



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 12

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

December 2015

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Plaza Hotel Luncheon Review

What a great lunch we had at the Plaza. Perfect weather, a nice room all to ourselves, great food, and of course great people to share it all with. Randy and Vicki hosted this lunch and it couldn't have worked out better. Other SNU members at the plaza were Jerry & Dyann, Gary & Anita, Diane, Roger & Janet, Gene & Carmen and Gene & Kathy. Be sure to read about Gene and Kathy's



experiences at the Balloon Fiesta in this newsletter. A lot of the lunch was spent reminiscing, telling stories, and sharing some of the things that make the SNU special for each and every one of us. These stories provided a lot of laughs and affirmed what Jerry had said several years ago that "It's the Airstreams the bring us together but it's the people who keep us together".



We also talked about the upcoming 2016 year and the 40th Anniversary of the SNU. A lot of exciting things in the works. We are all looking forward to making even more memories and having more stories to tell. I think we all agree, the Plaza is definitely a place to keep on the SNU list of luncheon sites.

Balloon Fiesta 2015

Gene and Kathy Trabitza took their Classic Airstream Motorhome out for a cruise this fall. One stop was the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque the first of October. Gene says there were about 150 Airstreams at this event and 750 balloons. What's neat about this event is that you are parked close to the field where the balloons are launched. You can walk to almost all the activities or you can just step outside your Airstream and view the balloons. Gene says that although they limited the number of balloons to 750, there were still problems getting them all in the air. A few didn't get airborne and some came back down to earth sooner than they expected. All in all though, a very unique experience. Check out Gene's other [pictures of the Balloon Fiesta](#) on the website.



Rally and events schedule

Click on a link
below for details

- ◆ [December 12th
Bavarian World
Reno, NV](#)
- ◆ [February 23th
Black Bear Diner
Fernley, NV](#)
- ◆ [February 20th
Olive Garden
Reno, NV](#)
- ◆ [March 17th
Washoe Lk St. Park
Reno, NV](#)

Eldon M "Perk" Perkins

Randy recently noticed the obituary for Eldon Perkins in the Carson Appeal. Eldon passed away on November 3, 2015 at the age of 94. Eldon was an SNU member, probably a charter member, and he served as SNU president in 1980. He and his late wife Edee were full time RV's for about 15 years. They lived in Carson City, Nevada.

Sierra Nevada Unit Rallies Don & Gail Williams WBCCI #14207 SNU Trustee (Don) kd6uvt@wbcci.net

The SNU has historically hosted rallies at National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, state and local lands. These lands offer beautiful settings in the deserts, forests and mountains; many are in campgrounds but some are considered dispersed area where camping is allowed anywhere. Some rally sites lack local amenities; some lack hookups at the sites or even in the campground.

The SNU decided to add rallies with more amenities to increase member participation; our initial efforts in 2009 added Weed Heights RV Park with full hookups and WiFi that allowed members to run furnaces to keep out the March chill. Later rallies at Weeds meant SNU members could run air conditioners to keep out the summer heat. The SNU's 35th anniversary rally at Campground by the Lake in South Lake Tahoe, CA offered electric at each site and touristy venues in the area. Our most recent rally having hookups that we can remember was last May at Lassen RV Resort near McArthur, CA. Local shops, museums and a swap meet were available within 30 minutes of the RV resort. SNU will visit Lassen RV Resort again in 2016 for our September anniversary rally. With the exception of our rally at Campground by the Lake, rural locations often draw the biggest turnout in SNU members. The Board struggles every year to develop a calendar that includes rally venues that members would enjoy and will help host individual rallies. One might say we get what ask for when we become the rally hosts. Gail and I get what we ask for when we host the annual SNU rally in Death Valley in the late Fall. We pick the campgrounds, the activities, the meal plans, and the schedule. This year was an exception though. We had to cancel the rally because October storms had damaged roads and closed some of the National Park. Again, as rally hosts, that was our decision supported by the SNU board.



In keeping with its roots, the SNU will always include rallies in scenic out of the way places but we definitely want members participation and help in finding new rally sites and venues. Come out to our winter luncheons and one or more of our 2016 rallies and voice your opinion; maybe become a rally host for your favorite location. You might even want to write an article for the newsletter showcasing one of your favorite local campgrounds or RV parks. I know editor Rick LaBorde would love some member articles.



December Sierra Nevada Unit Luncheon at Bavarian World

The SNU lunch on Saturday December 12th will be at Bavarian World. The time is 11:30am. Bavarian World is located at 595 Valley Road near downtown Reno. It is off I80 at the corner of 4th and Valley. Please RSVP to the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 9392.

Wally Byam Philosophy

Wally Byam not only created the Airstream trailer, developed the concept of caravans and provided the inspiration for the creation of the Wally Byam Caravan Club, he wrote down essentially what was his philosophy of the RV lifestyle. The two primary documents are the Wally Byam Creed and Wally Byam's Four Freedoms. They were the [guiding principles behind the re-organization of the Sierra Nevada Unit](#) in 2002. Wally's words in both his Creed and Four Freedoms are as valid today as they were when he first wrote them down.

The Wally Byam Creed

"In the heart of these words is an entire life's dream. To those of you who find in the promise of these words your promise. I bequeath this creed. . . my dream belongs to you." - Wally Byam

- To Place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.
- To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose.
- To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands . . .of rediscovering old places and new interests.
- To open a whole world of new experiences . . .a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.

Upcoming Events

- Bavarian World - Reno Saturday Dec 12, 2015
- Black Bear Diner - Fernley Saturday January 23rd, 2016
- Olive Garden - Reno Saturday February 20, 2016
- Washoe Lake State Park - Reno, Thursday March 17, 2016 - Sunday March 20, 2016
- Ft Churchill State Park main campground - Thursday April 21, 2016 - Sunday April 24, 2016
- Crocker NFS campground -Thursday May 19- Sunday May 22, 2016
- Hickison Petroglyph BLM campground - Thursday June 24- Sunday June 26 2016
- WBCCI International Rally Lewisburg, WV - June 28, 2016 to July 5, 2016
- Weed Heights RV Park - near Yerington - Thursday July 21 - Sunday July 24, 2016
- Obsidian Dome - near June Lakes, CA - Thursday August 18 - Sunday 21, 2016
- Lassen RV Resort (SNU 40th Anniversary Celebration) -near McArthur, CA - Thursday September 22- Sunday 25 2016
- Region 12 Rally Golden Palms RV site in Hemet, CA - Oct. 12th to the 16th of 2016
- Scout Camp, Ft Churchill NV State Park - Thursday October 20 - Sunday 23, 2016
- Carson City place to be determined - Saturday November 19, 2016 11:30 am luncheon
- Death Valley Mesquite Campground - Date TBA
- Brian & Jeni Root's House, Reno - Saturday December 17, 2016 11:30 am luncheon

What do we do with our club dues?

Perhaps one of the more obnoxious 'must do' items for the club is finances. The IRS needs an annual report because we have tax exempt status via WBCCI. There is a bank account - 2 really because PayPal and Wells Fargo both qualify - that need to be monitored and managed. Although WBCCI headquarters is picking up more of the dues processing burden, the SNU still needs to be able to handle renewal payments from members., forward the WBCCI portion to headquarters, and deposit the local portion. So how do we keep these obnoxious duties and obligations to a minimum? We do that by keeping the amounts, balances, and number of transactions that need financial controls and bookkeeping to a minimum.

The first part of this is limiting the finances and budgeting concerns to dues. With about 30 members at \$10 each, that's a \$300 on the annual budget income side. We don't prepare a budget expense plan as history shows us that we can use the dues income to handle operating needs as they arise. Of course, a big part of this is planning what the SNU does so that any expected expense is well covered by income.

A second part of reducing the financial management burden is to use the Kitty or 'pass the hat' methods. This means segregating expenses between those things that are known and club specific, those things that are known and member participation specific, those things that are related to participation but best handled as one expense, and anything that doesn't fit in one of these categories.

Your dues take care of the first and the last of these categories. Examples of these expenses include communications and correspondence expenses and special club event or activity costs not handled by in-kind or anonymous donation.

Individual members are expected to handle known specific participation expenses such as park or camping fees. These are expenses they can arrange on their own. Often, members may be able to use an annual State Park permit or Federal senior discount for these expenses.

The participation related but best as a single expense category includes lunches and support for coffee and condiments or special rally related expenses. To cover these expenses, the Kitty is passed around at events so participants can contribute what they see as reasonable. We suggest \$15 per person for lunches and \$5 per rig per night at rallies as this has been shown to yield sufficient contributions to cover expenses. Note that not all contributions are cash. Volunteers sometimes contribute supplies or spend their own money for SNU event related efforts without seeking reimbursement. Since donations to the Kitty are completely voluntary and anonymous, no accounting is kept.

Your dues are mostly symbolic rather than economic necessity. By paying the annual **\$10 SNU dues** you are saying you support what the SNU does and how it does it and would like to see the group keep doing it. Even if you can't directly participate in SNU events and camaraderie, you are with those who can in spirit and maybe, sometime on down the road, you will be able to join in person. Whether or not you participate in SNU events or volunteer as an officer or event host, you can keep in touch via newsletter, website, and correspondence. You can let the SNU know how to lend your voice to WBCCI matters if the SNU is your home unit. You have a voice in the SNU to suggest changes or events for the club. Your dues keep it going doing what it does.

Wally Byam Philosophy

continued from page 2

- To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun, and personal expression.
- To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow. . .over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts. . .to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.
- To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.
- To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.
- To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end. . .and thus make your travel dreams come true.



1959 African Caravan

From PeeWee

For a very, very long time I have wanted to put pictures with Wally's Creed. Also, for a long time, I had the hope that all rallies and gatherings of the Wally Byam Caravan Club might read these simple and poignant words at the beginning of their meetings. Assign each one to a person to read out loud. Then have a few minutes to discuss each of Wally's comments. Whether this comes to pass or not, the Creed is there, and it is one of Wally's legacies to all Airstream owners and Wally Byam Caravan Club Members.

Enjoy, Wally's legacy for you. Dale "Pee Wee" Schwamborn

The Wally Byam - Four Freedoms

Excerpts from the book Trailer Travel Here and Abroad by Wally Byam

- **Freedom from Arrangements** - from reservations, schedules, taxi's, tips, etc; in short, most of the inconveniences of modern travel
- **Freedom from the problems of age** - trailer travel provides an antidote to boredom, an economical way to make new friends, visit new places, and share new adventures. Trailer travel makes it easier to take care of and amuse children.
- **Freedom to know** - Trailer travel provides a better opportunity to get to know a country and it's people and an increased opportunity to discover the world.
- **Freedom for fun** - All of the first three freedoms add up to the fourth. You just plain begin to relax and enjoy life to the full.



1963 WBCCI International Pow Wow

1965 Nevada Unit rally at Belmont



This is the last article in a series published in SNU newsletters to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the creation of the Wally Byam Caravan Club in 1955. All of the articles have been [posted as an independent page](#) on [SierraNevadaAirstreams.org](#) It is hoped that these articles along with a wealth of [WBCCI and Airstream history](#) available on the website, including a section devoted to contributions from Pee Wee, will provide insight into what makes WBCCI a unique organization. Hopefully it will inspire you "to strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end. . .and thus make your travel dreams come true."

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[SNU 2015 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars](#)

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