



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

August 2014

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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Weed Heights Rally Review

A Hot weekend gave us all a good opportunity to exercise the air conditioners. Although during the middle of the day, it was time to hunker down and stay cool, the mornings, and especially the evenings, were delightful. A great time to sit outside enjoy some coffee and goodies or relax after dinner and watch the sun go down. **There were 6 Airstreams at this rally.** These included Thornburg, Leipper, Haskett, Jeppson, Swaffer, and Gibbons. Almost everyone made a trip into Yerington to visit the museum, have lunch or do a little shopping. Jerry spent some time riding around the park and Weed Heights on Roger's latest scooter.

We made good use of the grill at the club house. Jerry, Baxter, and Roger all had meats to cook for our dinner. Wheels and Doris spent the day with us on Friday. Doris brought an apricot cobbler with home grown apricots. She also brought ice cream to go with it. While Wheels was there, he held a short business meeting. The major topic was rallies. There were a few changes in the 2015 rally schedule but now the dates and locations are pretty well set. Baxter and Marlene brought up the possibility of holding a rally at Bucks Lake near Quincy. Apparently there are one or two nice locations that could be considered. The Grayeagle area is another possibility. Baxter and Marlene also plan to check out Camp Norge near Colfax, CA. Diane mentioned, the SNU had received a contact from an RV Park in McArthur on Hwy 229 North of Susanville. Randy and Vicki's friends say that is a nice place. Wheels talked about a possible SNU caravan of Eastern Nevada. If anyone is interested in a caravan they should contact Wheels at president@sierranevadaairstreams.org and let him know. Always great to get input from members and hopefully some of these ideas will be included on the SNU calendar in the near future. A special part of this rally was welcoming the newest SNU members, Stan and Geri. They have a brand new Airstream, a first for them. We all had a great time checking it out, especially the newly introduced automatic awning. Typical at an SNU rally, we talked their ears off about Airstreams and probably gave them an overload of ideas, suggestions, and tales of some of our past experiences. They have a pretty busy schedule running their own business but we hope that they will be able to fit some future rallies in here and there. Going home from this rally provided another sort of entertainment. This was the weekend for "A Night In The Country" festival. Channel 2 news said over 12,000 people attended and that it was second in size with only Burning Man being larger. There were approximately 1,000 RV's in the festival campground. All the RV's were heading home on Sunday and the majority on Alt 95 towards Silver Springs and Fernley. Bryan and Diane were the first to leave Weed Heights. They joined the parade of RV's. Just past the the turnoff to Lahontan, about 3 miles from the junction of Hwy 95 and 50, the traffic slowed to a snails pace. Bryan and Diane's Airstream was the only silver bullet in a solid line of white box RV's waiting to get through the 4 way stop at the junction. A phone call to Jerry gave him time to take residential streets through Silver Springs to get onto 50 and head to Fallon. The Gibbons and Jeppson's though, probably had to wait their turn to get through the junction. Other than that, we had a great weekend at Weed Heights.



Jerry on Roger's Scooter

Prez Meanderings

As you might have expected the three amendments to the WBCCI Constitution passed without significant opposition. These amendments are: Amendment 1- allows the WBCCI Executive committee to issue charters to qualified applicants outside the geographic area of the established Regions (other countries such as Australia); Amendment 2- Changes the period for holding the International Rally to between June 20 and July 30; Amendment 3 – removes the requirement for dues to be collected by the unit (in hopes that the international club will eventually provide an online system for paying unit and international club dues). This, of course, has not yet happened and dues are still collected by the individual unit. This is a reminder that your dues of \$75 for unit (\$10) and WBCCI dues (\$65) are due.

The rally at Weed Heights was well attended. We drove to the rally for a visit on Friday because we had obligation on Saturday. There were six rigs there when we left. It was actually cool enough in the shade that we met outside. There was some serious discussion of how we might make our rallies more attractive to members and potential members. If you have suggestions along these lines please let me know.

Our Obsidian Dome rally is coming up the 14th -17th of August. This is probably the most intriguing rally location we frequent. The access road is a little challenging but doable in a trailer. The campsite is in the shadow of a volcanic dome that glistens with the sunlight (or moonlight) reflecting off the obsidian that dominates the steep sides of the dome. We generally have visitors from other units that makes it a most interesting rally.

Our September rally is at Crocker Campground the 25th – 28th. Crocker is a National Forest Service campground about 9 miles north of Beckworth, California. Crocker is dispersed parking campground with many trees. The Golden West California Unit is having a rally in our backyard that is certainly available to us on September 4th – 8th. Their rally will be at the Boomtown KOA and feature a visit to the Reno Balloon Races. If you are interested, contact Bob Stansbury at (burytone@yahoo.com). October is the Region 12 Rally in Pahrump at the Lakeside RV Park on the 14th-19th. The Lakeside is a very nice park with a pool and casino with trees and grass. It is also a Passport America park and I have stopped there several times when traveling to Lake Havasu City.

We are still looking for a person to volunteer as a candidate for the president for our unit in the coming year.

Hope to see you all at Obsidian Dome in August.



August Rally - Obsidian Dome

The annual SNU rally at Obsidian Dome is Thursday August 14- Sunday 17 2014. This will be our 9th rally at this site. This year, once again, some of our friends from Southern CA will be participating in the rally. This rally received a very high complement. Bobbi recently said that The SNU must always have an Obsidian Dome rally and that we should change our bylaws to make sure this rally is an annual event. Obsidian Dome is located between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes, CA. The campground is 2.7 miles off of US 395. **Please check the SNU website** for detailed information and directions to the rally site, including Rick's PDF file with photos and route details. For those with large motorhomes or those who prefer more facilities, the **Mammoth Mountain RV Park** in nearby Mammoth Lakes is a good option. Several people attending the rally will be staying there. It is an short drive to the rally site at Obsidian. To stay at the RV Park you will need to contact them and make your own reservations.



Shared meals at Obsidian are a special part of this rally. In particular, brunch. This year Friday's brunch will be quiches. Saturday brunch will feature Randy's special waffles. An addition to this rally will be a Thursday evening sandwich and salad dinner. Victor and Bobbi will stop by Schat's bakery in Bishop and pick up a variety of breads and rolls. They'll also pick up some danish and other things for Sunday morning. The rest of us will bring sandwich makings and salads. Most likely fire restrictions will be in place so no campfire or charcoal. Once again Obsidian is going to be a great rally. If you haven't been there before and want to travel with someone, let us know and we'll form a caravan.

Time to Renew

Now is the time to renew or join the SNU. We hope you will continue to support the SNU and join us for what is looking like another great year for the Unit. Renew your membership now. Annual dues are \$75. **You can pay online**, pay at a rally, or mail your check to the SNU at 716 Terra Ct, Reno NV 89506

Upcoming 2014 Events

Obsidian Dome - Thursday August 14- Sunday 17
2014

ber 15, 2014 to Monday October 20, 2014

Crocker - Thursday September 25-Sunday 28 2014

Bavarian World - Saturday November 22, 2014

Ft Churchill - main park - Thursday October 23-
Sunday 26 2014

Death Valley Mesquite Campground -
Thursday 13th November

Region 12 Rally Pahrump NV - Wednesday Octo-

El Charro Avita - Saturday December 20, 2014

2015 Sierra Nevada Unit Rally Schedule

There have been some changes in the 2015 rally schedule. Check the link in this newsletter to [view the final version of the schedule](#). Of note, the SNU will not be holding a rally at Likely RV resort or at Gold Dust West. In part this is due to issues with the facility itself. It is also because the average participation expected at an SNU rally makes holding a rally in a location that requires advance planning, down payments and advanced reservations difficult. This is based on the fact that past attempts to hold rallies at more structured sites and/or in conjunction with specific activities has not increased rally participation. Our best attended rallies have been Kingston, Unionville, and Obsidian Dome. As always, the SNU is open to new ideas and willing to try new venues so don't hesitate to share your thoughts for future rallies. Better yet, if you have a great idea and are willing to make it happen, let the SNU know. We hope that you will plan to attend some rallies in 2015.

Welcome New Members

The newest SNU members are Stan & Geri Gibbons. They live in Fernley and own a 25 ft, 2014, International Onyx. We were delighted that they could join us at the Weed Heights rally. We all enjoyed checking out their Airstream, especially the automatic awning that is new in some 2014 Airstream models. We look forward to their participation for years to come.

Officers and Elections

October is when the SNU officially elects it's [officers for the coming year](#). For 2015, we will need to elect a new President for a one or two year term. The President is the primary representative and contact for the Unit. As with all positions on the board, the SNU keeps the tasks of each officer to the bare minimum needed to keep the Unit functioning and in compliance with WBCCI. All members pitch in and assist when needed. If you would like to support the SNU by being nominated for a board position, please let us know. We need to present a slate of officers by the first of September.

Measuring Battery Status

There are some fancy meters that count electrons going in and out of your battery to try to determine how much energy is left in the battery but it is nearly impossible for them to consider all the other factors besides electricity in and out like temperature, draw rate, age, cycle to cycle variation and others than can each cause errors of more than ten percent in figuring battery energy.

On top of all this is how you use the battery, the reserve capacity you need to keep for contingencies, and the proper care of the battery for best life and health. All it takes is a cold night with the furnace going or a hot day with a number of fans keeping the air circulating to throw your battery calculations awry.

So how do you tell what's going on with the battery? Use your experience. Keep an eye on the status lights on your control panel. They are a crude voltmeter but will give you an idea about how the battery responds to significant loads like the water pump. As the battery gets low on energy, it will drop down to the red faster and stay there longer. Or you can do like a lot of car owners who find their car won't start on the first cold snap of the season because they haven't been paying attention to the battery.

The best thing you can do for your battery is to charge it properly and promptly after discharge. When you aren't using your RV, keep the battery on a maintenance device that will assure a top charge on the battery, use desulfation techniques and not boil off the electrolyte. Don't expect more than 5 to 7 years from your battery under the best of conditions.

Don and Gail on Caravan

Don & Gail Williams WBCCI 14207

A brief update from Don indicates that the Alyeska Caravan is living up to expectations. Don says, "You can [follow our Alaskan journey with this link](#) to our Facebook page. No real amateur radio activity yet; our days are too busy with travel, stops, tours, GAMs (get acquainted meetings) dinners etc. Only one other Ham on the caravan and doesn't typically operate mobile so I check to see if I can bring up the few local Yukon Amateur Radio Club (YARC) but coverage is poor in the Yukon. We do use CB but range is limited."



Some of the pictures on Don's facebook page show some clever ways to protect the bottom of your Airstream from rough and rocky roads. Could come in handy for certain SNU rally sites. These pictures are also on [Don and Gail's travelogue page](#) in [Sierranevadaairstreams.org](#)



Summer Travels for other SNU Members

Summer is definitely time to hitch up your Airstream and hit the road. Many SNU members have done just that. In addition to Wheels & Doris, we know that Gary & Anita have been exploring parts of Oregon. Dean & Shelly have been to the CA coast. Frank & Carol (sans Airstream) have been to Hawaii. Warren & Merna visited parts of WA and Oregon. Don & Gail are here, there, and everywhere. After the WBCCI rally, Don & Gail joined the Alyeska Caravan for most of the rest of the summer. Rick & Jeanne were @ San Elijo State Beach in April and Maui in July (sans Airstream). We're sure many other SNU members and affiliates have been traveling as well. We hope you take some time to write up a summary of your adventures for the SNU newsletter. It is always fun to hear where others have been, what they have seen, and what they have done. Don't forget to send a picture or two to go with your story.

Keep informed about the Sierra Nevada Unit - select any of the following links.

[SNU newsletter and article information](#)

[SNU 2014 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars](#)

[SNU Facebook Page](#)

[What's new on the SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](#)