



Happy 4th of July!

SIERRANEVADAIRSTREAMS.ORG/SNU



RAILROAD RALLY

A level rally site. Fairly uniformed parking. Walking distance to downtown. Dinner at a restaurant. Flags flying. Was this really an SNU rally?? You bet! And a very successful rally at that. There were some elements though that are more standard for an SNU rally – the parking area was dirt and it was dry camping – so we didn't quite feel like we had ended up in the wrong group somehow. David and Linda in the gift shop, the Railroad volunteers, and the rest of the museum people made us feel very welcome. We could explore the museum and the trains to our hearts content. They even made the shower and bathroom facilities used by volunteers available for us. We all had a turn and driving one of the engines and several us took multiple rides in the cabooses and other cars.



Jerry Thornburg and grandkids/Leipper

We also got another opportunity to check out the 42ft Airstream and began developing some ideas as to what it will take to get it restored. Jerry pulled the old mattresses out of it and took them to the dump. Probably one of the first things we will do is get some roof vents on it and cover up the window openings. We had lots of visitors to help us enjoy this special weekend. Several members of Gene and Carmen's family and several members of Jerry and Dyann's fam-

ily visited us during the weekend. Both families included lots of kids who really enjoyed rides in the caboose and driving the train engines. We were also delighted to be joined by guests, Jim and Kathleen Hawkins from Sacramento in their Airstream motorhome – the good one that looks like an Airstream. Other rally participants included Wes and Roylaine, Diane, Bryan, and Anita, Gary and Anita, and Clint and Kathy. This was our first opportunity to fly the new SNU Unit flags. Everyone agreed that they turned out really nice. Bryan and Jerry had created brackets to attach to the front of their Airstreams. Each flies three flags. The flags looked great flying in the breeze.

At our Friday night potluck Gary Haskett treated us to a roast he cooked in his COBB cooker that uses only six briquettes. It was delicious! I think none of us would have objections to a repeat performance with that cooker. Other rally activities included visits to Gary and Anita's friend's shop in Portola, walks around the old downtown section of Portola, and the usual morning coffee and conversation gatherings. For those of us who prefer a slower pace, we could sit in the shade and watch Diane's tortoises checking out the weeds in our parking area. Saturday night we had dinner at the nearby Log Cabin restaurant. Sunday, under smoky skies we all headed for home from another great rally.

FIRST CALL FOR 2009 DUES

July 1, 2008 begins the 2009 membership year. So now is the time to support the SNU and renew your membership. You can do this online or you can complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and mail it and your check to the SNU.

BUSINESS MEETING

You've heard of progressive dinners, well it seems the SNU believes in progressive business meetings. The things we need to talk about get discussed individually or in small groups during coffee, pot lucks, and other gatherings. By the end of the rally everyone has at least a basic idea of what's up with the SNU and has had an opportunity for input and feedback.

The agenda items at this rally included plans for the Airstream restoration, the SNU unit flags, the 2009 rally schedule, and 2009 membership renewals. It was also determined by everyone that we would donate the rally fee for this rally to the museum as a way of saying thank you for their generosity and willingness to provide anything we needed while we were their guests. Copies of the first draft of the 2009 rally schedule were passed around and discussed. It was mentioned that as of July 1 renewals and new member dues will be good for the 2009 membership year. Jerry also had copies of his proposed letter seeking assistance in the restoration of the Airstream. As mentioned earlier, the SNU Unit flags were met with approval by everyone at the rally. All in all the SNU is solvent, and all the key functions - the newsletter, the PSA's, membership, and the rallies are being managed efficiently and effectively. The nomination of 2009 officers is the primary item at the top of the priority list for the July meeting.

REMEMBER

you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line!
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2008/pay-online/snu-shopping.html>

RALLY AND EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2008

- * Thur July 17 - Sun 20, 2008 Sweetwater Summit dispersed BLM, near Yerrington
- * Thur Aug. 21 - Sun 24, 2008 Eagle Lake BLM Campground northeast of Susanville, CA
- * Thur Sept. 18 - Sun 21, 2008 Obsidian Dome (Inyo Nat'l Forest) dispersed camping - off US 395 South between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes
- * Fri Oct. 16 - Sun 19, 2008 Blue Lakes, PG&E campground off Hwy 88 Hope Valley back up - Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, Pelican Point
- * Sat Nov. 22, 2008 Chuckars Fernley Exit 46 off I80 on the west end of Fernley, NV
- * Thur Nov. 13 - Sun 16, 2008 Death Valley Mesquite campground
- * Sat Dec. 13, 2008 JT's Basque restaurant, Minden, NV - on US 395 South

SWEETWATER RALLY

Thursday July 17 to Sunday July 20, 2008 the SNU will hold it's rally at Sweetwater Summit, a dispersed Forest Service, near Yerrington. The area is located on highway 338 in Nevada, which comes out of Bridgeport as California hiway 182. If you are heading north on Nevada 338, at the Sweetwater Summit there is a large parking area to the right with a weather gathering station at the south end. From the southern end of the parking area, there is a short dirt road that goes behind a small knoll where the area flattens out and is an excellent place for a large group and large rigs. There are lots of good places for hikes and dirt bike rides. Hwy 338 is a known bicycle route. The elevation is right about 7,000 ft so we will probably have cool nights and warm days. There is no water or other facilities so this is a bring it in, take it out type rally site.

[This pictures shows the turn off (in the center of the picture) on the left side of the road opposite Sweetwater Canyon. The rally site is behind the hill with all the trees.]



PRESIDENT'S RAMBLIN'S

This months ramblings are going to be short. Dyann and I are on our way to the Bozeman Rally. I have been warned to keep the units reputation at the level it is now and not let my redneck get us into trouble. The Portola Rally was a very good one. The museum staff went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Family of unit members enjoyed the once in a life time feeling of getting to run the locomotive. For some such as my grandson and granddaughter it was a chance to see what their two grandparents were always talking about. I spent a short period as a brakeman on a government railroad and their other grandpa was an engineer for a major railway. The 42 foot airstream was cleaned out a little bit and new pictures taken by Bryan. These along with a letter, approved by the museum manager, will now be sent to various organizations to try and encourage donations to help us with the restoration. If time allows we are also going to try and cover the vent and window openings on the unit again to protect it until we can start the restoration. I am going to try and make the Sweetwater rally but time may be an enemy this month. Bozeman for two weeks then back for two weeks and then off to Elko for two weeks of fishing, hunting, relaxation, and the placing of a cross for my father up in the mountains at one of his favorite spots. So he can talk to Paul who is also placed up there. Ok, Off my box and into the truck, I will see you all next month .

Jerry

CLINT'S DRAWINGS

SNU rallies have apparently been inspirational for member Clint Norrell. He has used his considerable talents to create a drawing commemorating the 2008 May Unionville rally and the June 2008 Portola Rally. These drawings capture the true essence of the SNU and our rallies. In addition they can't help but make you smile. What better way to remember a great SNU weekend. Thank you Clint! To see all of Clint's drawing check the links listed in this newsletter.

DAMOTH'S CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

On June 6 Don and Mary Lou Damoth celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They celebrated the milestone with a picnic that was attended by all three of their children, spouses, grandchildren, and friends. The SNU presented Don and Mary Lou with a Unit flag. Don and Mary Lou have been SNU members since the early 1990's. They have supported the SNU in numerous ways and were instrumental in ensuring it's continuation through a difficult period in the early 2000's. Congratulations Don and Mary Lou!

1959 AIRSTREAM AFRICAN CARAVAN

How did the Airstream go to Africa? The PBS show History Detectives Season 6 that premieres Monday, June 30, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. on most PBS stations nationwide will answer that question. Check your local listing to confirm. Airstream Caravan airs Monday, July 21, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. It is the second story in the one-hour program. It features Dale Shcwamborn who went on the African Caravan and Fred Coldwell, Airstream Historian for the Vintage Airstream group and other people involved with the Caravan and Airstreaming.

RALLY SCHEDULE

The first draft of the SNU 2009 rally schedule has been posted for member review and input. In order to give everyone plenty of advanced planning notice and to have a completed schedule ready to submit to WBCCI in the fall, we will finalize this schedule in August. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and opinions by emailing the SNU at:

hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org

WEB LINKS

to information discussed in this newsletter including Unionville Rally photo gallery and the info for the June rally in Portola: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2008/08news/>



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