



The NorCal News



Volume 61 Number 2

The Poppy

March 2024

President's Message

Greetings fellow members! The new year is zipping right along and our volunteer hosts are very busy planning rallies for 2024. I really appreciate all the hard work they are putting into making these rallies fun and memorable.

The flash rally at Death Valley National Park last month got derailed due to bad weather. Some folks still made it. Brave souls! In the picture above you can see member Joanne Valerio hiking the Golden Canyon. José and I wished we had been there, but we only got to watch from the sidelines!

In a few days we are heading to our March Rally at Flying Flags in Buellton, CA. We have twenty four Airstreams going to what promises to be a fun rally with our great hosts Claudia & Barry Marson and Lynn & Harold Hurley, who by the way, are first time hosts. They have done a great job planning a lot of fun activities, meals and opportunities to spend time with each other. I will let you in on a secret: even though I do not eat meat, I will definitely have a little taste of the roast pork.



You only live once, no? It will remind me of my childhood in Puerto Rico when my father and his friends used to roast a pig on a pole over a wood fire for Christmas. The men would sit around the fire, slowly turning the pig once in a while, carrying on and sipping that warm island rum. It took almost all day to roast the pig. The best part? The crackling skin. OMG, delicious!

As you know, we also have the April Rally at the Napa Valley Exposition RV Park in the works. We will have many different activities to keep us healthy with Tai Chi and Qigong, and well fed with great dinners. Thanks so much to our amazing hosts Doug Fritz & Debbie Ames and Ryan Shackelford & Nathan Ogilvie. FYI: we still have a couple of sites if you are still on the fence. Contact Lori Bibby, Rally Registrar, for late registration.

And of course, the May Rally at Vinnie's in Wilton is a bucket list item! Our hosts, Dan & Gail Crutchfield, Marget & Dave Williams, and apprentices Gary and Vicki DeSmet, have done a marvelous job planning with Vinnie and Cindy Lamica. There will be music, food, games, you name it. They have pulled all the stops to make this rally fun. Remember this is a dry camping experience, so be prepared.

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From the Editor

Greetings All. We just got back from Dana Point by way of San Diego and Anzo Borrego, missing most of the storms that hit the state. We were lucky in that we embarked on our trip in late January, before the major storms passed through. Then



the mountains surrounding the Anzo Borrego valley diverted most of the heavy rain and wind that swept through other areas. The sunrises were amazing, and it was fun to explore the town of Borrego Springs, the visitor center at the State Park, Galleta Meadows, and hike in areas

where dogs were tolerated. We may have to make the trip an annual event. See page 10 for a few scenic photos.

Much to our surprise, we managed to drive to San Diego and hook-up before the next storm hit, despite stopping at the Jullian Pie Company in Jullian for – what else – pie, a stop not to be missed. In San Diego, it pretty much poured for the first few days after we arrived, with only a few breaks allowing us to walk around part of Mission Bay before the next installment of rain. We managed to brave the rain to try a few restaurants and visit the Kitchens for Good thrift store, a store dedicated to re-homing kitchen wares in support of training those less fortunate in the culinary industry. Amazing high quality stuff at very reasonable prices. I highly recommend a visit if you are in the neighborhood. Probably a good thing for me it is not in Sacramento.

Eventually the sun did come out and we were able to visit the San Diego Safari Park in Escondido where Seniors got in free during February. Score! A \$75 savings, although parking was still \$20. We had fun (soo good to get out after being in the trailer for days) but be warned: there is a lot of walking uphill and down to get around the park. You will walk well over 12,000 steps. We also visited the Bali Hai restaurant that is still going strong, enjoying the changing colors of the San Diego skyline over the Bay during the marvellous sunset our last night there.

Dana Point was lovely as well while we were there, but too soon it was over and we were back home with a pile of laundry and the Airstream to clean. Next trip will be to the 4 Corners Club's Eclipse Rally in Legato Texas. Whoo Hoo!

This month we feature the rally at Vinnie and Cindy Lamica's Ranch in Wilton. Ranch – hah! It should be called Vinnie's Resort, now that all the ailing Airstreams have been diverted to Sacramento. Can't wait to hear what the neighbors will have to say when 30 Airstreams descend for a good time, if only for the long weekend. Wish I could be there, but our first International Caravan is calling this year, a decision made before the rally schedule was announced. Sigh – sometimes it is disappointing we can't do everything.

Have a great March and we will be back in April with a report on the March Buellton rally, and information on the June Quincy rally.

Elisa Ungerman, Poppy Editor

2024 Rally Schedule

March 6 - 10

Buellton Flying Flags Resort, Buellton Ca
Hosts: Hurleys & Marsons

April 3 - 7

Napa
Hosts: Shackelford/Ogilvie & Fritz/Ames

May 8 - 12

Vinnies Ranch, Wilton CA
Hosts: Williams & Crutchfields

April 18 - 21

Cali Rally, V-6 Ranch
Hosts: Region 12

<https://form.jotform.com/232265371580152>

June 12-16

Pioneer RV Park, Quincy, Ca
Hosts: Hollifields & Scheuers

August 7 - 12

Costa Noa Resort, Pescadero Ca
Hosts: non-hosted rally

September 4-8

McCloud RV Park, McCloud, CA (joint rally) Hosts:
Ortiz & Langstroms & Becks & Harveys

September 11 - 15

Tahoe Valley Campground, South Lake Tahoe
Host: Region 12

October 5 -10

Sedalia, Missouri
Host: Airstream Club International
<https://airstreamclub.org/rally2024>

October 9 -13

Pomo RV Park, Fort Bragg, Ca
HOSTS NEEDED

November 6-10

Dumbarton Quarry Campground, Fremont CA
Hosts: Bells & Mineados

December 4 - 8

49er Rv Resort, Plymouth Ca
Hosts: Scheuers & Team Paz

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 Jotform and payment 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.

Jim's Story

February '24 in Death Valley

Some people were lucky and made it into Death Valley a few days before the Norcal Flash Rally was set to start, thereby missing the really bad travel weather. Jim Geurin, a member of the Sacramento Valley Club, was one such person. He provided those on the flash rally's email list with a report and photos on February 5th: "I am Jim Geurin, a member of the Sacramento Valley club. Jill and I are good friends of Carrie and Ray Bell, and they told us about this flash rally a few months ago. I reserved a spot at Furnace Creek because Death Valley has been on my bucket list for a while now. My thanks to Carmen for including me on this thread.

I am camped in site 52 right now. Jill backed out of the trip the day before we were slated to leave when she saw the weather forecast (and because she knew that Carrie and Ray had backed out), but knowing my zeal for the trip she told me to push on without

her. I had planned to come in on Sunday, but because of the forecast, I came a day earlier (like Damien and Ludmilla) to avoid the possibility of road closures and to avoid possible snow in the high passes.

Yesterday the weather here was really kind of nice. Just a light sprinkle lasting most of the day. I took advantage of the better than expected day by touring around: Golden Canyon, Bad Water Basin, Artist's Drive, Artist's Pallete, Zabriskie Point, & Mesquite Flats sand dunes. I will attach some photos. I went to several ranger programs. At the first one, Ranger Nate told me a lot about Golden Canyon, but said, "Nope, we are *not* going in there today!" I learned that less than a quarter of an inch of rainfall could cause flash flooding in certain areas of the park, and there was a flash flood warning from noon onward. I also learned about alluvial,

ephemeral waterfalls, and I hope to spot one today.

I met a guy who lives in Vegas, and has made dozens of trips to DV - he told me "You may never see the park looking like this again!" because he had never seen it like this before. The Badwater basin has a huge lake (Lake Manley) which has been around since "heavy" rainfall this past August. There are a few flowers blooming along Artist's Drive. The creosote bushes were emitting a very intense aroma (I could literally taste it!) at Mesquite Flats. I was standing in the clouds that moved past me at Zabriskie point as the view alternately appeared and then disappeared into the mist. As if you can't tell yet - it was, IMHO, a very good day of touring."

Email me for a video of the Lake Jim took. I tried to put a link in but it would not work.

Editor



Artists Pallete



Mesquite Flats sand dunes



Zabriskie point and Artists Pallete

Church Bloopers Are Back

1. A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.

2. Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm — prayer and medication to follow.

3. The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

4. Life groups meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for food, fun, and fellowwhipping.

5. Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. Is done.

6. The missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine: Name: Bertha Belch. Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the Way from Africa."



Cindy and Vinnie

Vinnie's Silver Bullet Roundup

May 8 - 12, 2024

11992 Blake Road, Wilton, CA

Hosts: Dave and Marget Williams and Dan and Gail Crutchfield

Apprentices: Gary and Vicki DeSmet

Many of us have taken our trailers to Vinnie's beautiful ranch in Wilton for repairs and maintenance. But now, Vinnie and Cindy Lamica have invited NorCal members to enjoy their property for a fun-filled rally. There are a lot of interesting places in the area and hopefully in May we will have good weather to enjoy it all.

We'll start off on Wednesday with a welcome pot luck dinner. NorCal is famous for the delicious dishes everybody brings to our pot luck dinners.



On Thursday morning we will be treated to a tour of the Wilton Family Lavender Farm, just a few miles from Vinnie's property.

Friday morning, everyone is welcome to visit Vinnie's new Northbay Airstream facility in Sacramento. If you haven't been there already you will be amazed. Friday afternoon there will be a fly fishing class on Vinnie's pond. No need to bring your own equipment to

participate. Friday evening, Backwoods BBQ will serve us pulled pork sliders on brioche buns with bacon blue slaw, their bodacious bbq beans, and smoked mac and cheese. We will serve a dessert to satisfy everybody's sweet tooth.



After dinner the Traveler Band will entertain us with country western and contemporary music.



Saturday morning Vinnie will present a towing class, concentrating on backing up our trailers, and we're hoping to have a maintenance session Saturday afternoon when you can ask Vinnie questions that have been puzzling you about your Airstream.

We will have a happy hour Saturday afternoon, when we will have games and prizes. (Be sure to bring 3 one dollar bills if you want to join in on the Left Right Center game.) You will be on your own for Saturday night dinner and in your Welcome Bag will be some suggestions for good places to eat. Later that evening, Vinnie and Cindy have arranged for singer Nikki Perez to entertain us around the fire pit, and we will be providing dessert.



Tables and chairs will be set up in Vinnie's shop building for your use and enjoyment throughout the rally. On Sunday we will waive goodbye to all our NorCal friends.

Pets are welcome on Vinnie and Cindy's property but keep in mind that they need to be leashed or contained at all times. See next page for details and specifics regarding registration. Check-in time begins Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The Hosts

Vinnie's Silver Bullet Roundup



Information Sheet

May 8 - 12, 2024

Lamica Ranch

1992 Blake Road, Wilton, CA

- This is a dry camping rally - no hookups. Come with empty black and gray tanks and full water tank.
- You may only park Wednesday through Saturday night on the property. **Please arrive after 1 p.m.**
- There is no nightly site fee. However, there is an \$80 per trailer event fee to cover the costs of table and chair rentals, live entertainment and other costs not usually incurred when camping at an RV park.
- You will be asked to provide one of the following for the Pot Luck: Main Dish, Side Dish, Salad or Dessert.
- The Wilton Family Lavender Farm Tour is free, but we need to have a head count of participants.
- The Friday BBQ catered dinner is \$40 per person.
- Rally fee is \$10 pp

Rally Registration is Only Through the Online Jotform

Registration for this rally opens at 9 a.m. on March 1, 2024. At that time, access the Jotform registration page via the Club's webpage <https://airstreamclub.org/norcal-may-2024-rally-vinnies> Or click on the Jotform link:

<https://form.jotform.com/240428173229152>

Space is limited. Attendees are chosen on a first-come, first serve basis based on the time the completed Jotform is sent to the registrar. After completing and sending the Jotform, wait for an email *from the registrar* confirming that you are registered for the rally, and the amount you owe. At that point, you may either pay for the rally via Zelle to the NorCal Airstream Club (initiate through Zelle App or bank app if your bank participates) or send a check for the full amount directly to the registrar. If you pay by check, make your checks payable to "WBCCI/NorCal" and mail directly to 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: <https://www.zellepay.com/>.

If you do not hear back from the registrar on the day you register, contact her within 48 hours at: NorCalregistrar3854@gmail.com. If you are placed on the wait-list, do not pay until you hear from the registrar that you are confirmed for the rally. She will let you know your status.

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. Best to email at: NorCalregistrar3854@gmail.com She will contact you as soon as she can.

Under no circumstances are members to contact the RV Park with changes or cancellations.

Note: Your registration is incomplete and not fully confirmed until we receive BOTH your registration and payment. Typically, Zelle payments will confirm your registration quicker than sending in a check. Do not wait until the last minute to pay or you may not have a site regardless of when you initially apply. **If using Zelle, make sure to add your name, rally location, and how you accessed Zelle in the "memo" or "message" area before sending payment.**

Finally, if you are ill or not feeling well, please stay home and get better. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.

NorCal Club Contacts 2024

Carmen Ortiz	President		
Tary Salinger	1st Vice President	tsalinger@comcast.net	707-477-8315
Tom Webster	2nd Vice President	twebs5@sbcglobal.net	707-337-9774
Amy Webster	Secretary	atwebs@sbcglobal.net	707-495-2358
José Ortiz	Treasurer		
Bill Maffei Mark	Senior Trustee		916-207-6837
Winchell	Senior Trustee	mwinchell23@gmail.com	209-604-5912
Kristine Carey	Trustee	krisbrownsoncarey@gmail.com	510-506-5123
Debbie Ames	Trustee	debbieames@mac.com	415-713-4829
Jim Christie	Immediate Past President	Jl.christie1@gmail.com	760-500-7651
Brian Scheuer	Parliamentarian	brianscheuer@yahoo.com	630-445-3818
John Bibby	Constitution & Bylaws	jbibby@value.net	707-592-4891
Marget Williams	Membership	norcalmembership@comcast.net	916-947-9647
Elisa Ungerman	Poppy Editor & BB Reporter	ungerman72@gmail.com	916-833-2484
Doug Fritz	Directory & Audio/Visual	dcfritz@mac.com	510-277-4515
Carmen Ortiz	Webmaster	webmaster.norcal@gmail.com	
John Bibby	Assistant Webmaster	jbibby@value.net	707-5924891
Juliet Scheuer	Rally Chair	norcalrallychair@gmail.com	603-352-9055
Lori Bibby	Registrar	norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com	973-270-4132
Bob Vasser	Caravan Chair	bobelv@earthlink.com	415-517-3651
Cathy Maffei	Sunshine	marymaffei@sbcglobal.net	916-662-1010

Welcome New Members

Larry Struck

Clint Johnson

James & Julie Lemen

NorCal Membership Numbers

187 Unit/Life Memberships
67 Affiliate Memberships
 254 Total Memberships

Welcome New Affiliate Members

Millie O'Donnell

Craig & Jin Hammond

Garett & Kristina Oku

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 Birthdays

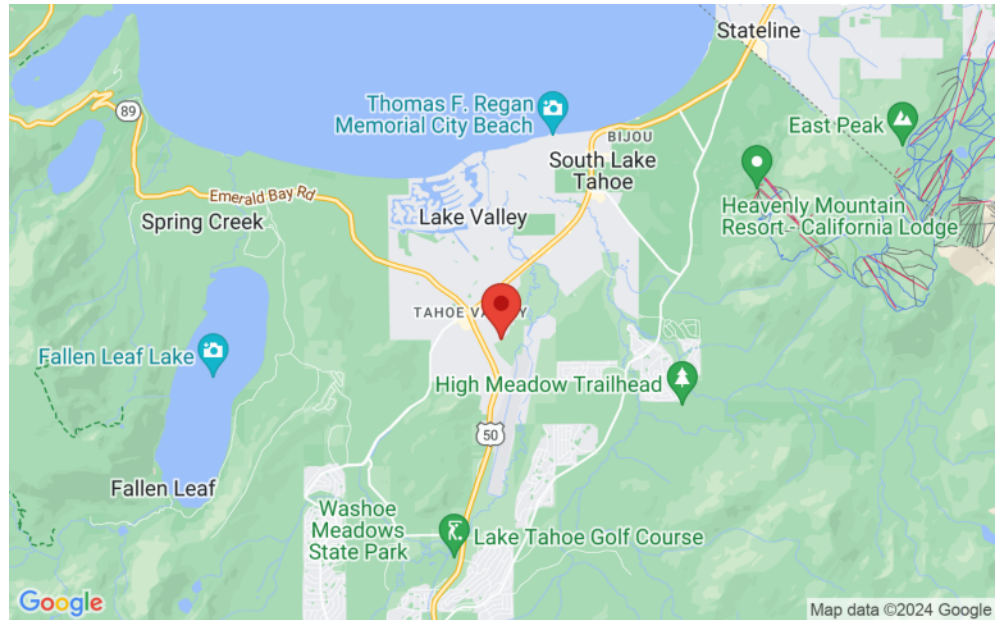
2 Luann Hollis	19 Roy Hutto
3 Dave Wilson	20 Larry Jones
4 Dennis Richardson	20 Marget Williams
9 Vicky Bartelt	25 Margaret Drew
9 Ralph Drew	27 Dick Sullivan
10 Dee Aguilar	30 Deborah Christie
11 Patience Beck	30 Eric French
12 Chet Weaver	30 Tony Sica
13 Joanne Hilliard	31 Claudia Sherry
16 Gary DeSmet	



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

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. We have noted that many attending rallies are not on the list - so call Marget to check if you are!



The Region 12 Rally Committee recently announced that the venue for the Region Rally, set for September 11-15, 2024, will now be the Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe. Tahoe Valley was given a "Travelers Choice" award from Trip Advisor in 2023, allows dogs on leashes, and can accommodate more than 100 rigs. A copy of the resort map can be found here:

https://rvonthego.com/media/com_rv/uploads/resorts/sm0322tahoe_valley_1650068817.pdf

Registration will open later this Spring





In prior Poppy issues, the November rally at the Dumbarton Quarry in Fremont was listed as a dry camping event. Turns out, that information was wrong! In truth, most of the sites have full hook-ups. Quoting from the website: "Located within Coyote Hills Regional Park and next to the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay in Fremont, Dumbarton Quarry Campground on the Bay is the Park District's first full-service campground, complete with 63 campsites, a camp store, an amphitheater, a playground, Wi-Fi, and picnic areas." Only 3 of the 63 campsites are water only. A brochure is available at: <https://www.ebparks.org/sites/default/files/dumbartonquarrycampgroundbrochure20210823.pdf>

President Con't

Oh well, I better leave something for next month. In the meantime, travel safely, have fun, laugh and stay healthy. I hope to see you at one or more of our rallies this year. Remember that it's all about the Airstream. And the bike ... when it's not raining!

*Best, Carmen Ortiz
NorCal President*



While editing this month's newsletter, I took a dive into the Airstreamclub.org website. We all know that our rallies are posted there, but over the past few years, the entire website has gotten better and better. The Club has moved eons beyond where it was back in 2017 when I first joined, where the only information you got about The Club was through the Blue Beret Magazine, which is a shadow of its former self, the content now mostly advertisements. Today, the place to go for just about any information you can think of regarding The Club is Airstreamclub.org. So like it or not, take out those laptops and tablets, or get on your computer, and take a look.

There is information available to the public, but the most interesting aspect of the site is under the "Member Resources" section listed in the ribbon above the "We Rally Together" slogan. Log into your account and click or tap on the Member Resources heading. There you will find such categories as "The Club Store," which leads you to categories such as "Stuff for People," (which has direct links to the Lands End Club Apparel Store, Airstream Supply Company and (surprisingly) Etsy for a listing of Airstream stuff for sale) "Stuff for Trailers," "Flags," and "Assorted Club Merchandise," where you can pick up the new ACI pin for \$5 apiece. Also featured is the Courtesy Parking Map – an **outstanding** feature - that shows you exactly where Airstream courtesy parking is located, as well as provides all the contact information for that site. This is a real game changer!! I am using it on our route getting back from Texas

ACI News

after the Texas Six Shooter Caravan. The International Club's membership directory is in there as well.

Next to "Member Resources" is "Club News." Here you can find digital copies of the Blue Beret Magazine, as well as the Blue Beret Blog and recordings of the campfire chats and webinars recently held. Take a look at The Blog – which at this writing has a very interesting column by International President Eric McHenry on how the Club is progressing and its vision for the future. (President's Corner February 24) Interested in an ACI rally at sea? While gone are the days of sea crossing caravans with trailers, ACI is testing the waters to gauge interest in an ACI cruise. If interested, follow the prompts and take the brief survey. There are many other categories listed on the ribbon under the top photo that are deserving of perusing at your leisure, such as "Education," "Gear," and "Stories" but I will leave those for you to discover. Much is archival material in an easy to access format, which you can pick and choose depending on your interests. Interested in making a "Duck Fart" cocktail? It's in there... Bottom line: have fun exploring, in your Airstream or otherwise.

Editor



The new ACI Collectors pin

RIP Ray Burmaster

Ray Laurence Burmaster, age 92, of Fair Oaks, California, passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Born in 1930, Ray was a longtime Airstreamer and member of NorCal (joined in 2005), about which he cared deeply, attending rallies into his 90s. He was a Past President (2009) and the resident "curmudgeon" when it came to the Constitution, Bylaws and protocol. His memorial was held Friday January 12th, attended by about 20 Airstreamers.

Upon hearing of his death, David Louish wrote: "This is sad to hear about Ray, we were fortunate enough to meet Ray July 28 when we stumbled upon a Craigs List Ad looking for an Airstream. We went to look at his 2004

Classic and instantly fell in love with the RV and the rich history of the Airstream. We bought the Airstream and have named him Beau. Ray allowed us to transfer his 1751 [BRN] to our name, so the number lives on and our beautiful Classic continues to be on the road for many new adventures."

Kent Schroeder wrote: "We're sorry to hear of Ray's passing. We have many good memories of him. Mary and I travelled with him many times on our way to and from rallies. He gave me helpful advice while I was NorCal president. We also attended many Sunday breakfast get togethers with Ray and several other members in the Sacramento area."

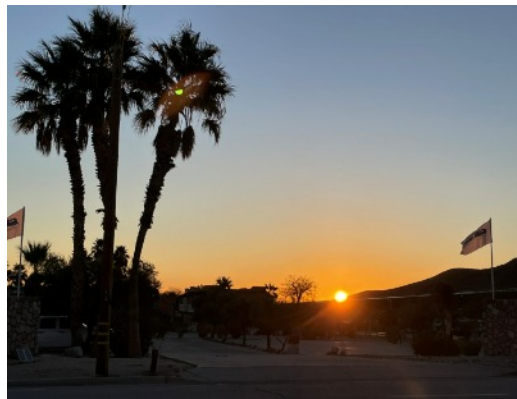
Editor



Below clockwise: Ray and David Louish on the day he bought Ray's trailer, Ray with "the girls" Leslie Irey and a horse trainer, Ray hiking with John Bibby, Ray and Dave Williams, Ray with Yoshi Deiwert and Dave Williams, Ray and the Williams.



Scenes of Anzo Borrego in February 2024



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 May Rally Registration opens 9 am	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Buellton Rally						
10 	11	12	13	14 	15 	16
17 	18	19 	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 					Registration for Fort Bragg Rally in Oct. continues	

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.

