

The NorCal News

Volume 62 Number 4

The Poppy

May 2025

President's Message

First, a big thank you to Ed and Elisa Ungerman for hosting the incredible V6 Rally in Parkfield, California. Their hard work and attention to detail created a fantastic experience for everyone who attended. Parkfield, known as the "Earthquake Capital of California," coupled with the beautiful V6 Ranch, provided a unique location for our first dry camping rally of the year. The Ungermans planned a wonderful mix of activities that kept everyone engaged, while still allowing plenty of time for relaxation and socializing. From delicious meals to entertaining group events, their efforts truly made the rally memorable.

As wonderful as this rally was, our first "boondocking" experience of the year provided this President with a lot of "lessons learned". Janie and I started our week enjoying a night at a great Harvest Host location - the 43 Olive Ranch. A small group of us were escorted up the hill to a beautiful mesa where we literally became one with nature (wind, rain and a little hail thrown in). Within 5 minutes of arrival though, Kona found her own "nature" by promptly rubbing in some fresh, moist cow



dung. Yes, our first lesson of the rally found ourselves using up our precious water supply with our first ever use of our outdoor shower. Once arriving at V6 Ranch, the Presidential lessons continued with some poor battery management due to the cloud cover for the first couple of days. After running the furnace too much the first cold night, we found ourselves chasing the sun to try and recharge the batteries. We weren't packing our generator, even though the First Lady suggested that we bring it, so the charging battle was mine to win or lose. That first "warm" night was a bit harsh on our batteries and we thought that we had possibly fried them. As a result, the next night we went to bed fully dressed hugging our fleece blanket with the heater turned off. Happily, our batteries did finally recover. Now, we weren't alone with our lesson learning. As it happens, there were some important buttons that remained "unpushed" by a couple of campers, causing a lot of battery angst among a few troops. All was solved with a couple of quick expert consultations and phone calls. Regardless, everyone survived and had a fantastic time!

Looking ahead, I'm excited about our upcoming rally at Lassen RV Park – especially the hook-ups. This event will be hosted by Harold and Lynn Hurley and has generated a lot of excitement! The Lassen region offers stunning natural beauty, with its volcanic landscapes, lush forests, and fantastic hiking opportunities. Harold and Lynn have some great activities planned, and I know it's going to be a wonderful time for everyone lucky enough to attend. If you're on the waiting list, I encourage you to remain patient — things can shift as plans change, and spots may still open up. I know the Hurleys are working hard to ensure this rally is unforgettable.

Continued page 4

What's Inside

Editor's Column
2025 Rally Schedule
NorCal Info
Birthdays and Anniversaries

2
2
3
4

April Rally Report
Klare Bio
Calendar

5
11
13

From the Editor

Welcome to May! Lots going on this month: May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, the kick-off for summer, to name a few. Plus, it is a time to celebrate that we do not live in tornado alley with all the monsoons and thunder storms, not to mention the hail storms and tornadoes, that are historically worse during May. (Still remember last year when we got to experience what May means in other states, and that was not fun!) It is also the month when the candidates for the Airstream Club Executive Board promote themselves and are promoted



through various webinars and forums. You should have received an email on this from ACI and you can go on the ACI website for more information on the candidates. Voting begins June 1st.

NorCal is not having a rally in July, so there is no upcoming rally information in this issue. Next month will feature the August Shmooville Rally in Fortuna at Dean and Chris Davison's ranch. This rally is small by design, so plan your registration accordingly.

However, we do have a write-up on last month's fabulous Vbin' at V6 rally. This was a first for NorCal, well received even by those who have attended the Cali Rally in the past. We had a great group of attendees.

We also have a bio on one of our Past Presidents, Jackie Klare, who moved to Michigan in late 2015 and recently passed away. This bio was written by her husband Lee, and initially published in the Michigan Club's newsletter, the Mich-I-Gram. It is reprinted with permission. Contact Hedda Smithson for further information.

Please continue to remember this is your publication - so submissions for publication dealing with anything relating to Airstreaming are always welcome.

Finally, it is with some sadness that I report that this will be my last year as Poppy Editor. I have been Editor for five years, and it is time to pass the baton. I have informed incoming President Tom Webster and current President Tary Salinger. Unfortunately, I do not know to whom the baton should be passed, so if you are interested in learning how to edit the newsletter (as I was six years ago when Steve Deiwert approached me) or already have experience and want to do it, please contact them or me. It is hoped that the incoming editor can learn the ropes and be ready to publish either the January or March edition.

It has been an enjoyable ride and a great learning experience for me. I sincerely appreciate all the support and kudos I have received over the years from the membership, but it is time for a change and to support a new voice. I stand ready to assist whoever comes on, in any way I can. You just need a laptop or computer, a decent software program, a bit of time, and some help to steer you in the right direction. It is a great way to be involved with the Club. So if you have any interest in it, let us know sooner rather than later.

Till we meet again - see you down the road.

Elisa Ungerman, Poppy Editor

2025 Rally Schedule

March 5 - 9

—Paso Robles RV Ranch, Paso Robles—

Hosts: Fritz/Ames & Websters, apprentices: Team Matteo

April 2 - 6*

V-6 Ranch, Parkfield—

Hosts: The Ungermans *(Dry Camping) Buddy Rally

May 7 - 11

Lassen RV Park, McCarthur

Hosts: The Hurleys

June 4 - 8

Grass Valley RV Resort, Grass Valley

Hosts: The Mottas & Maffeis

Aug. 6 - 10*

Schmooville, Fortuna

Hosts: The Scheuers, Team Paz, The Salingers as pizza cooks; Apprentices The Villaires

*(partial dry camping)

Aug. 23 - 28

York, PA

International Rally - Airstream Club International Rally

Sept. 10 - 14

Clio RV Resort Clio

Camp Counsellors: The Salingers & Bartelts

Oct. 8 - 12

Tahoe Valley Campground, S. Lake Tahoe

Camp Counsellors: The Salingers; Apprentices: Sandra Carr and Janet Margolis

Oct. 15 - 19

Bonelli Bluffs RV Park, San Dimas

Hosts: Region 12

Nov. 5 - 9

Boulder Creek Mobile Home & RV Park, Lone Pine

Hosts: The Echols & Deiwerths; Apprentices The Daubers

Dec. 3 - 7

Black Oak Casino, Tuolumne

Hosts: Team Matteo, the Broads, Fitzgerald/Doornik; Apprentices: The Roblees

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.

NorCal Club Contacts 2025

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Bob Vasser	Caravan Chair	bobelv@earthlink.com	415-517-3651
Cathy Maffei	Sunshine	marymaffei@sbcglobal.net	916-662-1010

Welcome New NorCal Members

Charles & Janet Maris
Auburn, CA 95602

Andrew Doolittle & Wendy Gamboa
Folsom, CA 956309

Welcome New Affiliate Members

Charless & Brenda Pillon
Anderson, CA 96007

Gary & Sally Simmons
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

NorCal Membership Numbers

192 Unit/Life Memberships
94 Affiliate Memberships
286 Total Memberships





May Birthdays

6 Cam Murray
 13 Larry Delorefice
 14 Bob Verdegaal
 15 Claudia Marson
 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
 14 Tore & Sunday Pearson
 23 Dennis/Karen Richardson
 24 Larry/Martha Jones
 16 JP Sherry

President's Message Continued

As always, I want to thank everyone who contributes to the success of our club — from rally hosts and volunteers to those who show up with a willingness to lend a hand. It's your enthusiasm and dedication that make the NorCal Airstream Club such a special group.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming rallies. Safe travels, and may your adventures be filled with good friends, great food, plenty of memorable moments — and of course maybe a few lessons, as well.

Your NorCal President Tary Sallinger

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>

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!



Vibin' at the V6

April 2 - 6, 2025

Twenty-eight trailers (and one tent) made the trek into the Cholame Valley, camping midst the Blue Oaks of V6 Ranch in the "Cowboy Side of California," for four days of tranquility and fun. The first two days of the rally were slightly wet due to the presence of storm clouds moving overhead. But not to worry: the Roundup Room, a three sided barn, kept us dry. There were enough tables inside to easily accommodate all of us and the area was toasty due to the presence of propane heaters.



Attendees were met by the hosts and presented with their goodie bags containing two "Vibin' at V6" shot glasses, a battery-operated mini lantern night light, a copy of the Vibin' V6 Gazette, along with some Cowboy Crunch, not your usual pretzels, made by First Lady Janie Salinger. Attendees were able to park anywhere in and around the Blue Oak Horse Camp, but assistants were standing by to help with the task.



Wednesday's Welcome Dinner featured a wonderful Pot Luck of delicious offerings. So many wonderful choices! After dinner, there was a Joker clinic for all who wished to play, learn how to play, or get better at playing. There were several boards available, with Airstreamers of all levels supporting each other, sharing their knowledge or questions, laughing and high fiving their way through the games. Several people commented on how the evening was a huge confidence builder in learning the game. (Thanks Bob Vasser!)

Doug Fitzgerald and Jess Doornik were up early Thursday morning to prep the coffee for the 8 am coffee time. Gregg Motta spearheaded a bike ride into Parkfield for lunch at the Parkfield Restaurant, also owned and operated by the Varian family. Bob Vassar was on hand for his patented pano shot.



At 3:30 p.m. there was a large group assembled in front of the barn for a rousing game of Catch Phrase, men against the ladies, with each group winning a game. Unfortunately time ran out for the rubber match, but one may have to occur during upcoming rallies, given the level of competition.



Happy Hour led into a buffet lasagna dinner, prepared and served by the Varian family, followed by a Night at the Movies featuring Blazing Saddles. (Author's opinion: it does not hold up after almost 50 years). Popcorn and Red Vines were available for munching, and during the movie, John Varian fixed the hot water heater at the Camp, providing us with much appreciated hot water for outdoor showers and dish washing. Brian Scheuer did a fantastic job



stoking the central bonfire under the Edison Lights.

On Friday morning, we were treated to a full breakfast, again prepped and served by the Varians. After breakfast, participants were corralled to pose for a group photo by Bob Vasser.



Then came the all-rally-participant game of Family Feud. Each rally-goer received a card with a colored dot on it, indicating which one of six teams they were on. After a few practice sessions, the game was on, complete with buzzers. President Tary Salinger was the MC, channeling his best Steve Garvey and keeping things moving, while First Lady Janie played a great producer, keeping track of all the guesses and misses. Host Elisa Ungerman kept score. There were three initial games, with each team having a chance to compete and every person a chance to play. The highest scoring team (Orange) got a bye to the final round, and the winners of the two other games (Yellow and Blue) were slated for the semi-finals, both after dinner.



Friday afternoon, Janie Salinger, her Sous Chef Lynn Hurlly, and helper Tary, presented their “Cookin’ with Janie” segment for all to enjoy, where Janie demonstrated the fine art of decorating, pairing and presenting various versions of baked brie cheese.



This segment was followed by a true whiskey tasting by Tom and Amy Webster (hence the shot glasses), where Tom produced large bottles of several different whiskeys for us to taste, while providing some historical background and tasting parameters for each, and Amy proffered suggestions on a method of tasting that many found helpful to avoid the “whiskey burn.” The whiskey was augmented with internet-recommended items for pairing during a whiskey tasting, which made for a very interesting experience as one sipped the different spirits.



Both sessions were well-attended and popular. Tom left the bottles available for those wishing a “wee dram” or “little tug” during the rest of the rally, notably during morning coffee hour. He noted there was not much left when he put them away at the end of the rally.

During the afternoon social hour, the Varian family returned to Camp to prep the BBQ’s for our “grill your own protein” dinner and provide the sides and desert for group consumption. The patriarch of the family, Jack Varian, now 89, was introduced and told us the story of buying the ranch back in 1961, and how he learned to be a steward of the land in the course of his ownership. He cited the movie “City Slickers” as inspiration. His son John, who now runs the ranch, along with wife Barb and their daughters, was present to answer questions and add nuances, such as why the Ranch is named V6 and how it and the brand stayed that way. It was also a special treat to have “Zee,” Jack’s wife, present. She appeared a bit nervous in front of the group, but one on one, she was chatty. Her history with the V6 horses can be read on the website and, said John, “everything we know about horses can be traced to her.” We gifted the Varians with a set of 10 “Vibing at the V6” shot glasses, which John at least seemed to appreciate. A little something to remember us by.



Then it was time to grill or BBQ our chosen protein.



After dinner, the semi-final and final rounds of Family Feud occurred. The crowd was ready and the competition hot and heavy, with the Blue Team achieving the highest score of the night to win the semi-final round and move into the finals against Orange. But Orange ultimately ruled the day and decisively won the final game. Congratulations to all!



Brian was once again on bonfire duty, with another lovely bonfire to close out a great day.



Saturday morning, Doug and Jess were back on coffee duty and Airstreamers had a free day to do as they pleased. Some even traveled out of the Valley to Paso Robles for wine tasting. The weather was now sunny and warm, a perfect time to relax and visit at the Camp, play games, enjoy a hike, or utilize one of the outdoor showers as many did. In the late afternoon, people assembled back at the Roundup Room for a group game of Left-Right-Center, overseen by John Bibby. When the dust settled, Debbie Ames was the big winner: \$84 and she got to keep the LRC game.



Happy Hour followed, and the Varians returned to feed us with their BBQ tri-tip and chicken dinner, sides and desert. After dinner, another movie had been scheduled, but it was scrapped due to lack of interest. Instead, several of us played games in the Roundup Room to finish out the evening while Brian once again plied his magic on a bonfire. Dean Davison got the copy of Blazing Saddles.

Special thanks go to Janie Salinger for supplying her Cowboy Crunch and Cookin' Class, Lynn Hurley for being a great sidekick to Janie and keeping her calm, Tom Webster for his Tastin' (which if you did not know – he subsidized himself (!!!)), Amy Webster for being a great addition to Tom's spiel and all those who helped serve, Gregg Motta for heading the bike ride, John Bibby for running the LRC game, Doug Fitzgerald and Jess Doornik for the AM coffee, Brian Scheuer for manning the bonfires, Doug Fritz for his help with the audio/speaker system, Tary Salinger for being a fun MC on Family Feud, and Rally Chair Juliet Scheuer for all the background help in setting up the rally in the first place. It made our job as rally host way easier!!! Additional thanks go to Bob Vasser and Hedda Smithson for contributing some very nice photos to this article. And, as I said at the rally, a big thank you to all of you who came, participated in the games and events, and made the rally a memory to be treasured. It takes people *and participation* to make it happen.

Next year, the Cali Rally, which happens every two years (run by Region 12), is back at the V6, but the word is that in the next few "off-years," NorCal will be back to this treasured location. If so, we will definitely have to have a showing of "City Slickers" in honor of the V6 and Varian family.

Elisa Ungerman

Photos Continued on next pages





Tribute to Jackie

By Lee Klare

Twenty-one months ago, my wife, Jackie and I were told that she had 20-21 months to live. Jackie was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and there was no cure. This wasn't her first health threat. She was a cancer survivor but at that moment our lives shifted. We were told she will be made as comfortable as possible with medications and her oxygen tank would soon be her permanent companion. We set out to live the rest of her days the best we could and we did just that. On Sunday, March 9, 2025 in the late afternoon, my wife died peacefully at Munson Hospice House. Some know the Jackie with the scooter, the nasal cannula and oxygen tank by her side. Through no fault of her own, that was terminally-ill Jackie. I want to share with you the Jackie I know and love.



Jackie was born in Cleveland, OH and lived in Lakewood, OH. She started her first year of college in Spain but came back soon after starting because her father died unexpectedly. College postponed, she helped to support her family by working at Ohio Bell. She worked her way through the company and transferred to Nevada working in the billing department, then transferred to Pacific Bell in San Francisco. She became the Senior Project Manager while simultaneously getting her degree (BS) in 3 instead of 4 years at the University of San Francisco. She was amazing at her job and knew how to manage and talk to people. She was so smart. She became a contractor for IBM but then went back to SBC Global doing the same job as Pacific Bell but for 3X the salary. They gave her an offer she couldn't refuse and she was good at it and loved it. She officially retired in 2007.

Jackie was my next door neighbor when I first met her. She was divorced and a career woman, looking so professional in her business suits I recall. Couple of years after my divorce, we reconnected and began dating. After 3 years of dating, on October, 19, 1991, we married and shared our lives together in California for 24 years. We moved to Michigan in December of 2015. As I look back at our lives, what brought us together and kept us together was a love for adventure. It was not unusual for us to spontaneously hop in the car and do something fun. We always had a travel bag in the car ready at a moment's notice.

Tribute to Jackie

By Lee Klare, continued...

Jackie had many gifts outside of her professional career. She became a master gardener which enabled her to do all the gardening around the new home that we built together in California. She was a beautiful painter and an avid bird watcher. A lifelong learner, she taught herself how to cane chairs and had a little side hustle caning chairs because she spoke with “authority” and she could do anything she put her mind to.

She was one of the founding members of the “Dominicans” at St. Dominic Catholic Church in the town of Benicia, CA. She loved hiking and hiked the Grand Canyon down and back with a heavy backpack.




She was an active, healthy, 4’11” tall dynamo and a force to be reckoned with. Once we bought our first Airstream (which is another good story I won’t go into), she was a die-hard Airstreamer. She was all in with both feet! She was the President of NorCal Airstream in Region 12 and served the club in various ways. She didn’t miss a beat when we moved to Michigan and we became members of the Michigan Airstream Club. At the time of her death, she was the Past-President and had worked her way up the Executive Board volunteering her time and talent. Her favorite part of the club was keeping the club focused and heading in a positive direction. She loved to talk to members and sincerely ask questions and listen. She loved her MAC family and that family loved her too. People have told me that meeting Jackie was the reason they joined MAC. That means so much to me and I get it.

Jackie is survived by me and while she never had children herself, she was the loving mother of my four children and our 13 grandchildren. She was their “Nana Jackie”. She made an positive impact on them and she will be dearly missed. I can honestly say that Jackie made me a better person too. She taught me so much and I would not have gotten this far in life without her support. All of it, I owe to Jackie.

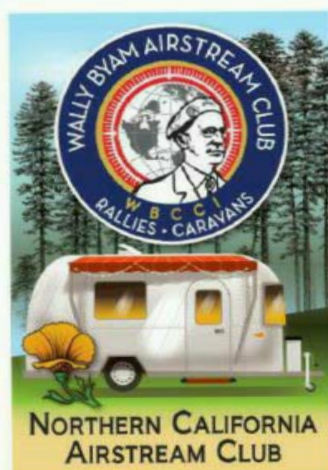
Yes, Jackie is survived by her family but she is survived by all the friends she knew, including all of you. You are her family too and I am grateful to have you. I am officially stepping down from my position on the MAC executive board but not stepping out. I just need a bit of time to settle into life without Jackie and determine my next steps. Thank you for all the support.



May 2025

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

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>

