



**SIERRA NEVADA UNIT'S
47TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY**

WALKER RIVER STATE PARK
SAVE THE DATES:
THURSDAY OCT 19TH THRU
SUNDAY THE 22ND

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER, ANNIVERSARY RALLY &
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - PG 1**
**MEMBER NEWS, CALENDAR & EAGLE LAKE RALLY
REPORT - PG 2**
LOOK BACKS & BURNING MAN COLLAGE - PG 3
**NEWBIES GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS & PREPARING
FOR WINTER - PGS 4 & 5**
WALKER RIVER ANNIVERSARY RALLY - PG 6

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What's the SNU all about? Boondocking in wild places, getting dusty and dirty (how does one get rid of Mormon cricket glue?), sharing clever and common sense tips and tricks on airstream maintenance, meeting up with other airstream owners, designing ways to store all things needed for short or long trips, sharing of meals, making the most of inclement weather (wind, rain, sometimes it happens, right?), finding other HAM radio enthusiasts, wondering how to ration ones water and/or food (always enough, always!!), exploring the local scene (sunsets, history, trains, museums, stars, music, etc), and lastly (and mostly) creating memories with old and new friends.

Wait...that was our week at Burning Man! Yes, while the media would have you believe it was a disaster (and for some, it was definitely a major inconvenience), it was in true SNU fashion, exactly what you make of it, and "it" was wonderful. We met one of the airstream camps (holy moly, there were a LOT of airstreams everywhere), engaged with incredible art, artists, engineers, and builders, enjoyed an outside Philharmonic orchestra performance with 5000 other attendees, and shared amazing adventures with friends and family. I couldn't help marvel the whole time that the tenets of Burning Man were almost identical to the SNU. Come to the next rally and I'll be happy to share the details and dispel the myths!

Cheers! — Jeni Root

CRUNCH TIME FOR CLUB SUPPORT & SERVICE - CONT'D

SNU Members might note that our annual election of officers is again delayed by a lack of member volunteers to serve the club. It is now **CRUNCH TIME**; needing member volunteers to step up to fill a position or accept a nomination! Without officer and board members our club can't fulfill it's charter with the WBCCI (or Airstream club) and will cease to exist! Please step up and accept the request to serve the Sierra Nevada Unit; rally planning and 2024 officers are needed. **RAISE YOUR HAND!**

president Jeni Root #6376 and Don Williams #14207, past president & Newsletter Editor

SNU ANNIVERSARY RALLY AT WALKER RIVER - THURSDAY OCT 19TH - SUNDAY THE 22ND



Looks like our last camping rally for 2023 will be well attended. Walker



River State Park has a wonderful creek, great birding, and an informative little museum. I'm looking forward to seeing what additional improvements have been made to this new park since the last visit. In addition to a quick business meeting (all are welcome to attend - snacks provided!), we'll be working on the rally schedule for 2024. Jeni will be trying to contact members prior to the rally to get your ideas for great places - north to south and east to west across Nevada and into the Sierra! Where have you always wanted to go but haven't made it yet? Let us help you make it happen next year!

Jeni Root

Please RSVP to snu157@wbcci.net so we can plan for the weekend.

Sierra Nevada Unit Board

Jeni Root, president
Susie Brown, secretary
Gail Williams, treasurer
Jerry Thornburg, trustee
Bill Swirsky, trustee
Gene Baleme, Past President
**Don Williams, membership chair &
newsletter editor**
[all blue links are clickable](#)

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT MEMBER NEWS

August was a busy month for renewals; the SNU welcomes back: **Susie Brown #5701** of Minden, NV; **Susan & Clay Harvey #4781**, of Redding, CA; **Greg & Linda Heuer #1927** of Nellysford, VA (rumor has it they have a place in NV too); Bob & Nancy Kirksey #12486 of Huntington Beach, CA; **Tom & Kitsie Larkin #1292** of Nevada City, CA; **Bryan & Diane Leipper #772** of Reno, NV; **Gary & Christa Mellinger #2002** of Simi Valley, CA; **Richard Palmer #18261** of Discovery Bay, CA; **Brian & Jeni Root #6736** of Reno, NV; **Beth & David Seiler #5493** of Susanville, CA; **Don & Gail Williams #14207** of Riverside, CA.

WBCCI BREAKING NEWS & RUMORS FROM HEADQUARTERS

No new breaking news and rumors this month but continue to check out the **NEW! Blue Beret Blog** to stay up-to-date at blog.airstreamclub.org;

SNU CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER WALKER RIVER ANNIVERSARY RALLY; Walker River State Recreation Area, Yerington, NV, Thursday October 19th, 2023 – Sunday the 22nd. This rally is a **BIG DEAL**, it's the **SNU's 47th anniversary! Please plan to attend**

REGION 12 PISMO BEACH RALLY; Wednesday October 25th - Sunday the 29th held at the beautiful Pismo Coast Village RV Resort, They have been sold out but there has been some cancellations so contact the **SEPTEMBER EAGLE LAKE RALLY REPORT**

We couldn't have asked for better weather for the rally at Eagle Lake North BLM campground! Warm, sunny days and cool nights. A few of our members had some unexpected turns of events and weren't able to make it (which is always ok for the SNU rallies - if nothing else, we are a flexible group!) but Brian and I made it and were joined by NorCal members Don and Janet Margolis and their 30' beauty.

We enjoyed a wonderful campfire evening, touring the shoreline and other camping areas, and spent some time on the water in our Hobie inflatable peddle kayaks! We decided the north BLM campground is the best (the RV park in Spaulding is also excellent if you're looking for full hookups!). Eagle Lake Road, A1, between Susanville and Eagle Lake is windy with amazing views from the summit, but the cracks in the road shook a few screws loose and Brian is still working on getting everything back in order!

Eagle Lake is an alkaline lake, and second largest natural lake entirely in California. There are 3 main sections - we explored the two shallow northern sections, with depths of a few inches up to 4 feet. Due to upstream diversions, the previously perennial main tributary stream has dried up and residents are hoping for another wet year to raise the lake levels in the spring. The fishing in the third section is quite good right now (4 lb trouts in abundance at 10-20' depths). We were able to get Don and Janet out on the kayaks for a brief excursion (the wind came up and we had to stick close to shore) - both agreed they are easy, stable, and a great way to get out on the water. We saw a gazillion grebe, pelicans, ducks, a few herons, and an osprey, but no eagles. There were millions!! of little fishies in the reeds and we had fun watching them jump and rush about.



rally organizers to see if you can squeeze in. Cost is \$380 for camping (\$210 for the weekend only) plus meal costs. Signup for the Wait List at: <https://airstreamclub.org/region-12-2023-rally-pismo-beach>

November SNU Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting; Jeni & Brian Root's home, Wednesday Nov 15th; no need to bring anything ... menu still tbd (depends on weather, if it's a cold spell, we'll go for lasagna - if it's a warm we'll go another direction). 11:30am; 2200 Barnes Blvd, Reno, NV 89509. **RSVP please (text or call - 775-771.2313)**. Airstream-themed prizes will be awarded (via raffle) to attendees.

December SNU Luncheon; TBA

PLAN AHEAD! 67TH (OCTOBER 2024) WBCCI INTERNATIONAL RALLY, SEDALIA, MO, Saturday October 5th to the 11th; The 2024 International Rally will be held at the Missouri State Fairgrounds, 2503 W 16th St, Sedalia, MO, 65301. <https://airstreamclub.org/rally2024>.

REALLY REALLY LONG RANGE PLANNING - 68TH WBCCI INTERNATIONAL RALLY, YORK, PA, Friday August 23rd to the Wednesday the 28th, 2025. The 68th International Rally will be held in the 87-acre York Expo Center, August 23 – 28, 2025, with a potential for 1200 campsites with connection to power/water and additional options for boondocking; <https://blog.airstreamclub.org/2025-68th-international-rally-press-release/>.

AIRSTREAMER AUGUST LOOK BACKS, 20 & 10 YEARS AGO

(CLICK THE BLUE LINKS TO BE TRANSPORTED BACK IN TIME!)

The **October 2003 SNU 'Airstreamers'** newsletter featured:

- Monthly meeting and SNU Picnic at the Leipper's home with overhead entertainment courtesy of the Reno Championship Air Races.
- Upcoming Davis Creek Rally.
- Still For Sale - 26' 1968 Overlander Airstream. Good condition. \$4,995 OBO.
- Draft 2004 Meeting and Rally schedule.
- And for those in northern climes, "Prepare for Winter" article reprinted at the end of this Airstreamer for your coming winterizing needs.

The **October 2013 Airstreamer** newsletter covered:

- SNU's Cantaloupe Festival Rally in Fallon, NV; 6 members and 6 or 7 rigs in attendance. *Dry Camping at the Cantaloupe Festival ==>>*
- August's Obsidian Dome Rally part 2 - extending our rally fellowship with members of the San Fernando Valley Unit in Mammoth Lakes, CA. The rally, held at Mammoth Mountain RV Park included visits to Devil's Post Pile and Mammoth Consolidated Mining Camp,
- Prez Meanderings covering the upcoming Region 12 Rally in Lodi CA, Hobo Rally in Blythe, CA and the Championship Air Races in Reno.
- Upcoming Crocker Campground Rally.
- SNU now on FaceBook, were still there at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SierraNevadaUnit>
- Yearly WBCCI/SNU membership drive.
- Cooking - Old Meets New with Airstreaming; featured cooking with dutch ovens, Sourdough cooking & baking, Guardian Service cookware and Stove to Go, a 12 volt lunchbox cooker that is great for boondocking (solar charging recommended).



BURNING MAN 2023



UNOFFICIAL “NEWBIE” GUIDE TO COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

By: Ginger Slattery, Region 7 President, BRN 2041 (reprinted with permission from the Blue Beret Blog September 18, 2023)

First a little intro from Airstreamer editor Don Williams - while not truly Newbies, many of our members might feel like it having not been able to attend one of our Sierra Nevada Unit rallies. Make a point to get out and rally with us, we're less formal than you might think after reading Ginger's article.

Where did summer go? It seemed to go faster than ever! I hope you all got out camping as much as we did! We're not done yet! This month is the Region 7 “Spring Into Fall” Rally in Spring Green, Wisconsin! Minnesota Airstream Club and the North Dakota Peace Garden Unit are both holding their Installation Rallies. It's a busy month! <<SNU has our closing rally of 2023, the 47th Anniversary Rally at Walker River in October - editor>>

One of the best perks of being a member of ACI is all the new friends we meet! Welcome to all our new members! During the Strategic Planning Session held in May at the Mother Ship in Jackson Center, we (the IBT and EC members) discussed some ways to make “newbies” feel more welcome. One was to have a directory of all our frequently used terms and abbreviations. So here it goes!

The Unofficial “Newbie” Guide to Common Abbreviations and Terms

ACI: Airstream Club International

BRN: Big Red Number, your ID within the ACI

CBL: Constitution and Bylaws

EC: Executive Council — There are nine members elected every two years. The four International Officers are elected by the IBT from qualified members on the EC

GAM: Greet and Meet social gathering



The GAM (Get Acquainted Meeting) at this year's International Rally saw more than 900 attendees

IBT: International Board of Trustees made up of the 12 Region Presidents.

IR: International Rally

MAL: Member At Large. Members who pay dues to International but don't belong to local club or unit

Intra-Club: Clubs within the ACI with similar interests, VAC, Future Streamers, Grapes and Grains are all Intra-Clubs. They also have CBL and officers

VAC: Vintage Airstream Club, the first of the Intra Clubs. A Vintage Airstream is at least 20 years old

WBCCI: Wally Byam Caravan Club International — the traditional name of our club which honors our founder, Wally Byam

Affiliate: One becomes an affiliate when they join another local club or unit but do not have voting rights within that club

Courtesy Parking: Parking overnight in another members' driveway, yard or property without fee.

So, there's a start for you! Add to this as you come across other terms and abbreviations!

See you down the road << and at the SNU rallies - editor>>

PREPARING FOR WINTER *reprinted from the October 2003 Airstreamer*

When the expected low temperatures start to approach freezing in the fall, it is time to take action to minimize the effect of cold temperatures on your RV. Freezing water is not the only concern. The RV batteries also suffer when the weather gets cold. Stores inside may not take well to freezing temperatures. Winter in the Great Basin is also the time for rain and snow which means that leaks and moisture problems need to be addresses. Caution also needs to be taken in fall and spring to watch out for unexpected storms and cold fronts that may bring in a chill for a day or two. Freezing generally isn't a concern if the low temperatures only dip to the upper twenties for an hour or two but if the daily low temperatures get much below that or stay at freezing or below for several hours or more, freezing can be a real risk.

Identify drains and valves

[Click here to see the photo gallery on the web site](#) to see pictures of typical drains and valves. The first thing to do is to make sure you know where all of the drains and valves are on your RV. The valves for the gray and black tanks are often used so they shouldn't be hard to find. The drain and valve for the fresh water tank may be a bit more difficult. The plumbing system may have multiple drains. << *You will find one or more low point drains for both hot and cold water systems in under cabinets, appliances, removable hatches and under your Airstream. Refer to you owners manual for you specific model for details. - editor*>> The hot water heater also has a drain plug. Anything that holds fluid in your RV will have a drain and a valve and you need to locate these and know how to use them. There may also be bypass valves. Most common are those for hot water heaters. These allow you to use parts of your plumbing system while keeping other parts at lower risk of freezing.

Drain all systems

When you are ready to drain all systems, open any faucets to help vent the lines and facilitate drainage. Also disconnect the fresh water tank supply line to the pump (may need modification from original condition).

1. Drain tanks - black, gray, hot water, fresh water supply, others?
2. Drain plumbing - hot and cold plumbing lines
3. Drain accessories - sink sprayer, water filters, shower head line, supply lines, accumulator tanks,

On some trailers, especially the longer ones, there may be plumbing line drains both fore and aft. Manuals for these trailers often suggest using the tongue jack to tilt the trailer one way and then the other after drain valves are opened in order to make sure of good drainage .There are adapters that allow you to connect an air compressor at your water supply connection in order to use air to help blow out any water in the lines. Caution needs to be taken to make sure the supply air pressure does not exceed nominal water pressures (usually forty or fifty psi). Depending upon air to blow out the plumbing lines may also be rather risky as there may be spots in the plumbing system that remain 'wet' even after blowing air through.

Close any bypasses, remove any special appliances

One of the big reasons to bypass the hot water tank is that any attempt to put anti-freeze in the system with the water heater still in line will need several gallons of fluid to fill the system. With the hot water heater properly drained and bypassed, less than a gallon of anti-freeze should be needed to fill the plumbing system. Accumulators that are installed to reduce pump cycling may also need removal or bypassing as they hold a gallon or more water. **Be sure to remove any water filters or other special appliances in your plumbing system. These may not only not like freezing but they may also not like anti-freeze. Read manufacturer's manuals to find the best way to winterize them. Anti-freeze**

After any bypasses have been prepared and everything drained close the plumbing drain valves and faucets, connect one end of a spare sink supply line to the water pump and stick the other end into a bottle of anti-freeze rated for potable water systems and designed for RV use. Then turn on the water pump. It should quickly get the system up to pressure and stop. The go to each faucet. Open the faucets, first hot and then cold, and look for the anti-freeze. When you see the anti-freeze coming out of the faucet for first cold then hot, close it and go on to the next one. Don't forget the toilet or the shower head or the sink sprayer! The antifreeze that comes out of the faucet should be enough to fill the drain traps and keep them from freezing but an extra dollop or two in the drain might be a good idea. << *today most RV Antifreeze will be pink - editor*>>

Other storage considerations

Plumbing systems may be at t he most immediate risk due to winter weather but other systems may also suffer if the rig is not exercised on a regular basis.



Heaters additional heat can help maintain a minimal temperature in the rig.

Batteries need to be connected to a charger/maintainer that will keep them charged and equalized when stored for anything more than a couple of weeks. Also be sure to remove any batteries from clocks, radios, flashlights and other battery powered devices. Tires should be protected from the sun. Pressures should be checked every month or two to assure they are kept properly inflated.

Rust Prevention means a light coating of grease or fresh paint depending upon what is exposed.

Stores should be evaluated for their survival at temperature extremes over time. Remove anything from the rig that might freeze or rot or otherwise suffer from temperature extremes.

Infestation, especially by mice, may need attention.

Gaskets, seals, and other rubber parts should be coated with a lubricant and protectant.

Moisture from leaks or condensation can cause staining or rot. Inspect the rig every now and then, especially after wet storms, to see if anything needs fixing.

Ventilation should not be ignored. Find a way to prop the door of the refrigerator open a bit. See if you can crack a window or vent to allow air to move throughout the rig without undue risk of snow or rain blowing in.

Shut Off Propane Tank Valves and provide some cover for the tanks and the regulator. Any other outside valves or devices should also be protected from the weather.

Still Want to Know More on Winterizing? Go to the Resource Center on the Airstream Club web pages for more articles: <https://airstreamclub.org/resource-center?tag=41&media=-1>

WALKER RIVER

