



May 2019 Airstreamer's Newsletter

Some of you held off from attending our April Rye Patch Rally didn't you! You shouldn't have; the weather was another forward step towards Spring and Summer from the not quite wintry rain and light snow we had at Washoe Lake. Yes, it rained on Dyann & Jerry on Wednesday (an early arrival reveals that Jerry's on retirement time). It was cold, cloudy and rainy on Thursday but after that it was great even if wasn't shirtsleeve weather all day long. Our members SoloStove fire pits kept the evening chill away! Read more in the Rye Patch Rally Report on page 2.

On to May's **Walker River Rally, Thursday May 16th thru Sunday May 20th** at Nevada's newest state park. Both the regular Walker River campground and the one with water and electric hookups are open; you should find us in the regular campground. Turn right after the Visitor Center towards the Riverbend Campground and day use area, but keep your eyes peeled before the turn incase we are lounging straight ahead in the full-service campground. I am told the regular campground sometimes fills up on the weekends but we can fit two Airstreams in most of the spots so if you get there on Wednesday or Thursday get a site near a peer that has enough space incase we need to park an extra Airstream with you.



(photos courtesy of kd6uvt & sierranevadaairstreams.org)

This week's weather forecast "~~promises~~, okay predicts" mid 30s to low 40s at night and mid 60s and higher in the daytime. Early arrivals may find some light rain on Thursday, partly cloudy through the weekend and the chance of light showers Sunday morning (<0.1"). Don't worry about battery management, these nighttime temperatures are warm enough to minimize furnace use and if needed, we'll have several generators in the group to help charge batteries.

We'll have lots of activities at our beck and call at Walker River; fishing, wildlife viewing, canoeing/kayaking (the adventurous should bring their own), four wheeling and an advanced scoping visit to nearby Sweetwater Summit. Nighttime we'll enjoy our shared meals and or desserts, potluck (Saturday), stories and one or more SoloStove fire pits to warm us.

Come out and share Walker with us. Can't spend the entire weekend; remember Wally's 1st of the Four Freedoms – Freedom from Arrangements! No Reservations required, come out for just two days or even make a day trip of it. Walker River SP is only about 90 miles and less than 2 hours from most of our members.

The best approach from Reno is:

- Take I-80 east from Reno and head south on NV-439 to the Silver Springs area.
- Follow US-95A south from Silver Springs to Yerington and continue south on NV-339.
- Turn left on NV-827 just as you enter Mason, drive 1.5 miles and then turn right on NV-208.
- Drive 5.5 miles south on 208, turn left on East Walker Road and drive 4.2 miles to the park entrance (large gateway and driveway flanked by small trees on both sides).

(Note, If coming from Carson City take US-50 east to the Silver Springs area and then follow bullets 2 thru 4.)

SNU Rallies, Events and Business:

Sweetwater Summit Rally, Thursday June 20th thru Sunday June 23rd – The SNU will host its June Rally at Sweetwater Summit, a dispersed campsite in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest south of Smith Valley on NV-338. Note for our Ham radio Operators, 1100 hours Saturday through 1100 hours Sunday is Amateur Radio Field Day. Plan to come out and operate; even non-hams can operate third party.

SNU Weed Heights Rally, Thursday July 18th thru Sunday the 21st – Weed Heights RV Park on the west side of Yerington, NV. Come out for relaxation, a stroll thru downtown Yerington and Jerry's Nevada Surf & Turf Barbecue. Want to spend more time

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in the area, catch Yerington's Night in the Country July 25th -27th country music festival.

62nd WBCCI International Rally, Saturday July 20th thru Saturday July 27 – Doswell Virginia – for more information or to register go to <https://doswell.wbcc.net>.

SNU Hope Valley Rally, Thursday August 15th thru Sunday August 18th – dispersed camping near the West Fork of the Carson River in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Sierra Nevada Unit Anniversary Rally, Thursday September 19th thru Sunday September 22nd at the Lassen RV Resort and Bistro - Plan ahead to join the SNU in McArthur, California at our favorite RV resorts. Don't be fooled by the typical SNU Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management rally sites, Lassen RV Resort and Bistro features full service campsites, swimming pool, entertainment and modern restrooms. More to come in next month's newsletter; reserve the weekend on your calendar now so you don't miss it.

Rye Patch Rally Report

What a great rally site at Rye Patch; the SNU reserved the (Humboldt) River Campground group site at Rye Patch State Recreation Area immediately west of I-80 and the Humboldt Range of mountains. The group site is a primitive camping area for tents, trailers and RVs with picnic tables, a fire pit and a badminton / beach ball area (go figure). Our group of seven rigs fit easily and we could have fit more (HINT, HINT). Full service restrooms were shared with the regular campsites so no wanting for modern conveniences! Okay ceil service was extremely weak to non-existent in the canyon but a short hike or drive to the rim or the dam solved that problem if it was one.

Dyann and Jerry got there a day early on Wednesday to settle in and scope out the campground, were even able to slip into the group area a day early. The early penalty was putting up with a little rain. Thursday's weather was cold, wet windy and miserable to quote John. Many of our rally guests arrived that day to set up, settle in and plan the weekend's activities; Diane & Bryan, Anita & Gary, Carmen & Gene and Joan & John.

Friday brought clear, sunny, cooler weather after the front passed through. Joan and John made good use of their time on Friday touring some of the adjacent Humboldt Valley from Rye Patch westerly to the Majuba Mountains and Antelope Range with their 4X4 Ram. I suspect it was a relatively tame excursion since John didn't brag about the off road performance of the Ram! Gail and I, in typical fashion, arrived a day late, just after Friday's potluck concluded and thus ate on our own. These late arrivals need to stop but I see no end in sight: late in March for extended service on our truck; late in April while some of last years wheel well repairs were redone correctly; we'll be late to Walker River for deferred maintenance on me!

Saturday morning dawned early (0700), bright and clear, albeit a little cold in our trailer, ~45°. One of us had failed to notice that the other propane tank was empty when the auto switch-over valve was moved on a previous trip (maybe Death Valley?!). I got up early to turn up the heat and with some basic troubleshooting, error on refrigerator panel, stove won't light and furnace won't come on, determined we were again out of propane. I retrieved our two 30 lb. tanks, substituted the small 10 gallon tank we carry and headed to the fairly well stocked Chevron at the freeway; ACK! 20lb. tank exchange only! Okay, Lovelock is only 25 miles and 20 minutes away; I'll head there to the local LP vendor. Turns out they don't open for another 1/2 hour! Saved by the Conoco, at 50¢ more a gallon. I didn't have to wait but saving time costs money. By 0830 I was back home in Rye Patch, tanks in place, appliances running and ready to have breakfast. John made the mistake of



mentioning their plans to visit a friend's summer campsite near Unionville, a somewhat ghost town and site of previous SNU rallies. I wrangled an invitation for Gail and I; we walked the dogs, packed a light lunch and left with Joan and John.

Unionville wasn't much like Gail and I remembered on the drive over but we instantly recognized the town park with the Unionville School House and cabin once a temporary home to Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain). We spent a few minutes walking and photographing the area and then visited the town graveyard about 1-1/2 miles east. We can tell there has been some recent activity to improve fencing and maintenance at the cemetery but some gravestones are beyond repair or even lost. Still, it was interesting to see that some graves reflected a wealth of their buried patrons.

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Unionville School House



Mark Twain's Cabin



Unionville Park



Unionville Cemetery looking at the East Range

Thoughts now turn to lunch, is Winnemucca too far to drive for Basque food? Deciding it was, we lunched along the Humboldt River near Mill City and returned to Rye Patch to ready our contributions to the evening's potluck dinner.

Sunday dawned somewhat clear but quickly clouded over and cooled as we packed and readied our Airstreams for home or other parts in the west.

Little Known Facts or Known Only to a Few – Wheel Bearing Party and the presidential Rye Patch Extended Weekend - Berlin-Icthoysaur State Park and Beyond

Wheel Bearing Party

By Diane Leipper

One of those jobs that needs to be done once a year to keep your rig rolling is re-packing the wheel bearings. Re-packing the bearings also makes it easy to inspect your brakes and running gear in order to detect and fix potential problems before they become a hazard. (New trailers need their running gear and brakes checked even if the bearings are lifetime lubed editor).

So when the time comes, why not have a party? That's just what we did. To make the effort worthwhile, Gary brought his Airstream over so we could do two Airstreams (eight wheels) at one time. This is one of those jobs where planning and preparation make a big difference. Over the years, Bryan and his friend Dave had gotten things very well organized. The tools, parts, cleaning fluid, rags, grease seals and all the other stuff were stored together, ready for the next job. Buckets and bins were labeled for the pieces from each wheel so that there would be no confusion as to what went with which wheel. Using wagons made transporting stuff from the garage to the work area simple and it made moving the heavy parts much easier.

The other key component is an experienced team. In addition to Gary and Bryan, Jerry came in from Fallon to lend a hand

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Airstream Gathering or Wheel Bearing Party?

. Gary's friend George was another team member. Dyann and I spent most of the time visiting although we did do a little fetch and carry when needed. Each team member had specific tasks that best suited their skills and abilities. The whole job ran like clockwork and all eight wheels were done in under five hours. A very successful party. Although we did have a few snacks and drinks, I think there was more cleaning fluid and bearing parts. Better suited to greasy hands.



Space & Tools (photos courtesy of sierranevadaairstreams.org)



Clean Spindle Ready for Fresh Grease & Bearing



No Party Hearty Here (photos courtesy of sierranevadaairstreams.org)

To find out more about re-packing wheel bearings and to see a step by step photo gallery of an earlier wheel bearing job, check this link; <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/owners-guide/maintaining/bearings/index.html> .

Rye Patch Extended Weekend - Berlin-Ichthosaur State Park and Beyond

By Don Williams

The one advantage of being retired is that you can “sometimes” adjust one’s schedule. With a one-way trip of 550 miles from home Gail and I didn’t want to just drive to Rye Patch and return home. I planned a route to take advantage of our Nevada All Access Permit for all state parks and recreation areas. We headed east to Battle Mountain and then south to Austin, NV; home of the Stokes Castle overlooking the western US-50 route. Sunday’s cloudy and cool weather set the stage for a perfect trip across the empty valleys and mountains in Nevada’s Great Basin, especially the 65 mile stretch of the old Lincoln Highway, now NV-722, over Carroll Summit. We connected with US-50 for a couple of miles before turning south towards Gabbs and Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.



Snow along NV-722 headed west to Carroll Summit

My fears of too few large campsites at Berlin-Ichthyosaur SP were quickly allayed; there were only two other RVs in the park. We scored the best view lot at the top of the campground loop. Not only did we have a view but the Ichthyosaur fossil exhibit was only a ½ mile walk from our campsite. NV park’s dog friendly culture meant we, Mongo and Bruce could get a little exercise.

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Our Monday morning walk turned into 2-1/2+ mile hike as we returned on the roads through the historic Union town site and back up to the campground. Mid afternoon brought several heavy rain showers but stopped in late evening before it could lull us to sleep.



Berlin-Ichthyosaur SP Campground



Brunton Pass, NV-844 towards Gabbs, NV



Many sites deep enough to stay hitched up



Ichthyosaur Fossil exhibit

Tuesday morning dawned clear for our visit to the many buildings remaining in the Berlin town site.



Berlin Mill



Berlin Town site

The rest of our trip home might have been uneventful were it not for a Bald Eagle sighting (we were visited by one at the Washoe Lake Rally on our last day) and the rain as we entered Death Valley in mid afternoon. The surprises were short lived, clouds but no rain at our Stovepipe Wells campsite.

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American Bald Eagle took flight as we left Berlin



Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley

Members and Writers – Want a chance at reading your own work instead of me droning on! Shoot me a copy of your article(s) on Airstream travel, maintenance, rally locations or anything related and we'll publish it. Maybe your article will be accepted for publication in the Blue Beret and you'll have the satisfaction of contributing to your club's history. Contact me soon to make the next issue!

For a Few, 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?