



The Aluminum Chronicles

WBCCI Northern Illinois

June 2016

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Peter & Judy's SkyDeck

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Around the Campfire with Jim & Marge

As our children were growing up, as a family we went camping in our large cotton canvas tent, longer trips we rented a motorhome and a 19 ft. travel trailer. Even today our favorite campground is Rock Cut State Park, where we took our daughter to when she was 6 months old. My yearning to learn how to sail a boat and own one, blended well with camping, fishing, swimming and carrying all the camping supplies down the road. So after sailing lessons and tipping over in a borrowed 8 ft. long El Toro sail boat, we bought a 16 ft. O'Day, Day Sailor, we owned for 16 years. That boat was trailered to lots of lakes and many states.



Around the Campfire with Jim & Marge, cont.

As most all boaters, get bigger boat syndrome, we bought a 24 ft. Tanzer and finally the boat above, it is a 27 ft. Catalina. These boats were too large to trailer, so they spent the winters in a boat yard and the summer in Montrose Harbor on Lake Michigan. We sailed these boats for 14 years on Lake Michigan and had lots of good outings and some concerning experiences. With friends on other boats, up to 42 ft. long, I have sailed the width and the length of Lake Michigan several times. Below are pictures of my ice boat on my driveway, that same boat and my land sailing boat, on a dry lake bed near the border of California and Nevada. These boats keep us sailing through the winters and summer. When the boating ended, we had already looked at Airstreams and picked out the model that suited us. So we looked at each other and said if we don't do this now when will we buy. I looked on the internet at a California web page and found a trailer located in Crystal Lake, IL that was an exact match to one we picked out, a few years back, at the dealer. We joined the Northern Illinois Unit that summer to find what it is all about and here we are 16 years later enjoying the people, the adventure and still learning about the Unit.



Miscellaneous Rivets

News Flash format change.

Look for the Link on the News Flash front page to our Unit's Constitution and revised By Laws under the heading Quick Links. By clicking on the link you will be able to read our Constitution and Bylaws.

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

Please let me know if you are planning to go to this Rally, our unit has provided a breakfast in the past and it seems appropriate to continue the tradition, we will need volunteers. Four days later, Sept. 24, 2016, caravans can enter the Swiss Festival Rally in Sugar Creek, Ohio, so I need to know who is going to this Rally and if they want to join a caravan for entering. By meeting at a campground on Sept. 23, outside of Sugar Creek, Ohio, we all can enter as a caravan, or enter as individuals the 25th.

Sept. 24 to Oct. 2, 2016 --- Swiss Festival Rally at Sugar Creek, Ohio. See Blue Beret for details and application, Please let me know if you planning to go to this rally. See above for caravan details.

Member News

Our John Spencer 2nd Vice President.

We are sorry to have heard that John and Mary Beth were in an automobile accident with a rented car on the job in Iowa, where both cars were totaled. Fortunately, Mary Beth is OK, but John is wearing a neck brace for some weeks.

Inactive members.

Bob & Elizabeth Neellans, long time members of NIU have gutted their trailer and are rebuilding it, with the intention of being active in the Unit.

Who went to WBCCI International Rally, by Dwight Dixon?

Dwight & Carol Dixon, Peter & Judy Schwarz, Gene & Char Gardener, Roy & Norma Stuart, Dave & Kathy Carlig. Had region 5 luncheon. Stuart's won \$250 Airstream service /parts door prize. Weather rough for local residents. Floods in the valleys. Fairgrounds without power or water for one day. NO problem for us. Most tours of local business put on hold. We did get to see two before the flood. Meetings going well. Delegates meeting tomorrow. Comer/Sanders had big car accident and could not come. He is in neck brace. Carol had card signed for them. We are parked on crushed rock no problem with big rain. People on grass got very slippery.



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

Unit Rally at 4H Fairgrounds, Amboy, IL April 19, 2016

What an excellent weekend for a rally at this time of year, the weather was sunny, skies blue and the temperature was between 74 and 80 degrees all three days. Everyone enjoyed having all our cookouts outside. The Unit grill was a big hit, from frying up pancakes one morning to providing enough grill space for five or six members to grill their entrees for dinner, at one time. A combined business meeting was held outside under the large trees in front of the Hall, made up of the Executive Board and Unit Members. A motion was passed by the Board members, so the Unit will prorate Unit dues for new members in the same schedule as WBCCI does. Minutes of the meeting were taken by Rick Wendorf, standing in for Dolores Mayo. The activities for the weekend consisted of a trip to the drug store in town for a milkshake, sitting around a campfire Saturday evening, happy hour on Peter and Judy's Sky Deck, lots of conversation and enjoying the gorgeous weather. By the way, the drug store in town is closing, so we bought fixings and had ice cream sodas at the Fairgrounds.

Those attending; Mary Beth Comer & John Sanders, Dick & Jean DeHahn, Char & Gene Gardner, Jim & Marge Kraner, Dave & Nancy Laning, Peter & Judy Schwarz, Rick & Jill Wendorf, Hal Withey and Bob & Sandy Whitesell. Our Units newest associate member, Monte Barksdale, also attended. Pictures of the Rally follow;







Unit Rally May 11 to 15, Tulip Festival, Holland Michigan

The weather was bright and sunny all four days, but on the cool side and windy. The tulips were at their best and the flowering trees were beautiful. The town of Holland presents this festival in a big way, from a two hour parade to wooden shoe street dancing. Our Unit members took a guided trolley ride, where we got off and on, at house tours, authentic large Dutch windmill and rode the tulip lined streets. This Rally we ate out in downtown restaurants that turned out to have good food, the wives said no cooking. The campground was not the best, but it was convenient and it served the purpose. Those attending, Dave & Nancy Laning, Dave & Dolores Mayo, Peter & Judy Schwarz and Jim & Marge Kraner. Pictures follow,



Rock Cut State Park Rally June 16 – 19, 2016

Not only was the weather great, the turnout of members, buddies, visitors, family and young ones was even greater. There were 12 trailers, one motorhome, 20 Unit members, 2 Wis. Unit members, 3 Buddies, 4 kids and one teenager. The grand total of all the people that came to this Rally was 40.

Members who came, Dave & Dolores Mayo, Larry & Donna Steele, Jim & Marge Kraner & Grandson Tyler, Joanne & Roger Friz, Bob & Sandy Whitesell & Granddaughter Phoebe, Rick & Jill Wendorf, Richard & Amy Quirk, Hal Withey & Nancy, Mark Pankow & Brian McFarland, Harry & Yvonne Cramond.

Buddies who came, Jim and Shelly Kelby, with Calvin & Chloe, Mike & Jennalee, & Chuck Lorenz.

Wisconsin Unit Members, Tom & Sue Newhouse of Crystal Lake IL.

Northern Illinois Unit Members drove in and visited, Bob & Elizabeth Nellans.

Northern Illinois Unit Members who had to cancel, Mary Beth Comer & John Spencer, had to work and Warren & Linda Dutton, Warren hurt his foot.

In addition, my family David & Michelle, with their son Tyler and my daughter Janet & Dan, came to the Park on Sunday, with dinner and we all celebrated Father's Day. Also, Bob and Sandy Whitesell's son, Matt and daughter Becky came on Saturday, Becky brought her new Baby. Matt brought his girlfriend.

Bob Whitesell & Dave Mayo did a Tech Time on replacing rusted compartment latches on Dave's trailer, with Stainless Steel latches. Jim Kraner gave a Tech Time on Roger Friz's power jack, which sheared off the teeth of the Bakelite gear, in the power head.

Our members Richard & Amy Quirk celebrated their first year wedding anniversary on Saturday, with a large cake brought by Jim & Marge. They were married in Rock Cut Park one year ago.

Again high praise was given to the Unit grill that cooked up bacon and pancakes for a Saturday breakfast and all the entrees for the other meals. Jim & Marge Kraner were Hosts for this rally.

Pictures from the Rally,







An email from Larry Steele, new members at their first rally.

I also want to express how much we enjoyed ourselves and especially appreciated how friendly and welcoming everyone was in making us feel at home. And the boat ride was the frosting on the cake! See you soon and please also give our good thoughts to your charming lady. Thanks again so much.

Larry

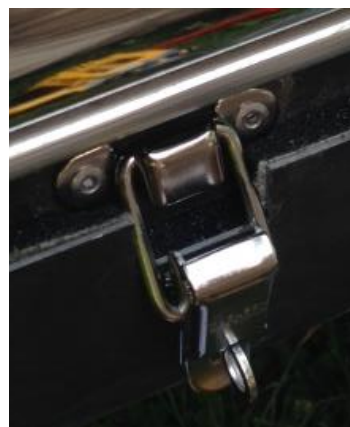
Tech Time

By Bob Whitesell

Tired of looking at rusted, ugly latches on your beautiful Airstreams' access doors, located on the lower sides of your rig? So was I. Well, there is an extremely easy and cost effective fix. Our own resident engineer and President, Mr. James Kraner, gave me the part number from McMaster Carr to order the exact replacement latches in Stainless Steel!! About \$8.00 each, ordered on line at

www.mcmastercarr.com/#1590a45/=133wb31 I ordered 6 for my Rig as I have 3 exterior access doors. To replacement the latches you will need a drill with a new 1/8" metal cutting bit, a rivet gun (we all have one of those), and a supply of 1/8" rivets sized to capture about 1/4". Drill out the old rivets and you will find that the new SS latches line up perfectly with the existing holes. No new holes required. Install the new latches with the rivet gun and you are done. Simple and the result is you have nice looking latches that will not rust or discolor. Safety hint, wear safety goggles when drilling out the old rivets and be careful when removing the old latches that you don't cut yourself on the sharp metal shavings.

Bob



Upcoming Events / Rallies

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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

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 Nancy & Dave Laning

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.