



MARCH/APRIL, 2021

EDITOR: KAREN SUKSI



I don't know about you, but time feels different lately these days... things that may have happened a couple of weeks ago, feel like they happened much longer. Its almost like watching paint dry or collecting bones from the dessert...and the weather certainly hasn't helped. It is normal for the central part of the country to experience snow and cold... folks learn to adapt, use elements to ski, snowshoe, skate or ice fish. But last week

the mother of all storms hit Texas...bringing rain, ice and snow. My first thought was for our AS "buddies" who stay there during the winter months...wondering how they fared with the challenges that comes with cold weather and not to mention camping. Some have made their situations known via Facebook...our thoughts are with them as they assess their rigs and other situations they confront.

This issue has an article from a couple who made their way to the southern most part of Florida, for warmth...I think you will enjoy their story.



A Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to these folks:

Curt and Katie Bosket (BRN #2189), Waukesha, WI

Jo Hill (BRN #01703), Fort Atkinson, WI

John Maye (BRN #7000), Pine River, WI

Cheryl Racette and Allen Stasiewski (BRN #09753), Waterford, WI

Marcia Baylin (BRN #1264), Wilmette, IL

To our seasoned members, be sure to introduce yourself to these folks if they should join in our adventures .

All things considered...

Take some time to check out these sources:

Region 7 ACI website (<https://airstreamclub.org/region7/region-7-newsletters>) this site may have some information or rally data that might be important for you.

The **Airstream Life Store** (howto.airstreamlife.com) posts a series of articles and YouTube videos like...handling (propane) gas safely; [run] a quick 1 minute inspection while on the road. This is a free newsletter subscription service which may be interest to you bookmark.

Last month **Readers Digest** (rd.com) gave some advice and ideas for overnight stays while traveling, as well as some apps that you might want to adopt...**"Where to Park RV for free on the Road."**

Ever thought of adding a **rope light string** for under your RV while camping at night...evidently this is a thing folks are seeing more and more at camp grounds.

ReserveAmerica is suggesting **Winter Camping getaways**.

Consider joining or organizing a caravan group to Lebanon, TN for International in July 2021.

According to the Washington Post (2/24/2021) in their article: **Road to Recovery**..."old school Airstreams enjoy pandemic-era popularity. Despite being forced to close for six-weeks early in the pandemic, retail sales at Airstream dealerships jumped 22% in 2020 and demand is on the rise." Catch the rest of the article at: <https://apple.news/AOS-XTIHxS-u6OYQ6D0Dxew>.

And now a word from our President...



I want to start by saying “Thanks” to those who joined our Zoom Happy Hour a couple of weeks ago. It was good to reconnect. Seeing Dave and Vicky down in Florida was a wonderful reminder of the enjoyment that comes with warmer weather: the rallies, greeting new members in person, and just generally enjoying those Airstreams.

Here at home, we’ve been doing some routine maintenance on our rig, recently pulling the wheel drums to inspect the brakes. This was a surprisingly straight forward task that required only a few tools.

Dexter Axle publishes good info on the procedure, to say nothing of what you can find on YouTube. It is just amazing to see the sheer number of video guides that are available to walk you through almost anything you want to do, including Dexter electric brake inspections and bearing repacking. Everything is back together nicely, there are no spare parts on the garage floor, all of the nuts are torqued to spec, and we’re anxiously awaiting an opportunity to let those tires roll.

Looking forward, there’s another Zoom get together on March 13; please do join us. I’ll send the meeting link in early March.

Door County beckons...The Easter weekend campout is pretty unstructured; there’s no rally fee, and there’s no need to make a reservation. Just show up **Friday (April 2, 2021)** at Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek. Camp sites are on the Winter loop at **Tennison Bay**. There are electrical hookups, “winter water” is available to fill your tank (its better to fill at home), and the vault toilets are open. The whole rally is **no host event** but let Sandy Emerick (BRN #4425) (call/text: 929-475-7893) know you’re there once you arrive, so you’ll know where to meet for dinner on Friday evening. If the weather is decent, do a cookout Saturday late afternoon.

Bring your own meat and a dish to share. Or decide to eat out again!. What more could you want?

The Dells Rally and Spring Business Meeting are at the very end of April (April 29-May 2, 2021). Make your camping reservation directly with the KOA by **April 1st**, and email Bill Scheuerell to say you're attending.

You can also start registering for the Chippewa Falls rally (June 24-27, 2021), which will be the next event after the Dells. That should be a fun weekend of relaxation, looking around Chippewa, and doing some sampling at the Leinie Lodge and Beer Garden only half-a-mile from the fairground where we're camping.

You may find the registration links for our **Wisc-UP** club activities in the Events section on the Airstream Club International webpage. <https://airstreamclub.org/events>.

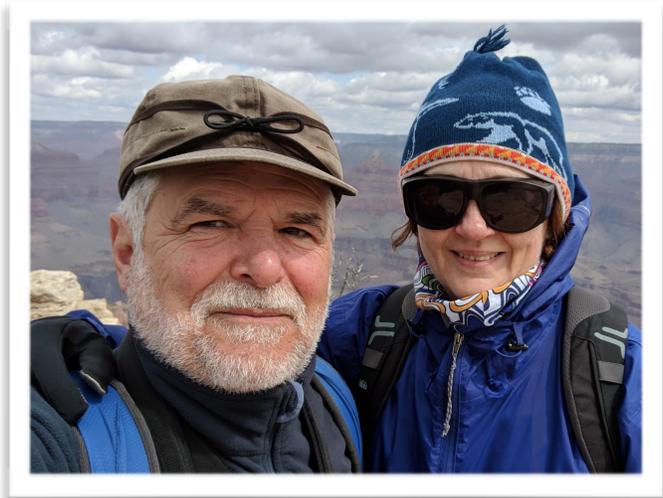
While you're on the ACI webpage, take a look at the Member Only Benefits section. There are two new discount programs available, 15% off on Griot's Garage liquid products (think car washing stuff that you use on your Airstream), and a pre-negotiated savings scheme with Michelin, BFGoodrich, and Uniroyal tires.



That's all for now...Be well and see you down the road,
Beth and Rod Fierek (BRN #1924)

Up-date on the April/May Rally...

The Spring Campout is scheduled for Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2, 2021 at the Dells KOA. Ginny and I have made camping reservations and barring a major catastrophe we'll be there. Because of the pandemic, breakfast will not be provided this year. The KOA party room is much too small to allow safe social distancing and the weather cannot be relied on for outdoor dining.



Please call to **reserve your site by April 1, 2021**

Wisconsin Dells KOA
South 235A Stand Rock Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

(608) 254-4177 [Camping fee is same discounted price: \$45 plus tax]

Friday, April 30, 2021 – Sunday, May 2, 2021

The Business Meeting Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021, 11:30, at Moosejaw Pizza & Dells Brewing Company
110 Wisconsin Dells Parkway, South
Wisconsin Dells/Lake Delton

In their lower level Rathskeller room.

Of course, this event is subject to change [Rod Fierek will decide later].

The Moosejaw follows Sauk County Health Department guidelines for restaurants, which are the same as those issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Currently those guidelines specify: Tables six feet apart and set for no more than six places.

We will be the only group in the Rathskeller.

Please register for the Business Meeting on our Web site: <https://wisc-up.org> so that I can forward our final count. There are no fees for this event. Our club will pay the Moosejaw room rental fee and the Moosejaw will issue individual checks, as per usual.

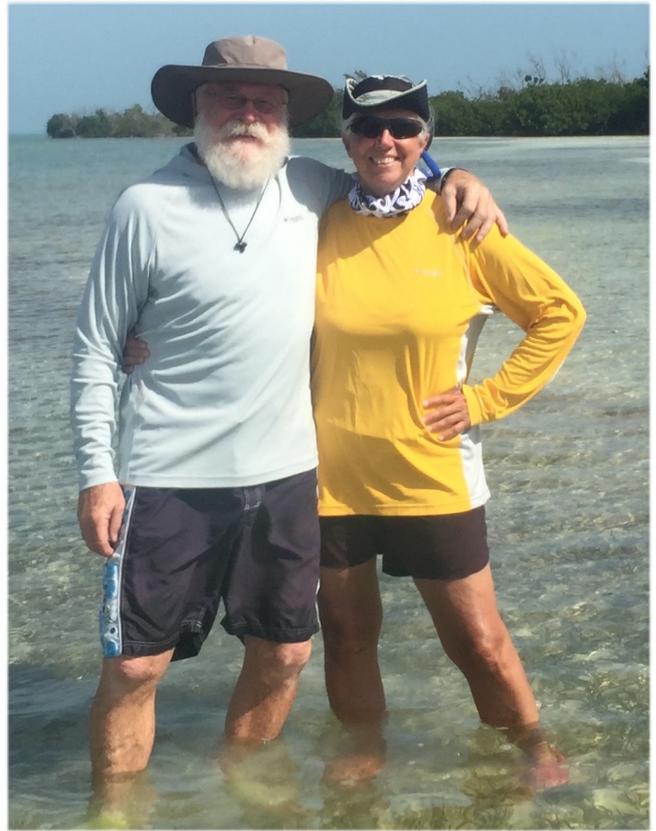
Looking forward to seeing you down the road, Ginny and Bill Scheuerell

Traveling During the Covid Pandemic... by

Vickie Englestad and David Sherman (BRN #2412)

First let me say that we have taken this COVID thing very seriously. I realized just recently that I have not touched another human being except Dave in eleven months. No children, no parents, no siblings, no friends! Dave and I have been our own little bubble. We have not eaten inside any restaurants, no bars, no movies. We have gone to grocery stores, hardware stores, Menards etc., but only places that required masks. We have eaten outdoors a few times and gotten lots of carry outs. Our county(WI) had few COVID restrictions and we did O.K. for awhile, but when COVID hit, it hit hard. We had many friends who caught it, most recovered well, but some did not. When we debated whether to take our usual three months in Florida, we found that Monroe County Florida seemed to be as safe or even safer than our home county. Monroe County, other than Key West, seems to be taking the virus seriously and masks are required most places.

We packed enough food to get us through the first week of travel. We avoided using public restrooms, only used the facilities in the trailer, and ate in the trailer or the truck. On the way south we stayed at Corps of Engineers campgrounds that were pretty empty with no contact checkins for the most part. We stayed at **Topsail Hill Preserve State Park (FL)** where the **Can-opener Rally** was going to be held. There were pre-rally Happy Hours every evening, but we did not attend any. We spent our time at our campground...hiking, biking and beach walking.



Since arriving at our campground in the Keys we have been hiking, biking, kayaking, snorkeling, and fishing. Unlike past years, there are no organized activities; no pot-lucks; few social activities. We do go to water aerobics every day in the outdoor pool, but the class is limited to ten people; most wear masks, and we are socially distanced. We feel we are being as safe as we can be. At least we can be doing things safely outdoors, and there is no snow shoveling!



Dave chiming in...To add to Vicki's comments, I'd like to add some information specific to coastal Florida. I believe everyone in the club has towed more times and more miles than Vicki and me, so I will not comment on any towing tips for a trip south.

Do the same as you do for any trip. Check the tires, torque your lug nuts, check the lights, etc.,etc., etc. One thing to consider when you leave in December is your rig is winterized. We have found we need to get to southern Illinois or Kentucky before we can find a campground that is open and where it may be warm enough that we are willing to use our plumbing system. Vicki makes all of our arrangements and does a great job of finding places to stay. However, depending on the weather and how late you want to drive that first day looking for warmer weather, a hotel room the first night or two should be included in your budget.

Jim Guthrie ([BRN #11970](#)) refers to Vicki and me as “Water People” (I have been called much worse), which is true, so I’ll touch on the biggest issue we have had staying near the water in Florida - **no-see-ums!** Though I had heard of them, I had never experienced them. No-See-Ums are Sand Flies or Biting Midges common to the coastal and mangrove areas of Florida. You can feel them biting you; they can draw blood, but it is hard to see them...at best it looks like a speck of black pepper on your skin. The worst part is the bites...their itch is about ten times worse than a mosquito bite and lasts a week or more! I have replaced all the screens on our trailer with no-see-um screen. The most common no-see-um screen is simply mosquito screen with a tighter/smaller weave. That may not be good enough. So, I installed no-see-um screen that I bought online from a company called **Skeeta**. The screen from Skeeta has a very tight unique weave, with a downside of restricting airflow a little, but a trade off I accept to keep the no-see-ums out of the trailer. If you perform this upgrade contact me for an important tip!



Another measure to use to reduce exposure to no-see-ums is to spray your screens with an insect repellent called **Permethrin**. Place a piece of cardboard on the back side of your screen as you apply the Permethrin to prevent it from just blowing through the screen. Also bring box fans or small circular fans to use while sitting outside. Because no-see-ums are so small and poor flyers, a breeze is a good defense.

When we first arrived a couple of years ago I didn't understand why there was a fan next to every chair in the campground, I soon learned. Turn on your fan and have it blowing on you and your legs to reduce No-See-Um bites.

And something very popular in the campground are "**Quick-Set**" gazebos. The most popular brands are Clam and Gazelle. These gazebos are easy to erect and provide an outside room to get out of the sun, rain, and no-see-ums! It was on these gazebos I discovered the Skeeta screening. The gazebos come in several diameters, ten or twelve feet are the most popular. I am told to get one where the window closures zip down as opposed to a velcro closure - the wind can blow hard off the Atlantic Ocean!

We miss our Airstream family and look forward to seeing all of you once things return to "normal." With the winter you are experiencing "Up North", I am not going to complain that it is in the mid 80's and humid as I am writing this. We will be back the end of March and I am sure you will save a little cold and snow for us. If you have any questions regarding reservations don't hesitate to contact Vicki and contact me for general Florida questions. Take care, travel safe, and take COVID precautions seriously until the Pandemic is over.