



THE PEACH STATE CARAVANNER



TOP OF GEORGIA AIRSTREAM PARK

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Top of Georgia Family,
As the air begins to change and the new season approaches, there's a familiar buzz of excitement around the Top of Georgia. Whether you've been with us for years or are just joining the family, we are thrilled to have you with us for what promises to a fantastic year.

The TOG community thrives because of the shared passion we all bring to the table. It's the rallies, catch-ups after the months apart, and the way we support one another that truly define who we are. An organization like ours is powered by the heart and hustle of its members. To make this club & the park a success, we're looking for volunteers to help in a few key areas:

- **Hosting:** Volunteer your time to serve as a camp host.
- **Committees:** Sharing your skills and helping to run the club & park.
- **Board Positions:** Consider throwing your name in the hat to join the board and help shape the future of TOG as a club & at the park.

Why volunteer? Beyond keeping our operations running, it's the best way to make connections, learn new skills, and take real ownership of the community we all love. Volunteers are the life blood of TOG and without the help of our membership, the club & park operations will stagnate.

Finally, I would like to thank the members who stay through the winter months volunteering their time. This was a busy winter with construction and infrastructure projects which will enhance the experience for all visitors and without people like Karen & David Cardoza or Chris & Lori Modly stepping up to assist the club & park, we would not nearly as successful.

Now it's time to camp, enjoy the beautiful North Georgia mountains and the fabulous park & community we are all proud to be members of.

See you at the Top,
Adam Higgins



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www.topofgeorgia.net





Our Top of Georgia Park has been a busy place during this winter season not only with more active trailers during the cold months, but with a complete renovation of all utilities at all C and D sites below the bridge. All these sites (except 2) will have 50/30/20 amp electrical service, freeze proof water valves, new sewer hookups, and fiber optic feed lines for our fast WiFi. This opens all these sites to year-round camping while meeting the needs of the newer Airstreams many of which are 50 A electrical systems.

Last week, the Region 3 rally was held at the Sun n' Fun campus at the Lakeland (FL) airport. There were 31 Top of Georgia members there providing us with excellent representation. The program was very full and included technical seminars, meals, entertainment, display of a large selection of new Airstreams, and interesting vendors. I was fortunate to represent our club at the Region 3 board meeting where 15 of the 17 units in our region were represented and each presented a summary report. This meeting and most of the activities were held in an aircraft hangar on the ramp of this busy general aviation airfield.



Finally, our Spring Cleanup Rally will be held at the TOP April 8-12. The first two days will be devoted to cleaning up, fixing, painting, pressure cleaning, gardening, and organizing around the park in preparation for the summer camping season. Each day will start with coffee and lunch will be provided for participants. Typical rally activities will follow with meals and entertainment. The planning and organization for this rally is being lead by Jocelyn Peace. Please come and join the crew to spiff up our park and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow members.

Please note that we will be cleaning up the tractor shed and request that personally owned items be removed.

Don



Community, Connection & the great outdoors

by: Bruce Peace

The Heart of the Aluminum Cloud: Why We Belong

Wally Byam once promised to provide a way of travel that offers good fellowship as your constant companion. Here at the Top of Georgia Airstream Club, we live that promise every day. There is a unique magic in the sight of a Airstream, but the true shine of our club comes from the people inside the trailers. Being a member is about more than just shared maintenance tips; it's about the instant kinship found when you pull into a site and realize you're among friends.

We thrive on the stories swapped over morning coffee and the laughter shared around an evening campfire. That sense of community doesn't stop at our park borders, either. One of the greatest perks of membership is the opportunity to attend regional rallies and multi-club events. Meeting members from other units allows us to encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships reminding us that no matter where the road leads, an Airstreamer is never truly a stranger.

A Fond Farewell and a New Opportunity

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Lori Modly for her dedicated service as our Caravaner Editor. Lori has recently resigned to enjoy more time exploring the open road and following her own adventuresome spirit; We wish her nothing but smooth miles and beautiful sunsets!

With Lori's departure, I'm pleased to announce that Cindy Harrell has volunteered to take on the responsibility as editor for the Caravaner. Thanks Cindy for all you do and for stepping up for the members of our club.

Meet Your Park Management Committee

Our park is a labor of love, and the Park Management Committee (PMC) is dedicated to ensuring it remains a premier destination for all members. We are pleased to introduce the current team working behind the scenes:

- Mike Dinizio
- Karen Cardoza
- Tommy Burden-Cooper
- Chris McConnel
- Bruce Peace, Chairman

The committee meets monthly to discuss operations, maintenance, and future growth. Currently, a primary focus of our meetings is enhancing the Host process to ensure our volunteers feel supported and our guests feel welcomed from the moment they arrive.

We want to hear from you! If you have suggestions or ideas to make our park experience more enjoyable, please don't hesitate to reach out to any committee member. Your feedback is the roadmap we use to refine and perfect our park experience.

We Need You: Host Volunteers Wanted!

The spirit of neighbor helping neighbor is what keeps our park running smoothly. We are currently looking for host volunteers for several openings over the next few months.

Hosting is a fantastic way to give back to the club and foster that "travel fun and personal expression" Wally spoke of.

How to Sign Up: Please visit our website at <https://topofgeorgia.net> to view available dates and register.

Come Home to the Mountains

As the seasons change, there is no better place to be than nestled in Georgia's Northeast Mountains. We invite all members—new and old—to hitch up and head our way to rediscover old places and new interests. Come for the crisp mountain air, the stunning scenery, and the unparalleled warmth of our club community.

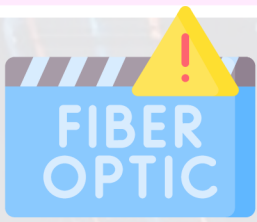
The mountains are calling, and your spot is waiting. See you at the park!

Bruce Peace

1st Vice President

706-676-4656

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Internet Update



The TOG Board and Internet Team are committed to maintaining and improving the WIFI / Internet service for members and guest staying in the Park. As part of this commitment, the TOG IT Team recently completed several major upgrades to the Park's Internet / WIFI network system.

A major part of this effort involved replacing copper cabling running on power poles with under-ground fiber cables in the lower section of the park. Upgrading to under-ground fiber cabling greatly improves our WIFI service, system reliability and maintainability. In addition, it allowed the Park to remove nine power poles from the mountain side of the park leaving a more natural view of the mountain.

However, two new poles were installed on the lower creek side of the park. One pole supports a new utility power line coming into the park. The other pole was installed near C9 to support an additional WIFI Access Point. This Access Point will improve reception to trailers parked on the creek side of the lower section.

Other upgrades that will improve Internet / WIFI service and reliability include:

1. The installation of an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) at the Host Shelter. The ATS eliminates the need for the host to manually switch power plugs between shore power and generator plugs during power outages.
2. The installation and activation of a Starlink system on the Host Shelter. This new capability replaces the old Unifi LTE emergency cellphone backup communication capability used during the past 4 years. In addition to providing more reliable service at 1/3 the cost, the new Starlink system allowed the TOG IT team to remove the unsightly white PVC pipe that ran up the mountain trail.
3. A new solar backup capability was installed on the Lower Shelter. The Lower Shelter now has a solar power system that will maintain power to the Lower Shelter Access Point during power outages. This upgrade will allow most members staying in the Park's C & D sections to access WIFI when the park experiences a complete power outage.

The TOG Internet Team has worked hard this past year to prepare and implement Internet / WIFI improvements to better service our club members and guests. The club is extremely fortunate to have such a professional and dedicated group of volunteers working to ensure outstanding and reliable Internet communications is maintained in our Park.

Jesse Stone & The Internet Team (Rocky Stone, Bill Harris & Gene Komar)



Spring FLING RALLY

April 8th -12th

Register with the Campground Host between 9am and 6pm each day.

Wednesday and Thursday will be work days with coffee at the work huddle at 9am and lunch provided for our workers. Job sign ups will occur in the pavillion.

Pastries and coffee will be available on Friday morning and a welcome event on Friday evening.

Saturday will be a day of food, fun and fellowship .

Please bring a cup for coffee, your beverage of choice to the events along with chairs to the Saturday event.

Plan to join us for the Top of Georgia Spring Fling!

Top of Georgia

Sign
Up Today



Rally Weeks
Available

2026 HOSTS NEEDED

- * FREE CAMPING
- * FREE LAUNDRY
- * HOST AWARD CREDITS
- * TRAINING PROVIDED
- * COMMUNITY EVENTS
- * FIBER OPTIC WIFI

SCAN QR CODE BELOW TO VOLUNTEER



Top of Georgia Host Office History



This 1961 Airstream Trade Wind 24 was originally purchased by NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center to serve as a field office for the Mercury Redstone program. It was purpose-built as an office, hence no plumbing for water or gas and no galley or sleeping arrangements. Government style metal desks were installed in the back.



However, this is not the only "non RV" Airstream purchased by NASA. The Astrovan was a motorhome designed, built and delivered to the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) to carry astronauts to the launch pad and served from the Apollo through the end of the Shuttle programs



Several somewhat similar motorhomes were purchased to serve as Convoy Command Vehicles that were used at the runways at KSC and at the Dryden Center (Edwards AFB) in California. They were equipped with communications, data, and safety equipment to manage the post landing safing and egress of the crew following Space Shuttle landings.



Finally, the other NASA purchase was the Mobile Quarantine Facility which was an Airstream trailer to house Apollo crews returning from the moon and provide bio-isolation from the pickup point aboard a USN aircraft carrier and eventually, by air, all the way back to Houston.



Several of these restored NASA Airstreams can be seen at the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Space Center, and the Marshall Space Flight Center. And, now, this **vintage 1961 Trade Wind** serves as the **HOST OFFICE** for the **Top of Georgia Airstream Park** and is the same age as the **TOG Club**.

FALL RALLY & INSTALLATION



Directors: Mike Deegan wife Betsy; Tommy Burden-Cooper & spouse Steve



Treasurer: Laurie Murphie and husband Wayne



Julian performing the installation ceremony



VP: Don Doerr & wife Annette



President: Adam Higgins & wife Chris McConnell





REGION 3 RALLY



Tell Us Something GOOD



Christee & Sam Fontanez shared that their daughter Dakota recently got married in a dress her grandmother made and wore to the Navy Ball in Hawaii in 1955.

Their son Jacob that grew up here at TOG is finishing high school with a 1300 on his SATs and will begin his Marine Engineering degree at College of the Florida Keys in Key West in May!

Long time TOG friends Linda, Faye & Minnie Pearl (Lynn) enjoying an off season luncheon back in January



Chris & Lori Modly welcome niece #5!
Georgia Louise

Big sisters Marlena (7), Joanna (6), Lenora (2); & Cousin Reika (1) are thrilled that "Unc" & Lori can park the "baked potato" in their driveway & spend time with them. Home is where you park it after all

Attention Memorial Day Rally Attendees

- Potential event
- Assuming there is sufficient interest, the class will be added to the rally schedule.
- Please review the course summary detailed below: If you have an interest in taking the course, please contact Mike Deegan by April 20th to ensure course materials can be received in a timely manner.



Program: details:

- Course is available to both AARP members and non-AARP members.
- The Driver Safety Program is designed especially for drivers aged 50 and older. However, the course is open to licensed drivers over the age of 25.
- Course completion helps older drivers refine existing skills and develop safe driving strategies in today's challenging driving environment.
- There are no tests required to pass the course.
- Students who complete the course are entitled to a 10% discount on their insurance premium [Georgia law]. Assuming they have a good driving record. The discount is valid for 3 years.
- Georgia law requires a 6-hour class to receive the discount. Typically, the class begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:30 PM [30-minute lunch break].
- Depending on the class size we can use the library or the pavilion.
- Students receive a comprehensive course workbook, which provides a thorough review of the "rules of the road" with an emphasis on safety strategies for older drivers. The course also covers normal changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time associated with aging, and provides practical techniques to adjust for these changes. Participants are charged a minimal fee of \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-members. Cost is for course materials. [Payment = cash or check payable to AARP]. AARP members must have their membership card to obtain the discount.

I'm available to answer any questions.

Please call, text or e mail by April 20 if you have an interest in participating in the class.

Regards,
Mike Deegan
Jmd327@bellsouth.net
404-372-3884

RALLY SCHEDULE

OFFICERS

2026

4/8-4/12 Spring Rally/Volunteer Days

*5/1- 5/3 Low Country Airstream Sister Rally

5/20-5/25 Memorial Day Rally/Buddy Rally

6/24- 6/28 Youth Rally

7/4- Patriotic Day

8/22-8/27- International Rally, Minot, ND

9/2-9/7 Labor Day Rally/Buddy Rally

10/7- 10/12 Fall Rally & Officer Installation

11/26- Thanksgiving Potluck

12/12- Holiday Party

**Sister Rally*

All rallies held at Top of Georgia unless otherwise indicated

President - Adam Higgins

President Elect - Don Doerr

1st Vice President - Bruce Peace

Secretary - Sydney Ryanczak

Treasurer - Laurie Murphy

2nd year directors - Bill Harris &

MaryAnne Meeks

1st year directors - Mike Deegan &

Tommy Burden-Cooper

Past President -Jiji Haque



The Peach State Caravanner is the official publication of Georgia Unit 032, ACI, published six times a year.



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