

the Sierra Nevada Unit

50
years in 2026

the Airstreamer

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings from Reno! As I type this, smoke from surrounding wildfires is drifting in and I pray it is not affecting your camping plans.

Many of you are heading to the International Roosevelt Library. Take some pictures and report back! I'm jealous!

On our rally to Lamoille Canyon, many of us were discussing our plans for 2027 - and as a unit, it's time for the SNU to also start planning for 2027. Do we still want to camp Monday-Thursday?, third week of the month?, March - October?, new places?, old favorites? Off-season lunch locations?

Most importantly in my mind, it's time to throw your hat in the ring - who's willing to take up a board/chair role for 2027? The absolute WONDERFUL thing about the SNU is the minimal effort needed to keep us compliant with HQ and to keep us camping - after all, that's really what the WBCCI is all about - rallying with our Airstream friends! Positions are: treasurer, secretary, membership, webmaster, newsletter, and president (time for the Roots to share :)). Don has been handling our newsletter (with compliments from many readers) and has volunteered to take on Region 12's newsletter. While personally I hope he continues with the SNU, if someone else is interested...let us know. <<Don would like an assistant in 2027 for those times he's on the road! editor>>

Next up is Fallen Leaf Campground rally in South Lake Tahoe. I believe we currently have 8 rigs with campsites (centered around #132). Monday, September 21-Thursday, September 24.

For October, we have the Crowley Lake BLM Rally, situated on the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada mountains. No trees (full solar power!), great views, first come first serve. Monday, October 19-Thursday, October 22. First stop on your way to the Region 12 rally? Make it happen.

Thank you, all, for making our "Biggest Little Unit" the best!

Cheers, Jeni

NO AUGUST SNU RALLY UNLESS SOMEONE SPONSORS A FLASH RALLY!

We are sorry to report that we have no planned SNU rally in August. A few of us will be heading to the 69th WBCCI International Rally in mid August (maybe earlier for some) but don't despair, those staying close to home might choose to announce their own flash rally <<get me the info and I'll distribute it - editor>> or plan you own solo caravan along one of our favorite highways, US-395. The next article, culled from the Central Coast California Airstream Club's Tattler, courtesy of editor Donna Grey, might help you pick a series of destinations. <<make sure to click the blue link for the YouTube video)

10 EASTERN SIERRA MUST-VISIT STOPS ALONG CALIFORNIA'S U.S. HIGHWAY 395

U.S. Highway 395 in California runs along the Eastern Sierra and is home to arguably some of the most spectacularly beautiful scenery in the entire U.S. In the video below, [join outdoor photographer Gabriella Viola](#) along this famed highway to discover her favorite places and stops along the route.

Encompassing both Mono and Inyo counties, the Eastern Sierra is on the remote eastern side of California's Sierra Nevada range. Gabriella says this rugged region is home to crystal-clear alpine lakes, granite peaks, hot springs, waterfalls, and much more. Even if you don't intend to plan a trip, the video, created by a professional outdoor photographer, provides some amazing

eye candy.

Gabriella's best of U.S. Highway 395 stops**#1 Little Lakes Valley**

A day hike just north of Bishop, CA, Gabriella says every step of hiking the trail at Little Lakes Valley is simply drop-dead gorgeous. And she has the video footage to prove it. You'll pass by several lakes on the way to the hike's culmination, the crystal-clear Gem Lake. The 8-mile round-trip hike starts about 10 miles from Hwy 395 at the end of Rock Creek Rd.

2026 SIERRA NEVADA UNIT OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**Executive Board:**

President: Jennifer Root

Treasurer: Gail Williams

Secretary: Susan Andersen

Trustee: Jerry Thornburg

Trustee: Bill Swirsky

Past President: Brian Root

Appointed Positions:

Historian: Diane Leipper

Membership Chair: Jennifer Root

Newsletter Editor: Don Williams

Webmaster: Bill Swirsky



#2 Parker Lake

The 3.6-mile easy-going Parker Lake Trail starts near June Lake and ends at the spectacular turquoise blue alpine lake.

According to Gabriella, this is a short hike with a big reward.

#3 Big Pine Lakes

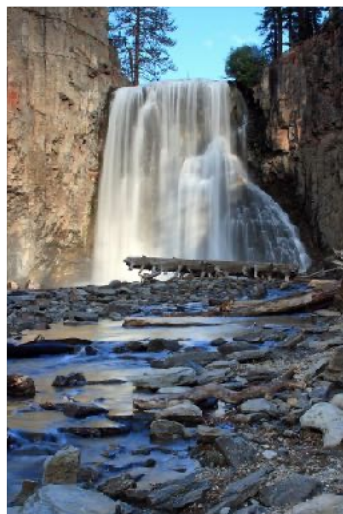
Located near Bishop, the Big Pine Lakes hike features some of the most incredible scenery in the Eastern Sierra, and that is saying a lot. There are actually seven sequentially numbered Big Pine Lakes, with lakes one, two, and three being known as the most scenic. The views are out of this world, but you will have to work for them on this hike. A favorite of backpacking campers, Gabriella says you can do this as a day hike if you only go as far as the second or third lake and then turn back.

Even then, expect a challenge as you will cover 13 miles at 3,000 feet.



#4 Rainbow Falls

In Mammoth Lakes, CA, this 101-foot-tall waterfall is the tallest in the Eastern Sierra. To access the falls in the summer, you will pick up the mandatory shuttle bus at the Mammoth Adventure Center and get off at Shuttle Stop #9. The trail to the falls is a well-marked, relatively flat 1 1/2 miles, where you will come upon two excellent viewpoints of the falls.



#5 Hot Creek Geological Site

This active geothermal area can be found about 15 minutes south of Mammoth Lakes near Hwy 395. A short, easy hike takes you along the creek bed past geothermal pools of boiling water bubbling up from the ground. <<note the geyser activity in 2005 - editor>>



#6 June Lake

About 20 minutes north of Mammoth Lakes, the magnificent Carson Peak serves as the backdrop for the breathtakingly beautiful June Lake. A popular spot for boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, and

fishing, you access the area by driving the 14-mile scenic June Lake Loop that will take you past services like campgrounds and restaurants as well as natural wonders.

#7 Conness Lakes



#8 Lake Mary

Located in Mammoth Lakes, CA, Lake Mary is the largest lake in the Mammoth Lakes basin. Easily accessible, Lake Mary is popular for boating, paddleboarding, and fishing.



This hike begins near Lee Vining, CA, off the Tioga Pass. The moderate-rated 6.3-mile out-and-back hike culminates at crystal-clear alpine lakes and glacier lakes tucked among the mountains.



#9 Buckeye Hot Springs

Located along the banks of Buckeye Creek near Bridgeport, CA, exit Hwy 395 at Buckeye Rd. and travel about 3 1/2 miles to the hot springs. Once there, you will find a few small soaking pools with spectacular views overlooking the mountains.

Gabriella recommends spending

some time soaking in these before heading down to the main hot springs. (I think I would choose to do that in reverse.) The hot springs themselves feature grotto-like caves and waterfalls that cascade into the rock-lined pools. WOW! Some find the water here too warm. But no problem—just move down the creek to one of the cooler pools.

#10 Twin Lakes

Located about 15 minutes from Buckeye Hot Springs, as the name implies, you will find two lakes here. Both are equally accessible and are popular destinations for fishing. Nearby boat and cabin rentals can enhance the experience if you don't come prepared.



LAMOILLE CANYON RALLY REPORT

It's a bit of a drive from our home to Lamoille Canyon, but staying 5 nights made it all worth it. Boondocking at its finest! Great



scenery, gourmet meals, and lots of laughter. And a birthday celebrated (mine) to add to the good cheer.

Originally, we were a group of 9 (7 SNU and 2 friends) - but life happens and we ended up with 6. When Brian & I rode our bikes thru the campground last summer, it seemed rather small - but given the six of us were well-distributed throughout the three loops, walking made it seem a little bigger, haha! We went with an "organized potluck" theme, with 2 potluck dinners shared at the Sterrett's campsite, 2 at the Mitchell/Norby's, and 1 at the Swirskys. And my

goodness, as testament to Diane Leipper's recent FB post about SNU eating well, did we ever! If members wonder why they might want to attend an SNU rally, well...if nothing else, it might just be for the food :).



Campground: located at 7500' elevation, we all had sites tucked into trees (except the Dales - who were front and center coming into the campground). Nice and private, and it's possible fire pit areas were enhanced by some member trimming.

There were first-come, first-serve sites available, filling up on the weekend but with some open sites mid-week. The creek running thru



provided many shallow pools for an effective cooling-off dip.

As described by National Scenic Byway Foundation:

"This byway travels to Lamoille Canyon, carved into the Ruby Mountains by glaciers and known for its U-shaped, canyons, valleys, peaks, and year-round snowfields. Enjoy panoramic views, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. Pack a picnic and stop at the Powerhouse Picnic Area in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Then head to Glacier Overlook for the interpretive panels that tell the story of the glaciers and formation of the area's topography."

As described by Jeni:

The Ruby's (which were mistakenly named - the red stones found by early pioneers were actually garnets), and Lamoille Canyon specifically, did have panoramic views, waterfalls, but not much on the wildlife front (a few birds, chipmunks, a dead long-tailed weasel, a couple of deer, and one momma turkey and her 2 babies). Beaver dams were common, and we did see a few trout in the various lakes/creeks. Trails were in good shape (we hiked the Thomas Canyon Trail, Island Lake Trail, and Liberty Pass/Lamoille Lake trails). The highlight? Wildflowers. (And no cheatgrass!) Amazing!

Activities:

Fishing (not much biting except at the bridge), hiking (we all agreed Island Lake trail was a really nice one), gravel cycling (around



Lamoille and the Lamoille Canyon), e-biking up the mountain trails, and exploring the town of Lamoille and Spring Creek. There were signs and some side trails, but there was a consensus that trail signage was a bit lacking (like, where were those interpretive panels?). The wildflowers were beautiful, so many varieties, sizes, colors -

the pictures just don't do them justice. Unfortunately, no one saw the Himalayan Snowcock (but ran into other hikers who did!!). And the sunsets - wow. The afternoon thunderstorm did leave us with an amazing full rainbow!

Using her birthday gifts (weather tracking devices), 'someone' was able to get the temperature of the various lakes and streams (warmer than you'd think - between 67 and 69 degrees) and winds - afternoon trail breezes up to 12 mph, but typically in the 2-4 mph range, just enough to help evaporate the sweat. WeatherGirl was on it! I will state that I thought we were going to freeze, being at 7500', but found that we were camping during a heat wave and while cooler than lower elevations, we did not need any extra blankets on the bed at night.

Thank you, Kim (aka Mr Geology) & Ellen, Robyn & Del, Michelle, Bill & Mary, and Dawn & Doug, for making the long drive out to Thomas Canyon Campground and helping this gal celebrate her birthday!

Perfect rally!

AND FROM OUR HISTORIAN - BY DIANE LEIPPER #772

Airstreams Just for Fun

Over the years SNU members have indulged in their enjoyment of all things Airstream in some pretty amazing ways. A whole section of our website is set up to share some of the Airstream theme memorabilia collected by various members. This section includes Airstream novelties, yard art, jewelry, Airstream wearables, lights and so much more.

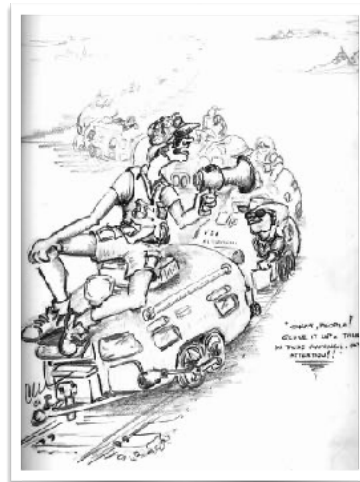
Some of the special items include Airstream cookie cutters made by Wes Warn. These were used to make Airstream cookies for the 30th Anniversary luncheon. They were also used to make cookies for an open house at the then Airstream dealer Mountain Family RV. The cookie cutters also make great pancakes.

A diorama of an SNU rally made by Randy and Vicki Grossman became a feature at not only SNU events but also at a Region rally and a WBCCI International rally. It started out as an idea for a cake topper for the Anniversary lunch but Randy and Vicki kept coming up with ideas and before they knew it, it became a table size feature in it's own right. Randy and Vicki are also responsible for "The Lighted Wonder" and Ruby the Airstream.

Clint Norrell's enthusiasm for Airstreams took the form of a booklet of Airstream cartoons which highlights some unique Airstreams. Check out Clint's cartoons here:

sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/travelogues/norrell/draw.html

Doris Wheeler's daughter made a special Airstream theme quilt for



her mother than even included their dog and a pink flamingo. Tom Guy created a special plaque as a wood working project.

Gail Williams has built quite a collection of Airstream memorabilia gathered from all parts of the country that she and Don have traveled. Gail's collection includes jewelry, kitchen items, clothing, yard & wall art and solar lights.



I (Diane #772) also have an extensive collection of Airstream theme items. Some I inherited from my parents and grandparents. One item I added to my collection a few years ago was unique Airstream shape cooler designed by well known Australian designer



and metal sculptor. It has added to the décor of several SNU rallies. It will be interesting to see what Airstream theme memorabilia shows up in the future. Airstreams Just for Fun doesn't include pink flamingos. That is a whole other story and section of the website by itself!

To check out all of the "Airstreams

Just For Fun go to sierranevadaairstreams.org/family/fun/

[AIRSTREAM CLUB BLUE BERET BLOG & MORE](#)

July's President's Corner

I am on my way to Minot with a few fun detours through Utah, California, and Washington! Even on those side trips, you will find me knitting or doing a little crochet. Like many other fiber crafters, I am compiling a cache of warm items to donate to the children of Minot. In addition to the great effort to fill the backpacks, we are also collecting hats, scarves, and other handmade items to donate to those in need. We already have a nice stash from folks who donated ahead of time.



The crafters, sewists, and knitters will soon gather in our dedicated space at International to take classes, work on projects, and, of course, visit. Led by Anna Brandon, Region 9 first vice president, and her team of volunteers, the space will offer something for everyone. You'll have the opportunity to take a crochet class, learn the art of sublimation printing, try drop-spindle yarn making, and much more.

Even if you are not a current crafter, come visit and maybe pick up a new skill. Perhaps you haven't knitted or sewn in years? Drop by for a refresher. Our teachers are incredibly patient, welcoming, and fun!

Airstreamers always prove to be a creative bunch, and this year will be no exception.

The Backpack Buddies program gives us all the opportunity to help the Minot community by providing food — or funds to purchase food — so no child goes hungry.

Even if you don't plan to attend this year's International Rally, you can still give online through the Club's website to support the Backpack Buddies program, or mail your knitted items to the Minot mailbox

once it opens. Or, if our paths cross before Minot, you can simply give them to me, and I'll make sure they get there.

I am forever grateful to be connected with a Club that always shows how generous they are.

Millie O'Donnell

Blue Beret

Your Summer Blue Beret is available online now at : online.flippingbook.com/view/164836628/ or coming soon by Snail Mail.

[AIRSTREAM INC.'S AIRSTREAM STORIES](#)

Reasons Why Interstate® Stands Alone in Luxury

Luxury isn't claimed, it's earned. See why luxury travelers continue to choose Interstate.

Follow the link:

airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/7-reasons-airstream-interstate-sets-the-standard-for-luxury-touring-coaches



The Most Popular Airstream Travel Trailer Models and Floor Plans in 2026

airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/the-most-popular-airstream-travel-trailer-models-and-floor-plans-in-model-year-2026

Your Mobile Getaway: How to Make It Happen

Airstream is preaching to the crowd for WBCCI members but for the general public this blog tugs at their adventuresome spirit with talk of dreams, and exploration."

Read the entire blog here: airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/a-lifetime-of-dreams-how-a-loan-can-make-airstream-ownership-possible



The Open Road Is Better With a Wagging Tail

"Kevin Griffin—lead vocalist of the rock band Better Than Ezra—hit the road with his golden retriever, Zeus, and a Caravel. It couldn't have gone better."

Kevin Griffin has admired Airstream travel trailers from afar for as long as he can remember. But a couple years ago, at the Pilgrimage Music Festival, he got to see one up close, and he was immediately hooked. "I thought, I want to do a road trip with Zeus, our five-and-a-half-year-old golden retriever," Kevin said. "I had this romantic idea of him with his tongue out the window as we drive past Arches National Park, and I felt like I just had to do this trip with an Airstream." Read Kevin's full story here: <https://www.airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/the-open-road-is-better-with-a-wagging-tail>

Roads, Rituals and New Adventures

"Every July, Larney and Dale take their Classic 30RB to Comic-Con. It's a tradition they look forward to year after year. And while Comic-Con is a favorite, they're always eager to chase new adventures and rarely pass up the chance to try something different."



There's more here:
airstream.com/
airstream-lifestyle.com/stories-hub/roads-rituals-and-new-adventures

SNU MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome new and renewing Sierra Nevada Unit members!

Michelle McKinnon #4356

Teresa DeLucio & David Geddes #3758

Robyn Mitchell & Del Nordby #8914 (and their new Stetson 6666 airstream - wowza!)

Brent & Alisan Hastey #5438

We hope to see you at the next rally in South Lake Tahoe (Fallen Leaf campground, Sept 21-24).

Whew!

Jeni Root

RELATED MEMBER NEWS

Want an updated rig for your Airstream dreams and travels. Members Robyn Mitchell & Del Norby are selling their Airstream. It's listed on A to Z Motors "Here is really nice fully loaded and nicely upgraded 2018 Airstream International Serenity 25FBQ with 2 AC's, three awnings with main awning electric and Salsa leather interior. \$18k in extras including solar, Battleborn lithium, Victron, micro Air Easy starts in both AC's, lift kit with 15" Michelin tires, ceramic coating and custom gourmet cabinet conversion. The unit is in beautiful condition and priced to sell." Find it here: atozmotors.com/store/2018-International-Serenity-25FBQ-Custom-p85273281



69TH AIRSTREAM CLUB INTERNATIONAL RALLY AUG 22ND -27TH!

The International Rally is powered by volunteers, and we need all the helping hands we can get to make this year's event a success!

Sign up here: signupgenius.com/org/2026MinotVolunteers/

FALLEN LEAF RALLY - SEPT 21ST THROUGH THE 24TH

A huge thanks to Tom & Kitsie Larkin for suggesting (and acting as "hosts") for the September rally - Fallen Leaf Lake is going to be well attended, with 5 rigs already securing reservations (site 132 is the target area). While the campground is large, September 21-24 will be busy. We encourage reservations (recreation.gov) but believe there will be open sites for last minute arrivals! We're looking forward to enjoying the lake and hope to see many of you there!

PLANNING YOUR NEXT SOLO CARAVAN

Ask Maps lets you plan trips just by asking!

At the center of a recent Google Maps update is Ask Maps, a new

feature powered by Gemini that lets users ask complex, real world questions directly inside Google Maps.

Instead of digging through reviews or running multiple searches, users can simply ask for what they need—like where to charge a phone without long lines, or finding a public tennis court with lights available that night—and get conversational answers paired with a customized map.

The feature pulls from information on more than 300 million places and insights from over 500 million contributors, offering directions, ETAs, and insider tips. Results are also personalized based on your past activity in Maps, helping filter out irrelevant suggestions.

Once you find a place, you can easily take action, book reservations, save locations, or share them with friends.

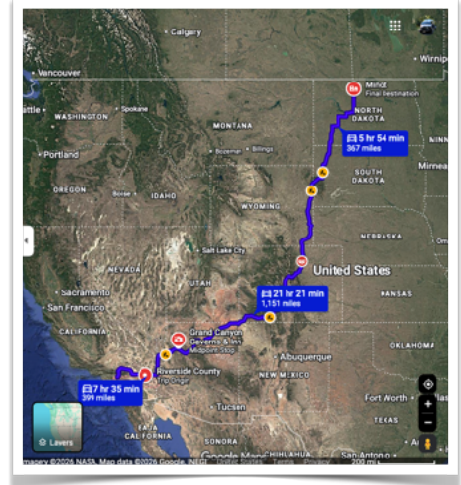
Your editor used Ask Maps to prepare a solo caravan route from Riverside, CA to Minot, ND, minimizing interstate freeways. Have you ever tried creating a route with Apple Maps, Google Maps, or any of the others. It's a time consuming and laborious, add individual towns and dragging the routing follow a path you like, your options are "Avoiding: Highways; Tolls; Ferries! Think Google defines interstates as Highways? Try that option. A freeway laden 1650 mile route options become 1800 to 1900 miles. Try a cross country route to the East Coast and a 2500 mile route can become 2800 and may miss many of the scenic attractions along the way.



Now click the Ask Maps icon. A couple of suggested questions will pop up and a "Ask a question box" appears. Describe your route end to end, either simply or identify interesting stops along the way and hit the return key; "Riverside, CA, Grand Canyon Caverns, Sturgis, SD to Minot, ND using state and US highways while minimizing the use of Interstates." The result is a

better placed scenic route only 1920 miles long! Oh well, it's not perfect but it's a better route up through the Indian Lands and Rocky Mountains than the route created using Google Maps Avoid Highways. One thing to be careful of, with either method, there's no Avoid Dirt Road option unless you spell it out using Ask Maps.

Just like a good GPS, Ask Maps is a tool (not an excuse) for you as the driver and/or navigator. Thinking still required; no excuses if it leads you some-where you didn't want to go!



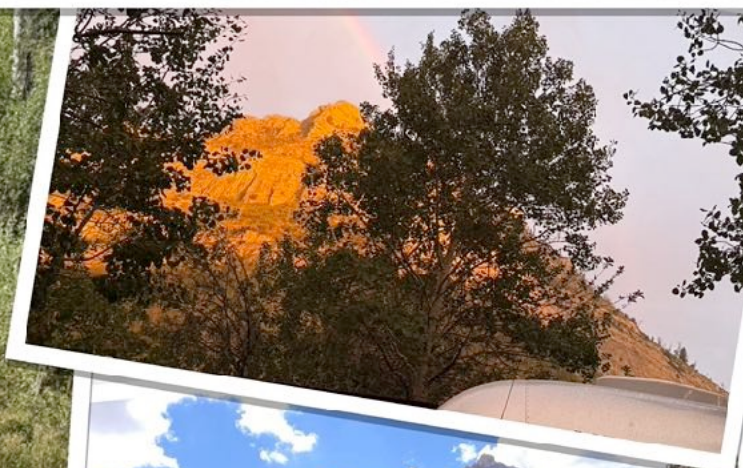


Lamoile Canyon Rally

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)





Bicycling & Thomas Canyon

