November 15, 2023

WISC-UP



What's What In the WISC-UP Airstream Club

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Upcoming Events

December 2

Chuck and Janet Zellermayer (BRN 10230) are your hosts! (See Page 3) Hi-Way Harry's 710 Glovers Lane Johnson Creek, WI

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

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

A Message from President Jim Guthrie BRN 11970!

Hello to our Fellow Streamers,

We hope everyone had a great 2022-23 camping season and were able to get to the places and events you wanted to. Thank you, Bree, for all your efforts last year, and thanks to those members



who stepped forward and organized some really unique and interesting events. We are looking forward to the next season, including The International Rally in Missouri. Also this December, Chuck and Janet Zellermayer are hosting a fall luncheon Hi-Way Harry's in Johnson Creek. We also have several other exciting events planned for next spring/ summer, but we could have more.

Some folks said they are hesitant to host an event, as they weren't sure what was involved. Good news, Sandy Emerick has come forward and put together a complete Rally Planning Guide. It lays out in great detail the steps it takes to organize/host a rally for a weekend or week. So, if you feel you have some good ideas, but didn't know where to start, don't stress. We now have a blueprint. Actually, hosting an event is fun. Just think of a place or event you enjoy, and introduce it to your Airstream friends. By the way nobody says you can't co-host an event; It's a big party. (Cont.)

Upcoming Events (Cont.)

May 3-5 — Tour the Shipyard Rally, Sturgeon Bay, WI

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 (BRN 24601) 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 (BRN 21412) and Jim & Pattie Cook (BRN 22562) are planning an outing near Green Bay at the Reforestation and New Zoo Park.

September 15-21 – will be the Region 7 Rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota. There may be a Wisc-UP Caravan.

September – Open for possibilities.

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

If you would like to host an event please contact President Jim at: Email: wbac11970@gmail.com Phone: 414-510-9699

A Message from President Jim Guthrie BRN 11970! (Cont.)

Wishing everyone a good winter season whether you're hanging out in the frozen north or heading south for warmth and some sunshine. Whatever you do, have a safe and rewarding time.

President Jim

Message From the Editor Ed Emerick (BRN 4425)

Well done Wisc-Up! We have the content this month. What fun it was going through the emails and texts reading about your adventures. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter as much as we did putting it together.



We have a new column this month "Good Reads for the Airstream" with one of our first recommendations from Linda Meinholz (BRN 19514), Water for Elephants. I too have read this book and it was great. If you are sitting by the fire and reading a good book let us know, our members need to know!

The next newsletter will be published in January 2024 so you have plenty of time to put together your travel logs, repair recommendations, new purchases or additions. Send those in, our members need to know!

Lastly, send us your Thanksgiving and Holiday celebration photos with a short caption for the January newsletter. Some of you did a great job with this request last year and others not so much, let's see those celebrations! OUR MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW!

November 15, 2023

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December Luncheon Update



By Janet Zellermayer (BRN 10230)

Chuck and Janet Zellermayer are hosting the December luncheon this year on December 2nd at Hi-Way Harry's in Johnson Creek. Arrive at 11:30 for drinks. Lunch will be 12:00-1:30.

Address is 710 Glovers Lane, Johnson Creek WI.

Please note that we are planning a community service event to coincide with this year's luncheon. We'll be asking club members who are attending the luncheon to bring non-perishable food items or cash donation to support Watertown Shared Community Mission Group (SCMG) and their Food to Go and Grow Program (FTGAG).

RSVP by November 20th!

czellermayer@me.com

jszellermayer@gmail.com

Membership News

Pattie Cook (BRN 22562)

Welcome to our newest Wisc-UP Airstream Club members!



Pattie is our Membership Chair. Her email is: pattiecook@new.rr.com



We Rally Together! Fall Rally and Business Meeting Skillet Creek Campground Baraboo WI

Rally Report by Kelly Meer (BRN 6337)

In early October, we attended the Airstream Wisc-UP Rally in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Our 3rd rally of the year. There was good attendance with over 20 trailers. We stayed at the Skillet Creek Campground on the south side of Baraboo.

On Friday, we took care of official business and elected new officers. We then toured the Al Ringling Museum with the Al Ringling Brewery attached. This is the only museum tour we have ever taken where you can take a beer with you! The tour was interesting and afterwards, we had dinner in the beer hall. The circus organ is amazing.

Saturday, we visited the Ski-Hi Apple orchard in the morning where they have a huge gift stop and great baked goods baked on site. In the afternoon, we visited the Mid-Continent Railway Museum where we took a 7-mile (round trip) train ride through the countryside.

On Sunday, small group of us toured the Al Ringling Theater. Truly outstanding; you need to take this tour if you are in town. Called America's Prettiest Playhouse built in 1915. Al. Ringling Theatre is a treasure of rare quality. Magnificent and richly designed in the style of grand French opera houses, the theatre is a masterpiece of European architecture.









WISC-UP Airstream Club

We Rally Together!

Fall Rally and Business Meeting, Skillet Creek Campground. Baraboo WI (Cont.)

Rally Report by Kelly Meer (BRN 6337)





Rally Planning Guide Sandy Emerick (BRN 4425)

With input from other members, I have written a Rally Planning Guide to assist members planning a rally. This will be a work in progress, suggestions for clarifications, additions are always welcome. But it will provide a starting point for future rallies! I also plan to include worksheets to track rally attendees, payments, and expenses.

The Rally Guide can be found on our Wisc-UP website, and here is a direct link:

Rally Planning Guide

You can send questions, suggestions to my email:

semerick4425@gmail.com



Wally and Stella want you to plan a rally!

Member News! The Houges (BRN 6188) move to South Carolina & the Boehmers (BRN 1722) move back to Wisconsin.

back to Wisconsin

Sandy Houge writes: We bought our 2018 28' International Serenity November, 2021. After traveling full time for the past 2 years, 34,000 miles, 44 States and half of Canada, Dale and Sandy Houge have

finally bought a house in Summerville, SC. We are still true Airstreamers so we will see y'all in Sedalia, if not before!! On to The Next Adventure!



Teri and George Boehmer (BRN 1722) want our members to know that they are back in the great State of Wisconsin. They write; We are sitting in eastern Idaho on our trip back to Wisconsin. Selling our house in Washington so we can move back to our house in Oconomowoc. Looking forward to getting together with the Wisc-UP Airstream friends again. Let's give them a big "Welcome Home"!



Member News!



Happy 3rd Birthday Gizmo Staffin (BRN1721)





Greg and Jane Hyer's (BRN 4297) view at Grand Canyon Camp! WISC-UP Airstream Club

New Airstream Dealer to Open in UP

Submitted by Jane Carmichael (BRN 219)



Marquette, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, has been selected for expansion of the Airstream of Northern Michigan dealership. This expansion was announced recently and shared on Facebook.

Jane Carmichael spoke to the Airstream dealership owner, Derek Watson on October 24, 2023 regarding this exciting news. This is great news for the Marquette business community, area Airstream owners, and for our Wisc-UP members.

Derek outlined plans to build a 6,000 square foot building with 4 service bays, a delivery bay, a showroom, and a parking area. The contractors were selected, the design team had finished their vision, and the real estate purchase was completed. Full steam ahead!

Derek stated he hoped to be open in June, 2024. He also asked for mechanically inclined workers to consider employment, with training provided by Airstream University.

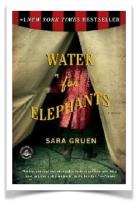
This location may be especially convenient for our Wisc-UP members. Jane comments that she welcomes this dealership to "her" town. (HA!) And after 10 years' experience with the Airstream of Northern Michigan dealership, she has only compliments for their service and sales team.

Those of you who joined the September 2021 Region 7 Rally held in Marquette met Derek and his wife. Together, they provided and sponsored fly fishing and sewing seminars plus hosted a dinner at the UP North Lodge for everyone.

Good Reads for the Airstream

Submitted by Linda Meinholz (BRN 19514)

Editor's Note: This is a new column that we hope you will enjoy. If you have read a book that you think our members would enjoy then share it here!



A good book! *Water for Elephants,* by Sara Gruen

The Eat, Drink and Yodel Rally in Monroe had a special event, a one ring circus was right next door. That lead to discussion about the book, Water for *Elephants.* The book was published in 2007 and probably many of you have already read it. I had, but I read it again and maybe because I am older by 16 years now, I really enjoyed it! This is the way I want live! Jacob's story is one we can all relate to, and sure to make you look forward to nursing home days.

Members Helping Members

By Steve Piotrowski (BRN 2900)

We came back from a trip to Colorado in early October. We had a great time, and were planning a trip to North Carolina to join their club for a November Rally and to pick up two kittens to fill the emptiness left



by the loss of Dazzle. Unfortunately, life interfered and Steve ended up in the hospital getting a triple bypass.

Why do the members of Wis-UP care? Normally, you might not, but this hospitalization left us in a situation where our trailer was parked in our driveway needing winterization and Steve is not supposed to lift a gallon of milk (or antifreeze). We looked around and asked, who might be willing and able to do this for us? The first people who came to mind were out doing what Airstreamers should be doing, taking trips, enjoying all this beautiful country (and other countries) have to offer.

We contacted someone in the club (who I am leaving anonymous to prevent an overload of requests for assistance), who we knew could do the winterization well. Immediately, he said of course I can help, this is part of why we have the club. In short order, he gave us a day of his time to winterize and ensure that our trailer was parked in its winter home. What did he want for this help? A thank you and a promise to continue to be an active part of the club.

Never can any group match the brotherhood I found in my wartime experience. However, members of the Wis-UP Airstream club come close. Next time someone asks for help, remember, you may need it in the future and helping another member is part of feeling good about the club. Thank you for the help and concern.

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Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Linda and Chuck Meinholz (BRN 19514)

Balloon Rally, Is it worth it?

Is it worth 3,700 miles, pulling an airstream to see a bunch of

balloons take off? We found out this past October and the answer is an unequivocal yes. I understand it has been on some people's bucket list for years. Us not so much. We typically shy away from crowds,

and with the 51st Albuquergue International Balloon Fiestal attendance this year at 968,516 we were not interested. However, when the lottery opened, I threw our name in, assuring Charlie that we would not make the cut. At the end of January, we received word that we were among the lucky 100 Airstreams selected to go to the Balloon Rally.

Did we really want to go? How bad would the crowds really be? Albuquerque is a long way from Madison, did we want to make that drive? We discussed the pros and cons at length and concluded why do we have the Airstream if not to take

adventures, and this would sure be an adventure. We decided we could handle crowds for a few days. We like road trips, and this part of the Country is rich in history and culture, if we didn't like Rally we

would take off and go to Santa Fe, and other points of interest.

The result, to our surprise, was we had an amazing time! My favorite part was how close you can get to the actual balloons. You can talk to the crew, ask questions, and touch the balloons. Each balloon has its own "baseball card" which the kids and I collected. Of course, you can volunteer to crew for balloons or take a ride. We enjoyed just watching approximately 600 balloons lift off in perfect weather. We enjoyed the knowledge we gained on ballooning-did you know the pilots are licensed (Cont.)







Our Members' Travel Adventures By Linda and Chuck Meinholz (BRN 19514)

Balloon Rally, Is it worth it? (Cont.)



and balloons are inspected annually? And the cost of a balloon is the same as a new Airstream tow vehicle, and you still need the tow vehicle! Bet you didn't know that?

The Airstream group that runs the rally are to be congratulated. It was well organized, and we were parked about as close as you can get to the field. There were pink flamingos that flagged us off the highway Flag people telling us exactly where to park, and the trailers were parked a nice distance

apart. (See photos). There were golf cart shuttles that ran constantly back and forth to the field. FYI, you don't have to leave your Airstream to enjoy the Rally, one day we just sat outside in our pajamas, (liftoff starts at 5:30am) with a blanket and a cup of coffee. Albuquerque is a bike friendly city, and a path goes right by the Balloon Field, allowing you access to most of the town. There were vendors aplenty, with breakfast burritos being the number one crowd favorite. I have included photos that were taken by our new Airstream friend, Walter J. Lundahl, BRN 29575. Of course, meeting new people is the best part of travel. The result of the 3,700 miles was worth it, go ahead and throw your name into the lottery! And Good Luck!







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Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Rod & Beth Fierek (BRN 1924)

European Vacation by Camper Van

We took delivery of our van as the last newsletter was being published and then spent seven weeks wandering the Deutsche Alpenstraße and along the Danube and Rhine rivers.

Europeans campgrounds differ from what we see in North America. The sites (pitches) are usually quite close together, there are no full hook-ups or campfires, you walk your small toilet cassette through the campground to a common dump and rinse station, and folks tend to use the central shower house. On the upside, the shower houses are clean, there's often an onsite laundry, beer gardens and restaurants are typical, and you usually place a daily order for morning croissants or fresh bread. And a nearby public bus means you don't have to move the van to get into town. This is definitely not the Wisconsin State Park or KOA approach to camping.

Regarding the van: think Amazon delivery vehicle, but cozy. Our Malibu van was built on a Fiat Ducato chassis, and has a 180 hp turbo diesel mated to a 9-speed automatic gearbox. Like that Amazon van, it is 21 feet long and just under 7 feet wide, and weighs 6,725 pounds empty. The maximum allowable weight going down the road of 7,715 pounds. Our average speed was about 40 mph over the 2,000-mile drive (it was a vacation after all, not a race), and the Fiat delivered a surprising 24 mpg. Speaking of surprises, the stock beds are amazingly comfortable. We were pretty happy campers.



Lunch break along the German Alpine Road



Looking up the Danube toward Germany from Western Austria



This Airstream is owned by a Dutch couple. It was originally destined for Australia, thus the left side entry door.



Our Members' Travel Adventures By Janet & Chuck Zellermayer (BRN 10230)

Enjoying the Ores, Shores, Water & Lights Caravan

As many times as Chuck and I have visited the UP of Michigan over the past several years, there's always more to see or revisiting old sights with a new perspective. And that is why we went on the 2023 Ores, Shores, Waters & Lights Caravan. This is a short 15 day caravan, camping at five locations, 3 nights at each campground.

Our hosts were Chip and Lori DeLeeuw. This was their eighth year of hosting this caravan and they had a wealth of knowledge and interesting stories to share with the group.

This caravan offered a lot of free time to explore an abundance of activities. There were plenty of waterfalls and lighthouses, shipwreck museums and boat tours. Our group of 34 clicked immediately, forming common bonds. There were birders, bicycle groups, hiking groups, and brewery enthusiasts. A highlight for many was visiting MI Dog summer sled dog center located in Newberry. We met musher Laura Neese who operates the facility and shared her stories of sled dog races in the Iditarod and Yukon Quest. She introduced us to her team of dogs (current and retired) along with many puppies in training.



An unplanned and very fun evening was watching the movie "Long, Long Trailer" while sitting outdoors under the stars with our popcorn. I was surprised to learn many folks had never seen this movie before. Loads of laughs were shared.

For those who love a short caravan that requires minimal travel, consider this caravan in your future.













WISC-UP Airstream Club

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Our Members' Travel Adventures By Caryle & Jeff McCaffrey (BRN 10258)

Attending Alumalina - A Carolina Airstream Gathering

This was the 17th year for Alumalina, a rally held October 19-22 in Marion, NC at the Tom Johnson Camping World Rally Park. It's organized by John Leake, Region 3 past president and enthusiastic host. This was our first time attending and it did not disappoint.

According to John, there

were 270 Airstreams and 600 attendees. It felt like a mini-International Rally! The four day event kicked off Thursday night with the traditional hot dog dinner. Friday night was prepared by a local BBQ restaurant. Saturday night was a fish fry - no one went away hungry!

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Each morning started with coffee and donuts. Seminars were available on a range of topics from E-Bikes to how to change a

tire. There were also "pop-up" seminars for anyone that wanted to present one. On Friday afternoon there was "Group Therapy" where you bring your own "prescriptions". Saturday afternoon there was a Craft Fair and Flea Market. The campground is set up "Rally Style" with full hookups available at most sites. The fee was \$35 per night, very reasonable. There was a modest Rally Fee to cover the cost of the meals.

The campground is set up "Rally Style" with full hookups available at most sites. The fee was \$35 per night, very reasonable. There was a modest Rally Fee to cover the cost of the meals.

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Our Members' Travel Adventures By Caryle & Jeff McCaffrey (BRN 10258)

Attending Alumalina - A Carolina Airstream Gathering (Cont.)

We met up with friends we met on AirForums from Pennsylvania and North Carolina who were veteran attendees. It was great to see them again!



If you're looking for a fun fall rally, Alumalina won't disappoint. Or as John Leake says "You will like it"!

During check-in you're asked to place a pin on your home location. I noticed several others from Wisconsin-UP but didn't have the luck of meeting them in person.





From left: Jeff & Caryle McCaffrey, Karin & Jim Dickson, Dianne and Bob Jacobs.



Bonfire after Saturday night's dinner.

More From Alumalina!! Photos Provided by Sandy & Dale Houge (BRN6188)



WISC-UP Airstream Club

WISC-UP Airstream Club

Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Rob & Jill Tweed (BRN 29184)

Going to Alumapalooza, Visiting Family and Attending a Fly-In

Hello from Rob and Jill Tweed, BRN 29184. We would like to update everyone on our travels since attending the Wisc-UP Fall Rally and Business Meeting at the Skillet Creek Campground in Baraboo, WI. Wow, what a fun event that was! Many thanks to Patti and Tim Valenza for all of your efforts in organizing such a wonderful event!

Congratulations to all of our new officers. Your name badges are in the works and should be available soon from your newly appointed Quartermaster.

Several days after the Wisc-UP rally we arrived at the Mother Ship for our first attendance at the Alumapalooza Rally. In typical Airstream fashion we were warmly greeted by all of our neighbors. It was so fun to see so many Airstreams gathered in one location! Some of the activities we enjoyed included seminars by Andy Thompson of Can-AM RV on proper tow vehicle selection and set up, several of Mike Sokol's presentations on Airstream electrical systems,

and remarks by Bob Wheeler, Airstream President and CEO on the current state of

Airstream. A number of vendors attended the event offering discounts on their products. We have been considering installing an Easy Start system on one of our air conditioner units and had one of Micro-Air systems installed while we were there. This purchase will take our mooch-docking to a whole new level! We also attended a very special event at the Heritage Center entitled "Night at the Museum", for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and an amazing guided tour through the museum by Dale Schwamborn. Dale, aka Pee-Wee, Wally Byam's first cousin once removed, provided many interesting insights from his contributions as an advance scout for the 1959 Africa caravan led by Wally Byam.

Entertainment on our final evening of Alumapalooza was provided by Antsy McClain and the Trailer Park Troubadours, a Nashville recording artist. This was a great way to end our Alumapalooza experience as the entire audience was in stitches over Antsy's creative lyrics and stage moxie! Our favorite part of the whole Alumapalooza experience was the many new friends that we met. We will most surely see these special people in their shiny Airstreams "somewhere down the road".







Our Members' Travel Adventures By Rob & Jill Tweed (BRN 29184)

Going to Alumapalooza, Visiting Family and Attending a Fly-In (Cont.)



The next stop on our trip was Hocking Hills State Park in southeastern Ohio. After getting settled into our rather tight campsite we were eager to explore the many hiking trails in the area which included stunningly beautiful rock formations. Trails such as Old Man's Cave, and the Rock House made us feel we were walking through a mini rendition of Zion National Park. Who knew Ohio was home to these incredible sights!





Our most anticipated stop on this journey was to visit our daughter, son-in-law and three sweet little grandsons, ages 4, 2, and 1 in Richmond VA. During our last visit, with fingers crossed, we discovered that our Airstream, Phoebe, fit perfectly on their driveway (with some major leveling). This time we were prepared with several boards that are now stored at their home for future visits. Our Classic 30 comes equipped with a doorbell, which we anticipate hearing at the crack of dawn each morning as eager

little voices call out that it's time for breakfast in the trailer. We love being just steps away from their home and all the activity that takes place. By the end of the day we are all exhausted, ready for bed, and excited for the ringing of the doorbell at sunrise next morning. As our time together comes to a close, we smile as we clean up all those little fingerprints that got on every touchable surface of Phoebe and look forward to when the boys are old enough to travel with us! For now we'll cherish the sleepovers.

Our final destination for this trip prior to heading for home was attending the annual fly-in at the Triple Tree Aerodrome located in Woodruff, South Carolina.

Our Members' Travel Adventures By Rob & Jill Tweed (BRN 29184)

Going to Alumapalooza, Visiting Family and Attending a Fly-In (Cont.)

This is a very popular event for pilots and campers alike with many interesting historic aircraft on display and operating from Triple Tree's 8,000 foot grass runway. Great food, amazing amenities and friendly people just add to the fun. Attending this event was a beautiful Spartan Executive aircraft. Highlights of this aircraft include a highly polished aluminum skin combined with internal ribs and stringers to form a semi-monocoque structure. This structure is the very same construction technique used in our Airstreams. Remember Wally's involvement with aluminum aircraft construction in the 1930's? This is what also makes the



Airstream trailer so unique. Spartan Aircraft also shifted its focus to trailer manufacturing



after World War II and competed with Airstream until Spartan production ceased in 1962.

Our trip home included a stay at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area Crosswinds Campground in Apex, NC. This park has a number of fabulous sites that back right up to the water. Here, our rear bedroom view was a definite advantage! Happy travels to everyone!





Our Members' Travel Adventures By Frida Waara & Ron Thorley (BRN 6925)

Our Visit to the Keweenaw Peninsula

Oh September. How we wish there were two of you.

Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula ranks one of the best spots on the planet to take in fresh air, fresh water and color season. We took our 27' Globetrotter to Fort Wilkins in Copper Harbor, that "Quaint Little Drinking Town With a Biking Problem." The hardwood ridges

were just beginning to put their party dresses on, quilted in all the autumn gem tones of red, yellow and orange. If you have never witnessed the change of season there, add it to the list. And if you've visited "the Copper Country" in May, June or early July—go again when the bugs aren't feasting. It's worth the trek.

We have stayed at Fannie Hooe resort in the past and enjoyed full hook up, but even though Fort Wilkins has only on-site power, we appreciate the space and quiet, particularly if you score a spot with a view of Lake Fannie Hooe. There are full-service restrooms with showers, because if you head there to bike, you will be muddy.

Biking from either RV park is a breeze. In fact, once you

start pedaling you can aim in any direction and find trails that will awe you with their wind, curl and pitch. Aaron Rogers (never a Packer) has been building trails in Copper Harbor since 2014 launching his company, Rock Solid Trail Contracting. Now he commands a team of over 70 working across the country to create sustainable trails for all riding levels, including the network in Bentonville, Arkansas (another place Ron and I have hauled the rig to ride).

It's not until you ride these trails that you realize the attention to geometry and physics that endorse the painstaking work to "make things right." On top of that, there's an artistry about these trails. My cousin, who lives in CH, shared that one of the trail building team hunted for over 2 1/2 weeks looking for a tree with just the right curve to slice in two and use for a bridge. I think we found that bridge on "Summer School" a trail off East Bay.

Ron Thorley at the Beginning of US 41 just east of Copper Harbor, where the pavement ends





Our Members' Travel Adventures

By Frida Waara & Ron Thorley (BRN 6925) (Cont.)

Our Visit to the Keweenaw Peninsula

If you aren't into helmet sports, hiking and rock hounding are good choices, but just strolling the waterfront, whether the Big Lake or Fannie Hooe, twill make for a delightful stay.

Don't count on cell service unless you are at the Visitor Center in town or up atop Brockway Mountain. Folks are friendly and food is affordable. Best pancakes are at Tamarack Inn. Best Ruben sandwich at Lake Effect. Biggest choice for beers at The Mariner. Best ribs for dinner are down the shoreline at Eagle River's Fitzgeralds.

Anyone heading up that way with questions, don't hesitate to give us a call. Happy to share our experiences.

Ron Thorley 906-360-5262 and Frida Waara 906-360-9765



The Keweenaw Rocket Range is out High Rock Bay Road. Not advised to travel unless you have high clearance vehicle or by mountain bike. Great spot for a picnic lunch.



Brockway Mountain is the sure bet for cell service at 1600+ feet



Artistry of the bridges on the East Bay trails



Full moon rising over Lake Fannie Hooe

November 15, 2023

Repairs, Restorations & Cool Airstream Things

Adventures in Buying a Hail-Damaged Airstream

By Steve Prouty (BRN 1173)

Well hail...Sometimes scrolling around on the internet can lead you to interesting information. I had been hearing about many hail damaged Airstreams from the Minnesota Airstream Park. I started to investigate and found an auction site that was selling off some of the damaged units. Looking at pictures of the Airstreams I was surprised how nice they looked considering the insurance companies considered them a total loss. Since we own an Airstream restoration and service shop, I wanted to figure out if this could be a good opportunity. After some research and several phone calls I had enough information to formulate a plan.

I decided to take a chance on going through the process of buying one at auction and getting it insured with full coverage.



The first step was to purchase a membership to the online auction so I

could bid and inspect the units for sale. I traveled to the sublot where the campers are stored for the auction and went through seven Airstreams. I

took detailed pictures and made notes. I picked four that I thought would be good candidates. I also joined a web site that tracks results of these types of auctions and got a feel for what similar campers have been selling for. They generally sell for 30% to 50% of retail plus 15% to 20% of purchase price added on as auction fees.

The first one to come up for sale was a 2020 Globetrotter 27FB with twin beds. I set my sites at around 40% of the retail value. This was the one Julie and I were the most interested in so I was glad it came up first. I purchased it at 42% of retail and with auction fees I am at 49% of







Repairs, Restorations & Cool Airstream Things

Adventures in Buying a Hail-Damaged Airstream (Cont.)

By Steve Prouty (BRN 1173)

estimated retail. I have it at home and we started a deep clean. I did a systems check as well. You don't get to do anything more than a visual inspection at the auction site, so I was eager to see what worked and what did not. I am happy to say it is in great shape! There are only three issues to



address. The water pump seems weak, the solar is not charging (most likely a fuse) and the water on the hot side has poor pressure and I am guessing the mixing valve is to blame.

The Minnesota title (salvage brand) showed up Thursday (November 9th) and I will be sending in the paperwork today for the Wisconsin title. Wisconsin has a title brand for hail separate from straight "salvage" from what I can tell. The DOT will then be sending me a letter to initiate an inspection by the State Patrol. I also plan to start the process of getting it insured.

I will update my progress in the next newsletter, and I plan to be at the December luncheon if anyone has questions.

For Sale!

Clam Ice Fishing Shanty!

Ed Emerick (BRN 4425)

Now you too can enjoy the Wisc-UP ice fishing season in comfort! Picture yourself out on that frozen lake or river in this practically new (only used less than 12 times) pop-up ice fishing shelter. This Clam Bigfoot XL2000 portable ice fishing shanty will keep you and up to 4 others warm and cozy as you search for that "Wall Hanger"! No holes or damaged poles. \$200 OBO. Contact Ed Emerick

@<u>edward.emerick@gmail.com</u> or call/text 920-475-7891.





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For Sale! 1980 Airstream Caravelle 22 Ft.

John Sellers (BRN1587)

Contact John Sellers at sellersJ@erinet.com

This trailer has been in the Wisconsin Unit for many years. Bob and Arlene Finley bought it in the 90s. (Bob was Unit President in 1998.) We bought it from them in 2007. Mostly original 1980 Caravelle, never restored but well maintained. On the road up through the last season. Caravelles were only made one year, 1980, in several lengths. Very few were made. Mostly original fixtures and furnishings (replacements noted below). All work done by the Airstream factory service center in Jackson Center, OH, except as noted. All service records are available.





Dometic gas/120 V electric refrigerator, gas 4-burner stove and oven, original working windows, Zip Dee awnings on all four sides, gas catalytic heater (requires no electricity), upgraded TV antenna with amplifier and upgraded AM/FM radio with CD player and extended range speakers, Henschen Dura-Torq axles replaced in 2008. Penguin air conditioner replaced 2012, exterior polished 2015 (Time Tested Restorations. This trailer is shown on his web site, timetestedrestorations.com). New tongue jack 2015, new gas/electric water heater 2016 (Loudermilk RV, Lewisburg, WV), Intellipower smart converter 2017, new dump valves and extended handles 2018. The sale includes numerous towing components and accessories; spare wheel and tire,

TST tire pressure/temperature monitoring system, Reese weight distributing hitch with spare weight distribution bars, tandem-axle chocks, leveling blocks, blue boy wastewater tank.

The Caravelle is a great little trailer that is easy to tow. 7½ foot width and 4,000 pounds gross weight. We have traveled all over the US and Canada in it for 15 years and are only selling it because of health consideration with increasing age. Clean Ohio title and current registration.



For Sale!

1980 Airstream Caravelle 22 Ft. (Cont.)

John Sellers (BRN1587)

If you need a tow vehicle, we are willing to sell our truck along with it. (2009 Chevrolet K-1500 Silverado with extended cab and short bed with cap.)

















For Sale!

1954 Airstream Flying Cloud Whale Tail

Pete and Sue LeRoy (BRN 8875)

A rare Flying Cloud Whale Tail 22 foot Airstream is for sale. The body is very good to great condition. This unit is ready for for your restoration! The interior has been removed and included in the sale, the only thing missing is the refrigerator. The coach has new tires and rims attached to a new axle. You can own a classic Airstream for \$12,500!

Contact information is susanleroy2@gmail.com





