



The Aluminum Chronicles

Northern Illinois Airstream Club

January 2019

Editor, Dave Mayo

[e-mail Editor](#)



In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Miscellaneous Rivets](#)

[Member News](#)

[Suggestion Box](#)

[Recent Events / Rallies](#)

[Tech Time](#)

[Upcoming Events / Rallies](#)



President's Message



Around the Campfire with Dolores

January 16, 2019

It's 2019. **Happy New Year!**

Twenty-three people ventured out in the snow and traveled to Houlihan's, in Geneva IL for the luncheon. New members traveled from Northbrook and Plainfield IL. We had a great time talking about our adventures planned for 2019.

Over half of us will be going to the RV show in Rosemont, followed by dinner at Cooper Hawk's. Come join us, even if it is just for dinner, let us know so we can have an accurate head count for reservations. I sent out a separate Newsflash and E-event to sign up for the dinner.

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.

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 will be changing, in the next three days, to "**nothernillinois.airstreamclub.net**". You will then need to change your favorites link to our new web address. We will be changing our links on our Facebook page and links in our newsflashes and newsletters.*

Looking forward to seeing you next month.

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

Dolores

Miscellaneous Rivets

The Northern Illinois Airstream Club has many new members, as we are in a significant growth mode.

Since we have many new members, it is important for us to understand how the overall club (Wally Byam Airstream Club) and our unit are structured.

Wally Byam Airstream Club Structure

The Wally Byam Caravan Club was founded on August 3, 1955, in Nova Scotia, during an Eastern Canada Caravan. The club soon introduced a new type of Airstream event, the "Rally". Rallies typically lasted a few days at a specific location and they opened up Airstream camaraderie to club members, that did not have the time to take an extended caravan. International was added to the name as it covered North America, thus WBCCI.

Shortly after the formation of WBCCI, local **Units** started to be formed within WBCCI, with the first Unit chartered in November 1955. Units offered their own caravans and rallies and other activities. In 2013 the Australia Unit became the first WBCCI overseas Unit and in 2015 the Europe Unit became the second.

In the mid-1960s, an intermediate layer of club organization consisting of 12 North American geographic multi-state / province regions were created. Regions quickly began offering their own caravans and rallies.

The international organization is run by an Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee consists of the following positions:

- International President
- International 1st Vice-President
- International 2nd Vice-President
- International 3rd Vice-President
- International Immediate Past President
- International Treasurer
- International Recording Secretary

The International Board of Trustees (IBT), acts similarly to a legislature, is comprised of the following 20 positions:

- International President
- International 1st Vice-President
- International 2nd Vice-President
- International 3rd Vice-President
- International Immediate Past President
- International Treasurer
- International Recording Secretary
- International Parliamentarian
- The 12 Region Presidents

Any changes to the WBCCI constitution, or bylaws, require a vote of the membership and is done at the International rally via delegates. At our April business meeting our unit votes for the international officers to be elected at the International rally. We also select our delegate to represent us and cast our votes at the Delegates Meeting.

Within the last several years, the International organization received permission from Airstream to use the Airstream name in the logo. Thus, the Wally Byam Airstream Club is used in the logo and on the website. **The official name of the club is still the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI)** as it was too expensive to officially, legally and formally change the name.

We are in region 5, that includes Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. There are six units in region 5. The Region 5 President is Bob Whitesell, who is also a member of our unit.

Northern Illinois Airstream Club Structure

The Northern Illinois Airstream Club was formerly known as the Northern Illinois Unit of the WBCCI. The name was changed in July 2017, by approval of the IBT, with Airstream corporation's approval.

We are organized as a unit of the WBCCI. We have a unit constitution and bylaws that are voted on by the unit members. We are a non-profit organization and by law are required to update our constitution and bylaws every five years.

The unit is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of the following ten positions:

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice President
Immediate Past President
Treasurer
Secretary
4 Trustees

The Executive Committee runs the unit (i.e. approves the budget, etc.). All positions are for one year except for trustees that are two year. Two trustee positions are staggered, so that we are only replacing two trustees each year.

This unit is run by volunteers, no one receives any compensation for their efforts.

The unit president selects the events and rally sites for their presidential year.

We have two business meeting each year:

1. In April to vote for International officers and any international items requiring a vote,
2. In October to vote for our unit officers.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met on Saturday, October 20th and approved the budget for 2019.

The board also unanimously approved upgrading our Constant Contact service to E-Mail Plus which allows us to use the RSVP function and also the Event function. The board will review this in a year to determine the effectiveness of the additional capability and whether to continue with the upgraded service.

The Executive Committee also approved a donation of \$200 to the Lee County Fair Association towards the new bathroom fund. Our unit has been using the Amboy fairgrounds and facilities going back to 1967.

Unit Business Meeting

At our unit business meeting on October 20th, the members voted in the following officers for 2019.

President	Dolores Mayo
1 st Vice President	Peter Schwarz
2 nd Vice President	Robert Thennes
Treasurer	Mary Beth Comer
Secretary	Judy Schwarz
Trustee	Hal Withey
Trustee	Dave Mayo

Trustees in their second year are Margaret Kraner and Sandy Whitesell. John Sanders is our immediate Past President.

At our business meeting, Rebecca Jones volunteered to manage our unit website and create a unit Instagram account. What is exceptional, is that Rebecca joined our unit the day before our meeting and is already contributing to the growth of our unit. Thanks Rebecca.

Also of note, is that our 2nd Vice-President, Robert Thennes, is also a new member and has volunteered for a significant officer position. Normally the 1st Vice President becomes the President in the following year and the 2nd Vice President becomes the 1st Vice President. The 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents assist the President.

The future of this unit is very bright with new members stepping up to help make it one of the best units in the country. Thanks all.

Volunteers Needed To Design New Unit Flag

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 63 paid memberships as of January 14th. One membership includes all people within that family. For example, my wife and I are one membership.

Many of our unit members are snow birds during the winter, we also have many members traveling in Florida, Texas, Arizona or California, during the winter months. For those in Florida, we have a Northern Illinois Airstream Club luncheon at Travelers Rest Resort, in Dade City. If interested in attending, here is the information:

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 Luncheon – Travelers Rest

29129 Johnston Road
Dade City, FL 33523
(800) 565-8114

The luncheon will be in the Paul Ruth Building at 11:30 am.
RSVP – Jim Matkovich at 708-246-8329 or jematkovich@aol.com

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

Thanksgiving and Installation – Amboy – October 19th to 21st 2018

There were 11 Airstreams attending this rally. We had a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, that was followed by installation of our officers. We then all watched the movie classic “The Long Long Trailer” with Lucile Ball and Desi Arnaz, on the unit projector in the fairground’s hall. A great time was had by all. Pictures from this rally are below:





The Lee Co. Fair Association works in partnership with U of I Extension - Lee Co. 4-H to coordinate the annual 4-H Fair & Jr. Show. We keep our 4-H members and jr. show exhibitors at the forefront of all our decisions, because for us, it's all about the kids.

10-30-18

Mary Beth + members of W2BCI
Northern Ill Unit,
On behalf of the Lee Co. Fair
Association, Thank you for your
\$200.00 donation towards our
bathroom project. We greatly appreciate
the support.

Sincerely,
Latel Shatt
secretary

Christmas Party – December 1st – Jimmy's Char House – Elgin

We had 33 people attend the Christmas Party at Jimmy's Char House in Elgin. We had a private room and enjoyed each other's company from noon until 4:00 pm.





Luncheon, January 12th – Houlihan's – Geneva

We had 23 people venture out in the snow to get together for lunch at Houlihan's in Geneva. We had a private room with a fireplace and enjoyed each other's company from noon to 3:30 pm. Two of the attendees are prospective members who will be buying an Airstream this year. We didn't scare them off as they will be joining us for our RV show and dinner event.





Tech Time – Base Board Heat In Your Trailer

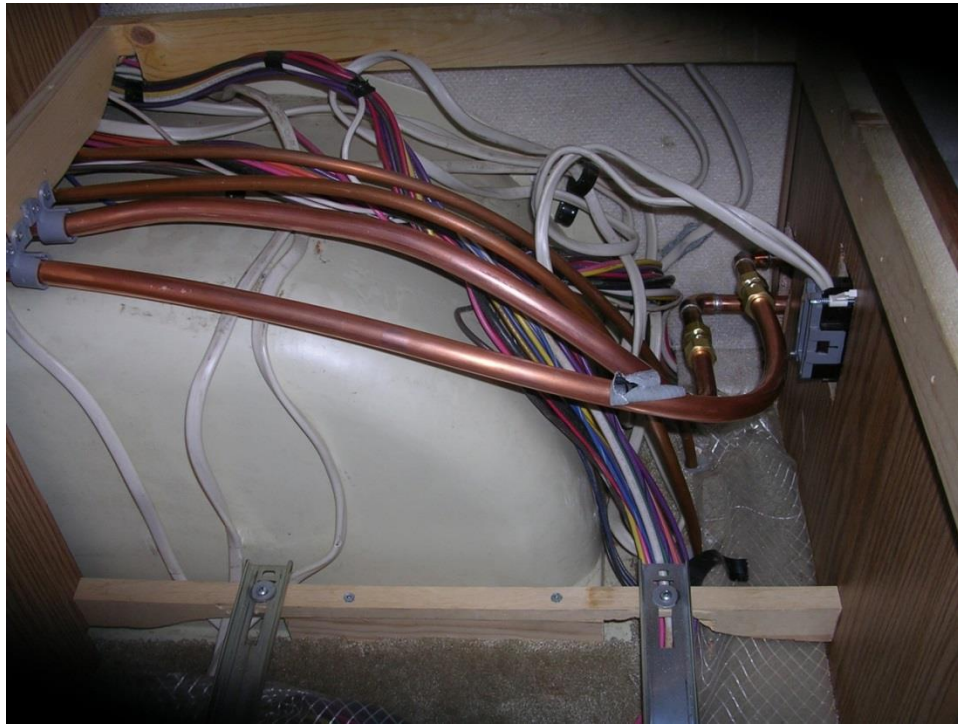
Airstream now offers a hydronic heating system for certain models – the Alde system. However, one of our unit member didn't need to buy a new Airstream to get hydronic heating. He has a 1995 Classic 30 and added a hydronic system himself. He is our unit tech guru. Here is Jim's article originally published in one of our 2015 newsletters.

Tech Time by Jim Kraner

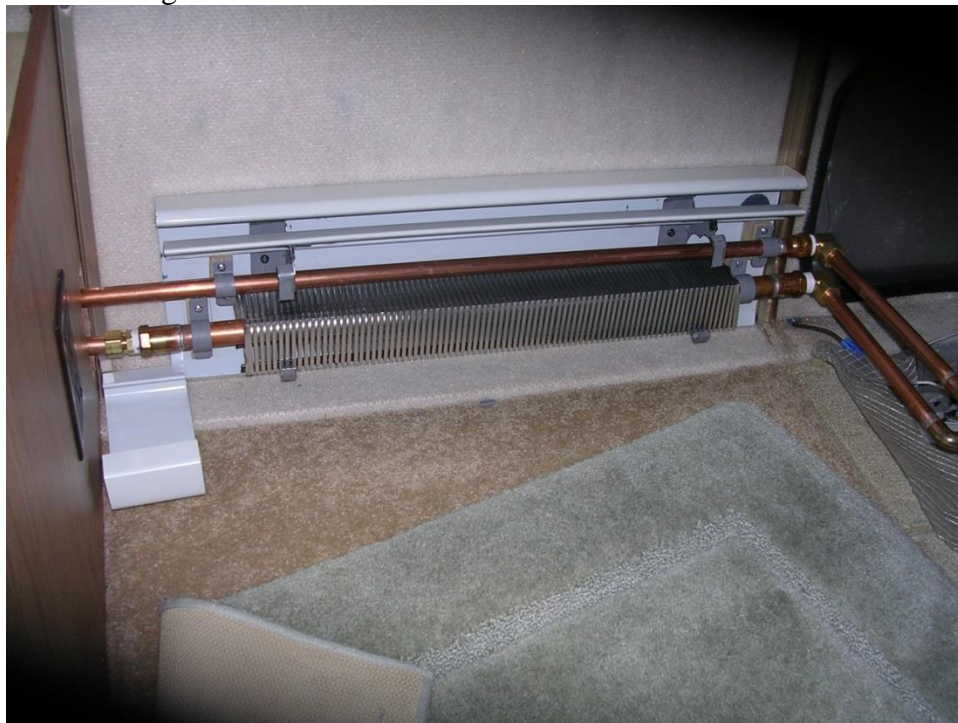
You can have warm feet without the noise of the furnace, with hot water baseboard heat. Part of getting my trailer ready for boon docking, in the BLM out west, I was wanting heat without the 8 amp power draw the furnace requires and without the noise of the furnace fan. So I found a 12 volts water circulating pump that only draws .7 amps and went to work. The following pictures show the installation.



I started by installing tees and shutoff valves at the in and out ports on the hot water tank.



This picture is of the 1/2 inch flexible copper tubing carrying hot water from the hot water tank and a return line to the tank. The other smaller lines are bringing water to the sink. Our hot water tank is to the left and on the other side of the refrigerator.



This picture is of the first heat exchanger between the dinette seats.



Under the forward seat of the dinette is the circulating pump. The rigid tubing follows the outer walls of the compartment that is assessable through the door, this compartment is under the forward seat of the dinette. To the right is another heat exchanger in the couch area.



The third heat exchanger is in the bedroom, note the lines through the wall back to the hot water tank. All of the heat exchangers got the usual off white metal covers. When the valves on the tank are open and the circulating pump running, the cooled water from the exchangers enters the tank, the heat sensor in the tanks starts the fire to heat up the water. With the limited BTU's of the hot water tank, this system will not keep you warm on a cold winter day, but it will take the chill out 40-50 degree days.

Any questions, glad to discuss.

Jim Kraner

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.*

January 29, 2019
Tuesday

Luncheon – [Travelers Rest](#)

29129 Johnston Road
Dade City, FL 33523
(800) 565-8114

Luncheon will be in the Paul Ruth Building at 11:30 am.
RSVP – Jim Matkovich at 708-246-8329 or
jematkovich@aol.com

February 9, 2019
Saturday

[Chicago RV Show](#)

Buddy Event

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
5555 N River Rd
Rosemont, IL 60018
(847) 934-8300

We will meet at 2:30 pm by the ticket entrance and attend the show until 5:30 pm

Dinner – [Cooper's Hawk](#) (at 6:00 pm)

798 W. Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
(847) 981-0900

RSVP – Dolores Mayo by February 1, 2019 (headcount needed)

March 16, 2019
Saturday - Noon

Pizza Party – [Lou Malnati's Pizzeria](#)

1050 E Higgins Rd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(847) 439-2000

RSVP – Dolores Mayo by March 11, 2019 (headcount needed)

April 26th to April 28th
Friday to Sunday

Amboy – Season Opener

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

April 27th – Executive Committee Meeting 9:45 am
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 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*

Sept 18th to Sept 22nd
Wednesday to Sunday

Region 5 Rally
[Region 5 Website](#)

Location is to be determined

Contact: Bob Whitesell (847) 602-2115

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.