

## ***Posted on the SNU Facebook page***

These were posted along with descriptive photos to highlight some of the SNU history

### ***2/10/2021 - Four Freedoms***

In response to an article in the March 2004 issue of the Blue Beret, the Sierra Nevada Unit, was prompted to describe Wally Byam's Four Freedoms as they are enjoyed by our members. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/mgt/four-freedoms.htm> Changes we made in our bylaws also provide another freedom - that of participation. Too often people are leery of getting involved because they are concerned they will end up serving on a committee, being elected to the board, or given some task or job to do that takes a lot of time and effort. In part because we are currently a small group, we all share responsibilities to carry out the functions necessary to meet WBCCI guidelines. We work together to get things done. Our system enables members to choose their own level of involvement. There is no pressure or expectation to take on a job. Our goal is to get people as enthused as we are and on their own, want to take on some responsibility that benefits the Unit.

### ***2/26/2021 - Boondocking***

With the SNU boondocking isn't a special event, it is our standard rally preference. Boondocking is essentially a choice of rally sites that don't provide any amenities. Things like water, electric, or sewer hookups. Usually they are unpaved and dispersed sites, sites with no restrictions on where or how you park. If camping in this type of site is new to you or something you might not be totally comfortable with then we highly recommend you come to an SNU rally. We will introduce you to "off grid", unstructured, boondocking Airstream camping like Wally Byam did when he designed this special trailer to travel the world. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/rally-docs/10ja-boondocking.html>

### ***3/24/2021 - Dale & Marge Grosch***

Dale and Marge Grosch had been members of the SNU since the early 1990's. They maintained their membership even after moving to Washington State in the early 2000's. They were active members in both the SNU and in WBCCI. Both served more than one term as President of the SNU. They also held other offices and worked on the newsletter writing articles, printing and distributing it to members. Dale and Marge hosted several SNU luncheons at their home in Carson City. They attended the 1996 SNU rally at Lahontan, the first rally the SNU had held in several years. They also attended SNU rallies at Washoe Lake. Dale and Marge volunteered at numerous WBCCI International rallies in a variety of capacities. With their "retirement" from Airstreaming, Marge and Dale were the last of the SNU members who joined prior to 1994.

### ***4/15/2021 - Kitty Kall***

The SNU decision to create a voluntary Kitty Kall to cover most expenses for rallies and luncheons came about from the experiences of the 1990's. During that period there was a strong focus that everyone pay the exact amount they owed. That meant that at each luncheon considerable time was spent going over the bill and determining who owed what and how much of the tax and tip each person owed. What should have been a social gathering with friends was instead an event where detailed accounting was the main focus. After 2000 changes were made and the voluntary Kitty Kall was

created. SNU members chose to set a voluntary flat fee for both it's rallies and it's luncheons. These fees were solicited donations for the general SNU fund and not a charge assessed for a specific benefit, good, or service. As such, the donations made could be considered tax deductible.

The payment of rally and luncheon fees being totally voluntary also meant that they were a vote of acceptance by the participants involved. Reasons for nonpayment could include just a short rally visit, a visitor to a luncheon who didn't order a meal, or disgruntlement about some aspect of the amounts or process. If or when SNU noted that its receipts became deficient by patterns of lack of support, then the matter of funding and benefit and support needed to be addressed as a topic of discussion at meetings. This never happened.

This system proved beneficial in that people knew what to expect and could plan accordingly. There was no ambiguity or change in what the Kitty Kall would be for any rally or luncheon. The Kitty jar was placed on the table at luncheons and rallies so donations could be collected. With the luncheon kitty it was up to each participant to determine if they wish to donate the expected kitty amount or if their actual costs were more or less than the average, to donate what they felt was appropriate. Also people sometimes voluntarily donated a little extra to the Kitty at rallies. Since we were a group of friends, there was no need to check with each individual to ensure that they had donated. We could trust our friends to support the SNU. This enabled participants to focus on what's important – enjoying the fellowship of other Airstreamers and not fussing about how much they owe.

Because the SNU had very few ongoing expenses, kitty contributions could build up over time. This could then be used to cover any luncheon costs above the average if needed and to offset a portion of major expenses such as for the 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> SNU anniversary celebrations thus keeping costs minimal for the participants. This system worked great for over 12 years.

## ***5/10/2021 - Flamingos***

The SNU relationship with flamingos came about accidentally during a discussion at an SNU rally in 2004. The topic was the old WBCCI tradition of decorating gopher holes. Before all the environmental concerns, Airstreamers dug a hole to drain gray water tanks. The hole was known as a gopher hole. There used to be contests at rallies to determine the best decorated gopher hole. Although we can no longer dig a hole to drain the tanks, we thought it would be fun to pay homage to this old tradition by decorating the rear of our Airstreams near the holding tanks. Well, one thing led to another, so at the very next rally Ann and Fred Hersey brought a flamingo disguised as a gopher. Very appropriate! Although we didn't get around to decorating the rear of our Airstreams, we eventually morphed into decorating our campsites with flamingos. The ultimate flamingo event was Jessilynn's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party held during the SNU rally at the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival. Check out this event as well as other SNU flamingos at <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/family/flamingos/index.html>

## ***Posted 5/31/2021 - Camping etiquette***

Several SNU members have worked in state parks, national forests and other places we like to camp. Here are some examples that we have run across of the behaviors of campers who don't adhere to good camping etiquette, never mind common courtesy and park rules. People who "camp" in the shower rooms leaving the hot water running all night to keep warm. A camper who took their cat to the horseshoe pit so that it could use the sand for a littler box. People who drive into a campground with no dump station but that has sewer and water available in some of the campsites. They park just long enough to dump their tanks, fill up with water then leave. Going off trail rather than staying in designated areas such as if the day use parking is full, then parking along a major highway. Or if the

campground is full, parking in a non-designated area. Creating new trails instead of using existing trails. A rig that doesn't fit in the campsite but it is jammed in, with part in the roadway and part in the campsite. This makes it almost impossible for emergency vehicles to get to an emergency on park roads. Fires and charcoal that are almost never put out completely. Folks often don't bring something to put the fire out with. One campground host keeps a supply of gallon jugs of water, and takes those out to folks. Dogs, if they are on a leash, are almost never on a 6' leash. It is common for people to leave trash and broken or unwanted camping gear behind when they leave. At a rally at Dayton State park, we observed a motorhome that left the valves on their gray and black water tanks open while driving out of the campground. They got caught and fined. With increased traffic in dispersed camping sites, trash, human waste and general destruction of once minimally used areas is on the increase. It is people like this that make the camping experience less enjoyable and more restrictive for all of us.

The SNU always tries to leave our rally site better than when we arrived. Over the years we have cleaned out pit toilets, helped the BLM gather trash dumped by residents living near the campground, worked with the Friends of Inyo to clean up the Obsidian Dome area, cleaned out fire pits used for trash, repaired gates and access roads and frequently we have picked up trash left by other campers. For more information and pictures check this link

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-misc/index.htm>

## ***7/11/2021 - Dale and Virginia Leipper***

After moving from California, Dale and Virginia Leipper joined the SNU. Coming from a strong Unit with a full rally schedule, Dale and Virginia were instrumental in encouraging the SNU to plan and hold more rallies and other outdoor activities. They organized and hosted the very successful 1996 SNU rally at Lahontan, the first rally the Unit had held in many years. After that, Dale & Virginia hosted several other rallies and also picnic lunches at their home in Lemmon Valley. In 2000, after a rally at Ft Churchill, Dale Leipper wrote a list of suggestions for the SNU. Although this appears to be a draft, it is interesting to note some of the items on the list. It seems the discussion at Ft Churchill focused on the SNU relationship with WBCCI and ways to encourage and build membership. Among the comments on the list are these:

- You can't change WBCCI. It would be too difficult and it may not be necessary. WBCCI has many attractive features.
- We should make sure that all Airstream Owners who do not belong to WBCCI regularly receive information on the attractions of club membership.
- There is always someone who has had the same problems you may have and who knows what to do about it. They are glad to help.
- Lifetime Friendships

Although Dale Leipper was unable to attend rallies after 2001, Virginia continued participating in SNU rallies and activities until 2006.

7/28/2021

One of the great things about the SNU dispersed rally sites is a visible central gathering spot. The way we parked our rigs, everyone can see what was going on. Social gatherings are more spontaneous. You can set up tables and chairs and leave them. Happy hour or bringing out contributions for coffee, breakfast or dinner happen more or less when the group starts to gather or when preparations are started for a meal. This makes scheduling, except in very minimal terms unnecessary. It is harder to do this in a campground with designated parking spots where you can't really see what is going on beyond your own door.

## ***8/29/2021 - SNU Annual Highlights***

From 2003 through 2017 I put together an annual list of SNU Highlights and Achievements. It is a lot of fun going through those lists and remembering how far the SNU has come since it re-grouped in 2002. It is a great way to remember the things the SNU has done and the successes SNU has enjoyed. In 2016 I created a summary of the annual highlights for an SNU newsletter article. Here are just 3 of those highlights.

**2003-** Scheduled rallies for weekends and close enough to encourage working stiff's with families to attend. Restructured the organization to better reflect the size and style of the group.

**2006 -** The SNU has increased it's use of current technologies to encourage participation from all members. We have initiated systems to pay dues and rally fees on-line, we utilized an on-line voting system to gain input in the development of the rally schedule and we utilized on-line voting for various policy issues such as the proposed WBCCI name change.

**2013 -** Two new options were added to the SNU communications network. Rick LaBorde set up a facebook page for the SNU. Don Williams set up the SNU rallies and lunches on the Region 12 Master Calendar. The SNU always welcomes fellow Airstreamers and potential Airstreamers to our rallies. In 2013 we had guests at Obsidian, Rocky Point, Ft Sage, and Green Creek. Most were from other WBCCI Units including The New England Unit, Long Beach, San Fernando Valley, NorCal and El Camino

Both the annual pages and the summary are posted on the SNU website.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-history/achievements/index.html>

## ***9/22/2021 - Anniversary Rally***

The SNU 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rally at Weed Heights was a great success. Don and Jerry provided some excellent meals. Mary arranged visits to local attractions including the old school and speakeasy, a unique dance studio and a historic home. Diane brought all the photo albums and other memorabilia that showcase the history of the SNU.

## ***9/27/2021 - Unionville Group Photo***

SNU 2008 Unionville rally - From the left - RoyLaine Warn, Anita Leipper, Jerry Thornburg in white shirt, Clint Norrell in black, Wes Warn, Roger and Janet Jepson, Kathy Norrell with white hat in back, Diane Leipper with blue hat, Vicki Grossmann, Dyann Thornburg, Roman Kreminski, Melissa Wong in pink, Dave Gmur, Bryan Leipper by tree. Picture taken by Randy Grossmann.

## ***9/30/2021 - Fred Hersey***

I recently learned that Fred Hersey passed away June 2021. Fred was a past president of the SNU. Fred and his wife Ann last visited the SNU at our rally April 2016 at Fort Churchill.

Fred and Ann bought their Airstream in 1998. Although memory was a little fuzzy, Fred said they probably heard about the SNU when he spotted another Airstreamer and stopped to talk with him. The first rally they remember participating in was at Washoe Lake in 1999.

In 2002 Fred became President of the SNU. This was a time of transition for the Unit. He brought new ideas and new energy to the Unit. Through his efforts, and those of the only two other active members (6 people), the SNU began a new period in it's history. We focused on the original ideas of an

Airstream club and a new view towards the needs of the members. Fred and his wife, Ann also made a lot of changes in the SNU newsletter. It was Fred and Ann who brought the first “pink flamingo” to an SNU rally. That was at Davis Creek 2004.

Fred and Ann put together Airstream photo albums. They would take pictures of Airstreams they came across, both near their home and on their travels. Many of the pictures from those albums can be found in the Show\_n\_Tell section of the website.

Fred and Ann retired from Airstreaming about 2004 but not from exploring. In particular, they pursued their passion for finding petroglyph sites. They put together some excellent notebooks with photos and information from their visits to various sites.

In 2016 Fred and Ann said they have great memories of the Airstream group and that the “SNU family has always been such fun. From taking our 4 legged pets to sharing the morning coffee.” In 2016 Ann said that it would have been so easy to give up during the tough times but she is happy to see that we didn't and that the SNU is still growing.

For pictures and more information on Fred and Ann go to <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-history/memorial/hersey/hersey.html>

### ***10/9/2021 - Ft Churchill***

Visiting Fort Churchill – at the SNU rally in 2002 walking to the river from the campground.

In 2004 at an SNU rally at Dayton State Park we drove over to Ft Churchill for a Civil War re-enactment <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/04ma-dayton/gallery.html>

The SNU rally at the Orchard at Ft Churchill included a tour of Buckland Station just across the road. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/destinations/95-south/buckland/gallery.html>

10/20/2021 - Perfect fall weather, a tour of Buckland Station, a ghost walk of the fort ruins, great meals and great people. Couldn't ask for a better way to end a rally year

### ***10/29/2021 - Rally Sites***

This is a general description of SNU rally sites. This was created partly for fun but it is also a fairly good representation of the types of rally sites visited by the SNU.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/rally-docs/11ag19-rallysite-categories.html>