



# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, Issue 3

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

March 2011

## El Charro Lunch

Despite some questionable weather, we had a good turnout for the February lunch at El Charro. Participants included Jerry & Dyann, Wes & Roy, Mike & Cindy, Vaughn, Roger & Janet, Randy & Vicki, and Bryan & Diane. As usual, we had a great time catching up on all the news while enjoying some great Mexican food. Mike and Cindy just recently returned from a trip to Daytona where the main attraction was the Daytona 500. They got to watch Trevor Bayne win the race. Trevor, who at one day after his 20th birthday, is the youngest person to ever win that race. Mike said one of the best parts was being able to go on the track itself and walk around the pit areas. Mike and Cindy did some other sightseeing while they were in Florida. There was so much to



see and do, they now want to go back and spend a little more time exploring. Roger and Janet have now moved up to a 1st alternate position for a WBCCI Caravan next fall

covering the Northeastern U.S. We'll keep our fingers crossed that they will be able to go as this will be their first caravan. Randy has some work ahead of him correcting a problem with the wheels on his Airstream. He got some good tips and ideas from Mike and others at the lunch. It's been a while since we have seen Vaughn so it was nice to have him at the lunch. Vaughn's wife Donna recently passed away after a long illness. Vaughn is planning on attending the WBCCI International Rally in DuQuoin in June. Dyann, Diane, and RoyLaine had a brief discussion about an unofficial rally this coming Thanksgiving. We all enjoyed Thanksgiving at Scout Camp in 2009 and agreed it would be fun to do it again this year. More information on this plan will be forthcoming. Anyone who wishes to participate would be welcome. Lunch at El Charro was a very enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours on a cold Saturday. Now we are all looking forward to the first SNU rally of 2011 at Weed Heights in March.

## Charter Member Remembered

It was learned recently that **Frank Burnham** passed away in September 2010. Frank along with his wife Steve were charter members of the SNU. They were active members, both of whom served on the SNU board and supported the Unit in a variety of ways. They were also involved in the Region and National levels of WBCCI.



[SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/](http://SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/)

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### Rally and events schedule

Click on a rally  
below for details

- ♦ **March 24-27**  
**Weeds Heights**  
**RV Park**
- ♦ **April 28 - May 1**  
**Boca Rest**  
**Campground**
- ♦ **May 19 - May 22**  
**Fort Sage**
- ♦ **June 22-23**  
**Sweetwater**  
**Summit**

## Off Grid-camping will set you free!

SNU rallies are the perfect introduction to off-grid camping. We have dealt with a variety of issues at SNU dry-camping rallies including batteries that ran flat, water systems that sprung a leak or weren't functioning in the first place and flaky refrigerators. Some members enjoy watching TV or movies at night. Some like to use a lot of water for showers or other washing. One member, for medical reasons needed to run a generator all night. They parked in such a way that it didn't impact others. With a little care and caution, we run air conditioners to keep us cool and heaters to keep us warm. Even the newer Airstreams with their controller boards and alarms that use some residual power do just fine dry-camping as long as you pay attention. Dry-camping means adapting some of the things you do at home or at a full service site to accommodate more limited resources. To make the propane go a little further, keep the heater a little lower or use a catalytic heater. BBQ instead of using the stove and oven. Batteries go a little further if you limit the use of battery draining equipment. Consider other power sources like solar or generators to augment your on board systems. Water - having enough and disposing of it properly, makes an impact on your enjoyment of dry-camping. With a little planning and consideration you can be totally comfortable while minimizing the amount of water you use. SNU members have utilized a variety of commercial as well as other methods for handling gray water if the tank starts to get full. Keep in mind, dry-camping is it is a state of mind. Dry-camping is not about doing without. It is thinking about what you do, the systems you use and how to use these systems most effectively and efficiently. The most important asset to dry-camping with the SNU is the experience of our members. There is always somebody at an SNU rally who can assist with any problems that might arise including charging batteries, sharing extra water or propane, or providing refrigerator space. We usually have a fair supply of tools and have frequently done a little repair and maintenance work on various Airstreams at rallies. After learning to enjoy dry-camping SNU style, you'll have a lot more options of places to visit and things to enjoy. Check the link in this newsletter for more information on dry-camping SNU style. There is also a [link](#) to Wheels' article on water leaks which made him think dry-camping might have been a better option.

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For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the March rally at Weed Heights.  
please [Click Here](#) <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2011/11news/index.html>

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## Notes from the Prez

Dyann Thornburg

We had another great luncheon at El Charro's in Carson City. I was glad to see everyone who made it there. It's now time to start getting ready for our first rally for 2011! It will be at the Weed Height's RV park near Yerington, NV. I always like this rally because it gives us a chance to dewinterize our rigs. This is a great way to get our Airstreams ready for the upcoming rally season. There will be full hook-ups so if the need be for some repair work you are still able to enjoy yourself. Last year Jerry and I took full advantage of this when we discovered we had a cracked water heater in our MoHo. We will be doing our usual crockpot potluck and our new tradition for this rally site the omlets in a bag. I just received an email from Rich Rego with some informational items for the NRA Dinner on March 26th. If you are interested in going just let me know and I would be happy to send them to you. I am looking forward to a great year and hope to see everyone at the rallies. Take care and see you at Weed Heights on March 24 - 27th.

## Upcoming 2011 Events

Thursday March 24 – Sunday March 27, 2011 Weed Heights RV Park	Thursday September 22 – Sunday September 25, 2011 Zephyr Cove Campground & dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe
Thursday April 28 – Sunday May1, 2011 Boca Rest	October 13 - 17, 2011 - Region 12 rally Jackson, CA.
Thursday May 19 – Sunday May 22, 2011 Ft Sage	Thursday October 20 – Sunday October 23, 2011 Ft Churchill Scout Camp
Thursday June 23 – Sunday June 26, 2011 Sweetwater Summit	Saturday November 19, 2011 B.J.'s BBQ in Sparks
Thursday July 21 – Sunday July 24, 2011 Hickison Petroglyph Site	Thursday November 17 – Sunday November 20, 2011 Death Valley Mesquite Campground
Thursday August 25 – Wednesday August 31 Obsidian Dome & Mammoth Lakes	Saturday December 17, 2011 Overland Basque Restaurant , Fallon
June 28 - July 4, 2011 WBCCI International Rally, DuQuoin Illinois	

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

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## Special Rallies & Events

There are a number of special opportunities coming up this year.

- First and foremost are the two special rallies planned by the SNU. These are the joint rally with the San Fernando Valley Unit at Obsidian Dome and Mammoth Lakes in August and the special SNU 35th Anniversary rally and dinner cruise at Lake Tahoe. To rsvp for these rallies email: [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org)
- The Oregon Unit is hosting a rally in Baker Oregon, birthplace of Wally Byam. This rally is in conjunction with special celebrations sponsored by the Baker County Tourism Department in partnership with the Baker Heritage Museum. The Oregon Unit is holding 4 dry-camping spots for SNU members. More spaces may be available if needed. For more information or to rsvp contact Teresa Taylor 503-440-1121 or e-mail me at [tttdesign@gmail.com](mailto:tttdesign@gmail.com)
- Region 12 is holding it's annual rally in Jackson, CA at the Jackson RV Rancheria. Alls sorts of activities are planned including a pink flamingo rig decorating contest and a winery tour. The early bird (before September 1) registration fee is \$250 for 2 people, 1 rig. Registration includes the RV Park fees and two dinners and two breakfasts. See the link in this newsletter for the rally & registration flyer or contact rally registrar Kathy Hampel [mycashew2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mycashew2001@yahoo.com)
- The 35th Huck Finn's Jubilee will be held June 17,18,19,2011 at the Mojave Narrows Regional Park in Victorville, CA This is a public event rather than a WBCCI sponsored event. Bluegrass music is the highlight of this event. There is also a crafts village and plenty of "vittles". RV and tent camping is available. For more information and tickets go to [www.huckfinn.com](http://www.huckfinn.com) or call (951) 780-8810

Check the [link](#) in the newsletter for more information on these rallies.

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## Sierra Nevada Unit Business Meeting

SNU President, Dyann called the meeting to order and began with discussion of the upcoming October 2011 Region 12 Rally in Jackson CA and the Wally Byam Birthday rally in July in Baker, OR. Dyann handed out flyers for both of these rallies and encouraged everyone to attend. Dyann then asked Bryan to share an idea for the SNU 35th anniversary rally in South Lake Tahoe. Bryan said the SNU has a healthy bank balance and a way to celebrate would be for the SNU to cover a lot of the costs involved of this event. What this means is that participants would pay the usual SNU rally fee of \$5 per night for the rally and \$15 per person for the dinner cruise and the SNU would pick up the rest of the costs. All SNU members at El Charro approved of this plan. Dyann then asked Randy to discuss the rally plans for the 35th Anniversary rally at South Lake Tahoe. Randy has been working on this event for several months. Over an extended period of time he has tried numerous methods of communication with the event coordinator for the Zephyr Cove RV Park including a site visit, email and phone. The apparent disinterest and lack of response by Zephyr Cove has made planning extremely difficult and caused serious concerns about follow through. Randy also contacted Campground By the Lake just west of downtown South Lake Tahoe. Initial communications have been much more promising. Randy handed out a sheet describing the pros and cons of both options. After reviewing these options and some discussion, the group voted on holding the rally at Campground By The Lake with a dinner cruise on the Tahoe Queen. The meeting adjourned after some general discussion.

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## Airstreams at the Rose Parade

by Frank Colligan

We finally made it to our first Rose Parade Rally this year, and are so glad we did. About 25 rigs gathered a few blocks off of Colorado Blvd in a school yard and the fun began. Airstreamers traveled from as far as Tennessee, Texas and Eastern Canada. We had a large tent where we shared several meals and fellowship. The tent was filled with music, dancing and more food as 2010 wound down and the calendar turned over to 2011. The rally was well planned and executed. Hats off to Ken and Judy Bechtold and all involved. As with any event like this, many people work very hard to make it such a success. We had plenty of time to enjoy the area attractions; museums, lovely neighborhood tours, float building tours and after the parade, the up-close-and-personal encounter with the floats.

Of course, the reason we came to Pasadena, was to be able to sit in our own chair on Colorado Blvd and watch the famous parade. Arranging the seating had the feel of a military operation. Our chairs were collected on the evening of the 30th. At 0530 on the 31st, they were taken and deposited near the curb on the parade route, thus staking out a stretch of valuable real estate. At 1200 the chairs advanced to the curb. At 2359 the chairs advanced to the "honor line" in the street, their final position. We were now four rows deep with an unobstructed view. Everyone drew a time slot and we took turns on "chair watch." The scene along the route was amazing. Something like a 5 mile long tailgate party that lasted 24 plus hours! Due to a cold snap that gripped Southern California, temperatures were about 15 degrees cooler than normal this year....but no rain on this parade. So all the warm clothes came out of the closet along with blankets and warm drinks to get us through the night and morning.

**Continued on page 4**

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## It's Rally Time!

Be sure to put your crockpot and your patio lights in your Airstream before heading to the first SNU rally of 2011. The rally will be March 24 to Sunday March 27 at Weed Heights RV Park. Since we have an indoor clubhouse and access to electricity, we can decorate our Airstreams and enjoy a crockpot pot luck on Friday night. To provide a little inspiration a new page on crockpot cooking has been added to the website. Check the link listed in this newsletter. On Saturday, we'll have omelets in a bag with Cindy providing the eggs – home grown no less. Bring your favorite omelet ingredients to add to the eggs. For those of you who got tickets, Saturday night is the Friends of NRA dinner. SNU affiliate members Rich and Marian Rego were on the planning committee. The rest of us will have a pot luck in the clubhouse. Rich and Marian are life members of the Mason Valley Trap Club. They have access to the range so there will be an opportunity for some trap shooting. We especially encourage those of you who haven't been to an SNU rally yet to make this the first one. We know you'll have a great time and that this will be the first of many more great SNU experiences.



## Airstreams at the Rose Parade - continued

by Frank Colligan

In a word, the parade was spectacular. Watching it in your pajamas at home might be more convenient and comfortable, but there is nothing like seeing it roll by a few feet away. It is an experience you'll never forget. There are many options and tours available for this annual event, but you can't beat having your warm and cozy Airstream parked nearby for all the festivities. The plan is to limit this rally to 25 rigs, so if you are available next New Years to have a great time with a great group of people, get a deposit in early. We might just see you down there!

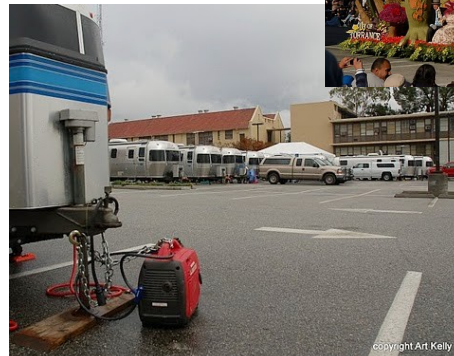
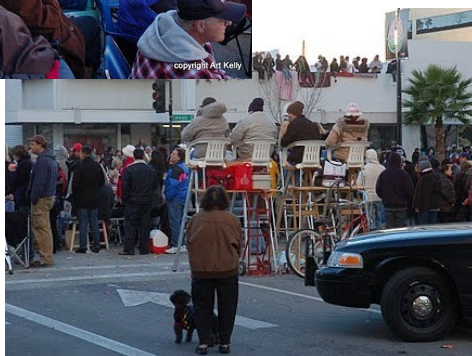
Note from Frank on 1/27/2011: We are presently in the Escapee Park, Jojobo Hills near Temecula, and will head for the Hobo Rally on Sunday. From there into Arizona for a few weeks and we'll finish up the winter at our favorite place, Anza Borrego Desert State Park. We look forward to seeing Bob and Cecelia and Vaughn and meeting Rich and Marian at the Hobo next week.



WBCCI rally participants had a front row seat



Notice adult size high chairs



The rally site for the Rose Parade

These photos were taken by Art Kelly WBCCI # 3199 and used with permission. To see all of Art's photos of the rally and Rose Parade check these links. [Pasadena Rose Parade](#) -|- [WBCCI Region 12 Rose Parade Rally](#) Links to Art's pictures can also be found at the [SNU link](#) listed in this newsletter. Great pictures. Thank you Art.



[Sierranevadairstreams.org/snu](http://Sierranevadairstreams.org/snu)

The Sierra Nevada Unit c/o Leipper Management  
PO Box 60572, Reno, NV 89506  
Phone: 775-972-5011  
Email: [hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](mailto:hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org)

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