

RAZORBACK UNIT

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT 005 / WBCCI

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2014

Madden elected president of Razorback Unit

Larry Madden of Fort Smith was elected president of Arkansas Razorback Unit 005 for the 2014-2015 term on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014. He takes the gavel from Jim Pankey of Jacksonville.

Unit member Charles Duran installed the new slate of officers and directors at the Fall Rally held at the Downtown Riverside RV Park on the banks of the Arkansas River in North Little Rock.

Other officers elected include Mark Magie, vice-president; Terry Madden, recording and correspondence secretary; and Carole Barton, treasurer.

Directors include Jason Landrum and Dorr Moore, and caravan director Paul Moore.

More photos from the election rally are inside this issue.



NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS – From left, Larry Madden, Jason Landrum, Terry Madden, Paul Moore and Mark Magie.

ODDS & ENDS ...

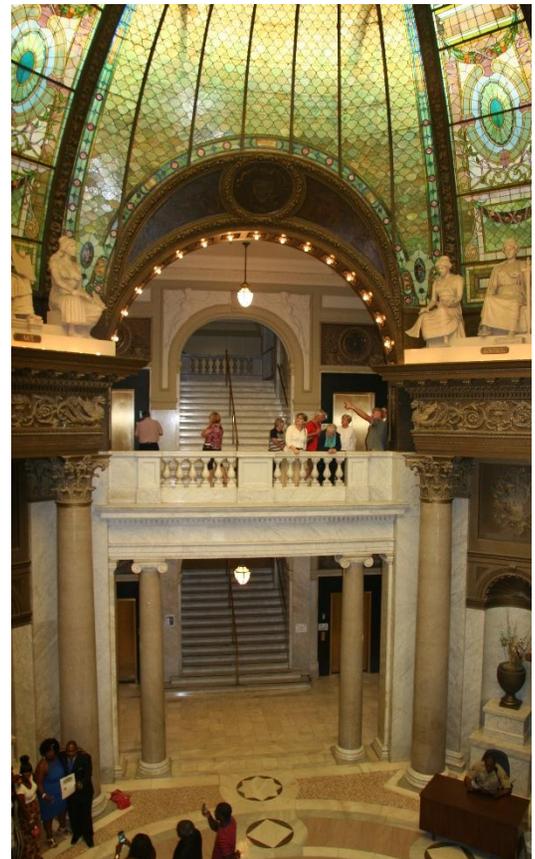
December Luncheon – Our last luncheon of the 2014 year will be at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at MarketPlace Grill in Conway. The address is 600 Skyline Drive. Contact President Larry Madden at h70man@cox.net

Buy / Sell / Trade – Let's give Razorback Unit members a first shot at your treasures! Any unit member wishing to list their rig or parts that others may be interested in, email the newsletter editor at mark.magie@yahoo.com

Newsletter Name – *Editor's note:* I mentioned to several unit members an idea to give this newsletter a catchy name, perhaps using themes including pigs, aluminum, rivets, travelling, camping, etc. Send your suggestions ... we may even have a contest to pick a winner. Email your suggestions by the end of the year to mark.magie@yahoo.com

Razorback Unit Spring Rally – Save the date! Unit member Paul Moore is organizing the spring rally and it is set for April 16-19, 2015 at Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton. Paul is handling the reservations in order to keep all the Airstream rigs together, so contact him and not the park if you are planning to attend. His phone is (501) 993-2148 and his email is paulrarausa@yahoo.com

Unit members gather for fall election rally in North Little Rock



Rally offers food, fun and fellowship for new and long-time friends



FALL ELECTION RALLY – Razorback Unit members and guests were treated to many activities during the rally Sept. 18-20 at the Downtown RV Park in North Little Rock. Unit members Jason and Dana Landrum hosted the group at their Little Rock home for barbecue ribs and all the trimmings Saturday and Dana arranged for tours of the Old Post Office – now the Bankruptcy Courthouse, Pulaski County Courthouse and the Old State House on Friday. The group had supper Friday at the Flying Fish restaurant in Little Rock's River Market district. Unit President Jim Pankey conducted the Saturday morning business meeting and election of new officers. Former WBCCI International President and unit member Charles Duran installed the new officers. Evening happy hours and breakfasts were enjoyed by all attending.



Fall rally showcases local architecture, homemade barbecue ribs



PRESIDENT'S VIEW ...

Monday after the Fall Election Rally, I was getting back in to my normal morning routine which started with a hot cup of coffee on the deck. It was going to be a beautiful day. The air was cool and crisp as I watched the sunrise and the shadows dancing on the lawn.

I was pondering my day when I thought about the two big boxes Jim Pankey had given me which housed our



PARADE OF FLAGS – Razorback Unit President Larry Madden and First Lady Terry Madden present the Arkansas state flag during opening ceremonies at the Region 6 Rally last month in Foley, Ala.

unit's scrapbooks that I had yet to find a home for. It was a perfect time to look through these history books of our unit. So after retrieving several of them and topping off my cup of coffee, I started to slowly flip through the pages.

It is difficult to put in to words how much I enjoyed the next three hours. While taking my time to review each page slowly, I managed to make my way through six of the scrap books. As I closed the last one, I found that I was feeling a great sense of pride, now being a small part of this wonderful organization and its members who over the years have put so much work and devotion in to the Razorback Unit. I really enjoyed the pictures from the past of current members that my wife, Terry, and I have had the pleasure to get to know. While many years have gone by, their smiles have never dimmed and these core members have stayed the course to maintain their wonderful friendships and travel experiences of WBCCI.

As I embark in my new role as an officer in the Razorback unit, I now have a clear understanding of all the work, effort and pride that current and past members have invested to insure our unit continues to move and grow into the future.

Pride is the key to success in any organization. So with great pride, Terry and I will do our very best to represent the Razorback Unit in a manner that reflects its rich, distinctive history and growth into the future.

Larry Madden

Razorback Unit represented at Region 6 Rally in Alabama

Four members of the Razorback Unit attended the WBCCI Region 6 Fall Rally "Back to the Beach" at Johnny's RV Resort in Foley, Ala. Oct. 15-19, 2014.

President and First Lady Larry and Terry Madden, Vice-President Mark Magie, and Caravan Director Paul Moore were among 140 members in 71 Airstream rigs at the event.

Activities included golf, a hat luncheon, outlet shopping, door prizes, a Joker tournament, and evening entertainment by a singer who opened his performance with "Wichita Lineman" by Arkansas' own Glen Campbell, and a comedian who wove magic tricks into his act.

In her remarks, Region President Lonnie Carver said WBCCI is making improvements to data processing, developing a phone app and digital directory.



AT THE RALLY – Pictured from left, seated: Terry and Larry Madden. Standing: Paul Moore and Mark Magie.

Transmission best serviced by dealership mechanics

By Larry Madden

Razorback Unit President

I received a phone call recently from my friend David. He knew I had a background rebuilding automatic transmissions and was looking for advice in what would be his best option for his Ford diesel transmission. It seems he had lost reverse while on a trip, but was able to limp home.

Many of us take for granted that when we hook up and put our tow vehicles in drive, we are on our way for a fun-filled weekend getaway or an extended road trip. Sadly many trips are aborted due to the issues with automatic transmissions.

Modern transmissions are a marvel of the automotive world. Their ability to smoothly shift automatically while towing a 7,000 pound camper is truly amazing. Transmissions are so reliable today that their care and maintenance is often overlooked.

What maintenance? No one ever told me I had to do that! It is a common response that is heard all too often at car dealers and transmission shops throughout our country. Honestly, we Americans are not very good at educating ourselves by reading the owner's manual of the \$30,000 vehicle we just purchased. In the section covering scheduled maintenance intervals, you will find all the necessary information for the proper care of your new or used investment.

Today, all automatic transmissions are "sealed units." Many of the manufacturers will state the transmission is serviced with a "lifetime" fluid. With no intention of being cynical, I have found nothing lasts a lifetime, most definitely not transmission fluid. To clarify - the definition of lifetime as defined by Ford is 100,000 miles.

To make it a little more challenging these days, there is not even a dip stick to check the level of our transmission fluid (At least not one that is accessible to most of us). These new configurations



make it easy to see why transmission fluid is often overlooked.

Most modern automatic transmissions hold between 12-14 quarts of transmission fluid - plus or minus. Transmission fluid is the life blood of your transmission. It provides torque, cooling and lubrication. It is essential for reliability and long life that you have your transmission serviced at regular intervals. Your owner's manual may suggest servicing your transmission at 100,000 miles for normal driving conditions. But remember, towing a payload of 7,000 pounds is not classified as normal driving conditions. My choice is to service ours every 50,000 miles.

My personal preference was to let Ford mechanics service our Expedition's transmission. They have the necessary equipment and expertise to do the job properly. Ford also goes the extra mile by flushing the transmission with a cleaning solution which is an essential step to remove as much old clutch material as possible. It is a sizable investment; the process costs about \$300, but it can be money well spent.

Have you ever wondered what the tow haul / over drive (OD) button does, or is it even necessary? The simple answer is "yes". It is a necessity to engage this system while pulling your Airstream.

First, you should always refer to your vehicle's owner manual for information regarding towing specifications and procedures as outlined by your particular manufacturer.

General Motors refers to this switch as the tow / haul; Ford labels theirs as the

overdrive on and off switch. They both serve the same functions.

When towing your Airstream, you should always select this switch. It electronically disengages the overdrive function of your transmission and remaps the shifting points (Changes the length of time you are in a particular gear). This gives you better response and torque and keeps you from damaging your transmission from heat buildup under a load from towing.

Cruise control is a very handy feature and if you are traveling on a flat highway with little or no hills, it's fine to use while towing. However, if you are using it while going up hills and your transmission is constantly downshifting to make the grade, you're putting unnecessary wear and tear on the transmission. This constant downshifting raises the temperature of the transmission fluid and increases clutch wear. A continuation of this driving style will shorten the service life of your transmission. You are much better served driving hills and steep grades without cruise control.

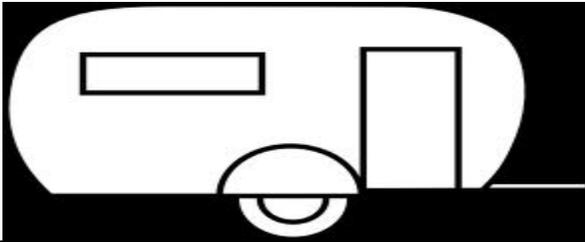
If you find yourself in a difficult position of having to replace your transmission, there are a few options depending on your circumstances.

There is a difference between a rebuilt transmission and a remanufactured transmission. Pay close attention to the warranty being offered with the job. You may pay almost twice as much at a manufacturer's dealer (Ford, Chevy, etc.) but the warranty will last for three years or 36,000 miles. In the unlikely chance you have difficulty with the repair, there are dealers almost everywhere you go in the U.S. and Canada who will accommodate the warranty work. Most local shops will at best give you a year warranty and many of them only 90 days. If you are cross country away from the local repair shop and a problem develops, you are pretty much out of luck.

There is an old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!"

UNIT DUES NOW DUE – Razorback Unit Treasurer Carole Barton reminds members to pay their 2015 WBCCI-Unit dues before their membership expires Dec. 31, 2014 to keep receiving the directory and Blue Beret. Make \$70 check payable to the *Arkansas Razorback Unit*. Mail to: Carole Barton, 1178 Cliff Rd., Russellville, AR 72802.

NEWSMAKERS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Scott and Danielle Moody
310 St. Anne's Ct., Bossier City, LA 71111
(318) 470-3693 / rmooddy@he-equipment.com

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/8 -- Bonita Mosley
11/8 -- Dave Wessinger
11/17 -- Charlie Landrum
11/24 -- Jane Pankey

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/2--Robert & Melissa Anthony

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 -- Jim Pankey
12/8 -- Charles Bourgeois
12/15 -- Kai Artz
12/30 -- Annette Murray

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/18--David & Mary Gulley
12/20 -- Shane & Jenne Artz

CARES AND SHARES

- Bill Barton has recovered from surgery in September and he and Carole plan to attend the December luncheon.
- Keep the family of long-time member Mildred Graves in your thoughts and prayers. Mildred died Oct. 8, 2014. Charlie and Mildred were President and First Lady of our unit in 1990 and active until health issues cropped up in 2008.



OCTOBER LUNCHEON– Unit members attending the Oct.2 luncheon at Doe's Place in Little Rock include from left, Dana Landrum, Mark Magie, Donna and B.J. McNair, Jim and Jane Pankey, Paul Moore, and Jason Landrum. The next luncheon is Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014 at Marketplace Grill in Conway.

51st NATIONAL MARDI GRAS RALLY – Hosted by the Greater New Orleans Louisiana Unit, Feb. 11 – 18, 2015, UNO Lakefront Arena in New Orleans. For information, contact Lonnie Carver at carver.lonnie@gmail.com

58th WBCCI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION / RALLY – June 26 – July 4, 2015, Farmington, New Mexico. Registration information in the Blue Beret.



SAVE YOUR TABS

1,600 tabs equal 1 pound which can be sold at aluminum recycling centers. Proceeds help families using Ronald McDonald homes. Unit member Mark Magie will collect your tabs at unit events and forward them to WBCCI.