



# The Northern Illinois Unit News Letter

October 2015

*Editor, Jim Kraner*

[E-mail Editor](#)



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## President's Message



### Around the Campfire with Dave & Dolores

October 5, 2015

It's hard to believe that our season is quickly coming to an end. Since our last newsletter, we have had our Starved Rock rally in July, our Thomson Causeway rally in August and our Region 5

and Road America rallies in September. We really enjoyed these rallies. Although our Airstream has been out of service this summer, we were able to attend all rallies, except the Road America rally. We stayed in a hotel room for the Starved Rock rally. We stayed with Peter and Judy in their Skydeck for the Thomson rally. Peter and Judy were kind enough to let us borrow their Interstate for the Region 5 rally and are letting us borrow it for the Thanksgiving rally. Thanks Peter and Judy.

This year we had rally hosts run three of our rallies - the Rock Cut rally (Jim and Marge Kraner), Starve Rock rally (Rick and Jill Wendorf) and the Thomson rally (Bob and Sandy Whitesell and Joanne and Roger Friz). Thanks for volunteering as a host. 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.

I am pleased to announce that our nominating committee (Jim Kraner, Rick Wendorf and Bob Whitesell) have been successful in finding members willing to be involved as Unit officers. Thanks for the hard work guys. Please see the “Miscellaneous Rivets” section below for specifics, so you can come to the Thanksgiving rally and not be worried about being pressured to be a candidate for an officer position.

As my year as Unit President is coming to an end, I want to thank my wife, Dolores and Jim and Marge Kraner for all the behind the scenes support they have provided to me. Jim will be an excellent president.

I also want to thank all of you who have served in officer positions. One non-officer position that requires a significant amount of time is that of webmaster. I want to thank Dwight Dixon for a job well done as our webmaster.

This is my last President’s Message. Jim Kraner is our new general newsletter editor. In addition, Bob Whitesell will be our new “Tech Time” newsletter editor starting with the next newsletter.

I thank all of you members for allowing me the privilege of serving you as your Unit President.

Click for my [parting remarks](#).

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

Dave

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

## Miscellaneous Rivets

### Election of Officers for 2016

Our nominating committee headed up by Jim Kraner, working with Rick Wendorf and Bob Whitesell, have been diligently working on identifying and talking with candidates, for our open officer positions for 2016. They have done a great job!!!

Officers will be voted on at our Unit Business Meeting being held on Saturday, October 17th, at 10:30 am, in Amboy at the 4-H Fairgrounds. The elected officers will be installed at 5:30 pm.

Officer positions being voted upon are:

**President** - Jim Kraner

**1st Vice-President** - Rick Wendorf

**2nd Vice-President** - John Sanders

**Treasurer** Mary Beth Comer

**Secretary** Dolores Mayo

**Two Trustee positions** are being filled to replace Dwight Dixon and Dolores Mayo, whose two year terms are being completed.

Nancy Laning and Peter Schwarz, have volunteered to fill these two year positions.

In addition, Sandy Whitesell and Marge Kraner, will continue to be Trustees, starting their second year of their term.

The above positions, plus the Immediate Past President (Dave Mayo for 2016), comprise the Unit Executive Committee.

### **Unit Business Meeting**

We will be holding a Unit business meeting on Sat. Oct. 17, 2015, at 10:30 AM, at the 4H Fairgrounds Amboy IL. We will be electing Unit Officers at this meeting.

### **2016 Dues**

Hi,

We are looking forward to the rally at Amboy. Regarding the News Letter and dues, I'll bring the renewal forms along to Amboy. We'll want to verify that everyone's contact information is correct. (address, emails, home phone and cell phone).

We'll need their vehicle information. Model, size, year and type (trailer, Class A, Class B).

The form also has options to check boxes for:

I do offer courtesy parking (yes or no)

I do not want to receive a print copy of the Blue Beret

I do not want to receive a print copy of the Annual Directory

I do not want my contact information included in the print directory

I do not want my contact information included in the digital directory

Also, I got an email on a new member Benay Lappe #3481. That reminded me that I'll need to make badges. You might want to include a note that if anyone else needs a badge, please let me know and I'll make it up for them. I've not done any yet and I'm thinking we have some new members that need them.

If anyone would like to mail in their dues, please include the information above and ask that they make out a check to NIU WBCCI and send it to Mary Beth Comer at either of the addresses below. I'll get their International Dues forwarded to Jackson Center.

1219 Devonshire Dr. N  
Sycamore, IL 60178

PO Box 66  
Sycamore, IL 60178

If they have any questions, they can contact me by cell: 815.342.2306 or email [comermb@me.com](mailto:comermb@me.com) I can also scan and email the renewal form to them so they can check it for any needed updates.

I received the invoice for the badges from JC, it was \$30.

Mary Beth

### **Christmas Party 2015**

Dec.6, 2015, Sunday 3:00 PM—Christmas Dinner---Jameson's Charhouse  
12860 Del Webb Blvd. Huntley, IL. 60142, Ph. 847-515-7675. Separate checks for each couple and cash bar. Order from menu, three options, soup, salad and desert, for \$26.95 ea. plus tax and gratuity. Please RSVP to Marge Kraner PH 847-382-3583 by Nov. 25, 2015.

### **2016 Rally Schedule**

See end of this newsletter for details of our 2016 events.

## **Member News**

### **Passing of Ruelene Aarup**

We are sadden to report the passing of Ruelene Aarup age 80 of New Lenox, formerly of South Holland, on Sunday, October 3rd, 2015.

Ruelene and her late husband Charles, 'Chuck' had been long time members of the Northern Illinois Unit and WBCCI. Ruelene was an active member and served as our Unit President in 2004.

At this time, funeral arrangements are incomplete, an update will follow. Kurtz Memorial Chapel, 65 Old Frankfort Way, P.O. Box 1031, Frankfort, Il. Phone # 815-806-2225.

### **Full-Timers**

Since our last newsletter, Peter and Judy Schwarz have sold their home and have become full timers. They purchased an Airstream Skydeck as their new home. They have chosen Texas as their state of domicile. They have their 2013 Airstream Interstate for sale. Unit members have enjoyed using the roof deck at the Thomson, Region 5 and Road America rallies. It's like being in a big cockpit of a boat. Max also enjoys it.

## 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

### Starved Rock Rally

The Wendorfs hosted the rally. Six couples came for the weekend. Three more couples drove in for the festivities on Saturday. We had the usual happy hour Friday, followed by a group dinner and campfire. Some of us went to the Lodge to enjoy “Music on the Veranda”. Saturday morning, Rick and Jill, served French toast, sausage and orange juice for breakfast. During the day, we toured the museum in Utica and the Visitor Center at the lock on the river. After the Saturday happy hour, we shared rides to the Starved Rock Lodge restaurant for dinner. It was too hot that evening, so we did not stick around for the music.

We did get a bit of rain during the weekend, but that did not dampen our enjoyment. Sunday morning the group toured the Starved Rock visitor center to learn of the legend of Starved Rock. A great time was had by all.





### Thomson Causeway

We had 10 couples attend the rally. Peter and Judy Schwarz, brought their newly acquired Airstream Skydeck. This is not your grandmother's Airstream. We held our happy hours atop the Skydeck over looking the Mississippi River. The weather was clear, but a little warm. Four couples came early to lengthen their enjoyment of this river front campground, with fishing and boating. You can see more pictures on the NIU facebook page. [click here](#).



### Region 5 Rally

Five Northern Illinois couples attended the rally. Weather was good the first two days. We had 43F evenings and some rain the last two. We toured the Studebaker Museum and the RV/MH Hall of fame,

among other local attractions. Lots of pictures from Peter Schwarz on the NIU facebook page. [Click here](#) Our Region 5 members put on a home grown talent show one evening. President Monte hired a professional magician for the Saturday evening entertainment. The units prepared the breakfasts and Saturday banquet. The facilities and WIFI were good. Busy train tracks (2 blocks away) provided train whistles background sound effects. NIU handed out the door prizes. A total of 46 trailers and motor homes attended. Rally scheduled activities are on the Region 5 Website. [Click here](#)





### **Road America Rally**

Six NIU couples attended the races with the Wisconsin Unit at Elkhart Lake, WI.. Races and weather were good. Lots of car photos on the NIU facebook. Link: [click here](#) NIU activity: Vintage Car show at Ostoff Resort.



## **Tech Time – Helpful Hints**

Tech Time Editor – Jim Kraner



- A good supply of cooking water is needed when on the road for a length of time. This can be had by adding under the sink, a new water pump, five gallon water jug, some plumbing, a faucet and a on off switch, on the side of the sink cabinet. I also added a charcoal filter.
- By zooming in on your next camp ground, with Google Earth software, you can pick out the camp site you would prefer.
- Extend the life of your refrigerator by leaving the door open during storage.
- During storage of your trailer, ventilate the inside to avoid mold from developing. A couple said they leave two windows slightly open during storage.
- As the August Blue Beret described in detail, insure your wheel nuts have the right torque and that the tire pressure is right.
- The start of my winterizing before the last trip home, I empty the black, gray and fresh water tanks and I leave the valve open on the fresh water tank. I open the bottom drain valves for the hot and cold lines, open all faucets, drain the hot water tank and leave the plug out of the tank, for the drive home. The water that is at the bottom of the tank bounces out, carrying with it lots of calcium particles that clog up faucet screens. Be prepared to clean off the white powder (calcium) on the side of the trailer, once at home.
- My 1995 trailer, with the plastic coating, has never been stored inside and I have never polished it. I attribute it's appearance, to a wash solution I use, made of 1/3 cup of Murphy's oil soap (original wood cleaner) and one cup of Armorall original protectant, mixed in about 3 to 4 gallons of water. I got this recipe from a chemist at the first Florida State rally we went to.

## 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*

**1991** – President Bill Specha held four rallies at Amboy, also three other rallies. The Valentine Brunch and Christmas Luncheon were held. The unit had a caravan to the International Rally at Duluth, Minnesota.

**1992** – President Dave Hendrickson held four rallies at Amboy, plus three additional rallies, including the Sandwich Fair and Installation in Galena, IL. There was a caravan to the International Rally at Dayton, Ohio.

**1993** –President Bill Evans held four rallies at Amboy. A rally was held at DeKalb County Fair in Sandwich, IL plus two luncheons. Two caravans, including one to the International Rally6 at Bismarck, North Dakota. A storm produced nearly 3 inches of rain, golf ball size hail and gusty winds at the

Bismarck Municipal Airport, damaging many of the 2,400 aluminum trailers and blowing down a large tent. The dent on the trailers became known as “Bismarks”.

**1994** – President Bill Bushnell held four rallies at Amboy, plus two additional rallies, and two luncheons. There was a caravan to the International at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

**1995** – President Charles Paape held four rallies at Amboy. They had two caravans to : International Rally at Amherst Massachusetts, and Region 5. Two additional rallies were held plus tow luncheons. The Installation Rally was at Lowden State Park, Oregon Illinois.

**1996** – President Frank Muhleback held four rallies at Amboy. The Installation Rally was held at Lowden State Park. There were two luncheons. There was a Unit Caravan to the International at Rapid City, South Dakota.

**1997** – President Dale Wedebaugh held four rallies at Amboy. There was a unit caravan to International at Huntsville, Alabama. Rallies were at Sandwich Fair, Lowden State Park and two luncheons.

**1998** – President Wayne Kotum held 4 rallies at Amboy. Dwight Dixon led the unit caravan to the International Rally at Boise Idaho. There were two luncheons and two other rallies including the Grandkids Rally at Rock Cut State Park, Rockford Illinois and the Sandwich Fair at Sandwich Illinois.

**1999** – President Dwight Dixon held 3 rallies at Amboy and three additional rallies including the Green River Oaks Campground at Amboy, Grandkid at Shabbona State Park and DeKalb County Fair at Sandwich. Also, two luncheons were held. Wayne Kotum led caravans to the International Rally at Dayton Ohio and to the Region 5 rally.

... 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 Jim Kraner PH. 847-382-3583 or [jimkraner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimkraner@sbcglobal.net) Thanks.

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 dinner.

# Northern Illinois Unit Events

## For Dec. 2015 to 2016

Dec.6, 2015, Sunday 3:00 PM—Christmas Dinner---Jameson's Charhouse

12860 Del Webb Blvd. Huntley, IL. 60142, Ph. 847-515-7675. Separate checks for each couple and cash bar. Order from menu, three options, soup, salad and desert, for \$26.95 ea. plus tax and gratuity. Please RSVP to Marge Kraner PH 847-382-3583 by Nov. 25, 2015.

Jan. Date to be Determined-----Luncheon at Travelers Rest Florida

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/](http://www.marriotttheatre.com/) 10 Marriott Dr. Lincolnshire IL. 60096, PH. 847-634-0200. Money needs to be sent to the Treasurer by Jan. 15, 2016, \$ 56.00 show and dinner, show only \$50.00, dinner 6:00 PM, show 8:00 PM. 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

May 12 to 14 Thru. To Sat. Tulip Festival, Holland MI. [www.tuliptime.com](http://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](http://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.

June 9 to June 12, 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.

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.

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](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r1/leaquana.htm) PH. 815-369-4248 Pick your site from 66 to 81.

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](http://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.

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.