



# Airstreamer

## The Sierra Nevada Unit

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Sharing. Yep, I'm thinking about all my enjoyable moments with the Airstreamers and those moments involve sharing: birding, photography, hot springs, fishing, cycling, hiking, kayaking, good food, equipment & how-to knowledge (the wife adds that this includes tools!), history, campfires, stories (humorous and otherwise), wine and whiskey. I believe sharing brings joy to both the giver and receiver. As a species, I think sharing makes us successful and definitely contributes to the success of our Sierra Nevada Unit! Thanks for sharing your weekends and we'll see you soon!



Brian

### SNU MEMBER NEWS

The Sierra Nevada Unit would like to welcome new member: Lisa Ryan #3355 of Carmichael, CA.



### SNU 2024 Board

- Brian Root - president
- Susie Brown - secretary
- Jeni Root - treasurer
- Bill Swirsky - trustee
- Jerry Thornburg - trustee
- Jeni Root - Past President
- Don Williams - membership chair & newsletter editor



### MAR BLUE BERET BLOG

[https://](https://blog.airstreamclub.org/)

[blog.airstreamclub.org/](https://blog.airstreamclub.org/)

- Your Vote Matters - WBCCI Constitutional Amendment
- Power Your Airstream Off Grid
- Discovering Ham Radio
- Discovering the Road Less Traveled with Harvest Hosts

### MAY PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lots of topics in [Eric's monthly blog](#): Boondocking and the Eclipse; Wally's Wagon Wheel; Dry Camping and a video you won't want to miss [Nine Club Eclipse Rallies](#)

### AIRSTREAM INC.

Airstream's recent foray into fiberglass, the Nest, was short lived. Few know that Airstream looked astray in the 1950s too. [the Wally Bee prototype](#) on display at the Airstream Heritage Center

### Save the Dates

#### Fort Churchill



May 16th - 19th  
Silver Springs, NV

#### Crocker Beckwourth



June 20th - 23rd  
NE / Portola, CA

#### Glass Creek



July 22nd - 26th  
S / June Lake, CA

#### Taylorville



Aug 15th - 18th  
Taylorville, CA

#### Hope Valley



Sept 16th - 19th

## May Fort Churchill Rally

The Sierra Nevada Unit will host its May Fort Churchill Rally in two weeks, Thursday May 16th through Sunday the 19th at the Historic Fort Churchill State Park. Didn't make it out to Rye Patch or Weed heights in April, here's your chance for an early season Rally with moderate temperatures and only an hour from Reno (50 miles). Fort Churchill offers us the opportunity to visit the historic ruins, walk along the Carson River to fish or view wildlife and make a Saturday visit to Buckland Station. Want more exercise, bring your bicycles to tour a wider range of the area than those on two feet.

The Nevada state park website says about nearby Buckland Station, "Built in 1870 from materials from Fort Churchill, an army base that was abandoned in 1869, Buckland Station was a Pony Express stop, a supplier for western emigrants, a boarding house and a home for the Buckland family until 1885."

Did I mention our evening shared meals and potluck dinners, we'll have those too! The weather should be comfortable, it will likely be mid 80s in the daytime (we'll have shade); mid to upper 50s at night so no worries about heat or cold! Find us in the Samuel Buckland's Campground past the Fort ruins on the west side of US-95. Come out and camp or visit with us even if you can't stay the whole



weekend.

Note, we have always rallied at Nevada state park and recreation area campgrounds using the first come first served method for finding campsites. This will be our first experience since Nevada implemented their new reservation system. fourteen of the twenty campsites in the

Samuel Buckland Campground are available as of this writing; however you may choose to use [reservenevada.com](http://reservenevada.com) to secure a campsite in advance at [reservenevada.com](http://reservenevada.com).



For more Info go to: [sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/), Sierra Nevada Unit of the WBCCI on Facebook or email us at: [club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org) (all photos courtesy of the Sierra Nevada Unit)

## 2024 Rally Season

### June 20 -23: Crocker-Beckwourth Rally

Crocker is a National Forest Service campground located east of Lake Davis at 5800 ft. Situated next to a big meadow w/ancient lava flows, the small campground hugs a wooded hillside at the end of Beckwourth-Genesse Road.

### July 22 - 26: Glass Creek Rally

Glass Creek is located halfway between June Lake and Mammoth Lakes, California. Hiking and OHV trails, forest roads and scenic highways provide opportunity to visit Crowley, June, Mammoth and Mono Lakes, Devil's Post Pile National Monument, Inyo Craters and scenic viewpoints. Too tired, the pine forest surrounds the campground so find a shady spot and catch some ZZZ's.

### August 15 - 18: Taylorsville Rally

Taylorsville is a new location for the Sierra Nevada Unit, reported to be a quiet place to camp between Quincy & Greenville. Taylorsville Campground is across the street from the rodeo grounds and along Indian Creek; it has a tennis court, pickleball court, coin-operated showers, modern restrooms, and a RV sewer dump station. Plan to make this new for SNU rally.

### September 11 - 15: Region 12 Lake Tahoe Rally

In case you glossed over some of the Region 12 emails and Facebook posts, the Region Rally has been moved from the Tri-County Fairground in Bishop, CA to Tahoe Valley Campground in the city of the same name. Water, electric, lack of sewer or dump stations and other onsite facilities didn't support the number of people attending the Region 12 rallies. Tahoe Valley has full hookups at each site, exercise and recreation on the grounds and a wealth of tourist attractions throughout the area; look for more detail and registration in April or May.

### September 16 - 19: Hope Valley Rally

Hope Valley dispersed area is located on CA-88, 1.5 miles west of CA-89 and Picketts Junction. Campsites are interspersed through the scenic meadows and forested lands at almost 7000 feet elevation.

### October 67th WBCCI International Rally Sedalia, MO

2024 is the year to catch an International Rally at one of the most historical fairgrounds in the country, Oct 5th - 11th. We'll be gathering in immaculately kept buildings dating back as early as 1903 while also enjoying some of the Missouri State Fairgrounds newer buildings and modern

installations. There is beauty in the mix of the old and new, just like all of us when We Rally Together! Sites are still available; make your reservation, [Register Here](#).

### October 17 - 20: SNU Anniversary Rally Walker River State Park

The Sierra Nevada Unit will celebrate its 48th anniversary at Walker River State Park's Quail Run Campground. Walker River is one of Nevada's newest state park; it includes several large ranches that had been closed to public access for more than 100 years that afford a vibrant outdoor experience that no other single Nevada State Park can provide. Plan to join us and celebrate the SNU's anniversary.

## Great to Be Back at Rye Patch

I have to admit it, I'm glad Rye Patch State Recreation Area made it back onto our rally schedule this year. The reservoir was full, the Humboldt River ran high and fast beside the campground, and the weather was about as good as it gets. And of course, it was great to share the camping experience with our group of 11; 6 rigs, 8 SNU members, 2 Wyoming members and the executive editor of The Nevada Magazine. Highlights included bicycling, kayaking, bird-watching, hiking, and potluck dinners.



As with all 'first of the season' camping trips, we find out what's not working or what we forgot and collectively, a few trips back to Lovelock helped. A few of us will be ordering some parts once we're back home.

Our first trip on the water, we thought we'd have a go of making some of the 22 miles towards Imlay. We were about a mile out, when we spotted a mama and papa owl, nesting in a hole in the rock. Needless to say, that's as far as we made it. The great horned owls were enormous and we're

pretty sure they were protecting some young behind mama's flared wing. Four others were able to kayak out and share this special wildlife discovery.

Close up photos provided by Jim Andersen.



Potluck Friday included homemade pizzas from Brian, salads,

Wyoming bacon, and plenty of excellent whiskey and wine. Dessert around the fireplace featured "Pole Pies" (crescent rolls with chocolate pudding- you're going to have to trust me on this!).

Potluck Saturday featured Mexican night with tamale casserole from Susan and Jim and carne asada tacos from Robyn and Del, salads, and fireplace desserts of brownies and truffles. Everyone contributed and no one went away hungry or thirsty!

Are you wondering about our Wyoming guests? We spotted an airstream pulling into the area Friday afternoon, asked if they belonged to the Airstream Club (yes!) and asked them if they wanted to camp with us (yes!). Denise and Nolan hail from Wyoming and just happened to be stopping for the night on their way back home. They fit right in and we all enjoyed talking airstream, travels, food and beverage.

I can only imagine summer at Rye would be a zoo with all the motorboats and OHV traffic, but this April, with our friends, and those owls (oh, my, those owls!), it was a perfect weekend!

*Jeni*

## Nevada Magazine at Rye Patch

We had a special visitor during the April Rye Patch rally - our very own Executive Editor of the Nevada Magazine (aka Nevada Magazine and Travel Guide), Megg Mueller. She's travelled over 30,000 miles in the last 10 years in this great, expansive state of ours, and my feeling is, she knows just about every trailhead, dirt road, park employee, hotel and restaurant/bar around. She also has a wealth of history and stories from the corners far and near. Above all, she's just a wonderful person, even if she doesn't (yet) own an airstream!

[www.nevadamagazine.com](http://www.nevadamagazine.com) is the website that will expose you to all the magazine has to offer: reading current and

past editions (issued quarterly), signing up for free digital or print issues, or locating a shop with magazines on hand. Wonderful stories, beautiful pictures - I hope you enjoy the wonder and inspiration as much as I do.



Jeni

PS : Megg was one my first friends to take me on a 'real' mountain bike ride many years ago, so I was thrilled to return the favor and send her (and Robyn) off on the Hobie peddle kayaks to find the pair of nesting owls at Rye Patch.

## LookBacks in Time

The [May 2004 Airstreamer](#) reported on:

- April Rally at Pyramid Lake - perfect weather, fantastic food, new members and vintage '55 Airstream visit.
- May Dayton State Park Rally
  - Airstreamers Go to War - no it wasn't a heated argument; its the Civil War Encampment at Fort Churchill on the same weekend.

• June Boca Springs Rally.

The [May 2014 Airstreamer](#) covered:

- May Rocky Point Rally at Eagle Lake.
- July Weed Heights Rally & A Night in the Country Music Festival.
- 57th International Rally at Gillette, WY.
- Washboard Roads.
- A Tale of Two Restorations: Barney & Mary Beth Rabold's 1951 Cruisette (frame off restoration) and Brian & Jeni Root's 1953 Cruiser. Too many photos to include so follow the links:

- Rabold's '51 Cruisette - <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/restorations/rcruisette/index.html>
- Root's '53 Cruiser - [http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/show\\_n\\_tell/vintage/roots/gallery.html](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/show_n_tell/vintage/roots/gallery.html)

## Fire Starters

The quest for easy, reliable, and effective fire starters was in full swing at Rye Patch during our April 2024 rally.

First, let's talk fire basics. Whether you build a tepee or log

cabin, you need tinder (fire starting material), some kindling (more than starter, less than a log, creating heat and coals), and then progressively larger sizes of dry wood. There are seasoned/aged wood from home, left over 2x4's from construction sites, and/or wood from the campsite (purchased or if allowed, gathered). You'll need a flame and oxygen.

Often, newspaper, pine needles, pine cones, twigs, and split 2x4s contributed to getting that quintessential camp fire started. The problems with these are they can be messy, the flame goes out with a certain light breeze, or not enough starter to begin with. Smoky start, try again.

Somewhere along the line, I started making toilet paper roll starters. These rolls were filled/stuffed with dryer lint - and considering Brian is a finish carpenter, I can attest the lint was "good stuff"! The starters were a little slow to start, I probably pack them a little too tight, hence not enough oxygen. They burned ok, but I can't say I would ever get a rip-roaring fire going with just one of these.

Enter this year's competitors: Egg carton catch-alls and baby oil cotton balls.

The egg carton catch-alls are just that: a little dryer lint, a little melted wax, and a few drops of baby oil. Some people suggest separating each egg, I was lazy and kept 2 eggs together for each starter. The carton lit easily and stayed burning - great solution and I'll continue to make these (instead of paper towel starters).

Baby oil cotton balls are just that: a travel size baby oil container, poured onto 2.5 cup plastic container full of cotton balls. Squished around so each ball had oil. I'd say the container was packed, but not "stuffed". THIS IS THE WINNER! These little cotton balls are easy peasy, stay lit for a LONG time, travel well, and smell good! Internet research suggested other oils may work, but baby oil is the best. I'll always have a container in the airstream for future trips!

With both egg carton and cotton balls, we didn't really use any other kindling of consequence and both resulted in raging fires with little effort. I think the second night we started the fire with 3 cotton balls...and voila, camping atmosphere complete.

Jeni



## Got some Airstream Stuff to Sell

contact your editor at: [club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org) for your ad in the Airstreamer.

## Pop/Beer/Water Can Tabs

Attention All Airstreamers! We are excited to announce that Future Streamers Intra-Club are collecting pop tabs to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Kansas City, MO. Please start collecting as many pop tabs as you can from rallies, home, work and even your neighbors. You can bring them to the



International Rally in Sedalia, MO.

< if you're not going to Sedalia give them to your Newsletter Editor, Don Williams, at either Glass Creek, Taylosville or Hope Valley>. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and support a good cause. Remember, our children (Future Streamers) are giving back to other children, and pop tabs are easy to collect when you are on the road. Let's show our love for aluminum and make a difference together!

Don't drink soda or have cans with tabs? No Worries here is a link dedicated to the [Ronald McDonald House Charities-Kansas City](#) where you can make monetary donations. See You In Sedalia.

If you have any questions please contact Misti Roach: [futurestreamersairsteam@gmail.com](mailto:futurestreamersairsteam@gmail.com)



