


BADGER BULLETIN

WALLY BYAM AIRSTREAM CLUB
The Wisconsin Unit Newsletter



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

KAREN SUKSI, EDITOR



Wow... Took a short trip to Door County, came back refreshed... and started tackling some of those items on "My To-Do List"; finished enough to actually cross some off!!! Never thought that would happen. Decided to address some issues concerning the rig... purchased a torque wrench (who knew that it was a tool necessary with lug-nut tires!); had the kitchen and bathroom counter-tops laminated; changed out

the double sink for a single one, not as deep as the double... and interestingly, found additional storage space under that section that is useful.

This issue will have some maintenance comments from one of our members, Jim Guthrie... regarding some items that many times go unnoticed and can lead to serious problems for the rig.

So, as we approach the fall, with all the energy it holds, may I say be safe and wash those hands, enjoy your favorite libation, and think of your next traveling adventure. Be Well...



Hello fellow Vintage Airstream Club members and followers!

Each month the executive board of the Vintage Airstream Club (VAC) meets via the Zoom platform to update the group on activities/events and plan for the future. This month I attended “the call” and wanted to share with you the current plans of the VAC.

One of the first items discussed was the need to fill a couple of important position vacancies including the VAC newsletter editor and the 3rd VP. As you guess, filling these are key in keeping the club functional, so if you would like to participate or know someone that can help, let me know and I will share this with the board.

The majority of the call was focused on next year’s VAC participation at the International Rally in Tennessee. There are some cool things on the drawing board including morning coffee provided by a coffee vendor who roasts their own beans. Also, there will be yoga each morning, a movie each night and of course infamous happy hours each day. They are planning a dinner that is sounding interesting and I will update you as details become available. Last, the board discussed having a dance where attendees would dress in the era of their vintage Airstream... I am already growing out my Flock of Seagulls hairdo! So far things are sounding fun for 2021.

Last, I am thinking about starting a Region 7 VAC facebook page where we can share ideas and adventures. I will keep you up dated as that progresses.

I hope you are doing well, stay safe and have a good ride!

Ed Emerick (Edward.emerick@gmail.com)

Region 7 VAC Representative

Rotating Parts: A tale of Caution...

So, you've put your trust in the folks that assembled and/or maintained your travel equipment...ie. the tow vehicle (TV) and travel trailer (TT). Then it should come as no surprise that "stuff doesn't always work the way it is expected." Consider the condition of **the rotating items** and their associated parts...specifically the wheels, brake drums, wheel bearings, and brake shoes, just to name some critical parts. **Wheel bearing inspections and repacking**...should be done annually according to most RV manuals. (Note: this depends on the use (miles pulled), I believe the time line could be extended to at least a couple of years. Most recommend 10-12k mile intervals, which is conservative but reasonable.)

Next is **having the wheels serviced**...with someone that is competent and capable. As the auto industry has moved to using sealed wheel bearing systems, the act of repacking the bearings may almost be considered "a lost art" at some auto facilities. That said almost any RV service centers regardless of brand, should be able to perform this service on any rig.

One problem I found on our trailer, as I checked the wheel bearings... was the **brake drums**. As I pulled off one of the brake drums, I discovered a huge greasy mess...



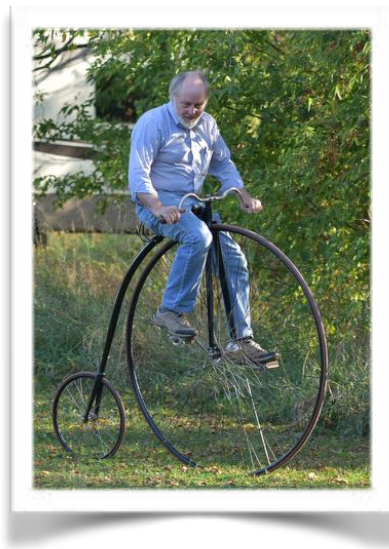
this was the result of an improperly installed and thus damaged grease seal and probably accentuated by the used of the “E-Z lube” system. After a thorough cleaning of the brake shoes and I cleaned the rest of the brake area with lacquer thinner; repacked the bearings on all four wheels and replaced the seals.

The E-Z lube system was designed to simplify the wheel bearing greasing issue...with this there was no need to remove the wheels, brake drums and hubs. However, I believe this has created several unwanted issues: (1) **greasing without removing the hub**, is that you don't get to visually inspect the true condition of the bearings or their associated parts. (2) the next issue was if you pack the hub full of grease and don't leave an air space between the inner and outer bearing, the heated grease will force some of that grease out through the seals and probably contaminate the brake mechanism area. Another consideration is the amount of the grease needed to insert in the hub is substantial.

Yet one more argument for pulling the brake drums in order to repack the wheel bearings, happened on a friend's rig. Hearing a strange scrapping noise as the wheel rotated on one wheel while backing up. I discovered that the braking mechanism for that wheel was totally non-functional. After pulling the brake drum, I found the braking mechanism for that wheel was totally non-functional.



This condition very likely existed for 4 years, and possible since the date of manufacture...so how can this happen if the bearing were repacked every two years. The owner reported that she had serviced the rig at service centers asking them to “check the wheel bearings.” Im guessing they simply removed the dust cap and concluded...”yup, there’s grease and it’s not nasty” but never took the drum off to actually repack the bearings.” There thinking the trailer is small, the other brake was working... and there were brakes on the TV large enough to function...so no problem. So in conclusion... what to do ? One of my long held beliefs is... if you want it done right...do it yourself; and baring that, you may want to look over the shoulder of the technician as it is done. Safe travels...Jim



Here are some web sites to explore...

[ReserveAmerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com): For information on Mountain getaways and must see Natural attractions

Michigan State Parks & Harbors: for information on mid-week camping

Wisconsin DNR: has posted some changes in camping for the 2020 season.

Minnesota DNR: visitors are encouraged to recreate close to home and maintain social distancing.



Our Final message...

This is my final Badger Bulletin article as President...this has been and continues to be a strange year. Ginny and I are well but disappointed at least 11 of the events we planned couldn't take place, as I'm sure you all are.

We will get through this pandemic and life as we knew it will resume, soon, we hope. We haven't gotten our Airstream out yet—but we plan to be on the road to somewhere in September.

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

As I mentioned in the July/August Badger Bulletin, amendments to the International Constitution were proposed at the 2020 IBT Summer Zoom Meeting in June. The amendments were approved. Significant changes were also made to Article IV of the Bylaws which deal with membership and its privileges. These resulted in a new model Club/Unit Constitution and Bylaws that must be incorporated into ours.

Here is a summary of the changes:

1. Bylaw membership privileges were expanded to allow voting by both club member owners of an Airstream, for example, both spouses may vote separately.
2. As we have adopted Wisc-UP Airstream **Club** as our name and changed from “Unit” to “Club” so have many others. The model specifies that “Unit” be replaced by “Club” as needed.
3. The word “may” must be replaced by “shall” to strictly specify Club Objectives in the Constitution and Standing Committees in the Bylaws. This change has been the most interesting to implement because we needed to re-evaluate our objectives and committees.

I formed a committee with Rod Fierek, Chuck Zellermyer, Steve Piotrowski, John Cooper to draft the necessary changes. I will send our proposed Constitution and Bylaws revisions with the agenda for the Zoom Fall Business Meeting that is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 1:30.**

Past President John Cooper chaired the Nominating Committee. Here is the slate of officers John submitted:

2020/2021 Slated Officers are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Rod Fierek |
| 1 st Vice President | Chuck Zellermyer |
| 2 nd Vice President | Bree Moore-Lawrence |
| Trustee #1 | Tim Valenza |
| Trustee #2 | Gina Eggers |
| Trustee #3 | Jim Guthrie |
| Secretary | Charlie Lawrence |
| Treasurer | John Cooper |
| Past President | Bill Scheuerell |

Officer election and investiture will be at the Zoom Fall Business Meeting as required by our Constitution.

My thanks to John and the new officers for their service

Wisc-UP Club Zoom Happy Hour

Elizabeth Rich and Sandy Emerick hosted a Zoom Happy Hour on Friday, August 21. About 25 members dropped in for the virtual part. It was nice to see and hear our members again while maintaining social distancing.

President: Bill Scheuerell and Virginia “Ginny” Janssen

Screen saver shots from Bob Manak on our virtual cocktail gathering:

