



November 2018 Airstreamer's Newsletter

October's Fort Churchill Rally was Sierra Nevada Unit's last official rally of the year. We're entering the winter season when it's time to fix any problems in our rigs made evident during the year (least we forget in the spring), winterize, plan for luncheons and for those rare nice weekends that tempt us to pull out the Airstreams and go camping!

Our November Luncheon kicks off the season with a great meal planned at the **Plaza Hotel in Carson City on Saturday November 17th at 12:00 PM**. We'll dine on the ground level in the event center on the Petit Buffet featuring Sliced Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey, Salami and Pastrami with Cheddar, peppered Monterey Jack, Swiss and Provolone cheeses, a selection of bread, rolls and croissants, greens and choice of dressings, pasta salad and potato salad or potato chips and Chef's choice dessert. More food than any of us can eat! \$17 per person, the unit will cover any additional costs, tax and tip. The Plaza Hotel and Event Center is located at 801 S. Carson Street in Carson City, NV.



photos courtesy sierranevadaairstreams.org

SNU Business:

1. Minutes - Nomination and Election of Officers

- a. A brief business meeting for the nomination and election of officers was held on Saturday October 13th.
- b. There were standing nominations for:
 - i. Secretary – Dyann McDonald Thornburg
 - ii. Treasurer – Eric Larsen
 - iii. Trustee – Randy Grossman
- c. Gary Haskell was nominated for the SNU second Trustee.
- d. No other nominations were received from the membership, either via email or at the business meeting. Note that ballots were distributed by email although they required a quick response or attendance at the meeting. Only one email ballot was received.
- e. All nominees were elected by acclamation being the sole candidates for each position.

2. **It's WBCCI Membership Renewal Time** – Sierra Nevada Unit members and friends, we're at the witching hour for WBCCI renewals and new memberships; November is the cutoff to ensure that you are listed in the WBCCI Annual Membership Directory.

We hope you'll continue to make the SNU, unit #157, your local unit and attend our rallies and luncheons. The value of the Wally Byam Airstream Club isn't just the monthly Blue Beret, International Rally and caravans; think of them as additional benefits to the fellowship, dos & don'ts, help and knowledge that SNU members will share. And for you Airstream owners and friends just lurking in the wings, we extend an invitation to join us at a rally or luncheon to see what the SNU and the WBCCI are all about.

You can renew on the WBCCI web page: <https://wbcci.org>. Fill out the information as you click through the following pages and pay by PayPal or credit card; the WBCCI will handle the rest including forwarding your SNU renewal. Affiliates wanting to use paypal should call me, Don 951.264.0219 or make a \$10 check out to the Sierra Nevada Unit and send it to our Treasurer (next page).

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3. **SNU Christmas and Holiday Dinner at Mario Portofino's, December 15th at 5:00 PM** – The SNU will celebrate its Christmas and Holiday season December 15th at Mario Portofino's in Reno for our SNU holiday dinner; **yes our holiday dinner this year is at 5:00 PM**. The menu includes a wide variety of Italian food with prices from \$15 to \$24 for most items. Some beef and lamb are in the \$30s and seafood at market prices. More news to come later but plan to attend for a chance at the SNU door prize (originally intended for the Region Rally); you won't be disappointed (must be present to win).
4. **SNU January Luncheon, Bavarian World, Reno, NV, January 19th at 11:30 AM**
5. **SNU February Luncheon, Casa Grande Mexican Cantina, Reno, NV, February 23rd at 11:30 AM**

Other Unit News and Needs:

6. **Newsletter Editor and Web Master** – These positions still need to be filled and you pretty much get to set your own work limits (the newsletter only needs to be a couple of pages and some follow up on Facebook posts). Our Unit can't survive without participation and shared ideas; volunteer and help us grow.
7. **Apology to SNU members** – I want to offer my apology to our SNU members, I had intended to distribute the email ballots earlier in the week of October 8th. I did not count on being distracted by family events and the lack of phone service and internet access on our route and nightly stops at campgrounds in WV and VA.

Rally Report – Fort Churchill Rally

We had a fantastic time at the SNU October Rally held at Ft. Churchill State Park. The weather was great during the day but the nights did get a little cold. Those in attendance were: Gary Haskett, Bryan and Diane Leipper, Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, and Doug Dale. Also attending was Doug's brother-in-law, Walter. *Don and Gail were unable to attend; they made a unscheduled trip to the North Carolina coast to help Gail's Mom with cleanup from Hurricane Florence. See the story in Little Known Facts <editor>.*



photos courtesy sierranevadaairstreams.org

We were very surprised at the number of campers who were taking advantage of the park. Most of the spots were taken and when someone would leave their spot would be taken by new arrivals almost immediately. Even with all the coming and going everyone was very polite and quiet which made for a wonderful time.

Unfortunately on Friday morning Doug and Walter decided it was too cold for them the night before so they left to go somewhere that had full hook-ups. Bryan and Diane arrived on Friday. Dyann brought KFC for everyone for Thursday dinner, which was shared again on Friday. We had our usual potlucks on Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, Jerry, Dyann and Diane took a trip to Yerington to check out the new Walker River State Recreation Area located on the old Pitchfork Ranch just south of Yerington. What a beautiful park! The three of us were highly impressed with what has been done to the area and what the future plans are for it. Currently they have completed the visitors center which had a lot of interesting exhibits to view and information available for all Nevada's state parks. There is a full kitchen as well as an outdoor picnic area with a large grill and fireplace. The area around the center is grassed, has trees with a brook running next to it. Next to the center is a large graveled group area for day use as well as another area close to the river for day use. Next to that area is the dry camping area with covered picnic tables, large spots and close access to the river. Directly across from the visitors center they are in the process of putting in a full hook-up area. According to the ranger, there are plans to put in an area for campers with ATVs and off road motorbikes. We were told the area will be far enough away from the full hook-up, day use and dry camping areas so the noise shouldn't be a concern. We decided

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this would be a great place to hold a rally in either spring or fall. It would be best to do one during those times is because right now there aren't any shade trees which we are sure will be added in the future.

On our way back we stopped at the bakery in Yerington and got a lot of baked goods for dessert that night and to go with our coffee on Sunday before leaving Ft. Churchill. A wonderful end to the SNU 2018 Rally season with great friends, beautiful weather and a very successful scouting expedition.

Dyann McDonald Thornburg



Walker River Recreation Area Visitor Center

Typical Campsite

Little Known Facts or Known Only to a Few – Okay, it's now known to many, Gail's 96 year old mother lives alone on the coast below Wilmington, North Carolina (and still drives). Early September reports on Hurricane Florence predicted it would come ashore where her mom lives. While we in the west often see reports of severe weather and natural disasters faced by people back east this one was personal. Gail followed the news, Weather Channel and local community Facebook posts to keep up with news and warnings telling people to relocate away from the coast or to a shelter. Living there 35 years, her mom and dad had always sheltered in place, but this time it could be different. Her mom is now on her own and Florence was predicted to come ashore as a category 4 hurricane. Damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure was predicted to be significant plus loss of water and electricity, things she could not adequately prepare for. In the end one of the locals, Bill Brock, waiting to buy emergency supplies at Lowes convinced her to do what we couldn't, take refuge at the Red Cross shelter.

Even then her mom delayed to the last day putting together personal belongings. With Florence predicted to come ashore on Friday, Bill made arrangements with the local public safety officials to transport her to the shelter that morning. Once in the shelter there was little outside information on the effects of the hurricane for residents; no radio or TV coverage, just information from the shelter workers, which they probably softened to keep peoples' spirits up. Our only communications about her status were brief texts from Bill. Gail was finally able to contact the local Sheriff's office and speak with her mom at the shelter on Tuesday. That day Bill took her for a short trip by her home so she could see it, check for damage and the status of water and electricity since elderly residents would not be allowed to return home without them. She was lucky; she was able to return home the following day. Her property sustained a lot of damage to large mature tree, loss of water, phone and power but for the most part was unscathed. Florence had weakened to a category 1 hurricane as it approached the coast but its forward movement slowed down and it stalled 40 miles or so inland, pounding the coastal region. The area received an extreme amount of rain, breaking the old record with 36 inches from Florence. The rain with sustained winds of 90 mph uprooted many large trees throughout the rural and urban areas, caused flooding along creeks, rivers, highways, business and residential areas and resulted in water, sewer, phone and power outages; 53 people lost their lives during the storm. We were thankful for her survival and well-being.

Not knowing when Gail's mom could return home, if she could return home and what conditions she would face, we cancelled our registration for the Region 12 Rally in Las Vegas, made preparations that gave us flexibility to leave as needed and headed for the SNU Lassen Anniversary Rally. While we enjoyed ourselves at Lassen our thoughts and concerns were on Gail's mom. The news that she was able to return home and that it was undamaged gave us relief but the uncertainty of how hard it would be for her remained.

On Sunday the 23rd we left directly from the rally and headed east with the Airstream. We tempered our desire to rush there knowing that many of the roads we would use within 100 miles of the coast were damaged, washed out or closed. Those that were open were blocked to all but emergency responders and those working to restore services in the area. We arrived at the Lexington, KY Horse Park six days later on Friday, September

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28th. By then conditions were improving but many roads were still closed and there was no place for us to park because of hurricane debris piled throughout the area. More delay here allowed us to visit our son and grandsons in KY and my mom in Ohio. In the meantime we now had Hurricane Michael forming in the Gulf with its course predicted to inflict additional damage in North Carolina.

We left Ohio on Tuesday, October 2nd, and traveled several old state and US routes through West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, OH-43, WV-2, US-250, US-50 and US-501, with the expectation that the old surface highways would slow our travels and keep us out of Michael's predicted path. It worked extremely well, maybe too well. We never spent so much time in 1st & 2nd gear at 20 to 45 mph towing the Airstream through the mountains and with a Cummins no less! Now I know why my parents avoided these routes to WV. Our route passed through the West Virginia Panhandle to the beginning of Skyline Drive. Weather went from sunny in WV to cloudy with occasional fog and rain along Skyline Drive; it provided various cloud-shrouded views of valleys and ridgelines.

On Thursday we followed Skyline south onto the Blue Ridge Parkway to face more rain and clouds while Michael moved into western North Carolina and eastern Virginia. Just miles from our night's camp and with a car close on our heels we rounded a corner on the Parkway and were faced with a fallen tree blocking 60 percent of the road. I swerved to the opposite side of the street and around the fallen tree with our street side wheels on the far shoulder. For whatever reason the car came to a stop behind the fallen tree and then drove around it (maybe he was too close to our bumper to see it). Rain accompanied us to our Blue Ridge Parkway Otter Creek Campground and dumped on me during setup to make us appreciative of our normally dry conditions in the western states. Winds from Michael increased that night, dropping what sounded like damaging branches but in the morning we were only littered with small debris.

Not so the surrounding countryside to the east, we detoured off the Parkway Friday morning where it's entire 100' width was blocked by a tree spanning wooded shoulder to wooded shoulder. We observed crews cleaning up fallen trees, branches, phone and power lines along US 501. We detoured 10 miles through South Boston, VA because a section of US 501 was flooded by the Dan River. Each mile through Virginia was littered with downed trees from Michael. The rest of our drive to Gail's mom's home was uneventful, that portion of NC was spared damage from Michael and most highways had been cleaned up during the three weeks since Florence. I'll forgo listing our cleanup and repair work and report on our solo caravan home in next month's Airstreamer, hopefully with more recreation and less concern and grief to describe.

Remember to Renew! - <https://wbcci.org>

Wally Byam's Creed:

1. To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.
2. To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.
3. To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.
4. To open a whole world of new experiences... a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.
5. To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.
6. To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.
7. To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.
8. To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.
9. To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

– Wally Byam

Don Williams, SNU President, kd6uvt@wbcci.net

What do you want to be in life, a spectator or a participant?

For more info on the Sierra Nevada Unit check out our web pages at: www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/ , search for "Sierra Nevada Unit of the WBCCI" on Facebook or email us at: snu157@wbcci.net