



# The Aluminum Chronicles

## WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

April 2015

*Editor, Dave Mayo*

[e-mail Editor](#)



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### President's Message



#### Around the Campfire with Dave & Dolores

April 15, 2015

This coming weekend is our Amboy rally starting our camping season. It's great to finally have the cold and snow behind us.

We have a great season planned with the Illinois State rally in May, Rock Cut State park in June, Starved Rock State Park in July, Thomson Causeway in August, Region 5 Rally in Goshen, Indiana in September followed by the RoadAmerica rally in Lake Elkhart, Wisconsin. We wrap up the season back at Amboy for the traditional Thanksgiving rally in October.

We will be having only two business meetings – our April Amboy rally and our October Amboy rally. At our April rally, we will be voting on International officers and one International constitutional amendment. We will also be voting on the region five 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President candidates.

During our last October rally, Bob Koch was re-elected as Treasurer. Bob indicated that he wanted to turn over the Treasurer responsibilities to another member. Mary Beth Comer was elected to replace Bob during 2015. This transition will take place at the Illinois State rally. On behalf of the unit, I want to thank Bob for the great work and service he has provided to the unit as Treasurer, as well as his prior service as New Membership Chairman.

Working with Bob, I have entered our unit's financial data into Quicken from 2012 to 2015. I have included the financial report on the next page. I will discuss this report at our business meeting.

Also, I have asked Jim Kraner, who will be our Unit President in 2016, to prepare the 2016 budget for discussion at our business meeting. We will also discuss our unit dues. The unit dues were reduced from \$10 to \$5 several years ago, as our cash balance was rather high. As a result, we have not been covering our unit expenses from our annual dues. The cash balance is now half of what it was in 2012. I believe that we should consider raising the dues back to its prior level of \$10, so that annual expenses are covered by the annual dues.

I am also looking for ideas as to how we can make our rallies more fun. We could have theme rallies where a member volunteers to be the theme coordinator for that specific rally.

This is your club, your unit, be active in helping to make it the best unit in the Midwest.

Keep the adventure alive – See more, Do more, Live more.

Dave

***There is a tremendous amount of content in this newsletter. Please scroll down to view it.***

**WBCCI - Northern Illinois Unit**  
**Statement of Activities - By Type**

	Actual		
	2012	2013	2014
<b>Unit Revenue &amp; Expense</b>			
<b>NIU Unit Dues</b>	\$ 290	\$ 205	\$ 225
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>NIU Unit Expenses:</b>			
Charitable donations	100	-	-
<i>Communications expense:</i>			
Member Directory	-	-	165
Broadcast e-mail service	-	-	
Postage	79	-	189
Total Communications Expense	79	-	354
<i>Membership expenses:</i>			
Office Supplies	139	-	145
Badges	-	71	30
Rally Door Prizes	96	-	-
Past President's Cost (Flags, Gift, etc.)	-	101	106
Total Membership Expense	235	172	280
Region 5 Rally expenses	102	120	75
International Rally expenses	23	-	-
Special Event - 50th Anniversary Rally			1,019
<b>Total NIU Unit Expenses</b>	539	292	1,728
Excess of NIU Expenses over Dues	(249)	(87)	(1,503)
<b>Unit Rally Fees &amp; Expense</b>			
<b>Unit Rally Fees</b>	1,714	2,562	1,358
<b>Unit Rally Expenses:</b>			
Christmas Luncheon	708	-	
Lee County 4H Center	474	687	1,446
Lee County 4H Center - Deposit		200	(200)
Unit rally costs	332	750	-
Rally food	113	187	122
Road America	-	1,120	-
Total Unit Rally Expense	1,627	2,944	1,368
Excess of Rally Fees over Expense	87	(382)	(10)
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	(162)	(469)	(1,513)
<b>Cash - Beginning of Year</b>	4,216	4,054	3,585
<b>Cash - End of Year</b>	\$ 4,054	\$ 3,585	\$ 2,072
<b>Note:</b>			
<i>Funds collect for WBCCI HQ</i>			
and transferred to HQ	\$ 2,730	\$ 3,055	\$ 2,535
Unit rallies are to be self funding.			

# Miscellaneous Rivets

## International Rally

Due to work commitments, Dolores and I will not be able to attend the International Rally in Farmington, New Mexico. As a result, we need members who will be attending the International Rally, to:

- Be our unit delegate for voting;
- Be our unit flag bearer;
- Be a caravan leader if members decide to caravan to the International Rally.

## Illinois State Rally

The Lincolnland, Southern Illinois and Northern Illinois units, are holding an all Illinois State Rally on Lake Shelbyville, from May 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. We have 7 member Airstream rigs from Lincolnland already signed up. I am only aware of 4 members planning on attending from our unit.

If you are planning on attending, please RSVP myself with your site number and planned arrival date. As the largest unit in Region 5, I'm hoping that we have a large turnout.

## Voting on International Officers and Amendment to Constitution

At our business meeting on April 18, 2015, we will be voting on:

- Amend the constitution Section 5
- Officer candidates for:

International President	James (Jim) Schwerdfeger
International 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Richard Girard
International 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jim Cocke
International 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Barry Bell
International Recording Secretary	Euna Ridenour
International Treasurer	Richard Turner
International Nominating Committee (2 positions)	Helen Bourgeois Patti Reed

The bio's for the candidates can also be found in the April [Blue Beret](#) You can also get the information by downloading these two pdf files - [PDF File 1](#) and [PDF File 2](#). PDF file 2 also includes the proposed constitutional amendment.

## **Region 5 Officer Voting**

Last year Region 5 had vacancies for the positions of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. At the region 5 rally in Springfield, Artie Martin of the Kentucky unit volunteered to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and our own Bob Whitesell volunteered to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Upon volunteering, they were appointed to the positions in an acting capacity. As President of the unit, I get to cast one vote for each position. At our business meeting we will vote on how I, for our unit, should cast my vote.

Please [download this PDF file](#) for the bio's of Artie Martin and Bob Whitesell. I have also included a copy of a letter from Barry Bell, Region 5 Past President, providing instructions related to the region 5 officer elections.

## **Candidates for 2016 Unit Officer Positions**

During this year, we will need to elect members to fill three positions for the 2016 club year – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and two Trustee positions.

During 2015, Dolores Mayo is filling in for Rick Wendorf's second year, which expires in October 2015. Dwight Dixon's term also expires in October 2015.

All of our officer positions were filled in 2013, 2014 and 2015. It would be great to continue this trend. If you enjoy being part of this unit, please consider volunteering for one of these three positions. You can contact Bob Whitesell (Immediate Past President), Jim Kraner, or Rick Wendorf. Thanks for your consideration.

## **Unit Property Inventory**

Please help at the Amboy Spring Rally. Our Northern Illinois Unit has a storage shed at the Lee County fairgrounds used to store Unit property, also Unit members store unit property at their homes. I am hoping we all could pitch in on April 19<sup>th</sup>. 2015, at 10:30 AM. Sunday morning, to take an inventory of this shed. We will have inventory forms to enter a brief description and condition of the item, to fill out and a sticker that you will put a number on, matching the item number on the inventory form.

Members storing Unit property, please make a copy of the accompanying form, fill it out and turn it in. Please enter your name next to the item, so it is known who has the item.

Having an inventory of our property, will allow us to better utilize it, budgeted for replacement when needed and discarded when needed.

The inventory form is on the next page.

Item	Description	Condition
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		
I		
J		
K		
L		
M		
N		

## Member News

Since our last newsletter, three new members have joined us.

Kevin & Xanthe Belsky  
Roger & Joanne Friz  
Marsha Kaehler & Dio Mendez

Kevin and Xanthe are relocating from California. Welcome to Illinois.

On behalf of our unit, I welcome you all!!!

It's great to have you aboard.

## 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

Recent Events / Rallies Editor – Sandy Whitesell

### Florida Get-Togethers

Many of our members spend the winter in Florida. Kathy Carlig reports “I have attached a few pictures of Ruelene Aarup, Dave & Kathy Carlig, Judy & Harry Jamison, and Nancy & Bob Morrison enjoying a lovely lunch at Rusty Bellies in Tarpon Springs. We enjoyed a sunny, warm day, overlooking the gulf before adjourning to Morrison's for dessert.”



### Alumaflamingo

Peter and Judy Schwarz attended the Alumaflamingo in Florida and report:

“We arrived to 80 degree weather and bright sunshine for Alumaflamingo which continued throughout the 5 days. The weather alone was worth the trip! The check-in was not very organized, but this was our first time at such an event so maybe that’s how it’s always done. Once we were situated, everything else was organized and we attended some interesting sessions each day and met people from Canada, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, and Maine. Of course, many were there from Florida. We were surprised with the small volume of vendors, we expected many more vendors to be at the event. We really enjoyed visiting Sarasota, Siesta Key and St. Armands restaurants and beaches. We were the only Illinois attendees for the Region dinner on Thursday evening, but plenty of participants from Kentucky and some from Indiana were there. We plan to return next year for Alumaflamingo and once again enjoy some Florida sunshine!”





Mary Beth Comer and John (#6048) also attended Alumaflamingo and report:

“I’ve attached a couple of photos from Alumaflamingo. The Northern Illinois unit was well represented. They had about 125 trailers attend. We were able to meet up again with a couple we met at Alumapalooza last year. It was a lot of fun catching up with them and playing Joker!

They offered a Habitat for Humanity volunteer morning. John and I went and they got us hooked. We signed up for a Care-A-Vanners build in Michigan in April 12-26. Looks like we’ll miss the Amboy rally, but the build is in Adrian and I have an uncle close by in Tecumseh. It will give us a chance to spend some time with him as well. The coordinator for our event was hoping to put together an all Airstream Care-A-Vanner event sometime-we’ll keep watching for that.

Alumafiesta was a lot of fun too. The weather didn’t cooperate too well the last couple of days. It was cool and rainy. However, cool and rainy in Tucson beat the weather back home any day!

We’ve stayed at the North Texas Airstream Community for about a week. The weather was great and the people were so friendly. They got us to try to learn to play bridge. Let’s just say the other card games were a lot more fun. We’re going to need to work (a lot) on our bridge game.

We then went to the Mystic Springs Cove Airstream park in Florida. I went back home for a Mother’s Weekend at NIU with my daughter Emily and John stayed at the park. Luckily, they had a rally there that weekend and he was able to join in that.

We've been stopping by some parks in FL and working our way up to Norfolk, VA to visit my other daughter (Laura) and granddaughter (Lydia) before we head back home at the end of March. Hopefully, by then the snow will be melted. “



This is a great picture of Peter & Judy Schwarz, Dave & Kathy Carlign and Mary Beth Comer & John Sanders.

### **February - RV Show & Cooper Hawks Dinner**

Our February event was the RV Show held in Rosemont and dinner afterwards at the Coopers Hawk Restaurant in Arlington Heights. This was a “buddy event”. Ten people attended the RV show; sixteen attended the dinner. Members attending included - Jim & Marge Kraner, Rick & Jill Wendorf, Bob & Anita Koch, Bob & Sandy Whitesell, Jerry & Mary Lou Cristy, Peter & Judy Schwarz and John Damisch and his brother. Also attending were four buddies (Jim & Shelly Kelby and Chuck Lorenz and Karen).





## March – Lou Malnati's Pizza Party

There were 18 attendees at our pizza party held March 21<sup>st</sup> at Lou Malnati's Restaurant in Elk Grove Village. Attending were:

Dave & Dolores Mayo  
Bob & Anita Koch  
Dave & Nancy Laning  
Bonnie Nester  
Bob Whitesell  
Hal Withey

Jim & Marge Kraner  
Mark Pankow and Brian McFarland  
Rick & Jenny Selle (new members)  
John Damish & his brother  
Rick Wendorf



## Member Spotlight – May Be Discontinued

No member has volunteered to tell us about themselves for this newsletter. I am considering discontinuing this section from future newsletters if members are not interested in providing their stories.

# Tech Time – Hydraulic Brakes Are Worthwhile

Tech Time Editor – Jim Kraner

My 1995 trailer came with drum brakes and I serviced them by replacing the backing plates that carry the brake shoes and a magnet, I also had the drums turned. After all that service, I landed in an intersection on a quick stop. I was convinced disc brakes were the way to go, even the factory at that time went to discs brakes. Following are series of pictures I took, taking you through the process of converting to disc brakes. If you have any questions, we can talk at our rallies.

Time to use Timken bearings, not Chinese.



Notice the black plate mounted to the axel with six bolts. It carries the caliper with pads.

Other parts needed:

- Hydraulic actuator, I used Carlisle Hydrastar-1600 (psi)
- Four rubber hydraulic hoses and steel brake tubing and fittings
- Hydraulic break fluid and bleeding kit
- Wheel grease and seals







This is Kodiak's 5200-6000 LB. Model # 2/HCM-12-E Disc brake kit.

Notice the rubber brake line routed from under the frame to under the trailing suspension arm. The hose was later clamped to the bottom of the trailing arm, at two places. This route avoids the broken lines others had. A piece of plastic tubing was filled with silicon and slit from end to end, then slid over the frame edge, where the hose crossed under the frame edge.



Hydraulic lines were bled and ready for tires. I did this in the spring of 2011 and replaced pads in 2013, overly concerned about scoring the discs. The parts were bought over the internet. Some parts are now locally available and even installation is available.

I have been very satisfied with the conversion and have experienced the wheels locking up with my trailer fully loaded (8300 lbs.)

# Club History

The following information is taken from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet comprised by Dwight and Carol Dixon.

## History of the Northern Illinois Unit

*... Continued from the prior newsletter*

**1971** – President Harry Wiggs held 5 rallies at Amboy and 3 rallies at state parks. Additionally, they held a rally at the Sandwich Fair in DeKalb County, and a Christmas luncheon. The International Rally was held at Salem, Oregon.

**1972** – President A.C. Hyde held rallies at Amboy and had other rallies. The International Rally was held at Louisville Kentucky.

**1973** – President James Toskey held 4 rallies at Amboy and 4 unit rallies in state parks and commercial campgrounds. Also, they held a joint rally and a Christmas luncheon. The International was held at Bozeman, Montana. Carrie Johann, daughter of Carl & Kathy Johann was the 1973 Teen Queen Winner.

**1974** – President Tom Schafer held 4 rallies at Amboy and 3 rallies at private campgrounds. They rallied at the Sandwich Fair. The International Rally was held at Notre Dame Indiana.

**1975** – President Arthur Decker held rallies at Amboy and other sites. The International Rally was held at Brandon, Manitoba Canada.

**1976** – President Carl Johann held 7 rallies at Amboy and 3 rallies at state parks or other facilities. The International Rally was held at Louisville Kentucky.

**1977** – President George Mitchell held 4 rallies at Amboy. Three rallies were at state parks and at the Sandwich Fair. The International Rally was held at Bozeman Montana. Additional rallies were held in Illinois and Wisconsin. A unit caravan toured Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana. The Installation Rally was at the Lake County Fairgrounds. The Christmas party was held in Waukegan.

**1978** – President Don Hendricks held 4 rallies at Amboy. They had two dinner theater outings plus a Country Osprey at one of the three state park rallies. They also attended the Sandwich Fair. The International Rally was held at Ames Iowa.

**1979** – President Roy Posselt held 4 rallies at Amboy. There were 3 caravans including one to the International Rally at Las Cruces New Mexico.

**1980** – President Fran Stuttle held 4 rallies at Amboy and 3 rallies at state parks. They conducted a 10 day Peninsula Venture Unit Caravan as well as a Christmas luncheon. The International Rally was held at Notre Dame Indiana.

*... To be continued in the next newsletter*



## Upcoming Events / Rallies

Many of our upcoming rallies are being held in state or COE parks. ***Each member attending will book their own reservation for their site.*** It is the member's responsibility to select a suitable site. Illinois uses the [ReserveAmerica](#) system to reserve sites and Army Corps of Engineers park reservations, use [recreations.gov](#). Reservations for both park systems can be reserved 180 days in advance. Please RSVP all events with Dave Mayo at 630-587-2690 or [mayo.internet@gmail.com](mailto:mayo.internet@gmail.com)

April 17<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>  
*Friday to Sunday*

### **Amboy – Season Opener**

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

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  
April 18<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting 10:30 am

May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>  
*Thursday to Sunday*

### **Illinois State Rally**

US Army Corps of Engineers  
[Lithia Springs](#)  
RR 4 Box 128B  
Shelbyville, IL 62565-9378  
(217)774-3951

Select sites 82 to 124. Book early as this is a popular park.

June 12<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Friday to Sunday*

### **[Rock Cut State Park](#) - Buddy Rally**

7318 Harlem Road  
Loves Park, IL 61111  
(815) 885-3311

Select sites in the Plum Grove section – sites 189 to 201. If these sites are taken then select sites 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158.

Mid June

### **Caravan to the International Rally**

Many times members going to the International Rally will caravan together. Members wishing to caravan this year should contact Dave Mayo so we can get a listing of members interested.

June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>

### **[International Rally](#)**

58<sup>th</sup> International Convention / Rally  
Farmington, New Mexico

July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup>  
*Friday to Sunday*

**Starved Rock State Park - *Buddy Rally***

P.O. Box 509  
Utica, IL 61373  
(815) 667-4726

Select sites in section with sites from 1 to 54. I am planning on selecting site 17 as the gathering site.

August 14<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>  
*Friday to Sunday*

**Thomson Causeway COA Campground**

PO Box 398  
Thomson, IL 61285  
(815)259-3628

We will rally in sites 79 to 97. (Note sites 87 to 92 are by the Mississippi river.)

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> to Sept 13<sup>th</sup>  
*Wednesday to Sunday*

**Region 5 Rally**  
**Region 5 Website**

Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds  
17746-D County Road 34  
Goshen, IN 46528  
(574) 533-3247

Contact: Monte Barksdale (815) 458-3895

Sept 18<sup>th</sup> to Sept 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Friday to Sunday*

**Road America Vintage Festival**

N7390 State Hwy 67  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
(920) 892-4576

This is a joint rally with the Wisconsin unit. Tickets are purchased through the Wisconsin unit at a discounted rate.

Contact Don Stenz 920-698-2305

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> to Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

**Thanksgiving & Installation Rally**

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

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting 10:30 am – Election of 2016 officers  
Installation of new officers.  
Thanksgiving diner.