

# WISC-UP



What's What In the WISC-UP Airstream Club

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WISC-UP Airstream Club

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WISC-UP Airstream Club  
<https://airstreamclub.org/wisc-up>

## Upcoming Events

October 5-8 Fall Rally and Business Meeting, Skillet Creek Campground. Baraboo WI (Tim and Patti Valenza)

August 15 - 18, 2024  
It's a Zoo Out There!  
at the Reforestation Camp in Suamico, WI. Mike and Mary Cooney and Jim and Pattie Cook will host.

## A Message from President Bree!

Hi Fellow Streamers,

It has been a joy serving as President for the WISC-UP Airstream club this year. We have had so many great rallies this year. I appreciate all of the work that hosts put into organizing rallies and luncheons. We recently attended the Eat, Drink, & Yodel Rally in Green County and it was such fun to explore another area of

Wisconsin we had not been to as well as catch up with fellow Airstreamers. Charlie and Linda Meinholz put together interesting activities that connected us with the history of the area. The kids loved the farm visit and Eme now wants

chickens and a cow.

We visited Minhaus Brewery for lunch and tasted lots of good brews with the 20 minute open bar.

Our school year is in full swing which means back to soccer, dance classes,



# Membership News

**Pattie Cook**  
(BRN 22562)



Welcome to our newest Wisc-UP Airstream Club members!

Chip and Lori DeLeeuw  
BRN 810  
Sioux Falls, SD / Milan, MI

Pattie is our Membership Chair. Her email is:  
[pattiecook@new.rr.com](mailto:pattiecook@new.rr.com)

## Recommended Reading!

Starting next issue, we will have an article recommending books we have read and enjoyed. Send your favorites to our editor at:  
[emerick4425@gmail.com](mailto:emerick4425@gmail.com)

## A Message from President Bree! (Cont.)

gymnastics, and Pearson's senior year. We have been going on college visits and getting ready for this exciting year full of change.

Thank you for making our club such a fun and welcoming place to be. We have the Fall Business Meeting Rally coming up October 5-8 in Baraboo hosted by Tim and Patti Valenza.

We are looking forward to our families last fall weekend camping and welcoming our new President Jim Guthrie. Jim has so many great ideas and things already planned for us. I predict it will be another great year of Airstreaming adventures.

Bree and Charlie Lawrence BRN 2878



## Message From the Editor

**Ed Emerick  
(BRN 4425)**



Summer is almost over, where did it go? Like many of you, we have had some good travels this summer and the rallies we were able to attend were really great this year. I want to thank our Rally Hosts for all their hard work.

Also I would like to thank the Lawrence family for their support this year. It's hard being a younger family and taking on the job as Unit President. You did a wonderful job!

Sandy and I would like to thank YOU, the membership for supporting the newsletter. Without your input this newsletter would be nothing.

Ok, enough of that, lets get back to work. The next newsletter will be published in November, submission cut off is November 10. We will now publish every other month starting in November then January, March and starting in May, we will

## Upcoming Wisc-UP Events

**We Rally Together**

**It's A Zoo Out There!  
Rally - August 15-18 2024**

We've begun planning a rally for next August 15th - 18th at the Reforestation Camp in Suamico, WI.

Mike and Mary Cooney (BRN 21412) and Jim and Pattie Cook (BRN 22562) will be your hosts.

We have established a tentative schedule and rally fee of \$25. We expect to have additional information on the website by the end of September.

We are reaching out now because we've spoken with the Packer organization and while they can't confirm dates there is a possibility that Green Bay will be hosting a preseason game that weekend. This will also be the week of the Brown County Fair. For this reason, we urge you to book your site early. We aren't able to block off sites for the group so we ask that you book directly on the Brown County Park website. Please select from sites 20-46. Sites can be reserved now. Please be aware sites are non-refundable but are transferable.

Link: [Brown County Reforestation Camp Campground](#)

Tentative Schedule may include the following:

Thursday - Dinner - Meat will be provided, please bring a dish to pass and your beverage of choice.

Breakfast will be provided all three mornings as will dinner on Saturday night.

We'll be bringing in a food truck for Friday night's dinner.

Lunches will be on your own. We are planning group activities which we're still tying up. We are excited to rally with our friends and families!



## Message From the Editor

Ed Emerick (BRN 4425)

return to the every month format for the summer of 2024.

With this said, we need you to take photos, write up some travel logs and trip recommendations. We need to hear about what you are up to outside of your Airstream life like did you shoot that thirty point buck? Did your mom & dad move into your basement? Our members need to know!

Did you buy a new Airstream? How about a tour! Did you start a new hobby? Our members need to know!

Lets face it nobody wants to be the missing tooth in the gear, send us stuff! If not, I will make something up and that won't be good. Trust me..... Cheers!



## We (finally) Took Delivery in Germany of our 6.4 Meter Malibu Camping Van!

Rod & Beth Fierek (BRN 1924)



## A Message (Republished) from First Vice President Jim Guthrie! (BRN 11970)



As the not yet President for the 2024 camping season, I'm making a request for folks to step forward – as opposed to everyone else taking a step back – and help organize some activities for the Wisc-UP group. Namely, luncheons, campout weekends (or weeks) and/or caravans.

As the Wisc-UP club has members and places of interest in a wide area, I would encourage folks in any part of the state(s) to organize something that you would find interesting and invite the rest of us to share. Wally designed the shiny equipment we use with round things on the bottom so that we could go places that we haven't visited before, or re-visit some of our favorite places that we have been to.

In the past we have had group activities in the months listed and as you can see, we already have several commitments for events and it would be great if we could add activities for the non-claimed months.

December 2nd – Chuck and Janet Z. have stepped up to kick things off by hosting a luncheon for socializing and getting into the holiday season. Details to follow.

February – another luncheon/gathering of wandering souls to discuss summer travel plans.

May – Our Spring Business Meeting and first campout of the year.

June 12-17 – Bill Scheuerell and Ginny Janssen are organizing an outing at the Amana Colonies in east-central Iowa. Details to follow.

July 11-14 – Matt & Meghan Lee have stepped up again to do the Kids, Kids, Kids (and more Kids) Rally with location to follow.

August 15-18 – Mike Cooney & Mary Geyer and Jim & Pattie Cook are planning an outing near Green Bay at a Reforestation and New Zoo Park. Details in this newsletter!

September 15-21 – will be the Region 7 Rally in the Black Hills of SD. Possible Caravan??

September – Open for possibilities.

October – Probably the last campout of the season as well as the Fall Business meeting.

So again, as you can see, we have several months that don't have a planned activity – the months with no dates attached. Please don't make me pull an Ed and go into a strong-arm strategy, I don't do it as well as he does.

# We Rally Together!

## Eat Drink and Yodel! Monroe, Green County, WI Rally

### Rally Report by Pam Meer (BRN 6337)

I have been coming to the Monroe area my whole life visiting relatives and family farms. My Swiss and Norwegian ancestors immigrated in the 1800's. They just kept coming to the rolling hills that reminded them of their homeland. When Linda and Charlie planned a rally around cheese, farming and heritage, I was brought back to my roots and couldn't wait to share it with fellow streamers. Our arrival at the Green County Fairgrounds sent us scattering for electricity with temps close to 100-degrees. Linda and Charlie greeted us at Happy Hour under shade trees and started the rally off perfectly with a huge selection of cheeses!



The next day, the group visited the National Historic Cheesemaking Center Museum and the Imobersteg Cheese factory. The Imobersteg cheese factory is a relocated century old family business. The factory features original equipment that showcased an era of traditional cheesemaking. After all that new knowledge of cheese history, we headed over to Alp and Dell cheese store connected to the Emmi Roth Cheese Factory. Store owner Tony gave us more insight on "today's" cheese making processes. At the end of the tour, Tony impressed us with a special Yodel performance. (Click [here to link to Tony's yodeling video on Facebook!](#)) Next, it was time



# We Rally Together!

## Eat Drink and Yodel! Monroe, Green County, WI Rally (Cont.)

### Rally Report by Pam Meer (BRN 6337)



to stock up on our favorite cheeses, especially Limburger! Wisconsin's smelliest cheese! At happy hour, many brave streamers gave it a try and Chuck's comment pretty much summed up the experience, "I can taste the smell!"

We ended the day with Pizza and Movie night. Monroe's mayor, Donna Douglas, came by to give us a warm welcome and the history of the town. Kelly and I picked up a couple of "Swiss" outfits from the Cheese Museum, so we fit right in with Donna and her Swiss attire. Linda special ordered the Sound of Music movie for us (came all the way from Australia). The movie projector and sound system were brought by Greg and Jan Hyer. What a treat to have our own outdoor movie theater. Unfortunately, a bit of rain came in and spoiled the fun.

On Saturday, Gene and Gayle Christensen provided a tour of their dairy farm. Gene's passion and love of farming was inspirational, and his devotion to his craft was impressive. He is full of knowledge and stories of farm life. Across the street we visited his daughter, Katy's CSA (community supported agriculture) farm. There we were greeted by a



# We Rally Together!

## Eat Drink and Yodel! Monroe, Green County, WI Rally (Cont.)

### Rally Report by Pam Meer (BRN 6337)

friendly cow, curious chickens and hungry pigs as she shared the process of growing food for her customers. We all left with an appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of this family.

That evening, Linda and Charlie arranged a fantastic tour and dinner of Turner Hall. Established in 1868, it is believed to be the last Swiss Turner Hall in the country. The building,

a Swiss Emmenthal-style chalet is just like a visit to

Switzerland. Sherri Anderegg gave us a tour and history lesson of the building and its contribution to the community. The dinner consisted of Swiss favorites and John Waelti serenaded us with his accordion.



The rally had Twenty-nine trailers from all over Wisconsin, Canada, Illinois, Iowa and Alaska. Rally regulars and first timers had a real Swiss cheese experience in Green County. A special

thanks to Linda and Charlie for their hard work and dedication to the success of the event. If you see a rally that is close by, be sure to attend. It is fun to be a tourist with fellow streamers.



# We Rally Together!

## Eat Drink and Yodel! Monroe, Green County, WI Rally

Rally Report by Pam Meer (BRN 6337)

And More Photos!



## New Member Spotlight

**Maryann & Yan Newenhouse**  
**BRN 12917**



We are from Cedarburg, WI and are the excited owners of a 2015 Flying Cloud 27 FBT. This is the first RV for us, though Yan vacationed with his family in a travel trailer when he was young. Yan is retired from a financial services data processing company and is keeping busy modifying automobiles and catching up on the household repairs that built up during his work years. Maryann is a school district accountant who will retire in a year or two. We plan to travel with Poppy the Airstream to visit family and friends in northern WI, SC, TN during the next 2 years and then take extended trips to the Southwest and Pacific Northwest, once Maryann retires. Our dog and 2 cats will travel with us.

## Wisc-UP 4 Good

**Jane Hyer (BRN 4297)**



We are very fortunate to live in the beautiful area of the UP and Wisconsin. Even better, we can travel and enjoy the rich cultural histories, resources and vistas of Region 7.

Last year there was a discussion on how the Wisc-Up Airstream Club might “give back” to some of the areas that we visit and enjoy. Out of these campfire-fueled conversations, came the idea of a benevolent component connected to our Wisc-UP Club. We talked about the goals of any outreach projects. One goal might be creating goodwill and/or improvements where we rally. Another goal was that monetary donations should not only be of interest to one or small number of club members that are not related to a rally. Ideas of donations were:

1. Help the local area. Such as a donation to Friend of the “whatever park we are at” or organizing a work morning service project in the area.
2. Donation to an area local organization. An example would be a local 4-H club when we are at a Fairgrounds or the local food bank.
3. Donations to an organization that supports a member or a member’s family.

We enjoyed the Eat, Drink and Yodel Rally in Monroe Wisconsin on August 23-27, 2023. We learned all about Monroe’s deep Swiss heritage and cheese-making history. On Saturday we toured and ate at the historic Turner Hall.

## New Member Spotlight

**Tim & Barbara Victor**  
**BRN 4288**



My name is Tim Victor and I am the primary camper in our family. Barb my wife is less enthusiastic. I have pursued this activity on my own. I was born in Holland, MI in 1947 and went to college in Stevens Point, WI, spent a stint in Viet Nam for a fun filled vacation, and then came back to Stevens Point, WI. I love out west and Lake Superior. Spent a month out west this early spring in a teardrop trailer.

I was originally in the Airstream Club from 2012 to 2018. I had a 25' Flying Cloud. But then I had a series of bad health events. Primary problem was the heart. After the second attack, I wasn't sure what was going to happen to me, so I sold my truck and airstream. It was too big for me to handle. Then the third attack happened which at first was devastating. But Doc put me back together with a pace maker and some drugs that have really helped. Then covid hit and I was locked in my house with "Da Wife" for 18 months. That convinced me that I needed SPACE! So, I went back to my roots and purchased a Ford Ranger and a Teardrop trailer. Unfortunately Doc had additional plans for me and requires me to do a lot more medical activities in the night. So I came back to the Airstream trailer, namely the Basecamp 16x. This fit better with my love of Overlanding. There are a lot of Veterans in the Overlanding community and I feel comfortable there. I have had my Basecamp for about a month and spent (Cont. next column) →

## Wisc-UP For Good

**Jane Hyer (BRN 4297) (Cont.)**

Established in 1868, Turner Hall is believed to be the only Turner Hall of Swiss origin remaining in the United States and one the oldest, continuously operating Swiss entities in the Country. A free-will collection at dinner collected \$200 that was donated to the Turner Hall Preservation Endowment Fund. A great beginning of Wisc-UP giving back to a host community.

The Wisc-UP 4 Good Committee is looking for ideas and a few more members. Currently, it is a committee of two – Linda Meinholz and Jane Hyer – that is small and mighty. Our Fall 2023 rallies are in Spring Green and Baraboo Wisconsin. We welcome any ideas, suggestions and comments for projects. Linda at [cmeinholz@gmail.com](mailto:cmeinholz@gmail.com) and Jane at [jwhyer@outlook.com](mailto:jwhyer@outlook.com).

Happy Trails!

## New Member Spotlight

**Tim & Barbara Victor (Cont.)**  
**BRN 4288**

some time up in Ashland at Kreher Park. Love staying at Washburn's and Ashland's Parks.

I like the smaller groups and rallies, probably carry over from "the Nam". So I find myself leaning to the local Airstream rallies and my typical loner pursuits of Overlanding. Looking forward to developing this course of adventure with new friends. Here is staying out of the rocking chair for as long as possible.

# Best Slow Cooker Macaroni and Cheese Recipe

By Janet Zellermayer (BRN 10230)

*This recipe was prepared for the Kids Kids Kids Rally*

## Best Slow Cooker Macaroni and Cheese Recipe

This slow cooker macaroni and cheese recipe is the creamiest cheesiest recipe you can find! This recipe can be easily doubled to feed a crowd AND it's budget friendly. The perfect party-ready Mac and cheese.

**Course** Dinner

**Cuisine** Comfort Food, Slow Cooker

**Keyword** Crock Pot recipe. Mac and cheese, slow cooker

**Prep Time** 5 minutes

**Cook Time** 3 hours

**Servings** 10 servings

### Ingredients

- 2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese shredded
- 1 cup Colby cheese shredded
- 3 tbsp butter
- 2 3/4 cup half & half
- 1 15 oz can of Campbells Cheddar Cheese condensed soup
- 1/2 tsp of ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp paprika *smoked or plain*



### Instructions

1. Combine the half and half and the cheddar cheese soup, mix until smooth
2. Sprinkle in the paprika and black pepper, mix
3. Pour the uncooked elbow macaroni, half of the shredded cheddar and butter into the crock pot and mix
4. Pour in all of the sauce (soup and half and half mixture), mix until well incorporated
5. Top off with remaining cheddar cheese
6. Put lid on slow cooker and set to low.
7. Let cook for 3 hours
8. Serve and enjoy!

# Member Spotlight

## Steve & Lynne Piotrowski (BRN 2900)

Usually what goes on in New Orleans, stays there...but we will tell you this. Years ago, we made a Halloween trip to the Big Easy (highly recommended). We were dressed as Fred and Wilma Flintstone, which ultimately led to us naming our German tow vehicle Wilma, and the big guy following her Fred. It seemed right. If you want to know more, ask.



Lynne retired on the last day of 2008, earlier than planned, due to the nosedive of the economy and the effect on her retirement fund. When the dollar crashed, it was clearly not the best time to fulfill our dream of spending part of each year overseas exploring the rest of the world. Lynne was a master gardener and had spent nearly fifteen years as a volunteer at the International Crane Foundation. Because of her work with the cranes, we had the opportunity to make two trips to Cuba in the early 90's.

I, (Steve), had retired a few years before her, after a career of aiding fellow veterans. I'd served in the infantry in Vietnam, followed by college where I got involved in the Vets for Peace and related activities. That background led me to various jobs working with veterans. I worked as Portage County Veterans Service Officer, Executive Director of the Highground Veterans Memorial in Neillsville, while helping to organize Vietnam Veterans of America chapters in Wisconsin, and finally, I spent my final fifteen years in the office of Senator Herb Kohl as his veteran's case worker.

Over the years we had tent camped, visiting the birding hot spots of Wisconsin. We camped nearly every weekend in April and May and again in September and October. Finally our bodies made tent camping unappealing. We enjoyed the time exploring our state parks and related places, but sleeping on the ground just didn't work.

When Lynne retired, we knew we wanted to travel and see the countryside. We knew a tent wouldn't work, so we looked at almost every type of RV on the market. Like most of you, we decided that despite the increased cost, Airstream made a product that would better serve our wants and needs. In February of 2009 we purchased a slightly used (500 miles maybe), 2007 23-foot Safari Special Edition (75th Anniversary). We quickly took off on a 5000-mile one month trip to the southwest with stops along the way to see old friends. Ironically, we met a couple from Madison at a stop in Mississippi as we headed home. They had bought an A Frame pop-up, a trailer that had made our final cut because of low cost and they expressed a level of regret at their choice that we didn't have with our Airstream.

Of course, we had issues, there are always issues. For example, on our first day out we left Madison the day after a heavy snowfall that quickly blew off the top of our trailer. The ice cap under the snow

# Member Spotlight

## Steve & Lynne Piotrowski (BRN 2900) (Cont.)

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was still breaking off beyond the Illinois border. We fortunately had fifty-degree temperatures when we arrived at Kansas City, our first stop.

I'd never set up the trailer after winterization, heck, I'd never set up the trailer at all. I filled it with water, flushed out the antifreeze from the system, and turned on the hot water heater. The burner would kick in and then immediately quit. I pulled out the manual, and it said to open the bypass valve under the bed, so I pulled everything out of the trunk which runs under the bed, and turned the valve to be immediately greeted with water gushing out the bottom of the trailer.

Eventually, I called the factory, and a nice gentleman there told me it sounded like I had not closed the bypass valve. "Where is this bypass valve?" I asked with steam and frustration in my voice.

He said, "Under the bed in your model."

"You mean the lines that you get at from the rear hatch?"

"No, the valve is under your bed, you need to lift the mattress and stick your arm through the hole there and close that valve."

I had him stay on the line while I crawled under the mattress with a flashlight and found the magic hole that led to the valve. A simple turn of the valve and I could hear water running into the hot water tank. I thanked the Airstream rep and finished setting it up. We really had no other problems on that trip, probably because it was cool and we never had to pull out the awning. (I still wrestle with it every time I set it up!)

In April, we went to Door County for the Easter Campout and met Ed and Sandy Emerick, Don and Kay Stenz and Connie Sheasby. There were snowbanks at the entry to the camp circle and ice and snow along the lake. The temps weren't bad, but we ran out of propane. (No one told me there was no warning when the tank switched over or was nearly empty). Dazzle, our short haired kitten, was very affectionate that night. We were warm and cozy after filling the propane tanks. That spring we went on several trips to our favorite state parks. We'd joined the club but didn't really know anything about it.

Around the end of June, the Madison papers had pictures of Airstreams all over the front section. There was something called the International Rally going on about a mile from our house at the Alliant Center. I rode my bicycle down and found out you could register without bringing your trailer, and that there were a variety of activities. I registered and quickly found the Wisconsin group drinking beer and eating brats. We ended up getting to know several more people from Wisconsin and elsewhere. Our impression of the International Club was that it was militaristic and stodgy. In

# Member Spotlight

## Steve & Lynne Piotrowski (BRN 2900) (Cont.)

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those days, they had a formal dance to celebrate the new officers, white gloves, everyone wearing Blue Berets, etc. Despite that, we found the Wisconsin group to be fun and much more laid back.

We mostly traveled on our own, exploring the West, South, and Southeast of our country, with excursions into the Canadian Rockies and other border areas. We slowly adjusted to retirement travel and took months to travel distances we would have traveled in weeks while working. We regularly attended Unit events, usually starting with the Easter campout, and any other campouts that happened when we were not on the road. When I join an organization, I want to be active in it. Sooner than I wanted, I found myself moving through the chairs of our Unit, and attended my second International Rally in Huron, North Dakota as Unit President in 2013. I remained uncomfortable with the rigidity of the International, but we enjoyed the people we met in the club. I also met a few like-minded people and soon we were organizing (Under the banner of "Moving Wally Forward") and encouraging people to take up leadership positions. It took a few years, but ultimately, the club shifted to a more member focused and friendly footing.

At that first Madison International, we found out about club Caravans and immediately signed up for the Baja caravan that next spring. Sixty days of ocean shore camping that was being offered for possibly the last time. Unfortunately, we were one of only four rigs to sign up, mostly because of fear of drug gang violence. It was cancelled. We talked about other caravans, but wondered if we would like to be stuck with the same people for so long. We decided to do the Cajun Caravan in the spring of 2011 to finish our two-month winter get away, figuring we could take three weeks, no matter how bad it was. It turned out to be one of the best trips we had been on. The Caravan leaders knew the area and had arranged a variety of sites and events for us to visit. We made friendships on that trip that we keep to this day. (of course, there were a few people we learned to avoid forever after). We have done several caravans since then, and they are all special memories.

Owning an Airstream (or I suppose any RV) is a learning experience. Being in the Airstream Club has a bit of a learning curve also, but it is one of the most helpful tools you will find for maintaining your Airstream. There is always someone who has faced the same problem as you, and they are happy to share their solutions. People in the club come together for one primary reason, they enjoy their Airstreams and travel. We have seen Alaska, Mexico, Newfoundland, various areas of the US, and many places in our home state because of the club and the people we have met through it. We have made friendships all over this country (and Canada). We have driven dirt roads, and Interstates. We have enjoyed our trailer in all sorts of weather and conditions and our two cats, Ruby and (the now late) Dazzle have shared all those adventures with us.

Come to club events, get to know your fellow Airstreamers. You will find interesting people. You will learn things, and most importantly, you will have fun. The Wisc-UP Airstream Club has a motto (I just made it up), "Have Fun, and then do it again."

# We Rally Together! Wisc-UP Event

## Fall Business Meeting and Rally at Skillet Creek Campground

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*Hosted by Tim and Patti Valenza (BRN 9196)*



October 5-8, 2023  
Rally & Fall Business Meeting

### SCHEDULE

Thursday

4:00 Happy Hour  
5:00 Dinner

Tumbled Rock Brewery & Kitchen  
S5718 State Rd 136 & DL  
Devils Lake, Baraboo  
[www.tumbledrock.com](http://www.tumbledrock.com)

\*We will have a section block off for us!  
Seat in groups of 8 or < for separate checks.

# We Rally Together! Wisc-UP Event

## Fall Business Meeting and Rally at Skillet Creek Campground (Cont.)

*Hosted by Tim and Patti Valenza (BRN 9196)*

### Friday

8:00 Breakfast	Site 447 Bring something to drink and a chair!
10:00 Apple picking	Ski-Hi Fruit Farm E11219A Ski Hi Rd Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913 <a href="https://www.skihifruitfarm.com/">https://www.skihifruitfarm.com/</a>
12:00 Lunch on your own	Explore the Baraboo area!
3:00 Mansion Tour	A.L Ringling Brewery
4:00 Happy Hour	623 Broadway Street
5:00 Fish Fry	Baraboo, WI 53913 <a href="https://alringlingbrewing.com/">https://alringlingbrewing.com/</a>

### Saturday

8:00 Breakfast	Site 447 Bring something to drink and a chair! <b>*Business Meeting 8:30 am</b>
9:00 - 4:00	Fall Fair on the Square

A tradition for the fall season! Everyone is welcome to explore some of the most elegantly handcrafted crafts that take over the streets of Downtown Baraboo. Over 170 artists and crafters showcase and sell their beautifully designed goods. Numerous food trucks to provide you an array of delicious food options, engaging kids' activities, great live music, and a farmer's market to give you something from the field to your table.

2:30 – 3:30	Autumn Color Coach Train <b>*Tickets purchased in advance on your own.</b> Mid-Continent Railway Museum E8948 Museum Road North Freedom, WI 53951
5:00 Happy Hour	Site 447 - Bring something to drink and a chair!
6:00 Potluck	We are providing BBQ sandwich's, beans, and chips. Please bring a dish to pass. If your last name begins with - A-G – Dessert – please and thank you! H-O – Salad – greens or pasta - any combinations! P-Z - Side dish – Hot or Cold!

# **We Rally Together! Wisc-UP Event**

## **Fall Business Meeting and Rally at Skillet Creek Campground (Cont.)**

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*Hosted by Tim and Patti Valenza (BRN 9196)*

### **Sunday**

8:00 Breakfast

Site 447 Bring something to drink and a chair!

Time for goodbyes and wishes for safe travels! Thank you all for joining us!!

### **General Notes**

Please bring your coffee or morning beverage to breakfast!

We are providing paper plates, napkins, and cutlery for all the breakfasts and Saturday evening Potluck dinner.



Hosts Tim and Patti Valenza

# Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Rick and Carol McMahon (BRN 5881)

WHAT? No fresh water?

It all began when we were on our way to our first International Rally and so excited to travel the west this year and stopped to enjoy the last overnight at a goat farm Harvest Host before the rally! We had prepared well and all indications were that we had approximately 30% fresh water remaining for our

overnight. PLENTY we said!

Then what to our surprise was a toilet flush left sputtering and a big OH NO! We assumed the sensor was inaccurate and likely the culprit. Thank goodness we had an empty five gallon water jug along with several filled one gallon jugs that were along for drinking. The wonderful hosts let us fill the five gallon from the hose and we old schooled the toilet flush. Thank goodness we would arrive at Rock Springs tomorrow!

As the week went on, not a thought was given to our issue until we began to prep for the next step. Dry camping at Gros Ventre. Rick filled

the fresh tank which proceeded to create a flood of our campsite. Upon inspection, buried behind the inspection plate, the WORST! A cracked drain fitting. Now what? Can't boondock very well with no fresh water. After several expletives, a good guess at the thread size, it was off to the hardware store to get and install a brass plug. This will solve the short term problem. Whew! We successfully completed our travels through the Tetons, Yellowstone, the Badlands and more with no more thought to the issue.

Now the fix. Rick wanted to share, that upon further inspection and review of the design, this is prone to fail. The 90 fitting from the tank is assembled with a very short straight tube to another 90 fitting further attached at the external valve thru the tank shroud. The 90's do not face each other are not a stress free dogleg angle. Too much stress, Wisconsin potholes and flexing of the coach, CRACK! After much head scratching, Rick went a little different direction after ZERO help from the Mothership. Installed a stainless steel 90 fitting with flex hose into the tank drain outlet facing rearward. Ran the flex hose to the rear of the trailer and installed the valve at the rear of the tank



## Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Rick and Carol McMahon (BRN 5881) (Cont.)

shroud facing towards the center. This also provides protection from road debris. This eliminates the stress and removes the plastic fittings. A little less convenient for draining the tank, but seriously, how often do we do that? Maybe twice a year.

We wanted to share this fix as we have seen others on the interwebs comment to similar failures. When you are on the road, water is a necessity! We now carry lots of spare PEX, crimpers, hose and fittings! Happy travels!



## Zip Dee Awning Rail - Free to a good home!

We added a street side awning on our trailer and had to replace the rail that was originally installed so the new awning would fit. At some point in the past, Zip-Dee must have increased the bead diameter because the new awning would not slide into place. This rail is early '80s vintage and 25 ft in length. The bead opening is roughly 1/4". I can't bear to throw it out and hope some one in the club might want it. Pick it up for free in the Waukasha area. Contact [Jeff Plate](#) (BRN 17035)



# Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Todd & Kelly Bavery (BRN 7880)

## *A trip to Madeline Island*

We traveled to Madeline Island for the Labor Day weekend and camped at Big Bay State Park. Big Bay State Park is awesome, the ferry cost is \$226 round trip and we stayed for 3 nights. The park has updated bathrooms and showers with 50 AMP service for a number of sites. We were in site 59, it was a deep site and and easy to back-in.

There are lots of opportunities to hike, kayak or sit on the beach just relaxing. Make sure to visit Tom's Burned Down Cafe for great service and drinks!



# Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Kathy and Kriss Williquette (BRN14148)

## *A Summer Adventure!*

My wife Kathy and I left Green Bay, Wisconsin at the end of April to go to the International Rally in Wyoming. We drove 8,500 miles to get there and back. We had a lot of detours, lol.

When we were in Oregon visiting my Aunt and cousins, we camped a few days on the Oregon coast at Tillamook Beach. It was a beautiful campground with sites overlooking the beach. While using the restroom, I saw a man struggling to turn the water on in the sink. He had never seen the touchless faucet before. I told him to wave his hand under the sink to turn it on. He said "no speak English" so I showed him how. After leaving the rest room we walked out in the same direction to our campsites and he said he was from Italy visiting his cousin. Turns out they had the campsite next to us.

A half hour later he was back knocking on the door of our camper. In very broken English we figured out he was looking for some olive oil for his evening meal. We gave him our bottle and he insisted on us coming over to meet his cousin and have a drink with him. He said he would love to talk to some Americans.

So my wife and I went over and met his cousin Ricardo who spoke excellent English, and also found out that his name was Luigi. He had just flown in the day before to visit his cousin who had moved to California in the early 1960s from Italy. They were on a road trip to visit the western United States.



They made us Italian drinks that I have no idea what they were. They offered us to share their huge Italian meal that they were in the process of cooking. So we had a few drinks and then I noticed a case of beer laying by their tent. You might think it was Italian beer but no it was Pabst Blue Ribbon.

I pointed it out to Luigi and he said "Milwaukee, Fonzie, Happy Days." We all laughed, he said he loved watching Happy Days in Italy. As we had a beer, Ricardo said when he immigrated to the United States in the 1960s and they lived in California. His dad got a

# Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Kathy and Kriss Williquette (BRN14148) Cont.)

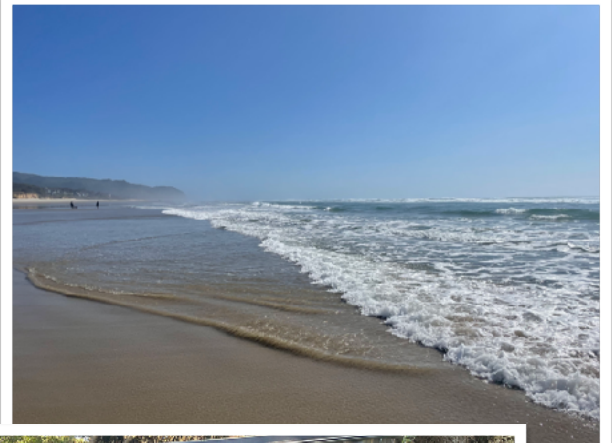
## *A Summer Adventure!*



job as a carpenter at Airstream installing cabinets and worked there for years. When I told him we were going to the Airstream Rally in Wyoming and that maybe I could get a few photos of some vintage campers from the 60s he was super excited. Maybe my dad installed them he said. We said goodbye a few beers later after getting Ricardo's e-mail address.

Well, we had a great time at the international rally and I forgot to take photos for him. Too much alcohol maybe... so lucky for me after returning to Wisconsin we attended The Door County Rally in Southern Door in Wisconsin being hosted by our editor Ed and Sandy Emerick who happened to have a vintage 60s Airstream. Thanks for the photos Ed and Sandy. Ricardo really enjoyed the photos.

Just goes to show Airstreams are everywhere and loved the world over.

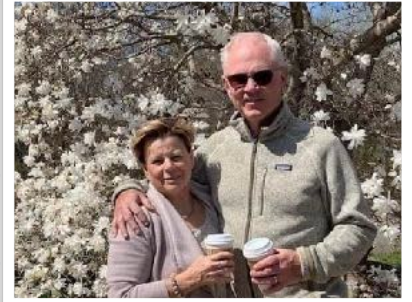


# Repairs, Restorations & Cool Airstream Things

## Protect Yourself. AND Others!

By Mike Cooney (BRN 21412)

Did you notice the split pool noodles on our frameless, tinted, tilt-out, back window? They are hard to miss. But if they aren't there and you are wearing a cap, looking down and in a bit of a hurry because it is getting close to Whiskey 30, you might not happen to notice them - until you do.



This happened to someone I know well while we were on Washington Island 10 days ago. Same weekend as last year. The one with the band at the campground and the barbecue at the airport. Weather was great and I had a chance to meet a very nice doctor who lives on the island and works at the medical station. I sure hope I don't have to learn this lesson again.

In other news , Mary and I hope to see everyone at the upcoming rally in Baraboo. After the rally we are heading out for the winter with plans to return sometime mid Spring 2024.



## Steve and Lynne Piotrowski (BRN 2900) Share the Loss of Razzle Dazzle Brown

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Dazzle entered our lives on our way back from the first trip in our Airstream. We had driven almost 5000 miles in less than a month, and Ruby our six-month-old Somali kitten, seemed to love going with us. We felt that it would be difficult to have only one cat, so after searching for breeds that were known to travel well, we got in touch with a veterinarian/breeder in Mississippi that had Havana Brown kittens for sale. On the way home, we swung a few hundred miles out of our way and picked up a scrawny, giant eared, skinny tailed scruffy kitten. When we got her in the car with us, my first comment was “Did you know she would look like this?”

Lynne said she didn’t quite expect her to have such big ears and thought maybe she would develop more of a fur coat, but that she was the brown color the breed was known for. Disqualifying her as a show cat was a handful of white hairs on her chest and ears, thus making her adoptable as a pet. Ruby on the other hand had been shown as a kitten and had already won ribbons but was sold to us at pet prices because of a job layoff by her breeder. Our purpose in buying purebreds was to have pets that were known to travel well.

Most cat owners know what a struggle it is to get them to go into carriers, and how they often howl whenever they ride in a car. These two would get in their carriers and wait for us to close the door when we started packing for a trip. They both learned to walk on a leash, and Dazzle loved to walk down trails in the parks we visited. Ruby was much better when walking around people and distractions, but they both became well known to our friends in the Airstream community. Many times, we had people stop us and comment on how they had never seen cats walk on leashes. At a park near Lake Pontchartrain we counted five different cats walking on leashes.

(Cont.)



## Steve and Lynne Piotrowski (BRN 2900) Share the Loss of Razzle Dazzle Brown (Cont.)

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Since we were retired and spent all our time with them, they became very attached to us and vice versa. Lynne spent a fair amount of time teaching them tricks. Both would do “give me five” “gofer” “dance” and sometimes other tricks. Dazzle was a house and lap cat to the extreme. She was never interested in going outside, except to be with us. Ruby on the other hand, would spend all day outside with Lynne while she worked in her flower gardens.

In the early part of Dazzle’s life, Lynne liked to watch “Martha Stewart” in the mornings. You could always find Dazzle curled up on her lap. Eventually, this led to a morning ritual as Lynne made the bed. The routine included a standard set of tricks mimicking the Martha show, including applause, Hollywood kiss kiss, high fives and more. The reward most favored was “cookies” as they were known, halves of cat treats that both wanted all the time. Over the years, it got so we couldn’t say the word without having one or both cats come running into the room. One time Dazzle came racing into the living room when someone on TV said “cookie”. With a little time and effort, you could get Dazzle to do most anything if there was a “cookie” reward.

Fourteen years later, we have traveled with them to Mexico twice, Alaska twice, Newfoundland, and various other places that you can reach in an Airstream. They showed their age at times, but they continued to enjoy the trips as confirmed by their readiness to enter the carriers whenever we got them out.

A couple of days ago, Dazzle stopped eating. We knew it was serious when she would not respond to “cookies” or any of her favorite foods. We took her into the vet, and after keeping her overnight, they said it looked like much of her system was starting to fail. We were told that with

extensive support and medication we might be able to give her a few months to a year of life. It didn’t seem like she would have a very good life for that short time, and we made the difficult decision to say goodbye. I wish she was sitting on my lap as I type this, but she is gone and I will miss her for a long time. Ruby seems confused by her absence, but she never was a lap cat, so she can’t replace the comforting feeling Dazzle gave just by sitting with us. I fear that every time I sit down, I will miss my little Havana Brown. Thanks for being our friend, Razzle Dazzle Brown.



# Flamingos Spotted in Ohio ‘Rare bird sighting’ at Caesar Creek State Park attracts curious onlookers from around Ohio.

*Article Submitted by John Sellers (BRN1587)*

BY JESSICA HART - WCPO

WARREN COUNTY, OH

A couple of tropical birds made a pit stop in Ohio over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Two flamingos were spotted at Caesar Creek State Park Beach. Park officials say they were in the area for a few hours and then took off. “There was an older one who was pink and then there was a gray one and they say that was a juvenile, a little bit younger. He just had a little bit of pink on him,” said Caesar Creek State Park Manager Tiffany DeChant- Hunt. “Seeing a flamingo in Ohio is a rare bird sighting.”



Dechant-Hunt said they didn’t even know flamingos were in their park until people called them. She said some drove from Cleveland to see them. “As word spread, more people came. Our naturalist came in and she helped people and kind of protected the birds a little bit from the crowd,” she said. Jeannette Walker visited the beach twice in three days hoping to see tropical birds. “We heard about the flamingos so we wanted to see if we could spot them,” Walker said. “Pretty unusual, that’s why we were going to take that opportunity to try and catch a glimpse of them.” Walker didn’t see the flamingos, but others were able to capture the moment. Aaron Shirk snapped a few pictures before they took off. “It was pretty surreal to have flamingos in Ohio, even more so to have the opportunity to photograph them,” Shirk said. George Keller also took some photos. “It was shocking to see flamingos in Ohio. I was excited to know that I was documenting something special for the birding community,” Keller said.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources believes the birds flew into Ohio because of Hurricane Idalia. An ODNR spokesperson said they don’t have any other record of flamingos in Ohio. Cincinnati Nature Center Director of Conservation Cory Christopher said he was skeptical when

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources believes the birds flew into Ohio because of Hurricane Idalia. An ODNR spokesperson said they don’t have any other record of flamingos in Ohio. Cincinnati Nature Center Director of Conservation Cory Christopher said he was skeptical when

## Flamingos Spotted in Ohio ‘Rare bird sighting’ at Caesar Creek State Park attracts curious onlookers from around Ohio. (Cont.)

*Article Submitted by John Sellers (BRN1587)*

hearing flamingos had landed in Ohio. “Immediately, I thought, ‘I wonder if somebody’s pets got out,’ because people do keep exotic birds as pets. But then you started to see them pop up in other places in the Carolinas, further north than they should be,” Christopher said. “Caesar Creek, we’re just one of those places. Once you start hearing multiple locations then you got to think something else is going on.”

Even though they are off course, Christopher said the flamingos will be able to find their way home. He said birds have a metal compound in their brains that allows them to navigate with the magnetic fields. “If they got swept up here because of the hurricane, which signs are pointing to that’s probably what happened, they probably took a couple of days as a breather, and then they realized where they were. They knew they were way off course and they were able to right themselves to get back where they needed to go,” he said.

DeChant-Hunt said the tropical birds haven’t been spotted in a couple of days, but she’s hopeful everyone who came to the beach for the flamingos will come back for the park.

“Well, hopefully, people come and see the beauty of the area. I mean this is gorgeous, you know, and there’s a serenity when you’re out here isn’t there? You can feel it. We hope that when people come out and they see how close we are to their community that they’ll just keep coming back,” she said.

The lake’s beauty is what brought Walker and her grandson back.

“We noticed the beautiful beach and thought we would come back and visit the beach on a nice warm day,” said Walker.

“It’s very nice and certainly my grandson is having a good time. He’s enjoying playing in the sand, so it’s definitely worth the trip.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: The only type of flamingo I like....  
The edible type!

