

# SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

## SEPTEMBER 2007 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER

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

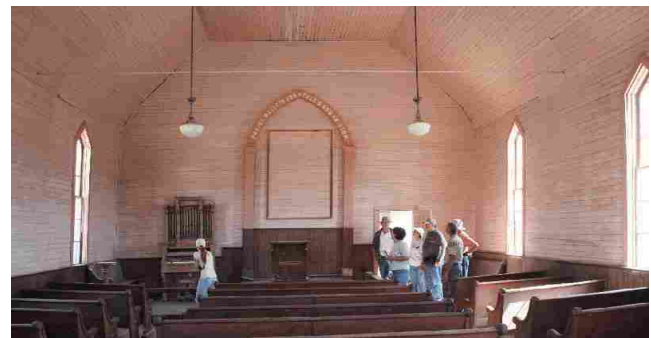


### Record breaking rally

The August rally at Twin Lakes was amazing for many reasons. We had 12 Airstreams, a new high for an SNU event. Three of the attendee's were brand new SNU members, including one who joined at the rally. Mark and Cary arrived Thursday night along with Dave and Rachel. Scott and Icyl had a brand new tow vehicle and were having a little problem getting the brakes working correctly but they arrived before dinner on Friday. The Seasholtz and the Strodes are both first time Airstream owners and Twin Lakes was also their first organized Airstream event. I believe this was also the first organized Airstream event for Scott and Icyl. We were delighted Dave and Rachel decided to join the SNU. Pretty amazing considering Jerry said he had chained their Airstream to a tree and there were hints that maybe Jerry had taken the tires off their Airstream to prevent them leaving before they joined. Despite that and the fact that Dave ended up on trash duty because he figured out how to open the bear proof garbage cans in 45 minutes rather than the hour it took everyone else, he and Rachel have become the latest SNU members.

Roman and Melissa came with their brand new Airstream, a 25ft 2008 International Signature Series. They have set a record I doubt will be beat anytime in the near future. Since April they have attended 3 SNU rallies and each time it has been in a different Airstream. Roman and Melissa have been on the fast track. Most people spend years trying different trailers before determining what suits them best. Melissa and Roman did it in less than six months. They now have a beautiful Airstream that is perfect for them. One they will enjoy for rallies and other Airstream adventures for years to come. Roman and Melissa have become friends with the Sales Rep they bought their Airstream from. He came to the rally with them in a brand new Safari Sport. The Safari was on loan from the dealer and we all enjoyed looking it over.

We were delighted to see Wes and RoyLaine Warn arriving at the rally site. This is the first rally they have been able to attend this year. It was great to see them on the road again and back with the group. Chuck and Judy Fell brought their Airstream out and joined us on Friday evening. Because of their busy summer schedules, this is the first time they have been able to bring their Airstream to a rally.



Church at Bodie State Park

Other members at the rally were Jerry and Dyann, Don and Gail, Randy, Anita, Bryan, and Diane. Also our guests, Gene and Carmen. Participants came from Riverside, CA, South Lake, Fallon, Fernley, Mendocino, CA, and Carson City.

Several Airstreams were spotted in campgrounds close to the rally sight and none escaped visits by Anita, Jerry and other SNU members. The visits paid off as four of those Airstream owners came up to the rally site for visits and one may even join the SNU. Friday Don Williams left the rally at 5am to assist with an off road race not too far from Twin Lakes. He didn't return home till almost 6am Saturday. His wife, Gail had put their neon pink flamingo on the propane tanks so Don could find their Airstream among all the others that had arrived in his absence.

Saturday everyone headed to the nearby ghost town of Bodie for a special tour led by Chuck Fell. He was able to show us many of the buildings and other sites that are normally closed to the public. Everyone was very impressed not only with the buildings themselves but by Chuck's knowledge of the area, his information on the buildings and the town history. Thanks again Chuck for a great tour.

Saturday evening Bryan got his computer set up on the picnic table so he could download everyone's rally pictures. Instead of our usual campfire, everyone enjoyed going through all the pictures. We did have a great campfire on Friday night with wood contributed by Dave and Rachel. We sat around and enjoyed the fire, the almost full moon, and the great company. Saturday, Randy got out the SNU diorama which amazed and delighted all those who hadn't seen it before. Sunday, one of our earlier visitors brought their 2006 Bambi up to the rally site for every to check out. It is the one with the surfer theme.

In between greeting all the new members and first time participants, we had our usual amazing shared meals, inspirational naps, touring various Airstreams and the Argosy, swapping stories, sharing repair and maintenance tips, and catching up on everyone's adventures. A great time was had by all.

### **SNU Business Meeting**

Saturday after dinner, SNU President, Jerry Thornburg used what little executive privilege he could get and held a short business meeting. He welcomed our new members. Other items discussed included a reminder to pay dues for 2008 an overview of how the SNU functions, an update on the nominations for SNU 2008 officers which will be elected in October, the 2008 proposed rally schedule. and the upcoming changes in the SNU newsletter. The rally schedule was accepted as presented.

Various SNU members have taken on responsibility to assist in planning and preparation for each rally and luncheon. Melissa Wong has volunteered to assist with the newsletter at least till the end of the year. Jerry also updated everyone on Von Gallion's adventures coming home from the International Rally. He blew a tire on his Airstream and rolled his rig. Although Von was left hanging upside down till rescuers cut his seatbelt, he and Yvonne are fine. They were only kept in the hospital for a few hours for observation. Von is now in the market for another Airstream. After some further discussion, Jerry adjourned the meeting and we greeted some visitors, a couple who have a 2006 Bambi and were camped in a nearby campground.

### **Help wanted!**

After six years of editing, doing layout, and mailing the newsletter, (many times while on the road) Don Damoth will be retiring the position as of the September issue. The newsletter has been a primary communications, as well as promotional vehicle for the SNU since 2002. That year the SNU decided on three priorities – rallies, the newsletter, and public service announcements. Under Don's stewardship the SNU has enjoyed a consistent, timely, well designed publication that has been beneficial to the SNU in many ways. It is a newsletter we can all be proud of.

It is time though to move on. Time for other members to carry on with this task. The SNU is a collaborative effort with all members pitching in on one level or another to keep things running smoothly. This applies to the newsletter. For the last six years it has been handled primarily by two people, one doing most of the writing or collection of articles for publication and one doing the editing and mailing. There are lots of ways the it can be handled but the bottom line is the SNU needs your help in order to continue producing the newsletter. Let us hear from you. Whatever you can do to keep this publication going will help. For more information on the hows and whys of the SNU newsletter check the Op Notes. <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/members/snu-mbrhandbook/06fb-opnotes-newsletter.html>

### **Welcome new members**

The SNU already has four new members for 2008. Michael Cassiday and Deborah Russell live in Reno and own a 2008 23 ft. Safari SE. Scott and Icyl Mulligan live in Carson City and own a 1975 Argosy 28ft that they have had since it was brand new. Mark and Cary Seasholtz live in Reno. They own a 1983 Excella 25ft. David and Rachel Strode live in Mendocino and own a 2007 Safari 25ft. Welcome one and all. We look forward to your participation in the SNU.

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, use the form you received with last months newsletter, or just mail your check for \$65 to the SNU at PO Box 60572, Reno, NV 89506. Plans are already in the works and 2008 promises to be another great year for the SNU.

The locations for SNU rallies in 2008 are pretty much in place. This year we have designated an SNU member as the coordinator for each event. We still have some openings so let us know if you would like to help out.

January lunch - Bavarian World, Reno  
February lunch - Mi Casa II, Carson City, Randy and Vicki Grossmann  
March rally - Davis Creek, Washoe Valley, Anita Leipper  
April rally - Lake Lahontan Beach 7  
May rally - Unionville, Thornburgs  
June rally - Portola Railroad museum, Diane Leipper  
July rally - Blue Lakes, Hwy 88, Kreminski/Wong  
August rally - Eagle Lakes, Susanville, Anita  
September rally - Obsidian Dome, Lee Vining, LaBorde  
October - Ft. Churchill  
November lunch - Chuckars, Fernley, Warn  
November bonus rally - Death Valley, Williams  
December lunch - JT's Basque, Gardnerville.

The SNU is always looking for new places for rallies. We are willing to experiment with almost any location but prefer dispersed or unstructured sites with no facilities with no fees or under \$80 per night group areas. If you have any ideas or suggestions please pass them along. 2008 promises to be a great year for SNU rallies. Thanks to everyone for your support and for accepting the task of coordinating one of the events.

### Dinosaur Destination

The next rally will be Thursday September 20 through Sunday Sept 23, 2007 at Berlin Ichthyosaur Nevada State Park. We will tour the the museum, and the Berlin townsite. Members and guests welcome. Once again Randy will provide us with a Waffles in the Wild breakfast on Saturday morning. A short board meeting Saturday around noon, is open to all. Arrival time - anytime after noon on Thursday September 20. Camping will be in individual sites. There is a camping fee of \$12 per night. If we take the guided tours there is a \$3 per person fee. Tours of the Ichthyosaur Museum are presented at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park Fire Restrictions - no open fires, even in designated picnic and campground areas.  
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/2007/>

### Anniversaries

The SNU has shown steady growth over the last three years. A new membership year is just around the corner. It seems this is a good time to recognize those people who have helped make the SNU the success that it is.

Members since the mid 1990's or earlier - Von Gallion, Don and Mary Lou Damoth, Bryan and Diane Leipper

**2001** - Michael and Donna Faker, **2004** - Jack and Lindi Cooper Schroeder, Wes and Roy Laine Warn. **2005** - Chuck and Judy Fell, Rich and Judy Jaggard, Rick and Jeanne (Sassin) Laborde, Anita Leipper, Clare and Lynn Mahannah, Dan and Linda (Hess) Odell, Rick and Fran (Quinlan) Reid, Brian and Jenifer Root, Spencer and Jill Thomas, Jerry and Dyann (McDonald) Thornburg. **2006** - Dave Gmur, Randy and Vicki Grossmann, Mike and Krista Orchard. **2007** - Jack and Cathy Corliss, Gary and Donetta Curtis, Gary and Anita Haskett, Roger and Jan Jeppson, Roman Kreminski and Melissa Wong, Brian and Linda McKeand, Clint and Kathy Norrell, Anthony and Dawn Placencia, John and Sandra Shields, Russell and Deborah Smith, Don and Gail Williams.

### Upcoming events

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

- Thursday – Sunday October 18 - 21 2007 Ft. Churchill Nevada State Park Scout Camp
- Saturday November 17, 2007 Dayton – Gold Canyon Steak House
- Saturday December 15, 2007 Reno, NV Holiday Open House and pot luck at the Damoth's

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

### President's Ramblin's

Well another month has gone. The rally at Twin Lakes was very enjoyable. SNU keeps getting better. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be introduced to the new members. Not only are we getting more local members but we are still getting members from afar. Again this speaks of the culture of the unit. The next rally will be at Berlin (That's Nevada not Germany) it's been many years since I was at this site. I don't think there was a campground then. The tour of the big fish (I can't spell the real name and too lazy to look it up) is very interesting, especially since you wouldn't believe that a fish that big could have ever lived in the desert. Well it wasn't a desert then. There are other attractions close by such as Ione, Reese River, and some mines.

Randy came up with a new type of battery, one that increases in voltage when you turn the lights on. I wanted to patent this but he wouldn't tell me where he got it. Also the deer were very friendly; one even liked Melissa so much it charged at her. I still have a bet out that Roman and Melissa get another trailer. I may have to wait 30 or 40 years to collect though.

Remember that October is the month for our next election, you don't have to be there to vote or make comments you can email them to me or Diane. At this point in time the slate of officers will be the same as this year. I did get a package for the Bozeman rally that listed Dyann and myself as past. That makes me feel even older than I am which is ancient. Someone will have to let me know what you get when you become an ancient redneck, possibly fossilized stone.

I tried again to use executive privilege and volunteer some people for the newsletter but I don't think that worked either. As you might not know Don wants to step back from the newsletter and we are looking for others to help with its publication. Please if you have any interest let us know.

Okay I have been all over the place with this column so I will close for now and try and do better next month.

Jerry

### September Rally

The September Rally will be at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. The park is about 155 miles from east Reno. This promises to be one of the most interesting and educational rally sites we have been to.

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park protects the most abundant concentration of Ichthyosaur (ancient marine reptiles) fossils. Ichthyosaurs (pronounced ick-thee-o-sores) were ancient marine reptiles that swam in a warm ocean which covered central Nevada 225 million years ago. The park contains the most complete and best preserved ichthyosaurs in North America. It also contains the largest examples of these creatures known in the world. Fossils of these giant animals are on display at the park's Fossil House, and are a primary attraction for visitors from throughout the world. "

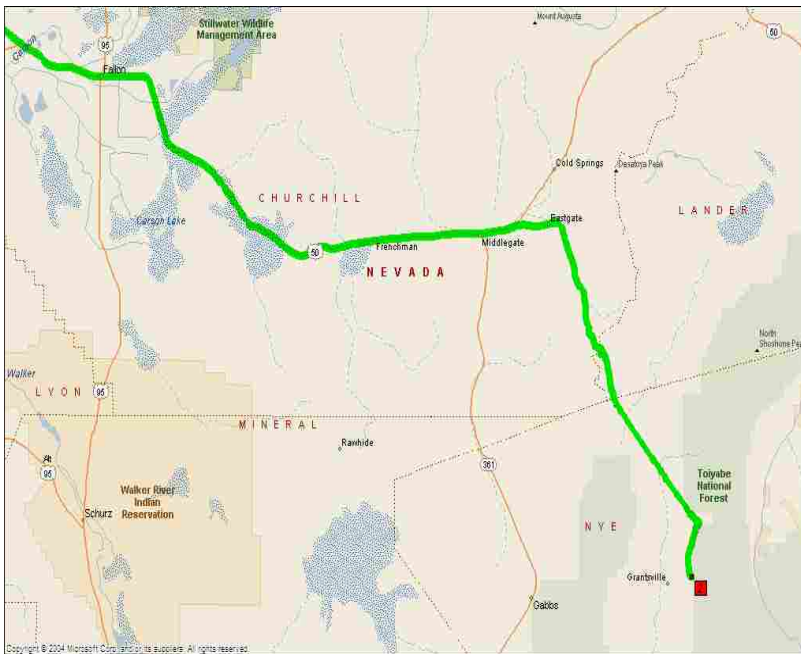
Living at about the same time as the dinosaurs, Ichthyosaur fossils are found on all continents except Antarctica. Their widespread existence and apparent success makes their extinction all the more mysterious. Of all the Ichthyosaurs discovered, the ichthyosaurs at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park (dubbed *Shonisaurus popularis* after the Shoshone mountain range in which they occur), are among the largest specimens known reaching fifty feet in length. A total of about 40 Ichthyosaurs were discovered in various locations throughout the park. In 1984 *Shonisaurus popularis* became the Nevada State Fossil.

The park also preserves the turn-of-the century mining town of Berlin, as well as the Diana Mine. Berlin is preserved in a state of "arrested decay. During its heyday, Berlin and its Union suburbs supported 200-250 people including miners, woodcutters, charcoal makers, a doctor and nurse, a forest ranger and a prostitute. Buildings included a 30-stamp mill, assay office, barn and corrals, union hall, store and post office, infirmary, stage station and homes. Many of the buildings still remain. Some of the residents are interred in the cemetery below the town.

The Berlin Mine was worked from an incline shaft with eight levels. The total production of its three miles of tunnels is estimated to have been \$849,000 at a time when gold was \$20 per ounce. The Berlin Mill processed the ore by crusher, stamps, amalgamation, and concentrating tables.

Today Berlin stands as a true Nevada ghost town, preserved for present and future generations. Visitors are invited to walk through the old townsite, read the numerous descriptive signs, peer into the windows and imagine life during this colorful period of Nevada's past.





### Directions to Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

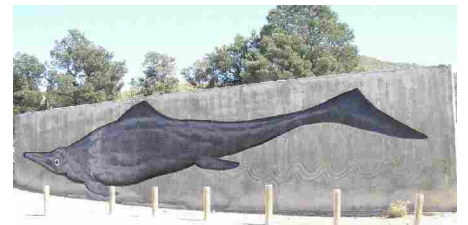
From Fallon - Take Rt 50 east. There are two options: the paved road towards Gabbs is good but has a steep mountain pass to climb towards Berlin. The other route is more flat but has about 30 miles of dirt road. The dirt route is five miles shorter. For the paved route go east to Middlegate and turn south on Rt 361. For the more level route, go further east to Eastgate. Take Rt 2 east and south for about 7.8 miles, then bear right on Snake Bite Rd. **Be sure to fill up with gas at Fallon, there is nothing beyond Fallon, and it is about 90 miles on down to Berlin.**

See also:

<http://www.cmdrmark.com/ichthyosaur.html>

<http://www.cmdrmark.com/berlin.html>

<http://parks.nv.gov/bi.htm>





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**