

## "THE GREAT BASIN RV ASSOCIATION"

[SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/SNU](http://SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/SNU)



### LYON COUNTY FLY-IN RALLY

The only thing typical about the May SNU rally was the dirt parking area and dry camping. The week before the rally we discovered we were to be parked right smack in the center of all the activity of the air show. So when we arrived we parked our rigs fairly parallel and for the SNU, close together in the front corner of the parking area. Ten rigs from the SNU participated in this rally. Our rigs just about covered the gamut of Airstream RV's. We had a class A, a Bvan, several vintage, and several post 2000



era Airstreams. Rally participants included Randy and Vicki, Anita, Jerry and Dyann, Mike and Cindy, Gene and Carmen, Vaughn, Bryan and Diane, Dave, Roman and Melissa, and Roger and Janet. Friday morning we got to work. Bryan and Dave helped set up some of the vendor tents. Dyann, Diane and Anita fixed up the pilot goody bags. The rest of us helped out as needed. Saturday was the big day for the air show. Jerry, Eric, Wheels, and Anita pitched in on the pancake breakfast set up. When things really got going, everyone chipped in. Among other things, Jerry and Eric were the primary cooks. Wheels cooked, served and assisted in other ways. Dyann helped serve breakfast. Janet, Sidney, and Melissa helped out taking tickets, Vicki and Anita made sure there was enough syrup and butter and that the tables were clean. Everyone helped out one way or another. Jerry experimented with making Airstream pancakes with the special cookie cutters made by Wes Warn for the SNU's 30th Anniversary. While it is possible, Airstream pancakes are a little difficult for mass production efforts. See pictures of the pancakes in the photo gallery link in this newsletter. The team effort made for an efficient and well organized breakfast. Most of us had on our SNU nametags and many of us were wearing SNU aprons. Jerry wore his special Redneck (past)President apron. Along with that, his nametag and his SNU shirt, it was clear that the chief pancake flipper was a member of a pretty unique group.

As it turned out it was an eventful weekend for Jerry and Dyann. Jerry had quite a surprise. He ran across two men who were in the same military unit that he had been in, at about the same time. Because of the nature of the unit, it is rare to run across other members. Dyann ran across her old boss whom she hadn't seen in quite a while. They also ran across the former owner of the truck that is their current tow vehicle.

Gene and Carmen took advantage of a special opportunity to take a ride in a WWII AT6 military airplane. Gene decided to be a little daring so he got strapped into a parachute and the pilot did a few rolls and other maneuvers. Gene got some great pictures of the air show, our Airstreams and nearby Lahonton reservoir from the air. He even got some pictures while the plane was upside down. Check out the photo galleries.

Vaughn has a 39ft Class A Airstream. For most of us, we hadn't seen one of those before so we kept Vaughn busy giving tours. He was having some problems with his amateur radio antenna so he and Dave spend some quality time figuring out the problem and fixing it.

Randy and Vicki have been busy refreshing and enhancing the diorama. We set it up during the air show and people who passed by were very impressed. The diorama started out to be just the topping for a cake for the SNU's 30th anniversary in 2006. It grew too big for a cake and has since taken on a life of it's own. The diorama has been displayed at Open Houses at Mt Family RV, at the 2006 WBCCI International Rally, and it has been to several SNU rallies. If you haven't seen it be sure to check the link to the photo gallery listed in this newsletter.

Friday night we had a potluck to inaugurate the new tailgate on Mike and Cindy's truck. We used the tailgate as our buffet table. Recently someone who was busy sending a text message ran straight into the back of their truck causing quite a bit of damage. The repair job got done just in time for them to get to the rally.

Saturday, along with all the activity at the air show, we had a few visitors stop by. It has been a while since we have seen Fran Reid. She pitched right in and helped with the pancake breakfast. Madelyn Cutler stopped by and had a nice visit with everyone. We hope to see her at a rally soon.

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## NEWS FROM THE ROOT FAMILY

Just a quick check-in from the Roots. We haven't been able to make a 2009 rally yet...hopefully one soon!!! We did take the Airstream to Death Valley for the kids spring break. Camped at Furnace Creek. We took someone's advice from the Airstream club and checked out Titus Canyon. (I think it was Rich & Judy). Brian and a friend bicycled, while I and another friend picked up car and drove. Impressive! It's a VERY big park, which also translates to LOTS of driving to get anywhere. If anyone is headed that way, feel free to contact us. We're also headed to Zion again June 7th for a long week. If anyone is interested in joining us for this adventure, we'd love to hear from you.

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## ANITA'S ADVENTURES

Notes from the SNU President

It was good to see you all at the Lyon County fly-in rally. Thank you to everyone for helping with all that needed to be done.

I hope you have the rallies this summer on your agenda! The June rally at Sweetwater summit is a wonderful place to be. Gorgeous views of the Sierra Nevada, and numerous small hills around the rally site that are perfect for exploring. We are fortunate for our July rally to have SNU members Jill and Spencer Thomas open one of their private ranches just for us. The Petersen ranch in Northern California has some interesting geology, plenty of shade for our airstreams, and cattle to keep us company. The ranch is in a valley surrounded by hills and mountains. Within two miles of the ranch are views of Mount Lassen and the surrounding area. Our August rally at Obsidian Dome also has numerous areas to explore, including the Obsidian Dome. Mammoth Lakes is close by for a visit to the south, and June Lakes area, and Mono Lake to the north. The latest AAA magazine had an article on the west's most surreal scenery, and they included Devils Postpile National Monument, Yosemite Valley, and the tufa towers at Mono Lake, all close to Obsidian Dome. Our rally site is 3 miles off of highway 395. *Anita*

## SNU TREASURE HUNT

You may have noticed ...

Our first 2009 rally was at an RV park. It was a bit off the main highway but not too hard to find and there were defined spaces.

The second rally was also just a bit off the main highway but in an established campground. No defined spaces but you could just park near the other Airstreams.

For May, the task was to find a hidden airport. It is right off US 50 but not often noticed by those driving the route. Once the Silver Springs Airport was found it was a simple case of looking for the Airstreams (again).

June is getting a bit more difficult. There is a taste of dirt road and the rally site is hidden behind a hill. But still, it's just a short distance off the main route between Wellington and Bridgeport.

July gets more interesting yet. It is at the Petersen Ranch off Bald Mountain Road in the Hat Creek area. The simplest route is to go to Pittville off route 299 near McArthur and head south on Pittville Road a few miles to Bald Mountain road. Pittville Road is county route 111 and is a maintained dirt road that runs for 30 miles from highway 44 to Pittville. Old topo maps show it as a 4WD road south of the Bald Mountain intersection which is why it isn't recommended to trailer up along the road from 44. More details on the route and a map to the July rally site will be in the next newsletter.

August also provides a little bit of a challenge, in particular for those that haven't yet attended a rally at Obsidian Dome. Again some dirt roads and one narrow spot but explicit directions and pictures which you can find on the SNU website will ensure that once again you'll find Airstreams at the end of the road.

September finds us once again at Unionville. Another gravel road up a canyon. The road is straight with no turn offs but for those that haven't been to Unionville you might think you are heading for disaster but never fear, the Airstreams are there!

The October rally at the Mason Valley Wildlife Area will be an easy one to locate after all the practice you will gain from the preceding rallies. Mostly paved roads, near civilization, well marked. The one thing that won't change - Airstreams will be easy to spot.

So get out your trusty (supposedly) GPS, be sure and check the rally page for each rally on the website for specific directions, maps and pictures and plan on joining the fun. What better treasure to find at the end of the road than your SNU friends, a new or favorite location, and another great SNU rally.

## THANKS TERESA

In the May Blue Beret WBCCI membership chair, Teresa TenBerge made some very nice and very observant comments regarding the SNU. Thanks Teresa for sharing Jerry's great quote in the Blue Beret and thanks for capturing so concisely the essences of the SNU.



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Robert Hartman, a friend of Roman and Melissa's stopped by. He is in the market for an Airstream. As soon as he finds one, we hope to see him towing it to SNU rallies. Bryan and Diane's neighbor George stopped by for a visit and Mike and Cindy's grandkids came out Saturday night after their ball game.

We made good use of our generators during the day as Silver Springs was getting close to record high temps. Air show festivities ended by about 3pm. This provided us with an opportunity to relax and enjoy nice quiet evenings when it was a little cooler.

All in all a very successful weekend. Despite heat and having to get up at 6am to cook pancakes, despite being parked in close formation on hard packed ground everyone had a great time. I think the consensus is that we all wouldn't mind participating in the Lyon County Fly-In again.

A special thanks to Jerry, Vaughn and others who stayed till mid afternoon on Sunday. Although we weren't scheduled to volunteer on Sunday, they cooked hot dogs and did other things to help out.



## START

The SNU has a totally volunteer, unofficial, just for fun recruitment program called START! Share The Airstream Rally Tradition. What better way to introduce friends and special guests to the fun of SNU rallies than to provide them with an Airstream for their use at a rally. Several SNU members have more than one Airstream and have found this is a great way to utilize them. Melissa and Roman have offered their spare Airstream to friends. One of their Airstreams ended up being purchased by Gene and Carmen who are now members of the SNU. Bryan and Diane tow their 75 Ambassador with an Airstream Bvan. It has been used at rallies by Dave whose own Airstream is undergoing renovation and by Gene and Carmen when family members who joined them at a rally overtook their own Airstream. Bryan and Diane recently purchased a 1976 Overlander. Among the motivations behind this purchase was the idea to make it available for friends and special people who are interested in Airstreams and who might want to experience an SNU rally with the intent of eventually becoming an Airstream owner and an SNU member.

So if you have a spare Airstream or know someone who might be interested in attending an SNU rally in an Airstream let the SNU know. Remember what Jerry said "It's the Airstreams that bring us together but it's the people who keep us together"

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY

The 2009 rally calendar is getting shorter. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding rally sites for the SNU for 2010, please let us know. The SNU repertoire of rally sites is getting fairly extensive. The favorites seem to be dispersed, NFS or BLM sites.

Check the link listed in this newsletter for more information on what the SNU looks for in a rally site. Let us know where you would like to go in 2010.

email: [hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](mailto:hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org)



## JUNE RALLY AT SWEETWATER

June finds the SNU heading for the boonies once again. Thursday June 25 to Sunday 28, 2009 we will hold a rally at Sweetwater Summit, a dispersed USFS area off Hwy 338 between Smith, NV and Bridgeport, CA. The focus of this rally is Amateur Radio field day. This is an opportunity for all hams to test out their equipment and make contact with other hams around the country and around the globe. For those not into amateur radio, Sweetwater offers beautiful vistas, good hiking and off road biking opportunities. By June fire restrictions will probably be in place. Among other things that means no campfires or open flames. Also being out in the boonies means dry camping and what we haul in, we haul out. It means we need to be aware of wildlife in the area and be sure that we dispose of kitchen and other garbage properly. That we don't dump anything outside that will make a mess or attract wildlife. The SNU always tries to be a good steward of the land. We leave our rally site as clean or cleaner than we found it. Most of all we have a great time eating all the good stuff at our pot lucks and group meals, relaxing in a beautiful setting and just enjoying each other's company. So be sure June 25th is on your calendar and join the SNU at Sweetwater summit. **Please RSVP to:** [hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](mailto:hq@SierraNevadaAirstreams.org)



Turn off at weather station



Sweetwater Summit

## REMEMBER YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR RALLY KITTY FEES ON-LINE!

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2009/payonline/snu-shopping.html>

## RALLY AND EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2009

- \* WBCCI International Rally - June 28 - July 4, 2009, Madison, Wisconsin
- \* Thursday July 23 – Sunday 26, 2009 Thomas Ranch near Pittville
- \* Thursday August 20 – Sunday, August 23, 2009 Obsidian Dome (Inyo Nat'l Forest) dispersed camping
- \* Thursday September 17 – Sunday 20, 2009 Blue Lakes, dispersed area
- \* Mason Valley Wildlife Area – Friday October 15 - Sunday October 18, 2009
- \* October 14 – 18, 2009 Region 12 Rally
- \* Saturday November 14, 2009 - Gold Hill, Hotel, Virginia City
- \* Thursday 19 – Sunday 22, 2009 Death Valley Mesquite Campground
- \* Saturday December 12, 2009 - Overland Hotel & Basque restaurant

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING RALLIES CHECK THE WEBSITE

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