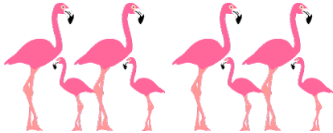




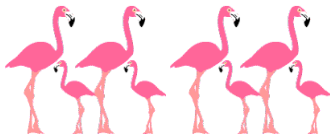
# Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International



## Highlights

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## Future SNU Rallies

- Ft Churchill State Pk main campground April 21 - 24
- Crocker NFS campground - May 19 - 22
- Hickson Petroglyph BLM campg - June 23-26
- WBCCI International Rally Lewisburg, WV - June 28, July 5, 2016
- Weed Heights RV Park - near Yerington - July 21 - 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 - Plaza Hotel- 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

## March at Washoe Lake

2016 is off to a great start if the **March rally at Washoe** is an indicator! The weather was just about perfect. We were able to get sites in somewhat of a group so we were pretty much all together. Dyann fixed delicious corned beef and cabbage for our Friday St Paddy's day dinner. Doris had made a white cake with green swirls and green icing. Although the cake was to celebrate her dog Andy's birthday, it was people food and we all enjoyed it. Andy did get a bite later. Friday Bryan got a call from Ruth who had found out about the rally through an internet search. She was interested in coming with her family and wanted to know more about the rally. She hadn't mentioned the idea to her husband yet. After letting Ruth know her family would be more than welcome, she said she'd call back. Apparently her husband, Neal was not hard to encourage. Within about 2 hours they had loaded up their 1994 Excella, got their 10 yr old & 18 month old boys in the truck and the next thing we knew, they called from the other side of Washoe Lake and said they were on their way. What a great family. We hope we see more of them in the future. The other guest at the rally was Dyann & Jerry's daughter, Jill. This was her first rally and although she is more of a city girl, we hope she'll come again sometime. Other than Jerry & Dyann, rally participants included Gary & Anita, Wheels & Doris, and Bryan & Diane. Rally activities included a trip to the nearby chocolate factory, an afternoon game of dominoes, morning campfires, and depending on your preference, a few short walks or longer hikes to get the winter kinks out. It seems everyones rigs made it through the winter with no major problems. Other than some minor tweaks, no maintenance work was needed at the rally. The other entertainment at the rally was reviewing the SNU photo albums and working on Kitty Credits. Kitty Credits was an idea to help stimulate memories of all the SNU rallies members and friends have attended and the highlights or what sticks in their mind about each of those rallies. Check the website for **more information on Kitty Credits**. Now that we have our rigs de-winterized and most of our solar lights and flamingos out of mothballs, we are looking forward to the rest of the rally season. We hope that those who couldn't make this rally because of health or last minute mechanical problems will be able to attend a rally soon. We also hope that other SNU members who haven't been able to participate in a rally will make a point of joining us sometime this year.



Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

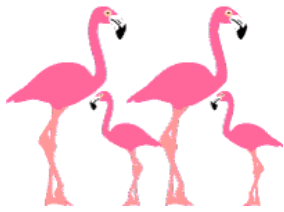


Guests—Neil (left), Ruth & Jill (back center)

40 Years of SNU !



## 40th Anniversary Year



## SNU Op Notes

The **SNU Op Notes** were first written in 2006. They are a work in progress. Over the years changes and updates have been made as the SNU evolves. The Op Notes are an informal overview of the concepts by which the Unit functions. Topics covered in the Op Notes are: a **Welcome** - the whys and hows of sharing the SNU experience, **rally site and restaurant selection** - suggestions & ideas for selecting sites for SNU gatherings, **unit newsletter** - layout, design, publication schedule, contents & purposes, **internet and web based communications** - basic philosophy of who, what, why & how, **media relations** - getting the word out about the SNU, **fiscal management** - money & financial matters, **community involvement** - interaction with the communities in which we live, **commercial relationships** - The ins & outs and considerations of collaboration with commercial enterprises and **being a good neighbor** - common courtesy, alcoholic beverages & pets at SNU functions. The intent in writing these things down was to enable future leaders as well as the membership in general to understand the hows and whys of SNU operations. It will provide the historical perspective on which to continue building a strong and viable WBCCI Unit.

## Fort Churchill April Rally

This will be the fifth SNU rally at the main campground at Ft Churchill. The dates are Thursday April 21, 2016 – Sunday April 24, 2016. The sites at Ft Churchill are available on a first come basis. Facilities include packed gravel parking, pit toilets, and a dump station. There are some nice gravel trails from the campground to the river and to the nearby ruins of the fort and museum.

**Don Damoth wrote this about the May 2002 Rally at Ft Churchill (edited for this article) -**

*Bryan & Diane, having spent Friday night with the spooky specter of the Ft Churchill ruins standing guard over their '75 Ambassador are greeting the occupants of a red pickup and camper (...or could it be a mini fire truck?) No it's Don & Marylou, home at last from their recent wanderings. They are just in time to witness a cloud of dust moving eastward along Ft Churchill road, and forecasting the arrival of the now grimy green Legacy Wagon belonging to Fred & Ann. After exchanging salutations, unloading table and chairs, the gathering of members of the SNU commenced a somewhat relaxed discussion of membership recruiting and retention. Eventually appetites prevailed over discussion. After dinner, satisfied that the world's problems had been properly engaged ... if not solved, it was time to adjourn until next month.*



If you didn't get your Nevada State Parks **Annual Senior Pass** at Washoe, you can go online and get the form. With the rally at Ft Churchill and one at Scout Camp in the fall, you will make good use of that pass. Well worth it. See you at Ft Churchill!

## Remembering Special People - Fred &amp; Ann Hersey

Fred and Ann bought their Airstream in 1998. Although memory is a little fuzzy, they probably heard about the SNU when Fred spotted another Airstreamer and stopped to talk with him. The first rally they remember participating in was at Washoe Lake in 1999.

Fred became President of the SNU at a time of transition. He brought new ideas and new energy to the Unit. Through his efforts the SNU began a new period in its history with a focus on the original ideas of an Airstream club and a new view towards the needs of the members. Before he became President, Fred did the newsletter. He designed the format for



the header and the address block which was used until 2008 when the SNU transitioned to using the web and email for all newsletter distribution and dropping postal mail. Fred & Ann also used extra copies of the newsletter to give to Airstream owners they noticed in driving around the area. Fred and Ann both wrote a lot of the material for the newsletters in the early 2000's. Ann served as secretary, treasurer and membership for the SNU. She also took on the primary duty of getting public service announcements about SNU rallies printed in the majority of local newspapers and weeklies. Ann's efforts

paid off in several new members, increased awareness of the SNU, an editorial column in the primary Carson City Newspaper and a feature article in the primary Reno newspaper. Fred and Ann hosted an SNU holiday luncheon at their home in December 2004



40th Anniversary Year



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

**SNU newsletter and article information**

**SNU 2016 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars**

**SNU Facebook Page**

**What's new on the Sierra Nevada Airstreams.org**



## Sierra Nevada Unit & Wally's Four Freedoms

**Note:** This was written in 2004. These concepts were instrumental in the growth of the SNU. They continue to guide the unit to this day. [Check the website](#) for the full article.

Wally Byam, Developer of the Airstream travel trailer and founder of the Wally Byam Caravan Club, International defined the Airstream experience in terms of four basic freedoms. These are freedom from arrangements, freedom from the problems of age, freedom to discover and to know, and freedom for fun. In response to an article in the March 2004 issue of the Blue Beret, the Sierra Nevada Unit, was prompted to describe these concepts as they are enjoyed by our members. The four freedoms listed in the article were essentially the concepts we all agreed were worth our efforts to rebuild the Unit.

**Freedom from arrangements** - The SNU is in the unique position of having lots of wide open space for Unit gatherings. Although we may have to reserve a site, we are usually free to park where we want and how we want. Since our membership prefers dry camping or minimal facilities, we have more options and are not dependent on high price campgrounds or RV parks. The open parking available to the SNU also means that we never have to turn away anyone, even if they haven't registered for the rally.



One of the primary assets of the Airstream that Wally Byam promoted was that it is self contained and can have all the comforts of home independent of provided services. The SNU follows that example on most of our outings. We also have a flexible rally schedule and side trips, activities, and tours, are optional. The SNU provides a list of possibilities available for each rally but arrangements are made by the individuals not the SNU. This enables members the freedom to make their own arrangements, to come when they can, for as long as they can, and participate or not participate as they choose.

**Freedom from the problems of age** - We have had all ages from toddlers to octogenarians participate in our activities. Because of our flexible schedule working families, those with school age children, and retired adults all fit in and enjoy participation as it suits them. Because of our simple needs, flexibility, and the availability of low cost camping sites, we can keep costs to a minimum thus encouraging anyone young or old to participate even if they have limited resources. The flexibility of SNU outings can accommodate almost anyone regardless of any restrictions or limitations in abilities.



**Freedom to discover and to know** - Northern Nevada has lots of great history and geological points of interest. Our rally schedule is planned around something of interest to our membership. For instance our May (2004) rally is planned to coincide with the Civil War re-enactment at Fort Churchill and our October rally is near the historic Bower's Mansion. No matter where we are there are places to explore and opportunities for hiking, biking, tours, or other activities



Continued page 4

40th Anniversary Year



## Solar Lights

Over the years, solar lights have become a dominate part of SNU rallies. Jerry, Randy Wheels & Diane do their best to light up the campsite. Other rally participants also contribute to the ambiance. Randy prefers solid white lights. Jerry, Wheels & Diane prefer the changing color lights. Of course flamingos are well represented both by string and stand lights. The stand lights have uncovered another aspect of SNU creativity. Since the ground makes it almost impossible to just stick the light in the dirt, SNU members have come up various methods to overcome this problem. Jerry has used a drill to dig a hole. Randy designed some nice wood blocks. Diane often uses old jack stands. Tree stumps, rock piles and other things are also used as needed. Now if we could only find a string of solar Airstream lights. Maybe we'll have to convert one. Randy commented last year that setting up & taking down our light displays seems to be requiring more and more time. It's well worth it though when you see our campsite out in the middle of nowhere all lit up. Check out the [photo gallery of SNU lights](#).

Don & Gail's  
Flamingo



## Fred & Ann Hersey

continued

Although it was disguised as a gopher, it was Fred and Ann who brought the first pink flamingo to an SNU rally. That was at Davis Creek 2004. The relationship between gophers and pink flamingos is explained on the [pink flamingo page](#) of [sierranevadaairstreams.org](#). For several years they provided lots of pink flamingos to the SNU, most of which they had found at garage sales. Some still decorate SNU rallies to this day.

Fred and Ann put together Airstream photo albums. They would take pictures of Airstreams they came across, both near their home and on their travels. Those photo albums are still in the SNU archives. Many of the pictures from those albums can be found in the [Show\\_n\\_Tell section](#) of the website.

Fred and Ann have retired from Airstreaming but not from exploring. In particular, they have pursued their passion for finding petroglyph sites. They have put together some excellent notebooks with photos and information from their visits to various sites. Maybe one of these days we can get Fred and Ann to come to a rally and share their notebooks with us.

The SNU is celebrating it's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year in large part due to the efforts and contributions of Fred and Ann. Fred and Ann say they have great memories of the Airstream group and that the "SNU family has always been such fun. From taking our 4 legged pets to sharing the morning coffee." Ann says that it would have been so easy to give up during the tough times but she is happy to see that we didn't and that the SNU is still growing. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment of being Airstreamers and helping to create the kinds of rallies that make the SNU special deserve a very special, **Thank You!**

## SNU and Wally's Four Freedoms

continued

**Freedom for fun** – This is the basis for our gatherings and for our desire to continue as a Unit. The great places we have available for SNU gatherings, the enjoyment of each others company, the sharing of tales and experiences, the sharing of new memories and adventures, and the excitement of encouraging and including new members in the Airstream experience. No wonder we are thankful we made the decision to keep going, to do what we can to rebuild the SNU and make it successful.



Changes we made in our bylaws also provide another freedom - that of participation. Too often people are leery of getting involved because they are concerned they will end up serving on a committee, being elected to the board, or given some task or job to do. In part because we are currently a small group, we all share responsibilities and carry out the functions necessary to meet WBCCI guidelines. We work together and get things done. Our system enables members to choose their own level of involvement. There is no pressure or expectation to take on a job. Our goal is to get people as enthused as we are and on their own want to take on some responsibility that benefits the Unit. We are very proud of our efforts to date and enthusiastic about our future.