

The NorCal News



Volume 61 Number 3

The Poppy

April 2024

President's Message

Greetings fellow Airstreamers! Yes, I ate the skin (and some meat!) of the piglet the Buellton rally hosts roasted. And it was delicious. The skin was perfectly crispy and well-seasoned. As you will see in the summary of the rally in the following pages, the roasting party was a great success. It all started sometime Saturday morning when Mason, son of Harold and Lynn Hurley, began preparing the pig for roasting and putting it in "La Caja China," The Chinese Box. The rest of us watched expectantly, sipping rum and talking to Mason about the process. It took about 5 hours to cook the 70 pound hog. It really brought back warm memories of my childhood. After we all got a taste of the crackling skin, Mason carved the meat which was so tender and juicy that it fell off the bones. What a great coda for the rally! Thanks so much to the Hurley Family: Howard, Lynn, and their children Mason and Kristen, for hosting an amazing rally that attendees will remember for a long time to come. And thanks to Barry and Claudia Marson, who unfortunately got sick and could not attend the rally, for all their hard work and preparation before the rally. I hope you two are doing well. We missed you!

Of course, there was a bike ride to the town of Los Olivos lead by yours truly. Five of us pedaled from the RV park to Solvang and then north through beautiful countryside, enjoying the landscape and the great weather.

Everyone is excited in anticipation of the May rally at Vinnie's which sold out in twelve minutes and culminated in a waiting list of ten. This rally will be amazing with lots of activities planned by our hosts. Also, consider attending the June rally in Quincy, which is a beautiful area to enjoy hikes, history museums, birds, Bucks Lake and Lake Almanor, great for kayaks and other water vessels. Make sure to visit the toy store/ice cream shop; the best in town.

I want to give you a heads up about some technical issues we are having trying to get our email list cleaned up and ready to make sure everyone gets the Poppy and other announcements. This has caused some of you not getting the newsletter and blasts. Please bear with us while we get through this process. Remember that you can always access the Poppy on our website at <https://airstreamclub.org/northern-california/norcal-news>. Scroll down the page for a list of current and previous editions. Thanks to Doug Fritz for all he is doing to fix this glitch.

All right, I will leave you with a couple of thoughts. First, from Jody Rosen, author of "Two Wheels Good": "There will always be a touch of daredevil in anyone who chooses to push a bicycle out onto a road." And this one from the essayist Eula Biss talking about cars and bikes: "Cars...are like important men in conversation with other important men. Bicycles are sometimes kindly accommodated by cars, often ignored, occasionally respected, sometimes nervously followed, and frequently not even seen. In this sense, riding in traffic is not unlike being a woman among men."

Carmen Ortiz, NorCal President



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From the Editor

Hello everyone and welcome to April, month of "sun and growth" in the Northern Hemisphere. (Or so "they" say...) It is also Dog, and Jazz Appreciation Month, BLT, and Grilled Cheese Sandwich month, as well as National Pecan month, Inventors, Kite, and Garden month, just to name a few. Phew!



This April, we will have a total eclipse of the sun (100% totality only visible in certain areas of the U.S.) - the last chance that most people in the US will have to experience one until 2044, and a "pink moon," a full moon so named due to the pink flowers that grow around that time.

As I write this, a few of us are preparing to take off for Texas at the end of March, first travelling to the Four Corners Unit's rally in Lampasas to view the eclipse, then moving on to Alpine to begin the national Texas Six Shooter Caravan. We will be travelling through several regions in Texas for about three weeks, ending up outside of Fort Worth before returning home (on Route 66) at the end of May. We will be reporting on our trip, so stay tuned. This will be our longest outing ever in the Airstream and we are keeping our fingers crossed. Unfortunately that means we will miss the April and May NorCal rallies, but one cannot do everything. I have it under good authority the hosts on those rallies will do an outstanding job of reporting as well, to say nothing of hosting.

Speaking of reporting, this month we have a great summary by Lynn Hurley on the March Rally in Buellton that was, by all accounts, a low key, fun rally in a beautiful setting, and two other perspectives on the Death Valley Flash Rally that was attended by a few intrepid campers. The photos are stellar.

We also have the summary and information sheet for the June Rally in Quincy, hosted by the Hollifields and Scheuers. Registration opens 9 am Monday April 1st. So enjoy and hope that there will be no problems in getting the May Poppy out to you while we are on the road. Fortunately there are no rally sign-ups until August, another phew!

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: Salingers & Bartelts

September 4-8

McCloud RV Park, McCloud, CA (joint rally) Hosts:
Ortiz, Goldsteins, & Fitzgerald

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 STILL 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.



Flying Flags in Buellton Rally

March 6-10, 2024

**Hosted by
The Marsons and The
Hurleys**

Flying Flags in Buellton hosted 20 trailers for our "Almost Spring" event. The co-hosts of the event were the Hurleys and the Marsons. Unfortunately, the Marsons had to cancel their attendance but were invaluable in the planning, preparation, and announcement of the rally.

It poured on all those arriving Wednesday, which made trailer setup a "soaking event." However, the weather soon improved and we had beautiful weather the remaining days.

The Club House opened Wednesday morning to allow for the setup and prep for the Wednesday night soup and salad welcoming dinner. Our new president, Carmen, welcomed new members Jody and Bob Murphy and performed a degreening for Betty and Al Moody.



Although there were no formally planned events during the rally, members enjoyed bike rides, visited nearby Ostrichland, strolled and shopped the streets of Solvang, Los Olivos and even Santa Barbara. Of course, many enjoyed checking out some of the local winery

tasting rooms and local restaurants.



On Saturday Morning there was a Board Meeting followed by a general meeting, both chaired by Carmen in the clubhouse.



The highlight of the rally was the roasting of a pig by Mason Hurley (Harold and Lynn's son). Mason is a retired Los Banos Fire Chief and volunteered for this activity months ago. He came prepared to spend the afternoon cooking our Saturday dinner. Members dropped by his cooking site throughout the afternoon. He explained the process and thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone.

Just in time for our evening social hour, Mason pulled the pig out of the cooking box and began removing and serving the crispy delicious chicharrones. This unusual treat was enjoyed by many and, if the rumors are to be believed, a vegan or two may have indulged. The pork was then served as the main dish for our Saturday dinner.



During the evening Doug Fitzgerald led our celebration of birthdays and anniversaries. Carmen introduced new members Apriljoy Sanchez and Todd Schecter. As the evening wound down, everyone helped in the cleanup of the club house. Thanks to all.



As usual, Sunday morning consisted of loading, hitching up and final goodbyes. See you down the road!

Lynn Hurley

Scenes From the March Buellton Rally



Thanks to everyone that submitted photos: John Bibby, Marget Williams, Jim Christie, Gail Crutchfield & Janie Sallinger

NorCal Club Contacts 2024

Carmen Ortiz	President	tsalinger@comcast.net	707-477-8315
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Debbie Ames	Trustee	jl.christie1@gmail.com	760-500-7651
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John Bibby	Assistant Webmaster	norcalrallychair@gmail.com	603-352-9055
Juliet Scheuer	Rally Chair	norcalregistrar3854@gmail.com	973-270-4132
Lori Bibby	Registrar	bobelv@earthlink.com	415-517-3651
Bob Vasser	Caravan Chair	marymaffei@sbcglobal.net	916-662-1010
Cathy Maffei	Sunshine		

Welcome New Members

Margherita & Roteert Tikman

Orangevale, CA 95662

Welcome New Affiliate Members

Sherwood & Steve Garcia

Denton, Tx 76207

Ryan & Julie Parker

Chico, CA 95928

Warren & Margaret Coifed

Santa Maria, CA 93455

Richard Chen & Linhai Cao

Manteca, CA 95337

NorCal Membership Numbers

172	Unit/Life Memberships
64	Affiliate Memberships
236	Total Memberships



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>



Welcome to Quincy, California, nestled against the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The Plumas County seat is tucked at the edge of the lush American Valley at 3,432 feet elevation. It is known for its rolling green ranch lands buttressed by towering peaks, beautifully preserved historic buildings and a vibrant downtown area. The town has a relaxed vibe with an outdoorsy community that knows how to enjoy life. There's something for everyone in Quintessential Quincy, from dining, shopping, art galleries and museums in the charming downtown, to scenic drives along the Feather River Canyon on Hwy 70. And only 17 miles Southwest, is Bucks Lake, which offers year-round recreation opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts - hiking, biking, fishing, kayaking and picnic¹.



Wednesday we'll kick things off with happy hour @ 5:00 PM, followed by Neapolitan Style pizza from the family owned Leon & Roy's Pizzeria, with salad and dessert provided by the club. There will also be raffle prizes throughout the weekend!



Thursday, will feature two complimentary tours of Sierra Pacific Industries Lumber Mill. There is a max capacity of 30 guests

per time slot (9AM and 11AM), so sign ups will be first come first served. Come and learn about this company that owns and manages more than 2.4 million acres of timberland in California, Oregon and Washington and is one of the largest U.S. lumber manufacturers. The company also produces millwork, windows and renewable energy. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the great outdoors and numerous dining opportunities around town, but come back and join us for happy hour @ 5PM and campground s'mores later in the evening.



Friday will be another day to explore the area on your own. Hike and have a picnic, or take a scenic drive or bike ride. The Brewing Lair, in nearby Blairsden offers 15 scenic acres of forested land, and a Food Truck from noon to 7:30 p.m. You can also bring your own picnic and enjoy the fresh mountain air while sipping on craft beers. Dogs on leash are welcome! Join us back at camp for happy hour at 5 p.m. Dinner on your own.



Saturday is another day to explore including Lake Almanor or Bucks Lake; fish the scenic Feather River or explore the Plumas County Museum in town. Enjoy the downtown area or take a drive

Quintessential Quincy

June 12-16, 2024

Pioneer RV Park

1326 Pioneer Rd,

Quincy, CA 95971

out to Bucks Lake and enjoy lunch at The Lakeshore Resort or Bucks Lake Lodge. The Farewell dinner begins with happy hour at 5 p.m. where we will continue giving out raffle prizes! The Back Door Catering Company will be cooking up a feast of Citrus Chicken, Gluten Free Wild Rice, Roasted Vegetables, Salad and fresh local bread. There will also be a Loaded Mediterranean Falafel Bowl available to our vegan travelers.



Hiking opportunities abound in the "Lost Sierra." Check out www.Alltrails.com for their top ten list, or for 2 shorter scenic adventures (although 45 minutes from the RV Park to the trailheads) are Bear Lakes Loop Trail, which passes by four lakes in about 4 miles, or Frazier Falls Trail which offers a relatively easy hike (1.2 miles round trip) to a beautiful 176 foot waterfall. On both of these trails, you will cruise through forests of pines covered in lush green moss and see beautiful wildflowers that pop with color. Also, if you're looking for a leisurely nature walk close to Quincy try the Feather River Land Trust Leonhardt Trail, which takes you into the wide-open spaces of American Valley or walk along the river at Gansnor Park. Both include interpretive signage.

*Your Hosts:
Juliet & Brian Scheuer
and Terri & Steve
Holifield*

Quintessential Quincy



Information Sheet

June 12 - 16, 2024
Pioneer RV Park
1326 Pioneer Rd, Quincy, CA 95971

- Nightly site fee is \$60
- Wednesday Welcome Pizza Dinner, salad and dessert included: \$18/pp
- Sierra Pacific Industries Tours are free, Limited to 30 per time slot, 2 times available. Sign up for either 9 am or 11 am on the jotform. Closed toe shoes are required.
- Saturday Catered Citrus Chicken or Vegan dinner is \$31/pp (Please note, not all items are gluten or nut free.)
- Rally fee is \$10 per person

Rally Registration is Only Through the Online Jotform

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

<https://form.jotform.com/240728185757164>

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.



11 Tom Smithson	16 Dace Roll
3 Mike Malone	18 Annie Barlow
6 Harold Higgins	20 Amy Webster
7 Fred Lyon	21 Joyce Tupy
11 Bill Maffei	24 Fran Angerer
11 Peggy Spence	29 Phil Glassen
11 Terry Totten	30 Vicki DeSmet
14 Jim Gallagher	30 Bob Totten



6 Greg & JoAnn Kemist
6 Flavia & Brad Naves
11 Bob & Billie Verdegaaal
25 Roy/Gail Hutto

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!

Calling All Members for Gift Basket Ideas!

As part of the September Region 12 Rally in South Lake Tahoe, there will be a gift basket auction to raise money for chosen charities. Each club or unit is asked to provide at least one gift basket for this auction. At last year's Region 12 Pismo Beach Rally, I ended up as high bidder and thus purchased a charity basket donated by the Sierra Nevada Unit. Among the many items in the basket was an associate membership in the Club. Many products depicting the Sierra Nevada Unit and the members therein were also included.

What I would like to do for this year's Region Rally is put together a basket or baskets representative of our NorCal Club Airstream Club, featuring

gifts, products or services, or whatever depicting NorCal Airstreamers. To do this, I need a bit of help from the membership.

If you have a product or donation idea or item, or have something you have made, I would be interested in possibly adding it to our basket(s). Please contact me and we can work out the details of the exchange. I will be at the Napa Rally in April and Vinnie's rally in May. In late April I am going to a rally with the Sierra Nevada Unit.

Some of my early ideas include the inclusion of Norcal almonds, rice, Napa and Amador County wines. I'm pretty sure that between all of us (some 200+). We can come up with

an epic and unique basket(s) for the cause. [The actual charity will be chosen by the Region 12 Charity Committee and will be announced at the rally in September.]



Doug Fitzgerald BRN 12105; 505-392-0177
phone or text; dfitz1210@gmail.com

Death Valley II - Steve's Story



A Flash Rally was held at the Furnace Creek Campground in Death Valley National Park February 7 through 11, 2024. It was organized by NorCal president, Carmen Ortiz. Fifteen members registered for the rally as early as August 2024. Unfortunately, a major storm hit the area Sunday and Monday (Feb. 4-5, 2024) just before the rally began, creating road closures and flash floods and causing several members to cancel their trip and rally participation. However, five hearty parties persevered and the rally was held in spite of the inclement weather and uncertain travel conditions.

Two of the parties, Jim Geurin of the Sacramento Valley Airstream club, and the family of Ludmilla, Damien and Matteo, came in on Saturday, Feb. 3 ahead of the storm. The other three parties, Steve and Yoshiko Deiwert, Bob and Carole Echols and Cliff and Joanne Roblee, planned to arrive on Wednesday, Feb 7, just after the storm. Their plan was to travel as far as they could and hold up somewhere for a night in the event a road closure was encountered. Since weather, travel and road conditions were uncertain we maintained a steady stream of communication between the early arrivers and those of us coming in later.

Fortunately, the roads were all open to Furnace Creek campground, albeit there were several flooded and muddy areas we had to pass through. Our trailers and tow vehicles got quite dirty from the mud and dust. We arrived at the campground mid-afternoon, with Ludmilla welcoming us and inviting us to their site for a group happy hour later in the afternoon.

Next morning we checked at the visitor center to see which points of interest were accessible and which were not. All of the side road and canyon drives were



closed as were some of the hiking trails. But, there were many that were open and accessible areas including Badwater, Zabriski Point, Golden Canyon, Mosaic Canyon, Mesquite Sand Dunes, and other interesting locations. I think between all of us we visited all of the available locations and (all-in-all) had a very nice time during the rally. Some photos below illustrate some of the sites we saw. These photos were contributed by all rally participants.



We got together every afternoon for happy hour together and shared stories about our experiences of the day. One happy hour was held at Zabriski Point so that we could all observe the sunset there together. Unfortunately, the clouds didn't cooperate but we all enjoyed the nice setting there anyway. At night the stars were spectacular and



several of us took photos with our cell phone cameras.



All in all it was a good rally and we were all glad that we went and will have fond memories of our unique experiences getting there, sightseeing, and our camaraderie. Thank you, Carmen, for arranging this flash rally.

Steve Deiwert



Death Valley III - Damien's Story

We had planned to arrive in Furnace Creek on Sunday, February 4th, given work and school schedules; that allowed us to drive during the weekend while taking our time. Unfortunately, the winter storm made us rush a bit to make it before the announced flash flood on February 3rd. Although we could not get a campsite at Furnace Creek Campground that night, we spent one night in Texas Springs Campground, and it was lovely.

Did you know that Death Valley National Park is the driest, hottest, and lowest place in the United States? Let us tell you more about those facts. Driest place: Death Valley usually has an average of 2 inches of water every year. With Hurricane Hillary in August 2023, Death Valley had 2.2 inches of rain in four hours, which created a temporary lake in Badwater Basin.



Even though this might not be something that a visitor would hope to see, the lake is actually rarer than the salt flats. During the winter storm prior to the rally, Death Valley got another 1.5 inches of rain in four days. Over the last six months, Death Valley got a total of 4.9 inches of rain, which is more than double the annual average of 2.15 inches! We were lucky to be there while the lake had not yet evaporated, although it was a wet winter and the lake lasted longer than normal. Visitors even kayaked in the lake. According to the rangers, it will take a few months for the lake to evaporate. So much for being the driest place in the U.S.!

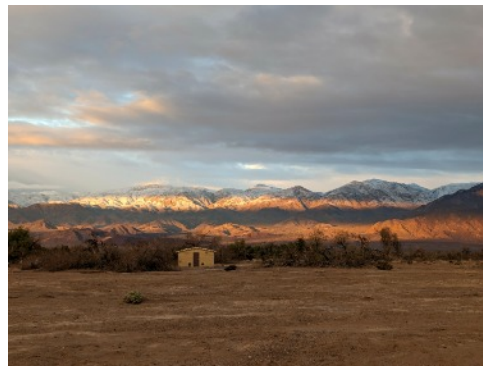
Death Valley is also the hottest place in North America. The highest temperature ever recorded in Death Valley is a mind-boggling 134 degrees Fahrenheit (or 56.7 degrees Celsius, for our scientists and fellow Europeans). On the contrary, during the days before the

rally, the thermometer sign in front of the Furnace Creek Visitor Center read 51 degrees Fahrenheit on Monday, February 5. Less than half of the 134 degrees measured in 1913! (Of course that was in the Summer.)

Good news, though: One of those descriptions for Death Valley is still true at any time. Badwater Basin is the lowest point in the entire North American continent, at 282 feet below sea level. When on the boardwalk, visitors facing the mountains opposite Badwater Basin can see a little white sign if they look up. This sign indicates sea level and gives a perspective of how far below sea level that section of the park is. Fun fact: Badwater Basin got its name when a cartographer was mapping out Death Valley and observed that his burros would not drink the water of the local spring. Because of this, he wrote "badwater" on his map, and the name stuck.



Luckily for us, the light showers were spotty and we were able to visit multiple areas of the National Park that were closed after the flash floods. We drove through the nine-mile-long Artist's Drive twice and we chose the right time because it closed soon after we visited the second time.



We even spotted a few Desert Gold wildflowers alongside the road.



A ranger indicated that the colors in the rocks come from volcanic deposits that have chlorite and many types of iron oxide, and tend to be more vibrant during and after rainy weather.

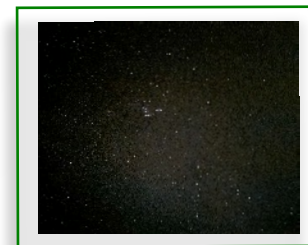
For our Star Wars fans, Episode IV: A New Hope was filmed in the area around Artist's Palette.

Despite its name, Death Valley has a large amount of life. Mesquite Sand Dunes, for example, has many traces of life.



Some examples are snake tracks in the summer, kangaroo rat burrows under creosote bushes, and pinacate beetle tracks year-round. Pinacate beetles are easily scared and tend to burrow into the ground to escape from whatever is frightening them. They burrow so fast that they disappear from sight in as little as three seconds.

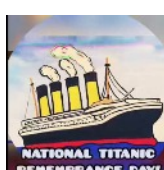
Death Valley is also known for its dark sky, which attracts visitors and is excellent for stargazing. In between windstorms, we were able to see many stars and constellations with our little camera telescope.



Damien Eydt

Overall, Death Valley is rich in things that visitors can do, from strenuous hikes to relaxing stargazes.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Registration for June Rally opens 9 am	2	3	4  INTERNATIONAL CARROT DAY APRIL 4	5  National Walking Day	6  CALIFORNIA POPPY DAY APRIL 6
7  NATIONAL BEER DAY	8  Total Eclipse	9	10  Hug Your Dog Day	11	12	13
14	15  NATIONAL TITANIC REMEMBRANCE DAY	16	17	18	19  GARLIC DAY APRIL 19	20
21	22  Happy Earth day	23  FULL PINK MOON  NATIONAL PICNIC DAY	24	25	26	27  IT'S PRIME RIB DAY!
28	29	30 National Raisin Day April 30th 				

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.

