



Sierra Nevada Unit

Wally Byam Caravan Club International

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Future SNU Rallies

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, 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, Gardnerville

Green Creek Rally Review

Beautiful weekend at Green Creek. Much nicer temperatures than in Reno. Our preferred spot was staked out by other campers so after checking some other possibilities, we decided the best bet was close to the creek. We are all friends so being parked a little closer together than usual was no big deal. We were delighted to have Ed & Eileen join us for the rally. They are members of the Iowa Unit and the Four Corners Unit. They were on their way from Southern California to near the Idaho/Canada border. Their dog Jackson is a very friendly big Swiss Mountain dog. He greeted everyone as soon as he got out of the truck. Speaking of dogs, Eric & Terry's dog, Reagan had a medical emergency just before the rally so he came complete with a cone on his head. Friday afternoon we had visitors from the Los Angeles area. Tim & Jeannie were on their maiden trip in their 2018 Serenity FB Airstream. They have had other RV's but this is their 1st Airstream. They had seen that there was a rally at Green Creek and knowing the road, had to drive up and see if we were really there. We had a great visit with them and hopefully we have encouraged them to join a WBCCI Unit.



Our Guests, Ed & Eileen

Friday we had a great shared dinner. We were test subjects for Ed's first effort at cooking a pork roast in the convection oven in their Airstream. It turned out moist and delicious. Ed and Eileen have done some pretty extensive remodeling in their **2009 Flying Cloud**. They took out the dinette and put a couch along the side wall with a table on a single pedestal that can be swiveled around as needed. This configuration really opens up the central space of the trailer. They also completely redid the kitchen area which included installing a larger refrigerator. Eric and Terry had stopped by Doughboy's Donuts on the way to the rally so Saturday morning we had a special treat with our coffee. For brunch Eric fried up some bacon and scrambled some eggs that I had brought with a few extra ingredients. They were all double yolks. Just about hit the spot. Eric had noticed when they arrived at Green Creek that one of his trailer tires was low. He decided to switch it out with the spare, which also needed a little air but was drivable. On the way home from the rally they stopped at a gas station and got air in the tire. We joined Eric & Terry at Jolly Cone in Bridgeport for an ice cream treat. Then we all hit the road.

Sierra Nevada Unit Business

- * Don Williams has come up with some great ideas for SNU 2018 rallies. Get in touch with him and find out how you can help create a rally schedule, add your own ideas and make plans for new adventures. Don and Gail are also willing to lead an SNU caravan to the International Rally in Salem OR in June. This is a great opportunity to travel to and enjoy one of the special rallies of WBCCI.
- * Don't forget 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.
- * Several members have already renewed for 2018. **Go online now to renew your membership** in the SNU. It's easy and quick.
- * The annual form 990 for the SNU has been filed with the IRS and WBCCI.



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Family, friends and visitors

- Over the years, the SNU has had a plethora of non SNU members at it's rallies and luncheons. The majority of SNU activities have included at least one family member, guest or visitor. Sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandkids and even great grandkids are some of the family members who have enjoyed SNU activities. Visitors include members of other units, potential members, neighbors and friends of members, park rangers, camp hosts, neighboring campers, media reporters, and passers-by who stopped to check us out. Many of our family members and visitors have attended several SNU activities. It seems Gene and Carmen top the list as number of family members attending SNU rallies and the number of rallies they have attended. Gene is one of several people who started as a visitor and became a member. Jerry & Dyann have also had a variety of family members at SNU activities over the years. I think it quite evident that the SNU is friendly and welcoming group. This has frequently led to people joining the SNU or supporting the SNU in a variety of ways.



Lassen Rally in September

The annual rally at the Lassen RV Resort is September 21 to the 24th. Please make your reservation with and submit payment to: Randy Grossmann 2345 W. Washington St. Carson City, NV 8973 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. Selection of the sites will be on a first come, first selection basis. This rally will sport an Hawaiian theme with Hawaiian decor. Hawaiian dress would also be appropriate although that is optional. There are a number of special events planned including a lunch and dinner put on by Park owners, Phil and Jasmin. Randy will be making and serving his ever so famous and sought after waffles on Saturday morning. 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. The Resort has a projector and large screen so we are planning on a movie & popcorn night. Anyone who has a recommendation for a movie to show please let us know or you might even bring the movie with you. Movies with Hawaiian themes would be appropriate. There will also be various and sundry displays in the screened-in event structure.



Boondocking

It seems boondocking or off grid camping has different meanings for different people. To some primitive camping or rally sites are those without WiFi and no Starbucks within walking distance. Other descriptions of boondocking include SNU preferred rally sites that utilize dispersed BLM or NFS areas. These sites usually have no facilities whatever, parking is random and hap-hazard, and the nearest amenities are miles away. Occasionally roads to these rally site can be a little challenging. These type boondocking sites include Obsidian Dome and Rocky Point. Then there are NFS, BLM campsites and some State Park areas that have a pit toilet and may or may not have designated parking spots but not much else. Boca Springs, Scout Camp and Crocker fit in this category. Next are NFS or BLM sites that are more structured. These have vault toilets, trash cans, fire pits, tables and accessible water as well as designated parking spots. These include Prosser and Eagle Lake BLM campground. Then you get into "full service" sites. These have gravel or paved roads and designated



level campsites. They include toilets, trash, water, fire pits, tables and even sometimes shade structures and electricity. The Nevada State Parks at Ft Churchill and Washoe Lake and Twin Lakes are examples of these types of rally sites. Granted newer Airstreams are a little heavier, a little wider, and use more ambient power but they are still ideal for off grid camping. Some people seem to have the idea that you need special equipment and extra preparations to boondock. This isn't necessarily true. It depends on what you want to do. If you want to be out in the wilds and live just like you do at home using water and electricity like there is no limit and be totally connected to internet, cell etc, that is one thing. If you are willing to adapt your camping style to accommodate limited resources while still living in total comfort that is another thing. It's all about preferences, planning, and personal choices. The great thing about boondocking with a group is that you can explore places and do things that might be a little intimidating on your own. You can pool resources and share ideas. Most important, enjoy the freedom of being in wide open spaces with beautiful scenery all around you and not another camper in sight never mind so close you can't even put your awing out. **Check the website** for an overview SNU rally sites, a somewhat tongue in cheek description of rally site categories and boondocking, SNU style.

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WBCCI - Sierra Nevada Unit - Newsletter

Williams Travelogue to Escanaba

Don & Gail Williams SNU, WBCCI 1407

East to the Atlantic

Day 1: immediately stop to air up several low tires; 1-1/2 hour construction delay on I-10 near Chiriaco Summit; temps approaching 100F so the Cove RV Park with hookups wins over dispersed camping near Quartzsite; 178-miles.

Day 2: 100 degrees again; abandon the freeway for US-60 & US-70; great burgers and milk shakes at Safford, AZ's Taylor Freeze; final destination is the Lordsburg, NM KOA; 384-miles.

Day 3: NM-9, skirting the Mexican Border for 100 miles; a gem along this route is Pancho Villa State Park; east to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park's KOA like RV/trailer campground; it's higher elevation provides relief from the days heat; 284-miles.

Day 4: change leaky rear street side tire (bad tire pressure sensor); mid morning stop for Carlsbad Cavern's 2-1/2 hour walking tour; stopped late afternoon at La Verde RV Park in Lemesa, TX; 207-miles.

Day 5: tire replaced in Weatherford, Texas - hidden nail and loose metal stem, not bad sensor; overnight at the Shreveport, LA KOA; relaxing day; 504-miles!

Day 6: blast across MS, AL to Georgia; park destination in disarray so camp at the I-20 Rest Area amongst the Semis; 684-miles.

Day 7: final slog to NC; near Myrtle Beach; arrive in Southport at 4:20 pm; 362-miles; East to Atlantic route is 2603 miles in 6-1/2 days.

Work and relax in Southport; find many local seafood restaurants; best crab cakes at the Dead End Saloon and Fish Factory Grille along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Northward to Escanaba

Day 25: NC-87 and US-421 through rural towns, timber, tobacco and other row crop agriculture is evident along the route; our nightly stop is Fancy Gap KOA adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway; 284-miles.

Day 26: US-460 west to the more relaxing Kentucky (Brent T Combs) Mountain Parkway; twists, turns, hills and downgrades but no commercial traffic; we park that night at the Kentucky Horse Park; 312-miles.

We visit with our son Brian and his family, busy with meals out, campsite barbecues, the Minions movie, the Mohammed Ali Center (Ali's boxing career, commitment to his religion and passionate philanthropy throughout the US and World were showcased in the center). We celebrate the Fourth of July on our last day in KY.

Day 34: a relaxing two lane trip through Kentucky and southern Ohio is thwarted by my miscue, becomes the long road to Cincinnati; arrive in Tallmadge and eat supper with my Mom at the Danbury independent/assisted living center; 328-miles.

Tallmadge didn't offer any respite for the weary; puzzles, senior games, visits with resident's and staff at Danbury; church with Mom and trips to la Mexicana Cantina for great food and margaritas (check out the video of my Mom dancing with Santa Claus).

Day 44: head northwesterly on the Ohio Turnpike and a free dump station; continue north through the Michigan Lower Peninsula on I-75 and US-127 to a stop at crowded Wilson State Park and its small campsites; 348-miles.

Day 45: cross the straits of Mackinac to the Upper Peninsula on the historic bridge - 26,372 foot long (just 28 feet short of five miles); a short driving day to Indian Lake State Park; spacious campsites and great views of the lake; 226 miles!

Day 46: shorter day; reach Escanaba in one hour and in 30 minutes we're out of the Bull Pen and parked at the International; 50-miles; Northward to Escanaba route is 1965-miles.

A lot to do and see in Escanaba and at the International Rally: Dober's Pasties, Cherry Lane Ice Cream Shoppe, Delta County Amateur Radio Society, WBCCI Amateur Radio Club, pet show, Unit Flag Ceremony, area tours, cat-calls at Jack Hampel's suit, Airstream Betty, Doug McCraw comedy hypnotist, WBCCI Band, membership seminars, caravan leadership (hopefully more to come on this one), vendor area, tech session, Unit & Region luncheons, pancake breakfast, fish fry, WBCCI Delegate's Meeting, Ansty McClain and the Trailer Park Troubadours, flea market (Ms Gail is next years Chair), inductions of WBCCI President Jim Cocke, officers and next years IBT members, Herford & Hops! **Check the Region 12 newsletter** for more on the Escanaba Rally



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*



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From the archives – Elenere Amidon was a long time SNU member. She joined in 1977, a year after the Unit was chartered. At that time she was the proud owner of a 1977 Airstream. She participated in many WBCCI trips. The most memorable was the Mexican Piggy Back. In her professional life, Elenere was an English teacher. She served a term as Secretary in the SNU and also a term as Unit president. By the mid 1990's Elenere was no longer towing an Airstream but she remained an active participant in SNU events until 2003. Elenere passed away in 2006



Williams Travelogue

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South Not West to Home!

Day 59: instead of west we're headed south back to Southport; we pass through Green Bay, Oshkosh and Madison, WI to avoid traffic and congestion near Chicago; our night's stop is Hickory Hill Campground near Secor, IL; our only diversion all day was a stop at the Seguins of Wisconsin for Extra Sharp Cheddar, Bacon Cheddar and Ghost Pepper Cheddar (careful with this one); 436-miles.

Day 60: freeway route to Georgetown, KY for an evening dinner with our son and his wife; camp again at the KY Horse Park; 521-miles.

Day 61: south on I-75 and exit to follow US-25E through the scenic hills near the Kentucky-Tennessee border; sign in Corbin, KY beckons us to stop at Harland Sanders Café and Museum (think Kentucky Fried Chicken); continue southeasterly towards the Mt. Pisgah Campground near the southern tip of the Blue Ridge Parkway; a local highway shortcut climbs 2250 feet in the last 3.5 miles (~10% grade); wildflowers brightened our pull through campsite in the Blue Ridge; 283-miles.

Day 62: an easy drive through Charlotte ended when the GPS noted a more than an hour back-up; we opt for a two lane route near the SC/NC border; arriving in Southport at 4:30 pm; early enough for dinner at the local Italian restaurant; 400-miles; total South Not West route is 1500 miles in 4 days.

Finally, West to Home

Day 72: we decide to visit my sisters and their families on the way home; a GA KOA is our destination when efforts to stop at two different state parks are again thwarted; SNU parking skills needed for the steeply sloped site at the KOA; 362-miles.

Day 73: freeways dominate our day; we camp at Kentucky Dam Lake State Park in the very western edge of the state; we share the spacious campground with 10 other soles, but the following weekend all 220 sites are sold out for the coming eclipse; 442-miles.

Day 74: avoid the St Louis freeway traffic, head to our MO destination on US-70 and US-65; 560-miles.

I spend a relaxing day watching the prize beef calf judging at the Missouri State Fair (a calf is a full grown steer ~1300#, imagine 10-12 year olds leading their calves in the judging); my bother-in-law's friend and sister's calf take FFA Champion Crossbred, Champion FFA and the Overall Champion Steer at the Market Steer Show; rumor is their steer brought upwards of \$28K in the auction several days later. We head home to hamburgers on the grill (*apropo*) to complete the day; no miles driven by me!

Day 76: west across Kansas through rolling farm; divert north at Lebanon, KS for a photo opt at the Geographical Center of the 48 States; still on the road we dine on Chicken Fried Steak (\$10) at a local Norton, KS diner; eat well and continue 30 minutes to Prairie Dog State Park; 416-miles.

Day 77: US-36 west into Colorado to my sister's home in Denver; her ailing husband, a MD with a broken collar bone, drives us to a local *Avant-garde* Mexican restaurant; 276-miles.

Denver provides two days to visit with family, assemble a barbecue (remember the broken collar-bone), make minor repairs on the trailer and relax.

Day 80; north on I-25 with a nagging idea to camp in Wyoming and witness the Total Eclipse; idea fades in 6 miles of stop and go traffic; we escape west to Rocky Mountain National Park and a great Timber Creek campsite; evening's entertainment is two female moose and young that wandered into the campground to graze and the campfire program featuring Colorado's other national parks and monuments; 107-miles.

Day 81: spend 2 hours at RMNP's easterly Kawuneeche Visitor's Center watching the eclipse with their solar telescope and eclipse glasses; while there a female moose came out to graze in the eclipse twilight, leaving shortly when sunlight resumed. We continue west to Dinosaur National Monument and camp at Green River Campground; 262-miles.

Day 82: the tour of the Dinosaur Quarry and then south to Torrey, UT near Capital Reef National Park for our final night on the road; 254-miles.

Day 83: long slog home, cool through Cedar City; warming to over 100 at St George; dine at the Peggy Sue 50's Diner near Barstow and arrive home after rush hour; 570-miles; Finally West to Home travel is 2950-miles; almost 12 week Escanaba round trip is 9957. **Check out the photo gallery** for more pictures from this trip.

It's great to be home!

