

RAZORBACK UNIT

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT 005 / WBCCI

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014

Westward ho!

Razorbackers to caravan through the Ouachitas

Six Airstreams from the Razorback Unit will hit the trail in late April for a ten-night caravan through western Arkansas, starting at the Crater of Diamonds State Park outside Murfreesboro and ending at Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton.

Activities will include digging for diamonds, visiting President Bill Clinton's birthplace, a tour of Old Washington (the Confederate state capitol), Queen Wilhelmina State Park, ancient Runestone, Judge Parker's courthouse, a famous bordello, tours of wineries, Subiaco Abbey and Academy, Petit Jean State Park, and others.

The dates are between Easter and Mother's Day, Thursday, April 24 through Sunday, May 4, according to Paul Moore, organizer.

In addition to Moore, those currently signed up include Herbert and V.J. Carter of Marion, Mark Magie and Annette Murray of Little Rock, Larry and Terry Madden of Fort Smith, Bill and Carole Barton of Russellville, Neil Anderson and Jane Fudge of Booneville.

While not along for the entire route, Jason and Dana Landrum of Little Rock and their children, are planning to camp with the caravan for the weekend at the Crater of Diamonds State Park.

There is a standby list according to Moore, in case anyone cannot make the trip. The fee is \$300 for individuals and \$350 for couples which includes the costs of camping and activities. Meals are extra. Additional people are \$50 each.

For additional information, contact Moore at 501-993-2148 or paullraru-sa@yahoo.com.



SUBIACO ABBEY is one of the tour stops for the caravan. The Abbey is a Benedictine monastery located in Logan County in the Arkansas River valley and was built in the late 1800s. Subiaco Abbey and its associated academy are named after the original Subiaco Abbey in Italy, one of the monasteries founded by St. Benedict.



RUNESTONE OR JUST A CARVED ROCK - This inscribed rock is on display at the Logan County Museum in Paris. It is reportedly a Viking runestone which may date back to the Fourth Century. Most runestones are found in Scandinavian countries but a couple have turned up in Arkansas museums. There are many true believers in their authenticity and the Razorback caravanners will get to decide for themselves if it is real.

From the president --

Happy New Year! Jane and I hope 2014 finds you doing well. Sometimes it's hard to believe how quickly we turn the pages on our calendar as time marches on.

Mother Nature played havoc with our Christmas luncheon that was to have been held December 5 and we had to postpone it to January 9. When that day rolled around, roads in some parts of the state were icy, so not everyone could attend. Still, there were seven at Red Lobster in North Little Rock, and we had an enjoyable time.

To stay on schedule with our original plan, our next luncheon will be Thursday, Feb. 6, at Smokin' Buns – the same place our group went during our rally in North Little Rock last September. The group liked the food and the service, so we'll plan to meet there again at 11:30 a.m. The directions are elsewhere in this newsletter.

I also want to call your attention to the information about the caravan planned for April. Paul Moore has been trained in leading caravans and this is his first. There is a story in this issue about the route that winds from the Crater of Diamonds outside Murfreesboro and ends at Petit Jean State Park outside Morrilton. We look forward to pictures and stories from that!

I hope everyone is doing well and getting through the winter months. It won't be long until we're back on the road and camping again. Until then, I offer my thanks to all who are so willing to volunteer your time and energy to the Razorback Unit.

Sincerely,
Jim Pankey
Razorback Unit president

Baby, it's cold outside



WHILE IT hasn't been as bad in Arkansas as depicted in this photograph downloaded from the Internet, many in our unit have experienced Airstreamin' in frigid temperatures and experienced many of the challenges that go along with cold weather camping. Thoughts turn to warmer days when we can get out again and enjoy the scenic beauty around us.

Razorback Unit is online

Paul Moore is the webmaster for our unit web page that is located at:

<http://arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net>

It is a great place to post information and updates that occur between newsletter mailings. Check it out for upcoming events and information about WBCCI.

Let Paul know of any web page news items by emailing him at pauillrarsa@yahoo.com



2013 – 2014 RAZORBACK UNIT OFFICERS

JIM PANKEY
President

JANE PANKEY
Corresponding Secretary

CAROLE BARTON
Treasurer

LARRY MADDEN
First Vice President

TERRY MADDEN
Recording Secretary

Attention to detail

You know what they say about the squeaky wheel

By Larry Madden

Razorback Unit member

Squeak, squeak, squeak.

“What is that noise, Larry?” “I am not sure, but it seems to be coming from the left side of the camper.”

This was part of our late afternoon conversation as my wife, Terry, and I pulled our Airstream into the Elk City, Okla. KOA on our way home from the 2013 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Tired and hungry I did not give the squeak another thought until we got home.

Having worked on aircraft all my adult life, I relate most of my mechanical duties to terminology I am familiar with. After we got home and got the Silver Bullet all cleaned up, I thought a “pre-flight inspection” was in order for an upcoming trip to Jackson Center, Ohio.

The first order of business was to discover the cause of that annoying squeak. Regrettably, I have not kept a good log of miles traveled in our dreamship, but a good guess mixed with some quick math, and I figured we have almost 7,000 road miles on her over our five years of ownership.

As I reviewed the owner’s manual it was clear I had neglected a very important maintenance item - the inspection and repacking of wheel bearings. With a car no one would ever think to check wheel bearings with such low mileage, but an Airstream is not a car! The first thing for me to do is stop relating to our Silver Bullet as a car, and rather think of her as an aircraft which has regularly scheduled inspections and time change items.

THE
Squeaky
WHEEL

*High quality bearings,
high temp bearing grease
and new wheel drum
seals ... \$314.00.*

*Traveling down the
highway with peace of
mind and noise-free ...
Priceless!*

After lifting the camper and placement of the jack stands, I pulled off the left front tire and wheel drum. Removal of the bearings from the wheel drum and cleaning them took an additional ten minutes.

While there was plenty of grease packed into the inner and outer bearings, it seemed as if the viscosity of the grease had thinned due to high temperatures.

Then I discovered the reason for the squeak. Both bearings had heat discoloration marks on the inner side which slides on the spindle. This discoloration is an indicator the bearing was turning on the spindle and had gotten hot, which was the cause of the squeak.

Just like a scorpion, where there is one you will always find another ... as I continued to inspect the bearings on the other three wheel drums, I was not too surprised to find the same bearing damage.

For replacements I purchased Timken bearings. They are a very high

quality bearing made in the USA. I also decided to replace the bearing races as well. I would venture to say most mechanics would not have spent the extra time and cash to replace the races, but it’s been my experience that it is the smart and prudent thing to do.

Removing and replacing the bearing race is the most difficult part of the job. While the outer races hammer out pretty easily, the inner races are a bit more of a challenge to remove and install.

Bearing races are manufactured with very high quality hardened steel and are extremely tough, so I used one of the old races as a cushion to hammer the new race into position in the wheel drum.

There are a few different approaches to repacking the bearings. I still like the old way by putting grease in the palm of my hand and tap the bearing into the grease until I am sure they are packed well.

Installing the inner and outer bearings back in the wheel drum is a very quick and easy process. One last step is to install a new grease seal on the back of the wheel drum. This is a must!

Before reinstalling the wheel drums on the axles, I inspected the brakes carefully. I found they were grease-free and still had a good amount of brake lining, so I have left them until next year’s inspection. We have aluminum wheels, so I was sure to torque the lug bolts to specifications with my handy dandy torque wrench.

After a quick drive to operationally check the bearings and breaks, I am pleased to report no more squeaks!

Mission Complete.

Next luncheon slated for Feb. 6

President Jim Pankey has made reservations for our next luncheon at the Smokin' Buns restaurant for 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6.

The address is 25401 Hwy. 107 in Jacksonville. Traveling on Hwy. 107 from North Little Rock or Sherwood, it is four miles north from the back gate of Little Rock Air Force Base. It's a big red building on the left and hard to miss.

Our group ate at Smokin' Buns during the September Fall Rally in North Little Rock and liked the food, service and prices!

From the January luncheon --



LUNCHING RAZORBACKS -- Razorback Unit members gathering for lunch at Red Lobster in North Little Rock on January 9 include from left, seated: Wendell Dorman, Paul Moore, Jim and Jane Pankey. Standing: Mark Magie, Dana and Jason Landrum. Inclement weather in areas of the state kept several people away. The next luncheon is Feb. 6 at Smokin' Buns. See *related story at left for directions.*

Recipe corner -

Good at home or in your Airstream

County Apple Dumplings

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
- 2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle Mountain Dew™

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. Cut each apple into 8 wedges and set aside. Separate the crescent roll dough into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. Pinch to seal and place in the baking dish.
3. Melt butter in a small saucepan and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Pour over the apple dumplings. Pour Mountain Dew™ over the dumplings.
4. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.



NEWS MAKERS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/26 -- Charles Buran

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/8 -- Melissa Anthony

2/11 -- Mary Gulley

2/16 -- Herbert Carter

2/25 -- B.J. McNair

The following changes should be made to the 2013-14 Unit Membership Directory:

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Madden, Larry & Terry
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Magie, Mark
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