



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

February 2014

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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January Hometown Lunch

This was the first time the SNU has held a lunch at the Hometown Cafe in Lemmon Valley. It turned well considering Hometown is a small place. The food was great and of course the company was excellent. There were 23 of us at the lunch. We took over



about half the restaurant. Participants included Thornburg's, Baleme, Swaffer, Gower, Stansbury, Jeppson, Leipper, Haskett, Warn, Grossmann, Gmur, Rabold, and Butcher. Barney Rabold introduced his guest, Hugh Butcher who owns Sierra Airstream restoration. Hugh told us a little about his background and his business. He and Barney also talked about the work they are doing to restore Barney's 1951 Cruisette. Barney passed around pictures of the work in progress. Bob and Cecilla just happened to be home after attending the IBT meeting. They'll be heading to Hobo next week. Bob gave a report on the meeting. It seems there were **16 motions** put forth and all passed without much difficulty. A pretty amazing feat according to Bob. Some of the motions included changes to the WBCCI bylaws, changes in the International Rally, and online renewal of membership. Check the link in this article for Bob's complete rundown on all of the motions. Bob also briefly discussed upcoming Regional activities, include the Hobo Rally and the Region 12 2014 rally in Pahrump and the Region 12 2015 rally in Carson City. Diane suggested that since 2015 would be the 60th Anniversary of the creation of the Wally Byam Caravan Club that might be a good theme for the rally. Other business included reminding everyone of the February lunch in Fernley and to be sure to RSVP. After some more discussion and visiting it was time to head home.

February Lunch at the Black Bear Diner

The **Black Bear Diner** in Fernley is the location for the SNU lunch on Saturday February 22, 2014. The Black Bear is east of downtown Fernley off Interstate 80 East at Exit 48. This will be our last luncheon till next November. Our first rally will be in March at Lahontan. Please let us know if you plan to attend. Email hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 5011.

Trivia question: Name three community projects that the SNU has been involved in.

Prez Meanderings

I am preparing to take the trip to the last Hobo Rally in Blythe, California. Even though I have only been to the Hobo Rally once it is kind of sad to see a 33 year tradition die. However, I am looking forward to rallies at the new region rally location near Atascadero. Regrettably, we missed the January luncheon. I was involved with a Civil Air Patrol function and for the same reason we will miss the February luncheon on the 22nd. The March rally at Lahontan we will miss because we will be on a short Cruise to Ensenada with Doris' family celebrating her brother's 50th wedding anniversary. It appears the next time I will camp with you is the Boca Rest rally starting 24 April. I hope you all had a great Christmas and have a great start on 2014 that will continue all year. We have a schedule of great places for rallies this year as always. We should all be looking forward to some great times together through the rest of the year.



Remembering the Cricket Invasion

It's the beginning of a new year. I thought it might be a good time to reflect on one of the SNU rallies of the past before we head into a new rally season and create new memories.

In August 2005, the SNU held a **rally in Kingston, NV** on the property of SNU members, Roy and Bonnie. Kingston is one of those almost ghost towns a little Southeast of Austin, NV in the wide open spaces of the Smokey Valley. This was going to be a special rally for many reasons and it was the first trip for two of our members with their brand new Airstreams. Randy and Vicki had just recently purchased their first Airstream, a 25ft Safari. Jerry and Dyann had recently purchased a new 30ft Classic, the third Airstream they have owned.



Everyone hit the road Thursday on their own schedule anticipating a beautiful, uneventful drive East on Highway 50, known as the loneliest road in America. All was well and good until we began to hit higher elevations near Austin. Then you began to notice brown spots on the road. As the elevation increased the brown spots covered the road – and they were moving! We had hit an infestation of Mormon crickets. As you drove through areas where the road cut through rocks, you could see a moving wall of brown going up the rocks. As you descended to a lower elevation the crickets disappeared only to reappear as you crested the next ridge of hills.

We began to worry. What was the elevation at our rally site? Were we going to be met with millions of crickets? Were we going to have to relocate the rally? Then of course there were our rigs. What about all those bug bodies on our Aluminum Airstreams, especially the new ones? After leaving Austin which is at a little over 6,600 ft, we hit another patch of crickets then as we descended down the valley towards Kingston which is around 5,900 ft. we had left the crickets behind. We drove into our rally site and were relieved to find it cricket free. Jerry & Dyann arrived and like the rest of us, the front end of their brand new Airstream was plastered with a thick layer of brown crickets. Some attempts were made to clean the trailers but this was a dry campsite and also there was the trip home to look forward to.

After yet another, fantastic rally we headed home and faced the crickets. Sure enough, at certain elevations the crickets covered the road. A solid moving brown carpet that included as many dead as live crickets. The road was slippery and since the day was warm the smell was pretty intense. As soon as the Jerry & Dyann arrived home, they got out the power hose. It took four hours to clean off the layers of crickets from the front, the underneath, and various other parts of their new Airstream. Randy & Vicki not only got a thick layer of cricket guts on their new Airstream, crickets also covered the truck that they had just purchased. Randy had to wash everything again the next day to get all the guts off. Then, his driveway was full of cricket guts. So he had to hose off the driveway. As Randy says, "Ah, fond memories."

This unusual initiation for brand new Airstreams didn't dampen spirits or enthusiasm. Both the Thornburg's and the Grossmann's showed up at the next rally with sparkling clean Airstreams and some special memories of their first trip with their new trailers.

Upcoming 2014 Events

Black Bear Diner - Saturday February 22, 2014

Lahontan Beach 7 unstructured camping area - Thursday March 20-23 2014

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 - 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

News About the Newsletter

The SNU is always looking for content for the newsletters. With advances in technology, there are more options for newsletter content. Rick recently suggested that we could include links to videos. If anyone has a smart phone, camera or other device that records videos, take some video of a really interesting action or event at rallies. Then these can be sent to the SNU and linked into the newsletter for all to watch. There are two methods for sending videos to the SNU. You can post to You Tube first and then send a link to the SNU. This may be the best option because the way You Tube processes the videos they are condensed and formatted in a way that makes them more accessible and easier to upload. The other option is to send the video via email direct to the SNU. It will then be posted on the SNU website. These videos are not processed and may not be accessible to everyone. As we have done in the past, we can also download video as well as photos directly from the source at the rally. Check out example videos from the **2008 rally at Obsidian Dome** taken by Don and the **2012 Rocky Point** rally taken by Wheels.

As for subject matter, the **content of the newsletter** should focus on things related to the SNU, SNU members, Airstreams, and RV and camping topics. The content should be informative and beneficial to the membership. Instead of trying to put everything in a newsletter, the SNU has chosen to keep the newsletter to 4 pages and use embedded links to additional reference material, photo galleries, and other information. Unless there is a specific reason, the SNU has chosen not to include things like jokes, unrelated clip art, and articles not related to the above mentioned topics. We are also careful about copyrighted material. A few members, including Don, Randy, Frank and Wheels have been great in contributing articles over the years. Their articles have included installing solar panels on the Airstream roof, Dutch oven cooking, a coast to coast Airstream trip, participation in an Idaho Unit rally, unintended dry camping, Wilder West Caravan and other topics. It seems the ladies in our Unit have a little catching up to do when it comes to contributing to the newsletter. I know they have stories to tell. For instance, participating in a rally in an Airstream that is basically a glorified tent because the water and plumbing systems need work. Or how family members and friends have contributed to a growing pink flamingo crop. There is also the ladies perspective on Airstream remodeling, rally participation, and personal Airstream travels. It is the contributions from our members and friends that make the newsletter enjoyable and informative. We know you all have stories you could share that the newsletter readers would enjoy. For instance there are some restoration projects in the works. Some members have attended the Balloon Festival Rally, the Rose Parade rally, and other events. Some are planning on participating in WBCCI caravans this year. Some members have unique Airstreaming experiences they could write about. So don't hesitate, write up your stories and pass them along so we can share them in the newsletter. And don't forget videos and photos.



Sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu

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Go green! Sign up now for our electronic newsletter. Active links are built into the text for your convenience in following up on information linked in the newsletter.

Sign Up Now

Restoration Project

SNU members, Barney and Mary Beth are in the process of completely restoring their 1951 Cruisette. They are working with Sierra Airstream Restoration, in Minden, NV. This photo shows the shell suspended from the ceiling after it has been detached from the frame. Cruisettes were made only in 1951 and 1952. They were marked with serials consecutively from 8000 to 8075 so only 76 were made. This one is 8040 and was made in 1951. You can follow the restoration project on our [website](http://www.sierranevadairstreams.org) or better yet, go see it for yourself. Barney says that if anyone wants to visit our project let him know and he can arrange a visit. He says "It is quite interesting to see the details we have uncovered and some people may want to see for themselves." If you are interested in visiting, email hq@sierranevadairstreams.org. We are all looking forward to seeing this special Airstream at rallies and admiring the fully restored results.



The Grid

The power grid connects to your RV using either 30 Amp single phase (120 v) service or 50 Amp split (or two) phase (240v) service. Single phase service is just a high power version of your standard household appliance outlet with three wires. Split phase is often used in houses for 240v appliances such as ovens or clothes dryers and these use four wires. You can count the pins or sockets on the plugs to tell what is 120v single phase or 240v split phase most of the time (there are some 240v connections that don't use 4 pins).



Power voltages are not tightly specified and can vary by ten percent or so. A nominal 117 volt supply can range between 130 and 105 volts. Higher voltages tend to burn out lamps and electronic stuff faster while low voltages tend to burn out motors faster. Why there are such changes has a lot to do with how far the electricity has to travel and the expected loads on the system when it was designed.

In most cases, you can pull the power lead from your RV and just plug it into the camp power pedestal as they will have plugs for both 50 Amps and 30 Amp services. All you do is to match up

the plugs and check that the circuit breakers are closed. It's when the camp power pedestal does not have the same kind of plugs that match those on your RV power cord that you have to be especially careful. There are adapters to handle most plug mismatch situations but the usual circumstance is to reduce the electrical power available to your rig. For instance, the 30 Amp single phase RV plug to a 15 or 20 Amp household plug adapter is perhaps most common but will allow you to use on 15 Amps at a time in your RV rather than 30. The version of this adapter for 50 Amp split phase has additional limitation in that you can't run any of the 240v appliances in your RV.

It is always a good idea to have indicators in your RV to use to make sure you are properly connected. The simplest is only \$5 or so and uses indicator lights to tell you if the wiring is connected properly or not. The next step up tells you the voltage. Volt meters are particularly important when running an air conditioner so you can make sure to turn it off if the voltage goes to low (usually anything below 110v is hard on them.)

For more information check the [Owner's Guide](#) on the SNU website

Answers to the Trivia Question:

- July 2007 The SNU worked with the Friends of Inyo to dismantle fire pits and do general clean up and restoration work near our rally site at Obsidian Dome
- May 2008 the SNU held their rally at the Lyon County Fly-In

near Silver Springs NV. Our main job was cooking breakfast for the pilots. We also stuffed goodie bags and helped out with various other projects

- June 2009 the main activity of the SNU rally at Sweetwater Summit was Field Day. Field Day is an opportunity for all ham radio operators to test their emergency communications skills.

[Web links to information](#) discussed in this newsletter including info on the February lunch at Black Bear in Fernley