



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

January 2014

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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Lemmon Valley](#)
- ◆ [Feb. 27th
Black Bear
Fernley, NV](#)
- ◆ [March 20th
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- ◆ [April 24th
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Rocky Point](#)

December Lunch at Jake's

We had a good turnout for the **SNU lunch at Jakes**. Participants included Randy & Vicki, Jerry & Dyann and their friend Don, Wheels & Doris, Mike & Cindy, Roger & Janet, Jim & RoyLaine, Bryan & Diane and Bob & Cecilia. Bob & Cecilia have been on the road most of the year so it was great they happened to be home and able to come to an SNU lunch. This was our first lunch at Jakes and it worked out well. We had a separate space, good service and good



food. Wheels held a short business meeting. The highlight was Bob Stansbury discussing upcoming Region rallies. More information on these rallies is in other parts of this newsletter. The 2015 Region rally will be held in Carson City. A year ago, Bob asked the SNU to host this rally. At the luncheon, Bob asked us for suggestions and ideas for this rally, including a theme and special activities. 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. After the meeting, there was more visiting and then time to wrap up another very enjoyable SNU lunch.

January 2014 Lunch

The SNU starts off the new year at a new luncheon location. **The Hometown Cafe** is just north of Reno off Hwy 395 exit 74, in Lemmon Valley. The date is Saturday January 25, 2014, time 11:30am. Hometown has a wide variety great food at reasonable prices.



Please let us know if you plan to attend. Email hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 5011.



Prez Meanderings

As I write this Christmas is almost here. Fortunately we are past the great gift giving and receiving frenzy. We send a little money to a couple of grand kids and wrap a couple of extras we buy for ourselves as gifts from each other. We send cards to family and close friends from the past. This year we bought cards from the dollar store and family members have reported that the postal service tore up the envelope and all they got was a mutilated envelope with no card. To a select few we sent a card I made with a picture of Andy in the snow with a red ribbon on. Those cards made it through the postal system. Here's the picture of Andy. He truly loves the snow. He goes out day or night just to lay in the snow.



The New Year is fast approaching. It's time to consider resolutions to do thing a little better than last year. Maybe loose a little weight, be a little more tolerant of others, say a good word to people that aren't your favorites. Maybe take up a hobby that you have been thinking about. I want to expand my participation in Amateur Radio to the HF bands. I am considering an HF antenna in the attic. There is not a lot of room there and it's hard to get to but once installed it will be low maintenance. I might even get a screwdriver antenna for the trailer.

May the year 2014 be a great year for you and a year of growth for the Sierra Nevada Unit of WBCCI. May all of you consider participating not only in the SNU functions but the Region and International rallies also. If you travel, consider attending the rallies of units along the way.



Rallies, Caravans, and more

One of the advantages of being a member of WBCCI and the SNU is the opportunity to participate in events sponsored by WBCCI, the Regions, and any WBCCI Unit. There are several events coming up that may be of interest to SNU members. First is the **Hobo Rally** sponsored by Region 12. Dates for this rally are February 3 to 9, 2014. This will be the last year for this rally to be held in Blythe. June 28 to July 4 are the dates for the **WBCCI 57th Annual International Rally**. This year it will be in Gillette WY. October 14 to 19, 2014 the **Region 12 Rally** will be held in Pahrump, NV. There are also **Unit rallies** planned for venues close to the Reno/Sparks area. Check the Region 12 Calendar. In addition to these, there are Caravans, Special Event rallies and a host of other activities. Check the WBCCI website or the Blue Beret member magazine for dates and details. Of course, we hope that SNU rallies will be a high priority when planning your 2014 travels. These opportunities provide a great way to meet fellow Airstreamers from across the country. As Wally Byam says in his Creed, these opportunities: "... open a whole world of new experiences . . . a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions."

Welcome to Our Newest Members

The newest members of the SNU are Albert & Kim Lewis. They live in Reno and own a 1970 29ft Ambassador. They are planning to attend AlumaFiesta in Tuscon in February. We welcome them to the SNU and hope to meet them at an SNU event soon. We'd like to hear all about their adventures in Tuscon as well as swap other Airstream stories.

Upcoming Events for 2013 and 2014

Hometown Cafe, Lemmon Valley, NV Saturday
January 25, 2014

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

Achievements & Highlights of SNU in 2013

2013 was another great year for the Sierra Nevada Unit. New opportunities, new adventures, new members as well as old friends and favorite places. Here are some of the highlights for the past year. [Check out the complete list on the SNU website.](#)

- ♦ The June rally was held in a new location at [Green Creek](#) just south of Bridgeport.
- ♦ The SNU President Wheels Wheeler was "crowned" 2013 Hobo King at the [Hobo Rally in Blythe](#) January 2013.
- ♦ A highlight of 2013 was the [Obsidian Dome Rally](#) We had representatives from five different Units. We had nine Airstreams at Obsidian and three Class A's at Mammoth RV park for a total of 13 rigs at this rally.
- ♦ The rally in Fallon at the [Cantaloupe Festival](#) included two of the newest SNU members attending their first rally.
- ♦ Two new options were added to the SNU communications network. Rick LaBorde set up a [Facebook page](#) for the SNU. Don Williams set up the SNU rallies and lunches on the [Region 12 Master Calendar](#).
- ♦ The SNU always welcomes fellow Airstreamers and potential Airstreamers to our rallies. In 2013 we had guests at Obsidian, Rocky Point, Ft Sage, and Green Creek. Most were from other WBCCI Units including The New England Unit, Long Beach, San Fernando Valley, NorCal and El Camino
- ♦ SNU members and affiliates participated in other WBCCI activities including:
 - The [Hobo Rally](#) in Blythe
 - The Washington Unit [Crab Feed Rally](#)
 - The [WBCCI International Rally in Huron](#)
 - The Balloon Fiesta Rally
 - The Rose Parade Rally
 - The Region 12 Rally in Lodi, CA. Wheels & Doris put together a basket representing the SNU and Don Williams co-led a seminar at the rally on sourdough and Dutch oven cooking.
 - At least two SNU members participated in a WBCCI Caravans in 2013.



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Death Valley November 2013

Don Williams #14207

November in Death Valley should provide a respite from rain and cooler weather, right! At least that's what we thought when we started planning our informal Death Valley rallies back in 2008.

Randy and Vickie Grossmann expected to enjoy a leisurely trip south from Reno at 4500 feet to our planned camp at Mesquite Spring (1800 feet) in Death Valley. The Death Valley weather projections, 5 days out, were improving, mid to upper 70s in the daytime and mid 40s to 50s at night with the chance of rain dropping to 20. Well the weather conditions didn't improve, maybe even worsened and then there's a 6270 foot pass along the way that SNU members from the north need to cross. Gail and I even had to cross a 3000 foot pass coming in from Southern California; you guys are used to it aren't you?

As reported by Randy and Vickie, conditions were dicey in some spots with rain, blowing snow and ice but Gail and I can't confirm it because all we saw was light to moderate rain from Riverside all the way to Mesquite Springs. Look at Randy's pictures and judge for yourself.



Randy & Vickie and Gail and I arrived Thursday evening within 15 minutes of each other, meaning we both had to get parked in our sites, leveled and setup with temps in the mid 40s in light rain. Friday brought gloom, rain and cool temperatures in the mid 40s through most of the day. Both families took advantage of the weather to rest up, read and visit.



Saturday's weather teased, on occasion the clouds parted enough to show a dusting of snow on the higher mountains surrounding the north end of the valley.

The rain, like the clouds, lapsed into wind driven sprinkles, giving us the illusion that it might quit.



Randy and I attempted to fly his kites after lunch but we lacked the knowledge, skill, luck or possibly a larger tail needed to stabilize them and avoid their sometimes-slow spin to the ground.

Emotionally spent from our efforts with the kites, we climbed the bluff to the west to hike for an hour and enjoy the views of the mountains and valley.



Sunday brought the promise of better weather, well the sun did shine but wind and temperatures in the mid to upper 50s meant we still had to bundle up for our (Randy and my) hike into and around Ubehebe Crater.



With only two trailers and the cold rainy weather we broke tradition and dispensed with Bryan's early morning bottomless coffee carafe and the community potluck dinners. Friday night we enjoyed chili-verde in our trailer, Saturday Chinese chicken and rice at Randy and Vickie's and soul warming chili again in our Airstream on Sunday. Oh yeah, Sourdough buttermilk pancakes as a brunch on Sunday morning.

Bright sun with some clouds and snow on the mountains provided a beautiful backdrop for our separate trips towards home on Monday and an opportunity for some great photos in the lower Death Valley. A great time with Randy and Vickie but not quite the same as an SNU rally! Hope to see you next year.

