



May, 2010

THE PREZ SEZ. . .



Congratulations to Don and Kay Stenz for the Wisconsin Unit receiving the Superior Merit Award again this year. Unfortunately, the Wisconsin Unit information was not in the *Blue Beret*. Thanks to Patti and Dennis Thayer for hosting the March luncheon in Fitchburg. And thanks to Ellen and Mark McGaughey for hosting the April luncheon and campout in the Dells.

The Waukesha Rally is coming up next week, giving us the opportunity to visit some Milwaukee and Waukesha attractions. In addition, we will have our annual spring business meeting on Saturday night. After the business meeting, Region 7, 1st VP Joan Lahr will conduct a WBCCI "Round Table for Change" listening session. Please remember to mail or bring your ballot to the meeting. If you are not registered for the rally you can still call me to get registered (262 544-6151).

Going to the Gillette International? I am looking for volunteers to staff the aerial photography table and sell the aerial photographs. Please let me know if you can help.

The Camp Airstream Rally is in August; complete details are in this newsletter. Please note that the registration deadline is in early June due to the reservation requirements of the campground.

Full details on our September 10-12 dry camping, buddy rally will be available in the next newsletter (the July issue). This rally will be held at the "Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival".

Our final rally of the season is the Explore Sparta Rally October 1-3. Details to follow in future newsletters.

Hope to see you at a 2010 event!

Bob Manak, President

The Wisconsin Unit What's New

In this issue

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& Camp Out

Steve & Lynne's Northwest
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Steve Piotrowski

"Out of the Mouths of Babes
Dori Stowell

August *Camp Airstream* Rally,
Green Lake, Wisconsin
Invitation, Schedule,
and Registration Form
(Note - Due June 10)

WBCCI National and Regional
Ballot



Member News

Thoughts and Prayers

Craig Belling's Father

Craig Belling's father Casey suffered a massive heart attack on May 3. His heart was stopped for an indefinite period of time but restarted by the paramedics on the way to the hospital, where several stents were put in. His heart was functioning but he never regained consciousness and remained on a ventilator. He passed away May 13. Visitation and funeral will be at 3:00 and 5:00 Monday, May 16 at Saint Bernadette Parish, Appleton, WI.

Mary Schwenke

Everyone was glad to see Stan and Mary Schwenke at the Dells camp-out and luncheon. Mary is doing very well, but still faces serious surgery.

Cynthia Schmidt

Cynthia is slowly recovering from her rotator cuff surgery and continues in physical therapy. Between her recovery and other commitments Fred and Cyn don't expect to be at any of this summer's rallies.

Airstreams Lost and Found

Ken and Georgellen Mikkelsen have found a suitable Airstream to replace their 1986 Sovereign lost in a fire before they ever got to travel in it. Congratulations, and hope to see you at some Wisconsin Unit events!

Allan Brandeau of Appleton 920-734-0243, rabrandeau@aol.com, is still looking for a 24 – 30 foot vintage Airstream to replace his that was lost in the collapse of a storage building.

Wanted to Trade

Ed & Renee Harrison, eharrison7@wi.rr.com, 920-528-8685, have a 1973 25 ft Trade Wind Land Yacht with front dinette they would like to make an even trade for a 20 ft. or smaller vintage Airstream.

Airstreams for Sale

Bob Wiltrout, green.bananas@yahoo.com 715-532-6692, has for sale a 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

Obituary

Don Sheldon was a long -time member of the Wisconsin Unit.

Don Sheldon

Don Sheldon, 71, Janesville passed away Thursday, April 15, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Madison on June 27, 1938, the son of Harry and Bernice (Thingvold) Sheldon. Don graduated from Orfordville High School in 1956. He loved to attend class reunions and felt it was very important to reconnect with his Orfordville classmates.

Don married Diane Lakin on Sept. 18, 1960. They later divorced in 1984. Don started dating Rona (Nyman) Dolgner, a former classmate, in 1984. Don began barbering with his father in Janesville in 1956. He continued to barber for 47 years before retiring in 2003. Don and Rona began traveling full-time when he retired. They loved to meet other full-time travelers and were members of the Escapees RV Club. Don was also a member of First Lutheran Church, Loyal Order of Moose #197 and the Tuesday A.M. Breakfast Optimists Club. He enjoyed many friendships in the Optimist Club and volunteered whenever needed, especially the weeks they sold cheese curds at the fair every year.

Don was loved by his longtime significant other, Rona Dolgner; his three daughters: Danette (Robert) Gonzalez of Lake Mills and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; infant brother; and a half sister, Arlene Bolson.

Don enjoyed his many friends he had met through his years of barbering and travels. Recently, a past customer described Don as kind. Don felt there could be no greater compliment. He always had a smile and a joke for those he knew.

The Badger Bulletin

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WBCCI International News

Wisconsin Unit Receives Superior Merit Award

Wisconsin Unit members reading the latest *Blue Beret* were surprised to see the Wisconsin Unit missing from the list of Merit or Superior Merit award winner.

Never fear, the absence of the Wisconsin Unit from the list was due to a series of minor administrative delays and oversights. The Wisconsin Unit did, in fact, receive, for the 5th consecutive year, a Superior Merit award. This also means that Region 7 joins the short list of regions with 100% unit awards. (Well, OK, all *three* units! But what the hey, 100% is 100%!) Congratulations to Past President Don Stenz, First Lady Kay, and *all* the members of the Wisconsin Unit, for this achievement.

Metro NY Unit Votes to Sue WBCCI

Shortly after the Mid Winter IBT meeting, the WBCCI Executive Committee, on recommendation of the Ethics and Grievance Committee, expelled from the WBCCI Metro NY Unit Past President Leo Garvey. This move was not entirely unexpected since Mr. Garvey has been a thorn in the side of the Executive Committee for several years. He first rose to prominence in “the loyal opposition” to various Executive Committee recommendations when he established his Save Wally web site, www.savewally.org to organize opposition to the club name change to “Airstream Owners Association, International”, AOAI, proposed in 2006. He subsequently helped defeat the 2007 proposal to allow non-Airstream motor homes into the club.

Leo Garvey’s expulsion is reminiscent of Region 1 Past President Bob Thompson’s suspension in 2008. Both actions were widely viewed by their supporters as being politically motivated. In Bob Thompson’s case, an appeals board consisting of three members of the IBT unanimously overturned his suspension and asked the Executive Committee for a published apology (which did not occur). However, speaking at the Florida State Rally shortly after the news of the expulsion became public knowledge, IP Tom Collier told Leo’s supporters among the attendees that wasn’t going to happen in Leo’s case.

Subsequently, several of Leo’s supporters established a Defend Wally web site, www.defendwally.org, to solicit pledges of financial support for a legal challenge to the WBCCI disciplinary and election processes, among other things. A dollar amount of pledges was established to initiate the lawsuit.

At its regular spring business meeting on May 1, the Metro New York Unit voted to join the lawsuit as a plaintiff and to contribute \$2,000 from the Unit’s treasury to the legal expense fund, thereby passing the previously agreed threshold to initiate the action.

No further information is available at this time. Updates may be available from time to time at the Defend Wally web site www.defendwally.org, the Save Wally web site, www.savewally.org, or a thread on this subject on Airstream Forums, <http://www.airforums.com/forums/f286/wbcci-board-lawsuit-61787.html>

International Rally – Gillette, WY June 27 – July 4, 2010

Not too late to sign up for the 2010 International Rally in Gillette, Wyoming! See the *Blue Beret* or WBCCI web site for registration information http://www.wbcci.org/index.cfm?pageSRC=International_Rally

Region 7 Rally, Medora, ND August 2 – 9, 2010

Time to get ready to mount up and ride out to the Region 7 Rally in Medora, ND! Lots of things to do and see in this scenic and historic area. See the *Blue Beret* for registration forms or Region 7 web site, http://region7.wbcci.net/files/2009/11/region7_2010_medora_rally_form.pdf

International/Region Officer Election

An election of International and Region officers will be held at the spring Wisconsin Unit business meeting at the Waukesha County Rally on May 22.

In accordance with unit bylaws, members of the Wisconsin Unit may vote either in person at the meeting or by mail using the ballot included in this issue of the newsletter. Mailing instructions are given on the ballot. The folded ballot should be placed in an envelope showing your name and WBCCI number in the return address and mailed to the Unit Secretary. The return address will serve to verify your eligibility to vote. The folded ballot will be removed and placed with the other ballots prior to tabulating, to maintain secrecy of the ballot.

Spring Luncheon Moosejaw Pizza & Dells Brewing Co. Wisconsin Dells, WI

Photos by Bob Manak

Mark and Ellen McGaughey had a good turnout for their April 24 luncheon and camp out at Wisconsin Dells. They know how to pick the places!



Airstreamers in close conversation



Hosts Mark and Ellen McGaughey with Don Stenz.



We were glad to see Stan and Mary Schwenke. . .



. . . as well as Past President and First Mate Bob and Arlene Finley.



Don samples the wares of the Dells Brewing Co.



Promoting still more discussion. . .



Bob Manak addresses the throng. (Doesn't look like anybody's paying attention, though.)

Thanks, Mark & Ellen, for another great luncheon!

Spring Camp Out Wisconsin Dells KOA Wisconsin Dells, WI

Photos by Bob Manak and John Sellers

Ten members attended the popular April Camp Out, including ND Unit past presidents Larry and Cathy Ruebel, who were on the way to Jackson Center for repairs on their trailer.

Again this year, the camp out was held at the Wisconsin Dells KOA.

And again this year, it rained.

But Wisconsin Airstreamers can handle a little rain, and the friendly folks at the KOA had just completed a nice meeting room, which proved to be a life saver!



Parked at the multi-level Dells KOA



Morning coffee. Think it'll rain?



Bob Manak and George Boehmer in the new meeting room.



Sunday morning potluck breakfast. Audrey Sinner scored a hit with her breakfast casseroles and fresh baked coffee cake.



In a contemplative mood.



Stan Schwenke never runs out of stories to tell.



Airstreams took over the KOA for the weekend!

Steve and Lynne's Northwest Passage

Story and photos by Steve Piotrowski

Conclusion – Yellowstone and Home

We have been in Yellowstone for the last four nights, and we certainly understand why it was our first, and still considered one of the best of our National Parks.

We spent a couple of days at Susan Creek, Oregon, but the trees were so big they blocked out all the sun and our new solar collectors could not gain any power what-so-ever. We decided to go up to Diamond Lake, Oregon, where we found a site that was much less tree-d in, and the collectors began to regain power for us. They never gained it all back, but we got enough sun so that we were no longer on the last legs of the batteries. We stayed there four days, spent one day driving around Crater Lake (both the National Park and the lake, pretty much one and the same). It was a beautiful place, both Crater and Diamond Lake. We got a call from Lynn Blenker on our last day, and he told us how the bad weather in Montana had chased him home from his fishing trip, so he wanted to warn us about our plans to go to Yellowstone. We looked at all the weather reports, and it appeared our only other choice would have been to go to the Redwoods in California, and then head over across Nevada. The storm was coming in from that way, so we decided to take our chances.

It turned out fine, it was cold while we drove across Idaho, and we had some rain and sleet, but we were fully recharged by the time we reached Yellowstone, and the weather was ok. The first couple of days were cool, and it rained and snowed off and on, but we had beautiful skies, and enough sun so that the batteries stayed mostly charged. And we saw more rainbows than we have in the last ten years, as if the scenery in Yellowstone was not stunning enough already. Today it reached into the sixties, and it was beautiful.



Two days ago, we got to watch a Grizzly bear come down the hill fifty feet in front of our car and proceed to mark a log for about ten minutes. He rolled and played, had his feet up in the air like a kitten, and just was looking so cuddly that you wanted to walk up and rub his belly. We behaved, and got wonderful shots of him through the windshield of our car.

We have seen tons of elk and buffalo, and today watched as the weekend tourists got within ten yards of a grizzly with their kids in tow and their cameras in hand. I could not believe it. Even when a ranger came along and told them to move because it was dangerous, most of them stood around and kept shooting photos. It scared the hell out of us, and we did not wait around to get pictures of a bear eating a tourist.



Regardless, the park is beautiful, and in amazingly good shape considering that it has been a tourist destination for over a hundred years. We will be departing in the next couple of days, and the weather will dictate our route home. Lynne had a novel experience at dusk, one we can honestly say she hasn't had before. Our one year old kitten bolted out the door, and proceeded to play hide and seek and catch me if you can. The game went on to Ruby's delight and Lynne's chagrin until Lynne happened upon the new game of tossing elk turds, which are round and about the size of a small marble and roll marvelously. Luring Ruby close enough to grab her in a vice-like grip. Who knew elk doo-doo could be so handy? Ruby could not figure out why Dazzle got to go out for the evening walk and she remained confined to the trailer after her escape attempt. We hope she learned some lesson, and not the lesson of don't let them catch you!

Out of the Mouths of Babes

Dori Stowell, Vintage Contributor, and the Stowell Kids

<http://airstreammemories.blogspot.com>

In times when children often need to be entertained by parents and computer games, I thought it might be refreshing to share with you our children's thoughts on Airstreaming. Just a little background—our Airstream trips include no TV, no DVD players in the back of the truck, and limited time on the Game Boy. In general, we take no trips to Disney, amusement parks, or water parks.

Each child packs their own entertainment bag for the trip, which, when they are 10 years and older, may include an MP3 player loaded with Christian music and a Game Boy. The most important item to bring, in their opinion, is enough books to last the whole trip! While traveling all day on trips, the kids are only allowed about 2 hours on the Game Boy. I know, we're mean parents, but we not only want our kid to learn to entertain themselves, but also want them to see and experience the United States.

Oh, and the other rule—do not say the dreaded *"Are we there yet?"*

Enough with the rules, we really do have a fun time with our kids. This is the way we have always traveled, and they are often more excited to go than we are. So, with no further ado, the highlights of Airstreaming, from the mouths of my babes:

3-Year-Old: "Playing, sleeping, and don't fall out of the bed!"

5-Year-Old: "I like to go on the bunk beds and sleep in them. It's fun to go in the Airstream."



Bunk bed in the Stowell's Ambassador

11-Year-Old: "The thing that I like most about Airstreaming is that you get lots of attention being almost the only kids in the club! It's like having a hundred grandparents. Awesome!"

13-Year-Old: "I like Airstreaming because when you go camping, lots of people are interested in the Airstream. The other reason is you get to meet lots of friends and go different places. Airstreaming is awesome!"



The Ambassador at Castle Rock State Park

As you can tell, each child has his own take on Airstreaming. No one has complained about being forced to go on trips!

I hope that you have been inspired to get your kids or grandkids out to experience this wonderful country, whether locally, or across the U.S. Given no other choice than to see and live in the great outdoors, they will find the fun and the beauty of living in a free country. Be sure to watch our blog for updates, as the kids are going to do their own videos of the trip to Washington. We hope to see you down the road!



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where you go and who is your doctor.**

**YOU decide when and how your spouse,
your kids, your pets and your RV gets home.**

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**Contact: Stan and Mary Schwenke for details
smh9112@hotmail.com
Cell 920-918-9923**

Camp Airstream 2010

Wisconsin Unit Family Fun Rally!

August 20 – 22, 2010

Green Lake Campground

W2360 State Hwy 23, Green Lake, WI 54941
Phone 920-294-3543



Join your hosts John & Barb Sellers for the Wisconsin Unit's famous summer fun rally for parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, dogs, cats, and other family members who want to come along!

This year's Camp Airstream will be at the Green Lake Campground, on Wisconsin 23 (across from Lawsonia golf courses) near Green Lake, about 20 miles southwest of Oshkosh.

Green Lake Campground www.greenlakecampground.com is an exceptionally full-service campground. Your camping fee includes adult swimming pool, family swimming pool, kid's splash park, playground, horseshoe pits, 9-hole golf course, miniature golf course, fishing/swimming lake, organized kids activities, and WiFi. All included at no extra charge.

The unit has reserved a block of 20 water-and-electric campsites (K19-37 and K71-80) adjacent to the swimming pools and splash park with their accompanying showers and restrooms. (WiFi server in the pool building.)

Friday – Parking begins mid-afternoon (Check in at camp office. Check-in time is 3:00. Please don't arrive *too* early as your space cannot be guaranteed prior to that time.) Happy hour 4:30 to 5:30, bring snacks to share, then at 5:30 unit supplies sandwich makin's for supper.

Saturday – Breakfast 8:30, organized activities and caravan to EAA Airventure Museum in Oshkosh 9:30 – 4:30, lunch on your own. Happy hour 4:30. Catered dinner 5:30

Sunday – Breakfast 9:00, hang out with your unit friends, hitch up, checkout time 3:00.

Questions? Contact John & Barb Sellers, sellersj@erinet.com ph: 937-848-5924 cell 937-478-7267

Latitude N 43° 50.387', Longitude W 89° 00.017'



Camp Airstream 2010 Reservation Form

Name(s) _____
Street _____
City/St _____
Phone: _____ Email _____

Unit Length _____
Trailer ☐ Motor Home ☐

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 10

Camping fee
\$43/night x _____ nights = \$ _____
Rally fee (incl. 2 breakfast & 2 dinners
Adults – \$18 x # _____ = _____
Children under 12 – \$12 x # _____ = _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable to WI Unit, WBCCI
Mail to:
Sandy Emerick, Treasurer
838 East Eldorado
Appleton, WI 54911

Visit Green Lake, Wisconsin For Camp Airstream 2010!

In addition to the activities at the Green Lake Campground, there's lots to see and do in the Green Lake area.

Green Lake (the lake) is just a couple of miles away. Green Lake has the distinction of being the deepest lake in Wisconsin and consequently offers good fishing for Lake Trout, among other species.

Green Lake (the town) www.visitgreenlake.com is also just a couple miles from the campground, on Dartford Bay of Green Lake. Befitting its economic emphasis on tourism, it has numerous restaurants and shops (and fabulously expensive real estate). Wallenfangs of Green Lake www.wallenfangs.com has a whole slew of shops under one roof. Heidel House Resort www.heidelhouse.com offers a potpourri of shops and restaurants centered on their lakefront lodge.

Green Lake hosts a steady supply of community activities. The Saturday of the Camp Airstream rally, Aug 21, Green Lake will hold its annual sidewalk Chalk Art contest and Art Walk (including the day's crop of sidewalk chalk art). New this year is The Battle of the Bands, a high school band competition.

Golf Courses. The Green Lake area is host to a plethora of golf courses. The world famous (and consequently expensive) Golf Courses of Lawsonia www.lawsonia.com are right across the road from the campground. Tuscumbia Country Club, Wisconsin's oldest golf course www.tuscumbiacc.net is located in the town of Green Lake. Rounding out the list are the Mascoutin Golf Club www.mascoutingolf.com and White Lake Country Club www.whitelakegolf.com, which, although not actually in Green Lake, are nearby.

Ripon, Wisconsin. Ripon, about 6 miles east of the campground on Highway 23 is home to Ripon College (founded by the same guy who founded the town) is home to several notable tourist attractions. Most notably the Little White Schoolhouse www.birthplaceoftherepublicanparty.org which, as their URL suggests, lays claim to being the birthplace of the Republican Party. (Disclaimer: So do three other places.) Our favorite spot in Ripon is the Rippin' Good Cookie Outlet Store located at the Ripon Foods bakery at 420 Oshkosh St., Ripon. They have great prices and give out *free samples!* Open Tuesday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30pm, Saturday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Princeton, Wisconsin. Just a few miles west of the campground on Highway 23 is Princeton, www.princetonwi.com, home of Wisconsin's largest flea market.



Princeton, Wisconsin flea market
(photo courtesy of Princeton Chamber of Commerce)

The flea market will be open the Saturday of the rally. Note: *Pets are not allowed at the flea market.* (Suppose they're afraid they might catch fleas?)

EAA Airventure Museum, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. www.airventuremuseum.org While you're in Green Lake you can make a side trip to the world-famous Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) museum located on the airport in Oshkosh. A caravan to the museum is planned for Saturday at the rally.



Bugatti Air Racer at Airventure Museum
(photo courtesy of Airventure Museum)

Once a small museum of homebuilt aircraft, the museum has evolved into an enormous enterprise displaying aircraft of all types, including a WW II aircraft wing housing the oldest P-51 Mustang in existence and early US and German jet engines.

Children between the ages of 8 and 17 visiting the museum are eligible for a free Young Eagles flight, conducted daily when weather conditions permit. The purpose of this program is to introduce children to flying in the hope of inspiring them to explore flying as recreation or a career opportunity. Since its inception in 1992 the Young Eagles program has given 1.5 million young people an opportunity to fly. A parental permission form is required and will be provided in the rally packet. For further information see www.youngeagles.org/

Wisconsin Unit Ballot for the 2010 International Election

Candidate information can be found in the April Blue Beret.

Intl. President: Norm Beu☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Intl 1st Vice President: Barry Heckenswiler☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Intl 2nd Vice President: Don Clark☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Intl 3rd Vice President: John Boutwell☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Intl Recording Secretary: Sandy Perryman☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Intl Treasurer: Robert Moss☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Nominating Committee: Richard Heyde☐
(vote for 2) Doug Wylie☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

No Amendments are up for consideration this year

Please remember that you are allowed one vote per unit (trailer/motorhome) that is, one vote per couple. You must include your Name and WBCCI # in the return address on your envelope. All folded ballots will be separated from the envelopes, mixed up, then counted. This is treated as a secret ballot election.

Your ballots must be returned by May 18, 2010 or bring your ballot envelope to the business meeting at the rally on May 22nd.

Mail to: Carol Witzke, Secretary WI Unit - Ballot
W7124-1848 Settlement Lane
Plymouth, WI 53073

Wisconsin Unit Ballot for the 2010 Region 7 Election

Candidate information can be found in Region 7 Newsletter.

Region 7 President: Joan Lahr☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Region 7 1st Vice President: Linda Agre☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

Region 7 2nd Vice President: (no candidate).....☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

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Mail to: Carol Witzke, Secretary WI Unit - Ballot
W7124-1848 Settlement Lane
Plymouth, WI 53073

Wisconsin Unit Ballot for the Special Region 7 Election

Election to fill the open 2nd position for the remainder of the 2008-09 term that ends July 3rd 2010

Region 7 2nd Vice President: Linda Agre☐
write in - floor nominated candidate☐

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