

FORT CHURCHILL RALLY, FIRST IN 2025

APRIL 21ST - 24TH AT
THE SAMUEL
BUCKLAND'S
CAMPGROUND



AIRSTREAM INC'S
LIVE RIVETED BLOG
(page 3)



ERIC MCHENRY'S
AIRSTREAM CLUB'S
PRESIDENT'S
CORNER (page 3)



the AIRSTREAMER



lounging in Glenwood Springs, Co

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, we have Ft Churchill coming up in less than 3 weeks and Wild Horse the end of May. If you're planning to attend, now is the time to get your Airstream prepped (see Airstreamer Extras this month) and most importantly, get your Nevada State Parks pass. There are many options, including All Access, Senior, and Day Use - and these are valid for both upcoming rallies.

Ft Churchill (April 21-24): Your president will be making pizza on Tuesday night for all attendees. Monday and Wednesday nights are regular pot-lucks. There is a ranger-led tour on Wednesday. Jeni & I will have our gravel/mountain bikes and would love company, if anyone is interested. Contact me directly if you have questions or suggestions regarding plans. The SNU rallies are always a "GO", but due to April's tendency for unpredictable weather, any necessary updates will be on the Sierra Nevada Unit of WBCCI Facebook page. So far, there are 4 expected rigs, and I know of campsites #9, 11, & 13 reserved.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area (May 26-29) is 250 miles from Reno, just north of Elko. At least 3 sites have been reserved (Loop 1, #8, 6 and 13). Word has it, fishing and kayaking will be favorite activities, along with some exploring (bikes, trucks?). Will we be able to spend at night at Lamoille, NV afterwards - snow situation to be evaluated in May.

Winter is coming to a close and camping season is right around the corner - get ready and hope to see you soon!

Brian

SNU MEMBER NEWS

The SNU would like to thank Elisabeth & Andrew Smith WBCCI #3475 for renewing with the Sierra Nevada Unit.

SNU MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

It's with pleasure that the Airstreamer spotlights two of our SNU members, James and Susan Andersen, WBCCI #2970 from Minden, NV. James and Susan joined the Sierra Nevada Unit in 2021 having bought a 23' Airstream, nice layout for a "small" trailer that they used for most of four years. James, K6DCO, is also an amateur radio operator and is able to operate on the 20 and 40 meters bands from camp.

Last Fall the Andersens got to see one of the new 25' Tradewinds on display at the Region 12 Rally in South Lake Tahoe; well equipped from the factory for boondocking with lots of solar, batteries and a 3K inverter! Almost immediately after that they picked up a 2025 Trade Wind from Reno Airstream Adventures. Their rig/tow combination includes a Ford



F350; somewhat over kill for any Airstream made but essential for trips when they take their truck camper. With such a stiff chassis they use an [Air Safe hitch](#) to cushion the stress on the Airstream.

One of their first trips in the Trade Wind was last year's October Walker River Rally. The new rig worked well at Walker River although James' first comments were about the sometimes rough washboard road into the park proper; second was some teething problems with the on-demand water heater. Hot water at the sinks but not always hot at the shower. James has since found and made some changes in the shower mixing valve to fix this problem *<many posts about the on-demand water heaters issues on Facebook and the Air Forums - editor>*.

James and Susan didn't just let their Airstream hibernate all winter; they headed out with friends for "Spring Training" in Phoenix to see the Giants preseason games *<is it Spring up in Reno yet - editor>*. Spent some time in Arizona camped at Verde Ranch Rv Resort in Camp Verde, visited Sedona, stopped off in Parker to visit Lake Havasu and the London Bridge and made a final stop off in Beatty, NV to visit Death Valley before heading north to Minden.



The Andersen's are already making their travel plans for 2025 hoping to attend some of our SNU rallies and road trips that fit their preference for two weeks road trips; Twin Falls, Idaho and the Tetons are high on their list.

Make sure to greet James and Susan if you spot them at one of our rallies or elsewhere in Nevada and the Western States.

<To the Andersen's and other SNU members and friends, plan to attend the 2026 and 2027 International Rallies, both within a two weeks caravan from our home surf or forest; Minot, ND (August 2026) and Rock Springs, WY (June 2027). - editor>

[PREP YOUR AIRSTREAM FOR THE SUMMER](#)

Browse our Airstreamer Extras two columns from past [Blue Beret](#); MARCHing On (May 2022) "My tires have good tread left. Do I need to replace them?" and Checklist for Camping (Jan 2023).

Stay up-to-date with Rally News



Warm or cold at Fort Churchill, in April, Monday
April 21 - Thursday the 24th



Wild Horse (SRA) Rally
north of Elko, NV
May 26-29



Sheldon Wildlife Rally
Virgin Valley Campground
west of Denio, NV
June 16 - 19

AIRSTREAM'S "LIVE RIVETED" BLOG

Only one new update to "Live Riveted" as of our April publishing date:

- The [Complete Airstream Towing Guide](#) is aimed at using how you camp and travel to help select a new Airstream.

Click on any of the [blue links](#) to read these posts and more.



ERIC MCHENRY'S PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Eric announced a couple of new and soon to be benefits for Airstream Club members and reminds us of the upcoming International Rally dates in his [April President's Corner](#):

- Camp Airstream: Yellowstone - working with Airstream Inc we're developing a new program, focused on offering unique, exclusive camping benefits to Airstream owners; <https://airstreamclub.org/2025campairstreamyellowstone> offers a six-night stay with curated experiences, amenities and a focus on community. Sixteen weekly

sessions in 2025. Follow the link to find out more.

- ACI mobile phone app - A mobile application (iPhone, Android) that would give easy online access to our membership contact information. Coming Soon.
- Introducing RV Weather! [RV Weather](#) provides customized routes to help you avoid hazardous weather, respect your driving preferences, and get to your destination safely and efficiently <20% discount for Airstream Club members, approximately \$16 monthly, \$80 for a year). With this service, you'll enjoy:
 - Time Savings— See an eight-day forecast with driving impacts from Canada to Mexico.
 - Stress-Free Travel— Let the SureRoute algorithm map out a weather-safe route for you.
 - Peace of Mind— Daily travel forecasts keep you informed on what's ahead.
 - Solo Travel Confidence – Expert meteorologists are just a call away with concierge service.
 - Find out more on our Member-Only Benefit Section: [Member-Only Section](#)
- Upcoming International Rallies
 - Rally 2025: York, PA (August 23-28, 2025)
 - Rally 2026: Minot, ND (August 22-27, 2026)
 - Rally 2027: Due to popular demand, "Back to Rock Springs," WY (June 2027)
 - Rally 2028: Tentatively east of the Mississippi



Markleeville Rally
Centerville Flat Dispersed
Campground
July 14th - 17th



Lower Twin Lakes Rally
Bridgeport, CA
August 23rd - 28th



Hope Valley Dispersed Area,
Markleeville, CA
September 15th - 18th



Route to Region 12 Caravan/
Rally, Topaz Lake and Tuttle
Creek October 9th - 15th

BLUE BERET BLOG

Pioneering the Spirit of Adventure: ACI in the 1950s (click the link)

Journey back to the 1950s and discover the origins of the Airstream Club — from Wally Byam's first caravan to the birth of a thriving community united by adventure and iconic silver trailers.

A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE: THE BIRTH OF THE AIRSTREAM COMMUNITY

The first Airstream Caravan took place in 1951 when Wally Byam set out to teach a customer about trailering, which quickly grew into a journey from Texas to Mexico and Central America.

FOUNDING THE WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB

The Wally Byam Caravan Club (not yet international) was officially chartered on Aug. 3, 1955, during the Eastern Canada Caravan. The first dues were collected and the first membership meeting was held in Kentville, Nova Scotia.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: THE FIRST LOCAL CLUB

As enthusiasm grew, the first local club, the Western Unit, was chartered on Nov. 12, 1955, establishing the foundation for what would become a vibrant network of Airstream communities. The Western Unit represented the multi-state area west of the Rockies, and the charter for the unit was formally approved in July 1956.

A TRADITION TAKES SHAPE: THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL RALLY

One of the club's most significant milestones came in 1958 with the first International Rally held at Bull Shoals, Arkansas. This gathering brought together 300 Airstreams from across the country, celebrating their shared passion and strengthening bonds within the community. The rally has become an annual tradition, continuing to grow and evolve into the massive event it is today — only five months until York, PA!

GROWTH AND LEGACY: WALLY BYAM'S FINAL CARAVAN

By the end of the decade, the club had chartered more than 10 local units, each fostering regional connections and encouraging participation in caravans and rallies. The 1950s culminated in a bittersweet moment when Wally Byam led his final caravan in 1959 — the Cape Town to Cairo Caravan — traversing approximately 12,000 miles across diverse and challenging landscapes. This caravan exemplified Wally's belief in travel as a bridge between cultures and cemented his legacy as a pioneer of RV adventure.

SNU APRIL FORT CHURCHILL RALLY >>>> FIRST RALLY OF 2025!

I won't rehash the entire Fort Churchill write up from the March Airstreamer but merely remind our members and friends that the Sierra Nevada Unit will host its first official rally of the year, Monday April 21st through Thursday the 24th at Fort Churchill State Historical Park. It a great early "shakedown" trip "close to home" to get you ready for the coming rally and travel season. Make sure to read the Airstreamer Extras this month .

Find us in the Samuel Buckland's Campground past the fort ruins on the west side of US-95. Fort Churchill is only 50 miles from Reno, 40 from Carson City and 25 miles from Yerington; come out and camp or visit with us even if you can't stay the whole week. Contact president Brian Root or your Airstream editor for more info club157@airestreamclub.org.



REGION 12 NEWS

As your president, I am casting a final unit/club vote for Region 12 president and officers (WBCCI Bylaws Article IX, Section 2, Part F, Subsection 2; the Unit/Club presidents will cast a final vote on behalf of their club (similar to electoral college process). As a result, the Sierra Nevada Unit voted for Shawn Blom (President), Teresa Tighe (1st VP), and Jason Gendahl (2nd VP). Thanks go to the 5 voting members of the SNU < only 5 out of 41 !!! editor>. We are awaiting the final Region 12 voting counts - but given recent attendance with Region 12 meetings, I believe we're in good hands. Brian



Election Certification April 4, 2025

The Election of Officers for the 2025-2027 term has been completed.
We've tabulated the votes and the proposed slate has received the majority of the votes:

President: Shawn Blom
1st Vice President: Teresa Tighe
2nd Vice President: Jason Grendahl
Treasurer: Theresa Tighe
Recording Secretary: Margaret Handshoe
Parliamentarian: Tom Smithson
Rose Parade: Margaret Handshoe
Cali Rally: Tom & Teresa Tighe
Webmaster: Linda Maddox
Newsletter: John Golden

Margaret L Handshoe

Recording Secretary
WBCCI / Airstream Club International