

# SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

FEBRUARY 2006 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER



## January Luncheon

A great start to 2006 for the SNU! We had 20 people including 4 guests at our lunch at Bavarian World on Saturday the 21st. The guests were Raffi and Susan Simon and Steve and Liz Wilson. Raffi and Susan are WBCCI members at large and live in Reno. Steve and Liz Wilson live in Stateline and are in the process of searching for just the right Airstream to purchase. We hope both the Simon's and the Wilson's will become frequent participants at SNU events.



January SNU Luncheon at Bavarian World

Everyone had a great time socializing and catching up on all the news. Vicki Grossman brought some really cute pictures of their pups all dressed up for the Holidays. Fred Hersey brought his album of Airstream photos so the Leipper's can scan them and add them to the on-line collection. Also, although we didn't sing, we want to wish Randy and Dyann Thornburg Happy Birthday. Their birthday was the day after our luncheon.



Happy Campers at Luncheon

During the business part of the lunch we discussed several topics including the proposed WBCCI name change, SNU membership update, upcoming SNU events, the treasurer's report, and the Monetary guidelines of the SNU. We voted on several items including electing Kimber Moore to be an SNU delegate at the WBCCI meeting in June 2006, a change in the bylaws to include electronic voting, and the potential for the SNU to offer the option to members to pay dues and an annual rally fee on line. To see the meeting agenda go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/pubdocs/index.html>.

We would like to hear from those of you who were not able to attend the meeting. You can print out the opinion form, fill it in and email, fax or mail it to the SNU. Fax number - 775 972 5011. Mail: PO Box 60572, Reno NV 89506. To see pictures of the luncheon go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/06jambavarianworld/gallery.html>



Jerry and Dyann chatting with visitors Susan and Raffi Simon, WBCCI members at large.

**Anniversary Luncheon** - What do you suppose that Vicki Grossmann wants with tiny bushes, rocks, trees, tow vehicles, a campfire and a string of Airstream lights? To find out be sure to attend the February 18th SNU 30th Anniversary luncheon. This is shaping up to be a very special event, one you won't want to miss. The luncheon will be buffet style with a great selection of delicious food items to choose from. Several special guests are planning to come.

Invitations were mailed in mid January so if you haven't called, emailed or sent in your RSVP, we would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on the fun and the celebration of 30 years of Airstreaming in Northern Nevada.

### **Of Interest**

\* Region 12 is looking for a nomination for second Vice President. Send resume to Dorothy Farinha, Chairman 6156 G.V. Hwy, Auburn, CA 95602

\* Region 12 Rally is scheduled for October 10 through 15 at the Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, CA. Contact Judy Bechthold Email: jabkeb@aol.com phone: 530-666-5839

\* Still time to register for the WBCCI International Rally in Salem Oregon. Dates are June 28th through July 4, 2006

**Mike's Research** - SNU Member, Mike Orchard has just completed updating his log books to record WBCCI membership for 2006. The SNU looks really good! His numbers are based on the membership listings in the directory. According to Mike, the SNU has shown the largest membership increase of any other Unit in Region 12. We went from 14 members in 2005 to 23 in 2006, an increase of 9 members. Actually we have 25 members. Two were received after the directory went to press. The largest increase in any other Region 12 Unit was 5 and several Units lost memberships.

We believe the success of the SNU is based on several things. This includes our focus on the basic concepts of an Airstream group as originally outlined by Wally Byam.

It is also our efforts to be flexible and able to meet the needs of all our members and potential members. It is our determination to be inclusive, open to new ideas, and to provide opportunities for everyone to participate in a way that best suits them. Most of all it is our focus on getting out, enjoying our Airstreams, the fellowship of other Airstreamers, and having fun.

### **Upcoming events**

\* February 18th, 30th Anniversary luncheon celebration at the Silver Oak Golf Club Restaurant in Carson City.

\* First rally for 2006 Friday - Sunday March 24 - 26 2006 Washoe Lake Nevada State Park - Washoe Valley between Reno and Carson City off US 395. 2 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. The SNU will be sponsoring a special BBQ lunch at this rally, Wes Wam will be assisting us with the BBQ. Among the attractions of Washoe Lake are great bird watching, hiking and bike trails.

**Ribs wanted** - No, not the eating kind. SNU member, Dave Gmur is looking for some ribs for his 1975 Airstream. He and Bryan Leipper are in the process of repairing damage done by large snowball or small avalanche on the front half of his trailer. If you know of an Airstream that has seen better days, is not restorable and can be used for parts let Dave know. You can reach him or Bryan at 775-973-9392 or hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org. If you are restoring, remodeling or repairing an older Airstream, Bryan and Dave also have some spare parts available that might be of use.

**Treking to Salem** - If you are planning on going to the WBCCI International Rally in Salem Oregon June 28 through July 4th, there are several roads to take. There is the speedy route over and up I5, then there are some more scenic options. These include US 395 through Alturas and Central Oregon then over to Salem via Sisters, Oregon. The Gerlach route goes through Cedarville and connects with 395, and then there is the route through Winnemucca to the C Highway. If you have an interest in traveling with other SNU members on one of these routes to Salem, let us know and maybe we can work up a typical SNU style caravan. As Roy might say, a haphazard, accidentally on the same road type caravan.

## **LED Lighting Experiment**

Note: This is an excerpt from an article written by Timothy Kendzierski and Kimber Moore on their experiments with LED light. The article includes great pictures illustrating the light fixtures and comparisons between LED and fluorescent lights. To see the complete article with illustrations go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/owners-guide/living/led-experiement.pdf> To check out the LED information on Tim and Kimber's website go to: [http://overlander.archnevada.com/index.php?id=54\\_0,0,1,0,0](http://overlander.archnevada.com/index.php?id=54_0,0,1,0,0)

We have been experimenting with LED lighting as a way to improve boondocking. The key is finding LEDs cheap enough and bright enough to do the job. The tradeoff is that LEDs typically do not exhibit the color temperature that an incandescent bulb would. This can make the light harsh and cold. We started this experiment with 2 goals in mind. Replace my inefficient bulbs with LEDs and run lights without worrying about current draw and get a lamp in our bedroom compartment working.

The start of this experiment was the purchase of some Galaxy 1 watt LED Modules. These LEDs produce "warm" light and at 1 watt are quite bright! They do run hot so a heat sink is required. The aluminum in the trailer is sufficient to dissipate the heat generated by these modules. Tim simply wired the LEDs in series of 4 in a string to produce a 12 volt, 4 watt string of LEDs. These can be mounted in a light with screws to the metal under the light covers for light. They can actually be arranged in any number of arrangements limited only by imagination.

That is where the project sat until 2 weeks ago when Tim was surfing eBay for LED Lamps and found LED bulbs in a 1156 bulb base. On a whim we purchased 4 bulbs from the vender. Total cost for 4 bulbs including shipping was \$30.97. Not too bad and worth a test. We tested the bulbs in the living room, kitchen, bedroom counter and bed overhead lights. To see the pictures of the resultst go to the website. It can be seen that the warmth of the incandescent lighting cannot be matched with the LED Lighting, which is quite cool.

The lighting looks more like fluorescent lighting. The lumen output is bright enough to see but certainly not as bright as the incandescent lamps. But the LED draw is less than 1/4 of the incandescent. The pictures here depict the lighting conditions with the incandescent lighting and the LED lighting in the kitchen light. Again, the light output in close quarters is a little better but still dim compared to the incandescent. The light is still cold compared to the incandescent. Not very appealing in this application.

The pictures in the original article depict the lighting conditions with the incandescent lighting and the LED lighting in the kitchen and the bed area. In this last test the LED Light puts out enough light to read by and certainly enough to get in bed. But the color temperature is so cold that I could imagine myself getting the chill just looking at it.

Conclusions - The final conclusion we have reached with respect to LED lighting is that it would be an excellent way to extend boondocking abilities. With 4 watts draw per bulb, energy consumption would be drastically reduced. But in the end it is the color and reduced lumen output of the lamps that make them somewhat impracticable for trailer use. In the end we prefer the color and whimsy of our 6 watt Pink Flamingo lamp over the LED Lighting.

We haven't given up on LED lighting. And for serious Boondocking this would work great. For us the lighting will have to be more towards the incandescent end of the spectrum for our comfort. After all, that is what Airstream is all about.



# 30th Anniversary of the Sierra Nevada Unit of WBCCI

## Some memories of the unit's great history



Diane and Bryan's Grandparents with a 1952 Airstream Flying Cloud



1980 SNU Mid Nevada Caravan ready to leave Fallon.



1980 Caravan at Kennecott



1996 SNU Lahontan Rally



2000 Washoe Lake Rally



2000 Washoe Lake Rally



SNU Luncheon 2001



2001 Mills Park Picnic



Sept 2001 Picnic at Leipper's



2002 Rally at Davis Creek



2002 Davis Creek Rally



2003 Lahontan Lake Rally



Boca Lake in 2004



Twin Lakes in 2004



2005 Rally at Roy and Bonnie's in Kingston

**FYI** - The SNU was asked recently about alcoholic beverages at it's rallies and events. Since we are beginning a new rally year it is a good time to clarify the SNU's position. First and foremost, the SNU is a family organization. As members of the SNU and WBCCI we also need to be cognizant of the image we portray to the public. As with other WBCCI units, it is the position of the SNU that the consumption of alcoholic beverages be as inconspicuous as possible. If you choose to consume an alcoholic beverage in public at an SNU rally, it is preferred that it be in a glass or something other than an obvious alcohol container. The SNU recognizes that it's members are all responsible adults and that they want to assist the Unit to ensure that it's activities and events will be enjoyable for everyone, kids, adults, and visitors alike. The responsible behavior of our members and our good neighbor guidelines ensure that the SNU will be welcome at public facilities, campgrounds, and other places where we may gather and that we will have a great time doing what Airstreamers do - get out and enjoy our Airstreams and the fellowship of other Airstreamers.

### **Wanderlust**

The new book published in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Airstream RV is a great book for anyone interested in the history of Airstream. There is a special edition copy with an aluminum cover and a standard edition. The special edition also comes with a Caravan DVD.

Wanderlust, Airstream at 75 is full of pictures and information. There is a biography of Wally Byam and the evolution of the Airstream trailer. There is a section on Caravanning and a chapter on how Airstream came to be part of Thor. There are also chapters on unique Airstreams and what the future of Airstreams might be. One picture is of the oldest Airstream known to exist. It is currently owned by Dr. Norman W. Holman, Jr. who is the son of the original owner "Doc" Holman, Sr. Doc Holman paid \$5 for the plans for this trailer and it now has over 450,000 miles on it. To see a picture of this trailer and Doc Holman go to the following web page: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/travelogues/772-leipper/98boise/gallery.html>

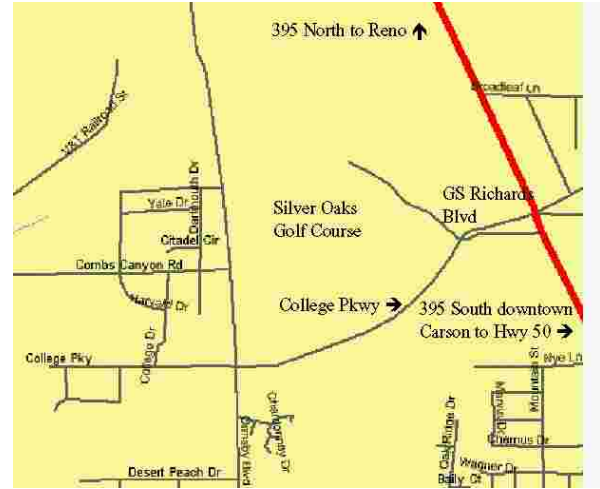
Diane Leipper  
[diane@leipper.org](mailto:diane@leipper.org)

## Directions

From Reno, head south on US 395 to Carson City. Glen Eagle restaurant is on the north end of Carson City on the right (west) side of US 395.

From Fallon and points East, Turn right on N Carson street and head north. Turn left on West. College Pkwy on the left (west) side of N Carson Street.

From Gardnerville and points South, Head north on US 395 (N Carson Street) through downtown Carson City. Turn left on West. College Pkwy on the left (west) side of N Carson Street



Check out Mountain Family RV's new website at [www.mountainfamilyrv.com](http://www.mountainfamilyrv.com) Besides the new logo shown above, the site now features information on all of the RV Lines and models, including Airstream. Click on the Airstream link on the bottom of the page. You will be able to view all of the Airstream Models, with photos and specifications. A list of models in stock is available. You can search through the models, and print out the specifications of any model you select. In addition you can get financing information and calculate an estimated monthly payment. This is a great new way to learn about the new models that Airstream is featuring each year. Click and enjoy.

## Airstreamers NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2006



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.)