



The NorCal News

Volume 59 Number 4

The Poppy

June 2022

President's Message

The rally at Red Bluff may have been lightly attended but still heavily rewarding. The food was amazing and thank you to our hosts, Bill & Cathy Maffei and Ed & Elisa Ungerman for hosting another fun rally ! A trip to the Sundial Bridge in Redding with a 19-mile (one way) e-bike trip up to the top of Shasta Dam would qualify as a rewarding experience. I would recommend getting an e-bike and see and do things you would never imagine.

Just a reminder, we have heard of e-bikes being stolen from RV parks, even when locked. So, make sure you have a quality lock/chain and keep them secured.

I'm about half way through my term as "Prez" and fumbling behind the scenes, but hey, anyone can do it, trust me. You just have to color inside the lines and nobody says anything if you use the wrong color. There are people helping me to stay within the lines.



We're still short hosts for two and half rallies: Paso Robles (September), Oroville (October) and someone(s) to help with the December rally. Super shout out to Tary and Janie Salinger that are signed up to host TWO rallies this year. Remember, all hosts are entered in a drawing for a three-day, two-night Airstream vacay at the Verdegaal's almond farm in February 2023 when the almonds are in bloom. Pizza, beer, wine and a tri-tip dinner included.

Billie and I will miss the June and late July Rallies as we will be on the Canadian Rockies Caravan and then traveling through Glacier National Park as part of our journey home. So, we'll see you at the Paso Robles Rally. I'll keep you posted on our journey with The President's Message.

Thank you once again to our two Michaels, Michael Kraft, our NorCal Delegate, and Mike Minadeo, the alternate, for the International Convention in Maine. To all of you attending have a great time and safe travels.

Almond facts: The World's Perfect Healthy Snacks - Eat Almonds (so I can pay for my Airstream ;0) An ounce a day is all we ask. When compared ounce for ounce, almonds are the tree nut highest in protein, fiber, calcium, vitamin E, riboflavin and niacin. One **ounce of almonds, or about 23 almond nuts, is the ideal daily portion recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.** <https://www.almonds.com> .

Bob Verdegaal

"I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."

What's Inside

Editor's Column	2	Membership Info	9
2022 Rally Schedule	2	Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Red Bluff Rally Summary	3	Election/Voting Info	11
Cali Rally Summary	6	Fun Calendar	12
NorCal Contact Info	9		

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who attended our rally in Red Bluff. Hosted by Cathy and Bill Maffei, Ed Ungerman and yours truly, it was a small but perhaps surprisingly, quite a fun rally. See write-up starting on page 3 describing what your fellow Airstreamers did in the Red Bluff/Redding area.

Be advised there is NO AUGUST RALLY, thus there is no rally coupon/summary in this issue. Plus there is, by tradition, no July Poppy. So, in lieu of The Poppy, be on the look-out for an email blast next month (JULY) announcing the September Rally, which is venues in Paso Robles. Currently there is/are no hosts(s) for that rally, so at this writing it appears that while you will still need to sign up for your site via the jotform/coupon, there will be no other sign-up offered and participants will be on their own for meals and activities. Plus, all checks must be sent to Jose Ortiz as Lori Bibby will be caravanning during that time. Reminders will be provided next month in the email blast.

Within a few days of our Paso Robles Rally will be the annual Region 12 rally, held this year at the San Diego Bayfair Thunderboat Races. The rally will be "inside the ropes" so to speak, within Mission Bay Park, which is directly adjacent to Mission Bay and the race course, and not at an RV park. This is a dry camping event – from Thursday to Monday, (four days), with or without generators. At this writing in mid-May, sign-ups are "days away" according the Region 12 website. If interested, check out the link in the Rally Schedule column. I know that some NorCalers are going directly to San Diego from the Paso Robles rally, with a few stops along the way to check out some Southern California areas.

Speaking of Region 12 rallies, the 2022 Cali Rally was held near Parkfield, California in late April. It is safe to say that a fun time was had by all, even if one opted not to go horseback riding. Read the article on page 6 and hopefully it will "spur" you to sign up when registration for 2024 opens in about eighteen months.

Thanks to all who provided photos of the Red Bluff Rally: Lori Bibby, John Bibby, Polly Krauter, Hedda Smithson and Jim Christie. It is a bit difficult to host a rally and be taking photos at the same time, plus I had a technical error while answering a spam phone call and inadvertently deleted a bunch of photos. Arghhh!

Enjoy the month of June, which is National Camping Month, National Great Outdoors Month, Men's Health Month, and Zoo & Aquarium Month. We will be celebrating the first two at the Trinidad rally this month. Safe travels to everyone who may also be celebrating in their own way.

P.S. I understand that many NorCalers are going on various Caravans and to the International this summer. It would be great if those who are going could do an article or at least provide information for The Poppy on the experience(s). It need not be lengthy, i.e. one page hitting the highlights and some photo illustrations of those highlights is all that is necessary! Since I do not know who you are, please contact me to volunteer. 916-833-2484. THANK YOU! Your fellow Airstreamers also thank you!

Elisa Ungerman

2022 Rally Schedule

~~March 2-6 Lodi Grape Festival Grounds Lodi~~
~~Hosts: Pat Lazzereschi, Mike & Phyllis Minadeo~~

~~April 6-10 Gold Country Campground Pine Grove~~
~~Hosts: Gregg & Janet Motta, Jill & Dave Wilson~~

~~April 21-24 Region 12 Cali Rally Parkfield~~
~~Hosts: Region 12: FULL~~

~~May 11-15 Journey KOA Red Bluff~~
~~Hosts: Elisa & Ed Ungerman, Bill & Kathy Maffei~~

June 8-12 Emerald Forest RV Park Trinidad
 Hosts: Chris & Dean Davison, Carmen & Jose Ortiz

July 23-29 International Rally Fryeburg, Maine
 Hosts: Airstream Club International

July 27-31 Olema Campground Olema
 Hosts: Tary & Janie Salinger, Paul & Victoria Bartels

Sept. 7-11 Paso Robles RV Ranch Paso Robles
 Hosts: **NEEDED**

Sept. 15-19 Region 12 Rally Mission Bay San Diego **Dry Camping**
 Hosts: <https://airstreamclub.org/2022-region-12-rally>

Oct. 5-9 Berry Creek Rancheria Oroville
 Hosts: **NEEDED**

Nov. 2-6 Skyline RV Park Napa
 Hosts: Tary & Janie Salinger, Amy & Thomas Webster

Dec. 7-11 Black Oak Casino Tuolumne
HELP NEEDED

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 and payment 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.

Round-Up in Red Bluff

May 11-15, 2022

By: Elisa Ungerman



Seventeen Airstreams "rounded up at Red Bluff" May 11th to 15th to enjoy the rally hosted by the Maffeis and Ungermans at KOA Journey Red Bluff. This is a very nice RV park, with large pull through sites on a nicely landscaped property.



After they arrived, each 'stream was officially greeted by Bill and Kathy Maffei who provided the rally goers with the rally schedule and a listing of numerous things to do while in the area.

The Wednesday Welcome Dinner began with a happy-hour social, during which announcements were made and Big Red Numbers were read for door prizes. A "bucking bronco" buffet taco dinner was then served in the western-themed clubhouse, complete with artisan beans and rice. After clean-up, a group played a rousing game of Mexican Train.



There was a putting contest Thursday morning on the park's five hole course, which was quite fun, while several



Ed Ungerman and Bill Maffei test out the putting green.

E-bikers took off to ride the Sacramento River National Recreation Trail, starting at the Sundial bridge in Redding, ending at Shasta Dam, a 35 mile round-trip ride. Meanwhile others toured around the area, seeing the sites in Redding, Red Bluff and Corning.



Everyone met back at the clubhouse for happy-hour and the putting contest awards – where coveted Flamingo Bowls were awarded to Tom Smithson (3rd), Doug Fitzgerald (2nd) and Tom Weber (1st). Luanne Hollis won an award of merit (flamingo socks) for



making a hole in one, the only person besides Tom Weber to do so.

Then the men and woman of Norcal faced off for a rousing game of Family Feud, with Bill Maffei acting as Steve Harvey. While the women, captained by Janie Salinger, started out strong, the men, captained by Tom Weber, quickly caught up and surpassed them in points. Although the woman won the "lightening round," they could not make up the gap in the point difference and the men were declared Feud winners, each guy winning a "happy camper" with airstream charm key holder. There were plenty of left overs from the prior night's Mexican dinner feast for anyone who wanted some, which was delicious after a bit of micro-waving in the clubhouse kitchen and a dab of guacamole and/or salsa.

On Friday, rally goers were free to do what they wanted during the day, but in the afternoon, many made the trek back to Redding for a beer tasting at Fall River Brewery, which turned out to be the happening place in Redding on a Friday evening. Granny's Grill Food Truck was on premises, dispensing delicious Filipino food such as BBQ skewers, sticky rice, teriyaki noodles, and fantastic lumpia (Filipino egg rolls). You chose your beers for your tasting flight from a list on the wall, which included a selection of ales, fruit spritzers, many IPAs and one stout.



Continued next page



Doug Fitzgerald, Hedda and Tom Smithson enjoy beer tasting while John Bibby photo-bombs.

Cornhole was available, and Jim Christie gave it the "college try," only to discover that those he played with were quite the experienced players, sinking multiple bags in a game. He said it was fun anyway.

Saturday was another free day to discover the area, including the wonderful McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, with lots of fun sculptures, the William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park, or the Pumpkinland Chocolate Company in Red Bluff, or walk by the Sacramento River on the trail from the RV park, until 4:30 p.m., when more Big Red Numbers were called for the remainder of the door prizes, birthdays and anniversaries were deftly handled by Tary Sallinger, and an outrageously good BBQ dinner catered by Redding's Odell Craft BBQ (odellcraftbarbecue.com) featuring a tasty broccoli salad, a fantastic shell macaroni and cheese casserole, smoked beans (crafted over three days), and mouth-watering smoked chicken and beef ribs was served by the rally hosts. The accolades on the dinner did not stop. (Definitely a place to check out on your next trip to Redding.)

After dinner, tables were pushed back, making room for Country Line Dancing. Led by Deb Christie and Lori Bibby, with music curated by Jim Christie, a surprisingly large group of rally goers worked off their dinner by participating in such iconic dances as "Electric Slide" and "Cupid's Shuffle."



The Macarena was also performed. Several NorCalers were seen dancing off to their trailers at the end of the evening. Even the jaded admitted it was fun.



The gunslingers: John Bibby, Dean Davison and Gordon Krauter.

We had made the suggestion that all wear their western garb for the final dinner, but due to the heat that final day, many, including most of the hosts, eschewed hot clothing. Kudos for Lora and Tom Broad for showing up in their western finery for the evening in keeping with the theme of the rally! And of course Dean Davison for showing off his boots for us.



Hosts Bill Maffei, Ed Ungerman, Elisa Ungerman and Cathy Maffei wear the rally decor in honor of completing the rally!



The last sweep!



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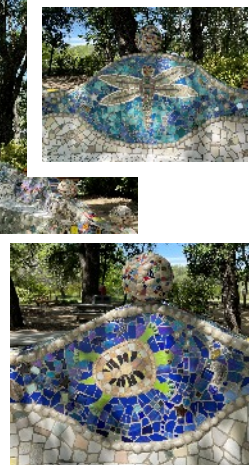
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1-6 NorCalers line dance the Macarena;

7-11 photos of artwork and poppies in the McConnell Arboretum in Redding;

Red Bluff Rally Continued

12-15 NorCalers e-bike from Sundial Bridge to Shasta Dam.



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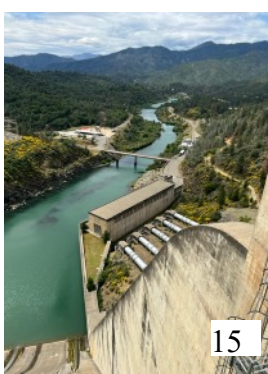
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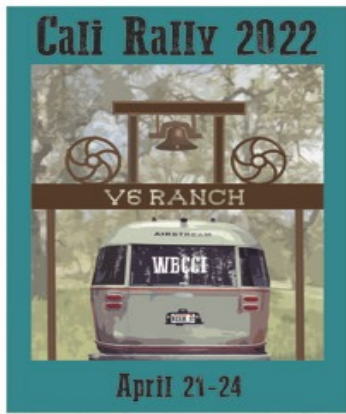
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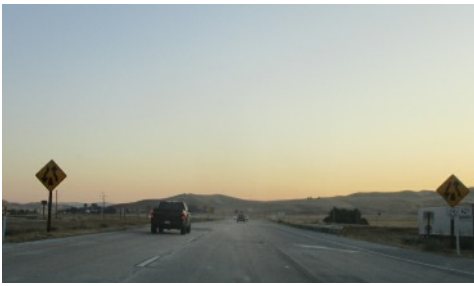
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Region 12 Cali-Rally 2022 April 21-24



Just past the point where Highway 41 from Fresno merges with Highway 46 to Paso Robles, an area also known as the "James Dean Memorial Junction," or "out in the middle of nowhere," is, on your immediate right, Cholame Valley Road.



(Don't blink or you will miss it, requiring a tight U turn-around quite a ways up the highway at the Jacks Ranch Café parking lot.)

Turn right and drive fifteen miles up Cholame Valley Road and you will find yourself cruising into scenic Parkfield, CA., population 18, the proclaimed "Earthquake Capital of the World." To the left is the Parkfield Café, with its funky hand-built tree house,



both businesses established over 30 years ago by the Varians, the owners of the nearby V-6 ranch, a 20,000 acre cattle and dude ranch that is now part of a conservation easement. Jack and Zera Varian settled in the Cholame Valley in the early 1960s, and ran the ranch with their four children. Now his son John oversees the Ranch and its assorted businesses, including giving dudes trail rides. (For more information on their background:

<https://www.v6ranch.com/history>)

Merging onto Highway 46, we did blink, made the tight U turn with our Airstream trailer at Jack's Cafe parking lot, backtracked to the Valley road, and drove the 15 miles to Parkfield, where we slowed down to observe the iconic Parkfield buildings. But we kept going - driving another three miles to the V6 Blue Oak Horse Camp, where the Airstream Club Region 12's Cali Rally sign was predominantly displayed. This

is a lovely area; the valley is surrounded by rolling golden hillsides dotted with trees that hide various creeks and swales, most now dry. The Camp, located within a strand of numerous large Blue Oaks, is complete with horse corrals, glamping tents, a bunk house with detached showers, a large three sided barn with a commercial kitchen, flush toilets, plenty of picnic tables, a communal fire pit in front of the barn, a large dinner bell that can be heard for miles, and plenty of room to park approximately 70 Airstreams throughout the property.



We were greeted by the welcoming committee and directed by parkers at the camp entrance to find our own site among the trees. We managed to locate the perfect place that allowed our solar panels to soak up the sun while having shade on either side of our trailer. After parking and setting up (quite simple with no hook-ups, this being a dry camping experience), we were able to mosey



about the entire camp site, explore the group area, and enjoy the western ambiance created by the site and the Rally Organizers.

At 5 p.m., John and Susan Barrett (of the Greater Los Angeles Airstream Club), accompanied by several helpers, presented their curated selection of beers for tasting, from refreshing lagers and ales, through a few IPAs, to several stouts. They even included (gasp!) some gluten free beers, one of which was remarkably tasty to this total skeptic. I was amazed at the selection and the quality of the offerings, a great way to start the rally. For a complete list of offerings click [HERE](#).

Beer tasting was followed by terrific BBQ'd grass-fed burgers from the V-6 ranch, with all the fixings. Exactly what one would expect to eat on a cattle ranch. Unfortunately for attendees, that first day came with on and off rain showers and cool temperatures, which scattered most to their trailers during and after dinner since meals were eaten al fresco. You might think that mud would be a problem, given that all trailers were parked in the dirt, but the air and ground were so dry that any moisture immediately evaporated or was sucked up by both air and ground, so no mud ever materialized.

The following morning, the Rally Committee, led by Region 12 V.P. Abe Hernandez and Region 12 President Laverne Henry, was ready to serve us oatmeal with just about any topping you could imagine (except ice cream), coffee, juice and a sausage link.



While not an oatmeal fan, once my bowl of oatmeal was piled high with fruits, nuts, and brown sugar, it was a winner!

After breakfast, some attendees gathered for a planned bike ride, while others braved the drizzle and went for a trail ride on some of the most beautiful and healthy rental horses I have ever seen. They were all clean and curried, inquisitive, but calm.



The wooden tack trailer with its tin roof, brought in for the occasion, was super cool, apparently hand made by a nephew of the Varians for just this purpose.



Each rider was assigned a pony, which they walked around the corral for a while before being assisted onto their horse.



Once all were astride, the trail guide provided a mini-riding lesson, after which the gate was opened and the riders embarked on their narrated ride around the nearby countryside.



During the afternoon, various seminars were offered, including "Making Party Pennants," "Maintenance with Jim (Polk) and Abe (Hernandez)," and "WBCCI Updates," where the upcoming WBCCI elections, voting protocols, and constitutional amendments were discussed.



The communal fire pit was a big hit – it appeared that at any given time during the rally there were Airstreamers enjoying comradery around the smoke and warmth of burning oak.



Lunch/dinner was on your own, and many took advantage to check out the fare at the Parkfield Café, three miles back to town. The bar in the Café is eye-opening as there are saddles for bar stools, and a myriad of branding irons hanging from the ceiling.



Everyone I spoke to said their lunch or dinner at the Café was "really good," but my personal favorite was the homemade chili with grass-fed beef and a variety of toppings. The other popular aspect of the Café besides the food was the public

wi-fi and cell service, the only location for such service in the Valley.

After dinner, the crowd was treated to two full hours of Cowboy Singer Dave Stamey, a first-rate entertainer.



Dave Stamey

True West Magazine has named him Best Living Western Solo Musician four years in a row, while the Western Music Association voted him Entertainer of the Year and Male performer of the Year seven times, and Songwriter of the Year five times. In 2016, he was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame. I had no idea of any of this as I listened to him play his guitar, spin stories and sing mostly songs that he has written, with no intermission. His rapport with the audience was terrific. Consequently, it was no surprise when I Googled him after I got home and discovered all his accolades. (He is well worth seeing if you get a chance!)

Plus, the setting for his show, in the rustic barn with its soft light glowing as the sun set behind it could not have been better.



By Saturday, the clouds had disappeared and the temperature warmed up. Another breakfast was served by the Rally organizers, this time a delicious variety of homemade cheesy egg bake casseroles, along with juice and coffee. Impromptu bike rides occurred while others hiked around the area.



Biking and hiking were popular activities



At 10:00 a.m., there was a swap meet where rally goers showed off their wares or decluttering attempts.



More trail rides were offered, this time led by John Varian himself, with the trail riders parading through the camping area, before joining the trial.



More seminars occurred in the afternoon: Electric bikes with Eric (McHenry), Airstream Cooking 101 with Claudia (Sutton) (shown below), and Line Dancing with Judy (Bechtel).



Later in the day, group photos were taken – one of all the rally attendees, and another of each of the Clubs represented at the rally.



NorCalers attending the 2022 Cali-Rally

Dinner was again catered by the V-6 Ranch: delicious BBQ chicken (with a "secret" marinade to-die-for brushed on by the ranch chief with rosemary branches) and grilled grass-fed beef, along with broccoli salad and a cheesy baked casserole. Yummy chocolate cake was the dessert.



The line-up for dinner.



Continued on next page

At 7 p.m., the Rockin' B's began rockin' the barn with a diverse repertoire of country, blues, and rockabilly. The band was led by a female fiddler and mandolin player, backed up by drummer, a guitar player, and a bass player. The music and vocals were good, for either listening or dancing, as a few brave souls demonstrated. It was a wonderful way to end the rally.



On Sunday, the day of departure, there were very few trailers beating a hasty retreat back to civilization. By 10 am, only a handful had left Camp, which is a good indication of how well the rally worked as a de-stresser. Ed and I headed back to the Parkfield Cafe's gift shop to purchase V-6 Barn Coats before we left the area, our memento of a great time "in the middle of nowhere that is, in fact, somewhere: "the cowboy side of California."

Editor



NorCal Club Officers & Committee Chairs

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 1st Vice President
 2nd Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Senior Trustee
 Senior Trustee
 Trustee
 Trustee
 Imm. Past President
 Parliamentarian
 Constitution & Bylaws
 Membership
 Newsletter Editor
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 Rally Chair
 Caravan Chair
 Sunshine

Bob Verdegaal
 Jim Christie
 Carmen Ortiz
 Gail Crutchfield
 Jose Ortiz
 Dean Davison
 Carol Echols
 Tary Salinger
 Mark Winchell
 John Bibby
 Hedda Smithson
 Hedda Smithson
 Marget Williams
 Elisa Ungerman
 Tom Smithson
 Carmen Ortiz
 Lori Bibby
 Pat Lazzereschi
 Bob Vasser
 Cathy Maffei

Welcome New Members

Kris Thomassian

David Ludwig & Lina Shanklin

William Ohis-Morris & Shirlee Hale-Morris

Ken & Sandra Dillon



Welcome New Affiliates

Jerry Zheng

Susie & James Powell



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 Membership Numbers

169 Unit/Life Members

44 Affiliate Members

213 Total Members

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

1 Chris & Criss Gales	9 Larry & Kathy Warren
1 Tom & Amy Webster	13 Charlie & Jane Wright
3 John & Dace Roll	15 Bev Wainwright & Fredric Sloan
4 Kit & Audrey Langstroth	19 Steve & Yoshiko Dewiert
5 Dan & Gail Crutchfield	21 George & Claudette Paige
6 Larry & Maureen Delorefice	

"Don't see your birthday or anniversary here but you'd like to be included? Then please send Marget Williams norcalmembership@comcast.net an e-mail with your Name (First and Last) and your Birthday and/or Anniversary (**Month and Day only**).



1 Mike Minadeo	17 Mark Winchels
3 Cathy Sandy	22 Tom Bain
7 David Kristen	25 Carol Kurzrock
11 Lori Bibby	26 Chris Gales
13 Gregg Motta	27 Phyllis Minadeo
17 Beverley Wainwright	

WBCCI



June is WBCCI's or Airstream Club International's Election Month, and the first two weeks of June are when NorCal members will be voting on (1) the slate of International's officers for next year, and (2) the two proposed constitutional amendments that will affect the operation of the Club at the International level.

This month you should receive two emails: one from the International pertaining to balloting for the International officers and one from Tom Smithson that will contain information and a link to voting on the constitutional amendments. Information regarding these amendments was provided in last month's *Poppy* as well as last month's *Blue Beret*. The purpose of this article is to explain the voting procedures and to remind members of the timelines.

Generally speaking, membership in the International Club is dependent on owning at least one Airstream. When someone joins the International Club, they are required to input selected information about their Airstream, including VIN number, along with information about themselves. They may also add information about a partner/spouse who is affiliated with them and their Airstream.

After their dues are paid, they are assigned a Big Red Number (BRN) denoting Club membership; the BRN is linked to their membership information and is utilized to pay dues, provide Club benefits, and for directory purposes.

Recently, a distinction was made between Club "membership" and "members" for the purpose of voting in elections. A membership in the Club (denoted by the BRN) can include one or two people (e.g., the person who completed the initial application and any spouse or partner included in or added to the application.) There is only one membership (and one membership number), whether there is one person or two associated with that membership.

However, each of those persons are now individual *members* of the Club for voting purposes, and can vote as they desire, regardless of how their spouse/partner votes, *as long as they each have a separate email address on file* with the International Club. Each member who has a separate email will be sent the ballots via email. All voting is done electronically.

If you are a member and do not receive a ballot by June 1st, contact Amanda Hughes, Membership

Coordinator, Airstream Club International, ASAP via phone: (937) 596-5211, or email: membership@airstreamclub.org, and she will check on your status and make any updates as necessary. She has been very responsive to questions and concerns. Then check-in with Tom Smithson on receiving your NorCal ballot.

If for some reason you are unable to vote electronically, you may request a paper ballot by from Tom Smithson as long as you do so in time to vote before the deadline. **The voting deadline is June 15th.** After that date, the votes will be tabulated, and at the local level, the results will be certified by the NorCal's Board and passed on to our International Rally delegate for delivery to the Delegates Meeting in July.

So keep a look out in your email for emails from Tom and International on voting and please vote so that the election results reflect the views of a majority and not just an active minority. If you do not receive both of these emails – call Amada asap to ascertain and correct the problem so your voice can be heard.

Editor

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 	3	4 
5 	6	7	8	9	10 	11 
Trinidad Rally						
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18 
19 	20 	21 	22 	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 	30		

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/>



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 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.

