



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

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Sweetwater Rally Review

A Great **rally at Sweetwater Summit**. Five SNU members participated - Jerry & Dyann, Randy & Vicki, Warren & Merna, Baxter & Marlene and Bryan & Diane. Friday turned out to be a great day for kite flying. Randy finally got his \$5 Winco kite airborne. Not only did he get it in the air, it



stayed up and he was able to put it on auto-pilot. He tethered the kite to a rock then sat back in his chair enjoying his well earned success. Friday also saw the initiation of Jerry and Dyann's new oven. It is a propane powered camp oven with a stove top. The oven in their Airstream has never worked right so this provides an alternative. Lasagna was the test dish and I think we all agreed, the oven did a great job. One nice advantage of the camp oven is that since it is outside, you don't heat up the trailer when you use it. Saturday was field day for amateur radio. Since Don and Frank weren't able to make this rally, Bryan did his best to represent the SNU. He

worked the bands in his mobile ham shack, the B-Van. Although he says band conditions were not real good, he did make several contacts. It appears that Sweetwater may not be a secret of the SNU and a few other groups much longer. For the first time, we had another group of RV'rs share the spot with us. They were surprised to find us up there and we were surprised to see them. They were scouting the area out for future rallies. In addition, a couple of men who had seen the SNU rally announcement in a local newspaper and contacted us, came up to check the site out for rallies of their own. Both are off road groups and although we'd hate to see that place get crowded it is a very good place for off road adventures. Our solar lights had a hard time competing with the clear night sky full of stars and good views of the milky way. Can't say we didn't try though. Randy has added a new string of lights to his collection and another one on top of "the thing". Jerry has a great collection of lights that change colors. Diane has a couple of strings of pink flamingo lights and a new flamingo solar light mobile that changes color. Baxter & Marlene have a free standing flamingo solar light. Warren & Merna's Airstream was the only one in the dark. They are new though so we didn't harass them too much. We know that will be remedied soon. It was quite a weekend for Randy. In addition to success with kites he said "the amazing thing about this rally for me is that I ended up with not a single squawk item. Nothing broke or malfunctioned. This is truly a first." Randy also thinks "that Sweetwater should be an annual for us just as Obsidian is." Pretty good recommendation. Although Wheels and Doris were still on the road, we did discuss a little business. One discussion item was the draft of the 2015 rally schedule. We got some good comments and suggestions. Another was that 2015 dues are now being collected. Everyone at the rally renewed. All in all, a very nice weekend. Beautiful scenery, good friends, good food, and good times enjoyed by all.



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Rally and events schedule

Click on a link below for details

- ♦ [June 28th @ International Rally Gillette WY](#)
- ♦ [July 25th @ Weed Heights](#)
- ♦ [August 14th @ Obsidian Dome](#)
- ♦ [September 25th @ Crocker](#)
- ♦ [October 23rd @ Fort Churchill](#)

First Call for 2015 Dues

We have received the 2015 dues receipts from WBCICI and now is the time to renew or join the SNU. Although the membership year runs from January to January, dues collection starts in July 1. We hope you will continue to support the SNU and join us for what is looking like a special 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

Prez Meanderings

Our trip has progressed to the eastern most point, Carlsbad New Mexico. It has been generally as we expected. We stayed at the Lakeside RV Park in Pahrump the first night. We braved "Alligator Alley" (I-40 East from Kingman). We arrived in Albuquerque in close to triple digit temperature. We stayed in a charming RV, Enchanted Trails RV Park that had roots in the industry that grew up along Route 66. In fact they had a period 1953 teardrop shaped trailer and 1950 Mercury to pull it on display. One of the trailers in the park was an Argosy that had been very well taken care of. It was painted white with blue trim. It was very nice. We visited Doris' daughter for four days. We then travelled to Alamogordo, NM for my daughter's third wedding. We had a good visit with the bride and groom and my grandson. I gave the bride away at a very small but nice wedding in their home. After three days there we came here to Carlsbad. We have visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park. We also visited the Guadalupe Mountains National Park which is another 30 miles south from the caverns into Texas.

When I started this I was in Carlsbad but I couldn't find an internet connection until we got to Casa Grande in Arizona. After Carlsbad we traveled to Deming, NM. We stayed at a Passport America RV Park that was accessed by a 1.8 mile dirt road that was 18 miles north of I-10 in Deming. They were nice people and gave us a select spot under one of the few big trees in the park. We then travelled to Fort Huachuca, AZ (an Army Post). It was a very nice park, sparse trees,



landscaped with gravel and rocks. The Post Exchange gas station had diesel fuel. We visited the Coronado National Memorial and went to Tombstone. Here in Casa Grande the temperature soars to 105 or better during the day. I have discovered that the things in the trailer that are intended to produce cool or cold are not up to the challenge of external temperature in triple digits. The refrigerator sometimes makes ice and the air conditioner barely keeps the inside temperature below 90 degrees during the afternoon hours. While here we visited the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. We will leave here to visit Doris' Grandson in Phoenix for a few days before we go to Lake Havasu City to visit Doris' brother and sister. Then we will be homeward bound. We will miss Sweet-

water Summit. Hope to see you all at Weed Heights.

P.S. In an email from Wheels he said " My camera fell in the Andy's water dish..." That's a new take on "the dog ate my homework" Wheels says he plans on getting a new camera in Phoenix. We're thankful he got these pictures before the water bowl incident.



Upcoming Rally at Weed Heights

Thursday July 25 to Sunday July 27 are the dates for the SNU **rally at Weed Heights RV Park**. The RV Park is located in the Township of Weed Heights just west of Yerington, NV off Hwy 95. There is a big sign on Hwy 95 where you turn off the highway. The RV park is up the hill behind the old Anaconda mine pit. This will be our 6th rally at Weed Heights. This year the rally is on the weekend of a **Night in the Country Music Festival** which is held at the Lyon County Fairgrounds in nearby Yerington. The event benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mason Valley. There is a shuttle that runs from the RV Park to the Fairgrounds. The SNU has reserved spaces in the RV park for our rally so please let us know ASAP if you plan to attend.



2015 Rally Schedule

2015 is shaping up to be a unique rally year for the SNU. Here is the first draft of the rally schedule. There are still some things under consideration so changes will probably be made before the schedule is final. Let us know what you think, if you have any ideas you think should be included or if you are willing to help out with a rally.

January lunch - Shanghi Restaurant in Sparks - | - *February lunch* - might be in conjunction with a rally at Gold Dust West. - | - *March rally* - Gold Dust West Carson City RV Park - | - *April rally* - Ft Sage - | - *May rally* - Likely RV Park - | - *June rally* - Rocky Point - | - *July rally* - 10th Anniversary rally at Obsidian Dome - | - *August rally* - Joint rally with NorCal at Prosser - | - *September rally* - Crocker - | - *October rally* - Region 12 rally in Carson City - | - *November rally* - Mesquite in Death Valley - | - *November lunch* - Overlander in Gardnerville - | - *December lunch* - Bavarian World in Reno

Upcoming 2014 Events

WBCCI International Rally Gillette WY- June 28 – Sunday 26 2014

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-

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

It's Official !

The SNU will be holding a joint rally with NorCal in 2015. The rally will be at Prosser Family Campground. The dates are Wednesday August 5 to Sunday August 9, 2015. This location was chosen in part because of a suggestion by the SNU. Prosser Family Campground is 10 miles North of Truckee off Hwy 89 near Prosser Reservoir. This campground has 29 individual sites. People wishing to attend will need to make their own reservations for a site through recreation.gov. Claudette from NorCal says the campground is flat, has nice shady sites, water and the lake is a short walk from the campground. Randy and Vicki [checked out the campground](#) in April and they agree that it is a very nice place for a rally. Claudette says their members have requested to do some "technical workshops" at this rally and they are considering a theme of "Overcome your dry camping fears". This is something the SNU has a lot of experience with since our standard rally sites are remote, dispersed, dry camping sites. NorCal usually has around 20 or more participants at their rallies. The larger number of people requires a little more planning and structure. It also enables them to do some things that would be more difficult at SNU rallies. This joint rally with NorCal will give both Unit's an opportunity to share ideas and experience different ways of doing things. Mark your calendars now! Help us to be sure that the SNU will be well represented at this rally.

Join the Silver Trailer Event in Southern Oregon in September

The program has been announced for Alumafandango. This Airstream event will be held at Seven Feathers RV Resort off I-5 in Canyonville, OR . The dates are September 2—7, 2014. [Check the full description of this event and links to more information.](#) The Alumafandango program is packed with fun and informative activities and top-notch entertainment, offsite excursions and tours and All "Aluma-events" such as informative Airstream seminars and presentations. These will include a session on vintage valuations, hitching and towing techniques, tips for tiny trailers, and special seminars for women who want to develop their tow-alone skills. Sponsor George M. Sutton RV will present tech talks and seminars on Airstream maintenance, batteries, solar systems, and buying, financing and trading in your Airstream. In support of the Wally Byam Caravan Club there will be a special presentation about club growth, member-focused Units, and ways to become more involved with the WBCCI. All brand of RVs are welcome and anyone who loves aluminum trailers, vintage trailers, or just RV travel is invited to join the fun. Alumafandango is a great way to get to know our "aluma-community", and George M Sutton RV will tantalize wannabe Airstreamers with an indoor display of shiny new models.

Space is limited and the event is approaching fast! Reserve your space by visiting www.alumafandango.com (or write to info@alumafandango.com, or call 802-877-2900 extension 4.)

Rhonda Coleman #3504 Oregon Unit

Sunsets, Camera Basics, Great Photographs

About the only holdout for film anymore these days is the disposable camera. Digital cameras have the advantages of the old Polaroid immediate review and are available in nearly any size and with nearly any feature set you can imagine. The newer digital cameras are also very smart and able to help you take great pictures of your travels even if you aren't paying much attention to photographic necessities in taking your pictures.

[Check here for links to some websites](#) with information to help you learn to know what to pay attention to in taking pictures. They can help you create better pictures that others will admire and enjoy your sharing with them. Most of these websites are selected pages and you can browse around to find other related pages if you like the presentation or the way the author describes things.

- ◆ How to Photograph Sunrises and Sunsets – The drama of the color and shadows and vistas make a good sunrise or sunset photograph a good opener or exclamation point in your travelogue. Here's how to add a stunner to your photo gallery.
- ◆ How to Make Great Photographs © 2005 KenRockwell.com – It is not the hardware, it is the artist! Ken has a lot of good tutorials on his site and this one will help you put together the photographer's attitude to make for better pictures no matter what equipment you use.
- ◆ Free Image Hosting at AllYouCanUpload.com – one place to put your pictures so everyone can see them. You can use this service to store photographs that are linked in email or posted to your discussion groups.
- ◆ Photo notes – This set of notes features the Canon EOS but has a lot of good information for the digital camera photographer.
- ◆ Photography Jam – the photographer's resource: Camera basics: shutter-speed, aperture and ISO – a good introduction to getting the light right on your photographic subject.

2014 Road to Gillette

Don & Gail Williams WBCCI 14207

Gail and I left California on to visit family and attend the **2014 International Rally in Gillette**, Wyoming, **a relaxing trip over a 5-week period right?** NO! I had spent 10 days in New Mexico and Arizona just prior for a relaxing motorcycle trip along the NM Continental Divide from the Mexican border to Colorado. Note my conquest on that trip.

The NM trip only left a few days to pack and ready the truck and trailer. We hoped to leave in 3 days; it took 5 ½. We left at 2:30 PM on Saturday the 24th just to get away and arrived in Southport, NC 2800 miles later on the 30th. Our best campsites included: Quartzsite, AZ; Datil Wells (BLM) in NM; Willow Beach (Corp of Engineers) in Arkansas and on the Blue Ridge Parkway. US 60 east of Pie Town (yes great pies and green chili stew) and Datil beckons the motorist with a view of the highway running straight for almost 40 miles over the distant ridgeline. Rain began in earnest in Oklahoma and dogged us most of the way to the North Carolina Coast. The Blue Ridge Parkway offered brief respites from rain and clouds.



Our Carolina reward was great views of the Southport waterfront and the Inland Water Way while we ate fresh local seafood at the Frying Pan; shrimp, oysters, crab cakes and Grouper fillets. Huge bowls of ice cream at a small stand completed our feast.

We had a new wrinkle for our travel plans on week five, a 300-mile detour to Lexington, KY to visit our son who moved while we were on the road. Does Gail look excited to see him?

In Nebraska we repeatedly ignored our GPS navigator to head west on I-80 and take Nebraska Route 2, the Sand Highway, at Grand Island. Expansive views of rolling green grasslands, small towns and community parks greeted us for the more than 320 miles as we approached the Black Hills.

Driving rain, thunder and wind reminded us that Mother Nature controls our environment and we must sometimes endure extreme conditions to enjoy our freedom to travel. Two thirds of the vehicles on the freeway pulled to the side as we motored on at 10 to 20 MPH, refusing to stop and risk being rear-ended. The rain eased to a downpour as we pulled into Rally Registration and then eased to a steady rain 40 minutes later while we were in the Bull Pen. An hour later we parked and unhooked for our week at the International; 5 weeks (12 ½ travel days) and 5330 miles after we left California.



Update from Gillette

A quick note from Don, All three motions to be voted on by the delegates passed. Amendment #1 to allow clubs in foreign countries to become members passed with 100% of the vote. Amendment #2 to permit movement of the International Rally away from July 1 and July 4 passed 4779 "yes" to 29 "no". Amendment #3 to allow the optional payment of dues via electronic means passed 4562 "yes" to 234 "no". The 2015 International is in Farmington June 24 - July 4. 2016 is confirmed in Lewisburg, WV for June 24 - July 4. Last but not least, The SNU's own Don Williams has been elected recording secretary of the WBCCI Amateur Radio Club.

Welcome New Members

The newest members of the SNU are Steve and Suzanne Reynolds. They live in Auburn, CA and own a 1955 Airstream Bubble. We look forward to seeing them soon at an SNU rally and hope they will be active members for a long time to come. Welcome!

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

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SNU 2014 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars

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