



The Aluminum Chronicles

WBCCI Northern Illinois Unit

April 2014

Editor, Dave Mayo

[e-mail Editor](#)



President's Message

In This Issue

President's Message

Miscellaneous Rivets

Member News

Suggestion Box

Recent Events / Rallies

Member Spotlight

Tech Time

Upcoming Events / Rallies



Ramblings by Bob,

April 20, 2014

Well, I am sitting here at the computer after attending a wonderful Easter service at our Church and we are looking forward to family time later today.

The weather this weekend has been perfect and I spent most of the day yesterday getting our 34 footer ready to go. This was quite a job but I feel confident that we are ready to hook up in 5 days and head on over to Ilini State

Park for our first rally of the season. I think we have a commitment of about 9 rigs and my guess is that a couple of others will show up. Let's hope the weather next weekend is a repeat of this one.

You will all be getting a copy of our newly created Unit directory and I thank Dave Mayo and Jim Kraner for all their work to get this document ready for the printer and into your hands. We are also working on revising our constitution and by-laws and you will see more on that later.

Plans are clicking away for our 50th anniversary rally which will be held at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Amboy Illinois.



This event is scheduled for May 16th through the 18th. We will have a great time together and will conduct our first business meeting of the season so please plan on attending.

Ok, check your tire pressure on your rig and tow vehicle, fill up the water tank and LP tanks, stock the frig, grab something to wear and lets get going and wear em out!

See you all soon,

Bob

Miscellaneous Rivets

COMMUNICATION

Reminder

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

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 anyone individual's but the unit's. (Please note that "dots" are used as separators in the address.)

MEMBER DIRECTORY

The member directory has been completed and is being mailed this week to all members.

RALLY DINNERS

One of our goals is to make rallies more fun and easier to have. Airstreaming should be fun with minimal work. Thus our Saturday rally dinners will be handled as follows:

- Bring your **own entrée**;
- Bring **one of the following to pass** - appetizer, side dish, or desert.
- Bring your **own dishes** and utensils.
- Bring your **own drinks**.

We have eliminated the food sign-up sheet to make the process more efficient. We will not be doing a food e-mail sign-list with e-mails being passed back and forth.

*Rallies held in state parks will have no rally fee. **Rallies held in Amboy have rally fees.***

With members bringing their own entrees, there is no need to purchase food at a unit level. Also, each member will obtain and pay for their camp-site.

The **May Anniversary Rally**, held at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Amboy, will have a catered Saturday dinner. Charlene and Eugene Gardner have volunteered to cook Saturday morning breakfast for the May Anniversary rally.

UNIT CONSTITUTION

Each WBCCI unit is to provide an updated Unit Constitution to WBCCI headquarters every five years. We are currently overdue.

I established a Constitution and Bylaws Committee with Jim Kraner, Dave Mayo and myself on the committee. We reviewed the Unit Constitution and Bylaws and are recommending only very minor changes related to electronic communications. The proposed, revised unit constitution was submitted to our unit's Executive Committee for review and approval for submission to the unit members for approval. The Executive Committee has authorized submitting the revised constitution to the members.

Our current Unit Constitution was drafted from the "Suggested Model of Unit Constitution" contained in the WBCCI Blue Book. **We have not eliminated any wording, but added some.**

The proposed constitution additions to our current constitution are:

Article III, section 3

"**or** by e-mail"

Article VI, section 1

"**or** by e-mail"

Article VIII, section 2

"**or** by e-mail if preferred by the member"

Section 2 of our current constitution requires:

*Any Article or Section of this Constitution may be amended by **a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a business meeting of the Unit** or a special meeting called for that purpose, providing in either case, a notice containing the proposed amendment or amendments has been mailed first-class to each member of the Unit at least fifteen days prior to such a meeting.*

You will be receiving, via first class mail, a copy of the proposed constitution for your review. The vote on the proposed, revised constitution will take place at our business meeting being held in Amboy, Illinois at 10:00 am on May 17, 2014.

Please review the revised constitution and plan on attending the business meeting to cast your vote.

FACEBOOK



Our unit now has a Facebook page. Click on the image above to go to our Facebook page. You do not need to be a Facebook user to be able to view Facebook pages. Thus all of our members with internet access can view our Facebook page. Try it by clicking [here](#). If you want to post a comment (with pictures) you will need to have a Facebook account.

Why are we using Facebook? For several reasons, first we want to attract the younger generation. The younger generation uses Facebook extensively. If we want to be an Airstream club for all generations, we need to use current technology. Secondly, Facebook is a dynamic medium that is perfect for posting many pictures about rallies that have been held as well as upcoming rallies. Also, it provides a way for members, who have Facebook accounts, to post comments / pictures to our Facebook page.

Members with Facebook accounts will also be able to post about "meet-ups". What is a meet-up? It is an informal get together of members camping together. Jim and Marge Kraner will be camping in Rockcut State Park from June 8th to the June 20th. If interested, you can join them for a meet-up.

Unlike a personal Facebook page, an organization Facebook page does not have "friends". For an organization's Facebook page, Facebook users (those with a Facebook account) can go to an organization's Facebook page and "like" the organization. If you are a Facebook user, please go to www.facebook.com/wbccci.niu and click on the "like" button to "like" our Facebook page.

Thanks!!!

Member News

Membership Committee Chairman Position

We are looking for a volunteer to step up and become our next Membership Committee Chairman. 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 Koch 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. Please step up to help us make this a fun, dynamic, growing unit.

Suggestion Box

Jim Matkovich suggested that we include an e-mail link to the newsletter editor. There is now an e-mail link below the editor's name, at the top of the first page, to e-mail the editor. Thanks Jim for your suggestion.

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.

Highlights - Recent Events / Rallies



Our last event was our March luncheon held on Saturday, March 29th from noon to 2:00 pm at [Hackney's Restaurant](#) in Lake Zurich. March was a cold and snowy month in northern Illinois. Fifteen members got together for good company and good food to gather our thoughts about this coming season's Airstreaming. You can tell by the pictures that a good time was had by all.



Member Spotlight – Eugene & Charlene Gardner

This month we are spotlighting one of our newer members - **Eugene and Charlene Gardner**.



Type of Airstream: 2013 22' Sport
"LUCY" named after Lucille Ball, because she is fun.

Tow Vehicle or Towed: 2013 Ford Expedition

Number of Years in WBCCI: 1 year

Number of States Slept In with Airstream: 4

Favorite Campsite: In Lucy all campgrounds are great. But we found Decorah Iowa, Sampson Springs Campground a great surprise. It is located in a valley with stocked, trout streams; great fishing. Electric hookups but no sewer or dump. Go for the fishing, no playground equipment.

Outside Temperature Camped In:

Coldest 30's F

Warmest Pushing 100 F without air conditioning.

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

We have added the rock guards, screen protectors for the doors; but just getting to know her and what she and us need.

In a few words tell us about yourself:

We searched for Lucy for over 10 years. We purchased her after Char had a health issue and we decided we needed to realize this dream. And Lucy is a dream come true! We have just begun this life of Airstreaming, meeting our rally friends and learning the tricks of the road.

We have camped at Paul Wolff campground near Elgin just to enjoy being out. Char has taken Lucy to South Dakota for a family visit. Lucy helped us say goodbye to the family farm. Her first adventure was to the farm in Iowa. Our first night out was at a KOA near LaCrosse. We found out that electricity for the unit requires that the switch be on at the pole. The camp director found us lacking in experience.

We have been married for 45 years come June 15th. We met at South Dakota State University. Charlene is a nurse and healthcare consultant specializing in operating room services. Gene has been a college professor, a business man, and now a histology tech. We are still hitting the grindstone with a vision to be retired in 2015.

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. We will spotlight one member each month; please help us out and provide us with your story.

Tech Time

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

Extending the Life of Your Refrigerator

You can extend the life of your refrigerator in your Airstream by keeping the refrigerator door open whenever the unit is not in use. When the door is closed the temperature inside the refrigerator does not follow the outside temperature and this causes condensation to collect on the piping in the back of the refrigerator. Condensation can collect in either direction, cooled inside and warm outside or warm inside and cooled outside. The piping that carries the refrigerant is carbon steel that rusts, even though it is painted, but not well. This temperature difference in the piping happens with the normal operation of the refrigerator, but I think it takes place over a longer distance in the piping and is exposed to the air flow that takes place in the area behind the refrigerator, keeping the piping dry.

The previous owner of my trailer did not keep the door open and rust collected on the shelving. One day I walked into the trailer after winter storage and I smelled ammonia. Ammonia is the cooling agent in the refrigerator. Needless to say, the refrigerator did not work. After taking the unit out of the trailer, I found the rusted hole in the pipe close to its entry into freezer compartment insulation, in the back of the unit. Also, refrigerators do exit out the front door of the trailer.

We are looking for good tech time articles. Please write-up your favorite tech time tip and submit it to the newsletter editor for publication.

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 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

Boating and Fishing:

Anglers will find ample supplies of crappie, bass, bluegill, catfish, carp, bullheads and many other species in the Illinois River. A boat ramp is available for visitors' boats.

Although there is no motor limit on the Illinois River, boaters should be aware of the danger of barge traffic and the close proximity of the Marseilles Lock and Dam.

There is a hiking trail directly to the west of the park.

[Starved Rock State Park](#) is approximately 20 miles to the west with its many trails. You can also visit the [Illinois Waterway Visitor Center](#) as well as [Buffalo Rock State Park](#). You can also learn about the [Illinois & Michigan Canal](#).

We hope to see you there for a great time.

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 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](#)

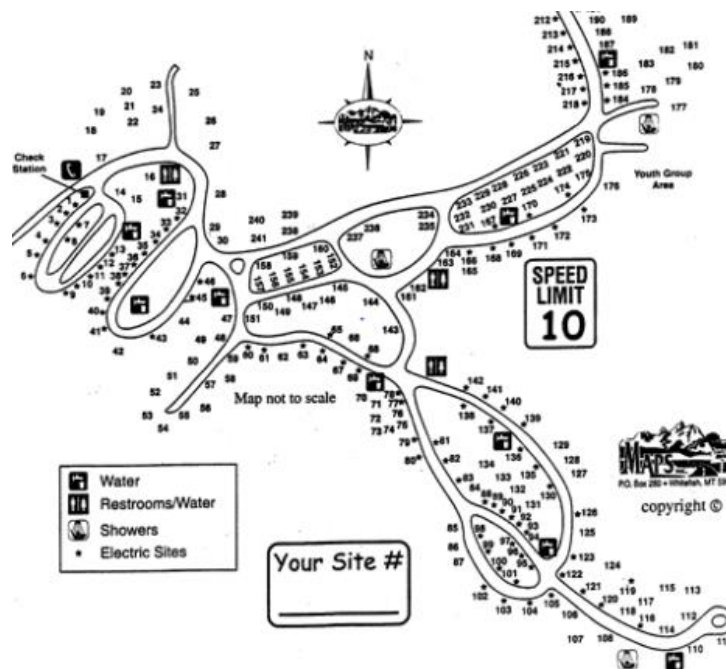
100 Preserve Road
Shabbona, IL 60550
815.824.2106

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

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 12th to Sept 14th

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

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 6th

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.**