Hiking around Unicoi Park Lake—bring your hiking boots;
- Adventurers Outing—mountain road spring drive, stop at the falls, and lunch;
- Ladies Day surprise activity—to be announced;
- “Bear on the Square” Mountain Festival—Dahlongega for those who enjoy a festival;
- Karaoke—tune up for your favorite song; and
- Pet Social Hour—pretty up you pooch and bring ‘em a treat.

Going to try a couple of new ideas, too.

- **Photo contest.** Bring your favorite Airstream photos to any rally and post them for judging at the last rally. We'll have categories such as: Airstreaming, nature, pets, kids, funny, and other/unusual.
- **Computer Session.** We'll start with “computers for beginners.” Bring your laptop. If popular, we'll move on to shopping on line, emailing, internet browsing, computer security, and even computer scrapping at future rallies.
- **Bean Supper.** Saturday evening meal, a favorite at Sugar Creek and Land Yacht Harbor. If you prefer otherwise, we'll have the grill fired up and you can cook your own and share stories around the fire pit.

If we have some kids for the weekend, we'll work in some activities for them, too, such as gold panning, treasure hikes, and horse shoes...and ice cream.

At future rallies we'll continue to strive for a variety of relaxing and vigorous activities such as hobby demonstrations, a wine tasting tour, hiking to the top of Yonah Mountain, kayaking, white water raft-

ing, and the Great Annual Summer Duck Race down Andrews Creek.

And lastly, we are always looking for new ideas for fun and activities. This includes hobbyist who will share their crafting skills with others. And, looking for volunteers, too, who can lead or help with any of the various activities. Let me know, I'm in the Top Directory.

Rob Kelly, Rally Programs



Seen last year!



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

March

- 4 2011 White Water Rafting Season Opens, Clayton
- 18-20 Top of Georgia Bluegrass Jamboree, Dillard
- 18-19 Shamrock Dulcimer Blast, Blairsville
- 19 Astronomy Night at Unicoi, Helen
- 31 Fort Yargo Colonial Market Faire, Winder

April

- 1-3 Fort Yargo Colonial Market Faire, Winder
- 15-17 Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, Dahlonega
- 16 Magical Easter Eggstravaganza, Cleveland
- Antique Boat Festival, Hartwell
- 16-17 Spring Wildflower Fest, Amicalola Falls, Dawsonville
- 23 Wildflowers of Tallulah, Tallulah Falls
- 30 CCC Reunion at Vogel, Vogel State Park

May

- 7 Third Annual Wurstfest, Helen
- 13-15 Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Southern Nationals, Commerce
- 14-15 Wings of Flight at Amicalola Falls, Dawsonville (winged creatures)
- 20-21 Mountain Flower Fine Art & Wine Festival, Dahlonega
- 21 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

Officers for 2010-2011

Officers for the coming year are:

- President:** Matt Hackney, 3519 Stevens Way, Martinez, GA 30907, 706.860.8690, <eroney@aol.com>, WBCCI#3518
- President Elect:** Al Holcomb, 102 Trent Trail, Cleveland, GA 30528, 706.348.6060 <holcomb1@windstream.net>, WBCCI#7734
- 1st Vice President:** Steve Rosenthal, 6341 Bentley Road, Cumming, GA 30040, 770.842.4652, <airstreamer@gmail.com>, WBCCI#2342
- Secretary:** Beth Hackney, 3519 Stevens Way, Martinez, GA 30907, 706.860.8690, <eroney@aol.com>, WBCCI#3518
- Treasurer:** Cindy Carr, 2790 Chamonix Drive, Cumming, GA 30041, 770.781.3776, <cindydcarr@bellsouth.net>, WBCCI#5975
- Directors:** Connie Crowe, 3935 Biltmore Drive, Columbus, GA 31909, 706.561.8601 <conniecrowe@msn.com>
Ed Bledsoe, 186 Ball Street, Moreland, GA 30259-2440, 770.251.1759, <mred1006@gmail.com>
Lisa Roberts, 29 Cedarwood Lane, Greer, SC 29651, 864.906.8053, WBCCI#2648
One director to be determined by the Board of Directors
- President Emeritus:** Warren Fore, PO Box 1430, Seymour, TN 37865, 865.712.5672, <warrenfore@charter.net>, WBCCI#11897

Christmas Campout and Luncheon

As noted elsewhere, sixty-five attended the luncheon. Connie and Kenny McKutchen were fantastic hosts/campground owners. We had great food, great entertainment, and a great time visiting with each other.

Even though not everyone camped, those who did presented their own light show. The Tacky Light Tour Awards went to:

Major Award: Mike and Donarene Steele (leg lamp from Christmas Story)

Tropical Nights: Don and Cindy Carr [palm tree]

Blue Light Special: Steve and Chris Rosenthal [needs no other description]

Disqualified for decorating two trailers: Matt and Beth Hackney (enlisted Santa's Help with the inflatable Airstream)



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

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Connie Crowe, 3935 Biltmore Dr., Columbus, GA 31909 or email to <conniecrowe@msn.com>.



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 Telephone 706.878.3590
 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

