

MEET NEW MEMBERS JANET & MICHAEL KIDD, FIND OUT WHERE THEY MET YOUR EDITOR IN ON-THE-ROAD DURING COVID

AIRSTREAMER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Hello all,

I tried something I will share with you all. I know it's not safe to pull up to a gas pump with the pilot light running on the refrigerator and it's a pain to stop before the pump and shut down the refrigerator then restart it after leaving. I also want to reduce propane use but keep a cold refrigerator while travelling. So I'm doing some experimenting.

I found my 2 year old frig must have pure sign wave power so I installed a 600 watt/ 1200 peak inverter next to my battery. I ran an AC cord from it to the frig. I found the ac draw was 430watt, 3.6 amp and DC 19 to 30 amps. My solar panels gives 10 amp traveling down the road and my truck charge line gives the rest. I tried this out on the last rally and it works very well. My batteries are not big enough to last more than 4 hours by themselves and are needed for everything else boondocking so remembering to turn the inverter off when I get to my camp site is a must. My inverter has a remote power switch that I can mount anywhere. I have been thinking about a timer, photo cell and other ways to turn the inverter off when I forget but that will be something for next year.

I enjoyed the last rally and the peace we all need in these trying times. Be safe and stay active.

Regards, Gene and Carmen

PANDEMIC & RALLIES

As most know the pandemic has played havoc with the rally schedule this past year. A majority of the scheduled rallies were canceled. The few that were able to be held turned out to be a nice break from self isolation. The size of the SNU is one of our advantages, we can contact members and make changes as needed. One major constraint is the mandates from state officials.

We as individuals and members need to try and stay positive. The pandemic has and will continue to be a roadblock. How long this will be is an unknown. I think patience is the key word. I want to use this down time to make changes and upgrades to my unit. Some will take longer than a few days, some require more than one person.

Some members have had medical issues that are being addressed and the downtime is proving to be a help. Whatever the reason for staying home is up to the individual. I know it is questionable to pay the yearly dues; my take is I will pay and take a look see at what the pandemic does. If and when the restrictions get lifted our rig and us will be ready to go.

Be patient and positive that we will get back to normal.

Jerry Thornburg, SNU Trustee

2021 SNU ELECTIONS

The Sierra Nevada Unit Board has worked hard to keep our member engaged with the club at a time when we can't join together in comradely. We now need your help in filling vacant positions for next year's officers and Board. Gene Baleme, Gail Williams and Jerry Thornburg have agreed to run again for their current positions as President, Treasurer and Trustee however the club needs volunteers for the Secretary and the second Trustee positions. These positions require very little work; the Secretary may at times get correspondence at the club's email snu157@wbcci.net, the Trustee may be asked to assist with rally or luncheon planning and all officers and board members (and members) are encouraged to write an article or two for the newsletter during any given year. Volunteer and help your club move past COVID into a successful year. The Sierra Nevada Unit will hold its elections sometime in December via email and possibly a Zoom Annual Meeting. Reply to the club's email if you are willing to serve.

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*
- ***all links clickable***

Member Spotlight

2021 WBCCI memberships and renewals for the Sierra Nevada Unit are picking up; among them are new members **Kim and Bryan England #5317** from Sparks, NV, **Janet & Michael Kidd #7490** and affiliate members **Tom & Teresa Tighe #3662** of Orcutt, CA. Please also welcome renewing members Diane and Bryan #772, Anita #1193, Lyndi & Jack #2572, Dyann & Jerry #2797, Dean #2916, Kathy & Eugene #4462, Ginny & John #4872, Susie #5701, Jennifer and Brian #6376, Cary & Mark #6977, Nancy & Bob #12486, Gail & Don #14207 and Carmen and Gene #15229.



WBCCI Membership Renewal

While many have been recognized for joining or renewing for 2021, it's "**Tag Your It**" for the rest of our members and friends, **Remember to Renew**! Go to **airstreamclub.org** and follow the Join Now link on the page.

SNU Suspends Luncheons for November and December

The Sierra Nevada Unit typically holds luncheons during the Winter months, however given the current Nevada limits on groups in restaurants and the results of our informal member survey, no in-person luncheons are planned at this time. Look for an online pop-up or flash-mob event, most likely using the video conferencing app Zoom.

October's Lahontan Rally

It was encouraging after all these months of self quarantine that the Sierra Nevada Unit held a fairly well attended rally, even if social distancing was needed. One of our newest Sierra Nevada members, the Swirsky's had planned to come but couldn't make it (you were missed) however six members with 7 rigs enjoyed their time at Lahontan. We were surprised to see Mark Seasholtz arrive. Although he was there just one night it was great to catch up with him. Also great as usual to catch up with Bob and Nancy from SoCal. Absolutely perfect fall weather. Even though there were more campers than we have ever run into out there, we all did get sites in close proximity except for John and Joan who arrived first and were way down near the entrance. They had the unfortunate experience of having a giant 5th wheel on both sides of them, neither of whom apparently knew where the off switch was on their generators. We had a great shared dinner on Friday and a pizza party on Saturday. Icing on the cake would have been if Don and Gail could have been there.



Diane Leipper & your editor

20 YEARS AGO - http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/news/archives/00nv-nwsltr.pdf

Our November 2000 Unit Newsletter reported on Halloween (it's hard to think about public holidays during our COVID response). It may have been memorable to Dale Grosch (pres) because of the three ladies that rang the bell with shot glasses in their hands giggling; He assumed that they had been well treated at earlier Trick or Treat stops. The successful brown bag picnic at the Bowers Mansion was noted with only moderate winds and temps for October. Election results were reported (ours have been delayed) as were two birthdays, one to a current member. Happy belated birthday to Diane Leipper!

10 YEARS AGO - http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2010/10news/10nv-snu-nwsltr.pdf

To play on words from last month, the 2010 November Airstreamer reported on a great October rally at another favorite rally site, Lahontan. At least 6 rigs were in attendance although Gene and Carmen's extended family overflowed into the Leipper's empty B van! One member, not in attendance, commented they were, "a little surprised to see the SNU holding a rally in a rather civilized location"! Rally weather at Lahontan was reported as mild until Sunday departure when the wind kicked up and warnings were posted.

An extra November Rally was showcased for Death Valley NP. As a current side note, the campground is currently open during these COVID times but access is from the south on Scotty's Castle Road or from the west on a 70 mile long meandering and washboard dirt/ desert route, Death Valley & Ubehebe Crater Roads. NV-267 from US-95 is still closed until all repairs and reconstruction of Scotty's Castle are complete, expected by the end of 2021.

Don & Gail Williams reported on pent-up-desire (for Airstreaming) and their Southern Fall Holiday to destinations in: Southport, NC; Charleston, SC and Savanna, GA. They were headed to Disney World's Fort Wilderness Campground with other southern destinations to follow at press time. Lastly, it was noted that five SNU rally photos had recently graced the October 2010 cover of the WBCCI Blue Beret; small clubs can make a difference in a large organization, courtesy of ex oficial SNU Historian Diane Leipper!








SNU Members On-the-Road III During COVID

Gail and Don resumed their COVID travels in a single rig caravan "west" headed home. Their hopes for one or two 15 minute visits with Don's Mom in Ohio were dashed by the resurgence of COVID and elimination of visits to senior living facilities. Their stop to visit son Brian and grandsons in KY was deferred till another time. Brian and the boys had braved travel to the North Carolina coast weeks earlier to visit and enjoy fresh seafood (outdoor and socially distanced dining). The oldest grandson has since joined the Army and is in Basic Training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC.

The Williams did make one stop in Charolette, NC on their journey west; WBCCI/Airstream friends George and Pam Beckwith, had upgraded the DC electrical system on their almost new 31' Classic and offered the solar panels (270 watts), charge controller, 1000w inverter and 60A converter to get it all out of their garage. It was well worth the extra 200 miles plus the diversions using older US highways lead them through the southern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the scenic Lookout Mountain/Chattanooga West KOA in Trenton, GA. The owner laughed when Gail said straight faced (she was masked) that her husband wondered if he had to get special permission to build the KOA so far from a freeway (you couldn't hear it); the setting was beautiful and one could hear the train whistle in the distance (maybe steam tourist railroad) but not the train.

Our member's travels were not without incident; the "Engine" error code light in their truck was coming on frequently It had been intermittent in past years, but now was causing the engine to go into limp mode, barely making freeway speeds, especially on hills; it was getting worse! Of course it was now occurring as they drive into the fringe of Hurricane Zeta in Mississippi. The trouble was related to the MAP or Mass Air Pressure sensor. Don had installed what we'll call a Banks Engineering hot rod package and tuner years ago at 95,000 miles. Now with over 233,000 miles on the truck, the wiring harness for the tuner has started to breakdown and shorting out. They were able to find a dry place to stop, unplug the tuner and restore their truck to good health; no problems after that!

Zeta's rains throughout their travels were mild but affected their planned stop at Patch of Heaven Farms (Harvest Hosts) in Raymond, MS. Owner Mark said that their RV parking was on an exposed ridge and he didn't recommend stopping because of the expected winds from Zeta. Our couple found another Harvest Host, Landry Vineyards, outside of West Monroe, LA, 100 miles farther west. While not a downpour, Zeta unleashed steady rain as our couple parked next to another Airstream in the dark. Don observed another Airstream parking for the night while walking the dogs hours later. Dawn found the area dry with a beautiful sunrise over the wooded hills and vineyards and time to meet these other Airstreamers. The latecomers, a young couple from TX were returning from the SC coast and a learning vacation with their daughter (online classes for her grade school). The other couple were a surprise, Janet & Michael Kidd #7490; Don asked where they are from and if they are members of the WBCCI. They replied they had recently moved from the San Diego area to Northern California and had joined the Sierra unit or something. Don put two and two together and introduced himself as "their" Sierra Nevada Unit membership chair! What a surprising and unplanned coincidence almost 2000 miles from the SNU's home base in Nevada!







Uneventful would describe the rest of the caravan west, nice weather, mostly sunshine and stops in Texas for camping on I-20. Our couples last night was spent at Gilbert Ray Campground in Tuscon Mountain Park where the clouds and setting sun made for a specular sunset. Two other Airstreams were parked nearby and at least one more in another loop; "We're Everywhere!"

2021 WBCCI International Rally in Lebanon, Tennessee Registration is Open

It's Time for Family – Fun – Music in Lebanon, Tennessee

Registration is now OPEN for the 64th Annual Wally Byam Airstream Club International Rally in Lebanon, Tennessee. The Rally is set for July 17 to July 24, 2021.

Join us in the beautiful city of Lebanon, Tennessee, located in Wilson County. Only 30 minutes east of Nashville with a ton of amazing things to do in the area. Here you will find friendly faces, historical places, endless shopping, diverse dining, distilleries, wineries, beautiful lakes, state parks, and outdoor adventure, just to name a few.

Rally fees are $265 per RV on-site with 30 amp electric, water, and pump-out. $125 per adult, $40 for youth 13 to 17 and kids under 12 are free. Keep an eye out for more information Sign up today to reserve your spot by visiting airstreamclub.org/Lebanon.

Hope to see you there!
Andrew Selking
International President

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