

WISC-UP



What's What in the WISC-UP Airstream Club

Upcoming Events

International Rally

Fryeburg, Maine
July 23 - 29, 2022

Ferry Tales II

Washington Island, Wisconsin
August 25 - 28, 2022

Region 7 Mini Rally

Manistique, Michigan
September 22 - 25, 2022.

Click on the underlined links above for more information!

Social Media

Facebook! Our club's Facebook page is found at this link: [WISC-UP Airstream Club](#)

Our page is a private page, only viewable by club members, friends, and past members. This is to provide security while we are away from home. So if you are a member and would like to join, click on the link above, and request to join! Answer the few questions and we will approve your request. Any questions or concerns, please contact:

Sandy Emerick
semerick4425@gmail.com



The View From Clara Bell (2012 FC RBT)

President Chuck Zellermyer

Streaming East

First, let me say that the start to this Summer has been just great! Viroqua, then Milwaukee, now we're in Maine getting ready for over 900 Airstreams who will be joining us for the International Rally.

We have been looking forward to this year's International for the past year. We have never been to the NE much less with our trailer. The 4 days that we spent on the road getting here have been a real adventure. First, we made it about 10 miles from our driveway when the check engine light came on. Fortunately, Griffin Ford (where the truck had been looked at 3 times recently and they told me it was fine) got us in the (Continued next page)



Message From the Editor

The first newsletter is out and about and the feedback was pretty positive, thanks! There were many that provided photos, articles and other tidbits that they thought we would like, keep them coming. We have made a promise to publish everything we get from you so don't be shy about sending us stuff that **you** think is interesting.

If you attend a rally, or any other activity feel free to snap a couple of photos and write up a paragraph or two about it to let us know what you are up to.

Have you repaired or replaced something and can tell us how you did it, send it in. The wait at an Airstream Service Center is a killer right now and your information may help someone get back on the road quicker.

Did your grandmother win the Bridge tournament at the resort this week, send it to us, our members need to know. As you can see, we are open to just about anything going in this newsletter to help make it better for you. So keep those cards and letters coming, we need your input!

Ed & Sandy Emerick (BRN 4425)

The View From Clara Bell (2012 FC RBT) con't.

next morning and had made the repair. We were on the road that afternoon. Arrived at our first campground in Belleview, OH, next stop Darien Center, NY, and finally Saratoga, NY. All great campgrounds and all recommendations from Jane Carmichael. She knows all the good hangouts.

We arrived in Fryeburg, MA on Sunday the 10th. All things being considered, it was a great trip over. The weather was great. Roads good for the most part. We were off of the interstate for a lot of the trip and that's the way I enjoy it. We are now here with a group of 18 other hardy individuals beginning to set up the parking for over 900 trailers. It's a lot of work but like anything else Airstream, good folks having fun. Beginning next week we will start parking all of those trailers and meeting a lot more new friends. And having a lot more fun.

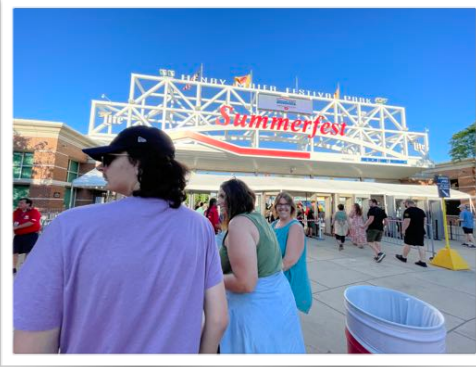
For those of you who are joining us in Fryeburg, we can't wait to see you. For those of you who can't make it, get out there and enjoy life! We only get so much of it you know.

We'll see you down the road. And remember... Ya'll come back now, ya hear.

Chuck & Janet Zellermayer
BRN 10230



Chef Chuck at the Milwaukee Rally Brewers tailgate party.



The Lawrences (BRN 2878) and the Staffins (BRN1721) attending Summerfest.

Rally Reports

Wisconsin State Fair Rally



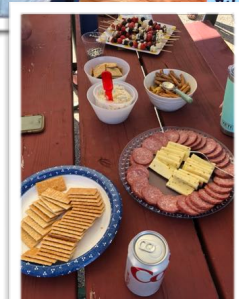
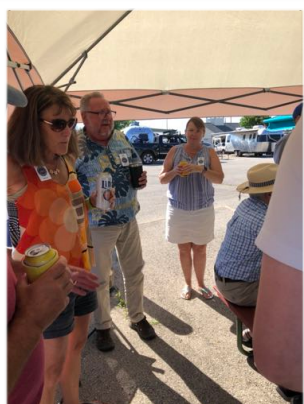
Report by Mary & Kurt Jorgensen (BRN 6104)

The June rally for the Wisc-UP Airstreamers took us to an urban camping setting at the Wisconsin State Fair RV Park. Although not the only campers there, most of us were close enough to enjoy each others company. Fifteen trailers were in attendance reflecting old and many newer members. The rally began on Thursday, June 23 and it began in the usual way with an impromptu Happy Hour at 5. Chuck and Janet Zellermyer, our hosts, laid out the weekend's agenda.



Milwaukee had much to do while we were there and most things were close at hand. Summer Fest was going on with shuttles leaving right across the street from the park. Greek Fest was going on in the main fair grounds and many went to sample Greek offerings. The Hank Aaron State Trail for hiking or biking went right by the campground and many took advantage of that, some even riding to the lake! Milwaukee has an incredible art museum and that is where we went. I have no words to describe this building but wonderful! And the art was good also! We were also close to the zoo and the Harley Museum. Many more things to do.

Friday evening lead us to the Lakefront Brewery for their tasty fish fry. There was also music to listen to in the form of a polka band as we ate. I noticed a few people dancing and we have photos to prove it!



Eric Lee Hahn, son of past club members Paul and Marcia Hahn passes

With sad hearts, we want to let the club know that Paul and Marcia Hahn have lost their son Eric. Eric was badly injured from an E-bicycle accident and passed away on July 7, 2022 at 32 years of age. Eric's generous wish to be an organ donor was honored by his parents. Marcia has asked all of us on her Facebook page to please wear our helmets while riding. The following is a link to Eric's obituary: <https://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Eric-Hahn/#!/Obituary>



Rally Reports (con't.) Wisconsin State Fair RV Park

The highlight of the weekend for many was attending the baseball game between the Brewers and the Toronto Blue Jays. The tailgating started at the campground and everyone agreed it was an impressive spread and we had more food than we really needed! Fortunately the Brewers pulled this one off 5-4 as the Jays were starting a comeback. But Josh Hader closed it out and kept it in the win column .

Thanks for a fun weekend and let's do it again, Chuck and Janet!



Truck For Sale

Ginger Slattery, BRN 2041

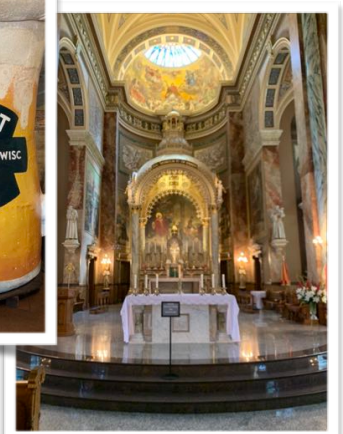
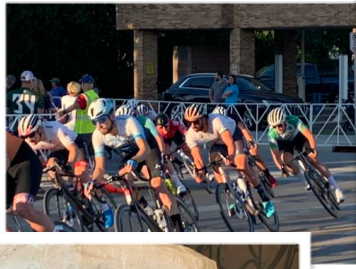
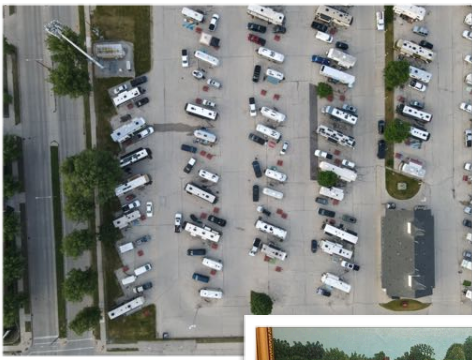


2012 GMC Sierra (4-WD), 65,000 miles. Asking price \$35,000. Contact owner Dan Smith at 906-249-1781 or email at dansmith125@charter.net. The truck is located in Marquette, MI.

Rally On!

Milwaukee Rally

July 18, 2022



Look who dropped by for a visit! Stan Schwenke's (BRN 9112) sister & brother-in-law Dale & Sandra Houge (BRN 6188)!!

Kids, Kids, Kids Rally!

July 18, 2022

Report by Charlie, Bree, Pearson, Brennan, and Eme Lawrence (BRN 2878)

The Kids, Kids, Kids, Rally was at Stoney Creek RV Park in Osseo, WI, June 9 through 12th. Stoney Creek is a campground that has become a favorite with our family (we try and stay every summer!). Stoney Creek is wonderfully laid out with large sites which make for great gathering places for campfires with s'mores. We were joined by Tim and Patti Valenza; new members Matt and Meghan Lee and their children Olivia and Camden as well as their nephew Nicholas who was visiting from Arizona; and new members Zach, Stephanie, and Charlotte Lee. You meet the best people at Airstream Rallies, and this event was no different.

Charlie made a pancake breakfast on Friday to help fuel up the kids for the day of bouncing on the inflatables in the pond. Pond inflatables are becoming a must have at family campgrounds and really keep the kids and dads busy climbing, bouncing, and sliding. It didn't take much convincing for Matt, Zach, and Charlie to join in the fun. The kids had just as much fun finding and collecting tadpoles around the pond. Eme says they found at least 440 tadpoles and 1 frog. After a long day of tadpole collecting, sandcastle building, and swimming we enjoyed a Taco Bar. It was a beautiful evening for cornhole and then an outdoor movie. The kids decided to watch the animated movie *The Bad Guys*.

Saturday started with a rainy breakfast huddled under the awning. We decided it was a good day to explore Osseo. Our first stop was at the Northwoods Brewery for lunch, they offer a large selection of beer (Tim quite enjoyed the Flopping Crappie!). They also have food, the kids enjoyed the chicken tenders and the burnt ends were delicious. Then the real reason for our journey, a stop at Norske Nook for pie. Everyone picked out their own flavor and as can be expected, the pie was delicious. Luckily the rain let up and we enjoyed the pool and the pond the rest of the afternoon. All the kids enjoyed the laser tag course Saturday afternoon followed by a delicious potluck and fire to finish out the evening.

We always enjoy the Kids, Kids, Kids Rally and encourage everyone with kids, grandkids, or just kids at heart to join us next year.



Jeff and Caryle McCaffrey (BRN 10258)



Hello! We're Caryle (Carol) and Jeff McCaffrey. We've been married for 42 years and have two grown boys.

We have an 11 yr. old step-grandson, Will and a new 3 month old granddaughter, Ella Rose. Over the years we've gone from tents to pop-up campers, spending our camping time in Wisconsin. Before Jeff retired, we bought our first Airstream, a new 2018 FC23FB from Ewald's in Franklin, WI. After one season we discovered we loved the Airstream experience but wanted more space. We ordered a 2019 27' Globetrotter FBT and haven't looked back! We live in McHenry, Illinois, just south of the Wisconsin border but head north to enjoy camping & biking. We recently added a pair of e-bikes and what a difference they make!

Toby, our 10 yr. old Cairn Terrier goes everywhere and enjoys meeting new friends as we travel! We found an old Burley kids trailer and made it "dog friendly". Toby now goes along on our bike rides.

Caryle enjoys gardening, reading and daily walks with Jeff & Toby. Jeff has many interests, including woodworking, photography and ongoing projects for improving our Airstream.

We enjoyed getting to know the members of the Wis-Up Airstream group in May at the rally in Viroqua, Wisconsin. Everyone was so welcoming and made us feel right at home. We're looking forward to attending the 2022 Airstream International Rally in Fryeburg, ME and hope to meet many more of you there!

Confessions of an Airstream Newbie

Having survived my first year as a new Airstreamer, I'm feeling less like a dumb-dumb and more like I've successfully run the gauntlet with a lot of help from my friends. I'd like to share with you a few lessons learned the hard way, either to demonstrate that everyone makes mistakes or, possibly, to help you avoid learning the same lessons the same way:

- Get a pair of leather gloves to take the cover off the gray and black tank drain. If your hands aren't strong enough, a flat-end tool and a rubber mallet work well to loosen it.
- Check and double-check that the hose to black tank connection is secure before you open the black tank at the dump.
- If you do not have shore power, only run your furnace for a few minutes in the morning or evening to take the chill off. Under no circumstances leave it on all night.
- Check and double-check that you have a trailer key in your hand or on a stretchy band on your wrist before you turn the inside lock and close the door. Keep an extra trailer key in your truck.
- If your friends at WISC-UP offer a backing up session, take it. Practice, practice, practice.
- Use the arrival and departure checklists in your **Newbies Guide to Airstreaming** like an airplane pilot: check them every single time you arrive and depart.
- Count the number of connections between your trailer and truck, then count them every single time you hitch up.
- Check and double-check that your refrigerator and bathroom door are secure before you start driving.
- When backing your truck to connect with your hitch, engage the parking brake before you take your foot off the brake pedal, so the truck doesn't roll a few inches. Remember to disengage it before you move the truck again.
- Always ask for advice and help when you need it – there are a lot of nice folks out there!

Good luck and have fun!
Your friend,
Anonymous



The Robertson's (BRN 3642) Caravan to Mexico!

Stuart and I have dreamed about going on a caravan ever since we joined the Airstream Club. We always thought it would become a reality once we retired or at least once the kids were out of the house. Last October however, we learned of an opportunity to join a caravan to Mexico for 58 days, and we took a leap of faith. In preparation for the trip, we decided to homeschool our kids (ages 10, 12, and 15) for their second semester, Stuart quit his job (and had a new one secured for the moment we got back), and we truly had the adventure of a lifetime.



The 12 rig caravan (including our own Wisc-Up unit members Steve and Lynn Piotrowski!) met in Potrero State Park, outside of San Diego, California at the end of January, 2022. From there, we set out south and travelled down Mexico Highway 1 - spanning the Baja Peninsula. While in the Baja, we experienced hot springs on a beach, pet gray whales, swam with sea lions and saw humpback whales breaching. It was truly magical.

Next we loaded the rigs onto a ferry and spent 18 hours traversing the Sea of Cortez. We landed in Mazatlan just in time for Carnival — the third largest in the world. Our guide had arranged front row seats on a temporary balcony built for the event — so we were eye level with the marvelous floats.

At one point, we left the Airstreams in a compound and took a train over 37 bridges and through 86 tunnels to reach Copper Canyon. The canyon's combined lengths are four times that of the Grand Canyon. Here, we purchased beautiful handicrafts made by the Tarahumara people.

The kids really thrived during this trip. Being the youngest of the group, it was as though our three children had many sets of grandparents camping along with us. Our Wagon Master helped Jude with his math homework, a cara-mate baked cookies from a coconut that Lucy cracked open to entertain herself one day, and another new friend



The Houge's (BRN 6188) Visit the Mothership

Sandra and Dale Hougé had a chance to visit the new Airstream factory and the new Heritage Center while waiting for a repair. Sandra writes "After getting the bill, I had to sell the Ram and pull the Airstream with a bicycle!"



The Robertson's (BRN 3642) Caravan to Mexico! (Con't)

took Pradit on long hikes and bike rides in the gorgeous areas near our campgrounds. Our kids picked up on some Spanish and learned about currency conversion. They learned to be flexible and also met new friends along the way. Greater than all of this, they broadened their worldview and built memories that will last a lifetime.

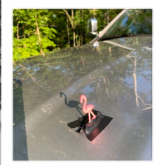
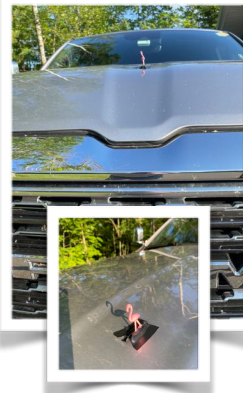
Did I mention that I was pregnant on the trip? I gave birth to Charlie 6 weeks after we arrived home. Also, we had our two cats and golden retriever along for the ride. We were a traveling circus without the acrobats! We had good days and bad days. Everything didn't always go as expected. Campgrounds in Mexico deemed as "full hook up" didn't always mean the same as in America. One time, we plugged in and our circuit was not grounded and had reverse polarity — Stuart went to touch the door handle and had a tooth-rattling electrical shock!

At the end of the day, we traveled 7500 miles door to door, fell in love with the locals, ate more shrimp and scallops than we could count, introduced the kids to virgin margaritas, experienced excellent medical care, made friends that became more like family, and would go back in a heartbeat.



Airstreamers Courtesy Park at Jane Carmichael's (BRN 219)

Three Airstreams take a break from their trip to the International Rally. As they departed they left a little reminder that they were there. It was noted that the three are taking different routes to Fryeburg. Just goes to show there are many ways to get to where you have to go!



The Lee Families Visit the UP

Our families, Matthew & Meghan Lee (BRN 24601) and Zachary & Stephanie Lee (BRN 8583) took a week-long trip with our kids to Michigan's Upper Peninsula during Father's Day weekend. We stopped at JW Wells State Park, Straits State Park, and Munising Tourist Park as we traveled up the peninsula and we visited Mackinac Island, Tahquamenon Falls State Park, and toured the Pictured Rocks.

During our trip north, we did have severe thunderstorms and tornado warnings at JW Wells State Park. We tuned into the weather channel on our radios and rode it out in Matt and Meg's 28' CCD. During our trip, we were able to hunt for yooperlites, cook steak and corn over the fire, bike the 8.2 miles around Mackinac Island, and enjoy the beautiful scenery during our drive with our Airstreams. We won't get into how Matt accidentally locked his keys in the truck while dumping during our entrance to Straits State Park! Luckily OnStar was quick to the rescue.

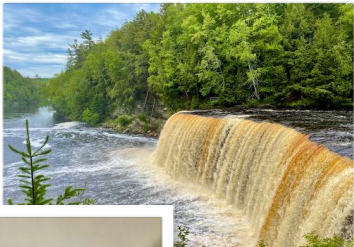
All in all, it was a wonderful trip and we are already planning on our next trip to hopefully go all the way around Lake Michigan or go halfway and ferry back into Manitowoc from Ludington.

The Fiereks (BRN 1924) Stay Busy this Summer

Rod writes; We stopped at Rustic Roots winery just north of Stillwater. They have a neat tray to serve their wine flights. The Airstream food trailer was a real bonus! We also visited Wisconsin, great water ski show in Tomahawk. These are some pretty talented folks.

Last Rod gives us a preview of what is to come "We are heading west to visit Washington State and British Columbia"

Rod and Beth, make sure you take a lot of photos and keep good notes, our members need to know!



We Rally Together

Ferry Tales II Rally on Washington Island

August 25 -28, 2002

Dave Sherman and Vicki Engelstad (BRN 2412) are excited to be hosting our second Rally on Washington Island in Door County Friday. They have coordinated the Rally with the 10th Annual Death's Door BBQ, a Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) sanctioned competition. The KCBS is the largest competitive barbecue organization in the world and the contestants on the island will be competing for \$8,000.00 in prize money.

We will start the weekend with a meet and greet Happy Hour Thursday evening. BYO drinks and a snack to share. It's a time to renew old friendships and make new ones. Friday morning, come early as we have arranged a private Cherry Train Tour of the island to introduce you to some of it's the more interesting features. The narrated guided tour will pick us up at the campground at 8:30 to start our day's adventures.

Saturday's main event is the Death's Door BBQ located at the island's airport. The gates open at 10:00 am. Besides sampling the BBQ treats there are arts and crafts, kids games, live music, and beer. Saturday evening, if you haven't had enough to eat, there is a traditional Door County Fish Boil available on the island. But the day is not over yet., there will be a live band playing at the campground Saturday night!

Check out our website for more information!

Website link for more information on all upcoming rallies: [Wisc-up Home Page](#)

Our Members' Travel Adventures (con't)

The Harwigs (BRN 7331) Share Over Night Parking Secrets

Here's one - On the way to the International Rally, we decided to drive more yesterday than planned and did an impromptu stay at an Elks Club outside of Boston. Had a nice time talking to the folks here over beer and pizza. Nicest Elks Club we have ever seen, highly recommend. They have one 120/20a outlet, but we didn't use it. Elks 2118 if you want to look it up. We didn't call ahead just stopped in at 6:30 to a warm welcome. It's about 3+ hours to Fryeburg from here, but we (and puppy Lulu) are heading to Acadia today. Also, Jan is an Elk member while I am a Moose member. We often look for Elk or Moose lodges as most have RV sites at no cost.

Some lodges are better than others, e.g., location, facilities, etc. and we have driven to some and opted to keep looking, but mostly that's not the case. Elks/Moose, due to free stay and friendly folks can make the journey part more enjoyable. It's like the old saying "It's not about the destination, but the journey".



Membership News From Pattie Cook (BRN 22562)

We would like to welcome our newest Members:

Eleanor and Clair Oppriech (BRN 4122) of Rio, WI.

Kriss and Kathy Williquette (BRN14148) of Green Bay, WI

Heather and Jim Smith (BRN 10192) Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Chris Gentine (BRN 17612) of Elkhart Lake, WI.

Pattie Cook is the Wisc-Up Membership Chair and if you have any membership questions please feel free to contact her: pattiecook@new.rr.com



Marcia Baylin (BRN1264) picking up her new Airstream!



How We Celebrated the 4th!

You President (BRN 10230) and family celebrated the 4th of July by attending a block party. Even though it rained, a good time was had by all! Janet writes "When it rains on a block party, we find another way to continue our fun". Also "the Fire Department always graces us with a visit to show off all their bells and whistles on their shiny engine, do picture taking, and excite the kids".



The Emericks (BRN 4425) celebrated the 4th of July by sitting on our back deck cooking a pork butt on the old Weber and enjoying the weather.



Repairs, Restorations & Cool Airstream Things

Airstream Electrical Upgrades

For those of us who use our Airstreams for boondocking, meaning camping with no hookups, the factory supplied battery capacity is inadequate, especially in newer models that use compressor fridges. Many folks are wondering how to improve their boondocking capability. Unless air conditioning is a must, two methods have the potential to eliminate dependence on electrical hookups almost entirely, especially when they are combined.

The first is to upgrade the battery capacity, and the second is to add or upgrade the charging capability.

Battery Capacity

When I talk about battery capacity, I mean the amount of electrical power that your coach can store. Storage is in the form of one or more batteries. From the factory, depending on the year and size of your coach, these two batteries are typically 12 volts, are stored outside the living space (usually on the tongue of a trailer), and have a typical storage capacity of about 80 Amp/hours (abbreviated as Ah) or less per battery. This capacity rating is the total number of amps the battery can deliver over a 20-hour period.

How much battery capacity you need is completely dependent on how many days you wish to be able to boondock and how much electricity you use, so the first step in determining your required capacity is to estimate your daily usage. This may be hard to do, and some folks decide to eliminate this step and figure out what fits their budget instead.

Battery capacity can be upgraded by installing larger batteries, by switching to batteries which use a different chemistry (e.g., lead-acid vs. lithium iron phosphate), or by doing both.

Charging Capability

Charging is how the battery capacity is restored. And while charging can be done using an engine-driven generator or windmill, this article will focus on solar charging. There are two major components to a solar charging system – solar or photo voltaic (PV) panels, which come in many sizes and capacities, and solar charge controllers - which take the electricity generated by the panels, monitor the battery state of charge, and restore the battery capacity based on the battery chemistry and state of charge.

How much charging capability you need is based on your battery capacity, how long you wish to boondock, and how much electricity you use on a daily basis. Charging really extends your boondocking capability and reduces the battery capacity you need. Again, some folks eliminate this estimation and calculation exercise and figure out what fits their budget instead.

Solar charging capacity can be upgraded by adding or upgrading solar panels, which can be either permanently installed on the roof of your coach and/or set up temporarily on the ground, or by upgrading the solar charge controller to a more efficient model, or by doing both.

(Continued next page)

Electrical Upgrade - Chapter I. Contribution by John Cooper (BRN 1336) Con't.

Other Electrical Components

Several other components are included in the electrical systems that Airstream installs at the factory, and some of them may also require upgrades when you decide to upgrade your Airstream's battery capacity or charging capability. Of primary interest are the:

- **Converter**, which takes shore power (what you plug into at an electrical camp site, using a generator, or at home – 120 volts AC) and converts it to 12 volts DC to supply the 12v systems. It also passes 120 volts AC to the standard electrical outlets in your coach and usually includes a 12-volt battery charger. The battery charger may or may not include the appropriate charge profile for the battery chemistry you intend to use.
- **Inverter**, which takes battery power and inverts it from 12 volts DC to 120 volts AC. You may or may not have an inverter in your system, and you may or may not want to have one. They consume a LOT of battery power, even if you are not using the AC outlets or appliances they supply. Most have an easily accessible switch to turn them on when you need AC power and off when you don't. They also come in a wide range of capacities (measured in watts) and costs; from units barely able to charge your phone to units capable of running a rooftop air conditioner.
- **Wiring**, which connects all the other components. There are many wire gauges or thicknesses available, and the ones that Airstream installed may not be sufficient to handle the battery capacity or electrical use you are planning, especially if you add or upgrade an inverter. I also include components like bus bars, circuit breakers, switches, fuses, shunts, and connectors like ring terminals as wiring.

• *Figure 1 - 2021 Caravel 19CB Factory*



Figure 2 - 2014 International CCD 23D Factory



This is a lot to cover, especially in enough detail to be useful or informative, so I plan to split it up and have articles in upcoming newsletters which cover one of the following topics:

Batteries and battery banks

Solar panels and chargers

Converter / chargers, inverters, combination units, and controls

Wiring

Putting it all together - If you manage to read all the way through one of these, I would love to hear if you thought the topic was useful, whether or not the article covered the topic well enough, or how even quickly it put you to sleep!

Happy Airstreaming!

An Editor's Note

We had a great turnout for news and photos this month! Thanks for the help. Sandy and I would like to thank all of you that have submitted articles, notes, photos and provided support. This newsletter would not be possible without your help. If we didn't respond to you for some reason, we apologize! If you sent something but it's not here, it will be in next month. I would have put it in but I ran out of room this month! Our second attempt has gone a little smoother and we should still be married in August!

A reminder! The cutoff for the August newsletter will be August 10, 2022.



Master Chefs at work at the Milwaukee Rally Brewers Tailgate Party