



Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International



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Future SNU Rallies

- Obsidian Dome – near June Lakes, CA - Thursday August 18 – Sunday 21, 2016
- Lassen RV Resort (SNU 40th Anniversary Celebration) -near McArthur, CA - Thursday September 22– Sunday 25 2016
- Region 12 Rally Golden Palms RV site in Hemet, CA - Oct. 12th to the 16th of 2016
- Scout Camp, Ft Churchill NV State Park - Thursday October 20 – Sunday 23, 2016
- Carson City – Plaza Hotel- Saturday November 19, 2016 11:30 am luncheon
- Death Valley Mesquite Campground - Date TBA
- Brian & Jeni Root's House, Reno - Saturday December 17, 2016 11:30 am luncheon

40 Years of SNU !



Weed Heights in July

We had a great rally at Weed Heights. The seven Airstreams at the rally were a good representation of Airstream RV's. There was Gene & Kathy's classic motorhome, Bryan & Diane's vintage Airstream and BVan, and Jerry & Dyann's land yacht motorhome. Gary & Anita, Wheels & Doris, Claudia, and Roger & Janet had Airstreams made between 2005 to 2016. The air conditioners in all of them got a good workout this weekend. Gary & Anita had stopped at KFC in Fernley on the way to Weed Heights so we started off the rally with a chicken dinner on Thursday. Friday dinner was the highlight of the rally – Jerry's Nevada surf-n-turf dinner. He really outdid himself. I think what started last year as a whim may have turned into another SNU tradition. In addition to delicious grilled steak and tilapia, we had roasted corn on the cob and ice cream for dessert. Diane brought the corn. Wheels and Doris brought a variety of delicious Blue Bell ice creams. Everyone else contributed salads, fruit, and other side dishes. Saturday's dinner included leftovers along with a few additional dishes. Dyann had brought root beer and vanilla ice cream for dessert. After all the great food, we all could have used the treadmill in the club house but there were no takers. Some people though,



Prepping corn for the grill



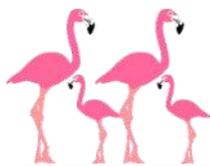
Steak on the grill

did spend some time after dinner playing table games, especially Gary & Wheels. Anita & Janet started their own game of dominoes after dinner on Saturday. This rally was special for a lot of reasons. We were delighted that Roger & Janet were able to make this rally. We hadn't seen them in a while. This was the first SNU rally for Gene & Kathy. Claudia, who had found out about the rally and the SNU by searching the internet, not only joined us for the rally, she has become the newest member of the SNU. Other new members, Kevin & Sherri came out for a visit on Friday. I'm sure will we see Gene & Kathy, Claudia, and Kevin & Sherri at more rallies in the future. Randy and Vicki also visited on Friday. Randy did a presentation on the SNU 40th Anniversary rally in September at Lassen RV Resort. This is definitely going to be a special rally with a few surprises thrown in. Mornings were very nice for sitting outside enjoying coffee and treats. When it started getting hot, we could either retreat to our trailers or head for the nice cool club house where we could visit, read, or just relax. The SNU photo albums were put out and some people enjoyed going through them and remembering all the great rallies and other SNU adventures. We took the opportunity of this rally to get started on membership renewals for 2017. Everyone either renewed at the rally or is **doing so online** when they get home. As usual, there was a lot of discussion about Airstream related topics and plans for SNU future activities. The only maintenance issue we dealt with at this rally was Gene & Kathy's hot water and that was quickly resolved. We also enjoyed hearing some of Claudia's adventures like her hiking trip to Peru and a kayak trip in Greenland. Sunday everyone headed home. Check out Dyann's nice little blurb about the rally on the SNU Facebook page. With a nice location, great park managers, nice trees, and plenty of space, we'll definitely be back at Weed Heights next year.



After dinner games

40th Anniversary Year



From the 2004 SNU newsletter

Going to great lengths to find a camping spot in Reno, Rich Jaggard found a rather unique place to park his Bambi - The Robert Z. Hawkins stage at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park! This all started when Bryan found a notice on an internet forum that the Trailer Park Troubadours, the unofficial Airstream band was planning to play at the park and were looking for some Airstreams to use as stage props for their show. Rich was available and willing to assist. His Bambi barely squeezed through the door but it was a great addition once parked on stage. **The Bambi got a lot of attention.** Rich had a good time wandering around hearing people comment on the Airstream. The Troubadours even gave him special recognition during their act and talked quite a bit about the trailer.



August Obsidian Rally

One of the favorite SNU rally sites is Obsidian Dome near June Lakes, CA. Our August rally will be Thursday August 18 – Sunday 21, 2016. This will be the 10th SNU rally at Obsidian. Rick will post some signs to guide people to the rally site. We'll start off with a sandwich and salad dinner on Thursday. Marla will pick up some bread at Schat's. The rest of us should bring salads and sandwich makings. Our meals on Friday and Saturday will be the usual SNU shared meal – bring what you want to eat plus a little extra to share. The special treat will be brunch on Friday featuring Marla's pancakes. There is a full moon the weekend of the rally which should give us another amazing treat. The moon hits the obsidian on the side of the hill and the whole hill twinkles like there are little lights all over it. Other activities at Obsidian include a variety of great hiking places, a possible day trip to explore some other potential rally sites or day trips into Mammoth or June Lakes. Best of all is just enjoying the beautiful scenery around the rally site and sharing stories and good times. If you aren't sure about getting to Obsidian contact us about caravanning to the rally.



New Directions

The following is from a report of a WBCCI Committee Published January 14, 2009. In reading the suggestions written about Units you will notice that the SNU could have provided inspiration for this report. Many are concepts the SNU created for itself in 2002. When the SNU was struggling, we had to figure out for ourselves what we needed to do to turn things around. We took it upon ourselves to remove barriers. We minimized structure. Rather than be a "cookie cutter" Unit, we focused on who we were, the area we live in and the preferences of the members and potential members in our area to provide direction for the type of Unit we should be. Over the years we have successfully implemented many new and innovative ideas. We have kept accurate records of all aspects of membership including recruiting methods, tenure and participation. The SNU has provided a successful model. Although it has received some recognition, it seems that change, although often encouraged in WBCCI committees and by some individuals, is very difficult to accept and implement. The SNU didn't wait for change to be handed down, it went about creating change for itself.

From: New Directions – A compilation of proposals put together by the WBCCI 2020 Long Range Planning Committee

Focus on the Units, Remove Barriers – The Unit is the heart of WBCCI. The focus of Region and International leadership should be on the Units...identify the kind of help needed by struggling Units, provide assistance when the Unit needs are identified, help identify prospective members, identify what successful Units are doing to get and keep members, assist smaller Units in planning and executing rallies/caravans that then make it easier for smaller Units to recruit officers and encourage joint rallies between smaller Units.

- Too much structure is imposed on the Units that creates a "cookie cutter" look to the Units. Remove barriers that keep Units from thinking outside the box.
- The Units should have the latitude to be innovative and creative in how they are organized and operate, trying new and revolutionary approaches, to promote new ideas and approaches. The approaches that work can be shared with other Units.
- Provide assistance and encouragement for the formation of new Units. Revise and reduce requirements for the formation of a new Unit.
- Member participation in the Units should be emphasized and an "active index" developed that would measure the percentage of members who are actively involved in Unit events,

40th Anniversary Year



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

[SNU newsletter and article information](#)

[SNU 2016 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars](#)

[SNU Facebook Page](#)

[What's new on the Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org](#)



Airstream Activities

Things have changed a lot since WBCCI became an official club in 1955. More people are able to travel. All sorts of RV's have become more comfortable and affordable. Cell phones, internet, and social media make it easier to connect with other people. These are some of the things that have had an impact on the structure and purpose of clubs and organizations of all sorts, including RV clubs. One of the changes is evident in the rising number of Airstream focused groups



and activities outside of, or only loosely connected to WBCCI. Some are well organized and ongoing while some are more impromptu and less organized. Some have ties of one sort or another with commercial enterprises and others don't. Two of the more well known are Alumapalooza and Alumafandango. Both are open to any brand of RV although it is basically an

Airstream event. As they state in the FAQ "If you aspire to own an Airstream, come on over and check out the people and the product!" These events have great websites with all sorts of good information. Then there are clubs and events open to all brands of RV's like Good Sam, Escapee's, The International Campers Club and Tin Can Tourists to name just a few. There are also smaller informal groups that gather for rallies or similar activities. These may be an offshoot of a WBCCI Unit or subgroup. They may be the work of a few individuals with an idea which they then promote through various means including forums and other social media. If you search around the internet you can find all sorts of information and links that can lead you to activities, events and clubs that relate to Airstreams either directly or indirectly. Although **Wally Byam wrote his creed** with Airstreams in mind, the ideas he expressed can easily expand to include the wider world of RV'ing. For instance, one statement in the creed is "To open a whole world of new experiences ... a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions." That is a pretty good summary of what we all want from our RV'ing experience.

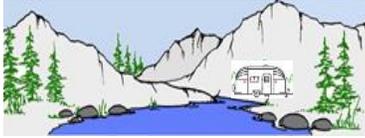
Speaking of interesting Airstream events, check out the blog on the South Coast Unit recent **"Wine Tasting Along the California Coast"** caravan

Note: the picture is from the **2004 Vintage Vacations Rally** at Camp Richardson. Their website indicates the rally is sold out for 2016

Welcome New Members

The SNU welcomes two new members. Claudia Ward, a self proclaimed part time full timer based out of Portola CA. She has a 2016 Flying Cloud FB. Frank & Diane Gould live in Nevada City and have a 2011 Bambi. We really enjoyed getting to know Claudia at the Weed Heights rally and we hope to meet Frank & Diane at a rally sometime soon. Welcome and thank you for choosing the SNU.

40th Anniversary Year



Wheels and Doris submitted their Kitty Credits as part of celebrating the SNU and it's 40th Anniversary. Wheels & Doris have attended 32 SNU rallies since they joined in 2008. Wheels reviewed SNU newsletters to jog his memory. Among the memories listed on their Kitty Credits are the mosquitoes and swallows at the Green Creek rally in 2013, Jessilynn's Birthday party at the 2012 Cantaloupe Festival rally. Making breakfast for a crowd at the 2009 rally at the Silver Springs Fly-In and Bruce & Kathy flying over the 2012 rally at Pyramid Lake in their vintage Cessna. **Check out all the Kitty Credits** on the SNU website It's not too late to submit your own SNU stories and Kitty Credits.



SNU Business

- **Time to Renew** – Now is the time to renew your membership for 2017. The best option is to renew through WBCCI. You can also renew through the SNU. **Check the SNU website for details.**
- **Ideas for Rallies** – Here is a first draft of the potential 2017 rally schedule. - January, Carolina Kitchen, Sparks * February, El Charro Avita * March Lahontan beach 7 * April, Ft Sage near Doyle * May, Sweetwater Summit * June BLM campground at Eagle Lake * July, Weed Heights RV Park * August, Obsidian Dome * September, Green Creek near Bridgeport * October, Boca Rest near Truckee * November, Black Bear Fernley * November, Death Valley Mesquite Campground * December, J.T.'s Basque Restaurant. Have you got a favorite place? Do you know of a place you like that the SNU has not tried before? Send us your ideas and suggestions so we can consider them for the 2017 schedule or for future rallies.
- **Bylaws Submission** – On July 24, 2016 the SNU received an email from the new WBCCI CBL chair **requesting we submit our bylaws for review.** The email states that needs to be done every five years and that the SNU bylaws hadn't been "reviewed in several years". Apparently the email from the previous CBL committee dated April 4, 2016 acknowledging that the committee had received the SNU bylaws (downloading them from the website) and was in the process of reviewing them had not been passed along to the new committee. Jerry, the SNU CBL chair, is handling this request.

The Value of a Good Map

The **Donner Party** is famous because of what happened after it got caught in an early snowstorm on the east side of the Sierras. They were delayed in the journey to California because the guide they hired knew about a shortcut in Utah that turned out to be not really suitable for a wagon train.

The same thing happens today, more than 150 years later. **Death by GPS in desert** illustrates that the guide these days is the maps embedded in GPS navigation units. You will nearly always find these sorts of stories blaming "GPS" when it is really the maps (the guide) people use and the judgment they employ in their travel based on those maps.

"Technology, of course, is not the only denominator to those disasters. Others include poor planning, faulty judgment, bad luck and the lemming-like rush of visitors to Death Valley in the summer, many of them unfamiliar with the danger – making heat-related illness and fatalities nearly as predictable as the searing temperatures."

The GPS is not the only guide that may lead you astray. On a forums discussion an RVer was asking about dispersed camping in the Mojave National Preserve. He got two responses. One said to stick to the established campgrounds and avoid off road camping until he had had a chance to investigate them personally. The other said that there were a lot of places where he could pull off the road for an overnight. It is true that there are many such places but what happens when you find you have left an established road at sundown for a trail with no way to turn around or where the trail rapidly degrades to deep soft sand? How do you know who to trust?

We do have very good maps these days. You can know exactly where you are with a good deal of precision nearly anywhere. Vehicles are incredibly reliable and capable. Search and Rescue teams have tools and techniques (and practice in their use) that give them capabilities to find lost travelers like never before. As the Sacramento Bee article notes, though, there is no substitute for proper preparation and good judgment.

Never underestimate the wilderness. [Link to full article.](#)