



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

February 2013

SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/

Bavarian World Brunch

Our brunch at Bavarian World turned into a birthday celebration. Saturday was Marlene's birthday and Wednesday January 23 is Jerry and Dyann's birthdays. Our decision to make this a brunch instead of lunch worked well. Everyone enjoyed the special breakfast items that included German pancakes, sausage, potato cakes, omelets, pastries and other goodies. Topics of conversation included the pros and cons of various hitches, LED lights, and upcoming rally and travel plans. Other than our birthday kids, luncheon participants included, Gary & Anita, Baxter (& Marlene), Roger & Janet and Bryan & Diane.



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SNU November Death Valley Rally

Death Valley was supposed to go as planned this year, no delays, no excuses. Its history dates back to 2008, the first year of the SNU rally at Mesquite Spring Campground, with a total of 3 Airstreams in attendance, one Jim Dodd (Jimmini) and his Squarestream from the Four Corners Unit. In 2009 Gail and I missed Death Valley because we were visiting family back east. We made it again in 2010 with a large number of SNU members being there. In 2011 I made a commitment to work an emergency communications exercise in Southern California so no Death Valley that year.

Which brings us to 2012; Gail and I were to again host the rally and make sure to keep our schedules clear. We were back from our summer Really Retired Holiday through the northwestern USA, Canada and the east coast and back from the Taming the Silver Bullet Region Rally in Bakersfield. Our son even confirmed the date of his Fall college graduation, November 3rd; no conflicts!

Things began to go astray in November, Brian's graduation was moved to Saturday. December 1st right in the middle of the rally and Gail got sick right after the Thanksgiving Holiday. I was anxious to show that I could handle an Airstream trip on my own so Zorro and I packed up and headed off on Tuesday morning.

We left Riverside in moderate temperatures and partly cloudy skies and made the 150 miles to Baker, CA in 3½ hours. Diesel was \$4.30 per gallon but promised to be higher in Shoshone, CA and Furnace Creek, both about \$5.50 per gallon (Gas Buddy app) so we filled up and headed north. We arrived at the East entrance to Death Valley at 2 PM with a great, albeit dark, view of Death Valley down Furnace Creek Wash; the heavy cloud cover made it seem like dusk!



Continued on page 2

Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ◆ [February 16
Overland in
Gardnerville, NV](#)
- ◆ [March 21st,
Lahontan River
Spr. NV](#)
- ◆ [April 8th, Fort
Sage, Doyle, CA](#)
- ◆ [May 16th
Rocky Point
Eagle Lake, CA](#)

SNU November Death Valley Rally

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We approached Mesquite Spring Campground about 4:15 with the same high clouds extending north as far the eye could see. Lots of campsites to choose from but I wanted one deep enough to accommodate the truck and trailer without disconnecting, spots close by for other SNU members and one that Zorro liked. We worked for an hour but could not get the tongue high enough to level the trailer; note to self - need more SNU backcountry camping experiences. Hooked back up and finally found another that Zorro liked but it was 7 PM before I could start dinner! The sky cleared about midnight and temperatures dropped to 42 degrees. Warm and toasty in the Airstream we slept until 8:00 AM.

With the dawn came the clouds and warmer temperatures, 60 degrees, cool for the Death Valley even in November. Zorro and I took a short two-mile walk up the road since dogs are limited to the campground and roads, not trails. After our walk and lunch we took a power-nap. We woke to a surprise at 4 PM, the first Airstream, Dave and Kathy Carlig #6439, had arrived. They had just finished the South West Adventure Caravan, the Four Corners Balloon Fiesta Rally and were touring Death Valley before their eventual trip back to the Midwest and snow. We exchanging stories for 2 hours; I even let them talk, especially about their experience on the 2010 Alaska caravan. At 6 PM I walked back to our campsite and prepared a great dinner of beans, a tube steak and a hamburger. Cloudy skies that night kept temperatures up, our low was 52 degree at 7 AM Thursday morning.



On Thursday Dave and Kathy visited Scottys Castle while Zorro and I set up my amateur radio gear for a sked (scheduled contact in amateur radio lingo) with my friend back in Riverside. He never made it on the air but band conditions on 40 metres were great, interfering noise levels were less than S2. The WBCCI RV Service Net International was holding its morning Pacific Coast NET. Open to all amateur radio operators, whether WBCCI members, out in their RVs or relaxing at home, the Net



meets as a round table check-in at 09:00 hours PST on 7268.5 kHz. Stations checking in report their call sign, name, location, a brief description of their equipment and the weather. My station was set up outside under field conditions; a YAESU FT-895 all band transceiver operating 75 watts on battery power using a tripod mounted Buddipole antenna. Temperature was in the mid 50's under a cloudy sky. I was able to check-in and hear all operators, most being in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Conditions were so good that I could pick up the amateur radio operators using my Sony portable shortwave receiver on its whip antenna. The campground host even stopped by to listen to NPR out of Los Wages, surprised that I could receive the commercial and amateur radio stations in Death Valley.

Zorro and I set the radio gear aside shortly after noon and hiked the 2 miles (one way) to the Mesquite Road turnoff from Scottys Castle Road so we could greet the early Airstream arrivals.

We returned to the campground by 4 PM with no new Airstreams and to find that Dave and Kathy were packing up to move down to Stovepipe Wells. Zorro and I retired to our trailer and an excellent dinner, baked pork chop with potato/squash casserole as a side dish. Both Zorro and I were exhibiting some discomfort from our two days of walking so were spent the evening outside listening to AM DX (long range AM radio) and watching the stars through the openings in the clouds.



Friday morning dawned with fewer clouds and a light breeze. Amateur radio conditions were still great; the RV Net control station was in western Washington with operators checking in from all western and southwestern states. Stations in Arizona and southern California reported rain but stations in northern California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington were reporting heavy rain and snows for the mountain areas. The Reno area was expecting its first major snow storm and stations there warned traveling RVers that heavy weather and wind gusts up to 100 MPH were predicted! Thinking there was little chance of any SNU members driving down in those conditions and needing to get back our son's graduation Zorro and I packed up and headed south back to Riverside.

A great rally even if spent with Zorro and visitors!

Don Williams #14720

KD6UVT

Live, as a spectator or a participant

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the February Lunch at the Overland in Gardnerville, NV.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2013/13-news/index.html>

For information on upcoming rallies check this page:

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2013/13-events/docs/13-rallyschedule.html>

Upcoming Events for 2013

- Overland, Gardnerville, NV Saturday February 16, 2013** **Obsidian Dome Thursday August 8 – Sunday 11, 2013**
- Lahontan, Silver Springs, NV Thursday March 21 – Sunday 24, 2013** **Cantaloupe Festival, Fallon, NV Thursday Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2013**
- Ft Sage, Doyle, CA Thursday April 18 – Sunday 21, 2013** **Crocker, Beckwourth, CA Thursday October 10 – 13, 2013**
- Rocky Point Eagle Lake, CA Thursday May 16 – Sunday 19, 2013** **Carolina Kitchen, Sparks, NV Saturday November 16, 2013**
- Green Creek, CA Thursday June 27 – Sunday 30, 2013** **Death Valley Mesquite Campground Thursday November**
- Weed Heights, Yerington, NV Thursday July 18 – Sunday 21, 2013** **Jake's Restaurant, Fernley, NV Saturday December 14, 2013**

Sierra Nevada Bylaws Issues

The SNU recently received suggestions for changes to its bylaws. None were significant and, arguably, they would increase risks regarding SNU's efforts supporting the WBCCI needs for tax exempt group requirements rules. That is because the SNU philosophy is to leave as much as possible of its governance rules to the WBCCI Constitution and Bylaws rather than repeating or duplicating or modifying them. The suggestions could create conflicts if implemented and that could cause friction if the group tax exemption were audited by the IRS.

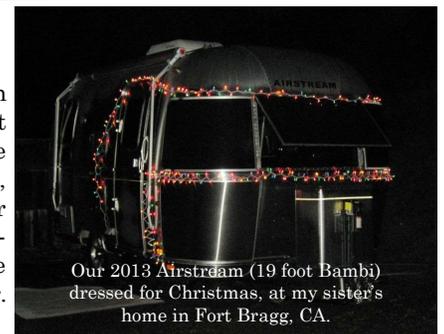
There were other problems with the suggestions as well. Regional organizations do not have governance authority such as would be expressed by a regional constitution and bylaws committee. The WBCCI bylaws section requiring unit bylaws reviews is based on an assertion about IRS requirements that WBCCI cannot (or will not) support as valid. Attempts to inquire about these matters and suggestions for simple corrections were met with hostility.

A more complete explanation of issues as well as the communications involved are available for SNU member inspection. Send an email inquiry to hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org to obtain links

Holiday Travels

Bruce and Kathy Rhymes, Susanville, CA

Kathy and I have just returned home to Susanville after an 18-day Holiday trip with our (still new!) 19' Bambi Flying Cloud. We stayed on my sister's property north of Fort Bragg, Ca on the Mendocino coast for ten days, where it was very chilly and stormy. We were snug and dry in our Airstream, though! We then toured through the Napa Valley, and enjoyed having a home base in Calistoga to ride our bikes from; returning to our lovely little silver cottage each night. Each experience we have with our new trailer confirms what a great choice we've made in our purchase of a new Airstream... and we are certainly looking forward to meeting up with you all again at a 2013 get-together. Thanks always for including us in your circle.



Our 2013 Airstream (19 foot Bambi) dressed for Christmas, at my sister's home in Fort Bragg, CA.

Rally Updates

Green Creek-The dates for June Rally at Green Ck. have been changed. The rally will be Thursday 6/27 – Sunday 6/30/2013.

Cantaloupe Festival Rally – This rally requires rsvp's and pre-payment. To guaranteed a spot with the SNU we need your payment no later than February 28, 2013. The dates for this rally are Friday Aug. 29 – Monday Sept. 2, 2013 The cost for all three nights is a total of \$42.00 or \$14.00 per night and if you don't plan to be there for the entire rally. Please let me know which nights you plan to be there when you send your rsvp and money. For more information call Dyann 775 867 2797. Mail your rsvp and payment to Dyann Thornburg 5080 Vanessa Dr Fallon NV 89406

Speaking of rallies, the SNU has tried hard to listen to members as to their preferences, their suggestions and ideas and has implemented the majority of those ideas. The SNU needs more than ideas though, if there is something you want to do, we need your assistance to make it happen. The SNU is a member driven group. If you want to try something different, fantastic, let's do it. Let's make 2013 a great year with some great SNU rallies. There is plenty of time to plan activities or come up with ideas to make each rally special. There is also plenty of time to get some SNU rallies on your schedule. As SNU member Don Williams says, "What do you want to be in life, a spectator or a participant?"

Prez Meanderings

I received by email, a 58-page document from WBCCI region 12. It was the **International Board of Trustees (IBT) packet**. This includes the committee reports and motions that will be addressed at the IBT meeting in Blythe later this month. The instructions were: "Regarding all other motions, please ask your members to contact me direct with their thoughts on how the vote should go". I presume this means the unit members since I got the message. It was not addresses "Unit Presidents" as I would have expected. Motion number 9, the region president proposed and intends to withdraw at the IBT meeting. It proposed a scheme that would require units to collect from members one dollar for each rally and caravan attended to provide additional funds for expenses incurred by WBCCI. This is the motion she wanted the recipients to disregard. The other motions are listed in abbreviated form below:

1. Approve the proposed unit flag for the Illinois Lincolnland Unit (176)
2. Require the WBCCI Blue Book – Bylaws & Policy to list unit Code Numbers.
3. Permit the vintage Airstream Club to conduct Buddy Rallies.
4. Delete the Past President's Pin.
5. Delete reference to Telephone Credit Cards from financial management policy.
6. Add "and intra-clubs" to club organizations required to prepare Constitutions and Bylaws.
7. Members-at-large may pre-vote under specified conditions
8. Change WBCCI fiscal year from July1 to June 30 to Jan 1 to Dec 31.
9. To be withdrawn (see above)
10. Region Presidents may be awarded by drawing WBCCI numbers between 200-299.
WBCCI Recording secretary and Treasurer may be awarded numbers between 300-600
11. Change IBT required meetings per year from 3 to 1.
12. When impractical to seat the IBT for conducting business that can't be postponed until the scheduled meeting a meeting using electronic means may be conducted if the method is agreed to by a majority of the IBT.
13. Allow second vice president to sign contract for 2015 International Rally
14. Approve the proposed unit flag for the Florida Unit

Should you want to relay a comment to the region president concerning any of these motions I would be glad to send you a complete copy of the motion. The region president, Judy Bechthold, can be reached at email jebkab@aol.com.

We presently plan to attend the Region 12 Hobo Rally in Blythe, CA from January 18 to February 3. We will leave Minden on the 23 and stop in Lake Havasu City to visit Doris sister and brother. After the rally we plan to go to Paso Robles CA for a rally (they call it a muster) with the Special Military Active and Retired Travel (SMART) club from February 4th to the 8th. We hope to be home on the 9th of February and attend the Luncheon on the 16 at the Overland in Gardnerville.

Prez Wheels



Gardnerville Overland in February

Saturday February 16, 2013 the **SNU lunch will be at the Overland in Gardnerville**. The Overland is located in downtown Gardnerville on the corner of US 395 and Gillman near Sharkey's Casino. Coming from the North, the Overland is on the East side of US 395. Please RSVP to the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 5011 no later than February 11, 2013.

Welcome New Members

The newest members to the SNU are James Turbeville and his wife, Linda Grist D'Ville. They will soon be relocating to Silver Springs, NV from Morro Bay, CA. James and Linda have a 1984 27ft Sovereign. They are looking forward to lots of travel and exciting adventures with their Airstream. We look forward to meeting them both at a rally soon and to welcome them in person to the SNU.



Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu

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