

# the Airstreamer

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings from Reno, where I've woken to a cloudy & rainy morning. As many of you know, we've had a few fires lately - and this weather is most needed and

welcome. The North Valleys (NV), where some of our members live, have been hit the hardest <written 28 August>. A good reminder to keep your airstream ready to use as a back-up - living accommodations and power supply. Airstreamers are independent, self-reliant folks, and that certainly helps us in emergency situations. I'll let our NV residents tell their own story, and pass along our hugs in getting thru the last month of very stressful living.

We have 8 rigs signed up for our Fallen Leaf rally in September - be sure to read Tom's article on this autumn delight. Our October rally is on for the Crowley Lake BLM campground - it's first come, first serve. Located on the flanks of the eastern Sierra, it has wide open views and full sunshine - which is welcome in late fall. McGee Creek is right next door, and I'm hoping the gold aspens are in full color up the canyon. This can serve as a great jumping off point to the Region 12 rally in Las Vegas. With all rallies, hope to see you there!

*the Sierra Nevada Unit*  
**50**  
*years in 2026*



Anyone up for hosting our winter 2026 luncheon, November, December or even in the New Year? Maybe you have a suggestion for a restaurant? Lastly, time to start planning for 2027. Where have you always wanted to go - or what are your favorite places you'd like to share with others? Rally schedule suggestions and officers needed...

See you in September! Until then, safe travels!

*Cheers, Jeni*

## SEPTEMBER'S FALLEN LEAF RALLY

Fallen Leaf Lake is a hidden gem — a beautiful little lake close to Tahoe. From the campground, you can easily access Lake Tahoe by paved bike path or simply enjoy a day on the lake at Fallen Leaf — an easy walk from the campground.

The summer crowds are gone, the days are warm and the nights are cool. Fallen Leaf Lake has some beautiful old cabins that line the lake and you might even spot a Woody on the lake.

You can canoe, kayak, sail board, sun bathe or just float or swim on either lake.

Those who like to hike will not be disappointed. There's an easy hike along the west shore of Fallen Leaf or the Rubicon Trail along the west shore of Tahoe from DL Bliss State Park to Emerald Bay for the more adventurous. Heck, you could circumnavigate Tahoe on your e-bike if you have about eight hours to kill!



Bring your bikes, your kayaks and a good book or two. Being so close to South shore Lake Tahoe, there are restaurants, shows, gambling, golf, etc.

Monday night, Tom will provide a spaghetti dinner for all (even a gluten-free pasta option). Just bring your favorite Chianti and something to share (salad, bread, appetizers, desserts). We'll talk about plans for our stay.

It's dry camping. There are showers, bathrooms and water in the campground.

There are also bears but from our experience, they show up in the afternoon and make a bee line for the garbage cans and don't disturb campers. That being said, don't leave food out, don't leave food in your tow vehicle and use the food lockers at each site.

Come join us. There are still a couple of sites left.

*Tom Larkin*

P.S. from our president; for members securing reservations (site 132 is the target area). While the campground is large, September 21-24 may be busy. We encourage reservations ([recreation.gov](http://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!

*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

## 69TH INTERNATIONAL RALLY REPORT

The Williams and Larkins caravanned separately to the 69th International Airstream Club Rally in Minot (My-not), ND. Tom did share that they made a stop at the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, Tom sneaking off in early morning hours the next morning for 9 holes of golf before they drove into Minot. Gail's and my visit to Roosevelt's Library took a different turn but I'll defer that to later in this article.

Gail and I struggled to get truck and trailer prep, groceries and all our doctor, dentist and drug store visits done before we left Riverside for Minot. Just washing the truck and trailer consumed two different mornings. Feeling puny slowed me down so we didn't leave Riverside until 1pm. We were still able to make our first planned stop at the Grand Canyon Caverns Campground (350 miles) but arriving late we missed dining in the restaurant. Sierra Nevada Airstreamers would feel at



home in the campground; the desert environment, sparse trees and rutted camp roadways (they had several strong desert storms recently)

would look like home to SNU rallies with the exception of each site having water and electric. A nice feature is that all guests in the campground and the roadside motel get a free continental breakfast; biscuits & gravy (better than most restaurants), sausage, toast, waffles, bagels, cold and hot cereal, diner style coffee (weak), juice, yogurt, apples and oranges.

Breakfast done, day two started near our normal, 09:30, rolling down the highway under cloudy skies. Cloudy skies and rain in

Northern Arizona in August!! Can you believe it? We soon drove into torrential rain with several storms throughout the day as we traveled through the forests near Flagstaff, the Painted Desert to the north and the Indian lands in Monument Valley (my clean vehicles now dirty). We made a stop at the historic Goulding's Trading Post before heading on to Goosenecks State Park in Utah. Great views across the several meanders of the San Juan River that gives Goosenecks its name. Miles



for the day was 304.

Day 3, an easy 290 miles, US-163 and US-191 takes us north through Bluffs, Blanding and Moab, UT to I-70 for only a short blast 66 miles east into Colorado. At Loma we leave the interstate and head north on CO-139 slowly climbing alongside East Salt Creek and up Trail Canyon to the top of Douglas Pass, 8200ft. Four miles of switchbacks and

turns signed 10 or 20 mph on both sides of the pass takes us to the Canyon Pintado rest area and Orientation Site with a map of the many site evidencing Indian occupation, petroglyphs and trails (most pullouts were not trailer or RV friendly). Beyond Canyon Pintado we found a convenient stop for the night in the Rangely City Camper Park, 30A/50A service. Had a nice chat with people in a white box slowly heading back to Texas after 4 months on the road.

Day 4, seemingly easy but 343 miles traveled! Camped in Wheatland, Wyoming's Lewis City Park. City and County law enforcement and service groups were conducting a backpacks, car seats and bicycle helmets give-a-way for the start of the new school year.

Day 5, one of our easiest drives, 224 miles to Sturgis, SD, home of the national SAAB automobile Car Museum! The hordes of motorcycles had left the day before and lucky for us, the Museum was part of the

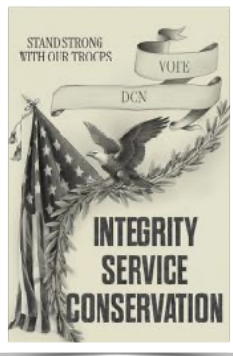


Harvest Host locations. I had booked a two night stay so we could have lots of time to peruse the extensive collection of SAAB automobiles from 1950 2-strokes to V-4s, four cylinder turbos (ours), World Rally winning sedans and the last of GM's 2010 low production and experimental V-8 models (they owned 100% of SAAB by then). While not our personal car, this relic in the Museum boneyard is a spitting image of our 1979 900 turbo five-door, minus the shiny paint, special metric wheels and clean interior. Our second night stay here gave us time to sample Sturgis's bar food (not many regular restaurants) and visit the last US Army Calvary camp to close in the US, Fort Meade.



Day 6, really a seemingly easy 225 mile haul to Theodore Roosevelt's Presidential Library <we had to go to honor our Teddy> turned into GPS NIGHTMARE IN THE CORNFIELDS! The Library, so new it's numerical address was not yet registered in Apple, Garmin or Google, gave us options in Iowa, Ohio, Texas and possibly more but not in Medora, North Dakota. Almost to Medora Gail searched the internet

and announced we need to go back 50 miles to the east! Frustrated because we had been pushing the speed limits all day I did what I accused others of doing, followed the GPS blindly WITHOUT THINKING! After frantic miles of freeway, highway and 10 miles of dirt road we arrived at a farmers field to find some older tourists looking for the Library too! We again searched the internet (thankfully we had cell service) and headed back to Medora with only 5 miles of dirt road in our route. O'course we'd also been facing a low fuel warning light for 20 miles but found a convenient station and put 33 gallons in a 34 gallon tank. Our Library visit still offered some challenges finding a place to park our rig but I finally calmed down some 60 minutes into our selfguided tour. Our tour covered in photos, it was worth the trip but make sure you're routing to Medora, ND!

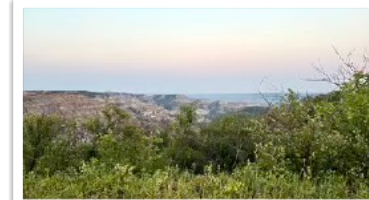


Day 7, we had driven another 90 miles the night before after the

Library to reach our quiet camp in Little Missouri State Park with views to the east across the meandering Little Missouri River canyons. Thursday morning we topped off with water and dumped so we could arrive 120 miles later for the 69th International Rally.

Check out the Rally photo collage and the club's summary blog:

<https://blog.airstreamclub.org/the-69th-international-rally-wraps-up-in-minot/>



## AND FROM OUR HISTORIAN - BY DIANE LEIPPER #772

### The Future of WBCCI

WBCCI has gone through some ups and downs over it's history. It is and always has been, the oldest single product RV membership group in existence. As of 2026 the organization seems to be on an upward trend that has gained momentum over the last few years.

The March 1997 SNU newsletter, written by Dale Grosch talks about the declining membership and some of the considerations of what to do about it. Here are the comments in the SNU newsletter.

In talking about Huntsville brings up the fact that this one WBCCI International Rally held once a year to bring before the membership the issues that effect the workings of our cherished club, including electing our leadership. One of the issues is the one of our dwindling membership <International Rally Attendance was 1509 rigs in 1997>. This is probably the biggest issue confronting, even threatening our existence as a club that we know



and love. It appears that the situation is so grave that it will be discussed in Huntsville the plausibility of allowing non Airstream products into our club. This is very alarming indeed. It would seem to this writer, that, either way we as a club might go along these lines, we are in trouble, we would also loose our identity much faster than we are currently and if it did become a reality, what would it leave us. If it is just a larger group that we are attempting we could belong to Good Sam or some other organization. It would seem to this writer that what you would gain on one end, and considering the type and mindset of most airstreamers (pride of Airstream as a product an as a unique club) would loose twice as many on the other. Its trying to do too much, too late. What is disturbing about all of this is, at least for us old-timers, and there are many, the commotion that was made when the lowly Argosy trailer was being considered for membership in our clubs earlier years. This new approach to new members being considered is truly a bad idea indeed.

Dale's comments from 1997 reflect the feelings of the entire SNU membership. <https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/archives/97mr-nwsltr.pdf>

For another perspective check out the 2014 statement from the incoming International President, Joe Perryman <https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/bc/16ma-cbl/14jy-perryman-acceptance-speech.pdf> <International Rally Attendance was 346 in 2014 at Gillett, WY, lowest in the WBCCI's history since it's first International at Bull Shoals, AR with 300 rigs.>

Although the date is not clear, Dale and his wife Marge Grosch joined the SNU in the early 1990's. They were active members until the early 2000's when they moved to Washington State. Even after moving they maintained their membership in the SNU until 2012 when they retired from Airstreaming. Dale and Marge attended and volunteered at numerous WBCCI International rallies in a variety of capacities. They hosted many SNU luncheons at their home in Carson City. They both served on the SNU board as President and in other capacities.

Here is the link to check out photo galleries of many of the WBCCI International Rallies

<https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/wbcci-internationalrallies.html>

Photos from the 1998 WBCCI International Rally in Boise, ID. This was the 1st International Rally Bryan and I attended as members. We caravanned to the rally with members of the Monterey Bay, CA Unit. Bryan and I with our family, had visited the 1962 International Rally as guests of our grandparents.

< editor - The Wally Byam Caravan Club International or Airstream Club as many now call it has greatly improved attendance with steady growth since its low point in 2014 although destinations without full hookups\* and some western venues tend to have slightly lower attendance:

68th International Rally: 2025 York, PA\* (952)

67th International Rally: 2024 Sedalia, MO (1195)

66th International Rally: 2023 Rock Springs, WY (1212)

65th International Rally: 2022 Fryeburg, ME (935)

64th International Rally: 2021 Lebanon, TN\* (748)

63rd International Rally: 2020 Loveland, CO (Cancelled)

62nd International Rally: 2019 Doswell, VA\* (696)

61st International Rally: 2018 Salem, OR\* (685)



60th International Rally: 2017 Escanaba, MI\* (638)  
 59th International Rally: 2016 Lewisburg, WV\* (668)  
 58th International Rally: 2015 Farmington, NM\* (427)  
 57th International Rally: 2014 Gillette, WY\* (346) >

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

#### July's President's Corner

What a week. Today I'm driving and thinking of all the fun we had in the wonderful and welcoming city of Minot North Dakota.

I had fun teasing the amazing John Holly at opening ceremonies (isn't he just a gem? What a voice) and watching folks learn new skills like knitting, spinning, and even skating! Seeing all those warm homemade hats, mittens and scarves warmed my heart. I just want to say well done to all those creative people, and thanks to Anna Brandon and her team for making it happen. All the items went to the Backpack Buddies program to keep folks warm this winter. And the money and food donations were unbelievable! Over \$40,000 raised. Wow. Well done, Airstreamers.

<click the link for the rest of Millie's President's Corner: <https://blog.airstreamclub.org/september-presidents-corner/> >

Millie O'Donnell

Photo Salem meets the President. Submitted by Jennifer Hughes, BRN 18135.

#### Upgrading or Buying a New Electric Bike for Your Travels



If you've noticed more e-bikes on the roads and trails lately, you're not imagining things. E-bikes continue to surge in popularity across North America, with new models appearing in every category—from compact to urban commuters to rugged adventure bikes designed for off-the-beaten-path exploration...

For Airstreamers and RV travelers, a thoughtfully designed compact e-bike can quickly become one of the most useful pieces of gear you bring along. Whether it's a run into town for groceries, an evening ride

through the campground, a trip to the local farmers' market, or a day exploring rail trails and waterfront paths, the right e-bike adds freedom and flexibility to every stop.

Follow the links to the detailed blog with lots of great info: <https://blog.airstreamclub.org/what-to-think-of-when-upgrading-or-buying-a-new-electric-bike-for-your-travels/> and: [Explore the Airstream Special Edition Electric Bike collection](#).

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

#### Customization Guide

Even if they're not vintage, some of us have spent lots of camp nights and put lots of miles in our Airstreams. The Airstream Supply Company factory store <no, it's not a discount outlet - editor> has many solutions to aging drapes, cushions, pillows, mattresses and accessories. It appears they cover back to 2004 or more depending upon the item. Word is it takes about 5 to 6 weeks for their vendor to produce what you need and ship. Find out more here:

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



### [SNU MEMBERSHIP NEWS](#)

No new membership news this month

Jeni Root

### [MEMBER NEWS - STILL AVAILABLE](#)

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-p852273281](https://atozmotors.com/store/2018-International-Serenity-25FBQ-Custom-p852273281)

Also For Sale: Beddy's for 25' Queen bed orientation. Harper Grey color. We absolutely LOVE this bedding, but have gone to twin beds, so have no use for them. If you have been thinking about Beddy's, here's your chance. We paid \$550. Will sell for \$200. Includes the base, 2 zip in "fitted" sheets, 2 pillow cases, the zip in comforter with the soft minky fabric and 2 pillow shams.

Call or text Robyn 775-250-2551

Also have an assortment of queen sheets from ABI Lifestyles (we used before the Beddy's) that we're willing to give away if anyone is interested.





