



October, 2013

John Sellers, Editor sellersj@erinet.com

Riveting Reflections



I want to thank Steve Piotrowski (and in particular Lynne, for loaning him to the club) for his efforts as President for the past year. The effort that he has initiated to improve the Airstreaming experience will have a very positive impact on our club. He is dedicated to the club and will be a difficult act to follow.

I am looking forward to the coming year, with good friends and wonderful 'streaming experiences. The Wisconsin Unit is fortunate to have enthusiastic members.

The recent rally at Elkhart Lake was great fun with lots to see and do. The car show at the hotel had some very unusual older cars. The racing was fun to watch and access to the pits was great for looking at the race cars. I should probably get some pointers (Kay) for the Go Kart track.

Teri and I could not make the camping at Snyder Park rally but we came up for the meeting and installation. Snyder Park looks like a nice place for a rally. The High Ground Memorial Park was impressive.

Our next rally is the Birthday Bash at Kohler-Andre State Park on November 8-10. Our camper is in storage so we won't be camping but will enjoy seeing everyone at the luncheon at the Wells Street Brew-House in Grafton.

I am excited about the coming year's planned activities. The year starts with the early rally at Peninsula State park in March. April is at the Dells KOA. Plans are in the works for a May rally in Madison. We are planning on going to the International in Gillette, WY if anyone wants to caravan. Teri and I are hoping to do the Nor-by-Nor East Caravan in August. September will be Elkhart Lake. We are working on a rally at the Apostle Islands for end of September. That's a busy year! If anyone has any suggestion for a rally or event, please send me your suggestions.

I am looking forward to the challenges of the Wisconsin Unit Presidency. I know that I can count on your support. The club is a commitment to good friends and good times.

George Boehmer, Unit President
gboehmer@wi.rr.com

The Wisconsin Unit

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Upcoming Events

November 8 – 10, 2013, Birthday Bash Camp Out, Kohler-Andrae State Park, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. No rally fee, no reservations—pay for campsite at the park. Friday night, out to dinner. Saturday night Crooked Pot Luck in the shelter! (Or whatever you would like to bring. Does not have to be in a crock pot!) Contact Sandy Emerick 920-475-7893, semerick4425@gmail.com

November 9, 2013, November Luncheon, arrive between 11-11:30am. Water Street Brewery, 2615 Washington Street, Grafton, WI 53024 (Highway 60 exit off I-43) 262-375-2222. RSVP to Sandy Emerick 920-475-7893 or semerick4425@gmail.com

Member News

Welcome New Members!

This month, Wisconsin Unit welcomes two new families!

Bernard & Kerry Pratica of Sobieski Wisconsin. They have a 1964 22 foot Safari, making them one of Wisconsin Unit's large vintage contingent.

Donald & Bonnie Bergman of Tomahawk, Wisconsin. They have a brand new 2014 model 25 foot Flying Cloud. (And it isn't even 2014 yet!)

Welcome aboard! We'll be looking forward to meeting you at a unit event!

Unit Officers Elected and Installed at Fall Business Meeting

The Wisconsin Unit is again fortunate to have a full slate of officers for 2013-14. The following were installed at the fall business meeting at Neillsville:

President – George Boehmer
1st Vice President – Dave Sherman
2nd Vice President – Jane Carmichael
Secretary – Barb Sellers
Treasurer – Sandy Emerick
1st Trustee – Connie Sheasby
2nd Trustee – Karen Suksi
3rd Trustee – Pearl Adams
Past President – Steve Piotrowski

No members were harmed in the recruiting of officer candidates. (Aside from maybe a few hangovers.)

Unit Constitutional Amendment Passed

The amendment to Article VI, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Unit constitution to allow voting at unit business meetings by email and fax as well as by mail and in person, reported in last month's newsletter, was adopted at the fall business meeting. This brings the unit constitution into agreement with the Model Unit Constitution in the current Blue Book.

Dues are Due!

Sandy Emerick reminds us that dues must be paid by November 1 in order for members to be listed in the WBCCI International Directory. See renewal form on page 8, **-or-** you can renew at the unit web site, <http://wisc.wbcci.net/application/renew-online/>

One Liners



Look, Ma, no wheels!

Two of our unit's trailers were wheel-less this month. The Emericks are doing a shell-off restoration of their 1954 Flying Cloud and Dave Sherman is doing an axle job.

The Badger Bulletin WBCCI Wisconsin Unit #116

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If you are reading a black and white printed copy of this newsletter, remember that it can be viewed in *color* on the Wisconsin Unit web site, <http://wisc.wbcci.net/>

In Memoriam Joan Lahr June 2, 1940 – September 8, 2013

The Wisconsin Unit was shocked and saddened by the unexpected and untimely passing of Joan Lahr as a result of complications of surgery.

Joan's name is writ large on the history of the Wisconsin Unit. She was Wisconsin Unit President in 2007, Region 7 President in 2010-2012, and served actively in other offices and committees in between. She was a "mover and shaker" in all she did for the unit and region.



Joan demonstrates skillet-throwing technique at the Wild West rally, Horicon, Wisconsin, 2007

Joan was an energetic contributor to the WBCCI, putting a lot of effort and enthusiasm into everything she did. She served in the following offices:

2004 - 2005 Wisconsin Unit Trustee

2006 - Wisconsin Unit First Vice President

2007 - Wisconsin Unit President

2008-2009 - Region 7 Second Vice President

2009-2010 - Region 7 First Vice President

2010-2012 - Region 7 President

International Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Chairperson of the International Merit Award Program.



Wisconsin Unit Breakfast, 2008 International, Bozeman, MT



Cheerleading practice, 4th of July parade, Bozeman, 2008.



Region 7 Luncheon, Madison, WI International Rally, 2009



Clowning around at the Region 7 rally, Medora, ND, 2009



Region 7 rally, DePere, WI, 2010

We're going to miss you, Joan. Your untimely passing leaves a big hole in WBCCI and Region 7. So long—we'll see you down the road.

Joan E. Lahr
June 2, 1940 - September 8, 2013

Joan Ellen Lahr (nee Ristow) entered eternal life on September 8, 2013, at the age of 73. She was a resident of Menomonee Falls for over 50 years and beloved wife for 53 years to Michael Joseph Lahr. She was the loving mother of Linda Jean Yuhas, Michael Joseph Lahr, Laura Jane Parsons and Mark Jon Lahr. Precious grandmother of Holly Parsons, Lauren Parsons, Heather Parsons, Dalton Lahr, Alexis Yuhas and Andrew Yuhas. She was mother-in-law to Michael Parsons, Andra Lahr and Paul Yuhas. Dear daughter of Hazel Ristow (nee Le Blanc) and the late Richard Ristow and sister of Richard Ristow, Janis Ristow and Jeane Ristow.

She was admitted to Froedert Memorial Hospital for a minimal procedure on 9/6, but passed away of natural causes and went to be with our Lord on 9/8/13.

Joan was a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran High School class of 1957 and continued her education at Waukesha county Technical College with additional banking and management resource education. Joan was a dedicated mother to her children and grandchildren including 14 years of Menomonee Falls 4-H Club leadership and two years as leader of the Waukesha County Leadership Board. After her children left home, she joined The Associated Bank and was an Executive Assistant and Office Manager for 6 years. In 1993 she began employment with The Alliance for Children and Families as an Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President and was promoted to Director of Human Resources until her retirement in May 2006.

As empty nesters, Mike and Joan began their love of travel which extended throughout the U.S. and the French West Indies. After 9/11, Mike and Joan decided to purchase an Airstream RV and spent the last several years gallivanting throughout the United States. Never idle and always using her strong professional gifts, Joan served and organized WBCCI (Wally Byam Caravan Club International) Airstream rallies throughout the U.S. Her first position was Trustee of the Wisconsin unit in 2004/2005. In 2006, she was elected to First Vice President and then was President in 2007 for the Wisconsin Unit that showcased her strong organizational and communication skills. From 2008 to 2010 she was 2nd and 1st Vice President of Region 7 and President from 2010 to 2012. Under her leadership as President of the Wisconsin Unit, and as Region 7 President, she inspired her committee chairpersons to succeed and she won numerous Merit awards during her tenure. She put her heart and soul in the club and in doing so was able to accomplish much in these positions.

In addition to her strong business side, Joan was equally gifted creatively. Her children fondly remember her arts, crafts and painting projects. Her most recent endeavor was jewelry making. She enjoyed making jewelry for all the girls in her family. All of her children learned to garden and cook with a flourish. Our beautiful mother was a timeless classic. Joan passed down a love of cooking, gardening, camping, enjoying nature and physical activities to her children and grandchildren.

Joan was known for her practical, reliable and warm nature and will be deeply missed by her mother, siblings, husband, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Wounded Warrior Project www.woundedwarriorproject.org

The family wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Obituary courtesy of Schmidt & Bartelt

Reflections in Aluminum

By Steve Piotrowski



With sadness and regret, I must tell you that my year as president has ended. With joy, I tell you that we put an end to Ed's incredible Badger story. I enjoyed the year, and offer a strong **Thank You** to all the people who helped put on rallies, luncheons and other events over the last year.

Belonging to a club with so many that want to have fun is an honor! Repeatedly, I was amazed how just asking someone to step forward got any job done. The people who had led the club in the past gave me advice, but only when I asked for it. It was a joy to serve as leader of this group of willing, friendly Airstreamers.

If there was a disappointment over the last year, it was our failure to show an increase in membership. Unfortunately, WBCCI members are aging and the new owners of Airstream trailers tend not to be joiners. I firmly believe that if we can find a way to get new owners to come to one of our events, we will find it easy to recruit them as new members. A club populated with friendly, happy, enthusiastic, and adventurous people. What's not to like?

If you have not been to one of our events lately, you don't know what you are missing. Come to one soon and meet your fellow club members. Next time another Airstreamer comes over to talk to you about your Airstream as you travel, please invite them to one of our events. We don't care where they are from; we will welcome them warmly.

Finally, thank you all for making this a great year to be the president of the Wisconsin WBCCI Unit. I deeply appreciate all you have done.

Steve Piotrowski, Immediate Past President

Editorial note: Our immediate past president Steve Piotrowski enjoyed the "bully pulpit" of the president's column so much that he has decided to continue to write a periodic column under his old title of Reflections in Aluminum. Thanks, Steve! Regular contributors to the Badger Bulletin are always a good thing. (And I have so many good pictures for the head of your column!)

Road America Rally Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin September 6 – 8, 2013

Photos by Vicki Engelstad

Don & Kay Stenz once again hosted the 4th Annual Road America rally at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. This is held to coincide with the Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association race weekend. If you like vintage sports cars, this is the place to be!



Airstreams at Road America race course, Elkhart Lake, WI.



Vintage sports cars parade down the track.

The “concours condition” and variety of the vintage sports cars to be seen is scarcely to be believed.



I'd hate to think what this Bugatti is worth!



Or how about this Allard J2? These aluminum-bodied sports cars were rare even when they were being made in the 50s. Probably only a handful of them still exist today.



This Cobra would make a classy Airstream tow vehicle!



Lined up for a race on the go kart track.



Re-enacting the around-the-houses races of the old days!.

Thanks, Don & Kay, for another spectacular rally!

October Rally & Business Meeting Neillsville, Wisconsin August 15 – 18, 2013

Steve and Lynn Piotrowski hosted the October rally and business meeting at Snyder Park, Neillsville, Wisconsin. Although we had a lot of rain that weekend, it was still a great rally. Snyder Park is a very nice campground and the Neillsville area has a lot of historic sights to see.



Snyder Park Campground in Neillsville



A welcome break in the rain for happy hour.

The rally was planned around activities at The Highground Veterans Memorial, one of Steve's ongoing projects.



Touring The Highground with tour guide Steve Piotrowski



Will the real WBCCI 4225 please stand up?
(Dave Sherman borrowed one of Emericks' trailers!)

The historic Neillsville jail museum is only open by appointment after Labor Day. Steve managed to get us into the jail. (Fortunately, Sandy Emerick brought along the unit checkbook so she could bail us out.)



Rally goes escape the jail after touring!



Pie for breakfast? You bet!



Chatty Belle, the World's Largest Talking Cow.

The October rally was time for the fall business meeting, and the incoming officers definitely "got the business". Incoming Unit President George Boehner was crowned King George the First by outgoing president Steve Piotrowski.



King George I being installed as Unit President.

Thanks, Steve and Lynn, for a great rally. It was enough to make us want to come back when the weather is better!

Southwest Chicken Dip Recipe

by Kay Stenz

Here's the recipe for the delicious Southwest Chicken Dip that Kay brought to the potluck dinner at Neillsville:

Thawed or frozen skinless chicken breasts (Not real big ones—I use 4 or 5 depending on the size of the crock pot)

1-can black beans drained and rinsed

1- 10 oz. bag of frozen corn, not thawed, or 1 can of corn, drained

2- cans of Ro-Tel tomatoes with green chilies. Don't drain.

1- packet of taco seasoning. I use the one that is 40% less salt

1- packet of Original Ranch Dressing powder

Place the chicken breasts on the bottom of the crock pot. Next put the black beans over that, then the corn, 2 cans of Ro-Tel, sprinkle taco seasoning and the ranch dressing over the top.

Cook on low for 8 hrs.

Shred the chicken. I do it right in the crock pot, it's so tender. Mix it all together and it's done.

Serve with tortilla chips.

You can also have sour cream, shredded cheese, and chopped green onions for your guests to top it with.

Enjoy!!



Fortunately, we had a picnic shelter for the potluck dinner.

Airstream Survey

by Steve Piotrowski

(The following was submitted as a letter to the editor of the Blue Beret, but rejected.)

Thinking about the future of the WBCCI, we have to consider what the new Airstream buyer looks like. The list below is a brief summary of what the company reports their new trailer purchasers look like.

Summary of Customer Research - The High Spots

The average New Airstream buyer is:

- Under 60
- Earns more than \$100,000 per year
- Works
- Already owned a tow vehicle
- Visited an RV Show
- Is NEW to RVing
- Is buying his first Airstream
- Bought a Flying Cloud
- Found the dealer through online research
- Shopped for less than 6 months
- Considered ONLY Airstream
- Considered a Used Airstream
- Takes leisurely trips OR weekend short distance excursions (near even split)
- Travels with Significant Other / Spouse
- Travels with Pets
- Is UNSURE about interest in Airstream Community Events (close second was YES).

What do we need to do to get them to come to our events?



WBCCI Wisconsin Unit Membership Application

International dues	\$65.00
Wisconsin Unit dues (<i>email newsletter</i>)	<u>\$8.00</u>
Total due to Treasurer: (<i>email newsletter only</i>)	<u>\$73.00</u>
Add newsletter by US Mail \$10.00	
Total due to Treasurer: (<i>Includes US Mail newsletter</i>)	<u>\$83.00</u>

Please make checks payable to: **W. B. C. C. I. – Wisconsin Unit**
Mail to: Sandy Emerick, Treasurer
9186 County Road K
Brussels, WI 54204

You can now renew either by filling in the form below and mailing to the Unit Treasurer with a check, or online at the unit web site <http://wisc.wbcci.net/application/renew-online/> with either a credit card or a PayPal account. The price is the same except for a \$1 processing fee to cover part of our cost of using the electronic payment system. After the unit receives your transaction from PayPal, the Treasurer will send you an email confirming your listing in the directory (address summer/winter, email(s), telephone(s), and courtesy parking). To complete your membership renewal, please return that email with a response of “no changes needed”, or update with your current information.

Thank you for your continuing/new membership in the club!

WBCCI Wisconsin Unit 2014 Membership Information

Name(s) _____

Children: Name _____ Age _____ Name _____ Age _____

Summer
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
(Mailed copies of Badger Bulletin will be sent to this address from April to November.)

Winter
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
(Mailed copies of Badger Bulletin will be sent to this address from January through March.)

Contact numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

WBCCI Number _____ **Type/length of unit** _____ **Year** _____

Email _____ Receive newsletter via: Unit website _____ USPS _____ Both _____
(You will get an email notice when each new Bulletin is online)

Courtesy parking: Yes _____ No _____

Type of membership: New _____ Life _____ Renewal _____ Transfer _____ From _____

Affiliate _____ Member-at-Large _____ Vintage _____

Birthday (month/day only): His _____ Hers _____ Anniversary _____

Trailer / MH Serial Number (new applications only) _____