

# The NorCal News



Volume 57 Number 8

The Poppy

October 2020

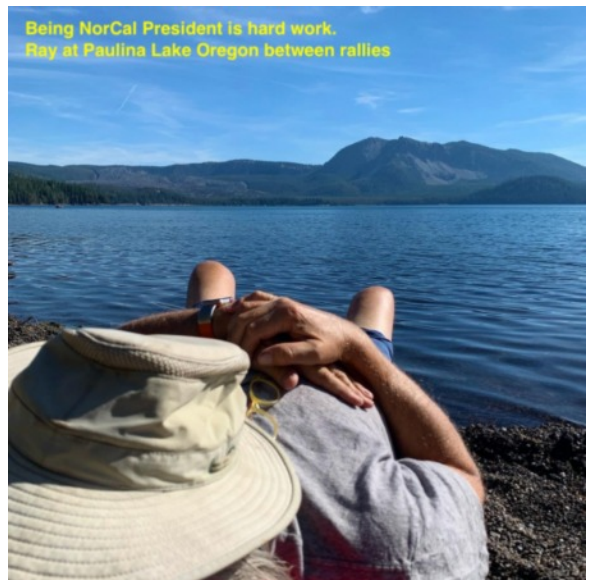
## President's Column

It was early September when Carrie and I left Oregon to drive the smoke-filled Avenue of the Giants to the Redcrest rally at Ancient Redwoods RV. Was that Bigfoot we saw briefly or something else? We don't know for sure, but it left us even more unsettled as the smoke and fog combined to make an eerie dark red evening. The closure of 101 north of Willits forced many to take the long route through Redding to 299 but the redwoods rewarded their effort with their majestic forests.

The Redcrest rally found the club adapting well to COVID. Social groups were small and well distanced and everyone was able to fill their day with activities. If you are attending the Region 12 rally in the Palm Desert, Carrie and I will see you there. After which, we will explore our way from Palm Desert to Pismo Beach for our rally in November, and look forward to seeing some of you then.

Our elections will be occurring the middle of this month so be sure to check your email for your ballots as voting will only be online this year. If you would like to self nominate yourself for a club board position. or nominate someone else, the candidate should send me an email with their desire to run and commitment to serve if elected so they can be added to the ballot.

*About Aluminum:* Fresh clean aluminum surfaces rapidly oxidize to form a layer of  $Al_2O_3$ , also known as Sapphire. When thick it appears as a white film or powder. Aluminum is very popular for telescope mirror coatings as the very thin oxide layer that immediately develops on a freshly coated mirror protects it during years of outdoor exposure. Another of the myriad of reasons to love aluminum!



Being NorCal President is hard work.  
Ray at Paulina Lake Oregon between rallies

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

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## From The Editor

I am writing this while on the Oregon Coast Caravan that miraculously did not get canceled despite COVID and wildfires. So far so good, including air quality (surprisingly). The rain today no doubt was a very welcome occurrence for those fighting the fires to our east.

If you have not been up to the northwest corner of California, and the Avenue of the Giants in particular, do plan on a trip there. The giant redwoods are definitely the attraction, which cannot be enjoyed or even seen by just driving the 32 miles of old Highway 101. To fully appreciate the old growth trees saved from the mass logging of the 1900s, you must hike at least one of several trails (most of them short) that are accessible from the road and lead into various redwood groves named for those who have donated money over the years to save them. Stepping into the forest is like stepping into a cathedral, with light shafts penetrating the upper canopy, and sound dampening due to the high canopy and thick vegetation on the forest floor. The age of the trees are incomprehensible – some over 3,000 years old, dating back before the birth of Christ. In one grove we hiked, there was huge clover growing over decaying logs like a blossoming Chia Pet. Carrie Bell documented finding a rare “albino” redwood in another of the areas of Humboldt State Park.

Unfortunately, the Humboldt State Park visitor center was closed, but later we visited the Trees of Mystery up 101 in Klamath, Ca., which is a repository of information on the different species of redwood trees and their history. Although it appears to be a “tourist trap,” what with its huge sculptures of Paul Bunyon and Babe (wearing masks of course), the Trees of Mystery is actually a very well-run attraction devoted to the redwoods, with a well-marked path zig-zagging through a beautiful redwood grove, a dog-friendly gondola that travels up through the forest canopy up to an observation deck, a canopy trail that consists of mini-suspension bridges strung through the forest, and finally, a path of large chain saw woodcarvings depicting the stories of Paul Bunyon, with audio explanations. Along with the typical gift shop there is a museum showcasing the extensive private collection of Native American artifacts by the owner’s mother that is said to be the largest in the world. Just another example of what you can see when out exploring in your Airstream!

This month’s issue features what Carol and Bob Echols have been doing while sheltering in place for months (page 14), a brief synopsis of Popcorn since October is Popcorn Month (page 9), the summary and coupon for the December Rally on pages 3 and 4 (please read for changes from the usual), a summary and photos of the Redcrest Rally (that was really orange/red on one day) beginning on page 11, the slate of officers and constitutional amendments being voted on in the upcoming election (**online only**) on pages 16-17, our NorCal angels on page 13, the tentative proposed 2021 rally schedule on page 6, information regarding membership renewal now happening (page 7), along with the usual fare. Enjoy!



## 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~~

**CANCELLED**

10/21-25 Emerald Desert Resort Palm Desert  
Region 12 Rally

Contact Lynda Polk for wait list information:  
lberringer@jps.net

11/4-8 Pismo Coast Village Resort Pismo Beach

HOSTS: Gail & Dan Crutchfield, Carmen & Jose Ortiz

12/2-6 Black Oak Casino RV Park Sonora

HOSTS: Billie & Bob Verdegaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman

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.



### Notice

Deanna Bain is looking for a new Airstream trailer. Must be a 25 foot twin bed model, older than 2005. If you have one or know of one for sale, contact her at 209-267-0994 or 209-256-3115.

*Deanna Bain*



# Just Another ~~Holiday~~ Rally



**December 2-6, 2020**

**Black Oak Casino Resort  
19380 Tuolumne Rd North  
Tuolumne, CA 95379**



The good news is that there will be a Rally in December 2020. The bad news is that there will NOT be any Holiday Rally this year.

The December Rally will be like any other rally since the COVID pandemic was declared, e.g. no catered or group meals, no indoor gatherings, and no group events or activities. Installation of Officers this year will be conducted electronically, via ZOOM or some other platform, independent of the rally. Outside gatherings, to the extent weather allows in December at almost 3,000 feet above sea level, will be limited in size, with masks and physical distancing required.

The Casino Resort's gaming areas, several restaurants, and two of the bars are currently open, with masks required. Depending on the weather, this may be your opportunity to drive around Tuolumne County, enjoying the sights of the Eastern Sierras and Gold Rush country.



The largest town in the area and county seat is nearby picturesque Sonora.



Access to Yosemite National Park via Highway 120 or 140 (the recommended route) is nearby, but be aware that chains are required to be carried for all vehicles traveling into Yosemite during the winter.

You will also need an online reservation in advance for each vehicle accessing the park. A limited number of tickets are sold online two days before. No tickets are sold at the gate. Check out: <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/reservations.htm>

To add *some* festivity to the Rally, we will have a trailer decorating contest (bring those wreaths and lights!) and a socially distanced gift exchange, so if your trailer is participating, bring one wrapped gift **per participating trailer valued at or under \$20.** **[Note the change this year]**

**Note: Due to the pandemic, there will be no silent auction this year.** However, our President would still like to be philanthropic and is encouraging NorCalers to donate to his selected charity: Fisher House. See page 13 for more details.

That is it. No thrills or frills (unless you win in the Casino). Just some quality outdoor time in your Airstream.

Hosts:

Bob & Billie Verdegaa,  
Ed & Elisa Ungerman



# Just Another ~~Holiday~~ Rally

**Black Oak Casino Resort  
19380 Tuolumne Rd North  
Tuolumne, CA 95379**

**December 2 - 6, 2020**

**Coupon/Registration Due by October 31, 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Either register online at <https://northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/> or send/email this form to the registrar at [Norcalreg22@gmail.com](mailto:Norcalreg22@gmail.com). **Do not pay online at this time.**
- **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 COVID-19 mandates to keep not only its members safe, but also the employees of the RV Parks and the communities we visit, which in turn allows us to continue to rally during the pandemic. If you are unable or unwilling to abide by the mandates, 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.
- Please inform the registrar if you need a handicap accommodation.



## NorCal Club Contacts

|                 |                  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| President       | Ray Bell         | <a href="mailto:deepfringe@me.com">deepfringe@me.com</a><br>650-644-6650                           |
| First VP:       | John Bibby       | <a href="mailto:jbibby@value.net">jbibby@value.net</a><br>707-592-4891                             |
| Second VP:      | Bob Verdegaaal   | <a href="mailto:jrverd@msn.com">jrverd@msn.com</a><br>209-380-8884                                 |
| Secretary:      | Carrie Bell      | <a href="mailto:cba@sonic.net">cba@sonic.net</a><br>530-644-6650                                   |
| Treasurer:      | Phyllis Minadeo  | <a href="mailto:pminadeo@gmail.com">pminadeo@gmail.com</a><br>925-890-9559                         |
| Membrshp Chair: | Carmen Ortiz     | <a href="mailto:norcalmembership2802@gmail.com">norcalmembership2802@gmail.com</a><br>805-598-9829 |
| Rally Chair:    | Pat Lazzereschi  | <a href="mailto:rally.norcal@gmail.com">rally.norcal@gmail.com</a><br>209-712-5884                 |
| Caravan Chair:  | Bob Vassar       | 415-517-3651   |
| Registrar:      | Gail Crutchfield | <a href="mailto:Norcalreg22@gmail.com">Norcalreg22@gmail.com</a><br>530-613-7959                   |
| Web Master:     | Barry Marson     | <a href="mailto:webmaster.norcal@gmail.com">webmaster.norcal@gmail.com</a><br>209-333-0363         |
| Sunshine:       | Claudia Marson   | <a href="mailto:cjmarson@comcast.net">cjmarson@comcast.net</a><br>209-483-6696                     |
| Poppy Editor:   | Elisa Ungerman   | <a href="mailto:ungerman72@gmail.com">ungerman72@gmail.com</a><br>916-833-2484                     |

### 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/northern-california>

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Iana Hines & Shanti Love #8777

Chris & Kendra Sevilla #26805

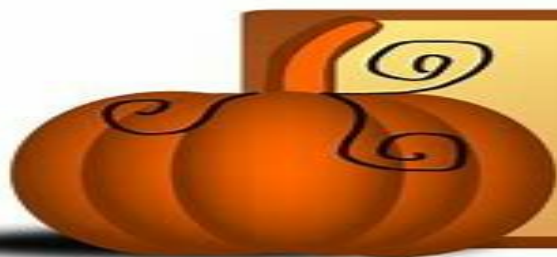
1  
Roberta & Michael Hines #21784  
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## Membership Information

163 Unit/Life Members  
22 Affiliate Members  
185 Total Members

## Church Bulletin

"Thursday at 7:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Mothers' Club. All those wishing to become little mothers, please meet with the minister at 7:00 p.m."



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays



## Anniversaries

1 Jim Christie  
1 Linda Myers  
7 Vicki Gallagher  
7 Arthur Sawl  
8 Scott Leaman  
11 Erin Dominy  
12 Andrew Steen  
14 Sandy Higgins

22 Sarah Curl  
23 Catherine Lemieux  
26 Linda Ackerman  
26 Larry Warren  
27 Judy Kleiman  
31 Leslie Irey  
31 Julia Lyon

08 Bob & Linda Minder  
10 Andy/Erin Bayowski/Dominy  
18 Kirk/Joanne Reistroffer/Hilliard  
26 Jose/Carmen Ortiz

## Tentative 2021 NorCal Rally Schedule

Rally Chair Pat Lazzereschi and First Vice-President John Bibby have tentatively unveiled their picks for NorCal Rally locations for next year. This list is tentative, subject to change, especially in light of recent fires and their consequences, but it will give you an idea of their plans. The next step is to secure hosts for the rallies. If you are interested in hosting a rally, please contact Pat Lazzereschi at [plazzereschi@gmail.com](mailto:plazzereschi@gmail.com) to express your interest. Don't know what to do? Contact any member who has hosted a rally (note the rally schedule on page 2) for the how-tos. Typically hosting is done in pairs so no one does it alone. The January 2020 Poppy has a full article on "normal" rally hosting, and a manual can be found on the Norcal website, along with the January Poppy. It is fun to host, so don't be shy!

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March       | Visalia/ Sequoia National Park RV Park (Visalia)     |
| April       | Gilroy Garlic RV Park (Gilroy)                       |
| May         | Berry Creek Rancheria RV Park (Oroville area)        |
| June        | McCloud RV Park (McCloud)                            |
| August      | Pioneer RV Park (Quincy)                             |
| September   | Bodega Bay RV Park (Bodega Bay)                      |
| October     | High Sierra RV Park (Oakhurst)                       |
| November    | Marina Dunes RV Park (Monterey)                      |
| December    | Black Oak (Sonora) or 49er RV Park (Plymouth)        |
| Affiliated: | October Region 12 Rally in Paso Robles               |
|             | April 22-25 Region 12 Cali Rally at Parkfield Ranch  |
|             | July 17-24 International Rally at Lebanon, Tennessee |



# WBCCI/NORCAL Membership Renewal Instructions & Information



Members: It's time to renew your membership! It's easy! Go to <https://airstreamclub.org/renew>. Dues for WBCCI Membership are \$75 + \$5 for NorCal unit dues.

Although the renewal process runs through the end of December, we are asking you to renew by December 1st so that you will be included in NorCal's Membership Directory that will be sent out in early January 2021.

Lifetime members: you must go through the renewal process. This lets WBCCI Headquarters know that your Lifetime membership is still active and is in good standing with NorCal. If WBCCI does not receive your renewal as a Lifetime Member, you will not be renewed for 2021.

For affiliates, please fill out the Affiliate Membership Application on the following page and send to our treasurer at the address indicated in the form, along with a check for affiliate dues. Affiliate dues are \$5. Please renew by December 1, 2020 in order to appear in the January 2021 NorCal Membership Directory. Any questions, please contact Carmen Ortiz, Membership Chair at [norcalmembership2802@gmail.com](mailto:norcalmembership2802@gmail.com)

## What is an affiliate? What is the difference between an affiliate and a regular club member?

When you join WBCCI, you get a choice of also joining an unit (now referred to as "club", like Northern California Airstream Club or "NorCal"). That club becomes your "home club" of which you are a "regular member." You may also join WBCCI as a member at large, which means you do not join a home club. Normally however, WBCCI members choose to join a home club in their state. They pay the WBCCI dues and the club dues when they join or when they renew their membership.

An affiliate is a WBCCI member who may be a regular member of one club or a member at large, who chooses to join another club as an affiliate. That means they are affiliated to another club in addition to their "home" club. So if you are a regular member of NorCal, you would not be an affiliate of NorCal, but you might consider becoming an affiliate of say the Tahoe Airstream Club, or the Bay Area Airstream Club.

While, as a WBCCI member, you are entitled to participate in the rallies and caravans of any club in the International Club even if you are not a regular member or affiliate of a unit, affiliate membership is encouraged since it enables you to get any information regular club members get such as timely rally announcements and the newsletter. Affiliate membership also supports the local club and if you plan to participate in more than one club's activities on a regular basis, it is the right thing to do. Think about it as a win-win: you get to join two or more clubs for a nominal fee and get timely information for fun activities from many clubs. Plus, you get to meet many other folks who love Airstreams and talk about them a lot!

It is important to note that you cannot affiliate with another club when you join or renew your membership with WBCCI. Affiliation is done directly with the individual clubs. In the case of NorCal, to affiliate, you will need to fill out an Affiliate Membership Application on the following page and send to the NorCal's Treasurer with your \$5 dues. If you are a regular member of NorCal, you need not concern yourself with the affiliate membership form.

*Carmen Ortiz*



## Northern California Airstream Club - WBCCI Affiliate Membership Application

Please complete this form and send a check for \$5.00 payable to WBCCI/NorCal, to Treasurer, NorCal, 5346 Paso Del Rio Way, Concord, CA 94521-5006

**\* Required Fields**

WBCCI Number \*

Member Name(s) \*

Address \*

Home phone with area code

Member mobile number with area code

Spouse/Partner mobile number with area code

Member Email Address \*

Spouse/Partner Email Address

If you are a member of a unit, enter name of the unit

We like to recognize and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please answer the next few questions. Do not include year.

Member Birthday

Spouse/Partner Birthday

Anniversary



## NATIONAL POPCORN POPPIN' MONTH



Did you know that October is Popcorn Month? According to my research, popcorn dates back several centuries, discovered by the ancient civilizations of the Americas based on anthropological studies. It is believed that corn was first domesticated in Mexico nearly 9,000 years ago (3,600 B.C.)! Various international explorers to different locales in the “new world” discovered the indigenous people using and eating what we know as popcorn. In American Indian folklore, some tribes believed that quiet peaceful spirits resided within each corn kernel. When their homes (the kernels) became heated, the spirits would grow so angry that they would shake the kernels until the heat became so unbearable that they erupt out of their homes and into the air in a resentful puff of steam.

In fact, the husks of kernels are actually waterproof and the insides are full of starch, according to a Business Insider video titled “Why some popcorn kernels don’t pop.” When popcorn is cooked, the pressure and the temperature cook the starch and the water evaporates to expand the kernel. The pressure builds up inside the husk and then the starch pops. The kernels that don’t pop have husks that sprung a leak and the water escaped while the starch was heating up. The starch was cooked, but was trapped on the inside because of the lack of water pressure.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, popcorn took off as a snack food when portable steam and gasoline “popping machines” were invented, allowing the public to eat tasty hot-buttered popcorn at fairs, expositions and other venues such as movie theatres. The term “popped corn” was first used in John Russell Bartlett’s *Dictionary of Americanisms* in 1848. In it, he claimed that the name was derived from “the noise it makes bursting open.”

The Great Depression curtailed the use of popping machines, but home sales of popcorn boomed since it was cheap and available, compared to other staples and foodstuffs that were rationed and expensive. Popcorn farming

families in the Midwest, such as Orville Redenbacher’s, became extremely successful, as people fed themselves on popcorn during that time.

Although popcorn can be cooked in any covered pot or pan with a bit of oil, over a heat source, the vintage favorite for home-cooking popcorn is a specialized popcorn pot that has an integrated stirring blade operated by turning a crank. This is to prevent burning of the kernels on the bottom and, under limited conditions, enables users to make sweetened popcorn by mixing sugar directly with the kernels before they pop.



In 1958, Jiffy Pop was created, and marketed the following year. Jiffy Pop is still around today, for many a campground staple. Original Jiffy Pop packages used a plain, bright aluminum pan. This was eventually replaced by an aluminum pan with a black treatment on the outside to improve heat transfer.



## Popcorn continued

In the mid 1970s, Pillsbury developed microwave popcorn for sale in vending machines, then later for wide distribution in supermarkets, as microwave oven sales increased. Many companies such as General Mills and Hunt-Wesson jumped on the bandwagon and improved the microwave cooking process, which is rather complex. The first patent for a microwave popcorn bag was issued to General Mills in 1981.

To improve flavor, texture and shelf life of pre-packaged microwave popcorn, companies started adding diacetyl, PFOA, and trans-fats into the packages which has led to some concern among health conscious snackers.



In 1978, Presto introduced the air popper, a popper which uses hot air blown up through the kernels. Cooking without oil reduced the calories and fat in the finished product. It was also faster and easier than pan-fry popping, and soon other companies were producing air poppers. The downside was/is the noise.



Presto later developed specialized plastic bowls with replaceable pads for micro-waving popcorn in a bit of oil. Now, the latest trend for popping corn is the silicon bowl microwave popper. (Of course you can always use the paper bag method in a pinch.)



I can attest that the microwave poppers are great, both at home and in the Airstream (although the popping time will vary). I have a Presto Power Popper that fits perfectly in the Airstream microwave.



Since the advent of microwaving popcorn, home popcorn consumption increased by tens of thousands of pounds. Today, Americans eat about a million pounds worth of (unpopped) popcorn a year.

So what to pop? Since I use a microwave popper, I prefer Amish Country Popcorn that you can buy online. It's clean, relatively cheap, especially if you buy several bags, and it pops with a minimum of "dead kernels." The hard part is choosing which type to buy! Great Northern Popcorn Kernel came out number one on several online "top ten" lists but I don't know if that is the plain corn or the "portion packs" with butter, etc. that I try to avoid. Bob's Red Mill Popping corn was also highly rated.

Whichever type of corn or cooking method you choose, take some time to celebrate Popcorn Month this October by enjoying some popcorn, with or without your Airstream.

*Elisa Ungerman*



# Rolling Through the Redwoods

Our timing for this rally seemed perfect to escape the valley heat by heading to the coast, but wildfires throughout the state had a different idea.

Unfortunately, many of us had to travel to Redcrest via lengthy alternative routes because 101 North of Willits was closed due to fire. Twenty-six Airstreams braved the trek and arrived at the Ancient Redwoods RV Park on the beautiful Avenue of the Giants Highway, enduring the dark red (in some cases black) skies, ash and longer travel time. As they arrived, attendees were greeted with goodie bags by Marget Williams and Margaritas in biodegradable cups from the back of Dean and Chris Davison's Suburban, naturally festooned with lights and a disco ball to illuminate the way.

The rally was held completely outdoors, with "Happy Hour" gatherings spread out between a number of trailers to keep the number in each group to 10 people or less and 6 feet apart. Everyone enjoyed the time to visit with old and new friends, whether in groups or at their trailers. By Saturday night we could see stars while visiting around the gas fire pits.

Many attendees spent

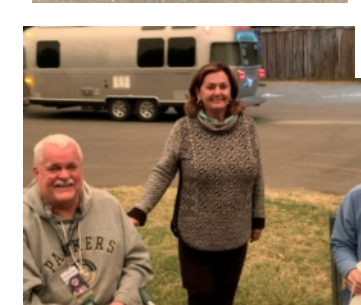
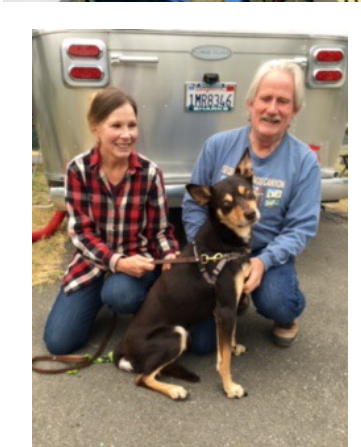
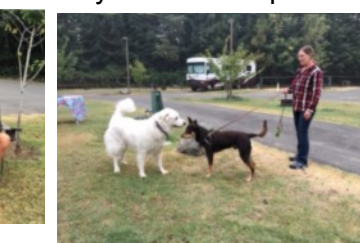
their time investigating the 32 miles of the Avenue of the Giants highway, including the many attractions, parks, and hiking trails throughout Humboldt State Park. Each trail/area had its own personality. Founders Grove had a beautiful ½ mile trail through the gorgeous redwoods and ferns.

Some people ventured further, out to "The Lost Coast" and Shelter Cove, braving the 23 mile twisty-turny road to the ocean, while others visited the quaint Victorian town of Ferndale with its many renditions of well-cared for Victorian houses. Dean Davison provided a bit of entertainment in camp by erasing dents from some early arriving Airstreams.

A bonus to the rally: Dean and Chris's list of best restaurants in the area, all of which were operating, including but not limited to the Eel River Brewery in Fortuna and The Wildwood Waffle drive-thru adjacent to the Feed Store in Rio Dell with the option of sweet or savory waffle choices. There was not a dud on the list, and people made extensive use of it.

We wish those that left Sunday for the Oregon Caravan safe travels and lasting memories.

*Marget Williams*





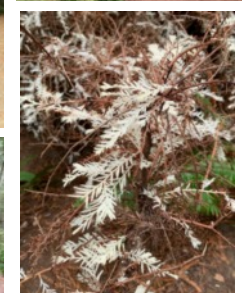
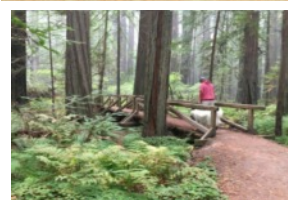
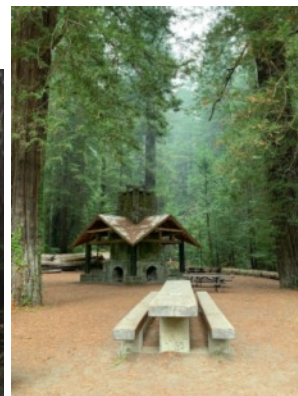
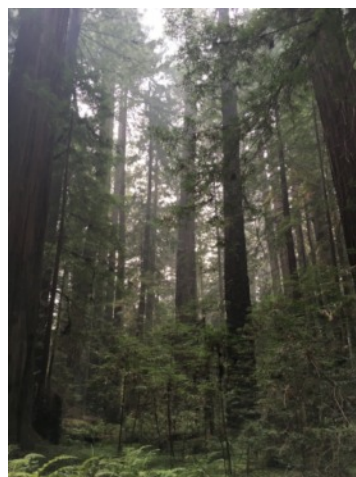
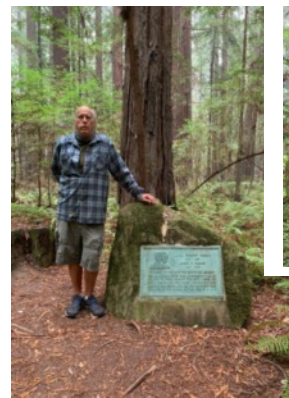
# Rolling Through the Redwoods Cotinued

September 9, 2020: The day the sky was eerie red-orange all day



But the redwoods were fabulous!

Dean entertains by popping dimples from trailers



"Albino" Redwood

Photo credits: Marget Williams, Carrie Bell, Lori Bibby, Elisa Ungerman



# NorCalers Who Got Their Wings

In last month's issue, I noted that posing in front of murals with wings was becoming "a thing," to do. NorCalers are not immune to the trend. The following is a photo montage of those who sent in their photos. I tried to find some wings, but alas, could not join in the fun. --editor



Clockwise: Gail Crutchfield, Ray Bell, Dan Crutchfield, Steve Irey



## NorCaler's Encoraged to Donate to Fisher House This Year in Lieu of Silent Auction

Due to the pandemic, there will be no silent auction this year at the December Rally. But I am encouraging all NorCalers to still be philanthropic and contribute to my charity of choice: Fisher House at Travis AFB in Fairfield, CA.



Please donate by submitting checks made payable to "Travis AFB Fisher House" to NorCal Treasurer, 5346 Paso Del Rio Way, Concord, CA, 94521-5006 for a donation in lieu of supplying or bidding on an auction item by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

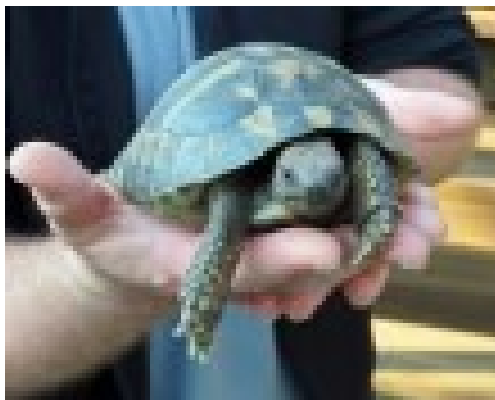
Fisher House provides housing for military and veteran families so they may stay together while obtaining medical services. The Travis AFB Fisher House will send individual donation recognition letters for tax purposes to the name and address on the check. Please have a look at their website to see their great work, a very high percentage of the funds go directly to help wounded vets. <https://fisherhouse.org/>

Ray Bell

# “Shell”tering in Place – How we spent our COVID Lockdown

*By Carole and Bob/Lloyd Echols*

Photo: Sharon Hull Santa Cruz Sentinel



In October of 2017 we became “pet parents” of three Hermanns tortoise hatchlings - Gaia (pictured), Ruga and Thena. We chose Hermann tortoises, scientifically known as “*Testudo Hermann*,” because they come from a Mediterranean climate similar to Santa Cruz where we live. Santa Cruz’s climate, being a good match to their natural climate, should allow them to eventually live and thrive outside, in our garden. We chose to raise tortoises from babies so that we could gradually acclimate them. And we thought it would be fun!

While raising baby tortoises *is* fun, it is also an enormous amount of work. When the tortoises arrived from the breeder, a species specialist in New Jersey, they were the size of a half silver dollar. They required heat lamps and a special indoor environment that we created in a black cement mixing tub. They needed to be soaked daily, fed both tortoise chow and fresh greens like lettuce and dandelion greens. They also really like Italian radicchio and hibiscus, both the leaves and flowers.

Natural UV sunlight is also very important for tortoise growth and well-being. As such, every time the temperature was over 65F degrees we moved the tortoises outside into another cement tub to breathe our coastal air and bask in the Santa Cruz sunshine. The tortoises love being outside and their activity quickly begins to speed up...we like to say they are solar powered!

Fast forward to the summer of 2020, the COVID-19 lockdown. It was finally time for our young tortoises, now almost 3-years old and about 6 inches in shell length, to move outside full time. Like many, we had a lot of time on our hands and started building an enclosure for our tortoises’ new outdoor habitat. Of course, Lloyd never does anything half-way.

Their new habitat is almost 5 X 24 feet so it takes up a bit of room. We first had to remove an existing flower box and dig up a section of our lawn. Then we had to dig down and remove approximately 10” of soil from the entire area. Tortoises of this species require a well-drained, rocky and sandy soil that had to be added. Once we completed this chore, we started building the framework of the habitat using treated lumber on the outside and gray polycarbonate corrugated sheeting to line the inside of the enclosure since we didn’t want the tortoises to be exposed to any toxic chemicals from the treated wood.

Once the basic rectangular structure was completed, we filled in the area with a special mixture of soil, sand, gravel and other rocks to provide the correct, naturalistic substrate upon which the tortoises will live and thrive. Lots of tough, heavy and time-consuming work but hey, we had a lot of time on our hands and help from both our sons who were either furloughed or working from home.



Then the fun began, planting and “decorating” the habitat. Essentially we were trying to create a Mediterranean mound or rock garden, so we chose plants that thrive in that climate and which the tortoises could either eat or use for shade cover. We planted rosemary, lavender, thyme, spirea, Rose of Sharon, other hibiscus varieties

*Continued next page*



## “Shell”tering in Place continued

and an assortment of dwarf grasses. We added an antique pottery jug for the tortoises to crawl into as well as several large pieces of the driftwood. Many of the stones, driftwood and plants were brought back from Airstream rallies in Garberville and Fort Bragg. The tortoises love burrowing and hanging out around these features of their new habitat as they seek out security and little microclimates.



The tortoises also needed a couple of other things to live in our yard full time. Lloyd built them a wonderful greenhouse with a plexiglass panels and a roof that can be opened and vented. This allows the tortoises to be warmer in the greenhouse if the weather outside is cooler.

Tortoises need to reach a body temperature of 80F degrees in order to properly digest their food. We also had a local electrician wire the entire area for both a water feature and a future heated “night box”



Regarding the wonderful water feature that Lloyd built: he first he dug out a subterranean water reservoir and lined it with pond liner. Then he built the surface features with a variety of stacked slate and rocks. He drilled a hole through a large centrally placed rock and put a pump hose up through the rock so that water bubbles up over and around the slate and stone terrace. This allows the tortoises to cool off as well as and to drink from shallow pools and crevices formed by the bubbling spring.

To make the outside of the enclosure more aesthetically appealing, we faced it with a natural stone façade. Then we capped the entire structure with concrete paving stones so we can sit, feed and gaze upon the tortoises. Then we RESTED.



Still to do before winter sets in is the “night house” with insulation and a heat panel so the tortoise can find refuge during those colder Santa Cruz nights. Keeping with the Mediterranean garden theme we plan to create a façade of the night house reminiscent of a Tuscan villa complete with accent windows and arches!

Depending on quality of care and husbandry, tortoises of this species can live up to and potentially over 100 years old. Our tortoises will probably outlive both us and our son, Adam, who lives in a nearby cottage and serves as their primary “keeper”. As such, we have arranged to have our 4-year old great nephew, Calvin, to serve as “heir” to inherit responsibility for the tortoises. After all this work, perhaps we should bequest him the house too!

# NORCAL ANNUAL ELECTION INFORMATION

The NorCal Club will be holding its annual officers election this month: October. The election will be wholly electronic; there will be no paper ballots, so your only way to vote will be via computer or other electronic device. Included on the ballot will be candidates for each office of the NorCal Board, and three amendments to the NorCal Constitution based upon changes made by the International Board of Trustees

(IBT) in June 2020. Please note: passage of the NorCal Constitutional amendments requires a 2/3 approval of those voting. The Amendments are printed in full in this issue of The Poppy, along with the approved slate of officers. See below and on the following page for that information.

The election (e.g. voting) will start on October 15, 2020, and end on November 1, 2020. You will receive an email with information on the election and a link to the ballot site. The results of the election will be shared at the November NorCal Board meeting. Please vote; get in practice for casting your ballot in November!

If you have any questions please contact me, Tom Smithson, at [tscats@mac.com](mailto:tscats@mac.com).

*Tom Smithson*

## NorCal Slate of Officers

The NorCal Nominating Committee (Bob Verdegaal, Dan Crutchfield, and Chair John Bibby) submitted to the Executive Board their 2021 NorCal Slate of Officers. Thus, the following will be on the upcoming officer election ballot this month:

President: John Bibby  
1st Vice President: Bob Verdegaal  
2nd Vice President: Jim Christie  
Trustee: Carmen Ortiz  
Trustee: Carole Echols  
Secretary: Carrie Bell  
Treasurer: Janet Motta



See the President's message on page 1 if you wish to throw your hat in the ring. Officers remaining in their positions are: Senior Trustee Billie Verdegaal and Senior Trustee Dean Davison since these are two-year positions. Also remaining is Parliamentarian Hedda Smithson.

In addition, the following Standing Committee Chair changes are set to take effect on January 1st: Membership Chair: Marget Williams, replacing Carmen Ortiz; Registrar: Lori Bibby, replacing Gail Crutchfield, and Webmaster: Carmen Ortiz, replacing Barry Marson.

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the NorCal Constitution were presented to and approved by the Executive Board on August 8. Briefly they accomplish the following:

1. Replace the word Unit with the word Club wherever it appears in the constitution.
2. Allow one vote per person in each membership.
3. Use that voting power in meetings and during elections.

These amendments will be included on the Club's online election as discussed above. Details of the amendments are provided on the following page.





**Amendment #1: Amend the Constitution by deleting the word “Unit” and substituting the word “Club.”**

Rationale: In June of 2018 we changed our name from the Northern California Unit to the Northern California Airstream Club.

**Amendment #2: Amend Article IV – Membership Qualifications by deleting section 8 and inserting a new section 8.**

Current language:

Article IV – Membership Qualifications

Sec. 8 In those cases of co-ownership of a hard-sided recreational vehicle manufactured by Airstream, Inc., the rights and privileges of membership shall be deemed to include the spouses of such co-owners but collectively such co-owners shall possess one vote only except such co-owners who each pay International and Unit dues to this Unit shall each have one vote. A co-owner is defined as one of two WBCCI members who own a single Airstream Recreational Vehicle. Existing co-owners with more than two memberships on June 25, 2005, are not subject to this two membership limitation, as long as they maintain continuous membership in WBCCI.

New language:

Article IV – Membership Qualifications

**Sec. 8 *An owner of an Airstream and his/her spouse/partner who join the Northern California Airstream Club as Regular Members will have one vote per person in the election of officers at the Local and International levels as well as amendments to their respective constitutions.***

Rationale: Up to now, each ownership was entitled to only one vote even though two people might be associated with the membership. Now each person has a voice. The change in the International governing documents occurred during the Zoom International Rally in July.

**Amendment #3: Amend Article VII by deleting section 2 and inserting a new section 2.**

Current language:

Article VII - Unit Business Meetings

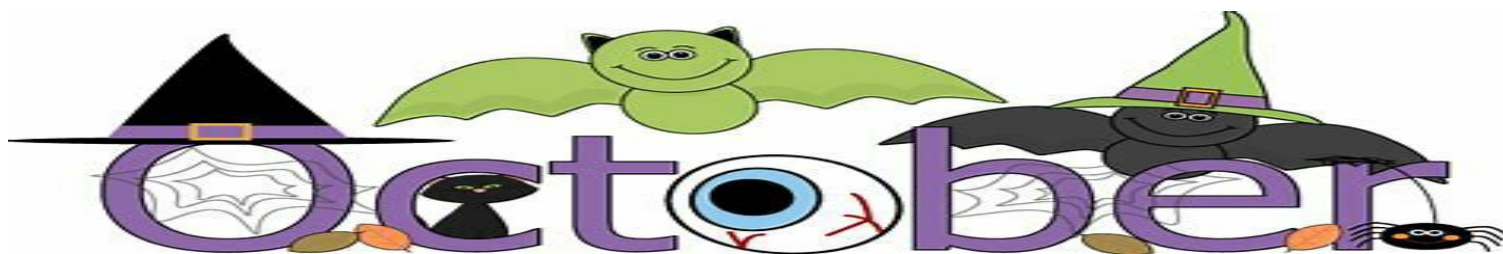
Sec. 2 All Regular Members voting at the annual or additional business meetings of this organization, and each such membership, identified by the International Club membership number, shall be considered one vote, except for co-owner who each pay International and Unit dues to this Unit as provided for in Article IV, Sec. 8.

New language:

Article VII – *Club* Business Meetings

**Sec. 2 *Each Regular Member, (owner, spouse or partner), who votes at any business meeting of this Club, has one vote.***

Rationale: Each person associated with a membership has a vote. This reflects changes in the governing documents at the International level.



| Sun                           | Mon   | Tue                     | Wed                                       | Thu                       | Fri                 | Sat                       |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
|                               |   |                         |   | 1<br><br>Int. Elderly Day | World Smile Day<br> | 3                         |
| 4<br><br>Nat. Golf Day        | 5   | 6                       | 7   | 8                         | 9                   | 10                        |
| 11                            | 12<br><br>COLUMBUS DAY<br>NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY | 13                      | 14  | 15                        | 16                  | 17                        |
| 18                            | 19  | 20                      | 21  | 22                        | 23                  | 24                        |
| Region 12 Rally - Palm Desert |   |                         |   |                           |                     |                           |
| 25                            | 26  | 27<br><br>BLACK CAT DAY | 28<br><br>HAPPY PLUSH ANIMAL LOVER'S DAY! | 29                        | 30                  | 31<br><br>Happy Halloween |

Source: <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm>

## Garden Flag Information



You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from Flagcology. Complete instructions are in the January Poppy issue. For any questions, the NorCal contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagcology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922. Click here to order, or copy and paste in your browser:  
<https://www.flagcology.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 are distributing 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. Be sure to get one from me.

