



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

April 2015

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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Lahontan Rally Review

The first rally of 2015 was held at Lahontan Beach 7 dispersed area. This was the 9th rally the SNU has held at this location. Five rigs participated. Wheels & Doris, Gary & Anita, Bryan & Diane, and RoyLaine & Jim. On Friday Don & Gail surprised everyone with their arrival at the rally. They have been on the road a lot. This was the first time they have been able to make an SNU rally in almost a year. We spent a good part of the weekend catching up on Don and Gail's adventures, especially in hearing their stories of the Alyska Caravan. We were also happy to have Bob & Cecilia come out for a visit on Friday afternoon. The Park Ranger had been on the lookout for us. He remembered we like to come out about this time of year. He was all prepared when he came by on Friday morning. He had a senior pass for everyone.



Gary flies the flags at Lahontan



In 2011, Scout was knee high

Now he is almost hip high

He entertained us with stories of some of the more interesting adventures he has had here at Lahontan. These stories included Santa Claus and the duck hunters and the discovery of a dead body. There was water in the reservoir. Huge numbers of pelicans were to be seen on the far side on the water and in the air. If you were ready for a laid back, relaxing rally, this one fit the bill. The weather cooperated, especially on Thursday afternoon. The temps were perfect, the sun was out and there was no wind. For the most part the only noise was the grackles, seagulls, and other birds. All in all, a great weekend to visit with friends, relax in the sun, take a good nap, read a book, share some great meals, and indulge in other such strenuous activities. Friday it got a little breezy but it didn't prevent us from celebrating a belated St. Patrick's Day dinner outside with a corned beef and cabbage and chocolate cake for dessert. Saturday morning was calm and sunny. Perfect for a morning campfire. By evening a brisk wind made it more enjoyable to have dinner in Wheel's & Doris's Airstream. It seems everyone's Airstream made it through the winter months with no major issues. A few problems were discovered at the rally, namely a problem with Roy & Jim's frig when it was running on gas and a smell in Don & Gail's water tank but nothing that required emergency repairs or a quick trip to town.

Those of you who attended the SNU rally at Ft Churchill, Scout Camp in 2011 will remember the black dog that was abandoned and left to fend for himself. He wasn't more than a year old, skin and bones, and fearful of people. Gene & Carmen's grandkids managed to befriend him and several of the rally participants provided food for him. Roylaine couldn't stand the thought of leaving him, especially when she heard the nearby coyotes. With the approval of their 3 dogs, Roylaine and Wes, took him home with them. It seems it was a match that was meant to be. Scout, as the dog was named, has grown into a large, healthy, friendly, well behaved dog. It was great to see him again at Lahontan.

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Saturday morning campfire

Fort Sage Rally is Almost Here!

Ft Sage off Hwy 395 near Doyle CA is the location for the April SNU rally. The dates are Thursday April 23 - Sunday April 26, 2015. This will be our 6th rally at this site. Check the rally webpage for directions to Ft. Sage. The route to Ft Sage indicated on some GPS systems goes over a bridge that is NOT recommended for large vehicles or towing a trailer because of weight limits and narrow access. Instead, use Laver Crossing north of Doyle, 2 miles from the north end of the Doyle loop and almost a mile north of the Shell station. This site is a BLM campground with dispersed parking and a pit toilet and it is an off road trail head. There are lots of great trails for hiking as well as for off road vehicles. Wildflowers could be spectacular, as are the panoramic view of the valley. Be sure to bring wood for campfires.



What to see and do in Northern California



The May SNU rally at Lassen RV Resort is in an area of Northern CA that has a wide range of nearby activities, attractions, places to visit, and things to see and do. Most are within easy driving distance of the RV resort. Here is just a small sample of what's available.

Hat Creek area - There is a lot to see and do whether you are into fishing, hiking, touring, spelunking, or even socializing in some of the small town events and facilities.

Observatory - There is a **radio observatory** just up the road a bit that is a research site for several California University astronomy departments.

The Pacific Crest Trail - A section of the PCT goes through this area. Hiking along **the Hat Creek Rim** is apparently a challenging section

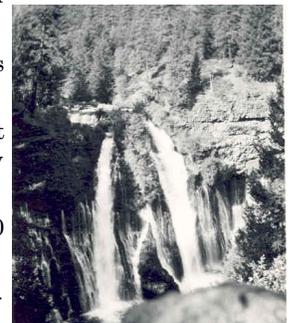
McArthur-Burney Falls - The highlight of this **CA State Park** are the 129 ft water falls. The Park includes hiking and horseback trails, historical & cultural sites, scuba diving & snorkeling, nature & wildlife viewing and windsurfing.

Lava Beds National Monument - There are more than 700 caves in **the park**. Among other things to see and do at the park, there is also Native American rock art sites and historic battlefields.

Fort Crook Museum in McArthur - located on the grounds of a **military outpost** that was built in 1857 and originally consisted of 25 to 30 log buildings. The museum now includes the Little Valley Round Barn. During the winter, the museum holds blacksmith workshops

Ash Creek Wildlife Area - Located near Bieber. **The area encompasses** 14,754 acres with 3,000 acres of natural wetlands. It's a great place for bird and wildlife viewing.

If you haven't made your reservations yet for the SNU Rally at Lassen RV Park, Contact Randy before April 30, 2015 randyg@pyramid.net.



Courtesy Parking First Offered



From the 1957 WBCCI membership directory: We are offering another service this year. Questionnaires were sent out asking our caravanners if they had parking space for fellow trailerites. The response was most gratifying. On behalf of all the caravanners we most genuinely thank all of you people who have so graciously offered space.

Courtesy parking is still one of the great benefits of being a WBCCI member. The only courtesy parking listed for Nevada is provided by SNU members. This includes Thornburg's, Wheeler's, Leipper's and Root's. The Wheeler's have provided courtesy parking for one or two traveling Airstreams and the Leipper's have provided parking for five including our own SNU members, Don and Gail Williams on their way home from the Alaska Caravan in September 2014.

Courtesy parking is a great way to meet fellow WBCCI members. If you have space and would like to offer courtesy parking. Let us know.

Upcoming 2015 Events

Cali - Rally (Hobo replacement) April 16-20, 2015

**Ft Sage - Doyle NV,
Thursday April 23 - Sunday April 26, 2015**

**Lassen RV Resort - McArthur CA,
Thursday May 14 - Sunday May 17, 2015**

**Sweetwater - Sweetwater Summit on Hwy 338 NV
Thursday June 11- Sunday June 14 2015**

**WBCCI International Rally - Farmington, NV
June 28 - July 4, 2015**

**Weed Heights - Yerington NV,
Thursday July 9 - Sunday July 12, 2015**

**Prosser Family campground - Truckee CA
Wednesday August 5 - Sunday 9, 2015**

**Obsidian Dome - June Lake CA,
Thursday September 24 - Sunday 27 2015**

**Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort - Minden NV,
October 6-11, 2015**

**Overlander - Gardnerville NV,
Saturday November 14, 2015**

**Bavarian World - Reno NV
Saturday December 12, 2015**

Rally Planning

Before you know it, it will be time to decide what, where, and when in regards to the 2016 SNU rally schedule. Now is a good time to let the SNU know what you would like to do or where you might want to go. It's easy to suggest the SNU should do this, go there, or try that. When talking with some people, it sounds like the SNU got in a rut and stayed there with no effort to try something different. That is definitely not the case. It seems that there is also the feeling that the SNU is a little negligent on seeking input from members regarding the rally schedule. Over the years, the SNU has made an ongoing effort to solicit input about rallies from members in a variety of methods. These include recruitment, welcome, and dues renewal letters, requests in the newsletter and on the website, an online survey, telephone calls and in person at rallies and luncheons. Our favorite rally sites and best attended rallies have come from members suggestions.

In order to increase the success of any new rally idea it is critical to do a little research. Find out why the SNU holds they types of rallies it does and why it prefers the types of locations it chooses. Find out what **new and different ideas** the SNU has tried and how those worked out. The SNU has the most comprehensive **data on rallies** of any Unit in WBCCI. All of this information is available through the website. There are documents about rally planning, examples of rally site exploration reports, What to expect at an SNU rally, an overview of SNU rally sites and a host of other information. There are also extensive **photo galleries** of SNU rallies, rallies of other Units, Region rallies, special event rallies and WBCCI International rallies.

SNU rallies are unique in many ways, especially in regards to flexibility, efforts to make rally attendance a viable option for all SNU members, and welcoming for all Airstreamers. They suit the interests and preferences of the members who participate. They take advantage of the opportunities available in the area in which we choose to live. If you want personal input, talk to SNU members like Jerry & Dyann who have participated in about 90% of the SNU rallies of the last 10 years. Get their thoughts and ideas. Among other things, Jerry & Dyann hosted the two SNU rallies at the Cantaloupe Festival. They have participated in a WBCCI International Rally and a Region 12 rally. Talk to Randy & Vicki, they have done all the planning for some of the special SNU rallies and lunches, including the 2006 SNU anniversary lunch and the 2011 SNU anniversary rally at South Lake with a dinner cruise on the M.S. Dixie. They will soon be working on the 2016 SNU 40th anniversary event. Randy & Vicki have also attended rallies of the Idaho Unit. Talk to other SNU members who have participated in SNU rallies as well as members who haven't.

If you aren't sure about an SNU rally the first step is to participate in one and find out first hand what they are all about.

Most important, if you want to try something, be willing to speak up and offer your idea to the SNU. Be willing to assist in the planning to make it happen.

Have you got yours?

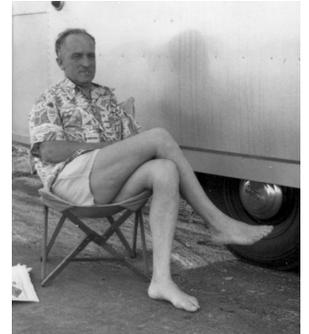


The first ever joint rally with the NorCal Unit will be a Prosser Family Campground August 5, 2015. If you haven't already reserved your site at the campground, now is the time to do it. There are only 28 sites and they are filling up. Check the **Prosser Rally** page for more information links for reservations. A joint rally with a larger Unit like NorCal provides an opportunity to do some things that are a little difficult with a small group. This rally will be a great mix of SNU and NorCal customs and traditions. It will definitely be something a little different for both Units and a lot of fun.

WBCCI Important Historical Dates

I put together this list of dates important to WBCCI in 2005 in a booklet I created to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of WBCCI. These dates come from a variety of sources. There have been many changes since 1978 and many dates that could be added to this list. WBCCI is continually evolving and initiating new programs while others have served their purpose and are no longer part of the club. The one thing that remains constant is the aluminum semi-monocoque construction exterior of the Airstream trailer that is recognized World-wide.

- 1934 Wally Byam conceived the name Airstream for his trailers
- 1936 The Clipper, the first "official" Airstream was built
- 1948 Wally Byam formed his own company, Airstream Trailers, Inc
- 1951 First Caravan organized. Destination - Central America
- 1955 WBCCI founded on August 3 at Kentville Nova Scotia. There were 80 charter members
- 1956 First European caravan and first caravan to Cuba
- 1957 The first local club (Unit) was organized. It was the New York-New Jersey WBCCI.
- 1957 The tradition of painting red membership numbers on the front of Airstreams of WBCCI members became a requirement
- 1958 The first International WBCCI rally was held Bull Shoals, AR. 300 attended.
- 1959 A caravan traveled 9,000 miles from Capetown to Cairo in Africa
- 1962 Wally Byam died. A foundation was created in his name for the purpose of hosting foreign groups on annual trailer tours of America
- 1976 the largest attendance at a WBCCI International rally was at Louisville, KY. Total attendance was 4493
- 1978 All manufacturing and executive capabilities were centralized in the Jackson Center headquarters.



WBCCI is the oldest single product RV club still in existence. It has weathered many ups and downs over the years. There have been several attempts to increase membership by including RV products other than the aluminum Airstream trailer but the strength of the club has always been in that most recognizable of trailers. In recent years there seems to be an increase of interest both in the vintage Airstream trailers and the new models. It is not just the iconic Airstream trailer that attracts people, it is the history, the stories from the early days of the club. In one way or another, many people are aware of the Airstream caravan through Africa and maybe the Around the World Caravan. They are aware of the large gatherings of Airstreams at rallies and other events. Almost everyone has had an experience of seeing Airstreams on the road or possibly even seen a group of Airstreams at a rally. Although WBCCI has never kept records, there seems to be a large group of members who are second, third, and even fourth generation members. These people have experiences and memories of their parents and grandparents Airstream adventures and want to continue the tradition. When you purchase an Airstream you are purchasing a part of that history. Your own adventures in your Airstream will add to that history.

"I remember my first brush with Airstreams. Once I was flying from Ohio to Pennsylvania when I passed over what must have been 500 trailers at an Airstream rally. The reflection from all those silver trailers nearly blinded me. The formation looked magnificent from the sky."

Bob Cummings from the book, Airstream published in 1984

Just In!

It looks like the SNU has set a new membership record. As of March 26th, the SNU has 39 full members and 4 affiliate members. This exceeds the April 2009 number of 36 as listed for the SNU in the WBCCI membership audit. *Thanks to each and every one of you for your continued, and hopefully, ongoing support and participation in the Sierra Nevada Unit.*

Keep informed about the Sierra Nevada Unit - select any of the following links.

[SNU newsletter and article information](#)

[SNU 2015 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars](#)

[SNU Facebook Page](#)

[What's new on the SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](#)