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# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

April 2010

## Weed Heights Rally

The SNU started of the 2010 rally season on a high note. Members who attended included Jerry and Dyann and Dyann's sister Ann, Mike and Cindy, Wes and Roylaine, Gary and Bryan and Diane. Gary's wife, Anita had to work so she wasn't able to come. Being at an RV park with facilities proved beneficial for Jerry and Dyann. They discovered their water heater leaked. They had quite a time sopping up the water and drying out the carpets. Mike and Cindy were having some problems with their furnace wiring. Between plumbing, heaters and other issues, Jerry and Dyann and Mike and Cindy make several trips into Yerington to the nearby thrift store and the hardware store. After a previous experience of a cold night with no heat, Wes and Roy are taking no chances. Not only

source for updating his Airstream. Mike and Cindy will also have a new (used) frig in their Airstream by the Pryamid Lake rally. This frig has an ice maker! So guess who will be supplying ice at SNU rallies :) One of the parted out appliances was a 10 gallon water heater. Jerry needs one but doesn't have space for one that big. Bryan was going to swap the DSI B-Van water heater with the trailer pilot lit one. So maybe the big one will work in the trailer and the B-Van one will work in Jerry's motorhome and the motorhome DSI hardware will work in the trailer water heater that will fit in the B-Van.

The real highlight of this rally was our experiment with omelets in a bag on Saturday morning. Wow! It was easy, it was fun, and it was delicious. Cindy and Mike's chickens provided fresh eggs. The rest of us brought various items such as ham, cheese, olives, and onions. Cindy labeled a zip lock bag for each person and we all got to add our own ingredients to our eggs. Once all the bags were full we popped them in pots of boiling water for about 15 minutes. The omelets turned out perfect and doing them this way we all got to eat at the same time. Diane provided some sausage to accompany the omelets. Needless to

say, we weren't too hungry for lunch, especially since we knew our crockpot pot luck was coming up for dinner. We spent the afternoon with delicious smells from crock-pots wafting through the air. By dinnertime we were ready to enjoy a variety of dishes cooked in crock-pots. George, the campground host and Wheels joined us for dinner. Wheels had driven up earlier in the afternoon.



are they sure the heater in their Airstream works, they have a portable propane heater and a catalytic heater. Another accomplishment at this rally was getting Gary's computer set up and coordinating between his computer and his GPS system.

Other than plumbing and heaters, a major topic of discussion was water heaters and appliances. Mike found someone parting out an RV as a re-

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### Rally and events schedule

Click on a rally  
below for details

- ◆ April 22 - 25  
Pyramid Lake
- ◆ May 20 - 23  
Ft Sage - BLM
- ◆ June 24 - 27  
Unionville
- ◆ July 22 - 25  
Crocker/ Beckworth
- ◆ August 26 - 29  
Eagle Lake - Rocky Point

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## April at Pyramid Lake

Thursday April 22 to Sunday April 25 2010 are the dates for the SNU rally at Pelican Point, Pyramid Lake. Pyramid Lake is about 30 North of Sparks NV on highway 445. The rally site is visible from the road and just above the lake. We'll have shared dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings as well as Happy Hours around 3:30 or so. Other



than that there will be plenty of time for fishing, hiking, or whatever suits your fancy. Be sure and bring wood for campfires.

You can now make get your Pyramid Lake camping permit on line by clicking on the Ranger's webpage at this URL <http://plpt.nsn.us/> or you can go directly to <https://plpt.nagfa.net/online> This requires registration with a PIN to access.

The requested information to register seems rather onerous. If you choose to pay at Pyramid Lake, be sure to stop by the store on Highway 445 before reaching Pyramid Lake or in Sutcliffe and pick up your permit BEFORE coming to the rally site. As with most SNU rallies, this is dry camping. The closest facilities are in Sutcliffe. Check the link listed in this newsletter for more information on this rally and a map to the rally site.

For information discussed in this newsletter including the March Rally at Weed Heights, please [Click Here](#)

## Unsolicited Email

Recently many WBCCI members received an email with the subject title WBCCI Alert; Save our club. This email was not authorized nor is it condoned by WBCCI. Regardless of how the email addresses were obtained, WBCCI is aware that this is a misuse of member information and violates the privacy statement on page two, paragraph two of the 2010 WBCCI directory. In addition this email is soliciting unauthorized donations from WBCCI members. This email has been referred to WBCCI legal council and appropriate actions are being considered. The SNU along with apparently numerous other WBCCI members have expressed their concerns to WBCCI regarding this email and the use of member information. Due to concerns regarding member information, SNU implemented several systems to minimize misuse when it re-organized in 2002. The SNU was one of the first and still one of the very few Units to use a subscription system for email communications with members, including the email announcements of the online newsletter. The SNU is also one of the first and very few to provide options on it's membership application and dues renewal forms as to whether or not a member wishes his email address to be published or to be kept only for SNU internal communications directly with that member. Another first was the use of title specific email addresses for the SNU board and president. This facilitates email communications with board members while keeping their personal email addresses private. WBCCI is aware of the impact such misuse of membership information can have. They are in the process of reviewing the systems already in place and will seek to find additional ways to minimize these types of unsolicited emails being sent to members in the future.

## Upcoming 2010 Events

Thursday May 20 – Sunday May 23 Ft Sage

Thursday June 24, – Sunday 27 Unionville

June 27 - July 4, 2010 Gillette, WY WBCCI International Rally WBCCI

Thursday July 22 – Sunday 25 Crocker/Beckworth

Thursday August 26 – Sunday 29 Eagle Lake - Rocky Point

Thursday September 23, – Sunday 26 Obsidian Dome

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

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

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

## Caravan Basics

Caravans are essentially what started WBCCI. Wally Byam used caravans as a way to promote his Airstream trailers. It was a group of people who had been on caravans with Wally that decided to formalize their group and thus, in 1955 became the Wally Byam Caravan Club. Caravans are still a special part of WBCCI. Milan and Eloise Wight, long time SNU affiliate members and veterans of numerous caravans did a presentation for Region 12 in 1998 about caravan basics. The presentation covered such topics as caravan jobs and finances, clothing and equipment, driver's meetings, liability, food, and keeping a journal. The presentation also covers guidelines as to pets, generators, trash, firearms and alcohol. The excerpt below is from the opening statement of this presentation. It pretty well sums up the caravan experience.

Enter the caravan with a spirit of adventure, because it really is. Enjoy yourselves, the scenery, the people, and the local events. Keep well and cheerful, be cooperative and courteous. Drive Carefully, safely, and intelligently. Assume your share of responsibilities. Help your fellow caravanners. Become a family. Smile and remember, we are making friends for life. To read the entire presentation [Click Here](#).

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## Finding the SNU Rally Sites

The SNU now provides the means for you to put its rally sites on your electronic map. The list of rally sites is provided in a format for Google Earth as well as in a spreadsheet format or one that can be used to upload to personal navigation devices. If you don't have a GPS or a PND or a computer with a mapping program, you can still take the file and use it to find coordinates on your paper maps. A new web page has been created that provides all sorts of links and resources to help you use your GPS and other electronic devices to find SNU rally sites and a host of related information. The links include sources for POI or points of interest files that include locations of roadside rest stops or dump stations. There are lots of links to sites to assist you in making the most of your GPS and similar devices. Follow this [URL link](#) for more information.

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## Greetings from Frank and Carol

As some of you may know, we've been enjoying an extended exploration of Texas and points east. It has been a very different winter for us, as we usually like to spend time in the deserts of Southern California and Arizona. But, having never Airstreamed in this part of the world, we thought we'd give it a try.

While in Florida, we represented our unit at the Florida State Rally. We and 355 other Airstreams gathered for several days at the fairgrounds in Sarasota. We enjoyed the rally entertainment, vendors, seminars, etc, but mostly enjoyed connecting with old friends from the two caravans we've taken. We also were able to meet the leaders and several of the folks we'll be joining on this year's Southwest Caravan in April.

The big day arrived for the rally pet show. As usual, the show was dominated by dogs, and when O'Reilly, our gray tabby cat, took the floor on his leash, the room became still and many nervous canine owners snuggled up leashes just a bit. We are quite proud to announce that O'Reilly took home a blue "First Place" ribbon. He nailed the "largest" cat category. The only other cat brave enough to show up won the ribbon for "smallest" cat.



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## U.S. Forest Service Keeps Discounts

A recent email from Dave Putnam of the San Joaquin Unit states that the proposed USFS plans to reduce or eliminate some discounts in the senior and disabled park pass programs has been scuttled. In part this was due to over 4,000 comments heard from RV's over 60-day public notice and comment period. For more information on this topic follow this [link](#).

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## Weed Heights Rally (cont. from page 1)

Doris was home visiting with her daughter. Wheels informed us that he and Doris will be going to the WBCCI International Rally in Gillette in June. After that they will participate in the WBCCI National Landmarks West Caravan. This will be their first International Rally and their first Caravan. We look forward to hearing about their adventures and seeing some pictures of their travels. Mike and Cindy did a great job hosting this rally. Not only did they coordinate the omelet breakfast they brought horseshoes in case anyone got ambitious. The horseshoes never made it out of the truck. We did have an organized activity of sorts though. Jerry, Wheels and Cindy finished up a jigsaw puzzle and made a good start on another one. Mike and Cindy also provided happy hour treats on Saturday. Ann had provided some happy hour treats on Friday. Saturday Mike got out their propane "campfire" so we had all the key elements of an SNU rally – great food, a few hap-hazard activities, happy hours, a little repair and maintenance, lots of great discussions, an obligatory campfire, and best of all, great friends to share it all with.



## Africa 1959 - Excerpts from Wally Byam's book *Trailer Travel Here and Abroad*

It was 51 years ago that Wally Byam started out on a historic year long trip across Africa. The Caravan included 106 people, including 21 kids under age 21, in forty-one trailers. The trailers ranged in size from a 16 ft Bubble to a 30-footer. In preparation for this trip the trailers needed a little extra attention. They needed to install seven gallon butane tanks with special fittings to accommodate European fittings. Each driver had to have a good supply of spare parts including burners for gas refrigerators, couplings for water lines, fuses, magnets for the Kelsey-Hayes electric brakes, extra sheets of aluminum, copper tubing and hydraulic hose connections. They also needed things like filters for the ceiling vents, canvas water funnels, tow ropes and air pumps. A 50 gallon gas tank was necessary as there were to be stretches of 600 miles or more between fuel stops. Extra water capacity was also essential. One person carried plastic water bags put inside Army duffle bags for protection. The Airstream factory in Ohio created flat plastic "envelopes" about 4ft wide and 6ft long that could be tied on the roof of the truck or trailer. This system included a little 12 volt Water Puppy pump which operated off the car battery. The two final items were a "very compact 12 volt RCA broadcasting set, good within a radius of about ten miles, and an improved gear mechanism to step up our generators." This was the first time radios were used on a caravan. The Gen-O-Matic devise helped keep the generators fully charged by running the generator in high even when the engine was idling.

An example of life on the road is provided by these comments about going through the Belgian Congo. Wally says "Our trip started inauspiciously enough." Things soon changed. Narrow pitted roads, laced with gullies eroded by sudden squalls. Wally says "the Rhodesians, with the classic British gift for understatement, referred to as a 'bad corrugated deviation' and the Caravanners referred to as 'Byam Boulevard'". Apparently, as Wally says, the Belgian administration has lost interest in the road and not even the elephants would walk on it. For more than 10 hours the Caravanners slogged over the 125 mile stretch to Elizabethville. One by one trailers began falling out with broken springs and other problems. The supply truck would drop off new springs then proceed to assist the next crippled rig. One had apparently hit a good size pot hole and cracked the frame of their trailer. Wally drove into Elizabethville and got a welder to fix the frame. When the Caravan reached the Ethiopian border they ran out of roads altogether. Wally said when they all finally got to Elizabethville he "dreamed of mutiny until dawn."

Dale (PeeWee) Schwamborn was an advanced scout on this Caravan. Check the link in this newsletter for more pictures, information and memorabilia provided by PeeWee from the 1959 African Caravan.



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