



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Issue 5

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

May 2010

SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/

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Rally and events schedule

Click on a rally
below for details

- ♦ May 20 - 23
Ft Sage - BLM
- ♦ June 24 - 27
Unionville
- ♦ July 22 - 25
Crocker/ Beck-
worth
- ♦ August 26 - 29
Eagle Lake -
Rocky Point
- ♦ Sept. 23 -26
Obsidian Dome

Pyramid Lake Rally

Saturday Dinnertime

We actually had almost perfect weather for the April Rally at Pyramid Lake. Although Thursday was cloudy, windy, and cold with a few showers the rest of the weekend was fantastic. Sunny, just the right temperature and best of all NO WIND! We had a great turn out too. Rally participants included Roman and Melissa, Gene and Carmen, Jerry and Dyann, Wes and Roy, Wheels and Doris, and Bryan and Diane. Friday Stephen & Heather Hall stopped for a visit with their kids. They are considering purchasing an Airstream. Saturday we were delighted to have Fred and Ann Hersey come out and spend some time with us. We hadn't seen them in a while and it was great catching up. Also on Saturday Roger drove out in his shiny red 1951 MG Midget. What a beautiful car. We all enjoyed oohing and aahing over it. Roman spend a lot of time fishing but other than Thursday when the catching was really good, nothing seemed to bite. Melissa has taken up fly tying to keep herself occupied while Roman fishes and even her efforts didn't attract the fish. This rally provided Jerry an opportunity to try out his new exhaust system for the generator on the MoHo. It seems to work real well in keeping exhaust fumes outside. Speaking of the MoHo, it looks like Dyann and Jerry will have to keep a close eye on it. Everyone who sees it wants it. Carmen and Melissa were both very enthused about it and all the work Dyann and Jerry have done to it. The parts for Gene and Carmen's water system didn't arrive on time so buckets and other containers provided water over the weekend. Gene was also having some problems with his heater. After some investigation, he discovered the problem and will get the necessary parts to get things in working order. Roman and Melissa



have finally officially initiated their Airstream, a 2008 International. After many miles of travel, they backed into a snow bank close to home and now sport a dent in the lower rear panel. Melissa says this may motivate them to make a trip to Jackson Center to visit the Airstream factory. Speaking of travel, not only are Wheels and Doris going to Gillette for the WBCCI International Rally, they will be joining a WBCCI caravan after the rally. They Caravan will tour many historic and scenic locations in the Western U.S. We look forward to hearing about their adventures and seeing pictures. We enjoyed the usual SNU fantastic shared meals on Friday and Saturday night. This time using Roman's tailgate as a buffet table. Doris made a chocolate cake that seemed to be a favorite of everyone. Mornings were spent enjoying the views with a good cup of coffee and catching up on news and activities.

Fort Sage in May

The next SNU rally is Thursday May 20 to Sunday May 23 at Ft Sage BLM campground near Doyle, CA off Hwy 395 North. This campground provides panoramic views of Long Valley and opportunities for off road exploration. If the spirit moves you, you can also take a day trip to Portola and visit the Railroad museum. Other rally activities will include shared meals on Friday and Saturday, happy hour around 4pm and morning coffee and treats. Plan to join us at Ft Sage.



Ft Sage October 2007

For information discussed in this newsletter including the April Rally at Pyramid Lake, please [Click Here](#)

Wally Byam's Books

Thanks to Rich Luhr and the staff at Airstream Life, two books authored by Wally Byam have now been re-printed. **Fifth Avenue On Wheels** and **Trailer Travel Here and Abroad** are now combined in one volume. If you find copies of the originals on the web, they often sell for over \$400 per copy. These books provide a wealth of information and a fascinating look into the very beginnings of Airstream and WBCCI. Through his own words, you get to know Wally and appreciate his vision. You learn about his sincere desire to show people that *"Trailer travel provides a better opportunity to get to know a country and it's people and an increased opportunity to discover the world."* To order a copy check the link listed in this newsletter.

Ideas and Suggestions Wanted

The SNU Newsletter is our primary mode of communication. As such, we are always interested in your opinions and ideas. What do you like most about the SNU newsletter? What would you like to change? Is there anything you would like to add? Please email us at news@sierranevadaairstreams.org, give us a call at (775) 972-5011 or talk with us at a rally and let us know what you think. To give you some ideas, we have posted some recent newsletters from other Region 12 Units. You can also go to the WBCCI website and look for newsletters from other Units. The SNU newsletter is unique in many ways from most other newsletters. This is primarily due to decisions made in 2002. Among those decisions were to keep the newsletter to 4 pages and augment with links to additional information the website and to keep all content, photos and graphics related to SNU, WBCCI, Airstream and other topics of interest to SNU members. To learn more about the SNU newsletter check the links listed in this issue.

Upcoming 2010 Events

Thursday June 24, – Sunday 27 Unionville

June 27 - July 4, 2010 Gillette, WY WBCCI International Rally WBCCI

Thursday July 22 – Sunday 25 Crocker/Beckworth

Thursday August 26 – Sunday 29 Eagle Lake - Rocky Point

Thursday September 23, – Sunday 26 Obsidian Dome

For more information on upcoming 2010 rallies, [Click Here](#)

Region 12 Rally Hemet, CA

Thursday October 21 – Sunday 24 Lahonton

Saturday November 20, 2010 Pioneer, Fernley

Thursday November 18 – Sunday 21 Death Valley

Remember you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line! [Click Here](#)

Sierra Nevada Unit Business

An informal business discussion was held after dinner on Saturday. The primary topic was the election of a delegate for the International Rally coming up in July. Wheels and Doris plan to attend the rally and Wheels offered to serve as delegate. His offer was accepted and voted on by the SNU members present. It looks like the SNU will be well represented at the WBCCI International Rally in Gillette. In addition to the Wheelers, Vaugh Peak will be there. He has been nominated as 1st VP of the amateur radio group of WBCCI. Other SNU members likely to be at the rally include Marge and Dale Grosch, Von Gallion and Yvonne DeRoule, and SNU friends Richard and Sylvia Gorsuch. Diane passed around copies of newsletters from various Region 12 Units. The intent was to provide insight into what other Units are doing and also what their newsletters are like. There may be some ideas that would be useful for the SNU. Seeing what other Units are doing might also encourage some SNU members to attend other Unit activities. We also discussed input and ideas for the SNU newsletter, the upcoming 2010 rallies and ideas for a special 2011 SNU anniversary rally.

Williams Werkes Rises in Southern California

We are sorry to say that Gail and I may not be attending too many rallies this spring and summer. Our kitchen remodel, patios and workshop project kicked off two weeks ago and is in full swing. Concrete slabs, patio column foundations and antenna tower foundation were completed yesterday. They dropped lumber at 7:00 this morning and we have sticks in the air tonight. The right side of the building includes an office and 1/2 bath in the back and a workshop in the front. The garage is 15 ft. wide, 30 ft. long, a 12 ft. high ceiling and an eleven ft roll up door. We figure it will allow us (me) to reconstruct our 18 ft. Traveler and possibly the donor Overlander. We will be able to park our 25 ft. CCD and even a 28 footer (maybe in the future) inside when we aren't working on other Airstreams. We also will have a clean-out on our sewer for dumping the black and grey tanks, a water connection and a 50A / 30A electrical service. They won't start on the kitchen demo until they get the first patio roof up so we have a place to put out appliances. We will send updates to document our progress. Have a great time at Pyramid Lake in two weeks.



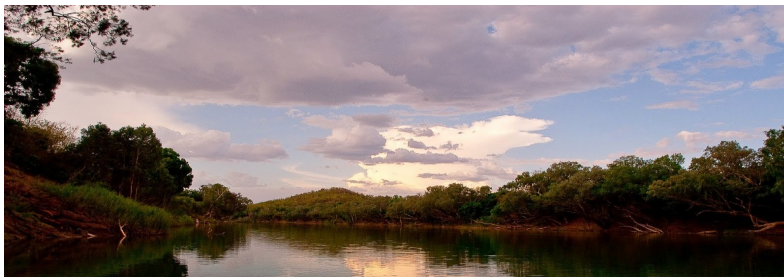
A Wild Idea - Let's Celebrate!

2011 will be the Sierra Nevada Unit's 30th Anniversary. We are considering a variety of things to celebrate this milestone. One of the ideas under discussion is the possibility of a lunch or dinner cruise on the MS Dixie on Lake Tahoe. If we decide to do this, we need to start planning now. Most important, this will require everyone who wants to participate to RSVP in advance – no exceptions. It looks like the cost for a dinner cruise would be around \$75 per person. We are also considering making this part of a rally for September 2010. We would hold our rally in the City Park in South Lake Tahoe and the dinner cruise would be a special rally event. We need your input on this idea. Do you think we should pursue this? Would you participate? Everyone at the Pyramid Lake rally supports this idea. Now we really want to hear from the rest of you. Speaking of SNU anniversary celebrations, we are also considering a special rally at Twin Lakes. This would be contingent on finding a site other than the Craggs group area, that could accommodate us. This might mean reservations a year in advance. In order to make this happen, we need someone who will spearhead the effort. Someone who can locate a site and make any necessary arrangements. We would like to hear other ideas you think we should pursue for 2011. Are you willing to help out in some way? Please share your ideas and let us know what you can do to assist ASAP. Email the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org

New Friends in Australia

The Daly River in the Northern Territory of Australia

This photo was taken because of the white cloud in the top background. This is characteristic of cloud as it forms up top to produce thunderstorms that eventually occur hours later at about 3.30pm each afternoon in the "Buildup" which is the time leading up to the monsoons in the tropical North of Australia. This pattern can continue for a couple of months prior to the monsoon and is a time of high humidity. Tourists travel to the Top End during the monsoon time to view the displays of lightening that fills the sky.



Ken Sellars ran across the SierraNevadaAirstreams.org website not long ago and wanted to talk to Pee Wee regarding the International Harvester vehicles used on the 1959 African Caravan. Ken says "I am the current editor, (past President) of the International Scout Owners Club, Victorian Division Inc. in Australia" Having some family history with IH vehicles, I decided to contact him also. Part of his interest in the African Caravan IH vehicles is reflected his statements regarding International Scout Owners Club.

Many of the members that have joined our club in recent years are new to aspects of caravanning (Recreation vehicling) and those that have done so all their lives or used tents many years ago help those less experienced who find the concept of camping away from facilities, quite daunting. And we have to keep reminding ourselves that we have moved into a time when because of the age difference many potential members have never lived in anything except a house with all conveniences, and we cannot therefore assume that they automatically know what to expect, simply because they have purchased a recreational vehicle that they can live in at a remote location. Delicate subjects have to be dealt with including the need for and proper use of chemical toilets, washing clothes, conservation of on board water supplies, appropriate food and enough of it to last to the next shop. (which may be a long way)

And so when I read about caravan convoys from years ago tackling such trips as across Africa back in 1959, and knowing what they would have to contend with, I felt particularly that our members would enjoy the realization that no matter what type of trip we take them on in this day and age, it will not have the discomforts of times past but that people did still enjoy traveling together in convoy away from civilization way back then.

I have had some interesting conversations with Ken regarding the SNU style of camping. Ken says "our terminology for boondocking is 'bush camping'". He and his wife Jeanette have put together a blog of some of their travels. There are some really awesome pictures of the Australian outback. Check the link listed in this newsletter to go to their blog. There is also a link to the club website and the clubs most recent newsletters. The website has lots of good information and also some more awesome pictures.

Ken and Jeanette might not be Airstreamers but love of the outdoors and "more rugged caravanning" certainly has a lot in common with the interests of SNU members. At least we don't have to worry about crocodiles at our rallies. It will be fun to stay in touch and learn more about camping on the other side of the world.



International Scout Owners Club member Jim Keast's rig

This photo was taken by one of our members at an overnight stop the convoy Jeanette and I were leading made at a private Rodeo Ground on our way to Central Australia in 2005



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For more information on 2010 rallies check this website: [Click Here](#)