



Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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Future SNU Rallies

- June - Thursday June 22 - Sunday June 25, 2017 – Crocker Campground near Beckworth, CA
- July - Thursday July 20 - Sunday July 23, 2017 Weed Heights RV Park
- July 22-29, 2017 – WBCCI International Rally Escanaba, MI
- August - Thursday August 24 - Sunday August 27, 2017 Green Creek near Bridgeport
- September - Thursday September 21 - Sunday September 24, 2017 Lassen RV Resort, McArthur, CA
- October 11 – 15, 2017 Region 12 Rally Jackson Rancheria, Jackson, CA
- October - Thursday October 19 - Sunday October 22, 17 Boca Rest near Truckee
- November 18, 2017 Saturday - Black Bear Fernley
- November, TBA Death Valley Mesquite Campground
- December 16, 2017 Saturday - J.T.'s Basque Restaurant, Gardnerville

Eagle Lake Rally Review

What a weekend!! Perfect weather, great location, great food, and of course, great people. Russell had arrived early and made friends with the camp host so the rest of us had a warm welcome. Friday we had our sandwich and salad dinner. Randy had gotten a variety of meats and cheeses and Diane brought a variety of breads. Others contributed a variety of salads. A special treat after dinner was a guitar concert by Russell. He played and sang all the favorites. **Check the website for a sample of his singing as well as photo galleries of the rally.** It was a great



Mexican Fiesta Dinner

way to end the day. Saturday was our special Mexican Fiesta. Eric and Terry outdid themselves. Eric BBQ'd skirt steak for tacos and Terry made her special fresh guacamole and salsa. Put that together with beans and other condiments in a crisply fried flour tortilla and you have something pretty extraordinary. Add to that, fruit salad, chips and dip, and Mexican cookies and it was a feast to remember. Needless to say, we all stuffed ourselves.



Skirt Steak Tacos

We even had a pinata to decorate the table. That hasn't been used since a May rally in 2005. We had several visitors at this rally. Gary & Anita's friends Milo and Arlene joined us for dinner on Saturday. Russell's friends Ted & Cynthia stopped by overnight on Friday on their way North. Russell's son Derek, his wife Kristen and their kids Travis, Audrey & Reagan also came up on Friday and joined us for dinners. Phil and his wife Wendy, the camp hosts also joined us for dinners. This

campground is not used much which suits us just fine. Phil said we were the largest group up there in a couple of years. He enjoyed morning coffee and conversations with us and now is trying to figure out how to turn his motorhome into an Airstream. This rally was the first time Gary tried out his new alternative fuel tank for his generator. There are a few glitches still to be worked out but the basic concept was a success. Eric is having a hard time with s'mores. We have the campfire, Eric has the ingredients but for one reason or another, it just doesn't all come together. I guess we might have to make s'mores a highlight of one of our upcoming rallies. Saturday after dinner, Randy gave a short presentation on plans for the SNU rally at Lassen RV resort in September. This is definitely a rally you don't want to miss. In addition to a fantastic campfire concert, we want to thank Russell for helping to promote the Unit. This includes posting photos and comments about the rally on the Region 12 facebook page. Russell has always been a big supporter of the SNU and his desire to help promote us is greatly appreciated. We can all follow his example and promote the SNU in various ways. In addition, as a member of the Washington Unit, Russell invited any of us to come to one of their rallies. As a big unit, they can put on some interesting rallies and some pretty fantastic feasts. I think the sign that Terry got at a craft fair is a good way to wrap up this rally. It says **"Welcome to our fire pit – where friends and marshmallows get toasted at the same time."**



Campfire Concert

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"



Nevada Challenges

Rallies in the Great Basin can present some unique challenges. We usually stay away from water in the summer so bugs aren't often a problem. Two of the biggest challenges are wind and hard ground. We often get wind gusts or zephyrs, especially in the afternoon. This means it is a good idea to always be ready to roll up your awning. SNU members are cautious but there are many stories of awnings being flipped over the trailer, ripped awnings, and hardware pulled loose from the side of the trailer. Wind is also hard on our yard art. We have had solar lights and other decorations blown down and broken. Hard ground is great to park on. It's not so great when it comes to setting out your solar lights and other decorative items. SNU members have come up with a variety of ideas to deal with both wind and hard ground. After all, one of our primary rally activities is decorating the rally site and enjoying our outdoor living room.



June Rally at Crocker

June the SNU rally will be at **Crocker campground**. The dates are Thursday June 22 to Sunday June 25, 2017. Crocker Campground is off of Highway 70 at Beckwourth, CA. At Beckwourth (coming from US 395 and Reno) turn right on Rt 177, the Beckwourth-Genesee Road. The campground is about ten miles up the road. This is a semi dispersed USFS campground in a grove of pine trees. On Friday we will visit a nearby Farmer's Market Gary & Anita recommended. **Sierra Valley Farms** is a family owned certified organic farm and nursery. The weekly Farmer's Market includes over 20 vendors and features locally grown fruits & vegetables, meats, fresh seafood, wine, artisan cheeses, chocolates, crafts and other things. Depending on how things go, we might have a dinner of Farmer's Market products on Friday. Crocker is a great place for hiking, taking a day trip to the railroad museum in nearby Portola or visit Lake Davis or to just enjoy the scenery. Plan to join us.



2018 Sierra Nevada Unit Rallies

It's hard to believe but it is time to start planning the 2018 Rally schedule. The sooner we get a schedule together the more time for people to include SNU rallies on their calendar and the better chance there is for people to participate. Rally planning includes deciding the locations and any special activities members might want to add to the rallies. As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, one thought is to emphasize Nevada State parks. A tentative 2018 schedule might include several NSP as well as other rally locations. A possibility might be Washoe Lake in March, Ft Churchill in April, Rye Patch in May, Berlin in June, Weed Heights in July, Fallon Cantaloupe Festival Labor Day, Lassen RV Resort in September and Glass Creek in October. Your input and ideas are an important part of solidifying the schedule. Your input can enhance, change or add to what will become the final version of the 2018 rally schedule.

There are a few other things to consider. Terry asked about spur of the moment rallies. What she was wondering about was if there were any "rallies" outside the published schedule. You bet! The SNU has held a couple of rallies over Thanksgiving that weren't part of the official schedule. If anyone is planning an outing and would like to open it to other SNU members, just let us know, we can pass the word or you can post it on the SNU facebook page.

A couple of SNU members have also proposed some new possible rally sites. 2017 weather has so far prevented us from checking these out. Later in the year we still might make a short spur of the moment weekend trip to visit some alternate sites. If we do, the outings will be announced to SNU members.

Another 2018 rally to keep in mind is the WBCCI International Rally. The dates are June 17-30, 2018. The rally will be held in Salem, OR at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Attending a WBCCI I'rally is a special part of being a member of WBCCI. This rally in Oregon is about as close to SNU territory as you can get so it's a great opportunity to attend.

Region 12 Rally

The registration form for the 2017 Region 12 Rally is now available. **Check the website**. The dates are October 10 -16, 2017. The Rally will be held in Jackson, CA. This is close to the SNU home territory. If you haven't attended a Region rally, this would be a great opportunity to meet fellow Airstreamers from all over Nevada and California and elsewhere. **Check out photo galleries** of past Region 12 Rallies including the 2012 Region rally at Jackson.

*"The Great Basin
Airstream
RV Association"*

WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

Lassen in September

Back by popular request will be another **rally at the wonderful Lassen RV Resort** this September, where there is full hookup camping that is like dry camping in the boondocks. Those who attended the 40th SNU anniversary at the Resort last September will remember how the desire to return there almost rose to the level of a demand. Here are the particulars of that upcoming rally. The resort is located about a mile off of Hwy. 299 and seven miles east of the town of McArthur in the foothills among numerous trees. The spaces are mostly pull-throughs which are quite spacious being long and wide. The Resort is very roomy and the spaces are well separated. Almost all sites have water, electricity, and sewer. There is no cable or satellite. Antenna TV reception gets PBS and ABC with occasional digital breakups. Cell phones tend to not work there. There are bathrooms with showers and a laundry room. There are plenty of partial and all day trips. The Allen radio telescope array and Burney Falls are not far away. The Fort Crook Museum in the town of Fall River Mills is even closer. For a longer all day trip there is Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta. Mt. Shasta is the farthest at about 70 miles. There are a number of special events being considered for this rally. The Resort has a projector and large screen so we are planning on showing movies. Anyone who has a recommendation for a movie to show please let us know when you make your reservation. You might even bring the movie with you. Other possible events are a lecture by a local historian, guitar entertainment (possibly with an Hawaiian theme), and a black powder demonstration if there is enough interest in this. So let us know when you make your reservation if you are interested in such a demonstration. There will also be various and sundry displays in the screened-in event structure. Randy will be making and serving his ever so famous and sought after waffles on Saturday morning. I've saved listing **the best for last**: a catered lunch on Friday and catered dinner on Saturday, both provided by the Bistro Restaurant at the Resort. Anyone who attended the last rally at the Resort knows what fabulous food the Resort serves.



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

SNU newsletter and article information

SNU 2017 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars

SNU Facebook Page

*What's new in
Sierra Nevada
Airstreams.org*

The rally will be held from Thursday, September 21 to Sunday, the 24th. **Please make your reservation** with and submit payment to: Randy Grossmann 2345 W. Washington St. Carson City, NV 8973 775-883-3603 Randyg@pyramid.net Randy is old fashioned so he can only accept paper checks either handed to him in person or sent to him via snail mail. For the real progressive folks, no cryptocurrency please. The cost for this rally is \$120 which includes three nights of full hookups, a catered lunch and dinner, a waffle breakfast, and entertainment. Randy can email you a reservation form. While reservations should be made with Randy for the rally dates of September 21 to the 24th, anyone who will arrive before these dates or stay after them should make arrangements directly with the Lassen RV Resort for the additional nights. We have sites reserved in the group area at the rear of the Resort. Selection of the sites will be on a first come, first selection basis.

Awnings

Awnings are an essential element on most RV's. They provide shade, create an outdoor living area, and serve as a structure for hanging lights and decorations. We have used the awning to provide a protected place to sit and enjoy our coffee during snow squalls at several rallies. Awnings have also provided a sheltered place for dinner during rain showers.

In regards to Airstreams, all newer models come with a curbside awning that comes out six to eight feet for both shade and shelter. Starting in 2015, Airstream even offered automatic awnings on some models. Some folks put full awnings on both sides of the RV but most only install roadside and other window awnings that come out a couple of feet just to provide shade. You can have the shade awning over just the window area or you can run it along the

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Want to know what fellow SNU members think about Airstreams. Here are two comments posted on facebook. **Jerry 2012** - Sitting here in deep contemplation having an airstream classic is like staying at the waldorf. Having an airstream vintage is like being at a top hilton. And being in an sob is like staying at a motel 6. If its not an airstream its some other brand or an sob. **Bobbi 2017** - Buying an Airstream is much more then just buying an RV. It's an entire culture and "family" you never knew you had.



Awnings

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entire side. If your refrigerator is on the roadside, extending the awning along the length of the Airstream provides shade for the refrigerator area as well as the windows and helps the refrigeration during hot days. The roadside awning can make a big difference in the comfort level inside your Airstream, especially in the summer. Since it is about a third the width of the roadside awning, it is less subject to wind and can be left open when other awnings should be rolled up.

Standard commercial awnings are not the only option. People have come up with all sorts of unique ideas for covering the windows and creating shade. In 1998 at the WBCCI International rally in Boise Idaho, I resorted to using beach towels clamped to the roadside and front windows. It might have made our Airstream look more like trailer trash but it was so hot, the added shade made inside the trailer much more tolerable. At least we didn't get kicked out of the rally. In 2006, when we replaced the curbside awning we added an awning to the roadside. That was one of the best additions to our Airstream that we have made. In 2014 Randy experimented with a much more refined version of beach towels to shade his front window. It worked fine but in order to be really useful he needs rethink his method of attaching the shade to the window. One option was demonstrated on a friends 1974 Sovereign. The custom made window shades are attached with suction cups.

As well as being put to good use, awnings have been the topic of discussion at SNU rallies. Brainstorming ideas have included figuring out a way to have a cover that would go over the entire Airstream like a portable garage. We have also discussed the idea of a curbside awning that could be easily rolled out and secured at varying widths. That way you could use it similar to the roadside awning or fully extend it for a shaded outdoor living area. Then there is the idea for longer Airstreams to make the curbside awning a two part awning rather than one long awning. That again, provides a variety of options depending on need or preference. There are always discussions about how to make setting out the awning easier, especially when it is a one person task.



Some things to keep in mind regarding awnings.

- As a precaution it is best not to leave your curbside awning out if you leave your Airstream for any length of time. Wind gusts can come up unexpectedly and wreak havoc with awnings. Rolling up your awning at night is also a good idea for the same reason.
- It is always beneficial to leave one corner of your awning lowered. Any rain or condensation will more likely run off rather than pooling in the awning fabric.
- If at all possible, never roll your awning up when it is wet. If you have to roll it up wet, unroll it as soon as possible so that it can dry out. If you aren't going to use your Airstream for a while, or have it stored for the winter, it is a good idea to roll out the awning at least once to air it out and make sure it is dry.
- When getting ready to roll your awning up, be sure it is cleaned of dust and anything else that might have fallen on it. Even the smallest piece of debris can rub and possibly create a weak spot or tear in the fabric.
- Let your awning roll up slowly and evenly by hanging onto the tether and let the tether roll up at an angle so it doesn't create a bulge by being rolled up in one place.
- On the full width awnings, check the struts on each end to make sure they don't overlap (this is a common way to break off the hook at the end of the strut) and then let the awning snap shut for the last few inches.
- Be sure to secure your rolled up awning with the hold downs at each end and the hook and latch a few feet in from the end. You should put checking this detail as a part of your pre-departure checklist.
- Regular cleaning extends the life of your awning. Know the fabric used for your awning and use cleaning products that are appropriate for that specific fabric.

Check the website for photo galleries of awning installations and various awning styles and for links to information on awnings. In particular, watch **Zip Dee's excellent video** of awning operations on an Airstream.