



The NorCal News

Volume 60 Number 4

The Poppy

May 2023

President's Message

Greetings from Lincoln, CA. Deborah and I are at home for a while before we join many of you in McArthur for the Lassen RV Park Rally. Though it is a "NO Host" rally, Airstreamers know how to have fun and I expect many of you will bring your bikes, kayaks, fishing gear and other recreational equipment. For those who were at our last Lassen Rally, you will recall the amazing night sky sighting that was caused by Elon Musk launching a large number of Star Link satellites. We hope our skies will be clear and brightly lit by millions of stars and our planets. It is a nice location for star gazing.

For those heading to the International Rally in June, please be certain to have all the necessary equipment, especially if you have signed-up for full hookups. You should have received an email from the Rally Organizers telling you what you should bring. If you have not received that email, please contact me. Many of us will be taking our time in making the journey to Rock Springs, WY. Once you get there, be prepared to be overwhelmed by 1500 or more Airstreams. You may want to consider a way to mark your unit to make it readily visible. Obviously, be sure to display your BRNs, big red numbers, but you also might want to display a unique flag or balloon over your unit. Definitely make a note or map of where you will be parked; it can be easy to become lost among all the silver trailers. Bring a bike or rent a golf cart to get around. There was also an email that provided details on golf cart rentals. I recall the cost was \$500 for the week- perhaps shared?.

Our rally after the International will be August 2nd -6th in Fortuna on the hilltop property of Dean and Chris Davison. We look forward to that unique experience and I believe the first ever Rally to be held at a Member's residence.

Finally, on the topic of Hosts. We have three to four members who are willing to be apprentices of an experienced Host at the December Rally in Tuolumne, Black Oak Casino RV Park, the dates now November 29 – December 3. Please let me know if you are willing to be that



experienced Host. We also need a Host for the River Run RV Park in Bakersfield to be held October 4th – 8th.

Travel, my favorite topic is something I hope our members are doing in addition to attending rallies. Deborah and I are heading to Alaska on a Princess Cruise in late August, a place we have not been since 1995. I wonder what all of you are doing? Please share if you are going to Lassen. I would love to hear of your plans or where you have been this year. Until next time, "Keep on Traveling".

Jim Christie, President

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From the Editor

Welcome to May everyone! No doubt if you have been driving around almost anywhere in California you have seen our California Poppies blooming, adding that orange pop of color to the landscape. Thus – the color scheme for this month.



There is no rally coupon this issue since there is no Club Rally in July. And there will also be no Poppy in July but on/about July 1st there will be an email blast with the coupon and summary for the September Rally in Santa Cruz – so be on the lookout for that. There will be a June Poppy with the Coupon/Summary for the August rally at Chris and Dean Davison’s in Fortuna.

The Grass Valley Rally this past month was quite fun. It was enjoyable to see those who attended, especially since I missed the Yanks rally, and it was fun to revisit the Grass Valley/Nevada City area as it had been years since we were there. Local Scott Leaman, who annually puts on a Vintage Airstream Rally at the same site (and owns a vintage Airstream) visited our rally and shared his top picks of places to visit. His picks for breakfast, antiquing, and ice cream were spot on! Dave Williams filed a great report, which we printed starting on page 3. I’ll let him tell you about the snow...

Our first VP, Carmen Ortiz, is organizing a flash rally to occur next February in Death Valley. Details are on page 7. Sign-ups through the National Park Service Registration website start 6 months in advance – so read her message carefully for what to do if interested in participating. It is DIY.

This month, I’ve added some Airstream related info that you may have seen via emails, or in other publications. But I think they are interesting enough that if you missed them, you can catch them here. The first is about the new concept Airstream Trailer designed by Porsche for those who want a smaller footprint that can fit in a suburban garage, while the second is about a new bike rack designed specifically for Airstreams that can support ebikes (up to 200 lbs) and fits on the front of the trailer. It can easily flip out of the way to access the propane tank or views. This may be the answer to a prayer...

Hopefully Ed and I will see you at the Lassen rally. Should be some good views of Mounts Lassen and Shasta with large mantles of snow covering each one.

Elisa Ungerman
Poppy Editor

2023 Rally Schedule

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. UNHOSTED
June 24-July 1	International Rally	Rock Springs, Wyo. Hosts: Airstream Club International
August 2 -6	Chris & Dean Davison’s	Fortuna Co-Hosts: The Scheuers, Team Paz Boondocking
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
Nov. 29-Dec 3	Black Oak Casino	Tuolumne 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.

April Fool's Gold Rally



On Tuesday March 28th, when we left our RV storage in Sacramento, heading for the Nevada County Fairgrounds RV Park in Grass Valley, we knew it might be rainy. But we had no idea the conditions that lay ahead. As we approached Auburn, the mist turned to sleet and a few miles up Highway 49, it was snowing. And snowing. The closer we got to Grass Valley, the deeper the snow and the more worried I became. As I turned off of Highway 49 and headed for the campground, I had to go into 4 wheel drive. I slipped and spun up the hill to get to the entrance to the RV Park, which was a winter wonderland of up to 6 inches of snow. All of the roads and RV sites were covered. Some of us arriving on Tuesday, including me, pulled into the wrong spot because we couldn't distinguish where the road started and ended. Anyway, it's better to be snowed on than rained on; our co-hosts, the Crutchfields, arrived before we did before the rain turned to snow, and they got soaked. Cold and wet is not how to start a Rally. But some people got into the spirit of the weather: the Bibby's made a snowman. Yes there was that much snow.



On Wednesday, the snow turned to rain, and then it was just cold and slushy. As our friends and fellow Air Streamers started arriving and setting up, the day brightened a little bit. At happy hour, NorCalers found April Fool's Gold wine blend, a 2014 vintage blend of Zinfandel and Petite Sirah, made by apprentice hosts Doug Fritz and Debbie Ames, at every table. The wine label, which they also made, featured a sunny California Poppy.



Scott Lehman, a local who owns a vintage Airstream, talked about all of the interesting sites, restaurants and shops in the area. A potluck dinner followed, in turn followed by an assortment of delicious pies from Ikeda's in Auburn. No one left hungry.



On Thursday, many of us ventured out to see some of the wonderful sites and shops around Grass Valley and Nevada City. This region is so historic and full of interesting sites, it is hard to imagine taking in them all in only a couple of days. In the historic downtowns there was plenty of shopping to be found at the kitchen store, The Hat Store, antique stores, gift, ice cream and candy stores, and glass and crystal shops. Thursday afternoon, Dedricks' Cheese Shop gave us a wonderful cheese tasting and talk. It was informational and tasty, enjoyed by all who participated. Dedricks also brought cheeses for purchase. Since dinner was "on your own," I think everybody found a nice local diner or restaurant that night to have dinner.

Friday morning turned out to be beautiful, and there remained lots of things to do around town. Many of the Airstreamers ventured to the Empire Mine Historic State Park for a tour. The grounds are beautiful as is the mine owners' home. In the afternoon at the clubhouse, Heather Willis from Pioneer Mining Supplies, located in Auburn, demonstrated the fine art of panning for gold. She really made panning look easy. (Although anyone who's tried it knows that's not the case.) She demonstrated several techniques and used various types of instruments and devices, some of them invented by her father. A great thank you to Heather.



Gold!



Saturday, of course, was the last day of the rally, and the snow had pretty much disappeared except for some areas in permanent shade. Again our members ventured out to local sites, including a nearby casino.

Happy Hour featured a Margarita Bar, tended by Dan Crutchfield. Prior to dinner, Past President Mike Minadeo "degreened" Kathleen and Chuck Brown after NorCalers vociferously welcomed them into our ranks, and we had anniversaries and birthdays presented by Queen Deanna. Next were the prize drawings. All of the members were given tokens in their arrival bag to select what baskets they desired, and eight wonderful gift baskets were won through these drawings. Then on to the taco bar. This wasn't just your run-of-the-mill taco bar - oh no! It was catered by the hosts, because caterers are fairly rare in the foothills and could not be found. The food was plentiful and fabulous. I think it was a smashing success myself.

As usual, there is a last day, and as all of us slowly melted away like the snow, our adventure was over. Now, a special thanks to our apprentice hosts Doug Fritz and Debbie Ames who helped the hosts tremendously (we could not have done it without them) and really helped make the adventure a success.

Dave Williams

Dan Crutchfield prepares to serve up a Margarita to Dave Williams



Chuck and Kathleen Brown are "degreened" by Past President Mike Mineado.



Per tradition, "Queen" Deanna interviews those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in April.



The Rally Hosts making announcements on Saturday.



Drawing Winners



New Members Ludmilla Eydt and Damien Scaerou, with their son, at their first rally. They reported they enjoyed it very much.



Lounging outside Dean Davison's trailer.

Thanks to additional photographers: Lori Bibby, Marget Williams,



Debbie Ames "behind the scenes" with Phyllis Mineadeo and Doug Fritz



L to R: Phyllis Mineadeo, Debbie Ames, Doug Fritz, Patience and Scott Beck



"Party Animal" Juliet Scheuer



Cathy Maffei and Marsha Murray



L to R: Dean Davison, Larry & Maureen Delorefice, Chris Davison.

Scenes from the 2023 Grass Valley Rally hosted by Marget & Dave Williams, Dan & Gail Crutchfield, Debbie Ames & Doug Fritz



Steve Hollifield, Dave Williams, Mike Malone



Nathan Ogilvie, Marget Williams



L to R: Gail Crutchfield, Marget Williams, Terr Hollifield, Dan Crutchfield



- 6 Cam Murray
- 13 Larry Delorefice
- 14 Bob Verdegaal
- 15 Claudia Marson
- 17 Pat Lazzereschi
- 17 Paul McKay
- 18 Jim Foster
- 21 Bobbie Rowlands
- 25 Janet Motta
- 27 James Curl
- 31 Cathy Maffei

- 5 Ed & Elisa Ungerman
- 6 Rosemary Yull & Larry Kier
- 23 Dennis/Karen Richardson
- 24 Larry/Martha Jones
- 16 JP Sherry

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

None at Deadline

Welcome Affiliate Members

Craig & Heather Stein



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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>

NOTICE

Anytime you miss an issue of The Poppy in your email, or wish to review (or see for the first time) a back issue, be aware that current and back issues of The Poppy for the past few years are available on the NorCal website.

New Issues are posted on/about the first of every month in which a Poppy is published. Just click or tap News - The Poppy, then select the issue you wish to see.

NorCal Membership Numbers

161	Unit/Life Members
50	<u>Affiliate Members</u>
211	Total Members

Save the Date!

Flash Rally - Death Valley's Furnace Creek Campground - February 7-11, 2024

As if we did not have enough exciting rally locations in the works for 2024, I am daring those of you with a desire for adventure to join in on a flash rally at Furnace Creek, Death Valley National Park. When was the last time you saw a super bloom at DV? Or the great Zabriskie Point or Dante's Peak?



This will be a "make for own reservation" event. The window for making reservations for this rally will open on August 7, 2023, six (6) months in advance of our arrival date. The campground has 136 sites, most of them without any hookups. Due to the high demand for DV during the winter months, no one knows how many of us will be able to get a site. But we can try.



The National Park Service has information online with advice on how to prepare for and what to expect on the day and time the window for reservations open. Make sure you check out these links and get ready:

https://recreationonestopprod.servicenowservices.com/external?id=kb_artic

[le&sys_id=fc45f18a1bd254d08b9ca681f54bc_b03](https://recreationonestopprod.servicenowservices.com/external?id=kb_article&sys_id=fc45f18a1bd254d08b9ca681f54bc_b03)

There's also information on web robots (web bots) that apparently gobble up sites before humans can login in and make campsite reservations. Check this one out:

https://recreationonestopprod.servicenowservices.com/external?id=kb_article&sys_id=3ca5e6991b6be8d0201beb9ce54bc_bcc

Taking all that into account, each of you interested can try to book a site for the dates specified above. If you are successful, please let Lori Bibby (NorCal Registrar) know your site number and the days you will be there. Her email address is norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com.

To make a reservation, go to the link below. Remember to log in first, before you start your site search.

<https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232496>



Here are some fun facts about this incredible place: DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK STATS: Founded: October 31, 1994, Annual Visitors: 1.1 million in 2022, Size: 3.4 million acres. This is the largest national park outside of Alaska. Location: California and Nevada.

More information will come in the coming months. By the way, the rally will be cancelled if the weather will not allow us to travel to DV. I hope to see you there!

Carmen Ortiz
1st VP NorCal

Estream meets Porsche in New Concept Trailer



Airstream has been recently publicizing its new concept trailer that was designed by Porsche engineers (actually Studio F.A. Porsche, the German marque's fashion and accessories sub-brand), based on some parameters set by Airstream, such as it must be towable by an EV for a reasonable distance, and fit into a standard suburban garage. So, right off the bat you know it is small (16.4 ft long), single axle, narrow (probably 8 ft wide), and able to be towed by a SUV or EV. The idea for the concept is to widen Airstream's customer base. Personally, I found the design intriguing and interesting for one person or a small couple, but at this point, it is a bit early to talk about practicality. Such as where is the side door and AC, not to mention tanks with the floor lowering?

Evidently the big challenge for Porsche was designing something that fit in with iconic Airstream look, while reducing weight and increasing aerodynamics. The new trailer is still aluminium but gone are the iconic rounded front and rear endcaps and rivets. (They claim the windows that wrap around the entire trailer still let in loads of light) It has flat sides, a flat rear end, and no rivets, thereby reducing drag. The trailer is made of lighter "composite materials," such as "carbon fiber" and includes the eStream engineering that Airstream unveiled awhile ago, e.g., it has its own electrified powertrain, which will help boost the range of an EV towing the trailer and allow parking of the trailer when

unhitched, and an automatic suspension system, allowing the trailer to be lowered when towed or stored. It has a back hatch, consisting of a hinge-up top half, and a drop down lower half, which can be used as a patio for chairs or seat cushions, and a pop-up roof. The interior is quite European-modern looking, with clean lines. As with most trailers its size, the bed is interchangeable with the dining table, there is a wet bath and a front kitchen area similar to a Basecamp.

To be clear, this is currently only a concept trailer that Airstream is playing with, but they are taking it seriously. "We really fell in love with this thing during this process, and we're actively trying to figure out how we can produce it," states Airstream CEO Bob Wheeler. "We're challenging ourselves to find out how we can build this effectively, to produce something that's identical to this or very similar for the customer of the future." Clearly Airstream is planning to be around well into the future and wants to be a player for the younger (than our average age) market. For more information on this, Google "Airstream Porsche Concept Car" or check out: <https://www.airstream.com/air-lab/concepts/studio-f-a-porsche-travel-trailer-overview/>; or <https://carbuzz.com/news/airstream-and-studio-f-a-porsche-reveal-the-ultimate-camping-trailer-concept>; or <https://robbreport.com/motors/cars/airstream-porsche-ev-friendly-trailer-concept-1234816519/>;

-Editor



Could This Be Our Bike Rack?

This may be what many of us have been waiting for: A bike rack specifically designed for Airstreams capable of (and rated for) holding at least 2 E bikes (up to 200 lbs total), and requiring no drilling to install. The aluminium frame goes on the front of your trailer, bolted to and supported by the trailer's A frame, with the rack portion supporting your bikes just above the propane tanks. The racks flip up out of the way (sans bikes of course) when you need to access the tanks. The brand: Arvika, a Canadian manufacturer of high quality bike racks for travel trailers. They claim installation is "do it yourself" and judging by the U-tube video, that appears to be the case.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A317c2CdVWM&ab_channel=Arvika

Arvika's RV bike racks have gotten excellent reviews from the Utube RVers who have used and then featured them on their channels, including those that are similar to the specific Airstream version. Evidently Arvika has been making the Airstream rack for a few years, but it is just being discovered in the U.S. Yes there are other racks that go over the propane tanks, but they have not been rated sturdy enough for E bikes (although I have seen people using them anyway.) It is pricey: \$739, but this may be the best option in the event you have no room in your truck for an E bike (like us, who have a

tonneau cover as opposed to a camper shell), do not want to drill holes into your trailer or frame, and/or do not want to place a rack on the front of your truck or above your tonneau cover. The rack is very user -friendly for placing bikes on the rack and getting them down, and has a locking system for the bikes once they are in place.

The only requirement is that you have 4.5 inches of free space on both sides of the A-frame bar on both sides of the trailer. If wires or gas lines are in the way, they may need to be detached prior to installation.

There are several dealers. AirGear (formerly the Airstream Life Store) <https://www.airgear.store/products/arvika-bike-rack-for-airstreams> has them for sale, as does a Canadian Dealer, Racks for Cars. Or you can check out Arvika directly: <https://arvikabikerack.com/en-us>. There are also several Utube Videos discussing the rack (none I found were Airstream specific, but they don't need to be) that you can watch by accessing Utube and searching for Arvika RV bike racks. Perhaps now when Airstreamers go off on their E bikes, we will not be left behind...

-Editor





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  WORLD LAUGHTER DAY	2	3 	4	5 	6
7	8 National Give Someone a Cupcake Day 	9	10	11	12	13 May 13th Happy Frog, Wishing Frog! 
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lassen RV Park Rally						
21 	22	23	24	25 National Tap Dance Day 	26	27 
28 happy national BURGER DAY 	29 memorial DAY 	30	31			

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.

