

The Hillbilly



Publication of Watchung NJ Airstream Club

www.airstreamclub.org/watchung-nj December 2024

President's Message



This is my last President's Message. At the December 8th Installation, I will be receiving a Blue Star to attach to my current Past President flag (a WBCCI tidbit). I will remain on the Executive Board for one more year as Immediate Past President. Thank you to the 2024 Executive Board and Standing Committee members. It has been great getting to know our newer members at rallies and luncheons. We thank those of you who have stepped up for these great paying jobs.

The year in review:

- 70 Regular members (one Lifetime Regular Member) and 10 Affiliates,
- International taking place outside of summer months, which was a challenge for us,
- Great turn out for the 2025 International in York PA (20 rigs to date),

Our club continues to show our generosity through collections at luncheons and rallies. This year was for St. Jude's Research Hospital. Because of the devastating weather suffered by 2 hurricanes in the southeast, the October rally collection was donated to the American Red Cross. Not to be forgotten are our November luncheon food donations and December toy drive.

Looking ahead, we still need hosts for 2025. If you are ambitious, you can sign up for 2026!

For those of you that have a Membership Expiration date of January 1, 2025 please remember to renew.

Luncheons are great, but there is nothing like attending a rally!

Lea #2256

Region 2 President's Message

Hello from the Snowy North,

Happy Holidays! We had a mixed Thanksgiving here weather wise. Thursday was nice and sunny, but Friday, Saturday and Sunday Western New York made the news. So, if you watched the Buffalo Bills vs San Francisco 49ers game, this was a typical Buffalo snow bowl here. Fortunately, Rochester did not get the full snow experience like Buffalo, but we did get 4-6 inches of the white stuff on the ground. Registration update for the York Rally. At this moment Region 2 has 203 rigs registered for the International out of 722! **Way to go!**

The search is on. My term as Region 2 President will be coming to an end on July 31, 2025. The Region 2 team is looking for a 2nd VP. Region 2 covers the following areas: Ontario Canada, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, Delaware, and Maryland. If you are interested in volunteering as a Region officer, please contact me directly, Patti Galupo or Matt Moore.

I am now starting to get requests from Jackson Center related to the York Rally. They are asking for the below listed support from Region 2 clubs. The Central Pennsylvania Club is the closest club to the York venue so I'll be working closely with Terry Hauschild. I'm hoping all of the Region 2 Clubs will be supporting this major event which is in our backyard.

Please review the support request from Jackson Center below. If you see an area of support that interests you, please step up.

- Provide local information for International Club's Marketing/Communications including:
 - Identify several contributors to write articles for club publications about the rally locale,
 - Best routes to the rally site,
 - Camping suggestions for enroute to the rally through the region,
 - Staging areas near the rally site for members to meet up before entering rally site (for parking together),
 - Suggestions for local vendors to participate in the exhibitor show, and
 - Other local information specific to the region and rally site that is useful to members traveling in the area.

At the Sedalia Rally, the **Ambassador program** was started and well received. A signup list will be coming from Jackson Center.

- We are recruiting volunteers from the local clubs in the region will act as **Ambassadors** at the rally which will involve:
 - Answering questions, providing directions to events in the park and being that enthusiastic presence ready to offer a smile and some assistance.
 - Attending an orientation session at the start of the rally to be briefed on the rally logistics and other information as needed, and to set up the rally event app and learn to use it.
 - Wearing special vest provided by the rally that identifies them as a Rally Ambassador.
 - Posting at strategic locations around the rally site to assist members with questions, directions, or local information.
 - Manning the doors to the Exhibitor Hall before opening hours to allow only exhibitors to enter.
 - Identify Community Service programs and Local tourist attractions

As you can see, we have multiple opportunities to help at the York Rally. Please contact

- Primary: Debbie Wood, 704-430-9196, dwood@airstreamclub.org \
- Secondary: Sherrye McCabe, 937-722-1436, smccabe@airstreamclub.org



Let's Make History at the 68th Airstream Club International Rally located in York, Pennsylvania: August 23-28, 2025. Registration is now open. Go to the Airstream Club website today and don't miss out seeing old friends and making new ones at the event. This event is in our Region -- let's show them how to have fun!!!

See you down the road, Gary



Ducks feeding on Indian Lake, Manistique, Michigan. Photo L. Wagner



And you thought our old coffee urn was bad! This one on the museum ship Valley Camp, a former laker now berthed in Sault Ste Marie, puts ours in a whole new light. Photo D. Conley

Announcements

Sunshine Report

This month we didn't send any cards because everyone was GOOD!

Would you like to have a card sent to another club member to wish them well or mark a milestone? Please send a note to Linda Kiesel our Sunshine Director at lkiesel@ptd.net.



How to Find, Sign Up and Pay for an ACI Event Online

- Log on to <https://airstreamclub.org/>
- Click on the EVENTS tab
- A map of the US will be displayed containing pins for all the events for all the Airstream clubs. Just above the map on the right side of the screen is the Clubs box. Click on the down arrow to display the list of clubs then scroll down to Watchung NJ Club. Clicking on this will cause the map to display only Watchung club events.
- Find the event you wish to sign up for and click on the associated pin.
- A text box giving a brief description of the event will be displayed. Click on the arrow in the orange box that says More.
- A new page will be displayed. If a registration form has been created for the event this page will give you two options: online registration or mail-in registration using a download of the form. The online form allows payment via PayPal. If you prefer to pay via check download and print the form, which includes payment instructions. If there is no registration form available yet one will be at a later date.

December Birthdays

Cathy McCarthy
Fred Brugmans
Samuel Kessel
Jason Pomerleau
Steve Tancer
Sean Boyle
Chris Forster

2025 International Rally Registration is Open

Registration for the 2025 International Rally in York, PA is now open.

<https://airstreamclub.org/2025-international-rally> (login required)



2024-5 Watchung Airstream Club Luncheon and Rally Schedule

DATE	WHAT/WHEN	HOSTS	COHOSTS	VENUE
December 2024	Luncheon/Officer Installation/December 8 at 12:30	Leslie DeHerde	Lea Plant	Chimney Rock Inn, Flemington, NJ
January 2025	Luncheon	Steven and Cynthia Germansky	Brian and Heidi Cullen	Princeton Soup and Sandwich, Cranbury, NJ
February 2025	Luncheon			
February 2025	Special Event/Feb 14-15	Contact Lea Plant		Colonial Airstream, Millstone Twp.
March 2025	Luncheon	Frank and Leslie DeHerde		Knights of Columbus 130 Main St. Woodbridge NJ
April 2025	Unbutton-your-rig rally/April 24-27	George and Linda Kiesel	Saskia Schmidt and Brian Stein	Holly Acres Campground, Egg Harbor, NJ
May 2025	Region 2 Rally/May 1-5			Centre County Grange Encampment & Fair, 169 Homan Lane, Centre Hall PA 16828
June 2025	Club Rally/			
July 2025	Club Rally/			
August 2025	International Aug 23-28	WBCCI	N/A	York, PA
September 2025	Club Rally/			
October 2025	Club Rally/Annual Business Meetings			
November 2025	Luncheon/	Barbara Taylor and Michael Koczwar		
December 2025	Installation Luncheon	Heidi and Brian Cullen	Leslie/ Frank DeHerde	TBA

Installation Luncheon



Please join us for our annual Candlelight Installation Luncheon for our 2025 Club Officers and Christmas Toy Drive

Hosted by: Leslie and Frank DeHerde Cohost: Lea Plant

Where: [Chimney Rock Inn](#) 41 Rt 31 Flemington, NJ 08822 Phone: 908-788-8800

When: 12/08/2022 @ 12:30 pm

Price: Forty dollars per person includes appetizers and family-style meal. If you have special dietary needs please contact Leslie. Our candlelight Installation Ceremony will take place after lunch.

Reservation Deadline is November 25, 2024

RSVP and pay online by clicking [here](#) or clip the form below and mail to Leslie DeHerde 22 Hissim Rd. Great Meadows, NJ 07838 (Make checks payable to Watchung NJ Airstream Club).

Questions: Call Leslie at 908-797-3387

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for any aged girl or boy for our annual Toy Drive

***** CUT HERE AND SEND WITH CHECK IF NOT REGISTERING ONLINE *****

Name _____ Email _____

Cell# _____

Price per person = \$40.00 x number of people _____ = \$ _____ - Pay and register
Leslie DeHerde 22 Hissim Rd. Great Meadows, NJ 07838.
(Make checks payable to: Watchung NJ Airstream Club)

Items for the newsletter?

Send them by the 20th of each month to: (dconley1810@gmail.com)

Interested in joining the Watchung NJ Airstream club?

Contact:

Membership: George Kiesel (gkiesel861@gmail.com)

President: Lea Plant (tenlea@aol.com)

January Luncheon



Saturday, January 25, 2025 @ 1:30PM
Princeton Soup & Sandwich Co. (Cranbury location)
3 Old Trenton Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/xJwz7dJzBFNaBzWTA>
Hosts: Cynthia & Steven Germansky Contact: email
cgermansky@verizon.net or mobile 732-759-4292
Co-Hosts: Heidi & Brian Cullen

\$35.00 per person Entrée Choices – Please Select When Signing Up for Luncheon
(food is ordered ahead of time)

Options:

Falafel Wrap (vegetarian) - homemade falafel balls, avocado, spring mix, tomatoes, pickled sweet onions & cucumbers

Turkey Reuban - fresh cooked Fossil Farms turkey, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut with in-house made Russian dressing on toasted rye bread

Bahn Mi - fresh cooked Fossil Farms pork, sweet-pickled carrots and onions, minced jalapenos, minced cilantro, fresh sliced cucumbers and homemade chipotle mayo on a toasted baguette

New England Cobb Salad (gluten/dairy free) - spring mix, hardboiled egg, avocado, bacon, tomatoes, olives, cucumbers and celery; choice of dressing and a roll on the side

Special Note
Because the food must be ordered in advance, everyone who plans to attend must return the completed form below to Cynthia Germansky regardless of whether you pay by check or online. Thanks!

Substitute Gluten-Free In-house made Focaccia Bread Option – on any entrée

Included with your entrée: Small soup choice of meat or vegetarian, house side salad (with sandwich selection only), chocolate chip cookies and brownies, filtered water with lemons. *BYOB if desired*

Return form: RESERVATION DEADLINE Extended! January 10, 2025

Maximum 32 attendees , 16 spots available as of December 1– please sign up early!

Name(s): _____ WBCCI#: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

of People: _____ @ \$35.00 per person = Total : \$ _____

Select from the following

Food Choice(s): ___ Falafel Wrap ___ Turkey Reuban ___ Bahn Mi ___ New England Cobb Salad

Soup Choice(s): ___ Meat ___ Vegetarian

If GF Focaccia option; which entrée(s): _____

Please mail Return Form with check (or [pay online](#)) to:
Cynthia Germansky, 24 Hoyt Street, Madison, NJ 07940
Make checks payable to: *Watchung NJ Airstream Club*

Unbutton Your Rig, April 2025

Linda and I, along with our co-hosts Saskia Schmidt and Brian Stein, have secured **Holly Acres Campground in Egg Harbor NJ** for the 2025 Unbutton rally.

The dates will be **Thursday April 24th, 2025, thru Sunday April 27, 2025.**

The campground has a cool wagon wheel section with full hookups as well as other full hookup sites available.

2025 rates are quoted as \$75.00 per night with a few sites at \$68, and a few at \$78.

The best part is that if you pay for Friday and Saturday, they will give you Thursday night for free, which lowers your per night cost substantially. We will also receive a 10% discount on all reservations if we have more than 10 trailers.

Egg Harbor is close to Atlantic City, Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Estell Manor, canoe and kayak rentals etc.

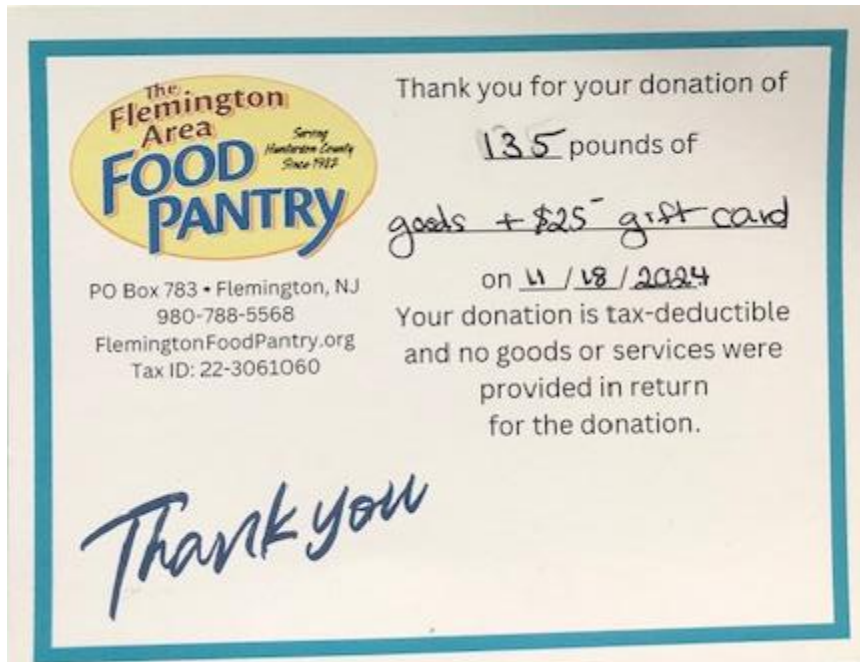
The campground is willing to let people start booking now for next April and will hold sites for us until March 1st. NJ campgrounds fill up quickly, so please book soon.

Contact Hailey at 609-965-5055, and request a site reserved by The Watchung NJ Airstream Club. **Do not book online.** Hailey will have no way of knowing you are with our group. For research only the campground web site is <https://hollyacrescampground.com/>

Please notify us which site you have booked: gkiesel861@gmail.com

See You in April!

George and Linda, Brian and Saskia



Thank you note from the Flemington Area Food Pantry for the Watchung Airstream Club's Thanksgiving donation.



Barbecue food "truck" near the university district in Marquette, Michigan, September 2024. Photo D. Conley

September UP Caravan Report

Text and Photos L Wagner/D Conley

In August, after about a year moving steadily up the waiting list, we finally made it onto the 2024 Ores, Shores, Water and Lights—East Caravan, a 15-day circumnavigation of the eastern half of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. We picked this caravan for a couple of reasons. First, Derek, having heard interesting tidbits over the years about the UP (“Yoopee” as the locals prefer to spell it), wanted to go there. Second, as this was our first caravan, we thought it best to start with a short one in case caravanning turned out not to be for us. So, on September 4 we set off from New Jersey for Michigan, a three-day, 965-mile drive with overnight stops in Ohio and lower Michigan before arriving at the caravan’s starting point, Indian Lake state park, just outside of Munising.

The caravan had 5 stops each with a three-day stay: Indian Lake/Munising on the south shore; Manistique on the north shore; Newberry, about in the middle of the UP; Sault Ste Marie, on the St. Mary’s river, which forms the border between the UP and Canada, and St. Ignace, next to Big Mac or Mighty Mac, the Mackinac (pronounced “Mak-in-aw”) bridge that connects the UP to lower Michigan. At all the stops except for Newberry we camped on the water’s edge: Indian Lake, Lake Superior, the St. Mary’s river, and Lake Michigan. Each of the waterfront campgrounds was full while we were there. Thus one advantage of a caravan: the ability of the leader to get prime spots.

When we arrived at Indian Lake, midday on the Friday (the caravan began the next day) an icy wind was “blowing stink” (as mariners say) out of the north, casting whitecaps against the south shore just yards from our site. A dozen of the 17 Airstreams in the caravan were already there, along with their tow vehicles but not a soul was out; everyone was holed up in their trailer, avoiding the cold wind. “Uh oh”, we thought. Are we in for a not-so-great spell of UP weather? We lucked out. Saturday was the only day we didn’t have sunshine and 75 to 80 degrees. A few days later we asked one of the caravan leaders, Laurie DeLeeuw, who grew up in Michigan, about the weather this time of year. She said the dry, warm weather during our trip was most unusual. In 2023 the weather was so cold and so wet there was one caravan participant who never left her trailer for the entire trip, but that also was unusual. More common is a mix of beautiful and not-so-beautiful days.

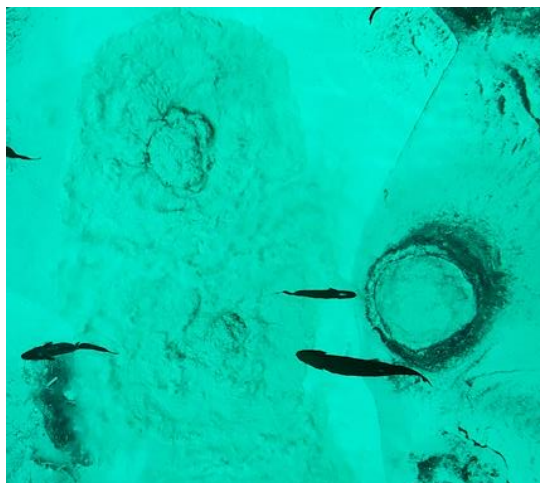
During our three days at Indian Lake we went on two group trips, one to the Seul Choix Point lighthouse and museum, and one to [Fayette Village](#), once an isolated community of 500 mostly European immigrants that between 1867 and 1891 produced and shipped from its docks about 230,000 tons of pig iron. When cheaper production methods became available elsewhere the village was abruptly



The Fayette Village harbor. The limestone cliff lining the north side provided the coke needed to purify iron ore. Modern docks for pleasure boats are to the left. The pilings to the right are all that remain of the docks where pig iron was loaded on to sail-powered freighters for the trip to steel plants that once lined Lake Michigan’s southern shores.

abandoned. Today the remaining buildings are being restored.

In addition to the official trips, we took a few of our own. One was to the former iron ore port of Escanaba. Although its economy has been gutted by the loss of the iron ore shipping business (the giant ore freighters—called “lakers”—now call only at the port of Marquette on Lake Superior; Escanaba’s port facilities are too small to accommodate them) the town is working hard to attract new businesses. We had a good lunch at [Hereford and Hops](#), a brewpub located in a former hotel on Ludington Street, at the end of which is a fine [waterfront park](#).



The bottom of Kitch-iti-kipi photographed with an iPhone through the glass bottomed observation raft. The round areas are the spring waters bubbling up through the limestone sand 40 feet down.

Our other side trip took us to [Kitch-iti-kipi](#) (“big spring” in Algonquian) an unusual spring just beyond the north shore of Indian Lake in Palms Brook state park. The first thing we noticed about the spring was the color of its large pond: an almost iridescent teal or turquoise that photographs do not do justice to. The source of the spring is still unknown, which in itself is unusual given the spring’s key statistics: a constant flow at 10,000 gallons per minute at a constant 45 degrees, day in and day out, in all seasons, since the spring was first documented by settlers in the late 1800s. As a result, the pond never freezes. The water comes up under pressure through the limestone sand at the bottom of the pond, about 40 feet down; the boiling sand is clearly visible from the glass-bottomed observation raft. In pondering the water’s color, we speculated that the spring must pass through copper deposits, but the known ones lie almost 200 miles to the west. The mystery remains.

Leaving Indian Lake, we headed north to our next campground on the shore on Lake Superior just west of the town of Munising. The drive demonstrated just how flat the eastern half of the UP is; except for the occasional mounds of glacial deposits, the land is as flat as anything one might find in the Great Plains. The main east-west highways (two lanes only) are so straight and the land so flat one could see their end from their beginning were it not for the curvature of the earth. The roads mostly pass through second-growth boreal forests, coming back from being clear-cut in the 19th century, first for charcoal to smelt iron ore, then for construction throughout the Midwest. At intersections there are clusters of houses and some businesses, and here and there a few farms (we saw much hay but no cows; another mystery) but much of the land is forested: the UP has 30% of Michigan’s total land area but only 3% of its population.

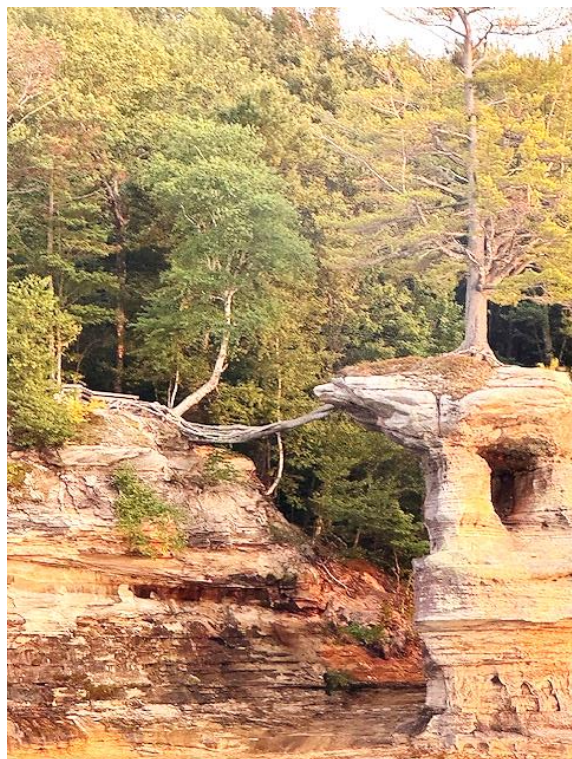
Arriving at our campground on Lake Superior, twelve of the seventeen rigs in our caravan snagged campsites right on the lake. Here we had our first good look at the greatest of the Great Lakes and we were impressed: the water was warm enough to swim in (which several campers took advantage of (we neglected to bring suits), impressively clear with average visibility (according to the state parks department) of 30 feet, and utterly calm. Hardly a ripple for three days.

At this stop on the caravan there were no group excursions so everyone set off on their own. One day we drove west, to Marquette, the largest city on the UP (pop. 21,000) and to us by far the most prosperous, no doubt due to the presence of Northern Michigan University (7,400 students). Marquette is the last active iron ore loading port in Michigan in part because it is closest to the remaining active mine. Coming from the East, Marquette can be thought of as the gateway city to the western half of the



Clockwise from top left: Sunset over Lake Superior from the caravan's second stop at City Tourist Park, Munising; view of Superior from atop the Au Sable dunes at Pictured Rocks National Park; caravaners Lee and Lesa Parker of the Top of Georgia Airstream club cuddling future sled dogs at the MI Dog summer training center in Newberry; images of Bigfoot are everywhere in the UP; Derek chats with caravan leader Chip DeLeeuw in the Civilian Conservation Corps pavilion at the caravan's first stop, Indian Lake State Park; tourist boats from St Ignace to Macinak Island detour to pass under "Big Mac", the bridge that connects mainland Michigan to the Upper Peninsula.

UP, the landscape and geology of which is completely different from the east: mountains, first-growth forests, the Porcupine wilderness with its population of bears and wolves, and the remnants of what were once the richest, and deepest, copper and iron ore mines in the world. Today only one open-pit iron mine remains; several of the deep mines are open to tourists. Plenty of ore is still in place (along with copper, gold, silver, platinum, uranium and other valuable elements) but they are buried so deeply by the tectonic folding and faulting the western UP was subject to between 2.5 and 1 billion years ago that it is not presently economical to mine them.



In this example of how the cliffs at Pictured Rocks have been carved by lake storms, a tree has become isolated on a cut-off portion of the cliff. To survive it has extended its roots across the gap to the mainland.

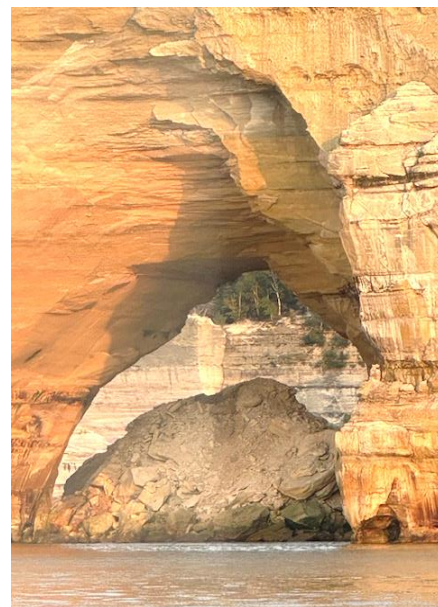
weakened rocks can collapse in calm weather, particularly in spring when warm temperatures melt ice that has frozen in the rocks. An option for viewing the cliffs is to do so from kayaks. One of the businesses in Munising takes tourists and rented kayaks out to the cliffs but everyone is warned not to get too close. All along the cliffs we could see whole sections that had collapsed, some very recently.

The next day we returned to Pictured Rocks, this time on land, to see the famous Sable Dunes and Sable Falls. Over 300 feet above the lake, the dunes extend in an arc a few miles north of the cliffs. Warning signs advise tourists to only try descending the dunes to the lake if they are willing to pay three thousand dollars to be rescued should they find, as many do, they cannot climb back up.

The dunes end close to where Sable Creek flows into Superior. A hiking path from the visitors' center

The afternoon of our visit to Marquette we returned to Munising for a sunset boat ride to [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#). The park is a 42-mile-long strip of land bordering Superior that is famous for the coloration of its cliffs, constantly changing storm-carved shapes, waterfalls (some of which fall spectacularly over the cliffs into the lake) and for its enormous sand dunes. Fast catamarans take tourists out from Munising to see the cliffs, which cannot be seen from land. The best time to go is in the late afternoon when the sun illuminates the cliffs in a golden light. The cliff rocks, principally three sandstone formations of different ages laid down as beaches and river deltas hundreds of millions of years ago, contain significant mineral deposits which are leached out by groundwater and cover the cliff face. Black and whites are different forms of manganese, pinks and greens are copper, red is iron.

The cliffs are constantly being shaped by lake storms and as a result are considered dangerous. Even when there is no active storm,



An arch carved into a cliff promontory has been plugged by a partial collapse of its roof. Hope no one was kayaking through it at the time!

follows the creek for a mile or so to the top of a 200-step staircase that winds down beside the beautiful Sable Falls and leads to the beach, a particularly peaceful spot. On the hike back we noticed the sound of rushing water coming from the creek where it was hidden behind a screen of trees. Another falls, we thought. Pushing through the foliage we came to the creek's edge and found not a waterfall or rapid but a beaver dam, the first we had ever seen. No beavers were around but we spent several minutes taking in the amazing intricacy with which the beavers had woven together branches to create the dam; almost like a giant bird's nest.



Derek greets Maple, Laura Neese's retired lead sled dog, who in her 10 years of racing covered an astonishing 80,000 miles.

The next day we said goodbye to Superior and travelled inland to a campground north of Newberry. From there we took a group trip to the [MI Dog](#) (as in Michigan dog) summer sled dog training center. It is owned and operated by Laura Neese, who at 28 years old has competed in the famous Iditarod race and the grueling Yukon Quest race, to name only the most well-known. The visit began with everyone in the group having a chance to hold and play with (and socialize) the dozen or so puppies Laura will soon begin training to join her racing team. She also gave a forty-minute lecture recounting her sledding adventures in Alaska and the Yukon territory. Finally, we met dogs from her retired and current team. The group was so impressed with Laura, her training compound, and her dogs that we all chipped in and sponsored one of her dogs for the coming year (\$500).

On another day while in Newberry the group visited the [Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum](#) which is located at an active lighthouse run by the Coast Guard on Whitefish Point, a remote and beautiful spot in the far northeastern corner of the UP. In 1975, twenty miles off the point, the Edmund Fitzgerald sank in a storm joining some 1500 other shipwrecks that surround the UP,

the majority on Superior, which, due to its size and exposure to the north winds, has the most dangerous winter storms.

Our next stop was Sault Ste. Marie, a town of about 12,000 on the St. Mary's River, directly across from its much larger (pop. 70,000) Canadian counterpart of the same name. The US town owes its existence to the [Soo Locks](#), first opened in 1855 and greatly expanded between 1873 and 1943, which allow ships to move the 30 vertical feet between Lake Superior and the other great lakes, thence out to the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence Seaway. Today of the original six locks only two are operational due to reduced traffic and the greatly increased size of most of the remaining ships. Currently only one lock, the Poe (named after its original engineer, first name Orlando), can accommodate the thousand-foot lakers.



An empty "laker" header for Marquette to pick up a load of iron ore sails north on the St. Mary's River across from our campground in Sault Ste Marie approaching the Soo Locks at dusk. The slow, deep throbbing of its diesel engines can be heard long before it comes into view.

Clockwise from top left: Looking east across the St. Mary's River from Sault Ste. Marie, US, toward Sault Ste. Marie, Canada; sunset cruise along the cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Park; caravan get-together on the St. Mary's River at Aune Osborn Campground, Sault Ste. Marie (US); caravan barbecue at Indian Lake State Park; tethered observation raft at Kitch-iti-kipi spring, Munising; stairstep waterfall at Au Train Falls.



This is seen as a strategic US vulnerability to domestic supplies of iron ore, so a new lock is currently under construction. Even with reduced traffic the two active locks handle about 10,000 transits between March and November each year. The locks are closed December through February due to ice. Lakers, by the way, only sail on Superior, Michigan, and Huron as they are too long to fit through the locks and canals that allow access to the Atlantic and anyway are too fragile to sail on the ocean.



The caravan shown camped on the St. Mary's River photographed from a tour boat.

During our stay in Sault Ste Marie the group took a sightseeing trip that went through the 800-foot MacArthur lock, sailed a few miles upriver to a giant Canadian steel-making plant, then back down the river crossing through the much smaller Canadian lock that is used exclusively by pleasure (and tourist) boats.



Under a full moon caravanners enjoy a late-summer evening at our campground in Sault Ste Marie beside the St. Mary's River waiting for a laker to pass by. A recorded message from the lock master gives approximate arrival times of the ships.

Our last stop on the caravan was in St. Ignace, near the south-eastern tip of the UP and adjacent to the Mackinac bridge. Our campground was across the peninsula from St. Ignace on a hill overlooking Lake Michigan with a sand beach on the other side of the road. As the gateway to the UP the town is very tourist-oriented with lots of gift shops, fishing outfits, and many, many places that sell the three local delicacies: pasties (pronounced "paa-see"), wild rice (our favorite was the kind parched over a wood fire, lending it a smokey flavor) and smoked fish. Pasties are hot pies filled with ground meat, gravy, peas and carrots. In the 19th century the idea was a cold pie with a thick crust that a miner or lumberjack could take with them wrapped in a cloth or carried in a bag and eat one-handed without utensils. Similar pies, for instance Cornish pasties, are found in Europe and it seems likely the immigrants who came to the UP brought the concept with them. Today's

pasties, however, feature such a large proportion of filling to crust that they must be eaten off a plate with knives and forks; picking them up and eating them with one or two hands is not possible.

In addition to being a gateway to the UP, St. Ignace's other role is to serve as the departure point for tourists headed for [Mackinac Island](#), the famously car-free summer colony about two miles off the UP coast in Lake Huron. (In case you are wondering, the Mackinac bridge is considered to be the dividing line between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, which geographically speaking are a single lake, and taken together, the largest freshwater lake in the world.) We went as a group to Mackinac Island for a full-day's visit.



Victorian-style houses along the waterfront on Mackinac Island.

The boat docks right next to Lake Shore Drive, the main commercial street of the island, which runs parallel to the waterfront and contains among other things nearly a dozen shops selling fudge, apparently a local specialty. They are all able to stay in business because the island (population about 560) attracts one million tourists a year, the vast majority between April and October. Emerging from the ferry we were met by a large wagon pulled by two horses that accommodated our entire group of 37. This wagon took us on a tour of the level, lower parts of the town and then climbed a short distance up the steep road leading to the rest of the island where we stopped and

switched to two wagons each drawn by three horses that took us the rest of the way up the hill past several sights including the summer residence of Michigan's governor, a fort built by the British, Arch Rock, carved by the lake but now 146 feet above it, several notable homes and buildings in Federalist, Colonial, and Greek revival styles, and finally to the giant Grand Hotel where we had a sumptuous buffet lunch (\$75).

On the last day of the caravan we ran around doing touristy things, buying gifts for relatives and friends (and ourselves, of course), then getting ready to depart the next day. That night we had our last group dinner then repaired to the beach at our campground where we sat around a roaring fire chatting about our trip through the eastern UP. Far out in Lake Michigan, we could see the lights of a laker headed for Marquette for another load of iron ore.

And yes we will be going on another caravan.



Horse and carriage on the main street of Mackinac Island.

FIVE RIVET DEALER
SINCE INCEPTION

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