





Volume 60 Number 8

The Poppy

November 2023

President's Message



Greetings again. I was thinking about how we have been doing in 2023 in our role as President and First Lady. Realizing it has not been perfect, someone might be putting the blame on us. However, the truth is that we have been "framed." I just had to make everyone aware of the "whole picture." And, as you can see, "all corners" of the picture are being looked at closely for clues. (You just looked at all four corners, didn't you?) Ha, ha.

November is going to be a busy month, a first with two official rallies – one 11/8 – 11/12 and another 11/29 – 12/3. Our last rally of 2023, being in late November to the early part of December, will hopefully reap the benefit of better weather and more personal time for everyone later in the month of December to plan their Holiday get-together-parties with family and friends. I hope you all have enjoyed some traveling this year, seeing new sights, meeting new people, perhaps experiencing new cultures, new food and

much more.

There have been many famous quotes about travel, some familiar, others not, but all are very interesting. Here are just a few: "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page" – Unknown; "Live life with no excuses, travel with no regrets" – Unknown; "I haven't been everywhere, but it is on my list" – Unknown; "When preparing to travel, lay out all your clothes and all your money. Then take half the clothes and twice the money" - Susan Helle; "Vacation calories don't count, Right?" – Unknown; "Travel becomes a strategy for accumulating photographs" – Susan Sontag; "It is better to travel with low expectations and be pleased with your experience than to travel with high expectations and be disappointed by your experience". – Jim Christie; Finally, this quote I really like: "We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open." – Jawaharial Nehru.

I cannot believe this is my last article for this year as President. It has been fun, interesting, challenging, hopeful and astonishing in many ways. I wish to recognize all of you for attending our Norcal rallies, for volunteering in many ways, for travelling together or travelling apart and giving so much more than you receive to your Northern California Airstream Club. No one person can make the wheels of this Airstream Club move as well as it does. It takes all of you, every member being a part of a Great Team. "Thank you" everyone for all that you have contributed. Deborah and I look forward to seeing many of you at the next two rallies. Until then, "Keep on Traveling" – Rick Steves.

Jim Christie & Deb

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The Poppy

From the Editor

Hello Everyone and Happy November. Hard to believe another Fall is here already. And that this is the last Poppy of 2023.

In this issue we look ahead – way ahead. As we noted in previous issues, times are a changing for our rally procedures due to the post Covid shake-out at RV parks. Going-going-and in some cases gone are the group discounts, group reservations, free use of the clubhouse, and other perks we used to get. Instead, parks are not only raising prices substantially, but tacking on booking and site-hold fees, venue and resort fees, daily charges of \$200 for use of the clubhouse or common areas, and ..., well you get the picture. It is not pretty, and our new rally chair, Juliet Scheuer, is trying to wade through it, so that we can continue to rally in different areas despite the new reality. We introduce her on page 6. She deserves mucho thanks for the job she is doing or in some cases trying to do.

Speaking of rallies, although the November Poppy is usually free of rally registrations, this year we are announcing two. The March 2024 rally will be in Buellton and the Flying Flags RV Park is requiring that reservations be finalized two months in advance. Consequently, the announcement and registration instructions for the Buellton rally are found on pages 3-4. Registration opens at 9 am November First. Additionally, Pomo RV Park in Fort Bragg, the site of the October 2024 rally, is not taking group reservations and you must make your own, which can be done at *any* time prior to the rally, occupancy permitting. Information on this rally is on page 5. Look forward to more changes in the future.

And now I turn to some sad news. I recently heard that Paula and Gabriella, who were supposed to cohost the December rally, were in an accident and totaled both their truck and their trailer. Fortunately, they are both okay I am told, but they will be unable to co-host the December rally with the Websters. Amy Webster reports she has things under control, but once at the rally, she and Tom will need help in setting up and running things. If anyone would like to co-host, or just help out, please contact Amy Webster. And we send out our best wishes and prayers to Paula and Gabriella in the hopes they will be able to rejoin us in the not too distant future.

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, Team Nathan & Ryan Boondocking Sept. 6-10 Santa Cruz RV Resort Felton Hosts: The Echols, Roblee/Valerio, Becks October 4-8 Bakersfield River Run RV Pa **Unio** October 25-28 Pismo Beach Rally Nov. 8-12 Pismo Coast RV Park Pismo Beach Hosts: The Ungermans & Salingers Nov. 29-Dec 3 **Black Oak Casino** Tuolumne The Websters

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 be cancelled. Rallies are subject to COVID restrictions and protocols and any refunds are covered by Club policies as shown on the rally coupon.

FLYING FLAGS IN BUELLTON



Flying Flags RV Resort Buellton, CA March 6-10, 2024

Your Hosts: Lynn & Harold Hurley, Claudia & Barry Marson

Early Registration (Required by Resort) 11/1 - 11/30 2024

2024 is just around the corner and registration for the **March 2024 Rally in Buellton** must be done early in order to meet the requirements set by the Flying Flags RV Resort. This resort is a beautiful location close to fine restaurants, wineries, breweries, and the beach. The lovely villages of Solvang and Los Olivos are just a few miles away and Santa Barbara is about 45 minutes south on Hwy 101. Check out: discoverbuellton.com and flyingflags.com for a taste of what's to come.

Register Now: (PART 1): Site cost is \$111 per night; rally fee is \$7.50 per person. We don't yet

have firm activities planned, but bike rides, nature tours, wine/beer tastings, a pot luck dinner and happy hours are all possibilities. For now, please register for the March 2024 Rally PART 1 by using Jotform: https://form.jotform.com/232658966065166

THIS FORM WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 9:00 AM NOVEMBER 1, 2023. NOT BEFORE.

Register Later (PART 2): Sometime in January, the hosts will email specific information on meals, events and costs thereof, if any, to those who have registered for the rally, with another Jotform link to sign up for what is offered. This email will only be sent to those who have already registered.







FLYING FLAGS IN BUELLTON

Flying Flags RV Resort Buellton, CA March 6-10, 2024

THIS RALLY'S REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ

- No longer will paper coupons be accepted for NorCal Rallies. All registrations must be done online via the Jotform.
- The Jotform for reserving your campsite and paying your rally fee will be available on November First at 9:00 am. Register online using the Jotform link: https://form.jotform.com/232658966065166

or follow the 'Register for the Rally' link on the webpage (https://airstreamclub.org/northerncalifornia/rallies-and-events). After you have registered, you will automatically receive a registration completion form from Jotform. Registration is open from November 1 through 30, but rally may fill sooner. 30 sites are available.

- Do not pay for your sites until your Jotform registration has been confirmed by the Club Registrar. You will receive a separate email from the Registrar letting you know your status soon after you register online. If you do not hear from her contact her within 48 hours of its submission.
- Once your registration has been confirmed, you can choose to pay your rally fee and site cost online via Zelle (initiate through Zelle App or bank app if your bank participates) or by check, sending your check directly to registrar Lori Bibby. Remember to put rally info on "memo" or "note" portion of Zelle.
 E.g. your name, the rally name, and whether you used Zelle via your cellphone number or email address.
- If you pay by check, make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal and mail to NorCal Registrar Lori Bibby, 3029 Black Hawk Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.
- If you want to pay via Zelle but do not know how or if your bank participates, check out: <u>https://www.zellepay.com/</u> or your banking app or the Zelle app on your phone.
- **Refund Policy:** Cancellations and/or changes to registration should be received no later than Wednesday of the week prior to the rally, e.g. a week before the start of the rally, if possible. 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/committed by the hosts. Any refunds will happen after the rally accounting is closed.
- Please contact the Rally Registrar if you have ANY changes to your registration, or wish to register after the deadline via her email: Norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com She will contact you as soon as she can. PLEASE NOTE: ONLY CORRESPONDENCE TO THIS EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE HONORED. TEXTS WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.
- 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.
- All other costs associated with this rally beyond site fees and rally fee will be sent separately to registrants by the rally hosts sometime in January.



Pomo RV Park & Campground 17999 Tregoning Lane, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 707-964-3373

Hello Norcalers: I have learned, after many phone calls and discussions with the RV parks here in Northern California, that several of the RV Parks are no longer taking group reservations. One of those parks is Pomo RV Park and Campground in Fort Bragg, the location of our 2024 October Rally. Thus, each member who would like to attend this rally, scheduled for Wednesday October 9 until Sunday October 13, 2024, will need to make their own reservations directly with the park. This can be done at anytime.

We do have the clubhouse reserved, and we are still looking for a host or two. But making a reservation for the 2024 October rally is on you (i.e., there is no registration Jotform). Please call the Park at 707-964-3373 to book a site. Pomo is a Good Sam Campground, where members can save 10%. Check out:

https://www.goodsam.com/campgrounds-rvparks/california/fort-bragg/pomo-rv-parkcampground-760007171 or

https://pomorv.com/?utm_source=GoodSam.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: As soon as you have made your reservation, please send the following information to Lori Bibby via her email address at <u>norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com</u>:

- 1 arrival date
- 2 departure date
- 3 site number
- 4 total people attending rally

To hold your reservation, Pomo requires a first night deposit of \$70 check or cash mailed to them. Site fees include a \$10 booking fee, \$1 pet fee per night if applicable, and an extra \$6 for a 50 Amp site. There is a \$10 cancellation fee if cancellation is made 10 days before to arrival date; within 10 days of arrival date – no refund. Keep in mind, this is a popular campground for those escaping from the inland heat.

We are currently looking for hosts for this rally, so if you're thinking about hosting a rally, this would be a fun one to host as there's lots to do in the area. Fort Bragg is where the air is fresh, and the scenery is breathtaking. October should be a perfect time to visit this beautiful part of our state with a plethora of things to do and explore. The park is very close to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens which is a must see and well worth the visit. The Skunk Train is in town if you love riding the rails and watching the majestic redwoods go by. There is plenty of glorious hiking to be had with many state parks close by, such as, Van Damme State Park, the Mendocino Headlands and Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historical Park just to name a few. Plus, there are many things to do in town with art galleries, lots of dining and seafood options, wineries close by and a central brewery. It's a perfect place to go in October and should be an awesome experience and getaway. It is also "Where the squirrels play and the quail have the right of way."

Juliet Scheuer NorCal Rally Chair 630-352-9055 (call or text)

Meet Our New Rally Chair...

Ed note: Members may not know that the the Club's First Vice President, working closely with the Club Rally Chair, plans and chooses the sites for NorCal's rallies during the following year when they become President. For example. President Jim Christie planned this year's rallies when he was First Vice President, and First Vice President Carmen Ortiz has been busy behind the scenes planning where the Club will rally in 2024. A critical part of the rally process is the rally chair, who contacts the parks, obtains the registration information, negotiate fees and costs, if possible, and guides the hosts on what to do for a successful rally. After 8 years, the Club has a new rally chair, someone we thought you should meet.



Hello fellow Airstreamers! I am excited to be your next Rally Chair in 2024. It has been a fun adventure so far, since I began working on our reservations for 2024 rallies back in March of this year. There has been a learning curve for sure and I have some big shoes to fill following behind the wonderful job that Pat Lazarreschi has done for the past eight years.

As some of you may know, my first experience with WBCCI and Norcal was back in 1976 when my parents purchased their first Airstream trailer, a 1973 Excella. Complete with an avocado green bathroom and the roll cabinet doors that would always seem to split in the middle, causing you to lose half of your protective cabinet. (Thank goodness our Airstreams have evolved with the times.) During that first year of owning their Airstream, my parents sold our home, put everything in storage, packed up the trailer with me, my two older brothers, and the family dog, then pulled their 30' trailer with a Cadillac. We went on a caravan to the 1976 International Rally in Louisville, Kentucky. What an adventure; we met so many wonderful people and visited many amazing locations. We lived in the Airstream

for three months that year. It left an impression on me.

So, with that said, fast forward to 2006, 30 years including 20 years of marriage later, after camping on the ground and too many bear encounters, I had had enough! The following weekend I purchased our Airstream and have not regretted it once. After our purchase, I knew just what I had to do, and joined the Airstream Club. Now I have my own fond memories with Norcal as an adult and I'm so happy and honored to be your next Rally Chair. Maybe there'll be a 12 year old that will be fortunate enough to have the experiences and memories that I had, and will have, in the years to come.



Juliet Scheuer (Pictured above with husband Brian)

MELODRAMA SEATING CHART: For those going to the Melodrama at the Pismo Rally - you will receive a sheet with your table number at the rally. This will be your ticket to the show. Use this diagram to find your seat. The Poppy

NorCal Club Contacts 2023

Jim Christie Carmen Ortiz Tary Salinger Amy Webster José Ortiz Carole Echols Mark Winchell Tom Webster Bill Maffei Bob Verdegaal Hedda Smithson Hedda Smithson Marget Williams Elisa Ungerman Tom Smithson Carmen Ortiz John Bibby Pat Lazzereschi Lori Bibby Bob Vasser Cathy Maffei

President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President Secretary Treasurer Senior Trustee Senior Trustee Trustee Trustee Immediate Past President Parliamentarian Constitution & Bylaws Membership Poppy Editor & BB Reporter Directory & Audio/Visual Webmaster Assistant Webmaster Rally Chair Registrar Caravan Chair Sunshine

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Welcome New Affiliate Members

Tom & Kits Larkin PO Box 2057 Nevada City, CA 95959

Ken Haven & Libby Mihalka 2582 Merlot Ln Livermore, CA 94550



VISIT OUR WEBSITES

https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california

The latest NorCal Directory was recently released via email. If you did not get a copy, please contact Tom Smithson (contact info in chart above) to get your copy. If your photo is not included - send one to Tom so we can know who you are!

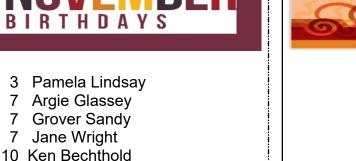
NorCal Membership Numbers

191 Unit/Life Memberships

- 62 Affiliate Memberships
- 253 Total Memberships

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- 11 Karen Richardson
- 15 John Diamond
- 17 Yoshiko Dewiert
- 17 Gus Shubel
- 19 Carole Echols
- 21 Lynn Foster
- 22 Gail Crutchfield
- 28 John Roll





- 5 Paul/Rosalie McKay
- 7 Ralph/Margaret Drew
- 10 Scott & Patience Beck
- 10 Rick/Margaret Sharp
- 16 Jim/Deborah Christie
- 18 Brett/Annette Mickelson
- 20 Dave/Marget Williams
- 22 Mike & Phyllis Minadeo
- 26 Gregg/Janet Motta
- 27 Ray/Carrie Bell
- 29 Phil/Margie Glassey

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 email with your Name (First and Last) and your Birthday and Anniversary (Month and Day only). <u>norcalmembership@comcast.net</u>,



- 7 Angela Dovish
- 8 Steve Dewiert
- 11 Linda Sickler
- 12 Amy Levin
- 13 Kent Schroeder
- 16 Matt Kurzrock
- 18 Fredric Sloan
- 20 Susan Boeschen

- 21 Judy Bechthold
- 24 Criss Gales
- 26 Tom Broad
- 27 Billie Verdegaal
- 27 Don Weaver
- 30 Gregg Ayer
- 31 Richard Kleiman



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

Meeting Minutes Northern California Airstream Club Lassen RV Resort, Saturday, May 20th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9 am. Roll Call Quorum established: Jim Christie, Carmen Ortiz, Jose Ortiz, Amy Webster, Mark Winchell, Tom Webster, John Bibby, Tary Salinger (Proxy-Dan Crutchfield), Carol Echols (Proxy-Brian Sheuer), Mark Winchell, Bob Verdegaal (Proxy-John Bibby). Approval of minutes from the March meeting at Yanks was done electronically.

Committee Reports:

<u>Treasurer: Jose Ortiz:</u> Finances as of April 30, 2023:

Business Checking Account (3167) \$9,896.15 Rally Checking Account (3130) \$12,555.97 (Includes Additional March Rally deposits) 12 month featured CD -Balance (4/30/2023) \$10,005.63 Total estimated assets (4/30/2023) \$32,457.75 Expenditures for 4/2023 \$75.48 Unspent Funds \$829.52

<u>Membership: Marget Williams:</u> NorCal currently has 189 units, 58 affiliates.

Old Business:

1. <u>Rally Registration Process:</u> Currently we have two types of registrations: Poppy Registration and future rallies where members make their own RV Park reservations. This system of self RV Park reservation has less club involvement, as members make their payment directly to the site of the rally. Carmen Ortiz reported that three parks next year will have this "make your own reservation" format. This change is due to changes in RV Parks business plans: they don't want reserved sites left open or to wait for payment. Every RV Park is different in what they require.

The NorCal rally handbook will need to be amended to reflect this new format, standing committee will be involved. For Self-Registration, RV Park registration will happen initially, then attendees will be able to complete rally registration. It may be a three-part process: Registering at the park, notifying the club of reservations and then registration for everything else. This could possibly be in a two-part Jot Form for completion. Zelle rally payments need to have the rally identification on the payment. It is difficult for the treasurer to know what rally a payment is made for if not indicated on the form.

New Business:

1. Hedda Smithson: NorCal Constitution and Bylaws will be looked at and reviewed in 2024 there will be amendments to the Constitution which need to be voted and approved by the entire club. The Bylaws and leadership guides will be looked at after that and needs a vote by the board.

2. In 2024 we will need new chairs for Parliamentarian, Directory, and Constitution committees as well as new Trustees.

3. Brian Scheuer: August rally Fortuna Questions and Answers - Expense: \$10.00 per trailer a night per trailer for camping, directly to the Davises. Limited to 23 trailers. Two fermentations classes at \$15.00 per class participant and use his equipment goes directly to Dean Davis. Members can only register for one class, Normal expenses and receipts with all other activities.

4. Preparing for International. There will be an article in the upcoming Poppy to help with prepping for the International Rally. Please take the time to read through this.

5. WBCCA Executive Board election. This election is running from June 1-June 15, there is information in the recent Blue Beret. Candidate videos are available online (YouTube as well as written statements)., Please read about the candidates and vote. Region 12 has three candidates running.

6. Letters of appreciation for various parks when they have been accommodating to various rallies would be in order. Members in the past have sent thank you notes to the hosts, we would like to do this again as a regular process. Yelp or Google reviews are also appreciated by the businesses. Juliet Scheuer volunteered to send cards to the rally RV parks.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am by president Jim Christie.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Webster, Secretary NorCal News - November

NorCalers Enjoy their Christmas Auction Purchase

The Poppy



"Feast and Fun at the Bartelt's" was an auction lot offered by Paul and Vicky Bartelt at the Christmas Rally in December 2022. The lot included camping for two rigs at the Bartelt's home for two nights on a mutually agreed upon weekend. The theme for the weekend was outdoor cooking. This past weekend the winning bidders, Tony and Sharon Paz and their life-long friends Regina and Clint, came to enjoy their auction lot activities!

After arrival and set up at the Bartelt's, the group was off to Tary and Janie Salinger's lovely home on the Napa River where we all enjoyed an evening boat ride on the Napa River in Janie's Duffy navigated by Captain Tary Salinger.



As we cruised along the river Tary pointed out local points of interest while we enjoyed appetizers along with champagne and wine. Upon returning to the Salinger's, we enjoyed a Mediterranean feast with wonderful wines and conversation. Janie stole the show with her specialty, a phenomenal Olive Oil cake with slow roasted berries. We then returned to the Bartelt's to rest up for Saturday's fun.

Outdoor cooking was the theme of the event, so Saturday started off with a cozy morning campfire coffee and breakfast, cooked outdoors in our Dutch Ovens. Afterwards our guests headed up valley for an enjoyable day in Napa Valley exploring, wine tasting, picnicking, and sight-seeing.

On Saturday Evening , Doug Fritz and Debbie Ames as well as Tary and Janie Salinger joined

us for dinner. The festivities started with Doug teaching Clint how to saber a bottle of champagne for us all. The guests then sipped champagne while enjoying an Oktoberfest appetizer board including homemade soft pretzels.



The menu for the night was Country Rib Roast cooked over an open fire, Dutch Oven Risotto Carbonara and slow roasted carrots with caramelized pecans and goat cheese along with plenty of Napa Valley wines.

To close out the night we had a campfire classic dessert served with warm beverages. Sitting around the campfire well into the night below the stars with wonderful friends was definitely a highlight for me.

As we said our farewells on Sunday morning after



coffee and breakfast, I realized that I have new friends that I'm looking forward to spending more time with.

Epilogue: Paul and I were happy to offer the auction item to raise funds for the Fisher House, and even more, to open our home to Club members as kind as the Paz's. To me, the relationships that we are building is the best part of our Club. I encourage you to reach out to members you may not yet know well; they could be your new best friend.

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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/produ ct/personalized-norcalairstream-club-garden-flag-12-5x-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.

