

The NorCal News



Volume 57 Number 4

The Poppy- Viral Edition 2

May 2020

President's Column

Carrie and I hope that you and your families are doing well during the extraordinary times we are in. We have been isolating ourselves at home with Carrie's garden as our primary entertainment. WBCCI has canceled many caravans and has moved International to an online event. As I write this, the future of our June 1 rally is uncertain but this time will pass and we will all get out on the road soon.

There is a WBCCI election in June. Both officers and modifications to bylaws will be on this ballot. Tom Smithson will send out an online ballot around May 15th to the NorCal members as part of this election. Your vote on Tom's ballot will provide me with instructions on how to vote in June as your representative to WBCCI. Keep an eye out for the ballot and other election information.

Generally NorCal has a board and business meeting at the June rally. I am considering an online meeting even if the June rally occurs in order to engage more members. More information will come in May.

More About Aluminum: Until the early 80's Airstream is said to have used 2024 T3 aluminum with a pure aluminum clad that could be polished to a mirror shine. The alloy is 90-95% aluminum and small amounts of copper, magnesium, and manganese.



Remember, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known, so if you haven't you should"

Ray

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From the Editor



I now find myself in a predicament wholly unanticipated when I agreed to be The Poppy editor. What to say when we are all staying home, with no Airstreaming going on? The house fire pit is just not the same!

Due to the Haiku contest, I have heard from several of you, and among Norcalers, there is a general consensus of sadness, melancholy, and antsiness over the current situation, but also of hope, which is a positive sign.

Claudette Paige noted that The Poppy is what connects us all, and I had not thought about it in that way. I know some of us connect via Facebook, but not all of us. This really is the forum to share information and ideas with other Norcal Members, especially in the absence of rallies. So if you have any ideas for future articles, or have an article to offer, please send them to me at norcaeditor01@gmail.com (or ungerman72@gmail.com) and it just might get used as we try to stay connected.

As an example of this, I thought that others might be interested in our research and purchase of a RV/camping generator that runs on propane, not gasoline. Check out the article beginning on Page 6.

You might also be interested to know what the Airstream Company is doing in Ohio while the Airstream factory is shut down due to Covid 19. An abbreviated version of the story is on Page 8, with a link to the full story on the Airstream website. Two more club officers are profiled on Page 5, and of course the Fun Calendar is back on Page 9. This year, International Nurse's Day takes on a special significance.

Since no rally was planned for July, the good news is that it was not canceled. The next one after June is scheduled for August in Fort Bragg.

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. We want to see you all at whatever next rally we can have, in whatever format!

Elisa

2020 Rallies and Caravans

3/4-8	Skyline RV Park	Napa
HOSTS: Dave & Jill Wilson, and Greg & Janet Motta		
4/1-5	Gilroy Garlic RV Park	Gilroy
HOSTS: Bob & Mary Ebbots and Steve & Yoshi Deiwert		
4/16-19	CANCELLED Cali Rally Region 12 Rally	Parkfield
5/6-10	CANCELLED Lassen RV Park	McArthur
HOSTS: Tom & Holly Smithson and Cam & Marcia Murray		
6/3-7	Boulder Creek RV Park	Lone Pine
HOSTS: Tom & Deanna Bain, and John & Elaine White		
6/20-27	CANCELLED International Rally WABO Rally	Loveland, CO
8/5-9	POMO RV Park	Fort Bragg
HOSTS: Brian & Juliet Scheuer and Jodie Lee & Tim Kirk		
9/9-13	Ancient Redwoods RV Park	Red Crest
HOSTS: Marget & Dave Williams, Chris & Dean Davison		
9/13-30	Oregon Coast Caravan	Oregon
LEADERS: Carmen & Jose Ortiz and Bob and Carol Echols		
10/7-11	V-6 Ranch ***	Parkfield
HOST: Pat Lazzereschi,		
10/21-25	Emerald Desert Resort	Palm Desert
Region 12 Rally		
11/4-8	Pismo Coast Village Resort	Pismo Beach
HOSTS: Blake & Dianne Nelson, Carmen and Jose Ortiz		
12/2-6	Black Oak Casino RV Park	Sonora
HOSTS: Billie and Bob Verdegaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman		

***Note: THE V6 RANCH IS A DRY CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Note: New info shown in green. Dates are arrival and departure, although you can often request a day-early arrival (usually Tues). Sign-ups are by submitting a completed Registration form by the due date. "Buddy" events allow you to invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts may be cancelled.

Anniversaries & Birthdays



May Birthdays

- 6 Cam Murray
- 7 Tim Kirk
- 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 Sue Campbell
- 27 James Curl

May Anniversaries

- 2 Dennis/Sharon Lashar
- 2 Dick/Marilyn Sullivan
- 3 Barry/Shirley Williams
- 3 Jason & Andrea Grendahl
- 4 Zimm/Angela Udovich
- 5 Elisa/Ed Ungrman
- 8 Andrew/Connie Steen
- 9 Paul/Catherine Lemieux
- 16 Leland/Peggy Spence
- 18 Arthur Sawl/Nancy Patmont
- 23 Dennis/Karen Richardson
- 24 Larry/Martha Jones
- 26 Greg Kemist



NorCal Club Contacts

President	Ray Bell	deepfringe@me.com 650-644-6650
First VP:	John Bibby	jbibby@value.net 707-592-4891
Second VP:	Bob Verdegaal	jrverd@msn.com 209-380-8884
Secretary:	Carrie Bell	cba@sonic.net 530-644-6650
Treasurer:	Phyllis Minadeo	pminadeo@gmail.com 925-890-9559
Membrshp Chair:	Carmen Ortiz	norcalmembership2802@gmail.com 805-598-9829
Rally Chair:	Pat Lazzereschi	rally.norcal@gmail.com 209-712-5884
Caravan Chair:	Bob Vassar	415-517-3651
Registrar:	Gail Crutchfield	Norcalreg22@gmail.com 530-613-7959
Web Master:	Barry Marson	webmaster.norcal@gmail.com 209-333-0363
Sunshine:	Claudia Marson	cjmarson@comcast.net 209-483-6696
Poppy Editor:	Elisa Ungerman	norcaleditor01@gmail.com 916-833-2484

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mark Niebuhr #7274

**Kevin Carter and Cassie
Davis
#7326**

WBCCI on the Web

www.wbcci.org/

Region 12 on the Web

Region12airstreamclub.net

NorCal on the Web

Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

150 Unit/Life Members
21 Affiliate Members
 171 Total Members

Church Bulletin

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Meet Your Registrar



Gail Crutchfield was born in the territory of Hawaii and spent her childhood living in several states (New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, and California). She graduated from Thousand Oaks High School and then attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. She trained as a Radiation Therapist at the Cancer Foundation in Santa Barbara, working in nearby Ventura for over 20 years. Afterward, she and her husband Dan retired in Auburn, California. In 2014, they bought their 2008 23FB Safari Airstream, then joined NorCal in December, 2014.

They love being active in the club. Both Gail and Dan have been Trustees (a two year position) and now Gail has moved into the Registrar

position, which involves juggling several balls in the air as the rallies come to fruition. Gail says she is enjoying the challenge as she works closely with Pat Lazzereschi, Rally Chair, and Phyllis Minadeo, Treasurer, (not to mention the rally hosts) to keep track of all of the data for each rally. During rallies, She can be spotted engaging in her favorite hobby, knitting (especially when Dan is off fishing) and is a go-to resource for many aspiring NorCal knitters. Her knit caps are always high dollar items at the Christmas charity silent auction.

Recently Gail and Dan lost their faithful and constant travel buddy, Abby, (pictured) so this photo sparks fond memories for them both.

Carmen Ortiz and her husband, José, live in Woodland, California. They met in Puerto Rico as undergraduate students more than 47 years ago and have been together ever since. Among the many places they have lived are Puerto Rico, Philadelphia, the Washington D.C. metro area, and several places in California. They have two daughters and two granddaughters. Carmen retired from the federal government almost six years ago where she worked as a GIS programmer, database manager and webmaster. So Carmen was naturally suggested to fill the shoes of the departing Registrar as the position is very database orientated. She graciously accepted.

Carmen and José have always enjoyed the outdoors: hiking, camping and riding bicycles, which they are often seen doing at rallies. They bought their 2016 28FB Airstream International Signature in October 2015 after José retired as Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District in Oakland, CA. They joined NorCal that same year and since then, have enjoyed many rallies, unit caravans and solo trips all over the western US. "We have made many lasting friendships within NorCal and hope to continue to have fun traveling together and making memories" stated Carmen.

Meet Your Membership Chair



Propane Generator?

Got generator? While staying in place has kept most of us at home, I'm sure it has not kept most of us from thinking and perhaps even planning for the next "wanna-get-a-way" moment. With many RV parks and campgrounds currently closed, that may mean boondocking or camping without electricity for the near future. And that also may mean using a generator during your trip.

For those that have not yet purchased a portable generator, suffice it to say that there are many to choose from, and a Google search will lay them out. But what if you want your generator to run on propane, not gasoline? Last December, Ed and I made the purchase of a RV generator and for us, it made much more sense to buy one that runs on propane. We already carry an extra propane tank for our fire pit and did not want the added weight, burden and hazard of a portable gas tank, nor the fumes. We discovered after much research that there are two viable options when it comes to portable RV generators that run on propane: The Champion 3400 dual fuel, and a converted Honda 2200EU2200i.

We mosied over to Camping World and checked out the Champion 3400, which we really thought we liked. Until we tried to lift it. Without fuel, it weighs almost 96 pounds. Both Ed and I envisioned our discs rupturing in some remote campsite if we could lift it in and out of the truck. For us, it was NOT "portable." So that left the converted Honda option, since the Honda weighs less than 47 pounds without gas and either/both of us could lift it.

Eventually, we chose a Honda conversion kit from Hutch Mountain, a highly-rated Utah-based company. <https://www.hutchmountain.com/> Hutch Mountain offers two options: (1) they can supply you with all you need to do the conversion yourself on your self-purchased generator (there are many Utube videos of the process) or (2) they can sell you the conversion kit, facilitate the purchase of the generator through a local Utah company, have a local contractor professionally install the conversion kit for \$60.00, and ship it to you, ready for use. We chose to have the kit installed on the Utah generator, and, although more pricey than the DIY option, it worked out great for us. Plus Hutch Mountain's customer service was fantastic. We later bought a quick disconnect set-up so we can run the generator with our Airstream propane tanks when desired.



Honda EU2200i with Hutch Mountain propane conversion and adapter attached to external propane canister during Rose Parade Rally. With additional connections, it can be also be attached to the trailer's tanks.



Close up of Hutch Mountain hoses and external propane regulator

**Continued
Page 7**

Generator Continued from page 6

There is another choice: Genconnex, a Massachusetts-based company, not only sells conversion kits for propane and natural gas, but fully converted Honda generators as well. <https://genconnexdirect.net/index.htm> The few Norcal members known to have purchased from Genconnex have given their converted Honda Generator high reviews. Comparing prices, the two companies are roughly the same once all the add-ons are accounted for. But note: with the Hutch Mountain conversion, you can run the generator on gas if necessary, while the Genconnex conversion is a permanent conversion to propane only.



Blake Nelson's Genconnex attached directly to trailer's propane tanks at the Rose Parade Rally.

A Micro Air EasyStart, or other soft start appliance, attached to your Airstream's air conditioning unit, permits one Honda EU2200i generator to power up and run your Airstream's 30 Amp AC. If however you need two generators, both Hutch and Genconnex offer the proper equipment to convert the EU2200i-companion model to propane as well. Just make sure to order the proper kit for the companion model as it is NOT the same.

To be fair, there are other companies that supply conversion kits for Honda generators, such as Century Fuel Products and US Carburation, and these may be worth checking out as well if you plan to go the DIY route. But be sure you are matching the proper kit to the particular generator you have. For example, US Carburation does not appear to have a kit for the EU2200i (as opposed to the EU2000) and you have to search on the Century Fuel Products website to find the EU2200i. **If you have done a conversion, or purchased a propane converted generator, we would love to hear from you. Email me with your comments.**

Elisa Ungerman




"There's nothing like roughing it in the woods to make a man feel alive!"

sudoku

1		8			6	4		
		6		9		8		7
5								
2	6	9	5				8	
			4		9			
	8				2	7	9	1
								5
6		4		7		2		
		1	2			9		3

Sunshine



Fortunately, nothing new to report.

Hoping that all of our members and their families are staying safe and healthy during our current medical crisis.

Claudia Marson

If you have any sickness or distress of Norcal Members to report, contact Claudia at cjmarson@comcast.net

Airstream Company Helping to “Flatten the Curve” in Ohio

Airstream has taken steps to utilize the company’s resources and workforce to help “flatten the curve” while production is temporarily suspended during the state’s “stay-at-home” mandate. “Our founder, Wally Byam, lived by a creed that continues to guide our nearly-90-year-old company,” said Bob Wheeler, Airstream President & CEO. “Wally believed that promoting goodwill was an essential component of the Airstream business. Locally, that means doing everything we can to mobilize against this crisis.” ...

When Ohio health care provider Wilson Health established a mobile testing facility, Airstream made several Nest travel trailers available for use by staff. The travel trailers are available for staff to relax, recharge, and stay warm while on shift...

Instead of producing curtains or cushions for travel trailers as they roll off the line, associates in Airstream’s sewing department are now working from home assembling safety masks and protective gowns that can be distributed throughout Shelby County. While the materials necessary to produce these supplies are not typically stocked and used by Airstream, the necessary components were quickly procured. The team estimates they can produce over 1,200 masks and 50-60 isolation gowns by the end of this week. The team is also working on special headbands with buttons sewn on so medical staff have

the option of looping their mask straps to take pressure off their ears. “It just seemed like the natural thing to do. We all have a responsibility to help flatten the curve and this is our way to help,” said Christine McKenzie, Airstream’s Executive Administrative Assistant to the President.

Reprinted in part from Airstream’s website. For entire story, click here: <https://www.airstream.com/blog/associates-contribute-to-ohios-efforts-to-curb-covid-19/>



Airstream’s Christine McKenzie

May 2020

Source: <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					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 

Garden Flag Information



You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from Flagology. Complete instructions are in the January Poppy issue. For any questions, the NorCal contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922. Click here to order, or copy and paste in your browser: <https://www.flagology.com/product/personalized-norcal-airstream-club-garden-flag-12-5-x-18/>.

From Your Membership Chair



You can obtain your colorful NorCal Membership Badge whenever you attend a rally. See me, Carmen Ortiz, or my designee, to get yours for free, a perk of membership. Also, we will soon be giving out the NEW five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle when you attend a rally. This is the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy.

