



San Diego 'Streamers

A monthly newsletter for the members and friends
of the San Diego CA unit of the Wally Byam Caravan Club—
the 'Streamers'!

June 2009



WBCCI
San Diego Unit
President
Joe Thomas

Irene and Bob Strause
San Diego Airstream Members for Life

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Baseball fans have their Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Football fans have their Hall in Canton. But where is the Hall of Fame for San Diego Airstream fans? We need a place to go to acknowledge our heroes and charter members. But, until we have a facility, you might want to begin by thinking of just *who* deserves a place there. No one is more deserving than Bob Strause!

If you attended the 2009 June Picnic at Joe Thomas' house, you were lucky enough to witness Don Snyder's official presentation of a San Diego Life Membership badge to Bob and Irene. Bob Strauss was one of the first San Diegans in the early 1960s to be caught in the spell of Airstream magic and helped lay the foundation of the club that we all enjoy today.

Originally from Oakpark, Illinois, Bob earned a teaching credential from the University of Denver and a Masters in Physics from Stanford. He then taught at Mira Costa College for 35 years. Summer vacations provided the perfect time for family trips.

Bob started Airstreaming back in 1961 with the first wife Annie and their four kids. The children got real life lessons in geography and history as they crisscrossed the country over the following years. On one of their first big trips, they headed to Seattle to attend the 1962 World's Fair and International WBCCI Rally. Among the many rallies and caravans they enjoyed, they traveled to Detroit, Michigan and Lake Placid, New York.

After the death of Bob's first wife, he married Irene in 1980. Among the trips she took, she fondly remembered a full summer's trip up and through Canada, down the East Coast and across the southern route home.

Bob is a living history lesson on the San Diego Unit. He remembers the days before San Diego had its own chapter. The headquarters was in Orange County but San Diego never saw a penny of the funds collected. That was remedied when Helen Byam Swanborn presented San Diego with its own charter in November 1960 at San Clemente.

Bob became the sixth president in 1966. He was responsible for the unit to incorporate into a separate non-profit social club under the laws of California. That relieved the officers of the club from personal liability they would otherwise face; however, a later president "disincorporated" the unit in favor of a closer connection with WBCCI.

One of the big differences between then and now is that things were much less bureaucratic. Bob recalled that, if something needed to be done, you simply called the responsible party and took care of it. Problem solved!

In those early days, the club enjoyed a much larger membership than it has today. Bob remembered that there were about 150 members with 50 to 60 rigs showing up regularly for rallies. Instead of individuals signing up to host, it was necessary to have a committee to organize the weekend. There was even a youth director for all the children in the club.

He reminisced about the places that the early club members camped. They ranged from mobile home parks, Del Mar Fairgrounds, a cow pasture in Imperial Valley and Orange County Fairgrounds.

Some things about the club have not changed. People then, as now, experience the camaraderie that comes from shared experiences like getting lost, having flat tires or dead batteries and the like. Getting together to compare helpful hints, quick fixes on the challenges of travelers strengthened the bond of solidarity. Bob shared several funny stories from the past. Colorful characters, fun-loving and mischievous, sprinkled the membership then as now.

These days Bob's Airstream is enjoying a well deserved retirement parked in his back yard. His last Airstream was purchased in the mid 1980s from the mayor of La Mesa. Although they don't take trips anymore, they keep it fully stocked in case of emergency. The lifetime of memories keep the Airstream magic alive at the Strause household. Thank you, Bob and Irene, for setting the example for the rest of us to follow. Welcome to our Hall of Fame.

August Rally

President Joe Thomas recently sent an e-mail regarding the upcoming **August 2009 Rally** at **William Heise Park** in Julian. The dates are Thursday August 13th through Sunday August 16th. Currently there is only one site available (#18). So if you are interested, you better claim it soon! The link is on the unit website under the Rally tab. This is a No Host Rally and all meals will be on your own except the Saturday luncheon.

If you are not camping but would like to **attend the luncheon**, plan on being there at **noon** on **Saturday August 15th**. Since the temperature will be warm, it is suggested to have a cold menu (green salads, pasta salad, fruit salad, tuna salad, deli meats and cheese for sandwiches and ice cream for dessert)

Joe asked to let him know if you are attending. Then he will get a list going for the potluck and a sign up sheet to have a good variety of food. His e-mail is joanky27@cox.net.



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**Check out their website for Woody's "Tips
and Tricks" for RVers**

San Diego Unit to Host 2010 Region 12 Rally

The San Diego WBCCI Unit has agreed to host the Region 12 Rally in 2010. The dates are **October 14th through 18th, 2010** at the **Golden Village Palms RV Resort** in **Hemet, CA**. It is not too soon to start planning!

By the 2009 October Region Rally we need to have some plans organized. First is the theme of the Rally. We are asking everyone to try to think of a theme that we can use to attract members. Perhaps a catchy phrase to include local attractions, the name of the city or RV park.

Joe will be conferring with this year's host and emailing more information about volunteers for chairpersons for various committees. Although the challenge is big, we believe our unit is up for it. We will make this one of the BEST Region 12 Rallies ever!



July Anniversaries

Lorraine & Bob Shelley	July 4
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July Birthdays

Alan Schuler	July 1
Jo Ann Gutierrez	July 4
Nadine Boldrick	July 18
Terry Scherkenbach	July 28
Karen Trulson	July 28

*A perfect summer day is when
the sun is shining, the breeze is
blowing, the birds are singing,
and the lawn mower is broken.*

~James Dent

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2010 Rally Schedule

Date	Location	Hosts
Jan 15—17	Oak Creek	Campanella/Reifman
Feb 1-7	HOBO RALLY	
March 19-21	Guajome	Thomas/ Snyder
April 16– 18	Pinzanita	Nichols/Smith
May 14-16	Vail Lake	<i>host needed</i>
June 16	Picnic	Blacklocks
July	WBCCI INTERNATIONAL WYOMING	
August 20-22	Woods Valley	<i>hosts needed</i>
Sept 17-19	Long Beach	Crawford
Oct 14-18	REGION 12 RALLY (HEMET)	San Diego Unit
Nov 19-21	Santee Lakes	<i>hosts needed</i>
Dec 17-19	Chula Vista	Blacklocks

Upcoming Rallies for 2008/09

Visit website for further details www.airstreamsandiego.com

DATE	LOCATION	HOSTS
August 13-16 (note: a Thursday to Sunday rally/ 4 nights)	William Heise Park Julian (electric only)	No Host Rally
Sept 18-20	Crockers @ Warner Springs	Crocker and Nixon
Oct 15-18	Region 12 Santa Maria	
Oct 23-25	Campland by the Bay	Nichols/Smith/ Campanella
Nov 13-15	Joint Rally South Coast Unit	Thomas/Naughton
Dec 11-13	Chula Vista RV Resort	Thomas

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