



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 at Rocky Point

Rocky Point at Eagle Lake is the site for the May SNU rally. The dates are Thursday May 15– Sunday 18 2014. This is the 4th Rally at Rocky Point. Since several of us often stop at the KFC in Susanville on the way to Rocky Point, we'll make it "official" this year and have a Colonel Sanders dinner on Thursday night. Bryan and Diane will stop by KFC, pick of some chicken and sides for everyone and we'll have a special shared dinner on Thursday. Be sure and let us know if you plan on coming to Rocky Point so we can get enough chicken. Friday and Saturday we'll have our usual shared dinners. Rocky Point has a lot of nice areas for hiking. There is also the opportunity to fish in the lake. The road to the rally site is well marked as long as you look for the signs. It follows the west side of Buck's Bay. If you haven't been to Rocky Point before, check the [rally link in this newsletter](#) or contact the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org and we'll arrange for you to caravan with somebody who knows the route.



Rally and events schedule

Click on a link below for details

- ◆ [May 15th @ Rocky Point](#)
- ◆ [June 26th @ Sweetwater Summit](#)
- ◆ [June 28th @ International Rally Gillette WY](#)
- ◆ [July 25th @ Weed Heights](#)
- ◆ [August 14th @ Obsidian Dome](#)

First Call for RSVP's

The July SNU rally will be at the full service RV Park in Weed Heights Thursday July 25- Sunday 27 2014. This is the same weekend as [A Night in the Country Music Festival](#). This festival supports the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mason Valley and includes entertainment, booths and all sorts of other activities. There is a shuttle that runs from the RV park to the Festival. The RV Park serves as a back up site for RV parking for the Festival. The park is holding 10 sites for the SNU. We need to know as soon as possible if you plan to attend the SNU rally at Weed Heights so that if we don't fill the sites reserved for us we can release them in case they are needed for other RV'rs. Contact the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org and let us know if you plan to attend.

WBCCI International Rally

There is still time to register for the [57th WBCCI International Convention/ Rally](#) in Gillette, Wyoming. The dates are June 28 - July 4, 2014. If you haven't been to a WBCCI International Rally, you should take this opportunity to attend. These rallies are a special part of WBCCI and a great way to meet fellow WBCCI members from all parts of the country. For more information check the Blue Beret membership magazine or the [WBCCI website](#).

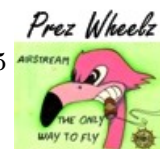
Prez Meanderings

At last our schedule allowed us to join our SNU Airstream family for a rally. What a rally! It was fine Thursday afternoon – sunny and dry, a little wind that continued to increase. After a cold Thursday night Friday was cold and windy with a little snow. Thanks to Jerry and Dyann, we met in their trailer for our pot luck. Saturday dawned with beautiful coating of snow on ground but particularly on the hills and trees that surrounded our camp site. The sun was out and as we sat around the camp fire we hoped the sun would remain out and make it a warm day. Intermittent clouds kept the sun from making a significant impact on the temperature. The wind picked up to defeat what little warming the sun provided. We got some warmth from the campfire but the wind won and we retreated to our trailers. We met for our potluck in the warmth of Jerry and Dyann's trailer again. Sunday the sun came out and the wind was calm. We burned the remaining wood in the campfire and then prepared to leave.

It was a challenging rally. Tbolt Power and electric (i.e. Jerry's generator) provided power to all four trailers. That left only the cold to deal with. Our trailers provided protection from the wind and our heaters kept us warm. At night a few extra quilts kept us warm in bed. It was nice to spend some time with our SNU Airstream family. It was the first time we had been to Boca Rest. It is a nice campground with pretty surroundings. The snow added a special touch of beauty. There was plenty of room for more trailers. The reservoir was low like all lakes during the current drought. It was very nice to get out and "rough" it with friends. All of our camping thus far this year was in commercial camp grounds on the way to family functions.

Things to be thinking about: the next SNU President – my term expires in September, rally sites for 2015 – Diane has been approached by some commercial campgrounds offering to host one of our rallies.

Hope to see you all at Eagle Lake in May.



Boca Rest Rally Review

It's clear that the SNU is not just a fairweather rally group. After some beautiful Spring weather, Mother Nature decided a little more winter would be appropriate and chose the weekend of the Boca rally for it. We had a little wind, rain, snow, and cold temps but that didn't stop us from having a great weekend. The hardy rally participants included the Wheeler's, Leipper's, Thornburg's, and Grossmann's. We had sunshine mixed in with other weather and that gave us the opportunity to enjoy some nice morning campfires. Randy was able to do more experimenting with kite flying. Saturday, Wheels tested is coordination with a game of



Labyrinth. Doris showed off her Hobo Queen trophy and her "throne". Friday after dinner, Wheels, the SNU President, held a short business meeting. He announced that Don Williams will act as the SNU delegate at the meeting at the WBCCI rally this summer. Bob Stansbury is the alternate. Wheels shared information on the motions to be presented and got the input from the SNU members present. He mentioned the need for anyone planning to attend the July SNU rally at Weed Heights to rsvp soon so that we can let the RV park know how many sites to hold for us. Most of the discussion centered around 2015 rally ideas. One item was the decision to not have an SNU unit rally in October 2015 so that we can fully support the Region 12 rally planned for Carson City. Other rally options include a Joint rally with NorCal and recent invitations by

some commercial RV parks. Another critical discussion item was the need for a nominee for SNU President for 2015. After more discussion, Wheels adjourned the meeting. Sunday was nice and sunny. Perfect for one last campfire and coffee. After this rally Wheels and Doris headed to Chico for a rally with their retired military group. Randy and Vicky will be doing a grand tour of potential rally sites. They will check out the group areas at Prosser, stop by Hereford Ranch near Hat Creek and after a visit with friends in McArthur, will spend a day or so at the RV Park in Likely CA. After he and Vicki get home, they will check out an RV park closer to home. Randy will have a full report for us at Rocky Point. His report will also be in the next newsletter. The weather at Boca may not have been the greatest but you couldn't ask for a greater group of people to spend the weekend with. Once again, the SNU's showed it's ability to adapt and enjoy an Airstream outing no matter what the conditions.



Upcoming 2014 Events

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

Washboard Roads

The SNU is very familiar with **Washboard roads**. Some of our favorite rally sites require at least a little driving on washboard roads. Think Rocky Point, Obsidian, or Green Creek. Anytime you get off the pavement onto a well traveled and maintained dirt or gravel road, you will probably encounter the dreaded washboard surface. It'll rattle your teeth and anything that isn't properly secured is likely to end up moved from it's original place. Washboard roads are often known as 'Nevada Highways' as much of Nevada is only accessible via dirt road.

Some say it is due to a bad road foundation – not having the right depth and kind of rock and soil under the road surface. Others think it is due to a lot of traffic and frequent maintenance. Science News Online [reports on a study](#) by Stephen W. Morris of the University of Toronto and his colleagues Nicolas Taberlet and Jim N. McElwaine of the University of Cambridge in England to find out why washboard roads form by using simple experiment.

One way to avoid washboard roads is to limit traffic to walking speeds. This is why those roads suffering lack of maintenance often don't show the phenomena. It is difficult to travel at more than a walking speed when driving over potholes and boulders.

But when there is traffic, there is a demand for maintenance. Potholes are filled in and boulders removed. The road is scraped smooth. Traffic speeds up to jogging speed or faster, and the washboard forms.

Any bed of dirt or sand, even a very smooth one, has minuscule irregularities that slightly jog a rolling wheel. Each time the wheel hits a bump, the computer simulation showed, it pushes the dirt forward a bit, enlarging the irregularity. Then, as the wheel passes over the top of the bump, the force of its descent pushes dirt forward into the next bump. Repeat these actions a hundred or more times and the familiar pattern of ridges appears.

It has little to do with substrate. It has little to do with maintenance – that is correlation and not causation. What it does have to do with is the fact that it is a dirt road and the dirt, rock, or sand on the surface is easily moved as tires roll over it. Once those tires get to moving fast enough to push the material to a berm in front that it has to bounce over, washboard will form.

Modern highway vehicles are not designed to go slow enough to avoid washboard formation. You need deep gears to be able to idle along that slow. The difference between 5 and 15 mph isn't much from the driver's seat but can make a significant difference in time on a 5 mile driveway to a campground. Once the washboard forms, even walking speed isn't slow enough to keep from getting rattled.

Think Independence Lake off CA 89 versus Obsidian Dome. At least up to the visitor area, the Obsidian Dome road is well maintained and has enough washboard to unroll the toilet paper. You can drive an RV there without worrying about bottoming out or getting stuck on a grade. Independence Lake is another matter. To get there you have to crawl over boulders and cross streams and worry about ripping off the back bumper or scraping the hitch.

Washboards are a fact of life on unpaved roads. Those are the roads that will get you to some of the more out of the way camping spots. There isn't much you can do about it except make sure everything is tied down (e.g. a rubber band around the toilet paper), take it easy, and check all the nuts, bolts, screws, and rivets to make sure they are tight for the next trip.

A Tale of Two Restorations

The SNU has two members with vintage Airstreams that are in the process of full restoration. One is Barney and Mary Beth's 1951 Cruisette. The other is Brian and Jeni's 1954 Cruiser.

Barney and Mary Beth are working with Sierra Airstream Restoration, in Minden, NV and they are making great progress on the **Cruisette**. After the shell was removed work began on the frame and flooring. Before long it will be time to get the shell back on and once again it will look like an Airstream

Barney & Mary Beth's Cruisette with new flooring

Brian and Jeni are working with Sierra Trailer Restoration in Grass Valley. This Airstream has many of it's original features, most of which will be restored or refinished. The



Barney & Mary Beth's Cruisette getting a new floor



Sierra Trailer Restoration

plumbing and other systems will be fully upgraded and the exterior completely redone.

Brian & Jeni's Cruiser at the beginning of the polishing phase

We'll keep you up to date on these restorations and share the final results in a future newsletter. We also hope to see both of these special Airstreams at an SNU rally sometime in the future so we can check out the restorations first hand.



Brian & Jeni's Cruiser at the beginning of the polishing phase