



# WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

November 2015

## 2015 Region 12 Rally in Northern Nevada

Dyann Thornburg

October 6 – 11, 2015 the WBCCI **Region 12 Rally** was held at the Silver City RV Park in Minden, NV and hosted by the Sierra Nevada Unit. Bob and Cecelia Stansbury lead the group of volunteer members and did an exceptional job of planning and organizing everything. The SNU thanks them for all their hard work on this very successful rally. Every day was packed full of activities to attend and participate in:

- ◇ On Tuesday after arriving, registering and being escorted to your assigned parking spot there was a ham radio meeting held by several WBCCI members including Don Williams of the SNU and then we all met for a pizza dinner at the RV Park's meeting room.
- ◇ On Wednesday, there was a flea market you could browse while having coffee. A membership workshop was held to introduce the new WBCCI online dues paying capability. We then all carpooled to the home of friends of Bob and Cecelia's, Jack and Sherry McLaughlin, in Lake Tahoe where we had lunch and could explore the lake from a private beach. Happy hour was held at the Stansbury's home and then for those of us who wanted to go, we attended the Basque dinner at JT's in Gardnerville. Later, the movie "The Shootist" was shown back at the RV Park. This was John Wayne's last movie which was filmed in Carson City.



Happy Hour at the Region Rally

- ◇ On Thursday, after coffee we met at the Nevada State Museum for a docent led tour and then had lunch at Carson High School. Lunch was prepared and served by their award winning culinary students. Then we met at the Visitors Center and went on the "Blue line" tour of sites of Carson City which included many of the capital buildings and old homes. Happy hour was held at the historic Prang House which is owned by the McLaughlins who also had us all for lunch at their home in Lake Tahoe. This is the house where some of the "Shootist" was filmed. Both of their homes are beautiful and it was very gracious of them to have so many of us and hosting these two events. That evening some of us met in the RV meeting room to play Bingo.
- ◇ On Friday, we had a catered breakfast at the RV Park and then traveled to Virginia City for a docent led tour and then do some shopping. After lunch you could either go to the Hugh Butcher Restoration tour, the Historic State Prison tour or attend the Glamping Product demonstration at the RV Park. Happy hour was held at Jack and Kathy Hampel's new home in Minden. Later we all met at Fuji Hall for music, a talent show and door prizes provided by Airstream. Doris Wheeler did a beautiful job of playing her guitar and singing for us during the talent show.



Jerry on the far right at the Region business meeting

On Saturday, there was a continental breakfast and then the business meeting. Jerry Thornburg and Don Williams attended and Jerry gave an excellent presentation of how the SNU operates and our superb website. Where information regarding our Airstreams, our rallies and newsletters were obtainable as well as a lot of information regarding the SNU could be seen. Then everyone had their choice as to the different activities they wanted to

see. Baxter Swaffer lead a tour of the Auto Museum in Reno, Richard Wheeler gave a tour of the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, both doing an outstanding job. There was also a guided tour of the Nevada Museum of Art, shotgun trapshooting or a Scandinavian Festival you could attend. In the evening there was an Airstream open house for visitors held followed by a catered BBQ dinner. That night music was performed by Dennis and Lynn, more friends of Bob and Cecelia's and then more door prizes and a raffle for the quilts was held.

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[Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org](http://Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org)

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### Rally and events schedule Click on a link below for details

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Plaza Hotel  
Carson City, NV
- ◆ December 12th  
Bavarian World  
Reno, NV
- ◆ February 20th  
Black Bear Diner  
Fernley, NV
- ◆ March 17th  
Washoe Lake St. Pk.  
Reno, NV

## Rally Success

Every once in a while the topic of SNU rallies comes up. The idea being that the SNU should try something new, add different venues, or more activities. A little exploration of the [SNU website provides numerous examples](#) of the SNU's efforts in this direction over the last 10 years. 2015 alone provides three great examples. One was the recent Region 12 rally in Minden. When the SNU was approached with the idea of hosting a region rally, the Unit gladly accepted. The SNU chose not to hold a separate Unit rally this October in order to fully support the Region rally. Many SNU members assisted with the planning for this rally and were on hand to carry out the tasks needed to make the rally a success. This rally was held at a full service RV park which some SNU members indicate they prefer. The second example was the [joint SNU and NorCal rally](#) at Prosser. The SNU has tried over the years to hold a joint rally with another unit and for one reason or another, it hasn't worked. When NorCal contacted the SNU about this possibility, there was no hesitation. SNU and NorCal couldn't be more different in many ways, including style of rallies. Once again, the SNU rearranged it's traditional rally schedule to accommodate NorCal's preferred rally weekend. The success of this rally was a testament to a great collaborative effort between representatives of the two Units. The [third example was the rally at Lassen RV Park](#). After a scouting trip to check this place out it was decided to hold the May SNU rally there. It is a more rustic RV park but we had water and electric hookups and nice level parking. We liked it so much that the decision was made to hold the SNU 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary rally there in 2016. All three of these rallies provided numerous opportunities for sightseeing and a variety of activities. All three were new rally sites for the SNU. The common link with all three is that someone stepped up to the plate, offered an idea, and assisted to make it happen. The 2015 rally schedule and the success of these three examples is a good indicator that you can have it all. The preferred and traditional SNU style rally interspersed with a few different sort of rallies makes for an interesting and exciting rally calendar that should meet the preferences and interests of all SNU members. All it takes is ideas, suggestions, and a willingness to get involved and make it happen.

## SNU Business

Don Williams reporting from the recent Region Rally in Minden states that as of October 2nd the SNU is third in recruiting for the 2016 year with new and renewing members at 38% of last year's total. The Santa Clara Unit was 2nd with 54% of their 2015 members and NorCal was 1st with 64%. All other Region 12 Units were 26% or lower. With Dyann's assistance during the Region rally, that number has now increased. Thanks to all SNU members for your continued support and participation.

Jerry represented the SNU at the Region 12 business meeting. During the meeting, he had an opportunity to promote the SNU which according to some meeting participants, was very informative and well received.

## November SNU Luncheon at the Plaza Hotel

The SNU November Luncheon will be held in a new location. The Plaza Hotel is located at 801 S. Carson Street in Carson City. It is across from the Ormsby House. The luncheon room is on the second floor which is access from the hotel lobby. The lunch will be buffet style with a variety of sandwich makings, salads and desserts. The place comes highly recommended by Randy and Vicki. Please RSVP to the SNU at [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org).

## Top Ten Knots

Published on Zephyrs May 12, 2007 · Filed under [Living](http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/?p=590) <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snuze/?p=590>

Keep your load secure, your awning tied down, and everything ship shape with the right knots. [Mother Earth News had a pictorial guide](#) to what they call the top ten knots and link to a page How to Tie the 10 Most Useful Knots. The Wikipedia entries on these knots are also worth reading if you want to find out more about them.

- The overhand and figure eight knots are simply ways to put a lump in a rope. They serve as stoppers or a means to keep a rope end from unraveling.
- The square knot is the one to use to tie together the ends of two identical ropes. If the ropes aren't identical, use the sheet bend with the stiffest or biggest rope as the bight. The carrick bend might be better for large lines but is difficult to get right and often more suited for the arts and crafts crowd.
- The bowline is a sheet bend in the middle of the rope to form a fixed loop. Once you get the trick it is easy to tie. It's the best way to make a rope loop you want to keep a fixed size and not choke whatever it is around.
- The clove hitch and two half hitches (not in this top ten list) are the same knot tied on different things. The clove hitch is around

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## Upcoming Events

- Plaza Hotel Events Center - Carson City, NV Saturday November 14th, 2015
- Bavarian World - Reno Saturday Dec 12, 2015
- Black Bear Diner - Fernley Saturday January 23rd, 2016
- Olive Garden - Reno NV Saturday February 20th, 2016
- Washoe Lake State Park - Reno, NV Thursday March 17th 2016
- Ft. Churchill State Park - Thursday April 21, 2016 - Sunday April 24th 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

## WBCCI, Some Historical Highlights

*This material comes primarily from phone conversations and emails from Dale (Pee Wee) Schwamborn.*

Pee Wee says the idea for a club started percolating in 1953 as mentioned in a post card to Pee Wee's Mother, Helen in which Wally said that he would take care of her "itchy foot".



The **Wally Byam Caravan Club International** officially came into being in Kentville Nova Scotia in 1955 during a caravan through Eastern Canada. The primary motivation was a group of people who had been on several caravans who decided it was time to create a more formal structure. Early caravans were not limited to just Airstream trailers. The Airstream owners in this group decided it was time to form a club exclusive to Airstreams trailers. This ad-hoc group of people called themselves The Jack Rabbits. Although Pee Wee isn't sure of the origins of this name, they were instrumental in the formation of the club and laying it's foundations.

Wally had asked his cousin Helen Schwamborn to join the 1955 caravan when the idea for a club became a real possibility Wally was going to leave the caravan to go to Europe to scout for a later caravan and he needed someone he knew and trusted to keep an eye on things. Wally asked Helen to take over the mechanics and administration for the fledgling club.



On July 11, 1955 there was a farewell dinner for Wally and Stella before they left for Europe. There was also a meeting of an advisory board for the fledgling club. The advisory board consisted of those caravanners best suited to assist Helen with any issues or problems that might occur with the caravan or the establishment of a club. This board included Hamp Millender, Oscar Selent, Fred Beltner, Mark Smith, Pop Riley, and John McNamara. These people became life long friends.

A unique aspect of the club was it's relationship with the history and manufacturing of Airstream trailers. The Airstream trailer was the brainchild of Wally Byam and Wally was the inspiration for WBCCI, the club bearing his name. The two entities, although symbiotic in many ways, are and always were in the mind of Wally, two separate and independent components of the same dream. One was a manufacturing entity and the other a social membership club of product owners. That dream was Wally's idea of creating a unique travel trailer that was fully self contained and could go anywhere. He promoted that dream by actually doing what the Airstream was meant to do – traveling the country and the world. Setting an example and leading the way.

The first two headquarters offices of WBCCI were in the Schwamborn's homes in Bakersfield CA. Helen started the office with a typewriter, a notebook and a 3 x 5 file box with lined cards. As time passed and the club and headquarters needs grew, the office was moved to the Airstream plant in Cerritos and from there eventually to Jackson Center.



The first president of WBCCI was "Pop" Riley. He was a retired railroad engineer from Arizona. "Pop" and his wife Minnie went on many of the early caravans with Wally. "Pop" was part of the constitution committee for WBCCI.

## 2015 Region 12 Rally in N. Nevada

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- ◇ The proceeds of the tickets sold were given to a local girl who was suffering with many complications from lime disease. A total of over \$2,600.00 was raised.
- ◇ Sunday morning before departure the SNU members and affiliates met for a group picture. Those in attendance were: Richard and Doris Wheeler, Baxter and Marlene Swaffer, Jim and Linda Kunter, Richard and Sharron Baldwin, Don and Gail Williams, Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, Bob and Cecelia Stansbury, Bob and Nancy Kirksey, Bobbi Kingsland and Marla Liberty.



SNU members at the Region Rally

We met and spoke with a lot of very nice people and had a wonderful time. A lot to do and see but it was all great. Many of the people we met showed a great deal of interest in the SNU style of rallies and an interest in attending. We look forward to seeing them again in the future.

## Top Ten Knots

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something solid and the two half hitches are the same knot around a rope as a slip not. As Mother Earth News notes, the clove hitch needs tension on both ends to be most effective so a loose end is often tied around a load end with a couple of half hitches. While two half hitches will slip on its rope, the clove hitch tends to be rather resistant to slipping up or down its pole. You can add more hitches to reduce slippage.

- The taut line\_hitch (wikipedia) shown in this list is a bit more complicated than usually represented. It is usually just an extra loop on the down load side of two half hitches. Its main feature is that it doesn't slip on the rope its tied around like two half hitches but it can be moved if the load is taken off the knot.
- The sheepshank is a specialist knot and a rather odd entry in this list. Its purpose is to take up slack in a loaded line. Most of us tighten up ropes at the ends. So getting this one figured out probably shouldn't rank high on your list.
- To really get down to basics, you need to know the overhand, square, sheet bend, and half hitch knots. Everything else is based on that collection. The factors you need to keep in mind in choosing the right knot for solving a problem include the line or rope you have to work with, the strength and slipperiness of the knot that you need, and being able to undo the knot after you are done. A proper knot is a temporary fix that serves a definite purpose, be easy to implement, and not leave any trace when its need is gone.

## WBCCI, Some Historical Highlights

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Apparently by 1957 WBCCI was showing some growing pains which is to be expected in all groups. In a letter to Helen and Wally, Alice Beatty refers to this. Here is an excerpt from that letter.

*"I feel that we are able to stand alone as an Airstream Club and become one if not the largest nationwide club in the U.S. A. and hate to see us loose our identity."*

*This was transcribed by Mike Orchard from a book provided to the participants at the 1979 WBCCI International Rally in Kentucky. It was written by Helen Schwamborn*

From a very modest beginning in 1955, with only 39 Airstream families, the WBCCI has become the largest travel trailer club in the world composed of one make of trailer. It now numbers well over 25,000 families – approximately 80,000 individuals. The club envelops Canada, Mexico and the United States with honorary members from several European countries. It is divided into 12 regions which are made up of some 181 Units.



In the last 60 years WBCCI has grown, evolved, and changed. While there have been and still are, challenges and while that core identity has taken some hits, the club as a whole continues to be the longest tenured single product RV association still in existence. As of 2016 there seems to be a resurgence of interest in the iconic Airstream trailer and the club. The manufacturing plant in Jackson Center can't seem to get new Airstreams out the door fast enough. The club continues to attract new members. As long as WBCCI stays true to the ideals envisioned and written down by Wally in his Creed and Four Freedoms, the future looks bright.

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

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