



Photo by Ferdara Mark Broussard-Hubbard, Airstream owner and drone pilot

**2017 WBCCI International Rally** - Bird's-eye view of more than 600 Airstreams parked at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds in Escanaba, Mich. The Arkansas Razorback Unit was well-represented with 11 members attending.

## Where do you park 600 Airstreams?

**BY MARK MAGIE**  
RAZORBACK UNIT PRESIDENT & EDITOR

A WBCCI International Rally is a logistical marvel that takes years of planning. And the not-so-small army of WBCCI officers, staff and volunteers who planned and executed this year's International Rally in Escanaba, Mich. should be awarded medals for their outstanding job.

The rally site was the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds, and Airstreams were parked where the midway is normally located, around buildings, under trees, along roads and on any available piece of

grass. Airstreams with solar power were parked in one area, others using generators in a separate location, and vintage rigs in yet another part of the fairgrounds.

There were a lot of activities for the 1,200 or so campers, from quilting and photo contests, to choirs, concerts and dancing. There were bicycle excursions, a pet show, tours of the area including Lake Superior, vendors, caravan information, meetings and seminars, ice cream social and twilight movies, and a fashion show.

One novel idea to measure the financial impact of 1,200 Airstreamers in a commu-

nity was to give each attendee a \$2 bill to spend. Merchants in the area quickly knew out-of-towners had been buying gasoline, eating at restaurants, buying clothing and groceries, and helping the local economy.

Those attending from the Arkansas Razorback Unit included Paul Moore, Larry and Terry Madden, Charles and Jan Heavener, Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel, Bob and Dorothy Cooney, and Mark Magie and Annette Murray.

Next year's rally is June 23-30, 2018 in Salem, Oregon.

*More photos on next page.*



# Razorback Airstreamers at International Rally



**Group Luncheon** - The Swedish Pantry in downtown Escanaba was a treat for local fare enjoyed by members, from left, Charles and Jan Heavener, Annette Murray, Mark Magie, Bob and Dorothy Cooney, Jeff Dalrymple and Cindy Kugel, Paul Moore and Terry and Larry Madden.



**Happy Hour Extraordinaire** - Cindy Kugel and Jeff Dalrymple hosted Happy Hour one evening and treated the Razorbackers to Bananas Foster, a flambe dessert made of bananas cooked in brown sugar, butter and rum, and served with vanilla ice cream.



**Photo booth** - Jan and Charles Heavener.



**Lighthouse** - One of many on Lake Superior.



**Passengers** were treated to a close-up view of the Pictured Rocks when the captain pulled the boat alongside one of the many formations.



**On Lake Superior** - Arkansans boarded the Miners Castle boat for an excursion to see the Pictured Rocks formations, known for their multi-colors, striations and shapes. From left, Mark Magie and Annette Murray, Captain J.B. Nidzwiecki, Charles and Jan Heavener, and Terry and Larry Madden.



**Snow marker** - The July weather in the Upper Peninsula was beautiful during the rally, but the red and white marker attached to a fire plug in Marquette shows how deep the snow can get in the winter. Pictured in photo at left, Jan Heavener, Terry Madden and Annette Murray.





# Arkansas Razorback Unit of WBCCI FALL ELECTION RALLY



**September 14-17, 2017**  
**Aux Arc Campground**  
**1314 Aux Arc Park Road, Ozark, Arkansas**

*(Aux Arc is pronounced Ozark)*

Hosted by Mark Magie & Annette Murray

*\*RALLY FEE \$30 PER COUPLE, SINGLE \$15 - Pay Paul Moore, treasurer, at the rally.*

## **Thursday, Sept. 14**

Arrive and check-in.

4 P.M. Happy Hour at Pavilion #2. BYO beverages, snacks and chairs.

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

## **Friday, Sept. 15**

Breakfast on your own.

Ideas for things to do in the Ozark area --

2nd Street Antiques, Franklin County Farmers Market, Historic Downtown District,  
Mulberry River, Ozark Area Depot Museum, Ozark Bridge,  
Ozark Highlands National Recreation Trail, Ozark History Mural,  
Sweet Deals Bookstore, The Little Red Brick Building, The Shop Off Main

NOON Lunch on your own.

4 P.M. Happy Hour at Pavilion #2. BYO beverages and snacks.

5:30 P.M. Potluck for anyone wishing to participate. Pavilion #2.  
BYO beverages and setups.

## **Saturday, Sept. 16**

Breakfast on your own.

10 A.M. Business meeting followed by the installation of officers and  
reception at Pavilion #2.

NOON Lunch on your own.

1 P.M. Post Familie Vineyards tour and tasting.

Depart at 12:30 P.M. to carpool to 1700 St. Mary's Mountain Road, Altus.

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

5:30 P.M. Dinner, catered by Rivertowne BBQ. Pork sandwiches, potato salad,  
cole slaw and beans. Served at Pavilion #2. Setups provided. BYO drinks.

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

## **Sunday, Sept. 17**

Depart for home, safe travels.



# Feel the heat? You don't want Sparky to visit

BY LARRY MADDEN

RAZORBACK UNIT PAST PRESIDENT

Don't you just love when a conversation starts with an adverb? So..., this is where my story begins.

A number of years ago, I installed and wired a 30 amp RV receptacle in the garage at home. This made it very convenient to plug our Airstream to shore power and have ample power available to operate the air-conditioner and cool down the refrigerator while we were loading Lucy for our next journey. Everything was functioning quite nicely until late Monday night last week. As I shut off the 30 amp breaker to the RV receptacle and reached over to unplug the power cord, I was startled by how hot the handle of the plug was; much hotter than the typical slight warmth associated with the power cord. Most alarming, the wall around the receptacle was also pretty warm.

To say this sequence of events got my undivided attention would be an understatement! Every project from Terry's honey-do list that I had been working on, or thinking about, was immediately delegated to the back burner (no pun intended).

The next morning after getting my brain in gear with a couple cups of coffee, I began exploring the possibilities of what could have caused so much heat being generated around the plug and garage wall. I soon found two major contributing factors. As I slowly removed the RV receptacle from its mounting in the garage wall, I discovered the hot and neutral wires had loosened more than a bit and showed signs of arcing. This is not a good thing.



Signs of arcing and a very hot wire from the inlet plug.



Evidence the shore power plug got very hot.

50 feet of power cord. The two cords plugged together ultimately increased resistance in the wiring which contributed to them generating more heat than just a single power cord typically would. Combine that with loose arcing wires on the wall mounted receptacle

and we had all the makings for the potential house fire. When I had installed the receptacle, I took great care to tighten the three screws securing the 30 amp rated 10/3 wires to the receptacle. Knowing electrons moving through wire cause micro-vibration which can, and in my case did, loosen the set screws.

The other contributing factor was due to the location of the receptacle on the back wall in the garage. This configuration necessitated the use of an RV extension cord to reach the Airstream, which when added to the shore power cord, equated to a total of



and we had all the makings for the potential house fire.

So, (there I go again) it's time for a fix; a good "let's not burn down the house" kind of fix. The solution was very simple really. Home Depot sells a weather proof RV 30 and 50 amp electrical box. After removing the old 30 amp service, I installed the RV 30 amp service box on the exterior of the house near the garage door. This location is 20 feet closer to where we park the Airstream during trip preparation, thus eliminating the need of an extension cord. I mounted and wired the new box and reconnected it to the 30 amp circuit breaker. After checking the voltage with a volt meter to verify the correct voltage of 122 volts was available, I connected the shore power to Lucy and ran the air-conditioner for the entire day.



Newly installed weather proof RV 30 amp power station.

At different intervals during the day I felt the cord for any heat buildup and to my delight, found none; everything was working splendidly. After I finished my beer and victory lap, I shut down all the power and unplugged Lucy when I made another worrisome discovery.

I was giving the Airstream end of the shore power plug a good inspection when I discovered that one area of the plug where the hot wire makes connection to the inlet plug was melted. After disassembling the inlet receptacle from the Airstream I discovered more evidence of the hot wire arcing. The good news is that I found it before any major damage occurred and it was going to be a rather easy and permanent repair.



Original inlet plug contacts show signs of excess heat.

The SmartPlug is designed primarily for marine applications with very harsh weather conditions. It was not long however before the RV industry adopted this plug for its applications as well.

I purchased a complete kit from the Airstream Life Store ([www.airstreamlife.com](http://www.airstreamlife.com) > store). It includes a new 30 ft. shore power cord and a new inlet receptacle for the Airstream. It was the best price I could find, along with no tax and free shipping. The SmartPlug is a truly amazing work of engineering and manufacturing, with obvious attention to detail. It was a 30



The new Smart Plug Kit.

minute job to install, and it fits perfectly where the old inlet plug was installed. (see pictures). After I completed the installation of the new inlet power receptacle, I powered up Lucy (at this point I refer to her as the Lunar Module) and everything powered up nicely, with no heat or smoke.





## Presidential luncheon

Arkansas Razorback Unit members gathered for their bimonthly luncheon August 3 at "42," the restaurant in the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock. There were 20 attendees and by all accounts, the food as well as the company were excellent.

**Top photo**, from left: Judy Shelley, Paul Beck, Imogene Duran, Jennifer Roberts, Jonathan Gulley, David Gulley, Patti Kymer, Trent Roberts, Charles Duran, Jason and Dana Landrum.

**Bottom photo**, from left: Tim Welch and Amanda Pace-Welch, Eleanor and Arnie Jester, Laura and Dave Wessinger, Paul Greene and Terri Murdoch (barely in the photo). Not pictured, Michael Shelley, who hosted the luncheon.



### Wiederkehr next luncheon site

The next luncheon is 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 5 at Wiederkehr Weinkeller, 3324 Swiss Family Dr., Wiederkehr Village. For a headcount, RSVP to mark.magie@yahoo.com. It is the same day that Arkaluma begins in nearby Ozark, and there is ample parking for Airstreams!



*Don't stop. Keep right on going. Go someplace you've heard about where you can fish or hunt or collect rocks or just look up at the sky. Find out what's at the end of some country road. Go see what's over the next hill, and the one after that, and the one after that.*

-- WALLY BYAM

## SAVE THE DATES -

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Razorback Unit website at [www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net](http://www.arkansasrazorback.wbcci.net)

**Oct. 5, 2017 Luncheon** - 11:30 a.m., Wiederkehr Weinkeller, 3324 Swiss Family Dr., Wiederkehr Village. RSVP to Mark Magie, mark.magie@yahoo.com or (501) 687-4794. After lunch, caravan to Arkaluma!

**Oct. 5-8, 2017 Second Annual Arkaluma** - 4117 Mulberry Mountain Loop, Ozark. Make reservations through Jason Landrum, jdlandrum@mac.com or (501) 837-0001.

**Oct. 18-22, 2017 Region 6 Rally** - Camp Jordon, East Ridge, Tenn.

**Nov. 2-5, 2017 Lake Dardanelle State Park Rally** - Reserve sites in C loop at [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com) For a head count, RSVP to Jason Landrum, jdlandrum@mac.com or (501) 837-0001. (This rally was originally scheduled for Nov. 9-14 at the Buffalo River, but the campsite will be closed.)

**Dec. 7, 2017 Christmas Luncheon** - 11:30 a.m., We're going back to Cajun's Wharf at 2400 Cantrell Road in Little Rock. \$15 per person.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
**MARK MAGIE**  
 ARKANSAS RAZORBACK UNIT

## An honor to serve ...

I echo the remarks of previous Arkansas Razorback Unit presidents, "It is an honor to be president of this unit." Those words didn't fully sink in until I represented our unit and state at the 60th International Rally in July in Escanaba, Mich.

A parade of flags is a big part of the opening ceremonies and as each country, region and unit is announced, their flag is presented. While carrying our flag, I was of course concentrating on not tripping over my feet, but also thinking of our unit's founders and members who are no longer alive, but who shared the same love for Airstream adventures.



It is the friendships, shared travels, campfire stories, our connection to a generation that paved the way for us, a respected organization, and the Airstream itself that bind us together.

We camp in a beautiful state and travel around the nation, meeting others who share our dreams. And there are opportunities for us to meet other Airstreamers in Asia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

I'm proud of our unit's growth and honored that we were recognized in the *Blue Beret* as one of the top 10 units with the largest increase in membership in WBCCI. It is through the diligent efforts and warm smiles of each of our members in our unit that this happens. The credit goes to each of you and I salute you.

Your officers and directors are planning 2018 so look for more varied types of rallies in some unconventional locations. By the way, next year's International Rally is in Salem, Oregon. I hope everyone can attend one of the events at least once in their lifetime.

Annette and I hope to see you along the way. In the meantime ... safe travels!

*Mark Magie*

## In recognition -



**GOLDEN HONOR** - International President Richard Girard recognizes the Arkansas Razorback Unit for 50 years in WBCCI with a certificate presented to Mark Magie, unit president, in Escanaba, Mich. at the 60th annual International Rally.

## Pay dues by Nov. 30 to be in directory

Member's dues and information must be received at WBCCI headquarters by Nov. 30, 2017 to be in the annual directory.

### To renew dues through the Unit:

The dues for 2018 remain the same (WBCCI dues: \$65 + Unit dues: \$5 = \$70). Make checks payable to "Arkansas Razorback Unit - WBCCI 005" and mail to Paul Moore at 705 Ford St., Bald Knob, AR 72010. Moore will also take checks at Aux Arc, Arkaluma and Dardanelle rallies.

### To renew dues Online to WBCCI:

At "www.wbcc.org," click on "Renew Online Today." 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 scroll to "Region 6, Unit 005, Arkansas Razorback Unit" and complete the transaction.

# 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

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/5 John Sturdy  
 10/17 Carole Barton

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/9 Carl & Joyce Fitzhugh