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RALLY**  
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# *the Airstreamer*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As some of you may or may not know, Nevada is the most mountainous state in the lower 48, with more than 300 ranges. 85% of Nevada is public land, elevations range from sea level to 13,000 feet - a difference of 2.5 miles! There's a little bit of everything - ghost towns, geology (second largest producer of turquoise in the USA, opal mines and obsidian galore), and more than 300 geothermal springs. Nevada is home to some of the darkest skies and cleanest air. Those that have the willingness to travel around this vast and rugged state are rewarded with unique and extraordinary beauty and solitude. With our airstreams, we can explore this great state off-grid and comfortably.



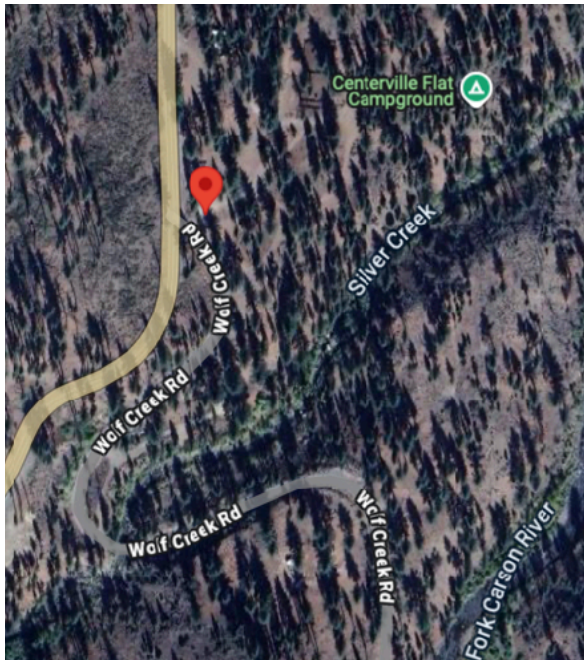
Our upcoming rallies will focus a little closer to home, but technically in California (sorry, Nevada!) along the 395 corridor. Markleeville, Antelope Lake, & Hope Valley. All 3 with great scenery, solitude, and fishing. The October grand finale of our camping season is a series of rallies from Nevada to the Region 12 Rally in San Dimas, CA and back. Topaz Lake, Tuttle Creek Lone Pine, and Keough Hot Springs. All different but equally unique destinations.

Camping with your Sierra Nevada Unit is a great way to visit interesting and unique places with interesting and unique people. We'll see you out there!

Brian

## JULY'S CENTERVILLE FLAT RALLY

The Sierra Nevada Unit will host its Centerville Flats Rally at this dispersed campground Thursday July 14 thru Thursday the 17th. Take CA-89 south from Markleeville and head west on CA-4. Make a left turn on to Wolf Creek Road and immediately turn left into the dispersed campground nestled along Silver Creek and the East Fork of the Carson River (red pointer).



Roads throughout the Centerville Flat Dispersed Campground are all hard-packed dirt, suitable for 2WD vehicles. However, if you want to get up close to the creek or river bank, you'll need high clearance and possibly the 3" lift due to the large rocks scattered about. Otherwise, this campground has standard Forest Service concrete vault toilets and plenty of space for full-sized RVs and trailers and .

Campfires are allowed here, but a campfire permit is required, which is actually the law across the entire State of California; get online here: <https://readyforwildfire.org/permits/> .

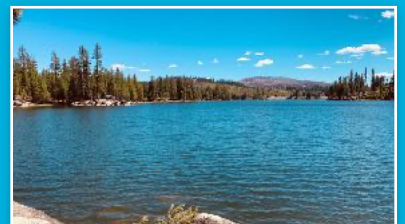
We'll enjoy camping here along water with the opportunity to explore the area and fish several trout streams here at 6000 feet. Road bicycling is also popular in the area. Worn out planning your activities, we'll offer some of the SNU sitting and horizontal relaxation techniques and conversations too!

For info or confirmation contact president Brian Root 775.771.3375, your Airstream editor 951.264.0219 or email to: [club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org)

## *Stay up-to-date with Rally News*



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



*Rally Moved - Antelope  
Lake, Lone Rock Cmpg  
(NFS), Janesville, CA  
August 11th - 14th*

## MORE CONFESSIONS & APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR

I promised to “make it up to all our SNU members and friends next month with lots of articles” but failed to deliver on our “Airstream’s spa days, reconstructive surgery and implants”; don’t despair there’s still lots to read and there will be more to come in future issues. Plan to devote a couple of hours or more to the Airstreamer and follow the links for the “rest of the story”!

*I’m sorry the issue is sooo long!*

## AIRSTREAM INC.’S “LIVE RIVETED” BLOG

Lots to cover there since I shined you on last month with a short issue and didn’t provide a summary for Airstream Inc.’s blog <https://www.airstream.com/blog/>

### **Airstream Five Rivet Dealers Achieve Top Marks -**

Airstream's Five Rivet Dealer Program is held together by five “rivets” – categories that define what customers can expect from the dealers who achieve the coveted Five Rivet distinction. Airstream’s Five Rivet Dealers have met stringent requirements that add up to an exceptional shopping and buying experience – and lead to amazing travel experiences for years to come.



- **The Brand:** Five Rivet dealers understand what it takes to represent an American icon – and what it takes to live up to more than 90 years of excellence.
- **The Shopping Experience:** Through hands-on training at the factory and extensive online training online, Five Rivet dealers are Airstream experts, with deep knowledge of the ins and outs specific to each model.
- **The Delivery Experience:** A Five Rivet Dealer is expected to provide you with everything you need to leave the dealer lot with confidence about your new Airstream. From in-person walkthroughs to a 90-day follow-up visit, your dealer will set you up for years of travel success.
- **Service:** No matter what year your Airstream was manufactured, you can expect outstanding service and maintenance from the Certified Airstream Service Technicians on staff at every Five Rivet Dealer.
- **Long-Term Loyalty:** Five Rivet Dealers understand that lifelong satisfaction begins from the moment you step through their doors. Their ultimate goal is to provide every customer with an experience that builds loyalty and confidence knowing that their Airstream dealer is there when needed.

Follow the [link](#) and you’ll find that one of the newest and closest dealer to most of our Sierra Nevada Unit members, **Reno Airstream Adventures**, is a Five Rivet Dealer.

**Airstream Interstate 19X LE Outland Edition is an Overlanding Dream** - “a fully equipped, limited-edition adventure with a bold design, unmatched capability, and powerful performance for all your off-grid adventures”. The Outland Edition includes the 19X chassis for off-pavement exploration; larger wheels, suspension lift and fully adjustable shocks; 5000 lbs towing capacity; Optional E1 Package with 12,000 Lithium Battery Pack, Timberline 2.0 Diesel Hydronic Heating & Hot Water System, 1,100-Watt Induction Cooktop, 3,200-Watt Pure Sine Wave Inverter, Dual 30 AMP DC-DC Converters, Secondary 51V, 6,900W Alternator, Victron 100-20 Solar Charge Controller (can you tell the editor is a greasy fingered gear head?). There’s more features like sliding your bed outdoors, outdoor hanging chair, cooktop, portable fridge but you’ll need to follow the link to peruse the marketing to find out what in this Limited Edition (30 rigs) you can’t live without : <https://www.airstream.com/blog/the-airstream-interstate-19x-le-outland-edition-is-an-overlanding-dream-come-true/> .

**Airstream Beginners Guide** - Whether you're new to Airstreaming or looking to kit out your trailer or van with new gear, the Airstream Beginner's Guide is here to help you stock up on the essentials from our official store, Airstream Supply Company, so every journey goes off without a hitch. Find out more than you thought was important for Airstream care, those short weekend rallies and month long solo caravans to other climates: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/the-airstream-beginners-guide/> .

**Camp Airstream: Yellowstone** - a One-of-a-Kind Curated Airstream experience offers private tours of Yellowstone National Park and curated excursions, to catered meals and luxury camping facilities. Follow the link till we can secure a first hand SNU member experience in a later issue: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/camp-airstream-yellowstone-in-a-one-of-a-kind-curated-airstream-experience-you-wont-want-to-miss/> .

**the Airstream Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian Limited Edition Travel Trailer** - your editor’s words can’t compare so just follow the link to be amazed about this limited edition Airstream: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/introducing-the-airstream-frank-lloyd-wright-sonian-limited-edition-travel-trailer/> .

**Airstreaming as a Verb: The Real Airstream Experience** - this Blog chronicles seven individual and family adventures you will want to read about: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/airstreaming-as-a-verb-the-real-airstream-experience/> .

**The Airstream Customization Guide** - watchwords for Airstreams are quality and design; it’s known for distinctive styling and details that



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



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



Return from Region Rally;  
Keough's Hot Springs  
October 19th - 22nd



are often the deciding factors in the purchase of an Airstream. Once in the owners hands we add features and customize them to fit our tastes and lifestyle. The Airstream Supply Company (Airstream factory store) has a full lineup of custom products specifically for your trailer or touring coach prepared to the original schematics and specs. Read more about the [Custom Products](#) or just jump to the [Airstream Supply Store](#).

**Urban Escapes & Off-Grid Getaways** - this Blog highlights urban and off-road exploration with the 19X. Airstream claims the 19X gives you the best of both worlds but most of our SNU members know our current Airstreams can provide urban and off-road experiences too! Read more to help pick out your next adventure Airstream or help you next adventures with the one you have: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/urban-escapes-off-grid-getaways-the-versatile-airstream-interstate-19x/> .

**Model Year 2026 Upgrades: Airstream's Best-in-Class Touring Coaches Just Got Better** - Airstream's luxury touring coaches evolve again, raising the bar for travel experiences with elevated power systems, refined exterior styling, and smart connectivity enhancements for chasing sunsets, finding the perfect boondocking spot, or enjoying five-star comfort at a scenic overlook. Find out more here: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/model-year-2026-upgrades-airstreams-best-in-class-touring-coaches-just-got-better/> .

## ERIC MCHENRY'S PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Verne and I just returned from a great rally in southern British Columbia, Canada jointly hosted by the British Columbia Airstream Club and the Washington Airstream Club. Great finally spending some time with our Canadian friends and members in the gorgeous Okanagan Valley wine region.

Crossing the border was a breeze – just needed to review the Canadian list of restricted items (only a few) and continued our journey after a nice conversation with a friendly Canadian customs agent. Returning to the States was a bit more challenging, but what a great visit. We'll be back. Thanks again to the joint rally co-hosts:

Barbara & Trenor Tilley (BRN #2007), BC Airstream Club;

Mona & J Kinder, (BRN #9998), WA Airstream Club;

Lori & Bryan Grassi, (BRN #716), WA Airstream Club.

- **Automating your Club Mailing List** - Unit and Club administrators may want to consider changing their newsletter and correspondence sent out to members by automating their mailing lists using Mailchimp, Mailgun, and Braze. Your editor is looking in to alternatives and hopes to provide input from the Board later this year.

### • Club 70th Year Anniversary

To celebrate our Club's 70th Anniversary, the Airstream Club has a year-long schedule of activities and educational opportunities. Do you have a long family history with the Club? Or a unique perspective on what it means to be an ACI member? We want to hear from you! Share your story for a chance to be featured in this special issue. [Submit your story here](#).

We're also showcasing the stunning photos you've been posting on the 70th Anniversary Kululu Board. Keep sharing—your picture just might appear in the magazine! [Submit your photos today!](#)



### • 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
- Follow the link to read Eric's own words as he nears completion of his term as Airstream Club President; <https://blog.airstreamclub.org/presidents-corner-july-2025/> .

## BLUE BERET BLOG

**Community Service at the International Rally** - The Airstream Club partners with a local charitable organization in the area of the International Rally every year. 2025 finds us partnered with [Friends and Neighbors of Pennsylvania](#) who provide survival essentials and connections to community resources through street outreach to people experiencing homelessness in York County, PA.

As part of the Rally, the club will be collecting supplies for and assembling hygiene kits, as well as collecting monetary donations to help Friends & Neighbors maintain the quality staffing levels necessary to provide essential services to our community. Can't make the international, follow the jotform link to help out: <https://form.jotform.com/251763795037062> .

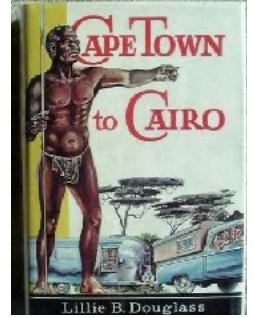
Airstreamers support other charitable activities too; the [International Rally Annual Blood Drive and the Aluminum Tab Donations to benefit the Ronald McDonald House](#) are hard to support from afar but plan to help at your next International Rally.



**Pioneers of the Open Road: Airstream Club's Remarkable Achievements in the 1960s** - The 1960s were a golden age of adventure for the club. With a bold spirit and a fleet of silver trailers, members of the club made history. From crossing continents to fostering global goodwill, the decade was marked by some of the most ambitious and iconic caravans ever undertaken.

#### A Year of Firsts:

- The decade began with the conclusion of the **African Caravan (Cape Town to Cairo)**, which finished its 12,000-mile journey in February.
  - ♦ “Because the impossible takes a little longer, we arrived a little late, but you can tell the world that the Wally Byam Caravan from Cape Town to Cairo is history,” Byam wrote in a telegram sent to Helen Byam Schwamborn, who was back in the United States, commemorating the caravan participants on a journey complete.
  - ♦ Not wanting the adventure to end, 20 Airstreams left Cairo for Italy to join the 1960 European Caravan.
- The 1960s also saw the rise of International Rallies, bringing thousands of Airstreamers together for fellowship, education, and celebration, defining many of the rituals, traditions, and sense of community that still characterize the club today.



• In 1960, the number of units (local clubs) exceeds 25 for the first time, HQ organized the first National/ Special Event Rally (Mardi Gras).

• 1961, the first International Rally to exceed 1,000 Airstreams was held in Auburn, Washington.

• 1962, the first units in Canada are established, as the Ontario and Quebec clubs; the number of home clubs exceeds 50 for the first time and the first Intra-Club is established, the Wally Byam CB Club; total club membership exceeds 5,000 for the first time (more than 10,000 individual members under today's constitution and bylaws).

• The name of the club was officially changed to Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) on Nov. 29, 1963. The name change reflected the emergence of the units located in Canada and members in other foreign countries.

• Around the World Caravan (1963–1964) - Few road trips can claim the title “Around the World,” but the club made it a reality. In 1963, a group of

Airstreamers set off on a transcontinental expedition through Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, eventually returning to North America.

Sadly, Wally would not get to see his dream through, as he passed away on July 22, 1962, at the age of 66.

But the caravan remained in good hands. Wally had Airstream Ohio Plant President Andy Charles make him a promise that he would see the caravan through.

Helen Schwamborn played an integral part in shaping the caravan, too. She wrote hundreds of letters to embassies and municipalities around the world and she traveled the country organizing visas for the caravanners.

The route included stops in Turkey, Iran, India, Thailand, and Japan. Trailers were shipped across oceans so the journey could continue — an extraordinary logistical feat at the time. The caravan fostered cross-cultural connections and goodwill, aligning with Wally Byam's dream of “opening a window to the world.”



- 1964 Seven “regions” were organized in January 1964, each with their own officers; club membership exceeds 10,000 families for the first time.



• In June 1965, the first Blue Beret was published ahead of the eighth International Rally in Laramie, Wyoming (the first to exceed 2,000 Airstreams) and at that rally, the Guadalajara Mexico Unit was formed.

• 1967, the 12 regions that we know today were established and club membership exceeded 15,000 families for the first time (>30,000 individuals).

• 1968 Club Headquarters moved into new offices located in the new Airstream factory in Cerritos, California; the number of clubs exceeded 100 for the first time.

• Carrying Wally Byam's Legacy - even after Wally Byam's passing, his ideals lived on in the 1960s: the club published travel logs, caravan guides, and Byam's personal philosophies on travel; his “Caravanning Creed” and manuals for international caravanning were distributed widely, inspiring new generations of Airstreamers to see the world as their backyard.

• A Decade That Defined a Movement - The 1960s weren't just a time of travel—they were a time of transformation. The Wally Byam Caravan Club International proved that travel could be more than tourism. It could be an act of diplomacy, exploration, and community. The club's adventures during this decade helped shape its identity as more than just a group of trailer enthusiasts. It became a movement of dreamers, doers, and pioneers of the open road.

- International Rallies held in the 1960s (plus attendance)
  - ♦ 1960: Colorado Springs, Colo. (868)
  - ♦ 1961: Hershey, Pennsylvania (960)
  - ♦ 1962: Auburn, Washington (1,717)
  - ♦ 1963: Bemidji, Minnesota (1,882)
  - ♦ 1964: Princeton, New Jersey (1,969)



- ✦ 1965: Laramie, Wyoming (2,592)
- ✦ 1966: Cadillac, Michigan (2,828)
- ✦ 1967: Santa Rosa, California (2,156)
- ✦ 1968: Grand Island, Nebraska (2,211)
- ✦ 1969: Laramie, Wyoming (2,175)

**Forging Ahead: Airstream Club International Milestones in the 1970s** - The 1970s ushered in a new era for the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI) now also known as the Airstream Club — one defined by growth, innovation and global exploration. As the world changed, so did the Club, adapting to new frontiers while staying true to the spirit of community and adventure that had defined its earlier decades. From record-setting rallies to administrative milestones and global caravans, the '70s were a dynamic decade of movement and momentum.

- Record Setting Rallies;
  - ✦ 1970's Hersey, PA International Rally exceeded 3000 Airstreams and Club membership exceeded 20,000 families;
  - ✦ 1975's International exceeded 4000 airstreams in Brandon Manitoba, Canada;
  - ✦ Membership continued its steady climb, eventually topping 25,000 families (likely over 50,000 individual members) between 1974 and 1979, a level that would be sustained through the rest of the decade.
  - ✦ 1976's International in Louisville, KY topped the attendance with a record of 4493 Airstreams.
- The '70s continued with more firsts:



19th INTERNATIONAL RALLY  
WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL

4493 Trailers  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, 1976

- ✦ 1972 The WBCCI Numbered National and Regional caravan received structure and standardization for Club-sponsored travel.
- ✦ 1973 Overseas caravans incorporated renting local RVs rather than shipping rigs overseas.
- ✦ 1974 WBCCI Unit numbers issued for the first time (the Sierra Nevada Unit would receive number 157 at it's incorporation in 1976).
- ✦ 1979 - February, the Club Becomes operationally independent of the Airstream Company; - October, the Club became fiscally independent of the Airstream Company taking full responsibility for its budget and administration; - November, the Club relocated its headquarters to 516 N. Main Street, Jackson Center, OH.
- Honoring a legacy the decade closed with the Retirement of Helen Schwamborn, the guiding spirit behind WBCCI and Wally Byam's cousin and trusted confidante.

Read more about the decade at: <https://blog.airstreamclub.org/forging-ahead-airstream-club-international-milestones-in-the-1970s/> .





## JUNE SHELDON WILDLIFE RALLY REVIEW

Once again, we ask ourselves, is the drive worth it? And the answer, for entirely different reasons than the trip to Wild Horse, is a definite "YES"!



There's an oasis in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and it's found next to the Virgin Valley Campground, approximately 2 miles off the paved Highway 140 in northwestern Nevada. The warm springs (non-sulfuric, 98-ish degrees F.) are both refreshing in the hot afternoon and comforting in the cool hours of the morning/evening. The campground has less than 30 official campsites, but the volunteer host said there were over 50 for Memorial Day weekend - I bet it still felt pretty empty. Gene & Carmen arrived first and selected a site on the upper hillside - best views and away from the bullfrogs. Great choice!

Brian & I rode our bikes out the Virgin Valley Road, nicely graded gravel, 8 miles to the Royal Peacock Opal Mine which has a campground (boondocking or hookups), general store with beautiful jewelry, and history of the area. We then headed up the 1.5 miles to the actual Opal Mine, which is HUGE, and where 20 folks were digging and sifting thru the walls and tailings to find their opals. It was considered a VERY busy day for mid-week. Not a cheap hobby, but the treasures our campground

neighbors found at the nearby Rainbow mine were beautiful. The valley is full of wetlands, waterfowl, and birds, but no other animals were spotted.

Mary, Brian & I rode our bikes out 1.5 miles to the bottom of the Thousand Creek Gorge - and wow! We hiked up into the volcanic canyon and took a break, enjoying the shade and the swallows and swifts. Mary's choice of "ancient" perfectly describes this place. After a small detour up a side road, Brian & I headed up the 2.5 miles to the Thousand Creek Gorge Lookout. Standing back from the sheer drop( again, wow!), it took a full 7 seconds for a rock to hit ground, 400 feet deep according to our data. We did see 1 coyote while pedaling up - darker colors than we see in our local area.

The evening brought shared meals with the 6 of us at Mary & Bill's (they had the best shade). We enjoyed beautiful sunsets, camp fires, guitar music, and stories of hula dancing years. Dark star nights were the norm, as were identifying constellations, spotting shooting stars, and being intoxicated by the Milky Way. What is shared in the Sheldons, stays in the Sheldons, and in our hearts.









