

Volume 57 Number 5 The Poppy June 2020

President's Column

June has arrived. Carrie and I continue to shelter in place at our home. The interesting times we live in are particularly poignant as June is such a beautiful month for hitching up our Airstreams and venturing. Norcal is a large club, with diverse membership, which is mirrored in our personal situations. My desire is that our Club can still continue to offer adventure, safely, as soon as possible. Unfortunately, that is not right now.

Sadly, the Lone Pine Rally was canceled as a Club activity. The overall State "stay at home" rule is still in effect. So, while the Club can adjust the rallies to conform to local guidelines of the day and give members independence to participate to the degree they are comfortable, the fact remains that the Club would be endorsing conduct currently at odds with the rule. We are hopeful that as the summer unfolds, the rule on travel will be relaxed as we can engage in Clubsanctioned activities

The Fort Bragg rally in August is in the planning stage, and if interested, sign-up so we can judge the interest. Last minute changes are possible, so we are keeping our options open.

Zoom Happy Hour? Adventure? It certainly was. We peaked at 35 "devices" and about 60 people. It was a bit of mayhem, and colorful metaphors, but despite the chaos it was very nice to see the faces of old and new

friends. I will schedule more in the future but please...mute when your not talking!

I want to thank Tom Smithson for organizing the online voting for International Officers and the Constitutional Amendments. I hope everyone takes the time to examine the material and vote.



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



From the Editor

There I was, sheltering in place with a new (to us) Airstream and nowhere to go ...until we got word that the Lone Pine Buckaroo Rally would be a go!

Then a few days before the rally, we got word there would not be a rally, but we that we were free to decide whether to make the trip anyway, We decided to venture out nonetheless, complete with



masks and social distancing, albeit not as a Club event.

I have no idea what awaits us, and what we will be able to do there. The Alabama Hills area will be the perfect place to wear a mask, as required by the Inyo County Public Health Officer. Perhaps we will be sheltering in our trailer for five days, but it will be a nice change of scenery.

In this issue, winners of the Haiku Contest are announced, (pgs 6-7), the Zoom Rally Happy Hour is revisited (page 5), New Members who participated in the Zoom Rally Happy Hour May 1st are profiled (page 11), and we get to know our

Treasurer Phyllis Minadeo and Trustee Dean Davison a bit better (page 10). We also have the summary and coupon for the Fort Bragg Rally at Pomo RV Park in August that we hope will go forward (pages 3 and 4). Please note the altered payment instructions if you desire to go. Finally, I am starting a new feature "Tales of Your Airstream," which is any stories by club members on how they got their first, and later Airstreams. We all have such a story to tell, and each is interesting. Thanks to Dean Davison for offering his. You can submit yours to me at any time!

Finally, I want to thank everyone who contributes to The Poppy! I reach out and ask for articles and you step up without complaint and with enthusiasm. That means a whole lot to me, as well as to The Poppy itself. Keep up the good work!

-Elisa

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 be cancelled.

2020 Rallies and Caravans

3/4-8 Skyline RV Park Napa HOSTS: Dave & Jill Wilson, and Greg & Janet Motta			
4/1-5 Gilroy Garlic RV 13rk Gilroy HOSTS: Bob & Carlic Bottons and Steve & Yoshi Deiwert			
4/16-19 Cali Rally Parkfield			
5/6-10 Lassen RV Park McArthur			
HOSTS: Tom & Hoods Shrithson and Cam & Marcia Murray			
6/3-7 Boulder Creek RV Park Lone Pine HOSTS: Tom & Day Labert, and John & Elain White			
6/20-27 International Rally Loveland, CO			
8/5-9 POMO RV Park Fort Bragg			
HOSTS: Brian & Juliet Scheuer and 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 and Bob and 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 and Jose Ortiz			
12/2-6 Black Oak Casino RV Park Sonora HOSTS: Billie and Bob Verdegaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman			

***Note: THE V6 RANCH IS A DRY

CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Safely Streaming Through the Fog August 5-9, 2020 Pomo RV Park, Fort Bragg, CA 17999 Tregoning Dr, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Here is an opportunity to follow safety guidelines while enjoying your Airstream with your friends in NorCal!

With various unit rallies, caravans and even the International Rally canceled, we want to assure everyone that we are committed to making this as SAFE of a rally that we can, for all to attend.

The safety of our members is of utmost concern and we are taking precautions to make sure all recommended guidelines are followed.

If gatherings of certain sizes are not recommended, then we will not ask anyone to attend large group activities. Airstream friends are encouraged to visit in campsites, following appropriate social distancing guidelines. Masks are good!



Pomo RV Park

The Pomo RV Park and Campground is an ideal setting

for an appropriately safedistanced rally. The sites are large, with significant spacing between neighbors. Most sites have vegetation growing between sites, which allows for extra physical distancing (and privacy, too). All sites have full hookups.

This rally is an opportunity to visit a beautiful coastal setting in the peak season, with discounted camping rates and cool temperatures.



Glass Beach, Fort Bragg

Site seeing opportunities abound with Coastal Trails, State Parks, Beaches, Headlands – all with plenty of open space. Fort Bragg, and neighboring Mendocino, typically have lots of shopping and dining; we'll see what is open in August.

PLEASE NOTE THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES LISTED ON THE COUPON



Mendocino

We are asking that you Register on-line and then pay for sites and rally fees via paper check through the regular postal mail.

In the event we feel comfortable providing group meals, we will ask for payment at the rally (to cover the cost).

Brian & Juliet Scheuer Jody Lee & Tim Kirk



Safely Streaming Through the Fog August 5-9, 2020 Pomo RV Park, Fort Bragg, CA

Name:	Cell phone:		
Email:	WBCCI#		
Arrival Day: Departure Day:	RV length	T or MH	
Rally Nights @ \$49 per night	Parking Fee	\$	
Number attending @ \$5 person	Rally Fee	\$	
TOTAL RALLY FEE:	TOTAL DUE	\$	
 Either register on line at northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net or send this form/information to the registrar at Norcalreg22@gmail.com. Or mail registration with check to the address below. DO NOT PAY ONLINE. After registering, please mail a check to the address below. Mail your payment to Gail Crutchfield - NorCal Registrar, 12431 Alta Mesa Drive, Auburn, CA 95603 Refunds are available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Contact the Rally Chair if you wish to change your reservation after June 30th Contact the Rally Chair if you wish to register after June 30th. Supply the information below if this is your FIRST NorCal rally OR there are updates since your last event. 			
Street Address:	State Zi		
Handicap Accommodation	State <u>r</u> ZI	ν	

NorCal'S FIRST VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

via





Photo by Marget Williams

On Friday, May 1, 2020, like any Friday night at a Club rally, NorCalers celebrated Happy Hour together. But instead of being at an RV park, they were in the safety of their own shelter-in-place locations via the ubiquitous Zoom software application utilized by President Ray Bell who came up with the idea and arranged for the virtual Happy Hour via a Zoom invitation.

This turned out to be a very popular idea. There were so many members logging in that two

screens were required to show everyone. At one point there were 35 devices logged on, with roughly 60 plus people in attendance. The thirst for social interaction with club members was palpable after at least six weeks of quarantine.

For two couples, this was their first "rally," and they are featured on page 11. For others it was a way to connect, see one another, wave, and say "Hi" in real time. A practice session was successfully held for a few neophyte Zoomers (yours truly included) a couple

days before, which was very helpful in participating in the "real thing."

While not the same as being with one another in person, and certainly a bit more unwieldy (who talks to 60 people at the same time during Happy Hour?), it was a fun way to keep us NorCalers connected during this "down" time and touch base with one another.

Another idea? It has been suggested that a moderator might be a helpful if we do this again.

-editor



NorCal's First Haiku Contest Results



First, the disclaimer: I am by no means a Haiku expert and no doubt ill-qualified to judge a Haiku contest, but since it was my off-the-cuff idea, and someone had to do it, I became the default choice, at least this year.

Second, I did not anticipate that choosing winners would be so difficult – it was. Ultimately, cohesive imagery made the difference. Third, kudos and several thank-yous to the 15 people that participated, proffering about 40 entries! Most who participated indicated how fun it was.

Every entry was creative and enjoyable, even if some were disqualified for failing to adhere to the 5-7-5 syllable rule.

I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did. All qualifying entries that I received are reprinted here. The winners of the First NorCal Haiku Contest are on the next page (to keep you in suspense.)

-Elisa Ungerman

Silver Brightly shines With Friends, Fun, and Adventures Life is rich and full

Worlds' expansive gaze Our wheels carry us forward Silver turns golden

Happy Hour Calls us Bring your service for supper Friendship is our meal

Home is Safe Comfort My heart needs new perspectives Home away from Home

Newness expands all Grateful for our unity Sharing worlds as one

--Claudette Page

Bowing to tow hitch Low ceiling yawn exhausted Square patch stars remind

Two stairs down to Earth Awning shad teas silver style Relax done rebirth

Silver vessel run
Wheels sound paradiddle hum
Waves smiles Mai Tai rum
--Sharon Froelich

Rolling down the road Aluminum caravan Happy dump station

Famine flood locust Calamity far and wide Sorry no hook ups

Ocean rainforest Volcanos prairies big skies The Salem asphalt

Coming together
We strangers becoming friends
Happy trails to you
--Ray and Carrie Bell

I want my Airstream Life is so incomplete without Fun, Friends, Travel now

Airstream such beauty In eye of the beholder Prettiness thy name

--Tom Smithson

Silver tears fun down
Corona virus says stay home
Let me see my friends

--Dan Crutchfield

Her Roadhouse grounded
Gypsy Boots wants to ravel
Who knows where or when?
--Hedda Smithson

Silver capsule streaks
Happy campers sing a song
Tires humming along
--Michael Havill

Out with good friends in Our Airstream, but I awoke It was just a dream.

--Marcia Murray

Chill the chardonnay Check lug torque and air pressure Mints on the pillows

Polisher and grit
Shiny aluminum skin
Our vintage Airstream
--Mike Diggles

Rallies, caravans Amazing adventures all Let us hit the road!

Hike, bike, swimming fun Airstreaming choices galore Whatever floats your boat! --Cathy Maffei

I miss our rallies
My Airstream is parked away
What is the future?

Friends and food and games
Our rallies are full of fun
When will the next be?

Exploring new sites
Travel is an adventure
Making new friendships
--Steve Deiwert



HAIKU WINNERS



Congratulations to First Place Winner Sharon Froelich, who won an Amazon Gift Card (her choice) for her winning entry in the Haiku Contest. Way to Go Sharon!

俳句 haiku

HAIKUS CONTINUED

Aluminium** Shiny Airstream gleaming bright

Great for traveling

-Steve Deiwert

**UK pronunciation

'I'm no a poet Haiku? Whew! Don't have to rhyme

Just count. Go Airstream!

One two three four five And plus two equals seven Three two one: Airstream!

No more, I'm worn out Back to making my face mask Covid not for me.

Who sent this to you? C-M-U-R-R-A-Y Thankfully, no more.

--Cam Murray

First Place

On the road a tow
Chair circle lit from fires glow
Stars above chins high

--Sharon Froelich

Second Place

Rambling down the road Silver Home trailing behind Joining Streamer friends

--Cathy Maffei

Third Place

Hitched up and unplugged
The entire checklist complete
Forgot the steps, bent

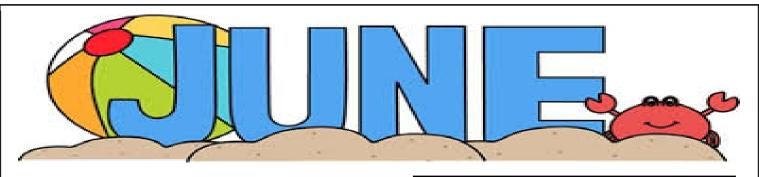
--Ray and Carrie Bell

Honorable Mention

Black Water Woes

Is that a drip? Yilkes! Replace the valve or gasket? Dennis, John. Advice!

--- Bob Vasser

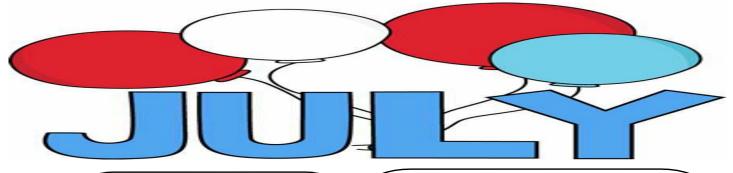


Birthdays

Mike Minadeo 13 Gregg Motta 1 Kimber Moore 17 Beverley Wain-3 Cathy Sandy wright 6 Jim Geach 22 Tom Bain 7 David Kirstien 25 Carol Kurzrock 7 Andy Bayowski 26 **Chris Gales** 10 **Natalie Fortier** 27 Phyllis Minadeo 11 Lori Bibby 30 **Barry Williams** 13 Gregg Edeson 30 Andrea Grendahl

Anniversaries

- 1 Chris/Criss Gales
- 3 John/Dace Roll
- 5 Dan/Gail Crutchfield
- 6 Larry/Maureen Delorefice
- 9 Larry/Kathy Warren
- 13 Charlie/Jane Wright
- 14 Stu & Sue Clark
- 15 Bev Wainwright/Fredric Sloan
- 19 Steve/Yoshiko Deiwert
- 21 George/Claudette Paige
- 26 Stuart/Pamela Lindsay



Birthdays

- 5 Jill Wilson
- 9 Dori Daniel
- 10 Bob Echols
- 13 Margaret Handshoe
- 15 Dan Crutchfield
- 16 JP Sherry
- 17 Larry Larsen
- 18 Carol Beardshear
- 21 Alan Aguilar
- 23 Valri Ayer
- 24 Brian Scheuer
- 29 Stu Clark
- 31 Maureeen Delorefice
- 31 Bob Minder

Anniversaries

- 1 John/Elain White
- 2 Tom/Lora Broad
- 6 Tony/Betty Sica
- 7 John/Mary Diamond
- 7 Ronald/Luann Hollis
- 11 Barry/Claudia Marson
- 13 Dave/Jill Wilson
- 22 Tom/Patti Reed
- 27 James/Sarah Curl
- 29 Steve/Leslie Irey

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Coates and Darlene Pondolfino #8120

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

151 Unit/Life Members

21 Affiliate Members

172 Total Members

WBCCI on the Web

www.wbcci.org/

Region 12 on the Web

Region12airstreamclub.net

NorCal on the Web

Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/



Still hoping that all of our members and their families are staying safe and healthy during our current *Claudia Marson* medical crisis.

Church Bulletin

Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Meet Your Treasurer

Phyllis Minadeo was born in Arkansas, and has lived in Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and California. She spent her summers on university campuses around the U.S. with her family while her father attended seminars for science teachers. She met her husband Mike Minadeo on a blind date in high school. They got married when she was 19 and he was 20, after he had completed basic military training and she had completed one year of college. They have been married for 50 years.

Phyllis worked as a dental hygienist for 42 years before retiring in 2015. "I loved my job, coworkers and patients" she says.

They bought their first Airstream in 2013, a brand new 2013 23'FB International Serenity, and joined NorCal in December 2014. At their first rally they saw a 27FB International Serenity, with the walk-around bed parallel to the trailer. No more crawling over one another! Plus the size was more to their liking. So they bought one just like it. Over the years, they have hosted three rallies with the Crutchfield's, who, she claims, "are great co-hosts."



Phyllis became treasurer in 2018, but is leaving the position at the end of the year. "Although I have loved the job and working with Gail & Pat, I will be retiring the end of this year in order to give more attention to the Golden State National Caravan that we developed and will be leading (hopefully) next year. But for now, she is "Looking forward to seeing our AS friends at rallies & knitting with the gang again." —editor

Meet (one of) Your Trustees



Dean Davison was born in Chicago, moving to the West Coast when he was eight. He grew up in Belmont, CA and went to San Jose State, graduating with a degree in Computer Science Engineering. He met his wife Chris on a blind date in 2002. "I could tell right away that we would get along, so I invited her on a road trip to deliver some furniture to a friend of mine in Indiana." Chris declined that particular trip (too much too soon!), but "we've taken many a trip since then." Chris asked Dean to marry her on New Year's Eve of 2004 and, in 2005, they were married at San Francisco City Hall. "Chris likes to brag that our wedding cost \$35. We both agree it was absolutely perfect."

As for NorCal, "We really enjoy the camaraderie of the club. Early on we realized that what makes

our club special is that there are so many couples who really truly like each other. It takes a great relationship to want to spend days and days in a little house on wheels with your partner. We love that energy. Also it seems like no matter our differences (politics, religion, etc.) we can always find some common ground.

In the summer of 2019 I was asked to serve on the Club Board as a Trustee. While 2020 has proven to be a challenge for all so far, I am excited be able to give back to a club that has provided so much to Chris and I for the past four years."

For the story on Dean and Chris' Airstream trailers, notable for their LED lighting, see page 12.

-editor

Meet (some of) Our New Members

The Poppy



Gordon and Cheryl Apons Petaluma, California

Cheryl is now retired but was a self employed consultant to the insurance Industry for many years. She is a veteran traveler (via RV and non-RV) to many domestic and foreign destinations.

Gordon has been involved in the scuba diving industry for many years. He is also a veteran RV and business traveler, including destinations across the US, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

When not Airstreaming, Cheryl and Gordon enjoy non-RV traveling, exploring new restaurants and visiting their adult kids and grandkids. Cheryl paints as well as doing other art projects in her studio. Gordon walks the dog.

In 2006, Cheryl and Gordon bought a new 2007 T@B trailer after seeing a TV feature on them. During the ensuing 12+ years, they took many, many trips in the T@B around the Southwest, across the US to Key West, another trip to Native American and 19th century settlers' sites in Oklahoma and Texas.

Last spring, Cheryl and Gordon decided to purchase an Airstream and in the span of about 30 hours, they sold their T@B and bought a new 2019 16' Bambi at Bay Area Airstream in Fairfield. "Our 2020 plans included the International Rally in Loveland as well as a month or so on the road tacked on to each end of that, but, well, you know what happened to Loveland." While they enjoyed the virtual Happy Hour,

Cheryl and Gordon are looking forward to attending an Airstream rally at some point this year and meeting everyone in person.

—editor

Chris is (in theory) retired. He's president of their Homeowner's Association, which has turned out to be more of a full time job than a volunteer position. Glenna works for Comcast, currently working from home and hoping to retire in 2023.

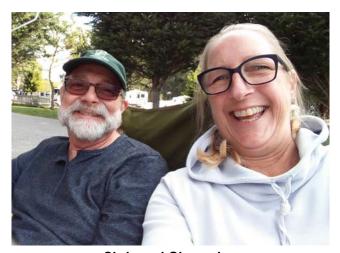
The weekend before Christmas, 2017, they moved from San Ramon to Sonora, closer to Twain Harte. "Aside from raking oak leaves for 7 months a year, we absolutely love the area." Chris plays (French) Horn, and Glenna plays flute and piccolo. "As for owning an Airstream, we'll just blame everything on the dog. Really."

They had a little fiberglass trailer, purchased in 2013. They liked it well enough, until they traveled to Oregon for a week in October 2014, where there was record rainfall. "In seven days we saw the sun for two hours.

By the time we got home, we were all completely soaked."

After their return to sunny California, Glenna and Frankie were at a local dog park where they met an Airstream enthusiast who told her to take a look at used trailers at Airstream in Fairfield. The next day, Bay Area Airstream had an ad in the local paper with their Anniversary Sale banner. "So, for Mother's Day 2015, we went to "just look' at used trailers. We came home with our first (new) 19ft Flying Cloud. It's all Frankie's fault. "

A year later they were back at the dealership storing their trailer, when they were gently sold on a 23CB, and in 2018, after deciding that they would really like a walk-around bed in lieu of the corner bed, and a bit more room in the water



Chris and Glenna Lee Sonora, California

closet, "we went full out and purchased a 26U" Glenna Reports. Port Angeles/Olympic Peninsula; Grand Teton, Cheyenne (family stop), then on to Devil's Tower; Lassen, Columbia River Gorge (OR State Parks), Crater Lake are some of their ports of call, and they are hoping to get to a "real rally" one of these days. "Everyone seemed very friendly at the virtual Happy Hour, even those who spoke nonstop." Glenna added. We are looking forward to the December Rally, although we may just pop down for cocktail hours." —editor

TALES OF YOUR AIRSTREAMS

We all have our personal stories of how we began Airstreaming. This is but one.

I always tell people we "Accidentally bought an Airstream". I have always been a camper – Backpacking or Tent camping primarily. Chris thought "Roughing it" meant 'room service closed at 10:00 PM'. We had discussed buying a small camper of some type – It needed to have a bathroom. I had been looking at A-liner style campers as well as a "Scamp" like thing – you know – small.

One March afternoon in 2016, I was cruising some local neighborhoods in search of colors to paint our house when I happened upon a 16' 2012 Airstream Bambi in a driveway with a for sale sign in the front window. I thought "I'll bring Chris to come see it" So I jotted down the phone number and Chris set up an appointment to see it. It turns out that the owners purchased it new. used it once for a caravan and decided that they really wanted a self contained unit. I must say, it was love at first sight. It had a bathroom, a kitchen and a bed. What else did one need. Chris said - "Let's buy it". She had looked at the for sale sign and thought it said \$3,500.00.

Neither of us had looked at Airstreams or really any trailers with actual intent to purchase so we had no idea of the cost. When I pointed out the true cost, she balked.



We agreed to do some research and ended up offering \$32,000.

Our offer was accepted and we found ourselves hooking it to our truck and towing it home that afternoon. The airstream had red numbers on it and the owners explained that this was part of an Airstream club. The next thing I know, we are club members and we are going to a rally in June. In preparation for our first rally, we went to a local campsite for 3 nights for practice.

The night before we are to leave for our first rally, Chris is talking to her girlfriend on the phone, who says "Hey, you have to have lights or some kind of decorations if you are going to a rally." Well, you do not need to tell me twice. That evening I installed my first set of LED strip lights to an Airstream. The next morning, we headed out across Highway 36 to Graeagle.

Fast forward about two years. Chris noted that the bed was too small, the bathroom was not convenient (All in one shower and toilet with no sink) and the refrigerator and closet were both too small. (I always felt that the single 21 gallon Black/grey tank was too small and the single axel was a reliability issue.) She then shows me a listing for a 1997 25 foot Airstream Safari that cost about the same as our 2012 16 foot Bambi. I told her "Lets go see it".

So, we flew to LAX, rented a car and drove to Big Bear Lake. The owner had a B&B and said we could stay there Saturday night and then go see it on Sunday.



The good news was the bed was a Queen size, the Bathroom had a separate shower and sink, and the closet and Refrigerator were both much larger. In addition, it had 32 gallon Fresh, Gray and Black water tanks, and a double axle. It had been really well taken care of internally. In fact, the previous owner had remodeled it and done a pretty good job. The bad news was: it looked like it had a really bad sunburn and had peeled.



A quick call to a fellow club member (George Paige) and I knew that the 1997 could be polished. So, we put a deposit down that day and returned home to sell our Bambi. We listed it for a bit less than we paid for it as we had used it for two years. The first person I spoke to paid our asking price. She is living in it 6 – 9 months out of the year and LOVES it.

As for me, I have completed a list of 236 repairs and upgrades on the 25" that include new axles, Solar and Lithium upgrade, a full strip and polish and, of course, LED strip lights around the entire outside.



-Dean Davison



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.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. See me, Carmen Ortiz, or my designee, 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.

