

SIERRA NEVADA UNIT, WBCCI

JULY 2002 *Airstreamers* NEWSLETTER



AUGUST RALLY AT DAVIS CREEK PARK

In the shade of the stately pine trees of Davis Creek Park, looking across Washoe Valley to the originally scheduled location for this Rally, we were comfortably able to approve of the change of venue. The Leipper family provided the familiar background of Airstream RVs, other prevented by equipment problems and prior engagements. The Leippers were joined by the Herseys for the Friday@5 happy-hour for fellowship, discussion, and snacking. Many of the world's problems, and a few of our own were cussed & discussed. Saturday at midday, Leippers were joined by Elenere Amidon, Don & Mary Lou Damoth, Fred & Ann Hersey, and Charlene Fannin, who came in response to one of our news releases, in her 1995 Airstream Moterhome, and accompanied by her parents. The Pot-Luck was lucky indeed as culinary delights filled the picnic table and then were decimated by the assembled appetites.

WBCCI-SNU MINUTES, SAT AUG 17 MEETING AT DAVIS CREEK PARK RALLY

Meeting called to order, 1:15, quorum present.

Members present, Fred & Ann Hersey, Bryan & Diane Leipper, Dale & Virginia Leipper, Don & Mary Lou Damoth, and Elenere Amidon.

Proposed bylaws amendments distributed to members.

To be voted on at October meeting. Changes are needed to allow the board requirements to accommodate the limited availability of potential officers.

Announcements. Search of Sec of State's files does not show SNU to be listed as non-profit org, nor corporation.

Appointments. Mary Lou Damoth appointed as Nominations Chair by Pres. Hersey.

Preliminary slate of officers, *to conform to proposed bylaws changes*, Pres- Fred Hersey, Secretary-Diane Leipper, Treasurer-Ann Hersey *Needed, two trustees*. (Without changes we will need 2 VPs, and 5 trustees.)

Motion by Bryan Leipper, to initially schedule four Friday-to-Sunday Rallies at locations with unstructured parking, with alternative dates to accommodate uncooperative weather. Motion Passed. Unanimous.

Bryan Leipper suggested that we use SNU treasury funds to reserve group camping areas well in advance, as needed, Also that we issue invitations to other Units to join us at the four rallies. Appropriate turnout for these rallies should provide revenues to replenish the coffers. (Nothing ventured...)

September Meeting Sep 12 meeting will be at Leippers' in Lemmon Valley. We plan to finalize the rally dates, as well as nominations for 2003. Discussion of bylaws changes as needed.

October Meeting Oct 16, By-laws Amendment vote, Election of Officers.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05pm.

"In the Limelight"

Wally Byam , Chapter 2

Wally Byam never practiced law; perhaps he would never be happy in such a constrained profession. Instead, he found work in the rapidly growing advertising business, first as a copywriter for the Los Angeles Times and then as the owner of his own agency. He apparently did well in advertising, but soon switched to the opposite side of the street and became a publisher of magazines.

One of them published an article that described plans for the construction of a travel trailer. When readers began complaining about the plans, Wally tried them out and found himself agreeing with his readers -- they didn't work. Thereupon, he set out to build his own model. And while he considered the finished product primitive, it was widely admired and sold immediately.

An article in his magazine describing how to build this improved trailer for less than \$100 drew an enthusiastic response, and Byam began selling sets of plans for five dollars. Soon, in response to demand, he was building improved versions of his trailer in his backyard in Los Angeles.

Sales were good. Wally's great innovation was to drop the floor down between the wheels, allowing him to raise the ceiling, making it possible for the campers to stand up straight when inside the trailer. Americans were beginning to take to the roads in greater and greater numbers, and Wally's new trailer was a hit. The fledgling business survived the crash of 1929, and by 1930 Byam had abandoned law, advertising and publishing to become a full-time trailer manufacturer.



Those first trailers were built of plywood, but adding amenities like chemical toilets, ice boxes, gasoline stoves and water pumps. The trailers began to take on a more "aerodynamic" look as Byam utilized aircraft construction methods in order to lessen wind resistance and improve the strength-to-weight ratio of his trailers.

(To be continued)

Coming Events: September 12, 2002

Barbeque at Leipper's in Lemmon Valley north of Reno. Contact Diane Leipper, at 972-9392.

October 16, Pinon Plaza, Highway 50 East, Carson City, 11:30. (Free lunch for Keith McGill.) Business meeting, Bylaws Amendments, and Elections.

November 14, Liberty Bell, South Virginia Street, Reno.

Leippers suggest a November Rally at Lahontan. Suggestions welcome.

December 15, Meeting at Airport Plaza, or maybe Tamarack Junction?

The Second Copy of the newsletter is for use in recruiting potential members by putting it in their hand while talking to them. We hope you will find it useful. If you see an Airstream and can't find the owner, tape one to the door.

