



CAMPING IN THE CLOUDS - Arkansas Razorback Unit members awoke to a day of low clouds during the spring rally at Queen Wilhelmina State Park in April. *More rally pictures inside this issue.*

Golden anniversary ahead for R'backers

BY MARK MAGIE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Arkansas Razorback Unit's 50th Anniversary Celebration coincides with the Fall Election Rally set for Sept. 22-25, 2016 at Bull Shoals-White River State Park.

The state park claims its place in Airstream history by being the site of the Wally Byam Caravan Club's first WBCCI international rally in 1958.

While looking through a scrapbook prepared in 1991 for the Arkansas Razorback Unit's 25th anniversary, I discovered some interesting tidbits in our unit's history.

During some rallies, owners of Airstreams with even numbers brought



salads to potluck meals while those with odd numbers brought sandwiches.

At many events, unit members shared their talents by singing, playing musical instruments, reading poetry and holding church services.

Members at one time were asked to contact their elected representatives when

the Chevrolet Suburban with a 454 engine was threatened due to gas consumption restrictions.

A practice of cleaning litter from along highways was abandoned due to liability issues.

At one time, there was a Central Arkansas Airstream Unit, but it was merged in 1991 into the Razorback Unit.

As of press time, 18 rigs were registered for the rally, according to Unit President Larry Madden. Invitations will be going out soon to Region 6 officers. There are still campsites available for those wishing to attend.

Reserve a space by calling the park at 870-445-3629.

Queen Wilhelmina is site of Spring Unit Rally

The Arkansas Razorback Unit 005 Spring Rally was held April 14 - 17 at Queen Wilhelmina State Park atop Rich Mountain near Mena, Ark. There were 16 rigs at the rally, according to Larry Madden, unit president. Those camping enjoyed a campfire dur-

ing the cooler temperatures, visiting at happy hours, a beef brisket dinner, a tour of the nine-level Wonder House, the newly remodeled lodge and restaurant, and trails winding around the mountain. The mountain became ghostly when clouds settled in.



Spring Rally - renewing and making friendships



Rich Mountain abounds in history, trails, views



Tours and bag toss competition are added fun



Use roof sealant to protect subfloor ... right?



BY LARRY MADDEN
RAZORBACK UNIT PRESIDENT

Déjà vu, a feeling of having already experienced the present situation. A large part of my job description in the Air Force as Fuel System Mechanic was isolating the source of aircraft fuel leaks and repairing them. Interestingly enough, as the proud owner of an Airstream, I find that a skill set I learned many years ago has become helpful once again.

Depending on the model, there could be up to 3,000 rivets on your Airstream, each of them a potential leak source. My latest leak experience which ended in a small area of rotten subflooring was due more to my lack of attention than any other factor.

My wife, Terry, discovered a wet spot under the dinette area as we were unpacking from our trip to last year's Region Six Rally. After further investigation I discovered a small area of rotten subflooring.

My first thought was the rear bumper area was leaking again. A couple of days into the process of disassembling the interior looking for the source of the leak, I discovered the rotten sub floor damage was more extensive than I first thought and the source of the leak was not the bumper area.

Airstream suggests a regular schedule inspection of roof sealant. This sealant is subject to the elements and a lot of stress from the constant twisting and flexing while being towed down the road. As I continued my search for the leak source, I found the sealant on the roof of our camper had deteriorated to the point it could be peeled off as easy as a Florida sunburn.

With Terry's help and a lawn sprinkler, I found the source of the leak. The seam on the roof just behind the Zip Dee awing was the culprit. What little sealant that was still adhering to the seam had completely deteri-



UNLIKELY SOURCE - Finding the source of a water leak resulting in subfloor damage and making repairs is an extensive project. Checking roof sealant is a place to begin.

orated the entire length of the trailer.

While the task of removing the old sealant and preparation for resealing was a task I was very comfortable with, replacing the rotten sub floor was a different story. Calling Airstream dealers from Texas to Missouri, I discovered a couple of interesting facts.

Most Airstream dealers do not tackle replacement of sub flooring and the only one I found that did had an eight month back log!

I decided to return our Airstream to the factory at Jackson Center for the needed floor repairs. It was scheduled to take three days. While the floor was being replaced, I became a fixture with the technician. He was fine with me watching over his shoulder and learning the process of removing and replacing the flooring. It's a balancing act to ask a lot of questions and at the same time, not become a nuisance and impede progress. The education was invaluable and reflecting



SEALANT TOOLS.

back, I am very glad I returned to the factory for the repair.

The mystery for me was trying to understand how a leak that originated on the exterior of the roof migrated over five feet to the point where it puddled and damaged the sub flooring.

After a few cups of coffee and burning some brain cells, I came up with what I

think is a plausible theory: As the water leaked into the camper, it naturally followed the path of least resistance to the subflooring by means of the interior aluminum paneling. Once it made contact with the floor, it found a seam in the wood (from a previous repair) and simply used it as a conduit to its final destination.

To avoid these water related issues in the future, I will add a roof sealant inspection to my to-do list every year to ensure Rainy days and Mondays will not get me down!



Schedules filling with camping opportunities

My, how time flies when you're having fun! While we spent a lot of our Spring Rally with our heads in clouds at Queen Wilhelmina State Park, it was a good turnout and a lot of fun. We made new friends and started what I hope is a new family fun competition of Bean Bag toss.

Next on the calendar is the Come and Go Caravan on May 12. Paul Moore has put together a lot of exciting places to see and experience over the ten day caravan.

Our unit's 50th anniversary celebration will be Sept. 22-25 at Bull Shoals-White River State Park. An article on Page 1 tells how to make reservations.

Last night I received an email from Jason Landrum reminding me that the six month widow is now open to make reservations for our annual Buffalo National River Buddy Rally on November 3-6. Go to www.recreation.gov, book in C Loop.

It will be a busy summer with many of our unit members traveling to various parts of the country. Please drive safely and remember to take pictures for our newsletter.

Live long and prosper,
Larry Madden

RAZORBACK NEWSMAKERS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1 - Jennifer Gulley
5/17 - Larry Madden
5/18 - Minnie Bridges
5/21 - Mark Magie
5/24 - Katie Gulley

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 - Bill Allen
6/5 - Jane Landrum
6/7 - Terry Madden
6/12 - Donna McNair
6/14 - Shane Artz
6/15 - Bill Barton
6/21 - Jenne Artz

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/6 - J.W. & Marie King
5/15 - Jim & Jane Pankey
5/16 - Charles & Helen Bourgois
5/27 - Jason & Dana Landrum

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/11 - Dave & Laura Wessinger
6/26 - Charles & Emogene Duran



ARKALUMA - Razorback Unit members will try to recreate this arrangement in October. See date, location information below.

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



- ++ MAY 12-22, 2016 - **Come-and-Go Caravan** through northwest Arkansas.
- ++ MAY 31 - JUNE 5 - Alumapalooza, Jackson Center, Ohio
- ++ JUNE 2, 2016 - **Unit luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Sweet Tea Cafe, 6120 Office Park Dr., Bryant, Ark.**
- ++ 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. - Call 870-445-3629 to make reservations.
- ++ OCTOBER 5-8, 2016 - Region 6 at Sun Roamer RV Resort, Picayune, Miss.
- ++ OCTOBER 6, 2016 - **Unit luncheon, Wiederkehr Weinkeller Restaurant, Altus, Ark.**
- ++ OCTOBER 6-9, 2016 - **"Arkaluma" dry camp, 4118 Mulberry Mountain Loop, Ozark, Ark.**
- ++ NOVEMBER 3-6, 2016 - **Buffalo Point Campground buddy rally, Buffalo National River.**
- ++ DECEMBER 1, 2016 - Unit luncheon, location to be announced.