



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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**Rally and events
schedule**

Click on a link below for details

- ◆ September 25th @ Crocker
- ◆ October 23rd Fort Churchill
- ◆ November 13th Mesquite Campgd @ Death Valley
- ◆ November 22nd Bavarian World
- ◆ December 20th El Charo Avita

Obsidian Dome Rally Review

It's a good thing there are plenty of great hiking trails near the rally site at Obsidian. We outdid ourselves with **special meals at this rally**. It started off with our first ever sandwich and salad dinner on Thursday. Friday we had a brunch of four different types of quiches. Friday dinner was sloppy joes. Saturday brunch was Randy's special waffles. Saturday we celebrated Bobbi's birthday with lasagna and angel food birthday cake. Sunday we had morning pastries and danish. Added to this was all sorts of fruit, including a variety of melons grown locally in Fallon and contributed by Dyann & Jerry. Eggs supplied by Diane were used for the quiches, deviled eggs, waffles and other treats. A motivation for some of the meals was Bobbi & Victor's stop at Schat's Bakery in Bishop for bread and pastries. Randy wasn't able to get his preferred mix for waffles but his alternative was delicious. Very light and fluffy. We had a good turnout for this rally so there was a lot of help ensuring all this food was put to good use. Those participating in the rally were Thornburg, Kingsland, Grossmann, Leipper, Wheeler, Swaffer, Hull, and Liberty. We were also delighted to have John Spenard join us on Friday. Wheels had discovered him once again, at the Minden airfield. We first met John a year ago when Wheels invited him to the SNU rally at Rocky Point. Friday Victor, William, and Warren took a long hike up to the meadow. While up there, they spotted a small fire and called it in. Helicopters and Forest Service crews were on it immediately and we were never in any danger. It was entertaining to watch the trucks and horse trailer drive to the nearby staging area. Friday afternoon Rick stopped by for a visit. He was on duty that weekend so he couldn't bring his Airstream to the rally. Saturday for Bobbi's birthday celebration, Marla had picked up a banner and other decorations for the dinner table. Doris loaned Bobbi her Hobo Crown to wear for the evening. We couldn't have candles but we did have lanterns on the table. Saturday after dinner, Wheels held a short business meeting. Marlene had recently called most of the current SNU members. She was interested in why they joined the SNU and find out their ideas about **participating in rallies**. There was also discussion on **promoting the SNU**. Diane thanked Marlene for volunteering to call members. She also thanked Randy for his ongoing efforts to get monthly rally announcements in local news media. Marlene also volunteered to put together an SNU basket for the 2014 Region Rally in Pahrump. Another topic was the 2015 Region rally the SNU will be assisting with and what to do with an unsolicited check the SNU received from the Region, That was tabled for the time being. Wheels also mentioned that we still **need officers** for the 2015 SNU board. The meeting was ajourned in time for birthday cake. In addition to all the eating, several people enjoyed playing board games and cards. Others read books, listened to ham radio, and just relaxed. We all had a great time just visiting, sharing stories, and catching up on adventures. As always, the rally at Obsidian was a lot of fun. We are looking forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary rally at Obsidian in 2015. If anyone would like to help with plans for that celebration, let the SNU know.



Randy's special waffles



Bobbi's birthday dinner

Prez Meanderings

The Rally at Obsidian Dome seemed to be one feast after another. Bobbie Kingsland was one of the primary instigators of these great feeds. Everyone chipped in and contributed food and helped organize and clean up. Randy Grossmann, Victor Kingsland and Jerry Thornburg were the primary figures involved in preparing the Saturday morning Waffle Breakfast with bacon and sausage. Others contributed fruit and waffle toppings. The weather cooperated for the most part with some breezes in the afternoon. A wild fire developed a few miles away but we were assured by the Forest Service Rangers that we were not at risk. If it should become a threat to our rally they would let us know. As soon as the sun went down it began to cool off and soon required a jacket.

Marlene Swaffer contacted many of the members that don't regularly attend rallies to get ideas about ways to make the rallies more attractive to them. While I don't remember all the responses that were given, it seemed that a few said they didn't like boon-docking. Perhaps this term indicated a very remote location far from civilization. Such is not the case most if not all are within cell phone coverage of some provider and most location are within a 5 miles of a major highway. Most of our dry camping sites are visited by the responsible ranger during our stay. Diane Leipper has put together a [very informative article](#) concerning how the philosophy for planning rallies has come about.

In addition to our normal rallies, the article mentions two specific opportunities for involvement in special rallies during 2015 – the joint rally with the NorCal unit in August and the Region 12 Rally in Minden during October.

Advanced planning is being conducted for the Region Rally in 2015. The region 12 President, Robert Stansbury and I have had some discussions concerning the basic structure of Region Rallies. The Sierra Nevada Unit has volunteered to host the Region 12 Rally. As such we are responsible for acting as a local contact for coordinating activities. We are also responsible for coordinating the financial activities – depositing registration fees and paying approved rally costs. The success of the rally depends on the volunteers that man the committees. These volunteers come from all the units attending. Many have served on particular committees for many rallies and have become experts knowing how to avoid the pitfalls and bring success to the committee function. Some of the committees we have identified so far are: Parking, Games – indoor and outdoor, Set-Up - Meeting Hall (and Tear-down), Decorations - Meeting Hall and Tables, Picnic, Charity (Region Rallies choose some local charity to contribute to), Door Prizes, Entertainment

If you are interest in participating in any of these committees or can think of any we have forgotten please give me a call or email me. If you have suggestions for rally activities or locations give me a call or email me.

R. H. "Wheels" Wheeler, 775-781-1839, rhwheels@msn.com

Hope to see you all at Crocker Campground in September.



September Rally at Crocker

The SNU September [rally is at Crocker campground](#), Thursday September 25–Sunday 28, 2014. This is a loosely structured NFS campground off Hwy 70 near Beckworth, CA. It's about 3 miles from Lake Davis and not far from Portola. Crocker is a great place to relax, go on nice walks and enjoy the fall weather. We'll be having our usual shared meals on Friday and Saturday. Not sure yet about fire restrictions but hopefully we'll be able to have campfires.



Dues are Due

When you join (or renew your membership) in the SNU you are also joining WBCCI. Being a member of the SNU and WBCCI provides a variety of opportunities for participation. We hope that attending SNU rallies will be first on your priority list. In addition, as a member, you also have the opportunity to participate in rallies, caravans and special events held by other WBCCI units and by the regions and the National organization. Participation is a great way to share your Airstream experiences with old friends and to meet new friends. Now is the time to join or renew your membership in the SNU for 2015. 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

Upcoming 2014 Events

- 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 13th November**
- El Charro Avita - Saturday December 20, 2014**
- Shanghai Restaurant & Sushi House - Sparks, Saturday January 24, 2015**
- Black Bear Diner, Fernley - Saturday February 21, 2015**
- Lahontan Beach 7 - Silver Springs, Thursday March 19 - Sunday March 22, 2015**
- Cali - Rally (Hobo replacement) April 16-20, 2015**
- Ft Sage, Doyle - Thursday April 23 - Sunday April 26, 2015 3**
- Rocky Point - Susanville, Thursday May 15 - Sunday May 17, 2015**
- Sweetwater - Thursday June 11- Sunday June 14 2015**
- WBCCI International Rally - Farmington, NM June 28 - July 4, 2015**
- Weed Heights - Yerington, Thursday July 9 - Sunday July 12, 2015**
- Prosser Family campground - Truckee Wednesday August 5 - Sunday 9, 2015**
- Obsidian Dome - June Lakes, Thursday September 24 - Sunday 27 2015**
- Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort - Minden, October 6-11, 2015**
- Overlander - Gardnerville, Saturday November 14, 2015**
- Death Valley Mesquite Campground (TBA) November**
- Bavarian World - Reno Saturday December 12, 2015**

Welcome New Members

Gene and Kathy Trabitz are the newest members of the SNU. They live in Sparks and own a 1988 Classic Airstream motorhome. They are newbies to Airstreaming and looking forward to meeting new friends and sharing stories and information on Airstreams. We look forward to meeting Gene and Kathy in the near future and will gladly introduce them to what Airstreaming is all about.

Officers and Elections

Elections will be held at the October Rally. There are still openings on the SNU board of directors, in particular, the Unit will need a President for 2015. If you are willing to assist the SNU and serve a one or two year term, please [contact](#) the Unit ASAP. **2015 Sierra Nevada Unit Slate of Officers**

President - open
Secretary - open
Treasurer/Membership - Baxter Swaffer

Director - Randy Grossmann
Directory - Don Williams

From the WBCCI

Membership Cards

This year WBCCI is trying a new system for dues receipts. They will no longer be issuing membership cards. Those of you who have already renewed for 2015 have received an 8x11 paper with your membership information on it. This is the new receipt.

WBCCI President

Be sure to read the new IBT President, Joe Perryman's Acceptance Speech in the [August issue of the Blue Beret](#) and his article in the [September issue of the Blue Beret](#), "Why are we here". He brings up some issues that are worth considering, for all of WBCCI including all the Units.

Planned Informality

Occasionally the issue of growth and the SNU has come up. First, It isn't the size of the organization that matters but what it does and how it does it. There are several aspects of the SNU that seem to particularly appeal to it's members. Key among these is the informality and need for minimal visible organization and structure.

The structure of the SNU and its informality is not haphazard and not something that just happened accidentally. It was designed and carefully built. It was intended as an example and an illustration and an experiment. It has good theoretical underpinnings and solid historical precedent for a foundation. Members need to know this so they can have confidence that it is a maintainable and manageable construct. That confidence will help members continue to implement and develop the ideas so we can all enjoy the benefits of new friends and new experiences the way we have come to expect with the SNU, no matter how many members we share it with.

The SNU tackled these concepts when we reformed the bylaws in 2002 and even earlier when we structured a focus on the primary purpose of the organization over a lot of the fluff that some Airstreamers complain about. That purpose is to go camping in your Airstream.

An example of the reformed bylaws is related to the elected officers. The WBCCI Unit norm is a whole set of officers and committees with defined duties. We trimmed that to the core in 2002 and, it appears, we are going to more formally demote the unneeded offices and committees when the current bylaws recommendation is adopted. Instead, we work as a committee of the whole to determine priorities and see if we can find some individual willing to champion a priority via voluntary action. It is a subtle difference but an important one. It is the difference between obligating someone to undertake some activity of some sort and having someone who is not otherwise obligated at all to step forward and volunteer because he sees something important that needs doing. Push vs pull.

The assumption is often that everyone will expect to be 'assigned' a volunteer task in events. There is nothing wrong with that and it is a time tested and proven model. The SNU, in contrast, makes no such assumption. It turns out, though, that this particular assumption is difficult to keep tamped down as people always expect things of others. That difficulty is a testament to the quality of the people involved (they do things on their own and we come to expect it) but also highlights the need for paying attention and maintaining the discipline for informality. We have to pay attention to keeping our presumptions and expectations in check.

Unlike many other Units and groups in general, the SNU has been able to avoid getting stuck on individual reservations, formally planned participation in activities, and other such things. In part this is due to the area we live in. It is also a result of conscious decisions made in 2002 one of which is our preference for unstructured, dry camping sites. This enabled us to keep rally costs to a bare minimum and made it possible to accommodate any Airstreamer who showed up at a rally whether they had RSVP'd or not.

The SNU has also taken the lead in using modern communication methods to augment and support a variety of communications efforts. Much of the planning and coordination needed for Unit activities and Unit management can now be done with much less formality or bureaucracy through effective use of the tools available.

By knowing how the SNU operates and explaining how we do things and why we do them a certain way it will help ensure that a discipline for informality can be maintained. That is the reason SNU behavior is codified on the Unit website and why concerns such as those about growth are so important to discuss.

The SNU operates on the principle of invitation and opportunity versus one of obligations and burdens. It will take the SNU as a whole to keep the focus on the core values, keep expectations in check, and most of all, as an active and contributing member of the committee of the whole, help the SNU maintain the qualities that we have all come to appreciate and enjoy.

This article was originally written in 2007. Although the SNU still holds to the principles outlined above, it is good to review this information so that we can ensure that the SNU maintains it's focus and everyone understands why the SNU operates as it does.

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

[SNU newsletter and article information](#)

[SNU 2014 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars](#)

[SNU Facebook Page](#)

[What's new on the SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](#)