



# ***Region 4***

# ***WBCCI***



November 2015

<http://Region4.wbcci.net>

Volume 1 Issue 2

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## **President's Corner**

### **Greetings from Region 4 President**

**How quickly time passes when having fun. Installation at International in Farmington seems so long ago, but it has only been a few months.**

**In our region we have had a very good season for Rallies and Caravans. Besides the single Unit Rallies, several Units have had joint Rallies with much success. Members enjoyed the fun and fellowship at Region, International, Michigan State and Swiss Festival either as workers or attendees. Caravans brought out the adventure in members through caravans of all sizes. Caravans traveled locally and great distances to Farmington, NM, New York City and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan creating wonderful friendships and memories.**

**As fall is rapidly ending, our unit rallies and caravans will become like the leaves of fall. They will be remembered for adventure, fellowship and fun. This**

Region has over 435 members who are appreciated for their participation in all Airstream activities. We look forward to seeing long time members and new members actively pursuing the Airstream programs of rallies and caravans.

While some of us are busy winterizing our rigs for winter, we wish those of you who are traveling to warmer places a safe and enjoyable journey. To all Region 4 Airstreamers: Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and see you "down the road".

Gary & ShyrlAnn Olinger

Gary Olinger  
President  
Region 4



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The advertisement features a scenic background of a lake with Airstream trailers parked along the shore. Two inset photos show groups of people at a rally and a caravan. The text is overlaid on the image, with the WBCCI logo prominently displayed in the center.

## From the First Vice President

It has been a very good season for the Hetzler's as I hope it has been for you. We've had a chance to visit with many of our Region's units through unit rallies and luncheons. The members have been great to us and we really appreciate their hospitality.

Late Summer and early Fall provide us with beautiful forests and tranquil backdrops for our picture taking. It also brings the crisp mornings with frost on the grass and a smoldering campfire (inside the fire ring of course) to remind us of the camaraderie and friendship we felt around the campfire the night before. Those evenings also provide a forum for discussion that often transgresses our comfort zones. So, I'm going to editorialize a little.



All Airstreamers have their thoughts and opinions on how the club should be organized and run. I know I do. There's a lot going on too! We have a body of people that want to get out and see the sights and have an adventure, the folks that want to kick back and relax around the campfire, and many like catered to or possibly a campfire or potluck dinner. We have youngsters, mid-life baby boomers and the old corps. How do we manage all this? Do we need to manage this? Participation and volunteerism are the keys. We need officers that represent the interests of the units and an ample staff of unit volunteers, representing themselves, as "interested" parties.

We have plenty of written material that will help new officers and volunteers manage the unit. Even a "laid back" event requires some level of planning and organization. The WBCCI available information (i.e. Blue Book, Ideas Books, Caravan Handbook, Unit Planning Guide) provides the structure, tips, things to do, and even a reward system for those that choose to be recognized, that allows us to organize and conduct our version of fun, fellowship, and adventure with the confidence to "know what we're doing".

Engage your members that like to find fun rally venues and go there, find events and special interests to build a rally around, get ideas from members and turn them into something special. Smoosh all this stuff into a plan or, heaven forbid, do something spontaneous. In my view the units have the reins. If you spot something you think would work, contact your unit rally chairman or officers and help put it together. The rewards are great. There are loads of people in the club that have extensive experience doing this and they are always glad to help with advice and support.

The WBCCI has gone a long way to develop guides and a structure to make the execution easier and fun for all. Find out what your unit is interested in doing – and try to do it, let the special interest/special event folks loose for some of the special nuggets. We may have to start out small but let's get some of these things going. Working together we can do it all in the spirit of Wally Byam and our club.

**Don Hetzler**  
**First Vice President**

## Congratulations

Region Four extends its congratulations to our 2016 Unit Officers and wish you a great year leading your units.

<b>Akron OH #077</b>	<b>Paul Critean</b>	<a href="mailto:scritean@msn.com"><u>scritean@msn.com</u></a>
<b>Appalachian WV #115</b>	<b>Wayne Barth</b>	<a href="mailto:cwbar@suddenlink.net"><u>cwbar@suddenlink.net</u></a>
<b>Auglaize Valley OH #078</b>	<b>Kirk Taylor</b>	<a href="mailto:dkirkt2001@yahoo.com"><u>dkirkt2001@yahoo.com</u></a>
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<b>Miami Valley OH #084</b>	<b>Tom Heckman</b>	<a href="mailto:tmaheckman@aol.com"><u>tmaheckman@aol.com</u></a>
<b>Michigan MI #052</b>	<b>Bob Conley</b>	<a href="mailto:golddust@journey.com"><u>golddust@journey.com</u></a>
<b>Mid-Eastern MI #140</b>	<b>Linda Belcher</b>	<a href="mailto:gerbelcher@gmail.com"><u>gerbelcher@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Mohican Valley OH #085</b>	<b>Mike Pierce</b>	<a href="mailto:rp53tch@neo.rr.com"><u>rp53tch@neo.rr.com</u></a>
<b>Northern Ohio Virtual Airstream (NOVA) #006</b>	<b>Tom Brown</b>	<a href="mailto:tombrown1951@gmail.com"><u>tombrown1951@gmail.com</u></a>

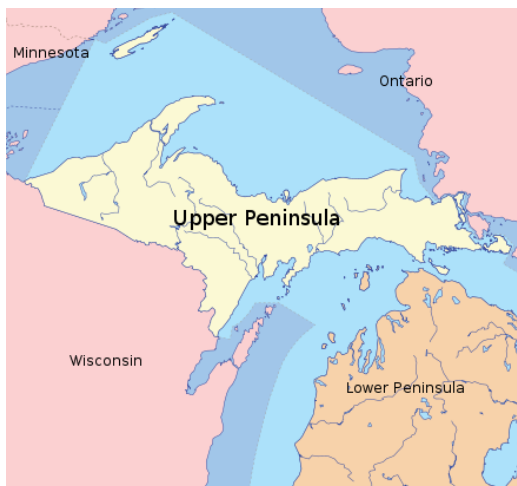


## Lessons Learned as First Time Caravan Leaders

Like many of you, Lori and I had heard of the Ores, Shores, Waters, & Lights (OSWL) Caravan that Norm Hewer, Past International President, and his late wife Lucile had developed, but, was no longer running. Having grown up in Michigan and knowing the beauty and offerings of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, we were interested in assisting experienced caravan leaders in bringing the caravan back to life.



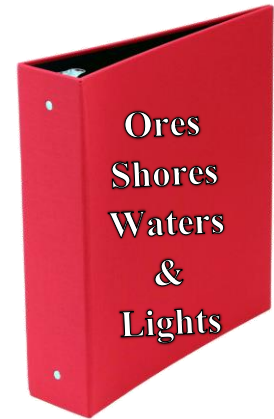
Our first step was to participate in WBCCI Caravan Leaders training. This training is put on by Chuck Kiple, Caravan Committee Chairman and Marion Pember, Chairman, WBCCI Caravan Promotions. Once our training was complete, we needed to track down experienced caravan leaders who we could assist and learn from. This is when we met Michigan Unit's Norm & Jinny Kiel. They'd led the OSWL caravan for several years. They graciously opened their home to us and listened to our request to assist them in bringing the OSWL's caravan back to life. This meeting didn't go exactly as planned. Norm & Jinny advised us that their days of leading caravans were behind them; however, they graciously agreed to go along as our assistants, and supplied us with the driver's manual they had used when they led the caravan, so that we could scout the trip.



The caravan was originally designed to travel the entire Upper Peninsula in 17 days with 7 stops. When we scouted the trip, we noted the pace was very quick. As an example, following our scouting trip, in a meeting with Norm & Jinny, we made a comment along the lines of, "We noticed the parking crew left at 7 am. They must have had to be up by 6 am to get ready to leave?" Jinny responded, "Oh no. We were up by 5 am." They were clearly serious and as impressed as we were by the former leaders and participant's heartiness, we thought it might be more enjoyable to all if we slowed things down. We made a

proposal to split the caravan into two halves, east and west, and cover half of the Upper Peninsula in 15 days, with 5 stops. Norm & Jinny are to be commended for their willingness to go along with our plans to change a schedule they were so familiar with.

This is where some of the bigger work of leading a caravan begins. We needed to write a whole new drivers manual, which included a new route and two new stops. It also caused us to take a closer look at the meal format. In the past, meals were prepared by a rotating group of assigned Caravanners who would purchase ingredients, prepare the meal, and do the cleanup. In an informal discussion with members of our Metro-Detroit Unit, the overwhelming majority preferred eating at restaurants, instead of Caravanners doing all of the cooking and cleanup. Based on this feedback, we also changed the caravan's meal format. This was quite an undertaking, but, the feedback we received was quite complementary.



The best part of the caravan is getting to meet and know new people. The first persons to sign up for our caravan were our Region President, Gary Olinger and his wife Shryl. Being new at this, we really appreciated their support and the opportunity to spend more time with them. By the time of our rendezvous, our group consisted of Caravanners from 10 different states.

Caravanners are so helpful and we were blessed to have a number of very experienced caravan leaders as part of our group. While we received incredible assistance from all of the Caravanners, special acknowledgment needs to be given to Marion & Carol Pember, Jim & Mary Ann Chellman, and Jim & Sheila Skipper. These folks went above and beyond in providing assistance.

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is such a beautiful location with so many wonderful sights and activities. It's a pleasure to show it off to persons that haven't been blessed with the opportunity to experience it, or, haven't had the opportunity to travel there in a long time. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to read Marion Pember's article about this caravan, in the Blue Beret, we'd encourage you to do so. Marion is a very talented writer, photographer, and as we discovered, an unheralded amateur rock hound.

This caravan will be running again in 2016. Start date: Saturday, September 10, 2016. Stop date: Saturday, September 24, 2016. We are currently confirming caravanners from last year's standby list. Based on last year's enrollment, we'd encourage anyone who is interested in this caravan to contact us ASAP to reserve a spot:

Chip & Lori DeLeeuw  
906 Wright Lane  
Milan, MI 48160  
(517) 250-5060  
[cdeleeuw@comcast.net](mailto:cdeleeuw@comcast.net)

## Penn Wood

Sitting in our backyard is a jewel of an Airstream Park. Penn Wood is located near Clarion, PA, operated by the Penn Wood Campground Association, and is the Headquarters of the Pennsylvania Unit of WBCCI. Many of us have camped at Penn Wood, but if your unit hasn't been there for a while, it's time to put it on the schedule for 2016.

Penn Wood has always been a terrific camp, featuring full hookups and a great meeting room with full kitchen facilities. Recently they have been making a number of improvements to the camp and have also been trying out some new activities such as the summer long Aluminum Arrow Challenge.

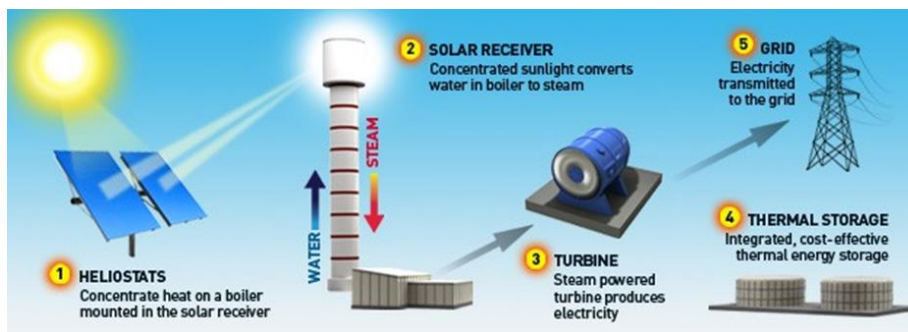




## Bright Shiny Things

Being Airstreamers it's a given we are attracted to shiny things. If you are travelling in the California - Nevada area you may run across some really shiny stuff at the Ivanpah Solar installation.

Located in California near the border with Nevada, the installation is a one of a kind Solar Energy system that uses an immense field of Heliostats (Mirrors) that focus the sun to collectors at the top of three towers.



At the towers the collectors use the sun to create steam that is piped to turbines and generate electricity. The installation also features thermal storage units that make use of a Molten Salt system for storing heat. The storage system extends the length of the generation system.

As you travel north on I-15 in California toward Las Vegas, the installation is visible from the road and looks like a lake Bed, but the mirrors give it a strange appearance.

The system was activated in 2014 and the operating companies say the first year has been part of a planned learning experience that extends to 2018. Production during 2014 was behind projections but the company says production is at 170% of goal in 2015. The system is the first of its kind and was the only collection type system until the recent announcement of a similar system under construction in China.

<http://www.nrg.com/renew/projects/solar/utility/ivanpah/>





**WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**59TH INTERNATIONAL RALLY/CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - JULY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 • Lewisburg, West Virginia**

# REGISTRATION

**Rally/Convention Fees** for registrations received **prior to January 1, 2016**, will be **\$450** for couples, **\$400** for singles, and **\$100** for each additional adult. **Rally/Convention fees for the first 500 registrants include FULL HOOK-UP.** After 500, limited services will be available.

**Rally Fees received after January 1, 2016**, will be **\$470.00** for couples, **\$420** for singles, and **\$120** for additional adults. Through the courtesy of Airstream, Inc., all members registering on or before January 1, 2016, will be eligible to participate in a drawing for up to a total of **\$2,000.00** in awards. The award may be redeemed at any *Airstream Dealership* or at the *Jackson Center Service Facility* for parts and service.

**Free parking in the Bull Pen, with no services**, is permitted for the night before your parking date. **Additional nights prior to your park date will be at the rate of \$25.00/night, payable at verification.**

**FEE REFUND POLICY** All rally/convention fee refund requests must be postmarked by **May 15, 2016**, and **must** include the complete Rally pass. All cancellations will be assessed a \$30.00 administrative fee. There will be no refunds if postmarked after May 15, except as approved by the International Rally Committee.

Make Checks payable to: **WBCCI**

**Rally/Convention Parking** Passes will be mailed beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

For registrars only: Amt: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Recd. by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rally Attendee(s)	Quantity	FEES PRIOR to JAN 1	FEES AFTER JAN 1	Amount
Airstream w/ 2 Adults		\$450.00	\$470.00	
Airstream w/1 Adult		\$400.00	\$420.00	
Additional Adult in Airstream		\$100.00	\$120.00	
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<b>SUB TOTAL</b>				
<b>NOT Bringing Airstream Deduct</b>				- \$200.00
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Mark **ALL** boxes that apply: ☐ First Time to International ☐ Staying OFF Site  
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1 Person:		\$135.00		\$145.00	
Extra Adult/No RV:		\$ 70.00		\$ 75.00	
Child (6-12 yrs):		\$ 40.00		\$ 45.00	

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### CONTACTS:

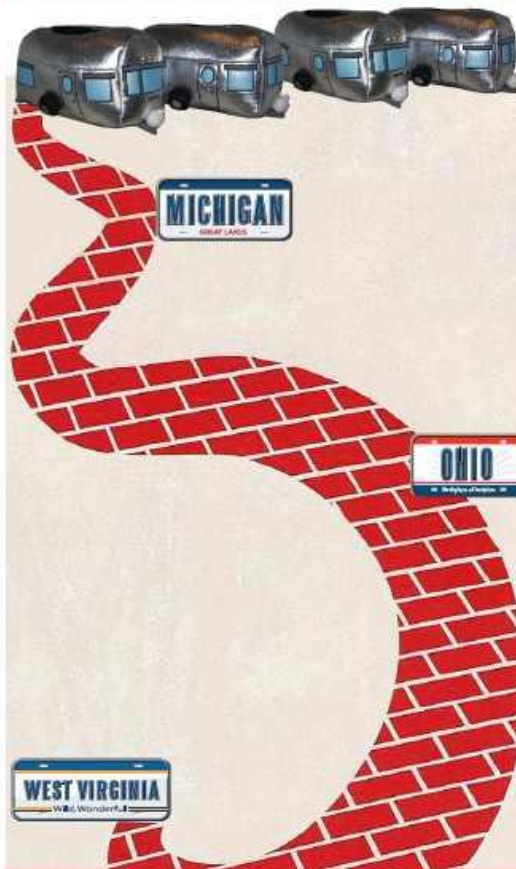
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S****Wednesday - May 11****"ARRIVAL DAY"**

Rally Parking  
(11:00am-1:00 & 2:00-5:00pm)  
Rally Setup  
Hotdog Roast (6pm)  
Registration & Games (7pm)

**Thursday - May 12****"REGION 4 DAY"**

Speed Streaming Workshops  
Open Forum & Business Meeting  
Flag Practice  
Opening Ceremony  
Meet the Unit & Region Officers

**Friday - May 13****"COLDWATER DAY"**

Catered Breakfast  
Tours in Coldwater Area  
Entertainment

**Saturday - May 14****"UNIT DAY"**

Genealogy Roundtable  
Golf  
Crafts  
Unit Skit Practice  
Entertainment

**Sunday - May 15****"SILVER CITY DAY"**

Worship  
Catered Brunch  
Hobby Show  
Yard Sale  
Unit Skits

**Monday - May 16****"MARSHALL DAY"**

Tours in Marshall  
40th Anniversary Dinner &  
Closing Ceremonies  
in Turkeyville

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