



The Aluminum Chronicles

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

February 2014



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President's Message

Ramblings by Bob,

February 18, 2014

Well, it's been a mighty cold winter here in the Chicago area so far this winter with temperatures dipping to -15F!! We survived it so far but do ask for some sympathy from our members lucky enough to spend the winter in warmer climates. Hope to be able to join you all some day but work continues to get in the way for some reason.



For those of you brave enough to fight the persistent snow, we had a lovely time at La Villa for our Christmas luncheon. Lots of fun, fellowship and food. Thanks to all who attended.

On February 15th at noon, we held a luncheon at Houlihan's restaurant located in the Geneva Commons on Randall Road, south of route 38. We had a very nice private room complete with fireplace reserved for us and we order off the menu and they were kind enough to provide us separate checks. We had 15 members and

2 guests attend this luncheon and a good time was had by all. The Travelers rest Luncheon will be held on February 25th at noon in the Paul Ruth room. Please RSVP with Bobbie Matkovich at 708-567-4686 or email her at: jematkovich@aol.com. Hope many of you can make one of these luncheons. We are in the process of planning a March luncheon and plans will be announced as they are finalized.

Plan on getting to Illini State Park in Marseilles, Ill early on April 25th (or earlier) and get yourself a nice site along the river. We will be having a rally at this location from April 25th to the 27th. Weather permitting, we will cook chili in a Dutch Oven while we watch the barges travel on the river.

Lots of good stuff planned for this year and next and we are looking forward to growing our unit and enjoying our rigs. Let's wear them out!

See you all soon and more later,

Bob

Miscellaneous Rivets

WELCOME

Welcome to "The Aluminum Chronicles" of the WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit. This newsletter is to provide a chronicle of the events and happening of the Northern Illinois Unit (NIU). It is one of our communication vehicles; we also provide information on our website at <http://northernillinois.wbcci.net/>. We also communicate directly with member via e-mail. This newsletter will be uploaded to our website and the members will be notified via e-mail of its availability. Also here is a link to the [Region 5 January 2014 Newsletter](#).

Did you notice the banner photo at the top of the newsletter? It was chosen because it represents what the NIU is about – having fun with friends Airstreaming. This picture was taken in 2010 at a state park in eastern Pennsylvania on a mini caravan to Acadia National Park in Maine. The Airstreams in the picture belong to members of the NIU. The trailers weren't specifically parked to take a picture like this. We came out of a park building and noticed that the trailers happened to line up like this. How cool is that!

Our newsletter includes two new features – member spotlight and tech time. See the sections below.

Our goal is to grow the unit having fun with our Airstreams. We will be promoting some of our state park rallies on Airfourms and inviting non-unit members to join us in having fun. If you have any ideas on how to have more fun at our rallies, we'd love to hear them.

FISHING CHALLENGE

Many times two different units of the WBCCI will get together for a joint rally or event. The NIU and Wisconsin unit held a joint rally last September at Road America. Well some of friends from the Wisconsin unit challenged NIU members to a fishing derby. We would each select a team of three members and fish for three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). In the evenings, we would all get together for diner at Joe's Supper Club. The team with the most fish wins. Each team would fish on separate lakes within three miles of each other.

Being the captain of our team, I was looking forward to the challenge even though the Wisconsin members tend to be more outdoorsy. This derby was held this past month (January 2014). At the end of our first day the score was Wisconsin 10, NIU 0. We didn't lose heart and said we would try much harder the next day. At the end of the second day the score was Wisconsin 18, NIU 0. My teammate Dave said to me that they must be cheating; I agreed. So on day 3 Dave went to their lake to spy (I mean monitor) their activities. Three hours later Dave comes back and tells me that indeed they have been cheating. He said "Can you believe it, they are drilling holes in the ice?"

Member News

The Northern Illinois Unit has approximately 60 members. Those wishing to join can now join the WBCCI and a unit online through the WBCCI website. The Electronic and Communication Committee of the WBCCI has been working hard to improve the WBCCI website. They have done a great job and their work is the reason that new membership can be done on-line. Dwight Dixon of our unit is a member of the committee; thanks for your hard work Dwight. They are currently working on being able to do renewals on-line.

If you haven't done so recently, go visit the web site <http://www.wbcci.org/>.

The February Blue Beret lists a new member for our unit. However, I don't want to list their information in this public newsletter until we have met them with approval to do so.



Peter & Judy Schwartz attended the new Alumaflamingo rally in Sarasota this February. They have agreed to write about their experience at this rally for our next Aluminum Chronicles.

Highlights - Recent Events / Rallies

On a very pleasant Saturday afternoon, 17 Airstream enthusiasts met at Hoolihan's Restaurant in Geneva and had a wonderful time with great conversation and excellent food. We met at noon in a private room that Dave Mayo arranged for us and stayed until 3:00PM. This event could not have been nicer and we all enjoyed the food, ambience and Airstream conversation.



The event was attended by: Dave & Kathy Carlig, Charlene & Gene Gardner, Bob & Anita Koch, Jim & Marge Kraner, Dave and Dolores Mayo, Bonnie Nester, Peter & Judy Schwartz, Guests Jerry McMunn & Caryl Purdue and Bob & Sandy Whitesell. Thanks to all for coming and making this such a pleasant experience.

Bob Whitesell, President

Member Spotlight – Bob & Anita Koch

This new section is to highlight a member of our unit as to their life with an Airstream. This is their story in their own words.



Bob and I were married in 1952. We boated for family fun (5 motor plus a sailboat). Our four children learned to water ski and to sail. In 1977, Anita went to work as a medical secretary. Shortly thereafter, we bought a motorhome and began traveling. We sold the Winnebago in the eighties with 100,000 + miles. Bob retired in 1994 and Anita in 1997. That year we were invited to accompany friends to an RV show in Rosemont.

We had been talking with our friends about the fun we had with our RV, and while they researched, we saw a small Airstream sign. Always thinking that Airstream was the best, we went to their display. Matching another retirement with the beauty of a 25' Classic Excella – at a reduced price with a lifetime WBCCI membership and a pair of Zip-Dee chairs – we bought it.

We were Airstreamers. At our first Northern Illinois Rally, we arrived with a dent in the top front of our new trailer (another story). Undaunted, we found the dent became a conversation piece. You have no idea how many people have similar experiences. Dwight and Carol Dixon were our sponsors.

We have attended every International Rally since 1999 except DuQuoin in 2011. The strangest but most fascinating RV park we stayed in was an island owned by beautiful rabbits. The rally to Vermont was led by Chuck and Ruelene Aarup and thanks to them they introduced us to the camp where at night the rabbits seemed to guard us. As you can imagine this was very hard on Martha the well-behaved dog owned by Warren and Kathy Wilkosz. There was even a bunny nursery to protect the newborns.

After the 2003 caravan to the Burlington, Vermont rally (1,669 units) Bob and I toured part of Canada and the upper peninsula of Michigan. We were on the Landmark West Caravan from Petaluma, California led by the Kings, after the International in Oregon in 2006.

The highlight of our caravanning days was the Alaskan Caravan following the 2008 Bozeman, Montana International. It was admirably led by Jim and Bobbie Matkovich. We had such fun; Alaska is beautiful. Anita keeps diaries of our trips; Bob takes the pictures. We took a plane trip over Glacier Bay. The blue in the glacier ice is indescribable. We made many new friends on that caravan.

We went to most of the Region 5 Rallies., The Kentucky Derby, the Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Rally, Indy 500, two times to the Swiss Festival in Sugar Creek, Ohio and many others. We have traveled all the continental states, but still yearn to do it again.

Anita served as Secretary from 2002 to 2011. Bob has been Membership Chairman since 1999 and recently became Treasurer. We are going to our 15th International in Gillette, Wyoming this year with our original Airstream trailer (BONITA). Airstreaming has made us feel young again – feeling refreshed rather than retired.

Tech Time

This month's tech time is provided by Dwight Dixon.

Be Prepared

Does your Airstream have Aluminum wheels with decorative Chrome Lug Nuts and a steel wheel spare tire? Some of the chrome closed end nuts, supplied by Airstream, do not have sufficient depth to be fully tightened, when you use a steel wheel. This could be a problem, if you have a flat on the road. The answer is, buy six zinc plated steel ½ by 20 threads per inch opened ended lug nuts, (available at many automotive parts stores for about \$8 for 6) and keep them with your jack.

This is great information as I would not have thought of this until I needed to use my spare tire.

Upcoming Events / Rallies

Many of our upcoming rallies are being held in state parks. Each member attending will book their own reservation for their site. Illinois use [ReserveAmerica](#) system to reserve sites.

Here is a listing of our **2014 rallies**:

April 25th to April 27th

[Illini State Park](#)

Select sites by the river.

Please note that that the sites cannot be reserved in April for this park.

2660 East 2350th Rd.
Marseilles, IL 61341
815.795.2448

May 16th to May 18th

Unit 50th Anniversary Rally

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

This is also a unit business meeting to instruct our delegate on issues to be voted upon at the International Rally. No controversial issues this year.

June 13th to June 15th

[Road America - June Sprints](#)

N7390 State Hwy 67
Plymouth, WI 53073
920.892.4576

Note: The Road America vintage rally in September is a week later this year than in prior years. As a result there is now a conflict with the Region 5 rally. We are considering this June Sprints as an alternative. Doing this will make for June being a very active rally month.

June 20th to June 22nd

[Illinois Beach State Park](#)

Lake Front / Park Office
Zion, IL 60099
847-662-4811

We rally in sites 115 to 149 since these sites are larger and more private.

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 Bob Whitesell so we can get a listing of members interested.

June 28th to July 4th

[International Rally](#)

Gillette, Wyoming

July 18th to July 20th

[Shabbona Lake State Park](#)

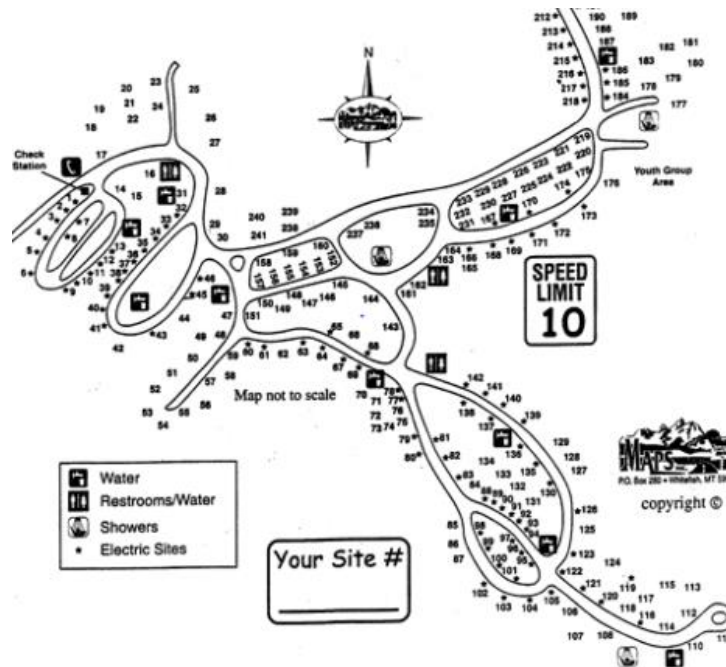
100 Preserve Road
Shabbona, IL 60550
815.824.2106

We rally in the Merganser circle loop starting with site 85.

August 22nd to August 24th

[Mississippi Palisades State Park](#)

16327A IL Rte. 84
Savanna, IL 61074
815.273.2731



We should try to get in sites in the 60 to 80 range. These sites are in the bottom middle of this map

Sept 10th to Sept 14th

Region 5 Rally

State Fairgrounds
801 E Sangamon Ave.
Springfield, IL 62707
Contact: Monte Barksdale (815) 458-3895

Sept 12th to Sept 14th

[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 unit at a discounted rate.

Note: The Road America rally is a week later this year than in prior years. As a result there is now a conflict with the Region 5 rally.

Oct 17th to Oct 19th

Thanksgiving & Installation Rally

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

We install our new officers for 2015.

December 16th

Christmas Event

White Pines Diner Theater

White Pines Inn

6712 W. Pines Rd.

Mount Morris, IL 61054

Branson On The Road - Christmas Style

Musical

December 2, 3, 4 & 5

*** Evening shows November 28, 29 & 30 & December 5 & 6**

What do you get when you bring together a fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, upright slap bass, beautiful rhinestone costumes, hilarious comedy and country Christmas, bluegrass, rockabilly and gospel music? Only one answer Branson On The Road® - Christmas Style, direct from the live music capital of the world, Branson, Missouri. Those seeing the show for the first time, can not only expect great Christmas music, old country favorites and amazing instrumental abilities, but also plenty of hilarious comedy every step of the way. Branson On The Road® are regular performers on the national television show, "Midwest Country" on the RFD-TV network seen in over 100 million homes. White Pines has to add on a \$9 per ticket upcharge to the matinee show prices and a \$7 per ticket upcharge to the evening & Sunday show prices.