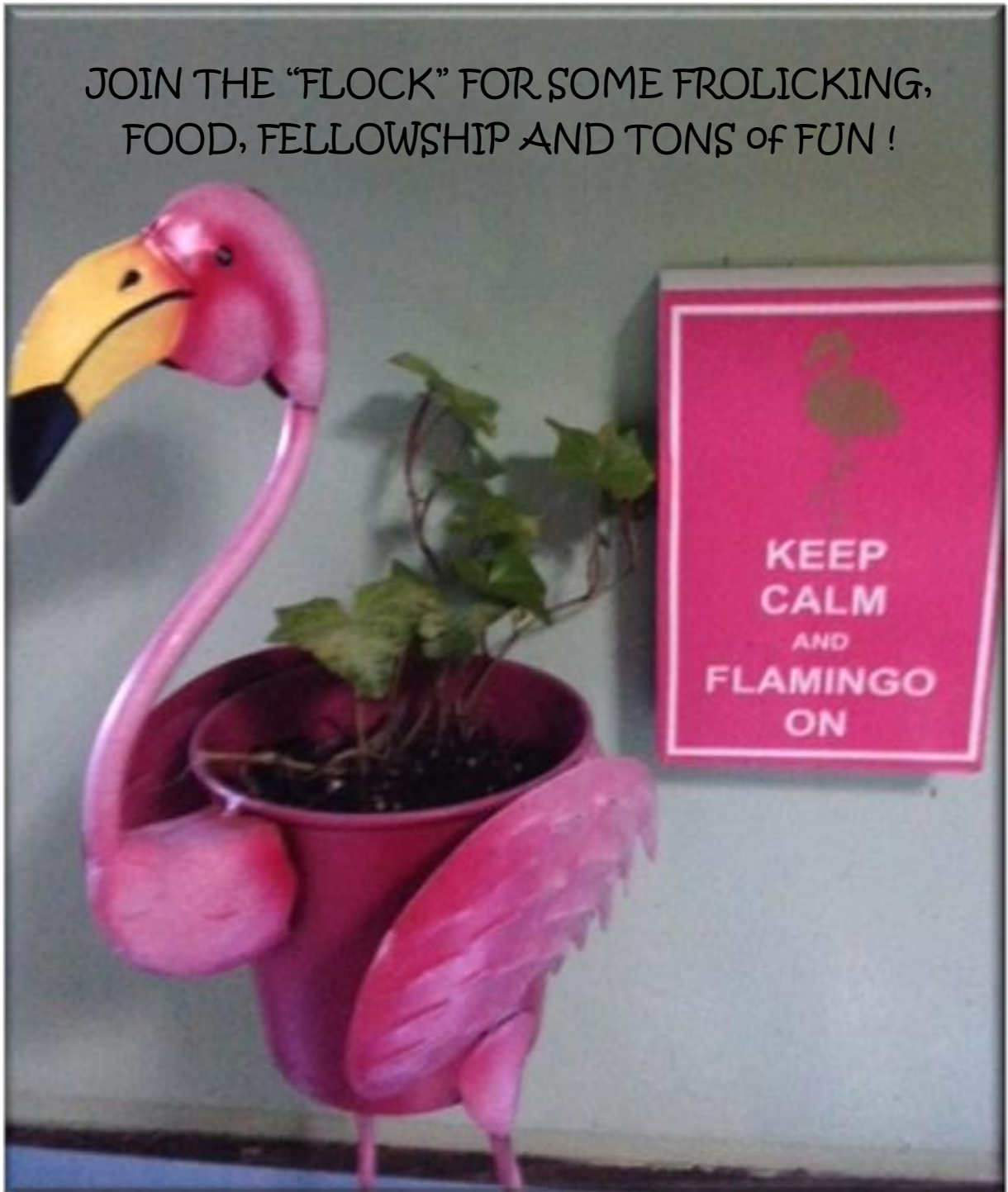




# The Peach State Caravanner

Volume 57 / Issue 1 / April 2018

JOIN THE "FLOCK" FOR SOME FROLICKING,  
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND TONS OF FUN !





Barbara and I are pretty excited about the coming year. Just as spring brings new life to the mountains, we look forward to bringing new life to our rallies with new activities, great entertainment, plenty of fantastic food, travel opportunities, and a renewed emphasis on getting all WBCCI members to come enjoy our little piece of paradise in the North Georgia Mountains.

While you were away this winter your Board has been very busy! I'm sorry to report that Neal Warren had to step down because of medical and personal reasons. In accordance with our bylaws, Charlotte Williamson moved up to President Elect and the board nominated and approved Tim Johnson as our new First Vice President. (See Tim's profile on p.3.)

We once again were questioned by WBCCI Corporate regarding our park operations. We successfully defended the Dissolution Article of our bylaws, and Corporate has committed to correct their bylaws to agree with ours.

We were less successful in defending our Membership Classes and our Rate Structure. Effective May 1, 2018, we will welcome all WBCCI members and guests of members to join us at the Top of Georgia at the same standard rate of \$15. Only non-WBCCI Airstreams visiting the Top of Georgia will pay a surcharge rate of \$20. This will bring us into full compliance with IRS Regulations. Our new monthly rate is \$335 and is only available to WBCCI members. That's a 25% discount off of daily rates and equates to four weeks for the price of three!

On to the good stuff! Our Annual Kickoff Workdays are April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There is much to be done to get the Top ready for another year. Please, please, please come and help. Every hand counts no matter how much or how little you can do. We will thank you and feed you.

We have a Rally Planning Committee this year! The Committee has been busy making sure that our 2018 rallies are going to be the best ever! We have partnered with Southland RV, Georgia's Five Rivet dealer, to join us at the Spring Rally and bring a new Airstream to show. Plus we'll have all our usual fun, food, and fellowship.

Next up is the Region 3 Rally at Ocean Lakes Family Campground in Myrtle Beach, SC. There is still room for you to join us. We may even have a caravan to get the fun started early.

In June Barbara and I will head to Salem, OR for the International Rally where this year's theme is '**Living the Dream**'. A few of you will be there as well. As always, we'll keep you updated on the IBT happenings.

And of course we will also have our youth rally, two patriotic gatherings, and two business rallies, all of which will be accompanied by lots of laughter and good times.

It's going to be a great year, and in addition to our rallies we hope that you can get your Airstreams on the road and enjoy our beautiful country, whether on an organized caravan or striking out on your own. And as you travel, Barbara and I hope you find **Blue Skies**, **Red Sunsets**, and **Silver Dreams**.

LIVING THE DREAM INDEED!

*Bill & Barbara Wild*

President and First Lady

ToGPres@gmail.com

678-938-4943

## “Loving Concerns”

**It has been a trying season for some of our members. Prayers for all.**

### Sympathy

**Shirley Pratt McIntosh**, Sympathy is extended to the friends and family on the death of Charles McIntosh. Cards can be sent to Shirley at 2005 Mt. Paren Church Rd. SE, Monroe, Ga. 30655

### Illness and Surgeries:

**Joe Ellis** had two surgeries for hernias.

**Rickey Roberts** had knee surgery and **Lisa Roberts** had major kidney problems, hernia surgery and then the flu. I've heard they are doing better. But what dedication! They continued hosting in spite of all their physical problems. Way to go Ricky and Lisa! Love ya'll.

**Zeke Ussery**, grandson of Ben and Jackie Moon, has acute hepatitis and is in guarded condition. He's finished his chemo treatments and tapering off the steroids. He goes to Egleston weekly for blood profiles and blood and platelet transplants. It will be six to twelve weeks before we know if the treatment was effective. If not, he'll have to have a bone-marrow transplant. We're praying that won't be necessary. Please pray for their precious grandson.

**Stephanie Lankford** had the flu and **Mike Lankford** had back surgery. He is home now, recovering well but has limited movement. So, no dancing the Hokey Pokey for Mike.

**Kathy Rabren** had surgery for a pacemaker implant. It was a traumatic event but I'm sure she is back to her sweet, smiling self.

**Barbara Wild** had surgery for a new spinal cord stimulator and she is recovering nicely.

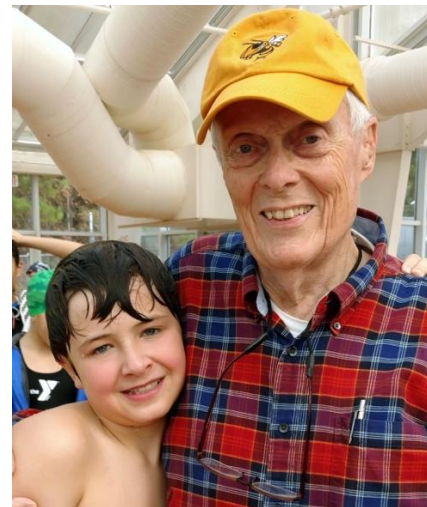
Bill said she is pain free for the first time in 32 years, but must now work on muscles that have atrophied.

**Fred Gavin** had a bad fall that required a partial hip replacement. He is going through therapy and is very weak, so he needs our continued prayers.

**John Worley** was recently diagnosed with a cancerous colon tumor. Surgery is scheduled for March 13. Lynn and John contribute so much to our club. Our prayers go out for them during this trying time.

**Jack Jones** was hospitalized due to an apparent stroke or TIA. He had carotid artery surgery in February and is on the mend. Prayers for Jack and Barbara.

**Neal Warren** had surgery on a cataract and a cornea replacement for one eye and will have similar surgeries on the other eye at a later date. This is a reminder that those who donate organs allow others to have life. Prayers for Neal and Myrna.



Zeke and Paw Paw (Ben Moon)

Latest news! Zeke is responding to treatment! He still needs our prayers.



## **REMINDERS / SUGGESTIONS / CHANGES**

### **Meals**

It is customary that each person brings their own set-ups (plates, silverware, napkin, cup/drinking glass. Please remember to bring your set-ups to each meal. This practice reduces cost and waste.

**Suggestion Box** – We want to know how to improve future rallies. You can write your suggestions, including your name, and leave it in the Suggestion Box in the Pavillion or e-mail Clara Ellis – [joeelli@gmail.com](mailto:joeelli@gmail.com) .

**Communication** is key!

We are asking that you let us know if you are coming to the Spring Rally. Just e-mail Connie Crowe at [conniecrowe@msn.net](mailto:conniecrowe@msn.net) or call (or text) and leave a message at 706-366-8601. Knowing how many people to expect helps reduce waste and costs.

Presently, our PA system is not working. When you check in at the Host station, please pick up your Rally Schedule. This will let you know where and when activities are planned.

### **Change in Board**



Tim Johnson, our new First Vice President, with wife Caroyl.

Welcome to our newly appointed First Vice President Tim Johnson. Tim

and his wife Caroyl have only been with the unit for a couple of years, but they are hard-core Airstreamers. They are both retired Navy officers with over 30 years of leadership experience. You may remember them by their beautiful, fully restored, polished vintage Airstream. Just for fun, check out their trailer *Gracie* which was recently featured on [ForTheLoveOfAirstreams.com](http://ForTheLoveOfAirstreams.com).

## **Thanksgiving at the TOP 2017**

Thanksgiving at the Top is becoming a tradition for quite a few of our members. George and Gail Ward once again outdid themselves with two turkeys, dressing, and mashed potatoes.



And as usual, everyone brought their favorite holiday sides and desserts. Holidays are about family, and the Airstream family that gathers around the tables at the Top of Georgia grows every year. If you haven't joined us yet consider it for next Thanksgiving – and bring your own family along for the celebration.



*Bill Wild* (Photos courtesy of Gail Ward)

### **Membership**

Make sure your membership is up to date for 2018. To be listed in our annual directory, your renewal deadline was January 1, 2018. Renewals were mailed out last fall from WBCCI and Top of Georgia. If you did not receive one, call WBCCI direct for information on how you can renew to assure smooth sailing with activities throughout WBCCI and the Top of Georgia. WBCCI can be reached at [WBCCI.org](http://WBCCI.org) or call 937.596.5211. We look forward to seeing all WBCCI members this coming year at the Park and wish you safe and adventurous travels.

*Stephanie Lankford, Membership Chair*



**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT PLEASE**  
**READ**

**RE: THE PEACH STATE CARAVANNER**

**F**uture issues of the Caravanner will be sent by email to all members with an email address. It will also be posted on our Web site. Those not having email will receive a newsletter version by mail.

Printing and mailing the Caravanner costs thousands of dollars. We must consider the savings that this change will allow.

When you receive your **May 2018** Caravanner, by **e-mail**, there will be an area for you to indicate whether you will or will not be attending the upcoming rally. Please indicate your response by clicking in the appropriate box. We'll take it from there!

We understand that plans may change and you may not be able to attend after all. That's OK and we'll miss you! We just need an approximate number of people coming so that we don't over order food items, supplies, etc..

This new format will help reduce waste, overspending and save trees!

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**Celebrating Christmas – 2017**



# CHRISTMAS

## 2017



The president and first lady had the pleasure of hosting the 2017 Christmas banquet on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> in their home town of Cumming, Georgia. They had the main dining room of Tam's Backstage restaurant all to themselves. It almost didn't happen. Friday brought a winter snow and ice storm that snarled traffic and closed many businesses, but twenty- two folks ventured out and made it anyway. After a wonderful meal headlined by baked salmon, most folks stayed to attend the *Sanders Family Christmas* upstairs at the Cumming Playhouse. Following an afternoon of good food, great fellowship, and a fun interactive theater production everyone headed out in time to make it safely home before the sun set and the roads refroze.



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## ~~HIGHLIGHTS OF SPRING RALLY, APRIL 9-15, 2018~~

~~The rally theme is "Flamingo Fling" – Think Pink~~

~~Help beautify our park Mon. & Tuesday Decorate your trailer-contest with prize~~

~~Door Prizes "Pretty in Pink" Ladies Tea-bring your tea cup, maybe a hat~~

~~Quilling Ladies Hat Decorating-hats supplied Just the Guys Willows Pottery Tech Talk~~

~~Breakfasts and a Lunch Ice Cream Pot Luck Dinner with a Caribbean Flair~~

~~Learn the Flamingo Shuffle Bingo and Popcorn Ping Pong Card Games~~

~~Friday Night "Open Mic Night" You've Got Talent!~~

~~Board & General Business Meeting Southland RV Exhibit Outdoor Games~~

~~"Saturday Night Live" – a real DJ with music and dancing~~



## Volunteering

## Directors Corner

We would like to welcome all our new members and renewing members for 2018. Lots of new and exciting changes for 2018 are taking place at the Top and we want you to be a part of the excitement and fun. To make sure that happens, here are some pointers on participating in Unit 32, Top of Georgia's activities and volunteer opportunities.

The Top of Georgia needs lots of volunteers to run the Park. Opportunities are available for hosting, serving in the kitchen, teaching a class, leading a group on field trips, serving on the planning committee, cutting the grass or sharing your latest hobby or interest with others in the Park. Being a volunteer is great way to meet new friends, learn about the Top of Georgia's history and maintain the operation of the Park, so that we may all have a place to visit and enjoy. Rallies are the perfect time to come and enjoy the festivities and volunteer. Contact (706.878.3590) or visit us for information. Thanks, **Stephanie Lankford**

Thanks to all the members of the T O P that have served as Host during 2017 and to the ones that have already signed up for 2018. I look forward to another good year. Thanks, **Ken Rabren**, Host Coordinator



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This is how our club succeeds! There will be a "Volunteers" Sign-Up sheet posted next to the Activities Sign-Up, located in the back of the Pavilion adjacent to the Library. Our first priority is to have helpers assigned to kitchen clean-up after each meal. The folks who have been working for hours preparing your meals need a break! Seeing your smiling face come in to help clean up makes them feel appreciated and makes you a VIP.

**THANK YOU**



*Our guys are the best! Always willing to help.*



## The Proms

Kevin and Jennifer moved to Lakeland, Florida 7 years ago, but they are both originally from Wisconsin. They met in January of 1991 at UW-Milwaukee. Jen was a single mom trying to finish her degree and she needed another elective, so she chose 'Ballroom Dance', for something different. Guess who was also taking that class? Kevin, of course. Jen wasn't looking for a relationship at the time, but Kevin was persistent and they had their first date on Valentine's Day, at a dance club with an orchestra. It was a memorable night and enough to convince Jen to say 'yes' to a second date. They married in March of 1992, and will celebrate their 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Kevin had been a part of the Wisconsin Air National Guard for three years, working as a Crew Chief, and he had been accepted to attend Air Force Pilot Training, fulfilling a life-long dream of becoming a pilot. Kevin's training took their family (Kevin, Jen, and Jen's daughter Alyson, whom Kevin would later adopt) to Del Rio AFB, in Del Rio, Texas for one year. It was a very exciting time for Jen and Aly because they had never lived anywhere else besides WI.

After Kevin completed his training in Del Rio, they moved to Merced, CA, where Kevin continued his training at Castle AFB. After 6 more months, his training was completed and they packed up everything again to move back to WI. Six weeks later, Kevin and Jen's son Jacob was born in the same hospital where Kevin was born. In 1996 they welcomed their daughter Emily.

Kevin stayed busy working at the Guard base in Milwaukee and Jen was a stay-at-home mom. Before meeting Kevin, Jen had been an active volunteer at her church, and once they moved back to WI she continued volunteering at their church and at the kids' schools. Kevin was very involved in Cub Scouts with Jake, eventually becoming Cub Master. Good news came in 2000 when Kevin was hired by American Airlines, another goal of his. He was thrilled to head off to training in Dallas to learn to fly a commercial airplane, which came easily as he had been piloting a KC-135 Tanker for many years. This new chapter was short-lived, though, because of 9/11. Kevin was fortunately not flying for AA on 9/11, but was furloughed from the company in the aftermath, and his part-time status at the Guard became full-time.

In 2004, Kevin was offered a position at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C., so they made the tough decision to move again, this time to Maryland. While Kevin worked at the Pentagon, Jen continued her volunteering, this time with animals at the Humane Society and with the whole family involved. For 5 years, they walked dogs, fostered dozens of animals at their home, helped with adoptions and fundraising, and Jen served on the Board of Directors for 2 years. It was a very rewarding experience for all of them. As the years passed and the economy rebounded, so too did the airline industry. Kevin returned to AA in 2011, in Miami and also transferred to MacDill AFB in Tampa as a reservist, which meant one more move.

The one thing that has been constant throughout their 26 years together is their shared love of travel. Even when their kids were babies, they traveled whenever they could, taking road trips around the country in their first camper, a Class C motor home, and flying overseas with their AA travel benefits. A recent trip that was one of their favorites was driving the entire length of 'Route 66' from IL to CA for two weeks. It was an amazing way to see our beautiful country and revisit the "good old days" during the heyday of road trips, classic motels, and neon-lit diners. So it made perfect sense for Kevin and Jen to purchase an Airstream. In 2014 they found just the right one at 'Top of Georgia' and returned during the Fall Rally to pick it up. Kevin and Jen enjoyed the rally activities and meeting other fellow travelers, and they've attended the fall rally every year since.



The *Peach State Caravanner* is the official publication of the Georgia Unit, WBCCI, published six times a year. **Address changes to:** 6962 Springwood Dr., Douglasville, GA 30135 or call 770-949-7250

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<b>2018 WBCCI Georgia Unit Rally and Event Schedule</b>		
<i>Rallies held at Top of Georgia unless otherwise noted</i>		
Thu-Sat	Dec 7-9 2017	Winter Holiday Campout @ Sawnee CG
Sat	Dec 9 2017	Holiday Banquet/Theater @Cumming GA
<del>Mon-Tue</del>	<del>Apr 9-10</del>	<del>Volunteer Work Days</del>
Wed-Sun	Apr 11-15	Spring Rally (Gen'l Business Mtg)
Wed-Sun	Apr 25-29	Region 3 Rally @Myrtle Beach SC
Wed-Mon	May 23-28	Memorial Day/Buddy Rally
Sat-Sat	Jun 23-30	International Rally @Salem OR
Sat-Wed	Jun 30-Jul 4	Patriotic Celebration
Wed-Sun	Jul 18-22	Summer/Youth/Buddy Rally
Wed-Mon	Aug 29-Sep 3	Labor Day Rally (Homecoming/Elections)
Wed-Sun	Oct 10-14	Fall Rally (Officer Installations)

**Officers**

President: Bill Wild; President-Elect: Charlotte Williamson; First Vice-President: Tim Johnson; Secretary: Michelle Shuler; Treasurer: John Meeks; Directors: Stephanie Lankford, Lynn Worley, Jack Jones, Ken Rabren; Past-President: Max Laseter

