

The NorCal News



Volume 60 Number 2

The Poppy

March 2023

President's Message

It is crazy the way time flies by; we now find ourselves in March of 2023. By the time you read this, we will be enjoying our first rally of the year at Yanks RV Park in Greenfield, my first as President. We definitely want to thank our Hosts, Brian & Juliet Scheuer, along with our Apprentice Hosts, Tony & Sharon Paz, for all the work they put into making the first rally a success.

If anyone can help, we still need hosts for our May rally at Lassen RV Resort, our June rally at Sparks Marina RV Park in Nevada, and our October rally at River Run RV Park in Bakersfield. Deborah and I recently spent a night at the River Run RV Park and found the facility to be very clean and the staff very friendly. Oh, and our Christmas Rally at Jackson Rancheria.

We trust many of you have been busy travelling during the past two months. More importantly, we trust everyone has been staying healthy.

Due to a late change in dates of our April Rally, now scheduled for March 29 – April 2, Deborah and I will be unable to attend the “sold out” rally in Grass Valley. I want to thank Dan & Gail Crutchfield, along with Dave & Marget Williams, for hosting that rally. Deborah and I are taking our “Sweetie” south to visit family and friends in the San Diego area. Carmen Ortiz has agreed to be my backup in my absence. Until next month, stay healthy, stay safe, stay happy and “Keep on Traveling.”

Jim Christie



Recent photo taken at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, CA.

What's Inside

Editor's Column	2	Another Campfire Tale	7
2023 Rally Schedule	2	Claudette Paige Obituary	11
May Rally Summary	3	Fun Calendar	12
May Rally Coupon	4		
Membership Info	5		
NorCal Contact Info	5		
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6		

From the Editor

2023 Rally Schedule

Greetings everyone from sunny (at the moment) and windy Monterey where Ed and I are Airstreaming for a few days. It has been years since we have taken the 17 mile drive (\$11.75 entry fee), and we found that the drive is well worth the entry fee, especially if you



want to savor some beach time in the Spanish Bay area. Several years ago, the Drive was redone. It is now well marked and has numerous points of interest that are explained on the map you receive as you pay your fee and enter Del Monte Forest/Pebble Beach. When we visited, the surf was up, active, dramatic and a beautiful shade of translucent turquoise as we cruised by the coast on the left, and golf courses on the right. Oh, and can't forget the mansions!

We are staying at the Monterey Elks Lodge, a very central location, but if you are not an Elk, I have heard the nearby Fairgrounds RV park is nice too. The Airstream makes it so nice to get away for a few days.

In this issue we feature the May rally, located at Lassen RV Campground. At this writing, it is unhosted, but do not let that deter you. This is one of my favorite rally locations; I simply love the Fall River Valley situated between Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen. If you have never been in the area- now is the time. If you have, it is always worth another visit. There really is so much to see and do, if you are so inclined.

We also have another Campfire Story from JP Sherry, who tells us about lessons learned when dealing with Roadside Assistance. Definitely some things to learn from the telling,

Elisa Ungerman

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	
UNHOSTED		

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: NEEDED		

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.



Lounging At Lassen (RV Campground)



NorCal's May Rally is set to occur under the pine and oak trees of Lassen RV Park, located on 68 acres situated between Mt. Lassen and Mt. Shasta, in the lovely Fall River Valley, about 80 miles east of Redding. This is one of the most scenic areas NorCal visits, well worth seeing again if you have been, or seeing and experiencing for the first time.

The stars of the rally are the nearby outdoor attractions: McArthur - Burney Falls State Park that should not be missed,

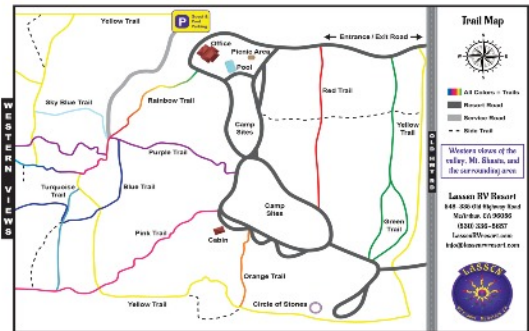


Lava Beds National Monument with its lava tubes (take a flashlight or two (your cell phone camera flashlight will not provide enough light), Lassen Volcanic National Park,



and Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park (accessible by skiff, canoe or kayak only). Even if you do not go to the park, a short drive out to the launch area is worth a visit.

In addition, you can hike, boat, fish for rainbow trout, and/or bike around the area. Check out: <https://www.imrecreation.org/spring> for details, and the map of hiking trails at the RV park that you can access.



At this writing, the rally is unhosted, but there is plenty to see and do in the area, after which you can reconvene with rally goers at happy hour to share the day's adventures, then perhaps try a local restaurant or two.



Or just kick back and enjoy chilling out at the park with no schedule to follow. The choice is yours.

Editor

Lounging at Lassen (RV Campground)

548-335 Old Highway Rd
McArthur, CA 96056



May 17-21, 2023

Coupon Due March 31st, 2023

Name: _____

Cell Phone _____

Arrival Day _____

Departure Day _____

RV length _____

Rally Nights _____ nights @ \$66 per night

Parking Fee \$ _____

TOTAL RALLY COST \$ _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- Either directly register online using the jotform link: <https://form.jotform.com/230457902627155> 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 if your bank participates 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 or if your bank participates, 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 New
Members**

**Welcome Affiliate
Members**

Paul & Harpreet Bains
665A Stewart Rd
Yuba City, CA

John & Kelly Ayala
350 Harvest Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Jim & Caroline Small
504 Paco Drive
Los Altos, CA

Skip & Jan Munsee
1201 Edgewood Drive
Redding, CA 96003

Vinnie & Cindy Lamica
11992 Blake Road
Wilton, CA 95693

Kenneth & Michele Dauber
730 Paul Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Jamie & Neil Peterson
1701 Garden Path Court
Las Vegas, NV 89119

**NorCal Membership
Numbers**

158	Unit/Life Members
<u>49</u>	<u>Affiliate Members</u>
207	Total Members



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>

MARCH Anniversaries

- 11 Alan/Dee Aguilar
- 13 John/Lori Bibby
- 21 Tom/Deanna Bain
- 22 Allen/Linda Sickler
- 24 Richard/Judy Kleiman
- 30 Grover/Cathy Sandy



"I THINK I KNOW WHY THEY CALL IT 'HAPPYDALE!'"



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Luann Hollis | 19 Roy Hutto |
| 3 Dave Wilson | 20 Larry Jones |
| 4 Dennis Richardson | 20 Marget Williams |
| 9 Ralph Drew | 25 Margaret Drew |
| 10 Dee Aguilar | 27 Dick Sullivan |
| 11 Patience Beck | 30 Deborah Christie |
| 12 Chet Weaver | 30 Eric French |
| 13 Joanne Hilliard | 30 Tony Sica |
| 16 Gary DeSmet | 31 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



ANOTHER CAMPFIRE TALE

Snakebit Again

(or How Not to Access Roadside Assistance.)

Apparently, the drive from Sacramento to Tucson is not lucky, at least for me. You may recall my article chronicling last year's return drive through an epic storm and my escape from the desert: tired, with a filthy mud-covered trailer, but generally grateful that I had a trailer to complain about. This year, I decided to try again, *knowing* it would be a better trip. Alas, I didn't get 13 miles.

The Start

I, Fort CJP (our 2005 25 International), our truck and Springer Spaniel Jax promptly left Sacramento at 2 p.m. for the first leg of the trip that ultimately would wind down Highways 5, 205, 680, and 17 to Seacliff State Beach near Capitola, California for the weekend. From there, a five-hour hop down Highway 101 to Ventura and the Rincon for a wonderful week of camping on the beach. From Ventura, a quick zip across Highway 101, 134, 210, to highway 10 to see our grandson in Riverside. (We used to go see our son, but there was a full closet of Christmas gifts packed just for the grandson.) From Riverside, we would hop back on Highway 10 to Phoenix for Christmas dinner with my Brother-in-Law, then off to Tucson to visit my dad and his wife. Jax was warmly snuggled in the passenger foot compartment. I had on shorts and a tee shirt, looking forward to relatively warm beach weather. What could possibly go wrong???

What Could Go Wrong?

Ten miles south of home, I noticed a puff of white smoke coming from the tail pipe. I pulled over. I looked at everything: the engine, the tail pipe, under the car. Nothing stood out as a problem. No signs, no sights, no smells . . . Hmmm. I started up the car again. It looked fine and it ran fine, but I got back in the car thinking I should nonetheless limp home and reassess. I got about a ¼ mile down the road when a larger puff of white smoke came out of the tail pipe. The low oil pressure warning light came on and I knew I was toast. I pulled over immediately and turned

everything off. It was 2:38 p.m. on a Friday; the sun was shining; I was 10 miles from a major town. What to do now??

The truck has insurance with one company, the trailer with another because the first company did not write declared value policies for Airstream (hence, the collision coverage would not come even close to paying for a replacement). Both policies have roadside assistance. Which one should I call? Do they coordinate? Is one superior to the other? Only one way to find out....

And So It Begins...

The first thing I did was activate the roadside assistance through the trailer coverage. Seeing as it was a trailer insurance policy, I logically assumed they would come get both the trailer and the truck. The insurance company phone App said it would take me to a repair shop eight miles away. That seemed logical so, off I clicked on that. Then, sitting there twiddling my thumbs and being the lawyer that I am, I decided, maybe I should call the truck insurance company just in case I needed to coordinate or something.

To get through to the truck insurance company, I had to call the 800 number, enter my policy number and birthdate, wait while they verified my phone, then tell them what I wanted, only to be offered another App. At first, I spoke gently into the phone that I wanted a person, but as the computer did not seem to believe me, I significantly raised my tone of voice the second and third time. Finally, I was patched through to the "Third Party Roadside Assistance Provider." Once again, I had to say or type in my phone number (shouldn't their computer or caller ID already have this???), acknowledge I was calling about an existing claim (shouldn't they know this?), and then again shout at the phone (slightly more insistently now) that I wanted to talk to a person not the computer they purchased to save on customer service employees.

At last, a nice person answered the phone (most likely from her house given the background noise). I explain my predicament and tell her I am sitting in my truck with the Airstream in tow and that I need to tow both the truck and the trailer to the shop. She says she will coordinate both my policies and get the right tow. She cancels the prior App request, and orders a tow at 3:20 p.m. Their ETA was 30-60 minutes. I was unhappy the truck blew up, but rationalized the positive side: I had a truck to blow up, and money would eventually fix this problem. There is nothing more I can do, so why be unhappy. The person on the phone comments on how well I was taking everything. The tow truck is supposed to be here by 4, 4:30 at the latest, and I could figure out what to do from there.

I'm Taking Everything Well

I next call a friend who has an Airstream. He was at a party and then had dinner plans with his son. He told me he could come help me after that if I still needed it. I was certain there was no way I would still be here by then and said, "Check with me when you are done and we'll see."

Seeing as I still had time on my hands before anyone showed up, I started calling to cancel my camping reservations at Seacliff, and the Rincon. It's too late for Seacliff and Rincon gives me about a third of my money back due to their policies because it's so close. . . Oh well, still a first world problem (only money) and I didn't really have any choice in the matter. I check in with a couple other friends with trucks, but they were either out of town (and commiserated with my plight) or just not available. I also call the repair shop I'm supposed to be towed to and discover major engine problems are not up their alley. I call my regular shop and they can handle the problem, but they're closing at 5 and will not be open until Monday. I start to think if they take me to the first shop that can't fix my car, what's the point? Also, what happens to the Airstream? It just sits in the auto shop parking lot? That can't be a good idea. I get an epiphany. I should have both towed to my house and figure things out from there. That makes sense. So, back through the phone-tree I go to get to a person. It is slightly more irritating this time, but the person I spoke to was super nice and said she'd handle it.

4:03 p.m. rolls around and guess what, the first tow truck driver (Mr. TTD#1) calls and says, "Where are you? I can't find you. Could you

send me a pin?" Now, mind you the App has me pinpointed on the freeway for all at the insurance company to see. I would have guessed the App would share that information with tow truck driver, or maybe the woman I followed-up with would have shared that information, but apparently they did not. And that's not all they didn't share.

Remember, I was explicit about my requirements for both the tow of the truck and the trailer to the Roadside Assistance Third-Party Provider. Thus, I didn't think to ask whether he could handle my tow. I responded with a pin of my location. He said, "I'll be there in 20 minutes." Well, 5:00 pm rolls around and he finally shows up. (Apparently, an hour is 20 minutes in Tow Truck Speak, and 30 to 60 minutes is actually an hour and 40 minutes, but I digress).

When Mr. TTD#1 shows up, he says, "Unhook the truck and we'll tow that." I said, "What about the trailer?" He says, "I am only here for the truck." I look at him like he's nuts and say, "No, I asked for a truck to tow both." Mind you, my 2005 Airstream is probably worth 2 times the value of my truck and full of Christmas presents, clothes, food, computers, iPads, you name it . . . There is no way I am going to leave the trailer alone on the side of the road. Mr. TTD#1 says "no can do" and his supervisor repeats the "no can do." They will tell my insurance company what I really need. And poof, Mr. TTD#1 is GONE. The sun just went down and it is starting to get cold.

No Longer Taking it so Well

I text the App, "They sent a truck that could not tow the trailer." Without irony or sarcasm, the App responds "Great, Thanks." As you might expect, I text back, "Not great. No service." No response. Hmmm, maybe I'm talking to a robot? So, I call the Third-Party Roadside Assistance company again and go through all of the required hoops, finally getting through the maze to a person. I explain the situation very nicely and the customer service agent is amazed I'm still in such good spirits. Things happen . . . Mistakes get made. Me 'n the dog would just like to get off the freeway and go home, if that's ok with you. She promises to find someone who can do the job and assigns the job to Mr. TTD#2 at 5:21 p.m. The App shows he responds with an ETA of 60-90 minutes.

Having learned from Mr. TTD#1, I immediately call Mr. TTD#2 and say, here's what I got, can you handle it? He responds, "They didn't tell me

that. I cannot take both together. I can only take one item at a time." After a little more conversation, I said, "Well, I could wait with the trailer while you take the truck and then you could come back and get me." (It's only 13 miles away) He says, "given your specific Roadside Assistance Third-Party Provider, you're probably going to have to pay for the second tow." That seemed wrong to me, especially since I had coverage on *both* the truck and the trailer. But I thought, how much could that possibly be? I'm only 13 miles from home? So, I ask. It could be \$400. (???!?)

After I pick my jaw up off the ground, Mr. TTD#2 suggests that this particular Roadside Assistance Third Party Provider was not the most reliable. He guessed my insurance companies from the fact that they use this provider. He tells me he'll write to the company and that I need a "Tandem Tow." He said his company will have someone at 9:00 p.m. that night, but I figure, it's only 5:30 p.m., there's no way I'll be here at 9:00. I'll call you back if I need you. (Another overly optimistic thought.) All in all, Mr. TTD#2 was truly kind and seemed very helpful.

No Longer Taking it Well At All

So, back through the phone maze again. This time, I'm *not* happy. Three hours have passed. Two useless tow companies have been engaged with incorrect information and underestimated ETAs. The sun is down. The temperature is dipping and I have shorts on and have not eaten lunch yet. I head back to the trailer to grab some food while I'm on the phone with our favorite Roadside Assistance Third Party Provider. A good Samaritan, who I believe is from our local Airstream Club of which we are Associate Members, stops by, knocks on the door and asks if I'm Ok? I said, yes, "I'm just waiting for a tow truck." So, off he goes, vanishing into the night.

When connected to a person (again), I tell the customer service agent, "Elizabeth," my situation, express my frustration and unhappiness (gently as she has had nothing to do with the two prior errors) and ask to speak to a supervisor. Elizabeth says she will personally engage a tow truck operator and get it done. I say, "Well, if you're going to do that, I don't need to talk to a supervisor. Just git 'er dun." I hang up and wait.

And I wait. 6:31 p.m. rolls around and still nothing. The App shows no assignment. It says it is waiting to "match" me with a provider. I feel like I felt at the prom my ninth-grade year when I knew

only a single person there and she had a date. . . . No one wants to dance with this Charlie Brown.

Then, a miracle (or maybe not) occurs. The Third-Party Roadside Assistance "dispatcher" calls. Maybe this is it? Maybe a tow truck is coming? Nope! She says, "Could you share your location? I say, "What?" I've been out here for four hours and NOW you want my location?" She says, "Yep. And by the way, I can't hear you because your phone is breaking up."

Now, a benefit of the pandemic is that many of us get to work from home. And Ms. Dispatcher is one of those lucky people. But Ms. Dispatcher has a yappy dog that barked throughout our 21-minute conversation; and every time the dog barked; her phone speaker blocked out what I was saying. To say I was not pleased at being accused of being the problem her dog was creating in this already problematic conversation would be more gentle than I was. I tell Ms. Dispatcher, "I want to talk to a supervisor." She says, "Why." I respond, "Just get me a supervisor." As you can tell, my patience had worn a bit thin by this point. She says, "I will do that." I wait another thirty minutes, and just as the supervisor was going to get on the phone, her phone cuts out. To her credit, she called me back 3 times and the third time she transferred me to someone, but I got . . . nothing but air.

At this point, unbeknownst to me, either Elizabeth or Ms. Dispatcher secured me a "Tandem Tow" (Mr. TTD#4), but neither shared that fact and the App did not register this fact. Having been cut-off, left without talking to a supervisor, and now super-cold and very-hungry, I was pleased to get a text from my Airstream friend that said he was done with the party and dinner and was I still out there? I said, "Yep." And he raced to my rescue.

Meanwhile, I travel back through the phone maze again. This time I got a wonderful woman in Florida. She is profusely apologetic and stays on the phone with me for over an hour, even though her shift ends halfway through our call. Trying to cheer me up, she tells me about how she was banned from working at home because when she did, she took a 15-minute nap that lasted her entire shift. So, now she works in an office. When I tell her about my puppy who was getting a bit cold, she shares that she raises Shorky's (a cross between Shitzu's and Yorkies). We'll call this person Ms. Shorky as I did not get her name. Ms. Shorky says she will stay on the line until I get rescued and actually did stay on the phone until closer to 9:00

pm. For the last hour of the conversation we were waiting for a supervisor from the Third-Party Roadside Assistance Program to become available. When the first one was about to take my call, they tell Ms. Shorky I need to talk to someone else, because their shift is over. Thus, we continue to wait.

While I am on the phone with Ms. Shorky, my friend drives up, Ms. Shorky waits patiently while he and I disconnect my truck, push it out of the way and hook up his truck. Ms. Shorky even calls me back four times when we got disconnected because I need to give instructions to my friend on where to park the Airstream when he gets it to my home. I am still on the side of the road.

It's now 7:00 p.m. I tell Ms. Shorky I just need a regular tow truck now that the Airstream had been secured (apparently, this was a mistake as you will soon see). Ms. Shorky calls Mr. TTD#2 to try to get me a tow, and he said he'd be an hour and a half (i.e., around 9:30); but his ETA on the app said 25-55 minutes. Then it went up to 60-90 minutes (and we know what that means in "Tow Truck Speak.")

Ms. Shorky finds another guy, Mr. TTD#3, and he says he will be there in 20 minutes. So, she cancels Mr. TTD#2 at 8:10 p.m. and assigns Mr. TTD#3 at 8:39 p.m. Out of the blue, Mr. TTD#4 calls to tell me he had been assigned, but his assignment has been cancelled and he is not coming. I give him credit for letting me know. So, I got back to Ms. Shorky and ask, "Is someone really coming to get me?"

Despite her assurances that Mr. TTD#3 would be there in 20 minutes after she originally assigned the matter; and her supervisor's assurance around 9:00 p.m. that he would be there in 27 minutes (not the 20 minutes of time slippage already), he did not in fact show up at 9:30 p.m. So, I called Mr. TTD#3 directly. From the sounds in his background, it appeared he was at home with his children. Probably warm, and just having dinner.

Mr. TTD#3 tells me the Third-Party Roadside Assistance Company did not give him the proper paperwork, so he took another call. It would be another 45 minutes before he could get there. That put him at an ETA of 10:15 p.m. I begged him to shoot for 10:00 p.m., and he said he would try, but alas, Mr. TTD3 could not get there until 10:23 p.m.

When Mr. TTD#3 finally arrives, he finds out I had Jax (the dog) with me, and says, "I can't take the dog." I about lost it. When I explained how good the dog was, he relented and says he would take us both back and he did. **SMALL VICTORY!!**

Finally!!

As we head towards home, Mr. TTD#3 tells me he had originally been dispatched for the Tandem Tow before 7:00 p.m., but that was cancelled. I assume when I told the Third-Party Roadside Assistance people, I only needed the truck towed, it appears they cancelled and reassigned the job, then it got lost in never-never land.

The good news is: at around 11:00 p.m., after 8.5 hours of this silliness, Jax and I were deposited at home. I was finally safe, with heat, food, a glass of wine and a grateful dog who finally got his dinner. After it's all said and done, it's another fun story for the campfire, with some life lessons to boot.

My recommendations for the learned Airstreamer Life lessons are: (1) Get the tow-setup yourself directly from the tow-company, then later beg for reimbursement from your insurance company; (2) When you request the tow, ask the tow truck driver directly to confirm he will give you a "Tandem Tow;" and (3) Don't change the order midstream. That will just restart an already too-long clock, putting you at the end of the queue. And finally, at the end of the day, remember to be patient. It's only time out of your day and whatever is wrong with your car will get fixed eventually. If you can't do this trip, there's always the next one.

JP Sherry



Obituary: Claudette Elena Paige

March 2, 1942 – October 20, 2022

As printed in the Ashland News on October 22, 2022.

On Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., Claudette Elena Paige (nee Coats) made her transition to a better place. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, George; her daughter, Patricia; and her son, Gordon. She is also survived by her brothers Bill, Tom and Gary Coats and her grandchildren Madelyn and Lewis Paige.

Burial was a private ceremony at The Forest, a Natural Burial Ground. This is in keeping with Claudette's long held belief that internment should be in a natural setting among the trees, native flowers and plants. A memorial may occur at a later date



Claudette was born in Redwood City, California, on March 2, 1942. Her parents were Ransel and Ramona Coats (nee Lincoln). She grew up and went to schools in Redwood City. In her youth, she was a free spirit riding her bicycle far and wide. In high school she had the lead roles in

many of the school's dramatic productions. She was an honor student at Sequoia High School. She loved roller-skating and it was at the local roller-skating rink that she met George. In 1959 she left Redwood City after marrying George. Claudette and George first lived in 28-foot trailer in Colma, California. She worked as temporary clerk before hiring on at the United Airlines Maintenance Base in South San Francisco. In spite of her youth, her skills were recognized and she became the secretary for the manager of the Manual Writing Department.

She left United to give birth to her daughter, but before she left United, a very pregnant Claudette took her mother, a paraplegic woman, and her father, both of which had never flown in an airplane, to Washington, D.C. It was a trip to recognize one of her parent's desires. Claudette was always one to give to others.

In 1966, Claudette gave birth to Patricia, and in 1969 to Gordon. Claudette was a stay-at-home mother. She loved being involved in every aspect of her children's lives. The neighborhood was very close and the babysitting co-op was a real joy for her.

One of Claudette's greatest achievements was as a representative of the Parent Participating Nursery Schools. On a visit to Sacramento to lobby for state support of nursery schools, she was asked by legislators to become involved in creating a new state program that would involve parents, teachers and school administrators in formulating a school district-wide plan for improving education. She not only worked with the state legislators in developing the plan, but then she typed the bill that was passed by the legislature.

Claudette was always very embarrassed when her husband would relate this remarkable experience.

Claudette graduated Phi Kappa Phi from San Jose State University in 1983 with a degree of Bachelor of Science with Great Distinction in Health Science.

Claudette, with four other women, developed and taught Rhythm Fitness classes for the Palo Alto YMCA for many years. Dancing was one of Claudette's great joys and to be able to create dances with her friends and teach them to others was very fulfilling.

When one of Claudette and George's investments became very successful, they were advised that they needed to start a business and that they should have partners so that they would take the business seriously. It was Claudette's idea that they should become Supercuts Franchisees. For 18 years Claudette would fly to Boston and oversee the six Supercuts salons, training the managers and 75-plus employees.

Upon moving to Grass Valley in 1992 she became very involved with the Sierra Center for Spiritual Living, a Religious Science church. She became a trustee of the church, but her happiness was singing. She had a wonderful voice and so enjoyed her role in the choir.


During the time in Grass Valley, travelling in an Airstream trailer, attending Airstream club rallies and meeting new people made her so happy. She so loved seeing parts of the West in her own home on wheels with her dogs Dolly, Puck and Leo.

In 2018 she and George moved to Ashland, Oregon, building a smaller home. The move allowed her to become more involved in activities with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Live theater was a passion for Claudette. One of the most satisfying activities was her work with OSF helping to create a program to support the efforts of welcoming people of difference.

In 2020, Claudette was found to have lung cancer. An operation to remove the cancer was followed by radiation and chemotherapy. Her treatments had limited success, but eventually her weakened body could not stave off episodes of pneumonia. She died peacefully with her husband present.

It is requested that the only memorial Claudette would have wanted was that you remember her in your heart with love. The family requests that you do not call them. Do something good in the world that you will be proud of in her memory.

Ed Note: Claudette became a NorCal member in 2010, and served the Club as Secretary and First Vice President. In the fall of 2020, She, along with husband George, was on the Oregon Caravan. She remained a member till her death and was beloved by many in the Club.

 <h1>MARCH</h1> 						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
YANKS RALLY						
5	6	7 National Sock Puppet Day 	8	9	10	11
12 SPRING AHEAD 	13 NATIONAL NAPPING DAY 	14 HAPPY π DAY 	15 BEWARE IDES OF MARCH 	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 National Corn dog Day 
19	20	21 NATIONAL ROSIE THE RIVETER DAY MARCH 23 RD 	22	23	24 MARCH 24 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE COVERED RAISINS DAY 	25 WAFFLE DAY MARCH 25 
26 WEAR A HAT DAY 	27	28	29	30	31	
Grass Valley Rally						

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.

