



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

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Lassen RV Resort Rally *by Randy Grossmann (event orchestrator, host and treasurer)*

Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org

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Rally and events schedule

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By all accounts our rally at the Lassen RV Resort near McArthur, Calif. was one of the best ever. We had six rigs in attendance even though the rally site at about 170 miles from Reno stretched our distance limit. The participants in alphabetical order were Randy and Vicki Grossmann, Gary and Anita Haskett, Jim and Lynda Kunter, Bryan and Diane Leipper, Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, and Don and Gail Williams. Don and Gail came all the way from their home in Riverside, Calif. Bob and Charlotte Hemphill who are friends of ours and reside in McArthur stopped by for visits. One of the unique Resort qualities is that it satisfies almost everyone's RV camping preferences. The Resort has full hookups (except for WiFi and cable) for those who prefer that type of camping. For those who prefer a boondocking camping environment the parking spaces are in a rustic environment with large parking areas which are well separated. If a person had a real aversion to hookups they could park somewhere in this roomy Resort where there were no hookups. We believe that the only people who would not like this Resort are people who want to be parked on a concrete slab. During the rally we received comments from people who much preferred hookups that they really appreciated the hookups being in such a nice country environment. We also received comments from people who liked boondocking that they appreciated the "boondocking with hookups."



Happy Campers - a group shot taken by Phil

The weather report for our rally period looked ominous. We did have rain but it was not continuous and for the most part did not interfere with our activities. On Thursday we had a dinner of KFC that some members procured on the way to the rally. Phil, Jasmin, and Nancy, the Resort owners and managers, brought a special treat of toffee crack for dessert. We consumed it quickly. Jasmin and Nancy brought a toffee crack "starter kit" on Saturday for each of us that included chocolate and the directions for making it ourselves. It did rain most of the day on Friday but stopped before our BBQ that evening which included Don's special caramelized onion sourdough biscuits. Saturday evening we pulled out all the stops for our potluck. Phil, Jasmin, and Nancy not only joined us for the potluck but also brought some wonderful food. A word of praise is in order for them. They were all so nice to us and made us feel so welcome during the rally. We could not have asked for better Resort hosts. In addition, Phil was easy and obliging to work with in the planning of this rally. Phil, Jasmin, and Nancy also participated in our traditional waffle feast Saturday morning. They again brought food. They also lent us a waffle iron so that we could expedite the waffle making. SNU members also contributed to the waffle feast's smashing success by bringing various waffle toppings and other amenities. We had a lot of delicious fruit including blueberries, strawberries, oranges, and cantaloupe. Gail brought bags of home grown lemons and grapefruit. We were all thankful to get some to take home.



Jasmin and Phil, our Lassen Hosts

The rally was held in an area of the Resort where we were able to park in more or less circled wagon train style. All activities took place in the center of the circle. Everything was fully deployed at this rally. The famous diorama was on display all day Saturday. Vicki and I created the diorama in 2006 for the SNU 30th anniversary luncheon. It started out to be a cake decoration but morphed into an entity of its own as it expanded to a size that would not fit on the top of any cake.

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Sweetwater June Rally Coming Up Soon!

The SNU June rally will be at Sweetwater Summit Thursday June 11 to Sunday June 14 2015. The area is located on highway 338 in Nevada, which comes out of Bridgeport as California highway 182. If you are heading north on Nevada 338, at the Sweetwater Summit there is a large parking area to the right with a weather gathering station at the south end. From the southern end of the parking area, there is a short dirt road that goes behind a small knoll where the area flattens out. You'll see us as soon as you go around the knoll. There is plenty of wide open space for free range Airstreams and activities like kite flying. It's also a great place to hike or just enjoy the sweeping views of the mountains all around us. We'll be doing our usual shared meals on Friday and Saturday. Other entertainment is up to the participants.



Von Gallion

Von Gallion passed away in Boise, ID on April 28, 2015. Von was a long time member of the SNU. He had been a member of Tri County Unit (Central Coast) for many years before he started spending more time at his home at Lake Tahoe. According to his obituary, Von made his living as a musician together with his brother, Rex. Known as the Gallion Brothers they played at many dances and parties in the towns around Van Buren where he grew up. Music continued to be part of his life during his military career and as a popular group in the club scene in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe. He also played in the band at WBCCI rallies and Hobo rallies. At one point in his life, Von and his wife Margaret owned a mobile home park. That eventually got them into Airstreaming and joining WBCCI. Von and his wife were active WBCCI members until Margaret's death in 2000. Von kept on participating in WBCCI and at some point, he met Yvonne de Roule, a fellow saxophonist. The two of them traveled together for years and were participants in several SNU rallies. Von was close to 90 years old when his doctor told him it was time to park permanently. Von was a great guy and we always enjoyed hearing his stories when he and Yvonne came to rallies. One of our favorite stories was when Von came to a rally at Lahontan in 2007. He forgot that he wasn't at a full service RV park and ran the batteries in both his Airstream and truck flat. We got him charged up quickly and he was back in business. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Sierra Nevada Unit Business

Item 1: Don Williams will be the SNU delegate at the WBCCI rally in Farmington

Item 2: According to recent emails from Bob & Cecilia, planning for the October 2015 Region Rally in Minden is going great. Many SNU members have already volunteered to assist with the rally. Volunteers are still needed and any assistance will be appreciated. You can contact Bob (burytone@charter.net) or Cecilia (cecstansbury@yahoo.com) for more information on the rally and to volunteer. [Click here to get the rally information and rally registration form](#)

Outdoor Living

Between rallies, family travels and other adventures, most of us will be spending a lot of time outdoors for at least the next several months. Bryan has run across a few things recently that could enhance your comfort and enjoyment of being outside. Although we all can't have an official throne, having a good chair to sit in is essential camping equipment. It has been interesting over the years seeing the various sitting accommodations that show up at SNU rallies. They provide a few examples of the advances and variety of camping chairs that are available. Bryan's review on the Zephyrs web blog highlights some interesting options. One of these is a **chair** that folds into it's legs.

The other topic discussed on Zephyrs is **Mosquitos**. There is a link to another blog that talks about the pros and cons of various options including home remedies, DEET, anti-bug clothing, mosquito fighting gadgets and even using common sense. Although we try to avoid bug prone rally sites, sometimes there is just no escaping. SNU members have tested a quite a few repellent options with varying success. Reading through this information may give you some ideas or it might confirm why you chose the bug repellent you did. Just be sure you have a fresh supply of your preferred bug repellent and your favorite camping chair packed in your rig when you hit the road this summer.



Upcoming 2015 Events

Sweetwater - Sweetwater Summit on Hwy 338 NV
Thursday June 11- Sunday June 14 2015

WBCCI International Rally - Farmington, NV
June 28 - July 4, 2015

Weed Heights - Yerington NV,
Thursday July 9 - Sunday July 12, 2015

Prosser Family campground - Truckee CA
Wednesday August 5 - Sunday 9, 2015

Obsidian Dome - June Lake CA,
Thursday September 24 - Sunday 27 2015

Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort - Minden NV,
October 6-11, 2015

Overlander - Gardnerville NV,
Saturday November 14, 2015

Bavarian World - Reno NV
Saturday December 12, 2015

WBCCI International Rallies

The 2015 International Convention/Rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International, Inc. will be held in Farmington, New Mexico June 26 - July 4. This is the 58th Annual WBCCI International Rally. If you haven't been to an International Rally, it is definitely worth putting on your agenda if not this year, sometime in the future. You will learn a lot about WBCCI, have a chance to meet fellow Airstreamers from all across the country, and have a great time. The first WBCCI International rally was held in Bull Shoals, AK in 1958 AR. 300 members attended that rally. The highest attendance at a WBCCI International Rally was in 1976 in Louisville KY with 4,493 members participating.



A discussion with Pee Wee in 2009 provided these insights on the history and purpose of the WBCCI International Rallies.

For many years the Caravan, Anhangar or Trailer Clubs of Europe had their International Rallies each year. I know that Wally and Stel went to rallies in 1953, 1954, 1955 and then the 1956 European Caravan attended the International Rally.

The International Rally for WBCCI came about in the same vein that the WBCCI was formed. The WBCCI gave friends an opportunity to get together without going on a Caravan. On a much larger scale the International Rally gave friends from all over the United States, and Canada an opportunity to renew their friendships, in mass, once a year.

It was held on the 4th of July for several reasons. This was a period of time that school was out, and summer vacations could be taken. Also what a great time to celebrate the fantastic life of Airstream and the WBCCI. Also it was a tribute to Wally Byam. The Fourth of July was his birthday. Oh boy, did Wally love a party...especially his birthday. The Airstream owners wanted to share their way of life, and their affection for Wally.

The June 1958 Caravanner Newsletter, probably written by Helen Schwamborn, has this description of the upcoming rally at Bull Shoals.

Picture in your mind's eye a huge field (fifty acres in extent) covered with green turf... shaded by hundred-year old trees... on the edge of a beautiful, blue lake in the Ozarks - a field large enough to hold a thousand Airstreams in one huge caravan circle perched on a cliff two hundred feet about the lake.

Such will be the site of the First International Wally Byam Caravan Club Rally. This will be our own exclusive camping site loaned to us through the courtesy of the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army. If you need any reassurances about the beauty of location of the site for the International Rally, your doubts should be dispelled by knowing that it is the exact location from which then-President Harry Truman dedicated Bull Shoals Dam in 1947.



Here are some experts from Helen's article on Rally Planning written before the 1965 rally in Laramie WY - When considering a site attention must be given to the size - is it large enough to accommodate as many trailers as expected; is it level; accessible; what about the soil? Is it soft enough to dig a hole, yet hard enough so if it rains the trailers won't get bogged down? Is there protection from the weather for group activities and programs? Buildings? Tents? Are facilities available - water, sanitary, garbage, and trash disposal, electricity for the center area? What about butane, groceries, gasoline, garages? Is it an interesting location - is the climate pleasing at this time of year?

Lassen RV Resort Rally

[continued](#)

The diorama is still looking great after almost nine years. The Thing (the name Monstrosity was suggested at the rally) was displayed in all its lighted glory during the entire rally. Decorative trailer lights were also blazing each night. Jerry brought his new string of lights with flamingos and vintage trailers. Diane put out her various solar lights. In the center of the circle was a fire pit which we put to use thanks to Phil providing us with some fire wood. Rally participants went to see some of the many nearby attractions, including a partial day trip to Burney Falls and a visit to the [Crook museum](#) in Fall River Mills which is only 12 miles away. Some people took sight seeing tours of the area and did a little shopping in Fall River Mills and McArthur. On Saturday Phil took a nice photo of us in front of the Haskett's Airstream.

Rally participants commented a lot about how nice a Resort it was and how we were treated like royalty. At the rally conclusion we all agreed that the Lassen RV Resort should be one of our annual rally sites.



WBCCI International Rallies

[continued](#)

A sample of other parts of the planning include: Bids for twelve thousand feet of water pipe, electricity and telephones. Special electrical requirements need to be considered including outlets for electric shavers, ironing, hair dryers. Ten telephone booths would be needed and six numbers set up for WBCCI use. 400 huge cans were purchased for garbage and a First-aid trailer station set up.

My grandparents, Jo and Bryan Harrison (#772) attended several WBCCI International Rallies including the second one at Wisconsin Dells, the 1960 Rally in Colorado Springs, CO and the 1962 Rally at Auburn, WA. My parent's, Dale & Virginia Leipper (#1183) attended at least two International Rallies including 1986 at Boise, ID and 1989 at Bozeman,



MT. Bryan and I have attended two officially - **1998 Boise** and 2006 Salem - and one unofficially. Several SNU members have attended **WBCCI International Rallies** and a few have worked on some of the rally committees. Some of the things I remember from my grandparent's stories were that the rallies were essentially a big campout. In the early days, the utility companies would come to the rally with their post hole digger and dig a "gopher hole" for each trailer. All the activities took place at the rally site. There were pot lucks and parades as well as local entertainment and WBCCI meetings. Many of these activities are part of today's International rallies. In recent years attendance at WBCCI International rallies has

been steadily decreasing and attendance is now under 400 rigs. There are several reasons for this, some of which could be addressed and some which are probably related to societal changes. The International Rallies are still a great way to catch up with old friends from across the country and to meet new friends. Often it is the informal gatherings at the International Rally that are the most rewarding. Informal and ad hoc groups gather around the airstreams for happy hours, BBQ's, pot lucks or just visiting. Caravanners that are passing by usually get invited to join the group. There's nothing better than sharing experiences and adventures with fellow Airstreamers.



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