



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

EDITOR: KAREN SUKSI

Our Newest Members

These are the folks that have elected to join our club/group:

Mary and Michael Cooney (BRN #21412) Green Bay, WI
Drew Atkinson (BRN #10865) Altoona, WI
Karen Stuve and Eric Reischl (BRN #20217) Oshkosh, WI
Wendy and Richard Merz (BRN # 04093) Plymouth, WI
Jan and Jeff Harwig (BRN #04219) Franklin, WI

To all “seasoned” members...be sure to introduce yourself to these folks if they should attend one of our rallies during this 2021 camping season.

Looking ahead to scheduled Rally's and Events...

September 7-12....Alumapalooza 11
Jackson Center, OH
event contact: alumapalooza.com

September 21-24....**Rally by the River** in Stillwater, MN
German food, river cruise, antiques.
Club Business Meeting to boot! Plenty of space. (See more below)

September 24-28....**Driftless Caravan 2** to Decorah, IA, and Gays Mills, WI

A Word from our President:

Greetings
Wisconsin-Upper
Peninsula
members!



It has been a good
Summer, hasn't it?

Providing ample opportunities to use those Airstreams. I hope you've been
out using your as much as possible.

Thanks to **Bree Moore-Lawrence and Charlie (BRN #2878)** for hosting
eight rigs at the Wilton, WI, Kids Rally in early August. We've heard nothing
but superlatives about the wonderful weekend they arranged. New
members **Katie and Curt Bosket (BRN #02189)** shared the game Kub
with the kids, who all loved it. There was a bike trail ride through the
tunnels where they conquered the trail detour. A little detour couldn't stop
them. They even had an outdoor movie, crafts, and braved a little 🌧️ rain.



It was a real treat to see so many of you two weeks ago at the Region 7 Rally in Marquette. Many many thanks to **Jane Carmichael and Eddy Klein** (BRN #00219) for hosting a great event. And who knew that the fellow parked across from us named Tye, was our newly installed International President, Tye Mott (BRN #22356)?

Beth and I, extended our trip and travelled home via the Mackinaw Bridge and the SS Badger ferry across Lake Michigan. SS Badger is a National Historic Landmark, and about the same age as some vintage Airstreams. The four-hour transit across the Lake Michigan offers a pleasant way to avoid driving through or around Chicago. The really fun part is watching someone else BACK your rig onto the ship, or drive it off at journey's end.

Autumn is sneaking up on us, but there are still a few events remaining on our 2021 schedule.



The September 21-24 **Rally on the River** is just a couple of weeks away. So far, we have 18 rigs committed. There's ample space available, so feel

free to sign up (sign up on (ACI) airstreamclub.org/events) and join us at this gently organized event. There's lots to do in nearby Stillwater, including our group dinner, quick Business Meeting with officer installation, at a local German restaurant and the river boat dinner cruise. Plus, all those antique shops, breweries, the distillery, and so much more.

The campgrounds for **Driftless Caravan 2** trek to Decorah, IA, and Gays Mills, WI, were pretty full last I looked, but it is worth checking with them to see if they might have space available. We're happy to have you, but you'll want a place to camp. Information found as above (sign up on **(ACI)** airstreamclub.org/events)

November 4-7 brings the Come As You Are, No Host, No Reservations Required, **Birthday Bash** at Potawatomi State Park. see the (ACI) airstreamclub.org/events).

After that there's the holiday luncheon on December 4th. Detailed luncheon info in the November/December newsletter.

I'll wrap up my final newsletter by acknowledging what a privilege it has been to serve as the Wisc-UP President this last year. There was a tiny bit of work, but mostly the enjoyable kind. I learned that the hardest part was arranging the event calendar, and that the secret to that was to ask for help from our membership. It is worth repeating something I've said before, that the real work of holding this club together doesn't happen among the elected officers, but rather through the continuing and generally unsung efforts of what I'll call the Appointed Staff...the Treasurer, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and the Membership Chair being key among them. Without **John Cooper** (BRN #01336), **Bob Manak** (BRN #6151), **Karen Suksi** (BRN #4496), and **Pattie Cook** (BRN #22562), we'd look more like a disorganized kids club than the professional group they've created. Many thanks to each of them for their hard work. You've made me look good, where the truth might be something else indeed.

Finally, I want to thank my best friend and dear wife, Beth, for her enduring support over this period. All the good ideas were hers.

President-Elect Chuck Zellermyer (BRN #10230) and incoming **1st Vice President Bree Moore-Lawrence** will pick it up from here.

See you down the road,
Rod and Beth (BRN #01924)

Some thoughts by a member:

Most of us include a trip every camping season to a national park or a state/county park with our Airstreams.

Have you ever thought about how were these Parks created and how are they maintained?

Almost all of state/local Parks, created years ago, came about in a similar fashion – **local**

folks advocated for the protection of a special places over many years; federal, state and county governments provided funding for acquisition that was supplemented by private individuals and non-profits for acquisition or improvements. In every case, some folks argued for acquisition to protect the land and create local economic activity while other folks argued the land should remain available for private development or that the government cannot afford to, or should not, use taxes for park acquisition.

The history of **Potawatomi State Park** from an issue of the **Door County Pulse** illustrates this pattern. The area was sustainably used by the Bo-De-Wad-Me (Potawatomi) tribe for thousands of years. White settlers steadily increased in first half of 19th century and displaced the tribe through conflict and governmental policy. The federal government obtained and operated area as a quarry to build harbors around Lake Michigan. A local attorney advocated in 1923 turning the area into a national park. By 1929, a state advisory council including Aldo Leopold, supported acquiring the area for a state park; the federal government sold the land for \$1500 and park was opened in 1930 at the beginning of the Great Depression. The local



Chamber named the Park after the tribe and local businesses donated \$500 to build the tower in 1931.

Another example of how long it takes... **The Dunes National Park** in Indiana, the most recent national park created in 2020 near my wife Jane's and my hometown, was proposed in the 1960s and became a national lakeshore when we graduated from high school in 1970!

Today local people, non-profits and state/local governments continue this park pattern and history of advocacy/acquisition of special places for public benefit. Most folks have heard of the **Nature Conservancy** (that has a Wisconsin chapter) and the **Ice Age Trail Alliance** are creating a trail across the state that starts in Potawatomi Park.

Wisconsin has over 40 land trusts acquiring land in their area – (see gatheringwaters.org for one in your area). A critical source of Wisconsin funding since 1989 is the **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program** operated by the DNR. This program has been a target for elimination in successive legislatures for the last decade and was to end this year. Interestingly, the recently adopted state budget continues the program for four more years at current funding levels of \$33 million due to a major lobbying effort. Michigan, uses the bulk of revenues from oil, gas and mineral extraction on public land to purchase future acquisitions. Minnesota created fund for Park acquisition from part of an increase in their gas taxes.

Once these special places are protected, there is the continuing challenge of maintenance, improvements and managing them from the wear and tear from all of our visits. About six years ago, Wisconsin eliminated general tax dollars from the DNR Park operating budget – relying exclusively on user (admission and campsite) fees to support state parks. There are only a handful of states operating in this way.

Michigan continues to use general tax dollars (including 2% of gas tax revenues) for a portion of park operations. Minnesota funds just under 50% of park operations from general taxes. State Parks have create "**Friends Groups**" to generate contributions and volunteer crews to supplement funds for maintenance and operations. In Wisconsin, to find a friends group for your favorite Park or a park near you, go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/friends>. Minnesota, Michigan and some county parks also have friends groups. There is a national non-profit group supporting the national parks see nationalparks.org.for information.

So now more than ever, these special places/parks we enjoy, need our time, money and advocacy. All of us need to support, volunteer and advocate for public lands. It's our turn to continue the history and pattern that creates and ensures these special places are available for generations to come.

Submitted by Greg Hyer ([BRN #04297](#))