



Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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Future SNU Rallies

August - Thursday August 24 -
Sunday August 27, 2017 Green
Creek near Bridgeport

September - Thursday Septem-
ber 21 - Sunday September 24,
2017 Lassen RV Resort, McAr-
thur, CA

October 11 - 15, 2017 Region
12 Rally Jackson Rancheria,
Jackson, CA

October - Thursday October 19 -
Sunday October 22, 17 Boca
Rest near Truckee

November 18, 2017 Saturday -
Black Bear Fernley

November, TBA Death Valley
Mesquite Campground

December 16, 2017 Saturday -
J.T.'s Basque Restaurant, Gard-
nerville



Weed Heights Rally Review

A rather smoky beginning to the **SNU rally at Weed Heights**, though most of it had cleared out by the weekend. Between smoke and hot temps, being able to run air conditioners in our Airstreams and having a nice cool club house were much appreciated. I'm not sure if Bryan & I have the same A/C that Tom mentions in his Visit to Jackson Center but the original unit in our 1975 Ambassador, although the compressor sometimes takes a little encouraging to



Jerry checking the tri-tip

get going, still works just fine. The highlight of the rally was our Friday Nevada Surf-n-Turf dinner provided by Jerry & Dyann. Marinated and smoked tri-tip and grilled tilapia. In addition we had roasted corn on the cob and root beer floats for dessert. Everything was delicious. Needless to say, we were stuffed. The great thing

Ice Cream in a bag



about doing our big dinner on Friday was that we could feast on left-overs Saturday without having to do all the work. Carmen provided a little variety by adding a nice chicken and rice dish to Saturday's menu. Anita had sent me a recipe for ice cream in a bag. I had to try it out. It's simple, it turned out great and it was delicious. **The recipe is on our website.** It was a great weekend for relaxing, enjoying the views across the valley and catching up on everyone's projects and plans. No major repair or maintenance issues this time. Just things like getting newer water hoses for Gary, adjusting the leveling system and installing TPMS for Jerry and checking electrical output for Gene. Good company, good food, good weekend!

Trailer Park Troubadours

Reprinted from a
2004 SNU Newsletter

Going to great lengths to find a camping spot in Reno, Rich Jaggard found a rather unique place to park his Bambi. - The Robert Z. Hawkins stage at Bartley Ranch Regional Park! This all started when Bryan Leipper found a notice on an internet forum that the Trailer Park Troubadours, the unofficial Airstream band, was planning to play there on Saturday, September 18th. They were looking for some Airstreams to use as stage props for their show. Rich Jaggard, an SNU member in Gardnerville was available and willing to assist. His Bambi barely squeezed through the door but it was a great addition once parked on stage. The Bambi got a lot of attention. Rich had a good time wandering around during the concert and hearing people comment on the Airstream. The Troubadours even gave him special recognition during their act and talked quite a bit about the trailer. Rich said several people came on stage after the concert to peek inside. After everyone was gone Rich spent a little time with the Troubadours sitting in the Bambi chit chatting. This has been a banner year for the SNU public relations and having Rich (and his Bambi) represent us on stage with the Troubadours is icing on the cake. Thank you Rich!.

Check out more pictures on the website.

Pre-concert practice session



Welcome New Members

The newest SNU members and the first for 2018 are Douglas and Dawn Dale. They currently live in the state of Washington but will be retiring and moving to Reno in the fall. Dawn says they are planning their first big Airstream outing in September and will be heading back East. We look forward to meeting Douglas and Dawn and hearing all about their adventures when they get settled in Reno.

*"The Great Basin
Airstream
RV Association"*



Don and Gail attended the WBCCI International Rally in Escanaba, MI. Don acted as the SNU delegate at the delegates meeting. On their way to the rally, Don posted this on the SNU facebook page. "Gail, Mongo and I have traveled across these United States of America to visit family and friends on our way to the International. The Fourth of July finds us camped at the Kentucky Horse Park visiting our son and his family, fitting for this holiday since he has dedicated almost 20 years to the Army Reserves including one tour in Iraq. He remains true to his family, faith and friends as we celebrate the 4th of July. You'll note our camp pictures are taken inside as we experience a rare 4th of July event for southern Californians, "rain".



August Rally at Green Creek

The site of the SNU August [rally is Green Creek](#) which is about 6 miles south of Bridgeport, CA off US 395. Green Creek is an NFS dispersed area. The dates are Thursday August 24 - Sunday August 27, 2017. Be sure to follow Wheels directions to the rally site. Green Creek is close to Bodie and could be a great day trip. Activities as always are up to the whims of the rally participants. Plan to join us a Green Creek

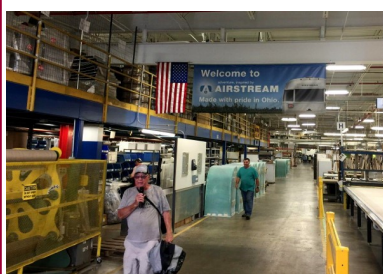


A Visit to the Jackson Center

by Tom Guy

Visiting the Airstream Factory and Repair Center in Jackson Center Ohio isn't a spur of the moment trip (if you live as far away as we do). My parents live in Columbus Ohio and since our family was due for a visit we looked into how to tour the factory. Turns out it is very easy to do, but not so easy to get to! Jackson Center was about 1 hour and 45 minute trip from Columbus.

The last 15 or so miles is on a two lane road straight as an arrow through farmland and tiny towns.



Tours start weekdays at 2:00 and no prior reservations or tickets are required. Just show up in time to fill out a half page form. They provide ear and eye protection at no cost.

There were about 60 people waiting on the Friday we were there. I was surprised there were two large Amish families touring with us. I was also surprised that only one other family owned an Airstream (a '68). The form is quite clear that photography inside the factory was strictly forbidden with the exception of the banner at the entrance. A cup of rivets are there for souvenirs.

Inside the lobby was a great gift store. It had A LOT of stuff in it (the picture shows only part of it). We purchased a few tshirts and were happy to get a flag for our camping flagpole. They also sold every part you would need to replace something in your Airstream. It was a bit pricey.

It was a short walk through the lot to get to the factory entrance. On the way were two famous Airstreams. I'm sure you will recognize the gold one. The older one was from the 1930s. It was the first trailer built by Wally. ([Check this link for Tom's article and all the pictures](#))

Walking inside the factory was very exciting. Since Friday is a half day for most workers it wasn't very noisy and our ear protection wasn't required. I spoke to a few workers and told them that we still enjoyed our '75 Tradewind and that our family treasures it. You could tell they were very proud of the work they do! Our tour guide Dan has worked for Airstream since 1958. He was quite the character and full of stories. He told me the air conditioner in my '75 Tradewind "was the best air conditioner Airstream ever put in a trailer". Since that is the only major appliance that worked when I bought our Airstream I believe him!

It was amazing to see how the furniture was built by hand. The flooring gets cut by a "CNC" machine (computer controlled) as does the aluminum for the Airstream both inside and outside. It was interesting to see the holes cut out for the windows, door, and access panels are not completely cut out until after they are 'curved' in the jig. Once in the jig two workers rivet the panels onto the frames. The Airstream shells are pushed by hand by just two people to the next step in the assembly.

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Sierra Nevada Unit Business

It is time to submit nominations for the SNU 2018 Board. Offices that need to be filled are President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership. Check the website for a description of the **basic duties of these officers**. Elections will take place in October at the rally at Boca Rest. Reminder - It's also time to put the 2018 Rally schedule together and time to renew your membership. **To renew membership go to WBCCI.org**. We look forward to hearing from you on both SNU officers and a rally schedule.

*"The Great Basin
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To keep informed about the Sierra Nevada Unit - select any of the following links.

SNU newsletter and article information

SNU 2017 Rally Schedule - Mark your calendars

SNU Facebook Page

*What's new in
Sierra Nevada
Airstreams.org*



WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

The "Other" SNU Members

Recently with motivation and assistance from Anita, I have updated and expanded the photo galleries of pets at SNU rallies. It's quite a collection! Over 17 years of SNU rallies, we have pictures of 78 different pets and that doesn't include several who didn't get photographed for one reason or another. Although most of the pets belong to SNU members there are some guests. Dogs predominate with 61 different dogs. In addition there were a several cats, a few birds, a guinea pig, and two tortoises. I think the most pets we had at a rally was at Mason Valley in 2009. We had 9 Airstreams, 18 people, 14 dogs, 1 cat and 1 parakeet at that rally. To say the SNU is pet friendly is an understatement. One of the great things about many SNU rally sites is that, except for common courtesy, respect for others, and insuring your pet is well behaved in group situations, there are no rules or restrictions on pets enjoying the rally. A few of the many memorable pets at rallies include 2008 Lilly the pug in her red outfit and Alex the horse visiting us at Sweetwater. Others include Scout finding a new home in 2011. Bailey, Moose, Cody, and Jack cooling off in the BVan on the way to Obsidian in 2012 while Jerry got a tire fixed. Bella the adopted Doberman who was quite a clown at the 2013 Obsidian Rally. Mario in his "I love camping" shirt at Obsidian in 2014. There are **sort lists on the pet page** so you can see which photo galleries your pets are in or you can get the full immersion by checking out all 7 of the pet photo galleries.



Torque Them Wheel Bolts!

Posted on Zephyrs Aug. 2006

Harbor fright or fruit or whatever sells a **torque wrench for \$10 - \$15** that you can use to make sure your lug bolts are properly set. There is some debate about cheap and so on but it appears that the HF wrench is reasonably accurate and can be considered disposable compared to the usual \$100 medium and \$300 pro models.

Scott, on the **Ford Trucks discussion forum** posted some good advice for Torque Wrench Users:

Here's what the Air Force taught us missile maintenance techs about proper torque wrench use:

1. Store torque wrenches in a warm environment (preferably in a container) - cold affects accuracy.
2. Always store them at their lowest torque setting.
3. "Exercise" them at their lowest torque setting before applying necessary torque. If using a "clicker", click it through it's lowest setting at least 4 times before setting at needed torque and applying that torque. ...
4. The lowest 20% of the torque range is the least accurate. If you need to torque a fastener at 20 ft. lbs, don't use a 20-150 ft. lb torque wrench
5. If you drop the torque wrench on a hard surface (like concrete), it is advisable to have it recalibrated. Of course, distance dropped will be a factor - try to never drop your torque wrenches.
6. Avoid using extension bars - this will affect the accuracy of the applied torque.
7. Always apply torque in a smooth, jerk-free manner - this also affects torque accuracy.

I usually "double-click" but not in rapid succession - for instance, if I'm torquing lug-nuts, I'll click once on each, then recheck the torque again after I've torqued the last one - IMO, double-clicking will NOT over-torque, because the torque-wrench is designed to release at a preset torque value - so if it released (clicked) at 45 ft-lbs, the first time, it will immediately release when torquing pressure is applied the second or subsequent times without providing additional torque - UNLESS you do it in a jerking motion, in which case, you may indeed apply torque beyond the click. Once it's clicked and you keep applying pressure, you're basically holding a breaker bar instead of a torque wrench, that's why it's important to apply the torque smoothly and slowly - let the wrench do what it's supposed to do.

Your lug bolts will probably need a 3/4 or 13/16 inch socket for a half inch drive ratchet. It might be a good idea to pick up a half inch socket set at HF with the torque wrench as this will have the lug bolt socket as well as some sizes you might need for your hitch bolts. Odds are that you will still need a special socket for the ball nut and that that socket will be for 3/4 drive. That one, and a socket for the hub nut to use when doing bearings might be worth adding to the socket set with the appropriate adapters, too. By this time, the standard socket set, half inch drive set, torque wrench, plus special sockets gets to be a rather extensive toolkit to carry around. The inexpensive kits work well to keep in the garage for occasional use but probably aren't really needed for you to carry on the road. On the road, you can check lug bolt tightness with a simple tug on a standard spare tire lug wrench. A good sized (12" or so) crescent wrench will usually take care of any big bolt emergencies. So plan on what to take with you for what you will need and feel comfortable using.

"The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"



Did you know? In the history section of the SNU website there is a gallery of **group photos of SNU members** and friends. It's pretty amazing that we have been able to get everyone together in one place at one time to actually get group photos as often as we have. The photos range from 1980 and the group that went on the Mid-Nevada Caravan to the most recent that was taken at the Eagle Lake rally in May 2017. Lot of special people. Lot of great memories.



A Visit to Jackson Center

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After these steps the shells are lifted onto the steel trailers. The trailers are ready with full suspension, wheels, tanks, wiring, and jack. Then it is on to wiring, insulation, and window/vent installation. Each and every Airstream goes through a 30 minute leak test in a room that simulates a powerful rainstorm. They sure look amazing when they come out of those test rooms. Brand spanking new and shiny! The final stages are installing the furniture and systems. We got to see a few Airstreams headed overseas and how they need to meet different regulations. The interiors of the new Airstreams are simply gorgeous. They look like Manhattan apartments! For the 'tech' people the LED lighting and control panels were quite slick. We were welcome to tour the inside of any finished Airstream we wanted to. One that sticks out (I sure wish he would have let me take a photo!) was a "Tommy Bahama" edition that had a liftgate on the rear of the Airstream. It opened up the entire back end and had a built in screen door to keep out the bugs. We saw several "Basecamp" Airstreams that Dan said they couldn't build fast enough. The factory is currently producing about 90 Airstreams per week.

The tour lasted almost two hours and we passed on the invitation to take a look at the Airstream facility across the street that produced the Mercedes based Airstream RVs. They were amazing to see all lined up in the lot though! We had a great time and it was time well spent. I would certainly consider going again simply to get such a great look at the new models.



Tom, Dan & Kristy

Lassen in September

Just a reminder that what has become an annual rally at the Lassen RV Resort is not far off. The dates are September 21 to the 24th. See the June 2017 newsletter or **check the website** for a description of the Resort, where it is located, how to get there, and things to do and see while there. There are a number of special events planned. The Resort has a



projector and large screen so we are planning on showing movies. Anyone who has a recommendation for a movie to show please let us know when you make your reservation. You might even bring the movie with you. Movies with Hawaiian themes would be appropriate since this rally will sport an Hawaiian theme with Hawaiian decor. Hawaiian dress would also be appropriate although that is optional. Possible events are a lecture by a local historian and a black powder demonstration if there is enough interest in this. So let us know when you make your reservation if you are interested in such a demonstration.

Our own Russ (of Russ Bus fame) will be at the rally and I am sure we could convince him to sing while accompanied by his guitar. Those who attended the Eagle Lake rally in June will remember how everyone enjoyed his singing and guitar playing around the campfire. There will also be various and sundry displays in the screened-in event structure. Randy will be making and serving his ever so famous and sought after waffles on Saturday morning. There will be a catered lunch on Friday and a catered dinner on Saturday, both provided by the Bistro Restaurant at the Resort. Anyone who attended the last rally at the Resort knows what fabulous food the Resort serves. **Please make your reservation with and submit payment to:** Randy Grossmann 2345 W. Washington St. Carson City, NV 8973 phone: 775-883-3603 email: Randyg@pyramid.net Randy is old fashioned so he can only accept paper checks either handed to him in person or sent to him via snail mail. The cost for this rally is \$120 which includes three nights of full hookups, a catered lunch and dinner, a waffle breakfast, and entertainment. Randy can email you a reservation form. While reservations should be made with Randy for the rally dates of September 21 to the 24th, anyone who will arrive before these dates or stay after them should make arrangements directly with the Lassen RV Resort for the additional nights. We have sites reserved in the group area at the rear of the Resort. Selection of the sites will be on a first come, first selection basis.