



WBCCI - SIERRA NEVADA UNIT - NEWSLETTER

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"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

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

SNU October Death Valley Rally

Come visit the Sierra Nevada Unit at its October **Death Valley Rally at Mesquite Spring Campground** near Scotty's Castle and Ubehebe Crater, Thursday October 29th through Sunday November 1st. You can find Mesquite Spring on Google Maps at <https://goo.gl/maps/La4HK> or put these coordinates N36.963462, W117.367710 in your GPS. Don and Gail Williams #14207 are your hosts for this informal rally and will monitor CB channel 14 and 146.520 MHz (amateur radio) to assist as you near the rally site.



Mesquite Spring Campground is located between the historic spring and Death Valley Wash with beautiful views of the Grapevine and Cottonwood Mountains. It has 40 first come first serve campsites (arrive early in the day to ensure you get a site) and clean toilets with running water. Potable water and a dump station are located near the campground host's campsite. Rally guests may arrive or leave anytime during, before or after the rally dates.

Expect daytime temperatures in the high 70s to low 90s; night temperatures in the high 40s to low 60s (**NPS Weather and Climate & Weather for California Places**, Death-Valley). The SNU will try to promise no rain or wind. Highway 95 offers a good route for those coming from the Reno area if you encounter inclement weather, otherwise US-395 and CA-190 are more scenic and curvy. The **Death Valley Road Conditions Facebook page** provides up-to-date information on park roads.



Rally activities include a driving tour of Titus Canyon and walking tour through Scotty's Castle on Friday or Saturday depending upon guest arrivals. Maps for optional self-guided tours through Death Valley back country roads will be available upon request for the more adventuresome guest!

Don and Gail will have home made chili ready for Thursday night arrivals but let them know in advance (kd6uvt@wbcci.net) to ensure there is enough for everyone. Our hosts will ensure we have coffee and light snacks to supplement your breakfasts and a surprise alternative to Friday's happy hour. Friday night's meal is a potluck dinner; plan to share. Saturday night's meal will be Hobo Stew; please bring one can of soup per person (no cream style) to contribute to the pot. Don will supply fresh scratch made Sourdough Biscuits to compliment the stew.

Come early or leave late and you'll still only see a portion of this great National Park. For more info contact Don & Gail Williams (kd6uvt@wbcci.net or 951.264.0219) or Diane Leipper

(hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org).



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Rally and events schedule

Click on a link below for details

- ◆ [Oct. 6th Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort, Minden](#)
- ◆ [Thursday Oct. 29th Mesquite Cmpgd Death Vally, CA](#)
- ◆ [November 14th Plaza Hotel Carson City, NV](#)
- ◆ [December 12th Bavarian World Reno, NV](#)

Glass Creek Rally Review



We tried out a new site for the **SNU September rally**. Glass Creek Campground is about 4 miles south of Obsidian Dome. It is a more structured campground and very popular with the ATV crowd. Although there were a lot of campers even at this time of the year, the campground is spacious and it didn't feel crowded. It's a very nice campground right on Glass Creek. It makes a good back up for Obsidian. It was a beautiful fall weekend with clear skies, perfect temperatures, very little wind and even a full moon. We were delighted to have visitors from the San Diego Unit join us for this rally. Bob & Nancy Kirksey have been active Airstreamers for a lot of years and gone on quite a few caravans. It

was great to hear their stories. On Saturday Bob shared his slide show of a mini caravan to Mexico in the early 2000's. He and Nancy were part of a scouting group that was making arrangements for a WBCCI caravan to Mexico. In addition to Bob & Nancy, rally participants included Jerry & Dyann, Gary & Anita, Brian & Jeni and Bryan & Diane and their cousin Karen. On Friday Rick stopped by for a visit. As always, it's nice to catch up with him. We haven't seen Brian & Jeni in quite a while. They recently had their 1954 Cruiser refurbished inside and out. We all enjoyed taking a tour. They have kept it as original as possible. A lot of the important upgrades aren't visible – new plumbing and electric and the addition of a gray water tank. It really looks beautiful and should be good for another 60 years. Speaking of refurbishing, Gary and Anita just installed some new steps on their Airstream. Some minor modifications had to be made to make them fit but they were definitely worth the effort. Nice and sturdy, adjustable and even have a spot for a post for a hand hold. There are some nice hiking trails close to the campground which several of rally participants took advantage of. As mentioned, Brian and Jeni took a bike ride that included Mill pond, Mosquito Lake via Rock Creek. Apparently the ride was a great success, good roads, beautiful scenery and nice weather. As for meals, we had a KFC chicken dinner on Thursday. Friday and Saturday we did our usual shared meals. As always, good food and good company. It was a very pleasant and relaxing weekend. We'll definitely have to keep Glass Creek in mind for future rallies.



Sierra Nevada Unit November 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.

Welcome New SNU Members

Fredric Sloan and Beverley Wainwright are the newest members of the SNU. They live in Newcastle, CA and own a 2013 Eddie Bauer Airstream. We are delighted to welcome them to the SNU and hope we'll meet them in person at a rally or luncheon sometime soon. We also wish to welcome **Bob & Nancy Kirksey**. They joined the SNU as affiliate members at the Glass Creek Rally. Bob and Nancy are already considering which SNU rallies they will be able to attend in 2016.

SNU Business

Elections - October is when the SNU elects it's officers for the upcoming year. The slate of officers for 2016 is: President, Gary Haskett – Secretary, Dyann Thornburg – Treasurer/Membership, Diane Leipper – Trustee, Don Williams – Trustee, Randy Grossmann. Please email the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams to cast your vote or nominate someone else.

Upcoming Events

- **Region 12 Rally Silver City RV Resort - Minden, October 6-11, 2015**
- **Death Valley, Mesquite Campground -Thursday October 29th to Sunday November 1st 2015**
- **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**

SNU Business

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2016 dues – Renew or Join Now!

Many SNU members have already renewed for 2016 through WBCCI. Reminder emails have been sent out to all 2015 members and we hope they will be renewing soon. Although there are still some glitches, the system seems to be working well. Dues for 2016 can be done **online through WBCCI**. Be sure to indicate that your home Unit is the Sierra Nevada Unit (#157) and that you include the SNU dues of \$10 plus the WBCCI dues of \$65. If you prefer to pay by check, you can print the PDF form available on the WBCCI website and mail that with your check to WBCCI. You can also mail your dues check to the SNU at 716 Terra Ct, Reno, NV 89506 or pay at an SNU rally or luncheon. If you have **paid your dues and have not received** a thank you letter from the SNU with the pink copy of your dues form please contact the SNU at hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org. ASAP so we can get things straightened out.

A Few Favorite WBCCI Traditions

WBCCI has developed many traditions over its 60 years of existence. In addition to the club in general, each region, unit, and intra-club, has their own traditions. Three traditions that are almost universal in one form or another are pot luck meals, happy hour, and entertainment and education.

Pot Luck Meals - These are communal meals held at rallies and other gatherings. Food is usually contributed by all participants. There are numerous variations on the pot luck including the "mustgo" meal held at the end of a rally to help get rid of any left-overs before hitting the road. The SNU calls its pot lucks, Shared Meals. The idea being that each person brings what they want to eat with a little extra to share with others. The SNU has developed another variety of pot luck in response to certain weather conditions. It is called the go-round dinner. This developed at a rally where a snow squall right at dinner time prevented us from gathering together outside for our meal. Instead, everyone took their dinner contribution from trailer to trailer so people could help themselves while staying in the comfort of their trailer.



1959 pot luck at the WBCCI rally in Wisconsin Dells

Happy Hour - This is usually a social time at the end of the day before supper. This provides a chance for everyone to share the days experiences and adventures, discuss plans for the evening and for the following day. Happy Hours usually include light snacks. Wally used the term "Sidewalk Cafe" to describe his version of Happy Hour. This came about from his experiences traveling in Europe.



1980's MBCU rally Hula Dance

Entertainment & Education - Rallies and other gatherings often include some form of entertainment, usually provided by the rally participants. Skits, slide shows, crafts, games, sports, and all kinds of music related activities are some of the favorites. Airstreamers also like to learn about the areas they visit. Museum tours, site visits, and checking out local specialties are some examples. Check the website to see some of the **special rally activities the SNU** has done over the years

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A Few Favorite WBCCI Traditions

continued

Another common activity at WBCCI events is **community service**. The WBCCI International rally always includes at least one service project for the community in which the rally is held. The SNU has done a variety of community service projects including working with the Friends of Inyo to clean up the Obsidian area, assisting in a variety of ways at the Lyon County Fly-In, participating in Amateur Radio Field Day and providing a Bambi for a Trailer Park Troubadours Concert.

Some of the traditions of the SNU include morning campfires and coffee, pink flamingos and solar lights. Randy's unique work of art epitomizes The SNU's affinity for flamingos and solar lights. It's quite a site, especially at night.

Like many groups, food plays a vital role in bringing people together and creating special memories. The recipe book pictured with this article was given to my Grandparents by some of their Airstream friends whose membership

number was 773. My Grandparents was 772. This book contains a lot of recipes that were used for pot lucks.



Traditions are a form of identity and a link to the past. Although not set in concrete, the basic concepts provide a foundation to evolve and build on. One of the benefits of WBCCI membership is the opportunity to participate in rallies and other events of any Unit or other WBCCI group. It's a great way to learn about traditions, how they are adapted by various groups and maybe learn things that you can bring to your home Unit to add to it's traditions.



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

[SNU newsletter and article information](#)

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

[SNU Facebook Page](#)

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