

# SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

## OCTOBER 2003 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER



Sunshine, great food, great company, and loud planes. What more could you ask for at a September picnic. SNU members gathered in the yard of the Leipper's on the first day of the Reno Championship Air Races for their monthly meeting. Discussions were put on hold while the Thunderbirds flew directly overhead and while some of the races started by flying down the nearby valley. Our discussions included the upcoming election of officers, tentative rally and event schedule for the coming year, and plans for our October rally. To see pictures of the Air Races go to

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/community/air-races/air-races.html>

The October SNU rally will be at Davis Creek Park Group Area. This will be our annual meeting and elections. Your comments, ideas, and suggestions will help us plan for next year so we hope you join us.

**When:** Friday October 17th through Sunday October 19th

**Where:** Davis Creek Group Campground on 395 South between Reno and Carson City. See map in this newsletter.

**Cost:** \$10 per night rally fee which helps cover the camping costs for the group site.

Events and activities: Morning coffee klatch is from about 7 to 9 on Saturday and Sunday. Happy hours will likely occur on Friday and Saturday starting about 5 p.m. A potluck lunch is planned for Saturday about noon. The unit meeting will be held Saturday at about 1 p.m. following the pot luck lunch. Davis Creek is a great place for hiking and enjoying the out of doors. One of the favorite local hang gliding spots is nearby. Other attractions close by include the historic Bowers Mansion and the cemetery of old Washoe City. There is also Washoe Lake which is great for sailing and other water activities. Details: check

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/destinations/washoe/daviscreek/index.html>

If you can't make it for the entire time, feel free to join us for a few hours, one day, or whatever time frame fits your schedule. Please send your reservations via e-mail to:

[hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](mailto:hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org) or a phone call to Diane at 775-972-9392, or Fred at 775-266-3435 would help us with the planning. For maps, pictures, and more information check the web site <http://SierraNevadaAirstreams.org>

Diane Leipper, Unit Secretary



Thunderbirds over Leipper's at September Meeting

It is time to renew your Unit and WBCCI membership. Dues for WBCCI are \$45 and SNU Unit dues are \$10. Send your total dues payment of \$55 to the unit Treasurer Ann Hersey at 2960 Pine Valley Rd, Gardnerville, NV 89410

In November we will hold a rally at Lake Lahonton Beach 7 on Alt 95 just south of Silver Springs. We hope you will join us at the BBQ or one of the other activities planned for the rest of the year. The SNU has made a lot of progress this past year and with your participation and support 2004 promises to be even better.

### October Birthdays and Anniversaries

I guess there were no new brides or babies in October.

For Sale - 26' 1968 Overlander Airstream. Good condition. \$4,995 OBO Diane at 775-972-9392. For details go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/commerce/index.html>

The proposed Meeting and Rally Schedule for 2004 is included in this newsletter. All dates and locations are tentative pending review and acceptance by the SNU membership. Feel free to make suggestions or comments to Dianne.

I have also included an article on winterizing your trailer written by Bryan Leipper. It has some good hints on how to protect your trailer from freezing weather and other hazards.

[sierranevadaairstreams.org/owners-guide/maintaining/winterizing.html](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/owners-guide/maintaining/winterizing.html)



Map to Davis Creek Park for the October Rally



Happy Folks at the September Meeting at the Leipper's



Thunderbird Bomb Burst



Launch of a T-6 Race over Leipper's

*Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

4610 Sleepy Hollow Dr  
Reno NV 89502

OCTOBER 2003



WELCOME TO THE SIERRA NEVADA UNIT of WBCCI.

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy sharing our enjoyment of Airstreams, and the Airstream lifestyle, with others. You are invited to come to any of our meetings and if you like, to join our Unit. We predict that you will make many friends and relish the camaraderie of our rallies, caravans, and group activities. Our members are always ready to share their advice on equipment problems and trailering knowledge. In addition to being a member of our local Unit, you will be one of several thousand who make up the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (the Airstream RV Club.)

**Fred Hersey, Unit President 775-266-3435 [hersey.4-way@775.net](mailto:hersey.4-way@775.net)**

## Proposed 2004 Meeting and Rally Schedule

All dates and locations tentative pending review and acceptance by SNU membership

Date	Location	Item
December 13, 2003 (tentative)	Reno, Damoth's House	Holiday Celebration and pot luck
Wednesday, January 7, 2004	Reno, Tamarack Reno	Board meeting, all members welcome
Thursday February 12, 2004	Fernley, Wigwam restaurant	Board meeting, all members welcome
Wednesday March 10, 2004	Minden - T.J.'s Basque restaurant	Board meeting, all members welcome
Friday - Sunday April 23-25, 2004	Pyramid Lake, Pelican Point, unstructured camping area - Spring Tune-up Rally - 30 miles north of Reno	Watch the pelicans, visit the nearby fish hatchery or take a day trip to the Indian Museum in Nixon. Prepare rigs for summer travel. Board meeting, all members welcome
Friday - Sunday, May 28 - 30, 2004	Dayton State Park - about 20 miles East of Carson City, NV Note: camping will be in individual sites no group area available.	Visit the Civil War Encampment at nearby Fort Churchill or take a day trip to historic Virginia City. Explore the historic town of Dayton. Hike along the Carson river or enjoy birdwatching and stargazing.
Friday - Sunday, June 18 - 20	Boca Springs Rally in group area - near Truckee, CA,	Historic site, hiking, nearby Boca Reservoir for boating, fishing, & swimming - Board meeting, all members welcome
Saturday July 10, 2004	Spoooner Summit State Park Near South Lake Tahoe at the intersection of State Route 28 and U.S. 50	Spoooner Lake, is popular for picnicking, hiking, mountain biking and catch-and-release fishing. Spoooner Lake is popular for its abundant wildlife and wildflowers, and also serves as a starting point for many backcountry trails. Nearby attractions include Sand Harbor and the Ponderosa Ranch.
Friday - Sunday August 20 - 22, 2004	Twin Lakes Rally in group area - near Bridgeport, CA	Hiking, relaxing in the pines, great bike riding possibilities, and boating. Board meeting, all members welcome
September, 2004	Picnic at the Leipper's	Enjoy the Air Races without the traffic jam.
Friday - Sunday October 15 - 17, 2004	Davis Creek Rally in group area - Winter Preparation Rally	Hiking, ranger talks, and the opportunity to visit nearby Bower's Mansion or the cemetery of Old Washoe City. Unit Annual Meeting, election and installation of officers.
Friday - Sunday November 12 - 14, 2004	Lake Lahonton Rally, beach 7 unstructured camping area - near Silver Springs, NV	Enjoy the peace and quiet of lakeside camping, fishing and boating, hiking and good bike riding possibilities. Winterizing rigs for winter camping or storage - Board meeting, all members welcome
December, 2004	Airport Plaza Hotel, Reno	Holiday Celebration

### Sierra Nevada Unit Officers - Nominees for 2004

President - Diane Leipper

Secretary - Don Damoth

Treasurer - Ann Hersey

Trustee - Fred Hersey

## Preparing for winter

When the expected low temperatures start to approach freezing in the fall, it is time to take action to minimize the effect of cold temperatures on your RV. Freezing water is not the only concern. The RV batteries also suffer when the weather gets cold. Stores inside may not take well to freezing temperatures. Winter in the Great Basin is also the time for rain and snow which means that leaks and moisture problems need to be addressed. Caution also needs to be taken in fall and spring to watch out for unexpected storms and cold fronts that may bring in a chill for a day or two. Freezing generally isn't a concern if the low temperatures only dip to the upper twenties for an hour or two but if the daily low temperatures get much below that or stay at freezing or below for several hours or more, freezing can be a real risk.

### Identify drains and valves

See the photo gallery on the web site to see pictures of typical drains and valves. The first thing to do is to make sure you know where all of the drains and valves are on your RV. The valves for the gray and black tanks are often used so they shouldn't be hard to find. The drain and valve for the fresh water tank may be a bit more difficult. The plumbing system may have multiple drains. The hot water heater also has a drain plug. Anything that holds fluid in your RV will have a drain and a valve and you need to locate these and know how to use them. There may also be bypass valves. Most common are those for hot water heaters. These allow you to use parts of your plumbing system while keeping other parts at lower risk of freezing.

### Drain all systems

When you are ready to drain all systems, open any faucets to help vent the lines and facilitate drainage. Also disconnect the fresh water tank supply line to the pump (may need modification from original condition).

1. Drain tanks - black, gray, hot water, fresh water supply, others?
2. Drain plumbing - hot and cold plumbing lines
3. Drain accessories - sink sprayer, water filters, shower head line, supply lines, accumulator tanks,

On some trailers, especially the longer ones, there may be plumbing line drains both fore and aft. Manuals for these trailers often suggest using the tongue jack to tilt the trailer one way and then the other after drain valves are opened in order to make sure of good drainage. There are adapters that allow you to connect an air compressor at your water supply connection in order to use air to help blow out any water in the lines. Caution needs to be taken to make sure the supply air pressure does not exceed nominal water pressures (usually forty or fifty psi). Depending upon air to blow out the plumbing lines may also be rather risky as there may be spots in the plumbing system that remain 'wet' even after blowing air through.

### Close any bypasses, remove any special appliances

One of the big reasons to bypass the hot water tank is that any attempt to put anti-freeze in the system with the water heater still in line will need several gallons of fluid to fill the system. With the hot water heater properly drained and bypassed, less than a gallon of anti-freeze should be needed to fill the plumbing system. Accumulators that are installed to reduce pump cycling may also need removal or bypassing as they hold a gallon or more water. **Be sure to remove any water filters or other special appliances in your plumbing system. These may not only not like freezing but they may also not like anti-freeze. Read manufacturer's manuals to find the best way to winterize them.**

### Anti-freeze

After any bypasses have been prepared and everything drained close the plumbing drain valves and faucets, connect one end of a spare sink supply line to the water pump and stick the other end into a bottle of anti-freeze rated for potable water systems and designed for RV use. Then turn on the water pump. It should quickly get the system up to pressure and stop. Then go to each faucet. Open the faucets, first hot and then cold, and look for the anti-freeze. When you see the anti-freeze coming out of the faucet for first cold then hot, close it and go on to the next one. Don't forget the toilet or the shower head or the sink sprayer! The antifreeze that comes out of the faucet should be enough to fill the drain traps and keep them from freezing but an extra dollop or two in the drain might be a good idea.

### Other storage considerations

The plumbing systems may be at the most immediate risk due to winter weather but other systems may also suffer if the rig is not exercised on a regular basis. **Batteries** need to be connected to a charger/maintainer that will keep them charged and equalized when stored for anything more than a couple of weeks. Also be sure to remove any batteries from clocks, radios, flashlights and other battery powered devices.

**Tires** should be protected from the sun. Pressures should be checked every month or two to assure they are kept properly inflated.

**Rust** prevention means a light coating of grease or fresh paint depending upon what is exposed.

**Stores** should be evaluated for their survival at temperature extremes over time. Remove anything from the rig that might freeze or rot or otherwise suffer from temperature extremes.

**Infestation**, especially by mice, may need attention.

**Gaskets, seals, and other rubber parts** should be coated with a lubricant and protectant.

**Moisture** from leaks or condensation can cause staining or rot. Inspect the rig every now and then, especially after wet storms, to see if anything needs fixing.

**Ventilation** should not be ignored. Find a way to prop the door of the refrigerator open a bit. See if you can crack a window or vent to allow air to move throughout the rig without undue risk of snow or rain blowing in.

**Shut off propane tank valves** and provide some cover for the tanks and the regulator. Any other outside valves or devices should also be protected from the weather.