



Volume 57 Number 6

The Poppy

August 2020

## President's Column

As spring fades into history, our tomatoes are ripening and the spring flowers have been replaced with summer blooms. We have taken the opportunity to explore our local hiking trails and have discovered the neighborhood hikes of San Francisco. Around the house, the projects are slowly getting checked off; our house is about 90 years old so nothing is easy, or standard. We both are eager to get out on the road toward Fort Bragg for the August rally. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

The NorCal board met via online video-conference and after a lengthy discussion, agreed to go forward with the planned 2020 rallies, but with modifications to activities and socializing, unless last minute cancellations become necessary due to the evolving pandemic. Our club rallies shall follow all local, county and state laws, and any rally activities will be adjusted to conform to published/official health orders/guidelines.

Our rally chair, Pat L., has worked hard to establish our reservations, and the club can use them to make the best of the situation while staying safe. Generally, there will be no organized activities; members attending the rallies will be left to organize their own activities that they feel are safe and lawful. Rally hosts will notify attendees should organized events become possible. Foremost in our thoughts, we must respect the varying desires of our NorCal friends for privacy, physical distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, dog interactions, etc. **If you are unable to abide by the state and local county health officer orders/directives such as wearing of masks, and social distancing, do not attend the rally.** Above all, if you are or feel unwell, stay home and call your doctor.

**About Aluminum:** A 9-inch aluminum pyramid completes the top of the Washington Monument in D.C.. It is 100 oz of solid aluminum. In the 1880s (when it was fabricated) aluminum was a rare metal, about \$1.10 per ounce. The pyramid was the largest piece of aluminum of its day and was displayed at Tiffany's jewelry store before being placed on the monument. Let us not slight Sir Humphry Davy who in 1808 identified the existence of a metal in alum, which he at first named "alumium" and later "aluminum." Davy proposed the name aluminum when referring to the element in his 1812 book *Elements of Chemical Philosophy*.



*Remember,  
"Somewhere,  
something  
incredible is  
waiting to be  
known, so if  
you haven't  
you should."*

Ray



# What's Inside

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## From Your Editor

"Nightmare Rock" is located in the Alabama Hills, on the way to Mount Whitney via Whitney Portal Road, near Lone Pine, CA.

Evidently, an unknown artist felt the rock



needed some facial features and added his/her own with a distinctive artistic flair. The rock is now treated as a historical landmark despite its graffiti nature, and is even touched up on occasion.

I must admit, when viewed from the road, the rock "head" and rock formation to which it is attached looks like some sort of animal of lying down. It is a tourist thing to be photographed on it. So, of course, being a tourist, I climbed the rock and did the "touristy thing."

Ever since reading about the water theft of Owens Valley, I have wanted to visit the area. Sure, the closures of the Western Movie Museum, the Manzanar Visitor's Center, and the Eastern Sierra Visitor's Center were disappointing, but the outdoor attractions made up for it. Hiking in the Alabama Hills was wonderful, touring the outdoor grounds of Manzanar was sobering and disquieting, what with the tar paper/wood barracks, guard towers and barbed wire; driving up 5,000 plus vertical feet on an eight mile long pinched 1 and a ½ lane road, with a sheer drop-off on the left, to the small ghost "town" of Cerro Gordo was not for the faint of heart, seeing the 100 acre Owens Lake, dry as a bone except for a small fraction of its surface that has now been "reclaimed" as a marsh (due to various lawsuits over fish and air quality since the Lake was drained by the City of L.A.), was very interesting, and the Eastern Sierras were amazing as the sun and clouds moved across the sky. I look forward to another trip, hopefully when the museums and exhibits are open in order to learn more about the fascinating area.

In this issue, the story of a few NorCalers rendezvousing in Lone Pine starts on page 8, with more photos of the area and participants starting on page 11. Hyper-links have been added to some of the areas visited in the event you are interested in learning more about them. We are so fortunate to be able to travel in our own "shelter" and physically distance ourselves as we would at our houses as long as the same precautions are taken.

I have repeatedly requested stories from NorCalers about themselves, their Airstreams and/or what they are doing during the pandemic. Chris Davison responded. Thank you Chris! Her story is on page 10. Please – if you have a story to tell, just submit it to me, with photos preferably. I'm

## 2020 Rallies and Caravans

8/5-9	POMO RV Park	Fort Bragg
HOSTS: Brian & Juliet Scheuer, Jodie Lee & Tim Kirk		
9/9-13	Ancient Redwoods RV Park	Red Crest
HOSTS: Marget & Dave Williams, Chris & Dean Davison		
9/13-30	Oregon Coast Caravan	Oregon
LEADERS: Carmen & Jose Ortiz, Bob & Carol Echols		
10/7-11	V-6 Ranch ***	Parkfield
HOST: Pat Lazzereschi,		
10/21-25	Emerald Desert Resort	Palm Desert
Region 12 Rally		
11/4-8	Pismo Coast Village Resort	Pismo Beach
HOSTS: Blake & Dianne Nelson, Carmen & Jose Ortiz		
12/2-6	Black Oak Casino RV Park	Sonora
HOSTS: Billie & Bob Verdegaaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman		

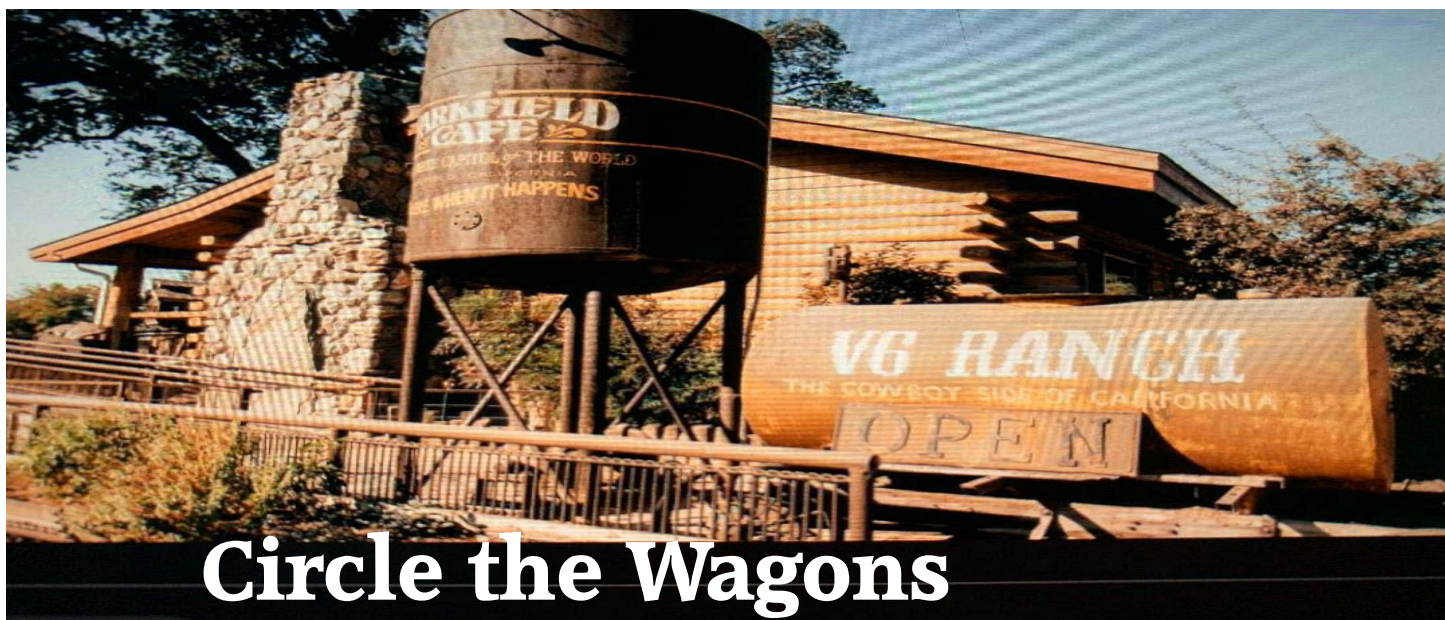
\*\*\*Note: THE V6 RANCH IS A DRY CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Note: New info shown in green. Dates are arrival and departure, although you can often request a day-early arrival (usually Tues). Sign-ups are by submitting a completed Registration form by the due date. "Buddy" events allow you to invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts may be cancelled.

always looking for stories of your Airstream ownership, or what you have been doing during the pandemic. The beauty of a digital newsletter is that I can usually fit it in, one issue or another. This issue we are also spotlighting our Senior Trustees, whose bios start on page 7. The summary and coupon for the Parkfield Rally starts on page 3. Keep in mind, this is a dry camping experience – NO HOOKUPS – so plan accordingly. As usual, the Fun Calendar is on the last page. August is the month for s'mores, campfires, watermelon and BACON! Can't beat that. Have a great August.

#daveungerman





# Circle the Wagons

**V6 Ranch**  
**70410 Parkfield-Coalinga Rd**  
**Parkfield, CA 93451**  
**October 8-12, 2020**

Bring your partner and your silver to the beautiful V6 Ranch in Parkfield! A real working ranch complete with horses, cows, cowgirls and cowboys.

This is a dry camping experience but with showers and restrooms available. Big open spaces for hanging out or hiking or horseback riding if you're feeling adventurous.

They have a large fire pit for evening campfires and s'mores. There's a cafe on the property where they serve grass fed beef that is incredible!

This rally is starting on Thursday and ending on Monday because of their schedule. Bring your solar panels or your generators and have your water tank full! The Ranch is big enough to situate those with solar away from those with generators. Just indicate which you will be using on the coupon.

This will be a fun rally far away from everything... where we can recharge and enjoy the great outdoors.

**Thursday night dinner:** V6 Grass-Fed Oak BBQ Burger Bar ( choice of many great toppings) with two homemade side salads and Barb's cookie selection.

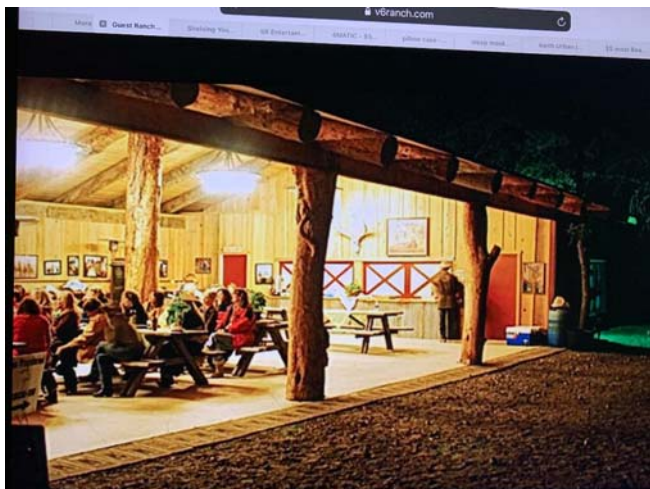
**Saturday night dinner:** Top Sirloin, BBQ Chicken, Ranch Beans or Barb's Famous Casserole, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Salsa & Homemade Apple Dumplings a la Mode

**Sunday morning breakfast:** Scrambled eggs, bacon/sausage, potatoes, tortillas, salsa, sour cream, fruit platter and orange juice.

Trail riding is available. \$95 per person for a 2 hour ride.

All this and much more!! Come and enjoy the beauty of California's Cowboy/Cowgirl Country!!

*Pat Lazzereschi*  
Rally Host





# Circle the Wagons

**Coupon/Registration Due by August 31<sup>st</sup>,**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ WBCCI # \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Day: \_\_\_\_\_ RV Length: \_\_\_\_\_ T/MH: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be using a generator while camping \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Parking Fees [# nights @ \$50/night] \*\*\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rally Fees [# attending @ \$5/person] \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday night's dinner @ \$21 per person, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday night's dinner @ \$32 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday morning's breakfast @ \$19 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*NOTICE:** THIS RALLY BEGINS ON **THURSDAY**, OCTOBER 8TH, AND ENDS **MONDAY**, OCTOBER 12TH. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE EARLIER OR STAY LATER SO PLAN ACCORDINGLY

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Either register online at <https://airstreamclub.org/explore/northern-california-airstream-club> or send this form to the registrar at [Norcalreg22@gmail.com](mailto:Norcalreg22@gmail.com). This form can be filled out on most computer platforms, print the completed page to a file on your computer and then email it to the Registrar. Do not pay online.
- **Send all payments directly to the Registrar.** Make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal and mail to NorCal Registrar Gail Crutchfield, 12431 Alta Mesa Drive, Auburn, CA 95603.
- Refunds are available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Please contact the Rally Chair if you have any changes to your reservation after the deadline, or wish to register after the deadline.
- NorCal abides by the federal, state and local COVID19 mandates to keep not only its members safe, but the employees of the RV Parks and the communities we visit safe, which in turn allows us to continue to rally during the pandemic. If you are unable or unwilling to do so, please do not sign up for this rally. If you are ill or not feeling well, please stay home and get better. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.



## NorCal Club Contacts

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Rally Chair:	Pat Lazzereschi	<a href="mailto:rally.norcal@gmail.com">rally.norcal@gmail.com</a> 209-712-5884
Caravan Chair:	Bob Vassar	415-517-3651
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Leonard & Mary Ely #7096**

**Dynie & Dana Sanderson  
#10181**

## Membership Information

**155 Unit/Life Members**

**21 Affiliate Members**

**176 Total Members**

### WBCCI on the Web

[www.wbcci.org/](http://www.wbcci.org/)

### Region 12 on the Web

<https://airstreamclub.org/region12>

### NorCal on the Web

<https://airstreamclub.org/explore/northern-california-airstream-club>



## Church Bulletin

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.





## Birthdays

2 Robin Angerer  
5 Larry Ackerman  
7 Allan Haley  
10 Elisa Ungerman  
13 Betty Sica  
15 Marcia Murray  
16 Martha Jones  
18 Steve Irey  
18 Brian Handshoe  
18 Kirk Reistroffer  
20 Dennis Lashar  
20 Marilyn Sullivan  
26 Mike Zimmermann  
29 Ray Burmaster  
30 Jane Malone

## Anniversaries

1 Matt/Carol Kurzrock  
1 Cam/Marcia Murray  
1 Tom/Hedda Smithson  
7 Brian/Margaret Handshoe  
9 Brian/Juliet Scheuer  
12 Roy/Linda Myers  
14 Robin/Fran Angerer  
19 Bob/Sharon Carl  
20 Wayne/Melissa Yee  
23 Bill/Cathy Maffei  
26 Bob/Carole Echols

## Sunshine

Still hoping that all of our members and their families are staying safe and healthy during our current medical crisis. Nothing to report. Please contact me if you know of a member who is ill or could use some sunshine in their life!

*Claudia Marson*



## Meet Your Senior Trustees

**Marget Williams** is a Fourth (4th) generation Northern Californian, born in San Francisco and raised in Sacramento from the age of three. She attended El Camino High School and spent summers teaching swimming and life guarding at summer camp. Then it was off to UC Davis where she majored in Biological Science and met future husband, Dave, in the dining hall no less. She moved on to UC San Francisco, graduating with a BS degree in Dental Hygiene, which she practiced for 43 1/2 years, retiring 5 1/2 years ago.

Marget and Dave purchased their 30ft Airstream in 2006 after Dave said they needed a trailer for fishing and Marget said "it is an Airstream or nothing." (Ed note: their Airstream looks like a cozy fishing cottage inside.) They joined NorCal in September of 2013 after a chance meeting with the Smithsons at their mutual Airstream storage facility.

Marget and Dave are avid and accomplished flyfishers, and enjoy fishing the Tahoe area, Highway 395 South to Mammoth, and Montana, to which they travel every year. Marget is also an accomplished needlepointer, and enjoys their grandchildren, cooking, and wine, not necessarily in that order. They also enjoy dry camping, and look forward to

many more Airstream adventures with their sheltie Karly, named after a winery of course.



**Jim Christie** was born in Stoneham, Massachusetts on October 1, 1948, the oldest son and second child in a family of eight children. He graduated from Stoneham Senior High School in 1967. When he received his draft notice in April of 1968, he decided to enlist in the United States Air

Force. That same year, after completing his training as a Hospital Corpsman, he married Deborah and together they traveled to Omaha, Nebraska for Jim's first duty station at Ehrling Bergquist Hospital, Offutt Air Force Base. In 1970, Jim received orders to Air Force Base Hospital, Tachikawa, Japan.

A few years later, Jim left the military, returning to Massachusetts with his family (they now had two children) to attend college. In 1974, Jim began attending Boston State College, graduating in 1978 with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. In July, 1978, he returned to military duty, receiving his commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, and by October 1978, Jim was at his first duty station as a Nurse Corps Officer at Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA. After four years at Pendleton, it was off to the Naval Hospital, Guam. By this time, Jim had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

*Continued Pg. 9*





# Rendezvous @ Lone Pine

What really happened in Lone Pine, CA, from June 1 to June 7? Was there a NorCal rally? No. The rally was officially canceled. But ... some NorCal members decided that a mental health break was necessary, requiring "essential travel." They just happened to separately appear in sites 26 through 31 at the Boulder Creek RV Resort in Lone Pine, CA, each paying separately for their own site parking. There was no rally fee.



Lone Pine is a long way from most member's residences, so where did folks spend the night before? Bakersfield or Topaz Lake or? It was to each his/her own choice.

How was the weather? High desert – very warm, sometimes windy, with some thunder clouds.



How was the scenery? Spectacular!



What was the schedule like? There was no schedule. But at 4:30 p.m. nightly, those in RV sites 26 – 31 seemed to magically gravitate, with libations in hand, to a shady area near one of the Airstreams, creating an outside circle of camp chairs spaced out between couples. The events of the day were discussed, possible outings shared, and plans were separately made for the following day. Some brought their take-out dinners to the circle and ate from their laps, while others later cooked and ate dinner at their own Airstream. (Note: in photos people appear closer than they were!)



Did everyone stay in camp? Heck no. Even though museums and visitor centers were closed, there was much to see and explore: the outdoor portion of Manzanar Relocation Camp, Owens Lake bed, Horseshoe Meadows Road, Whitney Portal, Cerro Gordo mine and ghost town,

Alabama Hills and Movie Road, just to name a few!





## Lone Pine Rendezvous con't

Did anyone eat out? Heck yes. There were some indoor dining, outside dining, and take-out options available such as a taco truck just off 395, Seasons Restaurant, Mount Whitney Restaurant, Alabama Hills Café and Bakery, to name a few.

Were there any stores open? Yes. Joseph's Bi-Rite Market, Gardner's True Value



(Appropriately naming itself "The Everything Store" since it did have just about everything), Lone Pine Rocks and Gifts, and a couple of mountaineering shops.

Were masks required and worn? YEP! Driving into Inyo County, there were big signs saying that masks are required, and the rule

was enforced in the town, the campground office and store.

Was there entertainment? Yes: a TV Western Trivia Question contest won by Elisa Ungerman, Cowgirl poetry recitation by Hedda Smithson, birthday/anniversary celebrations by Deanna Bain, root beer floats and fresh berry pie for dessert ! (Not on the same night.)



*Elisa Ungerman shows off her award - fresh eggs from Deanna's chickens*

All entertainment was accomplished outdoors, with physical distancing (OK – we did get a bit close when the berry pie and chocolate cake was being dished out but we were outside and the berry pie went fast, fortunately.)

Was it fun? Very! Lots of scenery to explore by day, with laughter and smiles during Happy Hour and dessert time. It was quite energizing to be with other NorCalers, all of

whom had been quarantined at home for almost three months and vetted themselves with each other before socializing. Fortunately, the only 6 rigs rendezvoused, which kept the energy to a minimum.

Who were the Lone Pine Six? Tom & Deanna Bain, Ray & Carrie Bell, Christy Brice and her son, Zander, Cam & Marcia Murray, Tom & Hedda Smithson, and Ed & Elisa Ungerman. Christy and Zander are on their way to North Carolina, having received some assistance with route planning from the group. It was a rendezvous to remember.

*– Harriet the Spy  
More photos pg. 11*



*Carrie Bell holds down the awning during a wind gust*

## Jim Christie con't

Jim and his family spent two years on Guam before a third set of orders came, assigning Jim to Balboa Naval Hospital, San Diego, where he moved in 1984. There, Jim was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

In the Fall of 1989, Jim received orders to report to Naval Hospital, Long Beach, CA, as the Head Nurse of the Emergency Department, later becoming the Head Nurse of the Internal Medicine Clinic. It was during his time in Long Beach that he was deployed to Saudi Arabia in Desert Shield/Desert Storm with the Marines as the Senior Nurse of Foxtrot Field Hospital. He served in that capacity from August 1990 - May 1991, returning to Naval Hospital, Long Beach. He retired from the United States Navy in July 1992, having completed 20 years active duty.

Thereafter, Jim worked five years as the evening Shift Supervisor of the Emergency Department at UCSD Medical Center and was active in the San Diego Emergency Nurses Association, serving as

President for one year. He also worked fifteen years with Kaiser Permanente in Telemedicine as a staff Nurse and later as a Lead Nurse in his Department.

After living in southern CA for 30 years, Jim and Deborah moved north to Lincoln, CA, in 2011 and soon took up residency in Lincoln Sun City. Jim's last five years of employment were with Blue Shield of California in various capacities, including reviewing medical claims and performing audits.

Jim retired from Nursing in 2015, and in 2018, Jim and Deborah celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a River Cruise from Paris to Normandy, France.

In 2014, Jim and Deborah purchased a new 25ft Flying Cloud Airstream, aka "Sweetie," after progressing from tents, through a used 19 foot Terry Trailer and a 29 foot Fifth Wheel. They have put almost 27,000 miles on her, during which they have attended, hosted, and/or co-hosted numerous rallies. They have been on one national Caravan and are hoping to do their second in 2021.

*– Editor*

# What One NorCaler is Doing During the Pandemic.

## Looking for a few good men and women ...

That was the subject of the email I received from a county disaster preparedness group on behalf of the animal rescue where I volunteer. Since I had a little time on my hands, I read through the entire email.

Apparently, Humboldt County was looking for help with the Covid-19 situation. I was mostly thinking I could volunteer part time to perhaps deliver food to homeless folks, which is part of Humboldt's pandemic plan. When I spoke with the personnel officer, she had other ideas for me. The very next Monday (April 20<sup>th</sup>) I began a new job working as the Situation Unit Leader for the Planning Section at the Humboldt County Covid-19 Emergency Operations Center! So, imagine this, starting a new job at 62, where everyone is wearing masks and you can't shake anyone's hand. Oy Vey. It has been very challenging. I think the hardest part is wearing a mask 8+ hours a day. Also, going from working zero hours a day to 8 is a very steep climb.



I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge and I'm working with some very interesting people. Most of them are much younger than me, although there are a few of us retired folks helping out. Most of my work is done with Google Docs, which is a whole new enchilada for me. I get why we have to use a collaborative tool, but sometimes (like when you're trying to add a simple watermark) it makes me crazy.

All in all, I'm glad Dean talked me in to it. Yep, it's all his fault. He said "we" should do our part. So now he has to run all the errands and do all the dishes.

We really miss our Airstream friends and glamping, although we manage to camp in the Schmoofari out in our yard once in a while, just for fun. I would like to suggest to anyone who might be bored, healthy and able - and want to participate - your county is probably looking for help, be it volunteer or paid. I'm making a decent hourly wage, which was incentive for me to agree to a full-time job for the duration of the pandemic. It's a very safe environment. We're all wearing masks and they take our temperature twice a day. I also get tested every 14 days. We've been fortunate so far in Humboldt County - only 175 cases, 16 hospitalizations and 4 deaths as of July 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Emergency Operations Center is again ramping up as many of the law enforcement folks are having to return to their regular jobs and the COVID numbers continue to climb.

Please take care of yourselves and let's meet up again when this is all over.

*Chris Davison*

**Here's Dean's favorite Covid-19 joke: Husband says to the wife "Wow, I feel so fortunate to be sheltered-in-place with such a wonderful person". Wife replies "Must be nice".**







## Rendezvous @ Lone Pine Photos

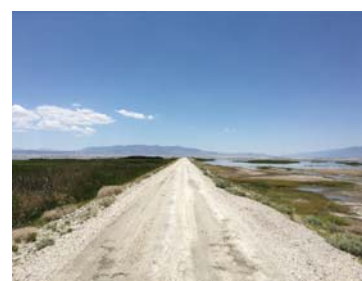


### The Alabama Hills

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama\\_Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alabama_Hills)



### Various scenes of Owens (dry) Lake Bed & Visitor Centers with shade structures



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Owens\\_Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Owens_Lake)



**Views of  
Lone Pine in  
the distance  
(left) and  
Owens (dry)  
Lake Bed  
(right) from  
Horseshoe  
Meadow  
Road**





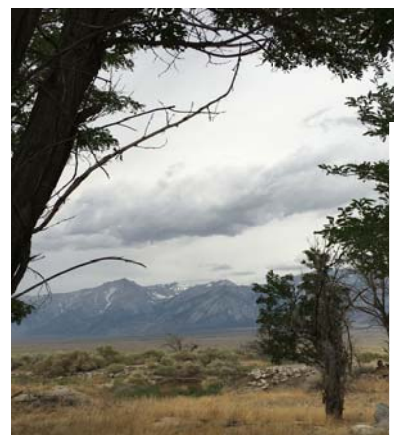
Drive up (and I do mean up!) 8 miles on Cerro Gordo Mine Road and you will come to the Cerro Gordo Ghost Town, a very small "town" purchased two years ago for \$1.4 million by two entrepreneurs and their partners with dreams of turning it into something. Not much has been accomplished since the sale. The mine and its company town have a storied history. The mine ceased operation in the 1950s, but the American Hotel was refurbished and running as a B&B into from the late 1990s to 2009, until the owner's death. Their children sold the property to the current owners. One caretaker lives full time on the property and gives tours when people visit.

<https://roadtrippers.com/magazine/cerro-gordo-ghost-town/>



## A Taste of Manzanar War Relocation Center

<https://www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm>







## Lone Pine 6 Highlights

1. Hedda Smithson reads Cowboy Poetry
  2. Tom Smithson and Cam Murray give pointers to Tom Bain on Pie cutting
  3. Marcia and Cam Murray enjoy root beer floats.
  4. Birthdays/Anniversaries by Deanna Bain
- The rest: rendezvousers hanging out outside



# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31  HAPPY NATIONAL Eat Outside Day!					1 National Campfire Day 
2	3  Nat. Watermelon Day	4	5	6	7	8
			 Fort Bragg Rally Foggy			
9 Rally Ends	10  Nat. S'mores Day	11	12	13  Left Handers Day	14	15
16  HA-HA! IT'S NATIONAL TELL-A-JOKE DAY!	17	18	19	20	21  Senior Citizens Day!	22
23	24	25  Banana Split Day	26  National Dog Day	27	28	29  INTERNATIONAL BACON DAY

## Garden Flag Information



You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from Flagology. Complete instructions are in the January Poppy issue. For any questions, the NorCal contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922. Click here to order, or copy and paste in your browser:

<https://www.flagology.com/product/personalized-norcal-airstream-club-garden-flag-12-5-x-18/>

## From Your Membership Chair



You can obtain your colorful NorCal Membership Badge whenever you attend a rally. Contact me, Carmen Ortiz, to get yours for free, a perk of membership. Also, we will soon be giving out the NEW five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle when you attend a rally. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy.

