

the Airstreamer

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Sometimes the weather turns out just perfect - and indeed - that was the case during our most recent rally to Fallen Leaf Campground, South Lake Tahoe. Hiking, cycling, kayaking, dog walking, and shared dinners were highlights. I appreciate & thank Tom & Kitsie Larkin for making the suggestion to rally at Tahoe in September - be sure to read Tom's review of the trip! It was outstanding!

Our last SNU camping rally is currently slated for Monday, October 19 for 3 nights at Crowley Lake Campground. Siting at 7000' elevation (give or take, depending on where you land on the hillside), we'll be camping on the eastern slope of the Sierra, with nary a tree around - which makes for great solar gain - quite welcome in October! This campground offers stunning views of Crowley Lake and the Glass Mountains to the east. To the west are the Sierra Nevada mountains and McGee Mountain and Canyon. We're hoping to get the kayaks out on Crowley Lake and spend some time leaf-peeping up McGee Canyon! This is a first come/first serve primitive BLM campground, with potable water, pit toilets, picnic tables, and a dump station.

Important - this is the "Planned" rally - however, as with the SNU, weather can factor into our plans. We are also considering moving this rally to a few other sites, depending on the weather...lower elevations should it be really cold (ie snow) and/or north/south should storms be in the forecast. We will also be rolling to the Region 12 rally in Las Vegas from the SNU rally - with possible stops by Bishop and/or Death Valley.

Important - if you are interested/planning on joining, please let me know asap. If we decide to move the rally site/dates, we'll do our best to communicate via Don's email list and Facebook. If I know you're interested, I'll be sure to send a direct message to you.

There are currently 3 rigs (6 of us) attending the Region 12 Rally in Las Vegas. If you are interested but haven't signed up, get on it. You may be on the "wait list" at this point, but the majority of wait list folks do get a site. There is a planned Sphere show (Wizard of Oz) for Friday morning, along with the usual Region 12 activities (and surprise entertainment). The Sierra Nevada Unit auction basket theme is "Let's Flamingle" - pictures and details in the next newsletter! Cheers, Jeni

MORE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - BEGGIN' AND IT AIN'T FOR BACON

It's that time of the year and I just don't like begging, but it's not beneath me...so here goes.

We've had a wonderful last few years of camping with our Sierra Nevada Unit friends (who now seem like family) and want to keep the ball rolling. We even now have 7 Hobie inflatable kayaks to count amongst our members - maybe it's time to start our own little sub-club, haha! We've celebrated birthdays, special occasions, accomplishments and shared personal losses. We've laughed together at our follies of airstream ownership: initiations, accidents, and whoopsies. We've witnessed magnificent sunsets and huddled inside (closely, I might add) during stormy weather. And the dinners - good gosh, do we eat well!

That was the setup - here's the Beggin' part - time to set the rally schedule for 2027. We generally camp the third week of the month, with Monday-Thursday working well. I need suggestions, with the request that suggestions come with your name as the "host". What does "host" entail? Simply that you'll be there. It's no fun when a rally is scheduled and no one shows up. If you have an area you'd like to visit, but aren't sure about where to camp, we can work on that together...but right now, the calendar is a blank slate.

And more Beggin' - we need help with keeping the unit in running. Don & Gail and Brian & I have shared the majority of responsibilities for the last few years (5 or 6 ish; *editor says 8 or more!*) Many others took their turns to help with active roles before that; Baleme, Leipppers, Thornburgs etc.! The Sierra Nevada Unit has intentionally kept unit management time commitment to a minimum. We all share and there really is not much to do:

- * President (contributing to the newsletter, attending a few online Region 12 meetings a year, communicating to rally attendees)
- * Treasurer (balance bank account, 1 annual report; note all member dues income by direct deposit from Headquarters - no checks to handle)
- * Secretary (1 meeting minutes a year)
- * Trustees (suggest and host rallies and review financials annually)
- * Membership Chair (maintain membership records and mailing list)
- * Webmaster (update online info, web page, FaceBook)
- * Newsletter (ok - this one probably takes the most time - thank you, DON!!! Says he'll work another year but he needs an assistant)

Again - please, if you haven't already, take a look and let me know what you'd like to help with in 2027. And for all current and past volunteers, THANK YOU!!!

Lastly, are kitty fund jar is full - let's pick a date/place to have a year-end 2026 luncheon. Suggestions?

Cheers!

Jeni



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

OCTOBER'S CROWLEY LAKE RALLY

It's hard to embellish on Jeni's description of Crowley Lake (BLM) Campground and the area but I'll try paraphrasing All Trails alltrails.com/trail/us/california/crowley-lake-campground-loop.



Surrounded by green scrub brush, Crowley Lake Campground offers a commanding view of Lake Crowley to the east and has gorgeous views of Mount Morgan and the John Muir Wilderness. It also has a network of trails that travel south to the base of the mountains. This route stays closer to the

campground, climbing the desert terrain to a high point before circling back to the campground. Always bring plenty of water and light layers to block the sun when hiking here; avoid the peak summer months.

Length - 3.9mi

Elevation Gain - 482ft

Estimated time - 1.5-2hr loop

Also notable:

- McGee Creek Cafe (Weds - Sun) just 1 mile north;
- Crowley Lake General Store - Cafe, Deli, Pizza and fuel (7 days) just 3 miles south ;
- Tom's Place Resort - general store and American Restaurant (7 days) 6 miles south.

You can enjoy a campfire with each site having a fire pit; a California Campfire Permit is not required for fires within established fire rings in developed campgrounds. Seasonal fire restrictions may prohibit campfires during periods of high fire danger. Please check the BLM's website for information on current fire restrictions or call the Bishop Field Office at (760) 872-5000.

<editor>

AND FROM OUR HISTORIAN - BY DIANE LEIPPER #772

SNU Airstreamer newsletter

In 2002 when the SNU was down to only six active members and we decided to do our best to rebuild the unit, we decided three things were critical to make that happen. Those were to hold rallies, to promote the SNU through public service announcement and other means and to continue to publish and distribute a newsletter. The newsletter also served as a major promotional effort. Since 2002 there have been three primary newsletter editors. Don Damoth's tenure in the early 2000's saw the SNU transition from paper and snail mail to digital. Rick LaBorde served from about 2009 to 2017. Don Williams is our current editor and has served from 2018 till the current year. In addition Fred and



Ann Hersey both served as editors in the early 2000's and Melissa Wong served in 2007 and 2008. I (Diane Leipper) have also filled in off and on with the newsletter in various capacities.

Don D., Rick and Don W. have each added their own touch to the style, format and content of the newsletter while staying true to what the SNU determined to be essential for the Unit newsletter. This included that the newsletter would normally be a four page document with the SNU logo in a prominent location. That links to key SNU sites would be included. That the content of the newsletter should focus on things related to the SNU, SNU members, Airstreams, and RV and camping topics. The content should be informative and beneficial to the membership. Filler such as unrelated jokes and clip art are not used in SNU newsletters <the current editor may have stretched this one and the page limit a time or two or three; whose counting - editor>. For more on the SNU newsletter check this link

<https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/snu-mbrhandbook/06fb-opnotes-newsletter.html>

The SNU has been very fortunate to have members willing to step up and serve as newsletter editor. Often times they have struggled to get other members to contribute stories of their own Airstream adventures. Never the less, the newsletters they have produced are informative, provide a major contribution to the story of the SNU and still do a great job of promoting the SNU. Hopefully, there will be someone willing to continue what Don, Rick, Don and others have done and volunteer as newsletter editor. Whether for one year or for a more extended time, this would be an opportunity to share your creative efforts as well as provided a great service to the SNU.

This is the link to the SNU newsletter archives. It includes links to newsletters from the 1990's to the most recent, April 2026 edition.

<https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/nwsltr-archives.html>

SNU MEMBERSHIP NEWS

No new members this month but member news continues; Brian & Jeni Root and Rick & Stephanie Eckhardt celebrated weddings in their respective backyards, Don & Gail Williams celebrated Don's mom's 100th birthday in Ohio <she's hoping to beat her Aunt Ona's 105years - editor>.

We do wish to send condolences to Bill and Mary Swirsky (Bill's mother's passing) and Del Nordby and Robyn Mitchell (Del's father's passing).

Jeni Root

[AIRSTREAM CLUB BLUE BERET BLOG](#)



Check out the **Airstream Club's Blue Beret Blog** and signup for updates if you haven't visited it before. You'll find Club News, Destinations to add to your travel plans, informative articles in Education, Gear that you need or just want, Club History, Rally/Events and even some recipes to try on the road. Click on the image above or here to visit the site: blog.airstreamclub.org/



October President's Corner by Millie O'Donnell

I headed back to Texas a little earlier than I usually do, and the stubborn Texas heat reminded me why I prefer to stay away until at least fall! 97 degrees? No thank you. Heading south, I saw so many other club members, each a great reminder of the fun we had and the promise of more to follow.

<Many of us in the Western States can have dealt with stubborn heat and SNU members have occasionally been surprised with apples, citrus, tomatoes and eggs at rallies. There were even cigars for the taking at our May Anniversary Rally (thanks Bill, I found someone who liked them). Make sure to put an SNU rally or luncheon in your schedule as we finish 2026 and ready to head into 2027 and read the rest of Millie's post here: blog.airstreamclub.org/october-presidents-corner-2/ - editor>

Update to the Airstream Club International app

The new version 1.1.0 of the ACI app (I hate the ACI acronym) supposedly includes improvements from the previous version but one might note that email addresses are still suppressed even if viewable with the member online Airstream Club web page. Negating your editor's observation, Headquarters says the app includes a major new feature for Airstream Club history enthusiasts: BRN History.

Every BRN has a history

You can now search by a member's name or Big Red Number to explore the recorded history of a BRN, including:

- Current and previous BRN holders
- BRN assignment dates and timelines
- Primary members and partners connected to a membership
- Red membership stars marking each completed five-year milestone
- The member's actual completed years of ACI membership

BRN History is available directly from the app's home screen.

Help us fill in the gaps

We know our historical records are not complete. Some BRNs may be missing holders, dates, partners, or their entire history. That is why we included a built-in correction tool.

If you have information that can help improve the records:

Open BRN History in the app and follow the instructions in this blog post: blog.airstreamclub.org/introducing-aci-member-app-version-1-1-0/

[AIRSTREAM INC. AIRSTREAM STORIES](#)

International: The Ultimate Couples Escape Trailer

Airstream's International Travel Trailer is an ideal travel trailer for travelers who want a serene, design-forward retreat that feels effortless to live in. Its interior blends earthy wood tones, cool coastal



blues, and clean modern lines to create a calming environment perfect for long weekends or extended escapes. Panoramic windows at the front and rear (in 25FB, 27FB, 28RB, and 30RB models) fill the space with natural light, making mornings brighter, evenings more relaxing, and every moment feel connected to the landscape outside. And in the 23FB—popular among couples who want nimble towing without sacrificing an expansive interior—the rear-spanning bathroom area locates shower, lavvy, and vanity in the same space.

Read more about the International in Airstream Stories:

Ninety-Five Years of Innovation: From the Clipper to Concept Builds

As Airstream celebrates 95 years of business in 2026, a tradition of innovation continues to drive the company. Today, Airstream leads the RV industry in one of the most important areas of innovation – power independence. With off-grid powerhouses like the Trade Wind lineup and Basecamp 20Xe, Airstream's never-ending quest to improve our products lets owners venture farther and stay longer than ever thought possible. Large lithium battery capacity, expansive solar options, and powerful inverters give Trade Wind and Basecamp 20Xe owners the ability to run air conditioning, microwaves, and interior appliances and charge devices far from the traditional campground.



Read more about the Trade Wind, Basecamp Xe models, eStream Concept and Porsche Design here: [airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/ninety-five-years-of-innovation-from-the-clipper-to-concept-builds](https://www.airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/ninety-five-years-of-innovation-from-the-clipper-to-concept-builds)

Browse More Airstream Blog/Stories here

<https://www.airstream.com/airstream-lifestyle/stories-hub/>

<Credit: text and photos for Airstream Stories from Airstream.com, Facebook and other sources. - editor>

SEPT FALLEN LEAF RALLY REPORT

What a wonderful time we had at Fallen Leaf Lake. The campground is managed by the US Forest Service and is walkable to the shores of Fallen Leaf Lake as well as an easy hike or bike ride to South Shore Lake Tahoe. The sites are well spaced and clean. Bathrooms are clean though the pay-showers are a little "rustic."

We were fortunate to have sites together in this fairly large and



popular campground. Each night, we potlucked and enjoyed some fabulous meals - spaghetti at the Larkin's, Susan Andersen's tamale pie casserole and Susie's chile and strawberry/rhubarb crisp at Susie Brown's, and Pizza at the Roots' (along with a cast iron chicken pot pie provided by the Dales). Everyone contributed salads, appetizers and other sides. Food sensitivities were accommodated for the most part. This would be a good thing to check on for future rallies!

No one went hungry on this trip!

The weather was great and some spent a day kayaking on Fallen Leaf which is a pristine alpine lake. For Tom, it was his virgin voyage in the kayak Kitsie gave him for his ?? Birthday! Jeni also completed her goal of circumnavigating Lake Tahoe in her kayak. This has been a



goal which she completed in segments over time and she did it in both directions! The Larkin and the Andersens also kayaked on Tahoe. Susie and her friend, Lynne, did some hiking and the Larkins, Andersens and Roots explored the area on bikes. There's so much to do around Tahoe and the Fall is a great time to do it.

Let's make plans for a return visit!

Tom Larkin



