



# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 9 "The Great Basin Airstream RV Association" September 2013

## August at Obsidian Dome

[Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org](http://Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org)

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### Rally and events schedule

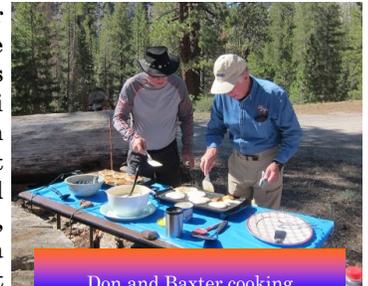
Click on a link below for details

- ◆ [August 30th Cantaloupe Festival Fallon, NV](#)
- ◆ [Oct. 10th Crocker Rally Beckwourth, CA](#)
- ◆ [Nov. 16th Carolina Kitchen Sparks, NV](#)
- ◆ [Nov. 21st Death Valley Mesquite Campground](#)



Victor and Marla cooking eggs in a hole

& Jeannie Waldo. We had nine Airstreams at Obsidian and three Class A's at Mammoth RV park for a total of 13 rigs at this rally. The Motorhome contingent drove to Obsidian for happy hours and meals. As for the kennel club, there was a total of 11 dogs of all shapes and sizes at this rally. Bella, the Doberman that Gregg and Valri adopted in February was the clown of the rally. When she was tired she would flop down on her back just about anywhere. It didn't matter if people walked around or over her. Friday Wheels and Doris' friends, Jim and Karen and their dog Spud joined us for a visit. Another interesting aspect of this rally was that for several people, this was the last stop on the way home. Marla has been on the road since June. Among other destinations, she attended the WBCCI rally in Huron and visited relatives in Maine. Marla met up with Jerry & Dyann and Bryan & Diane in Fallon and caravanned to Obsidian. Gregg and Valri were just finishing up a 9 week trip visiting friends and relatives. Don and Gail have also been on the road. Their travels included Huron and the Airstream Company in Jackson Center. LeRoy and Jeannie were on their way home from Alaska. They didn't know about the rally but when they got to Big Pine a little south of Obsidian, they checked their email and discovered we were just up the road. They headed back up 395 and joined us at Obsidian. We started this rally off with a Spaghetti dinner on Thursday. It was rather windy so we used Victor and Bobbi's Airstream for a windbreak. A great meal to start a great rally. Friday was our first special breakfast. A beautiful morning for setting up the griddles, firing up the propane stove, cooking eggs in a hole, fried potatoes, sausage and bacon. Victor and Marla



Don and Baxter cooking sourdough pancakes



85% of the rally participants

cooked up the fresh eggs which were supplied by Diane's hens. Valri and Gregg fried up the potatoes. We had all sorts of fresh fruit, from Fallon cantaloupes that Dyann brought, to Gail's home grown peaches. Blueberries, bananas, oranges, and other goodies and of course, plenty of fresh coffee rounded out the menu. By Happy Hour the wind started picking up again.

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## Trivia Question: What three WBCCI principles are the foundations of the SNU?

### Prez Meanderings

The Obsidian Dome rally had 9 Airstream rigs in attendance. It almost required reservations but SNU will continue to resist that and parallel parking. At least two other Airstreamers were in the area (Mammoth RV Park) and came to have some meals and conversation with us. The food was delicious. The scenery was beautiful as always.

The Slate of officers remains the same for 2014 (Wheels Wheeler – President; RoyLaine Warn – Secretary; Randy Grossmann – Trustee; Don Williams - Trustee and of course Dyann Thornburg – the most recent Past President - a position I long for). One officer is stepping down. That officer, who has served so well and faithfully, is Bryan Leipper our Treasurer/Membership person. Bryan has served for ten years and because he has served so effectively we have hardly noticed his efforts. This is good but it doesn't mean that the job is insignificant. In fact I would say it is probably one of the most important. If the finances get fouled up everything is in trouble. Bryan has seen to it that that hasn't happened and all is well with our finances.

Fortunately we have a highly qualified volunteer to fill the position. Notice I didn't say take Bryan's place – I hope Bryan will still make morning coffee, greet arrivals, see that trailer troubles are quickly fixed and all the little things he does to make rallies successful. Our new candidate for the Treasurer/Membership is Baxter Swaffer. I'm sure Baxter will continue the flawless job that Bryan has paved the way for. If there are others out there that would like to serve in this or any of the positions mentioned including mine – just mention it to any of us and you can be a nominee.

See you in Fallon with a Cantaloupe.

Prez Wheelz



### Welcome Our Newest Member

Dean Eveland is the newest member of the SNU. Dean lives in Oakton, VA and owns a 1989 Squarestream. We send a big welcome to Dean and hope that we will see him sometime in the near future.

### WBCCI - Expanding Internet Use and Social Networking Don Williams WBCCI #14207

The Wally Byam Caravan Club International and our Region 12 in California and Nevada are expanding their use of the Internet and social networking. The WBCCI upgraded its web site [wbcci.org](http://wbcci.org) in the last year with new web pages and graphics. Drop down menus take the user to links for [Rallies and Caravans](#); [Regions & Units](#) with an interactive map of North America showing the home base for each with a link to the unit's webpage; [Interclubs](#), WBCCI staff contacts; Online links to join the WBCCI; the [Blue Beret](#) magazine online or download; [Maintenance info](#) from Phred Sez, Schus News and the Airstream Tech Group; more Club information; [Classifieds](#); and more. The home page also includes the social media links for FOLLOW US ON twitter (I'm not sure what it is) and Find us on Facebook (I am somewhat more familiar with Facebook and finding it more valuable).

All of these changes are designed to personalize the user's experience and make it easier for existing and potential members to find out who the WBCCI, its regions, units and members are and what we do. Follow anyone of the Region links to another interactive map and listing of the upcoming unit rallies in the region. Click the [Region 12 links](#) below the map and be whisked to a new Region webpage also updates. The calendar of Region 12 Events, scroll over the boldface dates and see what activities each unit is hosting.

The [WBCCI Facebook](#) page is open meaning anyone with a Facebook account can visit the site and see what we are about; of the other almost 30 Facebook groups and pages, some are open while others are closed requiring that you be a member of a region or unit or ask for access. Log into one of the groups or pages and you will find posts about events and issues relevant, pertinent or interesting to each. Eric McHenry's post on the WBCCI page solicits recipes for the [WBCCI Dutch Oven](#) Cooking page (I am trying to see if there is enough demand for a similar site on Sourdough Cooking read about the Obsidian Rally in the SNU newsletter). Other posts showcase upcoming and past rallies, member's new Airstream purchases, caravans and anything interesting to Airstreamers. You would even see a post in the [WBCCI Region 12](#) group about the recent SNU rally at Obsidian Dome, Gail and my stay in the region afterwards, our work on the August 16th Best in the Desert Vegas to Reno off road race and the USFS Crag Campground lapel pin featuring an Airstream in the scene.

I have done a lot of the work for you by inserting the Internet URL links into the blue text to help you quickly go to the linked pages but remember that you need to have a Facebook account to view the pages on that social media site and you need to request to join, even some of the open groups such as Rick LaBorde's [Sierra Nevada Unit of WBCCI](#) group. For those of you still reading a hard copy of the WBCCI – Sierra Nevada Unit – Newsletter, you'll have to do the keyboarding and searching yourself.

## Upcoming Events for 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 November 21st to 24th**

**Jake's Restaurant, Fernley, NV Saturday December 14, 2013**

Hometown Cafe - Saturday January 25, 2014

Black Bear Diner - Saturday February 22, 2014

Lahontan beach 7 unstructured camping area - Thursday March 20–23 2014

## Death Valley Rally, November 21st-24th

*Don & Gail Williams #14207*

Please mark your calendars for the Sierra Nevada Unit's annual **Death Valley Rally at the Mesquite Spring Campground** near Scottys Castle in the north end of Death Valley National Park, hosts are Don and Gail Williams #14207. Unlike last year in which the Sierra Nevada area experienced its first major storm of the season, we expect (hope for) great weather in the Valley. Note that the rally is one week earlier, in part to seek better weather and in part to avoid the Thanksgiving weekend on the 28th. There is a SNU fee of \$5 per rig per night and attendees may join us anytime during the weekend. There is a \$20 access fee for Death Valley National Park or FREE if you show your America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior, Access or Yearly Pass plus a camping fee of \$12 per night (half that if you have one of the aforementioned passes) paid directly by each rig at Mesquite Spring Campground. The campground has 30 campsites, available on a first come first serve basis; two centrally located bathrooms with flush toilets and large dishwashing sinks and a dump station. Mesquite Spring is lightly used on non-holiday weekends but we cannot guarantee a campsite, arrive as early as you can. Overflow camping would be Stovepipe Wells, Furnace Creek or for those preferring hookups Stovepipe Wells.

The Death Valley Rally will feature a Saturday morning Sourdough Pancake Breakfast! Not to boast and in deference to Bobbi Kingsland's (San Fernando Valley Unit) fried egg sandwiches, but the cook believes his pancakes were the hit of Obsidian Dome. We will endeavor to have a bottomless coffee pot each morning during the breakfast hours, coordinate Friday and Saturday Happy Hours (BYOB if desired) and an official potluck dinner Saturday evening. Newcomers to SNU rallies should note that informal potluck dinners or gathering together to eat evening meals are common.

Tours to the lower valley, Scottys Castle and possibly the Race Track featuring the nature, geologic and historic sites will interrupt our daytime lounging in the campground, kicking tires and telling lies. Backcountry hikes above the campground are even within our itinerary if you are able to spend an extra day with us. Options for the lower valley tour, a loop of about 150 miles are: Sand dunes and Historic Stovepipe Wells; Harmony Borax Works; Furnace Creek Inn (tour and lunch recommended; Artist Drive. Extensions adding another 50 or so miles include: Devils Golf Course; Badwater; Dantes View. The tours of Scottys Castle last about an hour and are only 5 miles away. Lastly, for the less faint at heart (high clearance vehicle, truck, SUV or 4X4 maybe preferred): Teakettle Junction 27 miles; The Racetrack and Grandstand 34 miles; Titus Canyon and Leadville (ghost town) tour 65 miles. To learn more about Death Valley visit the website ([nps.gov/deva/index.htm](http://nps.gov/deva/index.htm)) or contact Don and Gail Williams at 951.264.0219 or [kd6uvt@mac.com](mailto:kd6uvt@mac.com) and be sure to let us know if you plan to come early, shorten or extend your stay.



Note for those planning their trip, as I write this several roads are closed in Death Valley. Scottys Castle Road, the winter shortcut to US-95 used by many SNU members is open but the south entrance using the Badwater Road is closed due to flood damage. Plan to come in from US -95 using the Scottys Castle Road, Owens Lake using CA-136 or CA-190 off CA-395 or CA-190 from Death Valley Junction. Check the latest road conditions by clicking the "Read More" link in the Morning Report on the Death Valley home page at [nps.gov/deva/index.htm](http://nps.gov/deva/index.htm) or visit the Facebook social media page [www.facebook.com/DeathValleyRoadConditions](http://www.facebook.com/DeathValleyRoadConditions) (the new WBCCI).



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

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

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## *August at Obsidian Dome - continued from page 1*

We had our potluck dinner outside but ended up with a little extra grit in some of the food because of wind gusts. Because of the wind, cool temps, and fire restrictions which prevented building a campfire, we called it an early evening and adjourned to our Airstreams. Saturday morning again, was clear, calm and sunny. The special breakfast treat this morning was Don's sourdough pancakes. Wow! Don has been experimenting with sourdough and his pancakes were delicious. He made some with blueberries and some without. Baxter helped him with the cooking. Meanwhile Jerry cooked up more bacon and sausage on his grill and yet more fresh fruit was brought out. Once again, by Happy Hour the wind started picking up. This time for dinner, we moved behind the Airstreams and ate in a more protected spot. The SFV group had their meals in a more civilized manner, bringing out tables and chairs. The SNU seems to prefer sitting in their chairs holding on to their plates. Maybe that comes from too many windy dinners or, is it because we are too lazy to get out the tables? Jerry came up with a new SNU slogan that describes our propensity to take whatever empty chair that's available no matter who it belongs to. "If the chair doesn't have a bottom, put yours in it."

We did do more than just prepare meals and eat. Various groups set out on hikes up past the waterfall to the meadow or up the trail near camp. Bobbi got out a ladderball game and she and Jim had a good time throwing balls, that is until Cody decided he wanted to play too. LeRoy's new refrigerator started having some problems so he, Jerry and Bryan did some work on that. Bryan helped Bobbi and Marla install some decorative screen protectors on the doors of their Airstreams. Doris and Wheels had a good time washing all the dirt out of Andy's paws. Gregg hooked up his bass guitar for a little afternoon practice. In addition, there were some indoor card games, reading, dog walking, and a whole lot of just visiting and catching up on everyone's recent travels. Several people had new "yard décor". Don and Gail had a new flying flamingo. Baxter and Marlene showed off their new solar light flamingo. Jerry also had a new fancy solar light. Our rally site looked pretty neat after dark. This rally provided something of a fashion show of **Airstream themed t-shirts**. It seemed like everyone had at least one t-shirt featuring an Airstream of one sort or another. Marla had a shirt and a message folder she had gotten at the International rally that had an Airstream, her name and her membership number embroidered on them.



Friday morning brunch

Saturday Wheels held a business meeting. Agenda items included Don presenting a review of **International Rally in Huron**. Don also talked about the SNU November rally in Death Valley. Valri talked about the **October Region 12 rally in Lodi**. She and Gregg are doing a lot of work on that rally and they have some really great ideas about getting people together, making new friends and having a great time. Diane announced that the dates for 2014 Obsidian will be Thursday August 14 to Sunday August 17. Again, it will be a multi-unit rally. We will also be celebrating a birthday so needless to say, this will definitely be a rally you won't want to miss.

Sunday, after a leisurely coffee and goodies everyone got ready to head home. The Kingslands, Liberty, and Williams headed to the Mammoth RV park to join the MoHo contingent for a day or two before heading home. After leaving Mammoth, Don and Gail headed to Churchill Peak near Silver Springs. Don was part of the amateur radio group monitoring an off road race. Another great rally comes to an end.

**Answer to Trivia Question: Wally Byam's Four Freedoms -|- the WBCCI Code of Ethics -|- The Wally Byam Creed**

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the September Rally at the Cantaloupe Festival  
<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>