

**GREATER ST. LOUIS, MO UNIT
W B C C I
HOW IT ALL BEGAN**

On the weekend of **July 21-23, 1961**, a small group of people in the St. Louis, East St. Louis area, each with two things in common—a desire for “fun” and an “Airstream”—decided the time had arrived to do something about it. The prime mover in arranging the first meeting was Mr. Carl Cope, the local Airstream dealer.

The very first meeting was held at Cope’s No. 2 sales lot, Highway 161, just south of Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Those present used the time to get acquainted, make plans, and to appoint temporary officers. We had the traditional pot luck dinner, and Rane Maxwell showed us some of his beautiful slides.

Temporary officers were Carl and Roberta Cope, Tom and Pat Sellers, and Steve and Susie Stevens. Carl Cope acted as President by unanimous agreement. A dues fee of \$5 per year per trailer was agreed upon. This first meeting, though small in attendance, was big in spirit and enthusiasm. We were off to a flying start. None of us were experts at Airstreaming or rallies, but we knew we had found a real fun medium in which we could make new friends and get away from the everyday rat race. Thus our wonderful trailer club was born. With God’s blessing, it will be fun for all of us.

We had a fine pot luck dinner, Major Red Sellers arranged a tour of Scott Air Force Base and conducted the church service, we had a beautifully decorated cake for the club’s first birthday.

Members signed up at this rally will be considered the “Charter Members” of the Unit. They are:

- Les and Jean Bondley
- Don and Audrey Bowdish
- Carl and Roberta Cope
- Don and Dolores Friede, and Donald and David
- Rane and Thelma Maxwell
- Bob and Florence Montgomery
- Red and Pat Sellers, and Tom, Tim and Jim
- Ed and Bessie Trachsell
- Steve and Susie Stevens, and Terry and Susan

Our second meeting convened at the DuQuoin State Fair site in September, 1961. Eight Airstreams arrived containing 19 adults and 3 children, who spent time visiting the fair, chatting, and enjoying each other’s company. Rane Maxwell showed slides of Mexico and the western U.S. We began our traditional door prize drawings. Carl Cope donated the prize, and Don and Dee Freide won. A 12th birthday present was given to Susan Stevens by the members. We welcomed three new Airstreamers:

- John and Esther Walker of Alton, IL
- Lewis and Pauline Breeden of Effingham, IL.
- Albert and Ruby Shumaker of DuQuoin, IL

The weekend of September 30 found our now unofficially named Metropolitan St. Louis Chapter gathering in New Salem State Park, Springfield, IL. The weather was rainy but 10 Airstreams and one visiting trailer were present. The park ranger, Mr. Dick,

demonstrated the advantages of a handicapped person. He was one legged, but his dancing, running and other versatile maneuvers were not only entertaining, they would put many a two legged man to shame. We all enjoyed him. Especially nice was welcoming two more trailers belonging to:

- Luther and Clara Mason and
- Arley and Pauline Stroud.

Our October, 1961 rally was held at Meramec Caverns Park in Missouri. We had 16 Airstreams, 36 adults and 11 children. We had potluck Saturday evening and singing around a campfire. Royal Fisler played Carl Cope's portable electric organ. We toured the cave, enjoyed a church service conducted by Red Sellers, Roy Fisler and Conrad Stevens.

At the business meeting we discussed pros and cons of becoming members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club. No action was taken at this time. New members at this meeting were:

- Royal and Betty Fisler
- Harry and Cassie Hockinghomer
- Paul and Edna McNeely
- Juke and Dot Filkins
- Don and June Pensyl
- Rosser and Helen Brophy

We met at the Scott AFB NCO club for our 1961 Christmas party. New officers were elected: President, Don Friede; Vice Pres., Tom Sellers; Secretary, Sue Stevens; Treasurer, Roberta Cope; Chaplain, Royal Fisler; Parking Chr., Bob Montgomery; Entertainment, Dot Filkins; Publicity, Conrad Stevens. The evening included a gift exchange, dinner and an enjoyable time just being together. We are all anxiously awaiting the 1962 Rally season.

1962

The Executive Board met at Cope's sales office and the official club name became the ILL-MO Trailer Club. The first rally was held at Giant City State Park April 20-22. We spent time getting re-acquainted, had potluck, and Sunday morning had our own Easter service followed by an egg hunt enjoyed by all.

The Washington State Park, MO rally on May 25-27 proved to be our largest to date with 18 Airstreams. We toured the Duffner's Ice Cream plant, and had an Airstream Open House and peeked into each others' Airstreams. We ate, sang, and enjoyed a bonfire. The ice cream plant furnished ice cream on Sunday afternoon. New members are:

- Woody and Alice Meredith
- Ralph Jackson

At Siloam Springs State Park on June 15-17, 1962 we had 20 Airstreams. On Saturday night we were guests at a square dance festival in the park pavilion.

FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY

We met near Scott AFB on July 20-22, 1962. We had a fried chicken feast, courtesy of Carl and Roberta Cope, a tour of Scott AFB via base busses, swimming at the base pool, and a movie at the base for the kids. Carl Sturgeon delighted us with slides of his recent Airstream adventure to Seattle and western Canada. Rosser Brophy displayed his collection of cut and polished minerals (23 years of work). We had many visitors throughout the weekend. Don and June Pensyl are moving to Alaska. We'll miss them.

August 17-19, 1962 we met at Ramsey Lake State Park in Illinois. 21 Airstreams. We had a watermelon feast, the usual potluck, a bonfire Friday and Saturday evenings, and other fun. Mr. Enos Axtell, WBCC National 1st Vice President briefed us on joining the WBCC as a chapter. We discussed the subject, voted, and agreed by majority to accept a charter as the **Greater St. Louis Chapter of WBCC.**

27 Airstreams came to Pere Marquette State Park in Illinois for our first rally as a chapter of WBCC. Bob Smith, National President of WBCC, Enos Axtell, 1st V.P., Peggy Pebbles, Field Representative, and Wil Stone, President of our parent, Missouri Unit were present at our business meeting. A Missouri flag and an American flag were presented to our chapter along with officers yearbooks and supplies.

Oct.26-28 we met at Freedom Farm, American Legion Park, Belleville, IL. We celebrated Halloween with popcorn, cider and candied apples. 16 Airstreams, plus several without their trailers, came.

The Christmas party was held at Scott AFB club. New officers are: Don Friede, President; Vice Pres., Bob Montgomery, 2nd V.P., Rane Maxwell; Recording Secretary, Doris Sturgeon; Corresponding Sec., Sue Stevens; Treasurer, Paul McNeely. We had the traditional gift exchange, much fun, and a happy time. We say goodbye to '62 with fond adieu.

Written by Carol Stevens