



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 7

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

July 2015

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

Inside this issue:

Blue Beret	2
Frequently Asked ??	2
2016 Rally Planning	3
Possible Change in Schedule	4
Death Valley Rally	4

Rally and events schedule

Click on a link below for details

- ◆ [Thur. July 9th Weed Heights Yerrington, NV](#)
- ◆ [Wed. August 5th Posser Family Campground Truckee, CA](#)
- ◆ [Thur. Sept. 24th Obsidian Dome June Lakes, CA](#)
- ◆ [Oct. 6th Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort, Minden](#)

Sweetwater Rally Review

We had a little trepidation about what we would find at the Sweetwater rally site because of flash foods in the area the day before. Gary went in first since he has a 4wd truck. The only problem was a crevasse in the road. We all made it to the rally site, including Jerry and Dyann's MoHo, with no problems. The rally site was dry and solid. Jerry took on the crevasse as his community service project for the weekend with some assistance from Randy. Jerry discovered he couldn't fill the hole so he cleared and leveled the other side for easier access.



Saturday Morning Campfire

Another rally activity was kite flying. Randy brought his kite and although the wind was a little sporadic, he did get it airborne. The temperature at Sweetwater, which is almost 7,000 ft, was about 10 degrees cooler than lower elevations which made for a very pleasant weekend. We did have a little system move through on Saturday just about dinnertime. Lots of thunder, a little rain, and even a little mushy hail. It cleared out quickly. Participants at this rally were Jerry & Dyann, Gary & Anita, Randy & Vicki and Bryan & Diane. This was a great weekend for relaxing with friends, taking walks here and there, starting the day with a nice campfire, enjoying some beautiful scenery, sharing some great meals, and being thankful for having some great locations for rallies. Check out [the photo gallery of the Sweetwater rally](#).



Kite Flying



Vicki & Jerry surveying work on the crevasse

2016 Dues

It is time to renew your membership in the SNU and WBCCI for 2016. You can do that [online through the SNU website](#) or [online through WBCCI](#). You can also mail your dues directly to the SNU, address 716 Terra Ct, Reno, NV 89506. Total dues are \$75 (\$65 for WBCCI and \$10 for the SNU).

Welcome Our Newest Member

Ken and Sandra Dillon of Reno have become the first SNU members for 2016. They have a 2015 Airstream Interstate. We welcome them to the SNU and hope we'll get to meet them soon.

Weed Heights July Rally

Thursday July 9 to Sunday July 12, 2015 The SNU rally will be at the **full service RV Park in Weed Heights** near Yerington. This is a nice place up on a hill with nice large trees to park under and great views of the valley. There is a nice BBQ that we can use and a club house for activities and meals. The turn off to Weed Heights and the RV Park off Hwy 95 is well marked. There are lots of things to see and do in the nearby town of Yerington. There is also the Mason Valley Wildlife area. Plan on joining us for a great weekend at Weed Heights. If you can't make the whole rally, feel free to stop by for a visit.



Blue Beret



BRYAN & JO HARRISON

This is from a 1980 *Airstream Wally Byam Caravans Bulletin*. The Bulletin provides information for an upcoming caravan to Mexico.

The Blue Beret is the symbol of Airstream ownership, Wally Byam Caravans and International Goodwill. It helps assure you a warm welcome in a foreign country. Airstream Caravans have been to Mexico many times and the blue beret is well known and respected there. All Caravanners are encouraged to wear the blue beret during their caravan travels. Berets will be available at the rendezvous site.

Frequently Asked Questions About WBCCI

Although the Airstream trailer is recognized world-wide there are many elements of Airstream and especially, WBCCI that are not as well known. This is a list of some of the most common questions asked about Airstreams and WBCCI.

- **Who is Wally Byam?**- Wally Byam is the creator of the Airstream trailer and founder of the Wally Byam Caravan Club (WBCCI)
- **What is WBCCI?** - A non-profit primarily volunteer organization with headquarters in Jackson Center, Ohio. The organization, which includes Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Australia is comprised of regional divisions. Each region is composed of between 25 to 500 local units.



- **How did the first Caravan occur and when?** - Mr. Byam, in a discussion with a customer who had recently purchased an Airstream but wasn't getting as much out of trailering as he could, suggested they go on a trip together. That way Byam could help him learn about the "efficiency and pleasure" of trailer travel. The year was 1951.

- **What are the big red numbers all about?** - The numbers indicate membership in WBCCI. They came about during the second trip (the first somewhat official caravan) to Mexico and were used to identify trailers so they could be checked in at each stop. They are included in the member directory so when you pass an Airstream on the road you can look them up and see who they are and where they are from.

- **What are the red stars you see on some Airstreams with the numbers?** - The stars indicate tenure. Each star represents five years membership in WBCCI.



Upcoming 2015 Events

- Weed Heights - Yerington, Thursday July 9 - Sunday July 12, 2015
- Prosser Family campground - Truckee Wednesday August 5 - Sunday 9, 2015
- Obsidian Dome - June Lakes, Thursday September 24 - Sunday 27 2015
- Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort - Minden, October 6-11, 2015
- Overland - Gardnerville, Saturday November 14, 2015
- Bavarian World - Reno Saturday December 12, 2015

Gopher Holes

Before all the environmental regulations, gopher holes were a common way to empty both the black and gray tanks at a rally or on a caravan. Often the local utility company came out to the rally site and dug holes for each Airstream. Decorating your gopher hole was a big deal and contests were often part of the rally activities. The photo is one of my Grandpa Harrison's (#772) gopher holes.

Even as late as 1975 when my parent's joined WBCCI, gopher holes were mentioned in the information new members received from WBCCI. Here are some experts from that letter.

- *When using gopher holes, keep the hole tightly covered at all times and take all possible precautions to prevent overflow. When leaving camp, fill and tamp the hole securely; level the ground if possible.*
- *Always carry essentials for happy and co-operative rally living (including) two water pails, one for drains when without gopher holes and a gopher hole shovel and strong metal gopher hole cover.*

This letter also states: Never under any circumstances, dump a holding tank on the highway or in any place not provided for this purpose. DO NOT even dump rinse water... it may result in criticism and complaints of improper dumping.

Times have changed. Provisions for appropriately dumping your tanks are now widespread. Individual sewer hook ups are standard at RV Parks and even some campgrounds. Many campgrounds have a public dump station near the camping area. There are service stations and even rest areas that have public dump stations. Many of these options are free others charge a fee. There are now apps and various computer programs that provide locations and other information on available dump stations. For large rallies a local company with a "honey wagon" is hired to come to the rally site and empty participants tanks. At a small rally or personal camping trips, there are a variety of portable tanks and other options to assist with waste disposal. For more information [check the Owner's Guide](http://SierraNevadaAirstreams.org) on SierraNevadaAirstreams.org.



2016 Sierra Nevada Unit Rallies

This is the first draft of the proposed SNU rally locations. There are lots of blank spaces on both luncheon and rally sites so now is the time to let us know where you would like to go and what you would like to do. Check the website for some ideas and possibilities. [On the website you will also find information](#) on what criteria the SNU uses for luncheon and rally sites as well as lots of other information related to SNU rallies.

- Saturday January , 2016 11:30 am luncheon - Black Bear Diner, Fernley
- Saturday February , 2016 11:30 am luncheon ??
- Thursday March - Sunday March , 2016 3 day Rally - Ft Churchill - main campground
- Thursday April - Sunday April , 2016 3 day Rally - ?
- Thursday May - Sunday May , 2016 3 day Rally - ?
- Thursday June - Sunday June 2016 3 day Rally - ?
- June 28, 2016 to July 5, 2016 WBCCI International Rally Lewisburg, WV
- Thursday July - Sunday July , 2016 3 day Rally - Weed Heights RV Park, near Yerington
- Thursday August - Sunday , 2016 3 day Rally - Obsidian Dome - near June Lakes, CA
- Thursday September - Sunday 2016 3 day Rally - Lassen RV Resort (SNU 40th Anniversary Celebration)
- Oct. 12th to the 16th of 2016 - Region 12 Rally Golden Palms RV site in Hemet, CA
- Thursday October - Sunday , 2016 3 day Rally - Scout Camp, Ft Churchill
- Saturday November , 2016 11:30 am luncheon ??
- Thursday November 3 day Rally - Death Valley Mesquite Campground
- Saturday December , 2016 11:30 am luncheon - ??

Frequently Asked Questions about WBCCI

continued from page 2

- **When was the first Airstream trailer built?** - On January 17, 1936 Byam's Airstream Trailer Company introduced the Clipper. This trailer is still on display at the Airstream factory. Mr. Byam had been building trailers and improving techniques since the late 1920's. The Clipper though, is considered the first official Airstream.
- **What makes Airstream trailers unique?** - Airstream trailers are recognized world-wide because of their aluminum semi-monocoque construction exterior that is much like that used in the aircraft industry. Their construction makes the Airstream lighter in weight than most other trailers and the rounded, aerodynamic shape with low center of gravity makes towing smoother and requires less horsepower.
- **Who can become a member of WBCCI?** - Anyone who owns an Airstream or Argosy RV product can become a member. Membership is paid to the international headquarters on an annual basis. For an additional minimal cost you can also become a member of your local unit.



What do members of WBCCI do? - The primary activities are caravans and rallies. Caravans are extended trips that cover a specific section of a country or visits to several countries. Rallies are held in a specific location and usually range from two or three days to a week or more. Both rallies and caravans can be sponsored and organized by the Airstream company, by WBCCI, by individual regions, or by local units. There are also special event rallies usually centered around a specific local event such as the Rose Parade in CA, or the Mardi Gra in LA. Since it's inception, WBCCI

has also been involved in community service projects. In addition to promoting good will, WBCCI supports local programs both at the international and the local Unit level. A committee for the International rally is in charge of determining, organizing, and carrying out a local service project in conjunction with the rally. Many units adopt a specific non-profit or charity and provide support through various activities and contributions.

Possible Change of Venue

The December SNU luncheon may be in a different restaurant than originally planned. It has been discovered that changes are taking place at the Overland. Randy and Vicki will check it out and find a different location if needed. We'll keep you posted.

Death Valley Rally

The annual fall rally at Mesquite campground in Death Valley will probably be the end of October or the first part of November. Don and Gail Williams host this rally. They always have some interesting activities and special treats planned for this rally. They'll be providing more detailed information in upcoming newsletters.



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](#)