

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

AUGUST 2007 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/index.html> 775-972-5011



Obsidian Dome Rally

Waffles, weddings, food, gondolas, campground cleanup, Post Piles, food, birthdays, bot flies, music concerts, Mongolia, hikes, more food, business meeting, pink flamingos, and lots of visiting. The SNU rally was full of unexpected surprises, individual adventures and exciting group activities. We had a great turnout – nine rigs, including two guests. A total of 21 people. Also various dogs and other assorted pets. Our guests included Roxie and Roger Smith and Gene and Carmen Baleme. The Obsidian Dome rally was the first trip this year for Roxie and Roger. In addition, Saturday was Roger's birthday. The SNU was delighted to help them celebrate both occasions. Roger grew up with Airstreams. His parents were members of the Mt Lassen Unit. Both his Mother and Dad had served terms as Unit President. When Roger's parents were no longer able to travel Roger inherited their Airstream. He and Roxie also kept his parent's WBCCI membership number.



Circle the wagons

The Smith's are members of the San Joaquin Unit. For Gene and Carmen, it was an extension of their honeymoon as they had just gotten married on July 8th. The Baleme's gave each SNU member a gift. The gifts were beautiful little wind chimes in delicate fiber bags that Carmen had sent from the Philippines to be given to their wedding guests. Gene and Carmen also shared their wedding pictures with us.



Beautiful Spot

Thursday evening Rick and Jeannie Laborde attended a nearby free concert which they reported was very enjoyable. Friday SNU members helped Rick and a representative from the Friends of Inyo do some cleanup around the area near our rally site. After enjoying this rally site for the second year, it was great to do something to support the well being of Inyo National Forest. The Laborde's son, Guy and the William's grandson, Brandon both 6 yrs old had a great time all weekend playing in the dirt and on a nearby fallen log and building things. At one time Guy had a serious discussion with Vicki Grossmann. He was telling her about his musical groups and how the group had a different name depending on where they were playing. Vicki had asked him if he was going to sing for us again. Guy said it depended on whether or not he could build his guitar. On Saturday, Gail and Don Williams along with their niece Lauren (17), Brandon and dog Zorro, took off for a day trip to nearby Mammoth Lakes. Their trip included a gondola ride with lunch at the top. It also included a special kid friendly rock climbing adventure for Brandon who successfully made it all the way to the top.



Relaxing around the fire

Roxie and Roger also visited the Mammoth area and the nearby Devils Post Pile.

Saturday started off with what is sure to become an new SNU tradition -- Waffles in the wild! Randy Grossmann after discovering the secret to perfect waffles and the best cooker to use, offered to share his success with the SNU. So Saturday morning, he set up his waffle maker on the picnic table and hooked it up to Jerry's generator and got to work. Wow! What a treat! We had a choice of fruit and whipped cream, fruit syrups, or maple syrup. The buckwheat waffles were fantastic -- light and fluffy. Breakfast also included sausage and melon. After enjoying such a special breakfast we made an executive decision to forgo our usual lunch. We also decided any SNU business could wait till dinnertime.

Before waffles Vicki brought out the diorama of an SNU rally. She and Randy had put it together for the SNU 30th Anniversary luncheon in February 2006. Many of the people at Obsidian hadn't seen it. Needless to say everyone was amazed and impressed. It is quite a work of art.

Saturday evening, when everyone had returned from their various outings, we had our usual SNU amazing potluck. Once again, despite our lack of planning or coordination, the variety and diversity of offerings was enough to feed twice the number of people very well. Carmen made egg rolls with sweet and sour sauce along with other treats. The egg rolls were a big hit with everyone. Roxie made cupcakes for Roger's birthday. Thankfully Roger was spared the traditional birthday song sung by SNU members as everyone was too busy eating. SNU Pres, Jerry gave Roger a pair of SNU mugs as a birthday present. He also presented a pair to Gene and Carmen as a wedding present.

After dinner conversation took place around a propane heater provided by the Smith's. Gene regaled us with stories of his trips to Mongolia. He has gone several times as the equipment engineer with a medical team bringing equipment, skills, and training to hospitals in the country. He also told us of his visit to Belize and his run in with bot flies which astounded medical professionals at UNR.

All in all another great SNU rally. Go to the Obsidian link to see the rally photo gallery:

[http:// sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/2007](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/2007)

Twin Lakes and Bodie

The next rally will be Thursday through Sunday August 23 to 26, 2007 at Twin Lakes Crags USFS campground group area. It is off US 395 south of Reno near Bridgeport, CA. Members and guests are welcome. On Saturday SNU member, Chuck Fell will be taking us on a special tour of the nearby ghost town of Bodie. He will be coming to the rally and suggested that at our Friday night campfire we could decide which parts of the town we want to visit. We will also be having a picnic lunch in Bodie. Arrival time for the rally is anytime after noon on Thursday August 23.

NOTE: The SNU has reserved the group area for Friday and Saturday nights. Members coming to Crags on Thursday can stay in the group area but will need to pay an individual campground fee just for Thursday night. That fee is \$17. Friday and Saturday the standard SNU Kitty Kall donation of \$5 per night is all that will be necessary. Don't bring any eggs. Diane will have enough fresh eggs for everyone. Fire restrictions are in place at Twin Lakes. For more information click on the Twin Lakes link on the URL listed at the beginning of this newsletter

Bodie according to Chuck I work for Calif Dept of Parks and Recreation and my classification is Park Maintenance Supervisor. I've worked for them for 18 and a half years, 14 of which have been at Bodie and then the rest at Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass valley. The first year 1989, I lived full time at Bodie with Judy coming over from Visalia on the weekends or when school was out for our daughter. We bought our house in Bridgeport in 1990. From then to when I transferred to Empire Mine in fall of 1998 I wintered over in Bodie during my work week as the logistics of trying to get in and out on a daily basis were just to insurmountable. When we came back to Bodie in 2003, Judy and I both stayed in our old house at Bodie until summer of 2004 when we re-claimed our house in town from the folks that we had rented it to. Since then we have pretty much stayed at our house in Bridgeport with me overnighing it once a week at Grover Hot Springs State Park in Markleeville (one of the parks I now cover as a supervisor) and occasionally at Bodie in the winter. I'm getting old and I like spending my nights at home if I possibly can.

When I asked Chuck to provide a story for this newsletter he contributed a whole series of remembrances and said "I think maybe a few 'one liners' folks could ask during the tour or the campfire might get things going a bit. I for one, want to hear them all.

Here is what Chuck said. For instance the reason for the "bullet proof" screen on the screen door to our old house. The big barn dances we used to have on Sat. night just like the ones they had in the teens, twenty's and thirty's. The "drive in" movies outside the J S Cain House. The story of "Bodie Bill" the "Jr. Pyro" who started the fire on June 23rd 1932 that burnt the town down and the green jello. Canoeing down Main Street in during the spring run-off. Playing baseball on the old Bodie Mutts ball field. Our dog, Bear's, big snowcat adventure. Getting snowed in in the storm of March '95 being the only person in Bodie at the time and taking two whole days trying to get out and meet the other guys in the snowcat. The general logistics of getting into or out of Bodie in the winter time.

The darkest night I ever spent trying to find my way back to the snowcat after my truck got stuck in the snow. A few various "ghost stories about the house we lived in and the other houses on our block. Judy's flat muffins. The Sieler house Brewery and our "ever foam" beer. The "mysterious ghost" of the Sieler house cellar. The visiting mountain lion who surprised employees when they were opening up the Standard Mill for the summer tours. The sad sad story of Lottie Johl, the lady of questionable virtue who tried to change her station in life and the times wouldn't let her. The lynching of "LaRouch". I'm sure once we get going a few more stories of everyday life will come to mind. I can talk a bit about the various "Friends of Bodie" day celebrations we do every year. This year we are celebrating the "roaring twenties" in Bodie. Also some of the pretty neat car groups that have come through such as the horse less carriage club of America (1919 or older), of course the Model T's and A's that line up on Main Street.

SNU Business Meeting

Saturday evening after dinner, Jerry took the opportunity to conduct a little SNU business. He reminded everyone that now was the time to start renewing membership for 2008. He handed out renewal forms and encouraged people take this rally opportunity to renew. Jerry also handed out the first draft of the 2008 rally schedule and asked for input. Potential new rally sites for 2008 include Blue Lakes near Tahoe and Cedarville on the Nevada/California border. A special rally at Death Valley is also being considered. Unionville and Obsidian Dome will probably be annual destinations for SNU rallies. Your input and ideas are still needed. Go to the rally site vote at [http:// sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/2007](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/2007)

The other business was the reminder that it will soon be time to consider new officers for the SNU for 2008. Randy Grossmann and Don Williams were asked to consider running for director positions. Other officers may continue in their current positions.

Waffle debriefing

At the suggestion of Randy Grossmann, the SNU held it's first ever "Waffles in the Wild" breakfast. It appears as though a new tradition has been born! Here is Randy's critique.

- * Successful enough to do again
- * If we have many more people, we might need two waffle machines (would require two Honda 2000's)
- * Have some insulated containers for waffle storage
- * Use remote generator(s) because of noise
- * Have mostly maple syrup (the fruit syrup did not go over)
- * Continue with the fruit and whipped cream toppings

A final comment from Randy - What about this? Have a true "country breakfast" that includes eggs and hash browns in addition to the waffles. Someone else can handle that part of it. This could really evolve into something!

President's Ramblin's

The year is going fast. We just had the rally at Obsidian Dome, and the turnout was great. It was nice to see the southern contingent show up. Roger and Roxie from Visalia came to the rally. It was very nice to meet them. Good to see Don and Family (they brought 2 of the younger generation). Even though I didn't get to use my executive privileges again, we did hold a business meeting Saturday evening. It was supposed to be at noon, but Randy fed us waffles that must have weighed heavy on everyone as no one ate any lunch. The slate of officers for 2008 was discussed and the proposed list boils out to be this, President- Jerry, (I guess I didn't make too many people mad), Treasurer- Bryan, Secretary-(Diane please call Roy), Directors - Randy, and Don Williams. Randy will do the PSA's. I would like Don to see where my executive privileges went.

On to the next subject, Dyann and I are headed up to the burn country (literally) around Elko for 2 weeks of camping, hunting, and fishing. Hunting if the fire crews open up the Jarbidge road. For those of you that have never been to Jarbidge are missing out on a very unique adventure. A lot of nice country and a quaint little town. The bad thing of going this time of year is the lightning storms. For the last three years we have encountered large fires in the area. This time it didn't even wait for us to get there. All plans at this point have us back in time to go to Twin Lakes. This is a hectic schedule from Obsidian Dome to Jarbidge to Twin Lakes in less than 5 weeks. It averages out to over 100 miles on back country dirt roads.

I had a talk with my father who is already in Elko waiting for the rest of us. He said the road to our old campsite if we can get in would make Maytag happy. Very heavy wash board for the first 30 miles. At this point with only one day left until we leave the plans are to go to a place called Wilson reservoir near Tuscarora. This would mean lots of fishing. I'm sorry Randy but they won't be fresh from the lake when we get back so you will have to watch the rest of us eat them if I can catch them.

Well for now its sign off time need to finish getting ready to leave. So happy trailering and will see you all at Twin Lakes. Jerry Thornburg

Time to renew your membership

Show your support! Renew your membership in WBCCI and the SNU for 2008. We keep getting better and better and the main reason for that is our membership. You can renew online or print the form. Send the form and your check to the SNU. The address is on the form. Go to the 2008 Dues renewal form at <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/dues/app-form.html> Plans are already in the works and 2008 promises to be another great year for the SNU.

Upcoming events

Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line! <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/payonline/snu-shopping.html>

- * Thursday - Sunday September 20 – Sept 23, 2007 Berlin Ichthyosaur Nevada State Park. We will tour the the museum, the nearby Diana mine, and the Berlin townsite. 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Arrival time - anytime after noon on Thursday September 20.
- * Thursday – Sunday October 18 - 21 2007 Ft. Churchill Nevada State Park Scout Camp
- * Saturday November 17, 2007 Dayton – Gold Canyon Steak House

For more information on upcoming rallies check the website <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/rally-docs/07-rallyschedule.html>

Twin Lakes Rally

Take Rt 395 south to Bridgeport, CA, about 110 miles south of Reno. Turn right on the Twin Lakes road next to the gas station just as you enter town and travel approximately 9.6 miles. Turn left on South Twin road across from the Twin Lakes Resort Laundromat and travel about ½ mile, then turn left at Craggs Campground after you cross the bridge. The group campground is on the right after you enter the campground.

Saturday August 25 – SNU Member, Chuck Fell will take us on a tour of the nearby ghost town of Bodie. We plan to leave the Twin Lakes campground by 9:30 am and arrive back about 3:30 pm. Bodie is about a 45 minute drive from Twin Lakes. The first 10 miles are paved the rest is dirt. Standard vehicles should have no trouble with the trip. Carpooling is a good idea.

Bodie is at an altitude of 8400 ft and the temperature can vary considerably. Be aware if you have any health concerns that might be affected by altitude, bring a good sun hat and sunscreen, wear layered clothing and good comfortable walking shoes. The area around Bodie is dirt and gravel. There are pit and flush toilets but you need to bring drinking water.

We will be taking a sack lunch and having a picnic at Bodie. See photo gallery of the SNU trip to Bodie:

<http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/07ag-twinlakes-index.html>





Safari Sport is an exciting addition to the popular Safari Family. The all new sport is lighter weight and made for 6 cylinder vehicles. The 17' Sport has a base weight around 3,000 lbs and is rated at 3,500 lbs GVWR, and the 22' Sport has a base weight around 3,300 lbs and a GVWR of 4,000 lbs.



Like all Airstreams, the Safari Sport has all the amenities that one could want – an integrated LP system powers a full function furnace and hot water system for kitchen and bathroom, optional roof-mounted air conditioner system is available. Self contained bathroom at the rear of the unit, incorporating a stand-alone full height shower. Every model includes a generous kitchen incorporating upscale appliances and ample storage.

Airstream brings all these comforts to the freedom and joy of life on the road – for anyone with the wanderlust spirit and a taste for what lies over the next horizon.

Please contact Mountain Family RV for more information. (775) 849-1005