



# Airstreamer

## The Sierra Nevada Unit



### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

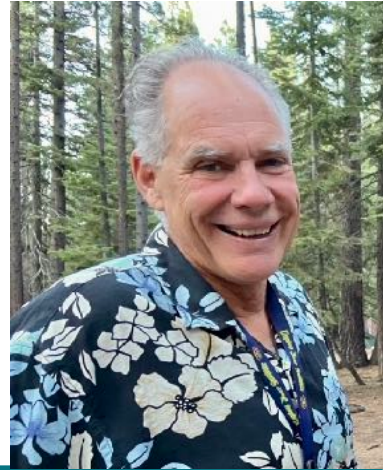
Walker River State Recreation Area is our October rally site - and it's a real beauty, especially this time of year with the fall colors. We'll hold the annual SNU business meeting, where we nominate officers. Please consider what role you might be willing to take on; I promise the time commitment is small (VERY small) and we all help each other out.

In addition to the meeting, we'd like to come

away with a draft 2025 rally schedule. I'm anxious to hear about where you, our members, would like to go. If you're not planning on attending the Walker River rally, please reach out to me if you have ideas. Things to consider: boondocking or hookups, private or public campgrounds, weekends or weekdays, travel time (1-6 hours?), group or individual sites, reserved or first come/first serve, site activities (fishing, hiking, history, birding, cycling, ?), location (forest, water, desert, ?). If you have a favorite campground, would you be willing to be the contact for that rally? The SNU has a wonderful history of camping throughout Nevada and the Sierra - where do you want to camp next year?

Hope to see you at Walker River!

*Brian*



### Walker River SNU's Unit 48th Anniversary Rally



October 17th - 20th  
Yerington, NV

### Look for Luncheons November 2024 thru March 2025

### SNU Membership News

The SNU would like to welcome new members Vic & Anita Cushing #25879 from Plymouth, CA (successful bidders on the SNU charity basket) and thank renewing members: Don & Gail Williams (who?) #14207 of Riverside, 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 |                           |                            |



#### OCTOBER BLUE BERET BLOG

- [how to use aci courtesy parking powered by harvest hosts hosts and members edition](#)
- [six weeks and 2200 miles of adventures from the canadian rockies to missouri](#)

#### OCTOBER PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Just a short update since many of us (~1,300 Airstreams) are either on our way, planning to depart (or already here volunteering) for the 67th International Rally. [Read about partnership with Harvest](#)

#### AIRSTREAM INC.

- [say goodbye to campground crowds with the airstream adventure series](#)
- [fall in the autumn camping season with the best gear and campsites](#)
- For more" [airstream.com/blog/](http://airstream.com/blog/)

## Walker River SNU's 48th Anniversary Rally

Hope our last camping rally for 2024 will be well attended. Walker River State Park has a wonderful creek, great birding, and an informative little museum. Look 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 2025. Brian & 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 [club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org) so we can plan for the weekend.

P.S. we need a host to meet and greet rally attendees.

## 2024 Rally Season

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

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. **Host Needed!**

### Winter Flash Rally - TBA

Late winter arrival in Reno? Then "someone" take up the task of planning a weekend Winter Flash Rally for somewhere in the Great Basin Desert. Pick the date, location and your Editor will post the word in press, email and FaceBook notices. **Host Needed!**

### Winter Luncheons - TBA

## South Lake Tahoe Region Rally

Wow, your editor is impressed and indebted to Tom Larkin and the Roots for two different perspectives on the Region Rally, read on ...

Kitsie and I arrived at the rally a day early so that we could set up and so that I would be ready to help with the parking detail the next morning. The parking of rigs went very well and was a lot of fun. I met a lot of people, both volunteers and people arriving who I helped park their rigs. Managed not to back into any trees!

The rally was a lot of fun, as expected. The Silver Soirée on Wednesday night featured food prepared by volunteers and was a great way to meet new people and enjoy some outstanding food. The catered dinner on Saturday night was also well organized, and the food was outstanding.

While we did not go on the dinner cruise, we heard a lot of good comments about it.

Vinnie's tech talk was invaluable and well attended. Here are some of his suggestions: don't travel with a full freshwater tank. If going over rough ground, the tank could fail which will ruin your entire water system.

While Airstreams have an internal water pressure monitor, Vinnie uses an external one anyway, just in case. If your pedestal table wobbles a lot, try lowering it when you travel.



We also got to enjoy line dancing, which was kind of a last-minute addition to the schedule.

All in all, a great rally. A lot of hard work went into it by a lot of dedicated volunteers.

Tom Larkin

## Region Rally Writeup !!

First one (Region Rally) for Jeni & I; great that it was so close in South Lake Tahoe! Tahoe Valley Campground was ginormous, and the 150 allocated campsites for the Airstream rally were less than half of the total. As someone noted, "With all these Airstreams, it's hard to find OURS! "

There were so many activities - Vinnie's North Bay Airstream Repair provided 2 sessions, Ultimate Airstream sponsored "Street of Dreams" (the redesigned Grand Lounge was mighty fine), line dancing lessons, cycling and hiking, SWAP Meet/Craft Faire (yes, both of us came away with some purchases), Silver Soirée Appetizer Night (we're biased, but we think the Nevada Sierra Nevada, Tahoe, and Las Vegas

Units had the longest lines), Decorating, Storage, and Cooking presentation were well attended. Yappy Hour, ice cream social, Ice-breaker (clever and fun), dinner cruise, craft activities, and live music rounded out the activities - we were only sad we couldn't attend them all!

The fund raiser (basket auction) was a HUGE winner, with over \$7000 going to the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care non-profit. The Sierra Nevada Unit basket (featuring Frey Whiskey from Fallon) netted \$250, with the wining bidder, Vic Cushing #25879 from Sacramento Valley Airstream Club, also received an affiliate membership for 2025.

As president, Brian provided an update on the SNU (52 members, 27 affiliates) during the Region 12 business meeting, which was also well attended. Over all, the WBCCI is growing and all clubs continue to encourage membership participation, whether camping, lunches, or other activities.

There was also unscheduled time during the rally - we attended a play at Valhalla Boathouse, and of course, found the dedicated bike trails nearby and explored the area on two different occasions. One of the highlights of the rally was meeting new camping neighbors including some who happen to have just moved to Reno - we just love Airstream people!

The SNU was well-represented with 10 members attending including our 2023 basket winner/affiliate member, Douglas. There might have been 3 couples from the SNU who tried to get the dancing going....

Next year, the rally will be in San Dimas. If your plans have you in Southern California next fall, we'd highly recommend attending.

*Brian & Jeni Root*

## Hope Valley ... Lahontan Rally

One of the advantages of the SNU style of "easy" camping is the ability to find a Plan B when Plan A is not ideal - such was the case with our September plans to camp at the Hope Valley Dispersed site. Given that it had the potential to snow/rain for a couple of days (not that we wouldn't/couldn't camp in adverse weather!), a suggestion was made to move to lower elevation and warmer temps - Lahontan was our new designation.

As a first time camper to Lahontan, we found the beaches were sandy and plentiful, birds migrating, and visitors few. We were able to get out on our bikes and explore part of the LONG (almost 70 miles) of shoreline. The little rain we received helped tamp the gravel and sand and made riding a joy. Next time, we'll bring the kayaks!

*Jeni & Brian*

## Look Backs in Time

The [October 2004 Airstreamer](#) was brief, reported on:

- Four new members;
- Air Races Picnic - Another great year for the Reno Air Races and another great SNU picnic at the Leipper's
- October Rally - The SNU rally at Davis Creek Park group area is planned for October 15th - 17th
- Planning for 2005 update, enclosed in newsletter is the second draft of our 2005 rally and event schedule.

The [October 2014 Airstreamer](#) covered:

- Crocker Rally Review - a "virtual" Oregon Coast rally; it was raining when we arrived and raining four days later when we departed.
  - Ten members & 6 rigs;
  - Jerry & Dyann had a new pup Whistler in training;
  - Gary & Anita leak tested their new skylight and displayed newly Acquired flamingo yard art;
- Upcoming Fort Churchill Rally.
- Wheel's Prez Meanderings relates changing a flat in the rain and briefly mentions the next years 2015 Region Rally in Minden, "Silver Returns to the Comstock".
- Home Again - Don & Gail arrived home from the Alaskan caravan; not mentioned was Don's immediate departure to Ohio to help family.
- Repairs and Maintenance - multiple maintenance and repairs happening on member rigs, follow the October link to read more.
- Sierra Nevada Unit Updates
- Airstream Resources.

## Let your Officers & Board Members Know What You Like, Want Added or Changed

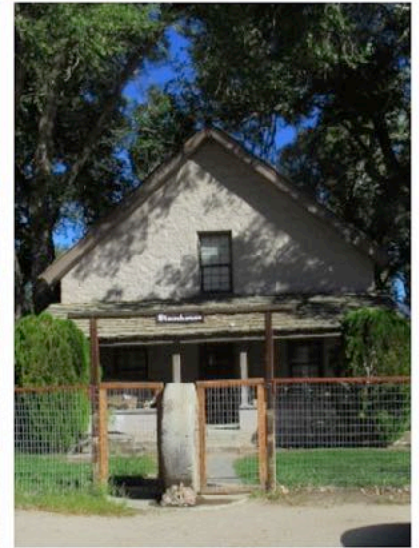
Your club officers and board members are "still waiting for input"; someone must have some ideas and opinions for a favorite location for a rally, restaurant for our Winter luncheons, ideas for the newsletter or maybe rallies every other month; let your club officials know.

[club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org)

## Business Meeting, 19 Oct 2024

The SNU Will host it annual Business Meeting on Saturday at 4:00 PM at the Walker River Rally; Quorum needed; 10 members.



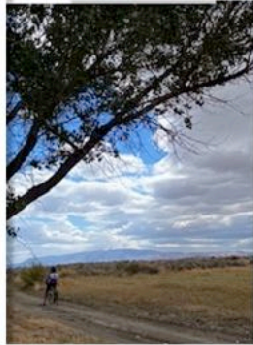




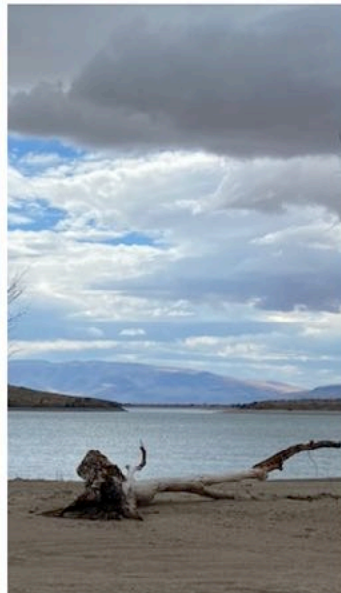


# South Lake Tahoe RR





# Lahontan Rally





## Editor's Blog - Mid Season Airstream Repairs

Depending upon your QTH (home in amateur radio lingo) you are past halfway through or near the end of the Airstream camping season and you may have found you missed some needed repairs when you prepped it in the Spring. It can be anything from screws that weren't tightened, door not properly aligned, those ceiling rivets and more. Our 2012 International had all of those maladies which I've fixed over the Summer and one more that I have put off for years; our 120 volt power cord and the service connection on the side of the Airstream. I've occasionally burnished the exposed copper contacts and use spray cleaner and a mildly abrasive strip to clean inside the female contacts on the cable end to minimize voltage drop and heat but it needed to be replaced.

I was reminded to check the connection and cable ends in July in Bishop when we stayed at Brown's Town Campground. Daytime temps were upper 90s to mid 100s. I was able to see the voltage fluctuate between 117 and 106 during the hottest part of the day. Voltage lower than 110 volts may cause damage to our modern mechanical equipment like air conditioners. Some of the problem was the weather and high electrical demand in the area; some was the older less robust electrical equipment in the campground and some maybe the electrical cables and connections in the Airstream. It encouraged me to again clean the electrical contacts with little improvement.

Now home, I paid more attention to the electrical connections and power cord. We have two connections on our rig, the normal street side power connection and one on the front for use with a generator; both shown side by side.



Front & Side Power Inlets



Streetside Power Inlet

Look closely at the street side connection that gets the most use and you can see cracking in the plastic base that holds the electrical terminals. All three contacts were loose which can generate heat and damage.

The front connection looks pretty good and the terminals are still, tight



Front Power inlet



Power Cord Plug

in the connector but there is a crack forming at the Hot contact in it too (about 8 o'clock).

You can see some evidence of that on the mating end plus at the 30 amp plug.

To my credit, the contacts in our power cord were still in

good condition. They show some evidence of heat damage but the side connection on the Airstream definitely needed to be replaced.

Note the damage

on another cord I was given. The contacts in male end of the cord showed damage and were loose in the plastic.

I chose to replace both connections and the cord with ones from Smart Plug. You may have seen their product touted in the many Airstream themed magazines, webpages and even the newer Airstream trailers and RVs. Their advantage is more than 30 times the contact area compared to the twist lock style connectors. This reduces voltage drop and wear and tear on the connectors.



Female Cord End



### INLET & CONNECTOR FEATURES

#### LED TWO COLOR REVERSE POLARITY AND POWER LIGHTS

One red and one blue LED light for Safe/Unsafe Electrical Power Indication under Reverse Polarity Conditions.  
\*On molded connectors and adapters only.

#### LOCKING FEATURES

Dual 316 SS side locking levers snap into sides of inlet housing.



**CONNECTOR BODY SHAPE**  
Sleeve design fits snugly within inlet, removing all tension from pins & clips. Easy one handed insertion.

#### WEATHERPROOF

Superior gasket seals against inlet sleeve to eliminate dirt & moisture exposure on electrical pins.

#### WEATHERPROOF

Fane gasket seals. Now IP56 rated.

#### INLET CASE CONSTRUCTION

316 cast stainless steel for maximum corrosion resistance. Also offered in non-metallic high strength UV resistant material.

#### ELECTRICAL PINS

Straight pins with 27X surface area. No twisting required!

#### EASE OF USE

Unique plug body shape only goes in the right way. Easy to orient with no misalignment - even in the dark! Pushes straight in & locks automatically.



That work done I've now replaced the rear ceiling fan/vent and the vents in the bathroom and shower.

editor

# AIRSTREAMERS GIVING BACK IN SEDALIA

Let's make our mark in Missouri at the Airstream Club International Rally in Sedalia and have "Fun in the Fall"!

Whether you are attending this year's International Rally or not, you can participate in our community service project for 2024. We are partnering with the [Bothwell Foundation](#) to support their Pinktober campaign. Airstream Club International members have two ways to make a difference:



1. [Buy a Pinktober T-shirt](#) in support of all people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Missouri, in October, has a lot of autumn colors, but **PINK** is the color that will make a difference in a lot of people's lives. Non-rally attendees can purchase T-shirts and have them mailed for a small fee (\$5).

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/bothwellregionalhealthcenterfoundation/event/rally2024/>

The broader Sedalia community will be out wearing "Blue Jeans for Bothwell" on Wednesday, October 9. Rally attendees can join in the fun on Wednesday, by wearing Pinktober T-shirts, along with blue jeans. During that evening's rally entertainment, a group picture will be taken at the Airstream Club International band and choral concert. (Please feel free to wear your Pinktober T-shirt and blue jeans all day!)

2. This Community Service project with the Bothwell Foundation is also targeting the renovation of the Bothwell Regional Health Center patient rooms. The Bothwell Regional Health Center was built in 1985 and needs updates and modernization. With every \$10,000 donated to this effort, a patient room will be dedicated with naming rights in the donor's honor.

We plan to have a patient room at the Bothwell Regional Health Center dedicated to the 67<sup>th</sup> Airstream Club International Rally! Even if you are not attending this year's rally, you can contribute to this project by [clicking this link](#).

If you haven't read the article in the Blue Beret, Spring issue, page 44-46, about the 2024 community service project, [please check it out now](#).

If you have questions, or if you want to volunteer to help distribute the Pinktober T-shirts at the rally, please contact Rose Garland (BRN #6566) at 314-484-1272.

And, P. S., please continue to collect aluminum tabs for the Future Streamers Intra-Club's effort to support the Kansas City Ronald McDonald House.

Thanks to everyone who has made even the smallest contribution to the success of the 67<sup>th</sup> Airstream Club International Rally in 2024 in Sedalia, Missouri!