

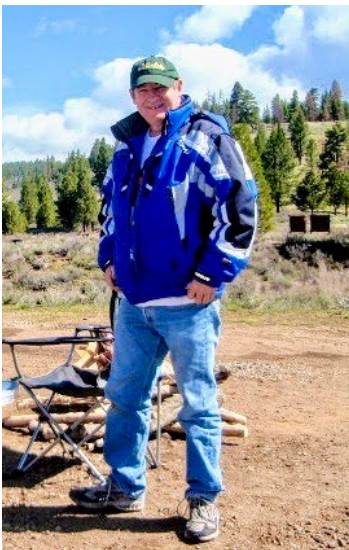
OUR
COMMON
ENEMY:
COVID-19



**Polar
Bear
Safari**

AIRSTREAMER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Gene is still out of the area enjoying a visit to family property in the Philippines. Last word was they were relocating to the family farm property where they are fairly self sufficient so the Editor will put "words in his mouth" for the president's letter!

No word on whether the COVID-19 outbreak will affect our plans to return in time for the May Rally. By now our members know that Nevada followed the actions of other states in requiring social distancing and closing its state campgrounds so:

~~"It's the Start of Rally Season!!"~~ NOT!

The good news is our April rally was to find us at Boca Rest, just 10 miles or so easterly of Truckee, California. Since California has closed all its state park campgrounds and requested that the National Forest campgrounds be closed we are locked out again. We have also been informed that Rye Patch Recreational Area, where we anticipated hosting our May rally is closed until further notice. The SNU Board was polled and we decided to keep Rye Patch on the schedule with the hope of announcing we would host it as a Flash Rally should the closure be lifted in time. That holds for our June Rally at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park (NV) or Hickison Petroglyphs Recreation Area (BLM) also. Come

out and join us for the first rally of the year, when we finally get released from home seclusion. We'll exchange stories, do walk around inspection of each others trailers and answer questions on maintenance, prep for the Airstream travel season and places to camp and travel. Find out more on page 2. Gene

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - NO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH

NO MEMBER MATERIAL RECEIVED !! Help your Editor out and send me a couple of paragraphs and photos of your Airstream lifestyle! Otherwise I might repeat some of mine!

BOCA REST RALLY, APRIL 16TH - 19TH - CANCELLED

Great plans can be fraught with problem. Boca Rest has been a popular site for early and late season Sierra Nevada Unit rallies. Boca Reservoir is less than 30 miles from downtown Reno, Interstate 80 is well maintained if we're surprised by a snowstorm and while it's often off season and closed, we've been able to drive in and camp along the lake although all restrooms and water are locked off. Our 2019 Fall rally was disrupted by our then president's turnaround and trip back east for a family emergency; now here in 2020 a virus 60 - 90 NM (120 trillion would fit in one square inch) will disrupt our plans for Spring. We are not alone; almost all Wally Byam Airstream Club unit rallies extended into Summer are cancelled, your Editor's participation in the "Taste of the Blue Ridge" caravan in May and June was cancelled, the Wally Byam Airstream Club Loveland 2020 International Rally cancelled. When will it end? It depends upon the what states

Sierra Nevada Unit Board

- **Gene Baleme**, *president*
- **Dyann McDonald Thornburg**, *secretary*
- **Gail Williams**, *treasurer*
- **Jerry Thornburg**, *trustee*
- **Randy Grossman**, *trustee*
- **Don Williams**, *membership chair & newsletter editor*

open up for group activities and our ability to cross other states to get there. You'll be the first to know when the Sierra Nevada Unit is able to rally and celebrate.

The National Forest Service has closed most if not all campgrounds in California, Boca Rest included. Airstream units and clubs that rely on campgrounds and RV Parks with hookups and services will be competing against the masses when everyone flees their home base to celebrate in the wild or attractive tourist areas. Your SNU Board will work hard to find one of our many out of the way rally sites that escape the attention of many, even it means boon docking (Oh My)!

Calendar of Events

WBCCI/WBAC SNU Membership

Realized it's 2020 and you forgot to renew; welcome to the club! However, the SNU will welcome you back. We also invite our many SNU friends to join us. Don't fret that the SNU mostly boondocks; we'll help you through it and provide solid advice. Yes membership is still \$75 total, \$65 for the Wally Byam Airstream Club and \$10 for the SNU, Renew or Join at: <https://airstreamclub.org>, select the Current or Future Member pulldown menu and definitely select the SNU, Unit #157 as your home unit!

SNU Boca Rest Rally - Saturday, April 16th to Sunday the 19th - Boca Rest CANCELLED.

SNU Rye Patch - Thursday, May 14th to Sunday the 17th - Rye Patch is tentatively CANCELLED, However stay tuned for a **Flash Rally if the notice to stay home and group restrictions are lifted.**

SNU Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park (NV) or Hickison Petroglyphs Recreation Area (BLM) - Thursday, June 11th to Sunday the 14th - Rye Patch is tentatively CANCELLED.

Loveland 2020 international Rally - Saturday, June 20th to Saturday the 27th, 2020 - The Ranch, Loveland, CO - CANCELLED

SNU Weed Heights Nevada Surf & Turf - Thursday, July 16th to Sunday the 19th - Summer should bring freedom, celebrate at the SNU Weed Heights Rally and Jerry Thornburg's Nevada Surf & Turf.

LASSEN RV RESORT RALLY - Thursday September 17th to Sunday the 20th - The Lassen RV Resort rally is a perennial favorite. Luckily, it is the next to the last rally of the year so it perhaps has a reasonable chance of not having to be cancelled.

Late Breaking News

Phil and Jasmin have sold the Lassen RV Resort to Ben and Danelle Jansen who are from Denver. Based on my phone conversation with Ben, it appears to me that they will be quite good to work with during our rally there this September. If the virus situation allows I would like to make a preliminary trip to meet them. Ben says that he intends to make further enhancements to the Resort beyond the enhancements that Phil and Jasmin made while keeping the wooded wilderness theme with all of the typical RV park amenities, hookups and services.

Phil and Jasmin now live in McArthur and are helping the Jansens get established. They will certainly be missed but will probably be around during our September rally.

Randy Grossmann #3352

Region 12 Emerald Dunes Rally - Wednesday, October 21st to Sunday, the 25th - Emerald Dunes RV Resort, Palm Desert, CA - The San Diego Airstream Club is hosting the region's annual rally at the Emerald Dunes RV Resort. The rally is still on the schedule with the hope that California and other states will be open for normal life. Region President Cecelia Stansbury will keep us up to date on the rally planing, activities and a go / no-go! Gail and your Editor have stayed at the Emerald Dunes using it as a kick off for the annual Palm Springs Modernism Week and the Vintage Trailer Show. We can vouch that the Dunes 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 8500 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 for more info.

SNU August through December - Want to know more, check out our 2020 SNU Rally Calendar or go to the Wally Byam Airstream Club Events pages: <https://airstreamclub.org/events>.

FORT CHURCHILL RALLY REPORT

Okay, we all missed the Fort Churchill Rally this year but we can take a virtual tour of the historic structures, nearby Buckland Station, the Carson River, picnic area and the shaded campground at the Nevada State Park website: <http://parks.nv.gov/parks/fort-churchill> . Follow the link, scroll down and spend six and a half minutes learning more about your state park.; use Google ChromeCast and you can stream it to your TV (not tow vehicle) for a big screen premiere.

THE POLAR BEAR SAFARI - Bob & Nancy Kirksey #12486

When Nancy and I purchased our 2001 Airstream, we received a copy of the Blue Beret featuring an article on the "Polar Bear Safari" (Caravan). Inspired, we joined the WBCCI and signed up for the caravan. On September 10 ,2001 we met others in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the beginning of the Caravan. The next morning on September 11th news broke of the terrorist attack and the nearby airport became silent. Soon calls came in from families pleading for all the Caravanners to come home. We all agreed to go on as planned to our destination in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada on the Hudson Bay. We are glad we did as the caravan was fantastic and we did see polar bears.

Last November the Blue Beret featured an article about an updated Caravan for 2020 to see the "Northern Lights and Polar Bears". If you are interested, we encourage you to inquire about the Caravan which was so memorable and fun for us. The new leaders are from Canada and have chosen to improve the route which will now start in

Fort Churchill State Historic Park



Canada. This will add some interesting changes to the Caravan. Attached are photos of the bears we saw up close. At a future Rally will bring along others and information about the Caravan.

We have great memories of this Caravan which was the start of our future Caravan experiences. The new leaders will add a new dimension as

more time will be in Canada. We can give you more details when we meet again. We encourage people interested in an adventure to sign up.

MEMBERS & WRITERS

Your Editor is begging! We really want to showcase your Airstream story; last year, five years ago, restorations, repairs travel, maintenance, rally locations or anything related. Write an article, your bio and send in photos for our Member Spotlight or Picture Gallery; we'll publish it.

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

DREAMS OF RALLIES NEAR AND FAR



April Boca Rest Rally - CANCELLED



May Rye Patch Rally - MAYBE



June Berlin-Ichthyosuar Rally - HOPEFULLY

July Weed Heights - Jerry's NV Surf & Turf >>



Don Williams, Newsletter Editor, kd6uvt@wbcci.net — "What do you want to be in life, a spectator or a participant?"