

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

JUNE 2007 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

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



Ramhorn Springs Rally

What a great place! Thanks to Anita Leipper for finding this site. Three miles from Hwy 395 in a canyon with great lava rock walls, a spring, lots of juniper trees, and plenty of parking space for an SNU rally. The campground was home to a wide variety of birds. There were also plenty of lizards and squirrels. Randy Grossmann spent time studying the awnings on everyone's rig. He is planning to install awnings on the roadside of his 2005 Safari. The rest of us - the Jeppsons, Leippers, and Thornburgs spent most of the time relaxing and enjoying the scenery.

Jerry Thornburg and Anita Leipper set an example for the rest of us by doing their part to make sure the campground was left cleaner than when we arrived. Jerry did some cleaning of the pit toilet and Anita picked up trash around the campground.

Friday, three SOBs came to the campground. It turned out it was several members of a family who have been making an annual week long trek to Ramhorn for close to 40 years. With their arrival, the campground took on the look of a Ford commercial as all nine of the tow vehicles in the campground were Ford vehicles. Interestingly an RV towed by a Dodge drove in later but ended up leaving before they even parked ...hummm. Saturday the only business we discussed was for the SNU to make a donation to the BLM for our stay. Bryan will mail a check to the Eagle Lake office.

Saturday our after dinner, campfire discussion turned to serious educational topics. We learned the difference between a pebble, a rock, and a boulder. We found out what kind of bird a mugwamp is. We learned about SNU theorem 127. If you missed this enlightening discussion be sure to ask the SNU President and educational chair, Jerry Thornburg. Other than taxing our brains, we had a great time and I think all of us want to go back to Ramhorn for a future rally. Check out the rally pictures:

<http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>



Ramhorn Campground



Lunch, what we do best



And of course, the campfire. Good folks, Good times

Return to Unionville

Thursday - Sunday June 14 - 17 2007 The SNU will hold it's rally in the old town of Unionville. It is off I80 east from Reno, near Winnemucca NV. The rally site is in the parking area for a county park site. Members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Activities available: exploring Unionville, the nearby fossil area, Kyle Hot Springs, horse back riding, bike trails, and hiking. The brunch is canceled for this year. Arrival time for the rally is anytime after noon on Thursday June 14, but you can also come early or stay late as suits your personal schedule. For more information <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/07jn-unionville-index.html> See directions and map on pg 5.

Upcoming events

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

- Thursday - Sunday July 19 - 22, 2007 Obsidian Dome (Inyo Nat'l Forest) dispersed camping - off US 395 South between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes, CA. 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Hiking, nearby stream, geologic area. SNU members will be working with Rick on a Service Project during this rally. Arrival time - anytime after noon on Thursday July 19.
- Thursday - Sunday August 23 - 26, 2007 Twin Lakes Craggs USFS campground group area - off US 395 south of Reno near Bridgeport, CA 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Special Day Trip & picnic lunch to Bodie on Saturday. Arrival time for the rally - anytime after noon on Thursday August 23.
- Thursday - Sunday September 20 - Sept 23, 2007 Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park (note change in location. Details to come)
- 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



Unionville Schoolhouse



Unionville Campfire, they look relaxed



Road and gate into campground



Bunch of Airstreams, 16 foot to 31 foot

The President's Ramblings

Again I am waiting until the last minute to write this. The rally at Ramhorn was nice. Also a very good showing for Ford. I think we scared the Dodge off. Coming in June is the Unionville rally; sorry to say at this time I cannot take my trailer to this one due to a work commitment. I will try and be out on Saturday morning for lunch.

On Friday, Dyann and I left the rally for a ride into Susanville. On the way we found two older Airstreams out in some fields, one close to the campsite and one closer into town. Anita told us about a little meat counter in the Heald market on the road into town, so we stopped and checked it out. We were able to purchase a nice roast which we broiled for one of the potlucks. No one died or got sick so it must have not been too bad. The campground was nice with a brick one holer. Lots of birds and other little animals to watch, plus some nice antelope on the side of the road. I had to explain to one of the members what a funny looking bird was. It was a "mugwump", you know a bird that sits on a fence with its mug on one side and its wump on the other.

The year is turning out to be a rather good one; the rallies are fun and relaxing, the company good. I hope to see more of the members at some rallies this year. As brought forward in other parts of this newsletter the schedule for next year needs to be thought about. Please give it some consideration and let us know your feelings.

As stated last month Von Gallion is our rep at the Georgia Rally and will vote our stance on the motor home issue. Von is also playing in the band; it's nice to know that we have a wide variety of backgrounds in this unit. The conversations reflect this.

I was asked why I have a hitch on the front and back of my truck, I explained that beings I was an old desert rat with a red neck that I couldn't remember how to park my trailer. So I put a hitch on both ends so I could get it right. Actually it does help to be able to park some stuff in my back yard. If you have a tight spot, sometimes it's easier to push a trailer in than it is to back it in. The pivot area is shorter.

Again I hope to see you at future rallies, good traveling, and good fun.

Jerry Thornburg

Aluminitus Outbreak!

It appears that several SNU members have all the advanced symptoms of Aluminitus. This sometimes happens when people are introduced to Airstreams, their unique history, and universal appeal. Melissa Wong says she is driving Roman nuts filling him in on all the trivia, history, and information she is learning about Airstreams and WBCCI. They both are having a great time searching the web for all things Airstream, finding parts for necessary repairs and discovering all sorts of other things that they can't do without.

Clint and Kathy Norrell have hardly been home since they purchased their Airstream. They've been to SNU rallies, taken adventures on their own, and attended other Airstream rallies. Their Airstream got Clint's creative juices flowing. He has come up with a very imaginative cartoon (Clintoons) booklet titled "Airstreams... Everywhere I Look".

Clintoons

Clint Norrell sent a copy of his booklet of Airstream cartoons to Diane Leipper. She shared this booklet with everyone at the Ramhorn rally. It received rave reviews. Clint's excellent drawings and creative mind stimulated a lot of smiles and chuckles. Diane will bring it to other rallies so everyone will have a chance to check it out. Clint apparently already has an expanded edition. He would be happy to provide a copy to any Airstreamer who wants one and asks for a donation of \$8 to \$10 to help him cover costs. Diane has asked him to bring copies next time he and Kathy attend an SNU rally.

Blue Beret

Pee Wee Schwamborn, son of Henry and Helen Byam Schwamborn and 2nd cousin of Wally Byam, has made many generous contributions to our website regarding the history of WBCCI. Among these contributions are two articles regarding the blue beret and how, because of Wally Byam, it became associated with WBCCI.

The blue beret is more than a name on a magazine. It is a piece of headgear that became the symbol of WBCCI. Recently it has been used by some members as a target to deride WBCCI through their own misunderstanding of certain basic governance documents. The blue beret though, had a totally practical beginning. This practicality led to it's being adopted by the Caravanners who traveled with Wally Byam. Over time, in part because almost all pictures of Wally show him wearing a beret, it began to be used to identify the organization in the logo and other applications. Eventually it became the symbol of WBCCI.

So how did this innocent attempt to keep one's head warm become an icon? According to an article written by Wally for the Caravanner newsletter, it started on his first trip to Europe with the "first Airstream to travel abroad. In attempt to do as the locals do, Wally purchased a beret while in France. In the article, Wally says, "I found the beret made wonderful trailer headgear." He soon found that the beret was great at keeping your head warm, keeping your hair in place, and providing some protection when going in and out of low doorways. It also rolled up so you could put it in your pocket thus reducing the possibility of losing it.

After returning home friends asked Wally where they could get one. Then on the next caravan Wally gave one to each participant. One thing led to another and before long the blue beret became as Wally said, "the official badge of the Wally Byam Caravan Club members." It soon became obvious that the blue beret was practical in other unexpected ways. This is highlighted in a subsequent published article titled "Blue Beret Has Magic Effect". This is the story of how one Caravanner while in Mexico got out of receiving a traffic ticket. When the policeman saw his blue beret he tore up the ticket and said "Paseo Amigo". The blue beret had become recognized as symbolizing a special group of people. People who were welcome visitors anywhere they went. The blue beret, proudly worn by WBCCI members not only enhanced the welcome they received, it was also a way to easily identify other caravanners when on tours, at events, and other caravan activities.

The reason Wally initially purchased a beret, to "do as the French do", represents his philosophy about travel and caravanning. To not just visit places but to get to know and experience the place on a first hand basis. The WBCCI Creed and the Four Freedoms written by Wally express this philosophy. So, the blue beret, which started as Wally's practical solution to a simple problem has come to represent an organization and a unique style of RV travel that is known worldwide.

Blue Beret Tradition <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/history/peewee/early-wbcci/gallery.html>

Magic Effect

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/history/peewee/early-wbcci/magic-blueberet.jpg>

SNU and Technology

Over the past five years the SNU has experimented with a variety of internet based tools to augment and support communications, increase efficiency, and broaden options for member input. Among these tools the SNU offers:

- subscription service for email announcement and newsletter list
- ability to pay dues and rally fees online
- shopping page - a consolidated form to purchase SNU goods and services
- online voting and opinion polls
- interactive calendar of events

In addition the SNU has used web based technology to ensure all SNU members have access to information and documents regarding the history, the operations, and the governance of the Unit. The SNU uses the web as a repository for this information to help minimize the possibility of Unit resources being inadvertently lost or thrown out as has happened in the past. In keeping with this goal, the SNU provides:

- The most comprehensive current rally schedule available on any unit website as well as an archive of past rally schedules.
- An archive of all past SNU newsletters going back to the mid 1990's
- The Op Notes, describing the basic functions and philosophies of the SNU.
- Photo galleries of all SNU rallies from the mid 1990's to the present day.
- A section on the history of the SNU which includes a listing of all officers and PDF files of the only remaining scrapbook prior to 1990.
- A variety of documents and letters relating to the story of the SNU and it's relationship to the founding principles of WBCCI.

2008 Rally Schedule

It is amazing how fast the year seems to be disappearing. We are already halfway through our rally schedule. If we plan to hold a rally in 2008 in any campground that requires reservations we need to get that figured out soon. We have posted the online poll so that you can help us choose what places the SNU might hold rallies in 2008. Feel free to use this poll <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2008/events/rallydocs/08rallysitevoteform.html>

or email the SNU at hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org with your ideas and suggestions.

There are also discussions under way for two SNU special events. One is a rally in Cedarville with day trips to some of the surrounding country. Roger Jeppson is looking into this one. The other is a rally in Death Valley which Don Williams is investigating

Let us know if you are interested in the Cedarville and/or Death Valley events and if you are willing to assist with planning and other details.

Help Wanted

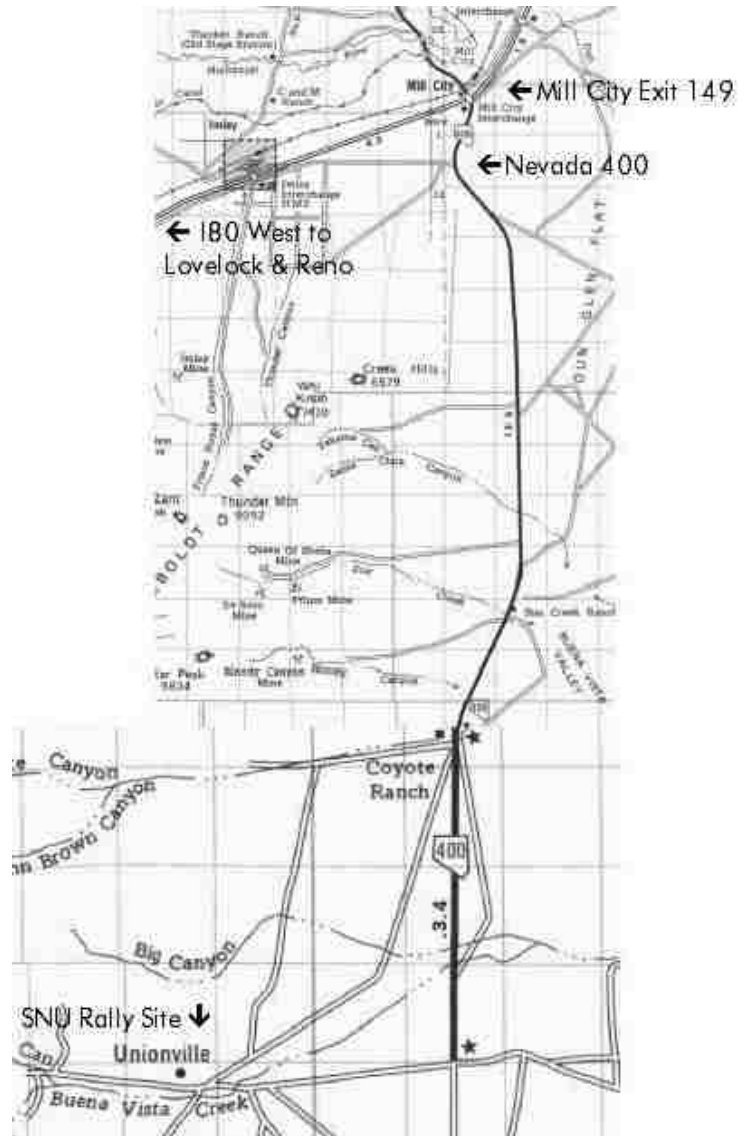
Speaking of the rally schedule, The SNU needs some scouts - members to check out potential rally sites. Scouts need some knowledge and experience with the SNU to ensure potential sites will accommodate the size and number of rigs that usually attend a rally. They will need to physically take a drive to a potential site, check it out, take pictures, and find out about any conditions or restrictions that might impact a rally. In general rally sites should be within a 100 mile radius of Reno. For more information on what the SNU is looking for in a rally site go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/snu-mbrhandbook/06fb-opnotes-site-selection.html>

For a great example of a scout report check the Obsidian Dome or Sage Hen PDFs done by Rick LaBorde.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/destinations/395-south/index.html>

The SNU likes dispersed areas. These not only need scouting out, if they are chosen for a rally site it will require someone arriving early. Although we can't reserve or hold a dispersed area for a rally, an early arrival will help ensure that others will have a place to park.

Unionville Map and Directions



Rally at Unionville - Location:

Off of I 80 East. About 60 miles East of Lovelock. Take exit 149 (about 44 miles from Lovelock) towards Mill City/Unionville, go 0.1 mile. Turn right onto NV-400, go south 16.6 miles. Turn west (right) onto the gravel road to Unionville, go 2.1 miles. (there is a green road sign telling you the turn is coming up). Go up the canyon (a very slight incline) 4.1 miles to the campsite (park). The section to Unionville is unpaved. It is good gravel, wide enough for Airstreams and no steep grades. We all made it last year with no problems.



The Airstream Classic is an all-around star.

Within its generous length, there are wonderfully comfortable sleeping accommodations, a complete kitchen, shower and an available separate lavatory with folding doors for privacy. Long vacations, even with a large family, are effortless with the Classic. It can also serve as a luxurious “home away from home” for those who like to stay on the move. Come by Mountain Family RV today and look at this 30’ Airstream Classis slideout and see the rest of our Airstream collection.

We have the Basecamp!

We have 2 on the lot. The Basecamp is a “Swiss Army Knife” of a trailer that features an interior that can be configured for multiple uses -- suiting customers needs, from young couples who might want to take it camping on the weekends to cyclists heading off for a weekend of extreme riding. Ultra-light: most conventional vehicles with a 2,000 lb gross weight when fully loaded can tow the Airstream Basecamp. Come see it for yourself



The time is now to buy the trailer of your dreams.