



Welcome to Byamville

Razorback Unit will celebrate golden milestone

BY MARK MAGIE
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This month, members of the Arkansas Razorback Unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club will return to the site of the first WBCCI International Rally at Bull Shoals White River State Park to celebrate



a milestone -- their 50th anniversary as a unit.

On June 27, 1966, the unit was officially chartered, and hundreds of members and rallies later, it is still answering the call of Airstream founder Wally Byam: *To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end ... and thus make your travel dreams come true.*

Larry and Terry Madden, unit president and first lady, have planned a fun and



Plaque - Madden views the plaque displayed in the James Gaston Visitor Center commemorating the first rally.

informative rally set for Sept. 22-25. Special guest will be Steve Wilson, son of unit founders Gregg and Erma Wilson. He will share stories of his experiences as a young camper in a newly formed unit.

Other activities include tours of the North Fork National Fish Hatchery and Ranger Boat Factory, a lake tour on a pontoon boat, catered and pot luck dinners, and Madden's version of the summer Olympic games: junk in the trunk, sewer hose toss, and bean bag toss!

A rally schedule in this issue also includes a business election, group photograph and officer elections.

Bull Shoals State Park was chosen for the first rally in 1958 because it was centrally located in the United States. The area had gained widespread notoriety with the completion of Bull Shoals Dam in 1951, the fifth largest concrete structure in the United States, and known for the record rainbow and brown trout caught in the White River. The dam formed the 45,440-acre lake with 720 miles of shoreline in northern Arkansas and southern Missouri. The dam provides hydroelectric power and flood control.

Membership was growing to more than 500 trailers and Wally Byam decided everyone should be brought together once a year for an international rally.

The state park had been created in 1955 and was an undeveloped piece of property consisting only of a cleared field for camping at \$1 a night, a single light pole for hooking into electricity and an old lodge constructed early in the dam project that



Wearing blue berets - All attending the first WBCCI International Rally had their pictures taken in front of a "Welcome To ... Byamville" banner.

was used for the park headquarters, according to an article in the March 2007 *Blue Beret*.

The *Baxter Bulletin* in nearby Mountain Home reported that nearly 400 (the final total was 380) trailers had parked on the campground overlooking Bull Shoals Dam. The highlight of the first night, a Thursday, was square dancing and a showing of slides made by members on previous caravans. The next night featured games, races, a goat barbecue, fireworks, and Wally Byam's birthday party with a cake large enough to serve 3,000 people.

At a Saturday afternoon bull session, Byam announced his plans for a one-year caravan through Africa. Later, a fish dinner was followed by a performance of the Baxter County Singing Convention and a fiddlers' contest.

The Sunday evening closing program featured Red Foley and his troupe of 20 performers from the Ozark Jubilee in nearby Springfield, Missouri.



Arkansas Razorback Unit of WBCCI 50th ANNIVERSARY & FALL ELECTION RALLY

September 22-25, 2016
Bull Shoals White River State Park



Hosted by Terry & Larry Madden
**RALLY FEE \$40 PER COUPLE, SINGLE \$20*

Thursday, Sept. 22

Arrive and check-in.

4 P.M. Happy Hour behind spot #2. BYO beverages, snacks and chairs.

5:30 P.M. Dinner and evening entertainment on your own.

Friday, Sept. 23

Breakfast on your own.

Suggestion: Gaston's breakfast buffet, Hank & Kate's cafe.

Enjoy fishing, golfing, visiting Bull Shoals Caverns, Gaston's Visitors Center or taking a tour.

10 A.M. Depart for North Fork National Fish Hatchery and Ranger Boat Factory.

NOON Lunch on your own.

4 P.M. Happy Hour at the pavilion.

BYO beverages and snacks. (Picnic tables are available)

5:30 P.M. Dinner to be catered by the 178 Club served at the pavilion.
(Setups provide bring your own drinks)

6:30 P.M. Let's get together for a group photo following dinner.

7:00 P.M. Let the Games begin.

(Junk in the trunk, Sewer hose toss and Bean bag toss)

Saturday, Sept. 24

Breakfast on your own.

10 A.M. Business meeting followed by the installation of new officers and reception in the conference room located at the Gaston's Visitors Center.

NOON Lunch on your own.

2:45 P.M. Lake tour on Pontoon Boat, participants gather at Bull Shoals Marina.

4:00 P.M. Happy Hour behind spot # 2. BYO beverages, snacks, and chairs.

5:30 P.M. Pot luck dinner. Grilled Hot Dogs and fixings provided. Bring your favorite side dish for everyone's enjoyment.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Depart for home, safe travels.

Bull Shoals fly fishing lands memorable catch

BY LARRY MADDEN
RAZORBACK UNIT PRESIDENT

Squeaky Wheel for the most intrepid readers implies something of a mechanical overtone. A reader could easily relate squeaky wheel to a failure in a bearing, tire or wheel. In this particular instance, it has absolutely nothing to do with the mechanical aspects of our Airstreams at all.

My first visit to Bull Shoals White River State Park was almost 16 years ago. As no surprise to my wife Terry, I fell in love with the park and it soon became "my place" to temporarily escape an otherwise crazy, busy life. As I shared my enthusiasm about Bull Shoals with co-workers and friends, their interest and enjoyment of the park soon grew into an annual pilgrimage referred to as "Trout Camp."

For the next 12 years, my friends and I were all lucky enough to visit Bull Shoals at least once a year. Each and every visit was to be more enjoyable than the last.



It seems like yesterday I was standing on the dock wondering to myself, "Ok, what next?" Getting an early morning start, my friends and I had launched

the boat and were on the river soon after sunrise. It looked like it was going to be a great day of fishing. On my very first cast I landed a nice fish and christened the livewell with it. My next cast also yielded a solid strike and yet another trout into the boat. This however is when things got sticky.

Just how fast a hook can fly (no pun intended) out of a trout's mouth is scientifically yet to be determined. But how fast the pain traveled from my now hooked finger to my brain is inconceivably fast. While closely scrutinizing the dirty hook now deeply imbedded in my middle finger, it became increasingly difficult for me to think clearly.

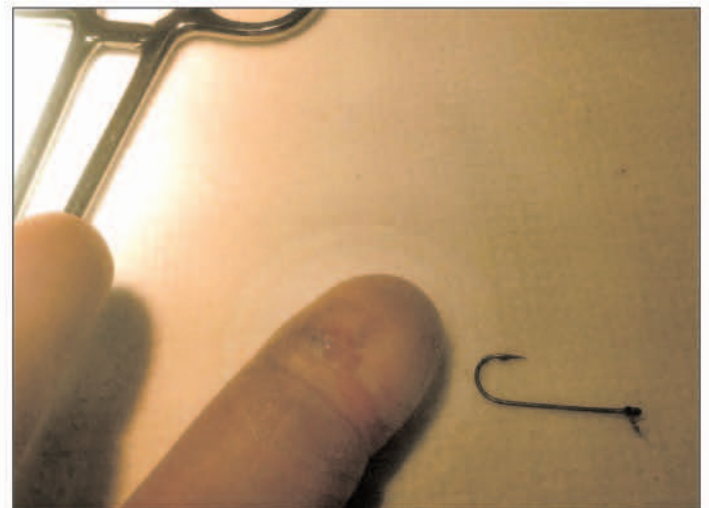
I have heard stories of how fisherman, when hooked, simply finish pushing the hook through the outer skin and cut off the now exposed barb, thus allowing them to easily remove the hook. Yes, I was so desperate I gave it a try. All I have to say about that method is there are much tougher people in this world than me.

Still standing on the dock pondering my next move, I told my friends waiting in the boat, "I am off to the emergency room at Baxter Regional Hospital. It's only a 20 minute drive, but who knows how long I will be in the waiting room?" Just then a welcomed cool breeze of air brushed across my face. It was stirred up by the wake of my friend's boat as they wished me good luck and waved goodbye.

Trying my best to conceal the embarrassment I felt from any onlookers, I was pleasantly surprised at how fast I was attended to in the emergency room. In less than ten minutes I was reliving my fishing experience with the doctor. He was young but very attentive and



FINGER BAIT - In a flash, the hook Larry used to catch a trout ended up in his finger when the fish spit it out.



ALL BETTER NOW - Once removed, the hook was as good as new. Larry's finger survived the ordeal, too.

caring. He shared with me that on average, the emergency room removes at least one hook every day. Now I am feeling like a member of an elite club!

The speed of the syringe needle piercing my tender finger skin six or seven times to numb the pain seemed to be much slower and more memorable than the hook as it entered my finger. When the doctor left the room for a few minutes waiting for the anesthetic to do its job, I took the opportunity to text Terry a picture of my finger, filling her in on the morning's events and seeking out a little compassion. What I got was good advice: "Get a tetanus shot!" Alas, the fine doctor removed the hook, and following Nurse Madden's advice, administered a tetanus shot.

The doc then asked me if I would like to add the hook to their collection, as he showed me a very large bulletin board behind glass filled with different fishing lures and hooks the emergency room staff had removed. "No thanks" was my quick but decisive reply. "This little jewel has more fish to catch!"

2017 membership dues now payable; can pay at fall rally

There are WBCCI bylaws changes affecting memberships, according to Carole Barton, treasurer:

1. Fiscal Year – International's fiscal year has been changed to August 1 through July 31.
2. Annual Membership Directory – Member's dues and renewal information must be received at Headquarters by November 30.

There is NO guarantee members will be in the Annual Membership Directory if the member's information is received after that date.

To renew dues through the Unit:

Members attending the Fall Election Rally/50th Anniversary Celebration at Bull Shoals State Park, September 22-25, 2017, may renew their dues at the rally. The dues for 2017 remain the same (WBCCI dues: \$65 + Unit dues: \$5 = \$70). Checks should be payable to "Arkansas Razorback Unit." The current treasurer

will be collecting the dues (checks or cash) with the assistance of treasurer-elect Paul Moore.

After September 25, 2017, all dues being renewed through the unit, (checks in the amount of \$70 and made out to the Arkansas Razorback Unit) should be sent to the following:

*Arkansas Razorback Unit – WBCCI 005,
c/o Paul Moore, Treasurer, 705 Ford St., Bald Knob, AR 72010*

To renew dues Online to WBCCI:

Go to "www.wbcci.org," click on "Renew Online Today." Follow instructions to complete the form and when prompted for the unit dues portion, which states "Please select the Unit you would like to join" (also for renewing), click on the arrow and stroll down the list to "Region 6, Unit 005, Arkansas Razorback Unit", and complete the renewal transaction.

October luncheon kicks off Arkaluma boondocking fun



OCTOBER HOLDS SEVERAL FIRSTS - The October 6 luncheon at Wiederkehr Weinkeller Restaurant in Altus (left photo) will be the last chance at civilization before campers head up about 10 miles of winding Hwy. 23, better known as Pig Trail, off Interstate 40 to reach Mulberry Mountain where the first "Arkaluma" will be held Oct. 6-9. For some unit members, it will be their first boondocking, or dry camping, experience. Bathroom facilities are available at the campground, however. It also may be the first time for some to park their rigs in a circle as pictured above. Wiederkehr has ample RV parking.

Register your rig's name

Many Airstream owners have affectionately named their rigs. Now, they can be "officially registered" for free at www.airstream.com/community/name-registry/

Complete the information online, and in several weeks, you'll receive a medallion and certificate ... another way to Live Riveted!



Pankey recuperating

Word was received in late August that Jim Pankey had surgery but is doing well. Jim and Jane cancelled their plans to attend the Bull Shoals Rally and a trip to Ireland, but after some time to recover, they will be on the road again soon.



Airstream gift is friendships

As the final preparations are underway for our 50th Anniversary Rally, I have been busy juggling household responsibilities and rally planning. It's exciting to be a part of such a significant event in our unit's storied history.

While my wife Terry and I have been members of the Razorback Unit for a relatively short time, we both share a feeling of belonging. The "Old Guard," those members who have been in our unit for literally decades, have gone out of their way to make Terry and me feel welcome from our very first Happy Hour!

WBCCI has afforded us the opportunity to travel to destinations across the country, many of which we likely would never have seen, without being associated with this great organization.

It really makes no difference if it's an Airstream, Harley Davidson or Corvette club, each is nothing more than a conduit linking us to like-minded people with shared interests. After all, it's the human interaction that makes the Airstreaming experience so wonderful and nurtures friendships into lifelong relationships. This is the true gift of the Airstreaming lifestyle.

During the last two International Rallies I was extremely proud to represent our unit and the State of Arkansas by posting our state flag during the opening ceremonies. Now as my role of unit president draws to a close, I offer my thanks to each of you for this wonderful opportunity and for the tremendous support you have shown Terry and me.

Live long and prosper,
Larry Madden

LUNCHERS - Those attending the August 4 luncheon at Corky's in Little Rock included Tim and Amanda Welch, Mark Magie and Annette Murray, Michael and Judy Shelley, Patti Kymer and B.J. Davis, Paul Moore, Larry and Terry Madden, Anita Smith, Arnie Jester, Jim and Jane Pankey, and Susan Gill.

The October 6 luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at Wiederkehr Weinkeller Restaurant in Altus. Take exit 41 off I-40.

Those continuing on to Arkaluma on Mulberry Mountain will find ample RV parking for lunch.

For a lunch headcount, RSVP to mark.magie@yahoo.com

RAZORBACK NEWSMAKERS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/2 - David Gulley
9/15 - Dorr Moore
9/29 - V.J. Carter

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/5 - Jonathan & Katie Gulley
9/17 - Bill & Donna McNair
9/18 - Ron & Susan Johnson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/5 - John Sturdy
10/17 - Carole Barton

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/9 - Carl & Joyce Fitzhugh

SAVE THE DATES -

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



- ++ 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 Christmas luncheon**, location to be announced.