



Volume 57 Number 7

The Poppy

September 2020

President's Column

As we wound our way through the redwood forests of Northern California to the Fort Bragg rally, the world began to feel normal again. If only for a short time. Having been home so much, it was nice to see the rolling hills full of grape vines and small towns filled with farming activities. Seeing with our own eyes that much of life continues as usual, despite the virus, was uplifting.

Our Fort Bragg rally, the first since the various COVID restrictions, was very successful; a good start to our efforts to bring adventure back to our club and its members. All attendees of the rally were very aware of the state and local health orders and, in large part, followed them.

Happy-hour gatherings at campsites presented challenges as friends and drink occasionally led to larger-than-desired groups. Everyone seemed busy and active formulating their own plans that suited their needs and interests. Moving forward, I am confident we can recognize the challenges and successfully continue these rallies.

Carrie and I are currently visiting Eastern Oregon, hot but sparsely populated with wonderful geology and ghost towns. As I write, I am watching Osprey tending to their young in a nest across the Rogue River. We look forward to seeing you at the Redcrest rally in September or another future rally.

About Aluminum: Welding? Rivets? It appears Oxy-Fuel welding of Aluminum occurred back in WWI time period but was replaced by Gas Tungsten Arc Welding in WWII time frame. Also known as TIG welding. I find this topic ripe for happy hour discussion. It is on par with batteries and tires as a confounding topic.



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From The Editor

We not only survived our first official NorCal rally since COVID canceled our rallies, but we thoroughly enjoyed investigating the Fort Bragg area, which we had not visited in years. It was wonderful to get away to such a pretty location with cooler weather. And a bonus: Pomo RV Park provided cheap wood for campfires, along with fire pits with old washing machine drums that funneled smoke



away from you. This was a special treat as usually, we must use our gas fire pit if we are to enjoy a campfire.

The above selfie was taken on the property of the Pacific Star Winery, about 12 miles north of Fort Bragg. It has one of the most breathtaking views of the California Coastline, overlooking the Ten Mile Beach Marine Conservation Area, a view that is on a par with Big Sur. And if you are in the area, do not miss The Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden, across Highway 1 from Pomo RV Park. The gardens and entire property were stunning, well worth the price of admission.

So great to visit with club members again, but honestly, meeting and greeting, both for those who know one another, and those who do not, is more of an effort now. The "rolling happy hour" was one way to cope; wandering around the Park, meeting members by their Airstreams, briefly sitting and chatting before moving on. This was a a fun way to meet with different club members outside of regular dinner-table companions or circle of friends.

Others formed larger social circles outside their Airstreams that people could visit as they liked. The choice was yours based on your comfort level. Most people shared what activities they had done with one another, so others could follow in their footsteps later in the week. The write-up on the rally begins on pg. 10, with plenty of photos to follow.

On pg. 7 this month we profile two more Officers: Carrie Bell, our Secretary, and Billie Verdegaal, a first-year Trustee. On pg. 14, we meet at-large WBBCI members who attended the Fort Bragg rally. There is the Summary and Coupon for the November Rally in Pismo Beach, one of my favorite areas, on pgs. 3 and 4. Note that membership renewal time has begun - with instructions on pg. 8.

Thanks to everyone who has offered kind words about The Poppy. I really do appreciate them. But honestly, the Poppy is interesting because others contribute various stories about themselves, what they are doing, or about their Airstream or Airstreaming.

2020 Rallies and Caravans

8/5-9 POMO RV Park Fort Bragg

HOSTS: Brian & Juliet Scheuer, Jodie-Lee & Tim Kirk

9/9-13 Ancient Redwoods RV Park Red Crest

HOSTS: Marget & Dave Williams, Chris & Dean Davison

9/13-30 Oregon Coast Caravan Oregon LEADERS: Carmen & Jose Ortiz, Bob

& Carol Echols

10/7-11

CANCELED

Parkfield

10/21-25 Emerald Desert Resort Palm Desert
Region 12 Rally

Contact Lynda Polk for wait list information: | lberringer@jps.net

11/4-8 Pismo Coast Village Resort Pismo Beach

HOSTS: Gail & Dan Crutchfield, Carmen & Jose Ortiz

12/2-6 Black Oak Casino RV Park Sonora

HOSTS: Billie & Bob Verdegaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman

Note: New info shown in green. Dates are arrival and departure, although you can often request a day-early arrival (usually Tues). Sign-ups are by submitting a completed Registration form by the due date. "Buddy" events allow you to invite a non-member even if they don't own an Airstream. Events lacking hosts may be be cancelled.

On that note, I have been told that posing in front of a mural or statute with wings is a "thing" in the world of Instagram, Pinterest, and Flickr. (Search for "posing with wings.") Even the Duchess of Cornwall has done it. https://livingbrick.co.uk/news/camilla-duchess-of-cornwall-poses-in-front-of-liverpools-famous-liver-bird-wings/ After I was informed about the phenomena by a NorCal member, I learned I had missed my chance when an outdoor sculpture exhibit left town. But some NorCalers have seized the opportunity to get their wings. Next month I will print the photos, but before I do, I am inviting any member who would like to submit a photo of themselves with wings to send them to ungerman72@gmail.com. Let's see

Wer Choolings

how many we can get!



Join us for a relaxing rally at the Pismo Coast Village Resort in Pismo Beach this November. With any luck, the weather should be perfect that time of year. The resort is conveniently located steps from the beach, and a pleasant walk across a pedestrian bridge into the heart of town of Pismo Beach. The resort is well maintained, and there are grassy areas at most sites to set up chairs for physical-distance-visiting or just relaxing.



When you walk into town, the Splash Cafe is immediately in front of you and features casual meals of fish and chips, clam chowder, and other great beach fare. There are numerous restaurants in town offering a wide variety of foods, and of course, lots of beach shops featuring T-shirts, flip flops and everything else you might need for a stay at the beach.

You won't be obligated to go to Doc Bernstein's Ice Cream Factory to get the best ice cream on the west coast, but we highly recommend it! It's just a short drive from the RV park. Also not to be missed is a visit to the Old West Cinnamon Roll shop at the north end

of Pismo. (We didn't promise this would be a low calorie rally!)

Pismo Beach is located on the Central Coast, close to San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and Avila Beach. Kayaks are available to rent at Morro Bay and it's great fun to spend a day viewing the birds and wildlife on the water. The motto of the Morro Bay Navy is "Never sail in water too deep to stand up in." The depth of the bay can be just a few inches at low tide! San Luis Obispo is home to Cal Poly, so it's a fun college town to explore. Avila Beach has an interesting history. Several years ago the entire downtown was moved offsite, all the contaminated soil underneath the town was removed and replaced, and the town was rebuilt. Now it is a fun beach town to visit once again.

Because of the pandemic, there will be no happy-hour gatherings, group meals, or group functions at this rally. You will be on your own. Social distancing of 6 feet when outdoors should be observed. We will not have use of the club room. Masks or face coverings are required in public inside places or outdoors when 6 feet social distancing is not possible.

Carmen and Jose Ortiz will be available to lead a bicycle ride or two if people are interested, so bring your bikes! This will be a safe way to have fun and social distance at the same time.

If you are feeling ill, please stay home. We want everyone in our club to stay healthy! Otherwise, be sure to join us for a fabulous rally on California's Central Coast!

Your Hosts: Jose and Carmen Ortiz, Dan and Gail Crutchfield



Silver, Surf and Sand

Pismo Coast Village Resort 165 S Dolliver St, Pismo Beach, CA 93449

November 4 -8, 2020

Coupon/Registration Due by September 30, 2020

Name:	Cell phone:
Email:	WBCCI #
Arrival Day: Departure Day:	RV Length: T/MH:
Parking Fees [# nights @ \$69/night]	\$
Rally Fees [# attending @ \$5/person]	\$
TOTAL	\$

INSTRUCTIONS

- Either register online at https://northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/ or send/email this form to the registrar at Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/ or send/email this form to the registrar at Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/ or send/email this form to the registrar at Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/ or send/email this form to the registrar at Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/rally-registration/ or send/email.
- Send all payments directly to the Registrar. Make your checks payable to WBCCI/NorCal and mail to NorCal Registrar Gail Crutchfield, 12431 Alta Mesa Drive, Auburn, CA 95603.
- Refunds are available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Please contact the Rally Chair if you have any changes to your reservation after the deadline, or wish to register after the deadline.
- NorCal abides by the federal, state and local COVID-19 mandates to keep not only its members safe, but also the employees of the RV Parks and the communities we visit, which in turn allows us to continue to rally during the pandemic. If you are unable or unwilling to abide by the mandates, please do not sign up for this rally. If you are ill or not feeling well, please stay home and get better. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.
- Please inform the registrar if you need a handicap accommodation.



NorCal Club Contacts

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bob and Traci Windel #7991

Bob Zehner and Stephanie Shea #26282

WBCCI on the Web

www.wbcci.org/

Region 12 on the Web

https://airstreamclub.org/region12

NorCal on the Web

https://airstreamclub.org/northerncalifornia

Membership Information

153 Unit/Life Members

21 Affiliate Members

174 Total Members

Church Bulletin

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend the tragedy.



Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Bollinger
- 2 Rick Sharp
- 4 Ernie Lazzereschi
- 6 Dave Williams
- 7 Sharon Carl
- 11 Shirley Williams
- 20 Rosalie McKay
- 20 Hedda Smithson
- 21 Sue Clark
- 22 Ed Ungerman
- 24 Bettye Kircher
- 27 Ronald Hollis
- 28 Jan French

Anniversaries

- 1 Fred/Julia Lyon
- 2 Harold/Sandy Higgins
- 3 Allan Haley/Bobbie Rowlands
- 11 Ernie/Pat Lazzereschi
- 12 Eric/Jan French

Sunshine

Barry and Shirley Williams have sold their Airstream amid health and safety concerns. Diane Nelson has been diagnosed with a progressive illness so Blake is in the process of selling their Airstream. We wish them well! Larry Warren has recovered from shoulder surgery and physical therapy and says he is ready to travel.

Claudia Marson



Chris and Dean Davison's trailer reflects the Fort Bragg sunset



Bob and Carol Echols smile for the camera

Meet NorCal's Secretary: Carrie Bell

I can claim to be mid-century modern and a native Californian, being born and raised in Southern California from the mid-fifties. Growing up, I played/studied the violin and piano from about the age of 9, finally entering college as a music major. However, a violent change in course occurred when, to avoid taking those "hard" math classes and other "hard" sciences for general ed, and because it sounded interesting, I took a geology class. Well, I wasn't so savvy after all, because I changed my major to geology and had to take almost every undergraduate math, physics, and other science classes up to grad-level P-Chem class. Another case of being told as a youngster and thinking "you are not good at math" debunked.

Plus, a silver lining, dare I say a completely bejeweled lining: while taking the previously dreaded physics class, I met the love of my life and the best life partner I could imagine: Ray. We both graduated from San Diego State University, and went to University of Arizona for graduate school. While there, we married and I had our first child, Sarah (now 36).

Nearing the end of our work in Tucson, Ray and I began looking for career jobs and decided to relocate to wherever the first of us found work. Ray had easy success and we landed in the Bay Area. A few years later we had our second child, Walter (now 30).

I worked for a short while for the CA Dept of Forestry on the Dutch Elm Disease project, with much



volunteering at the kids' schools. Being a Girl Scout leader for 10 years and very involved with our son's Boy Scout troop was incredibly rewarding and a jolly good time. Seeing those young'uns gain skills, confidence, and maturity was so blissful.

Then, with some additional education and great contacts in Silicon Valley, I was able to build an accounting/business (Continued Pg. 8)

Meet Another Trustee: Billie Verdegaal



I enjoy being outside, whether walking our dog, gardening, working on our almond farm or playing with the grandchildren. I actually like pulling weeds and tending to our yard, but no, I won't come and do your yard work.

Dead-heading my roses or trimming shrubs is my therapy; it recharges me and gives me peace. When we are not out traveling in our Airstream you can usually find Bob, me, and our dog, Dumas, out in the morning hours checking on the almond orchard. Most evenings we sit in front of the shop and watch the grandchildren ride their trikes and play.

Being raised in the small farming community of Firebaugh, CA, I have lived and worked on a farm all my life. I graduated from Fresno State with a degree in Ag business and worked as an entomologist and chemical salesperson. Bob and I met at a Fresno State homecoming game/dance and I knew then he was my forever guy. We married in 1981 and raised our son and two daughters on the farm where Bob grew up. Now four of our six grandchildren live in the house where Bob was raised. Our son is taking over the farming operation - a fourth generation almond farmer.

I had always wanted to be a teacher, so, while raising three babies I took classes in the evenings while Bob tended the little ones. When the youngest started kindergarten I began my teaching career, retiring after 27 years in the classroom. (Continued Pg. 8)

WBCCI/NORCAL Membership Renewal Instructions



Members: It's time to renew your membership! It's easy! Go to https://airstreamclub.org/renew.

Dues for WBCCI Membership are \$75 + \$5 for NorCal unit dues.

Although the renewal process runs through the end of December, we are asking you to renew by December 1st so that you will be included in

NorCal's Membership Directory that will be sent out in early January 2021.

Lifetime members: you must go through the renewal process. This lets WBCCI Headquarters know that your Lifetime membership is still active and is in good standing with NorCal. If WBCCI does not receive your renewal as a Lifetime Member, you will not be renewed for 2021.

For affiliates, please fill out the Affiliate Application form on the following page and send to our treasurer at the address indicated in the form, along with a check for affiliate dues. Affiliate dues are \$5. Please renew by December 1, 2020 in order to appear in the January 2021 NorCal Membership Directory. Any questions, please contact Carmen Ortiz, Membership Chair at norcalmembership2802@gmail.com

Billie Verdegaal continued

At first, Bob and I didn't know if we really wanted a travel trailer. We went back and forth about the cost, and how much would we really use one. Bob found a place that rented Airstreams. We rented one in October 2016 and were sold! We returned the rental on Sunday, and on Monday purchased our Airstream (2017 25' Flying Cloud FB) from Toscano RV in Los Banos and have not regretted it one bit. We love traveling to new places and seeing our beautiful country! Joining NorCal Airstream Club was the best decision we made as we have met so many friendly people and made great friends.

Even though we have been staying on the ranch and not traveling due to COVID, I feel blessed that we have our health, each other, family and friends. What else can one ask for? We are soooo looking forward to the Oregon Coast Caravan and being with some of our Airstream buddies again!

Billie Verdegaal

Carrie Bell continued

consulting practice that continues beyond my retirement; after my 25-plus years of proprietorship, our daughter took it over last year.

Throughout my life, I have had a love of travel, adventure, the natural world around us, and experiencing other ways of living, all of which leads naturally to Airstream travel. I love our Airstream travel because it speaks to so much of what brings me joy, not the least of which is meeting and knowing our fellow Airstream travelers!

Carrie Bell

Ed Addendum: The Bell's Airstream, pictured on page 1, is a 2014 25 ft International Onyx from a dealer in the LA area. They found it online. Onyxs were a special edition and rare - only 132 were made, all during 2014.

Cerro Gordo Update

In the last issue of The Poppy we mentioned the small ghost town of Cerro Gordo, including the American Hotel that was built in 1871. We are sad to report that about two weeks after we visited, the American Hotel and two nearby structures caught fire and quickly burned, leaving nothing but cinders and ash, and the skeleton of the restaurant's cast iron stove. The full story can be read here:

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-21/a-california-ghost-town-with-a-murderous-past-suffers-new-tragedy-as-famed-hotel-goes-up-in-

flames#:~:text=The%20site%20of%20the%20Cerro,notorious %20killer%20Billy%20Crapo%20burned.&text=After%20firefig hters%20put%20out%20the,a%20residence%20and%20the% 20hotel.



Before



After



Northern California Airstream Club - WBCCI Affiliate Membership Application

Please complete this form and send a check for \$5.00 payable to WBCCI/NorCal, to Treasurer, NorCal, 5346 Paso Del Rio Way, Concord, CA 94521-5006

* Required Fields **WBCCI Number*** Member Name(s) * Address * Home phone with area code Member mobile number with area code Spouse/Partner mobile number with area code Member Email Address * Spouse/Partner Email Address If you are a member of a unit, enter name of the unit We like to recognize and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to participate in this tradition, please answer the next few questions. Do not include year. Member Birthday Spouse/Partner Birthday Anniversary

Safely Streaming through the Fog

The Poppy

Our timing of this rally was perfect to escape the California valley heat and cool down in Fort Bragg. There was plenty of safe 'Streaming, especially since no fog was in sight while we were there. Each morning the temp was a cool 55 degrees, the sky a clear blue, with no wind. Afternoon highs were about 65 degrees and a mild breeze. In short: awesome!

Thirty-one Airstreams were in attendance, spread throughout the Pomo Campground with its large, comfortable sites.



Charlie Havell relaxes at his site, while in the background Ed Ungerman enjoys his site.

I'm very proud of our members for being generally respectful and compliant with applicable laws and safety recommendations! The pictures show lots of masked people – can you identify them? (See more on the following pages)



In their rally bags, attendees each received bookmarks (Ed note: handmade by Julliet Scheuer), hand sanitizer, and a "Campsite Quiz," designed to encourage attendees to meet new members and help them feel welcome by at least introducing

themselves.
(Juliet says she walked 10,000 steps delivering the rally bags!) Congratulations to Marget Williams and Shirley Bollinger for getting



perfect scores on the Quiz and winning the contest.



Marget
Williams
displays her
First Place
prize for her
perfect
score in the
quiz and for
turning her
winning
entry in first

Shirley Bollinger shows her Second Place prize while Johnnie Lopez looks on



The rally was held completely outdoors at individual campsites. Even the Board Meeting was conducted with safety in mind.



While rallying, many people chose to remain safely in their group of two, but a few people gathered in small numbers, generally with plenty of outdoor distancing. No meals, happy-hour gatherings or tours were planned. But that did not stop NorCalers from having fun.

Members visited many of the local attractions, one of the most popular being the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens; a must-see location, with spectacular ocean views and amazing dahlias.





The Scheuers enjoying Mendocino Botanical Garden

Another popular activity was the seven mile round trip hike in Jug Handle State Park where we visited and learned about a Pygmy Forest. Very interesting. (Hardy hikers also visited Russian Gulch to see the waterfall - an 8 mile roundtrip trek.)

Other activities are shown on the following pages. Mendocino County was enforcing strict safety rules so many restaurants were closed or only open for take-out food. A few people found restaurants with outdoor seating, such as the North Coast Brewery or those on the Noyo River. (Juliet and I admit to indulging in a take-out pizza to enjoy back in the Airstream.)

Brian Scheuer, host

More photos follow

Safely Streaming through the Fog Continued











































New Members

Happy Rally-Goers Stay Safe at the "New Normal" Rally in Fort Bragg

List of Popular Outdoor Activities in Fort Bragg Area (in no particular order)

- Mendocino Botanical Garden
- Glass Beach
- Pudding Creek Beach area (including trestle bridge)
- Coastal Trail
- 5. MacKerricher State Park and Boardwalk Trail
- 6. Jug Handle State Park and trails
- Russian Gulch State Park and trails
- 8. **Charter Boat Fishing**
- 9. Skunk Trail Railbikes
- Pacific Star Winery 10.
- 11. **North Coast Brewery**
- 12. **Farmers Market** (Wednesday afternoonevening)
- 13. Noyo Headlands and trails
- Noyo Harbor, fisheries and 14. restaurants
- 15. Point Cabrillo Park & Lighthouse

Charter Fishing: John Bibby and Gregg Motta went salmon fishing, with Gregg bringing in an 18 lb salmon, among other fish both of them caught.



Jug Handle State Park: Jim and Deb Christie, Lori and John Bibby hiking to and through the pygmy forest.









Mendocino Coast Botanic Garden: has numerous gardens including but not limited to perennials, dahlias, begonias, and vegetable/orchard, plus a nature preserve area overlooking the ocean.



































Deb Christie poses on the MacKerricher State Park
Boardwalk Trail - which goes all the way to Pudding Creek Beach - at least 3 miles.



The Mottas and Bibbys check out the Point Cabrillo State Park and Lighthouse.

Fort Bragg Rally continued ...











Deb and Jim
Christie with Carol
and Bob Echols
tasting wine at
Pacific Star Winery.
\$10 per person for
tasting. Deb reports
they liked "Dad's"
wine.









Pudding Creek Beach area and Coastal Trail: beautiful and dog friendly as Ed Ungerman with Winter and Dave Williams with Karly demonstrate.

Johnnie Lopez enjoys the **Noyo Harbor area**. Be aware that parking is tight during the summer around lunch time.







Deb Christie found the North
Coast Brewery and later enjoyed
fresh fish take-out with a North
Coast Brew and Jill and Dave
Wilson.



Jim and Deb Christie tried out the Skunk Train Railbikes.

Meet WBCCI Members at Large: Steve and Terri Holifield

Steve & Terri Holifield have been married for nearly 36 years, have 3 adult children and one grandson born in March, 2020. They both grew up in Sacramento, California, and have been living and working in Sonoma for 22 years. Steve is an Endontist and Terri is an interior designer and artist.

From the age of three, Steve RVed with his family all across the United States. In 1979, he took his first Airstream trip with his parents in their Bambi trailer. The destination? Alaska!

In 1995, Steve and Terri bought their first Airstream, a 1983, 27ft. Excella, and moved their family across the country to Boston, MA. They enjoyed six weeks of travel and living in the trailer with their family. They also enjoyed many East Coast trips during their three year stay in Massachusetts.

After exploring the possibility of remodeling the Excella into their "empty nest" trailer, Steve and Terri decided to purchase a newer, more modern, 27ft. Tommy Bahama model. They have owned the 2017 trailer for 2 years, and have traveled to Oregon, Olympic National Park, the San Juan Islands, Victoria, BC, The Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Tuolumne Meadows, Lake Tahoe, the High Sierras, Palm Springs, the North Coast and one of their favorites, Sonora Pass this past June (where their photo was taken.) They have also enjoyed exploring Harvest Hosts along the way.

They attended the Fort Bragg Rally (their first



NorCal rally) and enjoyed meeting many people as well as seeing so many Airstreams in one location. "Pretty cool" said Terry. Evidently not shy, they jumped right into the Campsite Quiz, which was a real challenge for them since they did not know anyone and people were moved around from the original list. Nonetheless they won Third Place for their efforts and "fun prizes." (Ed note: Maybe they will join Norcal...hint hint...)

"We look forward to more outings with the NorCal Airstream group, and can't wait for the Rose Parade 2022!"

Terri Holifield

NORCAL ANNUAL ELECTION NEWS

The NorCal Club will be holding its annual officers election in October. The election will be wholly electronic; there will be no paper ballots, so your only way to vote will be via computer or other electronic device. Included on the ballot will be candidates for each office of the NorCal Board, and three amendments to the NorCal Constitution based upon changes made by the International Board of Trustees (IBT) in June 2020. Please note, passage of the NorCal Constitutional amendments requires a 2/3 approval of those voting. The Amendments will be printed in full in the October issue of The Poppy, along with the slate of officers, so they will be available to read prior to voting.

The election (e.g. voting) will start on October 15, 2020, and end on November 1, 2020. You will receive an email with information on the election and a link to the ballot site. The results of the election will be shared at the November NorCal Board meeting. Please vote; get in practice for casting your ballot in November!

If you have any questions please contact me, Tom Smithson, at tscats@mac.com.

Tom Smithson



Garden Flag Information



You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from Flagcology. Complete instructions are in the January Poppy issue. For any questions, the NorCal contact is John Bibby (707) 592-4891. The Flagcology 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/.

From Your Membership Chair



You can obtain your colorful NorCal Membership Badge whenever you attend a rally. Contact me,

Carmen Ortiz, to get yours for free, a perk of membership.
Also, we are distributing the NEW five inch club logo sticker for your Airstream or Tow Vehicle when you attend a rally. It has the same design shown on the masthead of The Poppy. Be sure to get one from me.

