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# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Issue 12

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

December 2009

## Lunch at Gold Hill - 2009

Lunch at the Gold Hill Hotel and restaurant was a special treat. Many of us had been wanting to go there for years and never got around to it. The SNU lunch on November 14 provided the perfect opportunity. I think we all felt that it met with our expectations. What a neat old historic place. The luncheon menu also met with our expectations. The food and service was great. We had a choice of salmon, chicken or meatloaf and apple crisp for dessert. We definitely want to go back. SNU members attending the lunch included Roger & Janet, John & Sandy, Scott & Icyl, Gary & Anita, Randy & Vicki, Jerry & Dyann, Bryan, Diane, Don & Mary-Lou, Wes & Roy, Madelyn, Gordon & Susan, and Cindy. We all enjoyed a nice relaxing lunch and just catching up on what everyone had been doing since the rally at Mason Valley.

We couldn't have asked for better weather for a nice drive up to Gold Hill near Virginia City. All in all, a great day.

## Business Meeting

Although an official business meeting wasn't part of the November lunch, a few items were discussed informally. Dyann will be finalizing plans for the SNU December luncheon at the Overland. Cindy reports that reservations have been made with Weed Heights RV Park for our March 2010 rally. She has some neat plans in the works for that rally. Mark has reported that reservations for the January 2010 lunch at Cabela's have been made. Janet is in the process of contacting those SNU members who have not renewed for 2010.

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## Rally and events schedule

Click on a rally  
below for details

- ◆ Dec. 12th, 2009  
Overland Hotel  
& Basque Restaurant - Fallon
- ◆ Jan. 23rd 2010  
Cabela's - lunch  
in Reno
- ◆ Feb. 27th 2010  
El Charro Avita  
in Carson City
- ◆ March 18 - 21  
Weed HeightsRV  
Park Rally



## Cold Weather Hints

For the full article and links to other information, click [here](#).

Cold weather doesn't have to mean an end to your camping experiences. It does mean you have to plan a little differently and take some extra precautions. Where cooler weather takes its first toll is in the house battery. Next after battery life is propane. As the temperatures get colder, there are other issues that become a concern including plumbing and sanitation. Then of course, you need to be sure to have appropriate clothing and bedding. Here are a few tips for cold weather camping.

## Trailer Camping Practices for Lower Temperatures

1. Prepare for extra battery use by taking along spares, providing a means to keep your battery charged, or doing other things to reduce the risk of running out of battery energy.
2. Make sure your propane tanks don't run dry on you, top them off prior to leaving.
3. Protect the propane regulator from the elements so it doesn't get plugged or blocked.
4. Take plenty of clothing and bedding so you can implement a good layers of warmth policy to maintain comfort.
5. Make sure your furnace is functioning properly.
6. Don't use anything for heating your RV that is not designed for space heating purposes in an RV.
7. Only use the furnace overnight but do keep the thermostat as low as possible.
8. Any combustion based heating, such as catalytic heaters, must only be used when you make sure that there is proper ventilation and the device is not left unattended.
9. Whenever you cook or clean condensation can be a problem (see [article](#) ) so make sure there is proper ventilation.
10. Prepare your rig for the temperatures you plan to experience. See John Sankey's [advice](#) for when you are going to be out in very cold weather for some ideas.
11. Prepare yourself so you know what to expect and what to do to be comfortable and safe.
12. Take the equipment and supplies you need to enjoy your winter camping experience.

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## Upcoming 2010 Events

Saturday December 12, 2009 - Overland Hotel & Basque restaurant, Fallon

Dec 30, 2009 to Jan 1, 2010 Pasadena, CA Region XII Special Event Rose Parade Rally

Saturday January 23, 2010 luncheon at Cabela's, in Reno

February 1-9 2010 Blythe, CA Region 12 Hobo Rally

February 27, 2010 luncheon at El Charro, Carson City

Thursday March 18 – Sun. March 21 Weed Heights RV Park

Thursday April 22 – Sunday April 25 Pyramid Lake

Thursday May 20 – Sunday May 23 Ft Sage

Thursday June 24, – Sunday 27 Unionville

June 27 - July 4th Gillette, WY WBCCI International

Rally

Thursday July 22 – Sunday 25 Crocker/Beckworth

Thursday August 26 – Sunday 29 Eagle Lake - Rocky Point

Thursday September 23, – Sunday 26 Obsidian Dome Region 12 Rally Hemet, CA

Thursday October 21 – Sunday 24 Lahonton

Saturday November 20, 2010 Pioneer, Fernley

Thursday November 18 – Sunday 21 Death Valley

Saturday December 18, 2010 J.T.'s Gardnerville

For more information on upcoming 2010 rallies, [Click Here](#)

**Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line! [Click Here](#)**

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## Anita's Adventures

*Notes from our SNU President Anita Leipper*

Anita is in Death Valley participating in the SNU rally at Mesquite. She will have a report for us in the January newsletter.

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## Thank You

Dan and Linda (Hess) O'dell and Brian and Linda McKeand have renewed their full membership in the SNU. Robert and Cecilia Stansbury have renewed as affiliate members. We thank you all and look forward to your participation in 2010.

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## This and That

### *Membership*

As of the first official WBCCI audit of the SNU 2010 membership, we have 34 full members. This in addition to our 3 affiliate members brings the number of SNU members to 37 total. Thank you all for your support and participation. We hope to see each and everyone of you at rallies in 2010.

### *November and December Outings*

Several SNU members plan on an unofficial Thanksgiving outing at Scout Camp on the Carson River. The campground is part of Ft Churchill and is located just over the Carson river bridge near Buckland Station on hwy 95 south of Lahonton. Come out and visit or bring your Airstream and join us. November 26 to November 29. This is a place we have considered for rallies so this will be a good time to check it out. We also plan on a camping trip in December, probably the weekend of the 24th. So if you feel adventurous, plan on joining us.

### *Past Member Moved*

A recent email from past SNU members, Chuck and Judy Fell announced that they have moved to Washington state. Chuck provided the SNU with some wonderful private tours of the ghost town of Bodie. We just want them to know that even if they are further away, we'd love to see them at a rally anytime they happen to be in the area.

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## December Luncheon

Saturday December 12, 2009 the SNU luncheon will be at the Overland Hotel & Basque restaurant in downtown Fallon. It is sure to be another great meal in another historic place. Plan on joining us. The lunch starts at 11:30 am and the cost is \$15 per person.

RSVP to [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org) or call 775-972-5011



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### Web Links

For information discussed in this newsletter including the December lunch at the Overlander, please [Click Here](#)

Christmas is just around the corner. Head on over to [Aluminumitis](#) for some presents that can't be found at your local mall.

For more information on 2010 rallies check this website: [Click Here](#)

## Obituaries

Wade Thompson died of cancer on November 12th at age 69. Mr. Thompson purchased an iconic but failing brand, Airstream in the midst of a business downturn for recreational vehicles in 1980. He turned Thor Industries around by adding many other RV manufactures to its quiver, increasing their RV sales to lead the nation.

In 2007, when oil prices rose and a recession followed, he closed factories and cut jobs keeping Thor Industries alive while others in the industry filed for bankruptcy. The fate of Thor Industries and the Airstream brand will be in the hands of the CEO that fills in behind Mr. Thompson.

## Restoration Story

*by Rick LaBorde*

Is your vintage airstream in need of a good lift? Many older trailers with torsion axles tend to sag a bit from many years of heavy weight resting on their axles. My '64 Safari was no exception to this problem. After 5 or so years of watching interior rivets pop out from harsh road stress, I decided a few years back that I had better try to tackle this particular job before I started seeing permanent damage.

Doing some online research I found that a close nephew to my old axle could be purchased at Inland RV, so I headed down to Covina to pick it up in my Honda Odyssey. It barely fit stretching from between the bucket seats in the front to the rear hatch. I jacked the trailer up supporting the frame with numerous large rounds from a tree and proceeded to take out my tired old axle. Of course when I went to dry fit the new axle I found that not only did the new axle not match the old bolt pattern but it was going to raise the trailer about an inch. I decided this was a good thing so I cut off the brackets for the shocks (which were in the wrong location for my application) and bolted it up. After welding the shock brackets in the correct location and wiring up the brakes, the job was done. I set the ole Safari back on her feet only to find that I had actually raised it some two inches higher since the new axle was tight and not worn out like my old one. This has worked out very well for it's ground clearance and for me as changing out tires is now much easier. So if your not quite retired Airstream is not showing much of the top of your tires you to may want to check into getting a new axle or two depending on your trailer. It will ride much better and will keep it from shaking apart on rough roads. Who know your dishes may even stay in the cabinets. If you do decide to take on a restoration project, don't hesitate to ask some of the other members for some tips as most have had some kind of experience that may just save you some time.