

SNU ANNIVERSARY AT ROLLING TO REGION RALLIES' TOPAZ LAKE (page 1)



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# the Airstreamer

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Our extended (2 weeks), no resupply, camping trip to Black Rock City (Burning Man) was not without some challenges. We were really happy to have the Airstream as a place to get out of the dust and be comfortable. Other than the air conditioning refusing to work on the playa in the heat of the day and with the implementation of some conservation strategies, we were just fine. Upon an extensive cleaning, we are back at easy camping, knock on wood.

Had an enjoyable trip to Hope Valley Dispersed, shared my new favorite cocktail (Carajillo) with our camp mates. Looking forward to Topaz Lake and Annual Meeting. If you can't make it for the camping experience, please consider coming for the day as we discuss the future SNU rally schedule, club character and celebrate 49 years as a WBCCI unit.

Weather permitting, we'll have our kayaks and look forward to enjoying the area.

If you haven't already, please make sure to let us know if you're coming to the next rally stop on the Road to Region Rally - Tuttle Creek Campground. We do have the group area reserved (we believe it accommodates 4 rigs) and the ranger has assured us

additional space will not be an issue.

We have a great group of at least 4 SNU rigs headed to Region and are hoping we pick up a few on the return trip to Keough Hot Springs - promise you'll enjoy this oasis.

As always, any weather-related changes will be communicated via email and Facebook. See you down the road.

# Rad Dad (and Weather Girl)

#### OCTOBER'S ROLLING TO REGION RALLIES (AND BACK)

Come along with us for a unique event; you've heard of club members caravanning to the Airstream International or other rally; well a club caravan didn't seem to fit our three nights stop at Lake Topaz and another three nights at Tuttle Creek so we named it <u>Rolling to the Region Rallies</u>. You don't have to

make all the rally stops; you can tailor your travels to fit your schedule,
Lake Topaz, add in Tuttle Creek, maybe make our return at Keough's
Hot Spring or just stop in for the meeting and celebration on the 11th;
please plan ahead!

Lake Topaz & SNU's 49th Anniversary Rally



**Topaz Lake** is the first stop on our **Rolling to Region Rallies**. Look for more information on our Airstream Club web page: https://airstreamclub.org/events?

from=&to=&type=-1&state=-1&club=46237&list=1 or in the Events section of our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/SierraNevadaUnit .

More on the Rolling to Region, our first rally stop is three nights at **Topaz Lake Recreation Area on the Nevada/California state line**, **Monday October 9th thru Sunday the 12th**; reserved, first come first served and dispersed camping are available 775.782.9835. We'll hold our officer and board member in-person

# Stay up-to-date with Rallies





ROUTE TO REGION RALLY, TOPAZ LAKE (SNU 49TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY) AND TUTTLE CREEK OCTOBER 9TH - 15TH



RETURN FROM REGION RALLY; KEOUGH'S HOT SPRINGS OCTOBER 19TH - 22ND elections at our Annual Meeting Saturday afternoon and our anniversary celebration over dinner and through the evening on the 11th. Can't make the meeting to vote in-person; full members can still vote. Look for an email with a Jotform link to our online ballots and next year's draft rally schedule. Please RSVP with Brian and Jeni Root, (775) 771-3375 or <a href="club157@airstreamclub.org">club157@airstreamclub.org</a> so we know how many will be attending the SNu's anniversary celebration.

#### **Tuttle Creek Rally**

Sunday morning we'll round up the rigs and head south on US-395 to our second rally stop, **Tuttle Creek BLM Campground near Lone Pine**, **Ca for a three nights stay through Wednesday the 15th**. Wednesday morning we'll again round up the rigs and head south to the Region 12 Rally at Bonelli Bluffs RV Resort & Campground. No reservation is needed for the two SNU rolling rallies at Topaz Lake or Tuttle Creek but you will need a reservation for Region 12; click the link: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/241275710134145">https://form.jotform.com/241275710134145</a>.

#### SNU MEMBER NEWS

The SNU thanks returning members Nola Williams & Thomas Booze #11364 and David Besancon #6123 for renewing their membership and report that Brian and Jeni Root have a new number for their rig, 20590. They haven't disclosed the reason for the change so come to the next rally and we'll pop the question to them!

#### AIRSTREAM CLUB BLUE BERET BLOG

#### October President's Corner - by Jenny Schnettler



AIRSTREAM'S PRESIDENT & CEO BOB WHEELER & VP OF SALES BRYAN MELTON WITH JENNY SCHNETTLER

"It sure has been a busy summer here in Airstream World. As many of you know, the joy of camping serves as a respite from many of the world's troubles. We find a place that provides a sanctuary from discord while we sit around a campfire and share our common passion for this unique lifestyle — what brings us together is far more important than our differences. The big picture here is that very

few folks in life carve out time to converse, create community through shared meals, happy hours, campfires, and a friendly "Safe travels, see you down the road!" while allowing themselves to remain open to new friends, new adventures, and ultimately new perspectives.

Read more about Jenny's interpretation and application of Wally Byam's message as ambassadors of good fellowship and kindness. https://blog.airstreamclub.org/october-presidents-corner/

#### Silver on the River

Silver on the River is ACI's first full-boat charter National Event Rally, set on France's le Fleuve Rhône (the Rhone River). Participants will set sail July 15, 2026 and return on July 22.

Luxury, ultra all-inclusive cruise; starts in Lyon,
France, the culinary capital of the world, the day after Bastille Day;
ends in Avignon, a UNESCO World Heritage site and historical gem of
Provence traveling through some of the most famous wine regions in
all of France; 55 suites available with floor to ceiling panoramic
balcony-window; pre- and post-cruise tour options to Normandy,
Paris, Champagne, and Provence are in the planning stages; family
and friends of Airstream Club members are invited!

Register for Silver on the River here.

#### **Texas Country Air**



to quote the promo, "It's an Urban Camping Experience like no other...

Newly recognized as a National Airstream Rally, we are very excited to announce our 10th Year Anniversary at Fort Concho, a National Historic Landmark, established in 1867 along the Concho River in San Angelo, Texas (pop ~ 101,000) <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/YS8Sd9DTwCFz4zUy6">https://maps.app.goo.gl/YS8Sd9DTwCFz4zUy6</a>. Join us this November 6th - 9th for an urban camping experience like no other as we boon dock around the old fort parade grounds, gathering with like-minded enthusiasts who love Airstream adventures! We have BIG plans for a weekend full of fun,

Attendees will enjoy Seminars, Demonstrations, Tours, Top Notch LIVE Music Entertainment, and much more! Follow the link above for more info.

#### Stitchin' and Fishin'

friends, and of course, coffee!

April is a wonderful time of year to be back in Texas; the Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush decorate our highways, the weather is mild, the fishing is auspicious, and the "All Texas Shop Hop" is going on!

Sewists will be able to visit a couple of the stores participating in the Shop Hop where you can just focus on packing up your trailer, your sewing machine, and your favorite sewing necessities.

Registration is currently full, but find out more and to get on the waitlist here: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/252274820195155">https://form.jotform.com/252274820195155</a>,

#### Wrapping Up the 68th International Rally

At the end of August, 952 gleaming silver Airstreams filled the York Expo Center campus for the 68th Airstream Club International Rally. True to this year's theme —"Let's Make History"— the rally blended nostalgic camping traditions with fresh ideas, first-ever events, and a deep appreciation of the Club's past and future.

Rigs began rolling into York as early as Aug. 20, and by Saturday evening the fairgrounds had transformed into a vibrant community of 1,920 travelers from 47 states and three Canadian provinces. York's central location on the densely populated Mid-Atlantic brought even more ACI members to the rally throughout the week, using day passes to join the fun.

Rally highlights were: Opening Ceremonies, Airstream Club Band, Nick Lenzo of Colonial Airstream (rally dealer and Aluminum Sponsor), Rally Exhibitor Expo (65 vendors), Casino Night, Paws & Claws Showcase for Best Trick, Most Unique Pet and Pet & Owner Look-a-Like, neighborhood block parties in the rig parking areas, Airstream VP of Sales Bryan Melton, VAC parade of vintage rigs, Celebrating 70 years of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (also known as the Airstream Club) and Giving Back to York's Partnering with Friends more than \$10,000 in charitable funds and \$15,000 of clothing and supplies!

Not able to keep up, follow the link to read the details and view the photos: <a href="https://blog.airstreamclub.org/wrapping-up-the-68th-">https://blog.airstreamclub.org/wrapping-up-the-68th-</a>

#### airstream-club-international-rally/.

A big *Thank You* to *Bob Stansbury* from Lake Tahoe Airstream Club for carrying the Sierra Nevada Unit Flag in the ACI Rally 2025 Opening Ceremonies: <a href="https://app.kululu.com/s/1qi0aa">https://app.kululu.com/s/1qi0aa</a>. Also missed by SNU members in our absence from the festivities was the: Airstream Club 70th Anniversary: <a href="https://app.kululu.com/s/9dqw1g">https://app.kululu.com/s/9dqw1g</a> slide show and Rally 2025 highlights: <a href="https://app.kululu.com/s/ml97aw">https://app.kululu.com/s/ml97aw</a>.

#### **IBT Update: Keeping Members in the Know**

Executive Council Meeting - August 6, 2025

The Aug. 6 EC meeting focused on final preparations for the 2025 International Rally in York, Pennsylvania, the continued rollout of the ACI Member App with future enhancements for event listings, BRN lookup, and communication tools to improve the member experience.

Another key topic was financial stewardship, mid-year budget performance and discussed strategies for managing rally costs while maintaining the high-quality programming our members expect.

#### IBT Meeting - August 7, 2025

The full Board gathered on Aug. 7 to review reports from standing committees and to consider motions related to club governance. A central theme was enhancing transparency and inclusivity in how the IBT communicates with members.

Executive Council Meeting - September 3, 2025

The Sept. 3 meeting followed shortly after the close of the International Rally in York, Pennsylvania. Much of the discussion centered on the successes of the rally and identifying lessons learned f. Trustees and officers shared feedback on logistics, programming, and member engagement, noting the strong turnout and enthusiastic participation.

IBT Working Session – September 18, 2025

The Sept. 18 working session focused on strengthening communication and collaboration between the Executive Council, Region Presidents and the Intra-Clubs.

You can read the entire IBT update blog post at <a href="https://blog.airstreamclub.org/ibt-update-keeping-members-in-the-know/">https://blog.airstreamclub.org/ibt-update-keeping-members-in-the-know/</a>

### AIRSTREAM INC.'S "LIVE RIVETED" BLOG

#### The Complete Airstream Towing Guide

Airstream says, "Whether you're cruising coastlines or climbing mountain passes, the right tow vehicle makes all the difference—and this updated guide helps you find your perfect match."

They go on to say, "ensuring that your tow vehicle is matched to your Airstream trailer, your local Airstream dealer is your best resource on the ground."

We've all heard the horror stories of the car or truck dealer saying sure it'll pull it or even similar words from a RV dealer (sometimes even an Airstream salesperson) but Airstream's blog on towing gets to the heart of the matter, discussing the Numbers and Acronyms:

- tow vehicle Gross Vehicle Weight Rating GVWR the maximum weight for your tow vehicle and Airstream;
- Net Cargo Capacity NCC the weight of goods, supplies and water your Airstream is designed to cary;
- Unit Base Weight UBW the dry weight of your Airstream when it rolled off the assembly line:
- Hitch Weight HW the tongue weight of your Airstream on the hitch:
- Occupant Cargo Carrying Capacity OCCC maximum allowable weight for stuff onboard your rig – people, pets, food, tools, full water, and LP tanks plus personal belongings;
- You'll get a chance to download the actual Towing Guide, at the end of the post in exchange for name and email address.

- <editor> Important and not stated by Airstream is to compare the
  hitch weight to the Payload rating of your tow vehicle (find it in a
  sticker in the driver's door opening) which includes the weight of
  your passengers, luggage, camping gear and the hitch weight of
  your Airstream.
- Lastly, Airstream avoided the dreaded acronym **TV** in their treatment of towing, I glad, my Samsung "television" can't tow anything!

Find the blog on towing here: https://www.airstream.com/blog/the-complete-airstream-towing-guide/

#### Frank Lloyd Wright Road Trip Guide

Can't afford Airstream's Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian Edition travel trailer? You can still use your Airstream to visit Wright's most notable works, almost in our back yard. Taliesin West, Wright's home, studio and laboratory is located northeast of Phoenix in Arizona's desert. While there you can visit several Wright-designed buildings; the Arizona Biltmore hotel said to be the Jewel of the desert, the Gammage Auditorium performing arts center and the Frank Lloyd Wright Spire - a 125 ft spire of steel and glass.

Still got the urge to travel, plan a solo caravan to Wright destinations in Chicago, Western Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Find the blog and download the Wright Road Trip Guide here: https://www.airstream.com/blog/the-airstream-frank-lloyd-wright-road-tripguide/.

#### **Other Live Riveted Blog Posts**

So many I'll just list them by subject, if it catches your eye follow the link at the end to find out more; Airstream's Guide for Model Year 2026 Dual Axle Travel Trailers, Airstream and Tony Bahama: Island Luxury Meets the Open Road, 2026 Interstate 19GT: Closer Than Ever to the Action, The Airstream Guide to Traveling with Pets, Airstream Trade Wind: Comfortably Off-Grid and Eugene Brave Rock: Wonder Woman Actor Hits the Road in Airstream Basecamp. Read all about them here: <a href="https://www.airstream.com/blog/">https://www.airstream.com/blog/</a>.

#### HOPE VALLEY RALLY REVIEW

We had a great rally at Hope Valley Dispersed campground this past September. Still open camping and no fee, but there is now a new pit toilet (Brian says the cleanest, nicest one ever) and improvements coming for 2026 (along with a fee).

Dales, Williams, Swirskys, Roots and the Blondfields with a Basecamp (Airstream friends) were present. We enjoyed relaxing, a trip up to Lower Blue Lakes for some kayaking, spotting the eagles, osprey, and a huge red tail hawk. Brian took a bike ride over to Kirkwood and then Blue Lakes, while Jeni enjoyed a ride to Blue Lakes and then Red Lake. Don was just a stones throw away from Scotts Lake before he and his pup, Bruce, decided that hike was far enough. Everyone enjoyed the area as appropriate for their style of recreation/relaxation.

The Blondfields provided gourmet coffee to any takers in the morning, while we shared our new favorite Carajillo cocktail (we'll have it at all the upcoming rallies - good reason to join us) one afternoon. Dinners were shared, a SNU staple, and the dark skies were amazing.

Fall is upon us, make sure you've got plenty of propane for heat, charged batteries and come enjoy this beautiful area with us in October as we head south for the Region Rally!

Jení Root

#### HOPE VALLEY RALLY SIDEBAR < EDITOR>

Gail, our boys Mongo and Bruce and I left Riverside Sunday about 11:30 in the morning with the idea of camping somewhere north of Bishop on our way to Hope Valley; reaching Glass Creek Campground (USFS) just before dark. We had time to set up in the daylight, walk the boys, have supper and get to sleep early; we woke to 31F!

Monday we headed north and arrived about 12:45; no AT&T service but I was able to send text messages via satellite. The Roots rolled in about a quarter to five. We were able to occupy a open area off to the side large enough for six rigs or more with a tree sheltered site across the access road that could hold 2 or 3 more rigs.



The Swirskys and Dales arrived and setup in time for a great shared supper of tortellini with pesto & roasted vegetables, salad of beets & apples on spinach, fresh baguette and cukes with an artichoke and jalapeño dip. No one went to sleep hungry. Our evening temp was 48F.

Tuesday the adventuresome headed out mid morning to Lower Blue Lake for sunshine, relaxation and kayaking. Gail and I stayed in camp to pursue our own activities. Gail just wanted to relax in camp with Mongo and a thick book. I was prepping for a hike to nearby Scotts Lake with Bruce. A short time later the Blondfields pulled in and took over the tree sheltered site across from us. They and the Swirskys eventually headed to Blue Lake too.

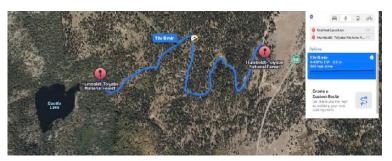
Bruce and I headed up the Forest Service road about Noon. Jeni had spooked me on any idea of reaching the Lake with her stories of thinking it was a short walk and then having to hike most of five miles to reach reach it. As such I set my goal to hike up to 8000 ft (campground is about 7100), about 1 1/2 hours and then head back to camp. With several breaks and having been passed but a more altitude adapted couple (we live near sea level at 1200 ft.), Bruce and I reached both my goals at the same time. We took a ten minutes break to rest and enjoy a cheese and meat stick lunch before we headed down.



VIEW OF NEARBY WATERHOUSE PEAK

Downward, we blindly followed a lesser used side road about 1/2 mile below. It could have just as easily lead us miles away from camp

but I decided if it didn't turn back in the direction we needed we'd just cut cross-country downhill. It ended up shortening our return about 1/2 mile. We arrived back in camp about 2:45, just short of three hours and just over 4 miles. And the elusive Scotts Lake supposedly miles and miles away, it was only another 1/3 mile from our turn around but hidden from our view by the forest.



I was hoping to relax the rest of the afternoon but Doug Dale was struggling to get his propane generator going to charge their batteries. I resisted as long as I could but finally walked over to give my expert opinion (2 cents) as Doug and Brian went through all the right motions to get it started. After their continued struggles and following my own expert advice Doug brought out the manuals and we read and confirmed they were doing all the right things. In an act of desperation and with Brian's observation that there was no psssst when they disconnected the tank, I suggested they try a different tank. Voila, it came to life and I could now relax.

Except, Gail let me know that Mongo was listless and exhibiting the same problems with breathing he experienced last year at Glass Creek (he has congestive heart disease like a person). We hadn't disconnected our truck but it still took us till after supper to stow awnings, leveling blocks, pack chairs and gear to get ready to roll. No celebratory beer at supper, we quickly ate and left at 7:30 to find a campground at a lower elevation. Not easy to find in the Eastern Sierra, we drove 3 1/2 hours south to just short of Bishop to camp at 4300 ft in the Pleasant Valley Pit Campground (BLM).

Wednesday we drove the rest of the way home and arranged a visit to the vet for Thursday. We are happy to report that after an exam, x-rays, lab tests, a day on oxygen and an additional blood pressure medicine, we brought Mongo home. He's recovered but no more high altitude rallies with him or it will be just Bruce and I.

# TIME TO VOTE FOR UNIT OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Regular Sierra Nevada Unit members will soon receive invitations in their email inboxes to a Jotform link for the official ballots. Members may vote by Jotform or in person at the Annual Meeting held at the Topaz Lake Rally. Members voting by Jotform need only to click the link, fill in their name, email address and WBCCI or Big Red Number in the ballot and then step through each position and vote; no login or Jotform account is required. You also may provide a write-in candidate in the space noted if you choose.

The ballot also includes a short survey for the 2026 Rally schedule, mid week vs weekend rally scheduling, interest in a Unit caravan and what you like to see in the Unit newsletter. Nominations are:

President: Jenifer Root Treasurer: Gail Williams

Secretary: Susan Andersen

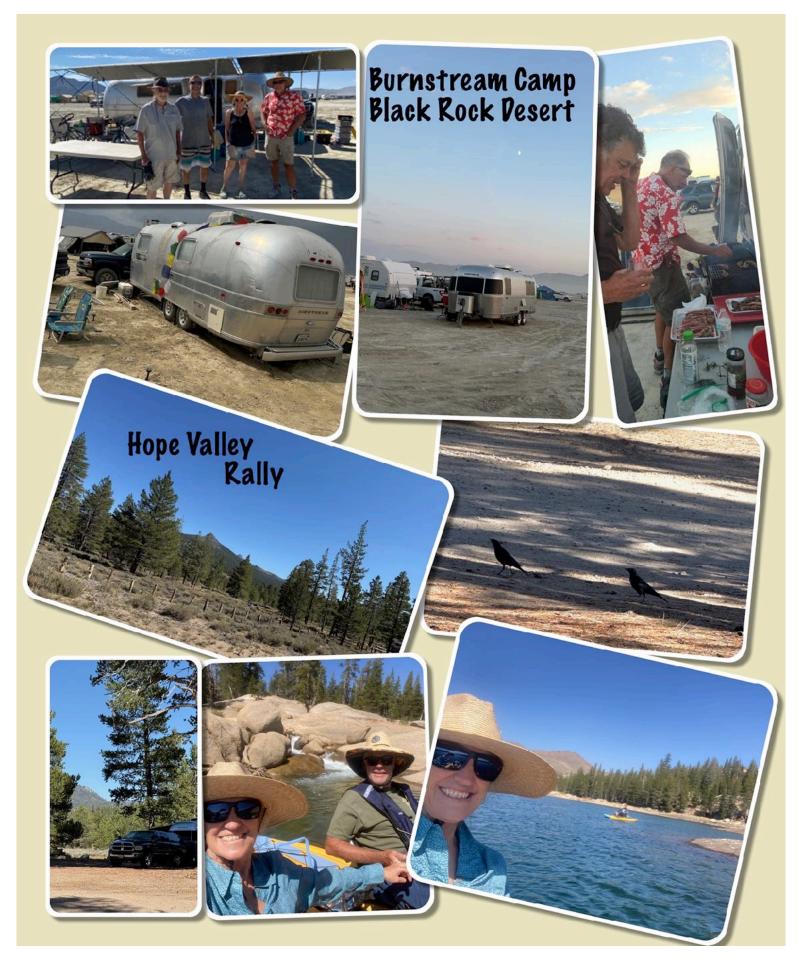
Trustees: Jerry Thornburg, Bill Swirsky & Gene Baleme (vote for two)

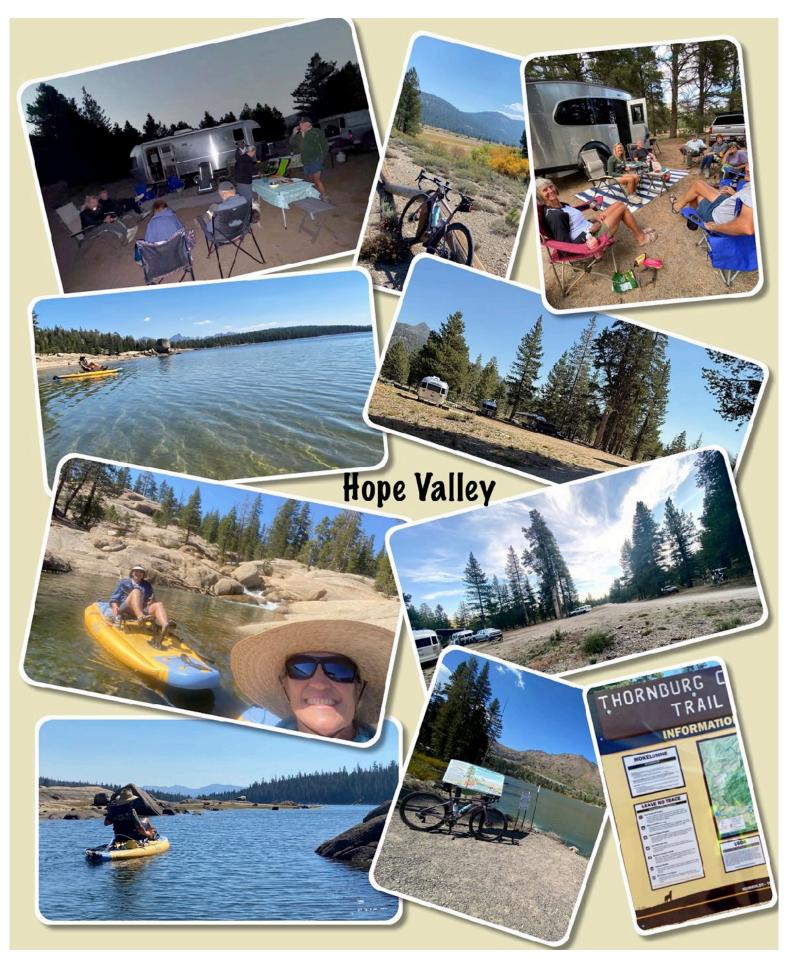
**Appointed Positions:** 

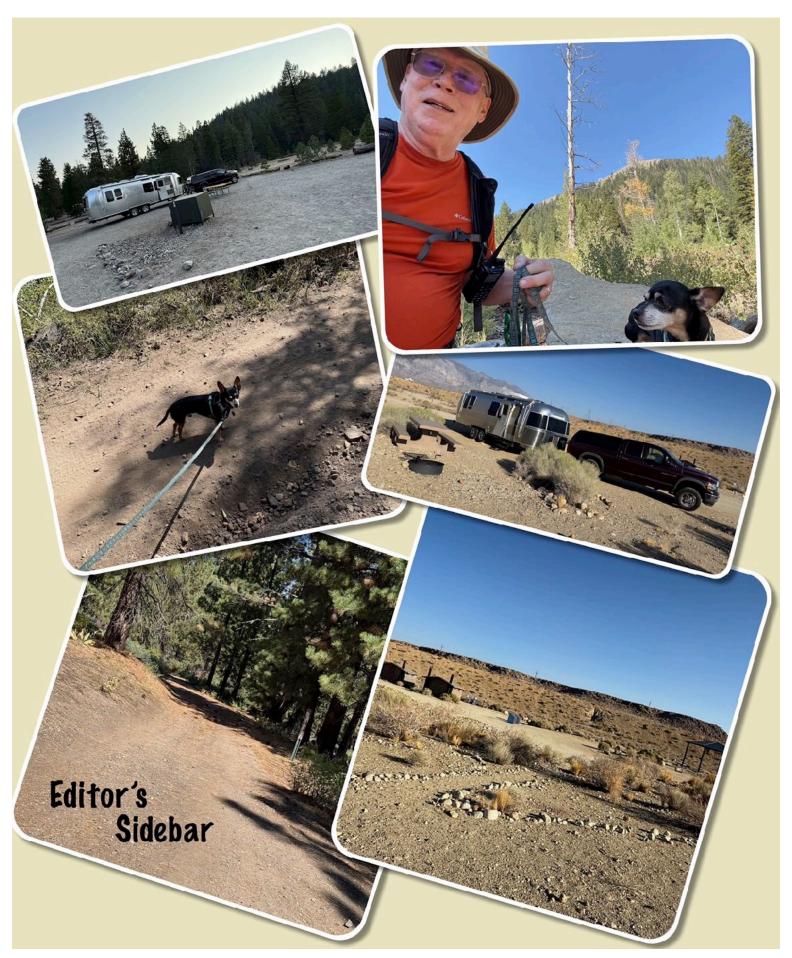
Newsletter Editor: Don Williams Webmaster: Bill Swirsky

Membership Chair: Jenifer Root

Look for your ballot coming late this week.







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

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