



# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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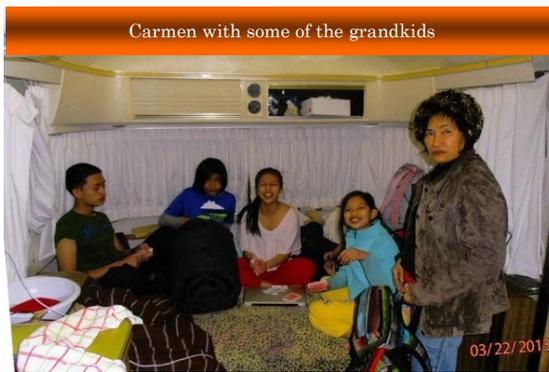
## Lahontan Rally Review

A little chilly and breezy but by Saturday we had five rigs at the Lahontan rally. First to arrive were Wheels & Doris, Jerry & Dyann and Bryan & Diane. Friday Gene and Carmen arrived with an assortment of grandkids. Baxter and Marlene planned to arrive Friday but a leaky water valve put them behind schedule. They did make it out on Saturday. Thursday and Friday were rather windy so we spent most of the time in our Airstreams. Friday dinner was held in Jerry and Dyann's Airstream. The big event on Friday was a visit from Steve and his wife Jan. They had planned on coming in their Motorhome but it is still up in Kalamath Falls having some work done. Hopefully we'll see them with the MoHo at the April rally at Ft Sage. If there were a contest for how many people can fit in a 26 ft Airstream, Gene and Carmen would get the prize. They had somewhere between four and nine family members out for the weekend. Gene didn't know for sure as some were coming and going. Two slept in the truck but the rest were on the beds and floor of the Airstream. Saturday Roylaine and her friend Jim came out and spent the day. They stayed for dinner Saturday night before heading back home. It looks like the SNU spring break-out rally was for the most part, problem free. Other than Baxter and Marlene's leaky valve and Wheels and Doris maybe needing new batteries, it appears everyone's Airstream was in good shape after sitting for the winter. There were no quick runs to town for parts, emergency supplies, or critical items forgotten in packing for the rally. We even had enough wood for daily campfires. I think we can safely say, we're ready now for a great year of SNU rallies.



Wheels and his "throne"

Carmen with some of the grandkids



03/22/2013

### Rally and events schedule

Click on a link below for details

- ◆ [April 8th, Fort Sage, Doyle, CA](#)
- ◆ [May 16th Rocky Point Eagle Lake, CA](#)
- ◆ [June 27th Green Creek, CA](#)
- ◆ [July 18th Weed Heights Yerrington, NV](#)

## No Vacancies

Those of you who have been to an SNU rally in Unionville might remember the RV park on the left just after you turn off the freeway. Our neighbor who is working on I-80 refurbishing, was looking for a place to park his 5th wheel and tried this place. He is number 22 on a waiting list for a spot. He was told he could park in the driveway with no facilities for \$100 per month. From what our neighbor says, if you are looking for a spot to park an RV anywhere from Fernley to Elko, whether commercial or otherwise, you are going to have a very difficult time as even open bare lots are overflowing. This is all due to new mining efforts in this part of Nevada. New technologies and the high prices of gold and other metals have created a boom. This is bringing in workers of all sorts all looking for a place to live.

## Prez Meanderings

By the time you read this, all the strange and wonderful things that indicate spring is coming will have happened. As I am writing this in early March they are just showing signs. The grass, if you have any is showing a little green. Mine is always several weeks after everyone else's. I think it has something to do with when I fertilize it. The sun comes up earlier and earlier. Then they spoil it with day light savings time. There seems to be more birds around and they seem happier than during the winter. The rivers and streams seem to have anxious water rushing to get somewhere. We get rain showers instead of snow showers. You can usually go out with just a light jacket instead of a coat. You start thinking about turning the sprinklers on again. You think about other outdoor jobs that you put off all winter as possibilities now. You wash the car or truck a couple days before the next rain. There is the task of de-winterizing the trailer. Trying to clear antifreeze out of the lines and the taste that Doris tastes all year. The first SNU rally at Lahontan is scheduled the first day after the official start of spring which is the 20th of March. And of course there is Easter Sunday, which comes the last day of March this year, with all the ladies in fresh spring outfits.

I was wrong between the time I wrote the above paragraph and the arrival of spring we had two snow showers.

Lahontan was interesting. Some of us renewed our old fogies State Parks permits. The reservoir is down a fair amount but not as much as it has been in some years past. Of course the trees did not have leaves so they gave the campground a kind of eerie look. Nights were cold – near freezing. The days were warm in the sun or around the campfire but if the wind picked up it got cold again. My batteries failed sometime Saturday. They are five years old. They are glass mat batteries that came with the Solar Panel option. I will replace them with regular Deep Cycle batteries and see how long they will last.

Next month is Ft Sage near Doyle California. Hopefully, it will be warmer and we can exercise our awnings.

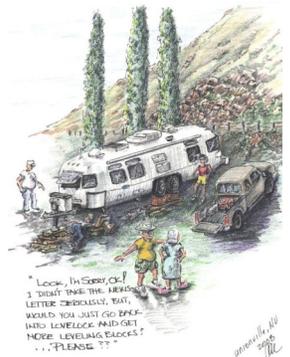


## Prez Wheelz

## Leveling

There are two standards for determining how level is level enough for an RV. One is whether it is comfortable - you don't slide out of the bed; food doesn't slide out of pans when trying to cook, you don't feel like a sailor in a rough sea trying to stay upright when walking down the hall. The other standard is to make the rig level enough to be able to operate the refrigerator properly. SNU members are expert levelers. They are also very creative. For several members, this is a skill gained after years of RV experience. This experience has been enhanced by the rally sites the SNU prefers. Flat ground has never been a high priority for an SNU rally site. In fact, when we do camp in a site that all you have to do is drive up and park, it takes away one of our major rally entertainments – that of figuring out the best way to park on uneven ground and the best way to get the rig level. It is especially entertaining for the early arrivals to watch and assist others in finding a spot and getting their rig parked. For newer or less experienced SNU members, other members are always ready to assist and share their

leveling expertise. In addition to the stabilizer jacks and hitch on the trailer, there is a whole variety of blocks, chocks, and other things both commercial and homemade that can be used to level a rig. The SNU has probably used most of them. The most famous SNU leveling challenge was at Unionville. The rally site is located on the downslope to a nearby creek. Over the years that we held rallies there, leveling techniques became more sophisticated and creative. Unionville leveling was memorialized in [this drawing by Clint Norrell](#) in 2008. The pictures show some of the most famous leveling techniques used at Unionville. Check the link in this newsletter for more [information and pictures on leveling](#).



For web links discussed in this newsletter including info on the April Rally at Fort Sage.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2013/13-news/index.html>

## Upcoming Events for 2013

- Ft Sage, Doyle, CA Thursday April 18 – Sunday 21, 2013
- Rocky Point Eagle Lake, CA Thursday May 16 – Sunday 19, 2013
- Green Creek, CA Thursday June 27 – Sunday 30, 2013
- WBCCI International Rally Huron South Dakota June 27 – July 4
- Weed Heights, Yerington, NV Thursday July 18 – Sunday 21, 2013
- Obsidian Dome Thursday August 8 – Sunday 11, 2013
- Cantaloupe Festival, Fallon, NV Friday Aug. 30 – Monday Sept. 2, 2013
- Crocker, Beckwourth, CA Thursday October 10 – 13, 2013
- Carolina Kitchen, Sparks, NV Saturday November 16, 2013
- Death Valley Mesquite Campground Thursday November (TBA)
- Jake's Restaurant, Fernley, NV Saturday December 14, 2013

## Sierra Nevada Unit - Cantaloupe Festival Rally

The second SNU rally at the **Cantaloupe Festival in Fallon, NV** will be Friday August 30 to Monday Sept. 2, 2013. This rally requires rsvp's and pre-payment. To guarantee a spot with the SNU we need your payment ASAP. The cost for all three nights is a total of \$42.00 or \$14.00 per night if you don't plan to be there for the entire rally. Please let me know which nights you plan to be there when you send your rsvp and money. For more information call Dyann 775 867 2797. Call the Fairground direct to make your reservations 775-423-7733.

## Welcome New Members

The newest SNU members come from Grass Valley, CA. We'd like to welcome John and Mary Jean Muff. John and Mary Jean own a 2013 27ft International and we hope they are looking forward to lots of new adventures with this Airstream, including lots of SNU rallies. Again, a big welcome to John and Mary Jean. We are looking forward to meeting you at a rally soon.

## Just In

A recent email from Region 12 President, Judy Bechthold, included the **WBCCI Blue Book** information and changes for 2013. Please check the link in this newsletter to review these documents.

## Big Red Numbers

Every member of WBCCI receives a set of big red numbers. This is their membership number and they are to be placed on the members Airstream. The placement of these numbers is specified in the governance documents of WBCCI. The use of these numbers started in 1952 on the first caravan to Mexico, organized by Wally Byam, the creator of the Airstream trailer and several years later, the Wally Byam Caravan Club. Wally describes the purpose of these numbers in his book *Trailer Travel Here and Abroad*, published in 1960. He also describes the introduction of the Blue Beret.

*"A number was assigned to each trailer to be painted on the outside so they could be checked in at each stop. Names were also painted on the trailers so people could find each other easily in camp, I gave everyone a blue beret to serve as a sort of identification badge of the group. Since my first trip to Paris, this very practical trailering headgear had been a trademark with me, and the others enjoyed wearing them, too. In fact the blue beret has since become the official Caravan insignia worn with pride by all members."*

To this day, the big red numbers still assist caravan leaders make sure everyone arrives safely at each nights campsite. They serve as sort of an address, helping members find each other at rallies. Having your numbers on your Airstream is necessary for participation in the most WBCCI events and rallies. While traveling, when you see an Airstream with numbers you can look them up in the member directory and know immediately whose Airstream it is. The numbers are often an instigator of instant friendships and shared stories. There are now several ways you can affix your big red numbers to your Airstream. If you haven't done so yet, decide how you want to display your numbers and get them on your Airstream before you begin this years travels.

For information on upcoming rallies check this page:

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2013/13-events/docs/13-rallyschedule.html>

## Join us in April at Fort Sage

Thursday April 18 to Sunday 21, 2013 the SNU rally will be at Ft Sage. This is a BLM campground and off road trail head near Doyle, CA, with panoramic view of the valley below. It's about 45 miles north of Reno off Hwy 395. There are lots of great trails for hiking and off road bikes. If the weather cooperates, Ft Sage is also a great place for wildflowers. **A word of caution**, follow the [directions on the SNU website](#) and go past Doyle to Laver Crossing about 2 miles from the north end of the Doyle loop. Following your GPS may lead you to a road through Doyle that goes over a narrow bridge that is not rated for trucks and trailers. Be sure to bring wood for campfires.



## Rallies and other Airstream events

Although we hope that you make SNU rallies a priority, there are lots of other events and activities to check out for more Airstreaming adventures. One of the assets of membership in the SNU and WBCCI is the opportunity to participate in rallies and events sponsored by any WBCCI group regardless of which local unit you join.. This includes other Units, Intra-clubs, as well as Airstream and WBCCI sponsored events. Each Unit has its own personality and ways of doing things. We encourage our members to visit other Units and attend other functions as



1960 Parade at the WBCCI International Rally in Colorado Springs, CO

it is a way to broaden the Airstream experience and meet new friends. A highlight is the annual WBCCI International rally. The 2013 rally will be held in Huron South Dakota June 27 through July 4th. The Annual region 12 rally is held in October. Some of the other nearby events are the Rose Parade Rally in Pasadena and the Hobo rally in Blythe. To find out more about WBCCI rallies, including rallies held by various units, check the Blue Beret member magazine or go to the WBCCI website. <http://wbcci.org/> For Region 12 activities and events check <http://region12.wbcci.net/> The Region 12 schedule on their website is out of date but you can get an idea of what these events are like by checking last year's information. Most of these events

require pre-registration and payment. To see pictures of **WBCCI International Rallies** from the 1950's through 2009 check the link in this newsletter. The bottom line is getting out and enjoying your Airstream and the fellowship of other Airstream owners.



[Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu](http://Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu)

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