

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

DECEMBER 2006 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

www.sierranevadaairstreams.org 775-972-9392



November Luncheon at Carson Valley Inn - We had a great time, as usual. New members Brian and Linda McKeand were there as well as Dyann and Jerry, Rich, Bryan, Dave, Virginia, Diane, and Janet and Roger. Discussion focused on Airstream stories and travel plans, current and future as well as other topics. The place wasn't conducive to much of a business meeting but we handed out a flyer with all the info members needed to make sure they were up to date. The topics on the flyer are also discussed in this newsletter. They include the Region 12 proposed amendment to the WBCCI constitution, a request for input on the SNU newsletter, and topics posted on the SNU discussion group forum. We need your input on these various issues so please provide your ideas on the topics included with this newsletter. The SNU treasurer also provided an update on the SNU financial status. As of November 17, 2006 we have \$1,564.37 in the bank. Since July 1, 2006 we have collected \$260.00 in dues (SNU dues only). There were no expenses in the months of October and November other than dues to WBCCI. An annual financial report for budgeting purposes will be submitted by the end of January 2007

Welcome new members - The SNU welcomes it's newest members, Don and Gail Williams and Jack and Cathy Corliss. Don and Gail live in Riverside, CA own a 2006 Classic 30ft. They enjoy dry camping in the Sierra's as well as hiking and mountain climbing. We look forward to seeing them soon. Jack and Cathy own a 2005 Safari and live in Nevada City. Cathy is active in the hospital auxiliary and both look forward to participating in SNU rallies.

December Luncheon - The site for our December 16, 2006 luncheon, the Overland Hotel in Fallon is on the Nevada Register of Historic Places. It is a Basque restaurant near the intersection of US 50 and US 95 in downtown Fallon. All members & guests welcome are welcome. The cost is \$15 per person. The Overland website provides directions and information. <http://www.overland-hotel.com/>



Did you know???

We all know the SNU is unique in many ways but did you know :

- * The basis for all SNU functions are the Four Freedoms and The Creed, written by Wally Byam
- * The SNU is one of the very few Units to successfully turn itself around from a declining membership to a strong, viable and participating membership.
- * The SNU has one of the lowest rally fees around. This is due to our choice of preferred sites, our decision to keep rates low to encourage more participation, and our preference unplanned, informal activities and event at rallies.
- * The SNU, in the last few years, has had increasing contributions of articles and information from members for our newsletters.
- * The SNU is one of the very few WBCCI Units that provides members the option to pay dues and rally fees as well as to vote and express opinions online.
- * The SNU has developed several unique pieces that provide background information and an overview of the SNU to help members learn what the SNU is all about. These include, the SNU profile, the rally site rating sheet, and the Operational Notes
- * The SNU created Op Notes to provide members with insight and an understanding of how the Unit functions. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/snu-mbrhandbook/index.html>
- * The SNU has one of the most complete Unit websites around. It includes some history of the SNU, photo galleries of rallies, the current rally schedule and rally information pages, operational tools such as the bylaws and meeting minutes, archives of SNU newsletters, archives of rally schedules, and a photo gallery of member Airstreams.

* The SNU has utilized a consistent point of contact for the past five years -- mailing address, email, phone and fax. This has made contacting the SNU easier, more cost effective, and less confusing.

* The SNU has successfully utilized a variety of communication tools, including web based techniques, email, snail mail, phone and fax to ensure all members are kept informed and have an opportunity to voice opinions and provide input.

Did you know that SNU members contribute to the SNU in a myriad of ways?

SNU members volunteer time energy and ideas to the Unit in many ways. Contributions Include: creating an online form for members to indicate their preference for rally sites. Providing guided tours of historic places and potential rally locations. Finding and setting up rally sites, luncheon venues, and special rally activities. Redesigning the Unit logo. Creating a special anniversary logo. Creating a one of a kind miniature rally diorama.

Editing and distributing the newsletter. Making a special center piece for our pot luck table. Providing pictures for the photo galleries. Acting as liaison with the local Airstream dealer. Creating and sending out public service announcements on a regular basis. Moderating our forum discussion group. Maintaining the website. Representing the SNU at the WBCCI International Rally. Serving as elected officers on the board. Most of all, through their participation they increase the enjoyment of sharing camping experiences in your Airstream with fellow Airstreamers.

Discussion Group

This topic was posted recently on the private SNU discussion group posted on AirstreamFoums.com. You can join the SNU discussion group at the URL below. This is a special service offered by AirstreamFoums.com to all WBCCI Units. SNU member Mike Orchard is the SNU discussion group leader and has helped get this set up. It is another avenue of communications for SNU members. [http:// www.airstreamforums.com/forums/profile.php?do=editusergroups](http://www.airstreamforums.com/forums/profile.php?do=editusergroups)

Announcement List - I just put a notice in our last newsletter encouraging people to sign up for the online newsletter.

To clarify, the way we have things set up, people sign up for the announcement list, not the newsletter specifically. This includes the announcement that the latest newsletter is now available online. It also includes announcements such as the recent offer by MFRV for free tickets to the Home and Garden show, the availability of this discussion group, and any other special information that may be of interest to SNU members.

Our records indicate that almost 90% of SNU members have email but only about 40% are signed up for the email announcement list. From what This may be because people still want the hard copy snail mail newsletter. What I haven't made clear is that you have the option to do both. You can sign up for the announcement list but let us know that you also wish to continue receiving your snail mail newsletter.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/index.html>

We definitely encourage people to choose the online newsletter as it helps the budget. Also signing up for the announcement list makes sure you get some information that isn't available in the newsletter or from other sources.

Flat fee

SNU members have chosen to set a voluntary flat fee for both it's rallies and it's luncheons. Rally and luncheon fees are set so that income from these sources will exceed the average cost SNU encounters in conducting these events. The amount requested is rounded up to the nearest \$5. Note that these fees are solicited donations for the general SNU fund and not a charge assessed for a specific benefit, good, or service. As such, the donations made may be considered tax deductible. The payment of rally and luncheon fees being totally voluntary also means that they are a vote of acceptance by the participants involved. Reasons for nonpayment could include just a short rally visit, a visitor to a luncheon who does not order a meal, or disgruntlement about some aspect of the amounts or process. If or when SNU notes that its receipts become deficient by patterns of lack of support, then the matter of funding and benefit and support need to be addressed as a topic of discussion at meetings.

Upcoming Events

* Saturday January 20, 2007 Reno BJ's Nevada BBQ 11:30 am Member luncheon, all members & guests welcome. - board meeting.

* Saturday February 17, 2007 Fernley Truck Inn 11:30 am Member luncheon, all members & guests welcome. - board meeting.

Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line!

SNU Mugs

It's not too late. Need a gift for somebody special? Why not an SNU insulated travel mug. They are \$10 a piece. To get your mugs contact the SNU at hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org or call the Leipper's at 775 972 5011. If you are looking for other aluminum or pink flamingo related holiday gifts check this SNUZE entry.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/?p=458>

Now Available

The new SNU shopping cart page is up and ready for use. This page is where you can contribute to support rallies, luncheons, membership, and other support for your WBCCI Unit. With the shopping cart you can pick and choose how you want your contributions to be counted and do it all at once. There is also be an option for the annual rally kitty kall. This is a \$100 contribution that counts you for all 2007 rallies for all nights. To check out the shopping cart page go to:

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/payonline/snu-shopping.html>

Check whats new on the website

<http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>



How about this two story outhouse in Wyoming? When the snow gets too deep for the first floor, you move up.

From the SNU Operational Notes

Below is information taken from the Operational Notes, Fiscal Guidelines, that outline the monetary functions of the SNU.

Philosophy - Every organization needs funding to support its operations, its member benefits, and its programs. The SNU relies upon voluntary contributions in small amounts by those participating in its activities for its basic funding needs. The philosophy behind the Sierra Nevada Unit's financial management is that the Unit exists to provide Airstream owners within it's territory the opportunity to enjoy fun and fellowship through rallies and other Unit activities. The guiding principles are that any monetary contributions are fair for all participating members and that the SNU meets it's expenses, debts, and obligations. All monies received by the SNU, such as dues, kitty kall, and other contributions, support the activities and events of the SNU and it's newsletter. Items supported include reservation fees for rally sites, newsletter supplies and distribution, expenses incurred in support of the overall membership including nametags, rally supplies, and operating expenses.

This system has proved beneficial in that people know what to expect and can plan accordingly. There is no ambiguity or change in what the Kitty Kall will be. This enables participants to focus on what's important -- enjoying the fellowship of other Airstreamers and not fusing about how much they owe.

Travels with Don and Mary Lou

We are nearing the time to start back west. After visiting Washington, DC, Cape Hatteras, Ocracoke Island, and down to Key West, we plan to leave Key West on the 4th of December for the Everglades. We have been delayed a week with problems with a leaky hot water heater. After that we will travel up the west coast of Florida to Ft. Meyers and the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. On to Homossa to see the manatees, then to Tyndall AFB for Christmas. Other planned stops are Pensacola, Biloxi, New Orleans, and we will spend several weeks in Texas visiting friends. Still planning to spend time in Tucson for bird watching and to watch the baseball spring training, then home to Reno in April. By then we will be glad to be back home. Check out our Key West Report in this newsletter.



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> > > **We Need your Input** < < <

There are several issues which need your input. We'd appreciate your responses to the following questions. Mail your answers to the SNU PO Box 60572, Reno, NV 89506. Email hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org

SNU Newsletter

It has been a while since we have discussed our Unit Newsletter. A new year is almost here so now is a good time to get your input on the newsletter. Please let us know what you think and what you would like to see included or changed.

What do you like most about the SNU newsletter?

What suggestions or ideas do you have that you would like to see incorporated in future newsletters?

Name change again

Region 12, which includes the SNU is preparing a proposed amendment to the WBCCI constitution to change the name of the organization to **Wally Byam Airstream Association, Inc.** We need to submit the SNU's opinion ASAP.

___ Agree to the proposed name change ___ Disagree to the proposed name change

To see the letter and actual Region 12 proposal go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/other-info/index.htm>

Rally activities

We have our rally schedule set for 2007 and we have some special activities planned. What we need now is some input from everyone as to other special activities you might like to see as part of a 2007 rally. As examples, in 2006 we had a hamburger lunch, breakfast at the Old Pioneer, an ice cream social, a tour of Buckland, and a trip to Sage Hen. Here is the 2007 schedule as it is currently planned.

Month	Rally Site	Special Activities
March	Washoe Lake	
April	Lahonton	
May	Ramhorn Springs	
June	Unionville	brunch at the Old Pioneer
July	Obsidian Dome	service project with Rick
August	Twin Lakes	tour of Bodie with Chuck
September	Ione	day trip to Berlin/Ichthyosaur State Park
October	Ft Churchill (Scout camp)	

Some ideas that have been floating around are having themed pot lucks (Italian or Chinese for example) kite flying, and also a 1970's themed rally. Anyway let us know what your ideas are.

Key West Report by Don and Mary Lou Damoth

So what is Key West?

Key West is a multitude of things. It's history includes shipwrecks of Spanish treasure ships in the 1500's, harvesting of sea turtles to feed the mariners, a vast industry of harvesting sponges for household use, Flagler's revolutionary oversea railroad which was destroyed with hundreds of lives by a huge hurricane, a favorite quiet retreat for Ernest Hemingway, President Truman and many other celebrities, a submarine and seaplane port, and now a multi cultural city based primarily on tourism.

So what does Key West offer now?

Getting to Key West is the start of the experience. Driving down the 100 miles through the keys is a beautiful unique trip. The shallow water and white coral present a myriad of blues and greens, and the seven mile bridge is picturesque and awesome.



In Key West, the southernmost point of the United States, Duval street is the "action" place. Famous saloons such as Sloppy Joe's, Hogs Breath, and the Bull and Whistle with it's "clothing optional" rooftop bar provide the setting, along with the many museums and tourist shops offering about anything you can imagine. Huge cruise ships visit the port as many as three at a time.

Mallory Square is the "it" place in the evenings as people gather to view the famous sunsets. The area becomes a circus as acrobats, bicycle stunt men, and the famous cat show provide continuous entertainment as the sun sets.



Fantasy Fest comes to Key West over the Halloween weekend, a Key West version of the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, but considerably more risqué with many ladies wearing only paint.

Fishing and Scuba/Snorkeling are featured sports for the action minded, with the offshore coral reef of the National Marine Sanctuary providing many beautiful tropical fish for the adventurous to view. Snorkel, scuba and fishing charters leave the marina every day. A trip to the Dry Tortugas is an interesting day trip offering snorkeling from the beach, and old Ft. Jefferson where Dr. Mudd was imprisoned following President Lincoln's assassination.



The off shore speed boats come to Key West in November, providing an ear shattering thrill to spectators. Shortly after, the Pirates come to party, commandeering the big sailing ships to battle each other on the sea and shore.

The Keys and Key West are also a bird watchers haven, with Brown Pelicans, Egrets, Herons, White Ibis, and Ospreys in abundance, and even an occasional Magnificent Frigatebird. The Butterfly Observatory is an interesting and educational experience for nature lovers.

You can't really describe Key West in one page, but maybe this will pique your interest. Like any other city, Key West is changing. Not as many sailing ships or speed boats as in the past, but Duval Street, Mallory Square, and the beautiful offshore reef will always be there. It is very expensive for RV's on the island, it is cheaper to visit off season (Oct-Dec) by staying at Bahia Honda State Park or one of the other upper keys and driving down to visit Key West. If the wanderlust attacks you, try Key West for a unique experience.



Brand New Floor Plan For The International.

25' Limited International with fresh new look. This Airstream is not a CCD as it was not designed by Christopher C. Deam.

This unit is very eye catching with limited Ocean Breeze interior, white cabinets accented with bamboo/palm tree knobs, colorful palm tree curtains, and many more accents through out.



Airstreamers NEWSLETTER

Sierra Nevada Unit, WBCCI
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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.)