

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

MAY 2006 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

www.sierranevadaairstreams.org



April Rally at Walker Resort

Another great SNU rally. This time at the scenic Walker River Resort near Smith NV. The campground was in a grove of cottonwoods on a bluff overlooking the Walker River. The season hasn't begun yet so the hot tubs and swimming pool weren't open, but we didn't miss them too much as we had a lot of visiting, brainstorming, and discussing to do. Of course we also had our informal pot lucks, a few inspirational naps and other strenuous activities to keep us busy. Rich and Brian Jaggard came by for a visit on Friday. They had spent the morning fishing in the Walker River. Other guests were Roger and Jan Jeppson and B Martin and John Yokela. Come to find out Roger is a native Nevadan whose family used to own the ranch where the Walker River Resort is located. When Roger and Jerry, who is also a native Nevadan, got going on old time Nevada gossip, it sure brought to mind small town big country society. It was like having our own living history discussion. Check out the rally photos <http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>

SNU meeting minutes The weather was beautiful, temperatures reached into the high 70's low 80's and was a perfect weekend for the April Rally. The meeting came to order at around noon. Bryan and Diane Leipper, Wes and Roylaine Warn, Jerry and Dyann Thornburg and Don and MaryLou Damoth were in attendance. Don and MaryLou drove in from Reno to join us for the meeting and lunch. The 1st order of business was ways to increase membership and promote the club. It was discussed and decided that Don Damoth would go and talk to Jon Wipple at Mountain Family RV to see how information about the unit was being distributed and discuss with Jon having a unit representative working with him on promoting the unit and WBCCI.

It was then discussed if the unit should now, because of our increasing membership, consider electing a vice president for the unit. This position would assist the president, fill in at times the president was absent, and be a yearly elected office. It would not be a position that would immediately move to president the next year as it is with the WBCCI. It was discussed that maybe the directors be given some additional responsibilities. Of the three positions, one might be delegated to marketing and promoting the WBCCI and the Sierra Nevada Unit, one doing the rally schedule and locations for the following year, and the third doing the newsletter.



Happy Campers at the April Rally



Pretty grounds at the Walker River Resort



Chillin' out at Thornburg's Airstream

The upcoming Unionville rally was discussed. It is scheduled for May 18 – 21, 2006. Dyann Thornburg has been in touch with Mitzi Jones, owner of the Old Pioneer Garden Bed and Breakfast in Unionville with regards to doing a brunch for the unit on Saturday, May 20, 2006. Mitzi has agreed to do this for the unit even though she normally only cooks for people staying at the inn. She has requested anyone wanting to attend the brunch let Dyann Thornburg know by May 14, 2006. If anyone would like to attend the brunch while at the Unionville rally please contact Dyann Thornburg at 775-867-2797 or email at tbolt1@charter.net and let her know. Jerry Thornburg agreed to check out the site. He has gone back up to Unionville and looked the site over. See the instructions and photos Dianne took on page 5.

The final item on the agenda was the upcoming International rally and the vote on the WBCCI name change. SNU members have cast their vote regarding this issue. Voting has been available on-line, in newsletters, and handed out at rallies with over 70% of SNU members voting no on the name change proposal. WBCCI has provided two ways Units can cast their vote at the delegate meeting in June. These options were discussed thoroughly and put to a vote as to the Sierra Nevada Unit, voting as a unit, or individually at the International rally. It was unanimous that the SNU would vote as a unit and not individually. The SNU delegates will carry out the decision of the membership.

At the end of the meeting we were joined by “B” and John Yokela from Yerington, NV. They have recently purchased a 1976 Sovereign and were looking for ideas and assistance in refurbishing their Airstream. They had learned about the rally from their local newspaper. Also at that time Roger and Janet Jeppson joined the group. They recently purchased the 2005 28' Safari Slideout model that Mountain Family RV brought to the Boca Springs Rally last year. They had learned of the Walker River Rally via the SNU website and came up Friday with their new Airstream for the rally. A great time was had by all and lasted until around 9:30 – 10:00 pm.

Treasurers Notes

The SNU has \$1166 in the bank with \$715 of checks outstanding. Cash on hand is \$100. Net assets are \$551. We have received \$40 from Mug donations and \$30 for the rally kitty. Expenses include 7% of dues income (\$17) for publicity and 46% (\$113) for communications. The remainder of the checks outstanding are reimbursement of February lunch expense. At \$551, the SNU balance remains steady and solid.-- Bryan

SNU History - the past While scanning old SNU newsletters I came across this piece of SNU history written by Steve and Frank Burnham. It appeared in the January 2000 newsletter.

It was twenty five years ago that the Sierra Nevada Unit was born by splitting the Nevada Unit at the southern edge of Tonopah. Several of the Nevada Unit members lived in the northern part of the state and decided that for all intents and purposes it was already two Units. At that time rallies were held one month in the north and the next month in the south and the northern members seldom went south while the south members seldom came north, even as far as Tonopah. An application for a new charter was made to the International office, and after a few months of planning, writing a constitution and bylaws, and selecting a charter set of officers we were granted a charter as the Sierra Nevada Unit. Paul Estis was the first President and scoured the area for charter members. His first lady, Erma Estis now lives in North Carolina and we hear from her frequently. Paul passed away about five years ago.

SNU History - the future The future of the SNU is in the hands of its members. It is the input and most important, the participation of the members that will determine what the SNU will become and how it will function. In 2002 during a period of transition, the SNU made some critical decisions regarding the fate of the Unit. One of those decisions was that the Unit needed to get back to the basics, the ideals WBCCI founder Wally Byam envisioned when the organization was formed. Key to that was realizing we are an RV club and as such we needed to get out and enjoy camping in our Airstreams.

Another critical decision was to determine what functions of the Unit needed to be maintained. These functions were the newsletter, rallies, public service announcements, and basic accounting and membership management. Then the Unit went about revising the bylaws and the structure of the Unit to better fit the needs and resources available while still complying with the requirements of a WBCCI Unit. Now is the time to begin looking towards the future.

How do you as a member of the SNU envision the Unit two years from now, five years from now and beyond? What kind of leadership best fits the needs of the Unit and it's membership? What functions do you consider essential? How should these be carried out? By whom? What happens if no one is willing to step up to the plate to carry out the essential functions? Is that good? Is that bad? What is it you like most about being a member of the SNU? What is it that the SNU is currently doing that you think makes it a great Unit? What would you change if you could? Now is the time to ask yourself what role you are willing to take in ensuring the continuity of the SNU.

It will soon be time to start planning the rallies for 2007. It is time to look for a new editor to prepare and distribute the newsletter. It is time to encourage more members to provide content for the newsletter. PSA's have been a vital link to building awareness of the SNU. It is now time to review those efforts and find someone to carry this project forward. By late summer it will be time to look for new officers for the Unit. The SNU is more than any one person. To remain healthy the SNU must reflect the diversity of interests and experiences of all its members. Teamwork has brought us through some lean years. Teamwork and sharing the load is what ensures the essential functions get done. It will be teamwork and the involvement of all members that will ensure the SNU's healthy and vigorous future.

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

*Rally - Thursday - Sunday, June 22 - 25 2006 Boca Springs USFS group area - off I80 west near Truckee, CA. 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Historic site, hiking, nearby Boca Reservoir for boating, fishing, & swimming.

*Rally Thursday - Sunday, July 20 - 23 2006 Obsidian Dome (Inyo Nat'l Forest) dispersed camping - off US 395 south between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes, CA 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Hiking, nearby stream, geologic area. Be prepared for a special surprise!

Membership Update As of April the SNU has 25 paid members. Since January we have received 9 referrals. All of these referrals have been sent a packet of SNU information, have been added to the newsletter mailing list and all have been invited to come to an SNU rally. Raffi and Susan Simon and Steve and Liz Wilson have already attended SNU luncheons and we hope to see them again soon. Roger and Jan Jeppson came to the April rally. We hope the others will also come for a visit in the near future. Our primary goal is to get out and have a great time in our Airstreams with fellow Airstreamers. Wouldn't be neat though if this year, the SNU's 30th Anniversary, we could increase our membership to 30 paid members! It is possible. Even better, wouldn't it be neat to have more of our membership participate in the rallies and share the great times we have had the last few years.

Jerry Speaks Out SNU member Jerry Thornburg will be presenting workshops at the upcoming open house at Mt Family RV on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Jerry will be talking about Airstream repair and restoration, and will include information on Vintage Airstreams. Jerry has years of experience in fixing up and restoring Airstream trailers. The open house is planned for the first Weekend in June. SNU has other activities still in the planning stages.

May rally - Unionville here we come! Unionville at one time was home to Mark Twain. His experiences there are described in his book Roughing It. A special treat has been arranged for rally participants. The meeting minutes in this newsletter contain the details. Unionville has lots of old buildings and other points of interest to explore as well as some great biking and hiking opportunities. Kyle Hot Springs is about 12 miles south of the camp site. Might be a good place to soak out those old aches and pains, though we do not have a recent report on the maintenance and status of the hot springs. For rally details check the web: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2006/events/06may-unionville-index.html>

See you at the Mt. Family RV Open House on June 3rd through the 5th. Our unit will be there Saturday with refreshments, displays, and friendly people to chat with. Come check out the new Airstreams.

Grossmanns Attend Idaho Unit Rally

We had been planning on staying at the Ambassador RV Resort in Caldwell, Idaho while visiting friends near there. Through a fortuitous coincidence the Idaho Unit of the WBCCI was holding its first rally of the year at this resort on the days we were going to be there. So we arranged to participate in their rally. All of the members were extremely hospitable and we made some really nice acquaintances. Although we have been in the WBCCI for only a year, we have gotten the impression that this is a common trait among Airstream club members. We found the differences between the Idaho Unit and the Sierra Nevada Unit to be only in the types and sizes of rallies. While the SNU holds its rallies mostly at campgrounds and other sites with no hookups, the Idaho Unit holds most of its rallies at RV parks with full hookups. The Idaho Unit has about 50 rigs and about 100 members. There were about a dozen rigs at this rally, including a couple of class A Airstreams. Food was abundant and good just as it is during our own rallies. We should also mention that we do recommend staying at the Ambassador RV Resort for anyone staying in the Boise/Caldwell area. The facilities are really clean and nice, and all staff members are very friendly and helpful.

One of the activities we attended was a tour of the Bodily RV facilities. Bodily RV is the local Airstream dealer. The Idaho Unit and Bodily RV have developed a relationship similar to the relationship being developed between the SNU and Mountain Family RV. Bodily had an Airstream on display at the rally site just as Mountain Family sometimes has at the SNU rallies.

We were fortunate to meet Idaho Unit member Charlie Burke who could be described as a walking and talking Airstream technical manual. He is also a resource of "Whose Who" in Airstreams as well as an Airstream historian. He was kind enough to provide us with information regarding several issues we have with our own Airstream.

The Idaho Unit members asked me to extend an invitation to all SNU members to join them any time at any of their rallies. I extended the same invitation to them. Hopefully we will be seeing some of them. They are a great group of people and we suggest that if any of our members are going to be in the Boise area they should determine whether it would be feasible to attend one of their rallies. Their web site is www.airstreamidaho.org. Their president, who graciously invited us to their rally, is Faith Simms at 208-362-9490, President@airstreamidaho.org.

Randy and Vicki Grossmann

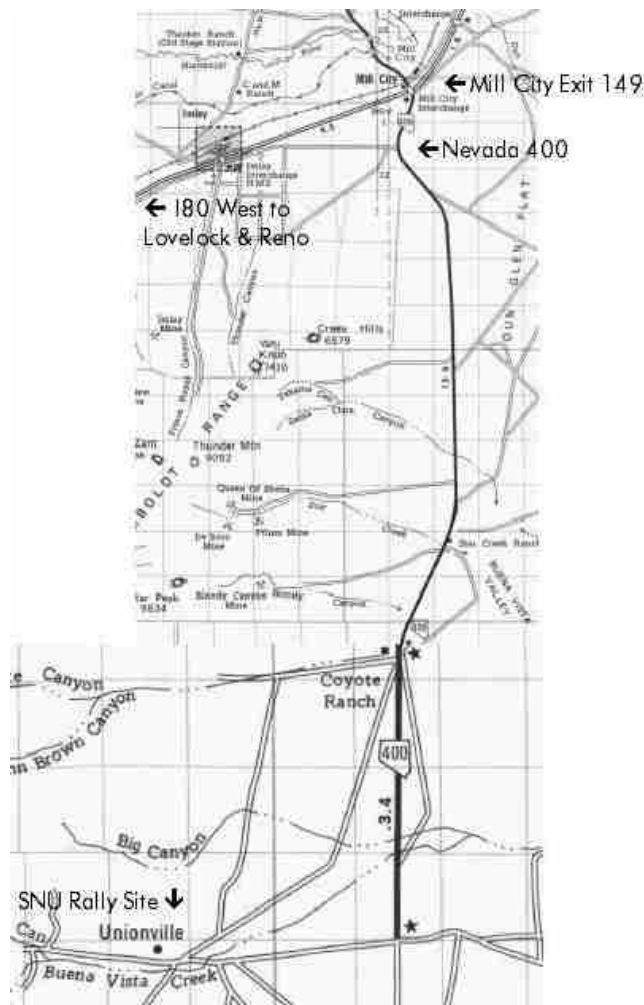


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Vicki sitting at the table next to Faith Simms, the president. Across from Faith is Bob her husband





Covered Bridge
Courtesy Dolores Steele



Buena Vista School - Heating stove stands in center- map of Africa on wall was made in 1887.
Courtesy Dolores Steele



Stay left and make wide right turn



Road and gate into camping area



Camping area



Picnic table area



Gate into camping area

May Rally at Unionville - Location: Off of I 80 East. About 60 miles East of Lovelock. Take exit 149 (about 44 miles from Lovelock) towards Mill City/Unionville, go 0.1 mile. Turn right onto NV-400, go south 16.6 miles. Turn west (right) onto the gravel road to Unionville, go 2.1 miles. (there is a green road sign telling you the turn is coming up). Go up the canyon (a very slight incline) 4.1 miles to the campsite (park). Note portions of this road, i.e. the section to Unionville is unpaved. It is good gravel, wide enough for Airstreams and no steep grades.



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.)



Drop by and checkout our fine Airstream Models, 9 to chose from.

- Two 2006 19' Bambis
- Two 2006 25' Safaris
- One 2006 23' Safari
- One 2006 30' Classic
- The beautiful 16' Quicksilver Bambi
- One 2005 Safari International
- One 2005 Westfalia Class B
This diesel engined model gets great gas mileage.

Get ready for the great summer travel season with a new Airstream.

Come see the New Quicksilver 16' Bambi



Don't miss our Exciting Open House on June 3rd - 5th.

Great Deals and great food. Even Airstream Cookies.

The Airstream Magazine, "Airstream Life, Tour of America" will be present as well as the Regional Airstream Representative.

Representatives of the Sierra Nevada Unit of WBCCI will be present to answer questions and to describe the Airstream "Way of Life"

Jerry Thornburg will be presenting Sat. and Sun. afternoon seminars on Airstream maintenance, restoration, and vintage trailers, and will answer your questions about your problems.