



July 2012

UNDER THE AWNING WITH ED



We had a great Children's rally this month with a great turnout! Thanks to all of you that decided that boondocking in the Door was worth the challenge. We had great meals, good fellowship and the kids, what can I say but

..... they were as sticky as expected! It was fun watching them run around looking for the ugliest bug, the biggest bug, the smallest bug and the prettiest bug on Aluminum Acres. I'm still finding bugs and bottles in my shop! Also we went to Plum Loco to feed the animals this weekend. Those old guys and girls really appreciated us feeding them. If you get a chance to get to Door County check out Plum Loco, they do a great job of rescuing older farm animals. I know I want to adopt one of the donkeys. Most of all it was fun to see the kids have fun. If you have not attended this rally in the past you need to check it out next year, it will make you smile.

The Wisconsin Unit is not done yet; we have plenty more planned for your entertainment. Check out our rally in September at Road America, this is becoming a unit tradition. Don and Kay Stenz are hosting and this rally is a blast. We will park in a turn on the track and see vintage racers run. This will be my third time to this event and you need to check it out too. Then in October, we will be hosting the Installation Rally with business meeting at the "Acres" and Sandy and I are planning a big event. Again this is dry camping but don't let that stop you. There is a campground right around the corner if you need hook ups. November is the Birthday Bash, we have a ton of members with November Birthdays and again this rally is becoming a tradition. Hey, pretend your birthday is in November and come on over, we will buy you a drink at Happy Hour.

Folks, we have a ton of rallies going on in Wisconsin, get that trailer out and come see us.

The Wisconsin Unit wants to provide you with the opportunity to do what you want amongst other Airstreamers in Airstream products in an inviting place.

Until next time I see you, enjoy the ride.

Ed Emerick, Unit President

The Wisconsin Unit

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News Bits

Upcoming Events

Region 7 Rally, & Region 7 VAC Rally, August 8 – 13, Spicer, MN. Hosted by Linda Agre 320-295-1117 agre5628@me.com (Campsite reservations were due July 1, rally registrations due July 27)

Wisconsin Unit Road America Rally, September 7 – 9, Road America Race Track, Elkhart Lake, WI. Hosted by Don & Kay Stenz, 920 946-4122 slem@tds.net
Rally fee \$69 per person before deadline of September 1, \$125 per person after September 1, so get those rally registrations in to Sandy! Details in flyer, page 8.

Note: The September business meeting originally shown in the unit activity schedule has been changed. The fall business meeting will be held at the October Camp Out in Door County.

October Door County Installation Rally, October 12–14,: Emericks' Aluminum Acres, Brussels, WI. Hosted by Ed & Sandy Emerick, 920-475-7893 SandyEmerick@yahoo.com

Welcome New Members!

The Wisconsin Unit welcomes our newest members, Jack & Carolyn Flietstra, WBCCI No. 2704. Although Michigan residents, they met members of the Wisconsin Unit at Alumapalooza last year, and at this year's Alumapalooza—recognizing a fun unit when they saw it!—joined! Jack & Carolyn hail from Hudsonville, Michigan, near Grand Rapids. Contact information will be in unit directory.

Welcome to the unit and hope to see you at a unit activity soon! There *is* that little matter of Lake Michigan between us, but there are three ways around that:

1. Go around the top of the lake through the UP (stop off and see Wisconsin Unit's UP members on the way!)
2. Go around the bottom of the lake through Chicago (not recommended, by your editor, anyway!)
3. Take the *SS Badger* straight across the lake from Ludington to Manitowoc (within a short drive of Door County rallies!)

But in all seriousness, welcome aboard. We're glad to have you as members!

Member News

This month brings significant good and bad news from several of our members.

Tim Victor has recovered from his open heart surgery enough to travel. We were delighted to see him at the July rally at Brussels.

We have received this note of **good news** from **Bill & Cathy Nelson**:

July 7, 2012

To our Wisconsin friends –

Many thanks for your cards and prayers. Cathy's lung cancer has been successfully treated. We may have one more chemo session to go and then it's back to Wisconsin for a couple of months. Hope to see you later this year.

Love to all,
Bill & Cathy Nelson

And finally, tragic news from long-time Airstreamers and Wisconsin Unit members **Stan & Mary Schwenke**. As most of you know, Stan & Mary represent Skymed insurance, and were on the way to a rally in West Virginia when suddenly flames burst out of their Airstream classic motor home. There was no place to pull off the road, and only seconds to bail out before the whole motor home was involved. The exit door was surrounded by flames. Mary lost one of her shoes on the way out and suffered second and third degree burns on her feet, in addition falling and breaking her leg.

Details and photos were published in the July 13 *Skymed News*, reprinted on page 7. The motor home quickly burned to a total loss. Seeing the pictures, we can be thankful that Stan & Mary escaped with their lives.

Mary was initially hospitalized in Beckley, WV, but subsequently transferred—by Skymed—to Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital burn center in Milwaukee. As of July 29 she was well enough to return home, but faces a long convalescence. She can be reached at (cell) 920-918-9920.

2012 Delegates Meeting

The 2012 Delegates Meeting was relatively uneventful. The International officer nominees were elected unanimously. Of the two candidates for the unexpectedly open International 3rd VP position, Jim Schwerdfeger won over Richard Girard by a relatively narrow margin of about 400 votes out of 4800 votes cast. (This closely mirrored the informal Wisconsin Unit poll, which came out even.)

The proposed revised constitution was overwhelmingly rejected by a vote of 1,425 in favor vs. 3,429 opposed.

The motor home amendment was sent to the C & BL Committee for correction of a technical deficiency, to be returned at next year's Delegates Meeting.

The Badger Bulletin WBCCI Wisconsin Unit #116

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Bert Leuch 1912 - 2012



(Thanks to the Blue Beret for photo and information.)

Rubert (Bert) Leuch, a founder of both WBCCI and the Wisconsin Unit, passed away May 18, 2012 just a few weeks short of his 100th birthday. Bert was the last surviving charter member of the WBCCI.

Bert and his wife Vera began tent camping in 1947 but by 1951 had bought their first travel trailer. They purchased their first Airstream in 1953. They caravanned with Wally Byam, and were present in their Airstream at the founding of the WBCCI in 1955 at Kentville, Nova Scotia.

The Leuchs were also founders of the Wisconsin Unit in 1959, and Bert was the first Wisconsin Unit President, from 1959-1961. He was a Life Member of the WBCCI and remained a member of the Wisconsin Unit all his life, although moving to Mountain Home, Arkansas in 1974.

(It had been hoped that Bert could attend the Wisconsin Unit 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2009, but that proved not to be practical. But he was reached on the phone during the celebration and several long-time members talked with him.)

During their Airstreaming years, Bert and Vera visited all 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Canada, and Mexico, as well as Guatemala and Honduras. In 1987 they went on a tour of Europe encompassing 22 countries. On a Pacific tour they visited Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Leuchs were regulars at WBCCI International Rallies for many years, often leading caravans to the International.

(Obituary on right from the *Baxter Bulletin*, Mountain Home, Arkansas)

Norman W. Holman, MD, PhD, 1949 - 2012

Dr. Holman was a well known figure at recent International and VAC rallies. His 1935 Airstream Torpedo trailer is the oldest Airstream on the road, having been built by his father in 1935 from Wally Byam's plans.

Dr. Holman suffered a heart attack on June 29 at the 2012 International Rally and was hospitalized in Sedalia, where he passed away on July 6.

(Obituary on right from the *Pensacola News Journal*)

Rubert H. P. (Bert) Leuch

Reubert (Bert) H. P. Leuch passed away peacefully May 18, 2012 at the age of 99. He was born July 5, 1912 to Henry and Anna (*nee* Lemke) Leuch in Milwaukee, WI.

He graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and was employed at Cutler Hammer in Milwaukee as an electrical engineer for 35 years, retiring in 1974 and moving to Arkansas.

He married Elvera Beattie in 1937. They had three children, Anna Stefanovsky, Kathryn (Anthony) Eastberg, and Edward (Sandy) Leuch.

During their 70 years of marriage they enjoyed camping and trailering and were world travelers. They were organizers, members, and officers of several trailer groups and held the distinct title of oldest charter members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club, International, joining in 1955.

Besides his daughters he is survived by 10 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. He is further survived by two sisters-in-law, a cousin, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, sister Lydia Leuch Dettmann, son Edward, son-in-law Ernest Stefanovsky, grandson Robert Leuch, sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law.

He will be cremated and his ashes, along with his wife's, will be buried at Valhalla Cemetery in Milwaukee, WI. Memorial donations may be made to Van Matre Senior Center, 1101 Spring Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653. Arrangements are under the direction of Roller Funeral home.

Norman Willard Holman, Jr., MD, PhD

Norman Willard Holman, Jr. M.D., PhD, was born in Atlanta, GA, on May 16, 1949 to the late Dr. Norman Willard Holman, Sr., M.D. and Helen Herndon Holman.

He graduated from American University of the Caribbean; completed his residency at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ and his fellowship at Malden Hospital, Malden, MA. He served his community as an Internal Medicine physician in private practice since 1991. He was also a valuable member of the Baptist Health Care medical staff until 2010.

Dr. Holman died peacefully on July 6, 2012, while on vacation in Sedalia, MO, with his 1935 Vintage Airstream and as usual he received numerous awards.

Dr. Holman is survived by his brother, Harry Herndon Holman of Ozark, AL, and two nephews Shane and Lance Holman.

Donate in Dr. Holman's name to either, The National Diabetes Association or the Vintage Airstream Club. Expressed condolences may be sent to 14 West Jordan, Suite 1J, Pensacola, FL 32501

Alumapalooza Caravan

May 26 – 29, 2012

Photos by Bob Manak & John Sellers

Ed & Sandy Emerick led a spectacularly successful caravan from Door County to Alumapalooza at Jackson Center, OH, and on to the Spirit of Cleveland national rally.



Fr. Ed pronounces his benediction on the caravanners.
(On Ed's caravans, you need all the help you can get!)



Head 'em up and move 'em out!

One of the caravan's UP stops was the Fayette Historic State Park on Big Bay De Noc, site of a historic charcoal iron smelter and surrounding town .



Caravanners at charcoal kiln, Fayette historic townsite.

The Wisconsin Unit has become a recognized presence at Alumapalooza—no doubt in part on account of the Stenz's and Emerick's colorful collection of flags!



Wisconsin Unit's colorful presence at Alumapalooza.

The caravanners reflected great honor on the Wisconsin Unit with their skills. Ed & Sandy Emerick took first place in the backing contest and Don & Kay Stenz took second place in **both** the backing contest **and** the riveting contest! Pretty impressive for a national rally!



Don & Kay Stenz show their winning style at riveting.

After Alumapalooza it was off to Cleveland for the Spirit of Cleveland National Rally, at Burke Lakefront Airport within walking distance of downtown Cleveland.



Ed shows off his backing contest trophy chairs, with Cleveland skyline in the background.

Thanks, Ed & Sandy, for another great caravan!

WBCCI International Rally Sedalia, MO, June 27 – July 4, 2012

With 100+ degree daily high temperatures and a turnout of 452 trailers—the smallest number since the first International rally in 1958—the ambience at the 2012 International Rally was somewhat subdued. The Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia provided an excellent campground, with all-grass full-hookup sites. It would be a great place to camp if it were a little cooler!



General parking at the 2012 International. Plenty of space!

All activities were in the Mathewson Exhibition Center and attached Assembly Hall. The designers of these buildings were well aware of the local climate and installed plenty of air conditioning, much appreciated by rally attendees!



Vendor booths and signup tables in the main hall.

The Vintage Airstream Club reports that 12 vintage trailers caravanned to the rally and participate in the vintage parade. Twenty six trailers were parked in the VAC parking area.



Vintage Airstream Club tent and parking area.

The VAC pitch-in barbecued chicken dinner drew a pretty good crowd despite the temperature being 103 degrees for the occasion. Prodigious quantities of crushed ice were consumed keeping dishes like potato salad and vegetable dip cooled, but keeping hot dishes hot was no problem at all!



(Above) Happy hour at the VAC tent. The man on the far right facing the camera is Dr. Holman, who subsequently suffered a heart attack at the rally and died in the hospital. (See obituary on page 3.)

Sedalia is a historic town figuring prominently in Missouri history. The town was made prosperous by the railroads, first the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad which became known as “The Katy”, and later the Missouri Pacific. At one point the city was sufficiently prosperous they sought to become the capitol of Missouri, offering to build the necessary buildings for free.



The Katy Depot historical site and museum

Sedalia also has significant connections to Senator, later President, Harry S. Truman who was notified of his choice as the Democrats presidential candidate in Sedalia.



Region President Joan Lahr addresses Region 7 luncheon in historic Truman Board Room in the Hotel Bothwell.

Wisconsin Unit Family Fun Rally Emerick's Aluminum Acres Brussels, WI, July 20 – 22, 2012

Photos by Vicki Engelstad and John Sellers

The traditional Wisconsin Unit summer Family Fun Rally, hosted this year by Ed & Sandy Emerick, inaugurated the Emericks own Aluminum Acres as a unit rally site.

Attracted by the prospect of making Sandy's secret recipe *Armpit Fudge* (or. . . then again. . . maybe not. . .) and the chance to see the mythical Aluminum Acres, Wisconsin Unit members provided a great turnout, with nine trailers parked at the Emericks and four more at Quietwoods North RV Resort, literally right around the corner.



A few of the Airstreams scattered around Aluminum Acres.



More Airstreams and tow vehicles. The huge hangar/shop provided a dandy meeting room. . and. . **air conditioned!**



Ed & Sandy cleared out the shop for the rally, leaving one Airstream behind for an Airstreamy ambience.

Sandy had planned several creative activities for the kids, including a bug catching contest, with prizes for the biggest bug, smallest bug, prettiest bug, ugliest bug, etc. One entry in the biggest bug competition proved to be a toad. The toad was disqualified and turned loose on account of not playing well with the other bugs (aside from not being a bug in the first place).



Kids, kids, and more kids! (Grandkids, mostly.)

Armpit Fudge is made by putting sugar, butter, cream cheese and cocoa in a plastic bag and then smooshing until homogenized. (In theory you are supposed to smoosh the bag in your armpits, but not too many people did!) When finished you can refrigerate to true fudge consistency or simply eat it out of the bag with a spoon. It's really pretty good!



Kay Stenz and the kids smooshing bags of Armpit Fudge.

As always, Ed & Sandy put on a good feed, with Sloppy Joes for Friday happy hour, bacon, eggs and sausage Saturday morning, and hamburgers, hot dogs, and roast corn Saturday evening. With lots left over at every meal. As we say in the Wisconsin Unit--"This ain't no '2 sausage' rally!"



Ed roasting corn on the grill for the Saturday night dinner.

Hey, Ed & Sandy, thanks for a great rally—and looking forward to the October rally at Aluminum Acres!

July 13, 2012

Volume 9 Issue 6

SkyMed NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the SkyMed Group of Companies

SkyMed Corporate 2:30 pm, July 13, 2012

Mary Schwenke air evacuated to burn trauma center

It's been quite a week for SkyMed AMBASSADORS Stanley & Mary Schwenke. Sunday their iconic Airstream RV caught fire as they were driving up a hill on their way to work a Coachman rally in West Virginia.

Mary sustained third degree burns on her foot after losing her shoe in the hurried exit. Jim Edwards, SkyMed VP of Member Services said, *"Initially, we thought Mary was going to be taken by ground ambulance to a burn center in West Virginia but after spending days in a Berkeley, WV hospital and enduring extreme pain we made the decision yesterday to air evacuate Mary to the acclaimed Columbia St. Mary's burn center in Milwaukee. The air transport took place today and landed safely about 30 minutes ago. Stanley already reported in that everything went great and Mary is resting comfortably."*

The pictures tell the story of what must have been a harrowing experience for them. With their engine overheating and the temperature guage swinging over from normal to that red hot section they knew an emergency exit was imminent and fortunately they escaped with their lives.

We all wish Mary a speedy recovery and wish both Mary and Stanley some peace and quite to recover from the trauma of the event itself. **SkyMedNEWS** will update on their status next week.

Two other SkyMed AMBASSADORS had the same misfortune. Last year Dean Ansley and his wife had to bail out of their RV on a California trip and many years ago Diane Gouge experienced the same situation in Arizona. In both cases there were no injuries but a total loss of both their RV's and tow vehicles.



Schwenke's Iconic Airstream totalled



West Virginia fire department making sure fire is completely extinguished



A miracle they walked away. A loss but gratefully, they survived to tell the story!



*The Wisconsin Unit
hosts the September 7–9 WBCCI Rally
at Road America Race Track in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.*



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!!

Come and see first hand the 4 mile race track that has become world renown. The 640 acre site was formed by the glaciers and sets the scene for a very interesting track through its hills and valleys. The grandeur of the area is experienced by about 700,000 visitors here each year.

There are events going on at RA throughout the season, but this weekend is the “VSCDA (Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association) Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival”. Come see some of the world’s most beautiful sports cars out on the track. Plus see the Historic Reenactment of the actual street races that took place in the early 1950’s right through the Elkhart Lake. Enjoy the village festivities along with its shops throughout the day, or a round of golf at the neighboring golf courses. And don’t forget the “Gathering on the Green” and Concourse de Provenance with cocktails and live music Saturday afternoon.

There is so much to see and do for the family this weekend; it’s going to be tough to decide. You can find more information about the weekend and the area on the web at www.elkhartlake.com and Road America race schedule information at <http://www.roadamerica.com/Races/RaceInformation.asp?id=246>

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

WBCCI# or buddy of (name) _____

Per person(13 and older) # _____ x \$69.00 \$ _____
(12 and under are free) (after deadline \$125.00)

Site fee per rig _____ 1 _____ x \$15.00 \$ _____ 15.00
(after deadline \$20.00)

Total \$ _____

Deadline for Tickets is September 1, 2012!!

Remember this rally is **DRY CAMPING**; (Generators allowed until 10:00pm. For special needs call Don Stenz)

Rally fee includes: 3 days track pass, Camping in the “Carousel Area” on the grass, Rest rooms and Showers, Dump station, Fresh water filling station. Concession Stands are available on the grounds.

Due to all the events going on throughout the weekend, meals will be on your own. We will have Happy Hour for those who are around.

Make checks payable to:

Wisconsin Unit, WBCCI

Reservation forms due Saturday, September 1st

Tickets will be picked up at the track

Mail to:

Sandy Emerick
9186 County Road K
Brussels, WI 54204

Questions to:

Don Stenz • 920 946-4122 • slem@tds.net

