

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

MAY 2007 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

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



April Rally at Lahontan

The SNU April rally at Lahontan was full of surprises and lots of fun. By Saturday night we had six Airstreams, ten people, six dogs, one guinea pig, one parakeet, and one cat. The weather was a mix of sun and warmth, rain, and cold wind. The wind and clouds kept the campers and boaters home so we had a nice quiet peaceful weekend. We were able to have all our lunches and dinners outside as it seemed the wind died down and the weather cleared just so we could enjoy our meals. We even had a campfire Saturday night although it did begin to drizzle.

We were delighted to meet our new members, Don and Gail Williams from Riverside CA. They arrived Thursday afternoon with their dog Zorro. The The Leipper's, Bryan, Diane, and Anita, arrived by noon on Thursday. Jerry and Dyann Thornburg arrived in time for Happy Hour on Thursday. Von Gallion arrived on Friday. It was great to see him again and help him get reacquainted with the SNU dry camping style rally. Von has been to too many rallies in full hookup sites and ran his batteries down. No matter, we charged him up again. His friend Yvonne wasn't able to make it but we hope to see her again before the end of the year.

Saturday, just about dinner time another Airstream pulled up. It was Roman Kreminski and Melissa Wong and their dog Indy. Thanks to some valiant last minute effort on the part of Lenny at MFRV, they got the rear lights on the 1974 Trade Wind they have just purchased working and made it to the rally. So once again, the SNU helped inaugurate a "new" Airstream. Roman and Melissa spent the first night in their Airstream listening to rain pitty patting on the roof and got verification that their Trade Wind is apparently free of leaks. As Melissa said, the rain was also a great way to wash off the trailer. On Friday SNU friend Gene Baleme came by for a visit with his fiancée, Carmen. Gene wanted to introduce her to the group and give her an opportunity to see our Airstreams.

Saturday, Don and Mary Lou Damoth came out, as did Roger Jeppson. B Martin and John Yokela also came out and visited with us most of the afternoon and evening. B brought pictures of their 76 Sovereign. They have made a lot of progress since we saw it a year ago. It is now a really nice looking Airstream. Can't wait to have them join us at a rally.



Happy Campers at Lake Lahontan



Gathering of Eagles



Beautiful Day, Beautiful Lake



Day is done, gone the sun, All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Saturday, Don Williams set up his laptop in his trailer and we all climbed in and enjoyed his presentation. His pictures included some of his motorcycle adventures, the 1st CCD they had, the rollover Airstream he recently purchased, and the 18 ft Airstream they are beginning to restore. The focus of the presentation was the installation of solar panels on their current CCD. He also had pictures of other ideas for power generation that after some consideration Don rejected. He just couldn't figure out how to mount a windmill even a miniature, on his CCD. But maybe that is something for the SNU to consider – make one day of our rallies, maybe Friday, an alternative quiet power day. Instead of generators use batteries, solar, wind, or some other imaginative method.

The rally also included the usual efforts to make sure everybody was well fed. We shared lots of Airstream stories and in general, did a lot of catching up. We also spent a lot of time worrying about some baby owls that apparently got blown out of their nest. The parents kept flying over and providing some food. One chick finally moved over to a more protected grassy area. Eventually Jerry helped encourage the other one to join his sibling in the grass. Hopefully they will be OK and soon be flying and on their own.

Roman and Melissa were enjoying themselves so much they stayed over Sunday night as did Anita Leipper. That gave them more time to visit, to figure out their Airstream and to just enjoy the scenery. All in all, another successful SNU rally.

See the Lahontan Rally photo gallery <http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/index.php?cat=14>

SNU Business Meeting

Saturday April 21, we held the SNU business meeting. Members present were Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, Bryan, Diane, and Anita Leipper, Von Gallion, Don and MaryLou Damoth, Don and Gail Williams, and Roger Jeppson. Diane Leipper acted as secretary recording minutes of the meeting. SNU President, Jerry Thornburg brought up the first item of business, the nomination and election of Von Gallion as SNU's delegate for the meeting at the WBCCI rally in July. Jerry called for a vote and Von was elected unanimously. The SNU also determined that it's delegate would cast the Unit vote as a block rather than as percentages.

The second item of business was the proposed amendment to the WBCCI Constitution to enable certain Class A motorhomes manufactured by Thor but not Airstream products be eligible for membership in WBCCI. This motion was discussed then Jerry called for a vote. The SNU voted unanimously against this proposal.

The third item of business was the revised SNU bylaws and constitution. The SNU has been requested by WBCCI to submit a current copy of the bylaws and constitution. The SNU took this opportunity to further revise and update these documents. The resulting document combines the constitution and bylaws and streamlines them to reduce redundancy and better reflect the operating principles of the SNU. The SNU again, voted unanimously to accept the revised and consolidated constitution and bylaws.

The SNU hits 30!

By the end of April 2007 The SNU officially has 30 members. It has taken five years of steady slow growth to reach this milestone. In 2003 the SNU was down to 12 members and only 3 active. There are many factors that have helped the SNU survive and grow – getting back to the basics of what a WBCCI Unit is all about, our newsletter, the website, our efforts with PSA's among others. Bottom line though it is the members. Members who enjoy camping together with their Airstreams. Members willing to do what is needed to keep the SNU functioning. Members who make other Airstreamers feel welcome and encouraged them to participate. Members who take an active role in providing vision and direction for the SNU's future. As SNU President, Jerry so succinctly put it “It's the Airstreams that bring us together but it's the people who keep us together”. So, congratulations to the members of the SNU!

Ramhorn Springs Adventure

The next SNU rally will be Thursday May 17 through Sunday 20 2007 at Ramhorn Springs, a BLM campground north from Susanville on U. S. Highway 395. It is approximately 45 miles from Susanville and about 2 hours from Reno. This is a no fee area and it is individual campsites. There are two entrances to the campground. Take the second entrance. Members and guests are welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. This is a good area for hiking, bird watching and just relaxing. Bring some wood for the fire. Arrival time is anytime after noon on Thursday May 17. Feel free to come a day early or stay a day late though. Whatever suits your schedule. For more information and maps go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/events/07ma-ramhorn-index.html>

Announcements

Scrapbook PDF files now available.

If you have come to an SNU event, you have probably browsed through the SNU photo books. These pages are in a PDF format and are now available on the website so you can make your own SNU rally photo album. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/07-08rallies.html>

The President's Ramblings

Here we go again another month gone by. We had a wonderful rally at Lahonton. I appreciated not having to travel too far this time. The good thing about our rallies is you never know who will show up. From the new members, to the prospective members, to one of the older unit members. (Not talking about your age Von). I welcome our new members, hope to see you at more rallies in the future.

One of the things that I do not like doing is politics. This past month has seen a lot of emails to me from other unit presidents about the motor home issue. It seems that there is a lot of disagreement about it. One of the points brought up by a regional president was that there was no time to waste on this. I kind of presented the view that this was not a life or death situation and it really didn't matter if it went another year so that everyone could make an informed decision. I don't think that flew very far. Some of the other unit presidents kind of agreed with me. One of the other points that I brought up was that it took a two way conversation to have an informed opinion. That didn't seem to fly either. This is one of the things I hope never happens in our unit. I always want an open two way street. Enough of the political diatribe.

We have a rally this month at Ramhorn Springs in California. Its about 45 miles north of Susanville on 395. From the public lands web site it has camping (who would believe it), fishing hiking, backpacking, picnicking, That's not nitpicking. They are different. And wildlife viewing (that's us around a campfire). Supposedly there are cultural-historic sites in the area. I hope they are not talking about me being old and a red neck. I know Roger and Gary are older and been desert rats as long or longer than me. Maybe that's historic. Surely not cultural. I guess some of our conversations could fit into both.

I thought about giving tips on Airstream repairs but you all get enough of that at the rallies, so I don't think so. One of the pleasures I get out of being the unit prez is that I get newsletters from other units. I thought maybe I could use executive privileges and make a formal structure to our rallies but certain others have not been shy telling me what to do with my privileges. So I guess I wont do that either. That just leaves leaving things as we have always done them.

With that in mind I will bid this months column behind and say safe traveling and happy camping.

Jerry Thornburg

SNU Announcement list

Make sure you hear about any last minute news and information pertinent to the SNU. Help the SNU cut back on postage costs. How? Sign up for the SNU announcement list. Subscribers to the announcement list will receive notification when the newsletter is posted on the website. They will hear about any announcements or updates that come in after the newsletter has been published. To subscribe to the announcement list go to: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/index.html>

Looking for an Airstream

Roman and Melissa have some friends who are in the market for an Airstream. If you see one for sale, pass the information along to hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org

Here, There, and Everywhere

SNU members have not been sitting still. They have been busy attending SNU rallies and visiting other Airstream gatherings. Don and Gail Williams attended a 4 Corners rally in Arizona. They are now on an adventure with friends to the Moab and Arches area. Clint and Kathy Norrell attended the forum rally at Casini Ranch and have plans to visit another group. Randy and Vicki Grossmann attended a rally of the Idaho unit held at the local Airstream dealership. Von Gallion has attended rallies with the El Camino and Tri-Counties Units among others. He will soon be heading to Georgia for the WBCCI International rally. Getting out with your Airstream and meeting other Airstreamers is what it's all about. It is nice to see SNU members taking advantage of opportunities to expand their Airstream adventures. We all look forward to hearing their stories and discussing any ideas they bring back to the SNU.

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

Upcoming events

- Thursday – Sunday June 14 - 17 2007 Unionville - I80 east from Reno, near Lovelock NV, unstructured site in the old mining town of Unionville. 3 day Rally, members & guests welcome. Board meeting Saturday open to all. Activities available exploring Unionville, nearby fossil area, hot springs, horse back riding, bike trails, and hiking. Special Brunch at Old Pioneer Garden. Arrival time - anytime after noon on Thursday June 14

- 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
- Thursday - Sunday September 20 – Sept 23, 2007 Ione RV park.
- Thursday – Sunday October 18 - 21 2007 Ft. Churchill Nevada State Park
- 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>

Planned informality

Occasionally the issue of growth and the SNU has come up. First, It isn't the size of the organization that matters but what the organization does and how it does it. There are several aspects of the SNU that seem to particularly appeal to it's members. Key among these is the informality and need for minimal visible organization and structure.

The structure of the SNU and its informality is not haphazard and not something that just happened accidentally. It was designed and carefully built. It was intended as an example and an illustration and an experiment. It has good theoretical underpinnings and solid historical precedent for a foundation. Members need to know this so they can have confidence that it is a maintainable and manageable construct. That confidence will help members continue to implement and develop the ideas so we can all enjoy the benefits of new friends and new experiences the way we have come to expect with the SNU, no matter how many members we share it with. The SNU tackled these concepts when we reformed the bylaws in 2002 and even earlier when we structured a focus on the primary purpose of the organization over a lot of the fluff that some Airstreamers complain about. That purpose is to go camping in your Airstream. An example of the reformed bylaws is related to the elected officers. The WBCCI Unit norm is a whole set of officers and committees with defined duties. We trimmed that to the core in 2002 and, it appears, we are going to more formally demote the unneeded offices and committees when the current bylaws recommendation is adopted.

Instead, we work as a committee of the whole to determine priorities and see if we can find some individual willing to champion a priority via voluntary action. It is a subtle difference but an important one. It is the difference between obligating someone to undertake some activity of some sort and having someone who is not otherwise obligated at all to step forward and volunteer because he sees something important that needs doing. Push vs pull.

The assumption is often that everyone will expect to be 'assigned' a volunteer task in events. There is nothing wrong with that and it is a time tested and proven model. The SNU, in contrast, makes no such assumption. It turns out, though, that this particular assumption is difficult to keep tamped down as people always expect things of others. That difficulty is a testament to the quality of the people involved (they do things on their own and we come to expect it) but also highlights the need for paying attention and maintaining the discipline for informality. We have to pay attention to keeping our presumptions and expectations in check.

Unlike many other Units and groups in general, the SNU has been able to avoid getting stuck on individual reservations, formally planned participation in activities, and other such things. In part this is due to the area we live in. It is also a result of conscious decisions made in 2002 one of which is our preference for unstructured, dry camping sites. This enabled us to keep rally costs to a bare minimum and makes it possible to accommodate any Airstreamer who shows up at a rally whether they have RSVP'd or not. Another conscious choice relates to rally activities. Pot lucks and other shared meals are usually not organized in any fashion. Activities are a result of individual motivation and tend towards the informal - things such as hiking, visiting hot springs, bird watching and biking. These activities reflect our efforts to keep planning and costs to a minimum and enables us to accommodate as few or as many people who might show up at a rally.

The SNU has also taken the lead in using modern communication methods to augment and support a variety of communications efforts. Much of the planning and coordination needed for Unit activities and Unit management can now be done with much less formality or bureaucracy through effective use of the tools available.

By knowing how the SNU operates, explaining how we do things and why we do them a certain way it will help ensure that a discipline for informality can be maintained. That is the reason SNU behavior is codified on the Unit website and why concerns such as those about growth are so important to discuss. Check this page to learn more about the SNU and how it functions. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/index.html>

The SNU operates on the principle of invitation and opportunity versus one of obligations and burdens. It will take the SNU as a whole to keep the focus on the core values, to keep expectations in check, and most of all each individual, as an active and contributing member of the committee of the whole, to help the SNU maintain the qualities that we have all come to appreciate and enjoy.

Welcome New Members.

Roman Kreminski and Melissa Wong recently purchased a 1974 Trade Wind. They took it in to MFRV to be checked out. Despite some last minute repairs they managed to make it to the Lahontan Rally. We look forward to seeing Roman and Melissa at many future SNU rallies.

May Rally at Ramhorn Springs BLM Campground

Location: From Susanville: Travel north on U. S. Highway 395 approximately 45 miles. The access road is approximately 2.4 miles north of the California Department of Transportation Roadside Rest Area. Look for the campground sign. Turn east (right) onto BLM Road 26000. Travel approximately 2.5 miles. The campground will be adjacent to the road on your left. BLM Road 26000 is an unimproved dirt road that can become impassable as a result of wet weather. The road is passable by vehicles pulling trailers but can be rough and dusty. (from the BLM website) Camping is in individual sites. There are 10 sites available.

There are two entrances to the campground. Go past the first entrance and turn in at the second.



Entrance to the campground from Rd 26000



View of campground from overlooking hill





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 Classic 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.