

Volume 58 Number 7 The Poppy

#### September 2021

# **President's Column**



I hope this finds you all well and safe from the hot weather, wildfires, and general poor air quality dominating large portions of our State. Hopefully these conditions won't effect any more rallies this year beyond Quincy. Lori and I took the opportunity of the cancelled rally to enjoy a week on the coast near Bodega Bay with a few other NorCal rigs. The weather was cool, the air was clear, and we had a great time with the small group of NorCal friends.

This issue of the Poppy contains a registration coupon for the November rally at Jessie's Grove Winery in Lodi. This will be a dry-camping event! Plan to arrive with batteries fully charged, solar, or a generator, a full fresh water tank and empty black/grey water tanks. If drycamping is new to you, this is a great opportunity to

experience it with the help and support from your fellow NorCal members. If you have questions on how to prepare for a dry-camping rally, feel free to contact me, the hosts, or any other NorCal members you may know with dry-camping experience. This promises to be a very fun and memorable NorCal event.

Some good news for our Affiliates (currently there are 20). NorCal is now enrolled in a new Affiliate Membership Program. This allows Affiliates to join/renew their NorCal membership at the same time as their home club on the HQ website. This new program greatly simplifies the process for everyone involved.

This month's photo is from one of the many bike rides Lori and I have enjoyed while Airstreaming. There are great bike ride opportunities nearly everywhere we go. At Glacier National Park in particular, we were unable to get entry tickets for the Going to the Sun Road until the last day we were there. However entry tickets are not required for bikes. We quickly learned that touring a National Park by bike greatly enhances the experience (well, except for the sudden rain storm and bear encounters, but that's a story for another time around the campfire). We did not have to worry about lack of parking spaces at the major attractions, trail heads, or turnouts. Many National Parks have dedicated bike trails as well. Needless to say we always travel with our bikes now.

We hope you are able to enjoy your Airstreams. We will see you down the road!

#### John Bibby

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



Editor's Corner 2021 Rally Schedule Norcal & Key Contacts Directory Info New Members lov Rally Summary Rally Coupon

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International Rally Report Destination: Air Show Birthdays and Anniversaries Thorp Obituary Fun Calendar



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# **From The Editor**

We have not been out in our Airstream since early June, and it is now September. We are so looking forward to the Angel's Camp Rally this month and keeping our fingers crossed some wild fire does not erupt in the area between now and then. Same with the Oakhurst Rally a few weeks later. While on hiatus, we were able to have a new remote controlled fan installed in our Airstream, one with reversible blades that can pull air in as well as push it out, like a whole house fan. I'm excited to try it out, assuming no forest fires...

Although it was disappointing that the Quincy Rally was canceled, I understand that many spent that first week in August in their Airstreams anyway, visiting various locations, mostly near the Coast and away from forest fires. It would be fun to see where everyone went and read their stories, so if you went somewhere that week in lieu of the Quincy Rally, send me a summary of your stay and a photo or two, and I'll feature them in the next Poppy. Airstreamers can be resourceful even if they can't rally together.

And speaking of individual travel, we have two stories this month submitted by our members who each traveled East in their Airstreams for adventures: the Smithsons, who attended the International Rally in Lebanon, Tennessee, and the Verdegaals, who visited the Experimental Aircrafts Association (EAA)'s Air Show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Both sound like they were great trips! Check them out beginning on page 6.

The summary and rally coupon for NorCal's November Rally begins on page 4. It appears that the Salingers and the other hosts for "Groovin at the Grove" rally are really planning something special for this dry camping event, another one I will sadly miss due to other commitments. So make sure photos are taken for the Poppy! Please note that the use of BBQs, grills and firepits OF ANY KIND are strictly prohibited on winery property. And remember: no credit cards can yet be used to pay for a rally since we have not yet received the green light from Airstream HQ.

Finally, we have an obituary of a former president of this Club provided by his daughter. See page 10. Hope to see everyone in Angels Camp!

> Your Poppy Editor. Elisa Ungerman



## 2021 Rallies/Gatherings

4/ <del>7-11</del>	Gilroy Garlic RV Park	Gilroy
	Hosts: Carole & Bob Echo Steve & Yoshi Deiwe	
4/22-25	Cali Rally-V6 Ranch	Parkfield
POS'	<b>FPONED TO NEXT Y</b>	
5/ <del>5-9</del>	Lassen RV Resort	McArthur
_	Hosts: Billie & Bob Verdegaa	<del>al</del> -
	McCloud RV Resort	
-	Hosts: Dan & Gail Crutchfield - Marget & Dave Williams	
7 <del>/17-24</del>	International Rally L	
	rstreamclub.org/lebanon-202	
	<del>onal-rally/lebanon-2021-regis</del>	
8/4-8	Pioneer RV Park CANCELLED	Quincy
9/8-12 A	Angels Camp RV Resort An	gels Camp
	Hosts: Deb & Jim Christie Cathy and Bill Maffei	
9/28-10/2	-	Oakhurst
	UNHOSTED	
10/6-10	Cava Robles Resort Pa	so Robles
https://a	airstreamclub.org/2021-regior	n-12-rally
11/3-7	Jessie's Grove Winery	Lodi
Hosts:	Pat Lazzereschi, Mike & 🚺 lone, Tary & Janie Salinger	RY CAMPINO
12/2-6	Black Oak Casino RV Park	Sonora
	Claudia & Barry Marson	
	Co-HOSTS Wanted	
The Fine Print		
New ir departure	nfo shown in green. Dates are ar , although you can often request	rival and early arrival
or Monda submittin	, although you can often request y departure. Sign-ups are accor g a completed Registration form club Registrar "Buddy" events	nplished by by the due

invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts or the minimum number of campers may be be cancelled. Rallies are subject to COVID restrictions and protocols.

## The Poppy



# **NorCal Officers**

President 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Secretary Treasurer **Senior Trustee** Senior Trustee Trustee Trustee Imm. Past President Parliamentarian **Constitution & Bylaws Membership Newsletter Editor Directory/Audio Visual** Webmaster Registrar Chair Caravan Chair Sunshine

John Bibby **Bob Verdegaal** Jim Christie Carrie Bell Janet Motta Dean Davison **Billie Verdegaal Carmen Ortiz** Carole Echols **Ray Bell** Hedda Smithson Hedda Smithson Marget Williams Elisa Ungerman Tom Smithson Carmen Ortiz Lori Bibby Rally Pat Lazzereschi **Bob Vasser** Lori Bibby

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

- 169 Unit/Life Members
- 20 Affiliate Members
- **189** Total Members

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Heikki & Stephanie Jouttijarvi Howard Wells

New Affiliate Baheerathan Anandharengan & Kavitha Ramakrishnan

#### Air Show Cont. from Page 9

The last night of our trip we stayed at Welcome Station RV in Wells, Nevada, a beautiful shady place to relax. Our final stretch included traveling on HWY 88 through the smoke from the Tamarack fire, but



we made it back to Ripon and to quote Dorothy, "There's no place like home." Those who know us will understand when I say that our dog Dumas was really happy to see Bob.

-Billie Verdegaal

Ed. Note: For more information on the AirVenture Convention and Air Show, check out:

https://www.eaa.org/airventure/featuresand-attractions/eaa-airventure-air-show NorCal NEWS - September 2021 The Poppy



Come one, come all to the November Rally where we will be "Grooving in the Grove," Jessie's Grove in Lodi that is!

Jessie's Grove has been in the same family for over a 150 years and is a true camping experience...**dry camping**. Bring your water tank full and your grey/black water tanks empty. **No BBQs or fire pits of** <u>any</u> kind are allowed.



Jessie's Grove is only one of many wineries in Lodi and is a beautiful property with 350 acres of vineyard and 32 acres of 100 year old Valley Oakes.

We will start Wednesday night with a lasagna dinner at Pat Lazzereschi's house. *Please bring an appetizer or dessert.* Sweet tea will be provided or bring your own beverage.

Thursday night a taco truck will be serving chicken or pork street tacos with a topping bar, rice, beans and churros, all made on site.

Friday is for you to explore the area. Be sure to include a trip to downtown Lodi. View the famous Mission Arch, check out the Visitors Center and enjoy

the Towne House Restaurant at the Wine and Roses Hotel for lunch or dinner.



Happy Hour will include a wine and cheese pairing by your hosts, Tary and Janie Salinger..

Saturday evening will be the "Groovin in the Grove BBQ" featuring "The Working Class Band" and a silent auction with tokens from your Goodie Bag. This will be a really fun rally in an amazing setting so don't miss out.

Hosts: Tary and Janie Salinger, Mike & Jane Malone, Pat Lazzereschi



# Groovin at the Grove

Jessies Grove Winery 1973 West Turner Road Lodi, CA, 95242



## November 3-7, 2021

## Coupon Due September 30, 2021

Name:	Cell Phone
Email:	WBCCI#
Arrival Day Departure Day _	RV length
Rally Nights @ \$32 per night	Parking Fee \$
Rally Fee @ \$5 per person	Rally Fee \$
Wednesday Welcome Dinner @ \$5 per person	wed. Dinner \$
Thursday Dinner @ \$16 per person	Thurs. Dinner \$
Friday Wine & Cheese pairing @ \$12 per perso	on W&C Pairing \$
Sat. Groovin in the Grove BBQ @ \$24 per pers	son Sat. Dinner \$

#### TOTAL RALLY COST \$

#### INSTRUCTIONS

• Either directly register online using the jotform link https://form.jotform.com/212286088934161 or follow the 'Register for the November Rally' link on the webpage https://airstreamclub.org/norcalrally-november-2021-rally or send this form and payment to the registrar at

norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com. It is preferred you register online, which makes it easier for the Registrar and Treasurer in keeping track of rally registrations.

• Send all payments directly to the Registrar. Make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal and mail to NorCal Registrar Lori Bibby, 3029 Black Hawk Ln., Lincoln, CA 95648-7716. Note: All online payments have been suspended pending implementation of the new online payment system.

• Refunds are available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Please contact the Rally Chair if you have any changes to your reservation after the deadline, or wish to register after the deadline.

• NorCal abides by the federal, state and local COVID19 mandates to keep not only its members safe, but the employees of the RV Parks and the communities we visit safe, which in turn allows us to continue to rally during the pandemic. If you are unable or unwilling to do so, please do not sign up for this rally. If you are ill or not feeling well, please stay home and get better. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.

• Please inform the registrar if you need a handicap accommodation, or if this is your first NorCal rally.





People often ask us (Tom and Hedda Smithson) "Why do you want to go south to Lebanon, TN, east to Lewisburg, WV, north to Escanaba MI, or west to Salem OR?" The answer is – because we can. And because we know we will see old friends and make new ones. Plus - International Rallies of the Airstream Club are a lot of fun!! 2021 was no exception.

We began our trip to the 2021 Airstream Club International Rally at the Sparks Marina RV Park on June 27. By the end of June, we were near Montrose, CO, to visit affiliate members, Mike Zimmerman and Carolyn Beardshear in a beautiful mountain top camping area. We spent 4 delightful days there with affiliate members Ken & Judy Bechthold and Johnni Hansen. Our leaders, Eric & LaVerne McHenry of the Greater Bay Area Club and Roger & Roberta Peeples of the Sacramento Valley Club completed our little caravan. We did shopping and lunch in Ouray (brewery) and Ridgeway (The site of "True Grit") before moving East toward Tennessee.

The biggest highlight prior to the International Rally happened while we camped for three nights at the Downtown Riverside RV Park in North Little Rock AK. The local club arranged for a visit to a giant warehouse filled with dozens of vintage Airstreams and club history. We were blown away! The old Airstreams had been restored with love and very cleverly staged. Most looked ready to hit the road. (We hope the owner will let us feature these treasures in an upcoming article for the Blue Beret.) That evening we enjoyed a performance of "Just Shut up and Drive" at The Joint Comedy Theater not far from our camp. Three very talented actors played members and friends of the Singing Fertile Family from Dumpster, Arkansas. Snacks and adult beverages were available for purchase. The next day we walked across a bridge over the Arkansas River to visit the William J Clinton Presidential Center and Park. We spent a morning there and then enjoyed lunch before walking back to the trailer.

The 64th International Rally of the Wally Byam Airstream Club was held at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN.

## \*Gypsy Boots Travels to Tennessee for the International Rally; 5118 Miles of Fun, Friendship and Adventure

By Hedda Smithson BRN 777



2021 WBCCI International at Wilson County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, TN.

Other Norcal members of which we were aware attending the International: Ty & Amie Cahill, Patty O'Keefe & Scott Patterson, Grover & Cathy Sandy, Joe Tate, plus affiliate members, Ken & Judy Bechthold, Johnni Hansen, and Tom & Patti Reed. With about 800 Airstreams on site, it was pretty hard to see everyone!

One purpose of the Rally is to conduct the business of the Club. The other is to have fun, meet new people and learn new skills. As in 2019, rally attendees could find out what is going on and who was parked where through an App called Grupio.

The first evening's festivities included a procession of flags from all the local clubs, introduction of current officers and a salute to the armed services. Our own Grover Sandy did a fine job carrying the beautiful NorCal flag at the Opening Ceremony of the rally on Saturday, July 17. (See the photo in the August Poppy.) Grover stated that he and Cathy had a great time and were proud to represent our Club and carry the NorCal flag. Continued next page

\*The Smithsons have a Tonkinese cat named Gypsy Boots shown lounging above that accompanies them on their Airstream Adventures.

# **International Rally Continued**

International President Andy Selking conducted the first business meeting of the IBT (International Board of Trustees) on July 19. Standing Committee Chairs presented reports; some included action items that had been discussed and were approved.

Newly installed International President Tye Mott held the second IBT meeting on Saturday, July 24. Here Tom and I were offered a new Big Red Number as we had served more than three years as Standing Committee Chairs.

At the Delegates' Meeting on July 21, Grover Sandy carried the votes of our club to approve three amendments to the WBAC constitution. NorCal was entitled to 296 votes because currently, each member with an e-mail address registered in Jackson Center has a vote. This is the last year that proportional voting will be allowed. One NorCal member voted against all three amendments to the constitution. If there had been a roll call vote, Grover would have cast 288 votes in favor and 8 votes against the proposed amendments. Luckily the delegates voted against holding a roll call vote, which facilitated the voting process. From now on only actual votes cast will be reported. I was shocked to learn that in Norcal, only 35 people actually voted. (We need to do a better job of having our voices heard.)

But wait – there's more than just business! There were dozens of things to do and places to explore. The most popular event was a trip to Nashville for a performance at the Grand Old Opry. There was so much interest that 10 buses were needed to take very enthusiastic Airstream club members to the venue.



On site at the fairgrounds, one could take an early morning bike ride or do a Yoga Stretch or learn a new line dance. There was a Pet Show one day where you could show off your dog or cat. Other activities included quilting, crafts, photo and snapshot competitions. There were seminars on Airstream cooking, Ham radio skills, club leadership, tire pressure monitoring and more! A local dealer brought in 4 new Airstreams. Each was sold before the rally was over. Airstream's Vice President of Sales Justin Humphreys, gave a presentation on the state of Airstream.

Evening entertainment (besides the opening and closing ceremonies) included a magician from Bakersfield, CA, the Wally Byam Caravan Club Band, and a band called Top Tier out of Nashville who played music that got people up and dancing the night away.

And then there were shopping opportunities: We now have a new TPMS and Fantastic Fan. We are very interested in SnapPads and a beautiful grill from Magma. Familiar vendors were A & W Designs, Blue Ox, Dexter Axles, Lifeline Batteries and more. Oh – and there was a food truck not far from the main meeting site that sold all the ice cream they brought. They even did a seminar called "Everything Ice Cream."

Tom attended Region Officer Forums and led the Delegates' Forum, Region Officer Boot Camp, and Local Club Leadership Seminar. He also was expected to read and answer questions at the IBT meetings about the many motions he writes in his spare time.

I set up the Publications Showcase on July 20. Here interested Airstream members could look at and read newsletters and directories from many local clubs. People took photos with their smart phones to carry ideas back to their clubs. There was a Poppy from 2019 as well the 2021 May issue. Our NorCal Membership Directory was one of 8 on display.



As for Gypsy Boots? The photo on page 6 says it all. She took everything in stride.

All too soon it was over and everyone scattered to the four winds. Some went to visit family and friends in the area; others did a quick trip to Maine to check out the site of the next International Rally. For us, the trip home was crammed into 8 very busy driving days. We did visit my family in Salt Lake City. Last stop before parking in front of our home in Fair Oaks was back in Sparks. After the required end of journey tasks: laundry and washing the trailer, we are ready for the next adventure! NorCal NEWS - September 2021

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Our journey to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and the 2021 EAA AirVenture convention began long before our actual travel date of July 6, 2021. It started with talking to our fellow Airstream friends who have traveled this beautiful country and have gone on various caravans to collect their recommendations. The suggestions of routes to take and places to stay and see both going and returning made this trip even more memorable! The Christies told us about a great place to stay right on the harbor in Duluth: Lakehead Boat Basin. They also gave us some pointers on how to get around on Mackinaw Island. The Schroeders shared with us how to see the Soo Locks and Kitch-iti-kipi Spring in Michigan. We also heard about the fried steaks in Madora from a few NorCal members. After seeking what advice we could, we were on our way.

We traveled through Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and on to the air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



While traveling through Yellowstone, we saw the largest deer that I have ever seen in my life (that is. one that wasn't mounted to a wall.) Near Buffalo Bill State Park in Cody, Wyoming, we passed several camping sites right up against the river. We decided to pull in and check them out. These sites are National Forest Campgrounds, put your money in the envelope (seniors get 1/2 price - \$5.00), pick a spot

and enjoy the view. I think we'll stay at one of these the next time our travels take us that way.

We stayed in Cody for two nights and would highly recommend dinner at Cassie's Supper Club; great food and a live band for dancing. Be prepared to wait though as it is a very popular place. While in Cody, there are various sites and museums to check out; it is worth a stay-over.

There were many more stops on our way to Oshkosh, so if you are traveling in that direction, just ask what we really enjoyed seeing and we'll be happy to share.

When we arrived in Oshkosh on Friday, July 23, we proceeded to Camp Scholler, the campground for AirVenture attendees adjacent to the convention grounds and the two airports used for the show and fly-in, where we had reserved a site with water and electric. It was hot and muggy so the electricity was an excellent choice, allowing us to run our air conditioner. We were amazed at the number of people in RVs and tents already in place even though the show didn't begin until July 26. Thousands of RVs were there, as well as many tents for those camping "the old fashioned" way. Showers and toilet facilities were available to all.



Camp Scholler

The air show began on Monday, July 26. Bob and I both have long had an interest in aviation that predates meeting one another. We were both licensed pilots and owned our own airplane, which we have since sold. Nonetheless, we still have an interest in planes and Bob is especially interested in war birds and their history. AirVenture has plenty of war birds and more. It is the largest air show in the world. This year there were 608,000 attendees and 3,176 aircraft registered including 1,420 vintage aircraft, 1,089 homebuilt aircraft, 354 warbirds, 148 aerobatic aircraft, 112 seaplanes, 33 ultralights, and 27 rotorcraft according to their data.

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## **Destination: World's Largest Air Show Continued**



Everyday we were treated to a variety of flying stunts and flybys with vintage aircraft and war birds. Besides watching planes flying and doing stunts, one could walk around and view the many planes that had parked on the lawn areas around the airport. Over 10,000 planes parked at Oshkosh this year compared to 5,000 on an average year.



One of the many war birds on display

On Wednesday, there was supposed to be a night air show and a large firework display but instead, we all had to hunker down as there was a tornado warning in the area. Eventually, campers were advised to leave the site and take cover elsewhere. Bob and I drove away from the storm, south to Fon du lac, stopping at a gas station/convenience store that was made of brick to wait out the storm. Of course, the tornado warning moved south and the manager of the Quik Trip Mini Mart invited everyone into the basement. Five minutes later the all-clear siren rang and we headed back to see if our Airstream was still there. Fortunately, the worst of the storm missed the airport area but did cause many huge trees to be uprooted in the surrounding communities. No campers, RVs or planes were damaged as far as we know.

The following day (Thursday) Bob and I took a ride in a 1928 Ford Tri-Motor airplane, the first commercial airline! Later that evening we saw the rescheduled night air show and fireworks. The air show they put on was unbelievable. Strapping pyrotechnics to flying airplanes is beyond my comprehension since in my mind, the two do not go together. But the result was breathtaking and after watching the air show, we were treated to a spectacular fireworks show!

By Friday, Bob and I were getting ready to head home and see a few new sites along the way. We met

a couple renting an Airstream and they had some questions for us. They also recommended some sites to see in Minnesota, such as Great River Bluffs State Park and the Spam Museum in Austin, Minnesota. Both were easy to get to and Interesting. Unfortunately due to the air quality as a consequence of fires EVERYWHERE, we only



got a very hazy view of the Mississippi.

In South Dakota we visited the Badlands and stopped at the Corn Palace because.... why not?



In Montana, we visited The Little Bighorn Battle Field. At Idaho Falls, we rode our bikes along the River Walk. Also in Idaho, we went to Craters of the Moon National Park and stopped at Shoshone Falls, which were more of a trickle than a fall.



Craters of the Moon Nat. Park, Idaho

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# Swith Heartfelt Sympathy

## Charles Richard Thorpe March 25 1936 - July 2 2021 Vacaville, CA

Charlie Thorpe passed away comfortably at home after a short battle with prostrate cancer. Charlie was born in Los Angeles to Charles and Grace (Hurley) Thorpe. Charlie trained in electronics in the Army, where he was responsible for maintaining the Nike missile battery in Philadelphia. As a field engineer, was stationed in exotic locales including Puerto Rico and Korea. Charlie met his wife Oksoon (Lee) in Korea, and settled in Huntington Beach to start their life together. After a career in the aerospace industry, he moved to Vacaville to enjoy retirement and be near his children in the Bay Area; Hali & Jim (Hausmann), Dennis & Fran (Thorpe) the grandkids Dean (Thorpe), Troy (Thorpe) and Chloe (Hausmann).

Charlie shared his love of lawn bowling, opera and Airstream cruising with many friends. He served as president of the Leisure Town Association for 2 years, LT Lawn Bowling club for 3 years and president of the Northern CA Airstream Club for a year. Charlie was dedicated to caring for Lee during her last years, and was predeceased by his wife in 2019.

Services will be held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery September 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm, to be followed by a celebration of his life.





## **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-clubgarden-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.

