

# SNU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Feb 19<sup>th</sup>; Celebrated May 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
at our Topaz Resort Rally

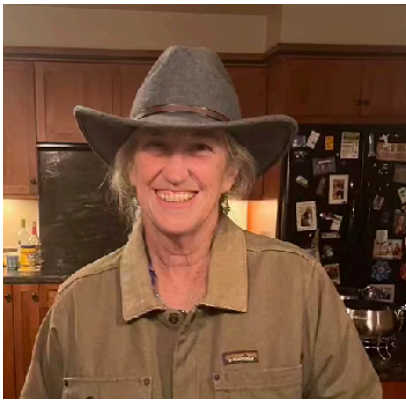


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## the Airstreamer



### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

2026 is off to a roaring Sierra Nevada Unit start - with a delicious meal hosted by James & Susan Andersen at their home in Minden. Airstreamers are such an interesting and lovely group of people and I personally thank the Andersen's and everyone for coming to our dinner rally! (See Tom's write-up in this newsletter).

We have our shakedown spring rally scheduled for April 20-23. A few of us already have reservations for Loop A (#14 is ours) and we hope to see you then. We will have electricity, so bring your portable heaters for the possible cold nights and mornings. With luck, we'll get the kayaks out on the water (we share and love getting folks on them), ride our bikes around the lake, and

possibly hike the Deadman's Overlook Trail, only 1.3 miles.

Next up is our 50th anniversary rally at The Topaz Resort (not the Topaz RV Park). This is going to be SOO much fun - reservations are to be made directly with myself 775.771.2313 or Mary Swirsky 775.781.0095, who suggested & secured the beautiful property at significantly discounted rates - thank you, Mary & Bill! We have both trailer sites and bedrooms in a small cabin (should your airstream not be road-worthy) available. Games, swag, and fun gifts...social hours, Alumination movie night, and the usual kayaking, hiking, fishing, and cycling. And as always, just plain relaxing and enjoying the amazing view is included :).

Please look at the rally scheduled and if you are a reservation-preferred kind of camper, Antelope Lake Rally and Thomas Canyon (Lamoille Canyon, Ruby Mountains) are open for reservations now...and will fill up. Both have plenty of FF sites if you prefer that style.

I hope you are enjoying your winter with a nice cup of cocoa and looking forward to the start of camping season! As always, if you have any questions/suggestions/etc, please contact me. I'm so happy to help you with your camping plans! See you all soon!

### APRIL WASHOE LAKE RALLY

Here's notice to set aside time in your April calendar for the SNU Washoe Lake Rally; Monday the 20th thru Thursday the 23rd. All our SNU members and friends are invited to share the first rally of the year with us. Washoe Lake State Park is located at the southeast corner of the lake on Eastlake Blvd, 7 miles NE of I-580/US-395; only 30 miles from Reno paper. RSVP to [club157@airstreamclub.org](mailto:club157@airstreamclub.org) and your campsite reservation at [reservenevada.com/nevadaweb/](http://reservenevada.com/nevadaweb/)

Be ready for cloudy skies that give way to sunshine, maybe a rainbow and views of snow covered peaks. The Washoe Lake Rally will be in the main campground. Join us even if only for the day. Our evenings will include shared meals and/or an organized potluck dinner. Weather in April can be a factor so follow us on Facebook and keep up with your email for any last minute announcements.

### 2026 SIERRA NEVADA UNIT OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

#### Executive Board:

President: Jenifer Root

Treasurer: Gail Williams

Secretary: Susan Andersen

Trustee: Jerry Thornburg

Trustee: Bill Swirsky

Past President: Brian Root

#### Appointed Positions:

Historian: Diane Leipper

Membership Chair: Jenifer Root

Newsletter Editor: Don Williams

Webmaster: Bill Swirsky

### Stay up-to-date with Rallies



**WANT MORE WINTER  
LUNCHEON RALLIES -  
VOLUNTEER TO HOST IN**



**WASHOE LAKE RALLY  
APRIL 20TH - 23RD  
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION  
[RESERVENEVADA.COM/  
NEVADAWEB/](http://RESERVENEVADA.COM/NEVADAWEB/)**



**SNU 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
RALLY  
TOPAZ RESORT  
MAY 18TH - 21ST**

## FROM OUR HISTORIAN

Although it was probably unintentional, it looks like the 2026 SNU's 50th anniversary year rally schedule is starting off with a little history. Research has provided me with rally info that I didn't previously have on the SNU legacy website. It seems Washoe Lake has a longer history with the SNU than I realized. Many rallies were also held at Topaz Lake. I am still missing several years of rally schedules so who knows if there were more at these sites, never mind where else the SNU camped. One thing that is pretty clear is that the SNU seems to have always preferred rally sites with minimal or no facilities.

Washoe Lake Rallies - 1982, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1992, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2016, 2019 and 2021-cancelled due to weather!

Topaz Lake Rallies - 1982, 1984, 1985, and of course 2025

It seems only fitting that the 2026 rally at Topaz is the 50th anniversary rally

Diane Leipper #772

## SIERRA NEVADA UNIT #157

Chartered by the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, 19th of February, 1976.



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:

WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC., a corporation not for profit organized and existing under the laws of the State of Ohio by virtue of charter filed as number 264340 on June 21, 1957, with the Secretary of State of the State of Ohio and recorded in Volume 771 on page 224 of the Records of Incorporation of said state DOES HEREBY GRANT AND ISSUE UNTO

## Sierra Nevada Unit

a unit charter as an affiliate member of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc.

Said unit charter is issued pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Rules, Code of Regulations, Constitution and By-laws of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. and subject thereto.

The unit hereby chartered shall be deemed, and is, a division or branch of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. and its members are members of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc., duly qualified and approved by the Board of Trustees thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed the name and affixed the official seal, of Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. by  
 MAX A. CONNETT, its President, and B. W. BARKER,  
 its Secretary, this 19th day of February, 1976.



WALLY BYAM CARAVAN CLUB INTERNATIONAL, INC.

By [Signature] President  
 By B W Barker Secretary

## SIERRA NEVADA UNIT ANNIVERSARY RALLY

The Sierra Nevada Unit is hosting its 50th Anniversary Rally at the Topaz Resort in Topaz, CA. We have secured most of the Resort - Wedding & Event Venue: RV sites and cabins:

- 4 trailer sites @ \$75/3 nights (that's a total of \$75 for 3 nights).
- 10 trailer sites @ \$50/3 nights (that's a total of \$50 for 3 nights).
- Cabin on the Lake (see facilities under Airbnb "Entire Cabin in Mono Co, CA") - 5 beds, 2 baths; \$75 for 3 nights, depending on which room you select.
- Overflow camping is available at the nearby Douglas County Park 3.5 miles away (reserved sites or first-come-first-serve boondocking sites (east/southeast access) and the adjacent Topaz Lake RV Resort.

As you can see have plenty of room for all Sierra Nevada Unit members onsite or nearby but contact Jeni 775.771.2313 or Mary 775.781.0095 soon to make your reservation because we will open the rally up to general WBCCI members after April 1st. Because this is a private resort, this rally is open to SNU or WBCCI/Airstream Club members only.

Tuesday Night: Flamingo Dinner/Celebration

Wednesday Night: 50th Silver Anniversary Dinner/Celebration

Highlights include Alumination Movie night, airstream-related games and gifts, red star recognition, and more.

Dinners are organized Pot-luck (more details in May), cocktails and morning coffee hour.

Other activities include kayaking, hiking, fishing, cycling...and just relaxing!

If anyone has suggestions regarding activities/etc or questions, please contact myself or Mary. We are looking forward to celebrating this little piece of WBCCI history - amazing!!!

Jeni Root

## SNU MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I recently realized my "membership notifications" from HQ were going to an infrequently checked email...so I apologize for the delay in welcoming you all to/back to the Sierra Nevada Unit "the Biggest Little unit"! Don is always looking for newsletter content - if you'd like to share details on your travels (new or old), please reach out!

Bob & Nancy Kirksey #1248 Bryan & Diane Leipper #772

John & Bonnie Ruskau #5139 Jeni & Brian Root #20590

Rick & Stephanie Eckhardt #9130 James & Susan Andersen #2970

Ariel Feir & Walter Carnwright #21289

Susan & John Rossi #19582 Russell & Deborah Decker #3426

Greg & Linda Heuer #1927 Jerry & Dyann Thornburg #2797

Gene & Carmen Baleme #15229 Bill & Mary Swirsky #29290

Greg & Barbara Heffington #11556

Howard & DeeAnne Dutra #28931

Gary & Christa Mellinger #2002 Tuana Burhans #14500

Dean Eveland #2916 Judy & David Searles #29935

Maria Martinez & Lizette Fiallo #30624

Don & Gail Williams #14207

I'd also like to send a quick "stay warm" to Dave & Wendy, who are full-timing it after leaving Susanville and are currently in chilly Texas. Safe travels! On behalf of the SNU membership, I'd also like to send our best wishes for a healthy & quick recovery to Bill Swirsky and warm wishes to Mary and the family.



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

With some turmoil in the upper WBCCI ranks there's no new posts to spotlight from the Blue Beret Blog but note, the Sierra Nevada Unit and other WBCCI clubs and units are working hard to bring their members great rallies, caravans and events. Maybe more to report next month.

## [AIRSTREAM INC.'S "LIVE RIVETED" BLOG](#)

### **Interstate 19X Available with Adventurous Décor Option**

Airstream introduces the Organic tones of Granite Ridge to the Interstate 19X. "Dark charcoal seating fabric with light tan accents anchors the interior, with a modern dot pattern on the laminate and a distressed concrete pattern in the vinyl flooring. ... the. 19X is built to go farther." Find out more: [airstream.com/blog/interstate-19x-now-available-with-adventurous-granite-ridge-decor-option/](https://airstream.com/blog/interstate-19x-now-available-with-adventurous-granite-ridge-decor-option/).

### **Airstream's Year in Review**

New Products:

- Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian Limited Edition.
- Stetson +6666 Special Edition.

Advanced Power Systems interring coaches - batteries, solar charging, shore power and inverter systems all to help you stay-off grid longer.

Community and Connections at Camp Yellowstone - Camp Airstream Yellowstone was a great success in 2025; expanded to include Nashville and Santa Fe in 2026!

2025 brought even more; read about it here: [airstream.com/blog/airstreams-year-in-review-our-favorite-stories-from-2025/](https://airstream.com/blog/airstreams-year-in-review-our-favorite-stories-from-2025/).

### **How to Take a Winter Camping Trip in an Airstream**

1. Pack on the padding - extra layers for you and your Airstream. Warm up the floor with rugs, Air Skirts and accessories.
2. Pump up the Heat - space heaters and your propane furnace;
3. Preserve the Pipes - keep cabinets open to allow heat to circulate along your pipes, use a heated hose for your city water connection and have a hair dryer to help if something freezes.
4. Pack Extra Essentials - snow shovel, tire chains, head lamp, essential food and water.
5. Prepare for Predicaments.
6. Precautions to Consider - winterize and use campground bathrooms and showers.
7. Plan Ahead - check the weather.
8. Protect Yourself from the Elements - base and insulating layers, gloves, mittens, hats, neck warmers, and waterproof boots.

Lastly, follow the link for the details or download Airstream's Winter Camping Guide:

[airstream.com/blog/how-to-take-a-winter-camping-trip-in-a-travel-trailer/](https://airstream.com/blog/how-to-take-a-winter-camping-trip-in-a-travel-trailer/)

<https://www.airstream.com/community/airstreams-guide-winter-camping/>.

**Introducing the Airstream Atlas 25 RT; Trade Wind 27FB and lightweight World Traveler - [airstream.com/blog/](https://airstream.com/blog/).**

## [JANUARY SCANDINAVIAN LUNCHEON](#)

They came from Auburn, from Nevada City, Reno, and Genoa. All to enjoy the wonderful dinner prepared by Jim and Susan Andersen at their lovely home in Minden.

In attendance were Brian and Jeni Root, Robyn Mitchell and Del Nordby, Dawn and Doug Dale, Rick and Stephanie Eckhardt, Dean Eveland, Ellen and Kim Sterrett and Tom and Kitsie Larkin. The lack of snow made the trip fairly easy for the Sterretts who drove from Auburn and the Larkins from Nevada City <both over 100 miles one-

way to fellowship with the SNU; editor>. Rick said they could have walked from Genoa!



Following an elaborate appetizer course, guests enjoyed a delicious home-cooked Scandinavian dinner, including frikadeller (Danish pork meatballs) with gravy, rødkål (Danish red cabbage), lefse (Norwegian potato flatbread), warm potato salad and syltede sild (pickled herring).



Everyone got to meet the Eckhardts who are new to our group. A great addition.

In addition to the lively conversation, Jeni updated everyone on our upcoming rallies and Jim showed the movie "Alumination" as a backdrop — a feature length documentary all about Airstream adventures with fabulous historical footage (available for rent on AppleTV and Prime Video).

Thanks to Jim and Susan for hosting such a wonderful evening!

Tom  
Larkin

