

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

JANUARY 2007 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

www.sierranevadaairstreams.org 775-972-5011



Luncheon at the Fallon Overland - Despite threatening weather, we had a great turnout for our December lunch at the Overland in Fallon. Anita and Gary, Jan and Roger, Jerry and Dyann, Wes and RoyLaine, Fran, Dave, Diane, Bryan, Rich, and Jenny. Rich brought a guest, Everett who has several Airstreamers in his family. Jenny had just gotten home from college the night before the luncheon. The Overland, established in 1908, is a neat old historic place with lots of atmosphere. The Basque restaurant serves really great food which we all enjoyed. After lunch most of us adjourned to the Thornburg's for coffee and cookies and conversation. A great time was had by all and we even got home before the snow started sticking to the roads. See the pictures of the lunch and also of the Overland Hotel. <http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>

Business Meeting - SNU President, Jerry Thornburg, conducted a short business meeting at the December 16th lunch. He handed out copies of WBCCI constitutional amendments proposed by a group of WBCCI members. He also brought up the WBCCI name change, proposed by Region 12. The SNU members present voted no unanimously on both issues. Other issues were discussed briefly and the meeting as adjourned.

January Luncheon - The SNU will start the new year off by getting messy. Our Saturday January 20, 2007 luncheon will be at BJ's Nevada BBQ in Sparks. BJ's has won several awards at the annual Best in the West Rib Cook Off. The Lunch will start at 11:30 am. Cost is \$15 per person. All members & guests welcome. There will also be a short board/member meeting. For more info: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/06ja-bbq.html>

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

*** Saturday February 17, 2007 Fernley Truck Inn
11:30 am Member luncheon, all members & guests
welcome, business meeting.**



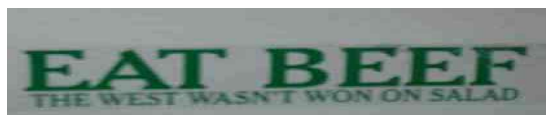
The Overland is an Historic landmark. It was built in 1906.



Chowing down. The food and service were really good



After a great lunch we adjourned to the Thornburgs for coffee and cookies and conversation



This must be Nevada! One of the many unique signs in the Overland

The President's Ramblins

It was suggested by a member of the unit that the president write a column for the newsletter. It was also suggested that the first column be about why Dyann and I joined the Unit. After retiring from competitive archery Dyann and I decided to get back into regular camping. With that thought in mind we were able to buy a 1965 Airstream. We did a total rebuild of that trailer and spent a lot of time camping in it with friends. When we moved to Fallon we were able to buy the 1983 model some of you are familiar with, and sold the '65. Using the '83 we continued to camp with friends.

Three years ago we saw a small advertisement for a luncheon for an Airstream group. We attended that luncheon and a subsequent rally. What we saw was a group of like-minded people interested in camping with their Airstreams. We also saw a very diverse group of people capable of holding discussions on a wide variety of topics not just items concerning SNU and WBCCI. It seemed to us that everyone's opinion mattered. At that time we joined the unit and WBCCI. One of the other things that really stood out was the emphasis on getting together with the Airstreams and less on the political correctness of an organization. Needless to say, we have stayed in the unit and plan on doing so for a long time.

I will end this here so Don doesn't have to publish a newspaper instead of a newsletter. I will continue with the Ramblins next month and also invite others to contribute. One other thing for those who do not know my email address. It is tbolt1@charter.net. Feel free to send me your thoughts and I will try to answer. Jerry

Welcome Back

After a short hiatus, Fran Reid has rejoined the SNU. Fran has a 1964 Tradewind but she is also beginning to look at purchasing a Bvan or maybe it's newer equivalent. We look forward to her continued support and participation.

Nevada Camping Guide

Bryan Leipper was recently contacted by Robert Herron regarding some of the pictures on SierraNevadaAirstreams.org. Robert was asking permission to use some on his website. Robert's website is a resource guide for camping in the Eastern Sierra and Great Basin -- SNU territory. There is a lot of great information on his site so check it out. <http://www.herronweb.com/campgroundguide.html>

We have invited Robert to visit the SNU and also gave him the link to our rally site criteria and asked him if he found some spots that fit our needs to let us know. Another great collaboration that could be beneficial for the SNU as well as Herron's online Nevada Camping Guide.

SNU Hams

No, not the eating kind. The amateur radio kind. The term "ham" in regards to amateur radio operators goes back to the beginning of wireless communications. Before regulations were enacted amateurs could cause interference on commercial air waves. The frustrated operators referred to the amateurs as "hams". The original meaning has disappeared but the term has stuck. Amateur radio is a hobby enjoyed by thousands world wide. WBCCI has an intra-club of amateur radio operators who run a radio net at the International rally and other events and also hold special ham radio rallies. For more info go to: <http://rvweb.net/club/wbcciarc/>

There are several members of the SNU who hold amateur radio licenses.

Diane Leipper KB7DSW -- Technician Plus Class
Don Williams KD6UVT -General Class
Gary Haskett KD0TA -- Advanced Class
Dave Gmur KA7VLL -- Extra Class
Bryan Leipper K1CD -- Extra Class

Bryan was instrumental in developing the training program for amateur radio in the 1970's. Don worked his first real incident as a R.A.C.E.S. Operator at the Red Cross for the recent Esperanza Fire in early November. Unfortunately five firemen lost their lives defending homes in the mountains east of Riverside. He also worked a two day state-wide Hospital Exercise (bird flu epidemic) in November.

SNU Flamingos

The SNU got the pink flamingo fever by accident. It started with a brainstorming session at a rally in 2004 at Pyramid Lake. We were discussing the WBCCI tradition of decorating gopher holes. Since it is no longer acceptable to dig gopher holes, we decided we should decorate the buckets we use to collect gray water when out dry camping. Anyway one thing led to another and before you know it, SNU broke out in flamingo fever. Pink flamingos have been part of SNU events ever since. When you show up for a rally you always wonder who might have found the latest and greatest pink flamingo. Since they play such an important role in the SNU and since we have begun to see so many variations, we decided it was only fitting to dedicate a photo gallery to SNU pink flamingos. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-misc/flamingos/gallery.html>

Trip Report

Don Williams has written a nice report of their first Airstream trip. Click below to see the report.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/travelogues/dwilliams/index.html>

Communications Clarification - Recently there have been some heated discussions on Airstreamforums.com Topics related to changing the name of WBCCI, changing the constitution, virtual units, and other organizational issues. For one reason or another many of the allegations and perceptions related to WBCCI, how it functions and why have not been very adeptly clarified by the leadership of WBCCI. This has left many people confused and also left them with misinformation and misunderstandings. Bryan and I have been participating in some of these discussions and as a result other forum members have, on occasion brought in the SNU to try to illustrate their points. As with WBCCI, many of the comments and perceptions are not accurate or are taken out of context. Because the SNU has been directly mentioned, we felt it important to keep the SNU membership informed and also to encourage you to ask questions, express your own opinions, and in general discuss things. First let me say that when Bryan and I express opinions on the forum or anywhere else, they are our own opinions and in no way meant to represent the SNU as a whole. I am sure this is also true for other SNU members who are active on the forums.

One such issue that has come up is that of the “Whispers” section of the website. It was alleged that this was part of the SNU website. In reality SierraNevadaAirstreams.org is a personal website. A special section of that site has been donated for use by SNU. Whispers is in no way affiliated with SNU or the SNU section of the website. Another issue with Whispers is that lack of awareness that it does fit in with the mission of WBCCI as articulated in Article III of the WBCCI Constitution “to disseminate information of an advisory and educational nature.” Visiting Whispers, as with any other part of the website is totally voluntary and in no way associated with the SNU or SNU operations. The issue of Whispers came up once before. This prompted a call from the Region 12 President. After discussing the issue and clarifying the situation, the concern was dropped.

Another topic is related to informing and educating SNU members regarding issues that need their input or vote. SNU feels that it's members are capable, informed adults and as such, when provided with basic information on issues, they will make informed decisions and choices on their own. The SNU leadership provides the resources and information needed on issues and is always available to answer questions or provide clarification. The SNU, as mentioned in the last newsletter, has for several years provided multiple methods for members to access information and to provide input. These include rally attendance, online voting and opinion polls, email, SNU newsletter, and phone. This is made possible by a change in 2005 to the SNU bylaws.

There has also been much discussion on the forums regarding the structure and intent of Units and rallies. The general idea seems to be that there should be less structure, formality, and planning and more flexibility. When the SNU went through it's reorganization almost five years ago, these issues were addressed as part of the considerations made by the SNU to help it achieve it's mission. That mission was to get out and go camping in your Airstream with fellow Airstreamers. The SNU followed the principles outlined by the organization founder, Wally Byam in his Creed and Four Freedoms. Part of this concept is seen in the fact that SNU rally events are informal and participation is totally voluntary. Even our business meetings are informal. If you choose to sit by the campfire or watch TV at night, fine. If you want to hike to the top of a mountain and take a few other participants with you, fine. If you want to organize activities and others want to join in, fine.

It was suggested by one forum participant that SNU be a test group and “we” follow your unit's process or not. Bryan responded by saying the “SNU does test ideas and has addressed the issues mentioned in this thread - but it does so with the goals and purpose of WBCCI in mind and in accord with its customs, policies, and governing provisions. We show what can be done and how but realize that change is something that cannot be forced on people.”

If you want more information on the development of the SNU check this URL: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/index.html>

There have been several positive and supportive comments about the SNU on the forums as well but the bottom line is the SNU membership. What you think. How you feel. What you want the SNU to be. What works for the SNU and what can be changed, augmented, or enhanced. Communication is the key. The direction and future of the SNU is based on the consensus of member ideas, needs, and interests. Please feel free to express your opinions and ideas through any of several options including email, the private SNU discussion forum, phone, snail mail or most important, chitchat and brainstorming at a rally.

SNU President Jerry Thornburg tbolt1@charter.net
Bryan or Diane Leipper 772@sierranevadaairstreams.org
SNU private forum <http://www.airstreamforums.com/forums/f410/>

Click here for the 2007 Rally schedule
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/rally-docs/06ag-07-rally-schedule.pdf>

1st Airstream Trip

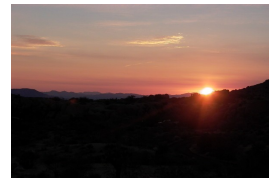
My wife Gail and I, two of your newest members from Southern California, tired of what I lovingly called our old junk motorhome. At my urging we went to the Los Angeles RV show in October 2004 and spent about 8 hours there, 6 at the Airstream displays. We went home the proud owners of a 22' CCD.

We went to Joshua Tree National Park for our first trip. Our 1996 Jeep Cherokee did well even though the Airstream maxed out its towing capacity. We maintained 55 on the freeway even with moderate head winds and the semis didn't push us around. We did well on the long grade on I-10 past Indio until that semi going 30 pulled out to pass his friend going 25. Near Chiriaco Summit we turned north into Joshua Tree. This two-lane road really made the Jeep work; water temperature was pushing 230 in the steeper slow sections.

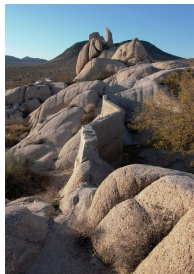
The steep grades may have slowed the Cherokee down (isn't that what our parent had to do), but boy could it corner! I got surprised by a couple of tight turns and the CCD just followed us through. However, we pulled off at a wide turnout and what did I find when I opened the door; beers & sodas rolling around on the floor, the carton of eggs were there too and the contents of both drawers from the desk at the back. Wow, the trailer will corner much better than its contents.



By mid afternoon we were settled in a campsite immediately next to the main road through Jumbo Rocks Campground. Several people came by to look at the CCD which surprised us at first; we hadn't expect to have so much attention or people taking pictures of the Airstream.

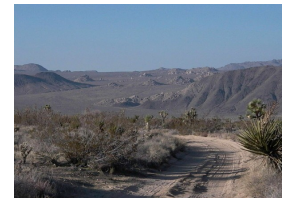


What a great sunrise on Saturday. After breakfast we visited the park Visitors Center and took the walking tour through the "29 Palms" grove. We picked up some sandwiches and headed off to the Geology Tour in Pleasant Valley. Midway through the tour we detoured down Berdoo Canyon Road (4X4) stopping for lunch on a ridge with a view. After lunch we continued down Berdoo Canyon into the Coachella Valley and filled up the Cherokee.



On the return trip we stopped to chronicle the most difficult section of road (we haven't done a lot of 4 wheeling with this Cherokee) a magnificent view of Pleasant Valley and the 100-year-old water works built by early ranchers.

The best way to close a great day with sunshine, blue skies and shirtsleeve temperatures was the ranger program on desert cougars. Temperature dropped to 43 degrees, not unusual for the desert, it foretold what was coming tomorrow.



In the morning we knew it had gotten colder, the furnace seem to run all night waking us often. About 6 AM Gail asks, "Why can't I see out through the roof vent?" "It looks like it's covered in ice," I responded and we threw open the curtains for a look at 4 to 6 inches of **SNOW!** Were we surprised? We dressed quickly, fixed breakfast and kept the heat to a minimum not knowing how long our battery would survive since our solar panel was covered with snow.



Since Jumbo Rocks is isolated from TV, radio and even amateur radio reception from the neighboring cities and towns we left the CCD, headed to 29 Palms to get a weather report and possibly buy a small Honda generator. We made a U-turn before the entrance/exit station because the Ranger was not letting people back in the park. We could see him leaning out the window trying to see why some crazy southern Californians (us) were turning back, but we weren't going to leave our new Airstream there if we couldn't get back in the park. After a couple of hours and with the snow continuing we decided to leave. We had no gloves; mittens nor parkas and we didn't think our coach batteries would last through the day. It took 40 miles of 4 wheel drive to get out of the park that day. **What A Great First Trip!**

Don & Gail, Riverside, CA

Check the trip photo gallery on the web

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/travelogues/dwilliams/1st-trip/gallery.html>

JANUARY LUNCHEON AT BJ'S NEVADA BARBECUE

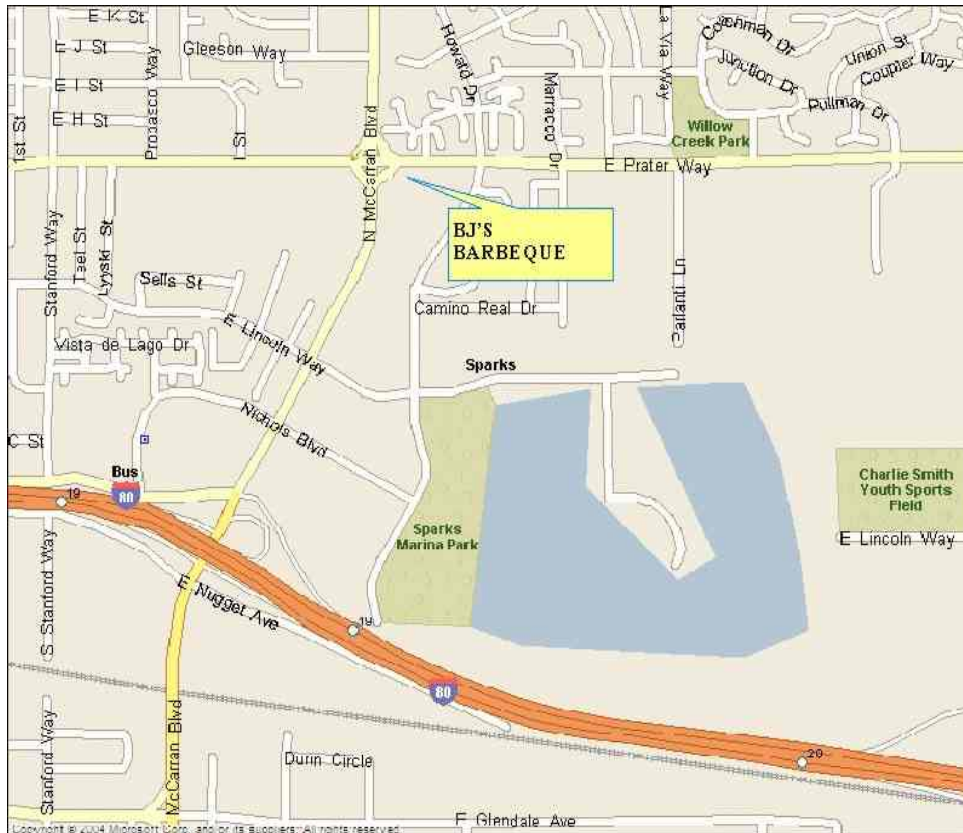
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To get there

From Reno heading East on I80 -- Take exit 19 McCarran Blvd. Go North on McCarran to Prater Way. Turn right (East) on Prater. B.J.'s is in the shopping center on the right.

From Fernley/Fallon heading West on I80 Take exit 19 McCarran Blvd. Go North on McCarran to Prater Way. Turn right (East) on Prater.

There is a Walgren's and a Meryvn's in this shopping Center. B.J.'s is on the Walgren's end of the shopping center.





Brand New Floor Plan For The International.

25' Limited International with fresh new look. This Airstream is not a CCD as it was not designed by Christopher C. Deam.

This unit is very eye catching with limited Ocean Breeze interior, white cabinets accented with bamboo/palm tree knobs, colorful palm tree curtains, and many more accents through out.



Airstreamers NEWSLETTER

Sierra Nevada Unit, WBCCI
PO Box 60572
Reno, NV 89506

JANUARY 2007



WELCOME TO THE SIERRA NEVADA UNIT of WBCCI. We are a small, friendly group who enjoy sharing our enjoyment of Airstreams, and the Airstream lifestyle, with others. You are invited to come to any of our meetings and if you like, to join our Unit. We predict that you will make many friends and relish the camaraderie of our rallies, caravans, and group activities. Our members are always ready to share their advice on equipment problems and trailering knowledge. In addition to being a member of our local Unit, you will be one of several thousand who make up the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (the Airstream RV Club.)