

the SNU's Airstreamer

50 Years

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings from Reno where the weather forecast is "anyone's guess"!

We had a wonderful time camping at The Topaz Resort and again, I thank everyone for their contributions in making the rally such a special one! Our celebration of 50 years as a unit will continue throughout the 2026 season - please read more about the rally activities included in this newsletter.

Antelope Lake last fall was a great rally, so we decided to schedule a spring return, Monday, June 15th - Thursday, June 18th. We currently have 5 rigs with reserved spots in Lone Rock Campground centered around sites #32 & #34. Please let us know if you are planning on coming - there are open reservable sites and lots of first-come, first-serve available. About a week prior, I'll send out a communication to those attending with more info on potluck dinners, etc.

A few of us will have kayaks, SUPs (standup paddle boards), and bicycles - always lots to enjoy at Antelope - and I'm hoping to find the eagles with babies ready to fledge!

Great Basin National Park was planned for July 16 (Upper Lehman Campground), but the advance reservation system changed from 30 days to 6 months out in April and Upper Lehman is booked solid. Plan B? If you are interested, please contact me directly. At this point, we're going to consider this rally cancelled.



Lamoille Canyon is a GO! We currently have 9 reserved spots at Thomas Canyon Campground. We're spread throughout (luckily it's small), so if you want to reserve a spot, any will do. There are first-come, first-serve sites also available. I know of a couple of folks interested in coming, so if you have a reservation and want to cancel it, let me know so we can coordinate with others interested in taking your site. We are planning on hiking, cycling, fishing, and enjoying the wildflowers and beauty of the Ruby mountains!

Lastly, congratulations to all members receiving their 5-year red stars! A red star is commonly displayed above/below the Big Red Number (BRN) - each star representing 5 years of membership in the WBCCI. Details are included in this newsletter.

Brian & I are looking forward to our next camping trips - fun activities, good food, great company - hope you can join us!

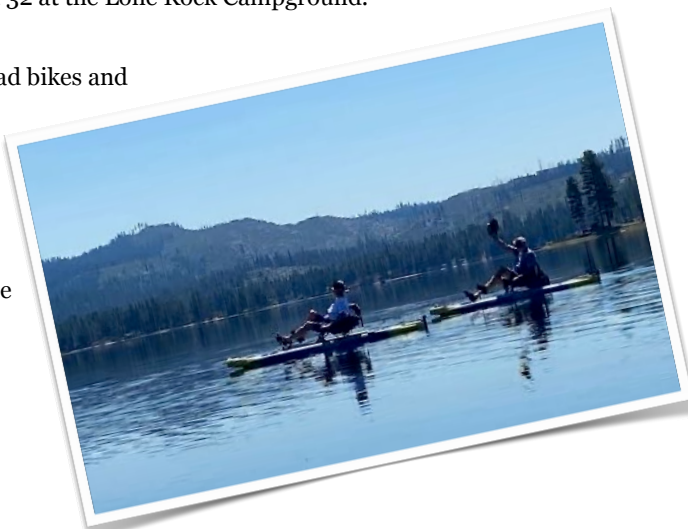
Cheers, Jeni

ANTELOPE LAKE RALLY MONDAY JUNE 15 THRU THURSDAY THE 19TH

Last fall was spectacular at Antelope Lake and the resident eagles are currently sitting on egg(s) - so we're headed back June 15-19 to see if we can spot the little one(s) and maybe find those otters again! We have reserved sites 34 and 32 at the Lone Rock Campground. There are reservable and first-come, first-serve sites nearby.



We'll have the road bikes and kayaks and hope to see you there. Please contact Jeni (775.771.2313) if you're planning on going, we want to make sure we have enough cocktail/mocktails :). recreation.gov.



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

REPORT - 50TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY AT TOPAZ RESORT

President and Membership Chair Jeni Root looks forward to the Sierra Nevada Unit's next 50 years.

We are off to a great start; I hope this anniversary celebration has provided the inspiration and motivation for what is possible. Thanks to everyone past and present for making this anniversary such a success.

A HUGE thanks to each and every single one of you for making our SNU 50th Anniversary Rally extra special! Small units rock! Someone asked if all our SNU rallies were like this...and we decided yes, in the way everyone pitches in for potlucks and daily activity plans are left up to the weather and individuals, but no, in that we usually don't have such a nice cabin for gathering! On to the recognition for all involved:



- The gifts; those lighted bottles & hot pads!, the mosquitoes repellent bracelets!, the donated grab-n-go gifts, the embroidered kitchen towels, the eggs!
- The food; that flamingo cake!, all the flamingo cakes!, tamale casserole, salads, airstream & flamingo cookies, sourdough pancakes, cooks and everyone's contributions!



- The entertainment; our own Cowboy Poet and Alumination movie night!
- The games; Doug takes the pot!, Rummikube!
- The outings; cycling Monitor Pass!, kayaking/boating on Topaz Lake!
- The relaxing; artist in-house!, truck tours!
- The bird watching; those eagles!
- The decorations; that flamingo apron!
- The history tables; that comic book!
- The location, Topaz Resort; that entrance! <easy peasy from the south- editor>, that cabin patio!
- The support from Region; those ladies!
- the support from HQ; the swag!, the 50 year certificate!
- the support from absentee members; those thoughtful messages!
- And of course, special thanks to Mary & Bill Swirsky, for suggesting and securing The Topaz Resort - perfect!



SNU campers: Bryan Leipper, Diane Leipper, Jerry Thornburg & Dyann McDonald, Bill & Mary Swirsky, Daniel Swirsky, Tom & Kitsie Larkin, Robyn Mitchell & Del Nordby, Susan & Jim Andersen, Stephanie & Rick Eckhardt, Doug & Dawn Dale, Don & Gail Williams, Brian & Jeni Root.

Region 12 guests: Cecilia & Bob Stansbury, Margaret Handshoe.



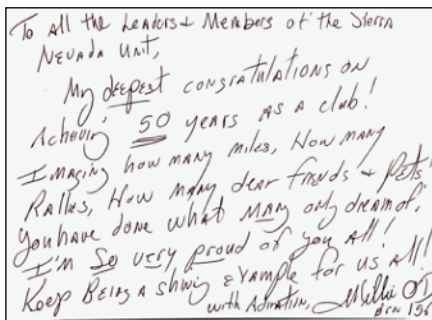
Congratulatory Correspondence: WBCCI President Millie O'Donnell, past SNU

member Anita Leipper, current SNU members Susie Brown and Gene & Carmen Balame.

Corporate Sponsorships:

- Reno Airstream Dealership and Tami Hauck for our Fiesta 50s dinner Monday night;
- SkyMed and Steve DeVincenz; and Anthony for our Schat's Bakery Tuesday breakfast

Thanks to all who contributed to the following: WOWZA!



My goodness, we sure kicked off the rally with full bellies and left The Topaz Resort with happy, grateful hearts!

Historian and long term member Diane Leipper reports:

Thanks to Jeni and Brian and Mary and Bill for putting together this very special event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Sierra Nevada Unit. The SNU has now joined a small group of Units that have been in existence for 50 years or more.

Of the many special things about this rally was the participation by both long-term members and newer members. Those long-term members include the Roots, Leippers, Thornburgs, and Williams. Many of our long-term members were not able to be here but they were definitely in my thoughts. Their participation and contributions helped the SNU achieve this 50 year milestone. The newer members who participated speak to the growth and future of the SNU.

I hope that browsing through the SNU photo albums and checking out the handouts has provided some insight into the road the SNU has taken from 2000 to get to this celebration in 2026. It has been a little bumpy at times. We have always kept in mind though, Wally Byam's Creed, The Code of Ethics and Wally's Four Freedoms. <https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/mgt/four-freedoms.htm>

And from the editor:

Rally hiccups? Very few; too much great food, too many fun things to do, too little time for SNU rally favorites like sharing stories and camp chair resting positions. One member forgot to leave the wheel chocks in place before lowering the hitch jack; the name <not me> shall be withheld since your editor experienced a similar but different incident at the next night's campsite heading home. There may be others left unsaid but out of view of your editor.

All in all, a great 50th Anniversary Rally; thanks to the Roots, Swirskys and everyone that contributed!

GRATEFUL (COWBOY POETRY)

I'm **grateful** for the ones that came before my time, my forefathers who chased the horizon west to this place where the high desert sage meets with the mountain pine.

Some folks are drawn to the bright lights and sleepless cities, the pulse of neon nights, the endless inventions of man meant to dazzle, distract, entertain. That's fine.

Me, I'm drawn to the outdoors, the hush of open country and the room where a man can breathe. To mountain sunsets that settle behind the ridge and the morning when the sky catches fire, crimson red and deep orange laid across the east like the Good Lord Himself brushed color through the break of day.

I'm **grateful** for the Washoe, Paiute, (pai.oot) Shoshone, (shuh.show.nee) and Ute (yoot) people that cared for this land, its rivers, valleys and sage covered

hills. I'm **grateful** for the ranchers and cowboys and all those who still rise with the sun and work with weathered hands to preserve the West's natural beauty.

Sometimes I think some part of me still belongs to an older horizon, to a time when the West was crossed by hoof and leather instead of rubber and steel. I never owned a living breathing horse that stands 15 hands high and never threw a saddle on something wild and called it mine.

But their lives 445 horses under the hood of my Chevy truck. We named him Gomez. Behind that truck is an airstream, an aluminum tent, a silver bullet glistening under the western sky. We call her Selena.

Gomez and Selena...they've carried us across the wide-open West, through desert roads and mountain passes, through more western states than I can count without smiling. They've carried us to friends, whiskey, campfires, barbecues, clear skies full of stars, trails for bikes and hikes.

Further still to the quietness of lakes and quick flowing streams, where the water moves soft and the fish run true, browns, rainbows, cutthroats, brookies, and the whitefish below the clear water blue.

Sometimes I sit by the glow of the fire, watching sparks rise like prayers into the dark, and I feel gratitude deep in my heart. More **grateful** than deserving.

for my God, who made these heavens and this earth, who painted these mountains, these skies, these rivers and gave this old soul a second birth.

The One who loves me, who forgives and forgets and carries away the weight of old regrets.

The One who gave me a second chance at the rest of my life and to walk beside my most awesome wife, roaming the West beneath a big Nevada sky, and finding grace in every mile we ride.

Del Nordby, 2026

FROM OUR HISTORIAN - DIANE LEIPPER

After separating from the Nevada Unit, the Sierra Nevada Unit was chartered by WBCCI in 1976. Distance was the primary motivation for the separation. From what I have gleaned from old WBCCI Membership directories and other sources, the new unit was an active group, holding rallies and apparently organizing at least two statewide caravans. One caravan was in the mid-Nevada region. The other was planned for the Northern part of the state. Some of the early rally sites included Hope Valley, Lake Lahontan which is still a favorite, Wilson

Canyon and Frenchman's Lake. One thing that was clear was that the SNU has always preferred more dispersed rally sites with minimal or no facilities.



Sadly, in the mid 1990's all the early SNU history, documents and photos were either dispersed to members or thrown in the trash. The only piece remaining was a photo album of the 1980 Mid-Nevada Caravan.

Bryan and I joined the SNU in 1995 after transferring from the Monterey Bay CA Unit. In 2000 I was elected to the SNU board. In 2001 I served on the Nominating committee. I asked a relatively new member, Fred Hersey to serve as President. He was subsequently elected. That was the beginning of major changes for the SNU. The membership had been declining and the office of President had been rotating between 4 members for a number of years. Some of Fred's ideas were not appreciated or accepted by some of the charter members. In 2002 it was quite apparent that unless some changes were made the future of the SNU was in question. One of the first changes was to the SNU bylaws. At that time they were more appropriate for a larger unit rather than one with just a few members. Bryan took the lead on re-writing the SNU bylaws. The result was a document that worked for a small unit like the SNU while in complete compliance with the requirements of WBCCI. The revised bylaws were presented to the SNU membership in 2002 and approved by the majority of those present. One of the couples who were charter members were adamantly against the changes and sadly decided to leave the SNU.



By 2003 the SNU membership was down to three active members and the time for some decisions as to the future were at hand. At a rally at Davis Creek in October 2003, those members – Leipper's, Hersey's, and Damoth's decided the fate of the SNU. We had been told our only options were to merge with another Unit or fold. We decided we liked all the camping possibilities in Northern Nevada, we liked camping together and we believed the SNU could have a future. So we decided to just keep going and see what happened.

At Davis Creek we determined several areas to focus on. These included getting back to basics, review and revise how things were done, roll up our sleeves and deal with problems and issues, start actively promoting the SNU, and focus on the goal and reason for keeping the SNU viable and to think outside the box. We decided our main goals were to hold regularly scheduled rallies, to consistently publish a newsletter and to promote the SNU it's rallies and other activities in multiple ways. Promotion included rally announcements is as many local free newspapers as we could find within the Northern Nevada area. We also created flyers to hand out and made sure our rally schedule was included in WBCCI publications.

For almost two years the SNU teetered on the brink. Rallies often were just one or two of us. Then things started to change, Our efforts began to pay off. For the first time, at a rally at Pyramid Lake in 2004 we had



a total of four rigs! One was a surprise. Wes and RoyLaine had seen our ad in a local paper and came to check us out. They then became members of the SNU. From that point on membership increased, and the SNU was finally back on solid ground. Our perseverance and belief in the SNU has paid off. Now here we are in 2026 celebrating 50 years. Not bad for the Little Unit that could – and Did!

Links to related documents

SNU Development <https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/mgt/index.html>

SNU rally and event schedules <https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/rally-docs/annual-rally-schedules.html>

The SNU 1980 Mid-Nevada Caravan

<https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-history/80-caravan/index.html>

[AIRSTREAM CLUB BLUE BERET BLOG](#)

President's Corner

IBT President Millie O'Donnell

I'm writing this as I sit patiently at an airport gate (after multiple gate changes) waiting for my flight to Anchorage, Alaska.



While I have enjoyed flying to some great places in previous years, it just makes me miss my Airstream more and more. I know where everything is and I don't have to share a bathroom. Plus, I am always served a great meal.

Gate changes: It's what happens when you arrive so early at the airport.

We all have our reasons for joining the Airstream community, but it is the Club that keeps me here. Mapping out the rally destinations, finding great spots to explore

Reminder: American AA395 from DFW to ANC will depart at 6:40PM from gate C4 in terminal C. Reply STOP to stop. Your confirmation code is SAABXF.

Gate change: Flight AA395, from DFW to ANC departs at 6:40PM out of gate C34 in terminal C. Reply STOP to unsubscribe.

Gate change: Flight AA395, from DFW to ANC departs at 6:40PM out of gate C16 in terminal C. Reply STOP to unsubscribe.

Gate change: Flight AA395, from DFW to ANC departs at 6:40PM out of gate C4 in terminal C. Reply STOP to unsubscribe.

between stops, and making new friends along the way all have me gripped right by the heart. I've found this group can be uplifting, heartwarming and even challenging at times. But it is my club, and much like my family, we have laughed together, been in awe together, and even shed tears together. When we lose a club member it is losing a family member. We celebrate gaining new members every day and it's especially fun at the International Rally, to welcome our first timers. Look for those yellow ribbons!

This trip today is for the wedding of a family member and I am happy to attend, but I sure do look forward to returning back to my Caravelle and my travel partner for our next adventure. We will be heading to a great rally in Missouri, then north toward Minot and points in between.

So, for today, I will pull up my compression socks and tough out my aisle seat while I knit away the hours.

But I will drop a few stitches, no doubt, when my mind wanders to my summer travel plans and seeing all your beautiful faces down the road.

Share Your Photos at: [THE AIRSTREAM CLUB TODAY!](#)

["LIVE RIVETED" MORPHING AIRSTREAM STORIES?](#)

Airstream Stories

<Researching the latest "Airstream Inc.'s blogs your editor ran into something different; no "live Riveted! My search was automatically routed to [Airstream Stories](#) . It appears that Airstream has revamped their entire website with new graphics and four main drop down menus: Explore; Way of Life; Resources; About. The old Airstream Live Riveted Blog is no longer found under Way Of Life Life; replaced by Airstream Stories. The look and feel are different but the new and old stories featured in the blog are still there. - editor>

Sweetwater - Airstream Studio Edition Trailer



"Discover the first-ever fully immersive Dolby Atmos® mobile recording studio, custom-built inside a state-of-the-art Airstream.

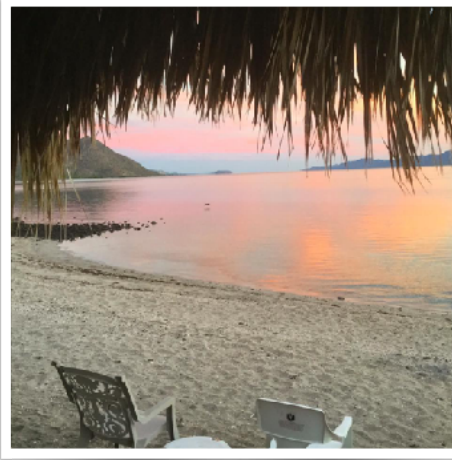
Built in partnership between Airstream, Sweetwater (a retailer, supplier and manufacturer of audio and video equipment) , and Russ Berger Design Group, the Sweetwater Airstream is designed to bring content creation experiences to new communities with state-of-the-art mobile recording and mastering capabilities."

Read more about the Sweetwater studio Airstream here: airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/sweetwater-airstream-studio-edition-trailer.

Round Trip: Mexico’s Baja Peninsula

Want to drive the entire Baja Peninsula—from Tijuana or Mexicali, all the way to Cabo San Lucas. Roads can be narrow, winding, and scenic; the transition from freeways to the two-lane Mexico Federal Highways can feel jarring at first, you’ll learn to embrace a slower pace conducive to unique road-side meals, a dip in crystal clear water, and setting up camp to enjoy sunset from the perfect hammock spot.

Read more on the Baja Peninsula’s slower pace, recreation, towns, and incredible food. Found out where to stay, where to eat, where to hike and find outdoor fun, pet friendly activities and tips to know before you go in Baja: airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/round-trip-mexico-s-baja-peninsula .



SNU MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A huge welcome to new member Sharon McNally, #6395 and a huge thank you to renewing members Dawn & Dale Doug, #9229.

This brings us to 41 rigs (25 regular and 16 affiliate memberships) from 8 different states. Feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about our “Biggest Little Unit”, rallies, activities, etc. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Whew! *Jeni Root*

MORE MEMBER NEWS

At the recent Topaz Lake 50th anniversary Rally, we handed out “Red Stars” for our members with 5 or more years of WBCCI membership. These are often proudly displayed beside/above one’s Big Red Numbers (BRN), on both front and back of their airstream. Congratulations to the following:

Bryan Leipper/ Diane Leipper	32 years	6 Stars
Brian & Jeni Root	22 years	5 Stars
Jerry Thornburg/Dyann McDonald	21 years	5 Stars
Don & Gail Williams	20 years	1 Stars
Doug & Dawn Dale	6 years	1 Star
Bill & Mary Swirsky	6 years	1 Star
Tom & Kitsie Larkin	5 years	1 Star
Jim & Susan Andersen	5 years	1 Star

Not attending the rally*, but having stars forthcoming:

Robert & Nancy Kirksey	26 years	5 Stars
Gene & Carmen Baleme	17 years	3 Stars
Dean Eveland	11 years	2 Stars
Susie Brown	11 years	2 Stars
David & Maggie Douglas	7 years	1 Star

*I’ll get these to you the next time you’re at a rally, or I’ll put them in the mail

If my calculations are correct, that’s 36 members with a combined 189 years! Of course, if you’re a data person like me, you’ll enjoy knowing our SNU membership years currently add up to 221 years! I wonder how many miles traveled that would total? <+/- 270,000 miles for your editor & wife Gail>

Cheers! *Jeni*

GREAT BASIN (MAYBE - READ MORE) AND LAMOILLE CANYON RALLIES; BACK TO BACK!

Our SNU back-to-back rallies in July - Great Basin National Park and Lamoille Canyon (Ruby Mountains) are changing. Great Basin NP changed their reservation process from one month out to 6 months out; most campsites in Upper Lehman Campground are no longer available. The 20 sites in Lower Lehman Campground, at 7300’ elevation may only be booked 4 days in advance. Other camping options are lower in elevation or more distant (20 to 70 miles) from Great Basin. Officially we are cancelling the Great Basin portion of the back to back rallies.

With that...if folks want to go, Brian & I are open to a trip to Great Basin National Park, but it’ll be last minute, a flash rally - depending on how the reservation availability is looking and alternate camp locations. Make sure to keep up with emails from the SU for more information. As always, feel free to do what works best for you (longer/shorter/slightly different dates/different location - all good).

Great Basin National Park, subject to the above comments would be Thursday, July 16-Wednesday, July 22. If it works out, this is an incredible place to ‘escape’ the summer heat, camping at 7500’ elevation. The Lehman Caves are undergoing renovations and are expected to open this summer. This park is also a designated Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park. With no moon on the 15th, we can hope the Milky Way puts on a show for us!

Lamoille Canyon - Thomas Canyon Campground- Wednesday, July 22-Monday, July 27. Reservations are now full but “first come-first served” sites are available plus look for cancellations. We have 9 rigs currently with reservations. This is a beautiful area, with opportunities for hiking, fishing, cycling, and enjoying the Ruby Mountains (also known as the “Swiss Alps of Nevada”). This is also location at 7200’ elevation, along the Lamoille Creek - can you say “cooler temps”?

For some folks, these rallies will serve as a jumping off point to head to the International Rally in Minot, North Dakota! If you are planning on attending either of these, please let me know so we can include you in any ‘organized’ pot-lucks and outings! Jeni 775.771.2313

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!



