



# The Aluminum Chronicles

## WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

March 2014

*Editor, Dave Mayo*



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#### Ramblings by Bob,

March 11, 2014

Wow! it was 50 degrees yesterday. Seemed so warm that I shed my winter coat and still found it to be quite comfortable. Spring is coming, I promise. Maybe not quite yet, but it is coming!

After the great time we had at Houlihan's restaurant in February, we felt we needed to plan another time for us to all get together so we are going to Hackneys Restaurant in Lake Zurich on Saturday March 29th. I am sure we will get a good turnout again, so if you can make it, please let us know you are coming.



Plans are getting made for our unit's 50th anniversary rally to be held from May 16th through May 18, 2014. This rally will be held at the Lee County Fairgrounds on US Route 30 outside of Amboy Illinois. This should be a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and celebrate this major milestone in our unit's history so come out.



Electric is available and we can daisy chain a water hook up if you need it. There is also a pump out station at the fairgrounds. Hope we fill the place up like I heard was done in the past.

As part of this newsletter, we have a spot dedicated to "member spotlight" so we might reach out to you folks and ask that you provide a short article describing your Airstream experiences.

Don't forget to make you plans to attend our first rally of the season at Illini State Park in Marseilles, Illinois. This rally will start on April 25<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, hope to see you all there.

As we get older, it seems funny to me the things you remember. In kindergarten (quite awhile ago) I learned a little song and with spring around the corner, I thought it would be appropriate to share it with you.

"It's March and we hear the wind blowing. Sometimes it whistles a tune. It tells us cold weather is going, and spring will be here very soon".

Corny? Sure, but by the way, don't ask me what I had for lunch yesterday.

Enough from me; see you all soon and let's put some wear on our Airstreams!

Bob

## Miscellaneous Rivets

### Communication

Your President (Bob Whitesell) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (Dave Mayo) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (Jim Kraner) are working together to make our unit an exciting, fun, growing unit. I will refer to these three officer positions as your leadership team. We will be communicating with the membership through:

1. **"The Aluminum Chronicles"** It is our plan to issue this newsletter monthly.
2. **"The Aluminum Newsflash"** This e-mail vehicle allows the leadership team to communicate with the membership on a real-time basis. The newsletter is published only monthly. There are times when communicating with the membership is needed more than once a month. Our plan is to communicate with the newsflash once or twice a month.

A WBCCI NIU e-mail address has been setup and will be used for communications from the leadership team with the membership. Please add this e-mail address to your contacts list:

[WBCCI.Northern.Illinois.Unit@gmail.com](mailto:WBCCI.Northern.Illinois.Unit@gmail.com)

Why are we using a unit e-mail address? In creating the communication infrastructure that we are using, we want to be able to turn it over to future leadership teams. This e-mail address is not any one individual's but the unit's. (Please note that "dots" are used as separators in the address.)

## Growth

One of our stated goals is to grow our unit. We will be marketing our unit through the following venues:

1. **Airforums** We will be listing selected events on the Airforums for Airstream owners to join us for events that we hold at a public venue. We believe that if Airstream owners have a chance to “take a test drive” and join us for fun, they will want to join the WBCCI and our unit.
2. **Facebook** The younger generation communicates with Facebook. A Facebook page has been created for our unit and is in the process of being setup. We will be using Facebook to highlight our recent events / rallies as well as having Facebook users post to the page.
3. **Website** We will be using our website for more static information such as officers, code of ethics, constitution, etc.

## Membership Directory

We will be issuing a membership directory in the near future. This directory will be different than in prior years. It will not duplicate information contained on our website. The directory will contain the following:

- A list of the unit officers
- Member information alphabetically
- A listing of members by WBCCI number
- Information to be found on the unit website
- A listing of 2014 rallies / events

Due to the fact that the directory contains personal information related to members, we will be issuing a ***hard copy version only***. The directory will be mailed to each unit member per the WBCCI Jackson Center membership listing for our unit. An electronic version is too easy for others to distribute. Thus for privacy purposes we will not issue an electronic version.

## Member News

### Membership Committee Chairman Position

Bob Koch has been membership chairman since 1999 and has recently also taken on being the unit Treasurer. Bob is interested in handing over the responsibilities of being Membership Committee Chairman to another member. ***We are looking for an interested member to step forward*** to become our new Membership Committee Chairman. Don't be scared – Bob along with your leadership team will assist you in making a smooth transition. You will not be out there alone. Bob did a herculean job by doing it for 15 years. We are not looking for that type of commitment or none of us would volunteer. If you can commit for a year or two that would be great. This is our club; we need volunteers to continue to make it great.



## Membership Census & Plans for Growth

During March we worked with Cindy Reed, of WBCCI headquarters, to obtain an accurate listing of our membership database. The Northern Illinois Unit has 54 members. As mentioned above, one of our goals, besides having lots of fun and adventure, is to grow our unit. How do we plan on accomplishing this? Two ways:

1. By raising the visibility of our unit. This will be accomplished by using Airforums, Facebook, and our website. See miscellaneous rivets above for further discussion.
2. By getting new Airstream owners interested in our unit. We are inviting all Airstream owners to join us this year for our rallies being held in Illinois state parks. Would you buy a car without first taking it for a test drive? The same could be said about joining a club.

What is the best source of new Airstream owners? It's our local dealer. I met with Stephen Koche, Store Manager, of Airstream of Chicago on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Stephen informed me that the Airstream market demographics have changed; the buyers now are primarily between 35 and 45 years old. I was very surprised to hear this; the buyers are younger than I expected. We discussed how we could make the unit and dealership relationship a win / win. I provided Stephen with a one page brochure listing our four Illinois State Park rallies inviting Airstream Owners to join us (with contact information). He thought that this was a great idea and will provide a copy to each new Airstream owner.

The Northern Illinois Unit was one of the largest units in the WBCCI in the past; there is no reason we can't again be one of the largest units.

## Alumaflamingo

Peter & Judy Schwartz attended the new Alumaflamingo rally in Sarasota this past February.



They describe their experience in their own words.

We arrived to 80 degree weather and bright sunshine for Alumaflamingo which continued throughout the 5 days. The weather alone was worth the trip!

The check-in was not very organized, but this was our first time at such an event, so maybe that's how it's always done. Once we were situated everything else was organized and we attended some interesting sessions each day and met people from Canada, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, and Maine. Of course, many were there from Florida.



We were surprised with the small volume of vendors, we expected many more vendors to be at the event. We really enjoyed visiting Sarasota, Siesta Key and St. Armands restaurants and beaches. We were the only Illinois attendees for the Region dinner on Thursday evening, but plenty of participants from Kentucky and some from Indiana were there. We plan to return next year for Alumaflamingo and once again enjoy some Florida sunshine!

## Suggestion Box

Jim Kraner had a great idea of using our membership knowledge to improve our unit. As an example, you may know of a great camping spot that would be good to have one of our rallies. Thus we are creating the “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.

**The first suggestion that we are implementing** is from Jim Kraner. Jim’s suggestion is to have a communication vehicle where unit members can get together for informal camping. A “Meet-UP” is not a formal unit rally; but unit members getting together for informal get together. This will be a great use for our unit Facebook page as Facebook users will be able to post “Meet-Ups” directly to the page. We will also post “Meet-Ups” in the newsletter.

*Jim has a “Meet-Up” opportunity that he would like to inform our unit members as follows:*

“We have made reservations for our yearly spring camp out with our Grandson, after school is out. Our favorite things we do are - fish, boat with our air boat (boats, kayaks and electric motor fishing are available for rent), stock car races, hike, swim in a second lake with a beach, and watch the turkeys walk thru the camp sites. With Rockford so close, there are all the amenities a city offers.

Our reservations start June 8, 2014 and we leave June 20 to go right to Illinois State Beach Airstream Rally for June 20, 21 and leave on June 22 for home. Our reservations for camping in Rock Cut are for camp sight 197 from June 8th to the 12th (five days) then move to sight 156, for June 13th & 14th and back to 197 for the balance of five days. These sights are all in Plum Grove camp area. We had to move for the weekend since our favorite site 197 was booked. All the sites from 158 to 148 are open, sunny and very long. Google Rock Cut State Park, in Rockford Illinois, for a complete description and a link to Reservations America. Hope you can come.”

Jim and Marge

## Highlights - Recent Events / Rallies

Our last event was our February luncheon that was highlighted in the February newsletter. Since then we have scheduled a March Luncheon being held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 pm at [Hackney's Restaurant](#) in Lake Zurich.

Hackney's  
880 N Old Rand Rd,  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047  
(847) 438-2103

We will be meeting at noon in a semi-private room with a fireplace. We will be ordering off the menu with separate checks. Please note that Hackney's has several locations. We are meeting at the Lake Zurich location.

## Member Spotlight – Marge & Jim Kraner

The member spotlight is to help members become better acquainted with each other. To facilitate this process we have created a format to make it easy. I have attached a Microsoft Word document containing a blank form. We would appreciate members completing the form and sending it to us so we can continue to spotlight our members in our newsletter. This month's spotlight is on Jim and Marge Kraner.



<b>Type of Airstream:</b>	1995 30' Classic
<b>Tow Vehicle or Towed:</b>	2008 GMC 2500 4 wheel drive, diesel engine
<b>Number of Years in WBCCI:</b>	11 years
<b>Number of States Slept In with Airstream:</b>	26
<b>Favorite Campsite:</b>	Rock Cut State Park
<b>Outside Temperature Camped In:</b>	
Coldest	28 F
Warmest	117 F

### Have you customized your Airstream? If so, tell us how:

I have added solar panels, vessel sink in the bath room, hot water base board heat, solar ventilation for storage, carpeting, reupholster, Hensley hitch and disc brakes.

### In a few words tell us about yourself:

We live in this, our second house for 35 years and raised two children Janet and David and we have one Grandson, who loves to go camping with us. That's how Rock Cut State Park has become our favorite campground. We do a lot of fishing there in our inflatable boat. We have made some great friendships and have seen many beautiful places.

# Tech Time

This month's tech time is provided by Jim Kraner.

## How much are your batteries charged?

I am sure you have wanted to know how much of a charge your battery or batteries have in them. With a digital volt meter set to the scale that will measure 12 volts, you can measure the battery voltage and find that voltage in the chart below, that will give you the percent of charge the battery has. You want to make this measurement after the battery has been resting for a better part of the day (not drawing power or recently been charged). The battery temperature will affect the reading, but very slight. A good tip is never discharge your battery more than 50 %.

Percentage of charge	Battery voltage
-------------------------	--------------------

100	12.7
95	12.64
90	12.58
85	12.52
80	12.46
75	12.4
70	12.36
65	12.32
60	12.28
55	12.24
50	12.22
45	12.16
40	12.12
35	12.08
30	12.04
25	12
20	11.98
15	11.96
10	11.94
5	11.92
Discharged	11.9

## 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**:

March 29<sup>th</sup>

Hackney's  
880 N Old Rand Rd,  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047  
(847) 438-2103

We will be meeting at noon in a semi-private room with a fireplace. We will be ordering off the menu with separate checks.

April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>

[Illini State Park](#)      *Select sites by the river.*

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

There are NO services at the park until May 1, 2014. That means no water, no flush toilets, no showers, no water at the dump station. There are pit toilets.

2660 East 2350th Rd.  
Marseilles, IL 61341  
815.795.2448

May 16<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Unit 50<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>

[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 28<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>

## International Rally

Gillette, Wyoming

July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>

## Shabbona Lake State Park

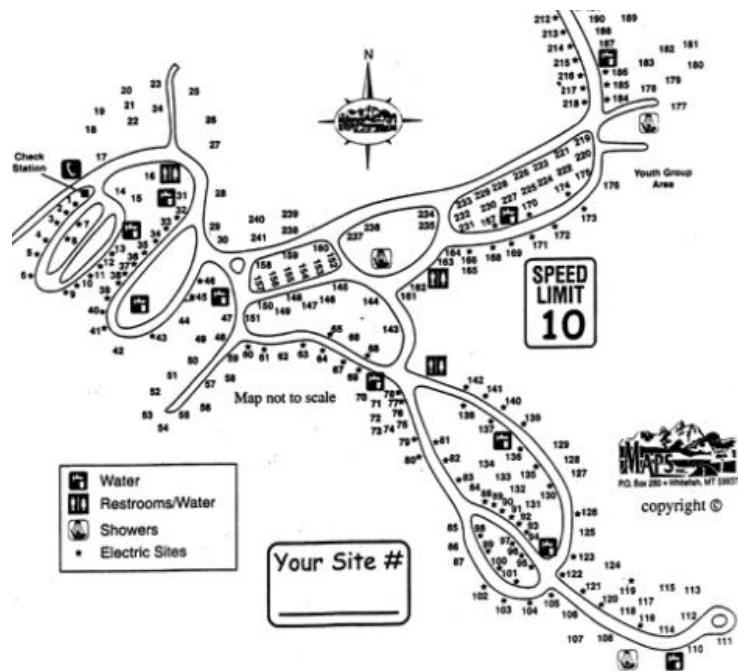
100 Preserve Road  
Shabbona, IL 60550  
815.824.2106

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

August 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> to Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

### **Region 5 Rally**

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

**Note:** The Road America Vintage Festival, in the past several years, was a joint rally between the Northern Illinois Unit and the Wisconsin unit. The festival this year is being held a week later and as a result conflicts with the Region 5 Rally. **Thus our unit will not be participating in the 2014 Road America Vintage Festival.** Any WBCCI member may attend any WBCCI event; this will be a Wisconsin Unit event only.

### [Road America Vintage Festival](#)

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> to Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

N7390 State Hwy 67  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
(920) 892-4576

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Thanksgiving & Installation Rally**

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

We install our new officers for 2015.

December 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Event**

White Pines Dinner 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.