

The NorCal News



Volume 61 Number 4

The Poppy

May 2024

President's Message

Greetings my friends! Spring is in the air with lots of flowers and blue skies.

I am writing this message from the Cali Rally at the V6 Ranch in Parkfield, CA. This was José and my first time at the rally and, let me tell you, if you have never been to the ranch, make sure to register for the rally in 2026 (it runs every two years). The V6 Ranch is a beautiful place, very green right now due to all the winter rain, with so many nature sounds to sooth you like a lullaby. It's quiet, far enough from the hustle-bustle of civilization. Here you can literally disconnect. With eighty-nine Airstreams in attendance, there were many opportunities to meet new people, share adventures, interests, and have a lot of fun. The rally organizers did an amazing job planning many activities, food and workshops. I hope to see you at the next Cali Rally!



Our rally season is well underway with two completed so far. The rally at Napa Valley Expo, in April, was a great success, no thanks to the cold, wet and windy weather we encountered. What made it so much fun was the great job our hosts, Debbie Ames

& Doug Fritz and Nate Shackelford & Ryan Ogilvie did in planning a variety of activities that kept us engaged and having fun. The QiGong class was fantastic with about thirty participants. It was a great way to warm up our bodies in a cold morning. Everyone loved the coffee workshop and the outings to the breweries. Thank you, hosts!

This month of May is perhaps our most awaited rally of the year at Vinnie's ranch. There has been so much interest in this rally from ACI members as well as other Airstreamers outside of the club. This being a NorCal rally, only members of ACI can attend. As of this writing, the waitlist still has sixteen parties anxiously waiting to see if they make it to the event. Hosts Dave & Marget Williams and Dan & Gail Crutchfield, and apprentices Gary and Vicki DeSmet, are ready. We'll report on the festivities next month.

The announcement for the joint rally between Northern California, Sacramento Valley and Greater Bay Area Airstream Clubs will be sent separately from the Poppy and registration will open on May 1, 2024, at 9 AM. The rally will be held at the McCloud RV Resort in McCloud, CA, September 4-8, 2024. Make sure to read the instructions carefully as this is not the regular way we register for rallies. Hosts representing the three clubs are busy planning many activities and food offerings. More information about activities will be provided to registrants in the next few months. The hosts will be needing several items such as folding tables, games, canopies, etc., to be used during the rally. The Jotform will have the list of what's needed. Please consider bringing as many items from the list as you can.

The Region 12 Rally will be held on September 11-15, 2024, at the Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe. Registration for the region rally will be announced soon. The joint rally hosts are planning a tag-along caravan from McCloud to Tahoe Valley, so stay tuned.

From Diane Arbus (American Photographer), "My favorite thing to do is to go where I've never been".

Carmen Ortiz, NorCal President

What's Inside

Editor's Column	2		
2024 Rally Schedule	2		
Napa Rally Recap	3		
Officer Directory	5	Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Membership information	5	Fun Calendar	10
Eclipse Rally Report	6		

From the Editor

Greetings from Texas and the Texas Six Shooter Caravan. By the time you read this, we should be in Fredricksburg, having been to Alpine, Big Bend State and National Parks, Seminole Canyon State Park, and San Antonio, and after having attended the Four Corners Unit Eclipse Rally in Lampasas. An article regarding the trip to Lampasas is included in this issue, starting on pg. 6. It's been a great ride so far. If you have not been on a national caravan (this is our first) or if you have - be sure to sign up for this one. The leaders are super, and the caravan has been structured so that you create your own adventure from a ton of information provided to you.



Meanwhile, back in Northern California, NorCal had its April Rally in Napa, and host Ryan filed a Rally Wrap Up Report, with photos submitted by several people that I was not able to keep track of - but thank you! You know who you are!

There will be no June Poppy, so I will be back in July with (hopefully) reports of the May and June NorCal rallies, the Region 12 Cali Rally, plus some dispatches from the Six Shooter Caravan. There will be no rally registration information via The Poppy until August when there will be instructions regarding the November rally in Fremont. Keep a watch on your email for registration information for the September NorCal joint rally and for the Region 12 Annual Rally and keep on having fun with your Airstream.

Elisa Ungerman, Poppy Editor

NOTICES

"Carmen Ortiz, President, will not be attending the International Rally in Sedalia, Missouri, in October 2024. If you are attending and would like to carry NorCal's flag during the opening ceremony, please contact Carmen at caliricua@yahoo.com. Thank you." *Carmen*

If you went to the Cali Rally this year, please submit stories and photos on the event so I can share them in the next issue of the Poppy. Thank you.

2024 Rally Schedule

~~March 6 - 10~~

~~Buellton Flying Flags Resort, Buellton Ca~~

~~Hosts: Hurleys & Marsons~~

~~April 3 - 7~~

~~Napa~~

~~Hosts: Shackelford/Ogilvie & Fritz/Ames~~

~~April 18 - 21~~

~~Cali Rally, V-6 Ranch~~

~~Hosts: Region 12~~

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

May 8 - 12

Vinnies Ranch, Wilton CA

Hosts: Williams & Crutchfields

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.



Spring in the Valley Rally

April 3-7, 2024

Hosted by

Ames/Fritz and Ogilvy/Shackelford

Twenty-nine Airstreams descended on Napa, with the Napa Expo RV Park as their destination. We had the park to ourselves and had lovely weather on arrival day. Wednesday night, we had our traditional potluck with plenty of tasty entrees, salads, and desserts. Members had plenty of time to unwind from the day's travel, mingle and make new friends and catch up with old ones.

Thursday morning our members woke up and headed to the open-air Pavilion for a brisk lesson on Qigong, instructed by local fitness expert Darlene. Darlene led us through a warm-up followed by several movements to awaken our minds and bodies.



Afterward, many of us took the opportunity to explore downtown Napa for lunch and shopping before heading back to the park. We all converged back on the Pavilion for happy hour followed by a visit to the Napa Yard, where many had dinner, chatted and enjoyed more drinks!



Friday was a busy and fun day. We started in the Pavilion for a coffee "cupping" class by coffee expert Chris, owner of Naysayer coffee and son of Paul and Vicky Bartelt. Chris expertly led us through a tasting of four different coffees and provided us with an education on all things coffee. He also

made himself available for a wide variety of questions, none of which left him stumped.



Many of us took the mid-day to explore the area, and maybe even a winery or two. The early afternoon we were treated to a heck of a storm, which left the park without power for a bit. Nonetheless, we headed over to the Pavilion for happy hour and were treated to one of the most beautiful rainbows prior to being served dinner by local food truck PHAT (Pretty Healthy and Tasty). We had our choice of a wrap or salad, chips, and a drink.



On Saturday morning there was a board meeting followed by a general meeting, both led by President Carmen. Members had the opportunity to again explore the local area before our last happy hour of the trip. Announcements were made and new members were introduced. We had five new members join us this rally and we were even treated to a "de-greening!" After happy hour, several members made their way to Fieldworks Brewing Company for a beverage.

As usual, Sunday morning consisted of hitching up and saying goodbye. On to the next one!

Ryan Shackelford

More Scenes From the April Napa Rally



Linda & Joe Riggs "de-greened"



New Members Bill & Lorraine Linstrom



Vicky & Paul Bartelt with Riggs



New Members Phil & Caroline Perez



New Members LaVon & Mary Treasure



Phil & Caroline Perez w/ Carmen



Enjoying Happy Hour



Jacksons & Williams with dogs



LaVon & Mary Treasure



Dinner at Phat Food Truck



The Fellows posing...



Visiting Culinary Institute Gardens

NorCal Club Contacts 2024

Carmen Ortiz	President		
Tary Salinger	1st Vice President	tsalinger@comcast.net	707-477-8315
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José Ortiz	Treasurer		
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Kristine Carey	Trustee	krisbrownsoncarey@gmail.com	510-506-5123
Debbie Ames	Trustee	debbieames@mac.com	415-713-4829
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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

Vince & Holly Gruenwald
Shingle Springs, Ca 95682

Pam Ruggles
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Elisabeth & Andrew Smith
San Francisco, CA 94109

Tina & John Shaw
Sacramento, CA 95864

John & Judy Bahns
Brentwood, CA 94513

Stan & Julie Perez
Sacramento, CA 95818

NorCal Membership Numbers

178	Unit/Life Memberships
66	Affiliate Memberships
<hr/>	
244	Total Memberships

Welcome New Affiliate Members

John & Eleanor McFarlin
Windsor, CA 95492

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>

ECLIPSE RALLY

Four Corners Unit, Lampasas, Texas, April 6 - 9, 2024



On March 29th, Four NorCal Couples: the Murrays, the Malones, the Smithsons and the Ungermans, set off south, then east, hoping to arrive April 6th at the Legato Winery, located just outside Lampasas, Texas which is about 78 miles northwest of Austin, for the Four Corners Unit's Eclipse Rally.

First stop in our "mini caravan" was Bear Mountain RV Park in Bakersfield, where a big wind storm was blowing through. The next morning, the sun was shining, and we headed out to Highway 58 toward Tehachapi via "the back way" through Arvin and lovely ranch/farm land, all green from recent rains.



Arvin, Ca.

We passed by the National Cemetery there, small but impressive. In Tehachapi, snow was on the ground from the storm the night before – a winter wonderland.



Less than an hour later ...

We ate lunch at Domingos in Boron, a wonderful Mexican Restaurant, then

proceeded to the Indio Elks via I-395, 15, 210 & 10.

Right after Victorville, we hit a storm (snow, fog, and sleet) as we made our way over the grade and through the San Bernardino National Forest. By the time we reached Indio and parked at the Indio Elks Lodge, the clouds were dissipating and we had a beautiful sunset. The bar was open and we celebrated our driving accomplishment!



March 31st was Easter, and the Indio Elks Lodge put on a spread for Sunday Breakfast, with very friendly Lodge members serving us.



By 10:30 a.m., we were off to Buckeye, Arizona. We saw lots of Border Police parked along the shoulder of I-10 on the California side as we drove, but none in Arizona. Along I-10, scenery was mostly desert, with sporadic towns consisting of bleached-out trailer parks dotted along the way. Buckeye was not much different, but the Leaf Verde RV park we stayed at was nice.

Prior to our trip, we had pre-ordered an Easter Dinner from Bel Air grocery store. Each of us separately cooked a part of the dinner, and at the appointed time, convened at the Malone's 30-ft trailer, which could fit all eight of us. (It was too windy to eat outside.)

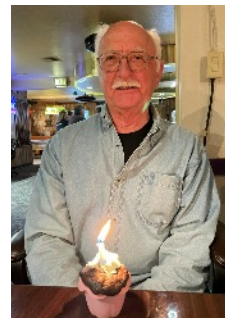


For desert, Marcia Murray made a chocolate candy out of Oreo cookies that she placed inside bunny eggs. Easter dinner was very tasty! We were all back in our trailers when the heavy rains came in that night.

The next morning dawned with blue skies, and we headed to the Casa Grande



Elks Lodge in Casa Grande, AZ. No sooner had we arrived than we experienced more pouring rain. Nonetheless, we celebrated Tom Smithson's Birthday (April 1st), along with Mike Malone's (April 3rd), with cards, small gifts, and a birthday cupcake in the Lodge's bar.



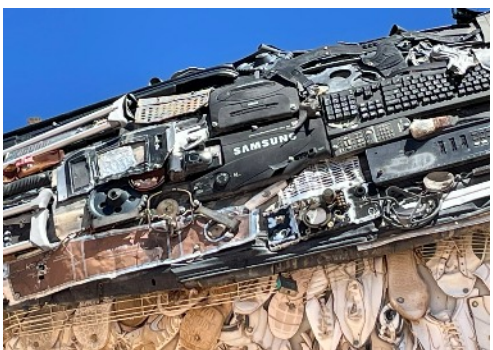
Our next stop was Lordsburg New Mexico where we stayed at a decent KOA. Not much scenery, but every mile we saw a billboard exhorting us to stop and see "The Thing" on display at a souvenir/gas stop up the road. (Eventually we passed the shop, not stopping to see "The Thing.")



From Lordsburg we continued east on I-10, through Las Cruces, which looked like a lovely town to visit, to El Paso, Texas. There was a wonderful rest stop on the mesa overlooking Las Cruces that had a very large but realistic road runner sculpture.



Upon closer inspection, the sculpture was made out of salvaged garbage – old tennis shoes and electronic parts were visible. Very clever!



Entering Texas, I-10 was totally torn up and driving on the diversion sections was dicey. We took an elevated toll road that paralleled the Rio Grande River, now roughly the size of a very small creek, overlooking Juarez, Mexico on the other side. On the American side of the river,

there is the border wall, with razor wire, multiple 8 foot tall chain link fences, train tracks between the fencing, cement walls, multiple freeway lanes and more cement walls. On the Mexico side, building goes right up to the edge of the river, and what you see along the river are mostly slums.

There is not much that is scenic about El Paso either – it is urban sprawl for miles, with freeways that rival, if not surpass Los Angeles. Our RV park was nice, and not far from entrance and exit of the elevated freeways. Where we were parked, we had an unblocked view across the river of Juarez all the way to the mountains. What was amazing was the urban density that is Juarez, and at night the whole 134 square miles is ablaze in lights. The lights reminded me of the view of LA seen from the Hollywood Hills, only much closer. We had to laugh when we learned the nearest Costco to us was not the one in El Paso but the one in Juarez.

April 4th: We continued East on I-10 with mostly desert scenery. We made it to Fort Stockton, which has some cool shadow signs on the north and south sides of the town that look like they are made out of cast iron – one with army soldiers and the other with Indians, reflecting the history of the town..



Weather was good for a change – no rain and little wind that evening. Coincidentally, Fort Stockton was a central stopping point for other Airstreamers making the pilgrimage to various Airstream Eclipse Rallies in Texas, and we invited them to an impromptu happy hour. That turned out to be pretty good social hour with Airstreamers from different states.

April 5th: We turned off I-10, driving east on US 190, a rural highway, leaving the Chihuahuan Desert behind us.



US 190 was a whole new driving environment, with lots of Texas wild flowers lining the road that were quite pretty after the starkness of the desert. Mesquite trees were budding, and we noticed orchards of pecan trees that had not yet leafed.

There are 245 Counties in Texas, and most where we were are rural, containing one town that is also the county seat so its major building is the county courthouse. typically built in or around the 1880s. Each is distinctive. We passed through many counties and several such towns (i.e., El Dorado and San Sabo), all with interesting courthouses in what is or used to be the center of town.



Two of the many Texas Courthouses we saw

We made it to Brady, Texas, another county seat, and stayed at The Heart of Texas RV Park the night before the rally. Brady was big enough to have a Walmart and we prepared for three days of boondocking.

April 6th: We were out of the RV park by 9:15 a.m. and continued east on 190, headed to the winery. Passed a few other small towns (all celebrating their local high school football teams), easily reaching



Lampasas in an hour and a half. The winery was a few miles outside of town and we entered the property mid-morning, greeted by several sets of parkers. The parking job was fabulous! Everything was so organized and the volunteers from Four Corners were very friendly. Before we knew it, we had been shown to our site and parked in a very large field adjacent to the winery. It was really nice to know that for the next few days we did not have to get up and drive another 300 miles. We could stay put for awhile.



The four couples had decided that they would not purchase the dinner meals provided as an add-on expense, but instead each would pick a night to provide dinner to the group. Ungermans were up on the first night and provided pulled pork sandwiches, with caramelized onions, pickles and slaw. On the second night, Murrays grilled scallop skewers, served with rice and an avocado salad. The Smithsons cooked shrimp risotto, paired with a Caesar Salad, while the Malones proffered Tortilla Soup with all the fixings, coupled with spinach salad. All outstanding!



The rally fee included two breakfasts plus coffee, and an afternoon ice cream social (by a food truck with terrific ice cream). All were pretty good, especially the ice cream!



The line to ice cream!

The winery had music playing on its porch, free wine tastings for all rally attendees, and games available. People could leave as they

desired to visit the surrounding area, including Lampasas, We were able to see the "World's Largest Spur in Lampasas



and see its courthouse (another county seat) and historic district. There were some activities scheduled including a charcuterie board class. But

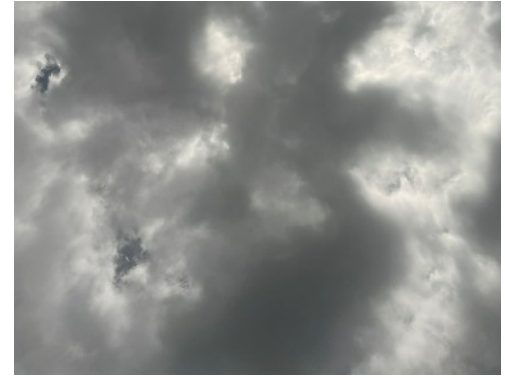
of course the big event was the total eclipse.

It was threatening to rain on and off since we got there. The rain held off the entire time we were there, but the clouds hung around. One moment it did not look good we would see anything, the next moment the sky would clear, and everyone was hopeful. On April 8th, clouds covered the sky in the morning, but they burned off and by noon, we had pretty clear skies. The eclipse started around 12:30 p.m. and we were all checking its progress, glasses firmly in place.



We watched for about an hour as the moon covered the sun – but as it closed in, so did the clouds. Right before the moment of totality, the clouds swallowed both and they were gone. A lucky few say they saw it – for a few seconds at least – but it was not visible for the whole 4 minutes where we were. As the moon moved on, the

clouds parted and you could see the process reverse itself.



At Totality: What we saw.



What Dallas/Fort Worth saw

While not seeing the totality was disappointing, the whole experience was not. When the sun was fully blocked – the sky went sunset dark, and the temp dropped about 10 degrees. Our solar tiki torches turned on for the four minutes. And then it was over. Most attendees were excited that they got to experience such a phenomenon, even if our viewing wasn't the unimpeded show that those in Dallas/Fort Worth saw.



The winery field during Totality - shortly after 1:30 pm

Later that evening we had dinner, then monitored the weather as heavy thunderstorms with "large hail" were predicted throughout the night. We made ready to beat a hasty retreat if necessary. It turned out that the storm was slow moving, and by 6 a.m. it had not yet appeared. Predictions now had the storm moving in at 9 a.m., so we were up and out

Continued next page



May Birthdays

- 06 Cam Murray
- 13 Larry Delorefice
- 14 Bob Verdegaal
- 15 Claudia Marson
- 17 Pat Lazzereschi
- 17 Paul McKay
- 18 Jim Foster
- 21 Bobbie Rowlands
- 22 Mike O'Donnell
- 25 Janet Motta
- 27 Sue Campbell
- 27 James Curl
- 31 Cathy Maffei

May Anniversaries

- 4 Zimm & Angela Udovich
- 5 Ed & Elisa Ungerman
- 6 Rosemary Yull & Larry Kier
- 9 Paul/Catherine Lemieux
- 16 JP Sherry
- 23 Dennis/Karen Richardson
- 24 Larry/Martha Jones



June Birthdays

- 1 Mike Minadeo
- 3 Cathy Sandy
- 7 David Kirsten
- 11 Lori Bibby
- 13 Gregg Motta
- 17 Beverley Wainwright
- 17 Bob Tupy
- 18 Mark Winchell
- 22 Tom Bain
- 25 Carol Kurzrock
- 27 Phyllis Minadeo

June Anniversaries

- 1 Tom & Amy Webster
- 3 John/Dace Roll
- 4 Kit & Audrey Langstroth
- 5 Dan/Gail Crutchfield
- 6 Larry/Maureen Delorefice
- 9 Larry/Kathy Warren
- 13 Charlie/Jane Wright
- 15 Bev Wainwright/Fredric Sloan
- 19 Steve/Yoshiko Deiwert

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!



of the winery by 8:30, headed back to Brady where there was no prediction of hail. The Malones and Ungermans found a terrific place to eat breakfast outside of San Sabo (MamaJs), while the Smithsons and Murrays headed to Brady and the laundromat. Back in Brady, the Texas wind came up something fierce, and we were glad to leave the next day for Alpine, Texas, and the start of the Texas Six Shooter caravan where no wind or rain was predicted. Next: Six Shooter Caravan I.

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Registration for September Rally via email	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Wilton Rally						
12 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Quincy Rally						
16 <i>Happy Father's Day!</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

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.

