



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

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Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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- ◆ [June 26th Sweet-water Summit](#)
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Lahontan Rally Review

What a great way to start off the 2014 rally season. The weather was almost perfect, the best March we have had in several years. There was water in Lahontan, there were fish in the water and there were pelicans and lots of other birds. This was also a TMTPS weekend. Jerry had ordered tire pressure, tire temperature monitoring systems for Bryan and Gary. Some time was spent learning about the system, installing it, and checking for accuracy. With this system in place you can

travel down the road and keep an eye on the tires on your Airstream as well as your tow vehicle. We were glad to see Baxter and Marlene. They were on the way home from a trip to parts of Southern CA and Nevada to test out their new 2014 19ft Bambi. It seems to have passed with flying colors. While at the rally Baxter was



given a lesson on unfurling and retracting the awning on his new trailer. Gene and Carmen and a few of their grandkids also came to the rally. The kids had a great time cooking s'mores over their campfire on Saturday night. For our Friday night shared meal, Dyann cooked corned beef and cabbage in her slow cooker. It turned out really good. Along with Anita's deluxe salad and Diane's cornbread, we had a very enjoyable dinner. This rally provided a great opportunity for the seniors in the group to renew their annual Nevada State Park pass. This will come in handy not only for our October rally at Ft Churchill but any personal camping trips to Nevada State Parks. There was no business meeting as such, but Diane handed out a sheet of information on potential future rally sites for people to read through, think about and discuss. Two different RV parks have recently contacted the SNU about hosting a rally. Another recent contact was from the NorCal Unit discussing the possibility of a joint rally in 2015. All of these options are described in more detail in other parts of this newsletter. This rally provided a good opportunity to check everything out if your Airstream has been stored over the winter. Only a few minor water leaks were discovered and no essential supplies had gotten left at home. I think now we are all ready for rallies and other travel adventures.



Prez Meanderings

We got back from our cruise on Sunday the 24. We went to southern California and returned on US 395. I always marvel at the majesty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains especially as viewed from 395. On the way south we stopped at a little Passport America RV Park in Inyokern. The main thing going for it was the price. We parked the trailer in the RV Park at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. It is probably one of the nicest Military parks I have stayed at. We parked next to another Airstream there. We didn't have time to get to know them. They were WBCCI members and live in Washington. I believe he is still active duty. They also had a 27' Front Bedroom trailer of 2012 vintage - a Flying Cloud.

The cruise was fun it was nice to be with Doris' family again in a happier mood than two weeks before at the memorial service in Lake Havasu City. The cruise was short but most the time was spent on the Ship. I would have liked to have visited more ports but I suppose that would up the price. I'm not sure I like traveling with 2500 other people. It seems there are lines everywhere you go especially getting on and off.

On the way north we stopped to overnight at a RV Park just south of Lone Pine called Boulder Creek. This is not a Passport America park so we paid full price. I forgot to get a picture in the morning with the sun on Mount Whitney but it was indeed a beautiful sight. The mountains had just got a fresh layer of snow a few days before and there was snow lower than what we noticed on the way south. It is a particularly beautiful drive after leaving Bishop. We stopped for lunch at the Hays Street Café in Bridgeport before coming on home.

While we were on the cruise Andy stayed at Doris' niece's house with two other dogs being cared for by a friend of Doris' niece. Andy was not sure he wanted to leave but he seems happy to be home.

Hope you had a great rally at Lahontan. See you all at Boca Rest in April.



Ideas Wanted

The SNU has two major events coming up in the next few years. Both need prior planning and the active participation of all SNU members. The first is the Region 12 Rally coming up October of 2015. This rally will be held in Carson City. In 2012 Bob asked the SNU to host this rally. At the January SNU luncheon, Bob asked us for suggestions and ideas for this rally, including a theme and special activities. It was suggested that since 2015 is the 60th Anniversary of WBCCI, that might be considered. One job for the SNU will be providing decorations and maybe hosting a dinner. If you have ideas, suggestions, or are willing to help with this rally, please let Wheels know. You can email him at president@sierranevadaairstreams.org.

The second event will be in 2016. That year is the 40th Anniversary of the SNU. Randy and Vicki have agreed to spearhead that project. To make this really special, they will need the support and participation of all SNU members. In 2006 the SNU celebrated it's 30th Anniversary with a special luncheon at [Silver Oak Golf Club](#). For this luncheon Randy and Vicki created the [SNU diorama](#). In 2011 the SNU celebrated it's 35th Anniversary with a special [rally in South Lake Tahoe](#) with a dinner cruise on the M.S. Dixie. Randy and Vicki spearheaded both of these very successful events. **What we need right now are ideas and suggestions** as well as offers to assist. What would you like to do to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the SNU? Where would you like to go? What type of event should we have? What do you think should be the theme of this event? What are you willing to do to assist in the planning and in carrying out the actual event? Please let us know your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions. Talk to Randy and Vicki at rallies or lunches. Email ideas to hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org. Together, we can make this event something really special.



Just In – I got a call from Claudette with the NorCal Unit. She is in charge of planning the 2015 NorCal rally schedule. She is interested in doing a joint rally with NorCal and the SNU. We had a long chat about ideas and options. Some of the ideas tossed around were Hereford Ranch near Hat Creek, Prosser Group area, the fairgrounds in Susanville, and the fairgrounds in Quincy. Claudette thinks the end of July might be a good time for a joint rally although everything and anything is under consideration. Let us know your thoughts and ideas.

Upcoming 2014 Events

Boca Rest - Thursday April 24- Sunday 27 2014

Rocky Point - Thursday May 15- Sunday 18 2014

Sweetwater Summit - Thursday June 26-Sunday 29 2014

WBCCI International Rally Gillette WY- June 28 – July 4, 2014

Weed Heights - Thursday July 25- Sunday 27 2014

Obsidian Dome - Thursday August 14- Sunday 17 2014

Crocker - Thursday September 25-Sunday 28 2014

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

Region 12 Rally Pahrump NV - Wednesday October 15, 2014 to Monday October 20, 2014

Bavarian World - Saturday November 22, 2014

Death Valley Mesquite Campground - Thursday November

El Charro Avita - Saturday December 20, 2014

Boca Rest in April

Boca Rest is the site for our April Rally. The dates are Thursday April 24 to Sunday April 27, 2014 This is the fourth rally the SNU has held at Boca Rest. To get there take I-80 west, about 20 miles towards Truckee. Take the Hershdale exit and go over the bridge and up the road past the dam. The campground is right off the paved road on the shore of the reservoir. You can't miss it. Activities at this rally could include fishing, hiking or bike riding. You could also take a trip to the nearby [historic town site of Boca](#) or day trip into Truckee to visit [museums and other attractions](#) or do some shopping. It's pretty certain there will also be some kite flying at this rally. Then there is our usual morning coffee and Friday and Saturday shared dinners. Bring wood for campfires.



Rally Site Possibilities

Recently the SNU has been contacted by two different RV parks interested in providing a rally site for the SNU. One is the [Anna Reservoir RV Park](#) near Summer Lake in [Central Oregon](#). This one is owned by a WBCCI member. It is 300 miles from Reno off hwy 31. Central Oregon is a beautiful part of the country. In addition to Anna Reservoir, Summer Lake is nearby and Summer Lake Hot Springs. There is also a wildlife area and lots of other nearby attractions. The [Oregon Unit](#) has held rallies here and maybe there is a possibility for the SNU to link up with them.

The second contact is closer. It is the [Likely Place Golf and RV Resort](#) in Likely, CA. Likely is about 140 miles from Reno on Hwy 395. This part of Northern California is also a great place to check out. In addition to beautiful scenery, the RV park offers fishing, hiking, golf and it's specialty – star gazing. The contact at Likely Place also said "If you'd like us to work out something special for your club such as group breakfasts, lunches or a nice dinner, golf lessons by our pro, visits to nearby attractions, etc, we can do that. And if you have any star gazers, we have a star gazing meadow with special pads and 110 volt power to drive their telescopes over some of the darkest skies in CA. A nationally known astrophotographer from the Sacramento area keeps a trailer at Likely Place year around because the viewing is so good." Randy and Vicki will be checking out this possibility after the rally at Boca.

1965 Alaska and Today's Alyeska, the Great Land Caravan by Don Williams #14207



The SNU's Travelogues webpages include Jo and Bryan Harrison's (Bryan and Diane's grandparents) **1965 Alaska trip** with the Bests. One can surmise their itinerary from studying the photo gallery and their diary notes and gain a perspective of what life and traveling in Canada and our 49th state was like in the mid 1960s.

Cabins at Williams Lake near 150 Mile House and Quesnel Lake appear to be off the grid while the Barkerville Ghost Town near Quesnel has commercial electric power. From Quesnel it appears that Jo and Bryan caravanned north and westerly to Prince Rupert where they camped at Roosevelt Park, visited the Totem Pole Village and arranged travel for their Airstream and tow vehicle on the Inland Passage through Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau and Haines. The women's dresses in Barkerville and the faded hues of the photos of St Michaels Cathedral, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Totem Poles in the Sitka National Historical Park and the Mendenhall Glacier suggest an earlier time than present day.

From Haines Jo and Bryan may have driven north to pick up the Alaskan Highway near Haines Junction, west on the Tok Cutoff Highway and then south on the Richardson Highway



Map of the Harrison's 1965 Alaska trip

1965 Thompson Pass, The Harrison's and their friends, the Best's



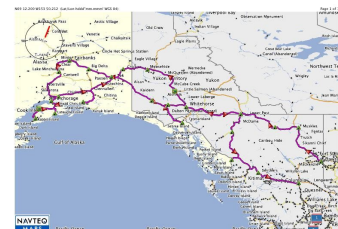
stopping to see the Worthington Glacier and Bridal Veil Falls, ascending the treacherous Thompson Pass (rain and dense fog conditions on my 2011 motorcycle trip) before arriving in Valdez. The timeline suggested by the photos then takes our Airstreamers up the Richardson to Fairbanks and the July Golden Days Celebration where they camped in the City Park for free. Denali or Mount McKinley seems unnoticed during their route to Anchorage but evidence of the 1964 Earthquake was clearly visible to them in the former settlement of Portage.

From Portage the Harrison's headed north east on the Glenn Highway and Tok Cutoff to Tok where they were able to follow the Alaskan Highway southeasterly to its beginning at Dawson Creek.

Gail and I are part of this year's Alyeska, the Great Land caravan taking a more traditional approach to Alaska via the Alaskan Highway. We meet our fellow caravan members in Dawson Creek, BC near mile 0.0 on the highway. We follow the Alaskan Highway northwesterly with stops in Fort Nelson, Muncho Lake, and Watson Lake, to Whitehorse, YT. After Whitehorse we head north on the Klondike Loop Highway to stops in Carmacks and Dawson City. Our only ferry ride during the caravan occurs as we leave Dawson City, cross the Yukon River and head west on the Top of the World Highway towards Chicken and a remote border crossing into the US. After Chicken we take the Taylor Highway south to rejoin the Alaskan Highway and head west through Tok on the final leg of the Alaskan Highway to Delta Junction, its terminus.



From Delta Junction our Alyeska caravan follows the Richardson Highway to a stop in Fairbanks; from there we caravan south on the Parks Highway to stops at Denali and Anchorage. From Anchorage we head south into the Kenai Peninsula and pass the site of Portage where Jo and Bryan noted, damage from the 1964 earthquake; we continue south to stops at Seward, Homer and Soldotna. We leave the Kenai Peninsula and drive east through Anchorage to Palmer in the Glenn Highway. Our last major stop in mainland Alaska is Valdez, arriving there via the Glenn and Richardson Highways.



Map of the 2014 WBCCI Caravan to Alaska

We leave Valdez north on the Richardson and then east on the Tok Cutoff to the Alaskan Highway and a stop back in the Yukon at Burwash Landing. We re-enter Alaska along its narrow extension along western British Columbia and stop in Haines, a port on the Inland Passage and the Alaskan Marine Highway. From Haines we return to the Alaskan Highway and head east to a stop at Watson Lake and then south on the Cassiar Highway to Dease Lake. From there we continue south and then west on the Yellowhead Highway to Stewart BC and a stop in Hyder. AK Note the US doesn't typically staff a border crossing into Hyder but the Canadians will likely stop and check us back into Canada when we leave. Our caravan almost over, we head east on the Yellowhead to stops in Smithers and Prince George, BC where we celebrate the end of the caravan,

While the Alyeska caravan seems like a whirlwind tour compared to that of Jo and Bryan Harrison, each stop typically includes one, two or three extra days to give us ample time to explore and experience the Great Land or rest as need be. Another thing to remember is that many of the highways in British Columbia and the Yukon Territories were not paved in 1965; our only dirt, gravel or mud (depends upon conditions) will be 80 miles west of Dawson City and those portions of highways being repaired from winter damage. Gail and I will provide some real-time updates on our experience but expect a thorough transcript of our experiences after we get home.

Note: As well as being a participant, Don has offered to assist with communications for this caravan. Don will also probably have an opportunity to share some of his sourdough cooking expertise

Web links to information discussed in this newsletter including info on the April 24th Rally at Boca Rest.