



Unit's founders discovered life on the road with family and Airstream friends around the world

Editor's note: *With this first issue of 2016, we take a look back at the Arkansas Razorback Unit's history as reported in a 25th anniversary scrapbook. Our unit will celebrate its 50th anniversary this summer.*



The year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the Arkansas Razorback Unit of WBCCI. A scrapbook created for the unit's 25th anniversary is a snapshot of Airstream life in 1991 and it contains some of the unit's history, including an article on the unit's founders, Gregg and Erma Wilson of Rogers, Ark., referred to lovingly as "Our founding father and mother."

Gleaned from the article -- The Wilsons discovered a love for camping in a Scottsman, complete with a sink, stove, ice box, and their two young sons. They soon advanced to a self-contained Lodgette and pulled it behind a 1964 Chevrolet four-door sedan.

They had observed Airstreams on the road, read about them in *Trailer Life*, and liked them. Eventually, the allure of becoming Airstream owners led them to their third trailer purchase - an Airstream.

As there was not a unit in Arkansas, they joined the Oklahoma Unit. Over the months, the Wilsons searched the WBCCI roster and wrote letters to every Airstream owner in Arkansas, informing them of an organizational meeting in conjunction with the Oklahoma Unit's rally at Lake Euphala, Okla. in April 1966. They petitioned WBCCI and were granted a charter



Arkansas Razorback Unit founders Gregg and Erma Wilson.

on June 27, 1966.

The new Razorback Unit held its first rally on October 20-23, 1966 on a hill overlooking the Prairie Creek arm of Beaver Lake near Rogers, Ark., with 87 rigs. A huge tent was erected for group gatherings and meetings.

The second campout was held near Lake Nimrod near Plainview, Ark.

Gregg Wilson served as the first president of the Arkansas Razorback Unit, and went on to hold posts including Region 6 president and International treasurer. The couple attended almost every International Rally held over a 20-year period.

The Wilsons also participated in overseas WBCCI caravans to Great Britain and Scotland, and one to Scandinavia. They pulled a 32-foot Airstream and boat on a

British Columbia and Alaskan Caravan, from Haines Junction to Prince Rupert. They also went on caravans to Baja Peninsula and mainland Mexico.



Smiles, goodies abound at holiday luncheon

The Arkansas Razorback Unit's bimonthly luncheon was held Dec. 3, 2015 at The Oyster Bar in Little Rock with more than 20 members in attendance. After a tasty buffet (no oysters), gifts were chosen by a drawing of numbers. Jim Pankey presented his

trademark gift, a wooden jewelry box he made, to Susan Gill. A location for the next unit luncheon set for Thursday, Feb. 4, had not been finalized at press time. Watch for an email and check www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net for details.



This easy fix brings sparkle back to your rig

BY LARRY MADDEN
RAZORBACK UNIT PRESIDENT

Keeping our investments of silver looking good and functional can be a daunting task. Maintenance items seemingly as simply as a good post-trip washing, to more complicated repair issues, can be a challenging proposition.

While Airstream trailers may be best known for their iconic shape, we should not overlook their beautiful reflective shine. With modern materials used in their construction, the days of spending hours rubbing or buffing paste wax are gone forever. Today, spray waxes make it a breeze to apply a coat of protection and enhance the beauty of our Airstreams.

However, no amount of wax or work will retrieve the luster lost by the rages of sun and time on an often overlooked area known as

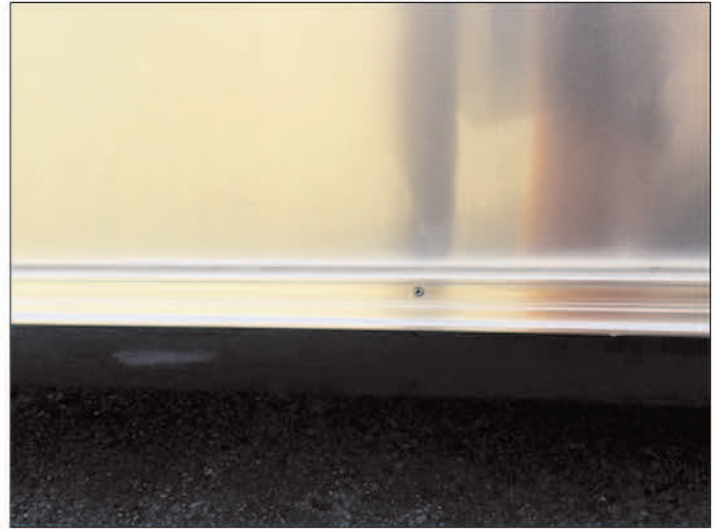
the “rub rail.” The rub rail is essentially a piece of trim which encircles the circumference of modern day Airstreams. It is located at the base of our trailers and when new, has a beautiful chrome appearance.

The reality is, the sun will over time, fade the

rub rail until its appearance morphs into an unsightly dull light gray. So what to do? As it turns out, for less than \$100 and a few hours of work, I found replacing the rub rail was easy and a very satisfying project.

The process of this project is very straight-forward. First, you will need to measure the amount of rub rail you intend to replace (it's sold by the foot). I ordered mine from Colonial Airstream. The rub rail is inserted in what Airstream calls the extrusion, which is riveted and screwed on the base of the camper.

Removing the old rub rail is a very simple task - after all, it's just



RUB RAIL TRACK - Located around the bottom of the trailer, this aluminum extrusion holds the chrome trim.

mounted with 3M two-sided sticky tape! Using a pair of pliers, grab hold of one end and just pull it off. I had it all removed in five minutes.

If there is a difficult part to this project, it's the next step - cleaning residual tape adhesive from the extrusion. This is a very important part of the project to ensure the new rub rail will properly adhere to the extrusion. You can use alcohol to remove the old residual adhesive or something stronger.

I chose to use Methyl Ethyl Ketone (M.E.K.). It is a product I used on aircraft for many final cleaning projects and is very effective. A word of caution: if you use M.E.K. you will need gloves and a respirator.

When you're satisfied the cleaning step is complete, you will need to measure and cut the new rub rail to fit the different sections on the trailer.

I found a box cutter and a straight edge were the perfect combination to make clean, straight, accurate cuts. Installing the new rub rail is just a matter of peeling the backing off the

tape, then press-fitting it into the extrusion. Wow! What a difference a little “bling” can make to enhance the beauty of your Airstream.



M.E.K. - Cleans airplanes and Airstreams. For protection, use gloves and a respirator.



OLD VERSUS NEW - The old rub rail at top is dull gray. The new piece is as shiny as a mirror.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
LARRY MADDEN
RAZORBACK UNIT

2016 is golden for Razorback unit

Happy New Year!

2016 will mark the 50th year celebration for the Razorback unit. It's a huge milestone in our unit's storied history.

We will celebrate this special occasion during our Fall Election Rally at Bull Shoals State Park in September. I would like to solicit stories from members past and present who would like to share some of their most memorable Airstreaming experiences over the years. If you are interested, please email text and photos to Mark Magie, our newsletter editor, at mark.magie@yahoo.com

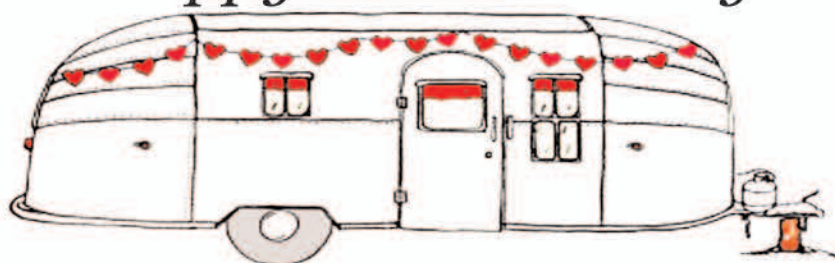
Terry and I will miss the February luncheon; we are heading to Arizona in search of warm and sunny weather. B.J. Davis was the lucky drawing winner to host the luncheon, its location will be posted on our webpage and through email.

Terry and I wish each of you the very best of health and happiness in the New Year.

Live long and prosper,

Larry Madden

Happy Valentines Day



"A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles."

— Tim Cahill

NEWSMAKERS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/4 - Laura Wessinger
1/17 - Ian Artz
1/26 - Charles Duran

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/12 - Rick & Debbie Perryman
1/16 - Bill & Charlene Allen

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/8 - Melissa Anthony
1/11 - Mary Gulley
1/16 - Herbert Carter
1/17 - Martha Moore
1/23 - Charlene Allen
1/25 - B.J. McNair

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No lovebirds celebrating this month.

Kale Slaw with Red Cabbage and Carrots

Ingredients -

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon apple-cider vinegar
Coarse salt and pepper
3 cups mixed shredded kale and red cabbage
1 carrot, peeled and julienned
1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves
2 tablespoons diced red onion
2 tablespoons sunflower seeds
2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds
2 tablespoons hemp seeds

Directions - In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, mustard, and apple-cider vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. In another bowl, combine kale, cabbage, carrot, parsley, and red onion with sunflower, pumpkin, and hemp seeds. Season with salt and pepper, drizzle with dressing, and toss to coat.

Note: You will have a lot more than 3 cups of kale/cabbage if you use one bunch of kale, so be sure to adjust the amount of dressing accordingly. Also, I use 1 tablespoon of apple cider vinegar instead of 1 tsp because I love vinegar and I use Bragg's Unfiltered Apple Cider Vinegar because it is the best tasting. You can substitute flax or other seeds for hemp seeds if you can't find them. Enjoy!

- Laura Wessinger

SAVE THE DATES -

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Razorback Unit website at www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net



- ++ FEBRUARY 4, 2016 - Unit luncheon, check our website for the location.
- ++ APRIL 7, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.
- ++ APRIL 14-17, 2016 - **Razorback Unit Spring Rally**, Queen Wilhelmina State Park, Mena
- Make reservations with the Airstream group. Call 479-394-2863.
- ++ May 12-22, 2016 - **Come-and-Go Caravan** through northwest Arkansas.
- Contact Caravan Master Paul Moore at pauullrarusa@usa.com to reserve a space.
- ++ JUNE 2, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.
- ++ JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2016 - 59th International Rally, Lewisburg, West Virginia
- ++ AUGUST 4, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.
- ++ SEPTEMBER 22-25 - **50th Anniversary Celebration/Razorback Unit Fall Election Rally**, Bull Shoals State Park, Ark.
- Contact Bull Shoals State Park at 870-445-3629 to make reservations.
- ++ OCTOBER 6, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.
- ++ DECEMBER 1, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.