

AUTOMATE RV CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Neil Zinn

Our Fall rally at Sonora was a huge success and a star in the cap of Chuck and MaryJo Goddard, our event organizers. I believe everything went smoothly, thanks to their planning and the work of the many member volunteers who stepped forward to lend a hand. There's an old saying about many hands making a task lighter but I don't seem to recall all of it at this time. You've all been there so you know what I mean.

Once again, I relearned the old maxim that you always learn something new about your rig at these events. This time I learned that caulking the rubber gasket around the bedroom slide out is critical because water can collect along the bottom edge and rust out the clips that hold the gasket in place and protect the integrity of the seal. Guess what? I looked and my gasket had been compromised but I believe I got it in time.

Second lesson: I had long appreciated the set of plastic handles made by Jim Dilley that attach to the front electric jacks that make manual adjusting of them easier when setting up and taking down. He's now developed a Teflon "donut" that protects the hole that the jack that raises and lowers the spare tire is inserted into. You know, the plastic "donut" that always breaks and falls off? Guess what? Teflon doesn't break. Looks like a second home run, Jim.

Helen and I pulled our rig to Los Banos RV a couple of weeks ago to have some work done and at the same time attend my 55 year high school reunion in town. Vice President Ted Martin had his rig inside and I noted he had a complete paint job, new decals and hot new LED tail lights being installed. All of the windows had been removed and all hardware taken off while the painting was

being done. Don't know what else he is having done but it is coming out looking like a new "2011 model". I must say the old factory turned RV repair facility was doing a quality job but it also seems that the old bugaboo of not being able to adhere to a turnaround schedule remains. In addition to a myriad of maintenance things we are having done, we are following Ted's example on the LED tail lights; they really are much, much brighter and easier to see.

Hats off to our webmaster for having done an effective job. I am amazed at how many hits it gets that result in e-mails to me about membership, new decals, fixing small problems with the units and so forth. If you own an AutoMate, you should be a member of the club and you should come to the rallies. It's the smart thing to do.

FALL RALLY 2011

The weather could not have been more picture perfect for the Fall Rally in Sonora. Some members arrived early to have a chance to relax and visit with friends and got some rain on by Thursday all 29 rigs and members were there. Although there was some rain on Wednesday night, Thursday morning dawned dry and clear so that by the time everyone walked to the hall for the wine and cheese get together, jackets were not needed.



In walking in to the hall we were greeted by the great decorations of Mary Robinson and Elsie & Elmer Peterson. Mary made the table decorations and Elmer grew all the gourds and pumpkins in his yard. Great job to the both of you.



A big thank you goes out to Ed & Marlene Weber who in spite of last minutes complications preventing them from staying for the rally, still drove to Sonora with the goodies for Thursday night.



Friday morning Irv Baptist and his crew fixed up his "famous pancakes" and sausages which was a bit hit with everyone especially new members and first time rally attendees, Tom & Lynda Downing. After Tom & Lynda toured the Dilley's rig some time ago they decided they, too, wanted a rig with the quality and workmanship of an AutoMate. So after being told of one for sale in our Newsletter, Tom drove to North Dakota to get it, sight unseen and bring it back to San Jose where they live. They have used it several time and plan on enjoying it even more in the future.

Welcome to the club, Downings.



Friday afternoon, Paul Cheek and Leonard Mello lead some of the members in a game called "Card Bingo" where one of the tables seemed to have more luck than the other, but a good time was had by all.



Maybe we can talk them into doing it again at the Spring Rally, to give the others of us a chance to win our dimes back.



Friday night we were treated to a home made spaghetti dinner made and put on by Dale & Joleen Clark and Jim & Sharon West. (Editor's note, as an Italian, I have to say I haven't tasted a good spaghetti sauce like that in a long time)



Ready to enjoy their meal are returning charter members John and Jackie Casey who said that even though they no longer own an AutoMate, they missed the friendship they had with the club and decided to rejoin. Welcome back !



After dinner we were treated to the musical sounds of *Greg Brown's Music Express*. We danced the night away. What a great way to end the evening.

Pam & Jerry Richichi and their crew spent some time on Friday afternoon putting together a wonderful breakfast of Farmer's Casserole (recipe later in Newsletter) and sausage gravy and biscuits. YUM, great job.



Later that afternoon, our rally chairman arranged for Bill Wyrick to bring his new model pull trailer that he is now making. After giving tours of the rig Bill and his son then went into the hall for a question and answer session with anyone that wanted to join him. It was well attended.



By popular demand the Pickle Patch was back catering dinner Sat. night and again the food was wonderful. They served up a great meal at a reasonable price and there was plenty of food for everyone.



The last 2 items on the agenda was closing out the silent auction and auctioning off the table and hall decorations, both of which caused quite a stir as there were bidding wars at both, with Bette Perry's hand made quilt causing the biggest price war, but at the end Judy Serra come out the winner for the quilt.



Everyone had a good time as usual at our rallies. So if you haven't made it to any of the rallies or if it's been a while since you've come to one, you've missed out. So come join us and see what you've been missing.

FARMER'S CASSEROLE (for 12)

6 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes
1 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese with jalapeno peppers or shredded cheddar (opt)
2 cups diced cooked ham or Canadian-style bacon or cooked sausage (bacon was used at the rally)
1/2 c. sliced green onions
8 eggs or 2 cups fresh egg product
2 12 oz cans (1 1/2 c.) evaporated milk
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. pepper
Grease 1 3 qt baking dish, Arrange the potatoes evenly in dish. Sprinkle with cheese meat and onion. Beat eggs till they are mixed add the milk, salt and pepper. Pour over potato mixture. You can make this the night before, cover and chill. Bake uncovered in a 350-degree oven for 45 to 55 minutes. If chilled increase baking time to 55 to 60 min.

Note:

This recipe is for 12 servings, Pam also made one with regular milk instead of evaporated milk and it turned out fine.

AUTOMATES FOR SALE

2000 28' TRAILER

Air ride suspension, wide body, double insulation, slide out, dual pane tinted windows with day & nite shades, 2.8 kw Onan generator less than 10 hr of use, A&E 9000 awning w/metal cover, aluminum LPG bottles, fluorescent lites, porcelain toilet, TV, DVD, VCR, radio, w/amplifier, 10 C.U.ft. fridge, power vents, outside shower, battery cut off switch, water filtration and many more extras, no pets or smokers, like New Condition in and out. Always stored inside building, towed less than 7000 miles, located in Grass Valley, Ca. Owners ex-Club members #296 \$17,900 or OBO Louie or Anna Croce 510-797-3647 or acroce@sbcglobal.net

1999 33' 5TH WHEEL

2 Slides, Air ride, 100 Fresh water tank, 3-50 gal. gray & black tanks, Hardwood floors, Corian counter tops, free standing dinette, 2 TVs, Auto

Sat., 5 disc VCR, exterior shower. Electric steps, window awnings, 20' main awning, slide covers, 15k BTU A/C, 6V deep cycle battery, 2500W inverter-charger, 2 solar panels, 3 power exhaust fans, 5 kw Propane generator, Cast alum. wheels & spare with good rubber, more. No smokers / animals.

Asking \$25,000.

Also 1998 4 door Freightliner, 100,000 miles, Cat 275 w/ Allison 6 speed.

Asking \$25,000

Location of vehicles Valley Springs, N. CA

Contact Ken Davey (209) 772-2827

or cell (209) 304-2063 kdavey15@earthlink.net

2001 32' 5th WHEEL

2 slides, Corianne counter tops, porcelain toilet, extra wide shower, Fantastic fans livingroom & bedroom, ceiling fan in kitchen, A/C, 2 TVs, Hydraulic brakes, many extras.

This rig has been maintained at the factory, even after factory closure. All repair records available. This rig was the 1st to roll off the line in 2001 & we are charter members of the club (member # 62) Located in Warrenton, OR.

Our real desire is to see someone in the Club become the 2nd owner of this great RV.

NADA pricing suggests \$19,500.

but we would consider reasonable offers.

Contact Henry or Carol Goodrich

(503) 861-8111 or driftnet@juno.com

1996 31' 5th WHEEL

One slide, kitchen in the rear, Onan 4000 LPG generator, 5 window awnings & patio awning, air ride suspension, oak high-low table, wall-hugger recliner, 16' tires.

Owned by David & Sue Tavernetti.

Located at the Automate factory in Los Banos.

To see or for further information contact

Bill Wyrick at 209-861-4441.

Asking \$7,950.00

Any questions please call me at 916-93-0136 or dstavernetti@sbcglobal.net.

AUTOMATE WANTED

Members Dave Moore & Sherri Ewoldt are looking for a 30' 5th wheel with 2 slides to purchase. If you know of such a rig for sale please contact Dave or Sherri at (512) 863-0925 or maui2texas@yahoo.com

UPCOMING RALLY DATES TO REMEMBER

SPRING RALLY 2012

May 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2012
Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds
413 Lockford St.
Lodi, CA 95240

Hosts, Andy & Jan Anderson report that all of their committee spots are filled to help with the rally. Thanks to all who have done that but there is always something that may need a few more helping hands at the rally so be sure and ask where your help may be needed at the rally.

FALL RALLY 2012

Oct. 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2012
Mother Lode Fairgrounds
220 Southgate Drive (off Highway 49)
Sonora, CA 95370

Hosts, Jerry & Pam Richichi will be passing around a sheet for sign ups to help at the Spring Rally.