



# Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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## November Luncheon at the Black Bear

The November luncheon at Black Bear was well attended. Fred and Wanda were among the participants. They have had a busy summer which included a lot of work on their Airstream so it has been a while since we have seen them. Also at the lunch were Randy and Vicki, Wheels & Doris, Susie, Bryan & Diane, Jerry and Gary & Anita. We missed Dyann who was home sick. Roylaine also stopped by for a short visit. Lunches are a great way to stay in touch but it is hard to spend much time with people catching up on news and activities. We did our best though. It looks like there might be a good representation of the SNU at the Salem rally in June 2018. There might even be an SNU caravan going to the rally. The SNU rally at Lassen RV Resort in September should also be well attended. Everyone knows from past rallies there that the Lassen rally should definitely be on your schedule. An enjoyable lunch, great company and a beautiful day for a drive to Fernley. A pretty good way to spend a Saturday.



## Upcoming 2018 Events

- April TBA – SNU spring tune up rally at Lahontan
- June 23 – 30, 2018 WBCCI International Rally in Salem, OR
- September 20 – 23, 2018 SNU rally at Lassen RV Resort
- October 3 – 7, 2018 Region 12 Rally in Las Vegas
- October TBA – SNU rally in Death Valley following the Region 12 rally

## SNU Holiday Celebrations



Several SNU members have hosted holiday luncheons at their home. This includes Frank & Steve Burnham, Dale & Marge Grosch, Fred & Ann Hersey, Don & MaryLou Damoth and most recently, Brian & Jeni Root. Over the years, the SNU has also had picnics and informal gathering at members homes. Hosts for these events include the Leippers, Jaggards, Thornburgs, and Grossmanns. It is always special to hold an SNU gathering at someone's home, especially during the holidays. A couple of Christmas luncheons at Frank & Steve's included visits by Santa and gift exchanges. Don and Marylou made special Christmas tree ornaments with sand dollars they had collected on a trip to Florida. Each luncheon participant received one. Brian and Jeni had some great flamingo theme raffle gifts that Doris, Terry, and Penny won at the 2016 luncheon. Jeni also made flamingo and Airstream cookies. Good company and good food are always the best part of any gathering. Some of the holiday luncheons were pot luck and for some the food was provided by the hosts. Holidays are special times and there is no better way to celebrate than spending time with your friends and family. We are thankful for the special times we have spent with our SNU family.

## December Lunch at J.T.'s

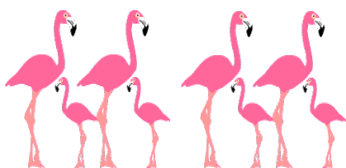
Saturday December 16, 2017 at 11:30 am the SNU luncheon will be at J.T.'s Basque Restaurant in Gardnerville. The restaurant is located on US 395 south of downtown at 1426 S Main St. J.T.'s offers great family style traditional Basque dining in a historic Gardnerville establishment. The SNU has had several luncheons at this restaurant. The first was March 2004. This will be the third Holiday lunch the SNU has had at J.T.'s it will be the last luncheon for 2017 so we hope you will plan to join us. **RSVP to [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org) or 775 972 9392**



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**Memories** from the March 2008 Rally at Pyramid Lake - According to Melissa she had been suffering from ASA (Airstream Separation Anxiety). This was caused by the fact that neither of their Airstreams were parked in their yard due to snow and also that she hadn't been to a rally since last October. I think this rally ensured she is well on the way to recovery as are any other SNU members suffering from ASA.



## S.N.U. Newsletter

The next edition of the SNU newsletter will probably have a different look. Although the SNU is still seeking volunteers to carry on with this important communications effort, we look forward to whatever the future and new ideas might create. The SNU newsletter is the primary communications tool for SNU members. It also serves as a promotional tool for the Unit. Back in 2002, during a period of re-organization, it was decided that the two functions that should be our major focus were the newsletter and rallies. The newsletter, like everything else with the SNU, is a team effort. Each person involved works on the piece that most interests them and best utilizes their skills and talents. Since 2002 these members have been editors and content providers for the SNU newsletters - Fred & Ann Hersey, Don & MaryLou Damoth, Melissa Wong, Rick LaBorde and Diane Leipper. Rick created the most recent layout for the newsletter in 2009 when he took over the editor job. In 2016 Rick created the special SNU 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary layout which he modified for 2017. Diane has provided most of the newsletter content since 2003. Over the years, several other SNU members have contributed content for the newsletter. Among others, these include Jerry & Dyann Thornburg, Wheels Wheeler, Don Williams, Randy Grossmann, Anita Leipper, Gene Trabiz, and Tom Guy. It is that team effort that makes the whole process easy for everyone and keeps the newsletter interesting and informative. Hopefully a newsletter will continue to be a key method of communication in the SNU. Everything you want to **know about the SNU newsletter** including an archive of SNU newsletters going back to 1996 can be found on the website. In the meantime, the **SNU Face-Book** page will most likely be the primary source of current information related to the Unit.

## Gene and Carmen

Other than Bryan and I, the currently still active member who has been involved with the SNU the longest is Gene Baleme. Gene started out as a guest before getting an Airstream and becoming an official member in 2009. The first SNU rally he attended was at Boca in 2003. He and Dave Gmur set up a ham station for Field Day at that Rally. Although not currently an active member, the first SNU rally Dave attended was the 1998 rally at Lahontan. In 2007, Gene brought his future wife, Carmen to an SNU rally at Lahontan to introduce her to the group. Gene and Carmen were married in July 2007. When they came to the rally at Obsidian Dome later that month, they brought a present for each of us. It was a cute little birdhouse wind chime that they had given to their wedding guests. Gene and Carmen were beneficiaries of one of Melissa's 1970's Airstreams. When Melissa found another Airstream, she sold "Pepsi" to Gene and Carmen. Gene and Carmen have been active SNU members ever since. Over the years, they have contributed a lot of great memories to the SNU. We have enjoyed Carmen's Philippine dishes at rallies. We have had the pleasure of including many of Gene and Carmen's kids, grandkids and assorted other relatives in SNU rallies. In fact at the rally in Portola in 2008, there were so many of their family members that Gene and Carmen had to sleep in our Bvan as their Airstream was completely filled. Gene and Carmen have made the most of their rally experiences. They have hiked over streams, up mountains, and through the woods. They have brought ATV's and toured around the rally sites. Gene has introduced camping in Nevada to the family. The first snow some of the kids had ever seen was at an SNU rally at Ft Sage in 2010. Gene was kept busy at a rally at Rocky Point in 2010 cleaning and cooking fish that a nearby fisherman caught and gave to the kids. It has been a real pleasure to watch the kids having such a good time. It seems right before our eyes, they are growing up. With more and more school activities and friends we see them less often. We look forward to Gene and Carmen's continuing involvement in the SNU. Although I'm sure they miss not having kids with them all the time, camping with just the two of them provides a whole different set of adventures.



Renew your 2018 membership in the SNU **online**. It's easy and quick



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## WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

### The Sierra Nevada Unit in 2018

Things are shaping up for the SNU for 2018. Don Williams has offered to serve as President. He is beginning to put together a group of people to serve as officers and a list of luncheons and rallies for next year. In particular, the SNU will need a secretary and a membership/treasurer. The SNU has always been a team effort which means by working together, we get things done that need to be done without any particular task being a burden on any one person. Some of the ideas for rallies include an Airstream tune up rally in April. This might include things like cleaning out propane burners on water heaters, furnace and refrigerators, checking and setting propane regulator pressure, check lights, Also requires jacks, wrenches, grease battery voltages, etc. This could be extended to checking brakes and packing wheel bearings if we had enough interested and participatory members. Another idea is a rally at Death Valley following the Region 12 rally near Las Vegas. Your support and assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to serve as an officer, host a rally or luncheon, or provide ideas and suggestions, please let Don know. Don and the SNU will also be working on new communication systems, including the newsletter and a website.

Don & Gail Williams #14207

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The coming year will be an exciting time for the SNU. We hope each and every member will assist Don in moving the SNU forward, trying new things and building on the past successes of the SNU. Thank you.

### Zephyrs Web Blog

Bryan started this weblog in December 2004. It's purpose is to provide information and ideas for RV enthusiasts. It has also been the place to post links to current SNU newsletters, photo galleries, and updates or changes in information related to SNU activities. Zephyrs is organized into six different categories including What's new, Destinations, Flashbacks and Owner's Guide. One entry from December 2004 is this post regarding the travels of some SNU members. "We are thinking of Roy and Bonny this morning. They headed to the Texas coast for a warm winter but it seems that that part of the country is getting a white Christmas for the first time in a hundred years. Don and Marilou are camped out in the Florida keys and even that may not be far south enough." Over the years Zephyrs has accumulated a wealth of information and ideas. Links, comments, and input from other sources augment the entries that cover almost every aspect of the RV lifestyle.

### Lassen September 2018

Mark your calendars! The dates next year for the SNU rally at the Lassen RV Resort are September 20 to 23. Plans are just beginning to take shape but there are some things you can count on for this annual favorite - a unique theme, great food, great location, great people, and great attractions. In 2018 all reservations will be made directly with Lassen RV Resort. Although the cost is yet to be determined, it will include three nights at full service sites and two meals catered by the Resort. Once again Randy and Vicki will be hosting this rally. So this is an event you will not want to miss.



### WBCCI International Rally 2018

The 2018 International rally in Salem OR is a great opportunity to experience one of the special things about being a member in WBCCI. At this time it looks like there are at least 4 SNU members planning to attend. Don and Gail will be volunteering at the rally in various capacities. They have participated in several International rallies so not only are they a great resource for information before the rally, they will be there to welcome you at the rally. If you are considering attending the Salem rally, check the **WBCCI website** for more information and registration.



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*





*"The Great Basin  
Airstream  
RV Association"*



### Highlights from the SNU

There are so many great photos from SNU rallies, luncheons and other activities. Pictures that have been contributed from many SNU members and friends provide a wealth of memories and present a fairly extensive pictorial story of the SNU. You can find them in various places on the website including Rallies, Travelogues, Show-and-Tell, Destinations, and the Family Side of RV'ing. Here are just a few examples.



2003 Twin Lakes



2004 Roy with one of the 1st SNU flamingos

*"To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun, and personal expression."*

This statement from the **Wally Byam Creed** is one of the guiding principles of the SNU. Ensuring people feel welcome and included from their very first contact with the SNU is the foundation of everything we do. It is the goal of every member to help new members, guests and friends feel like they are part of the SNU family. It is a diverse and eclectic family and that is what provides the creative ideas, memorable experiences and enhances everything the SNU does.



2007 Randy at Obsidian cooking the 1st waffle batch



2008 Snowy morning @ Fort Sage



2011 Hickison Flamingo regalia



2012 Crocker Jerry and Wheels working on the hot water heater



2008 Jerry's leveling at Unionville



2017 SNU 40th Anniversary at Lassen RV Resort