



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Issue 8

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

August 2009

SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/

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Rally and events schedule

Click on a rally below for details

- ◆ Thursday Aug. 20 – Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009
Obsidian Dome (Inyo NF)
dispersed camping
- ◆ Thursday Sept. 24 – Sun 27, 2009
Unionville County Park
- ◆ Oct. 14 – 18, 2009
Region 12 Rally
- ◆ Mason Valley Wildlife Area Friday
Oct. 22 - Sunday Oct. 25, 2009
- ◆ Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 Gold Hill,
Hotel, Virginia City
- ◆ Death Valley Mesquite Camp-
ground November 2009
- ◆ Saturday Dec. 12th 2009 Overland
Hotel & Basque Restaurant

Petersen Ranch Rally

by Randy Grossmann

The July SNU rally at the Petersen ranch in Northern California near the town of McArthur was arguably the dirtiest rally in recent memory. But all attendees loved it. Perhaps in some way the dirt just added to the wonderful time experienced by all. The rally site was as clean as any camping rally, but getting to the site over about eight miles of dirt road was quite a dusty experience. The road to the ranch was comparable to the road into Obsidian. Because of some 18 wheeler traffic this year some of the road consisted of several inches of powdery dirt, much of which ended up on the rigs. As the rigs arrived at the camp site they were more brown than their real color. At least we didn't have to worry about Nevada pin-striping. Instead we got a California back road paint job.

Everyone thought that this was a really neat place for an SNU rally! The Petersen ranch covers over a thousand acres and we had it all to ourselves. A beautiful meadow was surrounded by mountains and trees with views of Mt Shasta and Mt. Lassen. Between Anita's pictorial directions and signs she posted at critical points, finding the rally



site was easy. We were parked on level ground beneath some huge pine trees. The shade and a nice breeze most of the time, were a welcome relief from the heat.

There were five rigs at the rally. The participants were Diane and Bryan Leipper, Dave

Gmur, Anita Leipper, Randy and Vicki Grossmann, and Gene and Carmen Baleme. Gene and Carmen could stay only about 24 hours because Carmen had to get back for work. Nevertheless, we were very happy to have them even for that short a time. Their stay did



allow them to partake of a waffle breakfast on Saturday morning which was provided by Randy Grossmann and his trusty upside down waffle making machine. Toppings included strawberries, blueberries, a variety of syrups, and whipped cream. We also had sausage and, of course, coffee. By all accounts the waffles were a resounding success with people clamoring for a repeat performance sometime in the future. We are sure that Randy will again provide his signature waffles at a future rally.

The rally site was remote and private. All attendees thought that a rally like this is nice for occasionally getting away from civilization for a while. We were all grateful to Spencer Thomas for providing us with this site. He was a gracious host who stopped by to chat several times during the rally, including dinner on Friday night. Spencer invited

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Come out to our August rally at Obsidian Dome, Inyo N.F.

The next SNU Rally will be Thursday 20 to Sunday, August 23, 2009 at Obsidian Dome. It is located west of US 395 South between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes, CA. The rally site, a favorite of the SNU, is a dispersed camping area on the Inyo National Forest. Glass Creek is nearby and lots of great places to hike. If you feel like exploring further afield, Mammoth Lakes is a short drive to the South and June Lakes or Lee Vining, a short drive to the North. Plan to join us at this years August rally at Obsidian Dome. Check out this [link](#), for more information and directions.



Anita's Adventures

Notes from our SNU President Anita Leipper

At the Petersen Ranch rally in July, I saw some interesting wildlife up close. Once when driving back to my airstream, a rattlesnake decided to cross the road in front of me. The snake waited for me to drive ahead, and during the wait I had a chance to get a good look at him from the safety of my truck. I also saw a cougar close to my

truck, moving at a moderate pace so I was able to see him for a while. A large cougar, who stopped by to pick up a handy squirrel on his stroll. While sitting outside with the ranch owner we saw a coyote crossing the field.

We had a baby bird at the rally site, on the ground and too young to fly. Maybe it was a mourning dove.

And then at 3:00 AM my cat woke me up. When I turned on the light, I found out I had a bat in the airstream! It was beautiful, gliding around the small space without any problems. I opened the door and the bat flew out. I would like to know how the bat accessed the airstream. There was a window screen with a slight opening in the top.

Dues are Due!

Several SNU members have renewed for 2010 – Williams, Haskett, Jeppson, Molde, Grossmann, Leipper, Leipper, and Gmur. Their early renewal is much appreciated. We are looking forward to the rest of you renewing your membership soon. Dues are \$65; \$55 for membership in WBCCI and \$10 for the your SNU membership.

Send your check to:

S.N.U. Treasurer.

714 Terra Ct.

Reno, NV 89506.

You can also pay your dues online.

[Click here.](#)

This and That

We have posted a draft of the SNU 2010 rally and luncheon schedule. [Check it out.](#) Let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas.

The SNU treasurer has submitted this year's IRS Form 990 as required, to the [Wally Byam Caravan Club International](#).

Region 12 Rally - The SNU has received a copy of the [flyer](#) for the Region 12 Rally in Santa Maria, CA in October.

Vaughn Peak took some great photos of the WBCCI International Rally In Madison. See the [photo gallery](#) on the website.

Check this link for any of the items mentioned in this months flyer,

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2009/09news/index.html>

News from our Members and Friends

Update from the Gower's

Putting things back together is much HARDER than demo! You should have seen us hours before we left on a trip. Mike was still putting things back together. Of course we still couldn't use our water most of the time as leaks kept popping up everywhere! But the floor was finished, new walls up and new bathroom fixtures in. Holding tanks repaired and some walls painted. We had a great time and had quite a few people inquire

about our Airstream. Hope to see you in August!

A word from the Warn's

We haven't seen Wes and RoyLaine in a while and now we know why. Anita and Diane ran into Wes at COSTCO. They have been dealing with litigation regarding the Fernley Flood. Seems the meetings between the homeowners, the lawyers and other parties have been scheduled during the SNU rallies.

The Poll's "New" Airstream

Finally, Ed and Paula Poll have a "new" 1968 Airstream International Ambassador The results were well worth the wait. As soon as it was finished they took it to Malibu for a shakedown week of beachfront camping. Check the URL listed in this newsletter for a link of the "Grand Reveal"

Thornburg's Project list

Jerry and Dyann have been busy cleaning out and cleaning up. Fran's Airstream is now back at her place instead of at the Thornburg's. Jerry gave away an SOB that he had gotten for parts. Both Dyann and Jerry have been working on the MoHo. Dyann picked out material and has gotten the couch, arms of the captain chairs and the cushions at the table of the MoHo reupholstered. She says it "looks really really great!" Dyann says she has "picked out several different wallpapers for the bathroom, just need to decide on one and order it. Apparently what's in there is no longer available so we have to redo the entire bathroom now. That's going to be a little work. More comments from Dyann. "Jerry has rewired the outside lights and turn signals and also fixed the air conditioning. Yesterday we bought another satellite for it. I have gotten the stuff for the bedroom and will be custom fitting it to the bed, wall and draw fronts once we get home. Still waiting on the blinds to be delivered. Ordered them a while ago and they were suppose to have been shipped yesterday but I am now being told they won't be until the end of this week or the beginning of next week "at the latest". Looks like that will have to wait until we get back also. Discovered the stereo speakers were blown so need to replace those. Eric says to wait until he can take a look at them and he will pick out what kind need to go in. There's still a lot to be done but it's coming along nicely. Now just need to get busy and get everything done. That's my problem once I get started I want if finished now."

Leipper's Maintenance and Repair

Bryan and Dave have been busy shuffling parts from one Airstream to another, installing new parts, painting, and rearranging. It seems the jack on the '78 Sovereign got into a bar fight and the gears lost a few teeth and the '76 Overlander busted a roller pin. So an old jack post from the Ambassador with a good roller pin was put in the Overlander and the head from the Ambassador's newer jack was moved to the Sovereign. The Ambassador got a brand new Odyssey hitch from Ultra-fab which required removing the flag pole holder. In the process the hitch frame on the Ambassador and the Overlander got painted with "Okie Crome". Anita also got a new Intellipower plus Chargewizard converter and renovated front room.

Wally Byam Caravan Club International has a new Forum

After months of planning and development WBCCI has a new on-line community where members and anyone else who has an interest in anything related to Airstreams and WBCCI is welcome. Like WBCCI which itself came into being because of a group of people who had been on caravans with Wally Byam wanted a more organized and defined identity, this forum also came into being because of a group of dedicated people. These people are all members of WBCCI. They decided it was time to create a more up to date on-line community with the capability to provide a whole range of features to support the mission and goals of WBCCI, enhance communications, and encourage a sense of camaraderie among individuals, units and regions throughout WBCCI. So check it out. <http://forum.wbcci.org/index.php>

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Sign up for the electronic version of this newsletter. Our new electronic newsletter has many active links built into the text for your convenience.

[Sign Up Now](#)



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Phone: 775-972-5011
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Interested in supporting the Sierra Nevada Unit and at the same time getting some really cool stuff. Head on over to [Aluminutitis](#) for some stuff you can't live without.



Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line!

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2007/payonline/snu-shopping.html>

For more information on upcoming rallies check the website

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2009/events/docs/09-rallyschedule.html>

Petersen Ranch Rally cont.

by Randy Grossmann

us back and it was unanimous that we should return to this site for one of the rallies sometime next year.

Because of the heat extensive use was made of generators to power the air conditioners each afternoon. Toward the end of the rally generator gas was running low and members shared with each other so that nobody would end up sweltering because of a lack of generator power. Speaking of power, SNU members have been replacing their Airstream converters with Intel Power converters for better battery charging and management. Much of the rally consisted of giving the new converters stress tests to see how they performed. They all performed really well and proved to be much better than the ones they replaced.

On Friday, Bryan, Dave and Gene drove over to a cargo container Spencer had gotten from the Forrest Service that was full of radio equipment. They loaded up Gene's truck and on a later trip, loaded up Dave's truck. What the three of them can't use they plan to donate or take to the scrap yard. Also on Friday Randy decided he didn't have quite enough dust on his truck as you could still see some white paint, so he, Vicki, and Gene took a ride around the ranch checking out various nooks and crannies. One of the points of interest were some old log cabins, one of which Spencer lived in when he was in high school. There are lots of great places to hike in the area. Although the heat kept the hiking to rather short excursions this year. Friday and Saturday evenings we had our shared meals and then sat around until late in the evening just enjoying the peace and quiet in a really beautiful setting. Like Kingston, Obsidian, and Unionville, this ranch is at the outer edge of the SNU rally range but we all agreed the drive was well worth it.

Randy and Vicki headed for Medicine Lake after the rally. When they got there they found a huge mass of humanity. People were crowded all over the place and there were no available camping spaces. They immediately headed back to McArthur where they then spent some time. They are now saying that during July and August they are initiating the policy of avoiding public campgrounds. While in McArthur Randy experienced a severe battery drain situation. He made a call to Bryan who then consulted with Dave and they came up with some suggestions that helped solve Randy's problem. This is one of the many nice things about associating with SNU members. If someone has a problem there is both the expertise and desire to help.