



The Aluminum Chronicles

WBCCI Northern Illinois

March 2016

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Lake Superior, Bayfield, Wisconsin

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Around the Campfire with Jim & Marge

As you can see our lives changed from our wedding day, with two wonderful children that have taught us how to be parents. Now my son has his own children and the daughter has a husband. When I was growing up on the north side of Chicago, not far from the lake front, I had to get across a busy street to get to high school and one day I noticed in the traffic, my first Airstream. I said that someday I was going to own one and many, many years later here we are Airstreaming. Marge and I started out with sail boats first, for some 30 years, but now for 16 years, we have been Airstreaming and love it.

Around the Campfire with Jim & Marge, cont.

Our Unit has a volunteer to host the upcoming Amboy Rally, April 15-17, 2016, so please let me know if you are coming, so we have a head count to buy food. We do need other Hosts for the rest of our outings, please volunteer. A Rally Host provides a written schedule for the weekend, that includes times for happy hour, eating, etc. The schedule includes places of interest in the area for day trips. The Host also buys food for one meal and helps prepare it on our Unit grill, with the help of other members. This is a way for a member to give back, without a long term commitment.

Our Unit had three outings since the last newsletter, the first was in Florida at Travelers Rest and was well attended by our Unit snow birds and retired Northern Illinois members. The second was the Starved Rock luncheon and eagle watch, only one local eagle was spotted, but it made the trip worthwhile on a beautiful, sunny and warm day. It was great to get out on a road trip. The third was a dinner and theater party, this is the first that I know of for our Unit, to go to a theater and see a musical play, Pictures of all these outings are below.

Look for the remaining outings for this year at the end of this newsletter, camp grounds are filling up, get your reservations in. Get your trailer ready for the first outing of this year, Amboy, April 15, 2016, see you there.

Miscellaneous Rivets

Something for members of NIU to think about.

The IBT passed a motion to prorate the WBCCI membership dues, as described below. I am hoping you will take the time to read it and understand how dues were collected and how they are going to proceed. Our Unit has been collecting dues the same way as the WBCCI has in the past. I would like you to pass on to our Unit Officers your opinion as to how our Unit should collect dues in the future, prorated or not prorated. I have contacted WBCCI (Lori Plummer Corp. Mgr.) and asked, will the WBCCI Office collect Unit dues for new members in the same prorated order, as described by the latest International dues amendment? Is the WBCCI office open to any other schedule of collecting Unit dues? Her answer is as follows; we are currently not set up to collect Unit dues on a prorated basis right now. Maybe down the road, but we would have to have software reprogramming and we are just not there yet.

Our Unit Executive Board will discuss and vote on this matter at the next business meeting at Amboy, April 15, 2016, let them know how you feel. Thanks to Dwight Dixon for bringing up this matter and sending me the Amendment.

"Motion 2: Tom Smithson, Region 12 President, moved: IBT MOTION FORM WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC. Motion/Item No. 2 Revised Meeting Date: July 5, 2015 Location: Farmington NM I move the following revision of Article IV Sec. 10, Policy International Dues: Articles B - F. Delete the current Articles B - F and replace them with the following new Articles B and C. Article IV Sec. 10, Policy International Dues: Articles B - F. 7. International dues of new Regular Members joining between January 1 and June 30 shall be \$65.00 (US Funds) for the remainder of that current calendar year. (1/23/10) 8. International dues for new regular members joining between July 1 and December 31 shall be \$65.00 (US Funds) for the remainder of that calendar year and the following calendar year. (1/23/10) 9. International dues for Members at Large shall be \$65.00 (US funds) plus the established surcharge (as set by the International Board of Trustees) per calendar year. (1/23/10) 10. International dues for new Members at Large joining between January 1 and June 30 shall be \$65.00 (US funds) plus the established surcharge (as set by the International Board of Trustees) for the remainder of that calendar year. (1/23/10) 11. International dues for new Members at Large joining between July 1 and December 31 shall be \$65.00 (US funds) plus the established surcharge (as set by the International Board of Trustees) for the remainder of the calendar year and the following calendar year. (1/23/10) Article IV Sec. 10, Policy International Dues: Articles B - C B. International

dues for new members joining during the first quarter of the calendar year will be \$65. During the second quarter, \$48, the third quarter \$32 + \$65 and the fourth quarter \$16 + \$65. The third and fourth quarter payment includes the balance of the current year's dues and next year's dues. All payments will be in US funds. 6 C. International dues for new Members at Large (MAL's) joining during the first quarter of the calendar year will be \$65. During the second quarter, \$48, the third quarter \$32 + \$65 and the fourth quarter \$16 + \$65. All payments will include the current established surcharge (as set by the IBT). The third and fourth quarter payment includes the balance of the current year's dues and next year's dues. All payments will be in US funds. Proviso: Should this motion pass it will become effective January 1, 2016. Monte Barksdale seconded Motion 2. Rational: This change in the manner the club collects dues eliminates the "free" portion of a year of dues for those joining after July 1 and provides for payment of the current year's dues on a quarterly basis. This motion also eliminates the current practice of holding of new membership applications by both Units and the central office submitted in the second quarter of the year. The benefits are: It will allow a new member to become active in the club immediately, increase the efficiency of the central office and simplify the membership process of new members for Units. It will also significantly affect the club's bottom line. Financial Impact:.. Analysis of membership data for 2014 showed: We had 426 new members for the 2015 year between July & September. If we had charged them the \$32 dues for the balance of the year that would have brought the club \$13,632. We had 253 new members for 2015 between October and December, which equals \$4,048 for a total lost income stream of \$17,680.

Our Unit Web Page Visits

From Dwight Dixon,

Here is the summary;

- Pages displayed : **60551**
- Unique visitors : **24090**
- Pages displayed in last 24 hours : **22**
- Unique visitors in last 24 hours : **16**

Member News

An email from Nancy Laning

Your day sounds better than mine. I hope there will be another eagle watching lunch next year! I went for a walk yesterday down the prairie path hoping the sunshine and cool air would make me feel better....I tripped on a tree root hidden under the leaves and broke a bone in my right hand/wrist. I told Dave I will be "practicing" retirement, albeit one handed, for the next 4 to 6 weeks since I'll be unable to go to work.

A prospective new member

Greetings, Hal —

My husband, Duncan Kime, and I are new Airstream owners (WBCCI #8467) who are seeking to affiliate with a Unit for the primary purpose of caravanning. We are Michigan residents considering affiliating with the Northern Illinois Unit, which we've heard good things about. I saw that you have planned a Buddy rally during the Tulip Festival in Holland, Michigan, and we've made a reservation with the campground to attend between May 16 and 20th. We look forward to meeting you then!

Melinda McMullen

Welcome to a new member

Our members would like to welcome Maria Mozzola, with her 1965, 17 ft. Caravel Airstream, to our unit. We hope to see her at as many Rallies as she can make.

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

January 26th -Travelers Rest, Florida, Luncheon



Photo clickable for full screen viewing.

Fifteen snowbird NIU Members (and alumni) met at Ruth Hall for a Potluck luncheon. Weather was “Florida” good. We had a large variety of dishes to pass and lively conversation. Thanks to Jim & Roberta Matkovich for hosting

Starved Rock Luncheon and One Eagle Watch

The day of the outing was a perfect spring day, those attending; John Demisch & friend Nancy, Bob & Sandy Whitesell, Dave & Dolores Mayo, Jim & Marge Kraner and Monte Barksdale, Region President. Besides the Eagle viewing, some took a walk to the Indian Council Cave, where the Native American local Chiefs met for powwows. Pictures follow;



Theater & Dinner Night

The dinner and musical comedy was enjoyed by all that went, but not many came. Those attending were; Bob & Sandy Whitesell, Dave & Dolores Mayo, Jim & Marge Kraner and guests Chuck Lorenz and Monte Barksdale. Being that we bought tickets at the same time, we had a nice round dinner table for eight. The eight dollar dinner comprised of a dinner salad, warm rolls, a choice of strip steak, Tilapia fish, or grilled chicken, with sides of potatoes, rice and steamed broccoli, the dinner was good. Drinks and desert was extra. Pictures follow;



Club History

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

History of the Northern Illinois Unit

... *Continued from a prior newsletter*

2008 - President Bob Whitesell held 3 rallies at Amboy, 2 state park rallies, including a Rally at Il. Beach St .Pk. at Zion, Il., and a Mystery Rally at Mississippi Palisades State Park, Il., also 3 luncheons. A caravan went to the International Rally at Bozeman, MT.

2009 - President Norm White held 2 rallies at Amboy, 5 other rallies, including the Mystery Rally at Kieler, WI. A big wind storm with hail damaged many Airstream trailers and tow vehicles. Also a rally at Thomson Causeway at Thomson, Il. A caravan went to the International Rally at Madison, WI.

2010 - President Carol Dixon held 2 rallies at Amboy, others were Amana Colonies, IA, Johnson Sault Tr. St.Pk., Bishop Hill, Lowden St. Pk., Swiss Festival Nat. Rally at Sugarcreek, OH, and the Region 5 Rally at Du Quoin, IL. Also two luncheons, including one with a tour at Fermilab, Batavia, Il. The International Rally was at Gillette, WY.

2011 - President Jim Matkovich held 3 rallies at Amboy and 2 rallies at other locations including Lowden State Park and Galena, Il, plus 3 luncheons. The International Rally was at Du Quoin, Il.

2012 - President Brian McFarland held 2 rallies at Amboy and 3 other rallies, including at Lowden St. Pk., Shabbona St. Pk., and a joint rally with Lincolnland Unit at the Gladiola Festival in Watseka, Il. Three luncheons were held and a Caravan to International at Sedalia, MO.

2013 - President Brian McFarland held 2 rallies at Amboy and 3 additional rallies, including the Tulip Festival at Pella, IA., as 4" of snow fell on May 1st, Starve Rock St. Pk., Utica, Il., and Goyke's "oasis" in Goodland, IN., There were three luncheons. International Rally was in Huron, SD.

Tech Time

Spring Tips For Your Trailer

It is a great time of the year, getting the trailer out of storage and getting it ready for the road.

Here are some of the things I do for my trailer, they may not work for you;

1. At your storage facility, with your portable air pump, check the tire pressure on all tires and add air to bring them up to maximum PS, as indicated on the tire side wall.
2. Take your torque tire lug wrench and check wheel nut torque.

3. Hitch up the trailer to your tow vehicle and connect the electrical plug. Put the emergency flasher on and see if all trailer and vehicle lights are working properly. Turn flasher off.
4. Drive the unit forward and slowly move the manual lever on the brake controller to feel the trailer brakes are slowing down the trailer, this insures the brakes are working.
5. In the past few years, I take the trailer to a service center and have the wheel bearings greased and pads and discs inspected for wear, every other year.
6. Once home on the driveway, I wash the trailer with my favorite wash solution offered by a chemist at the Florida Rally. It consists of 1/3 cup of Murphy Oil Soap and 1/2 cup of Original Armorall, mixed in a five quart bucket of water, wash trailer and rinse. My trailer has always been parked outside and has both coated and later uncoated aluminum and I have never polished it.
7. Level up your trailer and drain out any old water. Connect all of your white water hose to the trailer fill port and before you connect it to the faucet, add the bleach into the end of the hose, then work the bleach down the hose and connect it to the faucet. Use 1/4 cup bleach to every 15 gallons of water. By pouring the bleach in the hose, it gets sanitized also.
8. Clean the trailer, fill it up with food clothing and all other things and head out to the next scheduled Northern Illinois Rally.

Upcoming Events / Rallies

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 Jim Kraner at 847-382-3583 or jimkraner@sbcglobal.net Thanks

April 15 to April 17 Friday 2:00 PM to Sunday -- Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Rd. Amboy, IL 61310 April 15 – Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
 April 16 – Business Meeting 10:30 am. **Rally Host** Sandy & Bob Whitesell have volunteered.

May 12 to 14 Thru. To Sat. Tulip Festival, Holland MI. www.tuliptime.com
 Camp at Drew's Country Camping 112850 Ransom, Holland MI. PH 616-399-1886
www.holland.org/listings/drew-s-country-camping/12

Select a site from 65 to 69 and from 86 to 82. This is also a Buddy Rally, bring a friend. Book your site early, can book at this campground right after Jan. 1, 2016, mention you are with the Airstream group. **Rally Host**

June 16 to June 19, 2016 Thursday to Sunday—Bring your Grandchildren, Nephews and Nieces. Rock Cut State Park, IL. PH. 815 885 -3311 Main entrance off of Rt. 173 west of I-90. 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. Youngsters are always welcome at rallies, this Park has lots of activities for kids, fishing, and swimming. This is a buddy rally. **Rally Host** _____

June 28 to July 5, 2016---International Rally at the state Fairgrounds, Lewisburg, WV. Many times members going to the International Rally will caravan together. Members wishing to caravan this year should contact Jim Kraner, so we can get a listing of members interested **Caravan Leader** _____

July 14 to 17, 2016 Thursday to Sunday ---Lake- Le-Aqua-Na State Recreation Area, Illinois.
www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/rl/leaquana.htm PH. 815-369-4248 Pick your site from 66 to 81.
Rally Host _____

Aug. 11 to 14, 2016 Thursday to Sunday—The closest beach to a Florida Gulf side beach, sun sets and warm sand. No dunes to climb over. Van Buren State Park MI.

www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?type=SPRK&id=502

PH. 269-637-2788 Pick your site from 47 to 57 and 15 to 18, and 20 to 23.

Rally Host _____

Sept. 14 to 18, 2016 --- Region 5 Rally Madison, IN, Camping at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Sept. 24 to Oct. 2, 2016 --- Sugar Creek Rally and Caravan. See Blue Beret for details and application,

October 21 to 23, 2016 Friday 2:00 PM to Sunday ----Installation and Thanksgiving Rally -- Lee County 4-H Center & Fairgrounds, 1196 Franklin Rd. Amboy, IL 61310

Oct. 21, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm. Oct. 22 Business Meeting 10:30 am

Notes

Each away Rally needs a volunteer to act as host for that rally. Hosts work with Jim Kraner to set a rally schedule for that event and buy provisions. Without volunteers where would we be?

Volunteers are needed to lead the Caravans to the International Rally and to Sugar Creek Rally, contact Jim Kraner.

Make your reservations early, six months in advance for all state facilities.

You have noticed some weekend Rallies start on Thursday, this added day has no schedule, set up and relax day.