



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

June 2012

Rally at Eagle Lake



Six Airstreams participated in the May rally at Eagle Lake, Rocky Point. The weekend started off with stormy skies, wind and even some thunder that shook the trailers. By Friday the weather cleared and the rest of the weekend was close to perfect. Rally participants included Jerry and Dyann, Wheels & Doris, Bryan & Diane, Randy & Vicki, Roger & Janet and Baxter & Marlene. It seems the fish weren't biting so the only other people there were the camp hosts. Randy, Vicki, Baxter & Marlene enjoyed several hikes down the road, over the hills, and around the shoreline. Roger's bumper needed some work so Jerry got some tools and crawled under the trailer to work on that. A few other repair and maintenance jobs also got taken care of over the weekend. There was also the usual discussions on various trailer and RV related topics, lots of time for inspirational naps, time to read a book, time for some great SNU shared meals, and of course lots of time to enjoy the scenery and the great company. On Sunday, Randy and Vicki headed out early to visit friends in Oregon and watch the solar eclipse. The Jeppson's, and Thornburg's headed home by mid-morning. The Wheeler's, Leipper's, & Swaffer's stayed over and watched the eclipse in a more creative style. Using a cardboard box with a very small hole in it as a pinhole camera (wikipedia), we could clearly see the darker circle of the moon pass by the light crescent of the sun. Pretty neat. Sunday night we had an informal BBQ. Monday morning after an impromptu breakfast of eggs with sausage & cheese, English muffins & raisin bread toast, cantaloupe, and coffee everyone packed up and headed for home. In an email from Randy after the rally, he said that on their way to Oregon they came upon some cattle being herded down the road. Needless to say, that encounter required a thorough cleaning of their Airstream. Randy said it wasn't quite as bad as cleaning off Mormon crickets from a trip to a rally in 2005. Another great rally with stories to add to the SNU memory books.



A pinhole in the box enabled us to see the moon passing in front of the sun as it was reflected on a paper plate. The moon as a dark circle passes by the light crescent of the sun.

SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/

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Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ♦ June 21st
Crocker
Campground
- ♦ June 19th
Weed Heights
RV Park
- ♦ Aug. 10th
Obsidian Dome
- ♦ Aug. 30th Fallon
Cantaloupe Festi-
val

Notes from the Prez

Dyann Thornburg

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day Holiday. Jerry and I ended up doing chores around the house and repair work to the car and truck. Jerry had 4 days off so it was a great time to be able to get it all completed. The weather at the Eagle Lake Rally start out lousy but ended up beautiful. It's a wonderful place to go with a group. This year we had the area all to ourselves which made it even nicer. It was great to have Baxter and Marlene Swaffer join us for the first time as well as to have Randy and Vicki Grossmann with us for the first time in a while. I sincerely hope to see more of them at future rallies. I'm happy to announce that Wheels has agreed to run for the 2013 SNU President. Thank you Wheels. If anyone else should happen to be interested please let us know. All positions are open. The current officers have been doing so for several years now and "new blood" maybe a good thing. I am by no means saying they haven't done an excellent job its just the idea we need more of our members to participate and some new ideas might be good. Right now we are also looking for places to hold the 2013 rallies. If you have some where you think might be a good place to hold a rally please let us know. We would love to hear from you. The September 2012 Rally at the Cantaloupe Festival in Fallon is approaching fast. I need to know if you are planning to attend. I will be going to meet with the parks and recreation person in charge of the RV park around the 2nd week of June and will need to give her an approximate number of Airstreams that will need a space. Currently I have the Wheelers, Stansburys, Leippers, Swaffers, and Thornburgs on the list. If you are planning to attend please let me know asap at either of these email addresses: tbolt1@charter.net or president@sierranevadaairstreams.org. I hope to see you at this month's Crocker Rally on June 21st - 24th. It's another amazing location! Dyann

Airstreams Just for Fun!



If you just can't get enough of the iconic Airstream image then check the link in this newsletter ([Airstreams just for fun](#)). It is a photo gallery of some of the Airstream items collected by various SNU members and friends. There is an Airstream cookie jar, cookie cutters made by Wes, an Airstream bird house. Christmas ornaments, t-shirts, jewelry and lots of other stuff. A quick search on the web will lead you to things similar to these as well as a host of other Airstream items. You can even [find a dog house](#) that is shaped as an Airstream. Caution though, you may find that, like pink flamingos, not just one item will do and before you know it, you'll have a collection.

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the June Rally at Crocker please [Click Here](#) <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html>

Upcoming Events for 2012

Thursday June 21 to Sunday 24 Crocker Campground

Thursday July 19 to Sunday 23 Weed Heights RV Park

Thursday August 10 to Sunday 13 Obsidian Dome

Thursday August 30 to Monday September 3 Fallon Cantaloupe Festival

Thursday October 25 to Sunday 38 Hickison Petroglyphs

Saturday November 17 Gold Hill Hotel

Thursday November 30 to Sunday December 2 Death Valley Mesquite campground

Saturday December 15 Louis Basque Corner, Reno

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

Social Media

Social media is the latest fad as a means to stay in touch. This media includes Facebook pages, Twitter tweets, forum discussions, and Internet blogs. A recent email newsletter from WBCCI highlighted some of the ways the organization and various units are utilizing these forms of communication. For the last ten plus years, the SNU has benefited from one of the blogs available through SierraNevadaAirstreams. Recently we have discovered several SNU members and friends of the SNU have their own travel blogs. Here are the blogs we are currently aware of. If you have your own travel blog or know of other Airstreamers who have a public blog, let us know and we'll add it to the list. Most of these blogs have rss feed capabilities that will keep you informed of the latest postings

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/> - part of SierraNevadaAirstreams.org This is a general purpose blog for the RV enthusiast. Entries include anything of interest to the RV community including current news and information pertinent to RV'rs, all sorts of tips and hints for the RV lifestyle, and other things related to travel and RV's. The SNU newsletter, rally photo galleries and other things are also posted here.

<http://oreillyandfriends.wordpress.com/> - this blog is the travel adventures of SNU members Frank and Carol Colligan and their cat, O'reilly. They are on the road a lot in their Airstream. Their blog is a great way to see what they are up to when they aren't able to make an SNU rally.

<http://www.casarodante.org/category/trips/> - Roger and Roxie Smith visited an SNU rally at Obsidian Dome in 2007 with their vintage Airstream. They inherited the Airstream from Roger's parents. This blog shares the story of that Airstream and Roger and Roxies travels with it.

Pay-on-Line at the Sierra Nevada Unit Website

The SNU was the first unit in WBCCI to offer a pay on-line option to it's members for membership dues, rally and luncheon fees. Years later, it is still one of the very few that provides this service. The SNU has recently updated the pay on-line option and simplified the process. We have eliminated forms and made payments more direct. Check the [link](#) in this newsletter for the 2013 membership page that includes a [link](#) to the new payments page.



June Rally at Crocker Campground

Thursday June 21 to Sunday 24 2012 the SNU rally will be at Crocker Campground near Beckworth, CA. The road to the campground goes right through a ranch headquarters and you have to keep an eye out for cows on the road. This is an old style Forest Service campground in the pine trees. Although there are supposedly designated sites it



is more of a dispersed camping area. There may be other campers when we arrive so parking will be wherever you find a spot that suits you. From the campground, it is 3 miles west over the hill to Lake Davis and not far from Portola back on US 70 so, if you are inclined to take a day trip, there are lots of things to see and do a short distance from the campground. Also note that this is the **ARRL Field Day** weekend and several of the SNU amateur radio operators will be exercising their emergency communications equipment and skills at the rally.

Sierra Nevada Unit Teamwork!

As of May 2012 the SNU has a paid membership of 26 including 3 new members. We also have 4 affiliate members. That is a very good membership number and continues the solid membership base the SNU has had for the last five years. However, over the past few years only 10% or less of those members have participated in one or more of the SNU rallies annually. Even fewer have offered to assist in the management and maintenance of the SNU. There are a variety of reasons for this. Some are known and understood, others are not.

In May an email was sent to the board announcing that it is time to start planning for 2013. Two major responsibilities for the board are developing a slate of officers and putting together a schedule of the dates and locations for rallies. The rally schedule is shared with the membership and finalized in August. The slate of officers is voted on in October. Both are then submitted to WBCCI in November. The officers currently serving on the board have done so for at least 3 years or in some cases, longer. For at least the last 10 years the draft of the rally schedule has been put together by one individual. The same is true with the newsletter. One person has been involved with the newsletter for over 10 years. Two others, for the past 3 years.

The SNU has done everything possible to minimize the effort and time needed to carry out the basic functions of a WBCCI Unit within the established policies. The focus has been to accomplish the task rather than specifically who does what. The newsletter is a good example of what this means. Instead of the entire project being done by one person, it has been broken up into three parts, each done by a different person. A person who expressed an interest in assisting by carrying out that one part. Meetings are another example. Instead of formal board or membership meetings, most SNU business is handled informally through conversations at rallies or information in the newsletter.

Without us all working as a team and sharing the responsibilities it is difficult to maintain our basic services. These are membership, public service announcements (PSA's), the newsletter, and rallies. For the SNU to remain viable and current it is important for new people with new ideas to get involved, especially at some level of leadership.

In 2002 the SNU was at the breaking point. At that time, instead of folding, the three remaining active members decided to hang in for at least a year and see what happened. Although it took a little longer, the turnaround was truly amazing. The last ten years have been full of surprises, full of successes, and most of all, full of fun and great friends. In one area the SNU may have been too successful. That is in creating a laid back, relaxed and informal group rather than focusing on leadership development.

In talking with members, listening to conversations at rallies, and through other means of communication, it is fairly clear that those people who have chosen to be members of the SNU, do so because they like the way the SNU does things. They like the relaxed and informal style. They like the people, they like the places the SNU holds rallies and the type of rallies the Unit has. They like the welcoming, friendly and inclusive feelings of being part of a great group of people.

What has made these things possible are the SNU members who have volunteered to assist in various ways. Among others, these members include Randy who has done the PSA's for several years and is willing to continue with this project. Randy and Vicki have also hosted several SNU luncheons and both the 30th and 35th SNU Anniversary events. They are even looking forward to assisting with the SNU 40th Anniversary event in 2016. Rick has done the design and layout for the newsletter for several years. He is also willing to continue and he has offered to check out options for the snail mail newsletter. Jerry and Dyann have hosted rallies and luncheons and each has served a 2 year term as Unit President. Wheels and Doris have hosted a luncheon, assisted with a special event rally and recently Wheels accepted the nomination for the position of SNU president in 2013. Bryan and Diane have both held board positions. Bryan has served as treasurer and membership chair for several years. They have also provided support for the SNU in a variety of other ways.

Now is the time for others to join those who have already volunteered and those willing to continue to serve to ensure the future of the SNU and to ensure that all those things that the members appreciate about the SNU can continue. If you are willing to help out in some way, large or small, if you have ideas or suggestions that could benefit the SNU and encourage participation, now is the time to put your words and ideas into action and take a role in making sure the surprises, successes, fun and friendships will be even better in the years to come.

For information on upcoming rallies check this website:

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-events/docs/1-rallyschedule.html>



Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu

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