

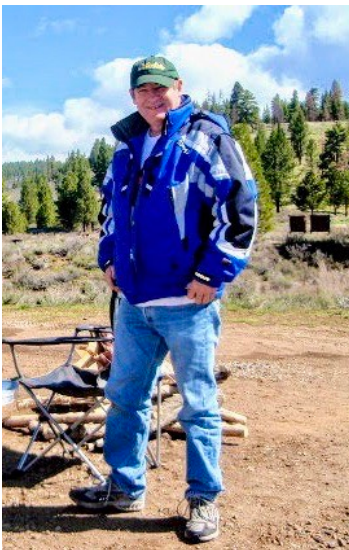


**MARCH RALLY TIME  
FORT CHURCHILL STATE**



**MEMBER  
SPOTLIGHT  
WHEELS & DORIS  
WHEELER  
#3436**

# AIRSTREAMER



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Gene is out of the area enjoying a visit to family property in the Philippines. As I understand it the family has farm property out in the country on roads somewhat like we have found for some of our past Sierra Nevada Unit rallies at dispersed sites. With farm property it may be as much work as pleasure, but I know he would say to our members:

**“IT’S THE START OF RALLY SEASON!!”**

The good news is our first rally of the year takes us on paved roads all the way to the campground. Come out and join us on the weekend of March 27th at our **Fort Churchill State Historic Park Rally** located just 50 miles from downtown Reno (Disclaimer - your distance may vary, see Google Maps or another mapping program for more accurate numbers). Come out and join us for the first rally of the year. 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.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - WHEELS & DORIS WHEELER

This month's member spotlight recognizes Richard (Wheels) and Doris Wheeler, but it's with sadness that we report that Wheels passed away on February 27, 2020.



Wheels and Doris have been long time members and supporters of the Sierra Nevada Unit. They joined the Unit in 2006 and quickly adapted to the SNU's boon docking and dry camping style.

Wheels was an airplane buff, stemming from his years in the US Air Force. He continued to enjoy the hobby at fly-ins and as a member of the Civil Air Patrol. Airplanes weren't his only passion, he and Doris put many miles on their Airstream criss crossing the US visiting family, camping, attending rallies, International Rallies and WBCCI caravans. Wheels and Doris named their trailer long before Airstream developed its naming program; theirs was the "Silver State Spirit", easy to spot with its pink racing flamingos on each side.

### **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**

Wheels blended his two hobbies when he helped coordinate our SNU rally at the 2009 Lion County Fly-In at the Silver Springs Airport. Wheels, Bryan Leipper, Jerry Thornburg and others helped with parking, pancake breakfast and helped prepare goodie packages for the pilots flying in. Wheels continued to support the Sierra Nevada Unit writing articles for the Airstreamer - 2008 Unintended Dry Camping & 2012 Winter Travel, sharing rally reports, travel photos, diaries and developing travel checklists - Personal Packing, Clothes, Departure, Arrival and Winterizing, for both the newly initiated trailer traveler and those of us who occasionally forget.

I think it was 2008 at our November Death Valley Rally when we found that Doris had a gift she had kept hidden from us, she disclosed that she was a country music singer in her youth and brought out a guitar to serenade us in the evening around the camp fire. Her music drew a fellow camper to walk down with his banjo and ask if he could join us.

Well no good deed goes unpunished and for their support we supported them and elected Wheels as SNU president in 2013 and 2014. Least I forget, Wheels was crowned Hobo King at the 2013 Hobo Rally in Blythe, California; Doris was crowned 2014 Hobo Queen at the final Hobo Rally held. In the last few years Wheels and Doris's health limited some of their travels for rallies and caravans but the desire to continue in the Airstream lifestyle burned strong. Wheels was a straight shooter, always telling you what he thought but respecting your opinions. Please offer your thoughts and prayers for Doris and his family.

Wheels' services are set for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the First Presbyterian Church, 115 N. Division St., Carson City (corner of Musser and Division). Come out and thank Doris and Wheel's family for their contribution to our SNU history.

You can read more about Wheels and Doris' contribution to the Sierra Nevada Unit on our SNU Memorial page for Wheels, found at: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/snu-history/memorial/wheels/wheels.html>.

### **FORT CHURCHILL RALLY, MARCH 26TH - 29TH**

All Sierra Nevada Unit members and friends are invited to our 1st rally if the year at Fort Churchill historic State Park.

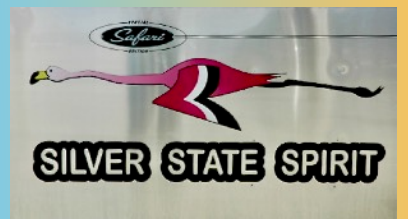
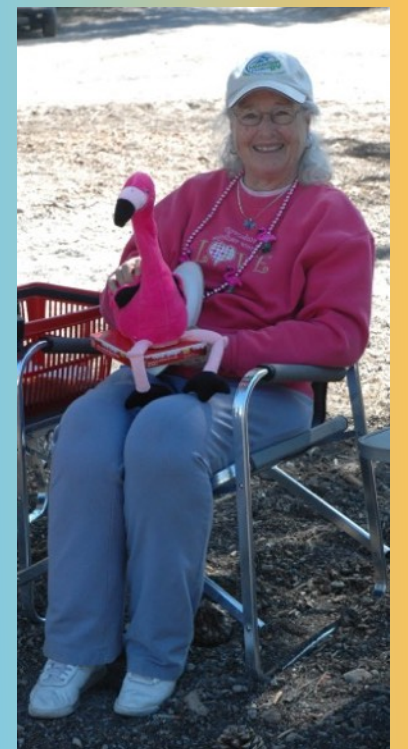
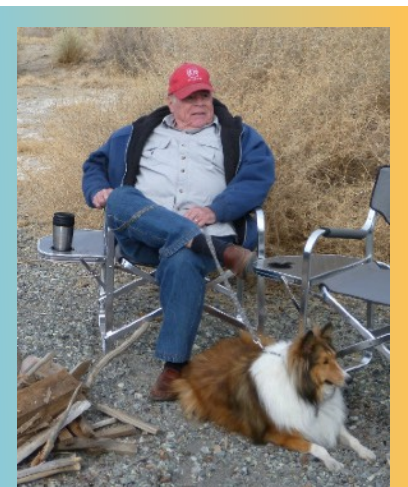
Fort Churchill is located 9 miles south of Silver Springs, NV on US-95. We'll camp in the main Samuel Bucklands Campground. Enter the park and drive past the historic structures to the turnoff into the campground. We'll celebrate the return of rally season with our shared pot luck meals, stories true and embellished and tips for newcomers. Can't make Thursday through Sunday, then come out and visit on the days you have available. We'll waive our typical \$5 per day Kitty Kall donation in deference to the park entrance and camping fees of \$5 and \$15 per day respectively. Note that camping Nevada Parks offers several great yearly discount plans for seniors and out of staters alike. **RSVP with SNU Membership Chair Don Williams, 951.264.0219 or kd6uvt@wbcci.net.**

### **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, they prorate by quarters but at \$10/year for the SNU, we don't. 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 Fort Churchill Rally - Weather Permitting - Saturday, March 26th to Sunday the 29th** - Come out and enjoy the start of rally season.





**SNU Boca Rest Rally - Saturday, April 16th to Sunday the 19th** - Boca Rest is a great location for early or late in the season, only 38 miles from Reno, NV just east of Truckee?

**SNU Rye Patch - Thursday, May 14th to Sunday the 17th** - We are returning to Rye Patch one month later this year.

**Loveland 2020 international Rally - Saturday, June 20th to Saturday the 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>.

**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 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](http://airstreamclub.org) for more info.

**SNU June through December** - 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>.

## **BLACK BEAR LUNCHEON REPORT**

We had a fantastic group of SNU members at the luncheon on February 22, 2020. Attendees were Gary and Anita Haskett, Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, Bryan Leipper and one of our newest members, Cate Bryson. It was great to meet Cate and learn about her rigs, experiences and renovation plans for one of her Airstreams. We sincerely hope to be seeing her at some of our future rallies and luncheons. Also attending were Jerry and Dyann's granddaughter, Cailyn and her husband Brad.

It was wonderful to see Bryan Leipper at this luncheon. He had back surgery done a while ago and is now able to get around a lot better. We missed seeing Diane there though, she had just undergone knee surgery a few days before the luncheon. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her at the first SNU 2020 Rally at Ft. Churchill in March.

The restaurant apparently had a water leak happen in the kitchen right before we arrived so it was discussed going to a different location. At first they told us it was going to be a couple of hours before the repairs could be completed but it ended up only being about 20 minutes so we stayed and of course the food was as great as it has always been. At lunch, we talked about upcoming rallies and plans for future adventures. We were all excited to start the new rally season with the first one being just a month away and getting our Airstreams ready.

It turned out to be a superb luncheon with good friends and family.

## **MEMBERS AND WRITERS**

We really want to showcase your Airstream story; 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. 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. It's appropriate to acknowledge Region 12 and Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club member Dennis Pall's article National Park Wind Trip on page 12 in the March Blue Beret. It can happen for you too, contact your Airstreamer Editor soon to make our 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.

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)

Fort Churchill State Historic Park



- ◆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



**April Boca Rest Rally**



**May Rye Patch Rally**



**June Berlin-Ichthyosuar Rally**

**Weed Heights -Jerry's NV Surf & Turf —>>>**



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

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

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 )