



# Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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## Future SNU Rallies

March – Thursday March 23 - Sunday March 26, 2017 - Lahontan beach 7 structured campground, near Silver Springs, NV

April - Thursday April 20 - Sunday April 23, 2017 - Ft Sage near Doyle

May - Thursday May 18 - Sunday May 21, 2017 Eagle Lake BLM Campground North of Susanville, CA

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 - Thursday 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 near Truckee

November 18, 2017 Saturday - Black Bear Fernley

November, TBA Death Valley Mesquite Campground

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

## February Luncheon Review

Yummy! The SNU lunch at El Aguila was great. This was a new venue for the SNU and I think everyone agrees, we will schedule future luncheons here. Wheels & Doris were great hosts. They greeted everyone at the door. We had a nice big room to ourselves. The food, as you can see from the picture was plentiful and delicious. SNU members who enjoyed this lunch in addition to Wheels & Doris, were Kevin & Sherry, Jerry & Dyann, Anita & Gary, Randy, Diane and new member, Susie. We were missing a few people who were under the weather. The Lemmon Valley contingent almost didn't make it because it had been snowing all morning. We called Wheels and he said it was sunny and no snow in Gardnerville. Sure enough, the weather cleared the further south we got. It was great to meet Susie. She is new to Airstreaming and we are all looking forward to helping her learn about and enjoy her new Airstream. Another enjoyable lunch with good food and good company. Now it's time to start getting the Airstreams ready for the rally season and be ready for the March rally at Lahontan.



## Welcome

The SNU has another new member. Welcome to Susie Brown! Susie lives in Minden. She recently purchased a 2017 Flying Cloud. We are looking forward to her participation in SNU rallies and other activities this year and into the future.

## Rally at Lahontan

Yeah! It's time to de-winterize the Airstream, get out the pink flamingos and solar lights and attend the first rally of 2017. The dates are **Thursday March 23 to Sunday March 26, 2017**. The rally will be at Lahontan beach 7 structured campground at the end of the paved road. The campground has nice paved roads and parking sites. Check the website for more information. This is a great time to renew your Nevada State Park Senior Pass for 2017. We are planning on a Pizza Party for Thursday dinner. The rest of our meals will be the usual, coffee & goodies in the morning, lunch on your own and shared dinners. Be sure and bring wood for campfires. This rally is a great time to check all the systems in your Airstream, to figure out what you forgot to put back in and get ready for the rest of the rally season. See you at Lahontan

2013 rally at Lahontan



## Rally Alert!

With the exceedingly wet winter we have had, the **May rally has been relocated** to the **BLM campground at Eagle Lake** off Hwy 139 north of Susanville. At this time we do not anticipate any other changes in the rally locations. The SNU rally policy is that as long as there are no road restrictions, the rally is on. We may make alterations but we don't cancel. If you plan to attend, it might be a good idea to contact the SNU before heading out. Best bet is to call or text 775 972 9392 as we might not know till we actually arrive at the site what the conditions are. Keep an eye on the Zephyrs blog and the SNU Facebook page as well as we will try to post updates. If anyone planning on attending the rallies gets there before the Thursday arrival day or checks a site out prior to the rally, please contact the SNU and let us know what you find out. Pictures are always helpful and appreciated.

## "The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

### Rally Schedule

Although I have been creating a **one page rally schedule** for years and using it as a handout, it didn't occur to me until a recent conversation with Gary to post it on the website along with the full rally schedule. Gary wanted a copy to put in his Airstream as well as have one at home. Over the years, we have publicized the SNU rally schedule in numerous ways. Don makes sure the schedule is included in the Region 12 online calendar. Rick posted a very nice copy of the schedule on the FaceBook page. The schedule is listed in every SNU newsletter. It is part of the promotional packet we send out. At one time we printed the rally schedule on the back of SNU business cards. We submit the SNU schedule annually to WBCCI for inclusion in the Blue Beret. It is also sent to officers of Region 12. We have used other methods as well & are continually trying new ways to get the word out. Find a copy of the schedule that best suits your needs, mark your calendar and plan to join us sometime in 2017.



## Expanding the Experience

Have you ever wondered about some of the other activities you could participate in as an SNU and WBCCI member? Would you like to know more about WBCCI International Rallies and Caravans? Two current SNU members are probably the most active in WBCCI and other Airstream events outside the SNU. Among their activities **Don & Gail Williams** and **Wheels & Doris Wheeler** have participated on WBCCI caravans, international rallies, region rallies and special event rallies. They are a great resource if you want first hand information from people who have "been there, done that". Don & Gail have attended several WBCCI International rallies, often serving as a delegate for the SNU. They are planning on attending the rally in Escanaba, MI this summer. One of their biggest adventures was the

2014 Alyeska Caravan. There are pictures on the website of some of the special adaptations Don made on their Airstream for the Alyeska Caravan as well as a link to the photos he posted on his FaceBook page. Don & Gail have also participated in a variety of Region and special events rallies as well as rallies of other WBCCI Units. Wheels and Doris have been to WBCCI International rallies including Farmington in 2015. They participated in the WBCCI 2015 Blue Ridge Caravan. The diaries of their adventures on this caravan are posted on the website. Wheels & Doris have attended region rallies and special event rallies. Probably one of the highlights for Wheels and Doris was participation in the Hobo Rally. As it turned out Wheels was chosen as the Hobo King in 2013 and Doris was chosen as the Hobo Queen in 2014. Wheels & Doris are signed up to participate in another WBCCI Caravan this summer. Both the Williams and the Wheelers have been very generous in sharing their experiences with the SNU through pictures, newsletter articles and diaries. This has made it possible for others to learn a little more about the opportunities and enjoyment of participation in the wide variety of activities available to SNU & WBCCI members. Be sure and check the website for photo galleries of **International rallies, Region rallies, Special Event rallies, and Caravans**. We will be looking forward to more pictures and articles from both the Williams and Wheelers 2017 adventures. Whether it's participating in WBCCI activities or personal travels in your Airstream, we hope that you will share your pictures and stories so we can travel along and enjoy your adventures with you.



**Region 12 Newsletter** - **check out the latest news from Region 12.** It includes information on upcoming rallies and a review of the mid-winter IBT meeting.

## Nevada State Parks

Nevada has a lot of great State Parks. The SNU has held rallies at quite a few of them. These include Rye Patch, Lahontan, Ft Churchill, Dayton, and Washoe Lake. We have also toured Buckland Station and held picnics at Spooner Lake. There are several types of Annual permits for NV State parks that offer options for camping and entrance fees. Many SNU members take advantage of the Senior pass that offers unlimited entrance to all parks and use of camping and boat launch facilities in the parks for 12 months. The Parks system



offers a promotional passport for visiting the parks. These passports can be picked up at any Nevada State Park, the headquarters office in Carson City, region headquarters in Fallon and Las Vegas. They can also be found at various local retail sporting goods stores or sent to you by calling the State Parks office. The passports are free and include information and pictures of all the State parks. Visitors who have their booklets stamped at **15 different parks** during a 1 year period, will earn a free annual pass to all Nevada State Parks.



*"The Great Basin  
Airstream  
RV Association"*

WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

## Nevada State Parks - continued

It looks like 2017 is going to be a special year for NV State Parks. There is a Governor's Initiative to **Explore Your Nevada**. One of the things that might be of most interest to the SNU is recent addition of two new parks to the State Park system. One in particular is the Walker River State Recreation Area. The State Parks website says:

*The foundation of the Explore Your Nevada initiative is the unprecedented donation of properties that together will be known as the Walker River State Recreation Area. These three historic properties in west central Nevada will bring in excess of 12,000 acres into public use while providing access to 28 miles of the pristine and picturesque East Walker River for the first time in many, many generations. Together with historic structures and valuable wildlife habitat, what will become four distinct park units – Pitchfork, Rafter 7, Flying M and Nine Mile – are set to offer extraordinary opportunities for camping, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, nature study, outdoor education and, of course, fishing.*

This is in the area close to Sweetwater Summit, one of our favorite rally sites. The **photo gallery of the Lucky Boy Pass** is near the new Walker Lake Recreation Area. We will definitely have to find out more about this recreation area. It could be an excellent SNU rally site. The State Parks website also mentions some upgrades to several parks including Washoe Lake, Ft Churchill, and Rye Patch. The website says Berlin-Icthyosaur will now have pull through camp sites and Wi-Fi. The SNU has considered a rally at Berlin for years but the campsites were too small even for average size Airstreams and there was no group area. Maybe now we can finally consider holding a rally at this park.



Maybe we could highlight Nevada State Parks for our 2018 rally schedule. We could hold rallies at several of the Northern Nevada State parks, including Berlin-Icthyosaur. Maybe we could consider a week long event and visit some of the parks in Eastern Nevada. What do you think? Would you be willing to help out with this? There are lots of possibilities and it could be a lot of fun. Check out **Nevada State Parks on our website** and look through some of the photo galleries. Check out the **correspondence the SNU had with Nevada State Parks** in 2004 and of course, check out the **Nevada State Parks website**,

## The Sierra Nevada Unit - A Personal Story

Since Bryan & I are the only SNU members still active from the the 1990's, it seems like a good idea to pass along some memories of the Unit prior to 2005. Almost all of the **SNU history** was lost in the 1990's, including at least 3 photo albums. We have made an effort to preserve what little was left and share it on the website. We have been building on that history and the website archive since about 2000. It is our belief that by preserving and knowing the history you can build a stronger future. Sharing these personal memories is a part of that effort. Bryan & I joined the SNU in 1995. We are third generation WBCCI members. **The Harrison (our grandparents) and Leipper families** have been members of WBCCI continuously since it's inception in 1955. Bryan & I have been around Airstreams and WBCCI the majority of our lives including attending rallies from the 1950's to the present day. Our first experience with a WBCCI International rally was in **Auburn WA in 1962**. We have attended rallies of several other Units, primarily the Monterey Bay CA Unit. Our professional background is in association management, education, non-profit and volunteer management. It is these experiences that were the major influences in the development of the SNU after 2002.

By the 1990's, the SNU was in a steady state of decline. This was in part due to age and health reasons. It also had to do with the personalities of some key members as well as other factors. The SNU hadn't held a rally for years. The only gatherings were monthly luncheons. Strong personalities were holding on to the way things had always been done and attempts to incorporate changes were met with resistance. New people who showed up at luncheons often left never to be seen again because of the behavior of certain members. These same people, though were the primary reason the SNU still existed. Despite their recalcitrance they maintained the basic functions of a Unit and kept it going in a semi-dormant state. By the end of the 1990's a few new members did become involved in the SNU. Our parent's, Dale & Virginia (#1183) encouraged the SNU to hold a few rallies which they hosted. By 2002 there were new members on the board and changes were in the air. One of these new members became President in 2002. He introduced some changes for a vote at a picnic in 2002. The vote was unanimous for the changes despite vigorous protests from the couple that had been holding the SNU together. Sadly, that precipitated their leaving the SNU. Things at that point pretty much fell apart. There were around 9 paid members, only 3 of which were consistently active including Bryan & I.

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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 on the  
SierraNevada  
Airstreams.org**



## "The Great Basin Airstream RV Association"



### 2017 Eclipse

On August 21, 2017 there will a rare total eclipse of the Sun which will be visible along a narrow path across the USA. This path includes Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nebraska. **Check the Zephyrs blog** for links to various sites with pictures and additional information on the eclipse. Although none of the details have yet been worked out, Randy and Vicki are planning on a trip to see this very special event. If your interested in traveling with Randy & Vicki email [hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org](mailto:hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org)



This picture was taken at a rally at Rocky Point in 2012. Bryan created a solar camera so we could see a partial eclipse of the sun.



## The SNU - A Personal Story

continued

In 2003 when Bryan & I attended a rally in a neighboring Unit, we became aware of just how much rebuilding the SNU would need to do. Although reluctant at first, a few members of this other Unit, talked with us about their experiences with the SNU. Primarily because of the behavior of the SNU members who left in 2002, the SNU was avoided by others. We learned later that this avoidance of the SNU extended to other Units and even the Region. There were also bad feelings on the National level. Nobody wanted anything to do with the SNU, even those leaders who were supposed to assist and support Units. Although the problems were known and apparently long standing, nobody seemed to know how to deal with them. The three active SNU members realized that if things were going to turn around, we would have to do it on our own.

About two months after the picnic, we had to make a decision as to the future of the SNU. The only options offered by the Region leadership were to fold or merge with another Unit, neither of which were acceptable to the three of us. We decided to keep going, at least till the SNU money ran out, and see what happened. That started a period of re-thinking and re-organizing. **Most of this is documented on the website.** A primary motivation was to get back to basics, to the whole purpose of being a Unit. As stated in a description of the SNU reorganization in 2003 we believed that the glue that held us together was the Airstream and that the purpose of an RV club should be outings in the RV. We focused on what being a member of WBCCI is all about as outlined in The Wally Byam Creed and the Four Freedoms. Because of Bryan's and my family history, we knew what it was like to participate in a welcoming, inclusive, and friendly group of Airstreamers and we wanted to share that experience with others. So with the help of the other two active members, we went about trying to develop those concepts with the SNU.

When we decided to keep going, we determined the two priorities were to hold rallies and publish a newsletter. We also began to publish announcements of our activities in local newspapers. There were a few lean years. Rallies were usually just two or three of us. Several times it was just Bryan & I. There were a few luncheons that only included 2 or 3 people. One thing we knew was that consistency and dependability were important. That means when we published an activity schedule, we should stick to even if it was just Bryan & I. Although participation in SNU rallies is more stable now, we still stick to our published schedule and don't cancel regardless of expected attendance. The importance of this became more and more evident as word got out about the SNU. We began to have people show up at rallies with or without their Airstream because they had seen the newsletter or a PSA. We had people come to lunches unannounced. Things began to build. In 2004 we had four Airstreams at a rally at Pyramid Lake, one of which was an Airstreamer who saw the notice in a local paper and just showed up. They joined the SNU. That was the most attendance at an SNU rally since 1996. From 2004 on, things really began to change. The SNU welcomed many new members each year. More people started participating in rallies. Members began to take active roles in governance and in maintaining the basic functions of the Unit.

There are several things that to me most affirm our beliefs in what a Unit should be and the importance of a well defined foundation. These include the solid and growing membership, the tenure of SNU members, the increasing participation of members in the activities and governance of the SNU and the increasing contributions of members in everything from newsletter articles, to hosting rallies and so many other things large and small.

Many of our members who joined from 2004 on are still members today. They are eager to share the SNU experience. They welcome visitors and new members. There have been several instances where visitors have said coming to their first rally made them feel like they were immediately at home with friends, that they felt included from the moment they arrived. As Wally Byam said "To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun, and personal expression." That's what its all about!

Now here we are, having just celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the SNU in 2016. The SNU is very much a stable and solid Unit with a bright future ahead, a future that all SNU members will help shape and carry on.

## Sierra Nevada Unit Business

**SNU Membership** - As of Feb 7, the SNU has 29 paid full members and 4 affiliate members. So far the SNU has gained 4 brand new members for 2017. Best of all, especially in the last few years, people who join are participating more. They are coming to rallies & lunches, sharing ideas, and getting involved in a variety of aspects of the SNU. In addition, some of our longtime members are getting more involved, This all makes for a healthy Unit.

1957 Grandparent's stop by after another WBCCI adventure

