



The Aluminum Chronicles

Northern Illinois Airstream Club

April 2019

Editor, Dave Mayo



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President's Message



Around the Campfire with Dolores

April 11, 2019

The Airstream Season is starting!

Our Airstream came out of winter storage two weeks ago and we will be de-winterizing it this weekend.

The snow has melted and 'Spring is in the Air'. The robins are back, the buds are peeking out and we saw two Bald eagles flying over Woodhaven Lake, in Sublette Illinois.

We have lots of fun Rally's planned for the season, just look below to sign up.

Fourteen units have signed up for our kickoff rally in Amboy and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

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

At the bottom of this newsletter is our event / rally schedule for 2019. If you are planning on attending one of the rallies at a state park (Starved Rock, Shabbona, Lowden, Rock Cut), you will want to book your reservations sooner than later, due to the popularity of these state parks. Reservations can be made within 180 days of the reservation date. I have already reserved sites for each of these state parks.

Dolores

Miscellaneous Rivets

Important note from our web master, Dwight Dixon. *For members who have saved our website address (Northern Illinois Airstream Club website) to their favorites, our website address has changed, to "nothernillinois.airstreamclub.net". You will need to change your favorites link to our new web address.*

Unit Officers

Our unit is run by volunteers. No one receives any compensation or perks, for helping to run our club. Without volunteers, our unit would cease to exist. Our unit votes for it's officers at the October Rally in Amboy, for the following year. Each year, we need two Trustees and a Second Vice President. Please give consideration to being a candidate for one of these positions.

Proposed Unit Constitution

Due to our being a non-profit organization, we are required by the IRS to provide an updated Unit Constitution to WBCCI (Wally Byam Airstream Club) headquarters every five years. This year (2019) is the year for our unit update. All members should have received a notice of our business meeting voting on the updated constitution. The WBCCI published last June, "Model Unit Constitution and Bylaws". Your Executive Board started with the model unit constitution and made minor changes that were in our existing constitution. The proposed constitution was submitted to WBCCI headquarters for approval; we have obtained such approval.

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.

The vote on the proposed revised constitution, will take place at our business meeting being held in Amboy, Illinois, at the 4-H Conference Center, at 10:00 am on April 27, 2019.

A copy of the notice and proposed constitution was sent via first class mail to all members on March 25th.

Club Tongue Weight Scale

Your Executive Board has purchased a new tongue weight scale to be used by our members at our rallies. We will begin using it at our Amboy rally.

April Amboy Rally

We already have 14 Airstreams signed up to attend the April rally.

The rally agenda is as follows:

Friday (April 26th)

1:00 pm Members begin arriving.

4:30 Happy Hour.

6:00 Members bring their own entree to cook on the unit grill and a dish to pass. Eat together in the hall.

7:00 *Executive Board Meeting*

8:00 Campfire

Saturday (April 27th)

9:00 Unit breakfast provided (In hall), also included is coffee and juice,

10:00 *Unit Member Business Meeting*

11:00 to 4:00 Activities on your own (*see below*)

3:30 Tech Time - A chance to discuss your Airstream technical issues.

4:30 Happy Hour

6:00 Members bring their own entree to cook on the unit grill and a dish to pass. Eat together in hall.

7:30 Movie (Youtube) Historical Airstream: Africa, Capetown to Cairo (1959) unedited) internet permitting.

9:00 Campfire

Sunday (April 28th)

9:00 Group breakfast in hall - bring your own. Coffee provided and any leftovers from Saturday.

1:00 Rally concluded

International Rally – Unit Caravan

Three members have expressed interest in traveling together as a caravan to the International rally in July to Doswell Virginia. There are three additional members who have expressed interest, but are not sure they can make it. Anyone interested may contact us at wbcci.northern.illinois.unit@gmail.com.

Region 5 Rally

Here is a message from our own unit member, Bob Whitesell, Region 5 president.

The 2019 Region 5 Rally **will start on Wednesday September 4th and complete on Sunday the 8th**. The Rally will be held at the **Lee County Fairgrounds located near Amboy Illinois**. The facility will suit our needs nicely, with ample rig parking with electric and water available. There is also a pump out at the fairgrounds. We will have exclusive use of a large building with a meeting / dining room and a commercial kitchen. There is also an outside deck for our use and a location to have a camp fire.

There are many attractions in the area and I am working on an agenda. Some of the things to see in the area include: the boyhood home of Ronald Reagan, historic John Deere sites in Grand Detour and Moline, an awesome Railroad museum in Amboy and another in Union, a very nice historic museum in Dixon and many other local attractions.

I am also looking into taking a day trip to Chicago and do the architectural boat tour and lunch. So please mark your calendar, I promise we will have a great time. I will provide a sign-up voucher with pricing in the near future.

Keep well and see you all soon.

To assist in our planning, I would appreciate it you could let me know your plans regarding the Region 5 rally by contacting me at whitesellrobert@yahoo.com. Thanks for the help.

Help Design New Unit Flag - Volunteers Needed

Our unit changed its name in July of 2017. We would like to get a committee of people to create a new design for our unit flag and unit banner for the region 5 rally. Whatever design is created and selected, it must be approved by the IBT. Please let Dolores know if you want to be on the committees by e-mailing her at mayo.internet@gmail.com.

Member News

The Northern Illinois Airstream Club has 67 paid memberships as of April 8th. One membership includes all people within that family. For example, my wife and I are one membership.

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 Northern Illinois Airstream Club 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

RV Show and Dinner – February 9th

There were 23 people who attended the RV show and 17 who attended the after show dinner.



Pizza Party – Lou Malnati's March 17th

We had 17 people attend the Lou Malnati's pizza party.



Tech Time – Lithium Batteries

By Dave Mayo

Many RV'ers who are doing extensive boondocking, are upgrading to a solar system and lithium batteries.

There are many advantages to lithium batteries including much larger usable amp hour capacities. They are also significantly lighter than traditional lead acid batteries. However, they are much more expensive and more complex monitoring and charging system. Battle Born [lithium batteries](#), cost \$949 for a 100 amp hour battery. These are group 27 drop in batteries that are the size of the lead acid batteries, that come with your Airstream from the dealer.

Several links, for your reading pleasure, follow related to lithium batteries.

Here is link to an [Airforums thread](#) on using lithium batteries and a [second Airforums thread](#).

The following link is of RV full timers who has an extensive lithium battery system. He now splits his time between his RV and his boat.

<http://www.technomadia.com/2015/02/living-the-lithium-lifestyle-3-5-year-lithium-rv-battery-update/>

We just upgraded our batteries to AGM batteries. I would upgrade to lithium batteries if we ever upgrade to a solar system. Upgrading to a significant solar system with lithium batteries can run in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range. You don't upgrade to lithium to save money, because the payback is very long. In our case, this is not a decision we will make without a lot of consideration.

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.*** It is the member's responsibility to select a suitable site. Illinois uses the [ReserveAmerica](#) system to reserve sites; they can be reserved 180 days in advance. Please **RSVP** all events **via Constant Contact invite**, text or phone call to Dolores Mayo at 630-508-2691 or mayo.internet@gmail.com *Events at restaurants are order off the menu with separate checks.*

April 26th to April 28th
Friday to Sunday

Amboy – Season Opener

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

April 26th – Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
April 27th – Business Meeting 10:30 am

May 17th to 19th
Friday to Sunday

Starved Rock State Park - Buddy Rally

P.O. Box 509
Utica, IL 61373
(815) 667-4726

Select sites in section with sites from 1 to 54. I am planning on selecting site 17 as the gathering site.

Host: *Open – host needed*

June 7th to 9th
Friday to Sunday

Shabbona Lake State Park

100 Preserve Road
Shabbona, IL 60550
(815) 824-2106

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

Hosts: *John Sanders & Mary Beth Comer*

July 12th to 14th
Friday to Sunday

Lowden State Park

1411 N River Rd
Oregon, IL 61061
815-732-6828

We will rally in the section with sites 60 to 77

Host: *Rebecca Jones*

July 20th to 27th

International Rally

62nd International Convention / Rally
Doswell, Virginia

August 16th to 18th
Friday to Sunday

Rock Cut State Park - *Buddy Rally*

7318 Harlem Road
Loves Park, IL 61111
(815) 885-3311

Select sites in section 140 to 158.

Hosts: *Jim and Margaret Kraner*

Sept 4th to Sept 8th
Wednesday to Sunday

Region 5 Rally
Region 5 Website

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

Contact: Bob Whitesell (847) 602-2115

Sept 13th to Sept 15th
Friday to Sunday

Road America Vintage Festival

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

Hosts: *Bob and Sandy Whitesell*

Oct 18th to Oct 20th
Friday to Sunday

Thanksgiving & Installation Rally

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

Oct 17th – Executive Committee Meeting 9:45 am

Oct 17th – Business Meeting 10:30 am – Election of 2020 officers

Installation of new officers.

Thanksgiving dinner.