



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

February 2015

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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Lassen RV Resort
McArthur, CA](#)
- ◆ [June 11th
Sweetwater Summit
Hwy 338 NV](#)

January Luncheon Review

This was the first time the SNU has held a luncheon at the Shanghai in Sparks. Although there was a minor glitch in communications, it seems to be a good place to keep on the list for future SNU lunches. Good food, decent service, and a nice room to ourselves. SNU members attending the lunch were Jerry & Dyann, Gary & Anita, Baxter, Randy & Vicki, Roger & Janet and Diane. The highlight of this lunch were Happy Birthday greetings to Dyann and Jerry whose birthdays were on Friday. They got a rather unique birthday present this year. They sold their 2005 Classic Airstream and bought a 1995 Airstream Land Yacht motorhome. It seems Jerry was ready to try something different but wanted to stay with an Airstream. We are all looking forward to checking it out at the March rally. Other topics of conversation included Randy's water pump, batteries, dog training and planned trips. Randy also reminded everyone about the May rally at Lassen and the need to RSVP. After a nice leisurely lunch everyone headed home or out to run errands or to just enjoy the day.



Sierra Nevada Unit Business

Item 1: Don Williams has posted the SNU rally and luncheon dates on the [Region 12 website Calendar](#). Thanks Don!

Item 2: There are two SNU rallies that need advanced reservations this year. One is the [May Rally](#) at Lassen RV Park and the other is the joint rally with [NorCal at Prosser](#) in August. Check the website for information on both of these rallies and how to rsvp. These two rallies are a little different from the normal SNU rally and we are hoping for a great attendance at both.

February Luncheon in Fernley

The Black Bear diner in Fernley will be the location of the February lunch. The date is Saturday, February 21, 2015. The Black Bear is located East of downtown Fernley at 1190 E Main St. Please rsvp to hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 9392.

Welcome

The newest SNU member is Richard Harter. Richard lives in Truckee and owns a 2015 Flying Cloud. We look forward to meeting Richard and hope he will be an active member of the SNU for a long time to come.

Region 12 Updates

2015 Cali Rally

April 16-19, 2015 are the dates for the first Region 12 Cali Rally. This rally replaces the Hobo Rally. The rally will be held at the Camatta Ranch / Lazy Outdoor Adventures in Santa Margarita, CA. Camatta is a working cattle ranch and also home to exotic animals. This rally will be like SNU rallies - a dry camping experience with no nearby stores or other conveniences. More information on this rally and the [registration brochure](#) are posted on the Region 12 website.

Region 12 Newsletter

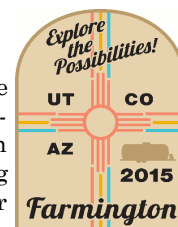
The January [Region 12 Newsletter](#) has been posted on the web. The newsletter includes the list of officers and information about past and upcoming Region 12 events.

Region 12 Officers

SNU President, Gary Haskett shared a letter from the Region 12 President, Bob Stansbury stating that the Region is looking for someone to fill the position of 2nd Vice President. If anyone is interested in serving on the Region 12 board they should contact Stansbury.

WBCCI 2015 International Rally

The 58th Annual WBCCI International Rally will be in Farmington New Mexico June 26 - July 4, 2015. There is a lot to see and do around Farmington and a lot of interesting places to visit between Nevada and New Mexico. There are lots of activities and events planned for this rally. The Blue Beret provides a lot of information on this rally and the registration forms and additional information are posted on the [WBCCI website](#). Attending a WBCCI International rally is a unique experience so if you haven't attended one in the past, put this on your calendar for 2015.



Who was Wally Byam

Wally Byam was born in Baker, Oregon. He was the founder and chairman of Airstream Trailers, Inc. As a young boy Wally assisted his grandfather herding sheep and living in a two-wheeled wagon covered with cloth towed by a donkey. The wagon had a mat for a bed, a kerosene cook stove, a wash pail and some books. Byam graduated from Stanford in 1923 with a degree in law. Instead of practicing law he ended up in publishing. During this time he came across an article on how to build a trailer. This eventually led to Wally building trailers in his backyard for sale. He conceived the name "Airstream" in 1934 because he thought his trailers traveled like a stream of air. In the winter of 1951, during a conversation with a customer, the first glimmer of an idea about caravans was born. Wally Byam's involvement with Airstreaming and caravanning continued until his death in 1962.



To read more about [Wally Byam](#), who he was, his family history, his early travels and to check out photo galleries and other memorabilia, check out contributions made to SierraNevadaAirstreams by Pee Wee. Also check out the [May 2005 SNU newsletter](#).

(This picture was taken in 1955 celebrating Wally's birthday. Wally's wife, Stella is to Wally's right. Stella is wearing a white tie.)

Quotes from Wally Byam

These quotes come from the book Trailer Travel Here and Abroad written by Wally Byam in 1960. Thanks to the efforts of Rich Luhr of Airstream Life and others, this book, along with Fifth Avenue on Wheels also written by Wally, were republished a few years ago and now are [available for purchase](#) at the Airstream Life store,

"A well-built travel trailer is so feather-light you almost forget it's there after the first few miles."

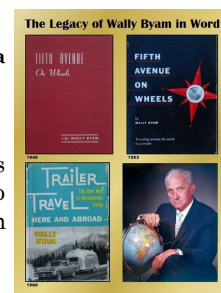
"From the time Cornelius Vanderbilt and I toured Europe in the summer of 1948, I had been completely sold on it as the most exciting place to travel - especially by trailer - in the whole world."

"It was at Copenhagen, (at the 1953 International Trailer Rally) indeed, that I received my come-uppance. Anxious not to offend anyone with a crude display of American wealth and proficiency, we had decided to take a rather primitive little 16-foot Airstream Bubble. But when I saw the fancy European trailers there, I was the one who was embarrassed."

"Parked right alongside us was one of the smartest little French jobs you ever saw...an interior that looked like Madame Pompadour's boudoir. The German trailers were mechanically ingenious, full of folding and unfolding furnishings...The British trailer was ...absolutely the last word in conservative taste...."

"I think trailering should begin at home. It is cheaper, more necessary to our education and, very important to neophytes, more convenient (than trailering abroad)."

"Trailering has been developed to a high art in America because we developed the automobile that made it possible, a technology that could make it more comfortable, and an elaborate highway network and system of fine trailer parks to make it more pleasurable."



Upcoming 2015 Events

Black Bear Diner - Fernley, NV
Saturday February 21, 2015

Lahontan Beach 7 - Silver Springs NV,
Thursday March 19 - Sunday March 22, 2015

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 15 - 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

What Goes in Your 'On The Road' Toolkit?

Talk about a multidimensional problem! Figuring out what to carry in your RV for repair and maintenance on the road has to consider your own interests and capabilities, the many different kinds of things that might need repair, the space and weight carrying availability, balancing between repair and maintenance, where you travel, and how significant a problem has to be to require fixing while on the road in your eyes.

Your own interests and capabilities - There is no sense carrying things you don't know how to use or don't have any interest in using or learning how to use. You can get yourself in more trouble trying to fix something you don't know anything about than if you just let it be until you can find someone qualified to fix it.

The many different kinds of things that might need to repair - Your RV is a mix of automotive, low voltage electrical, high voltage electrical, LP gas, plumbing, and other technologies. Some tools can be used for several of these technologies but each has its own special needs, too. These technologies also each have basic tools for the broader range of tasks and more specialized tools needed for more focused tasks. Taking an entire toolkit for each technology and task is impractical for most RVer's.



The space and weight carrying availability - You need to carry things besides tools and spare parts in your RV, too. Select what you can take so it will store safely and conveniently and be out of the way of your day to day use of the RV.

Balancing between repair and maintenance - On short trips, you can plan maintenance from the convenience of home. Repairs are only needed to get you back home safely. Longer trips means you need to plan for maintenance on the road and be able to make effective long term repairs.

Where you travel - If you never stray far from civilization, you can depend upon being able to find help when you need it. If you get out in the boonies, you might find getting the right kind of help difficult and costly. If you can't call for immediate road side assistance, you will have a greater need to be able to fix things yourself for better comfort and safety.

How significant a problem has to be to require fixing while on the road in your eyes - This is a what you are willing to put up with issue. Some things must be fixed in order to make your RV minimally usable. Other things are just matters of convenience and lifestyle. Some things are easy to fix and others need special tools and capabilities. Plan for what you need to do that you can do to be able to fix your RV so you can use it the way you want to as best you can.

What this all comes down to is one of those issues that you have to figure out for yourself. You already know those tools you will need in your RV because they are the tools you already have and use. Being out in the road is no place to find out whether someone else's toolkit is going to be what you need. Your only decision is whether or not to have a duplicate set of tools in your RV that reflects what you have in your workshop, garage, kitchen, or other workspace or to just use one set that you move back and forth as you go on RV outings.

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"On the Road Toolkit"

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If you are totally unfamiliar with the RV experience, start with weekend outings, preferable with more experienced friends, and gain experience to learn what you need for the way you do things.

If you are totally clueless and want to stay that way – your toolkit only needs a cellphone and a toll free roadside service number. And just don't get out of range of a cell tower.

Or, if you are handy at a lot of things and carry a large toolbox, then maybe you can pick up some extra cash at the campground helping others get things fixed. You can help everyone enjoy their RV experience better and make new friends at the same time.

For ideas and links, see [preparedness section of the owner's guide](#).

Benefits of the Sierra Nevada Unit Online Newsletter

The SNU newsletter is available in a PDF format on the SNU website. An 'opt-in' mailing list is used to announce the availability of most currently published newsletter as well as when there are time sensitive changes or updates related to rallies or other information pertinent to SNU members. The 'opt-in' mailing list ensures we are sending emails only to those who have subscribed (chosen) this option and not to those who do not wish to receive such emails. This system also enables subscribers to change their email address or unsubscribe at any time they choose.

Although the preferred method of receiving the on-line newsletter is through the subscription system, a second method is to use the RSS feed for the [Zephyrs blog](#). This blog is where newsletter posting announcements are made along with other RV and SNU related items. A third method is to just keep an eye on the newsletter page of the SNU website to look for new issues online.

Why Subscribe to the SNU announcement list?

- ◇ You receive prompt notification when new editions of the newsletter are posted
- ◇ The on-line version of the SNU newsletter is in color
- ◇ You have direct access to the links mentioned in the newsletter for additional information and photos.
- ◇ You can print it or not as suits you and print any additional copies you may want.
- ◇ You can get the newsletter even when you are traveling, anywhere you have internet access.



[Subscribing to the on-line newsletter](#) helps keep costs to a minimum. This in turn, helps the SNU keep Unit membership dues, rally and luncheon costs and other expenses as low as possible.

You will be notified if there is important information that can't wait for the next newsletter.



Are you new to the Sierra Nevada Unit and want to support the unit by displaying our logo? [Check out this site.](#)



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](#)