

The NorCal News



Volume 60 Number 1

The Poppy

Jan-Feb 2023

President's Messages

Imm. Past President

Happy 2023 to you all ! We just completed another trip around the sun and our new President, Jim Christie, and all the officers and committee chairs were installed. It's time to recognize and say thank you to all those volunteers that work behind the scenes and do so much to make our club and rallies enjoyable.

Thanks to the December Rally Hosts, the Winchells, Salingers and Bartelts, for an excellent Christmas Rally. As we start our next trip around the sun let us all pitch in to make it one of our best years yet! Billie and I are looking forward to hosting the winners of our Rally Host drawing, the Salingers and Bartelts in February.



I want to thank all of the people that helped me get through my year as NorCal President. It helped to have people to call and ask questions to make sure I was on track. I appreciate the support I had while being President and I am confident that Jim, the board members and chairs will keep our club running smoothly. Also thank you to all of the members that volunteered to hosts rallies in 2022 and future rallies in 2023. I received a call a few days after our December Rally that the

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New President



Greetings and welcome to 2023! Deborah and I are looking forward to a great year of Airstreamin' with many of you and we hope you are as well. For many of us, this year's Rally schedule has a couple of new locations to explore and then a few locations we will return to after an absence of years. In addition, we will have an opportunity to dry camp in Fortuna, thanks to the invitation of Dean & Chris Davison.

As in the past, the most important thing our members can do to help the club is to sign up to be a host at one of our open Rally locations. HOSTING! That can be a scary word for anyone who has not done it. However, Deborah and I, along with so many others in this club, have hosted and/or co-hosted a Rally in the past and from experience, it can be fun and

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From the Editor

2023 Rally Schedule



Happy New Year everyone! **This is the first edition of The Poppy's 60th Year.** That means it was started in 1963 and has been continuing ever since in some form or another, with numerous editors over the years including Cam Murray, Tom Smithson, and Steve Deiwert. I'm in good company.

2022 ended with some very fun rallies, in Napa and in Tuolumne, and we feature them in this edition. It was wonderful to meet many new members who took the plunge, signed up, then showed up to their first rally. Several enjoyed themselves so much, they showed up for both rallies. And some have even signed up to be host apprentices during this year's rally season. Way to go! Personally, I look forward to whatever they bring to the functioning of the Club. New blood is good.

In this issue, NorCal's 2023 rally schedule is posted so save the dates. Our first rally is in March at Yanks "Luxury" RV Park. While the park appears to be "out in the middle of nowhere," it is very close to Monterey, Carmel, and Salinas, not to mention the West Entrance to Pinnacles National Park, which is wonderful. (Just fyi: no dogs allowed except in the picnic area). The Scheuers have come up with a wonderful rally in a short period of time. Summary begins on pg. 3, Coupon on pg. 4.

I am also bringing back a feature that got derailed by Covid, and that is the new member spotlight. I have reached out to some new members I met at the last two rallies and they told me they would be willing to shine a light on themselves – so hopefully they will. Our first submission is from Vicki and Gary DeSmet of Sonoma on pg 6. Thank you Vicki for the submission.

Continued page 4

March 1 - 5	Yanks RV Park, Greenfield	
Hosts: The Scheuers, Team Paz		

March 29 - April 2	Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley	
Hosts: The Crutchfields and Williams		

May 17-21	Lassen RV Park McArthur	
Hosts: NEEDED		

June 14-18	Sparks Marina RV Park Sparks Nev.	
Hosts: NEEDED		

June 24-July 1	International Rally Rock Springs, Wyo.	
Hosts: Airstream Club International		

August 2 -6th	Chris & Dean Davison's Fortuna	
Co-Hosts: The Salingers, Scheuers, Paula Haymond, Team Paz		

Sept. 6-10	Santa Cruz RV Resort Felton	
Hosts: The Echols, Roblee/Valerio, Becks		

October 4-8	River Run RV Park Bakersfield	
Hosts: The Minadeos & Bells		

October 25-28	Region 12 Rally Pismo Beach	
Hosts: Region 12		

Nov. 8-12	Pismo Coast RV Park Pismo Beach	
Hosts: Ungermans & Garcias		

Dec. 6-10	Jackson Rancheria Jackson	
Hosts: 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 deadline to the Club Registrar. If a rally is full, there is a wait list. "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 and any refunds are covered by Club policies as shown on the rally coupon.

Rally Fees Now Payable Online via ZelleSM

After some members successfully tested it, NorCal's Board of Trustees approved the use of Zelle for payment of NorCal rally fees. With Zelle, members now have the option to pay fees directly to NorCal either online or through a smartphone app without incurring any credit card fees. Don't know what this is or means? Read the Frequently Asked Questions below prepared by NorCal's First Vice President Carmen Ortiz.

What is Zelle?

Zelle is a fast (almost immediate), safe and easy way to transfer money between domestic bank accounts at U.S. financial institutions in order to pay friends, family or others. By using their U.S. mobile number or email address you can send money directly from your bank account to theirs with no fees using your bank's mobile app or the Zelle app on your smart phone, or via your bank's online system using your computer or tablet. All you need is a U.S. bank account and a U.S. mobile number or email, a computer, tablet or smartphone.

How Safe is Zelle?

Using Zelle is tantamount to paying with cash. You are in charge: you choose the transaction, then initiate and authorize payments from your account, with a two-factor authorization code provided to you. **Be aware that neither your bank nor Zelle offers a protection program for any authorized payments using Zelle, even if that authorization is a result of a scam.** By being aware of the general nature of the scams and adhering to a few basic rules, you should be able to protect yourself. **(See column on page 4.)** Know that your bank will *never* call or text you, asking you to send money via Zelle to yourself or anyone else for any reason. They will *never* contact you via phone or text to ask for a security code. If anyone reaches out to you on some pretense of needing a refund or do-over, or requests you provide an authorization code for any reason, it is likely a scam. While Zelle can be a great way to send money to family, friends and people that you know and trust (such as NorCal), we recommend you do not use Zelle for potentially high-risk transactions such as when you don't know the recipient or aren't absolutely certain you'll get what you paid for (e.g. items bought from an online bidding or sales site).

How do I Enroll with Zelle?

First, find out if your bank supports Zelle transfers. You can search for your bank by going to <https://www.zellepay.com/get-started>. If your bank supports Zelle, there should be a link on your bank's mobile app or online banking. If you can't find it, contact online banking support at your bank.

What if My Bank isn't in the Zelle Network?

Even if you don't have Zelle available through your bank or credit union, you can still use it! Simply download the Zelle® app in the App Store or Google Play. To enroll with the Zelle® app, enter your basic contact information, an email address and U.S. mobile number, and a Visa or Mastercard **debit card attached to a U.S. bank account.** (Zelle does not accept debit cards associated with international deposit accounts, nor does it accept credit cards.) When you enroll with Zelle, your name, your financial institution's name and the email address or U.S. mobile phone number you enrolled with is shared with Zelle. No sensitive account details are given to Zelle; those remain known only to your bank. After you enroll, you can send and receive money through Zelle with confidence to those you know and can trust.

How Does it Work?

When you transfer money to an enrolled email address or mobile number through Zelle, Zelle doesn't actually transfer the money. Instead, it looks up the email address or mobile number in its "Zelle Network Directory" and lets your bank know that payment has been authorized. Your bank then directs the payment to the payee's bank, which deposits the money into the payee's bank account, all while keeping your sensitive account details private. This process takes mere minutes. Both you and payee get notification of the transfer.

How Do I Pay for Rally Registration using Zelle?

NorCal's Treasurer has enrolled the club's bank account in the Zelle network to accept transfers authorized through Zelle. When you register for a rally online, you will get the option to pay with a check or via Zelle. If you select Zelle, you will receive a confirmation email of your registration and where to send the payment using Zelle. For security reasons, this information will not be published in the Poppy rally coupon or online. The first time you send money, you will have to add WBCCI/NorCal as a Zelle recipient, per the instructions in your confirmation email. The next time you send money, all you have to do is select WBCCI/NorCal. The Treasurer will keep track of your payment and let the Rally Registrar know the date and amount. If you require a refund, the Treasurer will send you the money via Zelle. Remember that refunds are processed after the rally is over and the Treasurer closes the books.

The Bottom Line?

Using Zelle will make paying for rally registrations easier and faster since you do not have to write checks and send them via snail mail to the Rally Registrar. Your money will be transferred to NorCal's bank account immediately and you will be fully registered for a rally immediately, thereby helping the registrar and potentially yourself. Plus, any refunds will be quicker too. If you pay rally fees by check, any refund to which you may be entitled will be via check, which is a longer process.



It is a fact that many Zelle users have been targets for scammers. While scammers cannot directly access users bank accounts, they have a variety of methods to trick Zelle users into sending them money. These are no different than other scams preying upon unsuspecting victims, such as the gift card email scams, phishing bank emails, or telephone scams requesting payment of some kind. Zelle simply provides a scammer with a cleaner and faster method of payment than gift cards. To dispel fears over using Zelle, we have collected the following advice:

How do you avoid Zelle-related scams?

While anyone can be faced with Zelle-related scams, there are ways to protect yourself—namely, by familiarizing yourself with the methods criminals may use to trick you. Know the red flags! If you get a message with any of the following red flags, there's a good chance it's a scam:

A sense of urgency

"Almost all scams involve instilling a sense of urgency in victims," an expert on scams says. "If you feel rushed to make a decision, there's a strong chance it's a scam."

Unsolicited texts or emails

Never click on links or attachments in unsolicited texts or emails. "If you're unsure whether an email is legitimate, Google your bank's phone number and call that instead of the number listed in the email," the expert advises.

Only one payment method

Most legitimate businesses accept multiple payment methods. "If Zelle is the only one available to you, "it could well be a scam."

Requests for sensitive information

"To avoid having your Zelle account and other accounts taken over by hackers, never provide your username, password or PIN in response to any email, text message or phone call unless you have absolutely confirmed that the request for this information is legitimate, which it never is," another expert says. "Even if you get a call that appears to come from your bank or other company with which you do business, your Caller ID can be tricked by spoofing to make the call appear legitimate when it is not."

Here are the top 10 Zelle scams to watch out for:

<https://smallbiztrends.com/2022/11/zelle-scams.html#:~:text=A%20Zelle%20phishing%20scam%20s%20intended%20to%20trick.click%20on%20a%20link%20or%20open%20an%20attachment.>

A scam is a scam, be it with Zelle or something else. Anyone can fall victim to fraud, depending on the circumstances. Be prepared, be very skeptical if contacted about the transaction, and follow the general advice to only use Zelle in limited circumstances where you know the payee.

-Editor

WBCCI FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

The WBCCI Foundation is an organization working to provide Airstream Owners a way to give back in order to preserve and protect the places they love to visit so that they keep that spirit of adventure and travel alive for future generations.



This year, the WBCCI Foundation is asking Airstream Owners to donate \$23 in 2023 to the WBCCI Foundation. Last year, it announced 22N22 and launched an annual effective, yet simple campaign. Carrying on into the new year, the Foundation says that if 100% of Airstream International Club members donate \$23, it will be able to do great things towards its mission in 2023 as well! It is calling this year's giving program **23N23**. And like the 22N22, the 23N23 logo was developed to give a nod to the spirit of our "Big Red Numbers."

Come 2023, if you donate to **23N23**, you'll receive a ribbon for your name badge and a window decal so you can proudly show you participated in the WBCCI Foundation **23N23** program! "Together, we can accomplish so much more as there is so much power in numbers. Please consider giving as 100% of your donation will be used to give back!" says the Foundation. For more information, check out <https://www.wbccifoundation.org/our-impact-wbccifoundation>

Compiled from other sources

Editor Continued

The really big news this month is that you can now pay for NorCal rallies online directly through Zelle, a peer to peer money transfer network. We have provided plenty of information about Zelle and the money transfer process on pages 3 and 4. The good news is that there is no credit card involved, so no credit card fees, and the money is transferred immediately, but the not so good news is that there are no protections if you are scammed, mis-authorize a transfer, and lose money. However, if you are aware of how scams can occur and their red flags you can better protect yourself. We have provided that information too. If you are not comfortable with the new way of doing things, the option to pay by check to WBCCI and sent directly to the Registrar remains.

Finally, thank you dear readers for all the kind words about the Poppy that I have recently received. I really appreciate them since this tends to be a solitary effort at times.

Elisa Ungerman



Spring Into Greenfield Rally

March 1-5, 2023

Welcome to Greenfield, also known as America's Salad Bowl! Specifically, the Salinas Valley, where the ingredients of your summer salad are likely grown. Salinas Valley grows almost half of the nation's lettuce (including head, leaf and romaine) and a third of its spinach, thus its moniker as America's Salad Bowl.

Greenfield is also the Western Gateway into Pinnacles National Park. The park is renowned for the beauty and variety of its spring wildflowers. A rich diversity of wildlife can be observed throughout the year. The rock formations of Pinnacles National Park divide the park into East and West Districts which are connected by trails. Pinnacles National Park is the only NPS unit that manages a release site for captive bred California condors, an endangered species. Condors are often observed soaring on the morning thermals along the ridge and coming in to roost on their favorite trees in the evenings.



Wednesday will start off social hour followed by a Baked Potato Bar

dinner, with potatoes, toppings, salad and dessert. Prepared by your hosts in the Yanks RV Resort commercial kitchen. Raffle prizes may be on the agenda!

Thursday will feature a group tour of Creekside Farms in Greenfield. Creekside Farms is a premier designer in today's home decor industry. Family owned and operated, they produce a quality line of natural artisanal wreaths and garlands all handmade in Greenfield.



The tour is free, but please sign up on coupon or Jotform so that we can provide a count of tour participants. Social hour as usual, perhaps games and more prizes.

On Friday we are organizing a group picnic in Pinnacles National Park, followed by various nature hiking options. Dogs are welcome in the Picnic Area but not on the hiking trails. Bring your own picnic lunch, drinks and supplies. Picnic tables are available, but you may want to bring your own comfortable camping chair. The park also features an excellent

visitor center. Each vehicle will pay their own entrance fee, or use your National Parks Pass. We will reconvene for social hour in the afternoon back at Yanks RV.



Saturday is an open day to explore the area. For example, in the Greenfield area: Scheid Vineyards, Mission Soledad and Mission San Antonio. A short drive to Salinas features: the National Steinbeck Center and the Monterey Zoo. A day trip can be made to Monterey featuring: the Monterey Bay Aquarium, 17-Mile Drive, Carmel-By-The-Sea, and Cannery Row. Saturday evening, after social hour, we have arranged for a Mexican catered dinner by a local restaurant in Greenfield, La Plaza Bakery. We will have a taco bar with chicken, pork, grilled vegetables, beans, rice, chips, and all the toppings! Vegan options available. Perhaps more games and prizes?! Sunday it's time to hit the road!

Your Hosts: Brian and Juliet Scheuer, Tony and Sharon Paz

Spring into Greenfield Rally

Yanks RV Resort
1005 Yanks Way Greenfield, CA. 93927

March 1 - 5, 2023

Coupon Due January 31, 2023

Name: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

BRN # _____

Arrival Day _____

Departure Day _____

RV length _____

Rally Nights _____ nights @ 66.50 per night

Parking Fee \$ _____

Rally Fee _____ persons @ \$7.50 pp (per person)

Rally Fee \$ _____

Wed. Night Welcome Potato Bar Dinner _____ persons @ \$12.00 pp

Wed. Dinner \$ _____

Thursday Tour at Creekside Farms - no cost but need headcount #persons _____

Friday Group Picnic in Pinnacles National Park. Self pay for entrance.

Bring your own picnic lunch. #Persons _____

Saturday: Catered Mexican Taco Bar _____ persons @ \$23.00 pp

Sat. Dinner \$ _____

No of persons for vegan option: _____

TOTAL RALLY COST \$ _____

INSTRUCTIONS

• Either directly register online using the jotform link: <https://form.jotform.com/223505351501847> or follow the 'Register for the Rally' link on the webpage, 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 to keep track of rally registrations.

- **You can now choose to pay your rally fee online via Zelle or by sending a check directly to the Registrar.**
- If you pay by check, **make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal** and mail to NorCal Registrar Lori Bibby, 3029 Black Hawk Ln., Lincoln, CA 95648-7716.
- If you want to pay via Zelle but do not know how, check out: <https://www.zellepay.com/>
- **Refund Policy:** Cancellations and/or changes to registration must be received no later than Wednesday of the week prior to the rally, in other words, a week before the start of the rally. Refunds will be available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Parking fees are refunded according to RV park cancellation policy. Meals, tours, rally fees, etc., are refunded if money has not been spent by the hosts.
- **Please contact the Rally Registrar if you have ANY changes to your registration**, or wish to register after the deadline. **973-270-4132.**
- **Under no circumstances are members to contact the RV Park with changes or cancellations.**
- NorCal abides by the federal, state and local COVID19 mandates to keep not only its members safe but also 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.
- Your registration is incomplete and not confirmed until we receive BOTH your registration and payment. Do not wait until the last minute to pay or you may not have a site regardless of when you initially apply.

NorCal Club Contacts 2023

Jim Christie	President
Carmen Ortiz	1st Vice President
Tary Salinger	2nd Vice President
Amy Webster	Secretary
José Ortiz	Treasurer
Carole Echols	Senior Trustee
Mark Winchell	Senior Trustee
Tom Webster	Trustee
Bill Maffei	Trustee
Bob Verdegaal	Immediate Past President
Hedda Smithson	Parliamentarian
Hedda Smithson	Constitution & Bylaws
Marget Williams	Membership
Elisa Ungerman	Poppy Editor & BB Reporter
Tom Smithson	Directory & Audio/Visual
Carmen Ortiz	Webmaster
John Bibby	Assistant Webmaster
Pat Lazzereschi	Rally Chair
Lori Bibby	Registrar
Bob Vasser	Caravan Chair
Cathy Maffei	Sunshine

Welcome Affiliate Members

John & Dianne McGowan

John & Ellie Cary

Scott & Cheryl Peterson

Nancy Kenny

Stett Holbrook & Liesl Mathis

Mila & Willie Lumberton

Nathan Ogilvie & Ryan Shackleford

Apriljoy Sanchez & Todd Schecter



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>

Welcome New Members

Anne & Richard Phillips

Tony & Michele Etchers

Fred Formosa

Jim Karb

Michael Walsh & Cynkay Morningsong

Spotlight on Members!

Meet Vicki and Gary DeSmet, who recently joined Norcal and have attended some recent rallies. Vicki tells us, "Our story begins in the little town of Sonoma. When we first met, Gary was a real estate developer and Vicki was working as a dietitian and bought her first home from Gary. After marrying and starting a family, Gary returned to his first passion— teaching, and later, in retirement, served on the local school board for 8 years.



We have three children— Sarah, age 33, David, age 30, and Anna, age 25. Our oldest daughter lives in Sonoma with her husband and daughter. We are lucky to see our granddaughter often, who just celebrated her first birthday.

We are new to trailering. We bought our 19 foot (new) Bambi last May, primarily as an escape-pod from fire and smoke. Our tow vehicle is our everyday car, an electric plug-in hybrid. We have been on 8 camping trips so far and love it! The social club associated with Airstream was a pleasant surprise for us. We have been to two rallies, Olema and Napa, and are thrilled to have made so many new friends." Welcome Vicki and Gary!

-Editor

Imm. Past President Cont.

part has arrived for my NotRedy truck. It might actually get ready.

Last almond fact: This time of year, our son Josh is shaking the old almonds (mummies) off of the trees as they harbor insects that overwinter in them. Once on the ground they will be chopped up, thereby killing the pests that harm our future almonds. Our trees are currently dormant but soon they will be waking up and blooming. The start of a new almond season.

Bob Verdegaal

New President Con't

a Rally in the past and from experience, it can be fun and rewarding. Partnering up with another couple who has hosted is a great way to start.

There is an excellent Hosting Guide on your NorCal website. You can find it by going to <https://airstreamclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/NorCal-Rally-Planning-Guide-July-22.pdf>. We are always available for questions and assistance.

Another big "THANK YOU" for your generosity. The Silent Auction raised a record-shattering \$8,500 for Fisher House Foundation, a charity that helps military family members stay near their loved ones in the hospital.

Deborah and I will see you down the road. (Photo: Cruising through the Iron Gate on the Danube 11/22.)

Jim Christie
"Keep on Traveling"

NorCal Membership Numbers	
180	Unit/Life Members
<u>60</u>	<u>Affiliate Members</u>
240	Total Members

Personalized NorCal Airstream Club – Garden Flag – 12.5” x 18”

The NorCal Airstream Club Personalized Garden Flag is now 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. Chose 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. I purchased one from Lowe’s for \$7.99 that is sturdy and breaks down for easy storage and transport.

(See back page for photograph.)

-John Bibby



2022 Rally Host Drawing Results

Congratulations to the Bartelts and Salingers who each won the Verdegaal’s “Spring in our Almond Orchard with your Airstream” drawing for 2022 rally hosts. Sometime In February, they will travel from Napa to the white blossoms of Ripon, California, for a fun weekend of being hosted by the Verdegaals while avoiding Dumas.

In other news, Janie Sallinger separately won the coveted throw quilted by Lori Bibby for the lucky host of a 2022 rally. Janie was thrilled to accept the red, white and blue quilt, which no doubt will find a coveted spot in their house. Lori promised to quilt another for a drawing to be held at the 2023 Christmas Rally for all 2023 rally hosts.



December

- 7 Angela Udovich
- 8 Steve Dewier
- 11 Linda Sickler
- 12 Amy Levin
- 13 Kent Schroeder
- 16 Matt Kurzrock
- 18 Fredric Sloan
- 20 Susan Boesch
- 21 Judy Bechthold
- 24 Criss Gales
- 26 Tom Broad
- 27 Billie Verdegaal
- 27 Don Weaver
- 30 Gregg Ayer
- 31 Richard Kleiman

January

- 3 Jose Ortiz
- 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

- 1 Bob Vasser
- 2 John Bibby
- 5 Lora Broad
- 5 Elain White
- 7 Charlie Wright
- 14 George Paige
- 19 Tom Reed
- 20 Mary Diamond
- 28 Patti Reed
- 28 Kathy Warren

December

- 6 Jim/Lynn Geacht
- 20 Larry/Linda Ackerman
- 25 Jim/Lynn Foster
- 31 Shirley Bollinger/John Lopez

January

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

February

- 12 Ken/Judy Bechthold
- 24 JP and Claudia Sherry

NorCal would like to recognize the birthdays and anniversaries of **all** our Members and Associates. To ensure you are included in the Poppy, please send Marget Williams (NorCal Membership Chair) an e-mail with your Name (First and Last) and your Birthday and Anniversary (Month and Day only).
norcalmembership@comcast.net





Skyline Park Rally Napa, Ca - Nov 2022



Your hosts: Tom & Amy Webster, Tary & Janie Salinger, Teri & Steve Hollifield

As the Skyline Park Rally participants started to filter into the majestic park on Tuesday, hosts Websters, Hollifields and Salingers couldn't help but divert their prayers from Bacchus, God of Wine, to Jupiter, God of Weather. It seemed like the forecasts were changing daily and with a handful of outdoor events, the hosts were getting nervous. Their prayers seemed to work!

The rally started with a wonderful potluck, featuring 30 lbs of perfectly smoked pulled pork by Tom Webster for delicious pulled pork sandwiches. Although Tom spent most of Tuesday night tending to his smokers, he was still able to pull off one of the more energetic and fun "Welcome" speeches that we've heard, setting the tone for the rest of the week, along with the beautiful decorations coming from Terri Hollifield throughout the week. The evening was a great way to kick off the rally.

the production and science of this interesting natural commodity.*



After the resident geniuses were done riddling Scott with questions, the rest of Thursday was a free day for wine tasting, shopping and what turned into a large caravan of bike riders riding down the bike trail. Several groups made their way out to local restaurants during the evening.

home located on the banks of the Napa River.



Early arrivers were greeted by a solo Sea Lion fishing in front of their dock off the backyard. As the sun was setting, Deana Bain once again entertained the group with birthday and anniversary introductions.



During the potluck, the club was introduced to new members Paula Haymond and Gabriella Rappaport from Gualala. On departure, guests were surprised with beautifully hand sewn wine bags by Amy Webster.



On Friday morning, Tary hosted a Gilligan's Island-like "3-hour tour" for 5 fishermen to partake in some Striper fishing on the Napa River. The group fooled 5 fish, but alas no keepers were had.



On Saturday, a quick business meeting for all members started at 9:30 am, preceded by a board meeting, both run by past President John Bibby. Tony Paz then expertly orchestrated an archery clinic for several interested ralliers. Even though the weather was a bit sketchy, everyone had a great time and we all learned who the sharp shooters were.



On Thursday morning, Scott Webster, the much younger and better-looking brother of Tom, provided an interesting and technical presentation on cork. His presentation ranged from the history to



With half the rally already over, and a decent day projected on the weather front, hosts Tary & Janie Salinger shifted their prayers over to the God of Fire (Hephaestus) for the patio heaters to work. Airstreamers were hosted Friday night to a myriad of "heavy appetizers" (artfully arranged by Teri Hollifield), and home-made wood-fired pizza at their



*For example did you know that all commercial cork is grown and harvested in Portugal?

The misty weather finally cleared and the evening's cocktail hour was followed by a catered dinner of Mexican food by La Condesa, one of the more popular food trucks in Napa. Jose and his team served up platefuls of various tacos, rice and beans. Amy Webster then served up her signature "Pineapple Whip" coupled with an ample supply of warm Churros.



Pat Lazzereschi orchestrated our traditional tribute to NorCal past presidents, with those in attendance being introduced and saying something memorable about their year. Many attended including Don Weaver, Mike Malone, John White, Cam Murray, Dennis Richardson, Bob Vasser, John Bibby, Kent Schroeder, Brian Scheuer, and of course Pat.



The evening ended with a second new member being introduced to and welcomed by the Club: Rick and Anne Phillips of Sonoma. Airstreamers could then take home a healthy succulent growing in a camper-shaped ceramic pot, a wonderful momento of a magical rally in Napa.



Tary Salinger





Christmas in the Woods with Elf Rally



The 2022 Airstream Christmas Rally at Black Oak Casino RV Park was one of those special times, at least for us.

Our moderator for the weekend, Paul Bartelt, started off the rally welcoming attendees to a potluck dinner. Rally host Mark Winchell barbecued sausages while rally-goers brought appetizers, side dishes and desserts. Everything was so delicious, and it is always fun to see what festive dishes everyone brings to share! New members introduced at the potluck and during the rally included Anne & Rick Phillips, Ryan Shackelford & Nathan Ogilvie, and Chuck & Kathleen Brown.

Thursday morning, we toured the Rail Town 1897 State Historic Park and learned a bit of California History. It was quite interesting and beautiful to see the cars decorated for Christmas and learn about each of the engines in one of the last round houses in the nation.



We were welcomed back to the RV park by rally host Darlene Winchell who started her photo sessions that afternoon. The photo sessions were her silent auction item that started off our auction in style. Those who signed up, received beautiful Christmas photos done in front of their Airstream. I'm sure you have seen a few of these circulating

on Facebook! **(Ed note: see pg. 15)** Darlene worked very hard, bringing in almost \$500 for her efforts for the Fisher House.



We also had a cookie exchange in the clubhouse that afternoon which yielded enough cookies to last us through the weekend!



Thursday afternoon, an early Happy Hour started with our fearless leader, Paul Bartelt turned HGTV host bartender, who gave a very in-depth presentation on the art of the Manhattan Cocktail, with samples for all who wanted some.



Paul proving why he is a "Bar"telt

Later in the evening, those of us still standing paid homage to our president, Bob Verdegaal, as he finished out his term. As tradition, Bob used the evening to thank his board, committee members and rally hosts. We had a delicious catered dinner by Chef Dave, lots of laughs, and some awards. (See pg. 9).

Intermixed with the evening's festivities, we had a fun and fast-moving traditional white elephant raffle. Who knew that a flamingo drink pitcher would create such a stir, not to mention a flamingo bowl.

Birthdays and anniversaries were also shared and celebrated with M.C. Deana Bain, while members Debbie Ames/Doug Fritz were "degreened."



Friday was a free day until late evening when a good amount of rally goers went to see the musical Elf at the local theatre, while others spread through the communities for some great dinners. Elf was an amazing feel-good performance that had a few of us trying to tap dance in our trailers. Thank goodness for stabilizers! **(Ed. Note: Jerry Lee ("Elf") is actually Juliet Scheuer's cousin.)**

With heavy rain and possible snow forecasted, we lost a few rigs Friday night and Saturday morning, but those who stayed had a great time.

Saturday afternoon, we held our silent auction and raised \$8500 for the Fisher House. The auction was cut-throat and competitive this year! What an amazing show of generosity in both the donations of auction items (we had exactly 100 auction items!) and the generous

donations in the form of bidding!



Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of you amazing rally goers! Special thanks to Karen and Jeff Intemann for all of their help orchestrating the Silent Auction. In addition to their support during the

auction, the donations will be personally dropped off at the Fisher House by Karen and Jeff, and later this month, Paul Bartelt will be interviewed ... More to follow on this!



2023 Board

On Saturday evening, our Rally culminated with Tom Smithson acting as our emcee and expertly orchestrating the installation of our new board and president Jim Christie.

It certainly stormed outside, but inside, all was calm and we were well fed with another beautifully catered dinner by Chef Dave.

As a bonus, some of us experienced a White Christmas on our drive home.

From all of us to all of you, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Can't wait to see you down the road and "keep on travelin'!"

Warmly, your hosts
Tary & Janie Salinger
Mark and Darlene Winchell
Paul & Vicky Bartelt



1



2



5



9



3



6



10



4



7



8



11

1. Billie Verdegaa & Dean Davidson with Deanna Baines; 2. Sherwood Garcia, Lynn Hurley, NM* Paula Haymond, NM* Gabriella Rappaport; 3. NM* Kathleen & Chuck Brown; 4. NM* Ann & Rick Phillips; 5. Debbie Ames & Doug Fritz with Deanna; 6. Bob V. unfurls President's flag for Jim C.; 7. NM* Ryan Shackelford, NM* Nathan Ogilvie; 8. Carrie Bell; 9. "Bar" tell entertaining the troops; 10. Steve Irey, Ed Ungrman & Bob Verdegaa; 11. Larry Warren, Mike Malone & Mark Winchell playing train conductor at Rail Town State Park. NM* = new member

NorCalers Say Merry Christmas!

As part of the silent auction benefiting Fisher House during the Christmas Rally at Black Oak Casino, Darlene Winchell donated her time and energy to take photos of 19 lucky NorCal Memberships who each paid a \$25 donation for the privilege. Darlene did a fantastic job schlepping her equipment/props around to different trailers over two days with Mark by her side.



Winchells



Smithsons



Websters



Ungermans



Fritz/Ames



Christies



Haymond/Rappaport



Bells



Malones



Davisons



Salingers



Echols



Bartels



Minadeos



Weavers



Ireys



Williams



Hollises

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



LELAND SPENCE

January 2, 1947-September 8, 2022

Leland Spence, along with his wife Peggy, was a long time member of NorCal, joining in 2008. They originally purchased a Bambi to try out Airstreaming, thinking they may move up, but then they decided to "make it work," which they did until they sold it in 2021 due to his health. In 2010, Leland served as a "Junior Trustee" when Cam Murray was President, then as Senior Trustee" while Tom Smithson was President the following year.

Leland was a self-professed "Lab Person." They came to NorCal with Lucy, their beloved Labrador Retriever, who accompanied them to rallies and on caravans. Lucy passed in 2020 after 13 years.

Peggy tells us that Leland "loved the rallies but really enjoyed the caravans more. He made some great friends through Norcal and really missed them after leaving Norcal in 2021 due to health issues."

OBITUARY

Leland Robert Spence was born in McCook, Nebraska on January 2, 1947, the second eldest of six children born to Leslie Spence and Eileen Chandler. He enlisted in the US Navy after graduating high school, and served his country during the Vietnam War. He went on to graduate from Long Beach State with a degree in recreation therapy, and later earned his teaching credential.

Leland married the love of his life, Peggy Rudometkin, on May 16, 1981 in the backyard of a judge's house on Oahu. They had two daughters, Courtney Joyce and Megan Eileen. Leland spent the majority of his career teaching inmates at the Department of Corrections after he was injured in his first career as a recreational therapist in various State Hospitals. He was an avid traveler and camper, lover of food and scotch, and a kind soul who, in his final days, befriended and adopted a stray neighborhood cat whom he named Wiley.

Leland died at Kaiser Santa Rosa Hospital in California on September 8, 2022 at 11:20am of pancreatic cancer. He was 75 years old. He is survived by his wife Peggy of Sonoma; his daughter Courtney of San Rafael; his daughter Megan, son in law Michael, grandson Rowen of Alameda; and Wiley, who is now keeping Peggy company.

Ed and I joined NorCal in 2017, but did not get to know Leland or Peggy until we were on the Club's All Terrain Caravan in 2019. Peggy and I bonded during the excursion to Catalina Island where she and I rented a golf cart to explore the Island on our own, and she let me drive the whole day. It was such a great day! Plus Leland agreed to watch our dog so Ed and I could both get away on other excursions, which was most appreciated. It also led to some memorable moments.

Last month, as I was putting this issue together, his name came up in the birthday list since he would have celebrated his birthday January 2nd. However, I knew he had passed last September. I thought it fitting that we publish his obituary, for friends and co-members who may have known him, and Peggy was happy to oblige.

R.I.P Leland.

-Editor

<h1 style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</h1> <div style="text-align: right; background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">2023</div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4 	5 	6	7 
8 	9	10 	11	12 	13	14
15	16 	17	18	19 	20	21
22	23 	24	25	26 	27	28 
29 	30	31 Deadline for March Rally	No Poppy in February - but there will be an Email Blast with April Rally Coupon on/about February 1st.			

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. Also available is the five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy. Contact Marget Williams to get yours for free, a perk of membership when you attend a rally.

