



The NorCal News

Volume 57 Number 2

The Poppy

March 2020

President's Column

It was August as we arrived at what felt like the end of the earth, Cape Spear Newfoundland the furthest point east in North America. The Newfoundland Caravan and the NorCal Airstream Club that introduced us to it gave us a chance to spend two months exploring an amazing island we might not ever had visited. We encourage all of you to investigate the many caravans offered by WBCCI and sign up.

Our club registrar has a very challenging job preparing for each rally and assuring that all of the sites, outing sign-ups, and meals are properly accounted for. Please help Gail Crutchfield by signing up as soon as you can after the rally signup has been sent out.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Napa Rally this month.

Another fun fact on Aluminum: It is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust and it is most often derived from Bauxite deposits in open pit

mines around the world. The largest producer is Hongqiao Co. in China producing about 6 Million tons a year. USA Alcoa produces about 2.5 Million tons.



Remember, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known,

so if you haven't you should"

Ray

**What's
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From the Editor

Greetings as March 2020 and the start of NorCal's Rally season gets underway! But before we move forward, we are taking a look back to Region 12's 2019/2020 Rose Parade Rally in Pasadena and a new flash rally that took place in February at Lake Havasu during the annual Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnics Convention & Show.



Ed and I attended the Rose Parade Rally (RPR), which was just as fun and interesting as the first time we went in 2017/2018. This time though, we were able to attend the Post Parade Float Review. It was well worth the effort to see the completed floats up close and personal, with people answering any questions you might have about a particular float. For example, I learned that one of the "smaller" floats had 50,000 roses (not to mention all the other flowers) inserted on it, and what was a "painting" on another float was actually a mosaic collage of millions of very small flower petals someone affixed to a canvas to create the illusion of a "painting." Fascinating! See page 10 for a photo.

If you have never been, I suggest that you sign up and attend next year's RPR, which may be the last Airstream RPR after 40 years. See the comments of those who have done it on page 8. Everyone should go once. Not only is it fun, you get to meet other Airstreamers, such as Vannie and Dave from Louisiana who full time in their gaily painted Argosy and are so delightful. Check out their wonderful blog: The Journey of Gypsy Rhapsody and Minuet in G and their report of the Rose Parade Rally (where prior to, they actually helped build some of the floats taking great photos of the process), and their other adventures.

<https://thejourneyofgypsy-rhapsody.blogspot.com/2020/01/californiapart-6rose-parade-rally.html>

As for the Fireworks Flash Rally in Arizona, reservations for the RV park are made about a year in advance, so some pre-planning is necessary if you are to go. It is historically held over President's weekend in February. See the article on page 11 for more information by those who attended. And see you down the road!

Elisa

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 canceled.

2020 Rallies and Caravans

3/4-8	Skyline RV Park	Napa
HOSTS: Dave & Jill Wilson, and Greg & Janet Motta		
4/1-5	Gilroy Garlic RV Park	Gilroy
HOSTS: Bob & Carol Echols and Steve & Yoshi Deiwert		
4/16-19	Cali Rally	Parkfield
Region 12 Rally		
5/6-10	Lassen RV Park	McArthur
HOSTS: Tom & Hedda Smithson and Cam & Marcia Murray		
6/3-7	Boulder Creek RV Park	Lone Pine
HOSTS: STILL NEEDED		
6/20-27	International Rally	Loveland, CO
WBBCI Rally		
8/5-9	POMO RV Park	Fort Bragg
HOSTS: Brian & Juliet Scheuer and Jodie Lee and 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 and Bob and Carol Echols		
10/7-11	V6 Ranch**	Parkfield
HOST: Pat Lazzereschi,		
10/21-25	Emerald Desert RV Resort	Palm Desert
Region 12 Rally		
11/4-8	Pismo Coast Village Resort	Pismo Beach
HOSTS: Blake & Dianne Nelson, Carmen and Jose Ortiz		
12/2-6	Black Oak Casino RV Park	Sonora
HOSTS: Billie and Bob Verdegaal, Elisa & Ed Ungerman		

ATTENTION: THE V6 RANCH IS A DRY CAMPING EXPERIENCE **

Lazin' in Lassen (RV Resort)

Wednesday, May 6 to Sunday, May 10, 2020

548-335 Old Highway Road

McArthur, CA 96056

Hosts: Cam & Marcia Murray and Tom & Hedda Smithson

Reservations close March 31 for the first 30 Airstreams

Join us for our May rally where

We'll park. The Lassen RV Resort is in the scenic Fall River Valley. The 68-acre campground on a lightly oak forested bench above the valley offers stunning views. Your campsite will be partially tree-shaded, spacious, and flat. Most have picnic tables, and grill/firepits. Although it is off the main highway and quiet, there is easy access to Highway 299 and



the many things to do nearby.

We'll eat. Wednesday welcome dinner (hot sandwiches, salad, and dessert) provided by the hosts will be held in the pavilion. Saturday night we will enjoy a catered pasta meal from the Bistro. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we will enjoy our morning gatherings with coffee, peanut butter and jelly toast tradition.

Off site there are restaurants in near-by McArthur (Crumb's) and Fall River



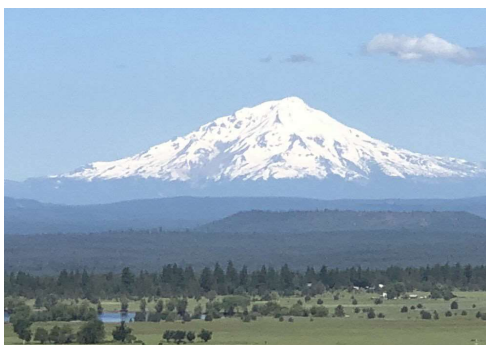
Mills (the Historic Hotel Restaurant.)

We'll get creative. For our craft project, we will paint a miniature bird-house. When completed it could become an object d'art for ones house or yard or Airstream.

We'll exchange Airstream tips.

There will be a chance to trade helpful hints and information about using and maintaining our Airstreams.

We'll relax. At the resort there are hiking and biking trails with possible glimpses of wildlife. We may borrow equipment from the office for horse-



shoes, badminton, and volleyball. The swimming pool is available beginning in mid-June but it might be warm enough for an early opening.

We'll explore McArthur and beyond.

McArthur-Burney Falls, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lava Beds National Park, and Ash Creek Wildlife area are just a few of the possible day trips. The Heritage Balloon Festival is scheduled to begin Friday May 8 at 2 PM and end Sunday at 2 PM at the Intermountain Fair Event Center in McArthur. There will be a mass ascension (weather permitting) of hot air balloons on both Saturday and Sunday at 6:30 AM. The well-known Fort Crook Historical Museum is in Fall River Mills. Some may be interested in going to the Radio Lab near Hat Creek.

We'll take to the water. Canoeing, kayaking, and fishing on Big Lake, Baum Lake, Hat Creek, and Fall River are possible.

We'll golf. The Fall River Valley Golf and Country Club is one of the loveliest in California, with wildlife, forests, rolling hills, and sweeping view.

We'll stargaze. If the moon doesn't make an appearance, there will be opportunities to try out our apps.

Getting there: The GPS coordinates are 41.077054, -121.280333 **From the Bay Area:** Take I-80 East to I-580 North. Take I-5 North to State Highway 299. Turn East on 299 to Old Highway Road, 8 miles east of McArthur. Turn right for about a mile to Lassen RV Resort. **From Sacramento and San Joaquin:** Take I-5 North to State Highway 299. Turn East on 299 to Old Highway Road, 8 miles east of McArthur. Turn right for about a mile to Lassen RV Resort.

Lazin' in Lassen (RV Resort)

May 6 - 10, 2020

548-335 Old Highway Road

McArthur, CA 96056

Name: Cell phone:

Email: WBCCI#

Arrival Day: Departure Day: RV length T or MH

Rally Nights @ \$43 per night Parking Fee \$

Number attending @ \$5 person Rally Fee \$

Wednesday Welcome Dinner @ \$7/person Wed. Dinner \$

Saturday Catered Pasta Dinner @ \$22 per person Sat. Dinner \$

Miniature Bird House Craft 2 \$5 per person Craft \$

TOTAL RALLY FEE: TOTAL DUE \$

- Either register on line at northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net or send this form/information to the registrar to Norcalreg22@gmail.com.
- Send your payment separately to the Registrar. Write your check payable to WBCCI/NorCal.
- Mail or arrange to be mailed to Gail Crutchfield - NorCal Registrar, 12431 Alta Mesa Drive, Auburn, CA 95603

Note: This page can be filled out on most computer platforms and e mailed to the registrar.

- Refunds are available depending on funds recovered in all categories. Contact the Rally Chair if you wish to change your reservation **after March 31**. Contact the Rally Chair if you wish to register **after March 31**.
- Supply the information below if this is your FIRST NorCal rally OR there are updates since your last event.

Street Address:

City: State Zip

Handicap Accommodation

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Christina Spring and Colin Rogers #6239

1198 Begier Avenue
San Leandro, CA 95476
209-814-9136
christina.spring@yahoo.com

Christopher and Leona Carter #6156

155 Summerfield Street
Danville, CA 94506
925-998-0536
concouman@msn.com

Sharon Froelich #7016

7001 Dutch Court
Newcastle, CA 95658
916-501-7805
riverowl8@comcast.net

Transfer

Paul Hewen #26241

8801 White Fir Ct.
Reno, NV 89523
775-815-8884
paulphewen@earthlink.net

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

145 Unit/Life Members
21 Affiliate Members
166 Total Members

Anniversaries & Birthdays

March Birthdays

2	Luann Hollis
2	Claudette Paige
3	Dave Wilson
4	Dennis Richardson
10	Dee Aguilar
12	Chet Weaver
13	Joanne Hilliard
15	Melissa Yee
19	Roy Hutto
20	Larry Jones
20	Marget Williams
27	Dick Sullivan
30	Deborah Christie
30	Eric French
30	Tony Sica
31	Claudia Sherry

March Anniversaries

11	Alan/Dee Aguilar
13	John/Lori Bibby
21	Tom/Deanna Bain



Sudoku.cool

5					2		4	
	4							8
				8	1		9	
9			5	1			6	
1				9			5	
		3		2	7		1	4
4	9				8	5	2	
	2		6				7	

Sudoku, Easiest, Puzzle NO. 1997862

Sudoku

NorCal Club Contacts

- President: Ray Bell deepfringe@me.com
650-644-6650
- First VP: John Bibby jbibby@value.net
707-592-4891
- Second VP: Bob Verdegaal jverd@msn.com
209 380-8884
- Secretary: Carrie Bell cba@sonic.net
530-644-6650
- Treasurer: Phyllis Minadeo pminadeo@gmail.com
925-890-9559
- Membership Chair: Carmen Ortiz

- Rally Chair: Pat Lazzereschi rally.norcal@gmail.com
209-712-5884
- Caravan Chair: Bob Vasser 415-517-3651
- Registrar: Gail Crutchfield Norcalreg22@gmail.com
530-613-7959

- Web Master: Barry Marson webmaster.norcal@gmail.com
209-333-0363
- Sunshine: Claudia Marson cjmarson@comcast.net
209-483-6696
- Newsletter Editor: Elisa Ungerman norcaleditor01@gmail.com
916-833-2484



Church Bulletin

Thursday at 5:00 PM, there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club.
All ladies wishing to be "Little Mothers" will meet with the Pastor in his private study.

WBCCI on the Web

www.wbcci.org/

Region 12 on the Web

Region12airstreamclub.net

NorCal on the Web

Northerncalifornia.airstreamclub.net/



NorCal Does Pasadena!

Region 12 Rally
Pasadena, California

Dec. 27th - January 1st 2019-2020



As Kai Ryssdal of Marketplace says - "Let's do the numbers!" On January 1, 2020, we joined millions to watch the 131st Rose Parade on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. It was the 39th Rose Parade Special Event Rally, the 9th for Tom and Hedda and the 7th year of co-hosting with Bob and Cecelia Stansbury of the Lake Tahoe Airstream Club. But - where would one rather be in late December but in beautiful downtown Pasadena, waking to the calls of the wild parrots and watching beautiful sunsets over our Air-

streams. states: NC, TN, PA, and NM. Participants were fed two dinners and three breakfasts. During the day nary a truck or toad could be seen as everyone seemed to enjoy being out and about until reconvening at happy hour.

There are many parade-related events one can choose to see: Bandfest, spread over two and a



half days and several performances to accommodate all the bands performing in the parade, float construction viewing, and Equifest showcasing the equine groups in the parade such as the Budweiser Clydesdales. Not to be missed are the nearby attractions such as the Huntington Library & Gardens that easily takes a day to see, plus there is plenty of shopping and numerous restaurants within walking distance of the rally spot.

Wait, there is more: one gets to celebrate New Years with fellow Airstreamers, and if one wants, the entire crowd amassing on Colorado Blvd in preparation for the parade the following day

After which one gets to retire to their own comfy Airstream until the next morning, when they walk a mere 4 blocks to their very own

grandstand seat high up in the stand, complete with it's own "comfort station" should one need it while enjoying the Parade and festivities for the next two plus hours. If one chooses to stay an additional night, they can attend the Post Parade Float Viewing for an up close and personal view in detail of all the floats.



Next year, the 40th Rose Parade Rally for the 2021 Parade will be the last one hosted by the Stansburys and the Smithsons, and it may be the last one period unless another host or hosts step up, which has not yet happened yet. So the hosts are giving priority to those who have never attended the Rally.

Sign ups have already begun - they are half full as of this writing. The registration form is on Region 12 website. If you desire to go, sign up even if the rally is full. There will be a wait list and invariably by the time September and October roll around most on the wait list get on. Any questions, check with Hedda or Tom Smithson, or any NorCaler who has been to the Rally.

Harriet the Spy



streams.

Region 12 was well represented with 15 Airstreams from CA and 5 from NV. Texas sent 6 and there was one from each of the following

Rose Parade Rally Reviews

Several members from the Northern California Airstream Club have graciously shared some thoughts on their experiences:

From Dan and Gail Crutchfield: Being centrally located in Pasadena, you are practically within walking distance of two world famous museums, the Norton Simon Museum and the Huntington Library and Gardens. We have visited both of these and recommend them highly. The three most prominent activities offered by the rally hosts are not to be missed. We visited the float building three years ago when we attended for the first time and it was amazing to see the process and the number of volunteers working. This year we attended the equestrian event and the Bandfest. Both were excellent. There can't be a better location to stay for a few days to see the parade. Being right across the street from Trader Joe's and a major shopping center sure made it easier to be dry camping in a parking lot! The hosts do a wonderful job of having coffee and breakfast ready for us every morning, and the dinners were delicious.

From Leslie and Steve Irey: We enjoyed ourselves very much at this fun and successful Rose Parade extravaganza. Some highlights for us were: weather, walk ability, and WOW factors of the parade, equestrian, and Bandfest activities. The camaraderie between our NorCal group and other Airstreamers from afar made for a festive way to ring in the New Year.

From Rosemarie and Richard Kistler: Thanks again for calling us so we could attend the Rose Parade Rally! Just wanted to give you a little history about us. The Rose Parade Rally that we attended in 2016 was our first rally. Because we got to know Hedda and Tom, we decided to join the WBCCI, and then the Norcal group. They were both so kind to us and a lot of fun to be around at that first rally!... and they still are!

From Pat Lasserreschi: The Rose Parade has been on my bucket list for as long as I can remember and sharing this experience with my Airstream friends - heaven.

From Mike and Phyllis Minadeo: This was our second time. Loved sharing the experience with old friends and new.

From Blake and Diane Nelson: Awesome parade and great weather, good experienced hosts, Norton Simon museum, Huntington Library, Walking around Pasadena, Wollhaus knitting store on Colorado. Dry camping was no problem!

From Billie and Bob Verdegaal: Bob and I enjoyed the rally, the various activities and especially the friends and nightly gatherings were fun. But the highlight for us was the Rose Parade. Bob, wearing his Blue Diamond Almond grower hat, got waves from the riders on the Blue Diamond float. He also passed out snack bags of almonds to those sitting near us during the parade.

Compiled by Harriet the Spy

(*Ed. Note: Mr. Verdegaal is a grower for Blue Diamond Almonds in Ripon, CA)



Norcalers Watching Bandfest



Happy Hour with the Ireys plus one



Phyllis and Mike Minadeo with Andrew Selking (1st VP WBCCI)



Bob Verdegaal connecting with the BDA float

The Blue Line Experience At the Rose Parade

On New Years Eve, the Ungermans and the Verdegaaals took the "night before" walk down Colorado Blvd., where 1000s of families and friends were saving prime territory on the sidewalks, while vehicles were "cruisin'" the street. To the uninitiated, it is a mob scene with people literally camping out all night for a sweet spot to view the parade.

After passing the grandstands for which we had tickets, we met a family that had been coming to the Rose Parade since before the Father (now 57) was born. His parents (both now deceased) were fervent Rose Parade fans and never missed one for well over a Century. The Eldest Daughter (now 67) estimated she had been going her whole life (including in utero), and now the grandchildren (one in college, the other in high school) were also practicing the tradition in honor of their grandparents, accompanied by a few friends of the family. Even though the Father moved to Arizona years ago, his family still makes the trek to Pasadena every year in their

RV, which they park on on a side street December 31st for free. When it is time, they claim the same area on the Colorado Blvd. sidewalk to await the parade the following morning.

Since their territory this year was big enough, the family offered us a place to park our camp chairs for the night so we too could watch from the street instead of the grandstand, and to guard our camp chairs all night. After debating the pros and cons, their offer was accepted.

At 10 p.m., Colorado Blvd. was closed to all vehicle traffic, and the entire mass of humanity moved from the sidewalk out to the "blue line" on the street, about 3 feet from the curb. This is prime parade viewing territory since it is the blue line that separates the viewers from the participants (That and the several motor scooters that traverse up and down the blue line during the parade so no one goes past it.) We dutifully moved our camp chairs out to the blue line with everyone else and bid our new friends good night. The

following morning, we rejoined them to watch the parade from the comfort of our camp chairs.

It was a different experience to see the parade from the blue line. Not necessarily better since the seats in the grandstand provide a better overview of everything, but certainly more intimate, since you could actually see people's faces, and hear them talk to the crowd. It felt more like being a part of the parade. As long as we did not have to spend all night in the cold guarding the chairs, it was a fun way to enjoy this fabulous event. *Elisa Ungerman*



Sitting on the blue line waiting for the parade to start.

SNOW ON THEM THAR HILLS

For most of us NorCalers, the trip to Pasadena requires an overnight stop in Bakersfield, then over "The Grapevine" mountain pass in Southern Kern County to Pasadena. However, the day before we were to leave Northern California for the trip South, it snowed on The Grapevine, forcing the closure of I-5 in that area. Some of those going to the Rose Parade chose to forgo Bakersfield and instead, drive to Paso Robles, then take 101 South through Santa Barbara and beyond to Pasadena. But others braved the situation thinking the road will open tomorrow, and stayed over in Bakersfield anyway, celebrating Billie Verdegaaal's Birthday in the process. The road *did* open the following day, and the snow was spectacular for the Airstream caravan to Pasadena. *Elisa*





Dinner at Bakersfield Resort's Restaurant 12/27/19



Rally Site



Tom Smithson and Guest



Dave & Vannie from Louisiana



Breakfast with Steve Irely, Gail and Dan Crutchfield



Bullpen before parking at site

 **More Rose Parade Rally Photos**



Friends Phyllis & Gail



Pasadena



The Western Winter Blast Flash Rally



If you ever feel like watching A LOT of fireworks, like an hour and a half's worth, and watching them for four nights, then the Western Winter Blast Pyrotechnic Show at Lake Havasu City is for you! During President's Day weekend, the Western Pyrotechnic Association (WPA), puts on four nights of pyrotechnic shows that are pretty amazing. The evening begins with the "amateur" rocket builders showing off their custom made wares. Then various companies/artists, put on successive synchronized shows. The cost to park is \$8.00 and \$8.00 per person to view from the grandstand seating at Havasu 95 Speedway at SARA Park.

Jack & Mike Henry shared what they remembered about the Pyrotechnic Show they attended years ago in the April 2019 issue of The Poppy, and a possible Flash Rally was suggested. The Henrys, Echols, Ortizes, Maffeis and ourselves immediately reserved sites at The Islander Resort in Lake Havasu. Unfortunately, the Maffeis had to cancel at the last minute so did not attend.

We all envisioned that we would sit outside our trailers with beverage in hand and watch the shows, but it did not work out that way as the pyrotechnic show was nine miles away. Now, if you read online about the event it will tell you how you have to get there super early and it may sell out and maybe you can park but may not get a seat in the grandstand. Let me tell you, it ain't so. We did get there a couple of hours before it began and there were food and drink vendors to keep us nourished while we waited for the show to begin. But since it so well organized, both parking



Billie Verdegaal

and exiting, that the large crowd of people was not an issue in the least.

We all chose to attend the Friday evening shows of fireworks. Although Saturday was supposed to be the BIG event, I can't imagine it being any better than what we saw.

Also on Friday, before we went to the show, Bob and I traveled to the small former mining town of Oatman, Az. It became a ghost town as the mines played out, but has re-emerged at a tourist town.

https://www.desertusa.com/oatman/du_oatman.html Oatman is about 50 minutes from Havasu, driving on historic Route 66.











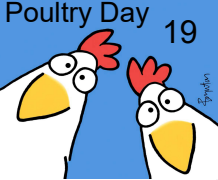








In Oatman, the BLM burros roam freely wandering on the streets and sidewalks. They are direct descendants from the miner's burros that were turned loose when the miners no longer needed them.

On Saturday, the group rented a boat to cruise around Lake Havasu, a large reservoir on the Colorado River. Sunday morning we departed, heading to the Alabama Hills near Lone Pine where we stayed on BLM land with a lovely picturesque view of the surrounding hills and mountains. The Echols and Ortizes traveled to Borrego Springs, continuing their adventures, while the Henrys headed home to Jackson. If you are thinking of going, be aware that Lake Havasu City is very crowded this time of year, what with all the snowbirds in town and the various events and festivals going on at the same time. Early reservations are a must.

March 2020 Fun Calendar

Source: <http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/index.htm>

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31 Last day to Register for Lassen RV Park Rally					1 
2	3  Primary Day	4 	5	6	7	8 
Napa Valley Rally						
9	10	11  Find a Pay Phone Day	12  Girl Scout Day	13  FRIDAY THE 13TH	14  Pi Day!	15  National Quilting Day
16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19  Poultry Day	20  FIRST DAY OF Spring MARCH 20	21	22  National Goof-Off Day March 22
23  National Chip N'Dip Day	24	25  International Waffle Day	26  National Spinach Day	27	28  Something on a Stick Day	29

Garden Flag Information

You can order your NorCal Garden Flag directly from the vendor. 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/>

Complete instructions are in the January *Poppy*. For any questions the NorCal Club contact is John Bibby (707)

592-4891. The Flagology contact is Connor Young (855) 347-4922.



From your Membership Chair



Don't forget to obtain your NorCal name badge when you attend your next rally, if you don't have one already. It's a perk of your club membership. See me, Carmen Ortiz, or my designee, for yours. This includes new and old members who have yet to pick up theirs. They

can only be obtained by attending a NorCal Rally.

