



# The NorCal News

2021  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Volume 58 Number 1

The Poppy

January/February 2021

## Presidents' Columns

### Outgoing

It was November as Carrie and I found ourselves making our way from the Region 12 rally in Palm Desert to our club rally in Pismo Beach. We had a chance to reflect on this past year while pausing at Lake Cachuma, and what a strange year it has been.

Despite all the canceled events in our lives, I am very happy that some of the Club events occurred. Not exactly as desired, but the chance to get out and travel was a welcomed relief for us.

Given the outlook for the December rally, the Pismo Rally became an opportunity to install the new board and recognize those taking on new positions on varied Committees. I am encouraged by how quickly members volunteer to fill positions in the Club. The Club will have a long healthy future.

**Bell Continued pg. 3**



### Incoming

Greetings and Happy New Year to All. Lori and I hope everyone had a joyous and safe Holiday Season.

We have a great lineup of 2021 rallies published on our website [www.airstreamclub.org/northern-california](http://www.airstreamclub.org/northern-california), and here in the Poppy.

You'll see some old favorites, in addition to a few new locations to explore. Mark your calendars! Due to the size of our Club, rallies can fill up fast. For this reason I recommend you sign up soon after registration opens.

Many of the rallies still need hosts and co-hosts. Please contact our Rally Chair, Pat Lazzereschi, if you have any questions or can help out by hosting. You won't be on your own; plenty of help is always available if you need it. Check out the article on pgs. 6-7 too.

Some of you may have seen an initial rally schedule that included Sugar Barge RV Resort in February. Due to a lot of unknowns about the pandemic, this rally was cancelled. As of this writing, an approved vaccine is under distribution. However, we still can't predict when it will be

**Bibby Continued pg. 3**



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## From The Editor

Welcome to the New Year, with its promise of new rallies and adventures. While we have none scheduled for January and February, January is Hobby Month, Hot Tea Month, and National Soup Month, which gives us some direction on what to do while we are not Airstreaming. February is, among other things, SOB Month. No, not some other brand" but actually "spunky old broad." Who knew? Check out

<http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/February/spunky-old-broads-day.htm> for more information. SOB will forever more have a new meaning for some of us.

This issue of the Poppy has the last message from our Immediate Past President Ray Bell who looks back, and the first message of newly minted President John Bibby who looks forward. This issue also looks back at last Fall, including the Region 12 Rally held in October at the Palm Desert RV Resort, the NorCal Pismo Beach Rally held in November at the Pismo Village RV Resort, and at a few members who, in December, trailered to Black Oak RV Park in Tuolumne, despite the Club's rally cancellation. It is worth a mention since the 2021 December Rally is set to occur there, and it is a lovely area. We were able to spend a wonderful day hiking in Yosemite, in the shadow of Half Dome, a 2 hour drive from Tuolumne.

Looking forward, our next Rally is not until April, in Gilroy, so save the dates: April 7-11. Hosts Carol and Bob Echols are trying to resurrect what was canceled last year due to COVID. There is no rally registration in this issue of the Poppy; look for the Gilroy Coupon in an upcoming February email blast. Carol says she is hopeful that the recent COVID spiking will be over and some venues like the Winchester Mystery House will be open by that time for individual viewing. Keep your fingers crossed.

Meanwhile, Bob Vasser recently confided that he, the Malones, and the Warrens are thinking about a Tag-Along Caravan to the International in Lebanon, Tennessee this summer. They are in the beginning planning stage, so if you are interested in tagging along, or have any ideas, let Bob know. And don't forget to register for the International, which at this writing is still "on." The link is on this page. It sounds like it will be lots of fun!

So Cheers! to the New Year. I truly hope everyone made it safely through the Holidays, and I hope to see you down the road as the year progresses, whether an "SOB" or not.



*duchugan*

## 2021 Rallies

|           |  |             |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| 4/7-11    | Gilroy Garlic RV Park<br>Hosts: Carol & Bob Echols   | Gilroy      |
| 4/22-25   | Cali Rally-V6 Ranch<br>Region 12 - full/no wait list   | Parkfield   |
| 5/5-9     | Berry Creek RV Park<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>   | Oroville    |
| 6/9-13    | McCloud RV Resort<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>   | McCloud     |
| 7/17-24   | International Rally<br><a href="https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon-2021-international-rally/lebanon-2021-registration">https://airstreamclub.org/lebanon-2021-international-rally/lebanon-2021-registration</a> | Lebanon, TN |
| 8/4-8     | Pioneer RV Park<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>   | Quincy      |
| 9/1-5     | Bodega Bay RV Park<br>Hosts: Tom & Hedda Smithson,<br>Cam & Marcia Murray  | Bodega Bay  |
| 9/28-10/2 | High Sierra RV Park<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>   | Oakhurst    |
| 10/6-10   | Cava Robles Resort<br>Region 12 Rally - Info TBA   | Paso Robles |
| 11/3-7    | Marina Dunes RV Park<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>  | Marina      |
| 12/2-6    | Black Oak Casino RV Park<br><b>HOSTS NEEDED</b>  | Sonora      |

### The Fine Print

New info shown in **green**. Dates are arrival and departure, although you can often request early arrival or Monday departure. Sign-ups are accomplished by submitting a completed Registration form by the due date to the club Registrar. "Buddy" events allow you to invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts or the minimum number of campers may be cancelled. Rallies are subject to COVID restrictions and protocols.





### January Birthdays

- 2 Leland Spence
- 3 Jose Ortiz
- 3 Bob Vasser
- 8 Gary Rich
- 11 Deanna Bain
- 13 John White
- 14 Linda Minder
- 19 Stuart Lindsay
- 19 Juliet Scheuer
- 20 Bob Carl
- 23 Wayne Yee
- 28 Gail Hutto
- 28 Margaret Sharp
- 30 Roy Myers

### February Birthdays

- 1 Allen Sickler
- 1 Bob Vasser
- 2 John Bibby
- 5 Elaine White
- 7 Charlie Wright
- 12 Lynn Zankich Geach
- 14 George Paige
- 18 Zimm Udovich
- 19 Tom Reed
- 20 Mary Diamond
- 28 Patti Reed
- 28 Kathy Warren

### January Anniversaries

- 6 Glen/Jane Gold
- 10 Mike/Jane Malone

### February Anniversaries

- 12 Ken/Judy Bechthold
- 20 Gregg/Valri Ayer
- 24 JP and Claudia Sherry

## Bell Continued

Carrie and I hope that we all have a quick return to our normal activities, and that you have a healthy and happy New Year.

A final bit about Aluminum: Airstream used 1.8 million pounds of Aluminum in their 2016 production year. This is equal to about 66 million soda cans. The world uses about 500 million cans a day, much of which is recycled.

*Ray Bell*

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

## Bibby Continued

safe to start some of the activities we are accustomed to at rallies, such as gathering indoors, sharing appetizers/meals, or going on organized tours again. The health and safety of our members are certainly our top priority, so we will always follow all applicable public health guidance for our rallies.

During this past year, our club adapted extremely well to the COVID rules. Many of us safely enjoyed a few really fun rallies, and an amazing NorCal caravan too. We'll keep you posted on any restrictions there may be for our future rallies.

Stay safe and healthy everyone. We look forward to seeing you at a NorCal event in 2021.

*John Bibby*

*"Life is better with Airstreams, great adventures, and good friends."*



## NorCal Club Contacts

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| President                      | John Bibby       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Bob Verdegaal    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Jim Christie     |
| Secretary                      | Carrie Bell      |
| Treasurer                      | Janet Motta      |
| Senior Trustee                 | Dean Davison     |
| Senior Trustee                 | Billie Verdegaal |
| Trustee                        | Carmen Ortiz     |
| Trustee                        | Carole Echols    |
| Imm. Past President            | Ray Bell         |
| Parliamentarian                | Hedda Smithson   |
| Constitution & Bylaws          | Hedda Smithson   |
| Membership                     | Marget Williams  |
| Newsletter Editor              | Elisa Ungerman   |
| Directory/Audio Visual         | Tom Smithson     |
| Webmaster                      | Carmen Ortiz     |
| Registrar                      | Lori Bibby       |
| Rally Chair                    | Pat Lazzereschi  |
| Caravan Chair                  | Bob Vassar       |
| Sunshine                       | Lori Bibby       |

To contact any of the above Officers and Committee Chairs, contact John Bibby at [jbibby@value.net](mailto:jbibby@value.net) or 707-592-4891.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

José & Donna Garcia #18477

Elizabeth Hernandez-Jones & Rob  
Darryl Coe #5900

Glen & Sheri Meskimen #1638

David Grabeal #30857

Michael Sypolt #20622

Jesse & Lindsey Chambers #3883

Alex & Katie Carl #22722

### Airstream Club International on the Web

<https://airstreamclub.org>

### Region 12 on the Web

<https://airstreamclub.org/region12>

### NorCal on the Web

<https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california>

## NorCal Club Membership Snapshot

**176 Unit/Life Members**

**22 Affiliate Members**

**198 Total Members**



## Membership Renewal Instructions

If you have renewed your membership, congratulations and welcome back! If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. It's easy! Go to <https://airstreamclub.org/renew>. Dues for International Membership are \$75 + \$5 for NorCal Club dues. If you do not know or recall, check with Marget Williams at [norcalmembership@comcast.net](mailto:norcalmembership@comcast.net). **NOTICE: This will be your last Poppy unless you renew by the end of 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.

## Complete Instructions for Ordering Personalized NorCal Airstream Club – Garden Flag – 12.5” x 18”

For new members or those unaware, the NorCal Airstream Club's Personalized Garden Flag is available directly from our vendor Flagology! Flagology has created a private link that does not appear anywhere on their website for our members to order a garden flag. Click here to order:

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

Once at their web site, note of any discount code pop-ups. The standard price for the flag is \$19.99 plus shipping, however discount codes are almost always available. Write down the discount code to use at time of checkout to apply discount.

Click the "Customize Now" button to start your order. Enter your personalization in the text editor on the left. You will see your personalized text appear on the flag to the right. Click the fonts button in text editor to view and select from available fonts.

When you are happy with the personalization, click the "love the design? Add to cart" button above the flag.



You will see a pop-up screen to confirm the personalization is exactly how you want it. If all is good, click the "YES my design is ready to fly" button.

Next you will see another pop-up screen to select your fabric. There are two options: Flagtastic and Flip-it. The Flagtastic fabric will have slightly more vibrant colors, however please note that the TEXT WILL APPEAR BACKWARDS ON THE BACK OF THE FLAG. The Flip-it fabric is \$5.00 more, but the personalization text will appear normal on both sides of the flag. Choose the fabric you prefer.

When you arrive at the shopping cart, enter your shipping preference (standard or priority) and remember to enter your discount code in the coupon box before proceeding to checkout. At checkout you can pay by credit card or PayPal. For any questions the NorCal Club contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922.

Please remember the flag does not come with a garden flag stand. You can purchase a stand separately at almost any hardware store. John Bibby reports he purchased one from Lowe's for \$7.99 that is sturdy and breaks down for easy storage and transport. Many people hang them with clips from their rock guards or elsewhere on their trailer. Enterprising members have drilled holes into wood bases so that the flag stand will stand despite hard terrain.

*-John Bibby*





# Looking for Rally Hosts!

## If Not You Then Who?

How would you like to host a party with other people's money? And be appreciated too. Then sign up to host a NorCal rally. You can do it! We need you.



NorCal is a popular Airstream Club in part because it has a rally almost monthly at different venues, typically with a wide variety of activities. This gives members a chance to enjoy their Airstreams almost all year round, and to visit with their Airstream friends that they otherwise would not see very often, if at all. But these rallies don't just happen. They are planned and executed by volunteers who (1) participate in and enjoy the rallies, (2) want to express their appreciation to those other members who make the rallies possible by stepping up and hosting one too, and (3) want to keep the different rallies going as a club amenity.

You see, for several reasons the Club cannot expect the same people to continually host rallies, nor does the Club want that. If there are no volunteer hosts for the rallies, they will be canceled, eventually leading solely to informal no-host flash rallies, which means everyone is on their own to reserve and pay for their own site (no more group rate), and do their own food and activities. This is fine for the occasional flash

rally, but is not healthy for the Club as a whole that strives to be inclusive rather than exclusive and provide a variety of experiences for all its Club members.

Most rallies are put on by co-hosts, so you will not be doing the whole thing by yourself. Tasks can be easily delegated. Secondly, there are plenty of people around you can contact for any input or assistance you might need and who would be delighted to do so, e.g. the Smithsons, Carole Echols, the Murrays, Jane Malone, the Davisons, the Christies, the Crutchfields, Pat Lazzereschi, the Bibbys, the Verdegaaals, Carmen Ortiz, etc. Just ask! Third, numerous people in the Club have special talents that can be tapped to facilitate your rally, such as cooking, craft making, music making, or just great ideas.

The easiest way to start is to pick a theme. Once you have a theme, the rest falls into place with some planning.

(1) Figure out the basics of the rally you are co-hosting and the per person costs, e.g. what is the cost of the site per night (get this information from the rally chair); two meals are generally planned – the Welcome Dinner on Wednesday and the Saturday night Dinner, both of which can be anything – catered by a local restaurant or caterer, pot luck, cook-your-own, host BBQ, group products provided by Costco or Smart and Final, or something else. Be creative. Figure out what you want to do and estimate the cost per person/serving. Next decide if you want to offer any group activities (typically with a

group rate) and figure the per person cost associated with the activity(ies).

(2) Write a brief explanation of your rally and why you think people should attend. Provide your summary, the site cost per night, and the per person cost of any meals and activities to the Newsletter Editor two and a half months prior to the rally. This will allow for promotion of your rally and timely registration.

(3) Plan your rally: welcome bags, décor, dinners and activities, if any. Keep track of your expenses on a chart or spreadsheet, put all receipts in an envelope or file scanned to your computer to keep everything handy for when it comes time to submit your receipts for reimbursement. You will be reimbursed for any decorations, food, welcome bag items, door prizes, up front activity expenses and hospitality purchases after you submit your receipts.



(4) Execute and Enjoy. Take or have someone take photos of the event.

(5) Submit receipts and spreadsheet for reimbursement to Treasurer. Send article and photos about your rally to the Newsletter Editor. You are done!

**Continued next page**

## Rally Hosts continued

Is it work? Yes, although the amount will depend on the size of the rally you choose. Some tend to be bigger than others. If you would rather start out with a smaller one, contact our Rally Chair for more information. I would say most of the work is in the planning. The more you plan, the better your rally will be.

Is it gratifying? Oh yes! Most people are very appreciative that you stepped up and in to host them. You will get to know more Club members. Plus, you can enjoy all the other rallies guilt free because you stepped up and volunteered to do your part to keep what sets NorCal apart from other Airstream Clubs. If enough people stepped up (after all we have well over 100

members), the same people would only co-host every couple of years.

NorCal has published a booklet that very helpfully and specifically sets forth what you need to do for a successful rally. (See below.) In summary, not only do you get to host a party with other people's money but you won't be alone in doing so (unless you want to be). So what are you waiting for?



**UPDATE:** This article was first published January 2020, before COVID. Since that time, our rallies

are dependent on the pandemic situation and the restrictions and safety protocols in place. NorCal has held hosted-rallies during the pandemic, in which the hosts provide information, goodie bags and suggestions for where to go in the area to eat or sightsee on an individual basis. There are no group meals, events or activities, which actually has made hosting easier.

At this writing it is unknown when we will be able to resume our regular rallies, but the Club does intend to hold rallies as planned, if they can be done safely, so the need for hosts still very much exists. If a rally is canceled, you will be reimbursed for any costs incurred prior to the cancellation. Please contact Rally Chair Pat Lazzereschi for more information and to sign up.

*Elisa Ungerman*



For a more detailed guide to hosting a NorCal Rally, please check out the NorCal Rally Guide at <https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california/governance-and-leadership-guides>.

Scroll down to Rally Handbook and click on the name. The Handbook should appear.

## Going Down to Gilroy



## Save the Date April 7-11

The FIRST NorCal rally for 2021

Rally announcement and registration information will be sent in a blast on February 1, 2021.

Rally activities to be determined by social distancing guidelines in place at that time.

Hosts: Bob & Carol Echols



October 22-25, 2020

## REGION 12 RALLY in PALM DESERT

The Emerald Desert RV Resort located in Palm Desert was the site of the 2020 Region 12 Rally. The desert scenery provided a spectacular background, and the weather was perfect.

Despite the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, the event took place, and a great time was had by all. The host club of this year's rally was the San Diego Airstream Club. Club President, Abe Hernandez and his rally committee are to be commended for putting on a memorable event, especially in light of the situation.

Following COVID-19 guidelines, masks and social distancing were adhered to at all functions. The rally opened Wednesday evening with a catered dinner, delivered to each trailer, consisting of hamburgers and fixings prepared by the San Diego Club. Thursday morning the South Coast Airstream Club provided a quiche and fruit breakfast delivered to each site. Afternoon events consisted to a happy hour sponsored by the El Camino Air Stream Club, with beer provided by a local brewery. Also, an all you can eat ice cream truck event took place one afternoon, followed by a churro truck event the following afternoon. A burrito bash breakfast preceding the annual region 12 meeting. Two outdoor movie nights took place on Thursday and Friday evenings. They provided some social activity, while maintaining social distancing.

There were eighty-nine Airstreams with nearly two hundred people in attendance. The NorCal Airstream Club was well represented by the Bells, the Murrays, the Smithsons, the Maffeis, Patty Paterson and Scott O'Keefe. These five couples were able to spend some time together at various planned events, all the while social distancing.

There was a Pet and Costume Parade. Attendees and their pets were attired in various costumes. This event consisted of dogs of all breeds with their owners. Sadly, the Smithsons did not enter their pet cat...which would have easily won the hearts of the judges!! Halloween trailer decorating was



a popular competition. Many attendees participated in this contest. The Maffeis actually won third place, and they were presented with a shower exhaust fan by Abe Hernandez.

The Region 12 Meeting took place on Saturday. This was followed by a Swap Meet which provided attendees an opportunity to sell and purchase a variety of items from quilts to camping gear. A

silent auction took place and it raised over \$2,100 for the chosen charity: Saved in America. This very worthwhile organization assists law enforcement and parents in locating missing and exploited children. Additional donations increased the total amount raised to over \$4,000.00.

During the rally attendees had ample opportunities to relax, visit with old and new friends, hike, go into Palm Springs and other neighboring communities for outdoor dining. All that attended enjoyed themselves. 2021 Region 12 Rally will take place at the Cava Robles RV Resort in Paso Robles, California. That should be an event we all want to attend.

*Cathy Maffei*



*The Maffei's winning entry*



*Cathy and friends?*





Twenty six Airstreams rolled down to Pismo Coast Village RV Resort in Pismo Beach, CA for a NorCal Rally on November 4-8, 2020.



The week began with warm, beautiful weather. The rally hosts came down on Sunday before the rally to make sure everything was in order. Hosts Gail and Dan Crutchfield went hunting for prizes for winners of the pet name contest. Hosts José and Carmen Ortiz took advantage of the weather on Monday to ride their recumbent trikes to San Luis Obispo with Mike and Phyllis Minadeo on their tandem.

On Tuesday, Carmen and José rode to the village of Huasna near Arroyo Grande. The area is beautiful with avocado orchards, vegetable farms, rolling hills and horse ranches. Jim and Deborah Christie joined José and Carmen on Wednesday morning for a ride to Nipomo, the southern-most town in San Luis Obispo County.

After plenty of exercise and fresh air, the hosts were ready for the rest of the rally goers on Wednesday. As with other NorCal rallies during the pandemic, the group could not have the usual welcome dinner. Small groups gathered at some campsites for happy hour and friendly conversation.

At this rally we welcomed Gil and Judy Sissons, who attended the rally to “check us out”. They fit in perfectly with our group and had a great time at the rally. Hopefully, they will be joining our club soon.

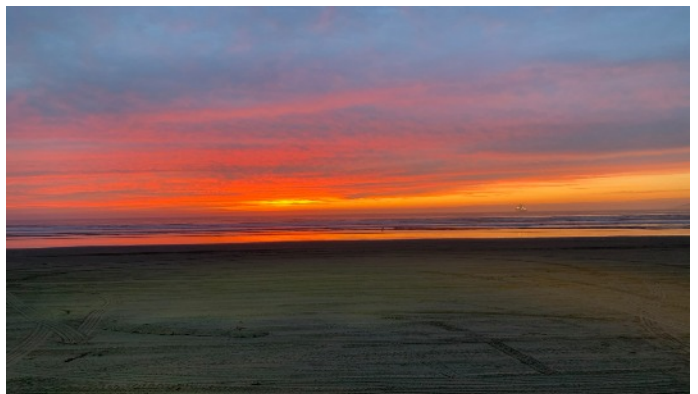
We also welcomed at-large members Rob and Diane Lemen, along with new members Steve and Terri Holifeld and Scott and Patience Beck. “Newish” member Kristine Carey was “de-greened”.

On Thursday morning, José and Carmen led a bicycle ride to Avila Beach. Some members rode from the RV park with ride leaders; others met the riders at the trailhead to the Bob Jones Trail.



All of them rode on the trail to Avila Beach. Some had ice cream or shaved ice; a few had lunch at some of the many restaurants in Avila, while others brought their lunch and ate while looking at the surfers and hoping to catch a humpback whale or two. As a matter of fact, just three days earlier, two kayakers were lifted up 45 feet in the air by a humpback whale. Luckily they were not hurt, but got quite a scare.

More fun awaited the rally goers. At dusk on Thursday, many gathered at the beach for a great time roasting marshmallows and making s'mores at several campfires set up by the hosts.



Some got there early enough to catch the sunset. It was beautiful! Due to rules established by the state parks, fires had to be extinguished at 7:30 pm. Everything was cleaned up and the beach-goers went back to the RV park. **Continued Next Page**





*Photos of Pismo Rally Taken and or Supplied by Carmen Ortiz, Lori Bibby, Elisa Ungerman, and Gil Sissons.*

## Pismo Rally Continued

On the way out, Bob and Carole Echols got stuck in the sand! With help from Bill Maffei and José Ortiz, Bob tried to get out of the sand without much luck. Just in time came in a young man in a Jeep who happened to have a winch. He offered to pull Bob's truck out of the sand. Within minutes, Bob and Carole were on their way out. There is always some good Samaritan out there glad to help someone in need. On Friday morning, the wind was howling and all these black birds that live in the area were circling the campground; the air was chilly, sky overcast. A scene from a Hitchcock movie? It was a free day for rally goers to explore the area. Some stayed in to conduct Club business. Many stayed at the Resort to relax and visit with fellow rally goers. Others ventured out, into the wind to visit some of the many area wineries. A few went to dinner at Rosa's Italian Restaurant's outdoor patio. They reported that the food was excellent and they had a great time.

Saturday morning began with a Board Meeting outdoors (it was still very windy and colder than the day before), followed by the General Meeting. Since all the members of the newly elected board were present at

the rally, NorCal President Ray Bell proceeded to hold the Induction Ceremony after the General Meeting. Past President Mike Minadeo conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the new board. (See next page.)

Hosts José and Carmen had planned to lead another bike ride, this time to the Village of Arroyo Grande, but the wind was too strong and they decided to cancel. A few drove to the village anyway to get the best ice cream on the planet at the Doc Bernstein Ice Cream Lab. They reported that it was absolutely delicious!

With the continuing strong winds and a rain forecast for Sunday morning, some rally goers left on Saturday trying to avoid driving in wet, windy conditions. Well, the rain came down in force at around 3:00 AM on Sunday. The next morning was clear but windy. The remaining rally goers packed up and went home. A couple of them stayed another night.

Everyone had a great time, notwithstanding the restrictions of the pandemic, the wind and the much needed rain. Next year promises to be just as epic, with many great sites for NorCal rallies.

*Carmen Ortiz #17655*



# Installation of 2021 Officers



John Bibby is sworn in as President



First VP Bob Verdegaal and Second VP Jim Christie take their oaths



Trustees Carol Echols and Carmen Ortiz are sworn-in



Briefly unmasked: Back row L-R: Dean Davison, Bob Verdegaal, Jim Christie, Ray Bell; Middle Row L-R: Carol Echols, Janet Motta, John Bibby, Carmen Ortiz; Front row L-R, Billie Verdegaal, Carrie Bell



After quickly unmasking for the photo shoot, the gavel is passed..

On November 7, 2020, in a small grassy area near where our trailers were parked at the Pismo Village RV Resort, NorCal installed its duly and newly elected officers for the following year, all of whom were attending the November Pismo Rally.

As Club members looked on, officers were sworn in by Past President Mike Minadeo. While not in keeping with the Club's usual tradition of a dinner and celebration, the informal ceremony got the job done during this year of COVID without the need for a Zoom call. Afterwards, outgoing President Ray Bell passed the gavel to incoming president John Bibby with a noticeable smile on his face.

Congratulations to all the new officers. Contact information is on page 4.

- Editor





Despite the last minute cancellation of the December Rally at Black Oak Casino RV Park due to dwindling participation, four NorCal couples (the Bells, Echols, Ungermans and Davisons) made the trek to Tuolumne during the first week in December, where they enjoyed stellar weather, stunning splashy sunsets, wonderful pizza made and served by Dean Davison, delicious cranberry bread made by Carol Echols (see recipe on pg. 13), and a Cover's Apple pie (local) proffered by the Ungermans. (Not all on the same day, mind you.)

Those in attendance were able to enjoy the beautiful area that is Tuolumne County, including the cute towns of Twain Harte, Jamestown, Sonora, and Tuolumne, along with the golden rolling foothills and ranches amid several large lakes/reservoirs. The Ungermans and the Echols separately made the two hour drive to Yosemite for a day, soaking up the gorgeous scenery the park has to offer. Other activities included antiquing, hiking on nearby trails, visiting Indigency Reserve, an apple ranch with hard cider, picnic tables, and acres of hiking trails, and

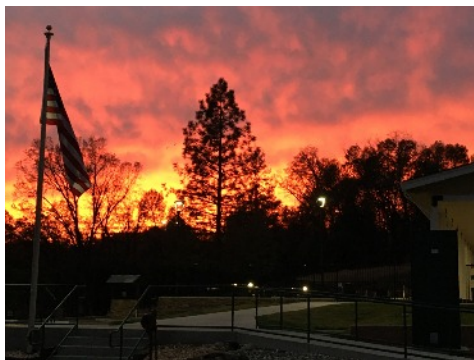
Cover's Apple Ranch, which, besides selling fantastic apple pies (receiving the Dean Davison seal of approval), served up yummy-looking breakfasts and lunches. Then there was sunbathing by the trailer for some vitamin D intake while reading a book or a phone, and/or watching a holiday movie in the trailer.

Physically-distanced "happy hours" occurred at 4:30 p.m. daily, where news of the day was discussed. No one from this group ventured into the Casino, which is down the hill from the RV Park, but judging by the cars in the parking lot, it was busy.

The Black Oak RV Park has spacious and level concrete sites, with a wedge of astro turf between each one, so it would be good for a rainy rally as well as the gloriously sunny time experienced by the Black Oak Four. The park is split on two levels, with the clubhouse, large pool, spa, and game area (bocce, corn hole, and horseshoes) on the lower level. Bathrooms and laundry facilities are first rate. Based on the reaction from those who visited, it will be a fine location for the 2021 December Rally.

*Editor*

**More about nearby hiking on page 13**



Some Holiday décor keeping things festive



Happy Hour And Dean's Pizza



Cover's Apple Farm Where Ed Ungerman taste-tested pie





## Carol Echols' Cranberry Cake

Note: full recipe makes 10-12 cups of batter, which is four (4-cup) loaves, between 24-30 cupcakes or one 10" spring form cake.

3 large eggs  
 2 cups granulated sugar  
 3/4 cup unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks) cubed and softened  
     at room temp for 1 hour  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 teaspoon almond extract  
 2 cups all purpose flour  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 2 1/2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries (12 oz)

Preheat oven to 350

Lightly grease a spring form pan, loaf pans or cupcake pans

Beat eggs and sugar with mixer until very smooth and increased in volume – it will turn a pale yellow, leaving ribbons on top of batter when you lift the beaters

**TIP:** (if using stand mixer, beat on medium speed for 6-7 minutes with whisk attachment; if using an electric hand mixer, beat on high for 6-8 minutes)

Beat in the butter, vanilla and almond extract - Beat for 2 minutes until the butter is smoothly incorporated

Using a spatula, fold in the flour salt, and cranberries – batter will be quite thick

Spread gently into prepared pans

Cook for 1 hour to 1 hour 20 minutes

### Optional pecan topping:

1/4 cup (4 Tablespoons) unsalted butter  
 1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar  
 1 cup raw pecans

Melt butter in a large saute pan over medium heat.

Add the sugar and stir

Add the pecans and cook for 2 minutes, until the butter and sugar mixture is shiny and smooth and the nuts are well-coated.

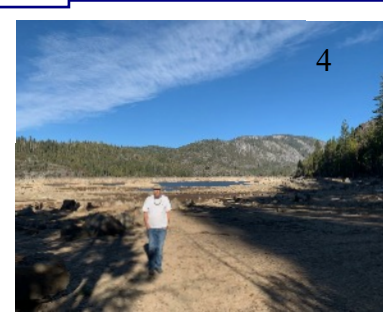
Spread over the cake(s)

## Hiking In/Around Black Oak Casino RV Park

There is plenty of hiking near the Black Oak RV Park. Indigency Reserve has miles of hiking trails in a wonderful woodland forest to be enjoyed before or after sipping their hard apple cider. Up Highway 108 there are many trails to explore, as Ray and Carrie Bell discovered.

The nearby Westside Rail Trail is a delight, with picnic tables along the way to enjoy the many canyon views. And I would be remiss if I did not mention that Yosemite in December is lovely. The crowds are gone, but most of the gorgeous scenery remains and access is easier without the need for shuttle buses. I say "most" because Yosemite Falls had dried up, and Mirror Lake was a sand bed. Still very much worth the trip, as is the drive that takes you past three of the large local reservoirs that are in the area.

*Editor*



1&2: Indigency Reserve; 3&4: up Hiway 108; 5&6: Westside Rail Trail

## January 2021

| Sun                             | Mon                          | Tue                                 | Wed                               | Thu | Fri                  | Sat                     |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3<br>BACKWARDS DAY              |                              |                                     |                                   |     | 1<br>HAPPY NEW YEAR  | 2                       |
| 8                               | 4                            | 5<br>NATIONAL BIRD DAY<br>JANUARY 5 | 6                                 | 7   | 8<br>Bubble Bath Day | 9                       |
| 10                              | 11                           | 12                                  | 13                                | 14  | 15                   | 16                      |
| 17                              | 18<br>Martin Luther King Day | 19<br>NATIONAL POPCORN DAY          | 20<br>NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CAKE DAY | 21  | 22                   | 23<br>National Pie Day! |
| 24<br>BEE-GONE APPRECIATION DAY | 25                           | 26                                  | 27                                | 28  | 29                   | 30                      |

## February 2021

| Sun                         | Mon                        | Tue                      | Wed | Thu                                | Fri                    | Sat                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|                             | 1                          | 2<br>HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY | 3   | 4                                  | 5<br>BUBBLE GUM DAY    | 6                    |
| 7<br>SUPERBOWL SUNDAY       | 8                          | 9<br>NATIONAL PIZZA DAY  | 10  | 11                                 | 12<br>Chinese New Year | 13                   |
| 14<br>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY | 15<br>HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY | 16                       | 17  | 18<br>It's NATIONAL DRINK WINE DAY | 19                     | 20                   |
| 21                          | 22                         | 23                       | 24  | 25                                 | 26                     | 27<br>POLAR BEAR DAY |
| 28<br>National Chili 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/>



## Badge and Logo Sticker Info

You can obtain your colorful NorCal Membership Badge whenever you attend a rally. Contact Marget Williams to get yours for free, a perk of membership. Also, now available is the NEW five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle when you attend rally. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy. Be sure to request one from Marget.

