

## President's Letter

HELLO, FROM SNU  
PRESIDENT GENE  
BALEME



MARIO'S PORTOFINO  
RISTORANTE FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT  
JACK & LYNDI



SNU HISTORY  
MOUNTAIN FAMILY RV

# AIRSTREAMER



## President's Letter

A little about your new president; I started camping with airstream people in the 80s with tents and tent trailers. In 2007 when I married Carmen we bought our first Airstream, a 1975 named "Pepsi". Pepsi is part of my family and we treat her as one. Sometimes we camp in Pepsi parked at our home as a getaway. As a kid I was always hiking and exploring. Well I still am. Airstreams fit me like a glove. I do my own repairs and upgrades. As a group "we" can fix many issues and advise members on the best actions to take. By supporting each other we build a stronger club and bond with each other. Ask me if you have questions on electrical, mechanical issues or storage.

Hello Sierra  
Nevada Unit  
Airstreamers

For more info on the Sierra Nevada Unit go to: [www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/](http://www.sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/) , Sierra Nevada Unit of the WBCCI on Facebook or email us at: [snu157@wbcci.net](mailto:snu157@wbcci.net) . (all photos courtesy of sierranevadaairstreams.org )

Bring your questions to luncheons or rallies as we can put our heads together giving ideas. Trouble shooting and maintenance becomes less daunting when you know where to start. We are a diverse group living life on our own terms.

Regards, Gene and Carmen.

## Mario's Portofino Ristorante for the Holidays, Dec 15th

The Sierra Nevada Unit would like to invite its members and friends to our **Christmas, Hanukah and Holiday dinner, Sunday December 15th at Mario's Portofino; 5:00 PM sharp!** This is our second year at Mario's Portofino, located at 1505 South Virginia Street on the historic US-395 route through Reno, NV.

To quote Mario's webpage: "Ciao! Welcome to Mario's Portofino Ristorante Italiano! Serving Reno's most authentic Northern Italian Cuisine and home to Chef Roberto's "almost famous" Limoncello! Voted by locals as Reno's BEST Restaurant! BEST Italian Restaurant! BEST place for business lunch! & BEST Chef! 3 years in a row!!"

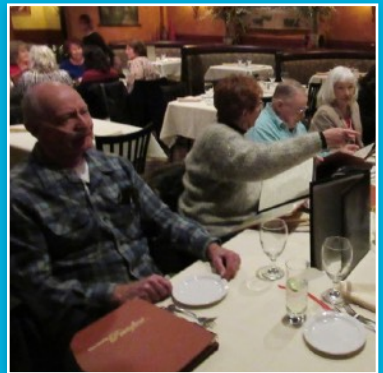
This is a pay-your-own-way dinner but don't fret, Portofino's menu includes a wide variety of Italian food with prices from \$15 to \$24 for most items. Want to splurge on seafood, beef or lamb? Most are from the \$30s to market prices. You can find their menu at: <https://mariosportofino.com/menus-wines/>, select the 'Dinner Menu' button. Mario's includes a bar stocked with world class wines for those that partake.

**Make your reservation by Sunday, December 8th** with our Member Chair Don Williams, 951.264.0219 or kd6uvt@wbcci.net

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Jack & Lyndi Schroeder # 2572**  
(first in what is hoped to be a string of articles showcasing our members)

We are Jack and Lyndi from Reno—married for 45 mostly glorious years! We are traveling and adventuring these days in a 25 foot Flying Cloud we call "Blue Skies". We went straight from tents to Airstream. This one is our 3rd. We used to have a 22 foot Safari and before that a vintage 16 foot Bambi II. Every year on New Year's Day we sit down with maps and lists and crazy ideas. We have lots of fun together! We try to take our Airstream out for a

### *Mario's Portofino Ristorante Italiano*





week every month (skipping winter) and pick a place to really explore for one month in spring or fall—often with longtime friends from Virginia. They bring a cat and we bring two dogs!

Sierra Nevada Unit members and friends, the Schroeder's have set the bar high, planning their travels on January 1st. You can get a jump on them with the 2020 SNU Calendar. Reserve time for one of the SNU, Region and WBCCI rallies now.



Jack & Lyndi Airstreaming in Style

## **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

### **WBCCI/WBAC SNU MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - now through December**

“YES, WE ARE STILL GROWING!” Thanks to all our new and renewing members; we are at 18 full members and 2 affiliates. Please thank and acknowledge our most recent renewals: Reyna & Brian Borg #6403 and Vickie & Randy Grossman #3352. There is still time for our past members and SNU friends to join us and renew. Yes it's still \$75 total, \$65 for the International Wally Byam Airstream Club and \$10 for the SNU. Renew at: <https://airstreamclub.org>, select the Current or Future Member pulldown menu and definitely select the SNU, Unit #157 as your home unit!

**SNU Mario's Portofino Ristorante Christmas/Hanukah/Holiday Dinner - Sunday, December 15th at 5:00PM.**

**SNU Bavarian World Luncheon in the New Year - Saturday, January 18th, 2020, 11:30AM** - 595 Valley Blvd, Reno. look for confirmation of the Bavarian World, exact time to be determined.

**SNU Black Bear Diner Luncheon - Saturday, February 22nd, 2020, 11:30AM** - shifted to miss President's Day Weekend. Make plans to join us at Black Bear Diner at 1190 E Main St Unit B, Fernley, NV.

**SNU Flash Rally - Weather Permitting - Saturday, March 26th to Sunday March 29th** - We're hoping the always changing spring Reno area weather allows you to get away for our first rally of the year; got any ideas, Fort Churchill or another close location?

**Loveland 2020 international Rally - Saturday June 20th to Saturday 27th, 2020 - The Ranch, Loveland, CO** - the beautifully groomed and expansive 240 acres of land that comprise The Ranch will provide parking and space for outdoor activities, with the Rocky Mountains providing a stunning backdrop to the West. Find out more and register here: <https://loveland.airstreamclub.net>.

## **CALENDAR of EVENTS cont'd**

**Region 12 Emerald Dunes Rally - Wednesday October 21st to Sunday the 25th - Emerald Dunes RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA** - The San Diego Airstream Club will host the region's annual rally at the Emerald Dunes RV Resort. The venue will include great food, relaxation (an SNU favorite) and local venues for golfing (Joan & John take note), the Palm Springs Aerial Tram that takes you from near sea level to cool forests at 8516 ft in the San Jacinto Mountains, nearby Joshua Tree National Park, Salton Sea, Desert Hills Premium Outlets (discount mall) and more. The region rallies give you a chance to talk with other Airstreamers and get ideas for your own adventures! Let get a contingent of members and host a **SNU Caravan South** for Emerald Dunes. Stay tuned here or at [airstreamclub.org](http://airstreamclub.org) for more info.

Want to know more, check out our 2020 SNU Rally Calendar or go interactive and select Sierra Nevada Unit in the 'club' pull down menu on the Wally Byam Airstream Club Events pages: <https://airstreamclub.org/events>.

## **On to more Sierra Nevada News**

**The Christmas and Holiday Airstream Gift Requests & Ideas was a bust!** No one wanted anything Airstream related for the holidays, no ideas were sent in and Gail wouldn't let me add 5 pages of mine!

Look for a new **Open House Picture Gallery** next month. I am accepting photo submittals from our members for anything Airstream related. **PLEASE SUBMIT**

## **Sierra Nevada Unit History - Airstream Sales and Service in Northern Nevada**

For just about 3 years, there was an Airstream Dealer in Reno.

The SNU discovered this when Mountain Family RV brought a brand new Airstream to the SNU 2005 rally at Boca Springs. He didn't know us at all but he left the Airstream at our rally overnight along with brochures and other stuff so that we could check out the Airstream; follow the link for rally and campground photos at Boca Springs, a mile or two above the Boca Rest Campground.

<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/05ma-bocasprings/gallery.html>



Several future SNU members bought their Airstreams from Mountain Family. That includes the Grossmann's and the Haskett's as well as others. Leaving the Airstream with us overnight also paid off in that a few months later the Thornburgs traded in their Airstream and bought a brand new one from Mountain Family.

About a year later at the SNU rally at Walker River Resort, the Jeppson's showed up and ended up joining the SNU. Their Airstream looked very familiar. We realized it was the one Mountain Family had brought to Boca Springs.

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The SNU participated in the first three open houses held by Mountain Family; <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/memories/rallies/06jn-mfrv-openhouse/gallery.html> . We set up a display booth at all three events. This included displaying the Diorama of an SNU rally that Randy and Vicki had created. They also brought cookies shaped like Airstreams made with a cookie cutter made by Wes Warn. At one of the open houses, Jerry did a presentation on repairs and remodeling.

Rich Luhr and Richard Charpentier from Airstream Life Magazine were at the 2006 open house. Rich, his wife Eleanor and their daughter were full timing it while writing and managing Airstream Life magazine on the road. Richard would later publish the "Airstream Chronicles Podcast".

— Diane Leipper

### Members and Writers

We really want to showcase your Airstream story; restorations, repairs travel, maintenance, rally locations or anything related. You write it and send in a photo for our new **Member Spotlight**; we'll publish it. Maybe your article will be accepted for the Blue Beret and you'll have the satisfaction of contributing to your club's history as other members have. Contact your Airstreamer Editor soon to make the next issue!

### Wally Byam's Creed:

- ◆To place the great wide world at your doorstep for you who yearn to travel with all the comforts of home.
- ◆To provide a more satisfying, meaningful way of travel that offers complete travel independence, wherever and whenever you choose to go or stay.
- ◆To keep alive and make real an enduring promise of high adventure and faraway lands... of rediscovering old places and new interests.
- ◆To open a whole world of new experiences... a new dimension in enjoyment where travel adventure and good fellowship are your constant companions.
- ◆To encourage clubs and rallies that provide an endless source of friendships, travel fun and personal expressions.
- ◆To lead caravans wherever the four winds blow... over twinkling boulevards, across trackless deserts... to the traveled and untraveled corners of the earth.
- ◆To play some part in promoting international goodwill and understanding among the peoples of the world through person-to-person contact.
- ◆To refine and perfect our product by continuous travel-testing over the highways and byways of the world.
- ◆To strive endlessly to stir the venturesome spirit that moves you to follow a rainbow to its end... and thus make your travel dreams come true.

Wally Byam

Don Williams, Newsletter Editor, [kd6uvt@wbcci.net](mailto:kd6uvt@wbcci.net)

What do you want to be in life, a spectator or a participant?

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