

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

DECEMBER 2005 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER



Hard to believe This is the last newsletter for 2005. The year seems to have gone awfully fast. It has been a very successful year for the SNU as well as a busy year. Among the accomplishments for 2005 was the increase in the number of rallies. There was also increased participation at rallies including many members who attended for the first time. We have begun experimenting with virtual meetings and member participation. More of our members have begun taking an more active roll in the leadership of the SNU. And, we have begun developing a great partnership with the new Airstream dealer, the only one in the state of Nevada.



November '05 Pyramid Lake Rally

The SNU Rally year ends with another success

Eight trailers and one Bvan attended the November rally at Pyramid Lake. Quite a change from 2003 when there was 1 trailer and a Bvan. In 2004 there was 4 trailers and a Bvan. Participants this year included Tim Kendziorski and Kimber Moore, and Mike Okamoto and Shelly Fallon who were attending their first SNU rally. Mike and Shelly also brought their 7 month old daughter Zoey and their boxer/pit bull mix, Edgar. Tim and Kimber brought Lolita, their 20 inch telescope. The weather was great for November, a little breezy at times and a little cool in the morning, but for the most part it was perfect for hiking in the hills, fishing in the lake, or just sitting around the campfire. Saturday evening, even with the moon, was great for checking out the stars with the Kendziorski's telescope.



Jerry Thornburg caught a fish which he cooked over the fire and passed around for everyone to sample. Fresh fish, what a treat! We had our usual morning coffee and social time as well as excellent pot luck lunches Friday and Saturday. A surprise visit by Bonny Douglas gave us an opportunity to catch up on her and Roy's move to Missouri and their Airstream travel plans. Dave Gmur, a new member of the SNU also came out for a visit. His Airstream is still in the refurbishing mode and not ready for the road just yet. By spring we hope to see Dave and his Airstream at rallies. Another visitor was Woody who happened to be staying in a nearby RV park. He has a 1975 Airstream that his dad bought new. Jerry saw Woody's Airstream when he went to pay his camping fee and left a note for him to stop by. Woody shared stories of his trips to Alaska in his Airstream as well as other information and stories.



Jerry's Fish - Pretty Nice - Tasty Too



Kimber & Tim's Telescope

Saturday, we had a short SNU business meeting. Among the items discussed were plans for the 30th SNU Anniversary, including the announcement of the donation from Mountain Family RV to assist the SNU to purchase commemorative travel mugs. A draft of the invitation for the February luncheon and an SNU Anniversary booklet were passed around for review. There was discussion on the menu, price range, and other details of this luncheon. Arrangements are being handled by Randy and Vicki Grossman. Other items were the proposal to amend the bylaws to include provisions for carrying out SNU business via the internet, the on-line vote for the 2007 rally schedule, and an update on membership and the SNU financial status. A current 2006 rally and events calendar and flyer for the December, January, and February luncheons were passed around. See the rally photo gallery at: <http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>

Vote Now for the 2007 Rally schedule

Rick Laborde wanted to make it possible for all members of the SNU to have input into future rally schedules for the SNU. He began working on ideas to make this happen. Rick came up with a PDF form to make it possible for members to vote using the web. In collaboration with Diane Leipper, Rick helped create a vote online form so now members can fill it in and hit the send button and their input will be automatically emailed to the [SNU.http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/rallysitevoteform.html](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/rallysitevoteform.html). We do want your input so please go to the website and help us plan the 2007 SNU rally schedule.

The SNU also needs your input on two other ideas. The first is whether or not the SNU should make it possible to pay dues on line. The other is whether or not we should offer the option of paying an annual rally fee. Go to the following URL to cast your vote on these issues. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/index.html>

Newsletter Distribution Postage rates are going up again. To assist the SNU to keep the newsletter costs minimal while still maintaining high quality, we would encourage anyone who has email and web access to sign up for the email version of the SNU newsletter. Go to <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/index.html>. Your support will be much appreciated.

December Luncheon Plan to attend our final event of 2005, a luncheon at J.T.'s Basque restaurant in Gardnerville. J.T.'s is on US 395 South (Main Street) in Gardnerville. JT's is south of downtown on the west side of the road on the corner of Eddie. For map and info go to <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/events/05dc-jtbasque.html> See map and info on back page of this letter.

30th anniversary kick off luncheon Saturday February 18th. This event will be a celebration of the first 30 years of the SNU. Special guests are being invited and we encourage all SNU members, potential members and friends to attend. Thanks to a donation from Mountain Family RV, Nevada's Airstream dealer, the SNU has been able to purchase commemorative travel mugs to help celebrate the 30th Anniversary. The mugs will be available for sale at this event. We also have some other special activities planned. So mark your calendars now! Invitations will be mailed out in January. To help with planning RSVP's are requested.

Upcoming Events

* Saturday January 21, 2006 Bavarian World restaurant on 6th and Valley in Reno 11:30 am Member luncheon, all members & guests welcome. - board meeting.

* Saturday February 18, 2006 Carson City - Silver Oak Golf Club restaurant. 11:30 social time, 12 noon luncheon. All members & guests welcome. More details on these and other events are on the web and will be included in future newsletters.

Welcome to our newest members Dave Gmur who has a 1975 Sovereign and Janet Smith who has a 1977 Globetrotter joined the SNU in October. We welcome both and hope they will be able to join us at a luncheon or rally soon.

Member participation makes 2005 a success The SNU engaged members in numerous ways, all of which helped make 2005 a successful year for the Unit. Fran Reid and Roy and Bonnie Douglas provided rally sites. Roy even provided his special smoked brisket for the rally at Kingston. Jerry Thornburg, Randy Grossmann, Mike Orchard, and Tim Kindziorski provided articles for the newsletter. Randy and Vicki Grossmann are the coordinators for our February 2006 Anniversary luncheon. Ann and Fred Hersey continued ensuring notice of Unit activities were published in local papers. Dyann Thornburg has become instrumental in planning for the 2006 rally schedule and for procuring our commemorative travel mugs. Erica Root became our SNU poet, providing two great poems for the Unit newsletter.

Chuck Fell led a great tour of the ghost town of Bodie. Brian Jaggard provided a wonderful impromptu viol in concert at our Kingston rally. Rick Laborde has provided great info for rally sites in 2006 and beyond as well as developing the on-line voting for the rally schedules. Don Damoth has continued publishing the excellent SNU newsletter. Bryan and Diane Leipper have kept the Unit visible on the web through a donation of a section of their site to the SNU. Most of all, the SNU members who have attended any of the rallies in 2005 have helped make this one of the most successful years for the SNU since the mid 1980's. Thank you all!-- Diane Leipperdiane@leipper.org

Burning Man - a haven for Airstream enthusiasts.

If you added up all the years that Kimber and I have been going to Burning Man, the sum would be 19 years. Kimber completed her 13th year and I now have 6 years under my belt. These years of experience come with the lessons learned from the various ways we have camped over the years. Kimber has gone from car camping to popup and everything in between. I started my experience on the playa in our now unused popup.

This year was the first that we camped in luxury - our Airstream. We had the best time and stayed very comfortable throughout the event. We were warm despite the chill of the evenings. We were well rested in the morning despite the frequent windy nights. And we were well groomed (as much as one can be on the dusty playa) having a wonderful bathroom all to ourselves.

Burning Man is not a stranger to Airstreams. Indeed, there is even a camp dedicated to silver bullets. Burnstream Court is nothing short of a rally in the middle of the event. They call themselves "the trailer park in the suburbs of Black Rock City" where Black Rock Citizens can come to see Airstreams from every decade since the 50's. They even invite participants to stop by for cocktails, trailer tours and trailer park culture, complete with pink flamingoes and croquet! How about a polishing demo?? They offer that as well. You can learn more info at

<http://www.batmo.com/burnstream/>.

Burnstream Court is not the only Airstream presence out there. The event's founder himself has a beautiful 31 footer as does a few of the other senior staff members. In fact Airstreams can be seen all over the playa. And in true Burning Man fashion, many of them are decorated in interesting and creative ways. One trailer seen on the playa has "EL Wire" along every seam of the trailer. EL Wire looks like neon, is very flexible and comes in a wide assortment of colors. As you can imagine it is the perfect accessory for an airstream. You can learn more about EL Wire at <http://www.elwire.com/> or just google "el wire". That A/S can be driven around the playa like a car. They rigged it up to be steered from the outside from a bench on the frame using what looks like one of those motorized trailer movers. It is slow going but fun to ride in around the playa. After the event it is hitched up and driven away. For Kimber and I, Buttercup offered a sanctuary from the sometimes extreme life out on the playa.



Dust, heat and noise are all problems. Dust gets into everything - EVERYTHING! We thought we had every nook and cranny sealed up. Boy were we wrong. Playa dust is mostly inert but does find some interesting ways in. The easiest is right through the door. Other places are a mystery. I still don't know how all the dust behind the front gaucho got in Battery compartment?? Who knows. When you are on the playa, dust is a way of life. Heat is a given. Only on rare occasions has it been cold on the playa. When temperatures vary from 105 in the day to 40 at night, you can imagine what the inside of a trailer is like. But contrast that with what the inside of a popup is in that heat and cold. The added insulation of an Airstream make it more bearable. Sound cannot be escaped on the playa. When some camps on the outskirts of the event have sound systems in the tens of thousands of watts, it gets loud. And you can feel the pulse of the event. When we first arrive on the playa music is not what you hear much of. The din is of things being built mostly during the late evening hours when it is cooler. Saws, hammers and wood all meet to produce a day and night percussion. That percussion is gradually replaced by the throb of the large scale sound art (yes, sound is also art). Living in a trailer for 2 weeks, it helps to be able to get out of the sound for a while and Buttercup did that for us.

Burning Man is a lot of things. It all depends on what you make of it. Yes, there may be things out there that you don't want to see but it helps contrast the things that you do. One look at the burning Man web site image gallery shows the myriad of creative expression that exists there. Who ever thought of making a giant whale or Spanish galleon out of bus? Ever seen a robot that talks and is aware and can even joke around with you? Have you ever put your hands in a flaming fountain but not been burned? Yes there are flame cannons that shoot fiery streams a hundred feet in the air or giant hands that shoot flame from the fingertips. How about a grove of palm trees that belch out fire on the hour in a sort of timepiece?

Maybe fire is not your thing, tribal drumming, drum circles, fashion shows - with a twist, sculpture, high tech projects of every kind, geek central testing ground for silicone valley types, cocktail parties, special stilt bars (only the tallest stilt walkers can saddle up), art cars, art bars that roll around the playa. When was the last time you rolled around on a mobile outdoor movie theater playing only the corniest of films? It is never a dull moment. A great experimentation in community that just seems to work despite the sometimes harsh environment. Extremely low crime (really) and friendly, helpful neighbors.

This year I had to make a trip back into town to get some supplies. On the way out I passed a man on a bicycle riding in the direction of the playa. I thought to myself that this has to be somebody going to the event. Sure enough, he wound up camping right next to us and remembered me passing him on the road. He rode his bicycle all the way from San Francisco and regaled us with his adventures on the road. How incredible is that? He arrived 3 days before the rest of his camp mates. We adopted him into our camp for the meantime. He transformed his bike into a purple crushed velvet, bright orange canopied, playa cruiser complete with a custom made stereo boom box that belted out funk music from an iPod. What fun it was to have him around at cocktail time with that contraption! Or the handmade chicken/mole tamales he brought over just because he was so happy to have us around as neighbors. That was a dinner to remember.

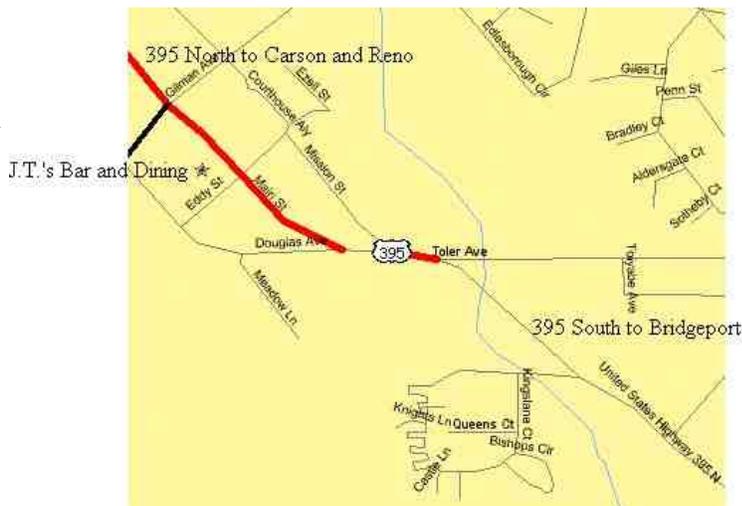
For us this year we were hyperaware of the Airstream presence on the playa. I don't know why we never noticed them before but they have been there. We are now one of the Airstream-playa families - a new one for us to enjoy.

Tim Kendziorski and Kimber Moore

For pictures of Tim and Kimber's 2005 Burning Man experience go to <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/community/index.html>

Diane Leipperdiane@leipper.org

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Airstreamers NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2005



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.)