the Airstreamer

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President's Letter

Greetings from Region 12 Rally in Las Vegas!



We started our trip to Las Vegas via 395, camping at Silver Lake (June Lake) campground for a few nights and then on to Crowley Lake BLM campground for 4 nights. I'm not going to lie, it was a little chilly - but we still managed to do some leaf-peeping, hiking, and kayaking. We're enjoying the warmer weather in LV and will report back on the Region 12 rally in the next newsletter.

We will be having our Annual Business Meeting at our next Nov/Dec luncheon (dates/location tbd), with a follow-up online. We pride ourselves on an "easy, low hassle" camping style and board member requirements. We will be contacting folks for help with 2027 duties (continuation from 2026 and/or new roles). We have a candidate for treasurer (Thanks, Tom!) and president (I'll stay on 1 more year as allowed in the SNU by-laws). We're always looking for help with newsletter (Don has carried this one for many years !!!), secretary (basically record/take notes of our 1 annual meeting), trustees (review the books etc once/year, rally selection/host), webmaster, and membership.

We are working on filling in the calendar for 2027 rallies. We have the group site at the Twin Lakes Crag's Campground scheduled for August! FINALLY, we were able to reserve Crag's; it's booked 12 months out and the only time available fit neatly with our August rally dates (Sunday, August 22-Wednesday, August 25). We'll work our final rally for 2027 around the Region 12 Rally is in Napa, CA, October 6-10. Great opportunity to get 'over the hill' and explore the area...and maybe tack on an SNU rally on the California coast?

For 2027, I'm asking you, as members, to fill in the rally sites with places you want to visit - with the caveat that campgrounds will be scheduled if there is a "Host" willing to be there. Brian & I are out of the country May/June, but plenty of members are around to enjoy these perfect-weather camping months! We'll work on September & October, but need help with March - July! I believe we have the first 2027 luncheon/dinner hosts identified..dates tbd. Our goal is to have the rally location proposals ready by the end of November - to be reviewed at the luncheon/board meeting. Help me out!

For some of you (us included), we'll be winterizing soon...hope to see you a the next luncheon rally! *<Check the hints for helping you winterize in the Airstream Stories column. - editor>*

Cheers, Jeni

Holiday Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting, Dec 9th



The Sierra Nevada Unit will host a Holiday Luncheon Wednesday, December 9th at a yet to be selected restaurant in Truckee, Ca. Members not in attendance may participate in the Annual Business Meeting using Zoom computer and mobile apps. Please put the 9th on your calendar and stay tuned for the exact time, venue.and Zoom credentials needed to participate.

SNU Membership News

We'd like to acknowledge and thank our renewing members: David & Wendy Besancon #6123, Susanville, CA, Susie Brown #5701, Minden, NV; Tom & Kitsie Larkin 1292, Nevada City, CA; Tom & Teresa Tighe #3662 of Sparks, NV; Kim & Ellen Sterrett #6049 of Auburn, CA.

More News Bill and Mary Swirsky took some time off without the Argosy to relax in Hawaii. Selling their Sinclair (DINO) Station earlier this year must have freed up the time although their holiday activity is somewhat subdued. Bill broke his hip a few weeks ago but even with the hardship, they are enjoying the holiday with his ADA perks. Bill reports that his new titanium hip *<what no aluminum - editor>* is healing well.

Jeni Root

Introducing New Members Brent & Alisan Hastey, WBCCI #5436, Plumas Lake, CA



Alisan and I are newbies to the RV world. We have owned houseboats for a long time, but never an RV. About a year ago, our daughter's family bought an RV and invited us along. We used RVshare to rent two Airstreams: a 16' Basecamp and a 22' Bambi Sport. We knew we wanted a little more room, and I was sure I wanted tandem axles.

We found a 2015 23D that fits our needs for now and will fit in all the national parks. I bought it less than five minutes from Vinnies, so instead of bringing it home, I took it straight there for a full check-up and a few upgrades. We added a 3" lift and a 300Ah Epoch battery. We hope to do plenty of boondocking.



Last week we took it out for its maiden voyage to Schoolhouse

2026 Sierra Nevada Unit Officers & Board Members

Executive Board:
President: Jenifer Root
Treasurer: Gail Williams
Secretary: Susan Andersen
Trustee: Jerry Thornburg
Trustee: Bill Swirsky
Past President: Brian Root

Appointed Positions:
Historian: Diane Leipper
Membership Chair: Jenifer Root
Newsletter Editor: Don Williams
Webmaster: Bill Swirsky



Campground near Camptonville. It is a wonderful campground, and we highly recommend it. It was our first boondocking trip, and so far, so good.

We plan to take many local trips with our family. We also want to take longer trips to the national parks, starting in the Southwest and maybe adding the East Coast later.

We hope to attend some rallies. We are signed up for Northern California's September Clio Rally in 2027 and want to add more. One big reason we bought an Airstream was the incredible community. We look forward to meeting many new friends.

Brent and Alisan Hastey

Introducing Returning Members Dave & Wendy Besancon, WBCCI #6123, Susanville, CA



Dave and Wendy Besancon hail from Susanville, CA. David grew up in Los Angeles County, Wendy in Susanville. Their paths crossed later in life and they were married November 21, 2024. By the end of the month, they were embarking on Dave's lifetime dream of traveling the United States and checking off some bucket list sites and visiting relatives; Wendy fully on board!

When asked how this dream came about, Dave said the Army sent him to the Sierra Army Depot. He spent the rest of his working life, 26 years, at the prison in Lassen County. Work gave him plenty of time to think about what to do, where to go, and how to do it once he retired. Now retired, they leased their house (putting belongings in storage) and hit the road in a 25' 2017 International Signature RB Airstream. Coming up on 2 years, they have enjoyed crossing the country and still have the spark to visit more places, as was evident when they described past travels and future goals (Yosemite, included).



The have been to Boston, MA to reunite with old relatives and meet new relations, eaten lobster in Maine, visited Wendy's family in Alabama, stopped by Chiricahua State Park in AZ (recognized as the 64th National Park October 20, 2026) where Wendy's great-grandfather homesteaded and is mentioned in the historical displays, they drove thru Yellowstone but only saw 1 very old buffalo (it's on their list to go back and spend time there) and Minnesota, to name a few highlights. Texas and Southern California are also places they have spent some time. Dave and Wendy rallied with us at Crowley Lake campground, stopped overnight at Stovepipe Wells (Death Valley) - making 4 days their longest boondocking experience (they seemed like pros to us!) and then joined the festivities at the Region 12 Rally in Las Vegas. Next they are heading to the Palm Springs area for the winter.



Both have different travel preferences as all couples do - Dave prefers shorter stays and nice resort style amenities, Wendy loves the quiet, dark skies, and more isolated campgrounds. Luckily, there are all the options in this great country and they are certainly enjoying their time and travels together.

Jeni Root

PS - If you ever get a chance, try one of Wendy's homemade pies - baked from scratch in their airstream. Impressive accomplishment, but even better are the tasty results!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!



Just a gentle reminder to all members, especially those whose memberships expire on December 31st, ***IT'S TIME TO RENEW!*** Easy peasy, just log on to the airstreamclub.org website with your credentials (login name and password) and follow the banners or menus to renew your full Sierra Nevada Unit (#157) and affiliate memberships for 2027.



AND FROM OUR HISTORIAN - *BY DIANE LEIPPER #772*

Mealtime Weather

The SNU has had morning coffee, lunches and dinners in some challenging weather. Since our favorite rally sites don't include a club house or often even a shelter of some sort, we have gotten creative. One thing for certain is that we have never let a little weather interfere with our social time.





A few examples of the ways we have dealt with weather include bundling up to enjoy morning coffee after a snow storm such as at at Fort Sage and at Boca Rest. Evenings we abandon eating dinner outside and retreated to our Airstreams. Then each of us carried our meal contributions around to everyone's Airstream so we all got samples of the various dishes. This happened several times including twice at Washoe Lake and once at Ft Sage rallies.



We had many a dinner under the shelter of awnings during rain showers. Since we didn't have cast iron dinnerware, we hung on to our plates on a very windy evening at Death Valley.

We have had a couple of dinners in the moonlight and built a barricade with vehicles to block the wind at Ft Sage. We've dealt with

bugs on occasion, including at Ft Churchill. Many a time when we decided it was just better to eat in comfort, we would pile into Jerry and Dyann's 1995 Land Yacht. Their Airstream was our unofficial mobile club house and a nice retreat from whatever the weather was outside.



Weather is just part of the rally experience. We had said early on that as long as the roads to the site were open, we would not cancel a rally. Then whatever happened while we were there, we would just deal with it. It was a chance to test options and ideas. Weather provided a lot of stories and a lot of great memories.

* Check this link for further information. All About SNU Rallies https://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/rally-docs/index.htmlAirstream



Club Blue Beret Blog

October President's Corner

No new posts from Millie nor on the Blue Beret Blog

Airstream Inc. Airstream Stories

Quite a few new posts in Airstream Stories. Some are obviously marketing but at least one tells an important story.

- Airstream Travel Trailer: Powered vs. Manual Options
- Basecamp: The Weekend Escape Machine
- Livability Features: How to Choose Your Perfect Airstream
- Interstate 19GT/19GTX: Your Daily Driver and Your Weekend Getaway
- Interstate 19X: How Adventure Travelers Can Pack More and Explore Further
- Time in Nature Is the Prescription We All Need
- Caravell: the Art of Traveling Light
- Atlas: Travelers Are Choosing Capabilities over Capacity

<Given the changing seasons this story deserved more than link. An outline of steps is included here but make sure to follow the link and your Owner's Manual to prep for Winter. - editor>

- *Airstream Guide: To the Off-Season*



Keeping your trailer or touring coach in top condition during the off-season isn't just about maintenance—it's about making sure you can hit the road quickly and confidently when camping season returns. A little preparation now pays off later, helping protect your investment, prevent avoidable issues, and ensure your next adventure starts without delay.

When winterization season arrives, owners in northern climates need to prepare their trailer or touring coach before temperatures drop below freezing. October tends to be when most Airstreamers in these areas go through the process. You can always have a dealer handle the details, but with the right tools, it's a straightforward job to tackle yourself. And you'll likely learn a little more about your Airstream as you go.

- Why, when and best ways to





winterize.



  - ✳ Drain and Flush;
  - ✳Using an Air Compressor;
  - ✳Using RV Antifreeze;
  - ✳Beyond the Water System.
- Battery Storage.
- Final Steps.

Your Airstream is now ready for winter. The process may seem daunting at first, but once you learn it, winterizing becomes a straightforward routine that protects your investment for years to come. Additional details can be found in the Maintenance section of your Owner's Manual. *<Credit: text and photos for Airstream Stories from Airstream.com, Facebook and other sources - editor>*

<P.S. many of us near the coast and southern climes are able to avoid the stress and just drain, flush, refill and restock; keeping our rigs ready for somewhat winter camping - editor>

October Crowley Lake Rally Report



The Crowley Lake BLM Campground sits on the eastern flank of the Sierra mountains, at the base of McGee Creek. There are no trees; I would not recommend camping there in the summer - too hot; but perfect in September/October, when we want more sun for both solar and warmth! At 7000' in elevation, the days were warm and the nights



on the chilly side (I believe we dipped down below freezing in the wee hours). There was fog bank a couple of mornings, but burned off pretty quickly.

Besides camping with our SNU friends, the highlight included the incredible viewing of the full, humongous, moon rising over the snow-capped White Mountains while reflecting off Crowley Lake. Pictures do not do it justice - we were in full AWE mode! The evening alpine glow of pinks, blues, and purples added to the magnificence.



Of course, we were able to explore the Sierra canyons, from 7000' up to 10,250'. The aspens were in full yellow at lower elevations, loosing color and leaves the higher up we went. Cottonwoods, willows, and water birch wore brilliant yellow coats and willows and rabbit bush filled in the ground colors. We visited Convict Lake, McGee Creek Canyon, and Rock Creek Canyon. All beautiful and all different, with many campgrounds noted (all closed by Sunday).



A kayaking trip on Crowley lake (we beat the "closed for the season" lockout by 15 minutes) allowed us to FINALLY see the infamous Crowley Columns. Formed by a hydrothermal convection process within the freshly deposited volcanic ash over 750,000 years ago (where was Mr Geology, aka Kim Sterrett, when I needed him??); these are visually available only when the water levels are low. An estimated 5000 columns exist in a few square miles. The columns are unlike anything I've ever seen and highly recommend! We also spotted a peregrine falcon resting on a cliff, 2 bald eagles, and 3 blue herons (who did not like us getting near to their shoreline resting spots).

Another side trip took us driving on the Owens Gorge Road (mostly good gravel) to the Benton Crossing road - plenty of boondocking opportunities once you pass the dam! Checked out a nice campground across from Tom's Place, "Tuff Campground", great sites in the 2nd and 3rd sections - also closed for the season on Sunday. The trip reminded us we need to explore Benton Hot Springs as a future rally site! < *Mary Swirsky might be our expert here - editor*> Not cheap, but nothing better than hot springs in cooler weather seasons!



Tom & Kitsie Larkin were able to visit Tom's Place (sadly, not family-related) and Wendy & Dave Besancon were able to take a side trip to Mammoth (with a stop at Schatt's Bakery). It was great having the 3 trailers all lined up on the upper road - these campsites are well-spaced. Brian & I joked that if we were in Europe, you'd get 20 rigs between each of us. We ate well, of course, with Larkin soup, Wendy's pies & Besancon steak, and Root neighbor-harvested pig sausage & homemade ice cream. The cold temps made for early evenings!

How did the Airstreams fair? Well, about 10pm, we suddenly lost all power. After 4 nights of boondocking, our batteries said 'enough' and Brian had to start up the generator. Just not enough sun at the correct angle to recharge. We had 2 nights until we had electric hookups and that single charge sufficed. Of course, that cold weather led one little mouse to visit our trailer in the middle of the night, finding some pretzel bags (they make a lot of noise at 2am). It would be a few evenings until he went to mouse heaven. Another trailer topped up on propane, but all in all, success!

Take a look at the rally pictures, google "Crowley Columns", and put this little easy-access campground on your list to visit if traveling up/ down 395 and need a place to land for a night or two.

Region 12 Rally Teaser



Three couples represented the Sierra Nevada Unit at the just ended Region 12 Rally in Lost Wages err, Las Vegas; Jeni & Brian Root, Kitsie & Tom Larkin and Wendy & Dave Besancon.

Our SNU "Let's Flamingle" charity basket elicited a $250 donation, not the top but you'll have to wait until our December edition to find out more about the goings on at the spooky rally on Halloween weekend!

Plan for the Region 12 Rally in 2027; October 6th - 10th, **Napa Valley Exposition RV Park**

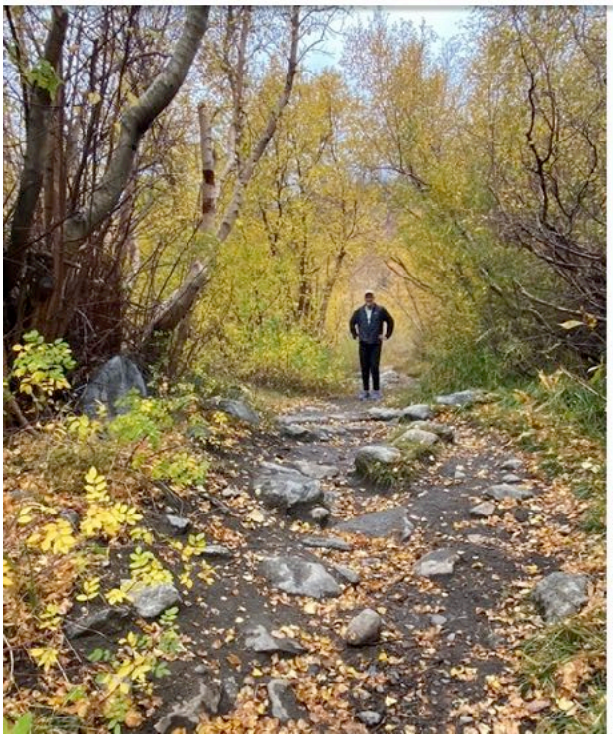



Crowley Lake
CAMPGROUND









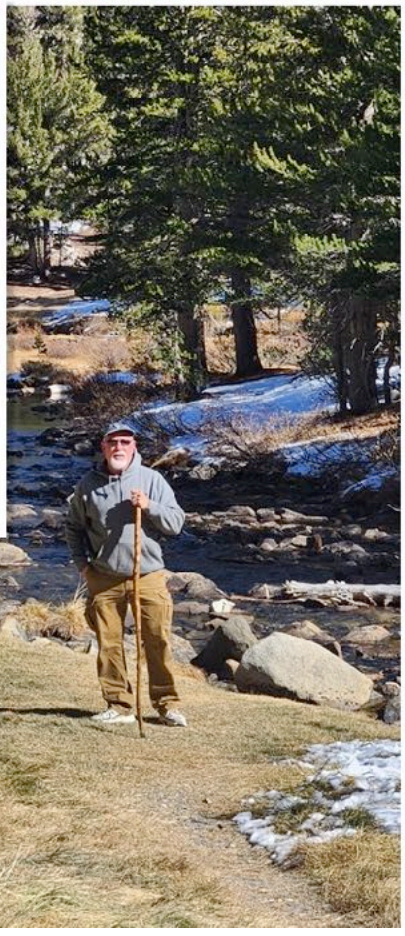


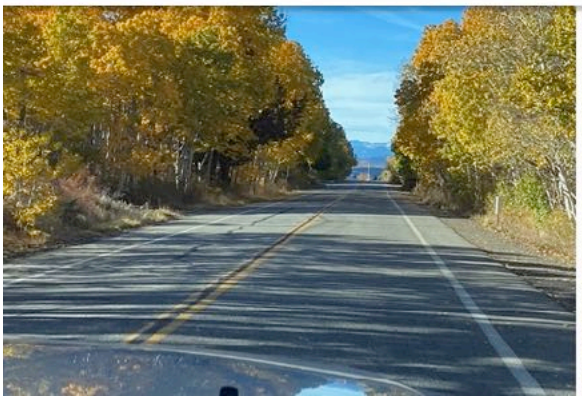












Mealtime Weather



Rye Patch 2005 – cold blustery lunch





Washoe Lake 2005 snow, wind and cold while BBQing dinner



Ft Sage 2008 morning coffee after a snow storm

2008 Sweetwater can we finish dinner before it rains?



Pyramid Lake 2008 another near miss for dinner



Death Valley 2010 Pat checking the wind speed. Dinner by moonlight





Boca Rest 2014 & 2017 morning coffee snow showers





Rocky Point 2010 dinner during a rain shower

Ft Sage 2011 another rainy dinner



Ft Sage 2013 Using vehicles to block the wind



Ft Churchill 2025 The ranger provided netting to keep the bugs out.





2012 one of many dinners in Jerry & Dyann's Airstreams