



# Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

## Highlights

What's in a Name	2
Russ Buss	2
SNU 2016 Highlights	3
Monterey Bay Caravans	4
1975 Welcome Letter	4

## Future SNU Rallies

- **January 28, 2017 Saturday** 11:30 am luncheon - Carolina Kitchen, Sparks
- **February 25, 2017 Saturday** 11:30 am luncheon - El Aguila Real, Gardnerville
- **March - Thursday March 23** - Sunday March 26, 2017 - Lahontan beach 7
- **April - Thursday April 20** - Sunday April 23, 2017 - Ft Sage near Doyle
- **May - Thursday May 18** - Sunday May 21, 2017 Sweetwater Summit
- **June - Thursday June 22** - Sunday June 25, 2017 - Crocker Campground near Beckworth, CA
- **July - Thursday July 20** - Sunday July 23, 2017 Weed Heights RV Park
- **July 22-29, 2017 - WBCCI International Rally Escanaba, MI**
- **August - Thursday August 24** - Sunday August 27, 2017 Green Creek near Bridgeport
- **September - Thur. September 21** - Sunday September 24, 2017 Lassen RV Resort, McArthur, CA
- **October 11-15, 2017 Region 12 Rally Jackson Rancheria, Jackson, CA**
- **October - Thursday October 19** - Sunday October 22, 2017 Boca Rest/Hope Valley/Lahontan (depending on weather)
- **November 18, 2017, Black Bear Fernley**
- **November, Death Valley Mesquite Campground**
- **December 16, 2017, J.T.'s Basque Restaurant, Gardnerville**

## Holiday Luncheon Review

Our **December luncheon**, hosted by Brian & Jeni Root was the perfect way to wrap up 2016 and the SNU's 40th Anniversary year. Even the weather cooperated. The SNU members and friends who helped celebrate and enjoy this luncheon included Gary & Anita, Jerry & Dyann, Eric & Terry, Diane, Wheels & Doris, Randy & Vicki, Fred and of course, Brian, Jeni, Sidney, Nick & Erika Root. We were delighted to have Eric's Mom Penny, Jeni's friend Jami, Sidney's friend Jade and the Root's neighbor John join us for the luncheon. Jami came to help Jeni out with the lunch. Jade was



also helping out with the lunch. Brian & Jeni had noticed that John had an Airstream so they invited him to the lunch. John has a 1960's era Globetrotter that he is in the process of restoring. He picked up a lot of tips and information from Jerry and other SNU members. Fred, who will be taking his 1972 Sovereign to Sierra Trailer Restoration in the spring, had a chance to talk with Jeni about their experiences. Brian & Jeni's 1954 Cruiser was restored about two years ago by the same company. Pink flamingos and Airstreams were in evidence everywhere from decorations to the table cloth to the very special treats Jeni made for



dessert. Jeni had a cute little Airstream sitting on the front porch. Diane brought her unique **Christmas Airstream** that has blinking lights on the tree and plays a variety of Christmas carols. Jeni made lasagna and it was accompanied by a wonderful salad with a **choice** of dressings and warm bread with various pesto sauces to spread on it. Everything was excellent. And then there was dessert! Jeni had found an Airstream shape cookie cutter. She cut out windows and doors. Then she crushed Jolly Rancher and Life Saver candies and sprinkled

them into the windows and doors. The candy melted when the cookies were baked and the result was beautiful colored windows which look really neat when lit from the back. Jeni had also made some flamingo and some Christmas tree cookies. Jami arranged the cookies on a platter that perfectly represented an SNU rally. Airstreams with trees in the back and flamingos in front. Jeni had gotten some special gifts so after we finished lunch Jeni, with assistance from daughter Sidney, had a drawing. Doris got one of the gifts. It was a pink flamingo table cloth. I am sure we will see that often at SNU rallies. The next drawing was Terry. She got some pink flamingo table cloth weights which I'm sure she will find very handy. The last drawing went to Eric's Mom, Penny. She received a tea towel with a pink flamingo on it and the caption, "Be a flamingo in in flock of pigeons". Jeni couldn't have picked more appropriate gifts. Doris, Terry and Penny were delighted with their new flamingos. Jeni also gave the luncheon participants a sample of her Practically Perfect canning efforts. Yummy apple, plum or other jellies. The perfect ending to a great year for the SNU and a perfect Holiday Luncheon. Thank you Brian and Jeni.



## January Lunch

The first SNU luncheon for 2017 will be at Carolina Kitchen in Sparks. The date is Saturday January 28, 2017 at 11:30 am. Carolina Kitchen is a great BBQ place that serves all your favorites like ribs, catfish, burgers, pulled pork and hot links. RSVP to the SNU at [hq@sierranevadaitreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaitreams.org) or call 775 972 9392.

*"The Great Basin  
Airstream  
RV Association"*



From Dyann's Kitty Kredits - Going to the Railroad Museum in Portola (2008) was fun. We got to go through the museum, ride the train and hide in the shade of our trailers. We even have a drawing done by one of our members of us all lined up in the shade of a trailer having our morning coffee before heading home. We were also shown the Airstream they had in their back field.



## What's in a Name

Pepsi, Bubble House, Miss "B", RussBuss, Suzy and Fred. Who are they? They are the Airstreams and Argosy belonging to various SNU members. There is also Josephine and Ruby. Gene & Carmen inherited the name Pepsi when they bought their Airstream. She had been named by previous owners who hoped that the name would go with the trailer. Bubble House is what Vicki has called her and Randy's Airstream almost since they bought it. Miss "B" is the Argosy trailer Kevin & Sherry bought last summer.

It's name comes from the Coast Guard ship their son is assigned to. Suzy & Fred belong to Bryan & Diane. Suzy, the 1975 Ambassador told Bryan her name many years ago. Fred, the BVan soon let Bryan know what his name was. As for Josephine & Ruby. Josephine is Bryan & Diane's 1976 Overlander. Ruby, although not large enough to go camping by herself, is the name given to Randy & Vicki's beautiful little Airstream that Randy built for the SNU Anniversary celebration. It seems naming Airstreams has been around for a long time but recently the phenomena is gaining more notice. This is due in part to a recent promotional idea from Airstream Inc. They have now set up an official name registry on their website. When you sign up, you become part of a virtual caravan. Airstream Inc also sends you a letter, certificate and a nice metal tag to acknowledge that your Airstream has been officially recognized. It's pretty neat checking through the virtual caravan and seeing other Airstreams, the names they have been given and why or how they got that name. Some Airstreams seem to let you know their name almost immediately. Others take their time about revealing their name. One owner recently commented that his Airstream hasn't told him her name yet but when she does, he'll get it registered. **Check out the Airstream Inc Name Registry.** If your Airstream has told you its name, consider signing up. Also let the SNU know the name so we can add it to our own list.



## Russ Buss

### *Russell & Debbie Decker WBCCI #3426*

When I asked Russell how is Motorhome got the name Russ Buss he sent me a great story. Here is what Russell said.

It all started when I saw the 1983 Airstream 310 motorhome for sale here at the Washington Land Yacht Harbor a couple of years ago. When I called the owners, I found out that their asking price was dirt cheap. They were selling it because of their now old age, and not Airstreaming anymore. Before we bought our 30' Airstream Excella Classic trailer, I had actually looked into buying an old Flexible bus to convert to an RV. There are many of them out there, but many were in horrible condition in the price range we were willing to pay.

Well, after chasing down a few, then realizing just how much work that would be, Debbie said that we would be better off to buy a trailer instead. That is when we started looking for a used Airstream. We found the used Airstream trailer on a lot in Napa, CA and bought it, but, the 'bus' idea still lingered in my brain. So, when I saw the 1983 Airstream motorhome, and the asking price, I couldn't pass it up. It reminded me so much of the other 'bus', so I bought it. Well, I immediately fell in love with the Airstream motorhome, much more than the trailer. It wasn't so with Debbie. She loved the trailer more. Maybe it was because we had just finished installing brand new flooring and upholstery inside.



Yes, I tend to go full steam ahead on projects like this, and after a while, the Airstream motorhome was looking pretty nice compared to the trailer. Debbie soon realized that my love for the 'bus' was over riding that of the trailer, and when I approached her with the idea of selling the trailer and truck, then buying a tow vehicle for the motorhome, she wasn't too happy, but gave in anyway. She realized how much fun I was having upgrading the 'bus' and she started referring to it as Russ's Bus. Well, in no time we both started calling it the "Russ Bus". The name stuck! I went down to our local vehicle licensing place and found that "RUSS BUS" was available for a personalized license plate and ordered it. So, when other motorhome owners are describing their rigs as an "RV", or a "Coach", or a "Motorhome", or a "MoHo" (a name Deb hates,

btw), ours is loving called the "Russ Bus"

We sold our 30' Airstream Excella Classic Trailer to some nice folks in Glendora, CA. They have since re-named it "Lucy" (from Lucy and Desi). I traded in our 2005 Ram Diesel pickup for a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee Eco-Diesel that we tow. The nice folks at Roadmaster in Vancouver did all the work to make that happen. They let us overnight in the back, and even provided us with a 120v drop cord to run a heater at night. I HIGHLY recommend their products, and if you are ever traveling through Vancouver, WA, plan to stop and take a guided tour through their factory. It is quite impressive.

*"The Great Basin  
Airstream  
RV Association"*

## WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

### 2016 SNU Highlights & Achievements

The SNU had a great year in 2016. We overcame some adversities, we added several new members, we had some great rallies and luncheons, and best of all, we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SNU in grand style! Below are a few of the highlights for 2016.

**Check the website for the full list.**



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 on the  
SierraNevada  
Airstreams.org*



- ✧ The highlight of 2016 was the celebration of the SNU's 40th Anniversary. This anniversary culminated in a special rally at Lassen RV Resort. Throughout the year, other things helped to celebrate this milestone. These included a special layout for the newsletter for the year, monthly articles related to the history of the SNU and people who contributed to the SNU, and various Anniversary memorabilia handed out at SNU events.
- ✧ Rally highlights for 2016 included: March at Washoe Lake - corned beef & cabbage dinner April at Ft Churchill- visit from Fred and Ann Hersey, May at Crocker - light snow June at Hickison- solar lights instead of a campfire July at Weed Heights -Jerry's Nevada surf & turf dinner August at Obsidian- Tour of nearby potential future rally sites September at Lassen RV Resort - SNU 40th Anniversary celebration October at Scout Camp - helping Fred & Wanda discover learn all about their 1972 Sovereign.
- ✧ The SNU had one luncheon in a new location, the Olive Garden and we had a special December luncheon hosted by Brian and Jeni at their home in Reno. In addition to an excellent lunch, Jeni had some very appropriate raffle prizes and some amazing Airstream cookies.
- ✧ Between May 2016 and September 2016 the SNU gained eight new members. Three of these new members participated in SNU rallies this year. One at Weed Heights & Obsidian, one at Lassen and one at Scout Camp.
- ✧ The SNU promotional efforts continue to be effective in getting the word out about the SNU. The Carson Appeal does a great job in publishing the public service announcements submitted monthly by Randy. At least one person seeing a notice in the Appeal contacted the SNU and visited us at a rally. The website also continues to be an asset to the SNU. The website was a primary factor for at least 3 new members choosing to join the SNU. The website generated contact from several people interested in various aspects of Airstreaming and the SNU.
- ✧ The SNU experimented with a WiFi Rally net for participants to share information and photos while at an SNU rally. Looks like this could be a useful tool for future rallies.
- ✧ The SNU always welcomes fellow Airstreamers and potential Airstreamers to our rallies. In 2016 we had guests at the Washoe Lake rally and at two SNU luncheons.

During the past forty years, the Sierra Nevada Unit has seen a lot of changes, experienced a lot of ups and downs, tried many new things, included many new members and held rallies in many different locations. Through it all, the SNU has kept in mind the **founding principles** expressed by Wally Byam in his Creed and Four Freedoms. One of which is "To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun, and personal expression."



*"The Great Basin  
Airstream  
RV Association"*

**Welcome letter** - These are a few comments from the letter WBCCI sent out to new members in 1975. WBCCI is built on a philosophy of friendship and fellowship. Our members enjoy an enviable reputation: They take pride in leaving a clean camp; in being courteous and in avoiding anything that would reflect adversely on travel trailering. Each member happily accepts his obligation to support the club and its officers, to contribute time and talents to its program and to further travel trailering and its acceptance by the public. As an Airstream owner and a member of the WBCCI you represent the largest travel trailer club in the world made up of one make of travel trailer. You will be observed, copied and quoted. We wish you much happiness and fun-filled travels as a WBCCI member.

The picture is of an MBCU rally



near Salinas, CA in 1975



## The Monterey Bay CA Unit-First 50 Caravans

The Monterey Bay California Unit was a very active Unit for most of its life. Although it is no longer an organized WBCCI Unit, it left a lasting legacy. The Sierra Nevada Unit was influenced by that legacy in many ways including its impact on rallies and on being an inclusive and welcoming group. In 1995 a suggestion by MBCU member Dale Leipper to Lloyd Brown started a project of documenting **the first fifty caravans of the Monterey Bay CA Unit**. Lloyd and his wife, Ruth were charter members of the MBCU. This project turned into a booklet that is over 80 pages and includes many examples of original artwork by Lloyd, a self proclaimed amateur artist. These drawings depict highlights of the rallies and caravans described in this booklet. For the first 50 copies of this booklet that were given to Unit members, Lloyd drew the pictures and colored each one individually in each booklet! This booklet is full of interesting information and caravan planning tips. The text of the booklet comes from trip diaries and other documents from various MBCU members.

In the letter Lloyd Brown wrote to Dave Reed, Executive Director of WBCCI, Lloyd said "We believe that our Unit may have an unusually good and interesting caravan history." Lloyd also said, "We are a small but active Unit, holding Rallies every month of the year, And each Rally is well attended by a large percentage of our membership. In our twenty five years this means 300 busy, fun gatherings. This is what keeps Units alive." I think this booklet of the First 50 Caravans of the MBCU fully verifies Lloyd's comments.

Some of the 50 caravans include; 1972 Oregon & Washington Coast. 1974 Mystery Caravan Sequoia area, 1976 British Columbia-Vancouver Island, 1981 Queen Mary - Long Beach, 1984 Jumping Bean - Mexico, 1985 Sub-Sea level Safari, 1988 Grand Ole Opry, 1991 Discovering the Silver State, 1992 Turner Lamb Festival

Here are some comments from a couple of the Caravan diaries.

**1973 -Big Sky Caravan #2** - Don, Bob, Lloyd & Tony made their infamous horseback ride. Hiring a guide & four of his best horses for the eight hour fishing trip to his secret lake in the high country. This was going to be "IT"! They bravely set off in the early morning. Riding for three hours, then fishing for two hours, they somehow managed the three hour ride back to camp. SIX HOURS IN THE SADDLE! Not only did they fail to catch any fish, but they were unable to walk for two days.

**1981 Baja Caravan #15** - Playa del Burro was an almost perfect beach. No improvements of any kind. No water, no electricity, no nothing. But we could pick our own spot and parked right on the sand within a few feet of the water. We bathed in the ocean, we swam, we hiked in the hills, we hired Mexican boats to take us out fishing. We hated to leave and start homeward.

**1991 Silver State Caravan #46** - Departure for the very new Great Basin National Park was at 6:30am. Parking (at Great Basin) was almost impossible and uneven. We all used our leveling boards plus rocks. The Browns & Benjamin were run out of the picnic area by a beautiful but firm (both in mind & body) female ranger with a gun strapped on her belt. It was snowing all this time and our group was divided between two camps miles apart. The only cheerful thing about this visit was being able to see the lone Bristle Cone pine fenced in at the visitors center, With 4 inches of snow the next morning it was decided to cut our stay short and move out of the park

*A copy of this booklet was sent to Dave Reed, Executive Directory of WBCCI. He seemed very impressed and said that it would be on display in the headquarters lobby in Jackson Center. Dave also planned to use some of Lloyd's artwork in the Blue Beret as well as in a special International Rally magazine for the rally in Rapid City. The booklet is truly a unique look at one of the great things about being a member of WBCCI and what being a member of an active Unit is all about.*

