



WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

The Aluminum Chronicles

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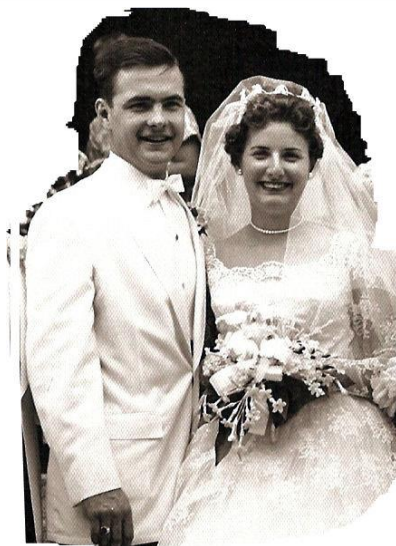
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Around the Campfire with Jim & Marge

To start my first message, Marge and I want to wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year and may you have safe travels in the coming year. I want to again thank the new Unit Officers for accepting their positions in the operation of the Unit. Without volunteers, where would

this Unit be? Because of our volunteers, our Unit is thriving with new members, interesting outings and good attendance by our members. I am hoping there will be volunteers to host upcoming rallies. Having different Rally Hosts for our rallies provides a different “flavor” to each of the rallies. It also provides an avenue for members to become involved, without a long-term commitment. A Rally Host provides a schedule for the weekend, happy hour, with times etc. This would include places of interest in the area for day trips and a meal schedule, buy food and cook it, essentially run the rally. Rally Hosts get help from members with food preparation and cleanup. See the article below and pictures, about the unit grill and the Rally Host for Rock Cut State Park Rally in June 2016.

Our Unit has had two outings since the last News Letter, the Installation Rally and Thanksgiving Dinner at 4H Fair Grounds, Amboy, IL and the Christmas Dinner Party in Huntley, IL. Both events were well attended, the Thanksgiving dinner offered three nicely cooked turkeys and lots of side dishes brought by the members. The installation of the new officers was presented by our Region 5, Second Vice President, Bob Whitesell, also a NIU member, thanks Bob. The Christmas Dinner Party was festive and attended by 27 members. See pictures below.

Our next outing is the Eagle Watch luncheon at Starved Rock State Park, IL and the Illinois River Lock and Dam’s Observation Center, which is close by Starved Rock. We hope the rivers freeze up so the eagles migrate to the open water by the dam, for viewing. See outing schedule below for location and time.

The picture of our Airstream above was taken at Wyalusing SP. WI., site 127, overlooking the Wis. & Miss. Rivers and Prairie du Chien, WI. At night the lights in Prairie du Chien are beautiful.

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

Miscellaneous Rivets

Unit Business Meeting at the Thanksgiving & Installation Rally

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit Business Meeting Minutes October 17, 2015

President David Mayo called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Amboy, Illinois. He led the unit in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Roll call found all officers and trustees present. A quorum was present and a valid meeting could be held.

The minutes of the April 18, 2015 meeting were read and approved.

President Mayo utilized a “Power Point” presentation using a laptop and the unit projector in conducting the meeting.

The unit financial report was presented and reviewed in detail. It was noted that prior to today, the unit checkbook has a balance of approximately \$1,782. President Mayo said that Unit Rallies are to be self-funded and that the excess dollar amount of the 2015 rally fees over rally expenses is \$68. This is due to rounding up rally fee amounts so that coin change isn’t required at the rallies. This excess will be used to purchase rally related items such as propane for the club grill that will be used at unit rallies in 2016.

President Mayo mentioned that Carol & Dwight Dixon are planning to attend the 2016 International Rally in Lewisburg, West Virginia. The Dixons mentioned that members should also consider the Taste of Blue Ridge caravan as it ends near Lewisburg around the rally time.

President Mayo presented the following slate of unit officers for 2016:

President	Jim Kraner
1 st Vice President	Rick Wendorf
2 nd Vice President	John Sanders
Treasurer	Mary Beth Comer
Secretary	Dolores Mayo
Trustee	Peter Schwarz
Trustee	Nancy Laning

All candidates were unanimously elected by the unit members.

1st Vice President Jim Kraner handed out his Schedule of Events for 2016. He discussed each event and encouraged all to attend.

This weekend's rally breakdown of fees are:

- \$30 per rig for facilities
- \$24 camping fees (for 2 nights)
- \$15 food
- \$69 Total

Unit dues are \$10. International dues are \$65 for total dues of \$75.

We currently have 61 members.

Afternoon activities

- 4:30 p.m. Happy Hour
- 5:30 Installation of new officers
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Cubs playoff Game

VIP's Present: Robert Whitesell, Dwight Dixon, Carol Dixon, Brian McFarland.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean DeHahn

Secretary

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

International Rally All full hookups have been taken, only boon docking sites are available.

Sunshine Lady Carol Dixon

Nov 13 at 6:39 AM

Over the long history of NIU, many lasting friendships have developed. As they age some are no longer able to trailer, but wish to retain their friendships. A number of them still live in Northern Illinois and meet for luncheons several times a year. Since they can no longer travel and are on fixed incomes, they sometimes no longer want to pay the \$65/yr. WBCCI dues. As part of our "Sunshine Lady" responsibilities, we still include these former members in our (no cost to unit) email distribution list.

Here are a few of the replies we have received lately:

From: William L Evans <wlevans1@me.com>
To: Dwight or Carol Dixon <dwightdixon@yahoo.com>
Cc: WILLIAM L EVANS <wlevans1@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 4:16 AM
Subject: Re: Wake and Funeral arrangements for Ruelene Aarup

Hi Dwight & Carol:

Thank you so very much for sending this update on members of the unit.

Yes you have the correct email address for me. No I am not following what is going on in WBCCI any more. It is very difficult for me to do that cannot participate in some manner. But I am very interested and you all and the rest of the members of the unit. I haven't heard from either Wag or Joe either. So the only information I have is what you have supplied me and for that I am very appreciative.

As you could imagine at age 85 I don't do very much myself. I lived here in a 13 story condominium with my Bird and my family nearby. I still attempted to travel some letting someone else do the driving. My next trip Will be if I am still physically able a around the world cruise departing from California in January. I go on bus tours occasionally which are very enjoyable. The only thing about them is that they go most places where Bette and I have been in our trailer.

Thanks again for the information and I would enjoy reading anything you wish to forward concerning the unit.

Genevieve Edith Pfeiffer

September 3, 1920 - January 3, 2016



We are sad to report that our long term member of the Northern Illinois Unit, Genevieve Pfeiffer, passed away Sunday, January 3rd. Our condolences to the family and her daughter, Mary Lou and Jerry Cristy, current members of NIU.

Here is the link to her obituary and

arrangements http://www.davenportfamily.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=1727357

The Northern Illinois Unit Barbeque Grill



This grill has a long history with our unit as I was informed by our member Dwight Dixon, he said many a hamburger was cooked on it. He was able to purchase it for the Unit many years ago. On the left are grills, for those hamburgers and the right side has about a 6 inch burner, both sides are fed by a ten pound propane tank.



Also two grill plates are available, for either side, for us at the same time or just one side.



What is really nice the grill legs fold up under the grill and all the loose parts fit in carrying bags. I will have this grill in the back of my truck at the camping rallies and the Camping Host is welcome to use it and any member. After applying one and a half cans of oven cleaner and two high pressure power washes and baking the grills with a coating of vegetable oil, the grill is ready to cook some more hamburgers. Oh, and Marge washed the carrying bags.

Jim Kraner

Dear Members,

Due to a change in officers, the Unit property has shifted hands, so an update of the shed inventory list was needed. The name of the shed inventory list has now been changed to NIU Unit Property Inventory. This Inventory has all the property the Unit owns and if not, please forward to me what items should be listed. In the years I have been in the Unit, I never knew what the unit owned. The second page was updated, to reflect what member is holding items for the Unit. You can call the member holding the item you would like to use and he will bring the item to the next outing, or you can make other arrangements.

Jim

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit #38 Property List		Page # 1 of 3
Item	Description	Condition
1	6- Large cooking pots	Old
2	2-Bread Toasters	Old
3	7-Plastic table covers	New
4	1- Roll of plastic table cover	New
5	1- Electric Roaster	Old
6	1- Salad bowl, stainless steel	Good
7	1- 25 ft. Electric cord	Old
8	1- Aluminum coal shovel	Good

9	1- Bag of fall table decorations	Ok
10	2- Two wheel dollies	Old
11	1- Box of small cooking utensils	Old
12	1-Box of large cooking utensils	Old
13	1- Box of large paper products	Old
14	1- Bingo game	Useable
15	1- Dog Ramp	Good
16	1-Gas pressure gage for setting trailer psi	Good
17	2-Bulletin boards	Ok
18	1- Empty milk crate	Old
19	1- Fire pit dish	Good
20	3- Rally vests for International & Region	Good
21	Region Banner	Good
22	3- Plumbing items for caravans	Good
23	6- Caravan direction signs	Good
24	1- Broom	Bad
25	1- Podium	Good
26	2- coffee pots	Good
27	NIU Flag with pole and base	Good
28	NIU Flag with pole for International Rally	Good
29	Brass Dinner Bell	Good
30	Our Unit's Region 5 Banner	Good

The above items are in the shed at the Fairgrounds,
Amboy

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit #38 Property List		Page #	2 of 3
Item	Description	Condition	
This property held by Jim Kraner #3610			
A	1- Campchef Grill, 1-Hot trailer skin tester	Good	
B	1- Digital movie projector	New	
C	1 each Banner & President's Flag	Good	
D	2 Unit Officer Badges, will forward to Hal Withey	Need repair	

This property held by Dwight Dixon #4122

A	1-Gas Leak Detector	Good
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This property held by Jim Matkovich #1790

A	1- Trailer tung weight measuring device	Good
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This property held by Bob Whitesell # 1775

A	1- Bean bag Game	New
B	1-Region Flag & pole	

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Unit #38 Property List Page # 3
3 of 3

Item	Qty	Description
This property held by Mary Beth Comer # 6048		
These items are in the Bob Koch box.		
1	1	Tee Shirt NIU Unit Blue Size Large
2	2	Vests NIU blue and white
3	1	Airstream mouse pad
4	2	boxes of scotch tape
5	1	WBCCI Song book WBCCI Window
6	17	stickers 3.5" x 4.5" in a plastic box
7	3	poster board 11" x 14"
8	3	partial pieces of poster board
9	1	small Ziploc bag
10	3	WBCCI NIU 2011 Directories
11	1	box of small decal numbers (.5" x .5)
12	1	WBCCI NIU Blue Book in Binder
13	6	WBCCI NIU Round badge 8"
14	27	WBCCI NIU Round badge 3"
15	3	Wally Byam Caravanner badges 2.5"
16	11	Canvas Blue Berets with Caravanner badge XL
17	1	WBCCI Rally Store price list (3 pages)

18	1	Paper Name tags partial box of 100
19	1	WBCCI tie
20	3	Red tie clip badges
21	2	key chains
22	9	lapel pin
23	4	stick pin
24	1	Stanley stapler for large papers
25	1	small box with A-Z tabs
26	1	Second VP flag in box (used)
27	2	Past Pres. Flag (slightly used)
28	1	Box of Airstream envelopes (113)
29	1	Box of envelopes 8.5" x 5.5" (33)
30	1	Treasurer Flag
31	1	Officer blank badges. Sent to Hal Whithey
32	5	Member blank badges, Sent to Hal Whithey
33	5	Bubble wrap envelopes 6" x 9"
34	1	NIU check book
35	1	Three hole punch
36	1	small stapler
37	22	Forever postage stamps
38	1	paper trimmer
39	7	pieces of 8.5" x 11" paper for name tags Paper sent to Hal Whithey

Member News

I received the following email from new NIU Members Donna & Larry Steele of Valparaiso, IN.

Appreciate your kind words of welcome. Although I'm still playing at work a bit, during this past year I have started to significantly slow down whereas my wife retired from a long elementary school teaching career in 2013. As may be shown on some of the information you received, we have an '02 27' Twin that we purchased in 2010, along with a low mileage '98 Dodge Ram 2500 diesel, from the original Michigan owners. They were an older (but who am I to speak --smile) couple that had been longtime WBCCI members, as had the wife's parents), so I was pleased at being able to obtain their old number that they had on our unit when joining the club last week.

After we obtained our rig, work and other life issues interfered so that other than a jaunt to Colorado in 2012 and this past fall to the Black Hills, it has basically been stored these past years in a cousin's commercial building. In any event, with my change in work status, our goal is to finally start putting it to more regular use, including some hoped for snow-birding to visit daughters and their families in the Southwest and West later this winter. Unfortunately, that most likely means we will be unable to attend the February luncheon. However, we certainly look forward to making folks' personal acquaintance at other events later in the season.

In closing, my/our best to all of you and your families for a great holiday season. Thanks again so much.
Larry

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

Installation & Thanksgiving Rally

We had a fine, but brisk, fall weekend for 8 trailers and 2 motorhomes, to enjoy the activities at the Amboy 4H fairgrounds. Jill and Rich Wendorf, drove in for the big turkey dinner, that included three roasted turkeys and lots of side dishes. Anita and Bob Koch drove in for the morning business meeting, but were not able to stay for dinner. Others attendees were, Shar & Gene Gardener, Carol & Dwight Dixon, Hal Withey, Jean & Dick DeHahn, Judy & Peter Schwarz, Mark Pankow & Brian McFarland,

Sandy & Bob Whitesell, Marge & Jim Kraner, Dolores & Dave Mayo. We elected and installed our officers for next year. See Business Meeting Minutes below for list.

Thanks to Peter's WI-FI, Dave's laptop, and the unit's video projector, we were able to watch the Chicago Cubs playoff game via the internet Saturday evening. Other members chatted or played the bean bag game in the large heated hall.

Pictures from the Rally are below.







Christmas Dinner Party

What a beautiful, relative warm and sunny day was available for our Christmas dinner. Members came, drinks were ordered and discussions began about old rallies and new ones. I congratulated Steve Duke on his musical rendition he did at our rally last summer at Shabbona State Park, on a common black water drain hose. He said we probably will not experience another, being that LeAnn and Steve have bought a house in New Mexico and as soon as they sell their current house, they will be moving. May they enjoy their new house and continue to have safe travels. Another bit of news, is the Gardener's bought a new 3500 HD Ford King Ranch, 4 wheel drive truck and are planning a trip out west this winter, with Mary Beth and John.

We had 27 members attend, Anita & Bob Koch, Sandy & Bob Whitesell, Dolores & Dave Mayo, Hal Whitney & Nancy, Char & Gene Gardener, LeAnn Spencer & Steve Duke, Mary & Steve Lantvit, Joann & Roger Friz, John Demisch & Nancy, Susan & Greg Horodeck, Mary Beth Comer & John Spencer, Nancy & Dave Langing, Marge & Jim Kraner and Bonnie Nester. Pictures of the event follow,









Tech Time

January 4, 2016

Bob Whitesell Tech Time Editor
Region 5, 2nd VP

Hello to the members of the NIU. Sandy and I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and that we all have a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We feel very fortunate, as we have had quite a few opportunities in 2015 to get out and do some Airstreaming and we are really looking forward to the 2016 season. I can't wait for winter to be over.

I know we have all heard how important proper tire care is on our rigs and tow vehicles. A blow out on an Airstream can cause significant damage, in addition to the inconvenience and the safety concerns, with trying to change a tire on the side of the highway. I mention this, as this summer, on a trip back from Branson MO., we were traveling with some friends who were towing a large boat behind a Chevy Diesel pick up. Traffic was very heavy and the temperature was in the upper 90's. The boat trailer has tandem axles and one of the tires on the street side blew out. The spare was located only to find that it was very low on air. Fortunately, another couple was driving a motor home with an onboard compressor and the

tire was properly inflated. Problem fixed and not a big deal but if this was an Airstream trailer, it certainly could have been an expensive situation, with the damage to the aluminum that could occur with a blow out.

Moral of the story? Check your tire pressure daily when traveling. Check the date code on the tires and consider replacing them if they are more than 5 years old. Also, pick up an infrared temperature tester. These things are great to quickly check the tire and wheel temperature when making a pit stop. A high comparative temperature reading could indicate an under inflated tire, or perhaps a bearing issue. There are also after market tire pressure monitoring systems out there that work very well and provide real time data of your tire pressure and temperature.

Keep safe, keep warm, hope to see you soon and let's wear em out!

Bob

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 the prior newsletter*

... *To be continued in the next newsletter since there is so much content in this news letter.*

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

Jan Luncheon at Travelers Rest Florida, call Bobbie Matkovich at 708-567-4686, for time and date.

Feb. 6, 2016 Saturday----Luncheon and Eagle Viewing . Lunch is at 1:00 PM, at the Starved Rock Lodge and American Eagle viewing at the Illinois Waterway Visitors Center on the Illinois River.

March 10, 2016 (Thursday Evening 6:00 PM)--Musical and Dinner (dinner optional)-- The musical comedy Sister Act, plays at the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, www.marriotttheatre.com/ 10 Marriott Dr. Lincolnshire IL. 60096, PH. 847-634-0200.

A change to our event schedule for the March 10, 2016, Musical Comedy named the Sister Act, is as follows. The new procedure for buying tickets, is each member calls the Marriot Theater at Ph. 847-634-0200 after February 1, 2016 and reserves their seating in section 4, if possible and dinner (dinner

optional) at 6:00 PM., call early or you may end up with an earlier dinner time (5:30 PM). The play starts at 8:00 PM. The 6:00 PM. dinner that Marge and I experienced, offered open seating with tables for 2, 4, and 6 people, so we should be able to sit together. We will not be able to sit together during the play, unless you buy your tickets at the same time with other Unit members, ask for section 4. Then our unit will be sitting on the same side of the stage.

This is also a Buddy event, bring a friend.

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. **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/r1/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. TBD 2016--- Region 5 Rally

September TBD 2016 --- Sugar Creek Rally and Caravan

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.