

BADGER BULLETIN

50 YEARS of FUN, Fellowship and ADVENTURE

NOVEMBER, 2009 THE PREZ SEZ. . .



In the summer of 2008, Heidi and I attended our first WBCCI International Rally, which was held in Bozeman, Montana. Among the many sessions scheduled at the rally was a "Member Idea Share". The purpose of this session was to provide a forum for members to express their ideas on how to make the WBCCI a more viable organization in an ever-changing world. Ideas ranged from ways to attract more young families to ways to continue to satisfy the needs of our longtime members.

The idea I shared was to initiate a "Letters from Members" column in the Blue Beret, thinking that this would serve as an avenue for all members to provide input on Club activities and operations. A "Letters from Members" column would give members the opportunity to share their thoughts on the future direction of the WBCCI, and, essentially continue the dialog started at the "Member Idea Share".

A "Letters to the Editor" column made its debut in the October 2009 issue of the Blue Beret! If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions that you would like to share, please submit them! However, because space is limited in the Blue Beret, not all letters received can be published and perhaps only portions of letters will be reprinted. But ... copies of all respectfully written letters from Wisconsin Unit members can be posted on our website, whether it is published in the Blue Beret or not. Just send me a copy of your letter (by email or US mail) if you would like to have it posted on our website.

On another note, we have 50th Anniversary pins and some DVDs still available. They will be available at Unit activities or you can contact me.

Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Bob Manak



THE WISCONSIN UNIT WHAT'S NEW

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Wally ByAM
CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Badger Bulletin Writers Guide

The great thing about the Wisconsin Unit—is the members! Since taking on the job of newsletter editor I have been very pleasantly surprised by the number of submissions and offers from new contributors. Thanks! Keep ‘em coming!

When I started writing for the *Badger Bulletin* a couple of years ago, Ellen McGaughey established a formula of a story of 300 to 500 words and half a dozen or so pictures. (Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words!) This approach has worked well and I plan to continue it.

I put the newsletter together in Microsoft Word (version 2003) so that is the preferred file format. However I can probably use whatever you send.

So, if you feel like writing something for the *Badger Bulletin*, give it a whirl! Things you’re doing with your Airstream, your trips, places to see or to camp, you name it! It’s **your** *Badger Bulletin*. The editor (that’s me) will be glad to hear from you.

The Badger Bulletin

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Obituaries

Ruth Knight Sybers of Madison reports the passing of former Wisconsin Unit members Paul Bergmann and Walter H Argraves.

H. Paul Bergmann, Sun Prairie

H. Paul Bergmann, age 84, died Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009, with his family by his side

He was born April 26, 1925, in Frinthrop, Germany, the son of Paul and Elizabeth Bergmann. He served in the Armed Forces in WWII, following which he graduated from the University of Illinois as an electrical engineer. He married Rosemary Fredrick on Aug. 28, 1949.

Paul was a Boy Scouts leader and active member of Madison East and Sun Prairie Rotary District 6250. He was a member of the VFW and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Catholic Church.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Irma; and is survived by his wife and children.

Walter H. Argraves, Middleton

Walter Hubbard Argraves, age 93, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009. He was born on June 2, 1916, to Eber and Ada (Hubbard) Argraves in Rockford, Ill.

He attended UW-Milwaukee in education and continued his education at UW-Madison, in 1942 receiving his master's degree and beginning work on his doctorate degree. He had a long career in education, serving more than 39 years as an elementary teacher, teacher of the mentally challenged, and instructor in the Clinical Reading Program at UW-Madison. They enjoyed traveling and camping with the Airstream trailer. They visited 49 states, missing only Hawaii.

Walter is survived by his wife, Charlotte; and children. Burial in Sunset Memory Gardens, Madison. www.gundersonfh.com

Credit where credit is due . . .



When the Wisconsin Unit 50th Anniversary pin debuted in the April, 2009 issue of the *Badger Bulletin*, the design was credited to Cynthia Schmidt. Although Cynthia did the detail design—including the nifty little Bambi-like Airstream—Patti Thayer contributed the original concept of the Airstream against the Wisconsin outline. Other members also made suggestions, so—like the proverbial giraffe—the pin was a committee effort. Thanks again to Patti, Cynthia, and everyone who contributed to this most successful effort!

The *Badger Bulletin* proudly presents Cynthia Schmidt's *Original Cyn*, an eclectic (and aperiodic) column on whatever Cynthia wants to talk about!

Original Cyn

by Cynthia Schmidt

To Rally or Not To Rally, that is the Question



The first weekend of October, Fred and I hosted our maiden rally. Wait, that sounds like a May-Day event! No, it was our first of what we hope will be many opportunities to plan on spending wonderful time with our dear Airstream friends.

The purpose of this article is to provide a report of what we learned and also to hopefully allay any fears other club members may have when they volunteer to host a rally/camp-out.

Don't be afraid! Planning an Airstream event is much like planning a wedding. First you have a date, then you find the venue, then the church.

Well, something like that. . .

- About a year out, the date was chosen.
- Then, we decided Rally or Camp-Out. Camp-outs are less formal, but to tell you the truth, at this point I could not tell too much difference.
- Find a venue – campground, State Park, KOA, you get the picture. Check them out for amenities, services, location to areas of interest, special pricing for groups, enclosed facilities, fire rings, you know, all the great stuff we have come to appreciate. We found part of the fun was to check out the camping spaces. Remember, guests will be back, maybe not for Airstream events, but simply...later on down the road, they will know of your great spot!
- Make a reservation with the venue and caterer if you are going to have a meal served. Hook-up with your local Chamber of Commerce. Then sit back and relax and wait until it gets closer to the event date.
- I found the really fun part was to put together an agenda that was pretty casual. We have had some fabulous breakfasts served up by our club members, no doubt about that. However, anyone who knows me can attest to my passion for "sleeping in." If you are an early riser, and like to cook breakfast – go for it! Your efforts will surely be appreciated.



- Potluck suppers are amazing, especially when there's a chill in the air. There's nothing quite like a church basement casserole, baked beans, gooey desserts, the list goes on and on. And, the crazy thing is this - rarely are there duplicate dishes. Folks seem to be just fine with providing their own table service, as well, which cuts down on the expense.
- Speaking of which – the budget part was the most scary, and ended up being the easiest thanks to help from Sandy Emerick, our Treasurer.
- Those who attended the Chippewa Falls – Color Campout learned how the weather can either get you down, or become a call for flexibility and creativity! Perhaps the most extraordinary thing I learned was we Airstreamer's are one HUGE family. Go with the flow; make lemonade; you know all the clichés – but they are true. Sometimes, things just work out for the best.
- The key is: Be flexible, and no matter what, understand you are amongst friends who will do anything to make your job as hosts easier and that their help comes from the heart.
- Things we forgot? Sure, it happens, but that is how we learn, right? Phone numbers of the camp area in the flyer; do they take checks, cash and cards; maps.

What did we learn? Our Airstream friends are just simply the BEST! Everyone was so complimentary. All offered to help with anything we needed. Last minute changes were nothing to be upset over! In the end, the changes we made ended up being perfect. And, last but not least, it was fun! And, isn't that what it is supposed to be?

Medora, m'dear?

Saddle Up to Medora Region 7 Rally, August 2—9, 2010

Medora, North Dakota, a premier family entertainment destination, is the site of the 2010 Region 7 rally. Medora offers spectacular scenery and dozens of indoor and outdoor activities to make your visit a modern “Old West” experience. Rally dates are August 2–9, 2010.

Savor a delicious New York Strip steak prepared pitchfork fondue style while viewing the picturesque Badlands from atop a bluff at the Tjaden Terrace. Steaks come with all the fixin’s.



After dinner, enjoy the high-energy, western Medora Musical, which is presented in the outdoor splendor of the North Dakota Badlands in the 2,852 seat, Burning Hills Amphitheatre. This musical is proudly dedicated to the legacy of America’s 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and his time spent in the North Dakota Badlands. The musical is professionally produced, family entertainment and always showcases American patriotism. Along with comedy and nationally known variety acts, the show combines exciting song and dance routines accompanied by professional singers and an on-stage band. An extravaganza that features fireworks, horses, and outstanding professional entertainment, the Medora Musical is fun for the whole family!

Medora is the gateway to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the North Dakota Badlands. Enjoy the breathtaking vistas in the savagely beautiful North Dakota Badlands. View bison, prairie dogs, wild horses, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and several species of birds in the 110 square mile park. Travel through the park to the site of President Roosevelt’s Elkhorn Ranch and stop for a picnic lunch.

Depending upon the depth of water in the Little Missouri River, we may drive through the river to the ranch site with our own four-wheel drive vehicles.

Explore the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, an interpretive \$4 million facility which displays the history of Native Americans, ranching, rodeo and the western lifestyle of the north plains horse culture and the Badlands.



Tour the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, home of the Marquis de More. The Marquis was the founder of Medora and named the town after his wife, Medora von Hoffman. Refurbished to its original splendor of yesteryear, the home includes items of interest and fascination.



Bike or hike the nationally ranked, 97 mile Maah Daah Hey Trail. This adventure lover’s dream traverses the scenic and rugged Badlands of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Saddle up and take a trail ride with the “horsy” set, beginning at the Peaceful Valley Ranch located in the Badlands.

Play 9 holes of golf at the world-class Bully Pulpit golf course. While there, visit the Transportation Museum, which interprets Theodore Roosevelt’s involvement with the Panama Canal.

Watch the thrilling bronco riders at the annual Champions Ride Match Rodeo. Proceeds from the rodeo benefit Home on the Range, a residential center for troubled boys and girls.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the North Dakota Badlands, and most of the events and activities are located right in Medora, just minutes from the rally site, the Red Trail Campground. More details and a coupon will be available in future Blue Berets.

Photos courtesy of North Dakota Tourism Dept.

Annual Birthday Bash Campout Kohler-Andrae State Park

Reporter: Sandy Emerick

Photos by Sandy Emerick and Bob Manak

Hardy Wisconsin Unit campers attending this year's traditional annual Birthday Bash Campout at Kohler-Andrae State Park near Sheboygan, faced an unusual predicament: *warm weather!* What's November camping in Wisconsin without at least a *light* dusting of snow? Instead weather was clear and breezy with temperatures ranging in the 50s and 70s.

In any case, there was a good turnout for both the Birthday Bash Campout and the November luncheon. Surprisingly, campsites were at a premium at K-A because owners of Some Other Brand—Jayco—were having a rally there the same weekend! Don Stenz stationed himself at the campground office and steered Airstreamers to the right spaces.

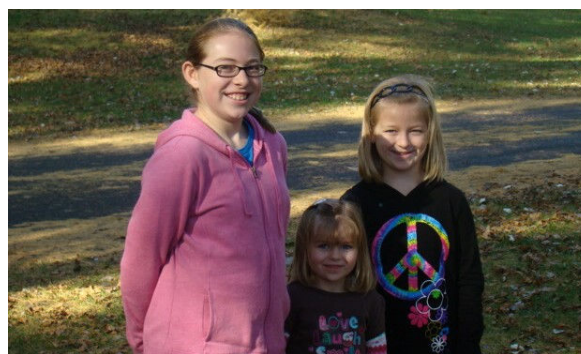


Although the weather was warm, the cool nights were just right for a good chili dump and a wee drop (or two or three) of “antifreeze” to warm the innards.

Ever promoting Airstreaming, Ed Emerick brought some Appleton friends to the party to experience the camaraderie of the Wisconsin Unit. [Late breaking news—two of them, Brian Brux and Bob Padour, have just joined the unit. Welcome to the club!]



And plenty of old Wisconsin Unit hands were present. . .



A successful rally, despite the lack of snow!

November Luncheon Oostburg Pizza Ranch

Photos by Bob Manak

There was a good turnout for the November luncheon at the Oostburg Pizza Ranch, including the birthday kids from the Birthday Bash campout. . .



And other members there for the luncheon. . .



Steve and Lynne Piotrowski have been emailing us an ongoing travel log of their travels in the Northwest, which are especially topical in view of the 2010 Region 7 Rally in North Dakota and Wisconsin Unit Caravan to Banff, Alberta (assuming that our reputation does not precede us and the Canadians let us in). In this issue we present the first installment.

Steve and Lynne's Northwest Passage

Story and photos by Steve Piotrowski

Part 1 – Getting across the plains

We left Monday for another travel adventure with Lynne, Ruby, Dazzle and myself. This time we are headed out West, Northwest to be more exact. The first few days are mostly to get some distance between us and home, so being Friday night, we must be in Havre, Montana.



Ruby the cat.

We spent our first night just outside of Alexandria, MN, the next night outside of Mandan (Bismarck) ND, at the Fort Abe Lincoln State Park. It is a very cool state park, old military barracks, right on the Missouri river, and it has a number of reconstructed Mandan Native American houses. We would go there again, so if you are on your way thru, it is worth a stop.

The next two nights were spent in the badlands, the north unit of the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. It is the smaller of the two parts of the park, but much less used. We saw lots of Bison, a golden eagle, and hiked around a bit. The cats were very nervous there, we think it was because the grasshoppers were so loud, but we are not really sure why. They were very calm at Abe Lincoln, and are very calm tonight, but were very nervous there.

We saw a huge eight point mule deer, and other wildlife and birds, one snake, and just a lot of beautiful, if harsh, country. Today we did a long driving day, almost 350 miles, and are staying in a



Outside of Teddy Roosevelt National Park

little private park. The next five days are glacier national park, and then into Canada for a visit to our neighbors to the north. The travel, while enjoyable, has been mostly centered on getting out this far. Most of the rest of our time keeps our travel days well below two hundred miles, so we should get a chance to see a lot more along the way.



Bull elk.

The weather has been beautiful, 80's during the day, 60's or so at night. The mountains promise a drop in both ends of those temps, but lots more spectacular scenery. The local radio station was rather funny yesterday morning, the highs in their listening area (from western Montana and Wyoming, to middle parts of the Dakotas, was 95 degrees, the low, in Yellowstone, was 31 degrees. Pretty drastic, it would seem. Stay tuned for an update when we get out of glacier park.

(To be continued.)

November is the last issue of the Badger Bulletin for 2009. The next issue will be January 2010. We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Legislative Alert

By Cynthia Schmidt, Political Correspondent

Puppy Mill Bill Signed Into Law!

The Commercial Dog Breeder bill, AB-250/SB-208, passed both the Assembly and Senate by **unanimous** votes and have been signed into law by the Governor.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible!



Thanks!

For Sale

For Sale: 1999 27ft Airstream Safari, road side queen bed model.

Additional equipment: 360 watt solar system with 2000 watt inverter/100amp charger & 4 golf cart batteries, Spare tire & underside carrier, Hensley Arrow Hitch, 3 fantastic fans.

Shell is in excellent condition.

Asking \$20,000.00

Bob Wiltout

Phone: 715-532-6692

Email: green.bananas@yahoo.com

Holiday Luncheon

December 5, 2009 *at* 11:30 AM
Lodge At Geneva Ridge
Lakeview Grille

W4240 State Road 50
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147
262 249-3800

Join Hosts Dick and Arlene Redell for our Holiday Luncheon.
 RSVP: by Monday November 30th
 To: Redells at 262 248-6108 or 262 215-6000

Make it a day in Lake Geneva. The Great Electric Children's Parade is in downtown Lake Geneva at 5:00PM. A holiday tradition! Local businesses and organizations light up the streets. Be sure to stroll through town.

Directions:

From Milwaukee: Take I-43 West to Hwy. 67 South to Hwy. 50 east.
 From Madison: Take I-90 East to Hwy. 14 East to Hwy. 11 East to Hwy. 50 East.
 From Rockford: Take I-90 North to I-43 to Hwy. 67 South to Hwy. 50, turn left.
 From Chicago: Take I-294 to I-94 North to Hwy. 50 west.
 From the Chicago Suburbs: Take Rt. 53 North to Hwy. 12 West to Hwy. 50 West.



2010 Calendar Luncheons

December 5, 2009: Holiday Luncheon at Geneva Ridge – Lakeview Grill, Lake Geneva hosted by Arlene and Dick Redell

February 13, 2010: Valentine's Luncheon at Hi-Way Harry's Restaurant, Johnson Creek hosted by Heidi and Bob Manak

March 27, 2010: Luncheon at Benvenuto's Restaurant, Fitchburg hosted by Patti and Dennis Thayer

April 24, 2010: Luncheon at Dell's area restaurant TBA hosted by Ellen and Mark McGaughey

Rallies and Camp-Outs

April 23-25, 2010: Camp-Out at Wisconsin Dells KOA hosted by Ellen and Mark McGaughy

May 20-23, 2010: Explore Milwaukee Rally at Waukesha County Expo Center hosted by Heidi and Bob Manak

August 20-22, 2010: Camp Airstream Rally at Green Lake Campground hosted by Barbara and John Sellers

September 10-12, 2010: "VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival" Buddy Rally at Road America Race Track, Elkhart Lake Dry camping on the RA grounds hosted by Kay and Don Stenz

October 1-3, 2010: Explore Sparta and Amish Country Rally (Installation Rally) camping at a downtown park in Sparta hosted by Dori and Dave Stowell