



JULY/AUGUST 2020

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It's the waiting that is the hardest part....

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers sing this in one of their albums, and I think it is on target for what is happening now. So, I have been looking for little known facts that may help redirect our thinking.

I begin with the hot dog.... according to my research Charles L. Feltman invented the Coney Island Red Hot in 1867; which was considered to be one of the best tasting dogs ever. As business grew he hired a Polish immigrant named Nathan Handwerker, who eventually developed his own version of the dog and after leaving Charles; selling his version just down the street from Charles in 1916. These two summer staples still are made today...and the debate has continued as to which dog is the best tasting. Lucky for us, both are available in supermarkets or on-line...so, over the holiday, take some time to have your own taste test-off...let me know what you prefer!

I subscribe to many news feeds and want to share some of what I get:

If you are still inclined to venture out to a state or national park...follow all park guidelines. "We encourage all visitors to recreate responsibly by following the guidance posted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in helping reduce the spread of COVID-19...the parks are using the **Leave No Trace** principle when you visit," according to Cynthia Hernandez, National parks Service spokesperson. She suggests checking individual park websites for specific campgrounds that are opened in the parks.

Operators of privately owned campsites are welcoming campers too, with discounts and assurances of maintaining strict physical distancing rules. These facilities may have dining facilities, playgrounds, dog boarding and communal fire pits. For example, Whit's End Campground in New Hampshire is currently open to New Hampshire residents or out-of-staters who have self-quarantined for 14 days.

Ms. Hernandez cautions, "Road life will always throw you a curveball. It makes travel so much more fun when you can go with the flow...I've made some of my favorite memories in place I never planned to be and some of the toughest blows put me in the position for some of the greatest experiences." (National Geographic, Vacationing)



Message from First Lady Ginny & President Bill

2020 Season 2020 Events Canceled

On June 14 I sent a message to all members that all Wisc-UP events for the 2020 season have been canceled, except perhaps the November Birthday Bash. Sandy and Ed Emerick will decide if they will host this rally as information about the state of the pandemic is available. This is certainly not how I envisioned my year as President would turn out and I hope we will never see another like this.

Fall Business Meeting

I scheduled the 2020 Wisc-UP Club Fall Business Meeting for **Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 1:30**. It will be a **virtual (Zoom) meeting**. During the pandemic Zoom has become the most popular Web audio-video conferencing service and I imagine many have used it for virtual happy hours and other meetings. It is simple to use and does not require a downloaded app or other software but of course you must have a microphone and camera. If you have a laptop or tablet it probably has both a mic and camera. I use a Logitech Webcam with my desktop PC that includes a mic and was immediately recognized by both Windows 7 and 10. **You will join the meeting by clicking on a link in an email message that I will send you.**

I will draft the agenda, the Officers will review it, and I will send it to you before the meeting with additional advice about how to use Zoom in a large meeting.

Up-Date on Wisc-UP Logo

The Wisc-UP logo was approved during the virtual Summer IBT Meeting held on June 24, 2020. Pattie Cook will draft guidelines for its use.

New International Club Web Site (airstreamclub.org)

Since last August we all received a few email messages and "Blue Beret" articles about the new Airstream Club International Web site. The site is up and running and a few local club Web sites have moved to it. I've spent time exploring the new site and found it attractive and pretty easy to use. As with any Web site people may differ about the

most logical path to follow to navigate to certain information. The designers of this one addressed this challenge by providing often two, and sometimes three, ways to get you to the information you seek. I recommend that you go to airstreamclub.org and click-around to see how it is organized and the extent of the information it now has and promises in the future.

Our Wisc-UP Web site has not moved and we have not been told when this may happen. Our current site will continue to work until...it doesn't but then after the move if you enter our current URL you will be redirected to the new site (airstreamclub.org/wisc-up). Bob Manak will transfer the contents from our current site to the new one so the historical record of Wisc-UP will be maintained. Access to the current site will not be possible after it is moved.

In May we all received a message from Vice President Eric McHenry that stated a **“Member Self-Service Portal”** will be available in July for members to change personal information and access member-only benefits. Although Eric did not mention it this will probably require a log-in ID and password for access. More to come on this.

International Election and a Few Club Statistics

I voted in the Airstream Club International election on June 1st, the day the electronic poles opened.

As I promised when I poled Wisc-UP members for their preferences... I voted for the entire slate of officers and for the three amendments to the International Constitution; I received no dissenting votes.

The election was conducted using the free version of SurveyMonkey. I imagine that some of you have encountered this service. I think it's pretty straight forward and easy to understand but the free version includes advertising—plus another survey about using SurveyMonkey was offered after the ballot was submitted. This was unexpected and caused concern among some of the delegates. The club will look for an alternative if one is needed—we all hope to return to face-to-face meetings. The paid version of SurveyMonkey costs \$1,800 per year.

Being a new Delegate...I was surprised to receive a list of the voting strengths of all the Club or Units. “Voting Strength” is determined by the number of paid members in each club ;Wisc-UP has 77 members, so I actually cast 77 votes in each “ballot”.I found all voting strength information very interesting so I turned it into a spread sheet.

- The International club had 6,581 members as of May 31, 2020
- The average club/unit had 62.08 members
- The mean of all clubs/units was 48 members;
- The largest club had 306 members; it is the Washington Airstream Club of Region 10
- The smallest club had 8 members, it is the Ohio Lake to River Airstream Club of Region 4
- The Europe Club/Unit had 95 members
- There are a total106 clubs/units

See you down the road, or on the Web.

Ginny and Bill

Couple of last things ...

Jane Carmichael (President, Region 7) wanted to remind all....that the **Region 7 Rally is scheduled August 19-24, 2021** for specific information on this rally go to the Region7.airstreamclub.net web page.

Also, **Registration for the 64th International Rally in Lebanon, TN opens August 2020.**

Finally, **August 10, 2020 is National S'mores Day** (created around 1927)

Background information: This delicacy was created in the US with these thoughts in mind:

1. Start with **simple ingredients**—no need to head to Whole Foods for flavored graham crackers, artisanal marshmallows or fancy organic chocolate made in San Francisco. The simpler the ingredients the better.
2. **Identify how you like your marshmallow**—understand its' the doneness that is key... what is your ideal level of gooeyness is the optimum question here. So folks may adopt the “slow, low, rolling, roast” method to achieve a lightly toasted but gooey inside product.
3. Employ **the proper roasting technique** —the fewer flames the more roasting control. The key is watch for the expansion of the marshmallow (about 20% expansion is good); then you know the marshmallow is cooked through. The roasting tool can be any clean stick or skewer... long enough to prevent you from getting burned when place over the fire.
4. Now, is the time **to practice patience**...it should only take about 2 minutes max. from bag to bite. So, place the graham cracker with the chocolate near the fire; this allows the chocolate to melt/soften) when your marshmallow reaches doneness... put your marshmallow on the cracker with the melting chocolate...and suddenly chocolate with marshmallow are oozing out into your mouth.Yum!
5. Now the making of this treat, provides an opportunity to unleash your creativity ... once you have the basic process down that is. So, consider adding Reese's Peanut butter cups; or changing to a different chocolate bar; or add ingredients found on your hike...huckleberries for example; or because of the virus constraints impacting us all...go out an purchase a baby creme Brûlée burner and make a s'more sculpture! Send me a picture!

Be well and stay safe...See ya down the road, Your Editor