

## MY MEMORIES OF BELONGING TO THE SNU

BY DYANN THORNBURG

1. Our first rally with the SNU was in March of 2005. We were at Rye Patch Reservoir in the group area. The ground was very muddy but everyone seemed to be able to get in to the parking area until Anita Leipper's turn. There were several of us still left to enter and were left sitting on the road because Anita got stuck half way up her front tires in the slush. It took about an hour to finally get her out with the help of everyone there. What a great start to a wonderful relationship that has lasted 11 years now. To know that this is a great group of people who work together to help anyone in need.
2. Our second rally with the SNU was at one member's property by Lahontan Reservoir. Nothing like camping in the desert with no trees and dealing with strong winds all weekend. Everyone made the best of it though and we ended up having a great time anyway. Also had visitors show up. They had questions about Airstreams because they were looking to purchase one. Guess they thought we were good enough to pass their test because they ended up buying an Airstream and joined the SNU. They are still very active members today and great people. All of us know them: Randy and Vicky Grossmann. We have been very fortunate to have them.
3. Another first outing was at Boca Springs. This is a great location with lots of trees (which I like to have). It was decided by Don Damoth we need more firewood so he went to work gathering some. In the process he nearly tore his thumb off and Mary Lou and I got to play nurse and try to patch him back together. They ended up taking him into Truckee to the emergency room. He came back and the rest of the weekend was great but he did have to have surgery later to repair the damage. Had a wonderful time exploring the Airstream Mountain Family RV brought. It was a first of its kind a Safari that has a slide out. Jerry and I made a list of what we wanted in a new Airstream and Mike (the owner of MFRV) told us he had one we could look at during their open house in June.
4. Participated in the MFRV open house in June 2005. When we got there Diane Leipper told Jerry not to let me into the Airstream she had set the table up in front of because if I saw it I'd want it. It so happened to be the same Airstream that Mike had told us about at Boca Springs. Had everything we were looking for in a new one. Needless to say we ended up buying it!
5. First rally with our new Airstream was at the Douglas's place in Kingston, NV. We had to go through Austin, NV to get there and it was during the Mormon cricket migration that year. We had a little trouble with slipping and sliding

on the highway due to the crickets all over the road but when we got to Kingston Roy had spent the day cooking brisket for us which made it all worthwhile. Again, great people and a fun time going up into the canyon to see the wonderful scenery.

6. At one of the rallies at Ft. Sage it decided to snow and we started a new tradition of the "Go Around". Everyone fixed their food for the potluck dinner and just went around to everyone else's trailers and served the food. We haven't done too many of these lately though.
7. Another rally at Ft. Sage it decided to rain at dinnertime so we put the awnings out and had dinner there. Wes Warn decided to put his chair at the edge of the awning and while eating a heavy downpour started. He ended up having water run down his back from off the awning. I had never seen him move so fast (while screaming). It was extremely funny to watch (just not for him though).
8. While at a rally at Sweetwater Summit a woman came in with her Palomino Morgan horse and gave us all a ride in the cart it was pulling. She was there for a parade in Smith Valley and was camping near us.
9. At our first Sweetwater Summit rally Diane decided to take her dog, Duke for a walk and discovered that one of the local habitants of the area was just a little too close for comfort. Jerry luckily had brought a gun with him and attempted to shoot it. Needless to say he ended up using a shovel and cutting its head off. For the rest of the weekend my dogs and I didn't travel very far from the trailer. (Don't like rattlesnakes!) Diane kept her cool though.
10. Diane deciding since I like to go places where there is shade at another Sweetwater Summit rally she brought me a blow-up palm tree and tree ornaments to hang on my awning. It was very nice of her to think of me even though the blow-up tree had a leak and wouldn't stay standing.
11. At this same rally, Jerry decided we needed new batteries for the trailer and he and Bryan Leipper went into Yerington to get them. On their way back they spotted a 1986 Classic Airstream Motorhome. They came back to camp and told us about it. Jerry and I decided to go take a look at the inside of it. We took Roger Jeppson with us so he could help negotiate or tell us not to buy it. When we got there he took one look at it and told Jerry if he doesn't buy it he was going to. That ended any doubt for Jerry. On our way home from the rally we took several others with us back to look at it again and Jerry made an offer to the guy and he accepted it.
12. After spending months redoing the inside of the Motorhome we took it on a rally to Unionville. On the way home it started to sputter and would quit

running if Jerry took his foot off the gas. On the Lovelock Highway there was a semi in front of us that decided to stop at the railroad crossing. Jerry had to then also stop and when he put his foot on the gas pedal again the motorhome started sputtering. This time the engine caught fire and we had to be towed home. (Jerry is still trying to get it to run right.)

13. I loved our rallies at Unionville. Getting there early and waiting the others show up and their various attempts at leveling their trailers makes for a lot of fun. Jerry, I think, still holds the record though with his creative high rise of the trailer one year.
14. Having brunch at the Pioneer Inn and the tour of the old school house in Unionville was wonderful.
15. Jerry bringing out the grates to expand the entrance to the park in Unionville before our second rally there helped the others get in a lot easier.
16. Our rally at Green Creek was great (except for the mosquitoes). Getting there was a little scary though. Jerry had set the GPS to take the shortest route and it put us on a side road that no one in a vehicle should have traveled on let alone pulling a trailer. The road was very narrow and there was about a 30 - 50 foot drop to the bottom. We got to the bottom of the road just to discover we had to turn around and go back up that road to get out of there. Let's just say, we won't be making that mistake again!
17. Our rally at Blue Lakes was one of the best I think we have ever had. We started out at a spot next to the road and then Diane, Melissa, Roman and I took a trip up the road and discovered dispersed camp sites. After seeing these other places we all decided to move and it took only about 30 minutes for all of us to break camp and move. Beautiful spot by the river with great fishing.
18. Our rally at Twin Lakes was wonderful. At this rally we had one of our largest turnouts and the camping spots were right next to a large picnic area with a large fire pit. The behind the scene tour of Bode was exceptional.
19. Obsidian Dome rallies are always the best. Having our special breakfasts are a big highlight. Eggs in a basket, sour dough pancakes, sweet rolls from a bakery, fruit from the Fallon farms, special made sandwiches are just some of the great food we have there.
20. One year at Obsidian Dome we had an uninvited visitor join us in the morning just before coffee time. A large black bear greeted Bryan when he came out with the coffee. The bear decided to check out our rigs but apparently found nothing of interest so left.

21. Speaking of uninvited guests, the year we went to Hickinson Petroglyphs we parked by a trash can and ended up coming home with a mouse. Jerry put out a trap and made quick work of it when we got home. The trails are great, parking and leveling is easy and the petroglyphs are a wonderful sight to see.
22. Rocky Point is another great area. A little tough getting in and out of but the stay there is wonderful. There are usually fishermen there and lots of fish to catch. One year Gene and Carmen brought their grandkids and they made friends with a fisherman who kept supplying us all with all the fish we could eat.
23. Another year, Wheels invited a guy he had met during another function. The guy was traveling on but was a little concerned about his tires. Jerry went over what to look for with him and the guy apparently made it to where he was going ok. Jerry on the other hand ended up blowing a tire on the way home. Moral to this story is to practice what you preach.
24. Obsidian Dome has a lot of precious memories. Getting in there is an adventure in itself. Gathering obsidian is a favorite pass time of many who attend. I like gathering pumice stones to use in cleaning at home. One year Rick LaBorde came back from his hike with a large one and gave it to me. It now sits in my yard as a decoration. (It's too large to use for cleaning.)
25. The year we help out doing maintenance of the area as a public service project was a lot of fun at Obsidian.
26. Scout Camp is a fun place. One year a stray dog was wondering around and Gene and Carmen's grandkids made friends with him. He was just a pup but you could tell he was going to be a very large dog. The day before we left Wes and Roylaine decided the dog had been abandoned so took him home. They named him Scout because of where we were when they found him and he still comes with Roylaine to this day. He has turned out to be a great dog.
27. Another outing for Thanksgiving out Scout Camp when the weather wasn't that great we had dinner outside after Jerry cooked the turkey in the deep fried turkey cooker. The ground got muddy though and would stick to our shoes and the dogs' paws. Everyone had to put buckets of water by the doors of their trailers and wash their feet off before entering.
28. The next year at Scout Camp we did the same thing only this time the weather was too bad to eat outside so we all gathered into the 1986 Motorhome (its first outing). We stayed warm and dry and had a wonderful dinner together.
29. The next year when we were getting gas for the trip to the Ft. Sage rally Jerry forgot to put the 1986 Motorhome in park and it rolled down into the bank by

the busy road. We had to have a tow truck come and pull up out. When we got to the rally Jerry decided to park it by the end of a drop off. Even though he made sure it wasn't going anywhere I was a little nervous all weekend.

30. One year at Pyramid Lake Jerry taught Roman how to fish. Roman took a liking to the sport and ended up spending all his time at the edge of the lake. Jerry brought a fish back to camp, cleaned it, seasoned it and put it in the fire to cook. When it was done he offered everyone a piece but when he got to Randy, Randy told him he only eats "fresh fish". Jerry started to laugh and told Randy to get it any fresher he'd have to take a hibachi down to the lake with him and cook it there.
31. One year at Weed Heights I decided we needed to do an ice cream social. Everyone was asked to get an item to bring. It turned out to be a great dessert after dinner.
32. Last year at Weed Heights Jerry decided we needed to have a turf and surf dinner and went out and got steaks and fish to fix for everyone. He then cooked it on the grill there. Great meal!
33. One year at Washoe Lake the weather was bad but that didn't stop us from having a great dinner together. Using the grill was a little difficult though with Jerry and Diane fighting over space to cook. Jerry wanted it to cook his hamburgers and Diane wanted it to cook her chicken. That's were Jerry came up with the Redneck President that gets no respect.
34. When Jerry was president Diane had given him a small gavel to use. At the luncheon in Dayton, Jerry decided to bring his mammoth one that looks like a caveman's club. Saying this is what he planned on using to get the respect he wanted.
35. Going to the Railroad Museum in Portola was fun. We got to go through the museum, ride the train and hide in the shade of our trailers. We even have a drawing done by one of our members did of us all lined up in the shade of a trailer having our morning coffee before heading home. We were also shown the Airstream they had in their back field.
36. One year while at Ft. Sage several of us traveled to Portola to check on their Airstream crew car. We had plans to repair it for them but found out later it was going to be too expensive for us to attempt. We took tarps to cover it so the weather wouldn't destroy anything more on it though.
37. The rally at the Fallon Cantaloupe was nice. We got to meet some of our newer members who attended. Attended a wonderful first birthday party of Jessielynn, granddaughter of Dean and Shelly Fischer, where Shelly had done

everything up in Pink Flamingos. Everyone got their fill of the fruits and vegetables available there also.

38. Last year at Sweetwater Summit there had been a sudden heavy rainstorm right before we arrived that washed out a section of the road. Jerry with the help of Randy and Whistler took a shovel out to the spot and attempted to fill in the hole that was made. He worked on it for several hours but it was too deep and ended up filling as much of it with rocks and dirt as he could. He managed to fix it enough that we all got out with less trouble than it took to get in there.

39. Our Christmas luncheon at the Damoths in 2007 was exceptional. Mary Lou had great food and she gave all of us sea shell ornaments she had made from the ones she had gathered along the south eastern coast on one of their trips. I still have the ones she gave me that I hang on my tree every year.

40. Our rally last year at Lassen RV was wonderful. The owners were great people and I enjoyed them joining us for dinner. They took exceptional care to make sure we were happy with everything. They gave us all the recipe and chocolate for the dessert they brought and sent us all the picture they took before we left in a card thanking us for coming was something I had never expected. Extremely nice people and it will be a joy to see them again in September for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rally.