



SierraNevadaAirstreams.org/snu/

WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, Issue 3

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

March 2012

First Rally of 2012!

Yeah! It's time to get the Airstream out of hibernation and ready for rallies and other great adventures. The first SNU rally of 2012 is **Thursday March 22 to Sunday 25, 2012** at Mason Valley Wildlife Area. The rally site is off of Miller Lane on the North side of Yerington. From Silver Springs follow Hwy 95 South to Miller Lane. Turn East on Miller Lane and continue to Lux Lane. Follow Lux Lane (a good gravel road) about a half mile past the fish hatchery to the campground. MVWA is a great birding area and there are plenty of places for hiking. It's also a great place to sit and enjoy panoramic views.



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Notes from the Prez

Dyann Thornburg

February's luncheon at the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville had another great turnout and I was extremely happy to see everyone who was there. During our business meeting I brought up an option to doing the voting on the WBCCI Constitution Revision this year by the SNU board members for the entire membership. Since the SNU membership's mind frame is known from the voting we did last year, I felt this would be the best way to go about doing it this time around. To do it this way was put up for a vote and approved unanimously. If you were not in attendance at the luncheon and prefer to vote yourself please let me know and I would be more than happy to accept your vote via snail mail or email. Bob Stansbury also reported on the Region 12 Hobo Rally. He said the attendance this year was down a lot from previous years. Apparently there were many Region 12 members that became ill and could not attend. He stated the only attendee from the SNU was Von Gallion. Way to go Von! (And thanks at least we had one.) It's time to get your Airstream out of storage and ready for our first rally of 2012. It is being held at the Mason Valley Wildlife Area from March 22nd - 25th. Diane has given excellent directions in this newsletter and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Have a great month.



Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ♦ [March 22nd Rally at Mason Valley Wildlife Refuge](#)
- ♦ [April 26th Rally at Pyramid Lake](#)
- ♦ [May 17th Eagle Lake, Rocky Pt.](#)
- ♦ [June 21st Crocker Campground](#)

Welcome

The SNU's newest members are Barney and Mary Beth Rabold. They will be moving to Carson City soon. Barney and Mary Beth own a 1999 Safari. We want to welcome them to the SNU, we look forward to their participation and we hope that we will see them at a rally soon.

The Art of Backing Up

Its easy going forward as the trailer just follows along. But when trying to go backwards, the trailer seems to take on a mind of its own. The first step for anyone learning to back a trailer is to learn to back in a straight line. When you go forward, you steer by moving the top of the steering wheel towards the direction you want to go. When you go backwards, you steer by moving the bottom of the steering wheel towards the direction you want to go. You should always have a spotter on hand when backing to make sure nothing is in the way. Video cameras and sonar equipment can be useful aids to provide warnings about when things are getting too close or to be able to see in places not otherwise visible. They do not remove the responsibility from the driver and the driver should be very careful to use them properly. The key to why a trailer can seem to have a mind of its own when backing is the location of the pivot point . In backing, you want to be on the long end of the lever so that it takes a lot of distance on your end for a small distance on the other side of the pivot. This is why it is easier to back longer trailers using a vehicle with a short wheelbase. When you back a trailer, you are doing two things. The first is to move the pivot point to align the trailer to the direction you want it to travel. Second is pushing the trailer back along the path you want it to go. Another issue to keep in mind when backing up are to be careful not to bind the hitch. This happens when the angle between the trailer and the tow vehicle becomes so acute that they touch at some point other than at the hitch itself. Tow vehicle wheelbase and trailer length are other things to take into consideration. **For more information on backing up** and for **videos of backing up an Airstream at Obsidian Dome** check the link in this newsletter.

Region 12 Newsletter

The winter Region 12 newsletter has been posted. Check the link in this newsletter. Topics in the newsletter include a review of the mid-winter IBT meeting, review of the 2011 Region 12 rally in Jackson, and the upcoming WBCCI International Rally and 2012 Region 12 rally.

For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the March rally in Mason Valley please **Click Here** <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html>

Upcoming Events for 2012

Thursday March 22 – Sunday 25, 2012 Rally at Mason Valley Wildlife Area	Thursday August 10 to Sunday 13 Obsidian Dome
Thursday April 26 to Sunday 29, 2012 Pyramid Lake, Pelican Point	Thursday August 30 to Monday September 3 Fallon Cantaloupe Festival
Thursday May 17 to Sunday 21 Eagle Lake, Rocky Point	Thursday October 25 to Sunday 38 Hickison Petroglyphs
Thursday June 21 to Sunday 24 Crocker Campground	Saturday November 17 Gold Hill Hotel
Thursday July 19 to Sunday 23 Weed Heights RV Park	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](#)

Labor of Love



2008 before restoration

Jason La Bounty who lives in Huntington Beach, CA has been in the process of restoring a 1951 Airstream Cruisette since 2008. He ran across the photo gallery of Rich Jaggard's Cruisette on the website and contacted us. Since then he has been keeping me informed of the progress of his restoration. For Jason this is a labor of love. Jason said "I have been scouring the web looking for any Cruisettes that are still around -only 75 were made-. So far I have found 30, including mine. I am in LOVE with my gal, even though she will need plenty of work." Jason named this Cruisette Jeanette which he says "came from an old English Beat song by the same name. One of my wife's favorites. " The Cruisette is at the point now where Jason



2012 new flooring and partial installation of birch paneling



2008

and his family have planned some trips with her. As he said in a recent email, Jeanette may have some cabinets and a sleeping area for their first trips. He plans to have it all finished for a big family trip to Glacier National Park towards the end of summer. Jason has become somewhat of an expert on Cruisettes. Among other things, he has discovered only 75 were manufactured. The earlier ones had 15 segments on the end caps. The later ones had 13 segments. Jason's was the last manufactured with 15 segments. He has found several Cruisettes on the internet and has been able to check

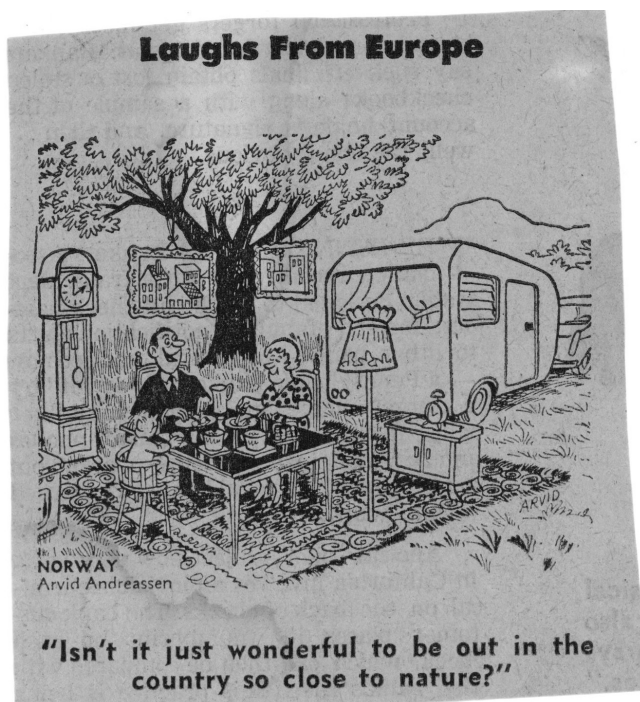
some out personally. It will be great to see this bit of Airstream history restored and on the road again. We'll let you know when photos of the complete restoration are posted. In the meantime check the link in this newsletter to see the current photos and read Jason's comments. Hopefully one of these days we'll get to see this Cruisette and meet Jason and his family in person at an SNU rally.

Wally Byam in Baker City

Wally Byam was born in Baker City Oregon. In 2011 the Baker City Heritage Museum had a premier opening of an exhibit of Wally Byam memorabilia. In a recent email from Dale (Pee Wee) Schwamborn, Wally's first cousin once removed he states that this exhibit is now on the second floor of the museum in a more permanent location. Here are some of Dale's comments about the museum display.

It is the single greatest display dealing with Wally Byam, Helen Byam Schwamborn, Airstream, the Wally Byam Caravan Club, Caravans to Mexico, Central America, Europe, and Africa. Come one, come all and learn the history of your precious Airstream. Thanks to Joan Jacobs at the museum the display is there for you to see. The Baker Heritage Museum did a wonderful job in displaying the historic items of Wally Byam, Helen Byam Schwamborn, Airstream, the Wally Byam Caravan Club, and several major Caravans including the 1959 African Caravan. Almost all items came from the Estate of Helen Byam Schwamborn. If you have chance to visit the museum, I know you will enjoy the display. Wallace Merle Byam (Wally Byam), and Helen Elmore Byam (Helen Byam Schwamborn) are native children of Baker City. It is fitting that these items are at home at the museum.

So if you haven't had a chance to visit **Baker City and the museum**, consider including this destination in your 2012 summer travels. It is well worth the visit.



Boondocking SNU Style?

For information on 2012 rallies check this **website**: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2012/12-news/index.html>



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