



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

March 2013

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Gardnerville Overland in February

We had a great lunch February at the Overland in Gardnerville. Wheels and Doris were there with stories of the Hobo Rally and their other recent adventures. Wheels brought his King of the Hobo rally trophy which we all admired after congratulating him on being selected for this honor. Doris talked about Andy being in the pet show at the rally. Although Mary Beth wasn't



able to make the lunch, husband Barney told us about their adventures at the Rose Parade rally and about their recent purchase of a 20007 Classic Airstream.. Randy gave us an update on his plans for fixing his Airstream. Bob and Cecilia shared stories about the Hobo rally and about their plans for joining two WBCCI Caravans this year. Roger told us about the new hitch he recently installed on his Airstream. Mike share his tale of woe about the transmission in his truck going out on him in Cedarville and having to limp all the way home. Without the truck to tow their Airstream they probably won't be able to get to SNU rallies. So if anyone knows of a good deal on a diesel transmission let Mike know. Other luncheon participants included Jerry & Dyann, Janet, Bryan & Diane, Vicki and Cindy. SNU President, Wheels held a short business meeting. The meeting included voting on the slate of Region 12 officers, the change in date for the SNU June rally at Green Creek, and the upcoming SNU rally at Lahontan. Wheels also mentioned a recent request for the SNU to submit their bylaws to WBCCI for review. They are posted online and WBCCI has been notified. I think we are all looking forward to March and our first rally for 2013.

Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ◆ [March 21st,
Lahontan River
Spr. NV](#)
- ◆ [April 8th, Fort
Sage, Doyle, CA](#)
- ◆ [May 16th
Rocky Point
Eagle Lake, CA](#)
- ◆ [June 27th
Green Creek, CA](#)

Airstreams Australia

My friends in Australia, Ken and Jeanette Sellars recently sent me a link to the [Airstreams Australia](#) website. Ken and Jeanette are members of the Victorian Division of the [International Scout Owners Club](#). Ken is the newsletter editor. It is interesting to note on the floor plans that Airstream has installed a second door in the bedroom. This adaptation accommodates the fact that Aussies drive on the left hand side of the road. Ken and Jeanette also sent a link to an article in the RACV (like AAA in the U.S.) that has a great article on [caravanning in Australia](#). To check out more traditional [Australian RV's](#) and read a little about camping in Australia check the link in this newsletter. From what I've learned through Ken and Jeanette, the SNU would be right at home camping in Australia.

Hobo Rally Report

Prez Wheels

Alert! - It seems we will now have to address the SNU President as "His Highness". Wheels (in red shirt) was selected 2013 Hobo King at the Hobo rally in Blythe. CA. Congratulations Wheels!



We left for warmer southern climates on Jan 23. We stopped in Beatty the first night then on to Lake Havasu City for 4 days to visit Doris' brother and his wife and her sister and her husband. It was a good visit. Monday we left for Blythe. Our departure was delayed a little past the planned time as I tried to fix the bolt lock on the trailer. I didn't get it fixed then and I have been working on it since I have been home and may get it fixed before the Overland luncheon. We arrived at the Hobo Rally about 1:30 PM. They had rain the day before and the grass parking area was wet and muddy so they parked us in a back gravel area. There were nine rigs in this back area. One was a 2010 long (I think 34 foot) toy hauler like trailer. It had an upward swinging door and a ramp in the back end which allowed them to store their motor cycle and peddle bike there. It looked big enough for and ATV. They said there were only 19 produced. In all I think there were about 93 rigs at the rally. We were parked next to a pair of Aluminum motor homes from Canada. They were great neighbors. Surprisingly, there was not a large Vintage contingent there. There were many trailers and motor homes there for the IBT.

Monday was sign-in by unit and sign-up for activities. Activities included: Indoor and Outdoor games, Hobby/Craft Show, Swap-N-Sell, Pet Show, Tours of Prison and Palo Valley, Wheel Bearing Seminar, Hitch Seminar, Hobo Stew Can construction, Women's hair demonstration, Driver safety program by CHP, Quartzite Shopping tour and SkyMed presentation. They collected toys for the children of prisoners in the Chuckawalla Prison. We attended a First Timers (first time to Hobo) seminar on Monday. There was nothing new in the seminar. We had daisy chain water service and very limited (they said 3 amp) electrical power. I ran the generator once so Doris could use the microwave.

They provided some sort of breakfast each morning and dinner 3 of the 5 evenings. They had a Social/Happy hour everyday at 4 - 5 PM. They put together a small band that played almost every evening after dinner. Each evening at 7:15 PM the pertinent announcements for the next day were made. This was usually followed by some sort of entertainment: Blythe High School Band, Bingo, Robert Stansbury signing concert, Jerry Prunty singing and guitar concert and Saturday the Fairgrounds had a car race on their Race Track.

Each day was taken up by the activities listed above. There was plenty of free time. I played mostly indoor games. Doris showed off Andy (our Sheltie) at the pet show. We found time to do the laundry. We didn't go on the prison tour. That was a mistake. Doris' nephew works at the prison and volunteered to greet the tour members that day hoping to see Doris and me.

Saturday was the big day with the Hobo Parade (about half a block), selection and coronation of the Hobo King and Queen, selection of the best (33 day old) beard topped off with the Hobo Stew feast served in your own custom built Hobo Stew can. The judges for the selection of the Hobo King and Queen and the best beard were three Fair Ambassadors (three High School Senior girls that won the fair contest for Fair Ambassadors). The surprising thing was that your president was selected the Hobo King. Doris wasn't selected but she competed well. The selected Queen was from Washington. I was a runner up for the beard contest but not selected. Besides the great honor of being selected Hobo King and Queen we were crowned by the reigning King and Queen, presented a very nice trophy and a very nice captains chairs with Hobo King (or Queen) 2013 printed on the back. I'll bring the trophy to the Overland luncheon for everyone to see. I'll have the chair at Lahontan rally.

Continued on page 3

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the March Rally at Lahontan.

<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

Lahontan, Silver Springs, NV Thursday March 21
– Sunday 24, 2013

Ft Sage, Doyle, CA Thursday April 18 – Sunday 21,
2013

Rocky Point Eagle Lake, CA Thursday May 16 –
Sunday 19, 2013

Green Creek, CA Thursday June 27 – Sunday 30,
2013

Weed Heights, Yerington, NV Thursday July 18 –
Sunday 21, 2013

Obsidian Dome Thursday August 8 – Sunday 11,
2013

Cantaloupe Festival, Fallon, NV Friday Aug. 30 –
Monday Sept. 2, 2013

Crocker, Beckwourth, CA Thursday October 10 –
13, 2013

Carolina Kitchen, Sparks, NV Saturday November
16, 2013

Death Valley Mesquite Campground Thursday Novem-
ber (TBA)

Jake's Restaurant, Fernley, NV Saturday Decem-
ber 14, 2013

Hobo Rally Report - continued

We departed Blythe early Sunday morning and stayed at March ARB FamCamp in Riverside that evening. Monday morning we braved the Los Angeles valley traffic and travelled to the Wine Country RV Resort in Paso Robles for a 4 day rally with a military RV group I belong to. We left there Friday and traveled north to Travis AFB in Fairfield CA and stayed overnight in their FamCamp. There my LP Gas Detector failed. It flashed a yellow light and chirped every 30 seconds. The book says these symptoms indicate a system fault and may be reset by the test button, if not call the manufacturer. As you might expect it would not reset and when I called they said it had to be replaced. For \$88.75 they sent me a new one. Of course, it is a slightly different shape than the one I had and I had to enlarge the hole in the panel to get it to fit. Thankfully it wasn't much smaller. We had an uneventful return home over I-80. We were all happy to be home. See you all soon.

(His Highness) Prez Wheelz



SNU Directories

The 2013 directory of SNU members is available to all current members. To request a copy contact the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org for the link to download the PDF file from the website.

Pink Flamingos

Occasionally the question comes up, how did the SNU get attached to pink flamingos. It all came about accidentally during a discussion at an SNU rally in 2004. The topic was the old WBCCI tradition of decorating gopher holes. Before all the environmental concerns, Airstreamers dug a hole to drain gray water tanks. The hole was known as a gopher hole. There used to be contests at rallies to determine the best decorated gopher hole. Bryan Harrison, Bryan and Diane Leipper's grandfather named one of his **gopher holes Loon Lake**. At the SNU rally we were considering the idea of decorating the rear of our Airstreams near the holding tanks. Although we can no longer dig a hole to drain the tank, we thought it would be fun to pay homage to this old tradition. Well, one thing led to another and although we didn't get around to decorating the rear of our Airstreams, we eventually morphed into decorating with flamingos. At the very next rally, Ann and Fred Hersey brought a flamingo disguised as a gopher. Very appropriate. For a while there was quite a contest going to see who could come up with the most unique flamingo. Roy Douglas and Jerry Thornburg were neck and neck in the beginning. Ann and Fred started picking up pink flamingos at garage sales and soon had quite a collection. We soon learned that pink flamingos and trailers have a long tradition, although exactly how that came to be is not clear. The SNU continues adding flamingos to it's flock to this day. New members usually have at least one flamingo by their second rally. It is always fun to see who shows up with the next unique pink flamingo. There seems to be no indication that the pink flamingo fad will fade anytime soon. That means finding that next amazing bird is just a matter of keeping your eyes open and THINK PINK. Check the [link in this newsletter for more on pink flamingos](#) and photo galleries of the SNU flamingos.



First Rally of 2013

The first SNU rally for 2013 will be at **Lahontan Beach 7** near Silver Springs, NV. The dates are Thursday March 21 to Sunday 24, 2013. This year we will hold the rally in the structured campground at beach 7. This means paved roads and paved parking pads. Directions to the campground are the same as to our usual spot but at the end of the paved road, turn right on the paved drive into the campground instead of continuing on the dirt road. There are lots of campsites to choose from, some overlooking the dry reservoir. This will



be a great rally to de-winterize your Airstream and start to get things sorted out for the rest of the rally and travel season. Please remember to bring wood for campfires.

Time to Hit the Road

Kind of like the mailman, rain or shine, sleet or snow, the SNU will go. The SNU policy is that unless there are road restrictions in place, we hit the road to our scheduled rallies. Although we don't want anyone traveling in unsafe conditions, weather has been more a part of the entertainment rather than a detriment at SNU rallies. We have had all sorts of weather at rallies, including snow storms, wind storms, sand storms, rain storms, cold snaps and heat waves. Weather has been the source of many great pictures and stories of SNU rallies. Weather has tested the creativity and flexibility of SNU members. A couple of times, at the last minute, we have had to switch from an outdoor pot luck to a go-around dinner. We've grilled hamburgers in a blizzard. We've had to hold onto our diner plates or retreat into someone's Airstream for dinner because of the wind. We have battled to keep sticky mud from dog paws and shoes out of our Airstreams. On one or two occasions we even had to change the rally location. One thing we have always said is that regardless of the weather, how thankful we are that we held the rally. There is always a break in the weather and we have enjoyed some beautiful sunsets, some fantastic rainbows, and some beautiful crisp clear mornings. Changeable weather is a part of life in the Great Basin area. It can snow any month of the year. What happens one day may be the opposite of the weather the next day or even the next hour. Being part of a group has it's advantages in that if weather catches you not quite prepared, there is someone there that can help out with the basics needed to keep you safe and comfortable. Whether it's propane, water, a generator, assistance with leaky pipes, extra blankets, or a hot cup of coffee, we've got it covered. When the weather may be an issue, its a good idea to check with the SNU before heading to the rally. Notice of any changes are usually posted on the [web log](#) and also emailed to SNU announcement list subscribers. You can also email the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 5011. Whatever you do, don't let weather be a reason not to hit the road and join the SNU at a rally.



Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu

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