

Founder Doug Ripley

We purchased our first Winnebago in 1987. It was a 27 foot "Chieftain" on a Chevrolet chassis. After selling our Chieftain we purchased our second Winnebago in 2000, a 32-foot Adventurer on a Ford chassis following retirement. In 2004 we purchased a Winnebago Vectra 40-foot and used it as we "full timed" for four years touring the United States (all states), northern Mexico, all of the Canadian provinces and territories and Alaska.

We sold our Vectra in 2008 and decided to stop traveling. But the following spring we purchased an antique Winnebago travel trailer (a second-generation Model 230) and restored it.

In 2015 we sold the classic travel trailer and purchased a new leftover 2013 Sunnybrook Remington Ultra Lite (Model 2500FBS). We have towed all our Winnebago towable units with a Ford Excursion V-10 and have logged just over 300,000 miles on our towing vehicle.

With the purchase of our Winnebago Adventurer, we became active in the Winnebago Itasca Travelers (WIT) Club (subsequently renamed the Winnebago International Travelers Club.

We have served as officers of a regional Georgia Winnebago chapter. During ownership of the Winnebago Classic travel trailer I partnered with Jeff Barth to create the Winnebago Classics Club, a special interest group of owners of "eyebrow coaches, pre-2000 Winnebago travel trailers and pickup campers. The club has a display of antique Winnebagos in a museum building next to the WIT National Rally grounds in Forest City, Iowa.

When we first began attending the Winnebago Grand National Rallies in a travel trailer we were considered outsiders and oddities. When the last WIT Central Area Representatives were hired, they were Winnebago towable owners. It was at that time that David Simmons and I started the WIT TOWS Club (WIT Towable Owners of Winnebagos and Sunnybrooks).

Since its formation WIT TOWS has grown into a large special interest owners club. We negotiated with WIT Club leadership for a nearly level parking area and the right to park our towing vehicles next to our travel trailers during the Grand National Rally in Forest City.

Following our purchase of our Sunnybrook Remington in 2015 a significant number of warranty issues developed due to poor production quality management.

We had our dealer in Iowa correct about half of them and then drove to Middlebury, Indiana over the Labor Day weekend to have the rest of the issues resolved. It was at that time we took our first factory tour of the assembly lines hosted by Cassy Eby. Since then, we have hosted four factory tours/rallies in Middlebury. The last one in 2023 was led by Noelle Flora.