



The Aluminum Chronicles

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

September / October 2014 *Editor, Dave Mayo*

[e-mail Editor](#)



In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Miscellaneous Rivets](#)

[Member News](#)

[Suggestion Box](#)

[Recent Events / Rallies](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Tech Time](#)

[Upcoming Events / Rallies](#)



President's Message

Ramblings by Bob,

September 24, 2014



Well, it seems that Fall has arrived. I for one, welcome its arrival as I think it is the best of the four seasons.

Warm days, cool night and the beauty of the changing leaves and everything else Fall brings. What does this have to do with Airstreaming you ask?

Well, not much other than it is a great time to take advantage of every

weekend and get going somewhere. Before you know it, us working folks will be winterizing our rigs and putting them in storage. Our lucky retired folks can hitch up and head somewhere warm for the winter. I am looking forward to that day.

Sandy and I just returned from our Region 5 Rally held at the fairgrounds in Springfield Illinois. We had a fantastic time and

thank you Monte and your team for putting this together. Springfield has many things to offer and in our three days of touring, I don't think we made a dent in the attractions available. I even felt somewhat proud that I am an Illinois taxpayer when we got to tour our Capital, which recently underwent a \$40,000,000 restoration. It is magnificent!!

In a recent issue of the Blue Beret, President Joe Perryman, talked about how important it is for folks to step up to the plate and take on positions within our local units and our region. We are very fortunate here at the Northern Illinois Unit, as we have a full slate of folks in line to fill our required positions. This is not the case with all other units, or our Region for that matter. Monte did not have a First or Second VP candidate in place and there is a threat that the Region will not continue after he serves his term. Didn't seem like a good situation to me, so I threw my hat in the ring, as a candidate for Second VP. This should work out fine for Sandy and I, as we will be very close to retiring by then. Artie Martin has volunteered to be a candidate for First VP. So when the time comes and if you are so inclined, vote for us and we will do our best to keep the Region moving forward.

Hope to see all of you at our Thanksgiving and Installation Rally, which will run from October 17 to October 19 at Lee County Fairgrounds.

This will be my last "Ramblings" as we are extremely fortunate to have Dave Mayo installed as our Unit President. Thanks for letting me serve and for all the help.

Let's wear em out.

Bob

Miscellaneous Rivets

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT

On behalf of the unit, I want to congratulate Bob and Sandy Whitesell on an extremely successful year as the WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit President and First Lady. This is Bob's second time as Unit President. Bob's leadership has helped position the unit to continue to prosper and grow.

2015 MEMBER DUES

It's that time of year again to pay for the 2015 member dues. The dues are \$70 (\$65 WBCCI International and \$5 Unit dues). Membership dues can be paid at the [Thanksgiving Rally](#) or by mailing them to:

Robert Koch, Treasurer
2085 Carillon Dr.
Grayslake, IL 60030

Make the checks for \$70.00 payable to WBCCI-NIU.

Please complete the [Dues Payment Form](#) (located at the end of this newsletter) and provide with your payment to Bob Koch. Your cooperation helps to make this process easier for our Bob.

OCTOBER BUSINESS MEETING

The October business meeting will include the election of new officers. Here are candidates for our officer positions:

President	Dave Mayo
1st Vice President	Jim Kraner
2nd Vice President	Rick Wendorf
Treasurer	Bob Koch
Secretary	Jean DeHahn
Trustee for 2 years (Dick DeHanh term ends)	Marge Kraner
Trustee for 2 years (Hal Withey term ends)	Sandy Whitesell
Trustee covering Rick Wendorf's 2 nd year	Dolores Mayo

Member News

Again we have sad news to report, as a current member Cynthia Withey, passed away recently while on a trip with her Airstream. (Although this information was provided to members via a newsflash, I am also including it in this newsletter.)



Cynthia's obituary follows:

Cynthia Lane Wilt-Withey was born on July 11, 1948 in Sydney Ohio and died August 12, 2014 in Grand Rapids, MN while traveling in their Airstream trailer. She grew up in Anna, Ohio and attended Anna HS(66) and graduated from The Miami Valley School of Nursing in Dayton Ohio in 1969. She became a Flight Attendant with United Airlines in January 1970, based in Los Angeles. On February 14, 1971, she married Harold E. Withey Jr. (Hal) in Anna, OH. She left United in 1976 to raise her family in Southern CA and continue her education. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (With Great Distinction) from California State University Long Beach, in 1986 and became a certified school nurse. After a corporate move to the Chicago area in 1987, she worked as the School Nurse at Geneva High School for 15 years and Bartlett High School for 2 years. Cynthia was a member of First Lutheran Church in Torrance, CA for 18 years and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles, IL for 26 years. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church she was one of the first members of the Stephen Ministries. She also attended the Congregational United Church of Christ, in Campton Hills, IL. She was a very active church member her entire life and loved singing in choir and playing bells. She was a great wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved her children and grandchildren more than anything in this world. Cynthia was an avid cyclist, hiker, swimmer, reader, and loved the Pacific Ocean and camping in the great outdoors. Hal and Cynthia traveled throughout the U.S. in their Airstream trailer for the last seven years. She was loved by all that knew her, and will be missed forever.

She is survived by her husband Hal; their two beautiful children, Laura Marie (Peter) Watkins of Winona, Minnesota, and Brian Edward (Jaime) of Chicago; four grandchildren, Campbell, Mae, Seth, and Derek; and her father, Philip W. Wilt of Van Nuys, CA. She was preceded in death by her mother, Norma Ann Ruese and a brother, Eric Wilt.

Suggestion Box

By clicking on this [SUGGESTION BOX LINK](#) , you can e-mail your suggestion to your leadership team. Please type in “**Suggestion Box**” in the e-mail title. We will respond to your suggestion within 30 days. Suggestions being implemented will be listed in this section of the newsletter.

INTERNET UNIT INFORMATION

You can keep current on unit activities by using our internet resources. By clicking on our WBCCI NIU logo below, you will be taken to our unit website. By clicking on the Facebook logo below, you will be taken to our unit Facebook page.



Highlights - Recent Events / Rallies

Region 5 Rally – Springfield Illinois

September 10th to September 14th



Region 5 President, Monte Barksdale, put on a good rally. Northern Illinois had five couples with trailers and two couples with motorhomes attending. We arrived on Tuesday during a little drizzle. Wednesday morning it rained hard for a short time. It cleared by the afternoon, when most attendees arrived. The activities were held in the Illinois building, which was a short drive from the State Fairground campground.

The entertainment was very good and there were three excellent catered dinners provided, including Prime Rib on Saturday. Springfield has many governmental buildings and attractions to tour. We tried to see them all. Additionally, there are a large number of Lincoln related attractions. The new Lincoln museum and library were outstanding. [Lincoln Museum link](#) Lincoln's tomb was very impressive. We also toured the Dana/Thomas house, which was designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902. [Dana/Thomas link](#)

Next year's Region 5 Rally will be held in Gochen, IN.

Mississippi Palisades State Park Rally

August 22nd to August 24th

Six NIU couples attended the rally. Five “buddies”, including two Airstreams attended. Weather was threatening Friday afternoon. Saturday morning, during a thunderstorm, a large pine high on the bluff high above the campsite, exploded when hit by lightning. It was an interesting failure analysis. During the day, individual couples found a variety of local activities to stay out of the rain. The weather cleared in time for our pot luck dinner and Saturday night movie, “The Long Long Trailer”. The sun came out Sunday morning and dried our awnings, so we could roll them up for our trips home. It is a nice scenic state park with many places to visit within 20 miles.



Shabbona State Park Rally

July 18th to July 20th

Nine NIU couples attended the rally. The weather was great. Many members ate Friday dinner outdoors by the Lake Lodge. Our new Region 5 President, Monte Barksdale, attended our rally. On Saturday, some of us attended the Waterman Antique tractor and truck parade and the mini-tractor pull. Members brought side dishes to the Saturday BYO Main Course dinner. We enjoyed a “corn hole” bean bag contest on Saturday evening followed by a campfire. Around the campfire each member told of their favorite Airstream experience. See [f](#) for an album of pictures.



Member Spotlight – Dwight & Carol Dixon

This month we are spotlighting **Dwight and Carol Dixon**.



In a few words tell us about yourself:

Carol and I have been members of WBCCI and Northern Illinois Unit for 20 years. In 1986, 28 years ago, we bought our first Airstream, a 1963 Overlander. We still used it occasionally. We have been camping and touring for 46 years. Carol retired from a career in Education. I retired from engineering for the: Aerospace, Recreational Equipment, Medical, and Plastics Industries.

We were presidents of NIU in 1999 and 2010. We have served on local and national committees such as: Safety, Membership, Electronic Communications, NIU 50th Anniversary, and the Vintage Airstream Club. In 2007, I originated the Unit's website and have maintained and updated it for 7 years. We have led NIU caravans over 10 states to International and special event rallies, including a 14 Day caravan, following the Oregon Trail, to the Boise, ID International Rally in 1998 and a 5 day caravan to the Swiss Festival Rally at Sugarcreek, OH. Carol and I have attended 11 International Rallies and 12 Region 5 Rallies. While wintering on the west coast of Florida, we have attended the Florida State Rally at Sarasota and the Travelers' Rest NIU Luncheons many times.

We have seen, and been part of, the evolution of our unit. Over the years, our unit has changed its activities in response to the individual personalities and priorities of the unit president for that year. The underlying theme of our club has not changed: promoting Fun, Fellowship, and Adventure for our members through the use of our Airstream trailers.

The member spotlight is to help members become better acquainted with each other. To facilitate this process we have created a format to make it easy. I have attached a Microsoft Word document containing a blank form. We would appreciate members completing the form and sending it to us so we can continue to spotlight our members in our newsletter. We will spotlight one member each month2 please help us out and provide us with your story.

Tech Time – Softening Your Water

This month's tech time is provided by Jim Kraner.

Softened water in your Airstream is a possibility, reducing the soap scum, mineral deposits on your fixtures and clogged aerators and screens. We live with hard water from a well so we are accustomed to soft water and taking a shower with hard water there never seems to be enough soap on the wash cloth.

I have found three options in obtaining a portable water softener for an RV. The first you can find at Camping World for \$400.00. The second is a cartage type softener, like a drinking water filter. They are offered at sights like WWW.freshwatersystems.com. They offer a formula to calculate life expectance of the cartridge that softens the water. At www.purewaterproducts.com offers softener cartridges and how to regenerate them. You could also use the method I use for my portable softener described below. I took the third option of making a water softener. I used 4" diameter PVC pipe about 40 inches long and glued on fittings so end cap could be screwed on and off. Each PVC end cap ends with a brass garden hose male fitting and with a brass cap. Glued to the inside of the PVC end caps are Distributors #MD1236 (www.softerparts.com) that contain the resin in the 4" pipe. I purchased the resin online.

I glued together 2" PVC pipe with fittings to make a similar tube as the 4" housing, except this tube is about 15" long and is used to hold the salt for regeneration. This tube carries a short piece of hose with two female hose fittings and a washer with a screen, to retain the salt in the tube. This hose is same as a water supply hose for a wash machine. The size of the tubes you use will determine the softener life before it needs regeneration and suits your storage space.

My softener is in the water supply line when I am filling the fresh water tank or when I am using campground water supply direct to the trailer.

When I notice the water getting hard in the trailer, I regenerate the softener by first running water in the reverse direction to flush out sand and whatever particles the media has trapped. I put 1 ½ pounds of water softener salt (granules) in the salt tube. I then run water slowly through the salt tube and through the softener tube until the salt is dissolved, then a short fresh water rinse of the softener media. We carry drinking and cooking water in a separate container, we use tank water only for washing.

The soft water reduces the white mineral granules that clog-up the faucet screens. When I am leaving a camp site for home, I have turned the pump off and drained the hot water tank leaving the drain plug out. It is amazing how many white mineral granules come out of the tank as the trailer bounces down the road. It washes off readily. I buy charcoal drinking water filters at www.fastfilter.com for the house drinking water.

We are looking for good tech time articles. Please write-up your favorite tech time tip and submit it to the newsletter editor for publication.

Upcoming Events / Rallies

Oct 17th to Oct 19th

Thanksgiving & Installation Rally

Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds
1196 Franklin Rd.
Amboy, IL 61310

The Thanksgiving and Installation Rally will be held October 17th through October 19th at the Lee County Fairgrounds.

Friday afternoon we will have Happy Hour at 5:00PM, bring a snack to share. Dinner is on your own, but I will have a grill available and plan on cooking up a burger or something along those lines. For those who are interested, as it will be the third Friday of the month, there will be live music at the Lincoln Highway Museum in Franklin Grove. There is a family restaurant across the street which serves a decent meal. The music typically gets started around 8PM and goes until???. There is no charge for admission (free).

If you choose to stay at the fairgrounds and if weather is favorable, we will have a camp fire.

Saturday breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausages will be cooked by Bob Whitesell, Dave Mayo and Jim Kraner. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 am. Anyone willing to help cook and serve breakfast is welcome to join us.

We will have our business meeting at 10:30AM, including the election of new officers.

Turkeys will be provided, but please bring a side dish or a desert to share. We will have Happy Hour at 5:00PM and then the big feast. Installation of new officers will take place after the Turkey diner.

See you all there,

Bob

December 6th
Saturday

Christmas Event - White Pines Dinner Theater - (815) 946--3817

White Pines Inn
6712 W. Pines Rd
Mount Morris, IL 61054

Branson on the Road - Christmas Style 2014 (Musical)



What do you get when you bring together a fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, upright slap bass, beautiful rhinestone costumes, hilarious comedy and country Christmas, bluegrass, rockabilly and gospel music? Only one answer Branson On The Road® - Christmas Style is in town! Branson On The Road® - Christmas Style, is the holiday show from the popular touring group Branson On The Road® direct from the live music capital of the world, Branson, Missouri. This talented group has over 20 years of experience

2014 Evening & Sunday Ticket Prices:

- \$41.50 Adult
- \$39.50 Senior

Seating at 5:45pm for evening shows and includes . . .

- Fabulous home-cooked buffet with three meats, salads, vegetable du jour, homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh-baked breads, beverage and dessert
- Theatre ticket, tax and gratuity

Request to be seated with the Airstream group.

Please plan on arriving at 5:15 to be able to socialize before being seated at 5:45 pm.

RSVP Dave Mayo at (630) 587-2690
by November 6, 2014



Wally Byam Caravan Club International Northern Illinois Unit - 038

Dues Payment 2015

Member Name _____

Partner Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip _____

e-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Vehicle Information

Trailer Motorhome

Model _____

Size _____

Year _____

International Dues	\$65.00
Northern Illinois Unit Dues	\$ 5.00
Total Due To Treasurer	\$70.00

Membership Status

Renewal

Life Member

Transfer

New Member

Courtesy Parking

Payment Information

Date Paid: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Check No: _____

Make checks payable to WBCCI-NIU

Mail to: Robert Koch, Treasurer
2085 Carillon Dr.
Grayslake, IL 60030