

The NorCal News



Volume 61 Number 8

The Poppy

October 2024

President's Message

Last month was a very active month for First Partner, José, and I. We spent two weeks at two rallies. First, we attended our three club joint rally in McCloud, of which we were co-hosts (see article page 8) and the Region 12 Rally at South Lake Tahoe.

The "Silver in Cascadia" Joint Rally was a memorable event with sixty-six rigs and more than one hundred and twenty members of three clubs attending. Apparently, in the past, it used to be required for clubs to hold joint rallies with other clubs. At NorCal, we have not recently done so, at least not since I joined the club in 2016. Working on the planning of this rally with members of the Sacramento Valley and Greater Bay Area clubs was a great way to get to share our adventures and stories. I really appreciate all the work we all did to put this rally together.

I also participated in the planning of the Region 12 Rally, which was a great success. José and I arrived on Monday at the Tahoe Valley Campground and helped put together welcome bags and setup tables and chairs under the big white tent, where all the rally activities took place.

One hundred and fifty rigs participated in the rally with members coming from every corner of Region 12, which includes California and Nevada. José and I met so many different people and got to hear about places we have never been to and all kinds of stories of how much people enjoyed these places or of rigs breaking down and how they dealt with those issues. Twenty-nine rigs from NorCal were in attendance.

The rally sponsored a "Silver Soiree": a happy hour with appetizers provided by the region clubs. Our NorCal table was



NorCal Members attending the Region 12 Rally

a hit, thanks to the immense effort of NorCal members Janie and Tary Salinger who put together a delicious spread with smoked salmon, homemade hummus, marinated olives and guacamole, among many delicacies. Thanks so much Janie, Tary and Lynn Hurley, who helped with the setup and take down.

As part of the rally activities, Jose and I participated in the "Ultimate Street of Dreams". Members, who have had conversion projects done by Ultimate Airstreams, opened

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From the Editor

Roughly 10 years ago, pre-Airstream, Ed and I rented a hotel room in South Lake Tahoe for a weekend and had a great time. Almost 8 years ago, we bought our first Airstream, and since then have camped in several areas in the State, but for some reason never made it back to Tahoe. So when we went to the Region 12 rally a few weeks ago, we had to ask ourselves: "why not?" I think it was because we didn't know about the campgrounds in the area, and having a dog is typically such a hassle (e.g. Zephyr Cove, the state campgrounds), so we never looked very far.



I am pleased to report that the Tahoe Valley Campground in South Lake Tahoe is a great place to stay when visiting South Lake Tahoe with your Airstream. It was very clean and comfortable, with some fun things going on like Tuesday night outdoor movies where I watched The Long Long Trailer. While not on the Lake, it is only a short drive to the lake shore and public areas (including a very nice park), to Stateline, and points in-between. It is dog friendly as well. While affiliated with Thousand Trails membership club, non-members can stay there. It is not inexpensive as campsites go, but then again, it is far less expensive than staying in a hotel room in Tahoe, and there are discounted weekly rates. Our October NorCal rally will be there next year, and we may be making some plans to go back next summer to escape the Valley heat.

Oh, and in the event your truck decides to become sick as you chug up the grade to Myers and you limp/coast into South Lake Tahoe running on 4 cylinders instead of 6, we have a great referral for you: Tahoe Diesel and 4 Wheel Drive, only 1 mile from the campsite. Ask us how we know...

This month includes the International Rally in Missouri. I don't know if any club members are going, but if you are - please consider writing an article and/or sending some photos to me for inclusion in the Poppy. I'm sure many people would be interested.

In this issue, we have the summary and registration information for NorCal's Installation Rally held annually in December, this year at 49er RV Village in Plymouth starting on page 3, as well as the report on the McCloud Rally held in September, along with photos of NorCal Members at the Region Rally. The last installment of the Texas Six Shooter Caravan starts on page 10. Enjoy what has gone by and what is to come!

Elisa Ungerman, Poppy Editor

2024 Rally Schedule

- ~~March 6 - 10~~
~~Buellton Flying Flags Resort, Buellton Ca~~
~~Hosts: Hurleys & Marsons~~

- ~~April 3 - 7~~
~~Napa~~
~~Hosts: Shackteford/Ogilvie & Fritz/Ames~~

- ~~April 18 - 21~~
~~Cali Rally, V-6 Ranch~~
~~Hosts: Region 12~~
~~<https://form.jotform.com/232265374580452>~~

- ~~May 8 - 12~~
~~Vinnies Ranch, Wilton CA~~
~~Hosts: Williams & Crutchfields~~

- ~~June 12-16~~
~~Pioneer RV Park, Quincy, Ca~~
~~Hosts: Hollifields & Scheuers~~

- ~~August 7 - 12~~
~~Gosta Noa Resort, Pescadero Ca~~
~~Counsellors: Salingers & Bartelts~~

- ~~September 4-8~~
~~McCloud RV Park, McCloud, CA (joint rally) Hosts:~~
~~Ortizes, Goldsteins, Fitzgerald, Websters~~

- ~~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~~
~~unhosted~~

- ~~November 6-10~~
~~Dumbarton Quarry Campground, Fremont CA~~
~~Hosts: Bells & Minadeos~~

- ~~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 for planned rally, 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.



It's a Wonderful Rally

December 4 - 8, 2024

49er Village RV

Community, 18265

Highway 49, Plymouth, CA

I don't know if the best things happen while you're dancing or they just happen in Airstreams, but we bet holiday magic will happen if you join us in December. Just like our favorite holiday movies, our NorCal Airstream rallies allow us to flee the stressors of everyday life and forget our troubles. Here you'll find comfort in the patterns of predictable NorCal Airstream happy endings combined with joy, laughter, and the opportunity to support the [Interfaith Food Bank Amador County](#) through our annual silent auction.

Day One: Just as sure as every time a bell rings, an angel gets their wings, Airstreams will begin rolling in on Wednesday. **Check-in starts at 3:00 PM**, and you'll be welcomed by a host fresh from the Island of Misfit Toys. Set up your trailer, decorate if you'd like (Charlie Brown trees are welcome), and get ready for a few days of good food and great friends. Happy hour will kick off daily at 5:00 PM, and attendees will be assigned to bring an appetizer to share either Wednesday or Friday evening. At 7:00 PM, The Kitchen Store will be on-site offering a fabulous demonstration for all you avid cooks. At 9:00 PM, we'll have campfire caroling, because as you know, the best way to spread Christmas Cheer, is singing loud for all to hear.

Day Two: Thursday morning, will begin with the annual cookie exchange at 10:00 a.m. All interested bakers should bring four dozen cookies for the exchange, a container for taking cookies home, and a copy of your cookie recipe if it's not a secret. Also on Thursday, our Silent Auction Goddesses will begin accepting donations in the clubhouse. **We ask that everyone contributes a suitable item that can be auctioned off.** Later that

afternoon, you're welcome to join in a group wine tasting event at Drytown Cellars from 2:00-4:00 PM (\$6 per person). Thursday evening we'll have happy hour in the clubhouse at 5:00 PM followed by a potluck chili cook-off dinner. You bring your favorite pot of chili, and your hosts will bring the rest (\$7 per person). During dinner, you'll get a chance to taste the fabulous offerings before returning for a bowl of your favorite and some tasty sides. Be sure to bring your A-game, because there will be a Major Award for chili cook-off and cookie exchange crowd favorites. To cap off the evening, we'll have a program to honor our outgoing president, Carmen Ortiz. It's been a great year under her leadership and we plan to celebrate her in style.

Day Three: Friday is a free day to adventure out to one (or more) of the many area attractions. Plymouth is the gateway to the Shenandoah Valley, and Amador County boasts more than forty-two wineries located in the heart of the celebrated Sierra foothills Gold Country. There's great antiquing nearby, and if your interest leans more toward the out of doors, there's the Historic Kennedy Gold Mine, or you can head further afield and tour Sutter's Mill at Marshall Gold Discovery State Park or perhaps be amazed by the grandeur of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. There will be an opportunity throughout the day to bid on your favorite silent auction items. Our incoming president, Tarry Salinger, has selected [Interfaith Food Bank Amador County](#) as our charity of choice for this year's silent auction proceeds. The Club will also host a food drive to accompany the auctions. Happy hour will kick off at

5:00 PM in the clubhouse (with the second half of attendees assigned to bring an appetizer to share.) The silent auctions will close, and live auction will occur. We'll be delighted with the best selection of Dad jokes as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. And we'll encourage everyone to bring three \$1 bills for an epic game of Left-Right-Center. Someone just may walk away with enough winnings to buy that official Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle they've been dreaming of.

Day Four: There will be a Board Meeting, followed by a General Meeting. After that, Saturday is another free day to do just as you please. But be back at the clubhouse at 5:00 PM to enjoy happy hour, a Mexican catered dinner (\$29 per person), and the installation of our new president and officers. You are highly encouraged to wear festive attire. You can show off the pink bunny suit that your aunt made you. You can borrow Cousin Eddie's robe and trapper hat or don antlers and a very shiny nose. Everyone is welcome to lean into the holiday cheer through fashion choices.

Day Five: Sunday we may be ready for a vacation from the vacation, but the 49er Village would like us all out by 11:00 AM, unless you've made arrangements to stay past a Sunday departure.

We are very excited to welcome you in Plymouth, so please get your registration in early and let us know you're coming. Until then, safe travels down the road.

Sign-up information and jotform link for registration is on the following page.

Your Hosts: Tony and Sharon Paz & Brian and Juliet Scheuer; Apprentices: Damien Scaerou (and Matteo!)

Information and Registration Instructions for the December “It’s a Wonderful Rally”

December Rally Cost Information

- Rally fee per person: \$10
- Parking fee per night: \$66
- Thursday Group Wine Tasting: Drytown Cellars \$6.00 per person
- Thursday Chili dinner (part of cook-off) \$7 per person for sides, etc. provided by hosts.
- Friday LRC game - 3 \$1 bills gets you entry to game on Friday night
- Saturday Mexican Dinner - \$29 per person

Registration for this rally opens at 9 a.m. on October 1, 2024. At that time, you may access the Jotform registration page via the Club’s webpage <https://airstreamclub.org/norcal-2024-installation-rally> or this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/242636493131152>

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 waitlist, 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: The park’s cancellation policy: “Deadline for RV Park cancellation is 14 days prior to your arrival date. Within 14 days, the RV Park will charge one night stay.” However, if you cancel and there is someone on the wait list to take your spot within the 14 day period, a refund for the site will be issued. Deadline for cancelling meals is two weeks prior to the start of the rally, that is November 20, 2024. After that date, meals funds will not be refunded. Contact the registrar to cancel meals. 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.**

The park’s Pet Policy is as follows: “We are a pet-friendly resort but pets may not disturb other guests, and must be cleaned up after by owners. Pets must always be on a leash and restrained when not confined inside an RV, and no pet may be left unattended outside of an RV, even on the site or if restrained. **There is a maximum of two pets per reservation** with a \$50 non-refundable fee per reservation for any pet in a vacation or cottage rental. Pets are the responsibility of the owner. If management determines that a pet is disruptive or aggressive, they have sole discretion to require the guest to restrict the pet’s behavior or location, or remove the pet from the resort. If a guest is unwilling or unable to restrict the pet or have it removed from the resort, as requested by management, management has the right to immediately terminate the guest’s reservation and evict the guest from the resort, without refund. **All pets must also be up to date on vaccines, and copies of pet vaccine records must be available upon request.** Upon check-in, you are required to notify the office of your pets if you have not already added them to your reservation during the booking process.” Please adhere to this policy.

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

Rally Registration is only via internet Jotform - accessible via the Link above or directly from the Club’s Website.

NorCal Club Contacts 2024

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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	Senior Trustee	mrmaffei@sbcglobal.net	916-207-6837
Mark 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
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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**

Jason & Melissa Hooch
Roseville, CA 95747

Jeffrey Katz & Let Joaquin
Atherton, CA 94027

Nancy Mathews
1Rio Vista, CA 94571

**Welcome
New
Affiliate
Members**

Dennis & Sherry Walsh
Park City, UT 84060

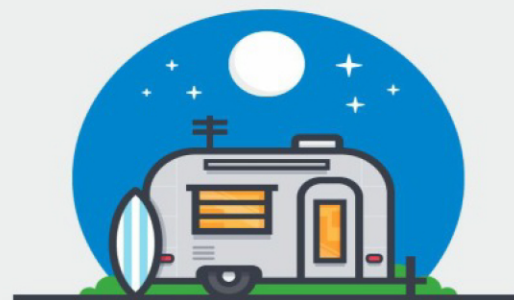
Alma Lukasko
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Shawn & Mike Blom
Napa, CA 94558

NorCal Membership Numbers

188 Unit/Life Memberships
68 Affiliate Memberships

256 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>



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jim Christie | 23 Catherine Lemieux |
| 1 Linda Myers | 24 Ted Edwards |
| 8 Scott Lehman | 26 Polly Krauter |
| 10 Brad Naves | 26 Linda Ackerman |
| 14 Sandy Higgins | 26 Larry Warren |
| 22 Kit Langstroth | 31 Leslie Irey |
| 22 Sarah Curl | 31 Dan Margolis |



- 8 Bob & Linda Minder
- 18 Kirk/Joanne Reistroffer/Hilliard
- 26 Jose/Carmen Ortiz

Tentative 2025 Rally Schedule

March 5-9	Paso Robles RV Ranch,	Paso Robles
April 2-6	V-6 Ranch	Parkfield
May 7-11	Lassen RV Park	McCarthur
June 4-8	Grass Valley RV Resort	Grass Valley
August 6-10	Schmooville	Fortuna
August 23-28	International Rally	York, PA
September 10-14	Clio RV Resort	Clio
October 8-12	Tahoe Valley Campground	S. Lake Tahoe
October 15-19	Bonelli Bluffs RV Park	San Dimas
November 5-9	Boulder Creek RV Park	Lone Pine
December 3-7	Black Oak Casino	Tuolumne

NorCal would like to recognize the birthdays and anniversaries of **all** our Members and Affiliates. 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). norcalmembership@comcast.net. We have noted that many attending rallies claim birthdays or anniversaries but are not on the list - so call or email Marget to check if you are!

President's Message Continued

their trailers, allowing other members to tour their rigs. We had a line of people outside ours waiting to see our Grand Lounge, Gourmet Cabinet and new Furrion stove. Of course I showed off our new curtains purchased from Curtains4Campers. It was a lot of fun talking with members from throughout the region.

The basket created by NorCal members Doug Fitzgerald and Jesse Doornik for the silent auction was really big and beautiful, fetching over \$300 in support of the local charity, the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, an organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of hundreds of injured or orphaned birds and animals in the Tahoe Basin. Many items for the basket were donated by NorCal members such as Chris and Dean Davison, Bob Echols, Phyllis Minadeo and Jean Marie Grimbleby. Thank you for being so generous!

On Saturday morning, I attended the Region 12 Business Meeting during which I gave a report about our club and got applause when I mentioned that NorCal is the largest club in the region. One club president mentioned that their club is using NorCal's documents as samples to develop their own policies and guidance documents. Way to go NorCal! We are an example of a well-established and successful club.

Entertainment included the Hip Replacements on Friday during the Silver Soiree and Antsy McClain on Saturday evening after a delicious catered dinner.

If you have never attended a region rally, I recommend you save the date for the 2025 rally at Bonelli Bluffs, San Dimas, CA, October 15-19, 2025. The site is east of Anaheim, off the 210. Expect registration in late Spring, 2025.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our incoming, non-hosted rally in Fort Bragg. No hosts, no problem. We will have our customary happy hour and a potluck. With so many things to do and see in the area, we don't need to have planned activities. And don't forget to make your reservation at the Dumbarton Quarry Campground for the November Rally. More information about the rally can be found in the August 2024 Poppy at <https://airstreamclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/NorCal-Poppy-8-2024.pdf>

In closing, I will quote Marcel Proust who said, "Discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Remember those words next time you are outdoors enjoying all that nature has to offer.

Carmen Ortiz, NorCal President

NorCal at the Region 12 Rally Tahoe Valley RV Resort September 11 - 15, 2024



1 Doug Fitzgerald & the NorCal auction basket; 2 Jess Doornik modeling Phyliss Minadeo's apron she made for the basket; 3 Tom Smithson perusing auction baskets, 4 Kathy & Larry Warren on the dinner cruise; 5 Vinnie Lamica's show & tell on hitches; 6 Vinnie and Cindy on dinner cruise; 7 Lori Bibby selling her pot holders with Cathy Maffei photobombing; 8 Game night in the tent; 9 NorCal's "Silver Soiree" spread; 10 Happy hour with NorCalers; 11 Ed Ungerman & Winter at Lake Tahoe; 12 Lynn Hurley, Lori Bibby, Janie Salinger & Jess Doornik at the Silver Soiree; 13 Nor Cal President Carmen giving her update on NorCal; 14 Winners of the Las Vegas Club's auction basket: Damien Scaerou & Matteo; 15 Tom & Lora Broad & Linda Lazzereschi





Silver in Cascadia*

September 4 - 8, 2024
McCloud Rv Park

Three Airstream Clubs gathered for the "Silver in Cascadia Rally" at the McCloud RV Park in September, totaling sixty-six trailers and more than one hundred twenty people. Yes, there was lots of "Silver in Cascadia." For the arrival check this out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MHb_cvpoSE&ab_channel=McCloudRVPark



Last year, I invited the Sacramento Valley Airstream Club (SacValley) to join our club in a joint rally. As the planning got under way early this year, the Greater Bay Area Airstream Club (GBAAC) was also invited to become part of the rally. It was a historic rally, as NorCal had not done a joint rally in a long time.

Thanks to some of the hosts and several of our Club members, the Pavilion and the welcome bags were ready by the time rally attendees started arriving Wednesday afternoon.



A white board served as the place to post activities and messages. Ken Bechthold (SacValley) set up the sound system.

Although there were a couple of very warm days, overall, the weather was most pleasant with cool evenings.

The rally began with happy hour and welcome messages from the three club presidents: Carmen Ortiz (NorCal), James Goldstene (SacValley), and Eleanor McFarlin (GBAAC). President Ortiz reminded everyone of the activities for the days ahead.

Soon local caterer Raymond Zanny arrived with a satisfying dinner, after which, members mingled and got to know each other. Some just chatted and others played games. Our Campfire Chief, Brian Scheuer, set up a great campfire for all to enjoy the cool evening.



On Thursday morning, members had an opportunity to participate in the Ham Radio Operator workshop presented by SacValley President, James Goldstene. Participants really enjoyed the workshop and commented on how well organized and informative the presentation was. James is a teacher after all! Thank you James and all that participated!

A photo scavenger hunt contest got underway organized by Doug Fitzgerald. Members were asked find a series of spots in the area and take photos with at least one member in the picture. Participation was outstanding and competitive. . NorCal members Debbie Ames and Doug Fritz won the contest.



During Thursday's happy hour, we feasted on the many delicious appetizers by attendees. The raffle was a hit with Alice Austin (SacValley) and Amy Webster (NorCal) calling BRN's and handing great raffle items to the winners. Alice's dance moves made the raffle fun! Thank you Alice and Amy! The evening ended with members again sharing adventures, stories and a sizzling campfire.

On Friday morning, many attendees participated in the fly fishing workshop presented by NorCal members Dan Crutchfield and Dave Williams. Dave gave participants a rundown of all the equipment and Dan showed them how to use it. Everyone had a chance to try their hand at it.



In the afternoon, members went about their way exploring all that the McCloud area has to offer.

Continued next page

McCloud/Cascadia Rally continued

Happy hour was very special with NorCal members Charlie Havill and Michael Kraft, owners of Bella Grace Vineyards, pouring their own special wines for a tasting.



Thank you Michael and Charlie for your generosity. Again, appetizers were very tasty and substantial. All that fun was followed by another batch of raffle prizes awarded to lucky participants by Alice and Amy. Brian again set up a roaring campfire and members roasted marshmallows for sweet s'mores.

On Saturday morning, the presidents of the three clubs and the Region 12 President, Shawn Blom, hosted members on a "Meet and Greet the Leadership" session where members had an opportunity to hear our leaders talk about their respective experiences and to ask questions. One question that came up was whether there is a limit on the number of members clubs can have. In other words, when is a club too big? Apparently, there's a minimum number of members a club needs to have to stay viable, but not a limit on the maximum number it can have. By the way, NorCal is the largest club in Region 12! Way to go!

While some were at the "Meet and Greet," others went on a golf outing to the McCloud Golf Club with Doug Fitzgerald (NorCal).



Others headed to the McCloud Mill, which closed operations in 2003. The mill was a state-of-the art, fully computerized

operation and supplied premium commercial lumber products for custom home builders and do-it-yourselfers through the nation. The tour of the mill was orchestrated by our affiliate member Gary Mellinger. Thanks Gary. Members really enjoyed the tour.

During the afternoon, SacValley member and NorCal affiliate, Judy Bechthold, taught a line dancing class and many were showing their abilities. They even broke a sweat and worked up an appetite for dinner!



On Saturday evening, dinner was served by local caterer, Raymond's Italian. Everyone had an opportunity to say their goodbyes and enjoy a last campfire.

It takes the efforts of many people to get a rally of this size to happen. Thank you to all the members who made this rally memorable. From NorCal: José Ortiz and Carmen Ortiz, Amy and Tom Webster, Doug Fitzgerald and Jesse Doornik, Brian and Juliet Scheuer, John and Lori Bibby, Lynn and Harold Hurley, Michael Kraft and Charlie Havill, and Dan Crutchfield and Dave Williams; from SacValley: James and Jami Goldstene, Alice Austin and Jim Swanson, Ken and Judy Bechthold; from GBAAC: Eleanor and John McFarlin. And the many members of the three clubs who helped to cleanup each day.

On Sunday morning, everyone headed in different directions. Many started their journey by driving Southeast to their next stop: The Region 12 Rally in South Lake Tahoe.

Carmen Ortiz

* Curious about Cascadia? Check Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_\(bioregion\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascadia_(bioregion))

Photos: Thanks to Carmen and Marget Williams; more photos at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534637542435104>





Fourth & Last
Installment
by
Elisa
Ungerman

From the Texas Hill Country (Central Texas) we moved Northeast, stopping in rural Hillsboro, the county seat of Hill County with another lovely courthouse, and the home of "NTAC," (North Texas Airstream Community) that consists of 150 lots within a gated community situated on 50 acres. Several of the lots are unimproved (although they offer full hook-ups for Airstreams), while others have houses, villas, very fancy or not-so-fancy trailerports for the resident's Airstream. Also on the property is the "TerraPort," a fancy name for a full-hook-up RV parking lot, and a clubhouse.



The original idea was to spend one night at NTAC, enjoying the hospitality of the residents and a spaghetti dinner in their spacious clubhouse, en route to Grapevine, Texas, situated between Dallas and Fort Worth, where we would spend the final days of the caravan. I am told that Grapevine is a rural Texas town

that has preserved its quaint historic downtown area. It was known as the 'cantaloupe capital of the world' until the advent of the nearby Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in the 1970s when industrialization came to town. Now it has its own aquarium and Legoland, among other attractions. But we never got there. The weather I wrote about in the last installment (nightly monsoon rains with loud thunder and lightning) continued, causing Grapevine Lake to overflow, flooding the RV park we were supposed to inhabit. Fortunately, the NTAC facility was clear for the next few days, and we were able to finish out the caravan at the NTAC TerraPort to the immense relief of the caravan hosts.

The planned Cinco de Mayo Mexican potluck was held in the NTAC clubhouse, along with a rousing bag toss tournament between NTACers and the Caravaners (Caravaners won!)



Turns out Waco is only about 30 minutes away from Hillsboro, so many made the trek south to Waco to see the sights, such as The Magnolia Silos and other (Joanna and Chip Gaines) locales known to those who watch HGTV or The Discovery Channel, Baylor University, The Dr. Pepper Museum, the Texas

Ranger Museum, etc. Plus, we were still able to enjoy the planned Fort Worth Stockyard tour, the Fort Worth Herd Cattle Drive, and more Texas BBQ at a nearby steakhouse since Fort Worth was about an hour away. And finally, the big finale, the chuckwagon prime rib dinner, went off without a hitch as the caterer had no problems changing the venue from Grapevine to Hillsboro. The caterer pulled a real wooden chuckwagon to the NTAC parking lot, and on a portable cast iron grill, BBQ'd the most delicious prime rib I have had, complete with sides.



After which he pulled off his apron and picked up his guitar, along with two of his buddies, to entertain us with a variety of



Texas swing tunes. We gifted our caravan leaders (the best!), and they brought out tequila shots in caravan themed shot glasses to toast to our honorary Texan status after our month-long immersion in "Texasania." A great ending to a wonderful time.

Continued Next Page

One unexpected benefit of the stay in Hillsboro was the ability to check out the newly opened Buc-ees, a bucket-list experience if you ever get to Texas (or a handful of other states in the South). Like WhataBurger or the HEB grocery store chain, Buc-ees is a Texas institution, and it follows the motto "Go large or stay home!"



Buc-ees (based on the "Beaver" nickname of the founder) is a convenience stores/gas station on steroids. The one in Hillsboro is 74,000 square feet (imagine half the size of the average Costco) with 120 gas pumps and some charging stations. Gas from Buc-ees was far lower than other stations and no 18 wheelers are allowed.

Buc-ees prides itself on "the world's cleanest restrooms" and offers a dizzying array of products under the Buc-ees Brand.



It offers several types of fresh hot BBQ sandwiches such as brisket, turkey, and pulled pork (made in store daily), hot breakfast items such as burritos, breakfast sandwiches, etc., and cold items such as fruit cups, wraps, and salads, also made fresh daily, all wrapped and ready for grabbing from display areas. Then there are the multiple Buc-ees jerkies, Beaver Nuggets and tots, Buc-ees glazed nuts such as pecans and cashews ready for munching, Buc-ee's snacks, homemade fudge, cookies, candies, etc. But that's not all: you can also buy Buc-ees cups, mugs, wine glasses, pet products, blankets, picnic items, candles, apparel of all types, games and recreational equipment, BBQ

equipment, pins, stuffed animals (including but not limited to the Buc-ee Beaver), a wide-variety of home goods, rubs & spices, and I cannot remember what else except for the large refrigerated cases of sodas, drinks, beer and wine.



Everything is enticingly displayed in various departments that you are drawn to as you walk the store. It is an experience to go into a Buc-ees for the first time, something you will not forget! I suggest allowing at least an hour. We were simply amazed at all the stuff. It is all clean and bright. Of course I got a photo with Buc-ee Beaver who wanders the store..



Ed and I tried a couple of the sandwiches and they were surprisingly good. Buc-ees does not skimp on the meat or fillings. I can't speak to the other offerings, but they must be popular judging by the amounts that were available.

You have been warned; Buc-ees has a cult following. For more information, check this out: <https://b93.net/the-new-largest-bucees-in-texas-just-opened-at-this-location/> or Google "Buc-ees."

December Rally Auction Needs Auction Items and Bidders

First Vice President Tary Salinger has chosen a local food bank as the recipient of this year's December auction. The **Interfaith Food Bank of Amador County** serves thousands of families and individuals each year in Amador County, and it has a mobile distribution service that this year has averaged 209 clients per month. It is very worthy of our support.

The auction needs donations of desirable items from our members. "Desirable items" include jewelry, art work, hand crafted one of a kind items, new unused items, theme gift baskets, an offer of services such as cleaning or cooking dinners, Airstream or flamingo themed items, or vacation stays such as a timeshare, or use of a cabin. Then, the auction needs people willing to bid in order to win items and support the food bank!

Should you have any questions about any potential auction item, please contact Janie Salinger, Vicki Bartelt, or Chris Davison.

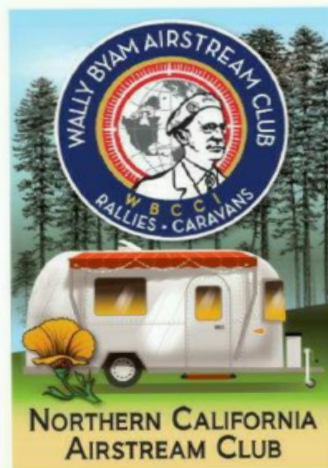
At this writing the auction team is working on getting donations from several wineries, from Airstream Adventures, and from Vinnie's Northbay Airstream.. Depending on the auction items donated, there may be a live auction as well. All donations are tax deductible.



October 2024

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

Members: You can obtain your own colorful NorCal Membership Badge to replace your dull WBCCI badge after you have attended three Norcal Rallies. After you have been "degreened," you will receive your badge, along with a five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy. Contact NorCal's Membership Chair or Rally Registrar to get yours for no cost to you when you are eligible. Affiliates are eligible to purchase badges after their third NorCal Rally.



Nothing to do? Check out the Airstream Utube channel. Become a subscriber.
<https://www.youtube.com/@airstreamclub>

