



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

August 2012

Weed Heights Rally Review

SierraNevadaAirstreams.or

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Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ◆ [Aug. 10th
Obsidian Dome](#)
- ◆ [Aug. 30th Fallon
Cantaloupe Festi-
val](#)
- ◆ [Oct. 25th Hickson
Petroglyphs](#)
- ◆ [November 17th
Gold Hill Hotel](#)



Everyone who attended the July rally at Weed Heights fully appreciated that the air conditioners in their Airstreams worked just fine and that we had electricity to run them. We also appreciated the nice shady trees and the fact that the park sits up where it can get lots of breeze (wind). Having a cool

club house for dinnertime was another benefit. Those who attended the rally were Dean & Shelly, Jerry & Dyann, Wheels & Doris, Roger & Janet, and Bryan & Diane. Friday Steve Erickson stopped by for a nice visit and Saturday Roylaine came out for a visit. Doris brought out some unique flamingos that had come her way recently. Despite her best salesman techniques, she just couldn't get anybody to take them home. Even though we considered leaving them as décor for the club house, or passing them from one SNU member to another, in the end the flamingos went home again with the Wheelers. Friday morning Wheels drove to the nearby local bakery and brought back a



box of very fresh donuts and other goodies that went perfect with our morning coffee. Other activities during the rally included Wheels spending part of the weekend participating in a Civil Air Patrol exercise. Roger and Janet took a ride into town to see how it's changed since they lived there. Roger also shared some of his experiences working at the nearby Anaconda mining pit when he was a young squirt. Dean and Shelly also went into Yerrington and visited the museum. Jerry, who has been working some long hours without many days off, spent part of his time polishing his Airstream and truck. Shelly checked out some of the geocaching sites nearby. Most of us spent some time reading, taking inspirational naps, just relaxing, and staying cool. Saturday we had our omelets in a bag breakfast. In addition to omelets, Doris and Shelly brought some bacon. Shelly cooked up some potatoes and we also had some cantaloupe. Saturday evening we had our usual shared meal with lots of great food including some pulled pork that Dyann had cooked in her crock pot. Dyann, Roger and Janet collaborated on a special treat for dessert – root beer floats. That was the perfect way to end a hot



Notes from the Prez

Dyann Thornburg

What a wonderful time we had at Weed Heights in July. We had a good turnout and it was nice to be able to stay out of the heat in both the clubhouse and our trailers. It was great to see everyone there and to have Roylaine Warn join us for a few hours on Saturday. This month's rally is again at Obsidian Dome. This has turned out to be a great location to do joint rallies with other WBCCI units and we look forward to seeing members of the San Fernando Unit there again this year. I had asked for 10 spots to be held for our Airstreams at the Cantaloupe Festival in Fallon over Labor Day weekend (Sept. Rally). I just got off the phone with Fallon Parks and Recreations Dept. and have found out only 4 spots have been reserved. As we told you last month they will hold the spaces for us until the end of July. If you haven't called you will not be guaranteed a place to park but I have a feeling there will be plenty of spaces left and you can still get one so please call (775) 423-7733 and tell them you are with the Airstream Group. I was sincerely hoping for a larger turnout to this special rally. I know there are several members who told me they would be attending who haven't reserved a spot yet which surprises me. Also as of the first of November I will no longer be doing the snail mailings for the SNU. I have been doing it for a very long time and feel it is time for someone else to take over. If you would be interested in helping the SNU and doing the mailings it would be greatly appreciated so please let us know. If no one steps up as of November the newsletter will be available only via the internet. I hope everyone has a great month and I look forward to seeing you at Obsidian Dome August 9th – 12th, 2012. Remember the August rally is earlier this year due to our Sept. Rally taking place over Labor Day weekend. Have a great month!

Obsidian in Early August

The August rally will be held at one of the SNU's favorite spots – Obsidian Dome. The dates are Thursday August 9 to Sunday 12 2012. Obsidian Dome is a dispersed area just south of June Lakes. This rally is becoming an annual multi-Unit rally. This year we expect to be joined by Victor, Bobbie and Marla from the San Fernando Valley Unit. We might also have some guests from the San Diego Unit. If you haven't been to this location before and want to travel with someone, let us know and we can work something out. If you aren't sure about Obsidian but want to attend the rally, there are RV Parks nearby in June Lakes and Mammoth. You will have to make your own reservations. There is plenty to do at Obsidian and if you wish to take a day trip there are lots of things to see and do within a short driving distance. Bobbi has some ideas for breakfast on Friday and Randy has offered to cook waffles for us on Saturday. That is always a special treat. Friday and Saturday dinners will be our usual shared meals. Randy and Vicki will reveal the latest modifications they have made on "The Thing". This was introduced to the SNU at the Crocker rally. See the link in this newsletter for maps, gps guidance and other details.



For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the August Rally at Obsidian Dome, Inyo N.F. please [Click Here](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html) <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html>

Upcoming Events for 2012

Thursday August 9th to Sunday 13 Obsidian Dome **Saturday November 17 Gold Hill Hotel**

Thursday August 30 to Monday September 3 Fallon Cantaloupe Festival **Thursday November 30 to Sunday December 2 Death Valley Mesquite campground**

Thursday October 25 to Sunday 38 Hickison Petroglyphs **Saturday December 15 Louis Basque Corner, Reno**

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

New Airstream Owners!

Bruce and Kathy's Bambi arrived. In a recent email Bruce sent this picture and these comments. "Kathy and our new 2013 19-foot Flying Cloud Bambi at the Rogue River in Oregon. We picked up our new trailer at the dealership in Eugene, OR and took five days getting her home. The new Airstreams are very nicely built, and our travels will be pretty comfy now!"



Cantaloupe Festival Rally

The Deadline is fast approaching to rsvp for this special event rally. Call Dyann 775 867 2797 or email president@sierranevadaairstreams.org. You will also need to call the City campground. To participate in this rally, you must call the Fairgrounds directly at 775-423-7733 no later than July 30, 2012. Tell them you are part of the Airstream Group.

Welcome New Members

The newest SNU members are Russell and Deborah Decker of Yuba City, CA. Last we heard they are traveling. We hope they will be able to attend a rally sometime soon so we can welcome them in person.

Dues are Due

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2013. Dues are \$75 annually which includes membership in WBCCI and the SNU. [Pay online](#) or mail your dues check for \$75 to the SNU, 714 Terra Ct, Reno, NV 89506. As of July 10, the SNU has 4 new members for 2013 and 12 renewals. We wish to thank each and every one of you

Escapee's Care Center

Frank and Carol Colligan

What options do full-time RVers have when the time comes to hang up the keys? What if they need some assistance with everyday chores? What if they would like to continue living in their RV? If they belong to the Escapees RV Club, they have a great option in Livingston, TX, adjacent to Rainbow's End, the large Escapee park. Livingston is located about 60 miles north of Houston. Joe and Kay Peterson, the founders of Escapees, had a vision to provide total support to the full time RV community, and they set aside the land and set up a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization called CARE (Continuing Assistance for Retired Escapees). CARE is a licensed adult day care and residential program. To learn more about CARE please go to www.escapeescare.org.

CARE is very affordable due in large part to the dozens of people who volunteer here every year. In exchange for a full hook-up site and meals, volunteers typically commit to a month doing a variety of chores. These include preparing and serving meals, cleaning the kitchen and dining room, driving residents to their appointments, socializing and playing games and being on-call over night and on weekends acting as first responder if a resident presses their medical alert button. Some volunteers focus on maintenance and lawn mowing as well.

It is a gratifying way to give back and many volunteers return year after year. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at CARE. It really is all about the wonderful residents there and we plan to return to help out again. Check out the website and maybe we'll see you down in East Texas one of these days.

Weeds Heights Rally (cont.)

day. In addition to those unique flamingos, Wheels and Doris were showcasing a new set of flamingo lights along their awing. These change color and they looked really neat after dark. Sunday, after morning coffee and goodies, everyone started packing up to head home before the heat of the day. A very enjoyable weekend at Weed Heights RV Park.

New Trailer Problem Punch List

Don Williams

While we love Airstreams we all know that they are made one at a time and often suffer from problems that have to be covered under warranty. Our new 28' International Signature Series is no exception. We had a small punch list of what needed fixed on our first trip to Pahrump and Pyramid Lake but two serious things cropped up on our 2012 Really Retired Holiday; Gail ended up taking a cold shower (isn't that usually suggested for the men) when the hot water heater didn't work on commercial electric or shore power and then our black water tank wouldn't drain in Sisters, Oregon! I'll set the scene for the hot water problem; we pulled into the Diamond Lake RV Park near Crater Lake. Our neighbor and I often have a friendly competition so see who gets setup and relaxes with a beer first. Trailer leveled, unhooked, water hooked up, sewer hooked up and the electric hot water heater turned on while Walter was still unhooking; I won hands down.

The next morning Gail was up first so she started her shower. NO HOT WATER! Now I always wet down the shower itself until the water warms before I wet down myself and start lathering up but Gail didn't. After she hollered I get up, check the switch, it's on. Okay, I check the TV and the night light (plugged into the inverter it seems) and they are working. I turn on the propane for the hot water heater and ask her to wait but no, she says "I'm already soapy!" So I go out side to see if there are any LEDs on the hot water tank board that help troubleshoot the problem. There aren't but I found a clue looking down the side of the trailer towards the 30 Amp connection; no power cord plugged in for the shore power!

Four days later in Sisters, Oregon I am up first and trying to make amends. The black and grey water tanks lights are amber/red so I figure I should dump the tanks, especially since the material (use your imagination) in the black water tank is real close to the valve in the head. Pull the black water valve and I walk away to fiddle with some other tasks. When I return I close the valve and drain the grey water tank. Before I can finish Gail gets up and yells out it's still full! Now I am confused. I go in and check; yep it's still full! I eventually get enough courage too open the valve without the dump hose attached and look up with a flashlight. There is nothing coming out and I can see the valve is open. First thoughts are I didn't use and tank chemicals, the toilet paper wadded together and plugged the tank outlet or the plastic cookie cut out of the tank for the piping was left inside and lodged in the outlet. I have this vision of driving the 15 + miles to Bend, Oregon with a overly full tank to have an RV technician fix the problem. Neighbor Walter comes over to see why I am spending so much time dumping the tanks. We confer and I decide to first dump some chemicals in the head and try to drain the tanks again. No luck. Then we use a cap with a hose outlet to back flush the tank in hopes of clearing the blockage. We start and Gail says the water level in the pipe came up almost to the valve in the head! I am worried; I poke the debris with a sacrificed coat hanger to see if there is some space in the tank if I can get the material to go down. Some of the water in the pipe drains away but the material is still there! More time is spent, over an hour, trying to back flush and even use the flush connection in the tank. The only change is that the water is no longer rising in the pipe. At this point I use my engineering knowledge and remember reading that some people have had problems with a mountain of stuff (you know what I mean) that built up under the head that blocked the tank so I look for something long enough and stiff enough to stick down the head pipe and push sideways. Voilà, the mountain is moved and the head usable again! Given these two experiences it is obvious that Airstream's new buyer training was faulty, it assumed that someone with 80,000 miles on Airstreams would know how to use all the systems! Do you think they offer a warranty for this type of owner failure?

P.S. Four days later at Ainsworth State Park I beat the neighbor and even had the electrical plugged in!

Respectfully; Don Williams #14207 SNU Trustee (unless stripped of my position due to owner mistakes)

For information on upcoming rallies check this website:

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-events/docs/1-rallyschedule.html>



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